Partnersing to meet the challenges of IWCAM

The highly interlinked nature of watersheds, coastal areas, and the marine environment underscores the need to address these in an integrated manner. These are complex issues which are best tackled collectively. Partnerships, coming together to synthesise and collaborate, enjoy a wider perspective and provide a larger set of tools with which to work.

Partnerships form the basis of the IWCAM approach. Both formally and informally, IWCAM seeks to facilitate the creation of partnerships for the integrated management of watersheds and coastal areas. IWCAM actively encourages groups to examine their own goals and seek out partners with complementary perspectives and approaches. This often leads to more efficient use of available resources and a stronger, more sustainable approach.

The GEF-IWCAM Project, working with partners at the local, national, regional and international levels, hopes to provide tangible support for integrated watershed and coastal areas management.

Partnerships were also formed with and among donor agencies to ensure the most efficient and effective use of available resources. Resources provided included funding, equipment, access to technical expertise and training.

Partnerships in the GEF-IWCAM Project:

**Internal:**
The project used both formal and informal approaches to catalysing partnerships between itself and the nine demonstration projects in the 13 participating countries. It promoted the sharing of lessons learnt and networking between demonstration projects as a means to achieve better integrated watershed and coastal areas management through a Project Orientation held in May 2007, sharing contact information, and encouraging informal communication among the projects and supporting secondments and exchanges.

**Regional Partnerships:**

*The Informal IWRM Working Group:*
Following a Partnership Forum in December 2006 and an IWRM Strategic Planning Workshop in December 2006 which brought together regional agencies, organisations, and projects to better synchronise work-plans, create synergies and reduce duplication, the Informal IWRM Working Group (IWG) was formed. Members include Caribbean Governments and non-governmental organisations, international organisations, donor agencies, research institutions, private businesses, and individuals supportive of the approach. As indicated in its name, the IWG is informal in its approach,
with open membership. Through both e-mail and face-to-face meetings, the IWG is actively promoting collaboration on activities promoting the IWCAM Approach, such as integrated water resource management planning and training in areas such as groundwater management.

**International Partnerships:**

**GEF-IWCAM Demonstration Project in Trinidad and Tobago:**
The Buccoo Reef Trust (BRT) partnered with Coral Cay Conservation (CCC), a United Kingdom-based nongovernmental organisation experienced in mapping and monitoring coral reefs. The BRT with help from the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) and the Global Environment Facility invited CCC to participate in the Tobago Coastal Ecosystems Mapping Project (TCEMP). Over two years, a detailed database of all of the coastal areas surrounding Tobago down to a depth of 30 metres was developed. This information was important for the formulation of recommendations for the management of Tobago’s coral reefs. This partnership also featured a substantial education and capacity-building programme, including 48 scholarships to local volunteers for free training in scuba diving, marine taxonomy and survey techniques.

**Private Sector Partnerships:**

**The GEF-IWCAM Demonstration Project in the Dominican Republic:**
In the heavily industrialised Lower Haina River Basin, the Haina Association of Industries and Businesses, along with several other partners from both public and private sectors, worked towards reduction of pollution emitted by the industrial sector, improvements in water quality within the basin, and the creation of a sustainable management programme.

This partnership included participation (by 110 of the 126 industries approached) in a survey of industries solid and liquid waste disposal practices and atmospheric emissions. Following the results of this survey and the collection of baseline water quality data, several pilot cleaner production mechanisms were introduced by area industries.

This partnership had many positive impacts, notably attitude change amongst industries related to management of industrial discharge, improvement in the management of solid waste, and improved communication between the industrial sector and the Ministry of Environment.