

**DATA-PROCESSING AND FORECASTING SYSTEMS (DPFS) INCLUDING
EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES (ERA) – ER 1 AND ER 6**

THE MANUAL ON THE GDPFS AND ITS FUTURE EVOLUTION

SUMMARY

ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Status of the Manual on the GDPFS
2. Future of the GDPFS
3. Future work plan of CBS

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

Potential costs for consultant and an expert meeting to review and propose revisions to the Manual on the GDPFS.

DECISION/ACTION REQUIRED:

- (a) Include an item(s) in the future work plan of CBS and of the Secretariat to address the issues raised;
- (b) Adopt the draft text for inclusion in the general summary of CBS-XIV.

REFERENCES:

1. Manual on the Global Data-Processing and Forecasting System (WMO–No. 485, Vol. I)
2. Manual on the Global Data-Processing and Forecasting System (WMO–No. 485, Vol. II) - Regional Aspects)

CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:

Appendix for inclusion in the final report:

Draft text for inclusion in the general summary of CBS-XIV

DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE GENERAL SUMMARY OF CBS-XIV

6.3 DATA-PROCESSING AND FORECASTING SYSTEM (GDPFS) INCLUDING EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES (ERA) (*agenda item 6.3*)

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The Manual on the GDPS and its future evolution

6.3.40 The Commission considered the status of the *Manual on the GDPFS* (WMO-No. 485 Vols I and II). Volume I had been issued in 1992 and had most recently been amended in November 2007 (i.e., Supplement 11). For Volume II, there was an amendment (2003, Supplement 2); otherwise, it had not been updated since it was issued in 1992.

6.3.41 The Commission noted that many sections of material (especially the Attachments and Appendices) dealt in detail with procedures relating to analysis and forecasting, transmission of products and data management that had been superseded.

6.3.42 The Commission also noted that Volume I of the *Manual* (Global Aspects) forms part of the *Technical Regulations* and is referred to as Annex IV to the *Technical Regulations* and as such the Commission has been requested by Congress (Resolution 32 of Cg-XV) to review such publications according to quality management principles to ensure their suitability as part of the WMO Quality Management Framework.

6.3.43 The Commission also recognized that there were fundamental changes under way on other parts of the Basic Systems, including the development of WIGOS and WIS. It decided that along with any review and update of the Manual on the GDPFS there should also be work done on the future evolution of the GDPFS taking into account the WIGOS, WIS, experiences from Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Projects, and anticipated results from THORPEX-TIGGE, including research and development into a Global Interactive Forecast System.

6.3.44 The Commission agreed that a comprehensive review of the Manual on the GDPFS should be undertaken ... [*to be decided*]

6.3.45 With regard to Volume I, the Commission noted that Appendix I-1 listed 25 RSMCs with geographical specialization. However, the Manual provided no definition of the geographical area that each RSMC was responsible for, other than a related reference to zones of responsibility, listed by countries, in the Annex to Appendix I-5 with respect to backup services by 22 RSMCs to UN Humanitarian Missions. The Commission requested that [*to be decided*].

6.3.46 The Commission also noted that Volume I provided guidelines for reviewing the status of RSMCs with geographical specialization (Attachment I.1) but not for reviewing the status of RSMCs with activity specialization. It requested the development and inclusion of such guidelines in the Manual on the GDPFS.

6.3.47 With regard to Volume II (Regional Aspects), the Commission noted that many sections of material were out of date. For instance, there were references to archiving and exchanging data on nine track magnetic tape and microfilm, outdated references to products produced under the World Area Forecast System, and requirements for superseded products including nephanalyses. The Commission discussed the need for Volume II of the Manual on the GDPFS and ... [*to be decided*]