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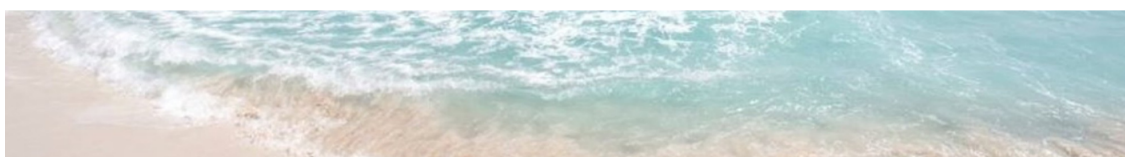
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Protecting our Caribbean Sea, Sustaining our Future

United Nations Environment Programme Caribbean Environment Programme and
Cartagena Convention Secretariat
Kingston, Jamaica

Quarterly Newsletter. Edition 1. June 2022



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On Tuesday 21st June 2022, we were pleased to welcome our focal points, representatives of governments, UNEP staff, partner agencies and members of the wider public to the virtual launch of our **35th anniversary video**. A total of 76 persons joined the celebratory event, hailing from various countries across the globe.

The Cartagena Convention Secretariat thanks all interviewees for participating in the development of this video. This production was done by Mayers Media Inc. in Barbados and financed by the European Union-funded project [Capacity Building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean, and Pacific Countries- Phase 3](#), which the Secretariat is co-implementing.

[Click here to read the highlights](#)

Since the launch, the video has acquired over 100 views on our YouTube page. Watch the video below or [click here to go to YouTube](#).



Making waves on the global oceans agenda- support to the UN Ocean Conference



In the lead-up to the United Nations Ocean Conference, the Secretariat participated in a promotional series on ocean-related issues developed by the Department of Global Communications at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The national hedgerow planting project at the National Botanical Gardens of Barbados was featured in a podcast developed by Conor Lennon, Multimedia Producer at the UN Headquarters in New York. This is the Barbados project site of our Global Environment Facility-funded project Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean

Listen here:

<https://news.un.org/en/audio/2022/06/1120752>.

Acting Coordinator of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, Christopher Corbin, was also interviewed by Conor Lennon about the mandate of the Convention and how it addresses pressing environmental concerns such as climate change and sargassum.

Full interview:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1121112>.



Economy: Hope and hedgerows



by United Nations News



EXCLUSIVE

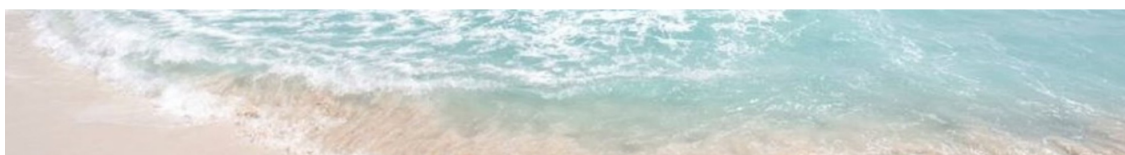
INTERVIEW: Pollution, Cartagena, and the Caribbean



by United Nations News



The Secretariat also participated in several side events. Click here to visit our events page.



Latest project updates



The Capacity Building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Africa, Caribbean, and the Pacific Countries – Phase III (ACP MEAs III).

prevention and reduction within the Wider Caribbean Region.

The deadline to participate is August 1, 2022.

[Click here for details on eligibility and application requirements](#)



[Global Environment Facility-funded Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States \(GEF IWEco\) Project](#)

Selected laboratories in GEF IWEco participating countries received equipment to improve their monitoring capabilities (between August 2022 – July 2023), as well as, capacity-building sessions (from March 2022 to June 2022) to strengthen their environmental quality monitoring capacity. The training series consisted of 5 modules prepared by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in conjunction with the University of North Carolina's Water Institute. The training aimed to build support for improving and standardizing laboratory practices for water quality sampling and analysis.

[Full story](#)



[Global Environment Facility-funded CReW+: An integrated approach to water and wastewater management in the Wider Caribbean Region using innovative solutions and sustainable financing mechanisms](#)

Applications are still being accepted to the Global Water Partnership-Caribbean's [Young Caribbean Water Entrepreneurs Shark Tank Competition](#). The competition is partially funded by the GEF CReW+ project. Applicants submitting a project/idea under Category 2 (Integrated Water and Wastewater Management) must be a Caribbean national residing in one of the Caribbean GEF CReW+ countries, which are: Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. **The deadline to participate is August 7, 2022.**

[Management \(IWWM\) Scholarships](#) for the Caribbean and [Grant Funding for IWWM capacity-building projects](#). The deadline to participate in either opportunity is **September 30, 2022**.

[Click here for more details](#)



News from across the Wider Caribbean



The Cartagena Convention Secretariat extends sincere condolences to the Government and people of the Dominican Republic on the death of His Excellency Orlando Jorge Mera, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. The Secretariat stands in solidarity with Minister Mera's colleagues, family and friends at this most difficult time.

In 2021, the Environmental Protection Department of Barbados updated the country's Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) National Action Plan to 2025. The Plan sets out the strategies and actions necessary to manage the risks from operations, such as those from medical institutions and agricultural facilities. It also aims to control potential human and animal exposure to AMR organisms through food, food animals, horticulture and aquaculture operations and the environment.



Launched in 2021 by the Colombian government, the **“One million corals for Colombia”** national

largest effort of its kind on the American Continent. Learn more about the work of scientists, local experts and activists who are supporting the cause and the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1121292>.



The Government of Mexico has established technical and management guidelines to address the persistent sargassum landings on the coasts of the Mexican Caribbean. The guidelines establish the technical specifications for the collection of sargassum in open sea, its containment and removal in barriers, the removal of sargassum from beaches, its treatment prior to final disposal, as well as, the final disposal process, quantification for monitoring and obtaining information on possible uses.

In 2021, the Jamaican government approved the establishment of the Black River Morass as a protected area under the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) Act. The Cabinet also approved Jamaica's membership to the Caribbean Biological Corridor Initiative (CBCI), which is supported by the United Nations Environment Programme.



A Marine Litter/Plastic Reduction Strategy and Action Plan is being developed for Saint Lucia under the ACP MEAs III project and with support from the UNEP Science Division. A National Consultative Workshop was held in April 2022 to develop a National Source Inventory which will provide input to the plan.



Regional Activity Centres

What's new with our RACs?

Regional Activity Centre in Curacao for our Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills



The Tenth Ordinary Steering Committee Meeting of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre – Caribe (RAC REMPEITC-Caribe) was held in Willemstad, Curacao from May 18-19, 2022. Focal points of the Cartagena Convention's Oil Spills Protocol met to review the status of implementation of RAC REMPEITC-Caribe's 2018 - 2021 work programme, review and endorse the 2022 - 2023 work plan, and develop recommendations for adoption by the 20th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan of the Caribbean Environment Programme and 17th Conference of Parties to the Cartagena Convention.



Delegates at RAC REMPEITC-Caribe's 10th Steering Committee meeting.

Also present at the meeting were representatives from the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Government of Curacao and partner organizations that attended as observers.

At the end of the meeting, the Steering Committee adopted Recommendations regarding the Centre's Strategic Plan, ballast water management, Oil Spill National Contingency Plans and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

[Click here for the full story.](#)



The Secretariat welcomes Nadia Gour as a full-time consultant to RAC REMPEITC-Caribe effective August 1, 2022. She is an Environmental Programme Officer seconded from the Environmental Management Authority of Trinidad and Tobago.



We bid farewell, with best wishes for the future, to Lieutenant Commander Floyd Patterson as he concludes his secondment from the Maritime Authority of Jamaica. LDCR Patterson has been an avid supporter of our Oil Spills

to promote collaborative action to prevent and respond to oil spill emergencies.

Regional Activity Centre in Guadeloupe for our Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW)



Under the Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network - “Caring for Marine Mammals” (CARI'MAM) project, the SPAW RAC developed an educational toolkit for marine mammal watching. The kit helps commercial marine mammal watching operators to develop sustainable and responsible whale watching activities and promote a high quality tourism product.

The educational kit is composed of three videos, a booklet and a small communications kit. Further details are available on the SPAW RAC's website: <https://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Whale-watcher-Toolkit>.



The Secretariat will bid farewell to Sandrine Pivard in August 2022 as she prepares for a new position in France. The Secretariat congratulates her on her new job posting and extends sincere appreciation for her 6 years of service as Director of the SPAW RAC.



Video 1 - Discovering the Marine Biodiversity of the Caribbean: [English](#) [Español](#) [Français](#)

Video 2 - Marine Mammals in the Caribbean: [English](#) [Español](#) [Français](#)

Video 3 - Guidelines for Marine Mammal Observation: [English](#) [Español](#) [Français](#)

Regional Activity Centres for our Protocol Concerning Land-Based



In June 2022, the Pollution Division of the Centre of Research and Environmental Management of Transport (CIMAB) in Cuba conducted water sampling in the Guanabo watershed and its coastal area as part of the GEF IWEco Cuba sub-project. This activity formed part of the National Component 2.2.1 which focuses on the establishment of a systematic biodiversity monitoring programme in the four sub-project intervention areas. Physical, chemical, biological and bacteriological parameters were evaluated as quality indicators in the surface waters of the river (four sampling stations) and in the coastal zone (four other sampling points).



A staff member collects water for sampling.



RAC CIMAB staff are seen here at their field visit to the Guanabo watershed.

The results obtained, together with those included in the environmental baseline of said ecosystem, will contribute to evaluating the impacts of good agricultural management practices implemented at the Recreo 5 Farm located in the northern part of the watershed.

The results of the monitoring programme also contribute to evaluating the effectiveness of other interventions carried out in the Guanabo watershed that have focused on the sustainable management of biodiversity.



The Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) was



Seen here are farmers at the Cunupia

Implementation of the [CNDP-CLM](#) Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) Project

which concluded in early 2021. The IMA's activities aimed to reduce organic and pesticide pollution from agricultural activities in the southern section of the Caroni Swamp. This was done through community-based conservation activities for rehabilitating the degraded mangrove forest.

Activities under this project included surveying the farmers in these watersheds by using the EpiCollect software application, face-to-face

and telephone interviews to gain knowledge on major crops, soil health, pests and diseases, and existing farming practices including their use of chemicals (pesticides and fertilizers). Based on survey data, training and sensitization workshops were designed and executed for the farmers on the judicious use of pesticides and fertilizers, as well as, alternatives in the management of economically important pests and diseases in the area. [Click here to read more.](#)



#Reduce #Reuse #Recycle- Changing the way we use plastic



As plastic production and consumption grows rapidly, so does the accumulation of plastic waste in the environment

Did you know that less than 10 percent of the plastic waste generated globally between 1950 and 2017 is estimated to have been recycled? Of the remainder, 14 percent has been incinerated while the remaining 76 percent has been disposed of in landfills or dumps or released into the environment, including the oceans ([UNEP, 2021](#)).

Caribbean data from beach and coastal clean-ups in 2017 indicate that plastic beverage bottles alone amount to 21 percent of the items recorded. When other common plastic items are counted, 35 percent of all items are single-use plastics.

You can help to address this environmental crisis by recycling plastic products you already own, reusing or repurposing plastic items as much as possible to lower their environmental impacts, and reducing your purchases of single-use plastic products.

In support of [#PlasticFreeJuly](#) and UNEP's global [#CleanSeas](#) campaign, we are sharing daily tips on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages to help you reduce your plastic waste and adopt more eco-friendly approaches in your everyday routine. Tips are shared from July 1 to 31, 2022 in collaboration with our [Caribbean Node on Marine Litter](#).

Will you join the #PlasticFreeJuly challenge to reduce your plastic footprint?

Here are some ideas to get you started



The Cartagena Convention Secretariat extends its appreciation and best wishes to the following persons who recently left the team: Ileana Lopez (Programme Officer, SPAW Sub-Programme), Sean Chedda (Information Systems Assistant), Victor Campbell (Finance and Budget Assistant), Rachel Kagiri (Associate Finance and Budget Officer), Paul Vrontamitis (Administrative and Fund Management Officer).



All the best! The Secretariat also congratulates Jan Betlem as he proceeds on retirement at the end of July 2022. We extend sincere thanks to Jan for over 16 years of dedicated service to UNEP. He has been the GEF IWeco Regional Project Coordinator since 2017.

supporting the ACP MEAs III project, and for the return of Clementiene Pinder, Administrative and Fund Management Officer, who was on a temporary assignment.

Visit our staff page to meet our other colleagues: <https://www.unep.org/cep/who-we-are/people>.

Job Opportunities

- We are seeking a temporary Information Systems Assistant for 6 months. The deadline to submit applications is July 25, 2022. [Click here for more details and to apply](#).
- The position of Legal Consultant to support the Dominican Republic in the implementation of the [MARPOL Convention](#) will be re-advertised shortly. Please visit the [UN Careers page](#) to view the job posting and apply.



Upcoming Events

- **GEF IWECO's 6th Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting** will take place from July 18-20, 2022 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. [Click here for more details](#).
- The Institute of Marine Affairs will host a [Regional Workshop on the Index of Coastal Eutrophication and Harmful Algal Blooms](#) in Trinidad and Tobago from July 25-27, 2022. A summary of the main highlights will be available in the next edition of this newsletter.
- The [meeting of Directors and Heads of Maritime Administrations](#), organized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and hosted by the Maritime Authority of Suriname (MAS) will be held from July 28-29, 2022 in Paramaribo, Suriname.
- **7th International Marine Debris Conference (7IMDC)**, September 18-23, 2022 in Busan, Republic of Korea: The Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), co-hosts of the Caribbean Node

Wider Caribbean Region. [Click here for the event details.](#)

- Did you miss any of the **live courses on water and wastewater management** offered through our GEF CReW+ Academy? You can visit the Academy's website to watch the recordings of past sessions and access the course materials: <https://academy.gefcrew.org/en/resources>. The Academy is the training arm of our GEF CReW+ project.



The Tenth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife ([10th SPAW STAC](#)) and the Sixth STAC Meeting of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities ([6th LBS STAC](#)) will be held during the week of November 28, 2022 - December 2, 2022



COP
Cartagena Convention

"Protecting our Caribbean Sea and Sustaining our Future"

From March 27-31, 2023 the Secretariat will convene its Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme ([20th IGM](#)), Seventeenth Conference of Parties (COP) to the Cartagena Convention ([17th COP](#)), Twelfth COP to the SPAW Protocol ([12th SPAW COP](#)), and the Sixth COP to the LBS Protocol ([6th LBS COP](#)). Further details will be posted on the events page of the Secretariat's website.



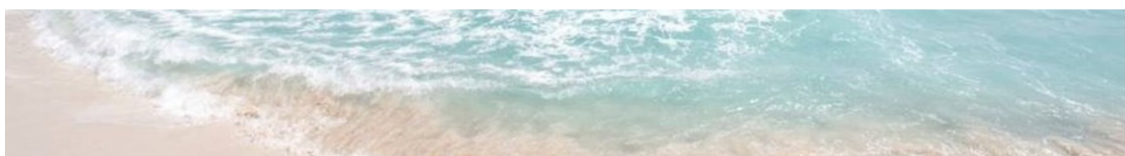
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Exhibition of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association will be held from October 17-21, 2022 in The Bahamas, under the theme "Recovery and Evolution- Regional Actions for Global Sustainability in the Water and Waste Sectors". For more information, please visit <https://cwwa.net/cwwa-conference-2022/>.

and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI75) will be held in Fort Walton Beach, Florida from November 7-11, 2022 at The Island Hotel. All interested persons are invited to submit abstracts for GCFI75 by July 31, 2022. More information is available on the [GCFI75 Conference Page](#).



Featured Resources

FREE RAINWATER HARVESTING COURSES

Sponsored by the United Nations in Jamaica



Ready To Own
HOMEOWNERS

Ready To Own for residential properties is the rainwater harvesting course you need if you have always been curious about the steps required to use rainwater as drinking water at a residential location that lacks reliable supplies.



Ready To Own
FARMERS

Ready To Own for farmers is the rainwater harvesting course you need if you have always been curious about the steps required to use rainwater to grow vegetables such as cucumbers and peppers on a quarter acre of land or more.



Ready To Install
TECHNICIANS

Ready to Install is the rainwater harvesting course you need if you have always been curious about the knowledge and skills a technician needs to do a great job at installing rainwater harvesting systems at residential locations and on farms.



Ready To Maintain
TECHNICIANS



Installations Tracker
NGO INSTALLATIONS IN JA



Cost Tracker
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Rain, rain, rain! Catch it before it goes away!

Our Hello Rain training course will help you understand how to estimate water needs, as well as, the capacity of a given household or area for rainwater harvesting. It will also guide you on how to choose the appropriate catchment method, storage facility, and sanitation system. [Click here for more details.](#)

Coral Reef Restoration Guidelines for the Tourism Sector: The goal of this coral and tourism research was to capture a

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A GUIDE TO CORAL REEF RESTORATION FOR THE TOURISM SECTOR

Partnering with Caribbean Tourism Leaders to Accelerate Coral Restoration



and experiences, as well as to identify positive trends, key barriers, and opportunities for the tourism sector when engaging in coral reef conservation efforts.

This guide was an initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme, supported by the Cartagena Convention Secretariat. The document was prepared by The Nature Conservancy and the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association, with funding from the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation. [Download here.](#)



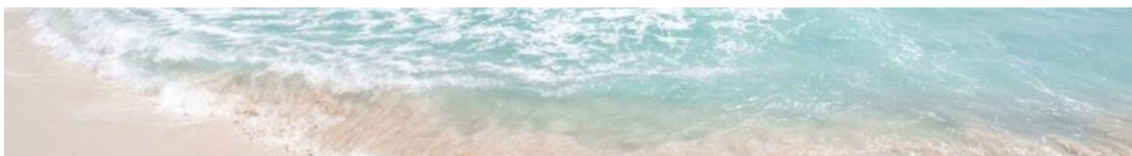
We're seeking a unique name for our quarterly newsletter!

Do you have any suggestions?

Submit your proposals via this form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/a32DLjQ6f7>.

The winner will be announced in the next edition!



About Us

The United Nations Environment Programme Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (CAR/RCU) is the Secretariat for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Cartagena Convention. UNEP CAR/RCU



The Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) was established in 1981 as one of UNEP's Regional Seas Programmes in recognition of the importance and value of the Wider Caribbean's fragile and vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems.

The [Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region](#) (also known as the Cartagena Convention) entered into force on October 11, 1986. The Convention provides the legal framework for the Caribbean Environment Programme and has 3 Protocols :

- Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills
- Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW)
- Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS)

To date, **26** governments in the Wider Caribbean have ratified the Cartagena Convention and its Oil Spills Protocol, **18** governments have ratified the SPAW Protocol, and **15** have ratified the LBS Protocol.

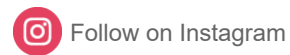
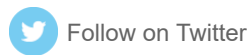
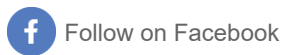
View the list of countries that have ratified the Convention and its Protocols

Supporting



Should you have any news, events, announcements and publications related to coastal and marine issues in the Wider Caribbean that you would like us to include in our

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 Website: <https://www.unep.org/cep/>

 Write to us: unep-cartagenaconvention@un.org

July 15, 2022

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