



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

#CaringForOurFuture

Monthly Project Highlights

January 2022

The IWEco Project Coordination Unit welcomes you to its first e-bulletin of 2022! We take this opportunity to extend our warmest wishes to all project partners and wish you a Healthy and Happy New Year! This year we hope to feature many of the Project's and partners' activities, achievements and lessons learned at national as well as regional level. In addition, our quarterly newsletter "IWEco:Link" is published quarterly and for more information on the project see: www.iweco.org

We invite Project partners, National Focal Points and national project management units to submit short items and links relevant to IWEco and related subjects! For more information contact Donna Sue Spencer at donna.spencer@un.org.



Aerial photo of the Nelsons Spring Wetland in Nevis before restoration work began in 2020 - Invasive species of reeds can be seen filling the pond and crowding out native vegetation. Photo credit: AD.vantage Communications.

**Wetlands Action for People and Nature
- A small community in Nevis leads the way**

This year's observance of World Wetlands Day (2nd February) is **'Wetlands Action for People**

and Nature' - a call to take action by investing financial, human and political capital to save the world's wetlands from disappearing and to restore those we have degraded.

Wetland restoration efforts in St. Kitts and Nevis under the IWEco project have focused on the wetland at Nelson's Spring on the island of Nevis. This restoration work is an example of how, from the grassroots level, a community and a local NGO can work together to bring a wetland back to its former glory.

In recent years, Nelson's Spring has been subjected to many negative environmental pressures and neighbouring developments have cut off the natural links with other wetlands. The result of these disturbances has been the invasion of the whole area by non-native species.

The Nevis Historical and Conservation Society (NHCS) in 2019 teamed up with a local community group - the St. Thomas' Improvement Group (STIG) - to restore the wetland at Nelson's Spring.

Read the full article below, and listen to our podcast on the experience of those who participated in restoring this historic wetland:

[Read more](#)

Caring for our Caribbean Future - A UNEP IWEco Podcast Part 1: Nelson Spring Wetland Restoration



*Paramin
(Trinidad)*

Vetiver - planted to stabilize slopes and rehabilitate the soil on the steep hillsides of Paramin, Trinidad - one of many Caribbean examples. Photo credit: Jonathan Barcant

IWEco's 17th Partners' Webinar - Vetiver

Following our webinars on nature-based solutions in 2021, IWEco's 17th Partners' Webinar on 18th

January 2022, focused on **"Vetiver - Use and Benefits for Land and Soil Restoration."**

Two presentations were made. The first, by Elise Pinner, Director of The Vetiver Network International (TVNI) focused on **Vetiver ecoengineering - plant characteristics and overview of applications worldwide."** This provided the wider context based upon Ms. Pinner's vast experience. She stressed that success depends not only upon good knowledge and understanding of how to use vetiver effectively but also upon having buy-in from leaders (a commitment to use of "green infrastructure") and the creation of economic incentives.

In the second presentation, Jonathan Barcant, Caribbean Coordinator of TVNI, introduced participants to **"The Vetiver Education & Empowerment Project (VEEP) model and the Vetiver System (VS) in the Caribbean."** Among the many successful Caribbean examples he shared was the quarry rehabilitation project in IWEco.Trinidad & Tobago, in which IAMovement, the NGO which he established, is a partner.

Both presentations contain a wealth of information and are available on IWEco's website. Check the links below.

Vetiver ecoengineering - plant characteristics and overview of applications worldwide.

The Vetiver Education & Empowerment Project (VEEP) model and the Vetiver System (VS) in the Caribbean.



'IWeco:Link', December 2021 issue is available in English and Spanish!

Featuring 2021 project highlights, lots of resources from IWEco and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, and, the latest news on plans for the Oceanarium for Montego Bay, Jamaica!

Check it out!

English

Spanish



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.

www.iweco.org

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Monthly E-Bulletin # 10

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