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10th Meeting of the Consortium of Regional Sectoral Early Warning Information Systems across Climate Timescales (EWISACTs) Coordination Partners

**Date: May 23, 2023
The Jamaica Pegasus Hotel, Kingston, Jamaica**



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 agencies² as well as regional observer organisations³ 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.

² 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.

³ 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)⁴ (Mahon et al., 2019)⁵ revealed that there are several gaps on both the end-user and provider sides of the capacity spectrum across the five pillars⁶ of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCs)⁷. 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 10th Meeting of the Consortium of Regional Sectoral EWISACTs Coordination Partners

The 10th Meeting of the Consortium of Regional Sectoral EWISACTs Coordination Partners was held on May 23, 2023 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston, Jamaica.

The Meeting sought to explore the following objectives:

- a. To review progress on RPA implementation over the past six month period (since Nov 2022);
- b. To present finalised triennial work plans for joint RPA implementation for Performance Period 2 (2023-2025);
- c. To review the Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium Letter of Agreement (LoA) and associated Terms of Reference (TOR) (2023-2025); and
- d. To discuss the feasibility of the development of intersectoral communities of practice (COP) in the near to medium-term.

The meeting was organised and hosted by the Consortium Chair, CIMH. A total of 14 participants were present. Participants included Consortium Partners (CARDI, CWWA, CDEMA, CARPHA, CCREEE, CTO, CHTA); key observer organisations such as the OECS Commission, the CCCCC, the GWP-C, as well as the CMO Headquarters Unit.

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

⁴ 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

⁵ This publication can be accessed here: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2405880718300451>

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

⁷ The GFCs was formulated by the World Meteorological Organization and its partners and is the main source of global guidance on climate services.

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 10th Consortium Meeting. Mr. Trotman acknowledged the presence of Ms. Lynn-Marie Dean, Communications Specialist for the ClimSA program, as well as the representatives who were new to the table. The new representatives include Ms. Candice Santana of CWWA, Mr. Paul Lucas of CARDI as well as Mr. Shane Kirton of CARPHA. Mr. Trotman highlighted the importance of the collaboration and the work of the Consortium in helping to manage climate related risks and opportunities in the region. He then turned over to Dr. Roché Mahon, Social Scientist and Miss Jodi-Ann Petrie, Technical Officer to guide the rest of the meeting's proceedings.

Dr. Mahon also extended welcome to the 10th Consortium Meeting Participants and acknowledged the new representatives. She highlighted the fact that the 10th Consortium Meeting marked 8 years of collaboration and partnership, noting that the 1st Consortium Meeting took place in May 2015. She then went through the meeting Agenda and turned over to Miss Jodi-Ann Petrie to lead the participants through the icebreaker activity. Participants were asked to take a slip of paper from the plate being passed around, after which they would introduce themselves and read the question relating to a particular CMO member state, they would then allow the group to respond and further read the answer recorded on the slip of paper to provide more context. Participants noted that the icebreaker activity was quite interesting as they learnt something new about at least 1 CMO member state.

2. Session 1: RPA implementation achievements and challenges (November 2022 – May 2023) (Roché Mahon, CIMH)

Roché to fill in.

3. Session 2: Presentation and discussion of triennial work plans for joint RPA implementation for Performance Period 2 (CARDI, CWWA, CARPHA, CDEMA, CCREEE, CTO/CHTA)

In this session, partner agencies presented their finalized joint triennial workplan activities for the RPA Performance Period 2 (2023 to 2025). Each partner agency presented on the particular outputs that would be prioritized and identified the next steps, possible resources and possible challenges and/or opportunities associated with carrying out the activities. Mr. Paul Lucas gave the presentation on behalf of CARDI; Ms. Candice Santana presented on behalf of CWWA; Mr. Shane Kirton presented on behalf of CARPHA; Dr. Nicole Greenidge presented on behalf of CDEMA; Ms. Felicia Whyte presented on behalf of CCREEE and the tourism sector presentation was done by both Ms. Loretto Duffy-Mayers of CHTA and Ms. Amanda Charles of CTO.

4. Session 3: Review of draft Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium LoA and TOR 2023-2025

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

This session facilitated the review of the draft Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium LoA and TOR for the 2nd RPA implementation period 2023-2025. Miss Petrie outlined the changes made to the LoA document between November 2022 and May 2023, showing participants, in tracked changes and highlights, where exactly in the document the changes were made. Participants accepted proposed changes and no major edits were put forward.

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

Dr. Mahon displayed the changes made to the TOR document between November 2022 and May 2023 in tracked changes and highlights. The participants accepted the proposed changes and made edits in real time to the document. Some of the more major modifications included:

- Justification for the order of placement of the logos the Sectoral EWISACTs RPA and in all the associated documents;
- Assigning a timeframe for dissemination of the post Consortium Meeting outcome documents, changing it from “soon after” to 2 weeks post Consortium Meeting;
- Extending the length of time for the meeting report to be disseminated, changing it from 4 weeks to 6 weeks post Consortium Meeting.

5. Communities of practice discussion

The Community of practice discussion was preceded by a brief presentation by Dr. Mahon. The presentation introduced the concept and value of Communities of practice, and it provided a rationale as to why it needs to be downscaled to the national level. Following the presentation, discussions were held around the following guiding questions:

- How can we support downscaling/operationalizing national working relationships for climate services?
- How can we support the development of cross-sectoral national committees for climate services?
- How can we support the development of cross-sectoral national roadmaps for climate services?

6. Summary and Close-Out

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

- CIMH to share revised Consortium LoA and TOR documents with Partner agencies for signature;
- Consortium Partners to follow up with their Agency Heads regarding the signing of the multilateral LoA;

7. Conclusion

The 10th Consortium Meeting fulfilled its expected outcome of outlining RPA implementation achievements between November 2022 and May 2023; discussing the Consortium's cross sectoral work program and priorities for RPA Performance Period 2 (2023 – 2025); the review of updates to the draft Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium Letter of Agreement (LoA) and associated Terms of Reference (TOR) for the period 2023 – 2025, as well as, exploring the feasibility of having communities of practice downscaled to the national level.

All available meeting outputs including: 1) all presentations made at the 10th 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) the participant list, 6) the meeting photos and 7) the 10th Consortium Meeting report can be accessed via the following link:

<https://owncloud.cimh.edu.bb/index.php/s/w339F7ROfrPNRwC>

APPENDIX A: Meeting Agenda

10th Meeting of the Consortium of Regional Sectoral Early Warning Information Systems across Climate Timescales (EWISACTs) Coordination Partners

AGENDA

Date: May 23, 2023

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

MEETING OBJECTIVES

- To review progress on RPA implementation over the past six month period (since Nov 2022);
- To present finalised triennial work plans for joint RPA implementation for Performance Period 2 (2023-2025);
- To review the Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium Letter of Agreement (LoA) and associated Terms of Reference (TOR) (2023-2025); and
- To discuss the feasibility of the development of intersectoral communities of practice (COP) in the near to medium-term.

AGENDA

TIME	SESSION	RESOURCE PERSON/AGENCY
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome remarks	Adrian Trotman
9:10 – 9:30	Icebreaker	All
9:30 – 10:00	Progress on RPA implementation: December 2022 – May 2023	Roché Mahon/Jodi-Ann Petrie/All
10:00 – 10:30	Presentation and discussion of triennial work plans for joint RPA implementation for Performance Period 2	CWWA, CARDI
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break	
11:00 – 12:15	Presentation and discussion of triennial work plans for joint RPA implementation for Performance Period 2 (Continued)	CARPHA, CDEMA, CCREEE, CTO/CHTA
12:15 – 1:30	Lunch	
1:30 – 2:30	Review of draft Sectoral EWISACTs Consortium LoA and TOR 2023-2025	All
2:30 – 3:45	Communities of practice discussion	All
3:45 – 4:00	Summary and close-Out	Roché Mahon/Adrian Trotman



APPENDIX B: Participant List

	First Name	Last Name	Organization	Email Address
1.	Paul	Lucas	CARDI	plucas@cardi.org
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4.	Loreto	Duffy-Mayers	CHTA	loretoduffy@gmail.com
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6.	Candice	Santana	CWWA	candicesantana24@gmail.com
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