

**CBS/GCOS Lead Centre
Direction de la Météorologie Nationale
MOROCCO**

Casablanca, 15 April 2007

**Report of CBS Lead Centre for GSN and GUAN Data
for Northern region I and Madagascar**

Submitted by

Rachid SEBBARI, Direction de la Météorologie Nationale, Morocco
sebbari@gmail.com

Summary and Purpose of Document

This document provides information on the activities of the CBS Lead Centre and information on the results obtained since April 2006.

Report of the CBS Lead Centre for GSN Data (DMN, Morocco)

Rachid Sebbari, Direction de la Météorologie Nationale, Morocco

1. Background

The GCOS Surface Network Monitoring Centre (GSNMC), jointly operated by Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) and Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD), started its activities in 1999 by monitoring the availability of CLIMAT messages from GSN stations distributed via GTS(GCOS-53, 1999).

Noting that results of the GSN and GUAN monitoring do not automatically lead to improvement of the quantity and quality of GCOS data, the first CBS/GCOS Expert Meeting on Coordination of the GSN and GUAN (Offenbach, May 2002) recommended that CBS Lead Centres for GCOS data be established to facilitate the exchange of GCOS data with NMHSs involved. Therefore, 8 CBS Lead Centres for GCOS data have been established. Morocco has been formally nominated as lead centre by the Acting President of the CBS in March 2006.

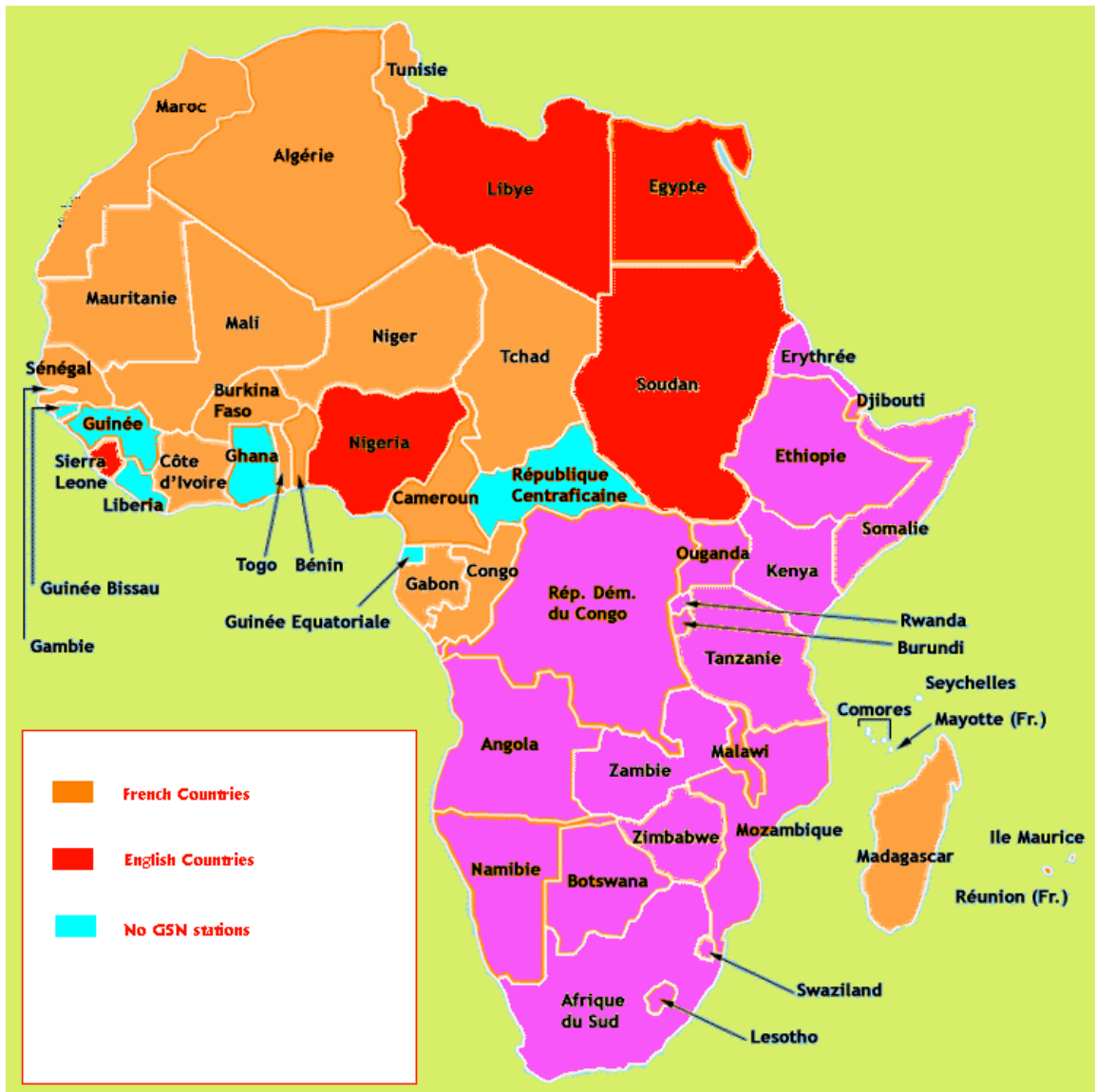
2. Objectives

The Lead Centre aims to improve the quantity and quality of GSN data, contained in CLIMAT reports exchanged over the GTS, by exchanging the GSN monitoring information directly with NMHSs in accordance with the proposed terms of reference. Implementation of activities of the Lead Centre should generally follow the procedures for WWW monitoring centres, as laid down in the Manual on the GDPS, Attachment II.7 (WMO - No. 485). The Lead Centre will focus on the activities in paragraph 3.

The Morocco CBS Lead centre, referred hereafter as the DMN Lead Centre, is responsible of Madagascar and the Northern Part of Region I (Northern, western and central Africa) which includes the following countries:

<u>Northern Africa</u>	<u>Western Africa</u>	<u>Central Africa</u>
1. Algérie ·	8. Bénin ·	23. Cameroun ·
2. Égypte	9. Burkina Faso ·	24. Guinée équatoriale ·
3. Libye ·	10. Cap-Vert	25. République
4. Maroc	11. Côte d'Ivoire ·	centrafricaine
5. Mauritanie ·	12. Gambie ·	26. République du
6. Soudan ·	13. Ghana ·	Congo ·
7. Tunisie	14. Guinée ·	27. Gabon
	15. Guinée	28. São Tomé-et-Príncipe ·
	Bissau ·	29. Tchad
	16. Liberia ·	
	17. Mali ·	
	18. Niger ·	
	19. Nigeria ·	
	20. Sénégal ·	
	21. Sierra Leone ·	
	22. Togo	

The figure below shows these countries with their main language.



3. Activities

The DMN Lead Centre started the following activities as from May 2006 with NMHSs in Northern Africa and Madagascar:

- (i) Identification of NMHSs with problems.
- (ii) Contact with NMHSs from which no CLIMAT message is received.
- (iii) Support to NMHSs for preparing CLIMAT messages in a standard format.
- (iv) Maintenance of the list of Focal Points (FPs) in co-operation with WMO Secretariat.
- (v) Report on the Centre's activities to the other CBS Lead Centre(s), WMO and GCOS.

4. Results

As a first step, in order to find causes of receiving no CLIMAT or insufficient CLIMAT reports, the Lead Centre has sent to all country's GCOS focal point a questionnaire regarding the status of their GSN stations, which have reported no CLIMAT report for six months or more. The questionnaire, which has been kindly prepared by Phil ALFORD, Australia, is available in English and has been translated to French language.

During 2006, the DMN Lead Centre has sent emails to the GCOS focal points of Burkina-Faso, Cap-Verde, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Niger and Sudan.

One response has been received from Ivory Coast GCOS FP who has sent us information's about the GUAN station and also a few photos.

Good contact has been established with the GCOS focal point of Libya after a help from R. Thigpen to reach him.

No response has been received from the other countries.

For the following countries: Chad, Cameroon, Congo, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sierra-Leone, Togo there is no GCOS focal points.

It is important to underline that many GSN stations have never sent a CLIMAT report and are GCOS stations.

Hereafter is a diagnosis of GCOS network by country

The GSN stations belonging to the following countries: **Algeria, Burkina-Faso, Benin, Senegal and Tunisia**, are excellent and routinely send CLIMAT reports, which reach NCDC, through the GTS.

(1) CAMEROON

Few CLIMAT reports have been received from (64870) NGAOUNDERE station. There is no GCOS focal point available.

(2) CAPE VERDE

The GSN station (08583) MINDELO has never sent any CLIMAT report.

(3) CHAD

Three of five stations have almost never sent a CLIMAT report message: (64751) ATI, (64753) FAYA and (64754) AM-TIMAN. For the others few CLIMAT reports have been received. There is no GCOS focal point available.

(4) CONGO

Few CLIMAT reports have been received from (64459) IMPFONDO station. There is no GCOS focal point available.

(5) IVOIRY COAST

The focal point of GCOS Mr Abolé N'GBÉ has retired in February 2007; the new focal point is Mr Alioune KAMARA, dockamus@yahoo.fr.

The station ODIENNE 65528 has been silent since September 2002, Mr KAMARA informed us, in 2007, that this station is located in a war area and so it has been closed. Concerning the other GSN stations, ADIAKE 65585 and SASSANDRA 65599, the focal point confirms that there are problems sending CLIMAT reports at these stations; he will send us more information soon.

(6) EGYPT

The following two GSN stations, (62420) BAHARIA and (62463) HURGUADA, has never sent any CLIMAT report. The GSN station, (62432) DAKHLA, has stopped sending CLIMAT reports since JUNE 1995. The other three stations, 62306, 62414 and 62417, are excellent and send reports regularly.

(7) GABON

There are problems in (64503) MAYUMBRA since MAY 2005 and in (64552) MITZIC since February 2006; almost no messages even hourly are not received by the monitoring centers. There is no GCOS focal point available.

(8) LIBYA ARAB JAMAHIRIA

Monitoring Centers have irregularly received some CLIMAT reports from the five GSN station of Libya: (62010) TRIPOLI INTE, (62053) BENINA, (62124) SEBHA, (62131) HON and (62271) KUFRA. The GCOS focal point did send the Lead Centre CLIMAT reports for January, February and March 2007, CLIMAT report for (62010) TRIPOLI INTE for 2006, and also CLIMAT reports for all the stations for 2005, which has been forwarded to NCDC. It seems that one of the problems of not receiving CLIMAT report is that they are not sent before the 8th of the month. The lead centre advised the focal point about this time constraint. The focal point is willing to cooperate in order to solve this problem.

(9) MADAGASCAR

There are message reception problems in (67019) ANALALAVA since February 2004 and (67143) MANANJARY since April 2005 for both hourly and CLIMAT messages. For the remaining stations CLIMAT reports have not been received since August 2005. No response has been received yet from the Focal point.

(10) MALI

The GSN station (61250) MENAKA has stopped sending messages (hourly and monthly) since October 2005. Monitoring Centers have been receiving irregularly few CLIMAT reports from the other four GSN station of Mali.

(11) MAURITANIA

There is no GCOS focal point available.

(12) MOROCCO

Two of three of the GSN stations belonging to Morocco, are excellent and send CLIMAT reports at time, the third one has never sent any report. Morocco will soon propose another station which do CLIMAT report routinely to replace this one.

(13) NIGER

The four GSN/GCOS stations CLIMAT messages are not received sometimes.

(14) NIGERIA

During the last 55 years less than 10 CLIMAT messages have been received from each of the two GSN stations (65167) YOLA and (65123) MINNA. There is no GCOS focal point available.

(15) SIERRA LEONE

There is one GSN/GCOS station in this country. There is no GCOS focal point available.

(16) SUDAN

No CLIMAT report has been received since November 2006 from all the twelve (12) GSN/GCOS stations belonging to Sudan. Trying to establish contact with the GCOS focal point is ongoing.

(17) TOGO

CLIMAT reports are occasionally received from the (65352) MANGO station. There is no GCOS focal point available.

5. Identified Problems

The problems identified through the activity are as follows:

(1) GCOS focal points missing:

The first main problem is the GCOS focal points list, only three (3) of the GCOS focal points have responded to Lead centre emails. Some Countries do not have a GCOS focal point.

(2) Silent station:

According to the monitoring results from GSNMC, many GSN stations are still silent. Some of them are closed.

(3) Timeliness:

CLIMAT reports should be disseminated by the fifth day but not later than the eighth day of the following month.

6. Near future Plan

The DMN Lead Centre will try to get in touch with 'no response' countries with the cooperation of GCOS Secretariat. This activity requires very large effort so and in order to make it more effective a working team composed currently of 2 persons has been set up.