

CReW+ LETTER

Implementing solutions for an integrated water and wastewater management for a clean and healthy Caribbean



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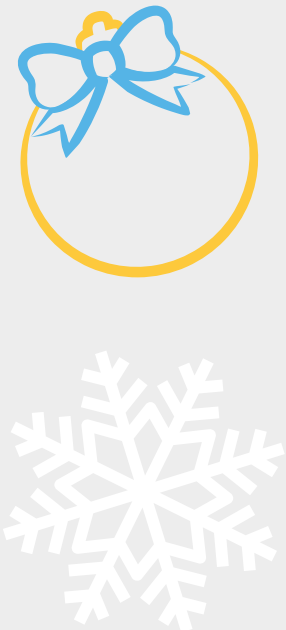
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1 Happy Holidays Message

We look forward to 2024!

In our final year of execution, let's make our efforts count and let's keep contributing to a healthier and cleaner Caribbean Sea!

Happy Holidays!



“ Changing the approach to wastewater management including using wastewater as a resource will require a change in attitudes and behaviour. Through a partnership with RARE and the Nature Conservancy, a behavioral change workshop was conducted with GEF CRew+ beneficiary countries that generated capacities to implement small-scale projects in communities, along with a grant program to support these efforts. We are pleased to see behavioral sciences gain prominence in projects like this one and hope to see the effects of the grants in the upcoming year. ”

Christopher Corbin, UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat

“ This year that starts is a great opportunity to continue with the activities and outcomes from 2023. We have seen a significant progress in the project that has materialized in all components. Besides, we had the opportunity to finally meet in person with the participating countries, which allowed us to share and exchange ideas and impressions from a more close and effective manner. The local agencies in the countries have had a key role in this process, their commitment to the project has been and will continue to be in 2024 the principal main driver in the GEF CRew+. ”

Rodrigo Riquelme, Inter-American Development Bank



“ In 2023, the project went through important milestones to curb wastewater pollution for a healthier and cleaner Caribbean Sea. The GEF CRew+ project promoted the use data for decision-making and policy reforms including with new norms and legislations with concrete applications at the national level. In 2024, we are looking forward to further developments both at the national and regional levels in the context of the Cartagena Convention. ”

Isabelle Vanderbeck, United Nations Environment Program



“Through GEF CReW+ we are pleased to have helped the improvement of the wastewater treatment in the Caribbean Insular States of the Americas in 2023, through this alliance, we have addressed critical issues like the recycling and the management of the residues and their direct impact in the health of our ocean in the Caribbean. We salute in 2024 new actions and opportunities to keep collaborating with members of this initiative in Latin America. ”

Andres Sanchez, Organization of American States

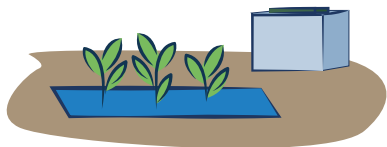


2 OAS will Extend its activities as GEF CReW+ Executing Agency

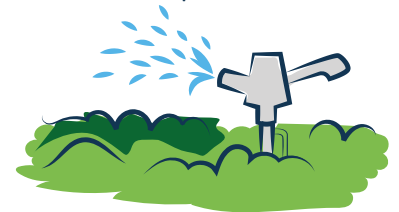
Upon the successful completion of activities in Barbados, the Organization of American States will continue as executing agency supporting Trinidad & Tobago, Mexico and Colombia through component III in 2024.



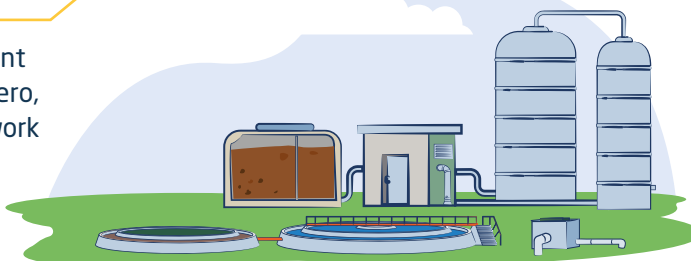
In Mexico ecotechnologies will be built in four Mayan communities. These will foster the outreach and impact of the activities in Quintana Roo and will aid in reaching vulnerable communities that did not have access to wastewater solutions in the past.



In Trinidad & Tobago a reuse pilot project in the campus of the University of West Indies will be developed using treated wastewater from the Trincity Wastewater Treatment Plant to water the crops.



In Colombia a wastewater treatment plant will be developed in San Antero, a region where previous pioneer work was carried out to understand the landscape to pilot water reuse through a tariff reform.



3 Behavior-Centered Design for Wastewater Management Workshop

Participants from eight GEF CReW+ countries learned about evidence-based behavioral and social science approaches in developing behavior change solutions for wastewater management and wastewater ocean pollution in a workshop led by RARE and The Nature Conservancy in Jamaica from July 10th-14th.

Through the workshop participants learned how to identify target behaviors and audiences, explain key concepts of behavior-centered design and the six behavior levers, apply behavioral insights and principles to inform designing and testing solutions.

The workshop also addressed using research data to create a prototype of a solution that can engage different communities, know next steps for testing, launching, and assessing a behavioral solution and explain how diversity, equity, and inclusion are important for each step of the behavior-centered design approach.

Upon completion of the training, participants were eligible to apply for mini grants to design and implement their behavior change solutions to address wastewater pollution issues and improve effective management of marine areas.



4

CRew+ Champions Campaign

Miguel Mountoute

 RESOURCE SPECIALIST WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AGENCY (WRMA)



"I am extremely excited to see implementation progress on the ground. Looking towards the future, the key is to draw from the lessons learnt and use that knowledge for project replication across other communities."

[read more](#)

Victor Pineda

 CHIEF OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND FOOD MICROBIOLOGY LAB. CENTER FOR CONTAMINANT STUDY AND CONTROL



"Some of the actions of the GEF CRew+ project in Honduras is support through wastewater treatment systems in cities that lacked them, such as Omoa and La Mosquitia, supporting communities to make treatment systems sustainable, as well as measures to proper management of solid waste"

[read more](#)

Grisel Medina


 PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION WITH FOREIGN CREDIT SUBMANAGER NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION



"Seeing in this area, full of culture and life, the faces of the girls and boys who safely receive the WASH service is a great satisfaction and a great privilege. I continually ask myself how to preserve the essence of these lands without contaminating them and, quite the opposite: honoring them."

[read more](#)

Jorge Jaén

 ENGINEER, DIRECTION OF COSTAL AREAS AND SEAS MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT



"The GEF CRew+ project in Panama comes to collaborate in strengthening water management focused on the Guna Yala indigenous territory, which is a costal sector, a territory governed by the native people Guna."

[read more](#)

Mabel Seisdedo

 PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CENTRE OF CIENFUEGOS (CEAC IN SPANISH)



"In the personal aspect, assuming the coordination of this project in Cuba has been another opportunity in the long journey of my professional training and, at the same time, a challenge. I feel great satisfaction to be able to contribute from my position as a scientist to the improvement of environmental conditions in that area of my countrys."

[read more](#)

Renee Jackson

 ECONOMIST, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC UTILITIES



"GEF CRew+ is very relevant to Trinidad and Tobago's context since it aligns with Priority 1 and Priority 2 of our 2018 National Environment Policy. More importantly, it supports T&T's national thrust towards managing water and wastewater in an integrated fashion while alleviating some of the sector's short to medium term challenges."

[read more](#)



2023



Institutional, policy, legislative and regulatory reforms for Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM)



Jamaica

Analysis of the legal and economic basis for a tariff reform, infrastructure financing and respective policy recommendations.



Dominican Republic

Technical Regulations for the Control of Discharges to Surface Water, Sanitary Sewage and Coastal Waters received public endorsement and are in the publication process.



Barbados

Communications strategy for Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM).



Panamá

- Consolidated technical draft of the Marine-Coastal Water Quality Standard.
- Presentation of the Local Guidelines on Local Norms and Good Practices in Water, Sanitation and Solid Waste Management for the Isberiyala community.



Trinidad and Tobago

The "Trinidad and Tobago Standard - Wastewater Reuse - Agriculture Applications and other Requirements" was developed and approved in public consultation.



Colombia

Analysis of the legal and economic basis for tariff reform and infrastructure financing and respective policy recommendations.



Suriname

Baseline concerning public policies, regulatory gaps, and planning processes in sanitation.



Sustainable and tailor-made financing options for urban, peri-urban and rural I/WM



Technical-financial mechanism facilitating access to financing for water and sanitation projects.



Recommendations for a municipal water and sanitation strategy.



Plan to address sustainable economic activities, sanitation, and health risks related to water resource management and sanitation management in Nickerie.

Costa Rica

Dominican Republic

Proposal for a tariff structure and an implementation plan.



Honduras

Panamá

Proposal for the development of a local financial governance mechanism for Isberyala/Sugdub.



Suriname



Innovative small-scale, local, rural, peri-urban and community-based solutions for I/WM



Honduras

Recommendations for a municipal water and sanitation strategy.



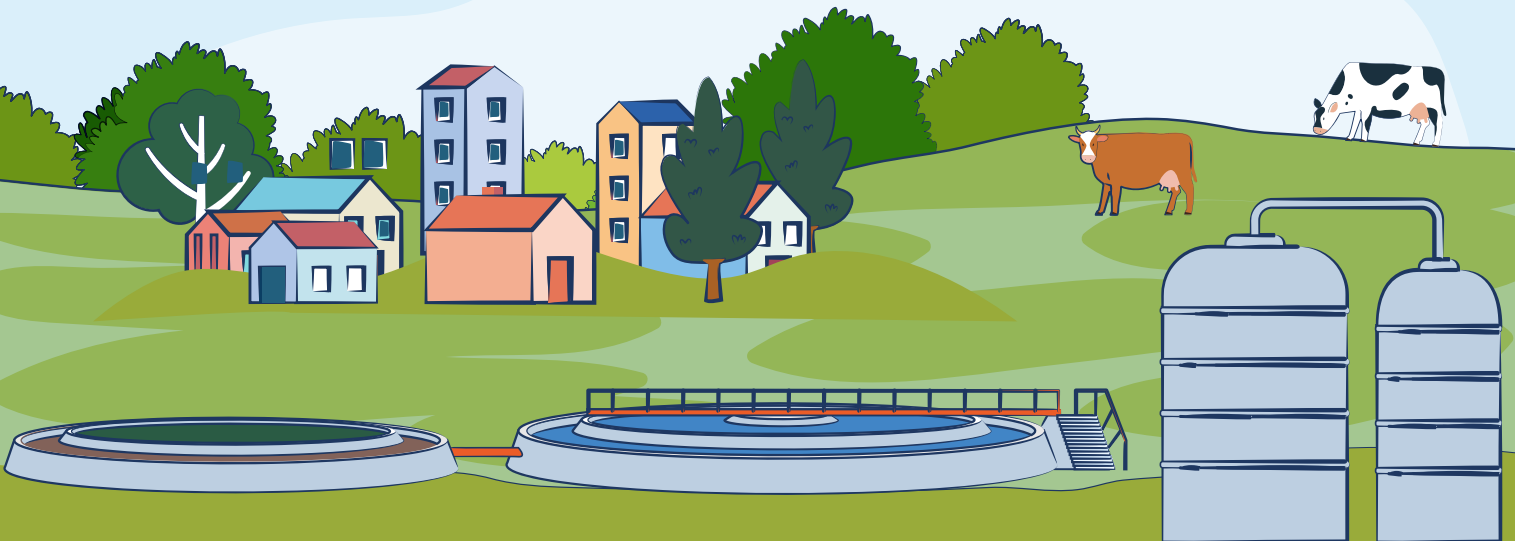
Trinidad & Tobago

Design and implementation of integrated and innovative water and wastewater solutions in Charlotteville.



Jamaica

Integrated Management and Wastewater Reuse Project in St. Catherine.





IWWM Capacity Building



13 participants

joined a peer-to-peer exchange session between the Dominican Republic and Honduras on the fundamentals of water and sanitation project formulation and linkage to funding sources.

34

participants

joined a training on improving financing for water and sanitation projects.

8

project representatives

from the Caribbean joined the capacity building in behavioral change for water and sanitation in partnership with RARE and the Nature Conservancy.

86

wastewater operators

received a capacity building for Improved Performance of Caribbean Utilities in partnership with CAWASA.

A module for strengthening capacities and competencies of the officials of the institutions linked to the water sector at the sanitation took place in Suriname.



Knowledge Sharing

GEF CREW+ Website launched in February.



<https://www.gefcrew.org/>

The third Project Steering Committee Meeting was held in June.



Campaign to raise awareness about the Wider Caribbean Region and its connections to IWWM.




Launch of the GEF CREW+ Champions Campaign.



A series of testimonial videos from focal points were developed and launched.



Advocacy

Panama represented GEF CReW+ at **Our Ocean Conference 2023**.



Trinidad & Tobago represented GEF CReW+ at the **Caribbean Science Symposium on Water 2023**.



ZZZ



Information Management

➔ Ongoing development of National Water Information Management Systems in five countries.



Implementing integrated water and wastewater solutions for a clean and healthy Caribbean Sea

Financed by



Co-implemented by



Co-executed by

