



INTRA-ACP GCCA+ PROGRAMME An initiative of the ACP Group of States funded by the European Union's European Development Fund A Project implemented by:



# Developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Climate Resilient Water Infrastructure in the CARIFORUM countries

implemented by SOFRECO.

## Addressing resilience of urban and community water supply and sanitation infrastructure to climate events in the Caribbean

A Regional initiative aimed at water utilities and other water stakeholders (local councils, NGOs, CBOs and local communities).

**When:** January to July, 2021

**Where:** 16 CARIFORUM countries

Extreme events such as hurricanes, floods, droughts and sea level rise aggravated by climate change are causing costly damages to the Caribbean economies, such as:

- Infrastructure losses and coastal erosion;
- Tourism loss;
- Greater hurricane, storm surge damages;
- Saltwater intrusions into fresh-water aquifers;
- Agriculture and ecosystems losses;
- Impaired health (flooding, sanitation, diseases, heat stress).

The cost for inaction – in terms of infrastructure damages – has been estimated to a total of US\$15.9 billion annually by 2050 and \$31.9 billion by 2100<sup>1</sup>. These costs represent 6 percent and 15 percent, respectively, of the current Caribbean GDP.

This is part of a wider Programme on « Enhancing Climate Resilience in the CARIFORUM countries» with four Components:

- **Component 1** relates to early warning systems for improved sectoral and development planning enhancement;
- **Component 2** provides for the implementation of water sector climate actions to improve water security in the Caribbean;
- **Component 3** focuses on capacity building and implementing an education and outreach programme; and,
- **Component 4** promotes a risk management ethos for de-risking the CARIFORUM Member States to Climate Change.

<sup>1</sup> billions of 2007 dollars; percentages based on 2004 GDP

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The goal of this four-year (April 2019 – March 2023) EU Intra-ACP GCCA's programme, is to support the climate compatible development of all 16 CARIFORUM countries, namely: Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago to combat the negative impacts of climate change and disasters while simultaneously exploring opportunities presented.

**This initiative falls within Component 2 of the Programme.** The specific objective of this assignment is enhancing the water sector's climate resiliency through the "Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Climate Resilient Water Infrastructure" in the Caribbean Region comprising the 16 States of CARIFORUM. Through actions to develop the SOPs for climate change adaptation in water utilities for the CARIFORUM countries, the expected results are:

- A stocktake of the impact of climate change on the water utilities in these countries;
- Procedures to promote climate change adaptation in the water utilities and integrated water resources management (IWRM) in these countries;

- Established and operationalized mechanisms for:
  - Identification of best practices and improving same into management and operations for improved resilience.
  - Knowledge sharing on climate vulnerability management between utilities, including a benchmarking of good practices in climate vulnerability management.
  - Strengthening regional cooperation between national water utilities to share resources and expertise for rapid recovery following climate hazards.
  - A robust training programme developed and implemented for local communities through various water users' bodies, local councils, and water management committees.

The beneficiaries of this initiative are water utilities and local communities in the Caribbean.

*This Initiative is supported by the collaboration with regional partners such as the Caribbean Water and Sewerage Association (CAWASA), the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA), Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C), the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), United Nations Environment Programme-Regional Coordination Unit (UNEP-RCU), Instituto de Meteorología de la Republica de Cuba (INSMET) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH).*

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