Progress of the Regional Knowledge Hub (RKH) Working Group

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Introduction

- A Regional Knowledge Hub (RKH) Working Group was formed within the activities of RICCAR by end of 2012 to:
  - Define the terms of reference of the RKH
  - Formulate the selection criteria for identifying a suitable host institution
  - Advise the RICCAR Expert Group on the establishment of the RKH through a consultative and transparent inter-governmental and inter-agency process
- ESCWA is responsible for the modalities and arrangements related to the organization of the working group meetings.
- Financial support for the working group is provided by the GIZ-ESCWA Cooperation
Composition of the RKH Working Group

- The working group is composed of 10 experts representing:
  - Arab Governments: Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen
  - UN organizations: ESCWA (Secretary), The United Nations Office for disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), United nations and the United nations University Institute for water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH)
  - LAS organizations and Arab research centers: ACSAD, Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE), League of Arab States
  - Global expert institution: GIZ
Regional and Virtual Meetings

I. A regional face-to-face meeting was held on 31 January – 1 February 2013 (Beirut) to:

- Discuss the expected scope of work of the RKH
- Identify a preliminary set of selection criteria
- Finalize the work plan of the working group
Main topics of discussions in the regional meeting

- Review of RICCAR and the RKH-WG Terms of Reference
- Examples of Regional Knowledge Hubs
- Brainstorming on Regional Knowledge Hubs
- Defining the purpose of the RICCAR regional knowledge hub
- Defining the Terms of Reference of the RKH Host Institution
- Defining Criteria for the selection of a RKH Host Institution
- Review of Draft Documents
- Work plan and next steps
Main topics of discussions in the regional meeting (cont’)

2 documents were reviewed and discussed by the working group members prior to drafting the TOR

1) Criteria for selection of the RKH Host Institution (scope of work of host institution, database management, accessibility, system reliability, credibility, cost, ownership, comprehensiveness, sustainability)

2) Purpose of the RKH (Objectives, target audience, content, functions, governance structure)
II. Two Virtual meetings in April and June 2013 to:

- Finalize the documents related to scope of work on issues related to objectives and purpose of the RKH
- This included objectives, functions, contents, target audience and governance structure
- The selection criteria for the host institution were also finalized
III. A Virtual meeting in November/December 2013:

- Finalize the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the RKH based on the produced documents in previous meeting in preparation for the bidding proposal
- To discuss the evaluation of bids/proposals and the weights of the selected criteria
- The TOR will be presented in the following presentation

IV. A final meeting will be held also virtually in January 2014 to identify a list of possible host institutions and propose mechanisms to solicit offers from host institutions
Thank you