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## **SOUTH AFRICAN WEATHER SERVICE LAUNCHES THE REGIONAL WMO INTEGRATED GLOBAL OBSERVING SYSTEM CENTRE (RWC-SA) ON 9 FEBRUARY 2021**

The official launch of the SADC WMO Regional WIGOS Centre will take place via virtual platform on 9 February 2021. The launch is an outcome of the South African Weather Service's expression of interest, in May 2019, to host the Regional WIGOS Centre for SADC. This expression was supported by the Regional Association I (Africa) and endorsed by World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Regional WIGOS centres (RWCs) were established as one of five priority areas for the WIGOS pre-operational phase, 2016-2019, to advance the implementation of WIGOS within WMO regions (or sub-regions), by providing regional coordination, technical guidance, assistance and advice to Members and Regional Associations. The RWCs work closely with the WMO Secretariat and their respective regional working bodies to ensure efficient and effective implementation of WIGOS. Furthermore, they work closely with data providers to facilitate regional WIGOS metadata management (OSCAR/Surface); regional WIGOS performance monitoring and incident management (WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System).

The RWCs liaise with relevant existing WMO Centres, in particular with the Regional Instrument Centres (RICs), Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and Regional Training Centres (RTCs) regarding all WIGOS related activities in the Region.

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Virtual Training of SADC NMHSs Focal Points on WDQMS attached to RWC-SA was conducted by the WMO experts in October 2020, and thereafter the readiness of the South African Weather Service to was confirmed.

By hosting the RWC-SA, the South African Weather Service will further contribute to regional and national observing network management, support and build regional activities and assist with coordination of regional and sub-regional as well as national projects.

**For technical enquiries:**

Mr Gaobotse Francis Moseleho, Regional Manager: Free State and North-West, e-mail: [francis.moseleho@weathersa.co.za](mailto:francis.moseleho@weathersa.co.za); Tel: +27 51 433 2301 Cell: +27 83 341 4540 or

Ms Samantha Linnerts, Chief Data Controller; email: [Samantha.linnerts@weathersa.co.za](mailto:Samantha.linnerts@weathersa.co.za); Tel: +27 12 367 6153; Cell: +27 82 498 9870

**Media enquiries:** Ms Hannelee Doubell: Manager, Communications; Tel: (012) 367 6104; Cell: 072 222 6305; E-mail: [hannelee.doubell@weathersa.co.za](mailto:hannelee.doubell@weathersa.co.za)

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