



US Army Corps
of Engineers®



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
INSTITUTE FOR WATER RESOURCES
AND
THE WATER CENTER FOR THE HUMID TROPICS
OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**



This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and between the **Institute for Water Resources (IWR)**, United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), hereinafter referred to as **IWR**, and the **Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean**, hereinafter referred to as **CATHALAC**; with IWR and CATHALAC hereinafter jointly referred to as "the Parties":

IWR is a U.S. national center of expertise for integrated water resources management (IWRM) that researches, develops and applies new water resources planning, policy, hydrologic engineering and national system performance methods, applications and statistical systems in support of environmentally sustainable development.

CATHALAC is a Regional Center of excellence that promotes human sustainable development through water and environment knowledge management, making available the means to improve quality of life in Latin America and the Caribbean without jeopardizing future generations.

The purpose of this agreement is to join efforts regarding water resources and environmental management in order to accomplish common sustainable development goals which address the risks and vulnerabilities prone to emerge as a consequence of the impact of global changes within the Western Hemisphere, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean.

WHEREAS, both IWR and CATHALAC, each with independent missions, but with technical activities of mutual interest, and each desiring a partnership to promote collaborative efforts to enhance the effective use of water resources; the development and use of appropriate policies and practices for human sustainable development; regional cooperation and foster networking of scientists, information, knowledge and state of the art technology transfer thru a region-wide partnership; wherein IWR's interest exists in contributing to such a partnership on the basis of equality, cooperation and mutual benefit;

WHEREAS, the desire prevails in both IWR and CATHALAC to achieve their goals of providing enhanced regional social well-being, improved environmental quality and public health, safety and community welfare by the means aforementioned. In addition to this and through the same means, promote, encourage and advance safer, economical, efficient and environmentally sound flood control and early warning and alert systems;

WHEREAS, both IWR and CATHALAC recognize the benefit to each party's water resources management, scientific and capacity-building missions through mutual cooperation and joint activities when consistent with the policies, goals and laws governing each party;

NOW, THEREFORE, both IWR and CATHALAC mutually agree and hereby simultaneously declare the framework for partnership as follows:

Article I

- 1- CATHALAC and IWR will put forth their best efforts to establish a long-term cooperation

and partnership in the field of integrated water resources management, scientific research and capacity-development for Latin America and the Caribbean.

2- The Parties are especially interested in pursuing cooperative opportunities in the following areas of common interest:

- a. Mutual cooperation in international and regional initiatives relating to integrated water resources management (IWRM) and sustainable development in the humid tropics zones;
- b. Organizations of and participation in water resources conferences, symposia, courses, workshops, exhibitions and other joint meetings of mutual interest;
- c. Joint or cooperative water resources programs and projects of mutual benefit, including visits and exchange of scientists and other experts or technical personnel;
- d. Water governance in relation to policy, institutional aspects, building consensus and conflict resolution;
- e. Infrastructure development and related engineering design standards and procedures;
- f. Groundwater, prediction of flash floods, mud flows and early warning systems;
- g. Hydrologic, risk, economic and systems analysis modeling tools;
- h. Environmental restoration, eco-hydrologic analysis and water quality;
- i. Operation of joint training/education to include educational methods and systems to enhance competency and develop capacity on all above mentioned themes, in the region;
- j. Other forms of co-operation as agreed by the Parties, including meetings between the two Parties on a regular basis.

Article II

Each Party shall designate a Principal Representative to serve as the primary point of contact between the parties on all matters arising under this MOU.

Article III

Any cooperative activity undertaken between the Parties shall only be done under the authority of the laws, regulations, and policies governing each party individually.

Article IV

Any issues arising from the interpretation or implementation of this MOU will be settled through consultations between IWR and CATHALAC or such other means as they may mutually decide.

Article V

Notwithstanding any other provision herein, nothing in this MOU shall be construed as binding under International Law. Further, nothing in this document shall be construed as either authorizing or

obligating either party to commit funds or resources to any project or work except as otherwise authorized by the laws, regulations, and policies governing each Party individually.

Article VI

This Memorandum of Understanding shall become effective when signed by both IWR and CATHALAC.

R.A. Pietrowsky
ROBERT A. PIETROWSKY
Director, IWR

22 AUG 07
DATE

Emilio Sempris
EMILIO SEMPRIS
Director, CATHALAC

08/22/07
DATE