



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

#CaringForOurFuture

Monthly Project Highlights

February 2022

This issue includes two reports resulting from research conducted by members of the GEF-funded UNEP-implemented IWEco Project through its Research Partnership which is coordinated by the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA).

The Research Partnership, which convened its first meeting in November 2018, is meant to support applied research in priority areas identified by participating countries. Significantly, this regional research is also meant to support fulfillment of the objectives of the Cartagena Convention and its three Protocols (LBS, SPAW and Oil Spills) .

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.



Sargassum influxes have become a common sight along Caribbean coastlines.

Photo credit: Jodi Johnson

"The Economic Impacts of Sargassum Inundation in the Caribbean - Part 1: Insights from the Literature" Report published

Under IWEco's Component 2, co-executing partner CARPHA, made a call for proposals to the project's Research Partnership in late 2019. One of the studies which resulted was **"The Economic Impacts of Sargassum Inundation in the Caribbean, Part 1: Insights from the Literature"**. The final report of this study conducted by the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), University of the West Indies has just been published.

The report provides a comprehensive overview of several branches of literature that provide insight into the potential economic impacts from sargassum events in the Caribbean Region. Recognizing that understanding the scope, magnitude, and distribution of the economic consequences of sargassum events is an important prerequisite for appropriate planning and mitigation efforts, the review aims to develop a framework and research agenda for market and non-market valuation efforts directed at quantifying economic losses from sargassum.

The IWEco project has been pleased to support this first part of a two-part review lead by Dr. Peter W. Schuhmann, an output of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) project 'Adapting to a new reality: managing responses to influxes of sargassum seaweed in the Eastern Caribbean' (SargAdapt). Part 2 of the research, will be published later in 2022 and focuses on creation of a series of sargassum event scenarios and approximating the potential range of economic losses at specific locations in the Lesser Antilles using results from this review of the literature and exposure mapping.

[Read the report](#)



The town of Soufriere, southwest Saint Lucia, and the Soufriere Marine Management Area.

Sources of Microbial Contamination in the Watershed and Coastal Zone of Soufriere, St. Lucia - paper published

Chronic problems related to wastewater management and sanitation in the Soufriere region of St.

Lucia are a microcosm of the challenges faced by Caribbean island-nations, as well as SIDS around the globe in meeting the targets for Sustainable Development Goal 6 for expanded and improved treatment of domestic wastewater and providing universal access to sanitation facilities.

Under Component 2 of IWEco, Trent University, a member of IWEco's Research Partnership, conducted a study to look at possible land-based sources of microbial contamination in the Soufriere Bay. This area is an important tourist destination and supports a local fishery. To identify the sources of microbial contamination in Soufriere Bay, a range of monitoring methods were employed. The study indicates that efforts to control contamination of Soufriere Bay by fecal microorganisms must include management of pollution originating from both sewage and domestic animals in the watershed.

The study was published online in the journal, 'Environmental Monitoring and Assessment', on 26 February 2022.

[Read the article](#)



IWEco.Cuba makes progress in four diverse watersheds

Cuba's IWEco National sub-Project is implementing integrated environmental management approaches, including land-use planning, good agricultural practices (GAP), better environmental practices (BEP), as well as identifying and monitoring environmental indicators, utilizing mechanisms for strengthening cross-sectorial and inter-institutional coordination, and providing capacity-building in four sub-project intervention areas.

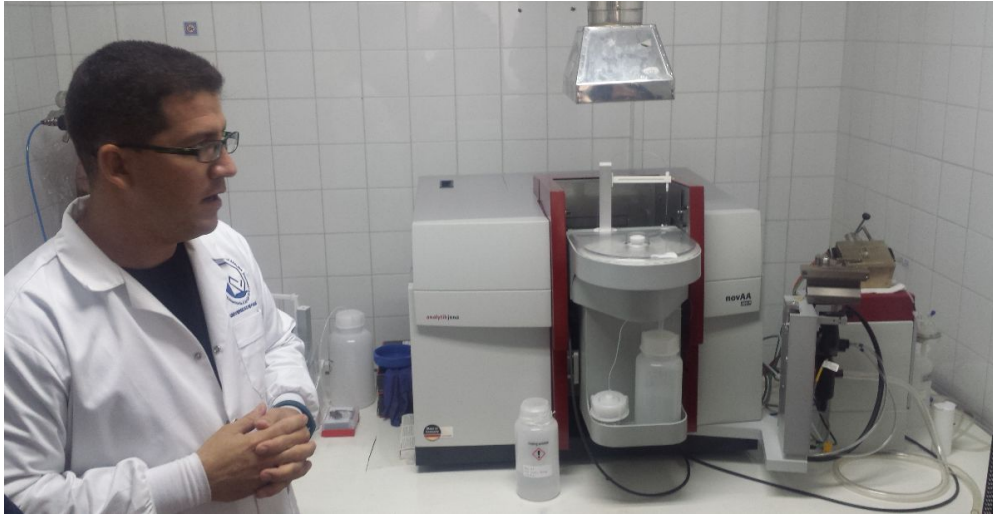
These four intervention areas are located in the western, central and eastern regions of the country and cover a combined surface area of 2,952.4 km², or 2.69% of the land area of Cuba:

- The East Havana Demonstration Area along the country's northern coast, which includes the Guanabo watershed with a surface area of 119.2 km².
- The Cumanayagua-Cienfuegos Demonstration Area in the country's southeast, which includes the Arimao watershed, with a surface area of 978.5 km².
- The Trinidad-Sancti Spiritus Demonstration Area in the country's southeast, including the Agabama River Basin, with a surface area of 1,713 km².
- The Santiago de Cuba Demonstration Area in the country's east, containing the San Juan watershed, with a surface area of 141.7 km².

Since IWEco.Cuba was launched in November 2018 significant progress has been made in all four watersheds. The project management team publishes a newsletter every quarter which provides updates on its wide-ranging activities in all four watersheds.

[Read the latest IWEco.Cuba Newsletter](#)





CEAC's Laboratory in Cienfuegos, Cuba, 2020

Laboratory training for better environmental quality monitoring in IWEco countries begins

The Regional Laboratory Assessment conducted for UNEP GEF IWEco in 2020 aimed to strengthen national and regional capacity to perform environmental quality monitoring. It assessed environmental quality monitoring needs, including the capacity in the national and regional laboratories and Regional Activity Centres to respond to demands for environmental quality monitoring in participating SIDS. The assessment made recommendations for suitable laboratories in which to conduct capacity building activities.

IWEco committed to capacity building in selected laboratories through the provision of equipment to support environmental quality monitoring and, through training, to support the provision of consistent results fit for the intended purpose.

The first Training Webinar in a series related to environmental quality monitoring within the IWEco project is entitled “**Improving Laboratory Management Practices – An Introduction to ISO 17025**” and will take place over two days: Tuesday, 15 March and Wednesday, 16 March 2022. Its primary objective is to build support for improving and standardizing laboratory practices for water quality sampling and analysis. It is expected that the interactive training will:

- Explain the benefits of adopting sound and standardized laboratory processes and procedures
- Introduce ISO 17025:2017, and its key concepts, as a guide to improving laboratory practices and procedures

Participants include staff and on-site managers of government and non-government water quality testing laboratories within the ten (10) participating countries of the UNEP GEF IWEco Project. The training has been prepared and is being conducted by the UNC Water Institute and UNITAR.

Materials will be shared via the IWEco Project website at a later date.

[Read the Report of IWEco's Laboratory Assessment](#)

WORLD WATER DAY 2022
CARIBBEAN GROUNDWATER


TikTok
Challenge



Win Cash Prizes



Deadline: March 16th, 2022 (midnight AST)
#WWD2022CaribbeanGroundwater

Take the World Water Day 2022 Caribbean Groundwater Tik Tok Challenge!

World Water Day (WWD) is observed on March 22nd each year. The WWD 2022 theme is **“Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible.”**

Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C) in collaboration with Caribbean WaterNet (Cap-Net), the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, the Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWeco Project), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) – **CHALLENGE YOU** to take the World Water Day 2022 Caribbean Groundwater TikTok Challenge for a chance to win big!

Groundwater is a vital water supply for humanity yet many persons (especially those who are not part of water/environmental related sectors) may not understand what it is and its importance.

Entry into the competition will not only build awareness on groundwater and its importance but participants can win great \$US cash prizes.

Challenge Deadline: March 16th, 2022 (midnight AST)

[Get all the details here!](#)



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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