



Water, Climate and Development Programme for the Caribbean

Water is central to sustainable development in the Caribbean. To support the development of a regional framework for achieving development resilient to climate change and to effectively address the threat of climate change in the region, the management of water resources must move to the top of the development agenda.

Water Security for Development

In March 2012, the 23rd Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), adopted the Implementation Plan for a Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change. The Implementation Plan was developed by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), a lead CARICOM agency for coordination of climate change interventions in the region.

The Plan identifies Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C) as one of the implementing agencies for climate change adaptation actions related to water management.

In response to the commitments outlined in the Plan, GWP-C has developed a Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) for the Caribbean.

The Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C) was established in 2004 and works to support Caribbean countries in the sustainable management of their water resources by fostering an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) approach at the community, national and regional levels. The GWP-C is 1 of 13 regional arms of the Global Water Partnership, a network of over 2500 partners worldwide in more than 150 countries.

The Programme will be implemented as a joint initiative between GWP-C and the CCCCC, and aims to directly support the CARICOM agenda on climate change through support to the implementation of water related adaptation actions as defined in the Implementation Plan for a Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change.

Adaptation to climate change converges on the goal of water security for all; harnessing water's social and productive potential and limiting its destructive force. Water security provides a focus for adaptation and a framework for action.

The future resilience of Caribbean communities to climate change related impacts, depends on the success of water management interventions.

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At the 8th Annual High Level Session (HLS) of Caribbean Water Ministers, convened by GWP-C and its partner the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) in October 2012, nine Caribbean Ministers including two Deputy Prime Ministers present at the Session, endorsed GWP-C's Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP).

The Caribbean Ministers from The Bahamas, Anguilla, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, Nevis, St. Kitts, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, also recommended that GWP-C and its partners further develop the WACDEP and other relevant initiatives in the region that support the CARICOM Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change.



The Ministerial Delegation agreed that Water and Climate Change were critical national and regional concerns toward achieving a water secure Caribbean.

The Programme will be executed at the regional and country level. Regional activities will include all Caribbean member states, while in-depth country activities will initially be implemented in selected pilot states and later expanded to include additional countries as more financial resources become available.

Goal and Objective

The goal of the Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) for the Caribbean is to promote water security and climate resilience in Caribbean states as a key part of sustainable regional and national development for economic growth and human security. The Programme will span 42 months from October 2012 to March 2015.

The overall objective of the Programme is to support adaptation of Caribbean states to climate variability and change through the implementation of better water policies, strategies, programmes and water related adaptation actions defined in the CARICOM Implementation Plan for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change.

Expected Outcome

The overall expected outcome of the Programme is increased availability of acceptable quantity and quality of water for all beneficial uses, and increased capacity and ability of countries and communities to adapt to climatic variability in the Caribbean region.

Expected Benefits

The Programme is expected to contribute to the following outputs:

- Countries in the Caribbean region supported to develop and integrate “no/low regret” investments into development plans, budgets and programmes.
- Solutions in place for addressing critical water security challenges to enhance climate resilience for Caribbean countries and communities.
- Knowledge and capacity developed for enhancing water security and climate resilience.
- An operational GWP-C network working with strategic allies and stakeholders to integrate water security and climate resilience in the development process.

Programme Strategy

The implementation of the Programme will include the following strategies:

- Promoting human security and regional integration through better water resources management.
- Building on lessons learned in implementing various regional climate change adaptation and water management initiatives.
- Building on lessons and outcomes of the Annual High Level Session (HLS) convened by GWP-C and its partner the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) and others.
- Linking local, national and regional scales and promoting holistic, gender-sensitive and integrated approaches to adaptation.
- Promoting a partnership approach to adaptation through working with other partners and support agencies of the CARICOM.

Programme Financing

Initial seed funding for the Programme will be provided through Financing Partners of the Global Water Partnership (GWP). GWP-C is committed to growing the funding base by engaging additional partners.

A flexible basket funding mechanism is proposed. Under such a mechanism, core donors and other funding agencies can contribute resources using various entry points. Funding agencies can choose an entry point within the overall Programme framework and contribute funds either through the global level via the GWP Organisation, at the regional level through GWP-C, CCCCC, or directly to a given country with GWP facilitation and coordination.

Programme Components

The Programme's objectives and results will be achieved through 4 interrelated components and 8 key areas as summarised below:

Component 1: Promote water security, climate resilience and “no/low regret” investments as a key part of national and regional development processes

- 1: Regional Cooperation in Water Management
- 2: National Development and Sector Plans
- 3: No/Low Regret Investments in Regional and National Development
- 4: Project Preparation and Financing

Component 2: Address critical water security challenges to enhance climate resilience of countries and communities

- 5: Demonstration Projects

Component 3: Promote knowledge generation and dissemination of information on water security and climate resilience

- 6: Knowledge and Awareness
- 7: Capacity Development

Component 4: Support to partnership development, programme management and fundraising

- 8: Governance and Fundraising

Programme Management Structure

The Programme's institutional framework is aimed at building on coordination and monitoring mechanisms established for the implementation of the CARICOM Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilience to Climate Change.

