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SUBJECT	STARS Report		
Society	STARS WG	Country:	
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Since the Torremolinos GC in 1990 I have been working with Sub Regional Coordinators. They are now: Afif Benlagha 7X2RO (for Northern Africa and the Middle East), Tafa Diop 6W1KI (for Western Africa), Cyprien Kahundira 9Q1KS (for Central Africa), Max Raicha 5Z4MR (for Eastern Africa), and Dennis Green ZS4BS (for Southern Africa). In the 1990's this seemed to me the only possible alternative to doing everything myself from my European desk, but it made me very dependent on the activity (or lack thereof) of my collaborators. At the De Haan GC in 1993 the PADC WG became STARS. At the Davos GC in 2005 Jean-Jacques TU2OP became vice chairman of our WG.

Activities and progress over the period 2005-2008

The priority areas determined by the Davos GC 2005 are:

- Northern Africa & Middle East: **Algeria** and **Morocco**;
- Western Africa: **Senegal** and **Guinea**;
- Central Africa: **D.R. Congo**, **Cameroun** and **Gabon**
- Eastern Africa: **Tanzania** and **Madagascar**;
- Southern Africa: **Lesotho** and **Botswana**.

During the **voting process** for the constitutional changes proposed by the Davos GC, 66 out of 91 member societies actually voted. Among the 25 non-voters there were 16 African MS, many of them priority areas. The sub regional coordinators were asked to liaise closely with those societies.

Northern Africa

Algeria:

- ARA participated in numerous **exhibitions**, one of which was part of the forum "youths of the Medina and peace", at the Algiers national library under the auspices of the UNESCO, at which ARA was awarded the 2nd best association prize;
- In the framework of societies projects, initiated by the ministry of youth and sports, ARA was granted the financial backing for projects such as the creation of **radio clubs** and for the setting up of a conference as well. In the 2005 Convention between ARA and the Ministry for youth and sports, ARA and the Tlemcen province directorate for youth and sports had benefitted, in the framework of this program, of two full radio stations (TS 50), one in Tlemcen city and the other in Remchi district. The inauguration has taken place from the 16th to the 19th of February 2007. Two full radio stations (TS 480) destined for two youth clubs in Biskra and Bechar had been acquired. Only the Biskra club has been inauguraed in December 2007. The installation of the Bechar club had been reported for a future date.
- **2nd radio hams meetings in Bou-Saada** : A second radio hams meeting was held in Bou-Saada on the 23rd and 24th of March 2007. It was jointly organized by the radio club of Bou-Saada and the director of the youth hostel.

- In a youth training and employment framework, a sporting **direction-finding** project "Fennec hunting", was submitted to the ministry of labour and national solidarity and to the R1 STARS committee. The low cost Chinese prototype, suggested by Rainer DL5DBZ, isn't available until further notice. We are now waiting for an adapted Japanese prototype. As soon as the ARDF kits will be available, STARS will sponsor all or part of them (price and number to be determined; Afif in charge). Unfortunately there is no progress in the acquisition of the ARDF kits;
- A project for the setting up of an **emergency network** along the coast of Algeria was submitted to the IARU region1 STARS committee which agreed on a partial support for 2007. With regard to the limited resources and multiple priorities to be funded by the IARU Region 1 Development Fund, this project was also handed in to the Canadian Embassy in Algiers for financial support and URE donated some portable VHF stations. Maybe there's also a possibility of collecting donations from European societies (second hand but still operational repeaters. We have sponsored already one VHF repeater in 2007. With the civil protection general directorate a convention project was agreed upon. After numerous administrative steps, ARA has finally obtained the financing of a VHF relay station which was imported by the communications company SAREL and sponsored by IARU-R1 (STARS). The second national seminar SAR (Search And Rescue) had been held on the 28th, 29th and 30th of May 2007 in the culture palace in Algiers. ARA intervened about emergency communications. The Chlef and Boumerdes catastrophes had been highlighted to the audience by ARA.
- During the 31st international radioamateur fair in Friedrichshafen, DARC donated a **UHF relay station**;
- After its taking part to the **CW world wide WPX contest** (27th&28th of May 2006), ARA won the new CW world record;
- Presentation of an **environmental project** to the ministry of environment (for financial support).
- **International day for the disabled people** : In collaboration with art and culture, ARA took part in this special event on the 3rd, 4th and the 5th of december 2007.
- **Maghrebien meeting of the youth** : On invitation of the Ministry of youth and sports, ARA has attended the Maghrebien meeting about information and communication technologies for youth.
- **Participation of ARA to the youth and employment regional meeting** : during a meeting with the province governors, ARA has attended a regional meeting under the theme " youth and employment" on the 7th of November 2007 at the university of Boumerdes.
- **The 53rd anniversary of the Algerian revolution** : A special callsign 7W53N had been temporarily granted nationwide to ARA from the 1st to the 30th of November 2007. The Bousaada radio club was the main initiator of this event. The other regions operators are: 7X4AN, 7X5ST and 7X0RY.
- **Meeting with her excellency the Italian Minister for youth and sports**: During her visit to Algiers, ARA amongst other associations has been present in this meeting which was held on the 20th of January 2007.
- **3rd IOTA Dxpedition on the island of Grand Cavallo** : From the 23rd to the 29th of June 2007 ARA made a third radio expedition on the island of Grand Cavallo off the coast of El Aouana town in the province of Jijel. The island as well as all the Eastern zone has been named AF 104. 9676 radio contacts have been successfully made. For the first time ever a 7U prefix had been granted. (7U5CI)

Action: (1) STARS will sponsor all or part of the ARDF kits (price and number to be determined; Afif in charge; contacts maybe to be made at the Cavtat GC);

(2) Projects for **2008** :

- 1st ARDF competition in Algeria
- Further development of the emergency network
- Installation of radio clubs at Tipasa and Bechar
- Field Day on 16 May
- Program for sensibilisation and new membership
- Expedition to Assekrem (Hoggar)
- RA Examen
- Inter Arab Seminar

- Organisation of a forum
- Creation of local branches (sections)

Egypt:

Amateur radio lost the support of Ezzat Ramadan SU1ER on 25 February 2007. Greiss Sobhi SU1GS is the new president.



Libya:

After the German DX-pedition (November 2006; 112.000 contacts), the Algerian society is planning another one next June, partly sponsored by 2 Spanish hams. A society has been created that will be assisted to apply for IARU membership.

Mauritania:

Afif is in contact with and will assist mr. Omar Ba (an ADP trainee) to prepare the foundation of an amateur society.

Morocco:

The society remains silent, doesn't participate in voting, didn't come to the 2005 GC, and does not reply to e-mails from Afif. He will try to get in touch with another executive than Said Sidate CN8LI. (NB: The Office Manager Kacem however is very efficient in helping foreigners to a Moroccan license.) Without respons of the society it will not be possible to put up any project of any kind. The "priority" in this case being rather **to imply them** in the life of IARU. In this difficult task, the Subregional Coordinator Afif was seconded by Tafa in his capacity of Vice President of IARU-Region 1.

Action: renew contact with ARRAM and try to persuade them to come to the GC (Afif in charge, if needed supported by Tafa in his capacity of Vice President of IARU-Region 1)

Tunisia:

At the Davos GC the change of name (from ASTRA to CAST) was announced. From contacts inside the country, we learned that ASTRA does either not exist on the field or is not active outside the capital. Numerous clubstations hold callsigns but have no permanent equipment which could be used by local hams, students or scouts. They merely serve for tourists and DX-

peditions. In these circumstances, the few candidates limit themselves to SWL activities. We hold information that at least 1 person who was offered a transceiver by a visiting friend, was put under pressure to hand it over to the scouts. Another information concerns a club where a 20m receiver was constructed. When they asked for permission to construct the TX part of the project, they were told to be “good boys” and refrain from such initiatives in the future. There’s no further news about the individual license in this country.

Western Sahara:

A society of Sahrawi amateurs exists already several years. They effectively have their premises in this territory and hold official documents regarding the creation of their society. Afif proposes to visit them and have their application for IARU membership.

Middle East

Lebanon:

RAL is specializing in satellite communications and would like to obtain a wavecom decoder for monitoring and use on HF.

Syria:

STARS sponsored 30 kits of the Pic-a-Star project. Steve G6ALU was most helpful collecting all the components and shipping them to Syria in small parcels. 6 of the kits have been assembled in 2006. In April 2007 I received some pictures. The society has subsequently been renamed to SSTARS!



Yemen:

Afif is exploring for would be amateurs.

Western Africa

Benin:

We have now several contacts in this country. A trainee from the 2006 Dakar ARAC is planning to create a society.

Burkina Faso:

ARBF is dormant. A group of French amateurs lead by Alain XT2ABN has made a demonstration to the authorities. An IC720F was donated to ARTEL BF by the Clipperton DX Club. Jean-Jacques TU2OP, STARS Vice-Chairman is also in touch with Hugolin, one of the few remaining national ham operators.

Côte d'Ivoire:

As a result of the civil war, which divided the country between North and South, it is impossible to pursue the projects planned in the North. The radio club in Abidjan however is still active and organizes a weekly training course. ARAI has organized 2 seminars for telecom administrators. The society's president, Jean-Jacques TU2OP, is also very active in STARS work (vice chairman and training). The whole ARAI staff participated in the 50th JOTA and established good relationship with the scouts movement, promising further collaboration.



Gambia:

RSTG is dormant but as C53GY Tafa is trying hard to revive the society.

Ghana:

Apart from an occasional Dutch (DAGOE group) visit to Dormaa Hospital, not much activity to be detected since Kofi Jackson went SK. The radio club (in the airport area) is merely visited by expatriots. Needs to be visited (e.g. by a DX-pedition organized by neighbouring ARAI);

Guinea:

ARGUI is one of the latest IARU member societies and has some 20 members, 10 of whom are licensed to operate (but don't have a callsign yet). It is our intention to supply them with a club station (sponsored by IARC in Geneva; the only cost involved might be shipping, to be sponsored by STARS. Tafa is in regular contact with Hans Zimmermann and Attila Matas.

Liberia:

The Dutch group "DAGOE" (cf. Ghana) also sponsored a hospital at Gaye Town and conducted a DX-pedition from 3rd-24th October 2007; they donated equipment to LRAA.3



Mali:

CRAM has a project to establish a second club station, in the North of the country (Gao or Timbuctu), but nothing is moving for the moment.

Senegal:

- ARAS has been run by nationals for a long time. They have good relations with the administration who consulted them before WRC'07 and invited them for a briefing afterwards;
- A club station will be started at ESMT (= ITU centre of excellence), no technical support not training courses needed (all student are engineers!), just a little push in the back from ARAS (obtaining a special call sign e.g.). ESMT has new management (Mr. Saibou from Niger replaced Mr. Fall from Mauritania). Tafa is working with Mr. Wattara to finally get a license for the club station.

Togo:

At least 2 French hams are prepared to start training locals and willing to create a member society.

Central Africa

Cameroun:

For this young society and priority country we are trying to find **multiple solutions**. There's a second hand transceiver available at IARC, ARTJ is negotiating with a local supplier to import new equipment, and there's the possibility of **sponsorship by Yasme**. Our WG Vice Chairman, Jean-Jacques TU2OP was designated as project manager. He will prepare, together with the local contacts, a **training course** (e.g. during a whole week) to be given for amateurs from all over the country. Hence there will be some logistics to be taken care of like bringing those people to the capital and housing them. We will do our best to have both stations in Yaoundé and Douala operational by the end of the training program, possibly to be combined with a DX-pedition by YASME. We have filed a proposal and are waiting to learn whether or not it will be accepted by our American counterparts. This is a real team work! Hans B. (liaison with YASME) + Hans W. + Jean-Jacques (training course) + ARTJ (François + Florence). If it doesn't work out for Cameroun, the YASME scheme can be used for Gabon. As soon as the ARTJ President becomes available

again and a project for the club station at the national P&T training school is elaborated, we'll see if another equipment (possibly from IARC) can be supplied.

Congo (D.R.):

- a training course is going on every Saturday at the Kinshasa club station. The equipment is unfortunately out of order and this is a situation that should be resolved ASAP;
- there are projects to install club stations in other cities of this vast country. We are waiting for concrete plans and requests from the side of the national society before we can make any budgetary provisions;
- the ADP seminar held in February 2007 (with some 30 delegates from both Congo's, Gabon and Cameroun) triggered some evolution: an MoU was signed between the member society and the important expatriot delegation (mainly UN staff). Jean-Jacques TU2OP gave a practical course followed by a demonstration of operating practice by Max 5Z4MR. Our stay was just as instructive for us as for the Congolese amateurs: now we understand better what the daily life problems in this country are (staying alive and feeding your family even if you don't get paid for over 50 months!)



- ARAC held an AGM on 16th June 2007 and elected a new board; Cyprien is still the president and is also in touch with the other Congo and with Rwandan authorities.

Action: 1) reparation of the Kinshasa club station is essential (could be done with the help of NGO's present in the capital; Cyprien in charge).

2) In a later stage, a second club station in Kin will be installed in a local technical school (Cyprien in charge).

3) When the local nucleus will be ready for it, a club station will also be installed in Lubumbashi (Cyprien in charge).

Congo (Rep.):

A new society has been created and called URAC (Union des Radioamateurs Congolais). Two delegates participated at the ADP Seminar in Kinshasa. They have since then established good and regular relations with their administration and are trying to resolve the problems with their administration (license fee etc.). They are now contacting all possible candidates to join the

society. There's much enthusiasm and we are in regular contact with them. They may need support from Cyprien (and Tafa for the organization of an Amateur Radio Administration Course).

Gabon:

While preparing the Kinshasa ADP seminar, contact with AGRA was renewed and improved. The society's Secretary General, Romuald TR8NOR has since started a club station (with an old IC 725) at the premises of his employer ACECNA and brought together possible candidates at a training course. Jean-Jacques + Romuald will investigate the needs (training courses, equipment for the club station) and try to get it funded by YASME (like, or in stead of, the Cameroun project).

Action: investigate the needs (training courses, equipment for the club station) and try to get it funded by YASME (in charge for preparation: Jean-Jacques + Romuald)

Rwanda:

Peter 9X5SP is active from Kigali; a Spanish DX-pedition lead by Antonio EA5RM operated last March as 9X0R; RURA (Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency) is trying to establish rules regarding amateur radio; Cyprien is in charge of getting in touch with the authorities and finding local candidates.

Eastern Africa

Ethiopia:

It is proving difficult to get any communications from ET land. There is no reply to the e-mails and efforts to get any of the committee members on landlines have proved difficult.

Kenya:

The Society in Kenya is quiet active (affiliated school clubs) and enjoys a very cordial relation with the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK).

Madagascar:

- Contacts with Solofo Ranjendrason 5R8ET, President of the Madagascar Amateur Radio Association (MARA) have been successful and he has the following comments: *"Personally we can realize programs to improve amateur radio in the country but the main problem is always equipment and taxes. Many foreign radio amateurs who come to Madagascar for DX-ing think the same and agree training for the administrative authorities is necessary."*

- Amongst the other areas that have been noted are:

- School Program where they expect that students of a Private school may get their licenses.
- Currently the only social activities where people are exposed to Amateur Radio is when they have Jamboree and small meetings. Interest has been generated but lack of equipment discourages people.
- MARA enjoys a cordial relation with the Authorities. Regular contacts are being made to encourage that MARA obtains a national status in the government.

Action: The **first** thing to be done in this priority area, before sending someone to dispense a training course and/or invest in equipment to be installed over there, is to **convince MARA to join IARU** (Max in charge); see if an ARAC could be organised for the Indian Ocean islands (Tafa).

Mauritius:

After some years of scepticism from the part of the authorities, MARS is now established positive contacts and are trying to adapt the Kenyan novice license. They request a visit of an IARU official.

Tanzania:

- After a rather slow pace, the momentum has now picked up and the TARC is active with 32 members.
- Like its Kenyan neighbour TARC has supported a number of affiliated clubs in the area which are :
 - Tanzania Boys Scouts.
 - Kisarawe Junior Academy
 - DIT Communication Club.
- For the promotion of Amateur Radio, TARC has embarked on a mammoth program as follows:
 - Novice manual has been updated.
 - Regular training courses are conducted at DIT.
 - Elementary Electronics courses introduced at DIT.
 - TARC leaflets are distributed regularly.
- During his visit to Dar es Salaam from 14th to 16th January, 2007 our SRC, Max 5Z4MR managed to visit the DIT and had a very interesting talk with Ms. Nzowa, Mr. Joseph Wambua Matiko – 5H3WJ and Dr. Richard Masika –P.Eng(T). A visit to the DIT Club Station was indeed an eye opener. Now that the contacts are established on a person to person basis, Max will pursue the development of projects in this priority area. After this meeting, a lot of enthusiasm has been generated in Amateur Radio and TARC is also considering hosting HST in Tanzania in 2009 or 2010;
- TARC is headed by : Ms. Marjori, Chairperson; Osmund N. Kipengle 5H3OKN (Secretary); Hidan Ricco 5H3HO (Treasurer);
- Neither Max' visit to their AGM (scheduled June 2007) nor the planned (and budgetted) ADP Seminar (scheduled January 2008) materialized, because I was unable to get any contact with Max for over 6 months after he Kinshasa SRC meeting. We still believe the organization of an ADP Seminar would be an important help for the local society.

Action: An ARAC course in Tanzania would help educating the authorities of the region about Amateur Radio and its advantages, possibly in conjunction with an ADP.

Uganda:

Due to a very small number of Ham Operators (half a dozen), there is no activity from UARS. However Dave 5X1DF, Graham 5X1GS and Subu 5X1SU are trying to revive the society.

Southern Africa

Hardly any news was received from this area. This is a real problem for our work in this area where a lot has been invested in the late PADC and early STARS period. No progress seems to be made in the contact with the priority countries **Botswana** (new) and **Lesotho** (follow up of old project).

Lesotho:

The only news received from this area, came directly from Martin 7P8MS. It appears that all our previous contact persons have left the country. The club station at the National University was moved to the Lerothili Polytechnic many years ago and now completely disappeared. It is a pity that the MS did not follow this up more closely and the SRC did not manage to get this piece of relevant information to me (and the EC and GC).

Eurasia

Since the resignation of Rolf DL6ZFG, DARC has not come up with a possible successor. We have no information about projects being run and/or any specific needs in this part of Region 1.

Hans Welens ON6WQ
Chairman of STARS