

Expert Team: Resource Mobilisation, Partnerships, and Development Assistance (ET-RMPDA)

1. Introduction

The Terms of Reference (TORs) for the ET-RMPDA were agreed prior to initiation of the CDP at EC-71, and were as follows:

Monitor and make recommendations on the following:

- i. Provide guidance and oversight regarding WMO efforts to strengthen assistance to the NMHSs of Developing and Least Developed Countries
- ii. The facilitation of twinning arrangements and other innovative modes of bilateral cooperation.
- iii. Strategies to leverage initiatives in the UN system and other development partner initiatives.
- iv. Oversee and guide the implementation of the tasks of the Executive Council according to Resolution 8.3/1 (Cg-18). In particular, ensure that WMO activities that support capacity development, including the Country Support Initiative and VCP, as well as WMO-related CREWS activities, are complementary and take into consideration the unique national context of Members.
- v. Strategies for identifying opportunities; how to best apply extra-budgetary resources to maximise impacts; develop guidance for NMHSs on resource mobilization strategy.
- vi. Approaches to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate projects.
- vii. Partnerships, promotion of multilateral and bi-lateral collaboration, Public-Private Engagement (PPE), interagency collaboration including WMO-IOC JCB.

2. Activities and Approach

Drivers for proposed outputs

The focus of activities under the ET were centred on linking in with TORs outlined above, and making sure any activities:

- a) Add value to the work of WMO – with a focus on providing feedback/guidance as opposed to practical implementation of specific capacity development activities (much of which is being done elsewhere across WMO, and by Members);
- b) Assist with the effective coordination of capacity development across WMO, which is believed to be central to the TORs of the wider Panel;
- c) In line with b), feed into work on the revised Capacity Development Strategy (CDS);
- d) Complement, rather than duplicate, any other work in the CDP-ETs and across WMO;
- e) Ensure that we are prioritising those activities that will add most value as per a); and
- f) Consider feedback from relevant WMO bodies, including from Congress and EC.

Summary of meetings and approach

Virtual meetings were held during the period, the first to help determine the activities and outputs to be focussed on, and the second as a follow-up. Further regular communications, updates and requests for feedback from the ET Facilitator were conducted via the CDP Moodle site and email. Numerous meetings were held across the WMO Secretariat by the ET Facilitator to progress agreed activities and outputs.

Agreed activities and outputs

The agreed activities and outputs are outlined in section 3. Three of the eight activities during the period were requests from EC (mainly EC73). The remainder were developed in line with the TORs and drivers mentioned above.

Those requested by EC are indicated with a * in section 3.

3. Progress on activities/highlights:

i) Assessment of key development needs/gaps in each Region (including consideration of significant upcoming initiatives under the Technical Commissions and Research Board) to feed into the revised Capacity Development Strategy (CDS).

Several discussions were held with the CDS Task Team regarding this activity. Integration was dependent on decisions around the purpose and audience of the CDS which is now more orientated towards a 'framework' for capacity development to help guide approach across WMO, as opposed to identifying key outputs around WMO LTGs, especially LTG4. The latter should be covered by the WMO Strategic Plan/Operating Plan 2024-27 developments, and it was proposed that the CDP could potentially peer review these developments and the proposed outputs as per CDP TORs and to "...monitor the priorities of, and activities under, the WMO Strategic Plan..." (tbc).

ii) Review of current data collection platforms and methodologies and providing recommendations on how best to manage/streamline.

In initial ET-RMPDA discussions it was recognised that there are already numerous data sources available/methodologies for collection of data within WMO, and the potential need for these to be rationalised.

However, with the development of the new Country Hydromet Diagnostics (CHD) tool it was decided to adjust this activity to assist with the peer review of the CHD, and input was provided in September 2021.

iii) Review of/guidance on, significant WMO capacity development initiatives and feedback to EC e.g. Country Hydromet Diagnostics tool, SOFF, others TBD in discussion with relevant WMO departments/programmes.

Discussion during CDP-2 in February 2021 emphasised the benefit of input from the CDP in 'significant' upcoming capacity development initiatives. A discussion was held with WMO regarding ET-RMPDA being involved in peer review of SOFF but was decided at this time – and as SOFF development was mature – that input was not applicable at this stage. Instead it was agreed that the ET-RMPDA could best provide feedback into the CHD peer review, as per output ii).

iv) Support of the independent evaluation of WMO projects as requested by EC-72. *

In Decides 11 (EC-72), EC decided "To base the decision on scope and scale of future development projects implemented by the WMO Secretariat on a strategy that needs to be informed by an independent evaluation of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and fiduciary risks of the current approach." And the CDP: "To support the independent evaluation of the WMO Secretariat implemented projects".

The ET Facilitator has fed into the scoping and design of the recruitment exercise for this consultant and assessing applications. Further guidance/input will be provided during the work of the recruited consultant during the latter part of 2022.

v) Input into guidance/recommendations on the facilitation of twinning arrangements and other innovative modes of bilateral cooperation, and best practise for taking forward.

Input, including facilitation, was made into the meeting “*Strengthening collaboration among NMHSs and WMO Centers for effective support to Members through extra-budgetary projects*” held by WMO 10th-12th March 2021.

There was a significant amount of useful feedback gathered from this meeting (<https://community.wmo.int/meetings/strengthening-collaboration-among-nmhss-and-wmo-centers-effective-support-members-through-extrabudgetary-projects>). It was further highlighted to WMO, and in discussion with the ET-TD, the importance of ensuring this valuable feedback could be communicated and taken on board to be used practically, particularly by those technical departments involved in projects, and the Technical Commissions. In light of this, recommendation was also made for the output to be utilised in the development of the Capacity Development Strategy, as applicable.

vi) Review and document recommendations on best practise in terms of working with development partners/Government (to enhance knowledge sharing in this area).

This links to feedback from EC-72 requesting the CDP to “*To develop appropriate guidelines supporting the implementation of the WMO initiatives to strengthen the capacity of developing country Members*”

This activity was led by Professor Karnawati and her team at BKM Indonesia. Significant effort was inputted to implement questionnaires and interviews – both online and in-person – across the WMO Membership and Secretariat. This included LDCs, middle-income countries, and developed countries working in partnership with other NMHSs on capacity development activities. The goal of this activity was to identify ways to improve resources mobilization amongst WMO members. This was to be achieved through gaining further information on how resource mobilization activities were currently being conducted, and to identify what has worked well or not so well.

The report can be accessed at https://etrp.wmo.int/pluginfile.php/56473/mod_resource/content/2/Booklet%20Survey%20on%20RMPDA%20rev.pdf It has been recommended that findings are included on the Country Profile Data Base and Community Platform and shared with the WMO Project Management Board. In addition, it has been discussed with the Task Team on the Capacity Development Strategy re incorporating findings into the CDS, where applicable.

Vii) To conduct an assessment of, and clarify the roles and responsibilities of, the different actors as well as the different funding mechanisms involved in WMO Capacity Development activities”. *

The original activity, when the ET was set up, was focussed on the TORs and Res 8.3/1(Cg-18), “*...ensure that WMO activities that support capacity development, including the Country Support Initiative and VCP, as well as WMO-related CREWS activities, are complementary and take into consideration the unique national context of Members.*”

Whilst work was initiated, and meetings held, around the original activity above, the activity was later absorbed into a request from EC73 (Doc 4.4): “*To conduct an assessment of, and clarify the roles and responsibilities of, the different actors as well as the different funding mechanisms involved in WMO Capacity Development activities*”

Initial discussions around approach for achieving this output have been held. This has included discussions with WMO MSD regarding potential synergies with work being completed by the consultant for action iv) *Support of the independent evaluation of WMO projects as requested by EC-72.*

Work will continue to agree how CDP/ET-RMPDA can support this activity effectively. It was agreed that this would also be a useful input into the new Capacity Development Strategy; however, integration will depend on timing of related work and outputs.

viii) Make recommendations and develop strategies to strengthen subregional, regional, inter-regional and other cooperation groups in order to establish synergies at inter-regional and sub-regional levels and to identify training and capacity-building opportunities. *

This was one of two CDP/ET activities recommended during discussions at EC73. It was agreed at CDP-4 in Feb '22 that WMO MSD would lead on this and draw in resource from ET-RMPDA and ET-HRDET as required at a later date.

ix) Additional activities: During the intersessional period extensive input has also been made into the Capacity Development Strategy development, and the ET Facilitator also led on the RTC Italy review in 2022.

4. Challenges and Opportunities

Being the first time WMO has set up a Capacity Development Panel, it provides a good opportunity to learn from the current setup and reflect on opportunities for future work post Congress 2023.

There were two key challenges recognised during the work of the ET (recognised across the ETs) which are both interrelated. Despite these challenges a significant amount of work was achieved during this period; however the outputs could be enhanced further by the consideration of the following:

a) Resources to implement activities, made more challenging as resources crossed over between teams.

Out of the six team members, three had external work/other team commitments which prevented capacity for input. Therefore, resources were limited overall, and activities had to be restricted/prioritised.

Going forward there would be good opportunity to increase the output of these teams to add to the value of WMO work. This could include enhancing team size and ensuring reduced cross over between teams.

b) Wide/generalised nature of the ET TORs and making sure we are adding value to work of WMO.

Unlike other Expert Teams whose TORs/outputs may be led by TC/RA decisions, the ETs had wide TORs, generally not defined by previous Decisions at the outset. There were a couple of requests from EC which arose later in the period, and for which work continues.

It would be good to consider, going forward, how to make the ET (and CDP) TORs more specific to ensure activities add value to the work of WMO, be driven by WMO, and also not overlap existing work undertaken elsewhere. This would also help to mitigate challenge a) and resources available.

It may also be helpful to review how the Panel could add value to some of the significant upcoming capacity development initiatives and providing peer review e.g. Early Warnings For All. Contributing into such initiatives was discussed at CDP-2 and it may be beneficial to explore this further.

It should be noted that for other ETs, especially ET-HRDET, the focus of activities was arguably less of a challenge as activities were taken forward from the previous Education and Training Panel (in addition to resource already working on these activities outside of the CDP).

It is also proposed that it would be helpful to share experiences across the new WMO Panels in terms of challenges and opportunities to plan approach going forward.

5. Recommendations from the Expert Team

As outlined in the wider report (and see section 6), some of the activities from the ET are still to be concluded, and recommendations from these activities will follow once work is complete. However, the following recommendations are made from the work currently completed and discussions held:

- 1) To note (particularly Technical Departments and TCs) the recommendations from the meeting "*Strengthening collaboration among NMHSs and WMO Centers for effective support to Members through extra-budgetary projects*" (10th-12th March 2021) - particularly feedback from Members regarding considerations around implementation of projects. It is also recommended that recommendations from the meet are incorporated into CDS development, as applicable.
- 2) To note the feedback received, and recommendations of, the 'Survey of RMPDA' focussed on best practise in terms of working with development partners/Government and resource mobilisation. These findings include (further detail in [report](#)): Focus on enhancing visibility amongst Government and partners; Enhanced capacity development/skills development in resource mobilisation and proposal development, including linking with development partner priorities and ensuring clear communication with stakeholders on proposed activities; support with skills development for strategic planning and linking with national priorities; sustainability planning. As per recommendation 1, it is proposed that the findings from the report should be considered for the CDS development, as applicable, as well as the WMO Operating Plan and proposed activities.
- 3) To encourage MoUs between WMO ETR and Members (possessing one or more RTC components) to enhance resource mobilisation and support to potential trainees of NMHSs from LDCs/SIDCs.

6. Activities up until Congress

Proposed priorities:

- Ongoing support to activity iv) "*Support of the independent evaluation of WMO projects as requested by EC-72*" in cooperation with WMO Secretariat
- Agreement of approach and timeline for activity vii) requested by EC73 "*To conduct an assessment of, and clarify the rules and responsibilities of, the different actors as well as the different funding mechanisms involved in WMO Capacity Development activities*"
- Ongoing input into the Capacity Development Strategy (CDS)
- Potential input into Resource Mobilisation Strategy currently being developed by WMO Secretariat
- Finalising Regional Training Centre review contribution