



ICAO

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North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

NACC/WG/8 — WP/17
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Eighth North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Meeting (NACC/WG/8)
Mexico City, 29 August - 1 September 2023

Agenda Item 3: Follow-up of NACC/WG 2022-2023 Action Plan
3.5 NACC/WG progress in technology: Air Traffic Services Inter-facility Data Communication (AIDC), SURV, Communication Management (COMM), and Aeronautical Frequencies (FRE).

FOLLOW UP ON THE ACTIVITIES FOR BETTER FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT IN THE REGION

(Presented by FRE/TF Rapporteur)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This working paper presents the work in development by CAR regions with the aim to have a regional frequency management in coordination with SAM. This work is a result of the Ad-hoc Group of CAR and SAM regions on Regional Management of Aeronautical Frequencies.

Action:	Suggested actions are presented in Section 4.
Strategic Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic Objective 1 – Safety• Strategic Objective 2 – Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency
References:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conclusion GREPECAS/20/05 "Creation of an Ad hoc Group for the Development of a Regional Project for the Management of Aeronautical Frequencies", November 2022. https://www.icao.int/NACC/Pages/meetings-2022-grepecas20.aspx• Resolution A41-7: "Support of the ICAO policy on radio frequency spectrum matters". October 2022 https://www.icao.int/Meetings/a41/Documents/Resolutions/a41_res_prov_en.pdf• Meeting of the Ad-hoc Group on Regional Management of Aeronautical Frequencies. Mexico City, Mexico, 30 January to 03 February 2023 https://www.icao.int/NACC/Pages/meetings-2023-afm.aspx• Second Meeting of Rapporteurs of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG/RAP/2). Mexico City, Mexico, 28 to 31 March 2023 https://www.icao.int/NACC/Pages/meetings-2023-wgrap02.aspx• RLA/06/901 - Workshop/Training on "Frequency Finder 2023" application Lima, Peru, 29 May to 02 June 2023 https://www.icao.int/SAM/Pages/MeetingsDocumentation.aspx?m=2023-RLA06901-FREQUENCYFINDER

1. Introduction

1.1 The radio electromagnetic spectrum is a limited natural resource in which different actors compete for the allocation of different bandwidths to provide different services. The vulgarisation of an integrated regional approach of all CAR and SAM States must be ongoing to protect the frequencies that are necessary for current and future aviation air navigation services before the ITU World Conferences.

1.2 Following the Conclusion GREPECAS/20/05 "*Creation of an Ad hoc Group for the Development of a Regional Project for the Management of Aeronautical Frequencies*", which was reinforced by the ICAO Assembly Resolution A41-7: "*Support of the ICAO policy on radio frequency spectrum matters*"; the first meeting of the Ad hoc Group was held at the ICAO NACC Regional office, from January 30th to February 3rd 2023.

1.3 Specialists from the CAR and SAM regions worked on the elaboration of the regional project that promote the regional management of the aeronautical frequency spectrum, with the aim of ensuring that the aeronautical frequencies necessary for air navigation services are available both for current and future needs of the regions, and also to improve safety, avoid interference and other problems related to the use of frequencies.

2. Discussions

2.1 During the event, the challenges of the CAR and SAM Regions regarding the management of aeronautical frequencies were discussed, and it was identified the need to:

- a) Update the aeronautical frequency databases of the CAR and SAM Regions;
- b) Update the aeronautical management procedures of both regions and standardize their regional use; and
- c) Establish Points of contact (PoCs) with the States of both regions, area specialists who support aeronautical frequency management activities, to ensure the correct use of frequencies and contribute to providing the necessary recommendations for the use of the bands of the radio spectrum for future services.

2.2 The Ad hoc Group prepared a proposal for a project to be developed during 2023 and the first half of 2024.

2.3 As part of the Project proposal, the status of regional aviation frequencies for both regions will be updated and a process of analysis and evaluation of the information presented by the CAR/SAM States will be integrated to update the information of the current operating frequencies and improve future regional assignments. The analysis included in the draft Project will support decision-making in the future and the ordering of regional frequency management.

2.4 The Regional Project proposal for frequency management in the CAR/SAM Regions, presented at the NACC/WG/RAP/2 meeting on March 2023, was submitted to GREPECAS for evaluation and was approved during the Fifth Virtual Meeting of the GREPECAS Programme and Project Review Committee (PPRC/5) held the 11th to 12th April 2023.

2.5 The project presents the following essential activities to be implemented:

- a) Carry out the necessary activities for the establishment of the Project at the regional level;
- b) Update the information on aeronautical frequency assignment in the CAR/SAM Regions by November 2023;
- c) Establish/update the regional frequency assignment procedure;
- d) Propose a regional training programme on aeronautical frequencies management of; and
- e) Establish follow-up and evaluation mechanisms for ITU WRC topics.

2.6 In addition, it was discussed the activities carried out to date by States with the support of the Regional Offices for the implementation of mitigating measures due to the implementation of 5G technologies for the use of cellular service communications.

2.7 In this regard, the Ad hoc Group indicated that States of both regions would not be affected by this implementation, based on the information available at the moment, but that it was necessary for States to continue monitoring this implementation and other future implementations that could compromise the aviation services.

2.8 An important point discussed was the global allocation of frequencies for various services through ITU meetings every four years. The latest allocations of radio spectrum use have been affecting aeronautical services.

2.9 In this sense, the Frequency Working Group (NACC/WG/FRE), once formed with all its members, will be responsible for sharing information about the use of aeronautical frequencies that affect aviation operations and jointly lead regional actions to safeguard and protect this important resource for aeronautical services.

3. Recommendations and outcomes

3.1 The radio spectrum and the frequencies for aeronautical use within this spectrum are key to providing safe and efficient air traffic management. In this regard, it is essential that CAR States have regionally standardized and harmonized management mechanisms to ensure efficiency and effectiveness and promote the safety of air navigation services.

3.2 It is essential that States establish management mechanisms for the frequencies assigned for the use of aeronautical services, in order to protect and use them safely.

3.3 It is crucial that States assign human resource(s) and that they specialize, through training, the personnel that will be responsible for the management of the radio electric spectrum assigned to aviation, both for current and future services.

3.4 It is recommended that States support this Project initiative, the execution and follow-up of each of its activities, as well as assign personnel from their organizations for the development of this Project and related future projects, the latter due to the fact that mismanagement or misuse of aeronautical frequencies can be the cause of serious incidents and accidents in aviation, with incalculable human and material losses.

3.5 Most of the frequency COM lists for the CAR region have been collected from the member states POCs dedicated to the management of their respective spectrum band. The table below give an update of the work progress so far:

STATE	Organisation	POC	email	COM list 1	COM List 2	COM List 3
Aruba	ANSA	Joselito Correia de Andrade	joselito.correideandrade@ansa.aw	N/A	Updated	Updated
Cayman	Cayman Islands Airport Authority	Cleavy A. Scott	Cleavy.Scott@caymanairports.com	Updated	Updated	Updated
COCESNA	COCESNA	Manuel Flores	manuel.flores@cocesna.org	Updated	Updated	Updated
Cuba	IACC			Updated	Updated	Updated
Curacao	DC-ANSP	Stephen (Steve) Hunt	s.hunt@dc-ansp.org	No Changes	No Changes	Updated
Dom Rep	IDAC	Elvis A. Collado	ecollado@idac.gov.do	No changes	No changes	Updated
Freeport	BANSND	Calvin McIntosh	calvin.mcintosh@bansabahamas.com	Updated	Updated	Updated
Haiti	OFNAC	Nadia Leopold	nleopold@hotmail.com	N/A	Updated	Updated
Jamaica	JCAA	Derrick Grant	derrick.grant@jcaa.gov.jm	Updated	Updated	Updated
Mexico	SCT	Daniel Castañeda Cruz	dcastane@sct.gob.mx	Updated	Updated	Updated
Nassau	BANSND	Earl A. Rahming Elton Joseph	earl.rahming@bansdbahamas.com elton.joseph@bansabahamas.com	Updated	Updated	Updated
Panama	AACP	Daniel De Avila	daniel.deavila@aeronautica.gob.pa			
Puerto Rico	FAA					
St Maarten	SXM	Richard Hazel	rhazel@sxmairport.com	N/A	Updated	Updated

3.6 Between May 29 to June 02 2023, the SAM Regional Office hosted the Workshop/Training on “Frequency Finder 2023” application. During this event the States of the NACC and SAM regions were invited to send their technical personnel involved with the management of aeronautical frequencies. This training emphasize on the installation and the use of the different COM, NAV and SSR modules of the Frequency Finder software.

3.7 This workshop/training was one of the programmed activities of the GREPECAS Project for the regional CAR/SAM management of the aviation radio spectrum.

3.8 For an effective management required by the GREPECAS Project, it is necessary that all CAR/SAM States use the Frequency Finder 2023 application as the management tool for the frequencies currently listed in the COM 2 (NAV) and COM 3 (VHF COM) Lists. The objective is for the CAR/SAM States to update the information in the application's database, which will become the main source of consultation for the frequencies used and for analysis of new deployments or studies of potential interference between deployed services/stations.

3.9 It was also addressed the importance of aeronautical frequency spectrum management and the direct relationship with the topics discussed at the World Radiocommunication Conferences of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The updated version of the "ICAO Position for the 2023 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)" was distributed to all the available PoCs for the CAR region.

4. Suggested actions

4.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) take note of the information provided in this working paper; and
- b) recommend any additional action deemed necessary

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