

Water, Climate and Development Programme for the Caribbean

Water is integral to the health and wellbeing of Caribbean people. However, the management of water resources in the Caribbean is challenged by many factors including watershed degradation, pollution and increasing demand from expanding human populations.

Climate change and climate variability add further risk and vulnerability to an already challenging regional water resources management situation.



Climate change impacts on water resources include:

- Changes in precipitation volume, timing frequency and intensity. This in turn can alter the quantity and quality of water available for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes, as well as, ecosystem needs.
- Rising sea levels and resultant salt water intrusion into coastal aquifers.

The Caribbean will likely face:

- Drier conditions across most of the Caribbean basin.
- Drier and longer dry seasons. When rain does fall, rainfall events are likely to be heavy downpours which will increase the likelihood of flooding.
- More intense hurricanes

The burden of climate change on water resources management can be addressed by embracing the concept of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

IWRM emphasises the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximise economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems and the environment.



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 2900 partners worldwide in more than 180 countries.

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Regional Context

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

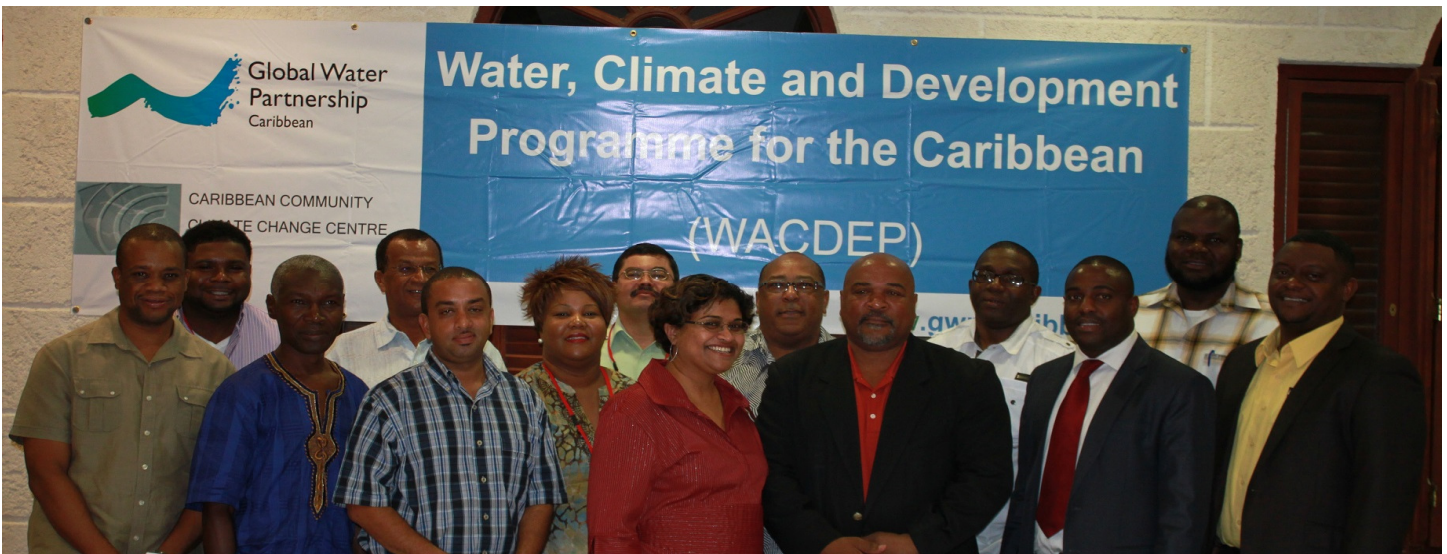
The development of the Programme was endorsed by nine (9) Caribbean Ministers including two Deputy Prime Ministers at the 8th Annual High Level Session (HLS) Ministerial Forum co-convened by GWP-C and the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA).



Programme 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 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.



Programme Strategy

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



The implementation of the Programme will include the following strategies:

- 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) Ministerial Forum co-convened by GWP-C and 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 CARICOM.

Programme Financing

Seed funding for the Programme has been provided through Financing Partners of the Global Water Partnership (GWP). GWP-C is committed to growing the funding base by engaging additional partners using a flexible basket funding mechanism. Under such a mechanism, core donors and other funding agencies can contribute resources using various entry points including: the global level via the GWP Organisation, the regional level through GWP-C, the 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 with 8 work packages 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: Capacity Development
- 7: Knowledge and Awareness

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

- 8: Governance and Fundraising



For more information on the GWP-C Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) contact:

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