

In this issue:

- Conserving Cuba's Rich Biodiversity through the IWECO Approach...pgs. 1-3
- End-of-year Message from RPC ...pg. 1
- Measuring Progress—Environmental SDGs (from GEO-6, UNEP) ...pg. 3
- IWECO Promotes Citizen Science—for Engagement, Education and Monitoring...pg. 4
- Quarry Rehab Initiative Ventures into the Private Sector- IWECO:TT and Carib Glassworks Partnership ...pg. 5
- Gender Mainstreaming in Water Resources Management and Climate Change Adaptation ...pg.5
- Supporting Caribbean Efforts to Manage Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste—CWWA 2019 ...pgs. 6-7
- IWECO:SKN Project Site Visit ...pg. 7
- Save the Date! - GEF IWECO's 4th Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting takes place in Grenada, 27 April—1 May 2020 ...pg. 8

Sustainable Development Goals being addressed



Volume 2, Issue 4

December 2019



IWECO:link

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

www.iweco.org



Conserving Cuba's Rich Biodiversity through the IWECO Approach

Cuba is ranked among the ten most important islands in the world in terms of biodiversity richness. Much of this biodiversity is concentrated in the four geographic areas being addressed by IWECO's Cuba National sub-Project. Targeted interventions for enhancement and maintenance of biodiversity resources over 13,670 hectares are planned in four watershed areas; these include initiatives to strengthen associated integrated, natural resource management governance frameworks.

Activities aim to directly enhance critical habitats for at least 130 species of birds of which some 15 are endemic to Cuba. Within the project target areas some thirty-three (33) floral species are critically endangered, 41, endangered, and 21 vulnerable to human-induced threats.

The Project, which is being executed by the Centro de Estudios Ambientales de Cienfuegos (CEAC), focuses on Biodiversity. It began in November 2018 and has a duration of 48 months. The amount of the Global Environment Facility grant is \$2,169,685 USD with the co-financing amount being \$2,886,140 USD.

The four targeted areas are located in the western, cen-

(Continued on page 2)

End of Year Message from the Regional Project Coordinator

Greetings colleagues in the Region!

Almost three years ago the IWECO Project started and since then we have seen several IWECO National sub-Projects begin implementation. For more than two years I have witnessed the developments in Project countries. Sometimes it was tough to get started; sometimes things were easier. Unfortunately, as I write some countries have still not been able to start any of their 'ridge-to-reef' interventions.

While there have been several significant achievements and we can be proud of what has been achieved so far, at this stage, we ask why haven't we achieved more by now?

Talking and making plans are one thing... my observation is that it is often when it comes to execution in the field that we fall short. Real work is needed to change the 'business as usual' approach that too

(Continued on page 8)



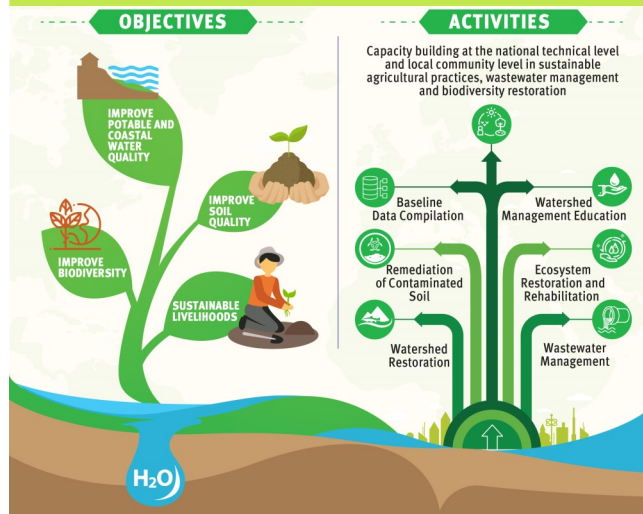
Seasons Greetings and a Happy & Healthy 2020 from the IWECO Project Coordination Unit!



Adaptation Solutions for a changing climate

IWEco.Cuba

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



(Continued from page 1)

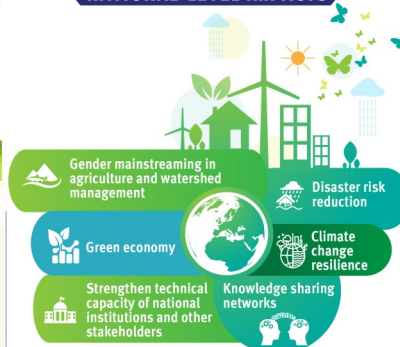
tral and eastern regions of the country and cover a combined surface area of 2,952.4 km², or 2.69% of the land area of Cuba. They were selected through careful multi-stakeholder consultations with people living either within, or in close proximity of them:

- **East Havana Demonstration Area containing the Rio Guanabo watershed**, located 27 kilometres east of the City of Havana: The watershed, with a total area of 119.2 km², and its associated coastal area is an important centre of ecotourism in Cuba, is renowned for its beaches, coral reefs, mangroves, wetlands and endemic flora and fauna. It is characterized by important biodiversity within the Coca Ecological Reserve and Landscape Protected areas, including the Protected Landscape Area Rincon de Guanabo. There are important nesting sites, migratory corridors and feeding grounds for a wide variety of avifauna.

Problems affecting the watershed include: contamination of water courses and coastal waters due to urban and industrial wastes leading to biodiversity degradation, and; soil degradation from unsustainable agricultural practices, including contamination from agrochemicals, resulting in the sedimentation and pollution of coastal areas. The Project aims to improve the management and conservation of forest resources and associated biodiversity through the rehabilitation of areas affected by deforestation. It will also focus on mitigating pollution from untreated wastewater.

- **Cumanayagua-Cienfuegos Demonstration Area is the Arimao River watershed** with a total area of 974.5 km²: This is the drainage basin of the 85-kilometer long Arimao River which drains into the Bay of Cienfuegos along the country's south-eastern coast. Biodiversity in the watershed faces multiple threats from forest fragmentation and habitat loss, forest fires, deforestation caused by agriculture and urbanization, acute soil erosion from surface runoff, overexploitation of resources for various

NATIONAL-LEVEL IMPACTS



RELEVANT GEF FOCAL AREAS



INTERNATIONAL-LEVEL IMPACTS



RELATED SDGs



religious, artisanal and medicinal purposes, the negative effects of alien species and extreme weather events such as prolonged droughts and hurricanes. The project will focus on promoting good agricultural and best environmental practices, including the farming of native forest species in plantations, within a wider area dominated by mineral extraction activities, agricultural production for coffee, fruit and animal husbandry, and forestry, thereby reducing land degradation, protecting soil productivity and reducing sedimentation to the water-courses.

- **Trinidad-Sancti Spiritus Demonstration Area in the country's southeast, including the Agabama River Basin**, with a surface area of 1,713 km²: It is composed of three different environmental units associated with the Agabama River watershed in central Cuba: 1) the interfluvial Guarabo-Agabama plain, including Ancon Peninsula which, among other things, contains the unique habitat for aquatic carnivorous plants that are found in few other places; 2) the lower reaches of the Rio Agabama, in the eastern portion – a relatively unexplored area and one of five deltaic systems in Cuba, which is of great importance as a migratory bird corridor; and, 3) the coastal zones of South Central Zone Cabagan close to the mouth of the Agabama River, an important spawning site for snapper and grouper and several species of high economic importance which is being proposed as a Protected Area.
- **Santiago de Cuba Demonstration Area in the country's east, containing the San Juan watershed**, with a surface area of 141.7 km²: Within its limits are three protected areas: (1) the Baconao Biosphere Reserve, (2) the Siboney-Juticí Ecological Reserve and (3) the Estrella-Aguadores Protected Landscape. The aquifer underlying the San Juan River Basin is of great importance to the economic development of the city of Santiago de Cuba as it supplies the potable water supply and water for crop production. There are approximately 170,000 inhabitants within the watershed. However, the land-

(Continued on page 3)

#CaringForOurFuture

(Continued from page 2)

scape is being degraded by numerous point- and non-point source pollution discharges, including from industry and agriculture, due to the level of development within the watershed.

Stakeholders are diverse and include the Centre for Environmental Studies of Cienfuegos (CEAC), the Provincial Delegations of Soils, the State Forest Services, the Provincial Delegations of Water Services, and the various Provincial Meteorological Centres. For three of the four selected watersheds - the Guanabo, Arimao and San Juan - the Cuban Government committed to the protection and sustainable management of at least 136.7 km² of existing forest covered through the project. In the case of the Agabama watershed, the extent of protected areas was to be identified during the sub-project's inception phase.

Emphasis in all targeted areas is upon improved understanding of the biological assets, given the relatively few scientific studies that have been conducted in these areas to date. Environmental baselines are being carried out during the early stages of project implementation. Each site will require unique integrated approaches but will collectively provide Cuba with the experience and expertise to be able to implement a wide range of effective biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use management actions in the future within other watershed and coastal locations elsewhere in the country.

In all four watersheds, the project will support reforestation within impacted ecosystems. Through on-site land and forest cover investments, it is expected that an estimated 134,737.8 equivalent tonnes of CO₂ over the life of the project, or an average of 26,947.6 tCO₂eqv/year will be sequestered.

In 2019, IWeco:Cuba undertook a number of activities to better define the scope and nature of Project interventions in the various watersheds:

- The Start-up and Sensitization Workshop for Environmental Planning in the Arimao demonstration area of Cienfuegos Province (9 July 2019).
- Meeting on Systematization of data and institutional linkages for specialists from relevant organizations in the Cumanayagua Municipality (10 July 2019).
- National Workshop on Methods for Environmental Management Proposals in each of the river basins selected by the Project. (15-19 July 2019)
- Workshop on elaboration of the Environmental Baseline for Component 2. Attended by 13 researchers who contributed their knowledge and criteria for the methods to be used in each of the demonstration areas (15-17 July 2019).
- Workshop on the Bay of Cienfuegos and its tributary basins: Knowledge, Challenges and Future forecasts" (Cienfuegos, 23 July 2019).
- Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (15-20 September 2019). All four demonstration project areas were represented; course taught by specialists from the Institute of Tropical Geography of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment.
- Sediment sampling and monitoring in the Bay of Santiago de Cuba for IWeco Component 2, by the Centre for Research and Environmental Transport Management (27 September 2019).
- Review of legal issues and reports related to Component 3, prior to writing of the report (27 September 2019)
- Participation in the International Symposium on Integrated Management of Coastal Areas and Environmental Management of Beaches and Coastal Ecosystems (4-6 December 2019); including a presentation on the impact of climate change on coastal communities in the province of Cienfuegos associated with ecosystem goods and services.
- Internal Final Workshop on IWeco Component 3 (16 December 2019).
- Expanded National Coordinating Committee (19 December 2019) to review IWeco National sub-Project 2019 activities and coordinate 2020 tasks.

Participants in the National Workshop on Methods for Environmental Management Proposals, July 2019



(Below) Sediment sampling, Santiago de Cuba Bay, September 2019

(Above) Rodolfo Ripoll Salcines, Ayli Díaz Bacallao and Rule María Aloma Oramas, Coordinator of the Cienfuegos Demonstration Area, review available information to enable reporting for Component 3 (policy, legislation), September 2019



Participants in the Workshop; Introduction to Geographic Information Systems, Cienfuegos City, September 2019

Activities anticipated in 2020 include:

- An online national diploma course on "Biodiversity Management from the MICAC Approach"; short-term courses and workshops as well as conferences, with the aim of involving the various Project stakeholders, and; a programme of Environmental Education for communities in all four watersheds, with special attention to the problems identified in each.

IWEco Promotes Citizen Science – for Engagement, Education and Monitoring



IWEco's Regional Training Workshop in Capacity Building at the National Project Level in the areas of Environmental Monitoring, Citizen Science and Stakeholder Engagement, which took place at the Blue Horizon Hotel in Christ Church, Barbados from 5th – 7th November 2019, was, by all accounts, an eye-opening experience.

The Workshop aimed to improve capacity amongst IWEco participating countries in the areas of: Environmental Monitoring, Community Engagement, and Citizen Science using a multifaceted training approach, including technical presentations, group activities and guided practical exercises.

IWEco's National sub-Projects are in varying stages of implementation and participants (including National Project Coordinators, selected persons working with the national sub-projects at local level, GEF Small Grants Programme Coordinators from five IWEco countries, and representatives from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Sustainable Development Unit in Saint Lucia, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), both project execution partners, as well as CERMES and The Nature Conservancy) had varying expectations. These included: gaining more knowledge and a better understanding about how to effectively communicate with and engage stakeholders, increasing ownership of their projects, increasing environmental literacy, empowering people, learning about other initiatives in the region towards greater synergy, and enhancing knowledge exchange.



stakeholders on 6th November.

Citizen Science is a way to increase community engagement and improve environmental management as a result of improved environmental literacy. A working training session, guided by Mary Beth Sutton and Nadia Cazaubon of Caribbean SEA, enabled participants to draft national site-specific environmental monitoring plans employing citizen science. This would gather useful data as well as involve and educate community members. It was apparent that as participants worked through the stages of their respective plans, their understanding of citizen science, its benefits and potential for teaching, empowering and collecting useful information and data became clearer.



The importance of stakeholder involvement, strategies for motivating people to act, of advocacy, the importance of good documentation and the application of frameworks to help make sense of experience were the focus of sessions on 7th November.

Collaboration between two Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) - the Trust for Sustainable Livelihoods (SusTrust) and IAMovement in IWEco's Trinidad & Tobago Project, funded by GEF IWEco through the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme, and working in partnership with the Environmental Management Authority (which is responsible for executing the project) and National Quarries Company Limited, has produced significant results in terms of restoration of degraded land and benefits to the nearby communities. Working together, these two NGOs have been training Quarry Rehabilitation Champions from nearby communities in land restoration techniques and associated livelihood opportunities during the past year with very positive results. This experience was featured in a video titled "Regeneration" produced by IAMovement and elaborated by Carlton Roberts, of SusTrust, and Janille Huggins, of IAMovement.



<https://vimeo.com/333158650/49747b5459>

IWEco's project partner, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) documented the application of CANARI's Local Green-Blue Enterprise Radar, to assess the triple-bottom line benefits (social, environmental and economic) and governance, of the Quarry Rehabilitation Champions' participation, using a short video case study titled "Growing a Future - Rehabilitating quarries, restoring nature and securing livelihoods in North East Trinidad" which was also presented, generating much interest and a vibrant discussion.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0opq9EEK82Y&feature=youtu.be>

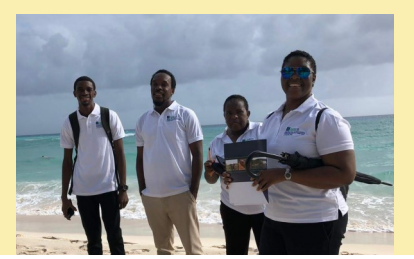
Takeaways from the Workshop? Most notably a better understanding of the need to plan environmental monitoring programmes in keeping with our goals, and of the contribution that Citizen Scientists can make. Engaging stakeholders in such a meaningful way may take time but the rewards of increased understanding, buy-in and sustainability are well worth the effort.



All ten countries participating in IWEco were represented and, in an early session, described environmental monitoring activities in their respective countries. They shared national project goals, the types of interventions being undertaken or planned, and some of the constraints being faced, particularly in environmental monitoring and community outreach. In addition, IWEco works with, and through, UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme to fund and facilitate community engagement and livelihood projects associated with the National sub-Projects, and five UNDP Small Grants Coordinators brought their wealth of experience to the Workshop.

A very instructive field activity was conducted on nearby Rockley Beach and along the South Coast boardwalk on Tuesday 5th November. Participants worked in groups and were able to characterize and record the various uses, economic sectors and stakeholders present within the visually surveyed area. They were also able to observe specific environmental challenges arising out of stakeholder activities and built structures (e.g. drains emptying out onto the beach itself as well as along intervals along the boardwalk length directly into the sea). The discussion which followed included possible sensitisation and education approaches for stakeholders and ways to involve them in collecting information and data.

Participants then focused on indicators and the types of data they would need to collect to support their national project objectives. This set the context for discussions on Citizen Science and how to better engage



Quarry Rehab Initiative Ventures into the Private Sector – The IWeco:TT and Carib Glassworks Partnership



Hayden Romano, MD of EMA, and David Hadeed, MD of Carib Glassworks at launch

Carib Glassworks Limited, the only manufacturer of glass packaging in the Caribbean, is the first privately managed quarry operator to partner with the IWeco:TT.

The overall objective of the IWeco National sub-Project in Trinidad & Tobago is to reduce and reverse land degradation associated with quarry operations at selected quarry sites in North East Trinidad. The Project, which is being executed by the Environmental Management Authority (EMA), has been working since May 2018 with two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) - the Trust for Sustainable Livelihoods and IAMovement, and the United Nations Development Programme - Small Grants Programme, to train "Quarry Rehabilitation Champions" from the nearby communities of Valencia and Sangre Grande in the application of practical quarry rehabilitation techniques.

The first three pilot sites were all located within the compound of the state-owned National Quarries Company Limited (NQCL).

On 19th November 2019, IWeco:TT and Carib Glassworks Limited launched a project to rehabilitate one hectare of their Matura Sand Plant through a mix of interventions which are already being successfully used at NQCL. These include site preparation, the planting of different types of trees for species enrichment, the planting of vetiver grass for soil and slope rehabilitation, and, the installation of live check dams to reduce soil erosion.

The opening ceremony was held at the Matura sand plant and featured remarks by both David Hadeed, Managing Director of Carib Glassworks Limited, and Hayden Romano, Managing Director of the EMA.

In 2020, another one hectare of the Matura sand mine will be reforested, bringing the total to two hectares.

The new site is the first to be established at the privately owned and operated quarry which has been the source of silica used in the manufacture of glass bottles for Carib beer products since 1972. Carib Glassworks has been the leading glass recycler in the region for the past 40 years and considers this part of their ongoing commitment to the environment!



Quarry Rehabilitation Champions get to work at the new site at Carib Glassworks near Matura, East Trinidad.



Dr. Nicole Caesar, centre, participates in panel discussion

Gender Mainstreaming in Water Resources Management and Climate Change Adaptation

- IWeco experience shared

"I participated in the Symposium on Mainstreaming Gender in Water Resources Management for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Caribbean from 26th – 27th November 2019 in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Symposium sought to enhance the capacity of government officials, civil society representatives and community leaders to promote gender mainstreaming in the areas of water resources management and climate change adaptation. The event was organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

My presentation included information regarding female representation and participation at the management and execution levels of R2R IWeco projects in St. Kitts and Nevis, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. I also discussed project activities in these countries and how they contribute to IWRM and DRR, in turn. Improved farming practices on the steep slopes of Fond St. Jacques reduce land degradation and improve water quality downstream by reducing soil erosion, and reduce the likelihood of future landslides.

I also presented on activities related to the SGP sustainable livelihoods, that provide training opportunities to community members. I mentioned the 85% female participation in Trinidad and the 100% female representation of the Fond St. Jacques Community Development Group in St. Lucia.



Meeting participants were interested to learn of the activities taking place in our project countries as they spoke directly to the relationship between female representation – IWRM and DRR."

Dr. Nicole Caesar, IWeco Technical Specialist



Women have played a crucial and leading role in the establishment of a seedling nursery for the Upper Soufriere Watershed, Saint Lucia

Supporting Caribbean Efforts to Manage Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste for the Benefit of a Healthier People and Environment

IWEco's participation in CWWA 28th Annual Conference and Exhibition, 14 – 17 October 2019

IWEco participated in the 28th Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) Annual Conference and Exhibition, 14th – 18th October 2019 in Frigate Bay, Saint Kitts & Nevis.

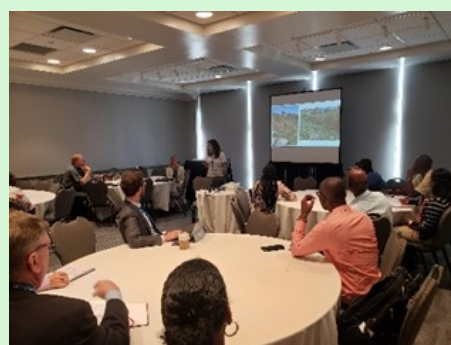
The Conference began with a High-level Opening Ceremony. The Opening Plenary, on October 15th, included a Keynote address by the Honourable Timothy Harris, Prime Minister of St. Kitts/Nevis. It also featured a Panel Discussion on "Securing the Caribbean's Future: Financing the Water & Waste Sectors", in which panellists from the Global Water Partnership (GWP0, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), National Commercial Bank (NCB, Jamaica) and Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators participated. The Conference also featured a large exhibit and a series of technical sessions, including one dedicated to IWEco.

IWEco's Exhibit!



One of the first visitors to IWEco's exhibit was Persis Ramirez Ramos of the Dominican Republic, and IWEco country! She was warmly greeted by Jan Betlem, IWEco's Regional Project Coordinator.

IWEco's Technical Session!



IWEco's Technical Session on Wednesday 16 October 2019 was well-attended. It featured a series of presentations introducing the Project...

Our booth was shared with the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and focused on National sub-Project interventions in St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago that deal largely with land restoration. Donna Sue Spencer explained to a visitor on opening night.



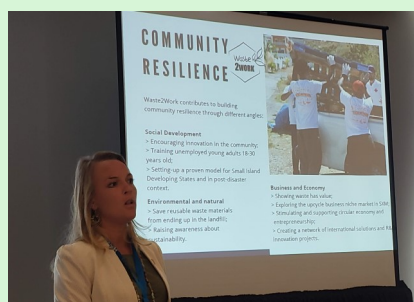
...its work in Saint Kitts & Nevis, Stakeholder Management in IWEco and the importance of upcycling as exemplified by Waste2Work, particularly important for sustainable waste management.



IWEco's Project Manager for St. Kitts & Nevis, Dr. Halla Sahely, had significant interaction with locals who wanted to learn more about the local project and its interventions.

Waste2Work, an NGO working on upcycling in Saint Maarten was also featured in IWEco's booth. Given the event's focus on waste management, it was a good opportunity to feature the good work being done in a SIDS, post hurricane event, to up-cycle resulting construction and other waste. For more info about Waste2Work see:

<https://waste2work.com/>





Support to both High Level Fora!



IWEco's support to the two high level fora at CWWA in 2019 signals our commitment to the Region and willingness to partner for change. UNEP GEF IWEco was one of the key sponsors of both High Level Forums - HLF Water15 and HLFWaste3.

HLF Water 15



HLF Water 15 was attended by: Caribbean Water Ministers and Members of Parliament (supported by water managers) from many islands including, from IWEco countries Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, St. Kitts & Nevis and St. Lucia; utility managers from several countries; and a number of regional and international organizations.

HLF Waste 3



This was also supported by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and well-attended by representatives from throughout the Caribbean.

The agenda sought to provide an overview of key solid waste management issues facing the Caribbean, including costing of operations, common approaches such as recycling, special e-waste issues, disaster waste management and capacity development. The collection, recycling and reuse of Sargassum, seen as an emerging waste management issue, was also covered. Although a Regional Waste Management Plan was discussed insofar as sharing information activities and opportunities for partnership, no decisions were made at this meeting on the way forward regarding a strategy.

Sessions included one on 'Waste management: The International Agenda and Implications for the Caribbean', in which IWEco's Communication Specialist presented on behalf of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, on International and Regional initiatives to address Marine Litter.

IWEco also participated in the Communications Workshop hosted by HLF Waste3 on the afternoon of 17th October. The Communication Specialist made a presentation on "Communicating Effectively for Better Waste Management – Lessons Learnt in Three Regional GEF Projects"

IWEco:SKN Project site visits

The team visited selected St. Kitts & Nevis IWEco National sub-Project sites in both islands on 18th October 2019. This provided a good idea of the scope and scale of interventions in the College Street Ghaut in St. Kitts, which have already begun, as well as the challenges faced in both land and sea interventions in Nevis, where coral reef surveys are in their early stages.



Viewing progress in works to rehabilitate the College Street Ghaut, St. Kitts, 18th October 2019.



Long Haul Bay, Nevis, where off shore coral reefs are the subject of monitoring and rehabilitation efforts, Nevis, 18th October 2019.



(l. to r.) Dr. Halla Sahely, IWEco:SKN Project Coordinator, Donna Sue Spencer, IWEco Comm Specialist, Margot Mesnard, Partnerships Manager, Waste2Work, and Dr. Nicole Caesar, IWEco Technical Specialist, on Nevis dock with the island of St. Kitts in the background.





Three Foresters: Dillon Palmer of Grenada, Jan Betlem, IWEco RPC, and Fitzgerald Providence of St. Vincent, in the Higuamo River Watershed, Dominican Republic, April 2019

(Continued from page 1)

often prevails. Even when we do get going, we tend to execute at an even slower pace. The execution rate of national projects is currently far below the required level.

Yet, concrete interventions for a better environment and more sustainable development are badly needed and they need to be rolled out with greater urgency. The need for coordinated 'ridge-to-reef' activities is greater than ever before: deforestation, ecosystem degradation due to unsustainable agricultural methods, and pollution of the marine environment continue at a pace and impact the quality of life in the Caribbean region. Quality of life is at stake, and with it, our greatest asset - our health.

Doing 'business as usual' is no longer an option and well-informed and decisive political action is urgently needed.

IWEco is about **not** doing 'business as usual' - it allows for interventions which make a difference but the opportunities it presents must be grabbed by the people who make decisions in this Region. Ideally, all IWEco National sub-Projects should be up and running by now. The IWEco Project was designed with a strong regional support system in place to assist countries where needed and we hope to see significant progress in the next year. The Project exists to help the Region strengthen ecosystem resilience and reduce negative impacts on the marine environment but to do so it must be implemented by the countries which have endorsed it.

The year ahead will be exciting: we hope the remaining national projects begin implementation; capacity building activities will continue and expand; continued execution of the ongoing projects will bear fruit, and; 'louder' communication campaigns will be heard.

We can expect a Mid-Term Review of the Project to take place early in 2020. This reflective and constructive exercise will help us to better understand the challenges we are facing and what we need to do, or improve, in order to execute the Project more successfully.

We can do better, not in isolation, but in coordination and cooperation with others - other projects and programs and through our national and regional partners in IWEco. Our colleagues at the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, at UNEP in general, and, in the wider UN family are available to provide support. However, I increasingly am convinced that the driving force for positive change must come from the countries themselves.

With your persistence and continuous, sustained efforts, I am sure we can do much better in 2020! For the sake of our health, the health of our children, and the health of the Caribbean environment.

On behalf of the IWEco Project Coordination Unit and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, I wish you a blessed festive season, and a healthy 2020.

Jan Betlem, IWEco Regional Project Coordinator

Save the Date!

GEF IWEco's 4th Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting (RSPC4) will take place in Grenada, 27 April - 1 May 2020

IWEco thanks the Project Teams in Cuba, St. Kitts & Nevis and Trinidad & Tobago as well as all Project Partners for their contributions to this issue.

For more information contact:

Project Coordination Unit
GEF IWEco Project
United Nations Environment Programme
14-20 Port Royal Street
Kingston, Jamaica
Phone: 1(876)-922-9267/9; Ext. 6225
Email: donna.spencer@un.org

www.iweco.org

@caribbeaniweco



IWEco countries



integrating water, land and ecosystems management
in caribbean small island developing states

#CaringForOurFuture