



Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management



**Waste Management: 2nd High Level Forum (HLF 2) of Caribbean Ministers
Responsible for Waste Management**
A Coalition for Waste Management

2nd High-Level Forum of Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Waste Management

The Coalition for Waste Management

11-12 the October 2018
Montego Bay, Jamaica

As Small Island Developing States (SIDS) the Caribbean countries have faced challenges that require particular attention. They are constrained by issues of land space, access to appropriate technology, human resources, financial resources and, as an overlay, the issues related to climate impacts, which make them even more vulnerable. Indeed, many of these are considered basic problems which over time have not seen much improvement or in some instances, have defied sustainable solutions. While progress has been made in some countries on certain aspects, much of the progress relies on those that have public visibility, without focusing more comprehensively on systemic issues.

Increasingly, the topical matter of waste- to- energy has surfaced with countries being constrained to take policy decision as to which direction they should take. Similarly, the 3 Rs (Reduce, Re-use, Recycle) remain a key element of waste management strategies in countries, much of it focused on public education and awareness and has resonance at the household and communities levels. At the same time, there is no doubt that the region has made progress in elevating the discussion to the level of recognition of waste as a resource as well as the financial, environmental and other aspects, in the context of sustainable development. Beyond the issues of advocacy, there is need to focus on longer term, comprehensive and integrated solutions.

Many Caribbean countries are party to several Multi-Lateral Environmental Conventions (MEAs) and Conventions such as the Basel Convention, the London Convention and the Land Based Sources of Pollution Protocol (LBS) of the Cartagena Convention which address aspects of waste management. They have also signed on to international development agendas such as the MDGs and the SAMOA Pathway which speak to their commitment to addressing the issues of Waste Management, such as health, the environment and sanitation. Some Caribbean States have also joined in global efforts to address plastics in the environment.



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Some examples of best practices in the region are the case of Antigua and Barbuda which has introduced a ban on plastics; Barbados has a Bottle Bill and Aruba which has focused on effective litter law by way of enforcement. At the same time, the Caribbean is faced with a paucity of data and indicators for the sector. Poor waste management has an impact on economic sectors but at the same time, these very sectors are impacted by waste. Key sectors are agriculture, tourism and manufacturing. The vulnerability of Caribbean countries which are experiencing more frequent and intense hurricanes brought on by climate change have highlighted the need for building climate resilience into waste infrastructure, management systems and to human and institutional capacity. There is need for an assessment of post disaster scenarios and the national response in countries in Waste Management. Data and information will also be necessary for planning responses and building resilience to climate change. Further, there is an urgency to take action to address climate change impacts such as hurricanes. It is imperative that the Caribbean acts in unison and with a concerted effort.

At a regional conference in Jamaica on Waste Management in the Circular Economy which was organized by UN Environment, the Government of the Netherlands, the Government of Jamaica and supported by a number of partners including the CWWA, one of the key issues that emerged is that the dialogue on waste management has not been elevated to the political and policy levels in Caribbean countries. In fact, it is being seen as a major disconnect in this regard and that there is a need for it to be brought to the highest levels of discourse among Ministers responsible for Waste Management in CARICOM in order to promote and support those aspects which will have better success when addressed at regional and national levels.

Except for specific projects through piecemeal grant funding focused largely on infrastructure, governments of the region have been shy of addressing investment in the sector. There is need to address models of emerging arrangements such as private/public/partnerships since the private sector's role from an economic perspective is an important one. The role of the private sector needs to be reviewed and policy positions as well as the enabling environment, such as through legislation must be addressed if comprehensive solutions should be found.

The CWWA is planning to organize the Second Ministerial Forum, comprising the development and funding partners, representatives of Waste Management authorities and technical experts in Montego Bay, Jamaica, 11th-12th October of 2018.



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It will follow up on the 1st Forum on Waste Management in Guyana in October 2018 during the 27th Annual Conference of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA).

To date, it is the only dedicated forum to address waste management in the Caribbean. It is expected that the Forum will provide an opportunity for uptake of key issues in Waste Management at the political level. The dialogue between the political directorate and technical experts will lead to regional action for waste management in the context of sustainable development. It also presents an opportunity for advocacy geared towards persons at the highest political and policy levels from Caribbean countries and from regional agencies.

Partners include the UN Environment (UNE), the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Development of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The Forum will review and endorse the Caribbean Regional Strategic Plan (CRSP) for Waste Management developed by UN Environment, through a multi-stakeholder process. The CRSP, was developed through extensive consultations and represents a blue-print for action and will be used by countries to leverage investment, financing and other forms of support from the donor community and development partners. Apart from endorsement of the Plan, focus will be on implementation strategies.

The Caribbean recognizes that the development of the waste management sector must occur within existing regional and international frameworks. The collaborating partners will take the opportunity to report on the Caribbean issues to regional and international fora such as the World Resources Forum, CARICOM and the United Nations Environment Assembly UNEA.



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Methodology

1. The CWWA and partners such as the Government of the Netherlands, UN Environment, the Pan-American Health Organisation will be organizing the 2nd High Level Forum of Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Waste Management, Montego Bay Jamaica, 11-12th October 2018, (2 days);
2. Participants will be the Minister Responsible for Waste Management in CARICOM, the Protectorates of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, protectorates of the French Government and of Britain. The Ministers will be accompanied by a technical adviser. It is anticipated that the technical advisor will be the Head of National Waste Management Authority;
3. Others will include selected private sector representatives, development partners, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) involved in Waste Management and experts;
4. The Regional, Caribbean Solid Waste Management Action Plan (CRSP) will be presented to the Forum for review;
5. The Forum may present a Statement of Support for the CRSP to be endorsed by participants.

Outcomes

1. Convening of the 2nd High- Level Forum for Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Waste Management;
 2. Review of the CRSP.
 3. Knowledge exchange and continued building of the network among countries on waste management;
 4. Decision on an implementation strategy for the CRSP to include resource mobilisation.
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