



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

#CaringForOurFuture

Monthly Project Highlights

September 2020

Welcome to the IWEco Project's first monthly e-bulletin, to be shared each month, in addition to the Project's quarterly newsletter "IWEco:Link."

We encourage Project partners, National Focal Points and national project management units to submit short items and links relevant to IWEco too!



South Negril River, looking north towards the Negril Great Morass, site of the Jamaica national sub-project, February 2020.

IWEco's 6th Partners Webinar focuses on training in Ecosystem Services Valuation (ESV)

IWEco's 6th Partners' Webinar, scheduled to take place on 15th September 2020, features training in Economic Services Valuation (ESV) to project participating countries and sets the stage for an economic valuation of the Negril Great Morass, site of Jamaica's National sub-project.

[Read more](#)





South east St. Kitts, looking towards the island of Nevis, October 2019

The St. Kitts and Nevis National sub-Project - Rehabilitating the College Street Ghaut.

St. Kitts and Nevis' mountainous terrain is largely made up of sandy loam, cut through with 'ghauts' – narrow, deep gullies that deliver rainwater down the slopes. While the ghauts play a key role in maintaining the islands' forest ecosystems, they are also ideal channels for eroding soil – and shifting land use, coupled with a lack of soil conservation measures, has resulted in acute erosion around the Federation.

[Read more](#)



Reversing Land Degradation=Biodiversity Conservation=Quality of Life in Caribbean SIDS

IWEco's national sub projects all focus upon land degradation and biodiversity. Why and how? This article introduces us to activities in six participating countries: Cuba, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and, Trinidad & Tobago.



Read more

Ongoing Regional Activities



IWEco Regional Laboratory Assessment

IWEco is conducting a laboratory assessment to update and build on the one previously carried out under the IWCAM Project (2006-2011) in order to further strengthen national and regional capacity to perform environmental quality monitoring and to analyse the data to inform the effectiveness of remediation activities. Priority areas for assessment have been expanded to include the capacity to analyse soil, sediment, and perform biota monitoring in addition to water analyses.

The assessment will assist laboratory capacity building efforts within the Region through:

- The development of an inventory of existing laboratory capacity to process soil, sediment, water and biota samples for environmental monitoring purposes.
- The strengthening of the capability of national laboratories to perform environmental surveillance and monitoring of parameters related to the attainment of IWEco objectives through: the identification of suitable labs to build capacity based on existing throughput and available manpower, and the identification of training needs with respect to use and maintenance of equipment.
- Achievement of compliance with the obligations of the key international agreements.
- Improved environmental health surveillance which will contribute to updating of the SOCAR/SOMEE reports developed by the Cartagena Convention Secretariat.

The survey report, due by end-December 2020, will make recommendations for suitable laboratories in which to conduct capacity building activities. IWEco is then committed to the provision of equipment to support environmental quality monitoring in selected laboratories, and; capacity building through training in the use and maintenance of laboratory equipment.



REMDAP

IWEco has begun a scoping exercise to assess existing regional environmental data sources, existing and/or proposed platforms and map the associated data flows, formats and storage points of such data.

This is the first step (Phase 1) towards creation of a web-based (online) **Regional Environmental Monitoring Data Portal (REMDAP)** meant to ultimately strengthen the scientific basis for effective

regional environmental monitoring and assessment, include tools and indicators for multi-scale application, develop improved methods for multi-scale assessment and monitoring of land degradation trends, and contribute to monitoring the impacts of GEF investments in water, land and ecosystem services maintenance.

This desk study, due in the fourth-quarter of 2020, is looking at the environmental monitoring data and data flows required to produce national State of Environment Reports, Regional Reports on State of Marine Pollution - SOCAR and State of Marine Habitat by UNEP CEP, the SOMEEE coordinated through the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project, and data and data flows needed by the respective countries to report on relevant global MEAs such as UNFCCC, Stockholm Convention, UNCCD, CBD and WSSD targets.

The REMDAP, which would actually be created in a later Phase 2, will display data resulting from various national, regional and global monitoring efforts and will facilitate improved decision making and compliance with reporting under relevant MEAs including the Cartagena Convention. It is expected that it will be housed at the Secretariat for the Cartagena Convention (UNEP CEP) to ensure maximum coordination, usability and sustained database population and maintenance.

My Favourite Tree!



The winning entry was from Kate Orchard who lives in St. Kitts!

Do you have a Favourite Tree?

We were thrilled by the entries to IWEco's "My Favourite Tree" competition which was held between March and June 2020. Here they are featured in a brief presentation.

Enjoy!

[Read more](#)





The Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWeco Project) is a five-year, regional project that builds upon the work of previous initiatives, to address water, land and biodiversity resource management as well as climate change.

IWeco's objective is to contribute to the preservation of Caribbean ecosystems that are of global significance and to the sustainability of livelihoods.

IWeco is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment Programme) is the lead Implementing agency for national and regional sub-projects, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) implementing some activities.

www.iweco.org

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