

STATUTES
Of the
GWP CARIBBEAN

PREAMBLE:

THE PARTIES TO THE PRESENT STATUTES

Bearing in mind the goals and consensus reached at the 2nd World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Being cognisant of water as a finite resource that is of critical importance for the attainment of sustainable development,

Being aware that Caribbean countries experience water shortages and difficulties in addressing the expanding demand for water to meet human, socio-economic and environmental needs,

Recognising that an integrated approach is necessary to manage finite water resource in order to satisfy the expanding and conflicting needs of the different sectors,

Recognising past efforts and initiatives of relevant international, regional and national organizations to promote integrated water resource management,

Recognising the benefits to be derived from networking, knowledge-sharing and co-operation in this field, particularly with respect to capacity-building, the documentation and dissemination of best practices, the promotion of public education and awareness, and the conduct of applied research and development,

Taking into account the aims and objectives of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the achievements of its partnerships in other regions of the world,

Convinced of the urgency and benefits of forming such a partnership in the Caribbean region,

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Article 1: Establishment of the GWP Caribbean

1. The GWP Caribbean (hereinafter referred to as the “Caribbean Water Partnership”) is hereby constituted as a regional non-profit non-political organisation comprising a network of partners at the community, national, and regional levels having the objectives and functions set out in these Statutes.
2. The Caribbean Water Partnership is established as a regional group of GWP Network Partners operating in the Caribbean in accordance with the GWP Network Policy on Partners and Conditions for Accreditation as a Regional Water Partnership.
3. The Caribbean Water Partnership shall have its seat in the country of the Institution that hosts its Secretariat.
4. The official language of the Caribbean Water Partnership shall be English.
5. The organs of the Caribbean Water Partnership shall be the General Assembly, Steering Committee and Secretariat.

Article 2: Objectives

1. The objectives of the Caribbean Water Partnership shall be:
 - a. to promote the principles, values and policies of the GWP Network,
 - b. to establish proactive alliances in water resources management that are representative, gender sensitive, and participatory at the community, country, and regional levels,
 - c. to promote public participation in the management of water resources through capacity building and information sharing at the regional, national, and particularly the community level,
 - d. to promote integrated water resources management (IWRM) as the preferred approach to water resources management in the region and to obtain national commitments towards IWRM implementation,
 - e. to align the Caribbean region with hemispheric and other global water initiatives in order to capitalise on international experiences and opportunities for regional capacity-building in IWRM,

- f. to improve water governance through the promotion, enhancement and effective implementation of legislation, policy, programs and institutional regulatory and administrative frameworks,
- g. to collaborate, within the framework of the work programme of the Caribbean Water Partnership, with the GWP Network and other organisations and institutions working in all areas of sustainable development in a manner that recognizes and builds upon ongoing responsibilities and initiatives to ensure the best utilization of resources available to the Caribbean region,
- h. to strengthen mechanisms for sharing information and experience.

Article 3: Functions

1. Towards the fulfilment of its objectives, the Caribbean Water Partnership shall generally take necessary and appropriate action, and in particular shall:
 - (a) mobilise resources to carry out a work programme that facilitates its Partners in meeting the objectives of the Caribbean Water Partnership;
 - (b) identify critical gaps in action and seek to address these through its Partners;
 - (c) provide upon request advisory services to Partners and potential Partners;
 - (d) work with its Partners to facilitate the training of scientific and technical personnel in the region in IWRM;
 - (e) collect, research, document and disseminate information on fields of activities of concern to the Partnership particularly as it relates to best practices;
 - (f) promote and strengthen interaction and co-operation at the different levels and across the different sectors to sustain IWRM in the region and in particular to promote the formation of country partnerships, where appropriate, and to expand the membership of the Global Water Partnership Network;
 - (g) undertake special projects as appropriate to facilitate activities by its Partners involving research, testing, pilot projects, public education, information and material exchanges;
 - (h) convene expert meetings to strengthen the activities of the Caribbean Water Partnership;
 - (i) promote programmes and projects to raise awareness of its Partners and the general public on the benefits of integrated water resources management;

- (j) maintain close contact with national governments, the GWP partners' worldwide, international agencies and foreign governments with an interest in the Caribbean.

Article 4: Duration of the Partnership

1. The duration of the Caribbean Water Partnership shall be unlimited and may be dissolved at any time by resolution approved by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly.

Article 5: Partners

1. Any entity, except individuals, may become a Partner of the Caribbean Water Partnership. Partners may include Government Agencies, Private Sector Organizations, Professional and Civic Organizations, Statutory Bodies and Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Intergovernmental Organizations, Regional Organizations and Regional Offices of International Organizations operating in the Caribbean archipelago, including Guyana and Suriname.
2. Any entity of the character referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, which intends to be a partner of the Caribbean Water Partnership shall first submit an application to become a partner of the GWP Network to the Caribbean Water Partnership.
3. Partners shall contribute to the budget of the Caribbean Water Partnership in accordance with the formula to be approved by the General Assembly. Due regard shall be given to the differential resource capability of the Partners.
4. Partners shall have the right to receive the Annual Report, Budget, other Reports, Studies and approved Work Programme of the Caribbean Water Partnership.
5. Partners shall have the right to maintain contact with the Secretariat regarding the matters relating to the Caribbean Water Partnership and to attend and vote at the General Assembly.
6. Partners shall commit themselves to support and facilitate the successful implementation of the policies and programmes of the Caribbean Water Partnership to the full extent possible.
7. A Partner shall co-ordinate its relevant activities with those of other concerned organizations and establish country water partnerships at the national level to co-ordinate their approaches to integrated water resources management.

Article 6: The General Assembly

1. The General Assembly shall comprise all partners of the Caribbean Water Partnership and shall be the highest decision making body.
2. The General Assembly of Partners shall take place every two (2) years on the convocation of the Steering Committee. An extraordinary Meeting of the General Assembly shall be convened:
 - (a) when the Steering Committee finds it necessary;
 - (b) upon the request of one fifth of the Partners.
3. The Meeting of the General Assembly shall:
 - (a) adopt the strategic direction and policies;
 - (b) recommend action to be taken by the Steering Committee on the basis of the adopted strategic direction and policies;
 - (c) approve the work programme and budget, adopt the financial regulations and decide on any other financial matter brought to it by the Steering Committee;
 - (d) approve Annual Reports;
 - (e) adopt the Audited Accounts;
 - (f) consider and request the expulsion of a Partner to the GWP Network, after recommendations of the Steering Committee
 - (g) take any other action as may be conducive or incidental to the implementation of the functions of the Caribbean Regional Partnership.
4. The Meeting of the General Assembly shall be governed by the rules proposed by the Steering Committee and adopted by the General Assembly.
5. Meetings of the Caribbean Water Partnership shall be presided over by the Chairperson of the Steering Committee.
6. A simple majority of the Partners shall constitute a quorum.
7. Each Partner shall have one vote. Decisions shall be made preferably by a majority of the Partners present and voting, except that decisions on the appointment of Regional Coordinator, the work programme and budget shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the Partners present and voting.
8. Specialised agencies of the UN, as well as intergovernmental organisations, international NGOs, and donor countries and organisations with an interest in water, may upon the invitation of the Steering Committee, participate as observers at the Meeting of the General Assembly.
9. The General Assembly may establish subsidiary bodies and organs as may be necessary for the effective discharge of its functions, and shall receive reports from such bodies.

10. The Regional Coordinator shall serve as Secretary of the Steering Committee and the General Assembly.

Article 7: Steering Committee

1. The Meeting of the General Assembly shall elect a Steering Committee comprising nine (9) Partners taking into account the principles of equitable representation of gender, language, expertise in integrated water resource management, community participation and other areas of relevance. In addition, the Network Officer of the Global Water Partnership Network and a representative of the Host Institution shall be *ex-officio members* of the Steering Committee. The elected members of the Steering Committee shall be chosen from among Partner Representatives but once elected the members shall serve in their personal capacities. Should an elected member leave the Partner institution, they may serve out their term on the Steering Committee.
2. The term of office of Steering Committee members shall be three (3) years and there shall be a phased system of rotation whereby, in order to ensure continuity within the Steering Committee, after the second year of its existence three members of the Steering Committee shall be phased out at each election by the General Assembly.
3. If a member of the Steering Committee is no longer able to serve his or her term of office, the Steering Committee may appoint a temporary member who shall vacate office at the next election by the General Assembly. If said temporary member is elected at the General Assembly to the Steering Committee, the previous time served as a temporary member will not be considered part of his or her elected term.
4. An elected member of the Steering Committee shall not serve more two consecutive terms in office and shall not be eligible to serve thereafter until two years have lapsed.
5. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Steering Committee shall be democratically elected from among its members sitting at its first meeting. Their term of office shall be for two years with the possibility of being re-elected to serve for a further two years. The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall not serve more than two consecutive terms in office and shall not be eligible to serve thereafter until two years have lapsed.
6. Decisions shall be made preferably by consensus, otherwise by a majority of the members present and voting.
7. The Steering Committee shall:
 - (a) oversee the implementation of the policies and principles governing the Caribbean Water Partnership;

- (b) review the draft work programme and budget relating thereto and make recommendations to the General Assembly;
 - (c) help to mobilise resources for the work programme;
 - (d) oversee and review the implementation of the approved work programme and budget and make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly;
 - (e) elaborate on the medium and long-term perspective of the Partnership's work programme and make recommendations to the General Assembly;
 - (f) assist the General Assembly, and Secretariat on all substantive matters including co-operation with affiliates and network partners;
 - (g) propose the admittance of new Partners;
 - (h) delegate its powers to sub-committees and advisory committees that it may establish as it deems fit;
 - (i) appoint, direct and monitor the work of a Technical Committee comprising internationally recognised professionals in different disciplines relating to Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), as recommended by the Partners, to undertake publications and provide other scientific and professional advice for such term as may be agreed by the Steering Committee.
 - (j) do all things necessary to promote the objectives and functions of the Caribbean Water Partnership;
 - (k) Appoint auditors to examine the accounts of the Caribbean Water Partnership.
8. Sub-committees and advisory committees shall report to the Steering Committee.
9. The Steering Committee shall enter into such arrangements and agreements with the Host Institution as may be conducive for the operations of the Caribbean Water Partnership in coordination with the Global Water Partnership.

Article 8: Meetings of Steering Committee

1. The Steering Committee shall hold a regular meeting at least twice each year.
2. The Chairperson shall convene the regular meetings. If necessary, extraordinary meetings of the Steering Committee shall be convened and organised by the Secretariat upon the written request by a half of the members of the General Assembly or the Steering Committee.
3. A quorum of the Steering Committee shall constitute five members.

Article 9: Secretariat

1. The Secretariat may be hosted by a GWP Partner in the Caribbean.
2. Institutions interested in hosting the Secretariat shall indicate their interest in writing to the Chairperson of the Steering Committee at least twelve months before

the expiry of a term. The Steering Committee shall select from among all applicants the host institution for the next term.

3. The Secretariat shall comprise the Regional Coordinator and other staff.
4. The Secretariat shall be responsible for the day-to-day technical, financial and administrative affairs of the Caribbean Water Partnership. This includes:
 - (a) maintaining the accounts of the Caribbean Partnership;
 - (b) preparing a draft three year work programme and budget;
 - (c) preparing annual reports on the work and finances;
 - (d) organising and preparing documents needed for statutory meetings of the organs of the Caribbean Water Partnership;
 - (e) providing general support to the direction of the Caribbean Water Partnership;
 - (f) facilitating project development, co-ordination and management;
 - (g) mobilising funds for the implementation of the work programme;
 - (h) maintaining contact with and keep partners informed on the work of the Caribbean Water Partnership;
 - (i) maintaining contact with the GWP Network and Organization and other regional and international organisations.
5. There shall be a Regional Coordinator who shall be appointed by the Steering Committee in accordance with the principles of transparency and accountability.
6. The incumbent shall hold office for a period of three (3) years subject to renewal for one further term after which he/she shall not be eligible for re-appointment. The incumbent should be a person of recognized competence in the field of integrated resource water management.
7. The Regional Coordinator shall be the chief executive officer of the Caribbean Water Partnership. The incumbent shall act in that capacity at all meetings of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs. Subject to directives and control of the General Assembly and Steering Committee, the Regional Coordinator shall have overall responsibility and authority to direct the work of the Caribbean Water Partnership. The incumbent shall be *ex officio* Secretary of the General Assembly and Steering Committee and perform such other functions as are entrusted to him/her by its organs. The incumbent shall also be responsible for the organisation and functioning of the staff and shall have the power to recruit staff members. He/she shall perform all such other functions as are entrusted to him/her by the General Assembly and the Steering Committee.
8. His/her staff shall comprise such other professional, administrative, technical or clerical and manipulative personnel as the Partnership may require and its finances permit.
9. The paramount consideration in the employment of staff shall be the principle of transparency and the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity.

Article 10: Finances

1. The finances of the Caribbean Water Partnership shall consist of:
 - (a) initial contributions for launching the Caribbean Water Partnership;
 - (b) annual contributions from Partners;
 - (c) funds from projects sponsored by donor agencies;
 - (d) receipts from the sale of publications or services provided by organs of the Caribbean Water Partnership;
 - (e) special voluntary contributions including gifts, subventions, bequests and funds in trust from Partners, non-Partners, international organisations, NGOs, CBOs, foundations, and private persons *inter alia*, subject to the approval of the General Assembly.
2. The Host Institution of the Secretariat shall make an in kind contribution towards office accommodation, office equipment and materials, and support staff services for such period as it remains the Host Institution.
3. The management of the finances of the Caribbean Water Partnership shall comply with all standards required by the Global Water Partnership Network.
4. Finances of the Caribbean Water Partnership will be audited.
5. The financial year shall be the calendar year.
6. The Steering Committee shall appoint auditors to examine the accounts of the Caribbean Partnership and the auditors shall submit a report on the annual accounts to the General Assembly through the Steering Committee.
7. The Regional Coordinator shall furnish the auditors with such information and assistance as they may require to discharge their duties.

Article 11: Legal Status

1. The Caribbean Water Partnership shall be an unincorporated association and shall enter into an arrangement with the Host Institution to do the following things on its behalf:
 - (a) to conclude agreements;

- (b) to award contracts;
 - (c) to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property;
 - (d) to initiate legal proceedings.
2. The Caribbean Water Partnership shall be subject to the laws of the State where the Secretariat is based. It shall therefore co-operate at all times with the appropriate authorities of the Host State and other member countries to facilitate the proper administration of justice, secure the observance of national laws and prevent the occurrence of any abuse in connection with its operations.

Article 12: Publications and Rights to Intellectual Property

- 1. All rights including titles, copyrights and patent rights relating to any work produced or developed through projects undertaken by the Caribbean Water Partnership shall be vested in the Caribbean Water Partnership.
- 2. Access to such rights shall be granted to Partners in accordance with international conventions. In formulating rules regulating access to intellectual property rights, the General Assembly shall not establish criteria prejudicial to any Partner or group of Partners.

Article 13: Co-operation with other Bodies

- 1. Pursuant to its objectives, the Caribbean Water Partnership may with the approval of the General Assembly seek as appropriate co-operation with states, national and international institutions and societies, NGOs, and other bodies not party to these Statutes

Article 14: Amendments to the Statutes

- 1. Any Partner may propose amendment to the Statutes. Text of proposed amendments shall be communicated to the Regional Coordinator of the Secretariat who shall communicate such to the Steering Committee within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the text. The Steering Committee shall submit its written views on the matter for the consideration of the General Assembly at its next sitting. This shall be done within sixty (60) days of the next Network Meeting.
- 2. Amendments shall be approved by a two-thirds majority of all Partners present at the General Assembly and shall enter into force immediately thereafter.

Article 15: Withdrawal

1. Any Partner may withdraw at any time after two (2) years of membership upon giving one (1) month's written notice to the Steering Committee through the Regional Coordinator of the Secretariat. A Partner who has withdrawn its membership shall remain liable for any financial obligations accrued at the time of its withdrawal.

Article 16: Liquidation

1. In the case of termination, the Secretariat working under the directives of the Steering Committee shall be responsible for liquidation, unless otherwise agreed upon by Partners at the time of termination. Any surplus shall be distributed among those Partners in good financial standing at the time of termination in proportion to all payments made by them from the date of their becoming a partner.
2. In the event of deficits, this shall be met by the existing Partners to the extent of their annual contributions accrued at the time of liquidation.

Article 17: Settlement of Disputes

1. The Partnership shall seek to resolve all disputes arising out of the interpretation and application of these Statutes by consultations and negotiations in the first instance failing which by conciliation and mediation.

Article 18: Signature and Acceptance

1. These Statutes shall be open for signature by all parties to the CWP Meeting that was held in Tobago from June 18-19, 2003 and to other bodies in accordance with Articles 5. 1 - 3 of these Statutes.
2. These Statutes shall be formally adopted at the launch of the GWP Caribbean to be held in..... on 2004.
3. Entities that have not signed the Statutes may accede to them by depositing letters of their acceptance to the offices of the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST), the interim secretariat of the Partnership.

Article 19: Entry into Force

1. These Statutes shall enter into force when at least eligible institutions from nine (9) eligible partners have deposited letters of commitment to the Partnership and acceptance of its Statutes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned being duly authorised by their respective institutions and/or governments thereto, have signed the present Statutes of the Caribbean Water Partnership:

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Water and Sewerage Corporation
The Bahamas

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Barbados Water Authority
Barbados

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Instituto Nacional de Recursos Hidraulicos
(INDRHI)
the Dominican Republic

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Instituto Nacional de Agua Potable (INAPA)
the Dominican Republic

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Dept. of Agriculture and Nature Management
Dutch Antilles

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Ministry of Agriculture
Grenada

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Rural Women's Network
Guyana

.....

Guyana Water Inc.
Guyana

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Coalition for Community Participation in
Governance
Jamaica

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Water Resources Authority
Jamaica

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Office Departmental de l'Eau de la Martinique
Martinique

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Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
HELP Program
Puerto Rico

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National Youth Council
St. Lucia

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Buccoo Reef Trust
Trinidad & Tobago

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Environment Tobago
Trinidad & Tobago

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Water and Sewerage Authority
Trinidad & Tobago

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Tobago Council for Sustainable Development
Trinidad & Tobago

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Water and Sewerage Department
British Virgin Islands

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University of the Virgin Islands
US Virgin Islands

Regional Organisations

- Caribbean Conservation Association
- Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN)
- Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD)
- Caribbean Land and Water Resources Network (CLAWRENET)
- Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST)
- International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO) Islands Group

Done inthisday of Two Thousand and Four, in a single original.