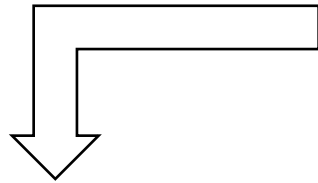


# Development of a SAR national plan

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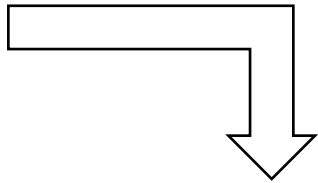
# Development of the National SAR Plan - Hierarchy of maritime SAR documents

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Administrative structure

IMO SAR  
Convention



Implementation guidelines

IMO Global SAR Plan  
Regional SAR Plans (where applicable)  
National SAR Plans

Regional SAR Manuals  
National SAR Manuals  
RCC/RSC Plans of Operations

## Role and objectives of the National SAR Plan - Definitions

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- **SAR Plans:** A general term used for the documents that exist at all levels of the national and international SAR structure describing the objectives, arrangements and procedures that support the provision of SAR services.
- **SAR manuals:** Documents subordinated to SAR Plans and which help development of Plans of operations
- **SAR Plans of operations :** detailed plans for the conduct of SAR operations. They generally contain a list of actions to be taken for each type of incident to which the RCC believes it will be called upon to respond.

Plans are essential to the success of operations

## Role and objectives of the National SAR Plan - What is a National SAR Plan?

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- A **single document** that pertains to the SAR regions, MRCCs and MRSCs and the SAR-related functions for which a State is responsible.
- A SAR plan covers the **principles of operational coordination**. It promulgates the agreed coordination methods by which SAR operations are conducted.
- A **reference document** which serves as a basis for more detailed provisions developed in documents such as SAR manuals or operations plans.
- In fact, this document will be of **more strategic than tactical interest**.
- **A national SAR plan can be common to both the maritime and air sectors**

## Development of a National SAR Plan - What content?

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The IMO recommends including :

- The **description of SAR regions**, with the limits of SAR sub-regions created to make the organization more efficient;
- **Description of available facilities**, personnel and equipment.
- **Discussion of the SAR personnel training programme**, qualification standards and certification procedures
- Discussion of the **roles and responsibilities** of all agencies which will provide or support SAR
- Copy or summary of all **agreements with authorities** providing facilities and services that are not directly under the authority of SAR managers.
- Copy or summary of all agreements regarding mutual assistance **with neighbouring RCCs**

**No particular formal requirements are imposed. Each State adapts its National SAR plan by adding chapters or appendices that it considers relevant.**

## Development of a National SAR Plan - What content? (cont.)

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Proposed content based on an examination of several national SAR plans.

- Introductory section
- Legal and regulatory framework
- Organisation of the National SAR service
- Areas of responsibility
- Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders
- SAR operations management
- Mass rescue operations
- Resources
- Provisions relating to training
- Public relations

### **An introductory section**

- A preliminary text outlining the reasons for the plan and its objectives.
- It may contain a statement of the State's SAR policy by an Authority.

### The legal and regulatory framework

Recommended by IAMSAR

- International conventions and directives
- National regulations relating to SAR. Legal basis with responsibilities of the organisation/institution in charge of SAR
- International SAR agreements with neighbouring states



### The organisation of the National SAR Service

Recommended by IAMSAR

- Presentation of **the National SAR Authority** (a ministry, agency or specific organisation designated by the government) - and its responsibilities
- The **National SAR Committee** (a strategic body bringing together the main stakeholders)
- Rescue **coordination centres** (MRCCs and MRSCs)
- All the **organisations/institutions involved in SAR**: national navy, air force, coastguard, customs, voluntary rescue organisations, port services, ambulance services, communications services, police services, etc.

### Areas of responsibility

Recommended by IAMSAR

- Names and contact details of SAR regions and sub-regions
- Maps (attached)

### Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders

Recommended by IAMSAR

- Role of each organisation/institution
- The duties and responsibilities described are those agreed in the agreements between the SAR Authority (SAR Committee or State designated SAR Agency) and the organisations/institutions. The agreements can be found in appendices.

### Managing SAR operations

- Reminder of the five stages of a SAR response (Warning, Initial measures, Planning, Operations, Completion)
- Reminder of the three emergency phases (Uncertainty, Alert, Distress)
- Designation of the MRCC/MRSC responsible for initiating SAR response
- Role and responsibilities of the SAR Mission Coordinator
- Role and responsibilities of SAR units and resources deployed

### **Mass rescue operations (MRO)**

Operations in which it is necessary to provide assistance as quickly as possible to a large number of people in distress, so that the resources normally available to SAR services are insufficient.

- General provisions, bearing in mind that specific plans on this issue need to be developed for the conduct of operations

### Resources (units, personnel, equipment)

Recommended by IAMSAR

- Description of all the resources that can be deployed during SAR operations
- A distinction is made between :
  - Resources provided by the State, agencies or local authorities
  - Means of communication
  - Airline companies
  - Other private resources and services
- Location, characteristics, capacity, facilities

### Provisions relating to SAR training

Recommended by IAMSAR

- Description of the arrangements put in place to train personnel involved in SAR operations
- Arrangements for verification of skills and certification (where applicable).
- Planning and conducting regular SAR exercises.

### Provisions relating to public relations

- Certain operations can generate significant media interest
- This type of situation needs to be planned for in advance, as it can considerably disrupt operations if not under control.
- The plan can define how communication is organised



### Appendices

- Glossary of terms and definitions
- Acronyms
- Zone maps
- Contacts
- Copy of agreements signed with SAR stakeholders
- Copy of international agreements

A national SAR plan may be made applicable by national legislation if necessary, or appear in a memorandum of understanding between the parties concerned.

The signing of a memorandum of understanding at ministerial level formalises the importance of the SAR for the State, while making it easier to revise than if it had been adopted at a higher level.

*Content of a Draft Maritime SAR Plan for Namibia available on the internet – a good example of national SAR Plan structure*

Foreword

Policy

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Thank you for your attention