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STRENGTHEN INTEGRATED AND COHESIVE PREPAREDNESS CAPACITY AT A REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY LEVEL IN THE CARIBBEAN

Prepared through knowledge and planning

THIRD MEETING OF THE REGIONAL EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS (EWS) CONSORTIUM

Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, 4 June, 2019





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Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Commonwealth of The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, The Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Republic of Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands.

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CDEMA Headquarters, Lower Estate,

St. Michael, Barbados

Prepared by: Dr. Alexcia Cooke

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Date: Thursday, 4 June, 2019



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1.0 Welcome and Introductions

The Third Meeting of the Regional Early Warning Systems Consortium (REWSC) was convened virtually via WebEx and hosted by the CDEMA Headquarters on 4 June, 2019.

Ms. Elizabeth Riley, Executive Director of CDEMA, welcomed all participants to the meeting, making special mention of those agencies in attendance for the first time – the Caribbean Agricultural Research Development Institute, represented by Mr. Ansari Hosein and The Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Initiative, represented by Dr. Melanie Kappes. The meeting was attended by the following 10 participants.

Present: (alphabetical order)

Alison Brome, CTIC

Ansari Hosein, CARDI

Beverline Brown-Smith - DRRC UWI

Danielle Evanson, UNDP

Dr. Alexcia Cooke, CDEMA

Dr. Arlene Laing, CMO

Dr. David Farrell, Principal, CIMH

Dr. Graham Ryan, SRC UWI

Elizabeth Riley, CDEMA

Melanie Kappes, CREWS

Nicole Williams, IFRC

Apologies for absence:

Dr. Barbara Carby, Disaster Risk Reduction Centre, UWI

Dr. Paulette Bynoe, University of Guyana

Dr. Rosmond Adams, CARPHA

Evan Thompson, Jamaica Met. Services

Ms. Riley highlighted the below objectives of the meeting:

- 1.1 To review progress made on the establishment of the REWSC
- 1.2 To identify critical next steps for the further articulation of the work plan of the REWSC including the definition of roles for each agency
- 1.3 To advance arrangements for the formal establishment of the REWSC

2.0 Adoption of the meeting Agenda

The Agenda (attached at Annex A) was adopted as presented.

3.0 Review of the Report of the 2nd Meeting of the REWSC and Follow-up Actions

Dr. Alexcia Cooke, the Regional Technical Coordinator (RTC), CDEMA provided an overview of the amendments made to the revised Terms of Reference (TOR) and the Concept Note for the REWSC based on feedback from the partners. During the meeting, queries and further comments on the membership, roles and function of the REWSC, the reporting channels for the work of the REWSC and the nature of decision-making were received with an indication by CDEMA on the treatment of these comments towards the adoption of the documents as final versions. The amendments to the TOR and Concept Document are provided at Annexes B and C with changes highlighted.

Ms. Riley indicated that reporting from the Consortium is envisaged to be through the CDM monitoring and reporting process through the Coordination and Harmonisation Council (CHC). There will also be reporting through the Caribbean Assessment Report, to which institutions contribute at the prompting of the CDEMA Coordinating Unit on a biennial basis against the indicators of the CDM strategy. The report is presented at the CDM Conference.

The meeting:

- i. **Adopted** the Report of the 2nd Meeting of the REWSC.
- ii. **Discussed** the revisions made to the Terms of Reference and the Concept Note for the Consortium as highlighted in the documents entitled ‘Amendments to the REWSC Terms of Reference (REWSC 19-06-04/ DOC 2.4)’ and ‘Amendments to the REWSC Concept Document (REWSC 19-06-04 DOC 2.2)’.
- iii. **Noted** the request from CIMH to be able to provide further comments on the documents by 30 June, 2019.
- iv. **Agreed** on the need to give consideration within the final consortium agreements to be signed off on how decision-making within the Consortium will be treated.
- v. **Agreed** to share the revised TOR and Concept Document with the group for no-objection to their adoption;
- vi. **Agreed** to redistribute the TOR for the development of the national Model MHEWS Policy;
- vii. **Noted** the commitment of the CDEMA Coordinating Unit to leverage its relationships and partnerships to encourage support of the Consortium. Likewise, all members are

encouraged to utilise their offices to leverage financing that can support the work of the consortium which will be of benefit to institutions.

4.0 Formalisation and Launch of the REWSC

Noting the request by members during the 2nd Meeting to formally establish the Consortium, Ms. Riley apprised members of the provision of a space within the session on EWS on Thursday 5 December, 2019 during the upcoming CDM Conference to be held in Sint Maarten.

Members were invited to provide input on the structure and key considerations to inform the development of the institutional agreements. A consideration posited was the need for organisations to consider how their mission and objectives map to the four EWS pillars and for organisations to embrace their contribution to ensuring the success of each pillar.

The meeting:

- i. **Noted** that the fourth meeting of the REWSC is planned for late August to early September, to define roles and responsibilities of the institutions that would inform the development of institutional agreements.
- ii. **Noted** that in the intervening months, CDEMA would like to prepare a draft agreement for consideration by institutions and to identify a process to follow in the development of the draft agreements.
- iii. **Confirmed** that the sign-off of the Consortium is scheduled for 5 December, 2019 in Sint Maarten.
- iv. **Agreed** that institutions would coordinate within their organisations for the appropriate representation to be at the CDM Conference to participate in the signing ceremony.

5.0 CREWS Caribbean

Disaster Risk Management Specialist, Dr. Melanie Kappes presented the ‘Strengthening Hydro-Meteorological and Early Warning Services in the Caribbean’ (CREWS-Caribbean) (Annex D) to Consortium members with the purpose of providing an overview of the Project, key timelines and to solicit feedback from the Consortium for alignment of the goals of the Project and the Consortium. Specific mention was made of the uptake of existing assessments related to the national MHEWS gaps reports and their potential for influencing the regional strategy to be developed under the initiative. The Caribbean Strategy is the first regional strategy that is being supported.

In this region, a hydro-meteorological services strategy for decision-making for example was developed for Saint Lucia as well as in Nicaragua and Honduras. Implementation of the national strategies is being advanced in the latter two without the support of World Bank.

The background on the checklist was shared with the meeting noting that it is derived from a globally accepted checklist done by UNISDR/WMO and modified to reflect Caribbean nuances and the integration of gender which is an important element. Further, the elements required for undertaking a diagnostic are contained within the Checklist that can inform the work of the Consortium as it relates to commonalities that emerge across the states and require attention from the technical agencies, particularly where gaps exist across multiple states.

It was proposed that the MHEWS Checklist be utilized to support the survey process for the individual states as it has already been refined and applied in four CDEMA PS. In addition, given the scope of result 3 of the CREWS initiative that focuses on specific implementation of gaps in EWS for individual states, there is a need for a comprehensive lens on what is occurring in EWS to move the states forward. Regarding the scheduling of the workshops for September and October, it was proposed that these be held back to back with the next two Consortium meetings and a regional workshop to review the national model MHEWS policy and adaptation guide over a two to three-day period to maximize on costs and for synergy.

The meeting:

- i. **Expressed** thanks to Dr. Kappes for the presentation.
- ii. **Noted** that there is value in the outcome of the diagnostic process that would be instructive for the Consortium as the details of the plan of action are elaborated and should be integrated into the strategy document to advance the work of the Consortium.
- iii. **Discussed** benefits of a discussion around the functions of existing arrangements including the EWISACTS consortium; and **proposed** that conversations need to be advanced noting that consortia, such as the EWISACTS already has a roadmap that has been shared with a number of partners towards sign-off in November, 2019.
- iv. **Requested** that the TOR for the development of the MHEWS Policy be re-distributed with the Consortium members.

6.0 Next Steps

The meeting:

- i. CDEMA **expressed thanks** to all participants for their contribution to the meeting;
- ii. **Noted** the commitments to be met based on the agreements of the meeting;

- iii. **Agreed** that at the next face-to-face meeting, undertake a further elaboration of the roles and responsibilities as it relates to EWS and to undertake a mapping of the EWS functions being addressed and coordinated for individual hazards and groups of other hazards in other spaces to ensure that the plan of action for the Consortium is reflecting valued-added based on what is existing.
- iv. **Noted** the activities of the CREWS and potential opportunities for building synergies, including 1) the consultative process, 2) utilisation of the diagnostic to inform the plan of action of the Consortium, and 3) the contents of the plan of action to inform the overall strategy being developed under CREWS;
- v. **Agreed** to draft the institutional agreement to share with organisations before the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.