

# The Global Observing System for Climate

## Regional Workshops (Decision 8.6)

*27<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee  
IOC-UNESCO, Paris, France*

**GCOS Secretariat, WMO**

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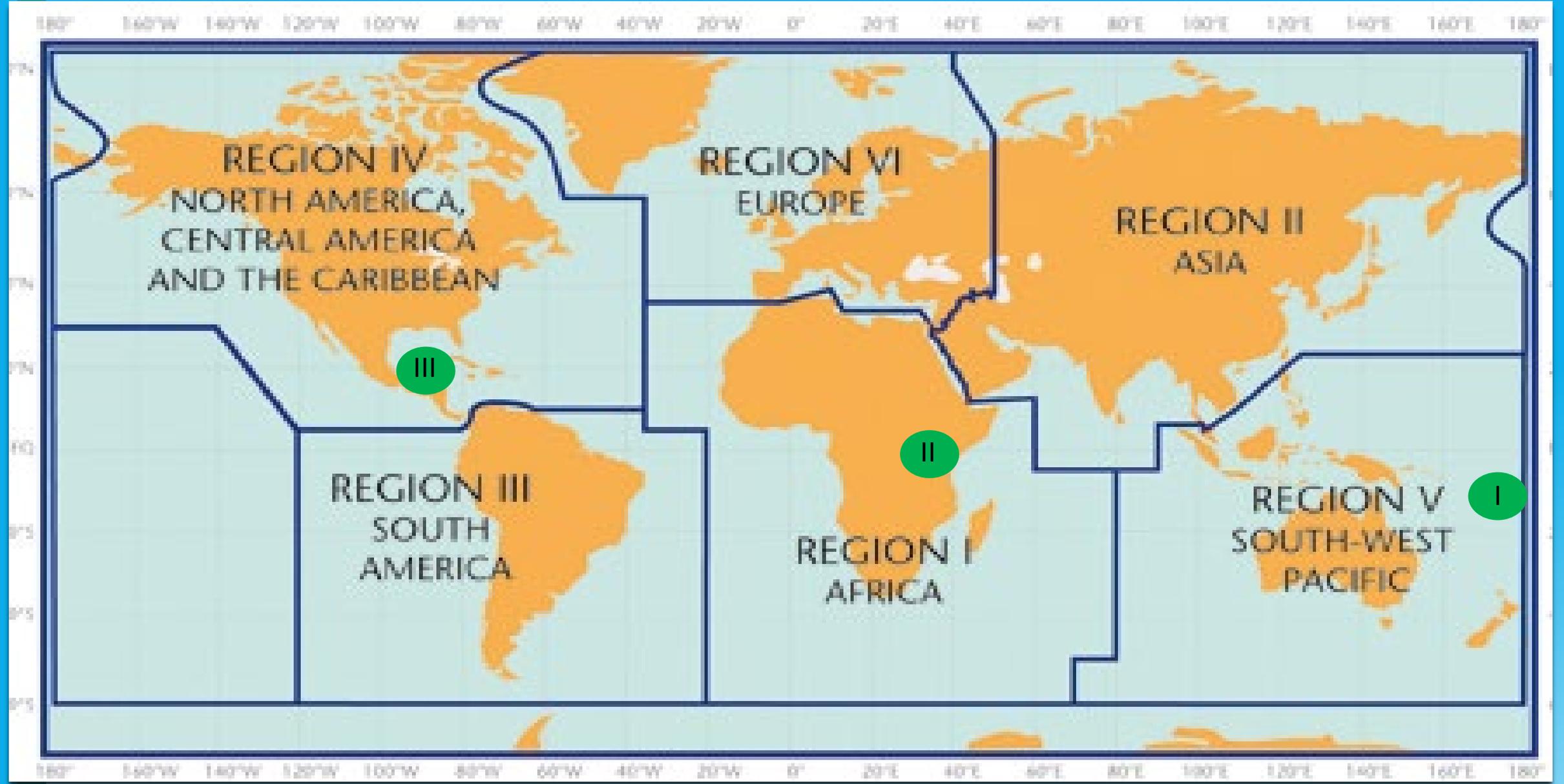


**ICSU**

International Council for Science



# Regional Workshops



# Belize Workshop Key Messages (1)

## OBSERVATION

- The value of basic observation systems cannot be over-emphasized - Terrestrial and radiosonde observations (e.g. WIGOS/GBON) are an important part of the GCOS Implementation Plan. Putting the data into international systems leads to increased accuracy of weather and climate models which, in turn, leads to improved forecasting and climate services
- Sustainability of observations, following the GCOS monitoring principles, is required to support climate monitoring and climate-change decision making. The most important need is to support unbroken long-term data acquisition not new systems. Maintaining, strengthening, upgrading, and improving existing systems is needed (e.g. through support for maintenance, calibration, repair and supply of spare parts): Mostly items that are relatively low cost.

# Belize Workshop Key Messages (2)

## TRAINING

- Needed for staff to interpret the meteorological information to provide climate services, e.g. on agriculture, extreme events. Training is also needed to support the underlying observations especially covering GBON and the associated IT.
- Year-long fellowships have been successful and should be supported and encouraged.

# Belize Workshop Key Messages (3)

## WIGOS

- WMO is developing GBON as part of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) to meet the global monitoring needs for climate and weather. Regional WIGOS centres are needed to support the regional development of WIGOS and GBON. In the Caribbean region the regional WIGOS Centre will need to be setup, with appropriate funding, to support GBON site identification, data entry, calibration, training, procurement, IT etc.

# Belize Workshop Key Messages (3)

## FUNDING

- From all three GCOS regional workshops held so far (S. Pacific, E. Africa and Caribbean) the same message has been clearly articulated: Short-term project funding from international donors does not lead to sustainable, systematic observation of the climate. Piecemeal funding has caused a range of issues for effective operation and has not established sustainable long-term operation.
- There is a need for alternative models of funding, one good example in the Caribbean is the long-term funding of large parts of the radiosonde network by the US.
- Observations made within any region in the World supports national weather and climate predictions for all countries worldwide. The funding mechanisms should recognize and facilitate this contribution to the global common good for those countries that do not have the national resources to meet the observational data requirements on their own..

## DRAFT DECISIONS

- 1. Noting key messages and plans from the 1st and 2nd regional workshops, support the key messages from the 3rd workshop.
- 2. Agree on the further planning of additional regional workshops.
- 3. GCOS should jointly with WIGOS continue to hold regional workshop to explore regional implementation issues and identify important observations, subject to available funding.

# Thank you

