



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

#CaringForOurFuture

Monthly Project Highlights

November 2020

The GEF-funded IWEco Project is implemented by UNEP and supports implementation of the Cartagena Convention, the only legally binding, regional agreement for the protection and development of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.

In our third e-bulletin, we highlight the work of the Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS) Protocol in addition to Project activities.

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



Evening relaxation, Eagle Beach, Aruba, 2019. The Protocol Concerning Control of Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) was signed in Aruba in 2009 and entered into force in 2010. Photo IWEco Project

The Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS) Protocol

On 10th November 2020, the Ninth UNEP GEF IWEco Partners' Webinar featured the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) to the Cartagena Convention, and, the two Regional Activity Centres (RACs) which provide it with support - the

Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA), Trinidad and Tobago, and the Centro de Investigacion y Manejo Ambiental del Transporte (CIMAB), Cuba.

The Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) is one of three technical agreements or protocols supporting the Cartagena Convention, the only legally binding, regional agreement for the protection and development of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.

The LBS Protocol was adopted in Oranjestad, Aruba, on 6 October 1999 and entered into force on August 13, 2010. There are currently 15 Contracting parties to the LBS Protocol.

It includes regional effluent limitations for domestic wastewater (sewage) and requires the development of management plans and implementation of best practices to address agricultural non-point sources of pollution. Specific schedules for implementation are also included in the Protocol. The LBS Protocol allows countries to develop and adopt future annexes to address other priority sources of land-based pollution.

One of the aims of the UNEP GEF IWeco Project is to catalyse further ratification and implementation of the Cartagena Convention's Marine Biodiversity (SPAW), Pollution (LBS) and Oil Spills Protocols as well as assist regional governments to achieve related global commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The main text of the Protocol provides general obligations and a legal framework for regional co-operation. The operative Annexes describe the work that each Contracting Party must do and give guidance for the development of regional actions. Implementation of the Protocol and the development of future source-specific annexes is determined by the Contracting Parties with assistance from a Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC). The next LBS STAC is scheduled to take place virtually from the 15-17th March 2021, with the next Conference of Parties due in the last week of June 2021.

[See presentation here](#)



The region's many rivers carry both visible and invisible pollution from land-based sources down to the sea. Photo IWeco Project, 2019

The State of the Cartagena Convention Area on Marine Pollution Report (SOCAR)

One of the important obligations of the Cartagena Convention is to monitor the status of coastal and marine ecosystems and the impact of land and marine-based sources of pollution.

While several studies have documented the continued degradation of coastal and marine habitats and increased pollution from both land and marine-based sources, comprehensive scientifically verifiable information on the status of marine habitats and levels of specific pollutants in the Caribbean Sea have been lacking.

In 2019 Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention adopted and endorsed the Wider Caribbean's first regional reports on the State of the Cartagena Convention Area (SOCAR) on Marine Pollution. The UNEP/GEF IWEco Project and the UNDP/GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Project provided financial support towards development of the SOCAR report.

The development of the SOCAR involved several consultative workshops and meetings, thus ensuring a participatory process and broad stakeholder input. Technical working groups which provided strategic advice and critical input to the final reports included Government focal points of the Convention's Protocols on Marine Biodiversity (SPAW) and Land-Based Pollution (LBS), regional experts and representatives of the Convention's Regional Activity Centres (RACs).

The SOCAR and other "State of Reports" prepared by the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, seek to establish a comprehensive baseline to allow countries in the Wider Caribbean to establish targets and indicators for the sustainable management and use of coastal and marine ecosystems. They will also assist Governments to establish and/or enhance monitoring and assessment programmes of water quality, pollution loads and ecosystem health. This will enable greater compliance with regional agreements such as the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols as well as other Global Commitments, including SDGs 6 and 14.

The Final Report will be widely published during the first quarter of 2021. In the interim, the Draft SOCAR Report is available at the link below.

[State of the Convention Area Report](#)



UNEP Caribbean Clean Seas Campaign

Marine litter, including plastics, continues to be a dire threat to environmental and human health. Plastic is one of the key components of marine litter in the Wider Caribbean region and is one of the most common items collected during coastal clean ups. Plastic and other types of marine litter, such as abandoned, lost and discarded fishing gear, impact the mortality of wildlife if they are ingested or through entanglement.

The impacts of marine litter are many and without a clean and healthy Caribbean Sea, countries in the region are at serious risk from reduced marine ecosystem services as well as valuable benefits to livelihoods and socio-economic development.

The Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML-Caribe), co-hosted by the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), collaborated with the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) to launch a Regional Clean Seas campaign for the Caribbean in 2019. The campaign was launched as part of International Coastal Clean-up activities and in support of UNEP's global Clean Seas campaign.

Five Caribbean countries have already joined the initiative: Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, St Kitts and Nevis, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Through the campaign, several coastal clean up efforts were successfully mobilized in participating countries with avid support from young people. In addition to actual clean ups, communication materials were developed and disseminated to help raise awareness about the impacts of marine litter and to encourage public action to control and prevent its proliferation.

This regional campaign was also used to field-test a harmonized methodology for monitoring marine litter which was developed by GPML-Caribe in 2018 in partnership with the OSPAR Commission and Clean Seas Bonaire. See the manual at <https://bit.ly/363evw8>

In 2019, UNEP GEF IWEco produced and launched a Caribbean Breaking Up with Plastics video to further support the Caribbean Clean Seas initiative. The video has won three awards to date: <https://www.unenvironment.org/cep/news/blogpost/caribbean-breaking-plastics-award-winning-message>

Check it out and share so that this important message reaches more people!

Caribbean Breaking Up with Plastics video



Staff from the Department of Environment, Ministry of Education, members of Cabinet and dignitaries at the Closing Ceremony, St. Kitts, 16 October 2020. Photo IWEco SKN.

Boosting water security in vulnerable schools - IWEco's St. Kitts and Nevis National-sub Project collaborates with the Department of Environment and other partners

Climate change continues to pose unprecedented threats to SIDS. In St. Kitts and Nevis, the historic drought of 2015 reduced rainfall totals by almost 45%. Since then, continuous significant reduction in rainfall totals have affected all sectors. In addition to this, the need to access safe and potable water supply has become even more critical especially for the children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department of Environment through consultation with its partner agencies and stakeholders, determined the need to invest in emergency water storage systems for educational institutions on both islands. In collaboration with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and funding through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Climate Change Adaptation Program (CCAP), the Department was able to secure USD 205,000 to outfit eighteen (18) educational institutions with onsite emergency water storage systems. These systems consist of tanks and delivery systems, whether by pump or gravity to allow for transmission of stored water through the piping system, with a total storage capacity of eighty-two thousand, four hundred (82,400) gallons of water. Over 4000 students and staff have benefitted from this project in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

In collaboration with the CCCCC/USAID CCAP project, the IWEco National Sub-Project in St. Kitts and Nevis was also able to invest to complete the emergency water storage system at the Beach Allen Primary School, one of the largest in the Federation serving over 400 students and 40 staff. In addition, IWEco provided funding through the GEF Small Grant Programme, to a community group in the parish of St. Peters to install an emergency water storage system at the Bronte Welsh Primary School and to develop a public education and outreach programme related to the importance of water for the school and the community. Both of these schools are located in the environs of College Street Ghaut and within the Basseterre Valley Watershed – IWEco's main target area in St. Kitts and Nevis. The Project has also funded training seminars for maintenance and school staff on both islands to ensure the systems are well operated and maintained into the future. The training sessions will be conducted over the next two months. The IWEco funding provided to these activities is in excess of 40,000 USD.

[Read more](#)



August Creek, East End, Grand Bahama, part of the site of the IWEco The

IWEco The Bahamas Project Launched!

The IWEco The Bahamas Project was launched on 30 September 2020. It is focused on ecologically important mangrove wetlands and pine forests which encompass East Grand Bahama and will develop further capacity for sustainable livelihoods, implement land and watershed restoration and increase ecosystem resilience.

The components of this Project align closely with the UNEP-implemented GEF-funded Implementing Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco) Project. As such, although The Bahamas Project is coordinated directly by the UN Environment Programme Task Manager to the GEF rather than the Project Coordinating Unit based in Kingston, Jamaica at the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention, it is part of the IWEco family and benefits from regionally planned activities and tools being developed under the regional project.

[Read more](#)

The banner features a green header with the coat of arms of the Bahamas and the text 'Ministry of Planning and Development Environmental Policy and Planning Division'. The main text is in a mix of blue, black, and orange fonts, surrounded by icons of a virus, a bacterium, a skull, and an iguana. The date and time are highlighted in an orange box, and the bottom features a landscape illustration with trees and animals.

Ministry of Planning and Development
Environmental Policy and Planning Division

Invites you to join our webinar!

The Role of Ecosystems in Mitigation and Management of Covid-19 and other Zoonoses

by
Dr. Thomas Gillespie
Professor Environmental Science and Environmental Health,
Emory University

Thursday 26th November 2020 | 1pm (AST)

To join our webinar please click the link in the caption above

Environmental Policy and Planning Division
In collaboration with the
United Nations Environment Programme

Join the Ministry of Planning and Development, Trinidad & Tobago, Environmental Policy and Planning Division as they partner with the #UnitedNationsEnvironmentProgramme to discuss the role of ecosystems and the management of zoonotic diseases like #Covid19

Diseases transmissible from animals to humans through direct contact or through food, water, and the environment, are commonly referred to as 'zoonoses'. The interface shared among humans, animals, and the environment has been a source of diseases impacting public health. This has therefore led to rising international concern about the zoonotic origins of many pandemics.

Webinar details:

Date- Thursday 26th November 2020

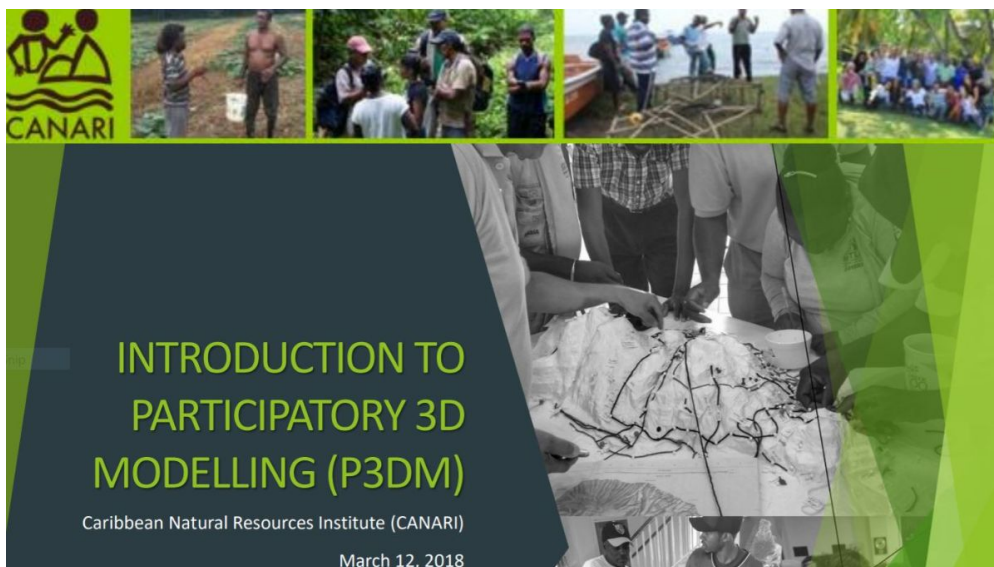
Time- 1pm (AST)

Duration- Approximately 60mins.

Registration link-

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_22Vn67WFSA2BBgueGG2uwg?fbclid=IwAR08VyoWHRvN3TQ7iatXoRs8uuZ4UeXNxOHM5AIGUM3moInKSdSGK08fZfo

IWEco Resources



An Introduction to Participatory 3D Modelling

This presentation produced for IWEco by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), one of our communications partners, in 2018, is a great introduction to this participatory mapping method and tool for capturing from, and sharing of knowledge with, a wide range of stakeholders.

[Download the presentation](#)





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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