



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

***#CaringForOurFuture***

### **Monthly Project Highlights**

**October 2020**

The UNEP-implemented GEF-funded IWEco Project continues to make progress as participating countries and partners at every level face the challenges presented in 2020. This second monthly e-bulletin, published in addition to the Project's quarterly newsletter "IWEco:Link", highlights some recent activities.

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



Apiaries established in the Higuamo Watershed, Dominican Republic. Photo UNDP GEF SGP.

### **Putting people at the centre in IWEco Mobilizing local communities with the help of GEF SGP**

The UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme's considerable experience in building economic livelihoods through community-based initiatives supports one of IWEco's key objectives, that of enhancing livelihood opportunities and socio-economic co-benefits for targeted communities from improved ecosystem services functioning.

GEF IWEco allocated US \$1 million in funding to UNDP GEF SGP to enable activities in alignment with the respective IWEco National sub-Projects which build capacity for enterprise development and implementation amongst local community groups in support of its overall

objectives. This funding is matched by GEF SGP, which also provides technical support.

SGP's considerable experience in building economic livelihoods through community-based initiatives supports this key Project objective.

The result has been a mix of very interesting projects, some of which are closely associated with, and supporting, the National sub-Projects; and others which support wider IWEco objectives. These are bearing fruit for local communities in the participating countries; proof that supporting local people to act for themselves, and in the interest of sustainable development, can be both empowering and transformative.

[Read more](#)



Mid-Term Review Mission, Cienfuegos Watershed, Cuba, January 2019

### **Project Mid-Term - a time for Reflection and Correction**

IWEco's Fourth Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting (RPSCM 4) took place virtually on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020, and considered, among other things, the results of the Mid-Term Review which was conducted from January to July 2020, and covered the period September 2016 - December 2019.

In essence, it found that while IWEco is gaining traction, there is a high risk that it cannot be completed satisfactorily without some drastic adaptive management measures and a one-year extension until August 2023 for technical completion. Achievement of long-term impact and sustainability of results is heavily dependent on continued political, technical, and financial commitment, as well as uptake of the results by the Governments and regional institutions.

Among the Project's strengths are the engagement of diverse partners and stakeholders, high local stakeholder buy-in and ownership, and extensive public awareness/public education efforts. Factors negatively affecting performance include the excessive lag between project design and start-up and institutional changes at the regional and national levels in the interim (e.g., institutional restructuring, reduction in institutional capacities and stakeholder buy-in, and shifts in national priorities). Asynchronous start of the sub-projects, the regional components, and the UNDP Small Grants Programme initiatives resulted in limited cross-fertilization and integration among them. COVID-19 severely disrupted activities in 2020.

The MTR made a total of 20 recommendations for consideration by the RPSC 4, which agreed in principle to adopt the recommendations for implementation by the PCU, CAR/RCU and co-executing partners. The PCU would, along with project partners, assess and prioritise the outputs and activities in components 1-4 in consultation with executing partners (focusing on

high-impact output and activities. Approval was given for a maximum 12-month project extension until August 2023, latest, to enable the completion of activities.

This brief summarizes results and lessons learned.

[Read more](#)



**Now available: IWeco Webinar Presentation:  
Training on the systematic integration of economic valuation of "wet"  
ecosystem services into the TDA/SAP process - UNIDO, GEF IW:LEARN**

The full training presentation prepared and presented by Eduard Interwies at IWeco's Sixth Partners' Webinar on 15th September 2020 is available on IWeco's website (See link below). This presentation was prepared in partnership with UNIDO and GEF IW:LEARN.

The IWeco Project is supporting technical capacity building at the National and Regional levels by introducing guidelines for the implementation of an economic valuation in the context of IWeco participating countries, all of which are Small Island Developing States.

There are two phases, of which this training was the first. In Phase Two, IWeco will partner with the executing agency of the Jamaica National Project, the National Environmental Protection Agency, and other supporting institutions, organizations and stakeholder groups involved with the management of the Negril Great Morass on an economic valuation of the Negril Great Morass.

Both phases are based on the methodology and training materials as described in the "GEF Guidance Documents to Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services in IW Projects", developed under the GEF International Waters: Learning Exchange And Resources Network - Subcomponent 4.1 Systematic consideration of the economic valuation of natural resources into the TDA/SAP process (to be found at: [www.iwlearn.net/valuation](http://www.iwlearn.net/valuation)).

[ESAV Presentation](#)

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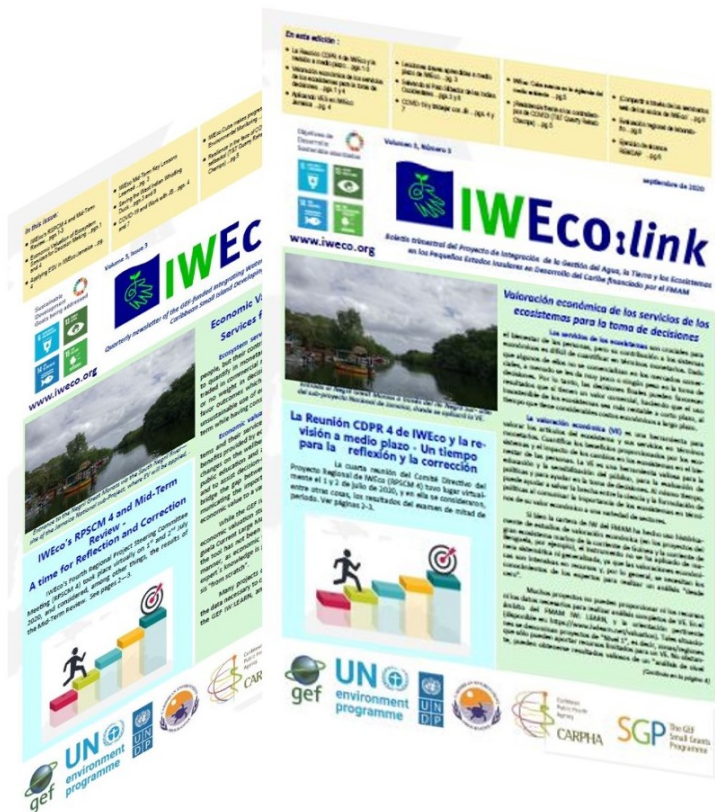
## IWEco's 9th PROJECT PARTNERS' WEBINAR

Featuring:  
The LBS Protocol: Catalysing regional cooperation to combat marine pollution

Tuesday 10th November 2020  
9:00—10:00 am (Jamaica)  
10:00—11:00 am (all other Project countries)

Platform: Microsoft Teams. Contact: Shamene.parker@un.org

[www.iweco.org](http://www.iweco.org)



The latest issue of IWEco:Link, our quarterly newsletter, is available in both

English and Spanish.

IWEco:Link Boletín Informativo Trimestral, septiembre 2020 -  
Español

IWEco:Link, September 2020 - English

## IWEco Resources



### **A great resource to help you plan, design and package information about your project!**

IWEco, with the help of our Communication Partner, PANOS, in 2019 produced a toolkit designed to help in the planning, design and packaging of information for more targeted and rewarding stakeholder communication, using the full spectrum of traditional and new media.

It provides a step-by-step guide grounded in best practices to help communications personnel as well as those who communicate on behalf of the project, fully leverage digital communication tactics to maximize reach.

This toolkit is primarily for project teams, partners and personnel who are responsible for, or engaged in communications about the IWEco Project. It is also a useful tool for persons involved in projects similar to, but not necessarily specific to IWEco.

[Read more](#)





## The Elements of Photography and Visual Storytelling

A great resource to help you document your project!

This webinar, facilitated by PCI Media Inc. and IWEco's Communications Partnership in 2018, covers the foundations of visual storytelling by Chris Willan. This video is full of tips on how you can take better photographs to tell your stories more effectively.

Take a look



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](http://www.iweco.org)

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