



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

OVERVIEW OF THE UGANDA NATIONAL AERONAUTICAL AND MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE (NAMSAR) PLAN

16th JUNE 2022

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

1. Background
2. Purpose and objectives and of NAMSAR Plan
3. Composition and Roles of NAMSAR Committee
4. Execution of SAR Missions
5. Aeronautical and Maritime SAR stations in Uganda
6. Conclusion



BACKGROUND

- ❑ Uganda ratified the Convention on International Civil Aviation 1944, and the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue 1979' to facilitate the provision of Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR).
- ❑ The Inland Water Transport (IWT) Act 2021 and UCAA (Amendment) Act 2019 are the national legislative instruments in force to domesticate the IMO/ICAO conventions.

STATE OBLIGATIONS

- ❑ **Chicago Convention 1944** (Ratified by Uganda on 10 April 1967)
 - ✓ Article 25; “Aircraft in distress. Each contracting State undertakes to provide such measures of assistance to aircraft in distress in its territory as it may find practicable, and to permit, subject to control by its own authorities, the owners of the aircraft or authorities of the State in which the aircraft is registered to provide such measures of assistance as may be necessitated by the circumstances. Each contracting State, when undertaking search for missing aircraft, will collaborate in coordinated measures which may be recommended from time to time pursuant to this Convention”

STATE OBLIGATIONS

❑ International Convention for Safety of Lives at Sea 1974' (SOLAS)
Ch.: Safety of Navigation R.7 - Search and rescue services

✓ Each Contracting Government undertakes to ensure that necessary arrangements are made for distress communication and co-ordination in their area of responsibility and for the rescue of persons in distress at sea around its coasts. These arrangements shall include the establishment, operation and maintenance of search and rescue facilities as are deemed practicable and necessary, having regards to the density of the seagoing traffic and the navigational dangers, and shall, so far as possible, provide adequate means of locating and rescuing such persons.

SEARCH AND RESCUE POLICY OVERVIEW

- ✓ It is the policy of Government of Uganda to provide National Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Plan (NAMSAR) for coordinating Search and Rescue (SAR) to meet domestic needs and international commitments.
- ✓ The saving of lives recognizes no boundary and should receive the highest priority. As a caring Nation and Society, Uganda shall utilize every available resource towards the saving and preservation of life, environment and property.
- ✓ Uganda shall endeavor to provide SAR services to any person, craft and ship in distress at any place and at all times without regard of nationality, race or circumstance in which the person is found.

SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICE

❑ SEARCH

- A coordinated operation by Rescue Coordination Centres or Sub-Centres using available personnel and facilities to locate persons in distress.

❑ RESCUE

- An operation to retrieve persons in distress, providing for their initial medical or other needs and delivering them to a place of safety.

- ❑ **SAR Service** is “the performance of distress monitoring, communication, coordination and search and rescue functions, including provision of medical assistance or evacuation, through the use of public and private resources including aircraft, vessels and other craft and installations” *Annex 12 & IAMSAR Manual*

NATIONAL SAR PLAN

- ✓ Single document related to the Search and Rescue Region (SRR), Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC), Rescue Sub Centre's (RSCs) and SAR-related functions for which a State is responsible
- ✓ Describes the principles of operational co-ordination
- ✓ Serve as a basis for more detailed provisions in subordinate State documents such as SAR manuals or plans of operation
- ✓ Describes how SAR services will be provided, organized and supported

OBJECTIVES OF SAR PLAN

1. To provide an overall plan for the coordination of Aeronautical and Maritime SAR operations, effective use of all available resources mutual assistance and efforts to improve such operations and services
2. To support the implementation of 'Life Saving provisions of the International Convention on Maritime SAR 1979, the Chicago Convention 1944' and other International agreements to which Uganda is party, and similar International instruments

NATIONAL SAR PLAN

- ❑ The Uganda National Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (NAMSAR) plan is a directive of the Government of Uganda to State Agencies to provide coordination of Search and Rescue (SAR) services.
- ✓ The provisions of the SAR plan are applicable to all Agencies that are represented in the National SAR Committee.

AERONAUTICAL AND MARITIME SAR COORDINATION COMMITTEE (AMSARCC)

- ❑ IMO and ICAO encourages member States to establish a SAR coordinating committee either at national or regional level to improve and support the SAR system.
- ✓ In Uganda we have formed the AMSARCC and it will be organised as follows:
 1. The **Steering Committee** which is composed of representatives from all relevant Ministries and chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT).
 2. The **Technical Committee** which is composed of representatives from all responsible Departments and Agencies, and will be chaired by the Director of Transport (DoT) of the Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AMSARCC

The AMSARCC shall be responsible for advising the Minister responsible for Transport in determining the necessary broad policy required to achieve an efficient aeronautical and maritime SAR organization, coordinating efforts of the relevant Ministries Departments and Agencies and pooling of resources and in particular to:

- a) Regularly review of the Aeronautical and Maritime SAR arrangements
- b) Make arrangements for the preparation and processing of any required Aeronautical and Maritime SAR legislation and international Aeronautical and Maritime SAR arrangements.
- c) Agree upon the details of any international Aeronautical and Maritime SAR arrangements
- d) Generally, oversee the Plan and review it as necessary

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AMSARCC Continued....

- e) Formally ratify arrangements and procedures developed by working groups and sub-committees
- f) Provide policy decisions on matters that cannot be satisfactorily resolved at sub-committee(s) and working group(s) level
- g) Establish as required, sub-committee(s) and working group(s) to develop the necessary procedures e.g. to give effect to AMSARCC decisions
- h) Define Aeronautical and Maritime SAR equipment and requirements in accordance with broad Government policies and international SAR standards
- i) Any other matters pertaining to Aeronautical and Maritime SAR

COMPOSITION OF AMSARCC

The Steering committee is composed of:

- ✓ PS of MoWT (Chairman of AMSARCC)
- ✓ PS Ministry of Finance Planning & Economic Development
- ✓ PS Ministry of Defence
- ✓ PS Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ✓ PS Ministry of Health
- ✓ PS Ministry of Internal Affairs
- ✓ PS Ministry of Information & Communications Technology
- ✓ PS Ministry of Local Government
- ✓ PS Ministry of Disaster Preparedness
- ✓ Managing Director Uganda Civil Aviation Authority
- ✓ Chief of Defence Forces
- ✓ Inspector General of Police

TMT had advised to include MAAIF, UNRA and URC on the Committees

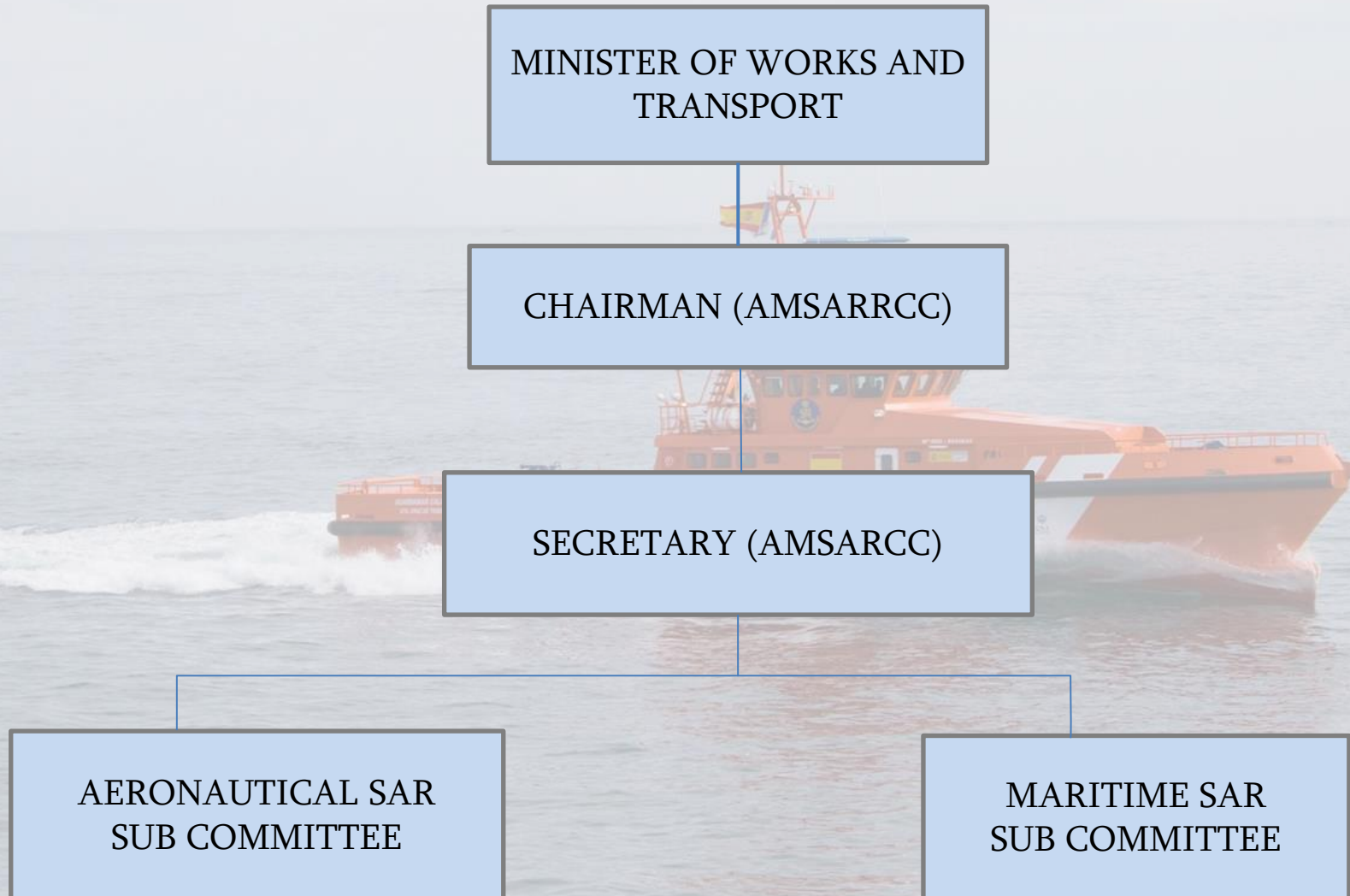
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The Technical Committee will be Chaired by the Director of Transport (MoWT) is composed of:

- ✓ Director, National Emergency Coordination and operations centre, OPM
- ✓ Commander of Air Forces UPDF
- ✓ Commissioner General (URA)
- ✓ Commander of Land Forces UPDF
- ✓ Commander UPDF marines
- ✓ Commandant Uganda Police Air Wing
- ✓ Commandant Police Marine Unit
- ✓ Commandant Aviation Police
- ✓ Executive Director (UWA)
- ✓ Director Immigration And Citizenship Control
- ✓ Executive Director Uganda National Metrological Authority (UNMA)
- ✓ Commissioner Maritime Administration



ORGANISATION OF AMSARCC



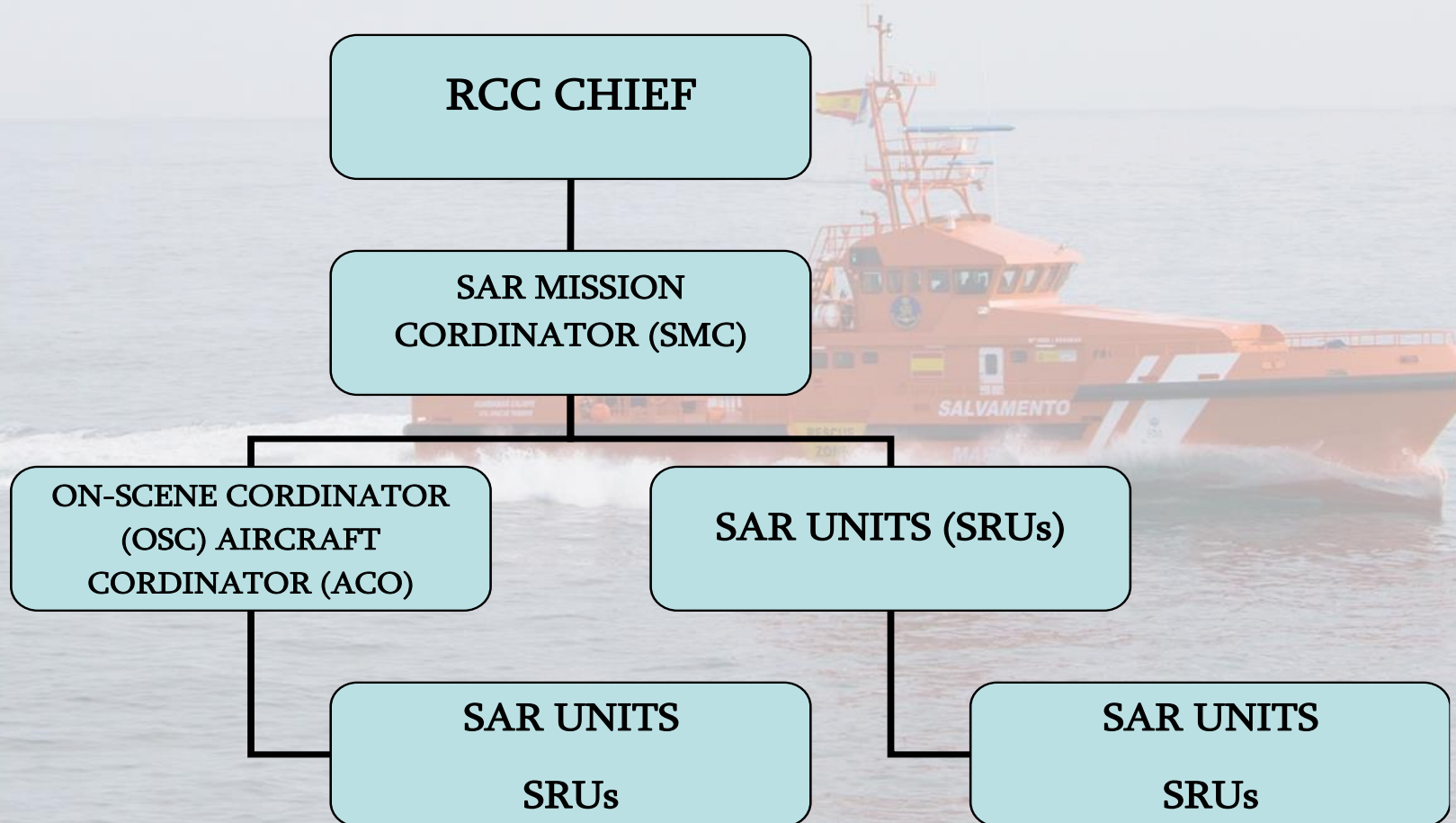
SAR MISSION ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

- ❑ The Minister shall be responsible for the establishment of the Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC)

- ❑ **Requirements for an RCC**
 - ✓ RCC is an operational facility (24/7) established by the Minister for the purpose of promoting efficient organisation of SAR services and for coordinating the conduct of SAR missions in Uganda.
 - ✓ RCC is responsible for preparing comprehensive SOPs for the conduct of SAR within Uganda and for coordinated actions with adjacent territories
 - ✓ The RCC shall be staffed with trained and experienced personnel to provide a continuous watch. In places where RCC does not maintain continuous watch, provision shall be made to enable standby RCC to be mobilised rapidly

SAR MISSION ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

□ General structure of an RCC



EXECUTION OF SAR MISSIONS

- ✓ UCAA and the Ministry of Works and Transport (Maritime Department) shall coordinate and direct resources committed to National SAR missions.
- ✓ RCC and the emergency operation centres of other primary and assisting agencies shall maintain liaison and support to the SAR Mission as may be necessary and practicable.
- ✓ Liaison and cooperation in SAR Missions should be coordinated with SAR authorities of neighbouring states as provided in bi-lateral and multi-lateral SAR Agreements
- ✓ Coordination of SAR operations between States will be effected through exchange of information by respective competent authorities.

EXECUTION OF SAR MISSIONS

- ✓ **The RCC shall be empowered as per the National SAR Agreements to:**
 - i. Request Assistance for SAR operations from other states via their respective RCCs.
 - ii. Promptly respond to requests for assistance from other states RCCs
 - iii. Make arrangements with appropriate authorities to expedite entry of foreign SAR facilities as appropriate
- ✓ **SAR operational expenses and liability**
 - i. Any SAR Agency concerned shall be responsible for expenses incurred
 - ii. Any aircraft/vessel engaged shall be exempted from government levied aviation and maritime charges
 - iii. Partner States also agree to no cost recovery from persons assisted unless otherwise arranged by parties in advance

PRESS/MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

- ✓ The public shall be informed of SAR missions within the limits of confidentiality.
- ✓ The AMSARCC shall make arrangements to issue timely press releases whenever an incident has occurred and/or a SAR mission is in progress. operational expenses and liability. This may be coordinated with the Ministry responsible for Information where necessary.

SPECIAL OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR SAR DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE OF FOREIGN AIRCRAFTS AND VESSELS

- ✓ No aircraft/ vessel owned by a foreign government shall be allowed entry into Uganda Aeronautic and Maritime SRR unless in possession of diplomatic clearance.
- ✓ Approval for diplomatic clearance for an AMSAR mission in Uganda shall be given upon formal request to;
 - i. RCC
 - ii. Minister responsible for Defence
 - iii. Minister of Foreign Affairs

SPECIAL OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR SAR DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE OF FOREIGN AIRCRAFTS AND VESSELS

- ❑ The following information shall be required for diplomatic clearance for aircraft/vessel wishing to participate in a SAR mission;
 - ✓ Country of registration
 - ✓ Vessels registration number
 - ✓ Type of vessel
 - ✓ Identifying marks
 - ✓ Call sign
 - ✓ Purpose of entry
 - ✓ Point of entry into Uganda airspace/water
 - ✓ Flight plan/vessel route and current location of SAR aircraft
 - ✓ Name of Captain/Pilot and nationality, Passenger Manifest, others in SAR Plan



TRAINING, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (R&D)

- ✓ All personnel involved in SAR operations will undertake SAR-specific training
- ✓ Uganda will build necessary capacity in terms of human and equipment resources to accomplish the AMSAR obligations and commitments.
- ✓ R&D has to be undertaken for improvements in SAR services and results are to be shared with other nations to reduce risk of duplicated efforts and to maximise the benefits of the results

TERMINATION OF OPERATIONS

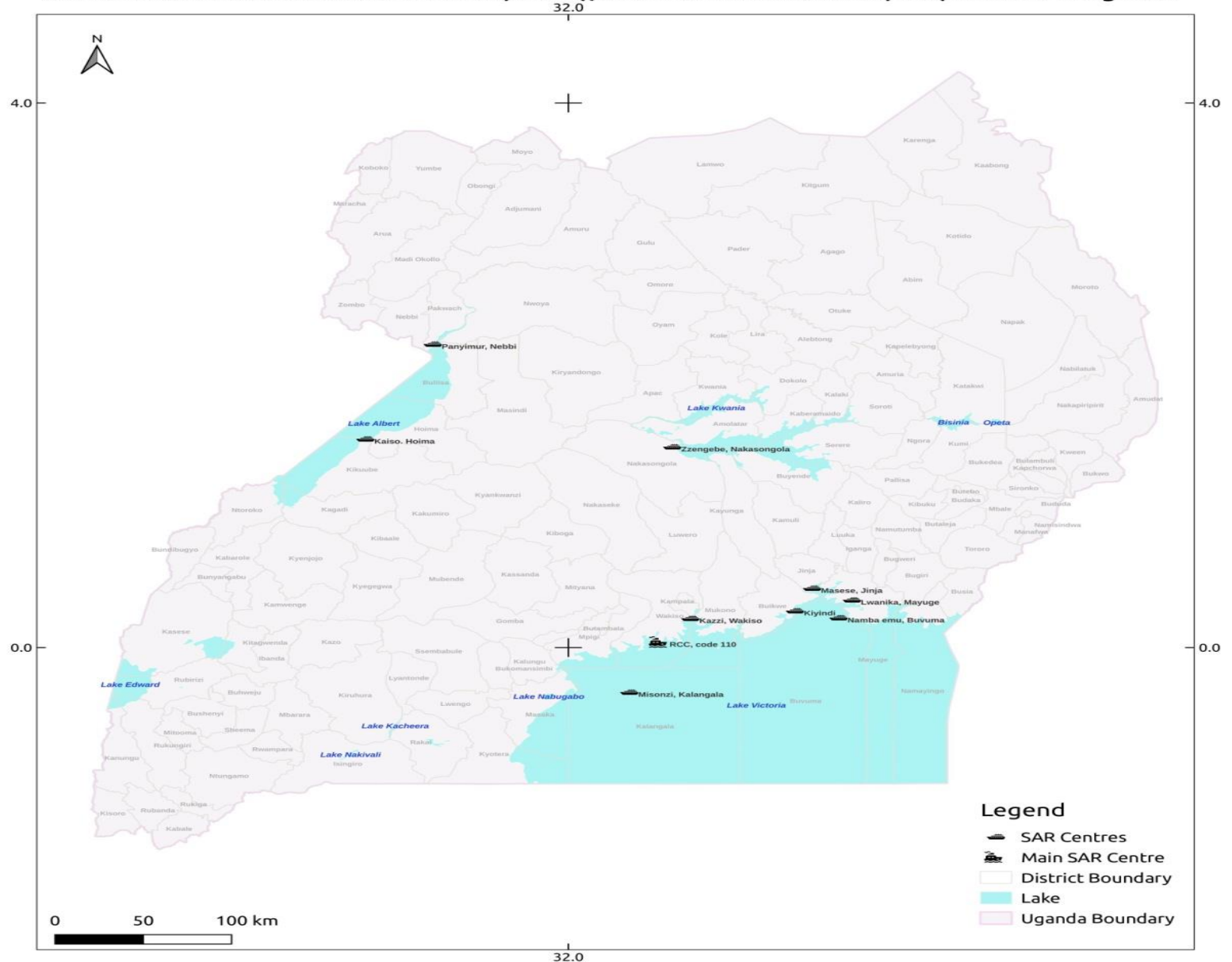
- ✓ Aeronautical and Maritime SAR operations continue until all reasonable hope of finding survivors or victims elapses.
- ✓ When RCC or appropriate authority determines recovery has been successful or that emergency no longer exists, it shall terminate the operations.

AERONAUTICAL AND MARITIME RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRES

Name	Location	Contact information	Hours of operation
Entebbe Rescue Coordination Centre	Control Tower – building Entebbe International Airport	Tel: +256 414 323428 +256 312 352532 Fax: +256 414 320964 Email: rccebb@caa.co.ug HF radio: 5680 kHz	24 hours
Soroti Rescue Sub-Centre	Control Tower – Soroti airport	Tel: +256 454 461198 Email: sorotiairport@caa.co.ug	Hours of day
Gulu Rescue Sub-Centre	Control Tower – Gulu airport	Tel: +256 392 775360	Hours of day
Maritime Call Centre	Fisheries Training Institute (FTI)	Tel: 110	24 hours

MARITIME SAR STATIONS IN UGANDA

Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), and Search and Rescue (SAR) Centres in Uganda



CONCLUSION

- ❑ GOU through MoWT has prepared a National Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue Plan to guide how SAR services will be provided, organized and supported within and outside Uganda for the case of inter-state operations
- ❑ Agenda no 1. for AMSARCC is to bring on board all relevant MDAs responsible for successful implementation of the Plan.
- ❑ All stakeholders are urged to receive, plan and budget for activities related to the SAR Plan
- ❑ The Plan will be reviewed every five years to ensure its in line with national and international SAR arrangements

Thank you

