

ABSTRACT

Conference Topic: Integrated Water Resources and Coastal Areas Management

THE CARIBBEAN WATER INITIATIVE'S LEGACY TO INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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While many countries and regional authorities in the Caribbean had embraced the concept of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and recognized its guiding principles as beneficial, few possessed the capacity to implement it in the early years of this century. The Caribbean Water Initiative (CARIWIN) has endeavoured over a six-year period, since 2006, to build capacity at the premier training and information centre for water resources management in the Caribbean, in a collaborative process with national governments and international agencies, in order to strengthen IWRM-support services provided at the regional level. CARIWIN produced three tools to support the implementation of the key components of IWRM. These tools are the National Water Information Systems, the Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Monitoring Network, and Community Water Strategies. The five areas of focus for CARIWIN included these (i) decision-support tools, as well as (ii) professional development, (iii) partnerships, (iv) research, and (iv) dissemination of knowledge. This paper discusses the scope and opportunities afforded by each of these to facilitate IWRM implementation in the Caribbean and the legacy that CARIWIN has left.