

## Outcomes of the International Volcanic Ash Task Force 2010 2012

Andrew Tupper<sup>1</sup>, Peter Lechner<sup>2</sup>, Greg Brock<sup>3</sup>, Raul Romero<sup>3</sup>, Herbert Puempel<sup>4</sup>, Marianne Guffanti<sup>5</sup>,  
Larry Mastin<sup>5</sup>, Chris Newhall<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Bureau of Meteorology, Australia, <sup>2</sup>Civil Aviation Authority, New Zealand, <sup>3</sup>International Civil Aviation Organization, Canada, <sup>4</sup>World Meteorological Organization, Switzerland, <sup>5</sup>United States Geological Survey, United States, <sup>6</sup>Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

E-mail: a.tupper@bom.gov.au

The International Volcanic Ash Task Force (IVATF) was established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in May 2010 in response to the significant disruptions of civil aviation that resulted from the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull. Working in a complementary capacity to the existing ICAO International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW) Operations Group (IAVWOPSG), the task force was principally tasked to assist in the urgent development of a global safety risk management framework that would make it possible to determine the safe levels of operation in airspace contaminated by volcanic ash. Recognizing the multi-disciplinary nature of the issues highlighted during the eruption, the IVATF adopted a project management approach and principally worked through four programme sub-groups (atmospheric sciences, airworthiness, and air traffic management, and another sub-group focused on IAVW coordination). More than 100 experts nominated by countries (States) and international organizations contributed depending on their particular area of expertise. The IVATF produced a significant number of recommendations, including furthering efforts to monitor volcanoes on the ground, improve eruption detection and measurement capability, improve knowledge and use of eruption source parameters, and collect and use relevant meteorological data.

Specifically, in regard to volcano observatory arrangements, the IVATF proposed amendments to internationally agreed guidance on services for International Air Navigation to ensure appropriate volcanic eruption monitoring, volcano observatory response and notification within the International Airways Volcano Watch (IAVW). In addition, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) will be conducting, through Regional Offices and with the assistance of concerned Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres (VAACs), three Special Implementation Projects in 2012 (in the African, European, and Central American and Caribbean Regions) targeted at States which maintain volcano observatories to assist them in ensuring the effective implementation of the IAVW arrangements and associated ICAO provisions.

In June 2012, after four major meetings and intensive work by correspondence, the task force delivered its results and was dissolved. Further work will be carried out by other ICAO groups, and by the WMO IUGG Volcanic Ash Scientific Advisory Group. However, the active involvement of States and State Volcano Observatories in the global effort to build eruption observation and prediction capacity is critical to the success of these efforts.