9th Meeting of the Consortium of Regional Sectoral Early Warning Information Systems across Climate Timescales (EWISACTs) Coordination Partners

Date: November 22 – 23, 2022
Accra Beach Hotel, Christ Church, Barbados



Meeting Report

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1. Introduction

1.1. Sectoral Early Warning Information Systems across Climate Timescales (EWISACTs)

Climate variability and change occur on timescales ranging from sub-seasonal to seasonal to decadal and beyond, making it necessary to develop effective Early Warning Information Systems across Climate Timescales (EWISACTs). Early Warning Systems (EWS) are recognised by the Regional Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy and Programming Framework 2014-2024 and the Implementation Plan for the 'Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change' as critical to the effective management of climate-related disasters and adaptation to climate variability and change. EWISACTs can improve the effectiveness and efficiency of sustainable planning, adaptation and mitigation strategies across major weather and climate-sensitive socio-economic sectors. If well aligned with the information needs of the priority sectors, sectoral EWISACTs can support regional growth resilient to climate risks.

1.2. The Consortium of Regional Sectoral EWISACTs Coordination Partners

Fully established in 2017 under the 3 year (2014-2017) United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded Building Regional Climate Capacity in the Caribbean (BRCCC) Programme, the Consortium of Regional Sectoral EWISACTs Coordination Partners is a key mechanism to drive the co-design, co-development and co-delivery of tailored climate products and services in the agriculture and food security, disaster risk management, energy, health, tourism and water sectors in the Caribbean. Since 2015, the ad hoc meetings of the Consortium have provided an important opportunity for six lead regional technical sectoral agencies[1] as well as regional observer organisations[2] to raise sectoral and governance issues, positions and recommendations related to weather and climate in a cross-disciplinary context with the Caribbean Regional Climate Centre (RCC). These sessions facilitate the consultative and participatory processes necessary for successful joint EWISACTs development and implementation and are a key enabler of the significant strides made to date towards the development of Sectoral EWISACTs in the region.

[1] The Caribbean Agricultural Research & Development Institute (CARDI), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA), the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) and the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

[2] The CARICOM Secretariat, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), the Climate Studies Group at UWI Mona (CSGM), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Agricultural Alliance of the Caribbean and the Global Water Partnership – Caribbean (GWP-C).

1.3. The Sectoral EWISACTs Roadmap and Plan of Action 2020-2030

An assessment of provider and end-user climate capacity in the Caribbean (Mahon & Trotman, 2018)[3] (Mahon et al., 2019)[4] revealed that there are several gaps on both the end-user and provider sides of the capacity spectrum across the five pillars[5] of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)[6]. The Sectoral EWISACTs Roadmap and Plan of Action (RPA) fills these gaps by articulating the main components of the Consortium's cross-agency portfolio of climate services initiatives for the period 2020-2030. The model defines the 11 year collective goal, outcomes, and outputs that guide the implementation of a coordinated, multi-sectoral climate services portfolio.

1.4. The 9th Meeting of the Consortium of Regional Sectoral EWISACTs Coordination Partners

The 9th Meeting of the Consortium of Regional Sectoral EWISACTs Coordination Partners was held on November 22 – 23, 2022 via hybrid format (in-person and virtual participation) at the Accra Beach Hotel in Christ Church, Barbados.

The Meeting sought to explore the following objectives:

1. To review implementation achievements and challenges for Performance Period 1 of the RPA;
2. To discuss the Consortium's cross sectoral work program (activities, funding, timelines, logistics etc) for RPA Performance Period 2 (2023 – 2025);
3. To co-develop triennial work plans for joint RPA implementation for Performance Period 2 (2023-2025); and
4. To co-develop a new Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium Letter of Agreement (LoA) and associated Terms of Reference (TOR) (2023 – 2025).

The meeting was organised and hosted by the Consortium Chair, CIMH. On Day 1, a total of 19 participants were present with 3 of the 19 joining virtually. On Day 2, 17 participants gathered in-person (see Appendix B). Participants included Consortium Partners (CARDI, CWWA, CDEMA, CARPHA, CCREEE, CTO, CHTA); key observer organisations such as the CARICOM Secretariat, the OECS Commission, the CCCCC, AACARI, the PAHO, and the UWI CSGM; the GWP-C, as well as the CMO Headquarters Unit (virtually).

[3] This report can be accessed here: http://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/files/2018/06/Summary-Report_Provider-and-Enduser-capacity-assessment_Carib-climate-services.pdf

[4] This publication can be accessed here: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405880718300451

[5] 1) Observations and Monitoring; 2) Research, Modelling and Prediction; 3) Climate Services Information System; 4) User Interface Platform; and 5) Capacity Development.

[6] The GFCS was formulated by the World Meteorological Organization and its partners and is the main source of global guidance on climate services.

The meeting was carried out according to the meeting agenda (see Appendix A). The meeting proceedings included presentations, break-out groups and guided discussions.

1.5. Welcome Remarks (Adrian Trotman, CIMH)

Mr. Adrian Trotman, Chief of the Applied Meteorology and Climatology Section and Head of the Caribbean Regional Climate Centre at CIMH welcomed participants to the 9th Consortium Meeting. Mr. Trotman stated that he was pleased to host the 1st face-to-face Consortium meeting since 2019. He then reiterated the importance of face-to-face meetings vs. virtual meetings, stating face-to-face meetings are more successful as they facilitate increased participation as well as greater coverage of issues. Mr. Trotman reiterated the importance of the next two days noting that they will set the stage for the Sectoral EWISACTs joint work program for the next three year period. His opening remarks were followed by a round of introductions . He then turned over to Dr. Roché Mahon, Social Scientist and Miss Jodi-Ann Petrie, Technical Officer to guide the meeting proceedings for the next two days.

Dr. Mahon also welcomed the participants and expressed her excitement and appreciation for finally being able to host an in-person Consortium following the global COVID-19 pandemic. She then introduced the icebreaker activity titled “What does the Consortium mean to you?”. In this icebreaker activity, participants were given a PowerPoint template with the word “CONSORTIUM” and were asked to state what each letter meant to them. Participants worked in two groups to discuss what the Consortium grouping and its work meant to their organisations. Each group then chose a representative to present their results at the end of the activity. Dr. Mahon then displayed the results of a similar activity completed in 2018 and made the comparison of what the Consortium meant to persons then (2018) vs. now (2022). She stated it was clear from the clear from the exercise that Consortium Partners were all still very much committed to the Consortium’s mission “To support building the region’s climate resilience through the development, delivery and integration of climate services into the planning and decision-making of climate-sensitive sectors”. Following the icebreaker activity, Dr. Mahon presented the achievements and challenges for the 1st RPA implementation period covering 2020-2022.

2. Session 1: RPA implementation achievements and challenges (2020 – 2022) (Roché Mahon, CIMH)

Dr. Mahon began her overview presentation by reminding Member and Observer organisations of the broad tenets of the Sectoral EWISACTs RPA 2020-2030 - the Caribbean region’s own tailored regional framework which was developed through 2.5 years of consultation and

collaboration with sectoral, national, regional, donor and other relevant representatives. She noted that the RPA has 5 Outcome Areas (OAs)[7] and 38 key outputs spread across these 5 OAs:

OA 1: Enhanced mechanisms for the collection, management and dissemination of climate and sectoral data;
OA 2: Improved quality of climate information and services through enhanced social science and interdisciplinary research;
OA 3: Improved and harmonised Climate Services Information Systems to support sectors at regional and national levels;
OA 4: Enhanced User Interface mechanisms at regional, national and sectoral levels; and
OA 5: Strengthened Capacity Development and enabling environment for the provision and use of climate services at regional, national and sectoral levels.

Dr. Mahon noted that the journey towards complete implementation of these 38 outputs has been divided into parts: Implementation period 1: 2020-2022; Implementation period 2: 2023-2025, Implementation period 3: 2026-2028 and Implementation period 4: 2029-2030. In line with the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting framework associated with the 11 year RPA, it was important to review achievements and challenges for Implementation period 1 as 2022 drew to a close.

Dr. Mahon stated that there were 2 major challenges to RPA implementation during 2020-2022. The first was a long-standing challenge from the beginning of implementation in 2020, namely that in the first implementation period, there was limited funding support for proposed outputs associated with some sectoral activities. Dr. Mahon further noted that there was perhaps no greater challenge to RPA implementation over the 2020-2022 period than the COVID-19 pandemic – the second major unforeseen challenge which affected more than 200 countries across the world, creating uncertainty and affecting every institution and individual. Consortium Partners faced a range of new and significant challenges including adapting to a work environment with less social interactions; projects or activities being modified or postponed; donor and country financing cancelled, repurposed/reprogrammed or redistributed; stalled mission activity due to travel restrictions resulting in no or low travel to support highly participatory, consultative processes including in-country stakeholder consultations. Despite these challenges, some Consortium Partners were able to bring resources to the table for implementation. Given the prevailing circumstances, Partners supported RPA implementation in various ways with the most dominant support in the form of technical support to Caribbean RCC led projects and joint operational work such as the coproduction of operational bulletins, specifically the Caribbean Agro-, Health- and Tourism- Climatic Bulletins known as the Caribbean ACB, Caribbean HCB and Caribbean TCB. In the case of the Caribbean ACB, CARDI and CIMH have

[7] These Outcome Areas mirror the 5 Pillars of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) launched by the World Met Org and its partners in 2009.

co-produced 34 issues. In the case of the Caribbean TCB, CTO, CHTA and CIMH have coproduced 11 issues and in the case of the Caribbean HCB, CARPHA, PAHO and CIMH co-produced 11 issues.

Dr. Mahon pointed out that Partners also managed funds and projects that support RPA outputs and activities, but this was to a lesser extent. Good examples of this were CARPHA's contribution, supported through Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) and ACP-EU funds during the period, as well as CCREEE support to CIMH to develop Climate and Vulnerability Assessments for the Development of Integrated Resource and Resilience Plans and Action Plans using GIZ funds.

Dr. Mahon further noted that CIMH leveraged funds from 7 projects that contributed in some way to RPA implementation as follows:

1. Pilot Project for Climate Resilience (PPCR) implemented by IADB: National Frameworks for Climate Services (Roadmaps and sector-specific messaging in national Climate Bulletins); Health-climate consultancy on VBDs (Belize);
2. Strengthening Disaster and Climate Resilience in the Eastern and Southern Caribbean (SDCR) funded by USAID: Drought Annexes for Agriculture and intern support for social science, CID, Agriculture impacts harvesting and upgrading of messaging for ACB;
3. Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Implemented by the World Bank (WB), World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Office for disaster Risk Reduction: Intern support for CID and CCIMNet;
4. CCRIF SPC Regional Internship Programme: Intern support for CID georeferencing;
5. Govt of Italy supported Resilient Environment and Agricultural Caribbean Habitats (REACH) Project: Agriculture Climate Outlook Forum in 2 pilot countries (SLU & SVG);
6. EU CARIFORUM Climate Change and Health Project: Health EWS for VBDs and other climate sensitive diseases; upgrade of HCB; and
7. Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications ClimSA programme funded by the European Union and implemented by the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS): Agriculture, Water, Health.

Dr. Mahon continued by itemizing progress across the 5 RPA Outcome Areas. She noted that for the last period, Consortium Partners worked on a few new research resources sharing the Caribbean experience with the international community, as well as publications in a couple of areas including health, agriculture, tourism, as well as social science. In each of these cases, Partners have been able to collaborate with and publish with national or regional level sectoral practitioners. During 2020-2022, Partners co-produced 7 publications.

Dr. Mahon summarised progress over Implementation period 1 as follows:

- All Consortium Partners contributed to RPA implementation during Period 1 via technical support to Caribbean RCC led projects, joint operational work; as well as Partner managed funds and projects that support RPA outputs and activities;
- Overall, there was mixed progress on approximately 20 of 38 RPA outputs (approx. 52% of the total suite of outputs);
- Due to more resources, particularly funding, some sectors were able to advance RPA outputs more than others. For example, it seems that Health sector made most progress with already committed funding through PPCR and PAHO ACP EU Projects acting as a catalyst;
- The majority of Consortium partners, namely partners at CARDI, CTO, CHTA, CARPHA, PAHO and CDEMA have actively contributed to co-produced publications (*n*=7) and operational bulletins for the agriculture (*n*=34 for ACB), tourism and health sectors (*n*=11 for HCB and TCB).

The biggest factors and drivers for mixed progress on the RPA were: 1) limited baseline funding for implementation of 2020-2022 outputs; and 2) the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Mahon alluded to several funding-related opportunities going forward under the European Union funded Intra-ACP Climate Services and related Applications (ClimSA) Programme. Dr. Mahon noted that Ms. Sherri Frederick, Project Manager for the CLIMSA Programme would follow with a presentation with more insights on this.

2.1. Discussion Session (All Consortium Partners)

In this session, the floor was opened to Consortium partners that were able to advance climate-related activities in their programming for 2020-20222 whether RPA related or otherwise in 2020-2023 period. Dr. Laura Lee Boodram (CARPHA) and Dr. Nicole Greenidge (CDEMA) took the opportunity to present some of the activities carried out during Performance Period 1.

3. Session 2: Possible CLIMSA support for RPA Performance Period 2 (2023 – 2025) – (Ms. Sherri Frederick, CIMH)

Ms. Sherri Frederick, Project Manager for the CLIMSA Programme followed with her presentation identifying how CLIMSA could possibly support the work of the Sectoral EWISACTs RPA. She gave a brief overview of the programme and went through the 5 Outcome Areas and the associated Outputs that could possibly benefit from CLIMSA support for the three CLIMSA target sectors (water, agriculture, and health). Following Ms. Frederick's presentation, there were two breakout groups.

3.1. Breakout Group Session

In this session, participants were separated into two groups. Group 1 facilitated by Ms. Jodi-Ann Petrie and Ms. Sherri Frederick consisted of the three CLIMSA supported sectors of Water, Agriculture and Health. Group 2 facilitated by Dr. Roché Mahon consisted of the Energy, Tourism and DRM sectors. In each group, the different sectors were asked to identify their priorities for the next three years based on the joint Sectoral Workplans which were co-developed with CIMH in joint working sessions leading up to the convening of the 9th Consortium Meeting. Possible CLIMSA support was identified for some of the priorities highlighted by the sector Partners in Group 1. The session required more time than allotted and participants agreed to continue the sessions post Meeting with the CIMH team.

4. Session 3: Review of the draft Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium LoA and TOR 2023 – 2025 (Roché Mahon, CIMH/All)

4.1. Review of the draft Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium LoA 2023 – 2025

In this session, Dr. Mahon guided meeting participants through the draft Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium LoA 2023 – 2025. There were no major changes to the draft LoA except for the update of addresses and change of names of Organization heads for CDEMA and CHTA. Updates were made in real time by Dr. Mahon. The Sectoral EWISACTs Regional Roadmap and Plan of Action 2020-2030 was also added as an annex to the LoA.

4.2. Review of the draft Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium TOR 2023 – 2025

Participants went through the draft Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium TOR 2023 – 2025 in detail. Much of the updates were made in real time and others were tabled for further consideration and updating post meeting. Some of the main suggested updates/revisions to the TOR were:

- To provide an explanation of Sectoral EWISACTs in the TOR;
- To further define the role of the Secretariat; and
- To officially include the GWP-C as a Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium Observer organization.

4.3. Way Forward and Close (Roché Mahon, CIMH)

In wrapping up, Dr. Mahon reminded participants of next steps as follows:

- CIMH to share Consortium LoA and TOR documents with Observer organizations;
- Consortium Partners to follow up with their Agency Heads regarding the signing of the multilateral LoA;
- CIMH to follow up with each Consortium Partner to finalize the joint workplan priorities for the 2023 – 2025 performance period;
- CDEMA to provide RPA endorsement text to be placed in the RPA Foreword;

Commented [JAP1]: I noticed that this was deleted. Is it that the suggestion was made but not a decision? I do remember having a note around the topic. i

Commented [RM2R1]: I don't remember this being a decision, but Adrian can advise.

- CIMH to share the Sectoral EWISACTs email list with Partners to encourage greater cross collaboration;
- CIMH to explore the opportunity for an operational communication forum/platform (eg. WhatsApp group) for the Consortium; and
- CIMH and CCREEE to explore the possibility of sharing Consortium information on CCREEE's Knowledge Hub.

5. Conclusion

The 9th Consortium Meeting fulfilled its expected outcome of outlining RPA implementation achievements and challenges from 2020 to 2022; discussing the Consortium's cross sectoral work program and priorities for RPA Performance Period 2 (2023 – 2025); and co-developing a new Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium Letter of Agreement (LoA) and associated Terms of Reference (TOR) for the period 2023 – 2025. It was understood that due to time and other protocol limitations more discussion was needed post meeting to finalise the Consortium's joint work plans and priorities for RPA Performance Period 2 (2023 – 2025); as well as the Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium LoA and associated TOR for 2023 – 2025.

All available meeting outputs including: 1) all presentations made at the 9th Consortium Meeting; 2) a revised draft Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium LoA 2023 – 2025; 3) a revised draft Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium TOR 2023 – 2025; 4) the meeting agenda, 5) participant list; 6) the Sectoral EWISACTs Roadmap and Plan of Action 2020-2030; and 7) the 9th Consortium Meeting report can be accessed via the following link:

https://owncloud.cimh.edu.bb/index.php/s/Ji4o3oj6J93oz3y

APPENDIX A: Meeting Agenda

9th Meeting of the Consortium
of Regional Sectoral Early Warning Information Systems across
Climate Timescales (EWISACTs) Coordination Partners

AGENDA

Date: November 22 – 23, 2022
Accra Beach Hotel, Christ Church, Barbados
Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

MEETING OBJECTIVES

1. To review implementation achievements and challenges for Performance Period 1 of the RPA;
2. To discuss the Consortium's cross sectoral work program (activities, funding, timelines, logistics etc) for RPA Performance Period 2 (2023 – 2025);
3. To co-develop triennial work plans for joint RPA implementation for Performance Period 2 (2023-2025); and
4. To co-develop a new Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium Letter of Agreement (LoA) and associated Terms of Reference (TOR) (2023 – 2025).

DAY 1 AGENDA

TIME	SESSION	RESOURCE PERSON/AGENCY
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome remarks	Adrian Trotman
9:15 – 9:40	Icebreaker	All
9:40 – 10:00	RPA implementation achievements and challenges (2020 – 2022)	Roché Mahon/Jodi-Ann Petrie/All
10:00 – 10:15	COFFEE BREAK	
10:15 – 11:30	Discussion Session	All
11:30 – 12:00	Possible CLIMSA support for RPA Performance Period 2 (2023 – 2025)	Sherri Frederick
12:00 – 12:30	Break-out groups to co-develop triennial work plans for joint RPA implementation for Performance Period 2 (2023-2025)	Facilitators: Roché Mahon/Jodi-Ann Petrie
12:30 – 1:30	LUNCH	
1:30 – 3:00	Break-out groups to co-develop triennial work plans for joint RPA implementation for Performance Period 2 (2023-2025)	Facilitators: Roché Mahon/Jodi-Ann Petrie
3:00 – 3:15	COFFEE BREAK	
3:15 – 3:50	Break-out groups to co-develop triennial work plans for joint RPA implementation for Performance Period 2 (2023-2025)	Facilitators: Roché Mahon/Jodi-Ann Petrie
3:50 – 4:00	Summary and Close-Out	Adrian Trotman

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DAY 2 AGENDA

TIME	SESSION	RESOURCE PERSON/AGENCY
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome and review of Day 1	Adrian Trotman
9:15 – 10:30	Review of the draft Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium LoA 2023 – 2025	All
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45 – 12:20	Review of the draft Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium TOR 2023 – 2025	All
12:20 – 12:30	Summary and Close-Out	Adrian Trotman
12:30 – 1:30	Lunch	

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APPENDIX B: Participant List

	Last Name	First Name	Organization	Email	Day 1	Day 2
1	Flemming	Kistian	CARDI	kflemming@cardi.org	✓	✓
2	Boodram	Laura Lee	CARPHA	boodrala@carpha.org	✓	✓
3	Sabir	Kareem	CARICOM	kareem.sabir@caricom.org	✓	✓
4	Jones	Albert	CCCCC	ajones@caribbeanclimate.bz	✓	✓
5	Duffy	Loreto	CHTA (Virtual Day 1)	loretoduffy@gmail.com	✓	✓
6	Anderson	Haley	CMO (Virtual Day 1)	handerson@cmo.org.tt	✓	
7	Clarke	Leonardo	CSGM	leonardo.clarke02@uwimona.edu.jm	✓	✓
8	Maharaj-Jagdip	Anuradha	CWWA	amaharaj@cwwa.net	✓	✓
9	Browne	Claude	AACARI	jugobrowne@gmail.com	✓	✓
10	Isaac	Cornelius	OECS	cornelius.isaac@oecs.int	✓	✓
11	Evelyn	Ayanna	CCREEE	ayanna@ccreee.org	✓	✓
12	Charles	Amanda	CTO	acharles@caribtourism.com	✓	✓
13	Greenidge	Nicole	CDEMA	nicole.greenidge@cdema.org	✓	✓
14	Lewis	Simone	GWP-C	simone.lewis@gwp-caribbean.org	✓	✓
15	Crichlow	Akil	CWWA (Virtual Day 1)	acrichlow@cwwa.net	✓	
16	Petrie	Jodi-Ann	CIMH	jpetrie@cimh.edu.bb	✓	✓
17	Frederick	Sherri	CIMH (Day 1)	sfrederick@cimh.edu.bb	✓	
18	Mahon	Roché	CIMH	rmahon@cimh.edu.bb	✓	✓
19	Trotman	Adrian	CIMH	atrotman@cimh.edu.bb	✓	✓