

CARIBBEAN INSTITUTE FOR METEOROLOGY AND HYDROLOGY



VACANCY NOTICE

COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT

PAHO EU/CARIFORUM Strengthening Climate Resilient Health Systems in the Caribbean Project

Deadline for submission of applications is 15 April, 2022 at 11:59 PM AST

1. ABOUT THE CARIBBEAN INSTITUTE FOR METEOROLOGY AND HYDROLOGY (CIMH)

The CIMH is an Institution of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the technical Organ of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO). The mandate of the CIMH is “to assist in improving and developing the Meteorological and Hydrological Services as well as providing the awareness of the benefits of Meteorology and Hydrology for the economic well-being of the sixteen (16) Member States of the CMO. This is achieved through training, research, investigations, and the provision of related specialized services and advice”.

In achieving its mandate, the CIMH in 1973 established an affiliation with the University of the West Indies in which its primary responsibility is the delivery of the B.Sc. programme in Meteorology in the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences. The CIMH is recognized regionally and globally as:

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Training Centre for the Caribbean;
- A centre for applied research and development in meteorology, hydrology/water resources, climatology and related areas including disaster risk reduction and impacts forecasting;
- The WMO Regional Instrument Centre for the Caribbean;
- A WMO Centre of Excellence for Training in Satellite Meteorology;
- The WMO Regional Climate Centre (RCC) for the Caribbean;
- The Caribbean Centre for Climate and Environmental Simulations;
- The Climate Data Archive for CMO Member States;
- The Pan American Centre for the WMO Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System (SDS-WAS);
- Caribbean Regional Marine Forecast Support Centre.

By virtue of the above, the CIMH is active in such areas of hydro-meteorological and climate risk impacts forecasting as well as agricultural risks forecasting and has had strong collaborations with other regional institutions, national organizations in CMO Member States and the international community.

2. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Health systems remain highly vulnerable to impacts from climate change both on the quality and the capacity of services themselves, as well as on the socio-economic and environmental determinants of health. These impacts have been well documented: extreme weather conditions, heat waves; more frequent strong and devastating hurricanes affecting many countries with long lasting impacts (Maria, Irma, 2017); recurring and extending periods of drought followed by excessive rainfall (Christmas Floods St. Lucia St. Vincent, 2013); and sea level rise. These conditions negatively affect food and water security and have a direct negative impact on people's health and wellbeing in the form of heat strokes, respiratory illnesses (chronic and acute), cardiovascular diseases, as well as malaria, Zika, dengue fever and many other vector-borne and infectious diseases. Also negatively affected will be national socio-economic development due to poor workers' health leading to lost work capacity and reduced labour productivity in vulnerable populations and migration, as well as the attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

As part of its drive to implement the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) – led Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to date, the Caribbean has formalized a highly participatory approach to the co-design, co-development and co-delivery of user-driven climate early warning information in the agriculture, water, energy, disaster risk management, tourism and health sectors. Established in 2017 under the USAID funded and CIMH implemented Programme for Building Regional Climate Capacity in the Caribbean (BRCCC Programme), the Consortium of Regional Sectoral Early Warning Information Systems Across Climate Timescales (EWISACTs) Coordination Partners is a multi-agency alliance for climate resilience in the Caribbean. As a regional inter-institutional climate service governance mechanism, the Consortium leverages the position and expertise of lead technical organizations in the five GFCS priority sectors (agriculture and food security, water, disaster risk reduction, energy and health), along with tourism, a key socio-economic sector. Since 2017, partners have agreed to implement sectoral climate early warning information systems using a common methodology, and to work together to operationally co-deliver sector-specific bulletins which increase the capacity of sectors to access, understand and use climate information. One of these sector specific bulletins is the Caribbean Health Climatic Bulletin (HCB) with embedded climate early warning information tailored for the health sector (See: <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/caribbean-health-climatic-bulletin/>). CIMH and regional health partners, the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), have co-produced and co-delivered this Bulletin on a quarterly basis since May 2017.

Through the PAHO EU/CARIFORUM Strengthening Climate Resilient Health Systems in the Caribbean Project, the CIMH is working with PAHO and CARPHA to upgrade the content and format of the quarterly Caribbean HCB. The next phase is to support the enhancement of the Caribbean HCB with more health-specific climate information, including information on emerging health threats such as heat related illnesses. Research under the BRCCC Programme that led to the development of a spatio-temporal modelling framework for the proliferation of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito in the Caribbean, begins to deliver the more health specific climate information that will make the HCB even more relevant. CIMH continues to investigate the relationship between elevated temperatures that may lead to heat related illnesses, that is expected to enhance the health specific information in the Bulletin even further. While such research is emerging to enhance the information provided in the Bulletin, the Caribbean HCB can be further enhanced through for example 1. a review of the presentation of current information, and 2. methodology/approach/protocol that focuses the Bulletin on the significant information for the upcoming quarter. An expected outcome is the increased availability and dissemination of quantitative probabilistic disease risk forecasts to inform health sector planning. This is an improvement to the current health

warnings in the CHCB which are based on qualitative expert statements of probable health risks associated with generic seasonal climate forecasts.

At the national level, since 2018, CIMH has been working with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in a handful of countries to operationally provide updates of the implications of climate for a range of sectors, including health. The partners will therefore also work to build the capacity of NMHSs and national health practitioners in at least 3 CARIFORUM countries to co-author/co-develop national level information on climate and health.

3. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the supervision of the Chief of Applied Meteorology and Climatology of the CIMH and in close collaboration with the CIMH Social Scientist, as well as relevant technical and communications staff of CARPHA and PAHO, the Contractor will undertake the following tasks:

- Support the convening of regional and national level health user engagement exercises that will harvest health practitioner views and experiences accessing and applying early warning information provided in the current version of the Caribbean HCB. These sessions will also provide an opportunity for the regional level Caribbean HCB co-authors at PAHO, CARPHA and CIMH to interact with national level health practitioners to further understand their unmet climate-health information needs and what can possibly be provided in an enhanced version of the Caribbean HCB.
- Evaluate options and make recommendations on sustainable and fit-for-purpose bulletin design software to be used at regional and national levels.
- Lead the template design upgrade of the Caribbean HCB.
- Lead the template design for a draft tailored prototype of the health-climate information template to be delivered at national levels.
- Produce and support the creation of communication materials related to the Caribbean HCB, using various platforms, including social media.
- Contribute to the preparation of reports, correspondence and documents related to the enhancement of the Health Climate Bulletin, including stakeholder meeting reports.
- Assist with data collection, tracking and reporting of recommendations for the enhancement of Caribbean HCB from stakeholders.
- Increase awareness of the Caribbean HCB and promote greater knowledge and application of its content among key health stakeholders.
- Be responsible for the design and implementation of a framework for data collection, collation and analysis related to the tracking of the reach of the Caribbean HCB.

4. TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

Strong professional oral and writing skills including the development of communication products, reports, oral presentations and technical documents.

- Strong interpersonal skills, diplomacy and tact to effectively communicate with multiple stakeholders and professionals from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds; capacity to build and maintain effective working relationships with internal and external stakeholders, at all levels.
- Good coordination and time management skills.
- Proven experience with creative design software for the development of communication products.
- Excellent knowledge and use of social media networks and other modern communication tools and platforms.
- Ability to develop and implement communication survey tools and analyze data.
- Experience with meeting facilitation and reporting.

5. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- (i) University degree, at least at Bachelors level, in communications, knowledge management or related fields.
- (ii) At least 5 years' experience in communications, with communication for development experience being a distinct advantage.
- (iii) Experience working in the Caribbean, particularly with national and regional development agencies.
- (iv) Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- (v) Strong writing and editing skills, with demonstrated ability to synthesize information for communications purposes.
- (vi) Experience in developing and implementing health and/or climate-related communication promotion, projects and approaches would be an asset.
- (vii) Ability to work independently.
- (viii) Performance driven.
- (ix) Excellent computer skills.
- (x) Fluency in written and spoken English; some aptitude in French or Spanish would be desirable.

6. TIMEFRAME

The programme of work will take 50 working days over a period of 8 months from 16 May 2022 to 31 December 2022. The Consultant will work to time necessary to implement the tasks outlined above.

7. COMPENSATION

The compensation at the end of a successful consultancy will be the sum of 20,000 Euros

8. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Under the contract, the Consultant is required to have weekly meetings and provide a report on each for review by the Supervisory Team. The Consultant is also expected to communicate to the Head of the Supervisory team any challenges that can potentially affect his/her work.

9. APPLICATIONS

Interested candidates are required to submit applications (Cover letter, curriculum vitae, certificates, work samples of bulletins, newsletters and other relevant information products, and the contact information for two professional referees) to:

David A. Farrell, Ph.D.
Principal
Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH)
Husbands, St. James BB23006
Barbados

Send via email to hrdept@cimh.edu.bb, copied to atrotman@cimh.edu.bb by the **15 April 2022 at 11:59 PM AST.**

NB: Only satisfactory applications will be acknowledged.