



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICAN OFFICE

TENTH APIRG ATS/AIS/SAR/SG MEETING
(Dakar, 13 - 15 May 2009)

Agenda Item 10: Review of the status of implementation of ICAO requirements in the Search and Rescue (SAR) field.

(Presented by the Secretariat)

Summary

This paper reviews the status of implementation of the ICAO provisions relating to search and rescue with particular reference to SAR legislation and cooperative agreements. Action by the Sub-Group is at para 3.

References:

- Annex 12 (Search and Rescue)
- IAMSAR Manual (Doc 9731)
- APIRG/16 - Report of Meeting
- Report of SP AFI/8 RAN Meeting

1. Introduction

1.1 The Sub-Group will note that most of the ICAO provisions relating to Search and Rescue (SAR) Services have continued to remain un-implemented in spite of the action called for under APIRG conclusions. Many other initiatives at the continent level have also considered the status of the implementation of SAR services in the AFI region in view of finding solutions to the persistent deficiencies in this field.

2. Discussion

2.1. When considering the status of implementation of the ICAO provisions relating to search and rescue services, APIRG 16 noted with concern that some few of the these provisions had remained unimplemented for decades and the meeting was of the view that States should now be sensitized on the need to take remedial action. Before hand, various APIRG meetings had called special attention to the absence of SAR legislation and cooperative agreements between States that appear among the major deficiencies in the AFI region.

2.2 The Sub-Group will recall the following important initiatives which also considered SAR issues on behalf of the AFI region:

2.2.1 The ICAO/AFCAC Search and Rescue (SAR) Technical Co-operation Project (2002-2007)

The ICAO/AFCAC SAR project was implemented with the financial support of France, with the purpose to upgrade SAR services in Africa. This project extended over five years. During this time, thirty-four State SAR systems were evaluated by a team of experts, many technical cooperation missions undertaken, extensive training arranged and a number of seminars and conferences convened. The following domains were evaluated for each State:

1. National legislation and regulatory framework
2. International SAR agreements and Conventions
3. Operational procedures
4. Funding
5. Equipment
6. Human Resources
7. Exercises / quality control

2.2.2. The Search and Rescue (SAR) Funding Conference (Saly-Portudal, Senegal, 25 – 28 October 2004)

The SAR evaluations undergone by AFI States of in the framework of the ICAO/AFCAC SAR Project have shown that the lack of satisfactory SAR funding mechanism remains a severe shortcoming. The Saly-Portudal conference was organized in order to address this shortcoming. The conference adopted the Saly Declaration which provided States with guidelines on funding and optimizing SAR services.

In particular the Saly Declaration stated, as its primary conclusion, that:

“Optimal organisation, management and regulation of SAR services has a profound and positive effect on the cost and the efficiency of SAR service provision” and that, in particular, “the extent of required resources can be reduced if the following principles are applied:

- a) implementing sound SAR needs assessments based on risk;
- b) signing and updating domestic and international SAR agreements;
- c) implementing preventive SAR and appropriate regulatory measures;
- d) using material assets on a shared basis;
- e) using staff on an incremental basis;
- f) establishing sub-regionalized SAR provision; and
- g) establishing joint aviation/maritime operational centres, possibly multi-functional.”

2.2.3 The SAR Conference in Saint Denis de La Réunion (3 – 7 September 2007)

The SAR Conference in Saint Denis de La Réunion was mainly intended to analyze the achievements of the ICAO/AFCAC SAR Project. The conference *inter alia* reviewed and adopted a set of template SAR documentation, to be adapted by States to their national environment.

2.3 In light of the above, APIRG 16 adopted the following Conclusion:

CONCLUSION 16/47: PARTICIPATION OF SAR EXPERTS IN THE ATS/AIS/SAR SUB- GROUP AND INCLUSION OF SAR ACTIVITIES IN THE COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR AVIATION SAFETY IN AFRICA (AFI PLAN)

That:

- a) **States, which have not done so, include SAR experts to participate in the work programme of the APIRG ATS/AIS/SAR Sub-Group;**
- b) **States, which have not yet done so, establish permanent SAR structures within national civil aviation authorities as a priority; and**
- c) **ICAO and AFCAC ensure that the Conclusions of the SAR Conference in La Réunion, be taken into account in the AFI Plan as far as possible.**

2.4 At the SP AF18/RAN meeting, apart from aspects mentioned hereabove, it was noted that both ICAO and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) now recommend the regionalized provision of SAR services as the means of most expeditiously achieving an effective global SAR system. Regional SAR service provision also offered the opportunity of aeronautical and maritime agencies to cooperate to provide SAR services over a geographic area determined in consideration of need and risk rather than within State borders that, from an operational perspective, were entirely arbitrary. Additionally, the number of rescue coordination centres (RCCs) necessary to facilitate operations could be reduced, communication networks could be shared and databases consolidated, thereby allowing emergency response wherever aircraft fly in the region and regardless of territorial airspace. Furthermore, the establishment, training and on-going proficiency of staff could be effectively managed.

As an example, the meeting was made aware that in October 2007, the Republic of South Africa (RSA), hosted a Consultative Conference in Port Elizabeth on the integration of aeronautical and maritime search and rescue services in the southern African region.

Based on the above and considering the substantial benefits to be gained through establishment of JRCCs and cooperative activities in the provision of SAR services, the meeting agreed to the following recommendation:

Recommendation 6/22 — Establishment of sub-regional Search and Rescue (SAR) arrangements

That APIRG:

- a) **adopt the SAR Performance Objective: Establishment of sub-regional SAR arrangements as contained in the performance framework form in Appendix H to the Report on Agenda Item 6;**
- b) **adopt as policy the general concept of sub-regional SAR provision from joint aviation/maritime rescue coordination centres (RCCs) as a key strategy in the improvement of the Africa-wide SAR system;**

c) support the establishment of a task force to progress the initiative taken at the Port Elizabeth Consultative Conference of October 2007 on the integration of SAR services in the southern African Region; and

d) cooperate with ICAO and IMO in their continuing collaboration with African States to implement sub-regional, joint RCCs at strategic locations on the African continent

3. Action required

3.1 The Sub-Group is invited:

- a) to urge States to implement the relevant recommendations relating to:
 - (i) SAR legislation
 - (ii) SAR cooperation agreements
 - (iii) the improvement of the SAR in general
- b) to support the establishment of sub-regional task forces to develop and implement SAR cooperative arrangements based on the performance objectives and work plan recommended by the SP AFI8/RAN (appended to this paper).

APPENDIX A

REGIONAL PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES/NATIONAL
PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES FOR SAR

ESTABLISHMENT OF SUB-REGIONAL SAR ARRANGEMENTS				
Benefits				
Efficiency and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cost-efficient use of accommodation and RCC equipment on a shared basis • service provision more uniform across a geographic area defined by risk • proficient services provided near and within States with limited resources. • harmonization of aviation / maritime procedures • inter-operability of life-saving equipment • development of a pool of experienced SAR mission coordinators skilled across both aviation and maritime domains thus reducing coordination and fragmentation 			
Strategy				
ATM OC COMPONENTS	TASKS	TIMEFRAME START-END	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS
N/A	• conduct Southern African regional SAR workshop	IQ 2009		Not started
	• establish collaborative decision making process	IQ 2009		
	• develop needs assessment and gap analysis	1Q 2009		
	• develop Southern African regional action plan	1Q 2009		
	• conduct regional SAR Administrators training and	1Q 2009		
	• determine regional organisation, functions and responsibilities, accommodation and equipment needs	2Q 2009		
	• produce draft legislation, regulations, operational procedures, letters of agreement SAR plans and safety management policies for regional SAR provision	2Q 2009		
	• determine future training needs and develop training plans	2Q 2009		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ alerting procedures resource databases ➢ interface procedures with aerodrome emergency procedures and generic disaster response providers ➢ RCC check lists ➢ staffing, proficiency and certification plans ➢ preventive SAR programmes ➢ quality programmes ➢ education and awareness programmes ➢ in-flight emergency response procedures 	3Q 2009		
	• conduct training as required	3Q 2009		
	• conduct SAR exercises	3Q 2009		
	• monitor implementation	as appropriate		
linkage to GPIs	N/A			

Notes:

1. The above work plan requires to be duplicated for NW Africa, Eastern Africa, Western Africa (Lagos) and Western Africa (Liberia) in turn. The timing of work in these regions will be dependent on operational, demographic, financial and social factors which, presently, are indeterminate. The nature and duration of the planning and implementation activity for each sub-regional RCC is considered to be in the same order of the Southern African plan detailed above.

2. All work requires close cooperation with all States affected, ICAO, IMO, Cospas-Sarsat and other worldwide bodies as required.
