INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION



AFI REGIONAL SIGMET GUIDE

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APPENDIX C

SIGMET TEST PROCEDURES

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CHAPTER 1 — REGIONAL SIGMET TEST PROCEDURES

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Meteorology Divisional Meeting (2002) formulated Recommendation 1/12 b), *Implementation of SIGMET requirements*, which called, *inter alia*, for the relevant planning and implementation regional groups (PIRGs) to conduct periodic tests of the issuance and reception of SIGMET messages, especially those for volcanic ash.
- 1.2. This document describes the procedures for conducting regional SIGMET tests. The test procedures encompass all the three types of SIGMET, as follows:
 - SIGMET for volcanic ash (WV SIGMET);
 - SIGMET for tropical cyclone (WC SIGMET); and
 - SIGMET for other weather phenomena (WS SIGMET).
- 1.3. The requirements for dissemination of SIGMET are specified in Annex 3, Appendix 6, 1.2 and in this guide Section 3 Paragraph 3.6 to the AFI SIGMET Guide.
- 1.4. Tropical cyclone and volcanic ash cloud SIGMETs will be referred to hereafter as **WC** SIGMET (due to the $\mathbf{T_1T_2}$ section of the WMO AHL being set to **WC**) and **WV** SIGMET (due to the $\mathbf{T_1T_2}$ section of the WMO AHL being set to **WV**) respectively. All other SIGMET types will be referred to by **WS** (due to the $\mathbf{T_1T_2}$ section of the WMO AHL being set to **WS**).

2. Purpose and scope of regional SIGMET tests

- 2.1. The purpose of the regional SIGMET tests is to check the awareness of participating MWOs of the ICAO requirements for the issuance of SIGMET and the compliance of the States' procedures for preparation and dissemination of SIGMET bulletins with the relevant ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) and regional procedures.
- 2.2. An MWO is at liberty to issue SIGMET test messages for local reasons (i.e. testing of local systems/routing etc.). Whilst such tests may not involve other MWOs or agencies directly, it is recommended that the general principles of this guide be followed with regard to local, ad hoc testing.

Note: It is recommended that MWO's consider issuing SIGMET test messages following upgrades to operational SIGMET or dissemination systems.

- 2.3. Hereafter, references to 'SIGMET tests' or 'tests' should be understood to refer to AFI regional SIGMET tests.
- 2.4. The scope of the tests is to check also the interaction (where appropriate, depending on regional requirements) between the tropical cyclone advisory centres (TCAC) and volcanic ash advisory centres (VAAC), and the MWOs in their areas of responsibility. Therefore, where the issuance of **WC** and **WV** SIGMET is being tested, the TEST SIGMET messages initiated by the MWO should normally be triggered by a test advisory issued by the respective TCAC or VAAC.
- 2.5. Dakar and Pretoria regional OPMET data banks (RODB) will monitor the dissemination by filing all TEST SIGMETs and advisories and the corresponding reception times. The monitoring results for **WC**,

wv and **ws** SIGMET will be provided in the form of summaries to the SIGMET test focal points given in section 3.4.3 with a copy to the ICAO Regional Office Dakar and Nairobi

- 2.6. A consolidated summary report will be prepared by both the SIGMET test focal points and submitted to the ICAO regional office Dakar and Nairobi. The report will include recommendations for improvement of the SIGMET exchange and availability. The results of the tests should be reported to the AFI Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group (IIM/SG) meetings.
- 2.7. Participating States, for which discrepancies of the procedures or other findings are identified by the tests, will be advised by the ICAO Regional Office and requested to take necessary corrective action.

3. SIGMET test procedures

3.1. Procedures for WC and WV SIGMET tests

3.1.1. Participating units

3.1.1.1. Tropical Cyclone Advisory Centres (TCAC):

TCAC, La Reunion

3.1.1.2. Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres (VAAC):

VAAC, Toulouse

3.1.1.3. **Regional OPMET Data Banks (RODB):**

RODB Dakar RODB Pretoria

3.1.1.4. **Meteorological Watch Offices (MWO):**

All MWOs listed in AFI eANP Volume II Part V Table MET II-1, under the responsibility of the corresponding TCACs and VAACs.

3.1.2. WV/WC SIGMET test messages

- 3.1.2.1. On the specified date for the test Time (UTC) to be agreed by ICAO Dakar and Nairobi Regional Offices, the participating VAAC and TCAC should issue a TEST VA or TC advisory¹. The structure of the TEST advisories should follow the standard format given in Annex 3 with indication that it is a test message using the TEST indicator at the appropriate position of the SIGMET, and as shown in Attachment C-0 to this Appendix.
- 3.1.2.2. MWOs, upon receipt of the TEST VA or TC advisory, should issue a TEST SIGMET for volcanic ash (**WV**) or tropical cyclone (**WC**), respectively, and send it to all participating RODBs. The WMO AHL, the first line of the SIGMET, and the FIR reference in the second line of the SIGMET should be valid entries. The remainder of the body of the message should contain only the specified 'TEST' indicator. TEST SIGMETs should normally have short validity periods (10 minutes), but where appropriate TEST SIGMET may be issued with validity periods up to the maximum allowed (4 hours for **WS**, 6 hours for **WC** and **WV**').

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¹ Note, although not within the scope of this document, the VA and TC advisory messages also include TEST and EXER Indicators with effect from Amendment 78. Consult ICAO Annex 3 Table A2-1 and A2-2 accordingly.

- 3.1.2.3. If the MWO does not receive the TEST VA or TCA advisory within 30 minutes of the commencement time of the test then they should still issue a TEST SIGMET indicating that the VAA or TCA was not received. See Attachment C-0 for an examples of the test message.
- 3.1.2.4. The use of the TEST indicator and the next sequence number will avoid over-writing of previously issued and valid SIGMETs. To avoid any possible risk of confusion during genuine volcanic eruptions or tropical cyclone events, then TEST SIGMET for VA or TC should not be sent in the case where there is a valid SIGMET of the same type for the MWO's area of responsibility. However, in this case the responsible MWO should notify the WV/WC SIGMET test focal point as given in 3.4.1.3 so that they can be excluded from the analysis.

3.2. Procedures for WS SIGMET tests

The WS SIGMET is initiated by the MWO at the designated time in 3.2.2 for the hazardous phenomena specified by ICAO Regional Offices Dakar and Nairobi. It is not initiated by an advisory as in the WC and WV SIGMET tests.

3.2.1. Participating units

Each Regional Office should develop its own list of participating units, using the template below:

3.2.1.1. Regional OPMET Data Banks (RODB):

RODB Dakar RODB Pretoria

3.2.1.2. Meteorological Watch Offices (MWO):

All AFI States MWOs listed in AFI eANP Volume II Part V Table MET II-1.

3.2.2. WS SIGMET Test Message

- 3.2.2.1. The MWOs should issue a TEST SIGMET during the 10-minute period within the issue time specified in the State Letter communicating the SIGMET Test.
- 3.2.2.2. The WMO AHL, the first line of the SIGMET, and the FIR reference in the second line of the SIGMET should be valid. The remainder of the body of the message should contain only the 'TEST' indicator. TEST SIGMETs should normally have short validity periods (10 minutes), but where appropriate TEST SIGMET may be issued with validity periods up to the maximum allowed (4 hours for **WS**, 6 hours for **WC** and **WV**'.

3.3. **Common procedures**

3.3.1. Special procedure to avoid overwriting of a valid WV/WC/WS SIGMET

3.3.1.1. It is vital to ensure that the use of the 'TEST' indicator is intended to ensure that messages are correctly processed and not used for operational decision making. Accordingly, it is suggested that Test SIGMETs will use the next normally available sequence number for test SIGMET messages or the first available sequence number of any pre-defined letter assigned to test SIGMETs for those States identifying SIGMETs using an alphanumerical sequence number (ex: A3 or B03)..

For example, a SIGMET test is scheduled for 0200 UTC on the 29th. Three SIGMETs have already been issued for the FIR since 0001 UTC. The TEST SIGMET is issued as follows:

WSSG31 GOBD 290200 GOOO SIGMET 4 VALID 290200/290210 GOBD-GOOO DAKAR FIR TEST SIGMET PLEASE DISREGARD=

3.3.2. The test date and time

- 3.3.2.1. ICAO Dakar and Nairobi Regional Offices will set a date and time for each SIGMET test after consultation with the participating VAACs, TCACs and RODBs. The information about the agreed date and time will be sent to all States concerned by a State letter and copied to the States' SIGMET Tests Focal Points.
- 3.3.2.2. Tests for different types of SIGMET should preferably be conducted on separate dates.
- 3.3.2.3. SIGMET tests for **wc**, **wv** and **ws** should be conducted at least yearly.
- 3.3.3. <u>Dissemination of test SIGMETs and advisories</u>
- 3.3.3.1. All TEST TC/VA advisories should be sent by the TCAC La Reunion and the VAAC Toulouse to the participating units, as specified in the AFI Regional Air Navigation Plan. The relevant AFTN addresses are listed in Attachment C-1 to this Appendix C.
- 3.3.3.2. All TEST SIGMETs should be sent by the MWOs to the participating units, as specified in the AFI Regional Air Navigation Plan. The relevant AFTN addresses are listed in Attachment C-1 to this Appendix C.
- 3.3.3.3. Dakar and Pretoria RODBs nominated as AFI IROGs will relay the test bulletins to their corresponding IROG.
- 3.3.3.4. SIGMET tests should be terminated within 2 hours of the test start time. Exceptionally, where the test requires SIGMETs to be valid for up to 4 hours, then tests may be extended to a maximum of 4 hours for WS SIGMET and 6 hours for WC and WV SIGMET.

3.3.4. Coordination with the ATS units

3.3.4.1. MWOs should inform the associated ATS units of the forthcoming SIGMET tests by a suitable advanced notice.

3.4. Processing of the test messages and results

3.4.1. The RODBs should file all incoming TEST advisories and SIGMETs and perform an analysis of the availability, timeliness of arrival and the correctness of the WMO bulletin headings. A SIGMET TEST Summary Table, as shown in Chapter 2 of this Appendix, should be prepared by each RODB and sent to the regional SIGMET test focal point given in section 3.4.3, with a copy to the ICAO Regional Office.

3.4.2. The SIGMET test focal points should prepare the final report of the test and present to the ICAO Regional Office. A summary report should be submitted to the next AFI Infrastructure and Information Management Sub-Group (IIM/SG) meetings;

The current SIGMET test focal points for the AFI Region are listed in Attachment C-2 to this Appendix C.

4. Samples Messages of SIGMET Tests

ATTACHMENT C-0: Format of TEST Advisories and SIGMETs

1. Format of TEST Volcanic Ash Advisory

VA ADVISORY

TEST

DTG: YYYYMMDD/0200Z VAAC: <<NAME OF VAAC>>

VOLCANO: TEST PSN: UNKNOWN

AREA: <<NAME OF VAAC>> VAAC AREA

SUMMIT ELEV: UNKNOWN ADVISORY NR: YYYY/nn INFO SOURCE: NIL

AVIATION COLOUR CODE: NIL ERUPTION DETAILS: NIL OBS VA DTG: DD/GGggZ

OBS VA CLD: ASH NOT IDENTIFIABLE FROM SATELLITE DATA

FCST VA CLD +6 HR: DD/0800Z SFC/FL600 NO ASH EXP FCST VA CLD +12 HR: DD/1400Z SFC/FL600 NO ASH EXP FCST VA CLD +18 HR: DD/2000Z SFC/FL600 NO ASH EXP

RMK: THIS IS A TEST VA ADVISORY. MWO SHOULD NOW ISSUE A TEST SIGMET FOR VA,. PLEASE REFER TO THE LETTER FROM Dakar/NairobiREGIONAL

OFFICE DATED XXXXXXXXX.

NXT ADVISORY: NO FURTHER ADVISORIES=

2. Format of TEST Tropical Cyclone Advisory

TC ADVISORY

TEST

DTG: YYYYMMDD/0200Z TCAC: <<NAME OF TCAC>>

TC: TEST

NR: nn (actual number)

OBS PSN: NIL
CB: NIL
MOV: NIL
C: NIL
MAX WIND: NIL
FCST PSN +06HR: NIL

FCST MAX WIND +06HR: NIL

FCST PSN +12HR: NIL

FCST MAX WIND +12HR: NIL

FCST PSN +18HR: NIL

FCST MAX WIND +18HR: NIL

FCST PSN +24HR: NIL

FCST MAX WIND +24HR: NIL

NXT MSG: NIL=

3. Format of TEST SIGMET for Volcanic Ash

WVXXii CCCC YYGGgg CCCC SIGMET <<NUMBER>> VALID YYGGgg/YYGGgg CCCC-CCCC <<NAME>> FIR TEST=

 \mathbf{or}

WVXXii CCCC YYGGgg

CCCC SIGMET <<NUMBER>> VALID YYGGgg/YYGGgg CCCC
CCCC <<NAME>> FIR TEST. THIS IS A TEST MESSAGE, PLEASE

DISREGARD. TEST VA ADVISORY NUMBER YYYY/nn RECEIVED FM [name]

VAAC AT YYGGggZ=

or

WVXXii CCCC YYGGgg

CCCC SIGMET <<NUMBER>> VALID YYGGgg/YYGGgg CCCC
CCCC <<NAME>> FIR TEST. THIS IS A TEST SIGMET, PLEASE DISREGARD.

TEST VA ADVISORY NOT RECIEVED FM [name] VAAC=

Examples:

WVJP31 RJTD 170205

RJJJ SIGMET Z99 VALID 170205/170215 RJTD-

RJJJ FUKUOKA FIR TEST=

WVJP31 RJTD 170205

RJJJ SIGMET 2 VALID 170205/170215 RJTD-

RJJJ FUKUOKA FIR TEST. THIS IS A TEST SIGMET, PLEASE DISREGARD. VA ADVISORY NUMBER 2018/01 RECEIVED FM TOKYO VAAC AT 170200Z=

WVJP31 RJTD 170235

RJJJ SIGMET 4 VALID 170205/170215 RJTD-

RJJJ FUKUOKA FIR TEST. THIS IS A TEST SIGMET, PLEASE DISREGARD.

TEST VA ADVISORY NOT RECEIVED FM TOKYO VAAC=

4. Format of TEST SIGMET for Tropical Cyclone

WCXXii CCCC YYGGgg CCCC SIGMET <<NUMBER>> VALID YYGGgg/YYGGgg CCCC-CCCC <<NAME>> FIR TEST=

or

WCXXii CCCC YYGGgg

CCCC SIGMET <<NUMBER>> VALID YYGGgg/YYGGgg CCCC
CCCC <<NAME>> FIR TEST. THIS IS A TEST SIGMET, PLEASE DISREGARD.

TEST TC ADVISORY NUMBER xx RECEIVED FM [name] TCAC AT YYGGqqZ=

WCXXii CCCC YYGGgg

CCCC SIGMET <<NUMBER>> VALID YYGGgg/YYGGgg CCCC
CCCC <<NAME>> FIR TEST. THIS IS A TEST SIGMET, PLEASE DISREGARD.

TEST TC ADVISORY NOT RECEIVED FM [name] TCAC=

Example:

WCJP31 RJTD 100205 RJJJ SIGMET 1 VALID 100205/100215 RJTD-RJJJ FUKUOKA FIR TEST=

WCJP31 RJTD 100205

RJJJ SIGMET Z99 VALID 100205/100215 RJTD
RJJJ FUKUOKA FIR TEST. THIS IS A TEST SIGMET, PLEASE DISREGARD.

TEST TC ADVISORY NUMBER 1 RECEIVED FM TOKYO TCAC AT 180200Z=

WCJP31 RJTD 100235
RJJJ SIGMET Z99 VALID 100205/100215 RJTDRJJJ FUKUOKA FIR TEST. THIS IS A TEST SIGMET, PLEASE DISREGARD.
TEST TC ADVISORY NOT RECEIVED FM TOKYO TCAC=

5. Format of TEST SIGMET for other weather phenomena

WSXXii CCCC YYGGgg CCCC SIGMET <<number>> VALID YYGGgg/YYGGgg CCCC-CCCC <<NAME>> FIR TEST=

or

WSXXii CCC YYGGgg CCCC SIGMET <<number>> VALID YYGGgg/YYGGgg CCCC-CCCC <<NAME>> FIR TEST. THIS IS A TEST SIGMET, PLEASE DISREGARD=

Example:

WSJP31 RJTD 240205

RJJJ SIGMET A2 VALID 240205/240215 RJTD
RJJJ FUKUOKA FIR TEST. THIS IS A TEST SIGMET, PLEASE DISREGARD=

CHAPTER 2 — SAMPLE TABLE TO USED BY REGIONAL OPMET DATA BANKS

Name of R Date of Te Target (VA	st	Dakar 2011/11/ VA	17				
	ories (FV) CCCC PAWU ADRM RJTD NZKL LFPW KNES	<i>YYGGgg</i> 170159 170201 170200 170207 170202 170200	Received Time(UTC) Comments/Remarks 01:59:29 02:01:53 02:00:09 02:08:27 02:02:41 02:02:01				
VA SIGM	FT (WV)						
TTAAii	CCCC	YYGGgg	MWO	FIR	Received Time(UTC)	Comments/Remarks	
WVAK01		170200	PAWU	PAZA	02:00:11	Comments/Itemarius	
WVAU01		170201	YDRM		02:02:04		
	RCTP	170205	RCTP	RCAA	02:04:58		
WVCI33	ZBAA	170205	ZBAA	ZBPE	02:05:26		
WVCI34	ZSSS	170205	ZSSS	ZSHA	02:02:34		
WVCI35	ZJHK	170201	ZJHK	ZJSA	02:03:34		
WVCI36	ZUUU	170205	ZUUU	ZPKM	02:11:04		
WVCI37	ZLXY	170205	ZLXY	ZLHW	02:07:44		
WVCI38	ZYTX	170205	ZYTX	ZYSH	02:01:50		
WVCI39	ZWWW	170202	ZWWW	ZWUQ	02:02:40		
WVCI45	ZHHH	170204	ZHHH	ZHWH	02:08:52		
WVFJ01	NFFN	170000	NFFN	NFFF	02:15:46		
WVIN31	VOMM	170201	VOMM	VOMF	02:09:57		
WVJP31	RJTD	170205	RJTD	RJJJ	02:06:24		
WVKP31	ZUUU	170206	ZUUU	VDPP	02:12:23		
WVLA31	VLVT	170200	VLVT	VLVT	02:01:03		
WVMS31	WMKK	170205	WMKK	WBFC	02:04:28		
WVPA01	PHFO	170201	PHFO	KZAK	02:02:09		
WVPH31	RPLL	170210	RPLL	RPHI	02:08:43		
WVPN01	KKCI	170200	KKCI	KZAK	02:00:11		
WVRA31		170205	RUCH	UIAA	02:08:01		
WVRA31		170206	RUHB	UHHH	02:07:57		
WVRA31		170205		UHMM	02:08:59		
WVRA31		170200		UHMP	02:09:13		
WVRA31		170205	RUSH	UHSS	02:04:22		
WVRA31		170202	RUVV		02:03:13		
WVRA32	RUPV	170200	RUPV	UHMA	02:06:01		

WVRA32	RUYK	170207	RUYK	UELL	02:07:28
WVRA33	RUHB	170202	RUHB	UHBB	02:02:49
WVSR20	WSSS	170205	WSSS	WSJC	02:05:38
WVSS20	VHHH	170202	VHHH	VHHK	02:03:05
WVTH31	VTBS	170211	VTBS	VTBB	02:13:53
WVVS31	VVGL	170200	VVGL	VVNB	02:05:06
WVVS31	VVGL	170208	VVGL	VVTS	02:14:38

— END —

ATTACHMENT C-1: MWO AFTN ADDRESSES

Name of MWOs	ICAO Location Indicator of the MWO		FIC/ACC served by the MWO			
		MWO CVM	ACC CCR	FIC /CIV	Name	ICAO Location. Indicator
Accra	DGAA	DGAAYMYX	DGACZQZX	DGFCZIZX	Accra	DGAC
Addis Ababa	НААВ		HAAAZQZX	HAAAZIZX	Addis Ababa	НААА
Antananarivo	FMMI	FMMIYMYX	FMMMZQZX	FMMMZIZX	Antananarivo	FMMM
Asmara	HHAS		HHAAZQZX		Asmara	ННАА
Brazzaville	FCBB		FCCCZQZX	FCCCZIZX	Brazzaville	FCCC
Bujumbura	НВВА			HBBAZIZX	Bujumbura	НВВА
Dakar	GOOY	GOOYYZYZ	GOOOZQZX	GOOOZIZX	Dakar	G000
Dar-Es-Salaam	HTDA	HTDAYMYX	HTDCZQZX	HTDCZIZX	Dar-es-Salaam	HTDC
Entebbe	HUEN		HUECZQZX	HUENZIZX	Entebbe	HUEC
Gaborone/SSK	FBSK	FBSKYMYX	FBGRZQZX	FBGRZIZX	Gaborone	FBGR
Harare	FVRG	FVRGYMYX		FVRGZIZ	Harare	FVRG

Name of MWOs	ICAO Location Indicator of the MWO		FIC/ACC served by the MWO			
		MWO CVM	ACC CCR	FIC /CIV	Name	ICAO Location. Indicator
Johannesburg	FAOR	FAPRYMYX	FACAZQZX	FACAZIZX	Cape Town	FACA
Johannesburg	FAOR	FAPRYMYX	FAJAZQZX	FAJAZIZX	Johannesburg	FAJA
Johannesburg	FAOR	FAPRYMYX		FAJOZIZX	Johannesburg Oceanic	FAJO
Kano	DNKN	DNKNYMYX	DNKKZQZX		Kano	DNKK
Kigali	HRYR			HRYRZQZX	Kigali	HRYR
Kinshasa	FZAA	FZAAYMYX			Kinshasa	FZAA
Kamuzu / Lilongwe	FWKI	FWKIYMYX		FWLLZIZX	Kamuzu / Lilongwe	FWLL
Lomé	DXXX	DXXXPRVI			Lomé	DXXX
Luanda	FNLU	FNLUYMYX	FNANZAZX	FNANZQZX	Luanda	FNAN
Lusaka	FLKK	FLKKYMYX		FLFIZIZX	Kenneth Kaunda	FLFI
Mauritius	FIMP	FIMPYMYX		FIMMZIZX	Mauritius	FIMM
Maputo	FQMA	FQMAYMYX			Beira	FQBE

Name of MWOs	ICAO Location Indicator of the	AFTN Addresses / Adresse RSFTA			FIC/ACC served by the MWO	
	MWO	MWO CVM	ACC CCR	FIC /CIV	Name	ICAO Location. Indicator
Mogadishu	НСММ			HCSMZIZX	Mogadishu	HCSM
N'Djamena	FTTJ			FTTTZIZX	N'Djamena	FTTT
Nairobi	НКЈК	HKJKYMYX		HKNAZIZX	Nairobi	HKNA
Niamey	DRRN	DRRNYMYX	DRRRZQZX	DRRRZIZX	Niamey	DRRR
Roberts	GLRB	GLRBYRYX		GLRBZIZX	Roberts	GLRB
Sal	GVAC	GVACYMYX		GVSCZIZX	Sal	GVSC
Seychelles	FSIA	FSIAYMYX	FSSSZQZX	FSSSZIZX	Seychelles	FSSS
Windhoek	FYWW	FYWHYMYX			Windhoek	FYWH

ATTACHMENT C-2: SIGMET TEST FOCAL POINTS

	State/Etat/ Organisation	Name/Nom et Prénom	Address/Adresse	E-mail	Fax	Telephone
1	France	DUPON Valentin	VAAC Toulouse	valentin.dupont@meteo.fr		Tel: +33 (0) 5 61 07 81 50 Mob: +33 (0) 6 98 05 33 47
2	Meteo-France	Philippe Hereil	VAAC Toulouse Manager, Met Services for Aviation Operations Head	Philippe.hereil@meteo.fr		(33) 561 078 239
4	France	Caroff Philippe	TCAC La Réunion	Philippe.caroff@meteo.fr		+262 26 2 92 11 06
5	South Africa	Mr Maluta Tshifaro	RODB Pretoria SA Weather Services (SAWS)	Maluta.Tshifaro@weathersa.co.za		
6	South Africa	Ms. Gaborekwe Khambule	RODB Pretoria SA Weather Services (SAWS)	Gaborekwe.Khambule@weathersa.		
7	Senegal	Mr MBENGUE Babacar	RODB Dakar	mbengbabs@yahoo.fr; mbenguebab@asecna.org		+221 33 809 23 27 +221 77 654 98 24