

## **Telecon meeting of the SDS-WAS NAMEE Regional Steering Group.**

**21 September 2018. 10-12 CET**

**Participated:** Enric Terradellas, Slobodan Nickovic, Vassilis Amiridis, Angela Benedetti, Pavla Dagsson, Peter Knippertz, Mikhail Sofiev, Alexander BAKLANOV;

**Invitees:** Ana Vukovic, Sara Basart

- 1. Opening of the session. Adoption of the agenda**  
Agenda adopted with no changes
- 2. Collaboration with other organizations/projects**

### *Input to WWRP Scientific Steering Committee*

Annual WWRP meeting will be 15-19 October 2018. Emilio, Xiaoye and Nicko contributed for the SDS-WAS report (priorities in modeling and observations). More important will be engagement of the RSGs in the forthcoming update if the SDS-WAS SIP.

### *WMO/WHO health meeting*

WHO organizes a conference on aerosol impacts to health 30 October 2018 in Geneva. A day before WMO will have a 1/2 day sided meeting specifically on SDS issues; agenda not yet specified. Enric will coordinate WMO-WHO communication on the 1/2 day event. Sara will participate in the events, Alex only on 29th.

### *UNCCD/WMO meeting on SDS technical guide and source mapping*

Alex explained that WMO is the host and UNCCD the organizer of the meeting to be held 1-4 October in Geneva. The meeting will discuss draft of the UNCCD TECHNICAL GUIDE FOR SAND AND DUST STORMS. WMO contribute to drafting the section Monitoring, Forecasting and Early Warning. UNCCD, among other issues, includes the early warning issues. Ana is fully involved in the Global SDS Source Base Map document to be discussed as well. Participants from 7 UN agencies will participate the meeting to discuss on joint position and collaboration on SDS. WMO as host invited. Ana informed RSG on concepts to perform dust source mapping. On ff the question is do we need non-public data and establishment national/regional pilot project to participate in source specification and source improving. Alex proposed Pavla to be included in dust source mapping for the high latitude dusts.

Nicko will circulate the UNCCD draft documents to RSGs.

### *COST InDust*

Sara provided a short info on InDust activities - the annual meeting is in Cyprus 24-27 October 2018. Nicko emphasizes the complementarities of SDS-WAS (warning and assessments) and InDust (user oriented products). The group in Belgrade which recently started Icelandic experimental dust forecasts will be in contact with the Barcelona Center to establish a page showing this new product. Michael informs FMI also works on development of this type of forecasts; Pavla says the UK Met Office works on similar model system (Malcolm's clarification:

*A minor clarification - I think the web page being referred to under the Met Office is pages like these:  
[http://gws-access.ceda.ac.uk/public/mo\\_forecasts/restricted/Oracles/mo\\_f\\_orac\\_dtime.html?met-office/oper-global/dust-aod/south-atlantic-clarify/5500-nm/](http://gws-access.ceda.ac.uk/public/mo_forecasts/restricted/Oracles/mo_f_orac_dtime.html?met-office/oper-global/dust-aod/south-atlantic-clarify/5500-nm/) These are web pages designed to provide scientists who are coordinating/forecasting for observing campaigns with near real time forecasts. Dust is included, as this can often be an important focus. The pages aren't really designed for the general public. .*

*UN Environment Management Group (EMG)*

Alex informs RSG on the UN high level action for building a coalition of UN bodies aimed to establish mechanisms for interactions re SDS. A corresponding meeting will be on 24 September this year.

### **3. BAMS paper(s)**

The White paper on observations (lead by Lucia) will be submitted to BAMS. Last draft version was made in July; the next version will be available in a few weeks. Some comments/revisions meanwhile received. In the next few weeks a new version will be circulated including those revisions + revised version of Sect 4. Lucia will circulate the proposal for the BAMS articles by mid Oct. **Lucia to circulate it to RSGs as well.**

Ana asks the polarization radars to be considered (based on successful dust detection in cases for Arizona and Tehran). **Nicko to send Ana the paper draft, also a copy to Alex since this issues are important to link to the GAW.**

Another paper is in a draft form (preparing by Sara) (The Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System - SDS-WAS: Ten years of dust operational research in Northern Africa, Middle East and Europe). **It will be circulated by Sara to SDS-WAS community when advanced a bit.**

### **4. Update of the SDS-WAS Science and Implementation Plan**

Following the conclusion of the Tenerife RSG meeting, Xiaoye and Nicko will lead the action of updating SDS-WAS SIP. Nicko informs that in November work on this will start; important will be involvement of the wider SDS-WAS community.

### **5. Contribution to the Airborne Dust Bulletin #3**

Xiaoye leads the action, assisted by Enric. Content of the Bulletin:

- annual anomaly maps (ECMWF will contribute)
- Minoan case (Alexandra)
- Indian case (Indian colleagues; Xiaoye and Nicko to coordinate)
- Iceland forecasts (Pavla, Nicko)
- InDust (Sara, Nicko)

### **6. SDS-WAS West Asia Center /Node issue**

Although invited, RA representatives and Iranian and Turkish RSG members are not participating today. Discussion on the new Node(s) is postponing. SDS-WAS ready to scientifically support

such initiatives, the political/regional issues are responsibilities of Regional Associations (Alex, Nicko). Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia, following interest of the Gulf countries, expresses interest to host another SDS-WAS Node/Center (Alex)

## **7. Information from the SDS-WAS Regional Center**

Enric informed that BSC signed a new 3yr contract with AEMET for running the NAMEE Center, including also some funding for model developments.

## **8. Any other business**

Angela reported on ideas regarding to the tropical CAL/VAL mission for the Aeolus satellite (mainly wind but also aerosols). The selected site will be Cape Verde and the time-frame of the campaign will be Jun-July 2020. The scientific objectives of the campaign still have to be defined. A number of groups involved in SDS expressed interest to participate.

Issues of dust impacts on aviation were briefly discussed.

Michael: EU EUNADICS project includes dust as a relevant aerosol.

Alex: WMO Volcanic Ash Advisory Centers (VAAC) also consider dust effects.

Nicko: InDust Workshop on dust impacts on aviation to be held in the UK beginning of 2019. Belgrade group has developed a predicting system on dust melting conditions in the new-generation of turbines.

Offline input of Emilio, complementary to the information given in the Minutes:

*1) Add that the SDS-WAS has a permanent position in the GAW (Global Atmosphere Watch) Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) for Aerosols as SAG Aerosol ex-officio member, decided at the last SAG Aerosols meeting held in Geneva from 9 to July 11, 2018. This is of great importance because WMO recognizes the specificity of the observation program required by SDS-WAS.*

*2) Concerning Point 7 of the Minutes (Information from the SDS-WAS Regional Center), just to clarify that the agreement signed by AEMET and the BSC for the maintenance of the activities of the SDS centers and the development of new services includes an economic budget to hire a junior researcher and a junior computer scientist for three years who will work 100% for SDS-WAS Regional Center. The idea is to renew the agreement every 3 years if everything goes well and the activities are conveniently justified. On the other hand I think is relevant the fact that Enric's replacement as technical director of the SDS based in Barcelona centers as of January 2019, due to the retirement of Enric, is insured by AEMET with the incorporation of Ernest Werner. Ernest has begun (since last May) to work in SDS-WAS activities together with Enric in order to make an adequate and smooth transition.*

*3) Concerning Educational activities, just to mention that AEMET-IARC has signed an agreement with the Ministry of education to set up the Calima network within the framework of the GLOBE project (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment). Calima is an aerosol / dust observation network formed by 10 handheld photometers (Calitoo) located in 10 high schools distributed in 8 islands of the Canary archipelago, which will be managed by students and their teachers. The equipment has already been distributed and has begun to send data through a web application specially designed so that students can send observations of optical depth aerosol and Angstrom exponent through their mobile phones.*