

# Water Aerodromes Certification

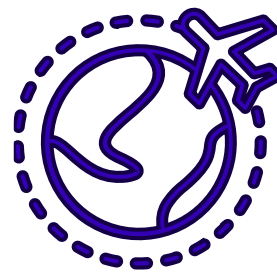
April 2025 - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia





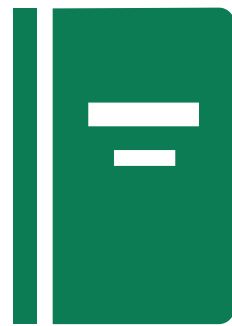
# The Development of GACAR Part-137

## CERTIFICATION, AUTHORIZATION AND OPERATION OF WATER AERODROMES



**GACA** launched a pilot project to establish regulations for water aerodromes in Saudi Arabia in line with the sample guidelines and requirements of ICAO-APAC office for water aerodromes.

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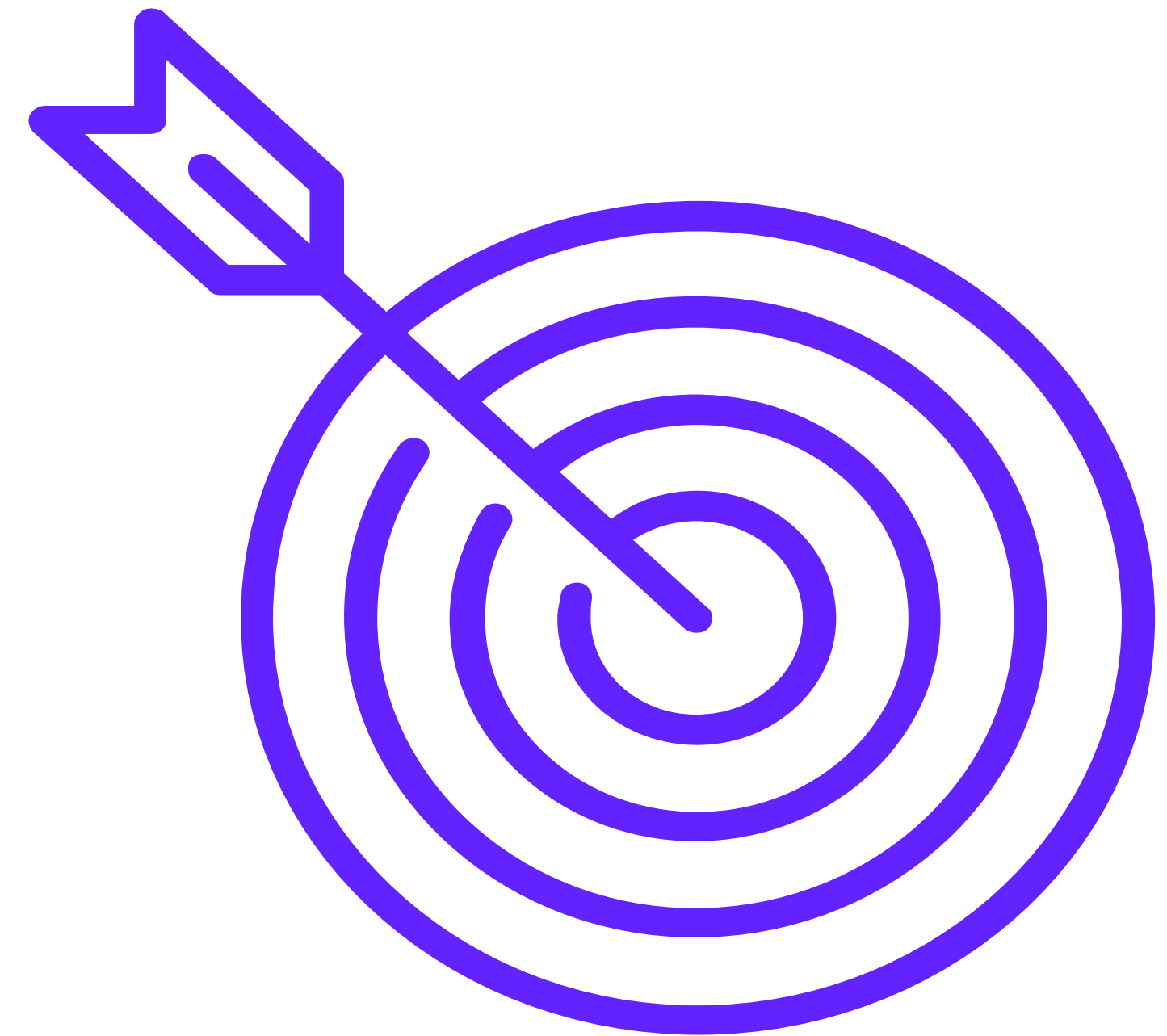


By January 2022, **GACA** promulgated its first-ever regulatory framework under GACAR Part-137 that governs the certification, authorization and operation of water aerodromes in Saudi Arabia.

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**GACA** through its participation in the ADOP-WAWG is desirous share its research work with ICAO-Air Navigation Commission (ANC) to improve and develop comprehensive SARPs for promotion and the safety of this emerging area of water aerodromes in the ICAO MID region and globally.



# The Development of GACAR Part-137

CERTIFICATION, AUTHORIZATION AND OPERATION OF WATER AERODROMES

## GACAR Part-137

Administrative

Technical



### GACAR PART 137 – CERTIFICATION, AUTHORIZATION AND OPERATION OF WATER AERODROMES

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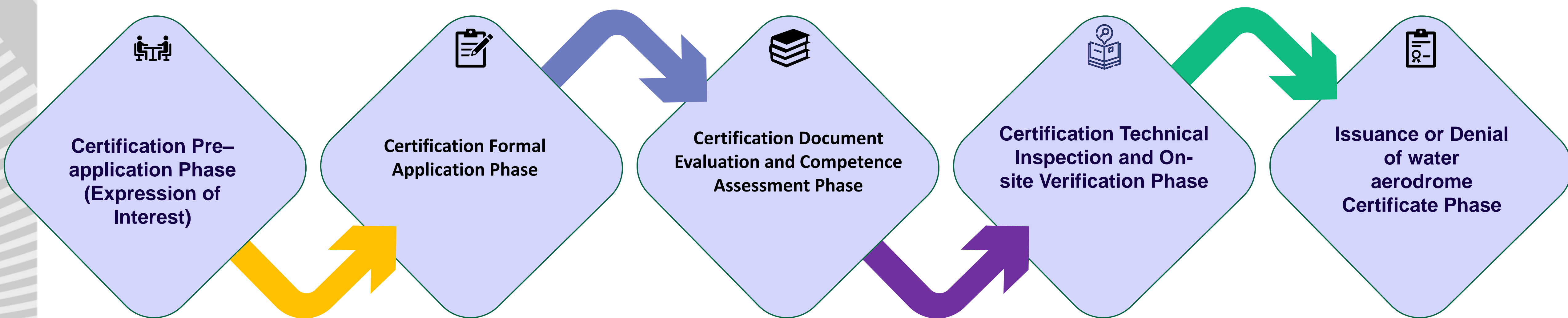
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# Phases of Water Aerodrome Certification Process





# Requirement for Obtaining Water Aerodrome Certification

Statement of regulations compliance in a prescribed form with completed compliance checklist

List of management personnel along with curriculum vitae and relevant testimonials

Water Aerodrome Operation Manual (WAOM)

Safety Management System Manual (SMSM)

Water Aerodrome Emergency Manual (WAEM);

Acceptance of the Water Aerodrome Security Plan (WASP).

Aeronautical Study Reports, if applicable

Approvals for operation of water aerodrome from Principality/Port Authority

Agreement for Providing Air Navigation Services for water aerodrome;

Water Aerodrome Land Ownership proof or Lease Agreement

Any other relevant documents as required by the President

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  <b>GACA®</b><br>المملكة العربية السعودية<br>الهيئة العامة للطيران المدني<br>Kingdom of Saudi Arabia<br>General Authority of Civil Aviation   |   |   |
| <h2 style="text-align: center;">Water Aerodrome Certificate</h2>   |   |   |
| Certificate Number:<br><b>WAC-137-002-01</b>   | This Certificate is issued to Water Aerodrome Operator<br><b>The Red Sea Air Services Company</b><br>for the Water Aerodrome<br><b>Sheybarah</b><br>WA - ICAO Location Indicator: OESR<br>Latitude: 25° 21' 54.20" N<br>Longitude: 36° 55' 45.22" E | Certificate Validity:<br>Date: 25-08-2027 |
| <p>This certificate is issued in pursuant to GACAR Part 137 of the General Authority of Civil Aviation Regulations under the authority of the Saudi Civil Aviation Law, authorizing the aerodrome operator to operate this water aerodrome in accordance with the accepted Water Aerodrome Manual; and the parameters, conditions and limitations prescribed in the Water Aerodrome Manual; and the water aerodrome information published in the Saudi Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP), along with the accepted corrective action plan submitted by the water aerodrome operator. This certificate is not transferable and shall remain in effect until its validity unless suspended or cancelled.</p> <p>This certificate may be suspended or cancelled at any time where the water aerodrome operator fails to comply with the provisions set forth in the Saudi Civil Aviation Law or the GACA Regulations.</p> |   |   |
| Certificate Issuance<br>Date: 26-08-2024   | President of the General Authority of Civil Aviation<br><br><b>Abdulaziz Bin Abdullah Al-Duailej</b>   |   |
|   |   |   |

## Work Done Since the Promulgation of GACAR Part-137

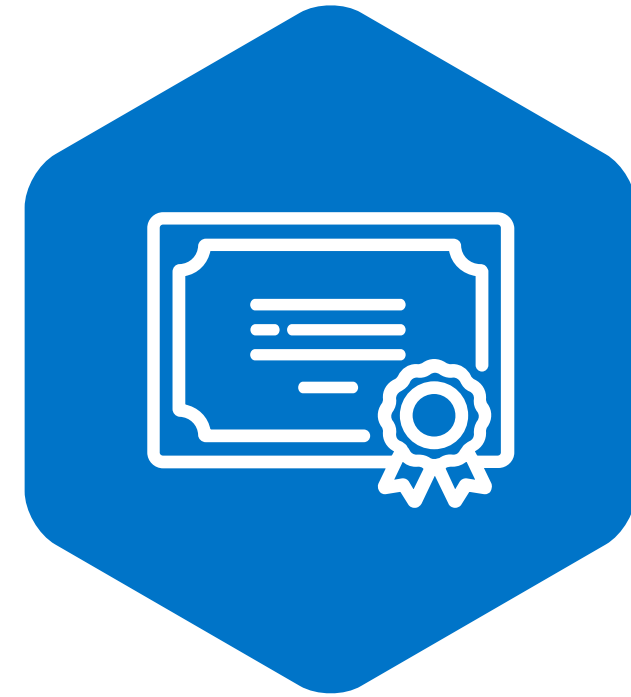
### Establishments, Certifications, SMS Implementation and MOU



#### Establishment

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Regulatory acceptance for establishing of **(5)** water aerodromes across the west coast of Saudi Arabia.



#### Certification

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Certification of **(2)** water aerodromes in the Red Sea islands, namely; Ummahat Island and Sheybarah Island.



#### SMS

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Piloting and overseeing the implementation of SMS in the certified water aerodromes.



#### Saudi Arabia-Maldives MOU

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Saudi Arabia signed an MOU for training and Knowledge transfer with the Republic of Maldives in Water Aerodromes and Seaplane operations.



# Work Done Since the Promulgation of GACAR Part-137

## Certificates and International Cooperations



### Ummahat Certificate

The first certified water aerodrome in  
the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
(10/10/2023)



### Sheybarah Certificate

The second certified water aerodrome  
in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
(26/08/2024)

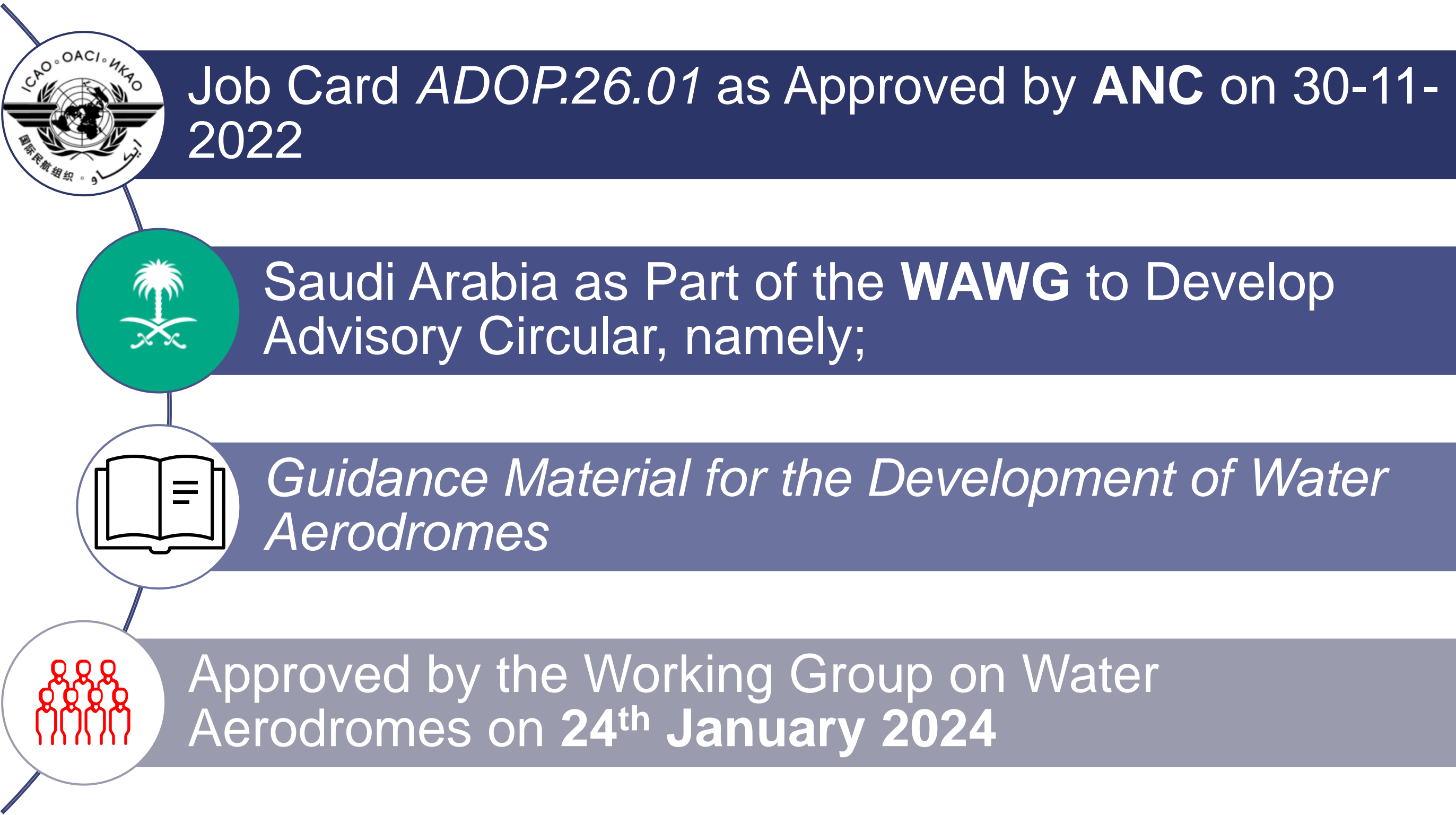



### MOU With Maldives

MOU signing ceremony between  
Saudi Arabia and the Maldives in the  
Water Aerodromes and Seaplane  
Operations (29/08/2024)



# ICAO Water Aerodrome Working Group (WAWG)





International Civil Aviation Organization

ADOP/5-WP/13  
26/02/24

WORKING PAPER

AERODROME DESIGN AND OPERATIONS PANEL (ADOP)

FIFTH MEETING (ADOP/5)

26 February to 01 March 2024

Agenda Item 4: Review of work progress of other job cards and update of work programme

UPDATES FROM THE WATER AERODROMES WORKING GROUP (WAWG)

(Presented by Carl GEOFFROY, Rapporteur of WAWG)

SUMMARY

The purpose of this working paper is to provide and update the status of the works of the Water Aerodromes Working Group (WAWG).

Specifically, this paper seeks approval from ADOP on the Draft ICAO Circular called *Guidance Material for the Development of Water Aerodromes* developed by the working group (Work Programme Element 10423). The paper also proposes changes to job card ADOP.026.01 *Global provisions for design, certification, and operations of water aerodromes*.

Actions by ADOP/5 is in paragraph 3.1.

1. INTRODUCTION

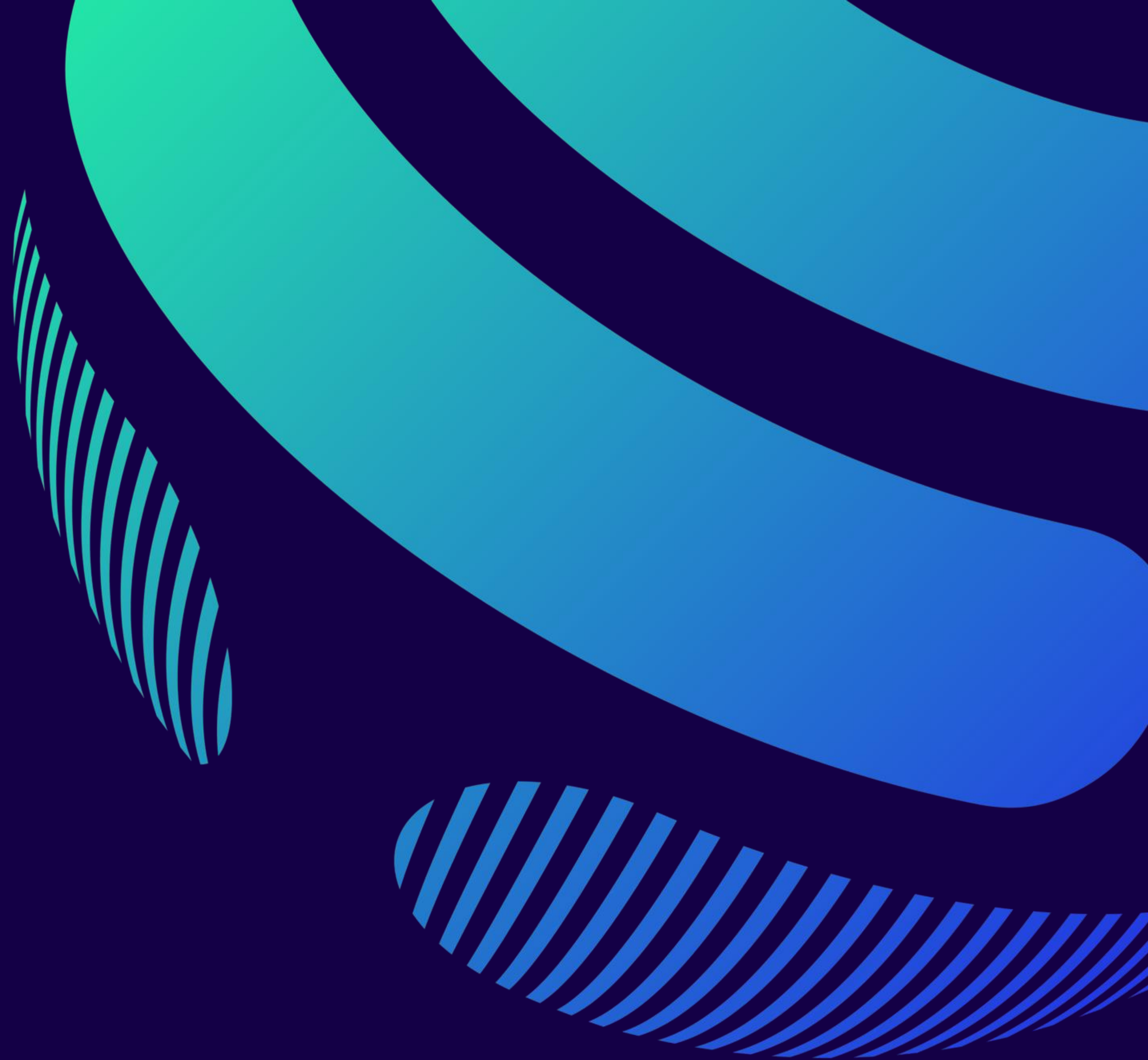
1.1 The WAWG was established in 2022. Created initially as an ad-hoc working group, the working group includes representatives from the ICAO Secretariat, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, Italy, the Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Airports Council International (ACI), the International Federation of Airlines Pilots Associations (IFALPA) and the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA). The first meeting was held on 25 January 2022 and a total of eleven meetings have taken place to date (with the last meeting held on 24 January 2024). The deliverables of the working group are identified in job card ADOP.26.01 *Global provisions for design, certification, and operations of water aerodromes*, which was approved by the Air Navigation Commission (ANC) on 30 November 2022.

(40 pages)



# Water Aerodrome

Certification Challenges and  
Recommendations



# Current ICAO Challenges and Recommendations

1

## Challenges

1. ICAO Annex 14 – Aerodromes - does not differentiate between land and water.
2. Several States have developed their own regulations for water aerodromes.
3. Hence; there are no uniform internationally accepted SARPs related to water aerodromes.
4. Implementation of SMS in small organizations/water aerodromes.
5. Potential regulatory overlap between ICAO and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) pertaining to maritime regulations and operations.

2

## Recommendations

1. **Invite MID States to share experience in:**
  - A. Developing the regulations for water aerodromes certification and authorization.
  - B. Implementation of the Safety Management System in small organizations/water aerodromes.



# Thank You

For any Inquiries, Please Feel Free to Contact me on:

✉ [Halharbia@gaca.gov.sa](mailto:Halharbia@gaca.gov.sa)

☎ [+966 536408802](tel:+966536408802)

☎ [+966 115253597](tel:+966115253597)