



**CONSULTATION MEETING ON
CARIB-HYCOS PROJECT
ISLANDS COMPONENT (CIC)**

FINAL REPORT

**FORT DE FRANCE (MARTINIQUE)
13 - 16 DECEMBER 2004**

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1. BACKGROUND

1.1 To reconcile the needs for good quality freshwater with environmental protection is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity at the beginning of the 21st century. The Agenda 21 (UNCED, 1992) Chapter 18 on freshwater and the report of the International Conference on Water and the Environment (ICWE, 1992) on which it was based, recognize that knowledge of the water cycle (quantity and quality) is the essential basis for efficient water management. Water assessment, monitoring and management is dependent on the existence of reliable water resources information systems both at national and regional levels, covering not only the collection and analysis of data but also the exchange and dissemination of this data and related information to the users, ranging from the general public to decision makers.

1.2 Moreover, Chapter 18, the ICWE report and the WMO/UNESCO report on water resources assessment (1991) stress that, in many regions of the world, these information systems are not functioning adequately or do not exist at all. In 1994 The UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of Barbados and the relevant Programme of Action, for addressing issues related to sustainable development of Small Island Developing States. Among the priorities identified in programme of action are: the establishment and strengthening of disaster preparedness schemes, the integration of such schemes in the national development planning process, strengthening of the monitoring resources so as to respond to natural and environmental hazards, including droughts and floods.

1.3 The CARIB-HYCOS was first proposed in 1995 by the Working Group on Hydrology of RA IV, as a response to UNCED in 1992 and CSD in 1994. It was approved at the twelfth session of the WMO RA IV in 1997. CARIB-HYCOS is being developed in the form of two components; one covering the continental countries (COC) of RA IV and the other the Island States (CIC).

1.4 WMO took the initiative of developing the proposals as a result of which a series of visits were made to the countries and an initial draft proposal was developed. The Caribbean Meteorological Council endorsed this proposal at its fortieth session in December 2000. Subsequently, a joint WMO – Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD) mission to the interested countries was carried out in March 2002 to discuss the CIC component of the project.

1.5 Recently WMO in collaboration with IRD finalized the project document in English, French and Spanish and it was circulated for comments to all countries, which expressed interest to participate in the project.

1.6 At the kind invitation of the Martinique authorities WMO in collaboration with IRD and the authorities of Martinique organized a workshop in Fort de France in Martinique. The workshop was designed to strengthen cooperation between National Hydrological and Meteorological Services in the Caribbean Islands by bringing together experts from both services to share views and agree on issues related to Carib-HYCOS.

1.7 This approach will ensure that all countries are involved in the development process and have an opportunity to express their individual needs and commitments on the long-term sustainability of the project.

2. OPENING

2.1 The official opening of the workshop took place on 14 December 2004 in the conference hall at the Regional Council of Martinique. The session was opened by Mr Alfred Marie-Jeanne, President of the Regional Council of Martinique, Mr Michalon, President of the Caribbean Co-operation Commission of the Regional Council, and attended by senior officials including a representative of the prefect, Mrs Madelaine De Grandmaison, Chairman of the Basin committee, delegates of the General Council, and Mr Tyrone Sutherland, Coordinating director of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization.

2.2 In his opening address, the President of the Regional Council welcomed the participants to Martinique. He stressed that water management is at the top of the Martinique Agenda and he sees a great opportunity for the Carib-HYCOS project to contribute to sustainable development of the region. He invited the participants to give their comments on protection of the Caribbean sea to achieve sustainable development. In conclusion he reminded the meeting that the project will provide a tool for strengthening regional co-operation for the benefits of the peoples in the region. He confirmed his interest in seeing the project being started.

2.3 Mr Michalon in his remarks informed the participants that the Carib-HYCOS project is in line with the policy of Martinique within the context of regional co-operation.

2.4 The Representative of the Prefect stressed the importance of water management as a major issue for humanity and particularly for the Caribbean region. He informed the meeting that the government of France supports the project as it will strengthen co-operation among the countries and will encourage them to exchange information and experiences.

2.5 Mrs Madeleine de Grandmaison welcomed participants and reminded the meeting of the strong support of the General Council. She gave a brief background on the project development and highlighted the role of the Basin Committee in water management aspects. She added that the Basin Committee involved all the water stakeholders in the region and it represents an umbrella to ensure adequate framework for coordination is in place. She invited the participants to ensure the sustainability of the project. She also stressed the need for the full participation of all countries and institutions in the implementation process of the project, without any dominance objective.

2.6 The WMO Representative expressed WMO's support to the participating countries to ensure successful implementation of the project. He confirmed that WMO accepts to be the Supervising Agency for the project.

2.7 The IRD Representative briefed the participants on the background of the project development and the close co-operation with WMO to ensure the participation of the interested countries in the development process of the project. He also informed the meeting that IRD will be pleased to provide support to the project, and stressed the need for a concrete recommendation to convince the donors to support the project.

3. PARTICIPATION

3.1 The Workshop was attended by 38 senior officials from 8 NMHSs in the Caribbean Islands States and representatives of CMO, CIMH, IRD, WMO, and representatives of the Territorial Authorities. A list of participants is given in **Annex 1** of this report.

4. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP

4.1 Mr Tyrone Sutherland, coordinating director of CMO agreed to be the chairman of the meeting with Mrs. De Grandmaison and Mr Planos Gutierrez as co-chairs.

4.2 He addressed his personal words of welcome to the meeting. He reminded the meeting of the recent natural disasters in the region caused by heavy rain and human activities, and its impact on socio-economic developments in the region. He was pleased to see France providing support to the project, and WMO with IRD actively working for the development of the project. He confirmed the support of CMO to the Carib-HYCOS project.

4.3 A copy of the final workshop programme is given in **Annex 2** of this report. Following the opening and introductory remarks, the first day of the Workshop was devoted to discussions on the WHYCOS programme and comments from the countries on the project document. The second day was devoted to presentations of country reports. Each report gave an overall view of the hydrology and climate conditions with general information about the country, the water resources, the human resources and the institutional set up.

5. COMMENTS ON THE PROJECT PROPOSAL

5.1 The chairman invited the WMO representative to make a presentation on the WHYCOS programme. The WMO representative made a power point presentation on the WHYCOS programme which covered the concept and background of the programme and the status of the different projects. He briefed the meeting on WMO's experience in developing and implementing projects within the WHYCOS programme. He also pointed out important issues which can directly affect the development and implementation of any project.

5.2 The chairman informed participants that the purpose of the workshop is to provide comments on the context of the project document and to identify any missing issues they would like to be reflected in the final document. He introduced the project document and invited participants to give their comments.

5.3 The participants expressed their appreciation to WMO for the work that has been done to produce the project document. It was a common view that the document needs to include more details about the distribution, type of equipment and transmission systems. The WMO representative informed the meeting that these comments will be considered in the preparation of the detailed document during the inception phase.

5.4 He requested the participants to provide any comments to the Secretariat to be included in the revised document. It was agreed that the Secretariat will provide each participant with an electronic version of the document in his language to make the necessary comments.

5.5 Regarding the role of IRD in providing the necessary technical expertise, the IRD representative assured the participants of his recognition of the important role of the available regional expertise to be considered in providing the necessary technical expertise to the project.

5.6 The participants stressed the needs of close co-operation between the Project Regional Centre and the existing regional institutions. It was also agreed that countries should comply with WMO resolutions 40 and 25 regarding data exchange policies and to include the resolutions as annexe to the project document.

5.7 The participants appreciated the offer by Martinique Authorities to host the Project Regional Centre and agreed on the location. Mrs de Grandmaison requested the countries to confirm their commitments to ensure the sustainability of the project activities including the maintenance of the Regional Centre after the implementation of the network. The participants also requested WMO and IRD for assistance in maintaining the system.

5.8 The participants agreed on option 1 of the proposed budget in the draft project document amounting to total funding of € 1.800.000 excluding the cost of salaries of PRC staff and office rent (IRD contribution). They requested WMO to review the proposed training programme to reflect the training needs of the region. They also requested WMO to review and revise the sections dealing with benefits and sustainability of the project, innovative aspects and replicability, risks and conditions and project evaluation.

5.9 The participants also requested WMO to clearly identify the role of each partner in the project and the reporting mechanism to ensure successful implementation of the project. The participants agreed that the role of supporting/collaborating institutions such as CIMH should be clearly defined in the project document and their programme to be included as annexes to the project document. In addition it was agreed that project linkages with other organizations and on-going projects should be also clearly defined to include public education/awareness and role of women.

6. COUNTRY REPORTS/PAPERS

6.1 Participants from Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago, Guadeloupe and Martinique made presentations for their country reports. The Hydrological Advisor of the Permanent Representative of Dominica with WMO, Mr Frank C Farnum also made a presentation. The country reports covered the status of hydrology and water resources activities in their countries. It was very clear that in most of countries the absence of adequate funds to maintain the network and the weak management capacity resulted in poor status of the NHSs in the region.

6.2 During the presentations of the country reports, a number of water resources issues of concern in the Caribbean Islands States were identified. These include:

- Observation networks in many Islands States are very weak.
- Poor quality of hydrological data;
- Lack of human and institution capacity for Water Resources Management
- Inadequate funding levels for Water Resources Assessment, notably for maintenance and operation of monitoring networks;
- Absence of adequate flood forecasting systems in most of the Island States
- Inadequate groundwater monitoring (both quantity and quality);
- Need for promoting the policy of free exchange of data and products, both between islands states and between agencies within the islands, particularly between hydrological and meteorological agencies;

6.3 The representatives of Meteo France made two presentations. The first one was on the network in Martinique and Guadeloupe and the procedures for archiving the data and the history of extreme events. The second one was on Natural Disaster Prevention in Martinique, the impact of tropical phenomena on the Hydrological situation and the effects of heavy rains resulting (causing) flash floods in short time period. He also presented the number of cyclones during the year 2004 and the emergency plans of the state.

6.4 The representative of the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development of Martinique made a presentation on the Environmental monitoring network and the action plan for water management, pollution control and disaster mitigation. He also presented the hydrological network, useful information on the rivers and the data collecting and disseminating systems.

6.5 The representatives of the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) briefed the participants on the structure and role of the institution. He informed the participants on the several projects, which have been set up, and how CIMH can play a major role in supporting the Carib-HYCOS project. He also informed the participants about the training programmes of CIMH and stressed the need of training on maintaining the installed equipment and precautions necessary for not losing equipment during flood events.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Workshop made conclusions and recommendations with respect to the future work for the implementation of the Carib-HYCOS and agreed on the following.

7.2 Participants expressed their country's support for the Carib-HYCOS project and confirmed their countries willingness to participate in the project since it is expected to contribute in solving some of their water resources management issues as mentioned in the above country presentations. Their participation in the workshop was considered an indication of their country's interest in participating in the Carib-HYCOS project.

7.3 Each participant was provided with an electronic copy of the project document in his language to include his country's comments and views on the document. It was agreed that the participants will return a revised copy of the document with their comments to WMO Secretariat attention Mr Mohamed Tawfik, Chief Hydrology Division (C/HYD) not later than 15 January 2005. Where no comments are received it will be considered that the country has no objection with the current version.

7.4 After receiving comments from the countries, WMO will start to finalize the documents and circulate the final draft to the countries for their approval. It is expected to circulate the documents by 28 February 2005 to all the countries for their final approval. The countries should send their approval and formal intention to participate in the project to WMO Secretariat by 30 April 2005.

7.5 The participants requested WMO to include in the circulation list the other island states that were not able to participate in the workshop and to invite them to participate in the project.

7.6 The participants endorsed the proposal for locating the Project Regional Centre (PRC) in Martinique and decided that the CIMH would be the collaborating/supporting centre to assist the PRC in coordinating the project activities in the English speaking island states and will identify other centres/institutions to do the same in the Spanish speaking island states.

7.7 The participants requested WMO and IRD to maintain the momentum gained during this workshop and to collaborate for securing funds for the project implementation.

7.8 It was agreed that once funds will be secured for the project implementation, a six month inception phase will start to prepare a detailed project document including a detailed project activity plan and detailed budget.

7.9 It was also agreed that during the inception phase a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the participating countries and the PRC will be finalized to have the countries commitments of cooperating with PRC and other participating countries in order to ensure sustainability and smooth implementation and maintenance of the system. It was recommended that a draft for such MoU be included as an annex to the project document.

7.10 It was also agreed that during the inception phase, the Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established and hold its first meeting at the end of the phase to endorse the workplan and the detailed project budget. It was agreed to organize all the PSC's meetings in the region to ensure cost effectiveness and save time. Other training activities could be organized outside the region.

8. CLOSURE

8.1 Participants adopted the draft report of the workshop together with its annexes and requested WMO Secretariat to make any necessary editorial changes. It was recommended that, after WMO finalize the draft, it should be circulated to all the participants as soon as possible.

8.2 During the closing session, Mr Tyrone Sutherland, Coordinating director of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization and Chairman of the workshop expressed his thanks to all the participants for their useful contribution to the workshop discussions and to Mrs Madelaine De Grandmaison, Chairman of the Basin committee for her valuable contribution to the discussions and her strong support for the Carib-HYCOS project. He also thanked the Regional Council of Martinique for hosting the workshop and for arranging the excellent facilities. He concluded by thanking the WMO Secretariat and IRD for their excellent arrangements to implement the workshop.

8.3 The Workshop closed on Wednesday 15 December 2004.

9. FIELD TRIP

9.1 After the closure of the workshop, participants were invited to visit the Technical Department of the Regional Council of Martinique where they were briefed by technical staff on the function and role of the Flood Forecasting Centre. During the visit they were briefed on the early warning system. There was a demonstration for Flood Forecasting System and the issuing of the warning advice to the public and media in case of events. The participants realized the importance of linking such a system to the Carib-HYCOS project to make use of available expertise. The visit was followed by another one to the IRD offices in Martinique. Mr Daniel Barreteau, Director of the IRD office in Martinique welcomed the participants and briefed them on the function of his office in Martinique.

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WORK PROGRAMME

Monday 13 December 2004	Arrival of participants Welcome - Accommodation
Tuesday 14 December 2004 9h00 – 10h30	Consultation meeting Opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome speeches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr President of Regional Council • Mr President of Departmental Council • Mr Le Préfet de Région Opening session speeches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Madeleine de Grandmaison - Chairman of the Basin Committee of Martinique • Mr Mohamed Tawfik - Head of Hydrological Division WMO • Mr Bernard Thebe – Chairman of the organizing committee of Carib-HYCOS meeting.
10h30 – 11h00	Coffee break
11h00 – 11h20	Presentation of WHYCOS programme (Mr M. Tawfik - WMO)
11h20 – 12h45	1 st session - Comments on project document
12h45 – 14h00	Lunch
14h00 – 16h00	2 nd session - Comments on project document
16h00 – 16h30	Coffee break
16h30 – 18h00	Discussions on the Regional Centre
19h00	Cocktail hosted by Departmental Council - Villa Chanteclerc
Wednesday 15 December 2004	Consultation meeting (continued)
9h00 – 10h15	Report from the participating countries and organizations
10h15 – 10h45	Coffee break
10H45 - 12H45	Report from the participating countries and organizations (continued)
12h45 – 14h00	Lunch
14h00 – 15h00	Conclusions - Approval of the meeting report
15h30 – 18h00	Technical visits - Closing cocktail hosted by IRD
Thursday 16 December 2004	Departure of participants