

Mr. Sergio Campos
Water and Sanitation Division Chief
Inter-American Development
1300 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington DC, 20577, USA



23/03/2016

Object: Letter of request for supporting RALCEA network

Dear Mr Campos,

It is with a great pleasure that we contact you with regards to our proposal to support the “Red Latinoamericana de Centros de Excelencia del Agua” (RALCEA). We respectfully request the IDB to support RALCEA work program 2016-2017 with the implementation of 200 000 USD from the Latin American Investment Facility (LAIF).

RALCEA is a unique platform of dialogue for actions in the LA water sector that brings together scientific/technic and policy actors. The RALCEA network includes Research institutions (Centre of Excellence-CEs) and National governmental representatives (Focal points-FPs) of Latin American Countries as well as international partners in the Water Sector. This characteristic enables using the high-quality expertise available in the LA region to response to concrete needs identified by institutional managers in charge of water and sanitation related issues (Ministries of Water and/or Environment). The main objective of this mechanism is to directly support policy making and improve water management through a joint design of tailored solutions between CEs and FPs. Three main working areas have been identified as priorities for the LA region: Water quality and sanitation, Stakeholders mapping and capacity building, Regional water balance and climate variability.

RALCEA network covers 18 countries from Latin America including Cuba with 25 research institutions and 15 national focal points as core members. RALCEA is fully integrated in LA water sector and collaborates with main regional actors: the Spanish Cooperation agency (AECID), Conferencia Inter Americana de Directores del Agua (CODIA), UNESCO-IHP, UNDP – CAP-Net and IAI. Local institutions/communities are also systematically involved when RALCEA specific activities are implemented.

The work program 2016-2017 of RALCEA has been jointly defined by Centres of Excellence and Focal points. The present request will focused on three main activities:

- **Activity 1:** holding the 6th regional meeting of RALCEA that aims at presenting the work implemented in 2015, discussing and defining the work plan for next years and disseminate to key regional actor the RALCEA activities.
- **Activity 2:** Implementing 3 capacity building sessions in 2016-2017 for LA water technicians which are identified as priorities by Focal points and CODIA.
- **Activity 3:** Development of Knowledge products of interest of the LA countries using RALCEA expertise. These products (guidance, baseline and technical study) will concern environmental water flow and the monitoring of climate variability in Central America.

The way of working of RALCEA and the strong commitment of RALCEA Members and Partners will ensure that the investments made are targeting real needs and providing custom solutions to the identified beneficiaries.

We thank you in advance for your kind attention.
Yours faithfully,

RALCEA coordination Team
Dr. César Carmona Moreno

