

# **THE CARICOM REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

**Presented at the  
First Regional Workshop on Ensemble Climate  
Modeling**

**August 20-29, 2012**

**University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica**

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# Implementing The CARICOM

**“Regional Framework for Achieving  
Development Resilient to Climate  
Change”**

**Delivering Transformational Change  
2011-2021**



# INTRODUCTION

- The threats posed by a changing climate to the development prospects of the 15 Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states are severe. Adaptation to ensure resilience to a more hostile regional climate and rising sea levels will require a complementary series of policy actions supported by a sizeable and sustained investment of resources.
- To meet the challenge, the CARICOM countries have worked together to develop an implementation plan to deliver the strategic elements and goals of a regional framework which was developed from an urgent political commitment to manage the effects of climate change on development.

# MAP OF CARICOM COUNTRIES





# GENESIS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

In 2009, two significant steps were taken to address climate change in the Caribbean.

The Heads of Government of CARICOM:

- Approved the *Liliendaal Declaration on Climate Change and Development*.

*The Declaration* defines the national and international political positions of the CARICOM member states.

- Approved “*A Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change*” prepared by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC).

The Framework articulates the strategic direction for the region’s response to climate change risks and provides a roadmap for action.



# GENESIS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

***“It is absolutely necessary that all our countries identify and implement, in the shortest possible timeframe, a series of measures designed to minimise and mitigate the effects of global warming on our countries and populations...”***

*Chair CARICOM 2009,*

*Hon. Dean Oliver Barrow, Prime Minister of Belize*





# GENESIS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- The Heads of Government further requested the Centre to prepare an Implementation Plan (IP) to support the implementation of the Strategic Framework.
- The IP was developed during the period September 2010 to June 2011, with funding from the UK Department for International Development and the Climate and Development Knowledge Network.
- The IP is a living document and will serve as the blue-print to take forward and deliver the strategic elements and goals identified in the Regional Framework.
- Prior to approval by the Heads in March 2012, the IP was endorsed by:
  - **Representatives of national governments in May 2011**
  - **COTED in September 2011**
  - **The Community Council in February 2012.**



# GENESIS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- The Implementation Plan lays the ground-work to mainstream climate change into the national development and planning processes in CARICOM member states.
- The Plan was prepared following an extensive programme of consultation with over 70 institutions and organizations and 200 stakeholders including politicians, government officials, regional agencies, NGOs, private sector and donor agencies.
- The IP has received endorsement and approval from the CARICOM Council of Ministers with responsibility for Trade and Economic Development in September 2011 and approval by the Heads of Government in March 2012.





# DELIVERING TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE 2011-21

Implementing the CARICOM 'Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change'



Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre





# TOWARDS TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

## ***Economic Costs:***

*An economic analysis of the costs of a changing climate in just three categories—increased hurricane damages, loss of tourism revenue, and infrastructure damages—projected that the Caribbean’s annual cost of inaction could total US\$10.7 billion annually by 2025, US\$22 billion by 2050 and US\$46 billion by 2100. These costs represent 5%, 10% and 22% respectively, of the current Caribbean economy (2004 GDP).*

***The net effect of costs on this scale is equivalent to causing a perpetual economic recession in each of the CARICOM Member States.***



# TOWARDS TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

***“Business as usual”, given the scale of the costs of climate change and the catastrophic impact on our economies, society and environment, is not an option. Business as usual will mean that the economies of the Caribbean are in permanent recession.***

***This requires leadership at all levels throughout political and the wider community working in partnership with stakeholders to deliver change.....now.***



# TOWARDS TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

- The transformational changes required by the *Liliendaal Declaration* and necessary to deliver the strategic elements and goals in the Regional Framework require corresponding changes in the process of policy-setting and decision-making.
- This will involve a transformational change in mindset, institutional arrangements, operating systems, collaborative approaches and integrated planning mechanisms in the region. These shifts have been initiated by the strong political leadership which paved the way for the Regional Framework and the Implementation Plan.
- The Implementation Plan is tailored to the regional context, linking specific actions with wider regional and national sustainable development and growth strategies to effectively mobilise limited resources.



# TOWARDS TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

## Acting regionally to deliver nationally:

The scale of the challenges limits the ability of any country acting on its own to build resilience. CARICOM and the regionally-mandated organisations therefore have a key role to play in the execution of the IP. Working collectively through a regional support structure allows countries to maximise their resources and technical expertise to the benefit of all.

Securing the necessary financial, technical and human resources and political support to move forward on CARICOM policy initiatives, and meet the needs of member states to deliver sustainable development actions must be acknowledged as key priorities.



# TOWARDS TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE

## *Regional Coordinating Mechanism*

*The IP has proposed that a new regional coordinating mechanism with overall responsibility for driving transformational change at the regional level, under the Liliendaal Declaration and the Regional Framework, be established.*

*The mechanism will be chaired by the Head of Government with responsibility for sustainable development and emergency management. The CCCCC will provide the technical and secretariat support.*





# THE “THREE-ONES” PRINCIPLE

The execution of the IP will be guided by the ‘three-ones’ approach at regional and national levels. This is based on the principle of establishing a sustainable resource mobilisation plan with three core elements:

- **One plan** that provides the framework for co-ordinated action by all partners. The *Liliendaal Declaration* provide common goals and objectives which drive the Regional Framework and the IP.
- **One co-ordinating mechanism** to manage the process. The proposed *Regional Mechanism* will coordinate actions at the regional level while *Governments* will coordinate actions at the national level. The Regional Coordinating Mechanism will be chaired by the CARICOM Head of Government responsible for sustainable development and emergency management.
- **One monitoring and evaluation framework** to measure progress, transparency and value for money.



# THE “THREE-ONES” PRINCIPLE

The execution of the IP will be guided by a ‘three-ones’ approach at regional and national levels. This is based on the principle of establishing a sustainable resource mobilisation plan with three core elements:

- The ‘three-ones’ approach will, at the regional level, allow for the coordination of resource mobilization on the part of CARICOM and its Member States.
- It will also allow donors and funding agencies to have a politically approved one-stop mechanism through which they can rationalize and allocate scarce resources for the Caribbean Community.
- This will **not** affect the ability of each national government to raise funding for national programmes and projects through bi-lateral sources to meet country-specific needs.



# SHAPING A REGIONALLY APPROPRIATE IP

- Caribbean priorities drove the identification of actions included in the IP. For example, some countries currently spend between 30-40% of foreign exchange earnings on fossil fuel imports. The desire to reduce dependencies on fossil fuels was a key driver in the development of appropriate actions. Alignment of national priorities into the regionally orientated IP was essential to create agreement and the space to advance the IP.
- The success of the IP will rely highly on the involvement and support of key stakeholders including national governments, regional organisations, NGOs, the private sector, the donor community, international financial institutions, academic and research institutions, and the ordinary citizens.
- To support this on-going engagement, the IP has been framed as a 'live process' which is subject to review and modification over time. This will ensure that the IP is flexible to new knowledge of climate, innovations that address climate change, the development of climate finance mechanisms and prevailing economic conditions, etc.



# PRIORITY CHALLENGES AND ACTIONS TARGETED UNDER THE IP

## ***Caribbean states must become low-carbon economies:***

Building a low carbon climate resilient economy should be an integral element of the wider sustainable development agenda of the CARICOM. Regional institutions and national Governments are to review their existing strategies, policies and actions to ensure they align with building resilience and delivering a low carbon economy.

## ***CARICOM and its regional organisations must play a key and critical role in execution of the IP:***

The regional organizations will work collectively through a regional support structure that will allow countries to maximise their resources and technical expertise to the benefit of all.

## ***Risk assessment and management must be the standard in decision-making and resource-allocation processes:***

The Regional Framework is founded upon the principle of using risk management processes and tools to aid decision-making. Risk management processes can us to better manage our responses to aspects of climate variability and climate change that create or increase a risk to the Caribbean region, its member states, citizens, infrastructure, economies and environment.

The Centre has commenced the development risk management tools and will facilitate training in the use of these tools and the implementation of pilot risk assessment projects.



# PRIORITY CHALLENGES AND ACTIONS TARGETED UNDER THE IP

## ***Uncertainty is not a reason for inaction:***

There is sufficient information available to make some decisions now. While there are issues with baseline data and knowledge gaps, there is a wealth of existing information, knowledge and expertise which must be built upon to develop capacity. Specific actions such as conducting a full asset inventory of Saint Lucia's water utility assets could be undertaken, followed by a risk assessment of the asset's vulnerability to climate variability.

## ***Disaster risk reduction and climate change are inextricably linked:***

Building resilience to existing climate variability and the changes already experienced will be enhanced through the disaster risk reduction programmes across the Caribbean. The work of the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency must remain a priority.

## ***Global climate change will very likely adversely affect the Caribbean in the future:***

The IP recognises that the challenges ahead may be far greater than those that CARICOM countries are currently planning for and recommends efforts to strengthen the Caribbean's international negotiating position and its long-term capacity to plan.



# THE IP PRIORITY MILESTONES – NEXT 2 YEARS

During the first two years it is expected that the IP will have achieved the following milestones:

- Establishment of and functioning of the *Coordinating Mechanism* as the regional coordinating mechanism for the IP;
- Develop and begin to use the CARICOM Risk Management Guidelines to review and assess projects/investment;
- Establishment of a Funding Advisory Facility with the CCCCC;
- Selected country investment risk profiles completed;
- Complete a policy review by CARICOM and regional organizations;
- Development of a suite of sound investment projects, at the national and regional levels, to be used for mobilising resources available under the new climate financing mechanisms and other sources, etc.; and
- Review of the Regional Framework and the Implementation Plan.





# POSSIBLE ROLES FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

- Vigorously support the political and technical processes that will result in achievement of the milestones set out for the first two years of the IP execution;
- Identify a Focal Point to work with the CCCCC on national level implementation of IP actions;
- Support the efforts of the Centre in the development of a suite of sound investment projects at both the national and regional levels, that will be included in the regional portfolio of projects for presentation to donors and funding mechanisms for support;
- Full participation in and benefiting from CCCCC programs and projects;
- Share with the rest of the Caribbean, established leadership and expertise in the prudent management of climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives and projects.



# POSSIBLE ROLES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

**The private sector has a fundamental role in providing and financing solutions:**

Private sector investment has been identified as a significant contributor to the combined adaptation and mitigation funding target of US\$100 billion per annum by 2020. Local private sector and financial institutions are expected to make investments.

Governments, (with support), must address the private sector risk reward balance in order to access the full range of funding opportunities.

Improving country risk profiles will have an added benefit of opening up other non-climate-related investment opportunities, thereby improving the growth potential. Engagement with individual companies, representative organisations and professional bodies and their inclusion in strategy and policy development is essential.



# POSSIBLE ROLES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

**Private sector involvement will be promoted through agreements that define clear roles and responsibilities. The private sector must play a key role in:**

The identification and development of trade and investment opportunities and initiatives in areas like the Clean Development Mechanism, alternative and renewable energy, adoption and use of cleaner technologies for manufacturing and service delivery.

Technology transfer partnerships with entrepreneurs and suppliers from outside the region.

Developing insurance mechanisms and the provision of capital for investment.

Serving as technical consultants and advisers to national governments and their agencies as well as to regional organizations.



# POSSIBLE ROLES OF THE NGOs and CBOs

**The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) have a critical role to play in the successful execution of the IP both at the regional and national levels as well as in communities and villages throughout the CARICOM countries:**

- The NGO and CBO communities of the CARICOM region have developed specialised skills in areas such as advocacy; community and social development; disaster response and management; protected areas and environmental management; and public awareness and education.
- The Red Cross Society is the foremost emergency and disaster response agency. The Program for Belize and Iwokrama in Belize and Guyana respectively, are responsible for the management of significant acreages of standing forests. The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and PANOS Caribbean have established track records in areas of conservation, advocacy and public education. The IP will utilize the skills and experience of these organizations to develop mechanisms to deliver the required services and inputs to their constituencies.



# CONCLUSIONS

- **The delivery of the actions in the IP is a shared responsibility.**
- **Regional and national organizations have a role in supporting and guiding actions on climate change however the focus for transformational change is at the national and local levels.**
- **The pace at which transformational change will occur will be a function of the political will to effect the required changes; capacity and availability of resources; and empowerment and engagement across and between all sectors and stakeholders.**
- **The adoption of the “three-ones” approach to resource mobilization will be an effective process through which change can be realized.**



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# THANK YOU