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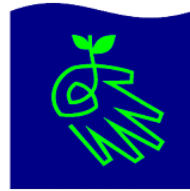


Sustainable Development Goals being addressed



Volume 1, Issue 2

December 2018



IWEco:link

Quarterly newsletter of the GEF-funded Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States Project

Rehabilitation of the Negril Great Morass – Jamaica’s second largest wetland – focus of Jamaica’s IWeco Project

IWeco aims to contribute to the preservation of Caribbean ecosystems that are of global significance. As one of the largest wetlands in Jamaica; indeed, as one of the largest natural coastal wetland ecosystems in the Caribbean, supporting internationally significant species, many of which are found nowhere else - the Negril Great Morass, is one-such.

The Project Cooperation Agreement was signed between Jamaica and UN Environment in July 2018 and the Project was formally launched in a ceremony which took place at the Couples Swept Away Resort in Negril, Westmoreland on 29th November 2018. It was well attended by project stakeholders, including representatives of the National Environment Planning Agency (NEPA) which is responsible for project implementation; the Negril Chambers of Commerce; the Water Resources Authority; the Negril Environment Protection Trust, the Rural Agricultural Development Authority, and the Negril/Green Island Local Area Planning Authority in addition to local schools.

Jamaica’s Project is the largest of eight national sub-projects in IWeco with \$3,114,685 USD in funding from the Global Environment Facility, \$10,343,678USD as co-financing from other sources, and an estimated \$438,413 USD in government support. Jamaica’s Project is titled: *“Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Coastal Landscapes within the Negril Environmental Protection Area.”*

Expectations of the project, which will take four years to implement, are high. Peter Knight, CEO and Government Town Planner, NEPA said, “The importance of this project to the people of

(Continued on page 2)



Looking back at 2018...

Dear friends and colleagues,

The Holiday Season and the end of 2018 is a good time to look back and review what we have done during the last year, what went well and what went wrong; to reflect on why things went well or why they went wrong, and what we can do better in the year to come.

Much emphasis has been placed on ‘getting started’ during the last 12 months... both here in the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) in Kingston and in the countries that we serve. Significant progress has been made. Most IWeco countries with National Projects have now signed their contracts and received a first tranche of funding. Others are in the final stages of signing and funds transfer. Thanks to all who have been involved.

(Continued on page 8)



Caribbean Public Health Agency

CARPHA

pci media impact •••
tell a story, change the world.

SGP The GEF Small Grants Programme



Students of the Negril All Age School explain the threats facing the wetland

(Continued from page 1)

Negril and its environs due to its national, regional and international significance cannot be understated.” He added, “The project is expected to contribute to reduction in the degradation of the peat resources, improved human health, and improved water and air quality.”

IWEco builds on work that started under the GEF Integrating Waters and Coastal Areas Management (IWCAM) Project and other predecessor Ridge-to-Reef initiatives which adopted a watershed approach in the management of natural resources, including biodiversity. The Government of Jamaica, through NEPA, made a commitment to implementing the Watershed Area Management Mechanism (WAMM) approach consolidated under the IWCAM Project across other watershed areas and to mainstreaming it into wider development frameworks.

This IWEco Project is ambitious with four main expected results:

- The restoration of important elements of biodiversity of the Negril Great Morass that are of national, regional and global significance;
- The reduction in further degradation of peat resources, contributing to improved human health, water quality, air quality and ecosystem functions;
- Improvements in the livelihoods and strengthened land use practices within local communities; and
- Strengthened management of the Negril Environmental Protection Area.

The Feature Address was given by the Honourable Daryl Vaz, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation with responsibility for Land, Environment, Climate Change and Investment, who recognized the significance of the project to Negril and Jamaica and sought to put it into national perspective.

The wide range of stakeholders involved early in this project highlights the value of the biodiversity resources in terms of economic development opportunities as well as their importance for sustainable livelihoods. An essential part of the Project is the development of an integrated management/restoration plan for the Negril Environmental Protection Area during the initial stages of the project which would serve as the basis for coordinated communication and action amongst all stakeholders.

Andrea Donaldson, Manager of the Projects Branch Planning of NEPA’s Projects, Monitoring, Evaluation and Research Division, which has been responsible for early stages

of project implementation and which coordinated the launch, made the presentation introducing the Negril Project and its planned activities. She said that NEPA hopes to recruit the Project Manager by January 2019, and shortly thereafter the remainder of the project management team, which will total 6 members.

The Caribbean Environment Programme’s Regional Coordinator, Dr. Lorna Inniss, as well as IWEco’s Regional Project Coordinator, Jan Betlem, in remarks shared by Donna Sue Spencer, Communications Specialist, on their behalf, expressed great hope that the project would result in great improvements in the condition of the Negril Great Morass, and, in the community, as a result of more integrated planning and the creation of more sustainable livelihood alternatives.

National projects benefit from professional exchanges



Tour on Lake Naivasha—Jodiel Ebanks is far right

Jodiel Ebanks of the National Environment Planning Agency (NEPA), which is executing IWEco’s national project in Jamaica, participated in a project twinning exchange with Kenya from 24 to 26 September 2018. The exchange was two-fold:

to learn from experts of the Laguna Lake Development Authority and Chilica Lake on the interventions made for those systems in combatting environmental threats; and, to see how this knowledge was applied in the development of a water pollution assessment tool for Lake Naivasha (Kenya). The threats faced by these systems, and the challenges encountered in their protection, are similar to those faced in Jamaica. Takeaways from the training were: the importance of having substantial baseline data for sensitive ecosystems prior to their development or modification; and, the necessity of involving communities in decision-making.

Under IWEco, stakeholders in Negril will be trained in bio-monitoring, including freshwater assessments, through planned workshops and meetings. In addition, through the Watershed Area Management Mechanism



Visiting a flower farm, Naivasha

(WAMM), communities across Jamaica are being trained in conducting freshwater biomonitoring and these are good opportunities for the dissemination of this information.

In addition, Yodani López Fonseca and Yamila Vigo Cuza, from CEAC in Cuba participated in the World Soil Congress which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in August. Both shared their work in soil conservation and reported that the exchange was of value because there was rich exchange of experiences; they were able to acquire updated bibliography and study materials and to identify further opportunities for funded professional training as well as resources in the different areas of environmental sciences.



Conservación y uso sostenible de la biodiversidad desde el enfoque de manejo integrado de cuencas y áreas costeras

#NosImportaElFuturo

Cuba's National Project Launched!

Cuba's IWEco project, titled *"Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity from the Integrated Management of Watersheds and Coastal Areas in Cuba"*, was launched with the holding of their first National Workshop from November 19th to 23rd at the Pasacaballos Hotel in the city of Cienfuegos.

The Workshop was chaired by Jan Betlem, IWEco's Regional Project Coordinator, Yarina Soto, representative of Cuba's Ministry of Technology and Environment, Reinaldo Acosta Melián, Director of the Center for Environmental Studies of Cienfuegos (CEAC) and Alain Muñoz Caravaca, Manager of IWEco:Cuba.

Members of the four demonstration areas that make up the project - the Guanabo river basin in Havana, the Arimao river basin in Cienfuegos, the Agabama river basin in Sancti Spiritus and the San Juan river basin in Santiago de Cuba – participated. IWEco's Regional Coordinating Unit was also represented by Nicole Caesar, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, and Karel Boers, Consultant working on the Monitoring Dashboard.

IWEco.Cuba has four components: Environmental Regulation and Technological Innovation; Monitoring; Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building, and; Communication.

The workshop was organized in working groups within the framework of its components and aimed to analyse, discuss and reconcile technical-methodological, organizational and financial aspects towards smooth implementation of the planned activities and in order to achieve the expected results within the framework of the Project at both national and regional levels.



National Workshop Participants



The Project launch featured remarks by representatives of various partnering institutions



Alain Muñoz Caravaca, Cuba Project Manager and Jan Betlem, IWEco Regional Project Coordinator

Alain Muñoz Caravaca being interviewed by the media



Working group discussions



Touring CEAC's Laboratory



First IWEco Research Partnership Meeting

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), which has responsibility for IWEco Components 2 (led by CARPHA) and 3 (led by the OECS), convened IWEco's first Research Partnership Meeting in Saint Lucia, 27 – 28 November 2018.

The Research Partnership is meant to support applied research to assist the execution of the IWEco national projects. In addition, regional research and/or inventory projects that support fulfilment of the objectives of the Cartagena Convention and ratification of its three Protocols (LBS, SPAW and Oil Spills), as well as some other issues of regional importance (such as plastic pollution, lead in paint and the use of anti-fouling paints), will be given priority, even if not directly linked to IWEco. Several key thematic areas where further research is needed were identified.

The following was agreed at this first meeting:

- CARPHA will collate and forward the regional research priorities presented by the 2 working groups;



(Continued on page 5)



Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States
#CaringForOurFuture



< The winning poster of the 9th GEF International Waters Conference (IWC9) which took place in Morocco, 5 - 8 November. Highlighting the partnership between IWEco and the CLME+ Project. Kudos to our design team!!!

IWC9!

IWEco participated in the Ninth GEF Biennial International Waters Conference (IWC9) in Marrakesh, Morocco from 5 – 8 November 2018. The conference facilitates cross-sectoral and GEF IW Portfolio-wide learning and experience sharing. IWEco was one of 84 active GEF IW projects represented! IWC9 included as many as 300 participants - GEF IW project managers, representatives of beneficiary countries, non-governmental organizations, trans-boundary management institutions, UN Agencies and the private sector.

This was an opportunity for IWEco to hear first-hand about the work of other projects and to share some of its experience so far. We look forward to sharing lots of project results at IWC10 which is to be held in 2020 in Montevideo!

#SDG14
#aichitargets
#samoapathway
#sendaipathway
#BlueEconomy

3 year duration
Regionally Co-operative in nature
uniquely positioned to address the root causes of regional environmental degradation
Critical improvements in knowledge gaps and increasing
access to funding **governance** **access to data and information**
transboundary & cross-sectoral governance arrangements

IWEco Project
IWEco: enhance the preservation of Caribbean SIDS ecosystems based on integrated ecosystem management (IEM) to address the impacts of climate change
Facilitate sustainable livelihoods
Built upon the work of previous GEF-IW/CAM Project (2008-2011)
All project cooperation agreements will be signed by end-2018

- Improve fresh and coastal water resources management
- sustainable land management
- sustainable forest management

Address: climate change, sustainable livelihoods, coastal water resources management, sustainable land management, sustainable forest management

Facilitate: developments in sustainable land management (SLM), maintenance of ecosystem services, sustainable water resources management (SWM), enhance sustainable livelihoods, strengthen the ecosystem monitoring & indicators framework

Improve: stakeholder knowledge exchange, best practices, replication and involvement

As of 2018, all participating country project proposals have been approved and project cooperative agreements have been signed

GEF contribution: US\$ 20,732,972; Partner Co-Financing*: US\$ 66,017,194. (*截至: October 2018)

CLME+ Project
CLME+ Project: Continue implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP)
sustainable management of shared Living Marine Resources Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (LME+ region)

CLME+ SAP developed collaboratively with sister UN agencies global and regional institutions and organizations over 20 countries from the CLME+ region

SAP has been endorsed by 35 Ministers representing 25 countries and 6 overseas territories representing 25 countries & overseas territories

Sustainable and climate-resilient provision of goods and services
From shared living marine resources

Facilitate Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) & implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAP)

Habitat degradation, marine pollution and sustainable fisheries

Improve stakeholder coordination, collaboration and integration

GEF contribution: US\$ 12,900,000; Partner Co-Financing*: US\$ 154,153,495. (*截至: February 2018)

The IWEco and CLME+ Projects:

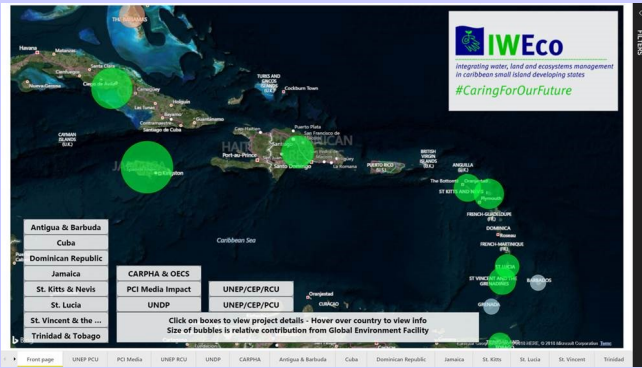
- Advance prior GEF-funded work refine development of targeted regional solutions
- Support coordinated efforts create working synergies governments "double arrows" organizations foster multisectoral partnerships
- Holistic approach tackle environmental degradation Improve ecosystem-based management
- Strengthen policy legislative and institutional reforms capacity building to improve environmental management
- Propel and formalize regional partnerships Governance, Public Awareness/Education, Research, Private Sector and Resource Mobilization
- Develop technical capacity beyond the project duration Emphasize Replication of good practice and sustainability of successful initiatives



Several of IWEco's partners also participated in IWC9, among them: Christopher Corbin of CEP; Patrick Debels and Laverne Walker of CLME+; Christopher Cox of UN Environment GPA; Nicole Leotaud of CANARI and Sulan Chen of GEF SGP, UNDP. Our Task Manager, Isabelle Vanderbeck led the way, assisted by Jill Raval. Here are some glimpses of them all at work! They did the Caribbean proud, winning several prizes! Congratulations to all!



Introducing IWEco Dashboards



Project Monitoring is a long-term and systematic exercise to collect and collate project data and gauge project progress throughout the various stages of project execution. This is a project management tool. Effective monitoring also provides the platform required to assess the project upon completion during the evaluation phase. The monitoring process also improves transparency to donors and the wider community involved in project execution and assesses how and when established targets are achieved, providing information to encourage strategic management and direct strategic changes.

The IWEco monitoring dashboard is an online, easily navigable, visual representation of project progress and an additional layer of transparency throughout the projects' duration. Designed to be accessible to all project partners, project managers will be able to quickly visualize and respond strategically to resource utilization. The dashboard will also support improved estimation of project efficiency and resources required to support various components and prioritization (and re-working where necessary) of project tasks. Accurate representations of resource utilization and timelines depicted in the dashboard will improve each participating country to identify further priority areas and needs, identify resource deficiencies and more accurately estimate resource requirements to achieve various project priorities.

A strong monitoring strategy is key to project success and to document lessons learned. The IWEco monitoring strategy:

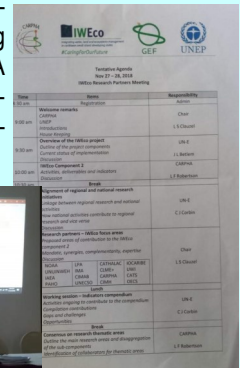
- Clearly identifies project targets and final outputs
- Collaboratively develops and trains project coordinators and participants to implement (and report on) tailored monitoring plans
- Clearly identifies and utilizes a standard reporting structure and provides required templates
- Clearly indicates the methodology used to monitor budgets and project targets to pro-

Parts of IWEco's dashboards will be available from the Project's website which will be launched in the first quarter of 2019.

(Continued from page 3)

- IWEco's Technical and Monitoring Officer and CARPHA's Technical Officer will partner to visit Antigua, St. Kitts, Trinidad and St. Vincent prior to the Project's 3rd Regional Steering Committee meeting in April 2019. The purpose of these meetings is to present the regional research priorities for feedback and also for prioritisation by countries. The development of national environmental monitoring plans will also be discussed;
- IWEco's Technical and Monitoring Officer will collate feedback received from the four countries above along with feedback from St. Lucia, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Jamaica, to create a comprehensive list of regional and national research priority areas.

A Research Strategy, with proposed budget and expected co-funding budget, will be presented by CARPHA at IWEco's 3rd Regional Steering Committee Meeting (Dominican Republic, 1-5 April 2019).



Time	Topic	Responsible
08:30 - 09:00	Registration	Clear
09:00 - 09:30	Opening Remarks	UNEP
09:30 - 10:00	Chair's Introduction	UNEP
10:00 - 10:30	Project Overview	UNEP
10:30 - 11:00	Regional Steering Committee Meeting	UNEP
11:00 - 11:30	Break	UNEP
11:30 - 12:00	Regional Steering Committee Meeting	UNEP
12:00 - 12:30	Lunch	UNEP
12:30 - 13:00	Regional Steering Committee Meeting	UNEP
13:00 - 13:30	Break	UNEP
13:30 - 14:00	Regional Steering Committee Meeting	UNEP
14:00 - 14:30	Break	UNEP
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22:00 - 22:30	Break	UNEP
22:30 - 23:00	Regional Steering Committee Meeting	UNEP
23:00 - 23:30	Break	UNEP
23:30 - 00:00	Regional Steering Committee Meeting	UNEP



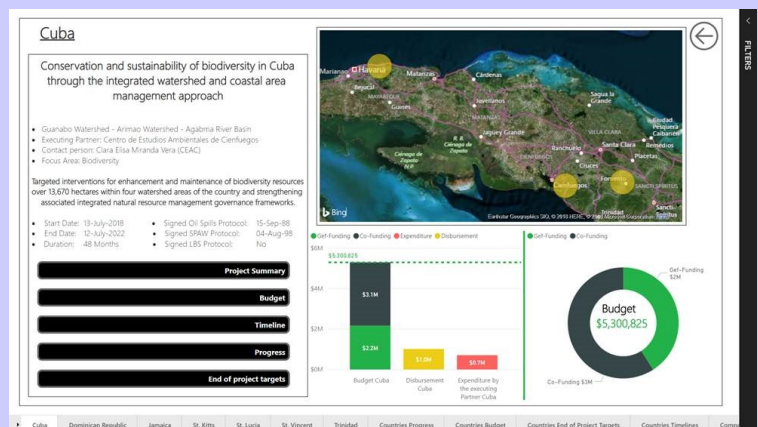
(Above) Lyndon Robertson, Head CARPHA's SD Unit presents.



(Right) Discussions among Research Partners.

ject coordinators.

In this way, the monitoring exercise renders project actives transparent and easy to account for and provides an unbiased platform to communicate successes and lessons learned to partners, the wider public and donors throughout the implementation of the project.



IWEco participation in CWWA - reaching decision-makers



IWEco's team at CWWA 2018: Marco Ferrario, Donna Sue Spencer, Jan Betlem, and (sitting) Shamene Parker.

IWEco supported and participated in the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association's (CWWA) Annual Conference and Exhibition which took place in Montego Bay, Jamaica from 8 – 11 October 2018. This is the largest regional assembly of both technical officers and decision-makers in the Caribbean and, as such, presented a good opportunity to promote the Project.

In addition to setting up an exhibit booth shared with the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) which introduced the project and associated initiatives of CEP, a Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Survey (KAPS) questionnaire was administered. The KAPS is meant to inform the design of public awareness and outreach materials by IWEco.

The Project also provided significant support to the 14th High Level Forum of Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Water (HLF 14) which is held in association with the Conference and was represented by the Regional Project Coordinator (RPC). Several IWEco participating countries were present at the Forum where the Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) for Governance and Building Climate Resilience in the Water Sector in the Caribbean was discussed. The RPC noted the importance of continued support to this CWWA initiative as only a longer-term approach will have a chance to become rooted in the political level in the region.



Inter-Project Learning with the GEF

IWEco's Communications Specialist, Donna Sue Spencer participated in the GEF IW:LEARN 2nd Annual Latin America-Caribbean Regional Network Meeting from 1 – 2 October in Panama. Other projects in the International Waters LAC portfolio were represented. The SIDS were largely represented by national Small Grant Programme Coordinators; useful contacts given the IWEco Project's inclusion of SGPs to promote alternative livelihood activities.



Twinning and Inter-project collaboration opportunities were shared, significantly that between CERMES, CLME+ and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission – Ocean Governance and Fisheries Unit.

At a round table discussion on Private Sector Engagement at the regional level, participants discussed the criteria that companies use



to make investment decisions and the most effective ways of approaching private sector collaboration. Some insight was gained into ocean industry leadership and priorities. Patient investors, collaboration and research were described as keys to success. The importance of understanding governance arrangements, the value of the SDGs as a common language when communicating, and, being able to outline a project's value proposition were also stressed.

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2012 – 2030) was introduced, successful science-management models were presented and wide-ranging discussions followed regarding how these can be replicated in the region.

The GEF LME:LEARN Ocean Governance Training

GEF LME:LEARN Ocean Governance Training followed the LAC Network Meeting from 3 – 4 October 2018. The first part of the course was run online on the Cap-Net UNDP Virtual Campus, beginning in early-September, and was completed by the Communications Specialist. At the training, she shared best practices in the Integrated Science – Governance Connection (from the GEF IWCAM Project), and, best practices in Effective Governance (from the GEF IWCAM and GEF CRW Projects).

This training focused upon LAC countries, many of which are participating in the IWEco Project; these countries face similar challenges regarding good governance of the sector but SIDS face particular challenges related to their small size and limited capacity.

Although course material focused largely upon MPA management, because several of the Caribbean and Latin American participants currently work with GEF Small Grant Programmes, much of the discussion related to connecting ocean governance at local, national and regional scales.



Caribbean SIDs were well represented by GEF Small Grant Programme country managers!

Major takeaway: Effective ecosystem-based management is the foundation of good LME governance and helping stakeholders to understand the integrated science-governance connection is important.

Status of IW Eco National sub-Projects

(to December 2018)

Component 1 of IW Eco aims to develop and foster targeted, innovative, climate change resilient approaches to Sustainable Land Management, Integrated Water Resources Management and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, and, enhanced maintenance of ecosystem services, through the execution of **eight national projects**.

National Project Title (<i>Focus</i>)	Lead Partner Agency	Duration	Status
Antigua & Barbuda: Targeting Land Degradation and Effective Land Management through the Development of Innovative Financing Methodologies. (<i>Land degradation</i>)	Ministry of Health and Environment	48 mos.	National Project Document and budget finalised; Project Cooperation Agreement signed; in receipt of initial disbursement; no official launch held yet.
Cuba: Conservation and sustainability of biodiversity in Cuba through the integrated watershed and coastal area management approach. (<i>Biodiversity</i>)	Centro de Estudios Ambientales de Cienfuegos (CEAC)	48 mos.	National Project Document and budget finalised; Project Cooperation Agreement signed; initial funding has been received; project launch and first national steering committee meeting held in November 2018.
Dominican Republic: Integrated management of the biodiversity, freshwater and land resources of the Higüamo River watershed and its associated coastal zone, including mitigating climate change impacts. (<i>Biodiversity</i>)	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	48 mos.	National Project Document and Budget have been re-formulated; Project Cooperation Agreement not yet signed; project launch expected in early 2019.
Jamaica: Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Coastal Landscapes within the Negril Environmental Protection Area of Jamaica. (<i>Biodiversity Conservation</i>)	National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA)	48 mos.	National Project Document and budget finalised; Project Cooperation Agreement signed; initial funding has been received; project launched in November 2018.
St. Kitts & Nevis: Addressing Impacts of Acute Land Degradation in the College Street Ghaut in St Kitts and Quarries and Sand Mining Hotspots on Nevis. (<i>Land Degradation</i>)	Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources, Cooperatives, Environment and Human Settlement (St. Kitts)	48 mos.	National Project Document and budget revised and finalised; Project Cooperation Agreement signed; initial funding received.
Saint Lucia: Addressing Problems of Land Degradation and Ecosystem Degradation in the Upper Reaches of the Soufriere Watershed in Saint Lucia. (<i>Land Degradation</i>)	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Cooperatives: Department of Forests and Lands Resources.	36 mos.	National Project Document and budget finalised; Project Cooperation Agreement signed; in receipt of initial and second disbursements; project launched in April 2018.
St. Vincent & the Grenadines: Addressing Land Degradation in the Georgetown Watershed, Saint Vincent. (<i>Land Degradation</i>)	Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment	48 mos.	National Project Document and budget revised and finalised; Project Cooperation Agreement signed; initial disbursement being awaited.
Trinidad & Tobago: Reduce and reverse land degradation at selected Quarry site(s) around Valencia by an integrated water, land and ecosystems management approach. (<i>Land Degradation</i>)	Environmental Management Authority (EMA)	48 mos.	National Project Document and budget finalised; Project Cooperation Agreement signed; in receipt of initial and second disbursements; project launched in May 2018.

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Seasons Greetings and a Happy New Year!

Support from the regional level through the UNEP Caribbean Environment Program (CEP) which hosts the offices of the PCU, from the Communications Partners and from CARPHA has been essential and I look forward to seeing this regional capacity being utilized even more during the year to come.

Our focus for the next year will be on raising awareness, on strengthening capacity and influencing policy based on the latest insights from the region. We will also increase efforts to monitor real environmental progress in the region.

In the spirit of 'One UN', UN Environment is happy to work with colleagues from the UNDP (through the GEF Small Grants Program) and UNOPS (for specific support functions). It is only when we work together that we tackle bureaucracy, increase effectiveness and efficiency, and achieve real benefits for the environment of the region, for the people living here, and for the generations to come.

I am proud to coordinate a professional and dedicated PCU team in Kingston. During the course of 2018, all PCU staff came on-board. In the year to come, we hope for much more intensive communication between the team and all IWEco partners in the participating countries and supporting entities. We are here to assist you!

On behalf of the whole team, I wish you and your loved ones Very Happy and Healthy Holidays. Best Wishes for 2019!

*Jan Betlem,
IWEco Regional Project Coordinator*

Saint Lucia IWEco Project promotes Agro-Tourism Park



The Saint Lucia IWEco Project, in collaboration with the Fond St. Jacques Development Committee, is establishing an Agro-Tourism Park to create more sustainable employment in the community. So far, twenty persons have been employed on a short term basis, to assist in nursery operations, pruning and tree planting.

The Park was promoted at a joint IWEco/Fond St. Jacques Community booth at the National Knowledge Fair which took place in Castries on 10 – 11 December 2018.

For more information contact:

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Website coming soon!

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