

# The Caribbean Regional Infrastructure Study

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## **Abstract**

Infrastructure development is a well-established pre-condition to economic development. Consistent with this premise, the Caribbean Regional Infrastructure Study Project (CRISP) was commissioned by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). The Project is being executed by the Engineering Institute, Faculty of Engineering, The University of the West Indies (UWI) at St. Augustine, in association with a group of consultants from The School of Urban Planning, McGill University, Montreal, Canada. The study covers the Commonwealth Caribbean States and Suriname with the submission of 10 individual country reports, together with a regional report presenting an overview of the issues and problems as well as proposed solutions.

The areas covered were power, water, some aspects of transport (seaports, airports, roads and bridges), and waste, and their infrastructural status and needs. The study includes a review of all available documented work from previous studies and reports, as well as current data and their subsequent analysis. The latter was supported by visits from the consultant teams to the different territories and interviews with persons who were directly involved in the infrastructure systems.

The Terms of Reference defined the objectives as “to provide a clear picture of infrastructure in the Caribbean, to identify basic and strategic requirements, and to provide recommendations to decision-makers on how best to achieve those requirements”. This comprehensive assessment of the region’s infrastructure, therefore, aimed at producing the following:-

- a) a brief profile of the current status of certain infrastructure and services;
- b) a description of what specifically is needed in terms of current and immediate future demands; and
- c) a description of the opportunities and challenges for regional and country development.

The specific focus of the study is therefore, to make recommendations inter alia in respect of improving the infrastructure, including in particular, the provision of funding, as well as the role for the private sector in meeting the region’s infrastructure needs. A priority listing with the identification of strategic projects is the projected end-point so as to catalyse development in the region.