

**PROPOSAL FOR CONVENING
THE 12TH HIGH LEVEL FORUM OF CARIBBEAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR WATER (HLF 12)
25 TO 27 TH OCTOBER, 2016
HYATT REGENCY HOTEL, PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD**

TITLE	PROJECT FOR CONVENING THE 12TH HIGH LEVEL FORUM OF CARIBBEAN MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR WATER
DATE	25 TO 27TH OCTOBER 2016
PLACE	PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
LEAD ORGANISATION	THE CARIBBEAN WATER AND WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION (CWWA)
PRIMARY PARTNERS	INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB); CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK; UNEP ROLAC; GWPC
OTHER PARTNERS	EMA (TT); PAHO; CIMH; FAO; GWPC; UNDP; CARICOM SECRETARIAT;
PROJECT START DATE	JULY 1ST 2016
PROJECT END DATE	JUNE 30TH 2017
BUDGET	ONE HUNDRED AND TEN THOUSAND UNITED STATES DOLLARS (US\$110,000)
PARTNERS CONTRIBUTION (CASH AND KIND)	US\$75,000
FUNDING REQUIRED/REQUESTED	US\$35,000
CONTACT PERSON	PATRICIA AQUING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARIBBEAN WATER AND WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION C/O WASA, FARM RD, ST. JOSEPH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TEL: (868) 645 8681; EMAIL: PAQUING@CWWA.NET

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Small island States of the Caribbean have been deemed among the most vulnerable to Climate Change and Climate Variability. Sea level rise as a result of global warming, salt water intrusion, the frequency and intensity of hurricanes, drought conditions and related extreme weather events all have significant social, economic and environmental impacts. The impact on the water sector has been deemed one of the most concerning, given the importance of having an adequate supply of water, water quality as well as water storage and distribution which are key to development of all social and economic sectors such as tourism, agriculture, health and manufacturing. Water is also critical as well to sustain the region's biodiversity. In addition, Caribbean countries have all subscribed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, specifically Goal 6 which refers: *Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.*

The situation for the region is even more dire, give that as a whole, the Caribbean has been deemed a water stressed region. It occupies a region of the world in which providing adequate supplies of freshwater presents a substantial challenge to local governments. In many countries, the annual *per capita* freshwater availability falls far below the 1,000 cubic meter commonly used to measure scarcity.

Countries of the region have come to recognize the critical need to build resilience by climate proofing the water sector. This requires significant investment in infrastructure, technology and equipment and human resources which could run into billions of dollars which Caribbean countries, already faced by economic challenges derived from global developments, will find more of a challenge. There is a need for investigating creative, low cost and more efficient options which are suited to the characteristics of Small Island Developing States.

In 2010, the World Bank estimated that in developing countries climate extremes would stretch the infrastructure and the capacity of institutional limits to address water issues across economic sectors. In the recent drought conditions (2015 -2016) experienced by the region, countries are hard pressed to look at more expensive options for water storage and distribution. Trinidad and Tobago have commissioned a desalination plant to serve Tobago. Antigua and Barbuda showed that by October of 2015, the water supply was 100% dependent on desalination. Some countries are exploring the feasibility of barging water from other countries which are not as water stressed. Treated Wastewater is being actively being explored by most countries as a water resource option, especially in areas such as agriculture.

The region grapples with the challenges of climate variability and climate change, which over time have imposed an added layer over some inherent problems faced by the water sector. These are: i) lack of preventive maintenance over assets critical for the operation; ii) lack of a long term strategy for optimizing the life cycle of the physical assets; iii) lack of processes and practices for operating and

maintaining facilities; iv) lack of capacity building program; v) inefficient data handling systems for operation monitoring; and vi) lack of institutional learning strategies and lack of financial resources.

When Tropical Storm Erika inflicted severe damage on Dominica in 2015, the Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerritt observed that it set back the country almost 20 years in its development. Almost all of the water infrastructure was damaged and while restoration was completed in January 2016, the Dominica Water and Sewerage Company (DOWASCO) is looking at re-design of permanent systems to make them climate proof and for overall rehabilitation. This calls for significant investment in the sector. Flooding in 2014 Guyana due to higher than normal precipitation has brought severe economic hardships, exacerbating the incident of vector borne diseases and damaging infrastructure including in the water sector.

In 2015/2016, the prolonged drought conditions and water shortages in the Caribbean caused by low rainfall and attributed to the El Nino phenomenon are having dire economic, social and environmental impacts. Sectors such as tourism, manufacturing, agriculture and health are identified as those which are struggling to cope with water shortages. While predictions have been made regarding the impacts, the situation in the countries have remained largely anecdotal and there is need for study and research to determine the actual costs of the prolonged droughts and extreme weather events as well as coping strategies, and efforts at building climate resilience employed within countries and the water utilities. It is necessary that the dialogue on Climate Water in Development be elevated further and that the region continues to take action on the proper and efficient management of its water resources.

There is a commonality of challenges facing Caribbean countries in climate and its impact on the water sector and recognition of the fact that the sharing of experiences, expertise and knowledge including best practices would assist in promoting more strategic approaches at the regional and national levels. There is an on-going need to bring together persons at the highest political, policy and technical levels in the water sector and on sectors which are most significantly impacted by water resources management to strategize, plan and discuss the way forward. Since 2009, the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) and partners have coordinated and organised the High Level Forum of Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Water (HLF) on an annual basis. Partners have included the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Global Water Partnership Caribbean (GWP-C), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), CARICOM, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and other development agencies. It has become the only dedicated forum for the Caribbean in which high level policy makers, technical experts and development partners meet to discuss critical matters related to Water.

The HLF programme and topics for discussion are set by a team of representatives from the partner agencies and reflect national, regional and international concerns as they impact the Caribbean as a whole and the countries specifically. The HLF acts as an information -sharing forum at which there is the expected uptake by all the partners, especially political uptake by CARICOM and others. Topics in the

past have included "Resilience to Climate Change", "Disaster Management" and "Investment and Financing", "Infrastructure", "Tariffs", Public Education and Awareness among others.

This year (2016) it has been agreed to expand the focus on Investment and Financing with a view to reviewing the status of initiatives, progress among countries, to further strategize on the way forward and to plan actions. Other regional agencies which normally support and partner for the event, such as ECLAC, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), the Water and Sewerage Association (CAWASA) and the Pan America Health Organisation (PAHO) have already signaled their interest in and commitment to participating in the 12th HLF. There are a number of "agencies" working in the sector in the Caribbean and the HLF provides an opportunity to discuss coordination and to minimize duplication of activities. The outputs will build on existing work and identify gaps of partners in the sector such as the Global Water Partnership Caribbean (GWP-C), the CDB and UNEP.

The 12th HLF is scheduled for the 25th to 27th October at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, in Port of Spain, Trinidad. The event takes place once again this year during the 25th Silver Anniversary Conference and Exhibition of the CWWA, the rationale being that it also represents an opportunity for HLF Delegates to interact with water experts, professionals, water utility companies, the corporate sector and a wide-ranging audience who attend the Conference. The CWWA Conference attracts more than 400 persons annually in water and related sectors and is the premier event of its kind in the region.

As the lead organiser for the HLF, the CWWA is seeking funding to support the participation of Ministers or Ministerial representatives and one technical advisor from Member States as well as key experts to participate in this important policy and strategic event. The HLF will feature a multi-sector approach, with representatives from key sectors (e.g Tourism, Agriculture, Health, Disaster Preparedness, Finance and Planning and the Insurance Sector) yet is intended to remain a close "tete a tete" between countries and partners, thereby presenting an opportunity for frank discussions among stakeholders. It will engage the services of experts in investment and financing as well as climate change and disaster management to inform the dialogue at the HLF but also post-HLF in producing guidance for the development of Water Sector Investment Plans.

Objectives:

1. To promote a strategic approach to addressing water challenges faced regionally and nationally by promoting the dialogue on water and the impact of Climate Change and Climate Variability.
2. To further engage Country Representatives and Development Partners for the eventual development of an Investment and Financing Plan
3. To present the results of a study/paper on aspects of Water to be considered by countries and to guide strategic planning and programming in light of challenges they may face;

4. To enhance further collaboration among partners in the implementation of programmes and activities to avoid duplication of resources and activities and to identify and address existing gaps in water initiatives in the region.
5. To share information on new developments, challenges and solutions to Water Management which could be of benefit to countries;
6. To ensure that the issues of Water have uptake at the political, policy and technical levels in the Caribbean and to continue to promote it as a key issue in the sustainable development of the region.

OUTPUTS

The following will be the outputs of the 12th HLF

1. A Programming Matrix identifying existing gaps in existing gaps in water sector initiatives that need to be address
2. Guidelines for Investment and Financing with input from key partners for the purposes of drafting an investment and financing plan for the Water Sector
3. A paper on the current issues related to the Social, Economic and Environmental impacts of climate events on water resources in the Caribbean;
4. A Report on the 12th HLF including a compilation of country and agency presentations;

PROJECT REPORTING

1. The CWWA will present to the IDB 1. An Audited Financial Report and; 2. A Technical Meeting Report, (two (2) months after the event but not later than December 31st 2016 3. Guidance Document for Preparation of Investment Plans by 30th June 2017.

Annex 1

HLF 12 PROPOSED LIST OF INVITEES

COUNTRIES		AGENCIES
Anguilla (2)		CDB
Antigua and Barbuda (2)		CARPHA
Bahamas		CCRIF
Barbados (2)		CCCCC
Cayman islands (2)		CIMH
Belize (2)		CARICOM SECRETARIAT
Dominica (2)		FAO
Guyana (2)		GWP-C
Haiti (2)		ILO CARIBBEAN OFFICE
Jamaica (2)		IICA
Montserrat (2)		CARDI
Saint Lucia (2)		IDB
St. Kitts and Nevis (2x2)		CAWASA
St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2)		PAHO
Suriname (2)		UN ECLAC
Trinidad (2) and Tobago (1) (3)		UNEP JA & UNEP ROLAC
Turks and Caicos Islands (2)		CDEMA
British Virgin Islands (2)		GIZ
French (Martinique, Guadeloupe) (2 each)		UNDP
Dutch (Curacao, Aruba, St. Maarten) (6)		OAS
		CTO

ANNEX 2

PROPOSED BUDGET

12th High Level Forum of Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Water (HLF 12)

24 to 27th October 2016, Hyatt Regency Hotel

Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

ITEMS	COST in US\$	COMMENTS
Airfares	35,000	
Accommodation	28,000	
Food and Beverage	15,000	
Per Diems	10,000	
Report Preparation & Rapporteuring	2000	
Experts/Technical Preparation	7000	
Documents/Conference Materials	2000	
Audio-Visual	1500	
Meeting Room	3000	
Transportation	1500	
Security	1500	
Administration	1500	
Contingency	2000	
TOTAL	110,000	

Budget Notes

1. Funding requested from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will supplement funding from the CDB's BMCs.
2. Civil Society Representatives will be funded by other HLF partners.
3. Technical papers/reports will be presented at the HLF so experts from the region will be engaged to prepare documentation.
4. The organisers deem it necessary to cost Security given the various security warnings that have been issued for Trinidad in recent times.
5. The partners will work towards the preparation of Guidance for Investment Planning to include the outcomes of the HLF. The expected completed date will be 30th June 2017.

PROFILE OF THE CARIBBEAN WATER AND WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION (CWWA)

The Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) is a professional association which celebrates its 25th Anniversary in 2016. Its membership comprises professionals, utility companies, the corporate sector, experts, academics and those interested or working in the water and waste sectors. It was established by an Act of Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago 1991. Its headquarters are located at the Water and Sewage Authority (WASA) in Trinidad.

The CWWA membership extends regionally and internationally and it has a strong network of partners such as PAHO, UNEP, UN Habitat, CARICOM, the FAO, UN ECLAC, the CCCCC, CIMH, CDEMA, CARICOM, the IDB and the CDB among others. It comprises the largest pool of expertise in the water and waste sector in the region. It focuses on training and capacity-building for its membership, using mentorship, and peer to peer training. Its mission is also advocacy on aspects of water and waste to policy makers, decision-makers and the public at large. The CWWA participates in technical cooperation activities with other partners. Its flagship event is an annual conference and exhibition which brings together over 400 persons in water, waste and related matters. It is recognised by CARICOM as the voice of professionals in the sectors which means that it can be invited to participate in relevant CARICOM organs such as the COTED. CDEMA has designated the CWWA the water sector representative on its Regional Disaster Response Mechanism. In addition, it serves as the Joint Secretariat for the Caribbean Water Operator's Partnership (CariWOP) which is the sub-regional node of the Global Water Operators Partnership (GWOPA) supported by UN Habitat.

Its governance structure comprises an elected Board comprising persons who are elected from among its membership. The Association also has 3 lifetime trustees who have oversight of its work. Its operational aspects are managed by an Executive Director. Its funding is derived from grants, membership dues and income from its Annual Conference and income generated from training courses. It is audited annually and reports annually to its membership at its Annual General Meeting held during its Conference.

It has a good reputation, professionally credible and has a worthy track record in the region and internationally.