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

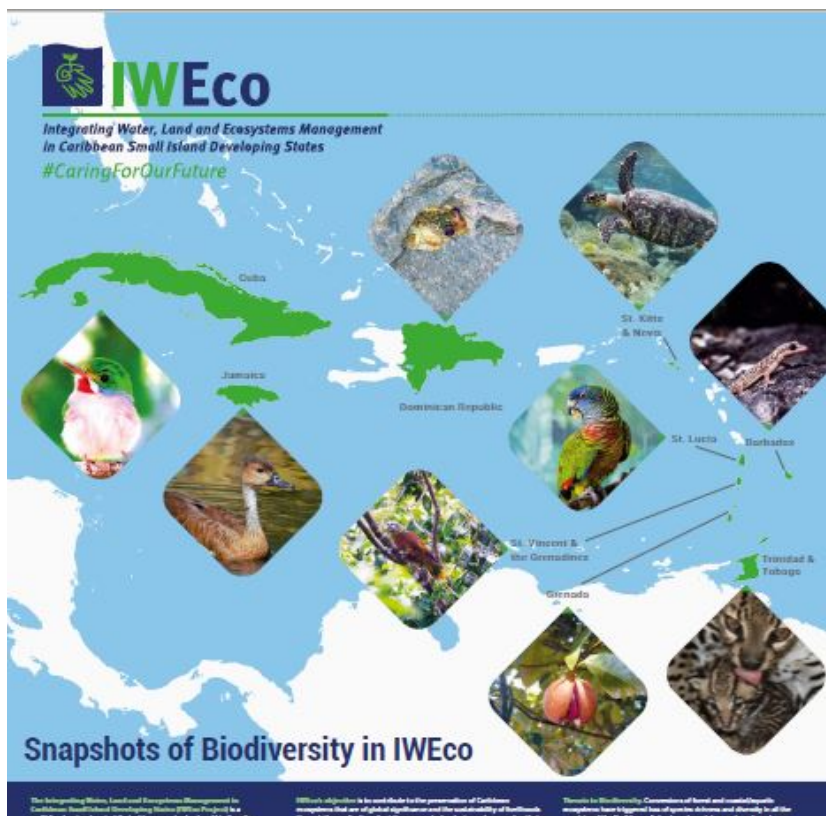
#CaringForOurFuture

Monthly Project Highlights

May 2022

Time continues to fly as IWEco's national projects and regional partners move on with execution of a wide range of activities. Among other things, in this issue we mark the closing of the UNDP SGP implemented activities in support of IWEco objectives at community level - our first component to close. We also celebrate the biological diversity of our beautiful islands with the launch of a series of educational posters.

Project partners, National Focal Points and national project management units are invited to submit short items and links relevant to IWEco and related subjects for future issues as well as for our quarterly newsletter which will next be published at the end of June 2022. For more information contact Donna Sue Spencer at donna.spencer@un.org.





Introductory poster - "Snapshots of Biodiversity in IWEco" poster series

Snapshots of Biodiversity in IWEco

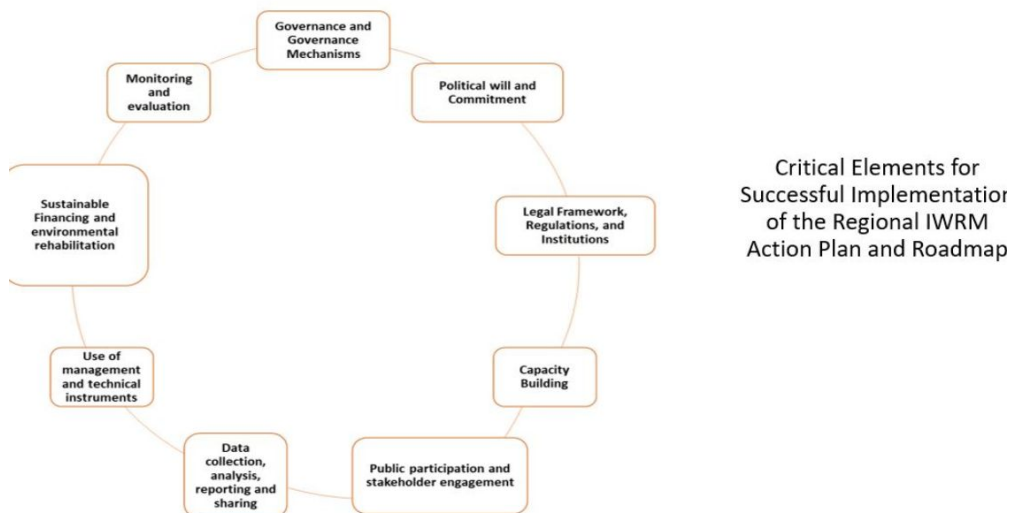
To mark the International Day of Biodiversity 2022, celebrated on 22nd May, the GEF UNEP IWEco Project launched a series of 10 posters (three are also available in Spanish) featuring snapshots of selected flora and fauna from IWEco countries. Partners in participating countries submitted a variety of photographs of animals and plants along with descriptions. The resulting collection includes endangered species as well as some that are faring well.

Thank you to all who contributed photographs. They are colourful reminders of the rich and diverse natural world surrounding us, of the vulnerability of many species which we may take for granted yet depend upon. It is our responsibility to take care of the environment upon which we, and they, depend. IWEco's interventions when successful contribute to "building a shared future for all life" – the theme of Biodiversity Day 2022.

We hope that the posters will be useful in your public education and awareness efforts.

In June 2022, full-colour hard copies of the posters will be distributed to our countries and partners. You may also contact donna.spencer@un.org for more info.

See and download the posters!



Critical Elements for Successful Implementation of the Regional IWRM Action Plan and Roadmap, GWP-Caribbean, March 2022.

Building consensus, political will and financial support for IWRM in the Caribbean - Action

Framework finalized

Under GEF UNEP IWECO Project Component 3 (policy and legislation) the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), a project executing partner, has been collaborating with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to implement activities towards **the development of an Action Framework for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) for the CARICOM Region.**

In 2021, the Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C) undertook the consultancy to develop the Framework. It focused on establishing an overarching framework for CARICOM's approach to the sustainable and effective management of water resources in member and observer States in order to contribute to a higher degree of IWRM implementation in the Region as a whole, as well as an increased level of IWRM implementation in the individual countries that are member states of the Region.

The Conceptual Framework was developed with the objective of strengthening the policy, legislative and institutional mechanisms and capacity building for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and ecosystem services management, while increasing climate and disaster resilience.

Priority was given to four areas: Policies, Regulations and Plans; Institutional Frameworks; Management and Technical Instruments; and Financing. It advocates for a wider integration through public awareness and stakeholder engagement and emphasises that true participation requires the involvement of all stakeholder groups at all levels of society in water management decision-making.

The Action Framework was finalized by GWP-C following wide stakeholder consultation and subsequent presentation at IWECO's Third Governance Partnership Meeting in April 2022.

The Final Action Framework is now available.

The Action Framework for IWRM



Community members participating in the GEF SGP Project related to the IWECO Project in San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic, April 2019.

IWECO Community Component shows the Power of Local People and Communities

Under GEF UNEP IWECO Project Component 3 (policy and legislation) the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), a project executing partner, The United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP) coordinated GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) partnered with IWEco to directly disburse funds to its programmes in the eight IWEco participating countries that have National sub-Projects as well as Barbados. Among IWEco objectives is to enhance livelihood opportunities and socio-economic co-benefits for targeted communities from improved ecosystem services functioning. The GEF therefore allocated US \$1 million in funding to be matched by the UNDP SGP which then provided direct financial and technical support to communities and local organisations in the participating countries to address the project objectives at the community level.

On 24th May 2022, UNDP convened the GEF/UNDP-UNEP IWEco Community Component Closure Workshop. Sulan Chen, in summarizing the workshop, noted that the presentations made by the SGP Coordinators, and discussions which followed, highlighted the important role of partnership and SGP in achieving IWEco's success. In all, 59 community initiatives were implemented. She highlighted the following:

- The power of local people and communities.
- The importance of aligning community projects with national and regional projects for better results; this should be encouraged in programming.
- The role of integrated programming and the ridge-to-reef approach.
- The importance of having a clear sustainability plan.
- Sustainability could be constrained where there are no direct economic benefits to communities; in such cases, continued support is needed to enhance uptake of sustainable environmental practices.
- The necessity of continuing collective work to empower communities through capacity building initiatives as this enhances long term sustainability.

She stressed that the work of scaling up good practices must now be done and that UNDP/SGP looks forward to exploring partnership opportunities to scale up good practices from local to global level.

The recording of the workshop can be accessed below (password: EC2t@%dR).

[See the workshop video](#)



"Restoration Begins with Me!"

Commemorating the launch of the UN Decade on
Ecosystem Restoration in the Caribbean

Restoration Begins with Me

The United Nations (UN) declared 2021-2030 the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, in a rallying call for the protection and revival of ecosystems around the world. Led by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), it aims to build a strong, broad-based global movement to ramp up restoration and put the world on track for a sustainable future.

The **Restoration Begins With Me** campaign was launched on the International Day of Forests (IDF), 23rd March 2021, by the UNEP GEF-IWEco Project in partnership with the UNEP Caribbean Sub-Regional Office (CSRO), the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the Food and Agriculture Organization Representation for Jamaica, the Bahamas and Belize. It culminated on World Environment Day (WED), 5th June 2021, when the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration was formally launched. Both the IDF and WED themes "Forest Restoration – A Path to recovery and well-being", and "Ecosystem Restoration", were addressed as individuals and groups throughout the Caribbean contributed information and experiences on restoration activities in which they have been involved.

A short publication prepared jointly by UNEP, FAO and IWEco celebrating these inspiring individual and collective restoration efforts is now available online.

[Read the publication!](#)

The poster features a background image of a large ocean wave. At the top, there are logos for the African Union, the European Union, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the 50th anniversary of the UN (1972-2022), the Caribbean Environment Programme, ACP MEAS 3, and World Ocean Day. Below the logos, a camera icon is positioned to the left of the text: "Commemorative video launch", "Celebrating 35 years since the entry into force of the Cartagena Convention", "June 21, 2022", "under the theme", "10:00 a.m. GMT-5", and "Collective action to protect the Caribbean Sea".

Celebrating 35 years since the entry into force of the Cartagena Convention!

- join the Caribbean Environment Programme for the launch of its commemorative video!

The year 2021 marked 35 years since the entry into force of the **Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region**. Since 1986 when the Convention entered into force, 26 governments in the Wider Caribbean have pledged their political commitment to the region's only legal instrument for "collective action to protect the Caribbean Sea."

Thanks to financial support from the European Union-funded project Capacity Building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean, and Pacific Countries, a commemorative video was commissioned in 2021 to highlight the importance and benefit of the Convention and its Protocols to the governments and peoples of the region. The video will support the efforts of the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat to encourage ratification of the Convention and its Protocols by Non-Contracting Parties.

The video was produced by Mayers Media Inc. in Barbados. The Secretariat thanks all interviewees for taking the time to participate in this production.

The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat is pleased to invite you to the official virtual launch of this video on **June 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. GMT-5** under the theme **Collective action to protect the Caribbean Sea**.

[Register for the launch](#)



The Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco Project) is a five-year, regional project that builds upon the work of previous initiatives, to address water, land and biodiversity resource management as well as climate change.

IWEco's objective is to contribute to the preservation of Caribbean ecosystems that are of global significance and to the sustainability of livelihoods.

IWEco is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment Programme) is the lead Implementing agency for national and regional sub-projects, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) implementing some activities.

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