



International Civil Aviation Organization

**Fourth Meeting of the Asia/Pacific Regional Search and Rescue Task Force
(APSAR/TF/4)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 06 – 10 July 2015

Agenda Item 5: Asia/Pacific Regional SAR Plan

BENEFITS TO THE SAR SYSTEM OF STATES ASSISTING OTHER STATES

(Presented by New Zealand)

SUMMARY

This paper presents the benefits that can be achieved by States that are compliant with Annex 12 assisting States that are not compliant and lists some examples of how assistance can be given.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 There are a number of areas where States with well-developed SAR systems can support States that are less well developed to improve their SAR capability and their compliance with Annex 12. The assistance provided does not need to have a financial impact on the supporting State and simple assistance can be in the form of sharing documentation or providing technical assistance.

2. DISCUSSION

Benefits to the SAR system of States assisting other States

APAC States Face Demanding SAR Responsibilities with Few Resources

2.1 Many APAC States have the challenging responsibility of providing SAR services over vast and remote land and oceanic areas and several have few resources available to meet Annex 12 requirements.

Taking A Regional Approach Improves Effectiveness and Efficiency

2.2 To provide an effective and efficient SAR service in the region it is important that States focus not only on meeting their own national obligations, but also take the broader view that their State SAR system is only one part of the wider regional SAR system. States therefore need to cooperate, collaborate and share resources and technical expertise with their neighbouring and regional RCCs, with the more developed SAR States in particular looking for opportunities to assist their lesser developed State neighbours.

When Developed SAR States Support Less Developed Neighbours, Everyone Wins

2.3 Sometimes simple measures can reduce the incidence of SAR operations in a State's Area of Responsibility.

2.4 An example of this is where New Zealand has been regularly requested to send resources to Kiribati, which is not in New Zealand's SRR, to conduct aerial searches for people missing in small vessels at sea. New Zealand recognised that with the provision of basic aids, the number of people going missing at sea could be reduced. The work was completed through an aid program and the benefit was immediate and twofold. There has been a large reduction in the number of people going missing at sea and New Zealand has reduced costs through less aerial searches being required.

2.5 Another example is where Australia has recognised that increasing aircraft and vessel traffic in the north and western areas of its SRR in the Indian Ocean region comes with increased likelihood of more frequent SAR responses in that region. As a result, Australia has commenced a new project in partnership with the Maldives, Mauritius and Sri Lanka to fund and provide technical assistance to improve the SAR capabilities of those countries that will also assist Australia's SAR response obligations in that area of its SRR. Similarly, since 2008 Australia has been providing funding and development assistance to Indonesia to improve SAR capability and cooperation.

2.6 States who aren't compliant with Annex 12 SARP's and who are unable to meet the minimum SAR service requirements could consult and seek assistance from 'champion' States who are compliant and have well developed SAR systems in place.

2.7 Examples of assistance that could be provided include:

- a) conduct of a SAR Gap Analysis.
- b) advice on the establishment of a SAR organisational framework;
- c) advice for the establishment of a National SAR Committee;
- d) technical assistance in the development of a National SAR Plan;
- e) providing copies of relevant SAR documents to be used as templates;
- f) technical assistance on the establishment of SAR agreements;
- g) technical assistance in the development of RCC position descriptions;
- h) training of SAR personnel;
- i) training of SRU crews;
- j) provision of computerised SAR tools including incident management systems, databases, maritime drift modelling software, etc.;
- k) establishing data and information sharing agreements between RCCs
- l) provide advice on how to conduct a SAREX and post-SAREX analysis; and
- m) set up of SAR system publicity and safety awareness campaigns.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) discuss any relevant matters as appropriate; and
- c) consider including this information in the APSAR Plan as an Annex.

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