

## GWP-C Water Academy for Youth (GWP-C WAY) – 2021 Cohort

*“Youth-Led Sustainable Solutions to Caribbean Water Issues”*

### Background

The number of young people (aged 15 to 29) living in Latin America and the Caribbean surpasses 154 million<sup>1</sup>, and they represent over 20% of the region’s total population. Despite the socio-economic challenges (poverty, limited access to basic services, and disenfranchisement in decision-making) that this demographic battle, the **young people of the Caribbean are a powerful force** that can ignite positive change and bring visibility to the challenges that affect us collectively.

Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C) aims to tap into the potential of the region’s youth by providing a carefully crafted July-September (3-months) programme, catered to **twenty (20) young leaders and professionals**. These young persons should have an interest in better understanding water issues, as well as formulating and implementing possible sustainable and innovative solutions to water-related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) challenges. Those that affect their immediate (local) environment, through the application of effective water management and practical skills sharing. At the end of the programme, the two (2) top alumni {Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Ambassadors} will be further engaged by placing them as short-term fellows within the GWP-C partnership network.

### Aims

1. **Provide** capacity-building opportunities to empower young Caribbean leaders to influence holistic positive action to address IWRM related challenges in a Caribbean context.
2. **Support** young Caribbean leaders through theme-specific pairing (mentoring) with our regional partners to address local water-related issues.
3. **Establish** at least one (1) youth IWRM focal point per participating country.
4. **Integrate** into our network the two (2) GWP-C WAY IWRM Ambassadors and the GWP-C National Youth IWRM Focal Points to represent youth at national and regional activities and to contribute to the successful implementation of GWP-C’s regional and country-level activities.
5. **Promote** action by youth through evidence-based interventions, utilising the knowledge and problem-solving skills acquired from the GWP-C WAY.

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<sup>1</sup> Extracted from: <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-regional-eclac.pdf>

## Eligibility

We encourage participation from persons who fit the following criteria:

- Young person from the Caribbean between 20 and 35 years old at the time of application.
- Education attained should be an associate degree or higher.
- Young Caribbean leaders with an interest in water-related issues.
- Proficient and able to effectively communicate in English.
- Citizen and resident of a Caribbean/CARICOM country.
- Committed to the completion of the programme and its expected outputs.

## Application

Interested candidates for the 2021 GWP-C WAY must apply using this online form:

<https://forms.gle/BxpD5KRk5jAGxsJp8> by June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at midnight Atlantic Standard Time (AST).

## Structure & Timeline

Applications will be opened from June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and end on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. The selection and notification of successful candidates will take place one (1) week before the start of the academy. The anticipated start date is July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 with an end date of September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.

The core blocks of the programme have a foreseen duration of 12 weeks (60 hours in total). Participants will have to commit five (5) hours a week on average, and three (3) months overall for the completion of 2021's cohort.

For the first cohort, all sessions will be conducted online except for the internship recipients, which will be in-person at the end of the academy. For the participants of the academy, the structure of the programme is described in the table below:

Block Name	Block No.	Description	Duration
IWRM General Training	Block 0	IWRM General short course	10 hours
Leadership and Soft Skills Development	Block 1	<p>Participants will receive online workshop training on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Storytelling in water communication specifically to enhance their ability to create story maps (3 hours)</li> <li>2. Business development and entrepreneurship skills (3 hours)</li> <li>3. Problem-solving through innovation (3 hours)</li> <li>4. Scientific writing (4 hours)</li> <li>5. Project concept note development (4 hours)</li> </ol> <p>These training areas will be interwoven into the other blocks.</p>	17 hours

Block Name	Block No.	Description	Duration
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Locally Centred Learning and Capacity Building</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Block 2</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For countries represented, participants study the data collected in the SDG 6.5.1 report on the degree of implementation of IWRM along with a study of the political, economic, cultural, and institutional context of each country. There would be a detailed discussion on what is hindering IWRM in each specific country based on the information presented (Contact time with facilitator/instructor).</li> <li>2. Participants will be placed into groups based on their country scores from the SDG 6.5.1 reports. As a group, they will be required to conduct research to identify a country with a similar political, economic, cultural, and institutional context as theirs, that was able to implement IWRM to a significant degree and to determine how that country was able to advance IWRM. Each group will present its finding to the academy (Contact time with groups and facilitator/instructor).</li> <li>3. Participants will be requested to identify an urgent issue in their country using the knowledge acquired from item one under block two. They will also put into practice the knowledge and skills acquired under item one under block one to produce their communications output (story) related to IWRM (Contact time within groups-not facilitator/instructor led).</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;">12 hours</p> <p style="text-align: center;">[4 hours of contact time for activity one; activity two, 2 hours of group work + 2 hours of contact time; activity three, 4 hours of group work]</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Scenario Planning and Problem-Solving</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Block 3</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Using the information gathered in block two, participants will put into practice the skills obtained in block 1, to analyse and propose solutions for the issues hindering IWRM in their respective countries (Facilitator/instructor led, individual work).</li> <li>2. Using the knowledge gained in block one, participants are required to produce a scientific piece (paper or article) discussing an issue arising out of the youth session of the Caribbean Science Symposium on Water (Facilitator/instructor led, can be in groups or individually).</li> <li>3. Participants will be required to develop project concept notes to address the key issue identified in block two (Facilitator/instructor led, individual work).</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;">14 hours</p> <p style="text-align: center;">[activity one, 4 hours of contact time work; activity two, 8 hours of contact time; activity three, 2 hours of contact time]</p>

Block Name	Block No.	Description	Duration
<b>Network Expansion, Solution Transfer, and Inter-Generational Knowledge Sharing</b>	Block 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants will be paired with a mentor (a GWP-C partner or IWRM expert) to discuss their project concept notes containing their solutions to the issue identified in blocks two and three (Not facilitator/instructor led).</li> <li>Participants will present their concept notes, to the entire academy. Concept notes will be evaluated by an evaluation committee and the winner will receive seed funding of Euro 4,000. Other participants will be able to seek funding through their national GEF Small Grants Programme Office or other donor agencies.</li> <li>Stories developed from block two, under item three (3) will be presented in class for feedback from the instructor(s). Once the feedback has been incorporated, the stories will be showcased on GWP-C's website. The public will be able to vote for the most engaging story. A total of USD \$200 in Amazon gift card prizes will be offered.</li> </ol>	10 hours
<b>GWP-C WAY Varsity</b>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The two (2) GWP-C WAY IWRM Ambassadors for 2021 will be selected in the categories of employed and unemployed. Criteria for judging this will be based on: 1) Attendance 80% minimum 2) COHORT vote via stratified voting (employed vs unemployed) 3) Facilitators'/Instructors' vote stratified voting (employed vs unemployed) 4) The IWRM course score. The weighting for each score is to be decided. In the case of a tie breaker a jeopardy-like procedure with questions would be used, which are to be posed to the top candidates. The GWP-C WAY IWRM Ambassadors will be placed in one-week internship positions as follows: 1) Ambassador under the category of unemployed will be assigned locally 2) Ambassador under the category of employed will be assigned to another country in the region. These assignments will be according to the availability of places in our partner organisations and other ongoing projects. At the end of this period, they will be able to share their experience in said internship through a social media takeover.</li> </ol>	1 week

## Outputs of the GWP-C WAY

- Curriculum design and content tested for the WAY implementation that can be replicated.
- Country-specific stories on IWRM issues in the Caribbean that will be used for communication.
- Seed funding for a selected youth-led project.
- A portfolio of project concept notes which are country-specific and focused on solutions for IWRM implementation.
- A collection of country-specific scientific reports, articles, papers, or case studies.
- Short-term fellowships within the GWP-C Network.
- Two (2) Youth IWRM Ambassadors in the GWP-C Network.
- GWP-C National Youth IWRM Focal Points for each participating country.

## Results and Outcomes

- More knowledgeable and empowered youth in IWRM implementation and project development tailored to their region and country.
  - Strengthening of the youth programme and partner relationships with GWP-C.
  - Improve the motivation, opportunities, and employability of young professionals in the water sector and other cross-cutting sectors.
  - Expansion of the GWP-C network to include active contributions and participation of youth.
  - Potential mentorship relationships.
  - A pool of dedicated and knowledgeable youth connected to GWP-C.
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