



**GREPECAS Programmes and Projects Committee (PPRC) Fourth Virtual Meeting
 (ePPRC/04)
 Online, 21 – 22 April 2022**

- Agenda Item 2: Follow-up on the CAR/SAM Planning and Implementation Regional Group (GREPECAS) Programmes and Projects**
- 2.1 Air Navigation Services (ANS) Implementation Status in the CAR/SAM Regions through the GREPECAS Programmes and Projects (Aerodromes and Ground Aids (AGA), Air Traffic Management (ATM), Aeronautical Information Management (AIM), Communications, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS), Meteorology (MET) and Search and Rescue (SAR))

FOLLOW-UP TO SAR IMPLEMENTATION IN THE CAR/SAM REGIONS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
The purpose of this WP is to present information on the progress of SAR implementation support activities in the CAR/SAM Regions and to follow up on previous CAR/SAM Planning and Implementation Regional Group (GREPECAS) decisions.	
Actions:	Indicated in section 4
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicago Convention • Annex 12 – <i>Search and Rescue</i> • CAR/SAM Regions Electronic Air Navigation Plan • GREPECAS Conclusion 19/04 <i>REMOTE SUBSCRIPTION OF LETTERS OF AGREEMENT (LOAs) AND EFFECTIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAR SERVICE</i>

1. Introduction

1.1 The CAR/SAM Regions continue developing a broad work programme to support the implementation of Search and Rescue services, taking as reference the Standards and Recommended Methods of Annex 12. – *Search and Rescue*.

1.2 Despite the limitations derived from the COVID-19 pandemic, the ICAO NACC and SAM Regional Offices, with the support of their respective SAR implementation support working groups, have maintained activities to follow up on pending issues, as well as to address emerging issues.

2. Analysis

CAR Region

2.1 Following up on GREPECAS Conclusion 19/04 *REMOTE SUBSCRIPTION OF LETTERS OF AGREEMENT (LOAs) AND EFFECTIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAR SERVICE*, the NACC Regional Office has directed high-level actions to promote the signing of SAR agreements in the CAR Region. The referred conclusion is shown in **Appendix** to this WP.

2.2 Some States, such as Cuba and Mexico, have made significant efforts to finalize their pending agreements, drafting and sending them to their respective counterparts in other States waiting to be able to sign them. Unfortunately, some States have not recognized the need to be able to conclude agreements for their adequate and sustainable provision of SAR services.

2.3 The NACC Regional Office will continue to work constantly trying to promote and support the signing of pending SAR agreements in the CAR Region. In order to comply with the activities of the aforementioned conclusion, it remains to be developed with the SAM Office a Project proposal to support SAR activities, which would be presented for consideration of the GREPECAS at the GREPECAS/20 Meeting.

2.4 From February 8 to 10, 2022, a Virtual Workshop on Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS) for the NAM/CAR Regions was held, which 122 participants of 23 States/Territories and 4 International Organizations attended. The objectives of this Workshop are:

- Provide information on the GADSS and the new requirements for aircraft Autonomous Distress Tracking (ADT);
- Explain roles and responsibilities of Air Operators, Air Traffic Service Units (ATSU) and Rescue Coordination Centres (RCCs) in the GADSS; and
- Raise awareness of the possibility that changes in operational procedures may need to be considered as a result of GADSS implementation.

2.5 This activity was carried out with the support of the ICAO Airspace Management and Optimization Section, the United States Coast Guard (USCG), the United States Mission Control Center (USMCC), the USMCC/RCC, and the Central American Corporation for Air Navigation Services (COCESNA).

SAM Region

2.6 In line with GREPECAS Conclusion 19/04, activities have been promoted to optimize the coordination of SAR Services in the Region. With the support of the SAM and WACAF ICAO Regional Offices, the Argentine administration completed the update of the FAJO-SAEF Letter of Procedure (LOP) with the South African Air Traffic Navigation Services (ATNS) provider, remotely through teleconferences and email, which included the review of coordination data of the RCCs of both States with adjacent oceanic spaces. The aforementioned LOP entered into force on 27 January 2022.

2.7 To date, the update of the SAR Letters of Agreement (LoAs) between the services of Peru and Colombia (draft presented in December 2021), as well as between Ecuador and Peru (draft presented in March 2022), is being carried out remotely. The aeronautical authority and the SAR providers in the three States are involved in this process.

2.8 The SAM Regional Office continues to promote the optimization of SAR in the Region and is involved in the task of developing a Project proposal that supports said activities with emphasis on the services that cover the Flight Information Regions (FIRs) adjacent to the common CAR/SAM border, for consideration by the GREPECAS/20 meeting.

3. Conclusions

3.1 The provision and surveillance of SAR services continues to face important challenges, in a complex environment with additional resource limitations, remarked by the progressive recovery of aeronautical operations.

3.2 The CAR and SAM Regional Offices remain available to assist States/Territories initiatives to review and update SAR coordination documents with adjacent services, through virtual means.

3.3 The follow-up to the work agreements by GREPECAS, as well as the support by the States, is essential to continue the process of strengthening the SAR services of the CAR/SAM Regions.

4. Suggested actions

4.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) urge the States and Territories of the CAR/SAM Regions to continue supporting SAR implementation activities, as well as submit to the ICAO Regional Offices their initiatives to update or formalize agreements, when they need coordination and/or teleconferences;
- b) instruct the Secretariat to give continuity to GREPECAS Conclusion 19/04 remote signing of LoAs and Effective Regional Implementation of the SAR service; and
- c) order any other action deemed necessary.

APPENDIX

CONCLUSION	
GREPECAS 19/04	REMOTE SUBSCRIPTION OF LETTERS OF AGREEMENT (LOAs) AND EFFECTIVE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SAR SERVICE
<p>What:</p> <p>That, the ICAO NACC and SAM Regional Offices evaluate the current challenges regarding the provision of SAR services in the CAR/SAM Regions and identify opportunities for improvement in order to:</p> <p>a) optimize regional coordination to allow subscribe and/or update SAR agreements, considering the signing of them remotely;</p> <p>b) promote joint work of the SAR between the CAR/SAM Regions; and</p> <p>c) develop a Project proposal to support activities a) and b) above, for GREPECAS consideration by the GREPECAS/20 Meeting.</p>	<p>Expected impact:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Political / Global</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inter-regional</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Economic</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operational/Technical</p>
<p>Why:</p> <p>The provision of SAR services is an essential part of air navigation services, it is necessary to update and progress on the implementation of the requirements of Annex 12 to support the effective implementation of SAR as part of the follow-up to the Plan Air Navigation of the CAR/SAM Regions.</p>	
<p>When: GREPECAS/20 Meeting</p>	<p>Status: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valid / <input type="checkbox"/> Superseded / <input type="checkbox"/> Completed</p>
<p>Who: <input type="checkbox"/> States <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICAO <input type="checkbox"/> Other:</p>	<p>ICAO NACC and SAM Regional Offices</p>

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