



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

#CaringForOurFuture



COVID-19 RESPONSE

UNEP-GEF IWEco Project Survey on the impacts of COVID-19 on Project Execution

A survey of the impact of COVID-19 on IWEco national and regional partners' capacity to execute ongoing projects and project components.

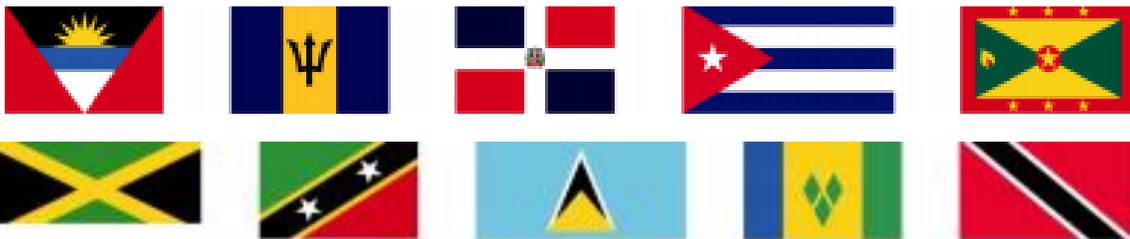


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Survey Context

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. This will be done through the application of existing proven technologies and approaches best suited for small island developing states.

The IWEco Project consists of four (4) interlinked substantive components as shown in Table 1. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic poses a challenge to the successful implementation and fulfilment of the components and outcomes listed in the following table. In response to this, the IWEco Regional Project Coordination Unit (PCU) conducted a survey to better understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on national and regional project partners and to support the efforts of IWEco project partners to respond to current constraints.

Table 1. IWEco Project Components and Outcomes, with corresponding number of outputs

Component	Outcome	# of Outputs
I. Develop and foster implementation of targeted, innovative, climate-change resilient approaches. (This consists of 8 national sub-projects).	Outcome 1.1: Verifiable, evidence-based stress reduction at project sites through appropriate sustainable water, land and ecosystems management interventions that account for climate change Outcome 1.2: Enhanced livelihood opportunities and socio-economic co-benefits for targeted communities from improved ecosystem services functioning.	8
II. Strengthen water, land and ecosystems resources monitoring, and indicators frameworks	Outcome 2.1: Strengthened national systems for monitoring of environmental status with respect to key international agreements	4
III. Strengthen policy, legislative and institutional reforms and capacity building	Outcome 3.1: Strengthened policy and legislation for the effective management of water, land and ecosystems resources that account for climate change. Outcome 3.2: Strengthened capacity of national and regional institutions and other stakeholders for water, land,	4

	and ecosystems management that accounts for climate change.	
IV. Enhance knowledge exchange	Outcome 4.1: Improved engagement and information access for practitioners and other stakeholders through targeted knowledge sharing networks.	8

Survey Methodology and Summary

Methodology & Survey Questions

It is imperative, for project success, to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the IWEco national and regional partner’s capacity to execute ongoing and future project activities. In order to inform this inquiry a survey was created and distributed electronically to project personnel in Cuba, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, CEP, CARPHA, and OECS. The survey comprised the following five (5) questions:

1. Has/Will the execution of this subcomponent be impacted by COVID-19?
2. If yes:
 - a. list the activities that have/will be impacted by COVID-19;
 - b. the original completion date of the activity;
 - c. and the new completion date due to impacts of COVID-19.
3. Outline any mitigation measures, plans or strategies developed to address COVID-19 related impacts on project execution.
4. Outline any requirements for support needed to execute your project’s COVID-19 mitigation strategy.
5. Provide an estimate of additional costs to the project due to impacts of COVID-19.

National Project Survey Summary

- Project execution has been impacted across all projects. Most of the activities/sub-components implemented by the national projects have been affected by COVID-19, most commonly resulting in delays in project implementation. Majority of impacts come from government measures enacted to reduce the spread of COVID-19 (travel restrictions, curfew hours, reduced gathering sizes).
- The national projects that were most affected by COVID-19 as indicated in the surveys are Jamaica and Saint Lucia with all (100%) sub-components impacted. Following these projects are St. Kitts and Nevis (78.3% impacted) and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (90% impacted). Trinidad and Tobago (50% impacted), Cuba (not indicated).
- Activities impacted across all national projects include procuring international consultants, conducting field assessments, data compilation, specialized work, accessing project sites, conducting stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and training/education components.

- The greatest need for additional support for project execution comes from the stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and training/education components. The overall demand for additional support is not high and comes mostly from a need for assistance with communication material and development of virtual training tools.
- Majority of additional costs required to complete the projects emerge from salary extensions of national project staff.

Impacted Outcomes

Outcome 1.1: Verifiable, evidence-based stress reduction at project sites through appropriate sustainable water, land and ecosystems management interventions that account for climate change

- Delayed due to travel restrictions creating difficulties for specialized consultant acquisition.
- Site visits impacted due to government-imposed restrictions on gathering size to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Outcome 1.2: Enhanced livelihood opportunities and socio-economic co-benefits for targeted communities from improved ecosystem services functioning.

- Delayed due to limitations on gatherings and access to technology for the target audience.

Outcome 2.1: Strengthened national systems for monitoring of environmental status with respect to key international agreements

- Delayed due to travel restrictions creating difficulties for specialized consultant acquisition.
- Site visits impacted due to government-imposed restrictions on gathering size to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Outcome 3.1: Strengthened policy and legislation for the effective management of water, land and ecosystems resources that account for climate change.

- Least directly impacted; however, indirect impacts remain, given potential shift of national project governments' focus on responding and adapting to COVID-19.

Outcome 3.2: Strengthened capacity of national and regional institutions and other stakeholders for water, land, and ecosystems management that accounts for climate change.

- Delayed due to limitations on gatherings and access to technology for the target audience.

Outcome 4.1: Improved engagement and information access for practitioners and other stakeholders through targeted knowledge-sharing networks.

- **Requires most additional support, affects all national projects.**

- Many national project partners suggested shifting engagement to virtual mechanisms and small focus group sessions (for stakeholder engagement & capacity building) (Jamaica). As well as increased use of social media platforms to inform of activities and to interact with partners and supporters (Saint Lucia). For example, the creation of a YouTube channel to create training manuals for the sustainable livelihood activities and as a digital project diary (Saint Lucia). Continued dialogue with stakeholders through virtual webinars (Trinidad and Tobago).

Impact on National Project Capacity to Execute

General impact of COVID-19 on project execution

Project execution has been impacted across all projects. Majority of the activities/sub-components being implemented by the national projects have been affected by COVID-19, most commonly resulting in delays in project implementation.

The national projects most affected by COVID-19 as indicated in the surveys are Jamaica and Saint Lucia with all (100%) sub-components impacted. Following these projects are St. Kitts and Nevis (78.3% impacted) and St. Vincent (90% impacted). Trinidad and Tobago (50% impacted), Cuba (not indicated).

Sub-components/activities impacted

Majority of sub-components/activities affected by COVID-19 are those which involve or require regional or international consultants due to travel restrictions. Given that majority of consultants' work is specialized, field assessments, baseline data compilation, surveying, and restoration activities are also impacted. Other activities/sub-components also significantly impacted include education/training, stakeholder engagement and capacity building (delayed due to limitations on gatherings and access to technology for the target audience). Finally, most activities which involve site visits have also been delayed given government-imposed restrictions on gathering size to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Examples:

- **CUBA:** Education and training actions, including the master's program have been impacted resulting in change of the thesis defence dates and incorporation of project results into the program, as well as the implementation of the Biodiversity Management diploma from the MICAC approach.
- **JAMAICA:** Baseline data compilation in Negril Great Morass – requires large teams in remote areas – impacted by restrictions on movement/curfew hours.
- **ST. KITTS AND NEVIS:** On-site grey water treatment investment - uncertain given current travel restrictions and potential inability to hire suitable consultant for design of a pilot study for greywater treatment inside the College Street Ghaut.
- **ST. KITTS AND NEVIS:** Coral reef surveying was delayed, firstly due to mechanical issues and rough sea conditions, and then COVID-19 restrictions. Restoration

activity delayed due to COVID-19 related limitation of regional travel; thus, delaying training programmes.

- **SAINT LUCIA:** Activities pertaining to measurable stress reduction (SLM demonstration plots, water quality monitoring) are delayed due to team size reduction and worker rotation given COVID-19 distancing restrictions.
- **ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES:** Conducting detailed parrot census delayed as a result of disruptions in work scheduling and attracting suitable consultants due to COVID-19.
- **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO:** Conducting environmental diagnostic analysis and restoration and reforestation at selected quarry sites in project area delayed. Visits to existing or potential new sites will be impacted based on restricted access and company safety protocols.

Mitigation measures, plans and strategies developed to address COVID-19 related impacts on project execution.

National projects have listed several common strategies in order to address the COVID-19 related impacts on project execution.

Impact: *Difficulty procuring international consultants*

Response:

- In order to address the challenges that arise from hindered procuring of international consultants, most national projects suggested seeking out local expertise (when available) - Example: St. Kitts and Nevis activities led by local expertise, contractors and labour, have been given greater focus since they will be tangible on-the-ground interventions (the installation of gabion baskets as land degradation control measures along the College Street Ghaut). In the event that consultants cannot be hired, divert funds to sub-components that can be completed with local expertise (e.g. St. Kitts and Nevis: On-site grey water treatment investment).
- Jamaica proposed a change of the method of procurement to engage a LIDAR consultant from national competitive bidding to direct contracting.

Impact: *Difficulty conducting field assessment, data compilation, and specialized work*

Response:

- In the case that consultants are available, national project partners suggested increasing communication with consultants to ensure availability of national project team support.

Impact: *Difficulty accessing project sites*

Response:

- To navigate government restrictions, suggestions included communicating with police & other authorities to facilitate data collection and navigate government restrictions on gathering (Jamaica).

- To navigate restricted access due to company safety protocols suggestions included dissemination of official letters of invitation to participate in IWeco TT initiatives to potential quarry operators with follow up calls to highlight the benefits of participation in the rehabilitation aspects of the project. (Trinidad and Tobago)

Impact: *Difficulty conducting stakeholder engagement, capacity building, training/education components*

Response:

- Possibly one of the most impacted components affecting all national projects. Almost all national project partners suggested shifting engagement to virtual mechanisms & small focus group sessions (for stakeholder engagement & capacity building) (Jamaica). As well as increased use of social media platforms to inform of activities and to interact with partners and supporters (Saint Lucia). For example, the creation of a YouTube channel to create training manuals for the sustainable livelihood activities and as a digital project diary (Saint Lucia). Continued dialogue with stakeholders through virtual webinars (Trinidad and Tobago).
- These strategies do present certain challenges, notably that they require stakeholders to have a functional level of computer literacy, access to devices and wireless networks. It should also be noted that the conversion of in-person training material to online/digital versions may present a certain degree of difficulty.

Requirements for support

The greatest need for additional support for project execution pertains to the stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and training/education sub-components. The need communicated by most national projects related to the creation of “generic communications material that can be tailored to local situations and used to augment activities being executed and educational material being disseminated” (Jamaica), as well as assistance to progress social media and other web-based outreach activities (Saint Lucia), including the need to source promotional materials and share lessons learnt in other countries (St. Vincent and the Grenadines).

Other requests for support included: flexibility to adjust project deliverables and reallocate funds without compromising the projects objectives (Trinidad and Tobago) and assistance accessing regional parrot census database (St. Vincent and the Grenadines).

The overall demand for additional support is not high and entails requests for assistance with communication material and development of virtual training tools.

Estimated additional costs to national projects

Cuba: Not indicated

Jamaica: Costs are related to salaries for project manager, project officer, project accountant (~US\$70,000); project executing activities (~US\$6,000.00)

St. Kitts and Nevis: The main financial impact will be related to the timeline extension of the project coordinator (3 months X 3000 USD / month). As the work plan for 2021 is being formulated, focus has shifted to rely on local expertise where at all possible and to invest in project activities that are already ongoing and showing positive impacts on the ground.

Saint Lucia: No additional cost considerations associated with COVID-19.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines: “As we have not fully started, it is difficult to estimate. However, the livelihood component will require additional funds estimate \$40,000.” (currency not specified)

Trinidad and Tobago: “Delays in deliverables are estimated to be 3-6 months due to COVID-19 and other factors. It is not expected that the budget would go into cost overruns. What is required is flexibility to adjust deliverables and re-distribute funds to feasible activities without compromising overall project objectives.”

Survey Data Visualizations: Impacts of COVID-19 on Execution of National Project Activities

As indicated, a short survey was administered to UNEP-GEF IWEco national projects comprising of five (5) questions intended to deepen the PCU’s understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the execution of individual subcomponents in each national project. Participants were asked to indicate subcomponents that were impacted, and to elaborate on how the impacts, and finally to outline possible repercussions. Participants were asked to highlight the measures or strategies that would be implemented to address any impacts, indicate requirements for support, and to provide an estimate of the additional costs to the project due to the aforementioned impacts. Surveys were disseminated to and responses received from a total of five (5) national projects including Cuba, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

Section 1: Impact of COVID-19 on subcomponent execution

A majority (82.5%) of national project subcomponents have been directly and negatively impacted by COVID-19. The remaining subcomponents (17.5%) have either been indirectly impacted or not impacted at all.

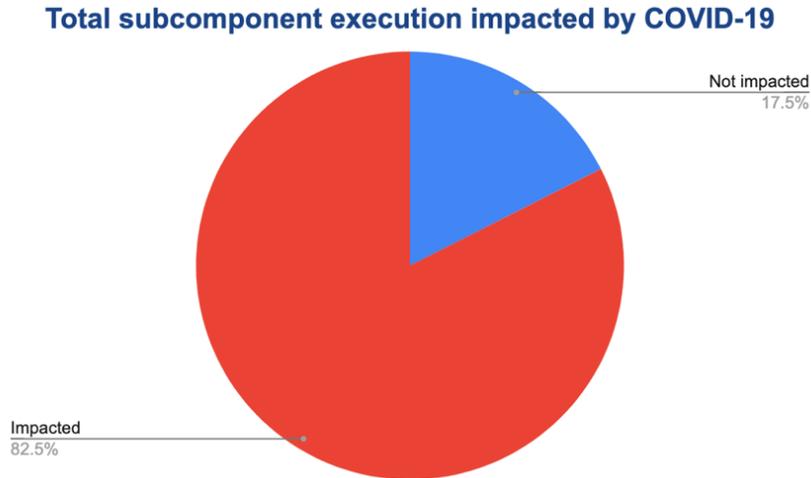


Fig 1. Graph showing percentage of subcomponents that have been impacted by COVID-19 as indicated by survey participants

Section 2: Percentage of subcomponents requiring additional support

A majority (57.9%) of national project subcomponents do not require additional support in order to respond to the impacts of COVID-19. The remaining subcomponents (42.1%) do require additional support.

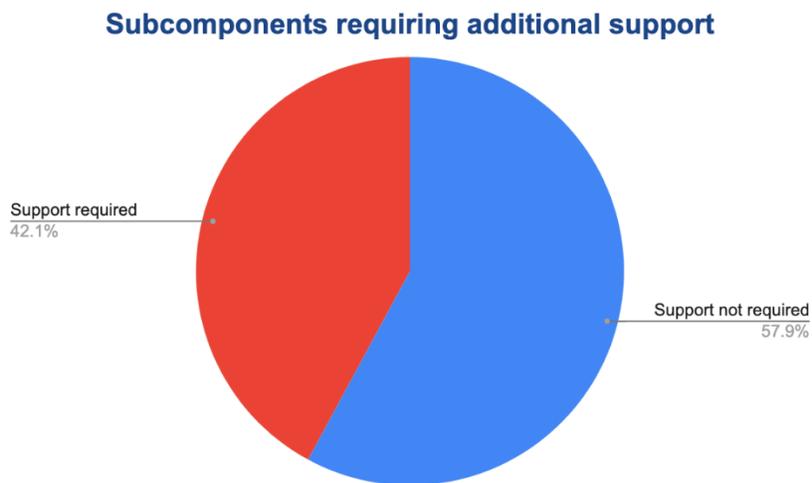


Fig 2. Graph showing percentage of subcomponents requiring additional support in response to the impact of COVID-19 on national project capacity to execute.

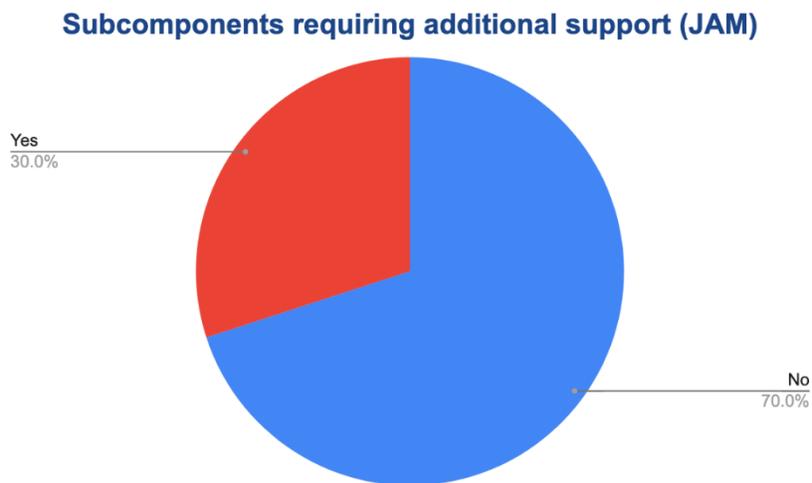


Fig 3. Graph showing percentage of Jamaica's national project subcomponents requiring additional support in response to the impact of COVID-19 on national project capacity to execute.

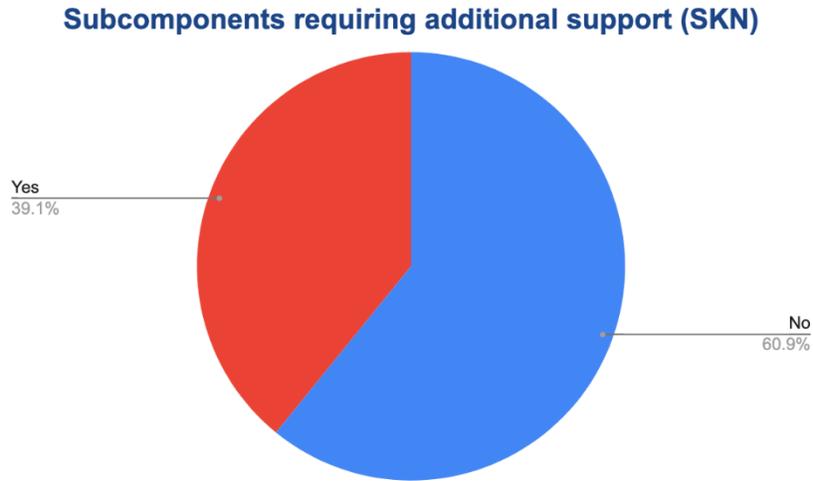


Fig 4. Graph showing percentage of St. Kitts and Nevis' national project subcomponents requiring additional support in response to the impact of COVID-19 on national project capacity to execute.

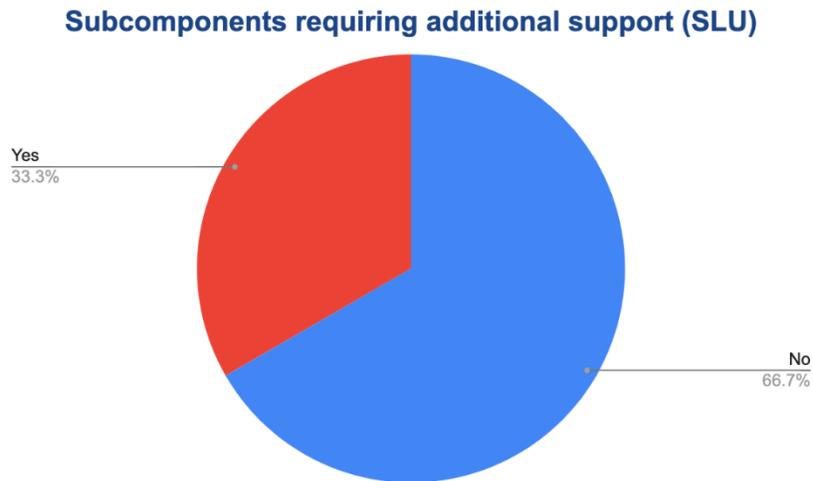


Fig 5. Graph showing percentage of Saint Lucia's national project subcomponents requiring additional support in response to the impact of COVID-19 on national project capacity to execute.

Subcomponents requiring additional support (TT)

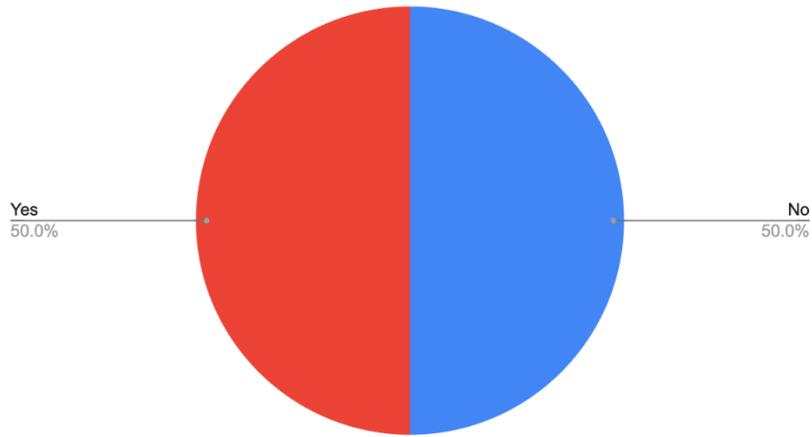


Fig 6. Graph showing percentage of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' national project subcomponents requiring additional support in response to the impact of COVID-19 on national project capacity to execute.

Subcomponents requiring additional support (SVG)

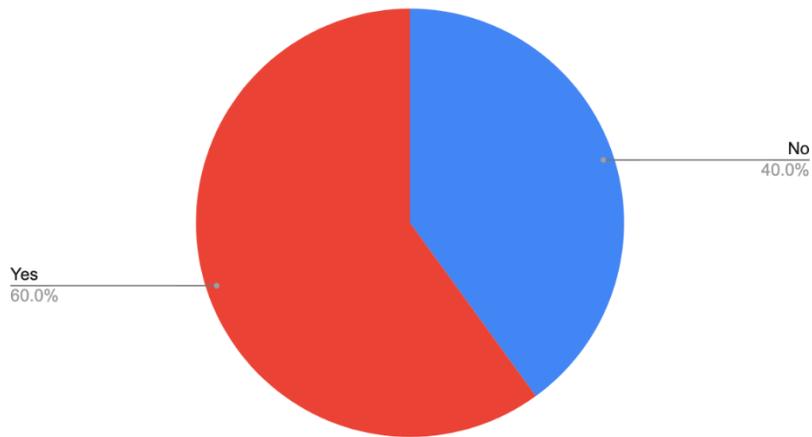


Fig 7. Graph showing percentage of Trinidad and Tobago's national project subcomponents requiring additional support in response to the impact of COVID-19 on national project capacity to execute.

Impact on the Execution of Regional Activities

Surveys on the impacts of COVID-19 on the execution of regional activities were directed to The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and the Caribbean Environment Programme's Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit/Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention CAR/RCU.

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) is a co-executing partner of the IWEco Project and is responsible for executing several activities related to Component 2:

- Strengthening of the Sustainable Land Management (SLM), Integrating Water Resources Management (IWRM) (and Water Use Efficiency (WUE) and ecosystems Monitoring, and Indicators framework.

The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is responsible for executing the activities under Component 3:

- Regional Sub-project 3: Strengthening of the Policy, legislative and institutional reforms and capacity building for SLM, IWRM/WUE and ecosystem services management

The Caribbean Environment Programme Regional Coordinating Unit/ Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention (CAR/RCU) is the lead Executing Agency and is responsible for providing support to the executing agencies.

General impact of COVID-19 on CARPHA subcomponent execution

The activities to be executed by CARPHA include:

- Activity 2.1.1.1: Conduct needs assessments at country level
- Activity 2.1.2.1: Develop research protocols
- Activity 2.1.2.2: Conduct applied research in-country (augment national research)
- Activity 2.1.2.3: Publish technical and scientific papers
- Activity 2.1.3.1: Conduct country needs diagnostic assessments
- Activity 2.1.3.2: Procure laboratory diagnostic equipment, tools and supplies (on demand basis)
- Activity 2.1.3.3: Procure tools and supplies for schools, communities (on demand basis)
- Activity 2.1.3.4: Development of training modules and conducting associated training

None of these activities were directly impacted by COVID-19. The majority of Component 2 subcomponents were designated as “desk work” which did not require travel; thus, no travel related restrictions were expected for the executing consultant. However, working arrangements in-country (Saint Lucia) could lead to delays if technical staff were faced with restricted working arrangements or are redeployed to provide COVID-19 related support - this is not evident so far.

Regarding the development of research protocols, the countries are still in the process of determining the kind of support they require from CARPHA, and how best to synergize CARPHA'S support with complementary national level activities. For specific hands-on support, CARPHA plans to use a combination of procuring local expertise and where necessary, utilize virtual platforms for wider knowledge transfer.

No additional support was requested from the PCU.

General impact of COVID-19 on OECS subcomponent execution

Under Component 3, the OECS is responsible for executing two activities.

Activity (3.1.1.1) involves a regional-level review of status of policy and legislative implementation in countries and support the review and upgrade of regional and national strategic and action plan. The completion of this activity was originally scheduled for 31 August 2020 but has been delayed until 15 May 2021 due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions. In response to this, the OECS proposes to conduct all interviews and other stakeholder engagements, including the regional and national workshops, online. These expectations were included in the activity proposal and associated costs were submitted by the consultants who were recruited to undertake this activity.

Activity (3.1.2.1) involves the support and upgrade/strengthening and implementation of new and existing legislative instruments and/or frameworks and/or development of new legislative instruments. The original completion date for this activity was 30 June 2021 but has been delayed. The completion of this activity is dependent on the regional-level review to be conducted during Activity 3.1.1.1. The delay in completion of the first activity consequently results in a delay of the second. Given the dependency on the outputs from Activity 3.1.1.1, a new completion date is yet to be determined.

With regards to Activity 3.1.2.1 the OECS requested that a few bi-monthly PCU regional webinar sessions be utilized as a forum to verify and discuss interim outputs.

General impact of COVID-19 on CAR/RCU subcomponent execution

The following activities are to be executed by CAR/RCU:

- Activity 2.1.1.2: Convene regional workshop to review indicators frameworks
- Activity 2.1.1.3: Develop indicators compendium, publish, and disseminate
- Activity 2.1.4.1: Conduct country needs assessment for decision support tools and systems
- Activity 2.1.4.2: Procure hardware and software decision support tools and systems (on demand basis)
- Activity 2.1.4.3: Develop training modules and conduct associated training

The majority of the activities to be executed by CAR/RCU have not been directly impacted by COVID-19 as some of the activities to be implemented by CAR/RCU have been

completed (specifically Activity 2.1.1.2 and Activity 2.1.1.3) and outstanding activities are reliant on CARPHA and OECS for completion (specifically Activity 2.1.4.1).

Activity 2.1.4.3, however, has been impacted. While it has not been delayed it is important that the approach utilized to conduct this activity be tailored to current COVID-19 realities. Depending on travel limitations and constraints of face-to-face meetings, virtual trainings will need to be considered. This requires consideration of the cost of training platforms, translation, interpretation, facilitation, preparation and delivery of training materials.

Overall Takeaways

COVID-19 has significantly impacted project implementation. All national project personnel surveyed mentioned that their respective national projects have experienced delays and setbacks due to the onset of COVID-19. All national project coordinators specifically mentioned impacts in subcomponents that involve international consultant procurement, field assessments, data compilation, specialized work, project site access, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and training/education. The greatest need for additional support for project execution relates to **stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and training/education components**. However, overall demand for additional support is not high and most needs involve requests for assistance with communication material and the development of virtual training tools.

While additional support requests from the PCU is not high, there are additional costs for the Executing Agencies. The majority of additional costs required to complete the projects come from salary extensions of national project staff. During the current COVID-19 period, field activities have slowed tremendously while management and supervision costs continue to be paid (salaries for National Coordinators, UNEP staff, etc.). This involves additional charges to the project management and administration budget lines, whilst budget lines that relate to field activities will be underspent. While staffing costs will increase, these costs may be partially offset by savings from reduced travel and face to face meetings.

Sources

https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32218/UNEP_COVID.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Appendix A: National Project Survey Data Responses

Questions

- 1) Has/Will the execution of this subcomponent be impacted by COVID-19?
 - 2) If yes,
 - a) list the activities that have/will be impacted by COVID-19;
 - b) the original completion date of the activity;
 - c) and the new completion date due to impacts of COVID-19.
 - 3) Outline any mitigation measures, plans or strategies developed to address COVID-19 related impacts on project execution.
 - 4) Outline any requirements for support needed to execute your project's COVID-19 mitigation strategy.
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Jamaica

Sub-component 1.1: Planning Hydrological Restoration of the Negril EPA

1. Yes
2. Engagement of consultant to undertake the LiDAR assessment which feeds into the Hydrological Assessment Based on the contract signed for the hydrological consultancy, the contract is scheduled to end June 2021. The hope is to engage the LIDAR consultant by November, this will result in an extension of the Hydrological Assessment contract to October 2021. The application of the solution proposed by the hydrologist will now be completed Dec 2022.
3. A change of the method of procurement to engage a LIDAR consultant from national competitive bidding to direct contracting. The TOR to engage the consultant to apply the solutions will be drafted prior to the end of the hydrological consultancy.
4. No requirements for support

Sub-component 1.2: Land use and management plan for the Negril EPA

1. Yes
2. Activity 1.2.1 - The field assessments needed to inform the Wetlands Management Plan may take longer than anticipated due to the restrictions on movement/curfew hours. This consultancy was originally scheduled for completion July 2021 and may be changed to October 2021.
3. The strategy is to ensure that the consultant submits in advance the proposed field dates to ensure that the NEPA support team is available to assist with the execution on the consultancy as needed.
4. Not at this time

Sub-component 1.3: Baseline data compilation (including identification of priority problem

1. Yes

2. Activities 1.3.1, 1.3.4, 1.3.5, 1.3.6 In field assessments with large teams in remote areas; engagement of wide cross-section of stakeholders Based on other exigencies related to COVID-19, the project has had to modify the scheduling of the activities to be able to effectively fund the activities. New Completion date for 1.3.1 - March 2021; Activity 1.3.4 -Dec 2021. it should be noted that the timeline for all activities will not be affected.
3. Information on activities to be conducted disseminated to the Municipal Corporations and Planning Authority; police to be alerted of the presence of the team in the area prior to commencement of surveys. Based on other exigencies related to COVID-19, the project has had to modify the scheduling of the activities to be able to effectively fund the activities.
4. Not at this time

Sub-component 2.1: Pollution control and development of a monitoring protocol and system..

1. Yes
2. Activity 2.1.6 and Activity 2.1.7 While the end date will not be affected, the mode of execution will have to be modified
3. Higher reliance on engagement via virtual mechanism. Consultants will be tasked with being innovative in light of the new now when executing the activities which require stakeholder engagement and interactions. The management of risk will be closely monitored.
4. Not at this time

Sub-component 2.2: Habitat/ecosystem rehabilitation investments for species conservation

1. Yes
2. Activity 2.2.1.1 - The field assessments needed to inform the Whistling Duck Population Assessment may be take longer than anticipated due to the restrictions on movement/curfew hours. This consultancy was originally scheduled for completion July 2021 and may be changed to October 2021.
3. The strategy is to ensure that the consultant submits in advance the proposed field dates to ensure that the NEPA support team is available to assist with the execution on the consultancy as needed.
4. Not at this time

Sub-component 3.1: Local institutional and community capacity building

1. Yes
2. Activity 3.1.1 and Activity 3.1.1 All activities which entail capacity building and stakeholder engagements to effect change will be impacted by the limitations on gatherings and access to technology for the target audience. These activities are also dependent on studies being conducted under Component 1 which involves fieldwork which are also affected by strategies implemented by the government to combat the spread. Projected completion date based on dependencies is Mar 2023
3. Greater dependence on the use of virtual engagements and small focus group sessions

4. Not at this time

Sub-component 3.2: Built capacity for managing Wetland Protected Areas

1. Yes
2. Activity 3.2.1 and Activity 3.2.2 Limitations on gatherings and access to technology for the target audience Activity 3.2.2 is scheduled to commence November 2020 and end March 2021
3. There will be a heavier dependence on virtual engagement and the production of material to guide the engagement sessions in order to reach the target audience. Risk management inherent in the execution of these activities will also need to be closely monitored.
4. Not at this time

Sub-component 4.1: Knowledge building, lessons learnt and research activities

1. Yes
2. Based on limitations on gatherings the following will be affected: Execution of field activities under KAPB assessment Execution of public awareness and stakeholder engagement activities Engagement of private landowners It should be noted that the completion dates will not be affected; only the mode of execution and the level of planning required prior to execution of the individual activities.
3. COVID-19 response prepared by consultant to conduct assessments via telephone; this response was however not enacted as several restrictions on gatherings were lifted by the GOJ but will be required for the 2nd KAPB assessment Drafting of awareness material to be disseminated via social media
4. Generic Communications material that can be tailored to local situations and used to augment activities being executed and educational material being disseminated.

Sub-component 4.2: Best environmental practice investments by farmers and landowners

1. Yes
2. Group interactions/training with farmers/community members It is not anticipated that the completion date will need to be extended.
3. Interact in smaller groups, extend training schedule to run concurrent with demonstration activities
4. Not at this time

Component 5: Project Administration & Monitoring and Evaluation and Audit

1. Yes
2. Recruitment of project staff was affected Original Completion date - April 1, 2020 New Completion date - September 1, 2020
3. The Assessment and Interviews of potential candidates were conducted remotely via Zoom
4. Support as part of the interview panel for candidates

Financial Impact

1. Provide an estimate of additional costs to the project due to impacts of Covid-19:

1. For Donor Funds the costs are related to salaries for Project manager, project officer, project accountant (~US\$70,000); project executing activities (~US\$6,000.00)
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St. Kitts & Nevis

Sub-component 1.1: Land degradation control measures along the College Street Ghaut

1. Yes
2. The installation of gabion baskets should have concluded this summer but will be completed by the end of 2020.
3. Unrelated to COVID 19, we also encountered damaged weirs which we have decided to repair at additional cost. After discussion with the PSC, we decided we could divert funds from various activities in order to complete the works in the Ghaut properly. Since this is an activity being led by local expertise, contractors and labour, we have decided to give it greater focus since it will be a tangible on-the-ground intervention. Also, other activities which may require regional or international consultants are much more difficult to plan during the pandemic due to travel restrictions.
4. No additional support is required at this time

Sub-component 1.1.2: On-site grey water treatment investment...

1. Yes
2. Sub-components 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 have essentially been combined after the last meeting of PSC in November 2019 and plans to focus on a feasibility study / design of a pilot study for greywater treatment inside the College Street Ghaut. The PC produced a TOR to hire a regional consultant for the study, but it was not finalized before the advent of COVID 19. Given the current travel restrictions, there is some uncertainty to this project component, but it is hoped it can start during Q1 and be completed by Q4 in 2021.
3. In the event that a regional consultant cannot be hired, we could divert these funds back to Sub-component 1.1.1. and install additional gabion baskets in another section of the Ghaut. Also, we could explore whether a local engineer can enter into a joint venture with a regional engineer to complete the study. There has also been some discussion with our executing agency about this study being an important input into the CREW+ project for SKN A small scaled greywater treatment solution can be designed as part of the feasibility study and then constructed with funds from CREW+.
4. None at this time.

Sub-component 1.1.4: Restoration and reforestation plan within operational quarries

1. Yes
2. The IWEco SKN engaged the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society to spearhead restoration of degraded quarry lands as well as other lands downstream of operational quarries. An MOU was signed, and the first set of

- funds disbursed in March 2020. The project did not really get started until some of the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted in May / June. As such, the plan is currently being conceptualized and will be completed before the end of 2020.
3. No major mitigation measures are required at this time. However, should another lockdown become necessary this could inhibit the NHCS teams from continuing their planting and land restoration works.
 4. None at this time

Sub-component 1.1.5: Restoration and reforestation investments in non-productive quarries

1. Yes
2. Same as Sub-component 1.1.4. All of the activities under 1.1.5 are also part of the work being spearheaded by the NHCS. Work is moving along nicely once the lockdown restrictions were lifted.
3. Same as 1.1.4.
4. Same as 1.1.4.

Sub-component 1.1.6: Artificial reefs deployed at New River, Indian Castle, Dogwood, etc..

1. Yes
2. This component covers coral reef survey and restoration. We have combined 1.1.6 with 1.1.7 with focus on a coral reef survey along the eastern landscape of Nevis and then a coral reef restoration activity whether by artificial reefs or nurseries. This coral reef survey had stopped due to mechanical issues with the Department of Marine Resources boat, rough sea conditions in early 2020 and then restrictions due to COVID-19. We have tried to revive this activity and will now partner with a private dive shop and use their boat. The survey should be complete by the end of 2020. The restoration activity was to be based on several persons receiving training regionally in coral reef nurseries (we had originally been looking at a training programme in Bonaire). This may not be possible with recent travel restrictions and so we are looking to our close neighbours - the Dutch islands of Saba and Sint Eustatius which have some recent experience in nurseries and artificial reefs. Travel to these islands would be by boat. We are now exploring this option more closely and will have to consult with the local COVID-19 task force to see if travel to these islands is permissible. The restoration activities would not be complete until early 2022.
3. Noted above.
4. If travel becomes easier into 2021, perhaps the PCU can help to find partners for training in coral reef restoration in other IWEco countries?

Sub-component 1.1.7: Beach restoration investment at Indian Castle

1. Yes
2. Same as 1.1.6
3. Same as 1.1.6
4. Same as 1.1.6

Sub-component 1.2.1: Cost-benefit and feasibility study for sustainable sand extraction...

1. Yes
2. This activity is part of the SKN Minerals Sector Study (along with fifteen (15) other activities which will be noted in the survey). Although a consultant was engaged in March 2020 and the original date of completion was March 2021, an inception mission could not be affected due to travel restrictions. As such the expected completion date for this activity and related ones under this consultancy have been extended by one year to March 2022.
3. The consultants have conducted a desk review of all historical documents provided to them as well as virtual interviews of key stakeholders. We hope the team can travel to SKN early in 2021.
4. Should travel be restricted well into 2021, this will impact these activities greatly. We are unsure of what other options exist and would need PCU support to help outline a more robust mitigation strategy.

Sub-component 1.2.2: Information resources for plumbers/building contractors, etc...

1. Yes
2. Same as 1.1.2
3. Same as 1.1.2
4. Same as 1.1.2

Sub-component 1.2.3: Investment in community-based water supply and sanitation ...

1. Yes
2. Activities listed under this sub component will be spearheaded by the Caribbean Youth Environment Network SKN Chapter and will focus on community based environmental monitoring and coastal clean up. The original completion date was December 2021. COVID restrictions delayed the finalization of the MOU. However, this will be signed in September 2020 and work will commence in October 2020 and end by March 2022.
3. Some the project activities were scaled back to ensure there is enough time to complete. In addition, some of the training would likely be conducted online instead of in person. Local expertise will be utilized as much as possible.
4. None at this time.

Sub-component 2.1.1: Suite of IW and LD, and BD-related indicators of process, etc...

1. Yes
2. Activity 2.1.1.1 Baseline data collection was halted from March – May due to various restrictions due to COVID-19. Deadline for completion is extended by one year. Activities 2.1.1.2 through 5 were to be spearheaded with support from CARPHA. Discussions were delayed during COVID-19. TORs were developed and shared with CARPHA for support and additional discussion were had in late August 2020 and new TORs to be developed in September 2020. Deadline extended by one year. Activity 2.1.1.6 falls under the SKN Minerals Sector Study (see comments under Sub component 1.2.1)
3. In discussion with CARPHA, we will shift to trying to find local expertise to implement these activities with possible support from CARPHA and other regional colleagues.

4. The PCU's continued support along with CARPHA is needed to help with this component to ensure it can be completed on time and informed by the regional studies now ongoing.

Sub-component 2.1.2: A monitoring protocol for periodic assessment of indicators...

1. Yes
2. Activities 2.1.2.1 and 2 are to be spearheaded with support from CARPHA. Discussions were delayed during COVID-19. TORs were developed and shared with CARPHA for support and additional discussion were had in late August 2020 and new TORs to be developed in September 2020. Deadline remains roughly the same
3. The main mitigation measure will be to try and identify local expertise to complete this assignment and / or support a regional expert so that work would not be delayed if travel restrictions persist into 2021.
4. Blank

Sub-component 3.1.1: National reviews of water and wastewater legislation, etc...

1. No
2. These activities are indirectly impacted by COVID 19. A lot of legislative work has already been accomplished by other GEF projects implemented by the DoE SK. Some delays resulted due to elections and changes made post election to how various ministries are set up and their portfolios. A Lot of this work will be advocacy work by the Project Coordinator to support passage of the revised National Conservation and Environmental Management Act as well as support the ratification of the LBS and SPAW protocols.
3. Blank
4. Blank

Sub-component 3.1.2: New and/or revised legislations, policies, etc on water supply and...

1. Yes
2. Activities 3.1.2.1 through 5 falls under the SKN Minerals Sector Study (see comments under Sub component 1.2.1
3. Refer to comments under 1.2.1
4. Refer to comments under 1.2.1

Sub-component 3.1.3: Revised NCEMA (federal legislation) with provisions for quarrying...

1. No
2. See comments under 3.1.1
3. See comments under 3.1.1
4. See comments under 3.1.1

Sub-component 3.1.4: Watershed basin master planning framework to guide investment...

1. No
2. Blank
3. Blank
4. Blank

Sub-component 3.1.5: Watershed Management Plan for College Street Ghaut

1. No
2. Blank
3. Blank
4. Blank

Sub-component 3.2.1: Functioning National Environmental Committee/Commission

1. No
2. See comments under 3.1.1
3. See comments under 3.1.1
4. See comments under 3.1.1

Sub-component 3.2.2: Programme for cross-sectoral sensitization and awareness-raising...

1. Yes
2. Many of these activities will be spearheaded as part of work with community groups such as CYEN. COVID 19 delayed finalization of the MOU. Activities will start in October 2020 and end by March 2022.
3. Most of this work will be done by local expertise or experts within the CYEN network.
4. None at this time.

Sub-component 3.2.3: Programme for training and built capacity to support watershed management...

1. Yes
2. Activities 3.2.3.1 and 2 falls under the SKN Minerals Sector Study (see comments under Sub component 1.2.1)
3. See comments under Sub component 1.2.1
4. See comments under Sub component 1.2.1

Sub-component 3.2.4: Training manual for best quarry layout and extraction practices

1. Yes
2. Activities 3.2.4.1 and 2 falls under the SKN Minerals Sector Study (see comments under Sub component 1.2.1)
3. See comments under Sub component 1.2.1
4. See comments under Sub component 1.2.1

Sub-component 3.2.5: Training programme for quarry operators on site layout, extraction...

1. Yes
2. Activities 3.2.4.1 and 2 falls under the SKN Minerals Sector Study (see comments under Sub component 1.2.1)
3. See comments under Sub component 1.2.1
4. See comments under Sub component 1.2.1

Sub-component 3.2.6: Training programme on sand/aggregate substitution

1. Yes
2. Activities 3.2.4.1 and 2 falls under the SKN Minerals Sector Study (see comments under Sub component 1.2.1)
3. See comments under Sub component 1.2.1

4. See comments under Sub component 1.2.1

Sub-component 4.1.2: Technical exchange visits between professionals, civil society, etc..

1. Yes
2. These activities can be negatively impacted based on current travel restrictions.
3. May have to focus on online knowledge exchange such as webinars.
4. Blank

Financial Impact

1. Provide an estimate of additional costs to the project due to impacts of COVID-19.
 1. The main financial impact will be related to the timeline extension of the project coordinator (3 months X 3000 USD / month). As the work plan for 2021 is being formulated, focus has shifted to rely on local expertise where at all possible and to invest in project activities that are already ongoing and showing positive impacts on the ground.

Saint Lucia

Sub-component 1.1: Measurable stress reduction in the Soufriere watershed...

1. Yes
2. SLM demonstration plots: August 2020- April 2021

Water quality monitoring: December 2020- December 2021

Community engagement/school engagement/outreach: December 2020- December 2021

Farmer engagement: December 2020- December 2021

Procurement of physical good & supplies: December 2020- October 2021

3. There was a reduction in the team size and a rotation of workers with regards to the restoration activities (assessment, restoration, nursery) to ensure social distancing. Meetings and forums were transitioned to online/ web-based approaches. The project is trying to secure capacity to do more web-based outreach and to capitalize on the social media to inform of activities and to interact with partners and supporters.
4. Assistance will be needed to roll out the social media and other web-based outreach / social marketing activities to ensure adherence to standards and messaging

Sub-component 1.2: Enhanced livelihood opportunities and socio-economic co-benefits...

1. Yes

2. Engagement with prospective participants: December 2019-October 2020
Training and capacity building: January 2020- October 2020
Establishment of plots: February 2020-December 2020
3. Separation of the livelihood activities from a suite to stand alone activities to reduce on the size of groups so as to maintain social distancing
4. Blank

Sub-component 2.1: Strengthened national and regional systems for environmental monitoring

1. Yes
2. Development water monitoring protocol: November 2019-November 2020
Capacity building: December 2019- December 2020
Documentation/ data management: December 2020- December 2021
3. Increase the use of drones as part of the river and landscape surveys
4. Blank

Sub-component 3.2: Strengthened capacity of national, regional, and other institutions...

1. No
2. Blank
3. Blank
4. Blank

Sub-component 4.1: Improved engagement and information access for stakeholders...

1. Yes
2. Farmer engagement: October 2020-October 2021

Community outreach: October 2020-October 2021
School based activities: October 2020-October 2021
3. To increase online presence of the project; greater use of social media to document and disseminate information, creation of a YouTube channel to create training manuals for the sustainable livelihood activities and as a digital project diary.
4. Assistance in the creation of these accounts so as to adhere to UNEP standard operating procedures and quality control

Output 6: Project Management

1. Yes
2. Engagement with implementing partners: December 2020- December 2021
Outreach and social marketing: December 2020-December 2021
3. Blank
4. Blank

Financial Impact

1. Provide an estimate of additional costs to the project due to impacts of COVID-19.
 1. At the moment we estimate that there will be no additional cost considerations associated with COVID-19

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Sub-component 1.1: Access restored to upper watershed to maintain critical forest...

1. Yes
2. The hiring of the coordinator Site visits
3. Use of photos to give contactors site specific information
4. Transfer of lessons learnt

Sub-component 1.1: Reforested and stabilized lands in Perseverance...

1. Yes
2. Disruption in forestry department work plan therefore affecting site scoping scheduling
3. Assignment of a new timeline to achieve activity
4. Used past activity experience therefore need to access previous or similar activity reports

Sub-component 1.1: Detailed parrot census conducted...

1. Yes
2. Disruption in work scheduling and attracting suitable consultants. Also support from regional counterparts in executing census
3. Use local experts
4. Regional census database

Sub-component 1.2: Investment in the Jennings Bird Watching Forest Trail

1. Yes
2. Delayed outreach and community group mobilization
3. Use virtual meeting platform
4. Lessons learnt in other countries must be documented and shared

Sub-component 1.2: Integrated/sustainable waste management for pig production...

1. Yes
2. Farmers meetings/On site visits
3. None
4. None

Sub-component 2.1: Adoption into national accounts of IW and LD, and BD-related indicators

1. No
2. Blank
3. Blank
4. Blank

Sub-component 3.1: New and/or revised policies and regulations on water supply ...

1. Yes
2. Stakeholder consultations/Sourcing a wide field of consultants
3. None
4. Access to regional institutions policies and legislation

Sub-component 3.1: Strengthened inter-sectoral National Environmental Advisory Board...

1. Yes
2. Delay in coordinator employment
3. Effective online meetings
4. Blank

Sub-component 3.2: Programmes for capacity building to support focal point implementation

1. Yes
2. Mobilising suitable research staff
3. None
4. None

Sub-component 3.2: Programmes for focal point awareness raising

1. Yes
2. Public interaction
3. Look at having virtual meetings to increase interaction
4. Sourcing promotional materials

Financial Impact

1. Provide an estimate of additional costs to the project due to impacts of COVID-19.
 1. As we have not fully started, it is difficult to estimate. However, the livelihood component will require additional funds estimate \$40,000.00

Trinidad and Tobago

Sub-component 1.1: A (rapid) environmental diagnostic analysis for selected sites...

1. Yes
2. Visits to existing/new potential sites will be impacted based on restricted access and company safety protocols.
3. Official letters of invitation to participate in IWEco TT initiatives sent to potential quarry operators with follow up calls and negotiations on the benefits of participating in the rehabilitation aspects of the project
4. Flexibility to adjust project deliverables and reallocate funds without compromising the projects objectives

Sub-component 1.1: Restoration and reforestation at selected sites in project area

1. Yes
2. 80-90% mortality of mixed forest species nursery. This process is ongoing and has an average delay of 3 months for replenishment due to 3-month national COVID-19 lockdown. No additional hectares replanted at CGL due to restricted site access, resignation of HSE Manager (project lead). Original completion date June 2020. Revised completion date June 2021 (tentative)
Lack of response from new/additional private sector quarry operators invited to participate in IWEco rehabilitation efforts

3. Negotiated with IAMovement an additional four (4) hectares at National Quarries for rehabilitation using mulch for soil regeneration. Proposal for execution being finalized, expected completion date December 2021. Discussions were held with CGL to ensure they completely committed two (2) hectares under MOA. Revised timeline tentatively set for June 2021.
4. Flexibility to adjust project deliverables and reallocate funds to achieve feasible outputs without compromising project objectives.

Sub-component 1.2: Opportunities for economic livelihoods analysis and related enterprises

1. No
2. Champs were unable to work for approximately twelve (12) weeks due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, plans were put in place to ensure that their livelihoods did not suffer.
3. Once restricted site access was lifted Champs were encouraged to plant food crops for resale while the mixed forest nursery was replenished. Pak choi, bodi and lettuce were planted with approximately 100 USD sales to staff at National Quarries and general public in the surrounding community. The Champs personally negotiated with the National Quarries cafeteria to provide produce for their meals. Some produce was purchased but the supply relationship has to be formalized. Personal vehicles of the NGO team are being used to shuttle reduced numbers of Champs to site since National Quarries is no longer able to provide transport support due to safety concerns. An additional field day was added due to restricted hours of access to ensure that Champs achieve field activities of maintenance.
4. The Champs may require some business skills to manage their enterprise. Community Development was contacted but are unable to conduct any type of training at this time. The project team is supporting the efforts of the Champs with pricing and marketing of their produce in the interim

Sub-component 2.1: Monitoring protocol for periodic assessment of identified indicators...

1. No
2. IAMovement has submitted a proposal for monitoring and evaluation activities for project interventions in partnership with UWI. Expected completion date is December 2021 Field visits for data collection have to be scheduled with strict safety protocols in place. COVID-19 did not significantly impact timelines as these visits were periodic.
3. Blanks
4. Close coordination with field team and data collectors to ensure all safety protocols are observed

Sub-component 3.1: Enforcement of legal requirements of the Environmental Management Act.

1. No
2. This is an ongoing process undertaken by the executing agency.

3. Continued dialogue with stakeholders through virtual webinars conducted by the Permit and Monitoring Unit
4. Blank

Sub-component 3.2: Training programme and resources, and built capacity among stakeholders

1. Yes
2. In person training and capacity building workshops- Ongoing, all were to be completed by the original project end date of December 2021. If the project end date is extended, then the new end date to be used.
3. Since in-person training is suspended, virtual training opportunities are being explored. One awareness webinar conducted for sector stakeholders with additional to be scheduled. However, the challenge remains about capacity building for Champs who may not be fully computer literate or have access to devices
4. Online training opportunities and ability to convert in-person training material to online versions which may be challenging or not easily achievable

Sub-component 4.1: Best practice guidelines and awareness resources for practitioners...

1. No
2. In-person stakeholder engagement workshop for best practices in quarry rehabilitation plan guidebook- April 2020. New completion date not revised because activity conducted virtually Completion of other awareness products delayed for non-COVID related reasons
3. Stakeholder engagement for finalization of rehabilitation plan guidebook conducted virtually.
4. Blank

Sub-component 4.1: Technical exchange visits between project staff, civil society, etc...

1. Yes
2. Technical exchange visits to SLU and SKN- July/Aug 2020 original. Tentatively revised to July/Aug 2021
3. The plan is to continue sharing information online with regional colleagues until exchange visits
4. Blank

Financial Impact

1. Provide an estimate of additional costs to the project due to impacts of COVID-19.
 1. Delays in deliverables are estimated to be 3-6 months due to COVID-19 and other factors. It is not expected that the budget would go into cost over-runs. What is required is flexibility to adjust deliverables and re-distribute funds to feasible activities without compromising overall project objectives.

Cuba

What is working?

- Review, adaptation and initiation of procedures for the acquisition of resources that allow the implementation of the demonstration projects in the four (4) areas involved in IWECO.
In a first stage, seven (7) projects will be implemented indistinctly aimed at the sustainable management of land, water and forests (reforestation and restoration), waste treatment and the preparation of the manual of good agricultural practices, as a result of the experiences obtained in all areas of intervention. For the second stage, four projects related to community environmental education have been developed.
- Editorial review of the environmental baseline reports for the Guanabo, Agabama and San Juan basins.
- We work on the structure of the book on emerging approaches of Component 3, for the improvement of the master's program.
- A systemic assessment of the relevant legal framework for MICAC is carried out.
- Review of the research designs for the theses of the master's program in ICZM at the University of Cienfuegos.
- Preparation of the map of plant formations of the Arimao basin, which is part of the improvement of the landscape units for the stage of characterization of the Environmental Planning.
- Adaptations and fine-tuning of the project manager.
- Progress is being made in the physical, geographical and socioeconomic characterization of the four (4) basins and the definition of the landscape units for their Environmental Management.
- Socialization and communication of the results of the technical activity in local and national media, including radio, television, digital press, website and social networks.
- Disclosure of the project's Mascot with the preparation of a children's contest in the Agabama demonstration area.
- Preparation of the photo-book that will show the biodiversity of the Agabama basin.
- The procurement registry file, the fuel control registry, the payment requests to UNDP and the completion of the main project folder are updated.

What improvements should be made to support a successful implementation from 2021 onwards?

- Define and specify in each demonstration area those actions that may be relevant in lessons learned for each component, taking into account their contribution to the conservation and use of biodiversity.

How will this unforeseen crisis affect your 2020 work plan and procurement plan?

- The affectation will fundamentally imply a postponement of the expected results, which will require readjustment of the information delivery times, as well as the logistics processes of acquisitions and obtaining resources, especially for the implementation of the demonstration projects. The highest incidence will impact on Environmental Management activities, biodiversity monitoring and education and training actions, including the master's program. All this will depend on the moment of return to normality, which has been planned in a staggered manner by stages, but which has not yet begun in Cuba.

What activities will need to be changed to 2021, how will completion timelines be affected, what budget implications will this have?

- Fundamentally, the implementation of the demonstration projects because, given the situation of the pandemic, the procurement process will require additional time.
- The thesis defense dates and incorporation of project results into the program, as well as the implementation of the Biodiversity Management diploma from the MICAC approach.

What activities should be included (or focused on) in 2021 (especially community outreach and training activities) that emerged as an import area during the COVID-19 crisis?

- The project could add training actions that include important sanitary protection measures to prevent contagious diseases, as well as training in the project intervention areas on the final destination of all COVID 2019 care materials to mitigate the impact of so many residuals, including plastic.

What additional lessons learned should be documented after the COVID-19 crisis?

- The potential of teleworking for the development of some types of activities that can keep the development of the project in action. It is important to create capacities from the beginning of the project for the communication of each of its members with each other and with the outside.
- The importance of integrated and well-coordinated work to advance the project under any circumstance, highlighting the lessons learned from the role of intersectorality in the confrontation that a pandemic requires
- Consider a pandemic among the possible risks that may affect project performance, since Other external events such as hurricanes and droughts, the embargo in the case of Cuba, etc. have been taken into account, but we had never thought that a situation of this global magnitude could occur.
- Document the life stories of those with the highest incidence and dedication in the confrontation with the pandemic.

Appendix B: Regional Project Survey Data Responses

CAR/RCU

Activity 2.1.1.2: Convene regional workshop to review indicators frameworks

1. No
2. This activity was completed almost three (3) years ago. We have suggested in our progress reports that savings could be used to support training recommended in our State of Convention Area Report on Pollution and the State of Habitat Report. Additional training needs may be identified from the indicator work being undertaken by CARPHA. The joint LBS and SPAW STACs scheduled for March 2021 could be used to facilitate any such training.
3. N/A
4. Some items that could be supported included costs of: (1) Platform for Training; (2) Facilitator; (3) Trainers; (4) Translation; (4) Interpretation; (5) Preparation of training material

Activity 2.1.1.3: Develop indicators compendium, publish, and disseminate

1. No
2. This represents the SOCAR which has been finalized and endorsed by Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention. Delays in final formatting and layout and dissemination have been less COVID-19 related but rather due to the time taken for editing and revising tables and maps. Some of the savings have been allocated to prepare additional knowledge management products, Formal Launch is expected to take place in January 2020.
3. N/A
4. N/A

Activity 2.1.4.1: Conduct country needs assessment for decision support tools and systems

1. No
2. This activity has not really been impacted by COVID-19 but rather that there are other assessments already being undertaken to inform this process. These include the assessments by the OECS and the lab assessments by CARPHA. In addition, the work on indicators and the ongoing work by the national projects would better inform the nature of decision support systems needed. It is suggested that this work should start in the second quarter of 2021.
3. N/A
4. N/A

Activity 2.1.4.2: Procure hardware and software decision support tools and systems (on demand basis)

1. No
2. It has been recommended that this is not an appropriate activity to be undertaken by the Secretariat given its procurement nature and should be done either through amendments to PCAs with countries or with CARPHA or

with OECS. This would likely have to take place in the second half of 2021 following all the baseline assessments.

3. N/A
4. N/A

Activity 2.1.4.3: Develop training modules and conduct associated training

1. No
 2. While not COVID-19 related, it is important that this is done in collaboration with all partners and other GEF projects who will be doing training activities. It was expected that the Partnerships would have played a key role in identifying what training was needed and how best should that training be conducted. Such training was not proposed to take place before 2021 and likely would be planned for the second half.
 3. Depending on travel limitations and constraints of doing face to face meetings, virtual training will need to be considered.
 4. This would include considering of costs to have virtual training or multiple trainer of trainer events with smaller number of participants or blended virtual and face to face events. Again the cost of training platforms, translation, interpretation, facilitation, preparation and delivery of training materials would all need to be considered.
-

CARPHA

Output 2.1.1 Regional environmental indicators compendium

Activity 2.1.1.1 Conduct needs assessment at country level

1. No
2. Blank
3. This is essentially designed as a desk study so there are no travel related restrictions for the consultant. Working arrangements in the country could be a delay factor if technical staff are facing restricted working arrangements or have been redeployed to address COVID-19 related support. This is not evident so far.
4. There does not appear to be any need for this at this time.

Output 2.1.2 Scientific research to support monitoring at national projects

Activity 2.1.2.1 Develop research protocols

1. No
2. Blank
3. Blank
4. The countries are largely still trying to determine the kind of support they want from CARPHA, and how to synergize with complementary national level activities that they are undertaking under Component 1. Since most are still in the planning stage, COVID-19 realities can be planned into the activities.

Output 2.1.2 Scientific research to support monitoring at national projects

Activity 2.1.2.1 Develop research protocols

1. No

2. Blank
3. The countries are largely still trying to determine the kind of support they want from CARPHA, and how to synergize with complementary national level activities that they are undertaking under Component 1. For specific hands-on support, CARPHA plans to use a combination of procuring local expertise and where necessary, using virtual platforms for wider knowledge transfer.
4. Not required

Output 2.1.2 Scientific research to support monitoring at national projects

Activity 2.1.2.3. Publish technical and scientific papers

1. Blank
2. Blank
3. Blank
4. Blank

Output 2.1.3. Strengthened field monitoring and assessment capabilities

Activity 2.1.3.1 Conduct country diagnostic needs assessments

1. Blank
2. Blank
3. This activity is being managed by the PCU
4. Blank

Output 2.1.3. Strengthened field monitoring and assessment capabilities

Activity 2.1.3.2 Procure laboratory diagnostic equipment, tools and supplies (on demand basis)

1. No
2. Blank
3. None required. Once quotations can be virtually sent for requested equipment, purchase and distribution can be managed remotely for all countries.
4. Blank

Output 2.1.3. Strengthened field monitoring and assessment capabilities

Activity 2.1.3.3 Procure tools and supplies for schools, communities (on demand basis)

1. No
- 2.
3. Once the recipients and tools are identified by the Consultant, CARPHA can follow up with procurement with no anticipated COVID-19 related delays.
- 4.

Output 2.1.3. Strengthened field monitoring and assessment capabilities

Activity 2.1.3.4 Develop training modules and conduct associated training

1. No
- 2.
3. CARPHA has planned for virtual delivery of the training programs
- 4.

OECS

Output 3.1.1 New/updated plans for improved water, land and ecosystems management (WLEM)

Activity 3.1.1.1. Conduct a regional-level review of status of policy & legislative implementation in countries and support the review and upgrade of regional and national strategic and action plan

1. Yes
2. Original completion date: 31 Aug 2020, New completion date: 15 May 2021
3. In view of the likelihood that restrictions on travel consequent upon the COVID-19 pandemic will continue for most, perhaps all, of the duration of the project, it is assumed that all interviews and other stakeholder engagements, including the regional and national workshops, will have to be conducted online. This was assumed in the activity proposal and associated costs submitted by the consultants. Whenever possible, a blended approach will be adopted for the regional workshop, with regional members of the OpenPlan team conducting in-person events and the members based in Europe participating online.
4. Can we consider using the Webinar space by IWEco PCU as a means of verification and discussion of interim outputs?

Output 3.1.2 New/revised policies, regulations and frameworks for improved WLEM

Activity 3.1.2.1: Support the upgrade/strengthening/implementation of new and existing legislative instruments and/or frameworks and/or development of new legislative instruments

1. Yes
2. Original completion date: 30 June 2021, New completion date: To be determined
3. Not yet elaborated given its dependency on outputs from Activity 3.1.1.1.
4. None at this time.