



G-CREWS /15/ 12/2021

# Establishment of the Regional Climate and Water Resource Community

## G-CREWS Component 5 - Regional Outreach & Replication

### What is the Vision?

Caribbean Small Island Development States (SIDS) face vulnerabilities in the water sector and can profit from a peer-to-peer exchange when accessing climate finance or implementing water projects. This can be facilitated by exchange platforms on the sub-regional and regional levels. The regional Community of Practice (CoP) - Regional Climate and Water Resource Community (RCWaRC) - has the potential to generate more finance-ready water projects. Through the engagement with the donors, RCWaRC serves a regional forum for the replication of water projects with increased climate resilience and reduced CO2 emissions. The RCWaRC is initiated by the Climate-Resilient Water Sector in Grenada (G-CREWS Project) through its regional component financed by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) with the aim to:

- Increase learning and replication of climate-resilient water sector approaches in the Caribbean and to
- Promote access to climate-funding in the water sector

### What is the Objective?

In short: The RCWaRC aims to generate more climate-resilient water projects that can be funded by donors, such as the Green Climate Fund or the BMUV/IKI.



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*Quality testing of water samples*

### Who Will Be Part of the Community?

The RCWaRC will consist of a core group of practitioners who show particular and continuous engagement, while other participants will occasionally be active or may only participate in specific tasks or on demand. The membership of the RCWaRC is twofold:

1. Full membership applies to **government entities responsible for access to climate finance and national representatives of the water sector:**
  - National Designated Authorities of English-speaking Caribbean SIDS
  - Government representatives mandated to develop climate-resilient water project concept notes
2. The RCWaRC is complemented by observers that may attend meetings as resource persons and support experts.
  - Members of regulatory bodies and water utilities
  - Representatives from vocational training, academia and research
  - Experts from programs and projects in the water sector active in the Caribbean region
  - Members from regional bodies, networks and associations with the mandate to support low-carbon and climate-resilient water planning and knowledge transfer



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*Residents of Blaize, St. Andrew sample water from community-based Rain Water Harvesting System*

## The Community will focus on the following



Regional knowledge & information sharing on low-carbon & climate resilient water



Cooperation & peer-to-peer networking



Replication through proposal development using lessons learnt from regional water projects



Support development, review & submission processes



Conduct a call for project ideas & liaise with donors at a regional conference

## What are Potential Topics?

To equip the members with the right tools for conceptualizing their project ideas, RCWaRC will provide insights into topics, including but not limited to:



Sustainability Strategies



Operational Process Manual



Grievance Mechanism



Proposal Development Process



Water and Energy Nexus



Rainwater Harvesting



Stakeholder Engagement



Water Governance



Climate Proofing of Investments & Infrastructure



Environmental and Social Safeguards



Gender Integration

The RCWaRC provides insights into lessons learnt that combine proposal development with implementation and the specific requirements of the project donor. As an example: The GCF places a high significance on gender and operates a dedicated division to oversee gender integration. A gender assessment is required as part of the proposal development process. Within the implementation stage, gender is to be integrated across all relevant activities, which the GCF reviews in the annual report.

## How Will RCWaRC Work?

The members will share lessons learnt and knowledge management tools from the regional climate and water projects, like the G-CREWS project, as a basis for discussion and replication.

Knowledge management products include presentations, technical briefs, reports, webinars, factsheets, videos, case studies, blogposts, guides and worksheets.

The G-CREWS project facilitates the exchange and concept note development process for mitigation and adaptation activities in the water sector that will be offered to and discussed with donors, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the BMUV for funding.

RCWaRC will be evaluated to ensure maximum benefit to the members and aims to set up a network that members will benefit from beyond the lifetime of the G-CREWS project.

## Peer-To-Peer support

Following the OECS-DAC peer review process, the G-CREWS project provides support to organize peer-review processes, regional meetings and study trips between the countries to identify the key lessons learned in technical, institutional and financial terms between countries.

## Alignment with Regional Goals

Citizens of the CARICOM region will benefit from climate-resilient water projects promoting better water supply services, especially in times of drought and after extreme weather events.

The CoP supports the Caribbean member states in making effective use and delivery of limited sources of public finance to catalyse climate finance and thereby contributes to the goals of the Liliendaal Declaration on Climate Change and Development.

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