



Executive Summary

Caribbean Water Security and Climate Resilient Development: A Regional Framework for Investment

This document is the *Regional Framework for Investment in Water Security and Climate Resilient Development*. It has been developed by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and Global Water Partnership Caribbean (GWP-C) through an extensive process of consultation with regional Caribbean Community (CARICOM) institutions, development partners and national stakeholders.

The *Regional Framework for Investment* provides an outline of critical climate resilience programmes and projects organised into six thematic areas, which CARICOM national stakeholders have identified as priority for implementation by regional institutions working on water security issues. It also sets out a framework for regional institutions to work together and with national counterparts to further refine, develop and implement these programmes.

The *Regional Framework for Investment* is organised into an executive summary and seven chapters as summarised below:

Executive Summary

1. **Water security and climate resilient development:** Overview of water security and climate resilience context and challenges in the Caribbean

2. **Responding to the challenges:** The rationale behind the *Regional Framework for Investment* and the process for its development
3. **A Regional Framework for Investment:** The six Thematic Programmes of Action and their supporting activities and projects which are the priorities for implementation
4. **Implementing the Regional Framework for Investment:** Overview of the implementation process, roles and responsibilities
5. **Financing the Regional Framework for Investment:** Financing options for the implementation process for the *Regional Framework for Investment* and resulting Programmes
6. **Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the Regional Framework for Investment:** An indicative M&E framework for the implementation process and the longer term outcomes
7. **Next steps:** The immediate actions to progress the *Regional Framework for Investment*





Background

Climate resilience is high on the agenda in the Caribbean. At the request of CARICOM Heads of State, the CCCCC prepared a Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change¹ and associated Implementation Plan². These documents set out CARICOM's strategic approach for coping with climate change. The water sector is identified as a high priority within the Implementation Plan, as it supports other key economic sectors.

Water security plays a pivotal role in promoting and safeguarding economic growth and development from the adverse effects of climate variability and change. Achieving and sustaining water security has risen up the political agenda in the Caribbean as the demands from economic growth increase and as climate change intensifies. In 2012 the High-level Ministerial Forum of Caribbean Water Ministers emphasised the importance of ensuring long-term water security as a driver for economic and social development. The CARICOM Council of Trade and Economic Development (COTED) called for CARICOM Member States to continue to treat water resource management as an area of critical importance³. CARICOM has also recognised the cross cutting nature of water challenges at a regional level in promoting a Consortium of CARICOM Institutions on Water.

Key challenges

Water security challenges in the Caribbean are locally specific, yet it is possible to identify common challenges:

- Challenge 1: Water sector infrastructure exposed to damage and disruption from water-related hazards;
- Challenge 2: Increasing demand, inefficient water use and leakage exacerbating the vulnerability of existing water supply systems and sources;
- Challenge 3: Effectiveness of community and urban water supply systems exposed to increasing climate variability;
- Challenge 4: Agricultural production vulnerable to seasonal rainfall and drought;
- Challenge 5: Effective management of water resource quantity and quality threatened by a changing climate; and
- Challenge 6: Escalating costs of flood-related damage and losses.

Water security challenges in the Caribbean are set within **a complex institutional landscape**. The cross cutting nature of the challenges, small size of Caribbean countries and the high level of regional integration, means that a broad range of national and regional stakeholders are actively engaged in improving water security. At the national level, water security challenges cut across different government organisations, communities and businesses. At the regional level a number of CARICOM institutions have an interest in water security. In addition, a large number of development partners have a stake in water security in the region.

¹ Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), 2009, Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change (2009-2015).

² Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), 2012, Delivering Transformational Change 2011-21, Implementing the CARICOM Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change.

³ Message from Dr. Douglas Slater, Assistant Secretary-General Human and Social Development On the Occasion of WORLD WATER DAY 22 March 2015 (CARICOM Secretariat, Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana)

A Regional Framework for Investment in Water

The *Regional Framework for Investment* responds directly to identified water security and climate resilience challenges. The outline structure and content of the *Regional Framework for Investment* is summarised in Figure 1.

It is presented as six Thematic Programmes of Action focussed on the identified challenges. Supporting activities and projects are recommended based on priorities highlighted during regional and national consultations.

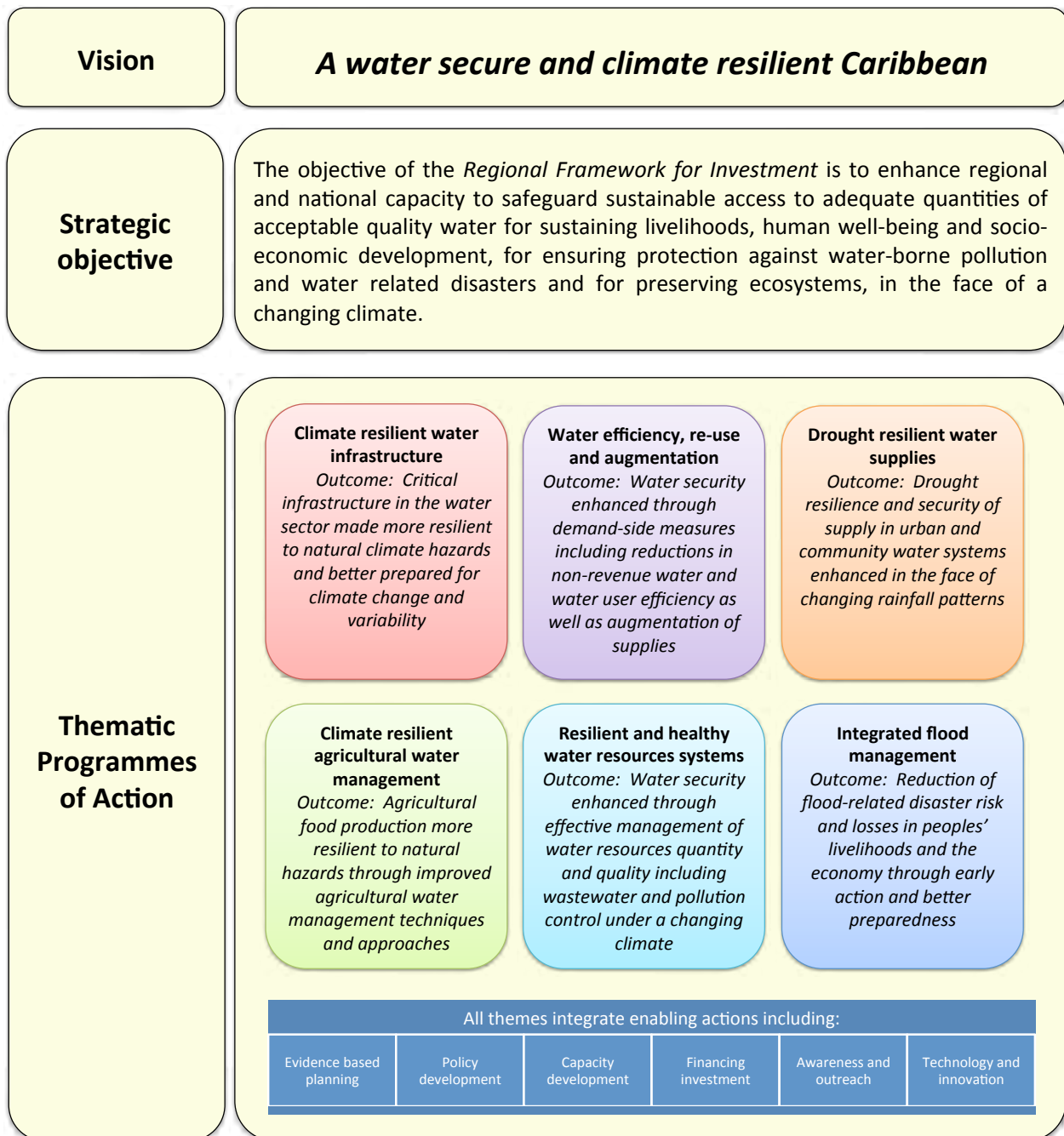


Figure 1: Vision, strategic objective and Thematic Programmes of Action

What is it for?

The *Regional Framework for Investment* is a **regional document**, aimed at supporting the work of regional institutions to deliver relevant support to CARICOM Member States. It does this by providing outline programmes and projects which **regional institutions (singly or jointly) working with national counterparts** may wish to adapt and develop in more detail with the aim of securing funding to implement. It is a **starting point for the co-development of demand-led, shared programmes of action**.

How will it be used?

The Thematic Programmes of Action provide a ‘**menu of options**’ as a starting point for developing detailed programmes which respond to national needs. The activities within these are designed to be refined and adapted to suit particular national contexts and priorities. They are **focussed on actions where regional support will add value**, such as investment planning, capacity development, pilot projects, evidence generation and innovation. A key focus is to assist governments and other national stakeholders in their **investment decision making** and to **catalyse the process for securing finance and funding** for much needed water security projects in both hard and soft infrastructure, capacity development, institutional strengthening and information services.

What are the benefits?

Regional programmatic approaches offer an efficient and cost effective means to help deliver a water secure and climate resilient Caribbean. Regional water institutions specialise in providing technical support and capacity development to strengthen national development initiatives. Sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being and socio-economic development demands holistic approaches that cut across different disciplines. **Cooperation and collaboration among regional water institutions** can provide such support and add-value to solving national water security and climate resilience challenges.

Regional programmatic approaches offer a number of advantages and **economies of scale** including: scaling-up tried and tested solutions, sharing knowledge and lessons on over-coming barriers, and streamlined mechanisms for strengthening national capacity. In addition, regional institutions are well placed to provide the **technical capacity** and **know-how to access a range of sources of finance**, such as specialist climate finance, which may be challenging for national organisations.

The cross-cutting nature of the challenges, and broad range of institutional partners working on these issues, makes the positioning of any new initiatives in the region challenging. The preparation of the *Regional Framework for Investment* and its supporting Thematic Programmes of Action has therefore comprised a **combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches, including a thorough consultation process**.

Implementing the Regional Framework for Investment

Implementation process

The *Regional Framework for Investment* is a process, rather than just a document. It has been founded on a partnership approach and this principle will be carried forward into its implementation. Implementing the *Regional Framework for Investment* will involve three components as shown in Figure 2.

The first component is the overall **coordination** of the process, to be led by CCCCC and GWP-C. This will provide support for programme development as well as management, monitoring and evaluation support to the process. The second component is the **co-development of the programmes** which will be led by regional institutions with support from the coordination unit. Finally, the **implementation of the programmes** themselves is the end goal of the *Regional Framework for Investment* and will be led by regional and national institutions as appropriate, depending on the nature of the programme.



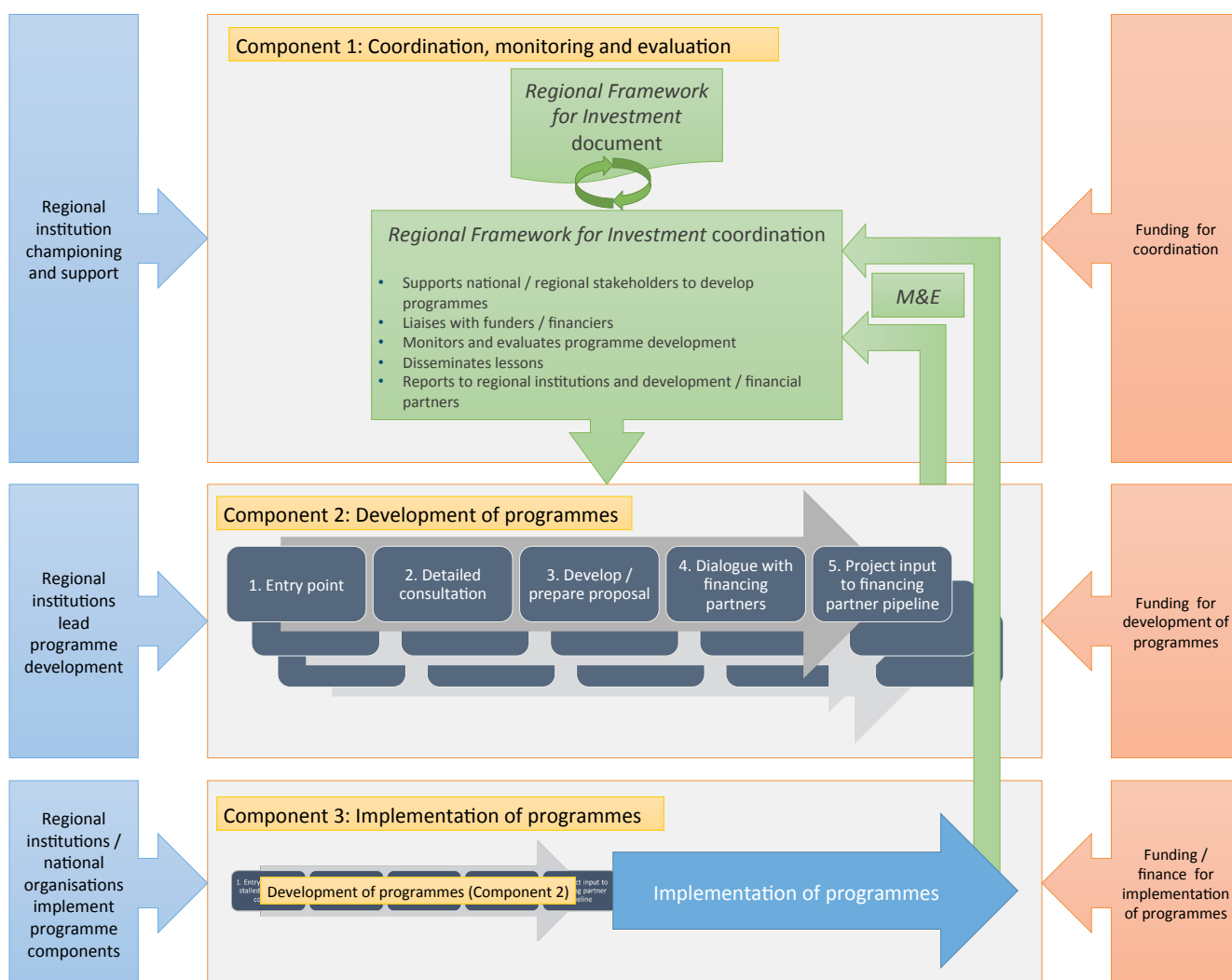


Figure 2: Overview of the Regional Framework for Investment implementation process

Roles and responsibilities

The process to deliver the *Regional Framework for Investment* is a shared responsibility. Oversight for coordination rests with CCCC and GWP-C, but development and implementation of programmes and projects will rest with regional institutions and national stakeholders. Regional water institutions, jointly or individually, have a key role to facilitate and guide detailed preparation of the programmes in collaboration with national stakeholders. national stakeholders (at national and local levels) will be the direct beneficiaries of the regional programme and project outcomes and will therefore be actively involved in the co-development and management of national components during implementation.

Development partners, including donors and development banks, can play a key role by reflecting identified priorities in their development cooperation strategies, by providing technical assistance, and by providing financing and funding for implementation through grants, loans and co-financing as appropriate. Regional coordination and harmonisation among development partners will also be important to maximise the benefits of a regional programmatic approach.



Financing

Resources need to be secured if the *Regional Framework for Investment* is to progress and deliver on-the-ground benefits. Resources will be required for coordination, programme preparation and implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Climate resilience and water security present a significant opportunity for the region to access resources to underpin and sustain regional and national economic growth and development. The most appropriate financing modalities and funding opportunities will depend on the scope and scale of the programme investments.

Climate finance is a growing source of potential funding as it seeks to increase resilience to climate variability and change and to cover the costs of transitioning to a low-carbon and climate change resilient economies. The region has already benefitted from a number of specialist climate funding streams including the Global Climate Change Alliance, the Adaptation Fund and the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience. In addition, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) is now being seen as a key source of potential funding for the region.

Monitoring and evaluation

A twin track approach is required to determine the effectiveness of the *Regional Framework for Investment* and the climate resilience and water security actions it delivers. Monitoring and evaluation considerations should encapsulate both process indicators for the *Regional*

Framework for Investment implementation process and output and outcome indicators of the programmes and projects themselves.

Periodic review and amendment of the *Regional Framework for Investment* is anticipated to ensure it maintains relevance to evolving needs, and learns from implementation experience.

Next steps

The next steps towards implementing the Regional Framework for Investment will be crucial to ensure that momentum can be maintained. These include:

- *GWP-C to establish an interim Coordination Unit;*
- *Regional and national dissemination of the **Regional Framework for Investment**;*
- *Enhancement of political support (for example through endorsement at the High Level Forum (HLF) of Caribbean Water Ministers);*
- *Investigation of opportunities for funding and technical support for the coordination activities and preparation of programmes; and*
- *Preparation of a 12 month plan for development of programmes including resources, schedule and objectives and a longer term outline plan.*

The development of the first Programme will be important to demonstrate the implementation approach. Early progress has been made on developing a more detailed Programme under the Integrated Flood Management Thematic Programme of Action and lessons learned from this process will be valuable to others that follow.