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UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/INF. 10 20 December 2022

Original: ENGLISH

Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean.

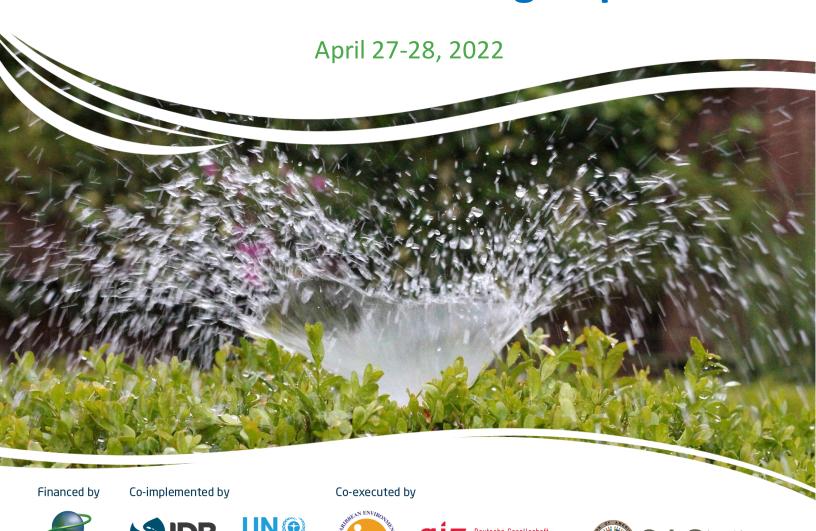
Virtual, 01 to 03 February 2023

GEF CReW+ 2ND PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

This meeting is being convened virtually. Delegates are kindly requested to access all meeting documents electronically for download as necessary.



Second Project Steering Committee Meeting Report





Published by: GEF CReW+ "Implementando soluciones para la Gestión Integrada del Aqua y de las Aquas

Residuales para un Caribe limpio y saludable"

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Design: Proyecto GEF CReW+

Date: October 2022

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

CReW+ An integrated approach to water and wastewater management using

innovative solutions and promoting financing mechanisms in the Wider

Caribbean Region (project)

GEF Global Environment Facility

GIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

IDB Interamerican Development Bank

IW-Learn International Waters Learning Exchange and Resources Network

IWWM Integrated Water and Wastewater Management

M&E Monitoring and Evaluation

MTR Mid-Term Review

NFP National Focal Point

OAS Organization of American States

PCG Project Coordination Group

SC Steering Committee

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme



Introduction and Summary

The objective of the GEF CReW+ Project is to implement innovative technical small-scale solutions in the Wider Caribbean Region, using an Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM) approach and building on sustainable financing mechanisms piloted through the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management. Structured around four components, the Project will: facilitate institutional, policy, legislative and regulatory reforms for IWWM; identify and support sustainable and tailor-made financing options for urban, periurban and rural IWWM; provide innovative small-scale, local, rural, peri-urban and community-based solutions for IWWM; produce and manage knowledge; and advocate the importance of IWWM in the participating countries and in the region as a whole.

The Second Meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the GEF CReW+: An integrated approach to water and wastewater management using innovative solutions and promoting financing mechanisms in the Wider Caribbean Region Project was held on April 27-28, 2022 in a virtual format. The main objective was to convene all partners to review the overall progress in the execution of the Project, and agree on any decisions towards the effective and successful completion of the project, expected for 2023. The meeting brought together representatives of the participating countries, Project Implementing and Executing Agencies, selected regional institutions, and the Project Coordination Group (PCG), responsible for the overall coordination, monitoring, and reporting of activities.

The comprehensive project management framework adopted under the project consists of a



set of co-ordination, supervisory and advisory bodies at the regional and national levels, including:

At the regional level:

- + Inter-Agency Co-ordination Group (IACG). The IACG was formed by the IDB and UNEP project team leaders to ensure high quality program delivery.
- + Project Steering Committee (PSC). The PSC, constituted by memebers of the participating contries and the execution and implementation agencies, provides strategic and management direction for the project during its implementation. It reviews project progress, technical and financial reports, and makes recommendations on the adoption of project/operational work plans and budgets.
- + Project Coordination Group (PCG). The PCG is responsible for day-to-day project coordination, through oversight of the work of the three executing agencies (GIZ, CAR/RCU and OAS), to ensure coherent project execution among the countries.
- + The Executing Agencies (EA's). The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and the Organization of the American States (OAS), on behalf of the IDB; and Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention (CAR/RCU) on behalf of UNEP.

At the national level:

- + National Focal Point (NFP).
- + National Project Steering Committee (NPSC).
- National Executing Agencies (NEA) with their National/Community Management Units (NMU),
 including civil society.



Figure 1 below presents the overall executing structure of the GEF CReW+ project.

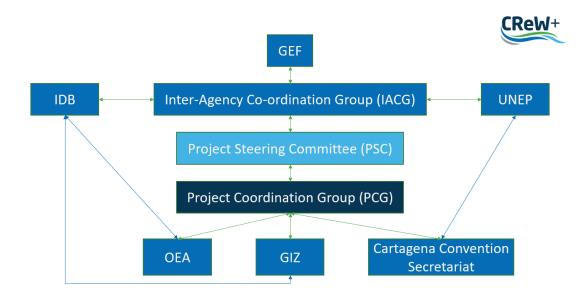


Figure 1. CReW+ regional and national level organization

The two day agenda was coordinated by the PCG under the lead of the Regional Coordinator, and structured as follows (See agenda in Annex 1):

- + Day 1: Introduction, role and TORs of the Project Coordination Group (PCG); progress report by the three executing agencies (CAR/RCU, GIZ and OAS); and Mid-term review (report and recommendations).
- + Day 2: Introduction, role and TORs of the Project Steering Committee (PSC); review of budget and Work Plan; review of Results Matrix and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan; review of the Communication Strategy; and adoption of decisions.

The Second Steering Committee Meeting was attended by representatives/national focal points from fourteen (14) CReW+ countries , by representatives from partner agencies, and



by representatives from the Executing and Implementing Agencies. The total number of participants was: for Day 1 a total of 64 participants, and for Day 2, a total of 56 participants (excluding English and Spanish interpreters) (Annex 2 – List of participants).

A senior consultant was hired to assist in the organization and conduction of the SC Meeting, provide facilitation assistance to the SC Chair during the two-day event and present a Report of the sessions with a summary of presentations, results and discussions.



Day 1 – PSC Meeting 2022

Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Meeting Agenda

The Coordinator of the Project Coordination Group (PCG), Pedro Moreo Mir, opened the Steering Committee Meeting (SC Meeting), and presented the agenda for its adoption. The PCG proceeded with the introduction to the meeting and the presentation of the two-day agenda, establishing the overall order and rules for this virtual meeting, which was assisted with simultaneous translation.

Following Mr. Moreo's introduction and remarks, the floor was briefly opened for remarks and questions by the members of the SC and implementing agencies (UNEP and IDB).

Introduction and Role of the Project Coordination Group (PCG)

The PCG described the origin of the project, its principles and organizational structure. It was also emphasized that the PCG is the link between the implementing agencies, executing organizations and the countries. He added that the PCG is the Information Center, so it is important that the group is informed about all activities in the project, as well as about progress in their execution.

Having introduced the agenda and the role of the PCG, the agenda was adopted, and the SC Meeting proceed with the Executing Agencies presentations on the implementation progress.



Project Progress - UNEP

UNEP's Cartagena Convention Secretariat (The Secretariat) presented key progress in the execution of CReW+ activities, both through national activities (in 10 CReW+ countries) and regional activities. Key outputs include:

Outcome 1.1:

- + Updated national packages are now available for Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago that include activities to support policy reform. PCAs have been completed for Guyana and St. Vincent and the Grenadines and are under development in other countries.
- + Freshwater strategy and nutrients standards papers finalized and endorsed by LBS COP 6.
- + Two virtual regional workshops organized to identify barriers to ratification of the LBS Protocol.

Outcome 1.2:

- + Development of national WIMS initiated with UNU INWEH for six countries.
- + Development of regional pollution platform including information relating to wastewater effluent pollution under development with GRID Geneva and co-financing from UNEP.

Outcome 1.3:

- + GWP-C regional capacity building.
- + CReW+ Academy.
- + Support to GIZ policy training on IWRM.
- + Support to webinars by UN Habitat, CWWA and CAWASA.

Outcome 3.1:

- + Rural and community level Integrated and Innovative Water and Wastewater low tech solutions planned in:
- + Costa Rica (WWTP in La Victoria de Rio Blanco, Limón).



- + Cuba (Rehabilitation of the sanitation system in Rodas).
- + Guyana (Rehabilitation of the Kwakwani Park sewerage system).
- + Panamá (IWWM innovations new Community of Nuevo Cartí).
- + Saint Lucia (WWT solutions for the Canaries community, and integrated pig waste management).
- + St. Vincent and the Grenadines (Improved WWT at 6 locations).
- + T&T (Water conservation, installation of rainwater harvesting system, and improvement of WW).

Outcome 3.3:

- + Contribution to the design and facilitation of the CReW+ Academy capacity building program, including:
- + Block 1 (Feb-Apr, 2021) → Financial mechanisms in WW.
- + Block 2 (Aug-Sept, 2021) → Wastewater treatment and reuse.
- + Block 3 (April-May, 2022) → Blue economy and WW harnessing.

Outcome 4.1:

- + Launch of GEF CReW+ project website (planned for November 2022).
- + GEF CReW+ promotional video (ENG)
- + GEF CReW+ Project promotes environmental and financial sustainability in the countries of the Wider Caribbean Region

The Secretariat pointed at some challenges and opportunities in CReW+ execution. Some of the challenges include administrative challenges and difficulties, collaboration with regional authorities, limitations imposed by COVID-19, some cases of changing national priorities and uneven timelines for implementation of activities. Some of the opportunities mentioned include existing regional strategies that catalyse improvements, an increase global focus on WW (SDG 6) and strong regional partnerships.



Among the lessons learned presented by the Secretariat, the most relevant include:

- + Importance of the focal point and national committees for the project.
- + Time needed to get consensus for the solutions on the ground.
- + Importance of LBS Protocol/regional/global commitments in driving change.
- + Importance of adaptive management in the recruitment of consultants.
- + Importance of Communication.
- + Importance of being as demand-driven as possible.

As next steps, the Secretariat will pursue the following activities:

- + For **Component 1**, the Secretariat will: Continue supporting governments implement policy reforms; engage further with Technical Working Groups; and contribute capacity building and training measures through CReW+ Academy, testing and monitoring programs and training.
- + For **Component 3**, the Secretariat will: Complete and sign Project Cooperation Agreements that are still pending; continue developing national activities; release national implementation progress reports (quarterly and semestral); and conduct training on behavioral change to achieve water supply/demand and wastewater treatment outcomes, and support to WW operators.
- + For **Component 4**, the Secretariat will: Continue contributing material for the ongoing Communications Strategy; launch CReW+ project's website; continue developing and disseminating knowledge management products on IWWM and watershed management; maintain stakeholder data base, including networking with regional and international partners; and compile best practices, lessons learned and experiences on process and achievements from national and regional interventions.

Comments by participants and responses

A correction to the statement the "Collaboration with regional authorities was as problem" was requested, to which the Secretariat responded that better means of communication and exchanges with regional entities will be pursued. The PCG added that the project not only



seeks to establish collaborations with the organizations but to generate alliances so that they take ownership of the project's activities and provide continuity beyond CReW+ execution.

GIZ enquired about accessing more information on laboratory training and monitoring activities, with a special interest in monitoring. The Secretariat indicated that IWEco (a project executed parallelly by the Secretariat) involves training, and that information will be made available. The PCG added that future CReW+ Academy sessions could cover such training needs. The Secretariat distributed a survey to participants to identify needs for future CReW+ Academy sessions and also needs for LBS protocol ratification.

Project Progress - GIZ

GIZ presented key progress in the execution of CReW+ activities, both through national activities (in 11 CReW+ countries) and regional activities. Key outputs include:

Outcome 1.1:

- + Guatemala's Micro-Watershed Management is significantly strengthened by a new guideline document elaborated in close cooperation with MARN.
- + The comprehensive update of the national water policy and its action plan realized in close cooperation with MINAE is key to the effectiveness of the new law on Integrated Water Resources Management in Costa Rica.
- + The application of Panamanian water law in the relocated Indigenous community of Nuevo Cartí is facilitated by two new guides based on socio-environmental and legal analysis.
- + In Honduras and the Dominican Republic, standards on wastewater discharges help to protect different bodies of water (marine-coastal, surface water).
- + An environmental sensitivity map in Bahía de Omoa in Honduras following the methodology used for the sensitivity map in Puerto Cortés, Honduras, will be a useful tool to inform environmental protection planning.



+ A regulatory mechanism to incorporate environmental and territorial water and sanitation management aspects into the tariff reform currently underway fosters the safe and productive use of treated wastewater in Colombia.

Outcome 2.1

- + An economic mechanism to incorporate environmental and territorial water and sanitation management aspects into the tariff reform currently underway fosters the safe and productive use of treated wastewater in Colombia.
- + A mission was carried out in Dominican Republic, which culminated in an agreement between the operators INAPA, CAASD and the Planning and Finance Ministries to work together on a proposal for a tariff reform for the sector.
- + At the regional level, it was agreed with the SNIP Network to generate a working group on Sanitation Finance with a focus on tariffs and Social Pricing in the Water/Wastewater sector, whose result will be a compendium to be published in 2022.

Outcome 2.2

- + A proposal based on a diagnostic process for a financial mechanism to facilitate access to financing sources is an important step towards sustainable financing in the sanitation sector in Costa Rica.
- + In a landmark agreement, key stakeholders in Honduras committed themselves to cooperate in the development of a tariff system as a basis for the sustainable management of a future wastewater treatment and sewer system for Omoa.

Outcome 3.1 and 3.2:

- + The completed technical feasibility study in San Antero de Cordoba in Colombia, complemented by environmental studies elaborated by INVEMAR, precedes an exemplary wastewater treatment plant including a wastewater reuse option.
- + Technical feasibility studies create the basis for the rehabilitation and improvement of two wastewater treatment plants in the Dominican Republic.



- + The provision of innovative low-tech water and sanitation solutions ("ecotecnias") serves Indigenous communities in Mexico.
- + An additional feasibility study in the community of Barrio La Playa, Omoa, Honduras precedes the design of a wastewater treatment and management solution in the area.
- + The preliminary designs, including the sewer and treatment system, lay the ground for the wastewater treatment plant in La Fortuna de San Carlos, Costa Rica, that will give service for 23.000 people by 2050.
- + The feasibility study realized in Caye Caulker, Belize with good coordination shows promising results and will form the basis for the desired wastewater treatment solution, complementing further efforts by IDB in the country.
- + In Honduras, the construction of latrines executed jointly with the GIZ programme Pana Pana improves the sanitary situation of the Indigenous community in La Moskitia.

Outcome 3.3:

+ The conceptualization of a "Training of Trainers" in close collaboration with MARN provides the basis to set the new watershed management Guide in Guatemala in value.

Outcome 4.1:

- + A CReW+ communications strategy considering all project countries and agencies was elaborated and implemented and is currently being applied.
- + A CReW+ Corporate Design (including a manual) was developed and is being applied.
- + The CReW+ Academy Website (available in English and Spanish) serves as a platform for sanitation sector knowledge and the project's capacity building activities.
- + Numerous communication materials in English and Spanish, like factsheets and a comprehensive presentation, were developed and applied
- + GIZ contributed actively to the COP26 and Stockholm Word Water Week, as well as in GIZ' internal CoPs and sectoral technical networks with thematic CReW+ sessions, thus promoting the visibility and networking of the project.
- + The visibility of the topic has been increased by the publication of five articles on Integrated Water and Wastewater Management in the Wider Caribbean Region on different channels.



GIZ presented key contributions to CReW+ regional activities, that include:

- + In 15 webinars of the CReW+ Academy, about 1350 participants were trained in different fields related to Integrated Water and Wastewater Management.
- + The compendium of sanitation systems and technologies contextualized for the Wider Caribbean Region will serve as a handbook for planners and practicioners.
- + A best practice document for wastewater reuse in the Wider Caribbean Region was developed.
- + A high-level knowledge exchange on water sector reforms and IWWM was conducted as a two-day workshop in December 2021.

Comments by participants and responses

GIZ pointed at some challenges and opportunities in CReW+ execution. Some of the challenges include: limitations imposed by COVID-19, including limited availability of local contractors with the required technical experience; changing priorities in some countries; lack of local institutional capacity to operate and maintain the infrastructure established during the project; and cultural and sectoral resistance to accept new wastewater management measures. In response to such challenges, GIZ recommends:

- + Flexibility in the search for alternatives to organize the project management online, including meetings, events, monitoring, etc.
- + Early market exploration in cooperation with the GIZ country agencies in the region and the counterpart within CReW+
- + Continuous stakeholder involvement and sensitization (particularly with overall and component focal points, through check-ins and periodic meetings)
- + Stressing the positive externalities and cost-cutting aspects of IWWM
- + Stressing importance of sanitation infrastructure for hygiene as a pandemic prevention.
- + Trainings and guidelines for operation and maintenance as well as costing are planned as an



- integral part of the interventions
- + Adaptation of the scope into a more manageable and context-based solution to fulfil the intended objective..
- + Community and stakeholder involvement in participatory processes (including formal consultation) and communications measures, adaptation to local circumstances.

As next steps, GIZ will pursue the following activities:

- + For Component 1: In Mexico, will define concrete actions to put the new water discharge norm into practice; and in Costa Rica, will deliver the final draft of the national water policy, including the roadmap to include the Indigenous population.
- + For Component 2: In Costa Rica, will develop the financing mechanism; in Honduras, will provide support to key stakeholders in order to fulfil the commitments; in Dominican Republic and Colombia, will develop the tariff reform proposal; and in Mexico, will examine and develop financing mechanisms for treatment plants and "ecotecnias".
- + For component 3: In Dominican Republic and Colombia, will design of an optimization of a WWTP for wastewater reuse; in Suriname, will develop a feasibility study for a pilot sludge treatment facility; and in Guatemala, will conduct a training course for capacity building of technical staff from municipalities and the Ministry to apply the Guideline for watershed management plans in their territories.
- + For component 4: Will launch a regional communications campaign including animated videos, infographics, as well as TV and radio spots; and will produce videos about the project's work, including interviews with key stakeholders
- + For the regional activities: Will complete the third series of online trainings on topics around IWWM currently underway. A fourth series is being planned; a MOOC will be offered based on the new compendium of regional sanitation systems and technologies (implemented by BORDA); and the compendium of regional sanitation systems and technologies will be launched at the LatinoSan in October.



Project Progress - OAS

OAS presented key progress in the execution of CReW+ activities in Barbados, as well key support to CReW+ Project Coordination. OAS started with a short presentation of its institutional framework, with a Sustainable Development Department which holds the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, which manages the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS). PIDS supports CReW+ project through its Integrated Water and Wastewater Management strategic area.

The key outputs presented by OAS for the Barbados CReW+ national program include:

Output 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3.

+ The procurement process to identify a consultancy firm for the Development of a National Communications Strategy and Implementation Plan was conducted in 2021. The assignment started in May 2022 and will finalize in April 2023. The Communications Strategy will seek to deepen the understanding of the role of Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM) and its importance across the population.

Output 2.1 and 2.2:

+ Recruitment of consultants for the Design a Sustainable Financing Mechanisms for Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM) in Barbados. The activity aims to identify ways to overcome the financial barriers that prevent or inhibit public and private entities from installing, operating, and managing wastewater treatment systems.

The challenges and lessons learned identified by OAS in its execution include: COVID-19 limited possibility of face-to-face interactions with beneficiaries and stakeholders; and the importance of networking while relying on a virtual communication environment. The PCG stressed in its comments the importance of supporting the Caribbean countries in a paradigm



shift towards the value of wastewater and by-product.

Mid-Term Review and Recommendations

The MTR of the CReW+ Project was presented by David Rogers, Consultant. The Review covered the early phase of implementation, with execution report up to June 30, 2021. At that time, the project reached only 8% of budget execution, so the consultant was unable to assess the progress towards the stated project objectives. The consultant carried out numerous interviews (a total of 52 in 14 countries), all of which were conducted by telephone or email. No travel or site visits were conducted. The presentation at the SC Meeting included twelve (12) sets of recommendations concerning the various aspects of CReW+ Project Management, and some suggestions on the formulation of a potential new phase of the project. The recommendations area as follow:

- + **Results Matrix**. CReW+ should incorporate the objective-level indicators, project targets and means of verification of the CEO-Endorsement results matrix into the project monitoring and evaluation process.
- + **Results Matrix**. A new objective-level indicator should be added to the results matrix, which is "the number of new countries that have acceded to the LBS Protocol".
- + Component 1. To ensure consistency and synergies among: (a) national data collection and coordination supported under Component 1.2, (b) the CReW+ project indicators, and (c) the SDG reporting requirements, CReW+ should harmonize the data management methodologies and strengthen data logistics. This will ensure that a set of common, standardized indicators to capture and report on environmental impacts associated with the project are processed, and that all data-reporting demands are met.
- + Component 2. CReW+ should organize a regional workshop on sustainable financing strategies that will bring together perspectives from across the sector, including US-EPA, SuSanA, RedSNIP, Dutch Water Authorities, UNEP, IDB and CDB, among others. Topics could include:



best-practice tariff reform; assessment of the polluter-pays principle and how it really works in wastewater financing; demystifying public-private partnerships, and examine how the private-sector profit motive limits effective environmental stewardship; enhancement of creditworthiness of wastewater and sanitation utilities; usefulness of sweat equity; and modalities of government subsidies.

- + Component 3. Strengthen the concept of "going to scale", include economic cost-benefit analysis, project technical description and demographic and geographic information in all projects, and develop final user evaluations in the close-out phase of Component 3 investments.
- + Enhanced reporting. CreW+ Project reporting should include geo-referenced maps that demarcate the actual project area and geo-referenced photographs of sites where project interventions were undertaken. The geo-referenced maps and photos subsequently can be incorporated into the implementing agencies project databases, the CReW+ website, and will serve as an important input to the terminal evaluation.
- + Implementing Agencies' role. The IDB and UNEP should increase their project oversight, guidance and support functions. The IACG should schedule formal monthly meetings on the following action items: (a) extend the project completion date; (b) review an updated 2022-2023 workplan, including revised inputs, outputs and outcomes, with attendant clarification of shared responsibilities among executing agencies, through the end of project; (c) and accordingly, review and revise the available budget and procurement plan; (d) resolve how to proceed with the non-performing countries; (e) prepare the agenda for a meaningful PSC meeting and motivate follow-up actions; (f) conduct a high-level, component-by-component review among the three executing agencies to ensure consistency with goals and enhance sharing of lessons learned.
- + **Project Coordination Group (PCG)**. The IACG should strengthen the role of the PCG in day-to-day guidance, decision making and execution. The PCG should conduct country-centered management meetings with the following participants: (a) GEF focal point(s); (b) country representatives of component activities; (c) members of the national coordinating committee; (d) the executing agency staff responsible for the country and components; (e) PCG project coordinator (chair) and staff; and (f) IACG members as needed.



- + **Planning to project completion**. CReW+ should prepare a 2022-2023 work plan for the fulfilment of as many project objectives as possible, that takes into consideration an 18-month extension of the execution period and develops multiple scenarios that consider GIZ's options to extend its role as executing agency.
- Project Budget. The PCG with the support of the implementing and executing agencies, should conduct a thorough review of the budget, to identify underutilized resources, such as travel, per diem, and unutilized country allocations, that may be reprogrammed to cover underbudgeted areas, as well as the costs associated with a likely extension of project timeframe.
- + **Operational manual**. In order to clarify roles, policies and procedures, and serve as a guide for future operations, CReW+ should complete the Operations Manual, including all the implementing and executing agencies.
- + **Think Ahead**. CReW+ could begin to address what will happen in 2023 to the individual and institutional contacts, to the sustainability of information exchange, and to the compendium of technologies, and the long-term follow up to pilot projects.

During the open session for comments, several participants at the SC Meeting provided some valuable inputs and suggestions. Some comments reflected on the common problem of underfunding within these regional programs and pointed at the importance of lessons learned and projecting future activities based on successes achieved. The PCG reinforced the idea that the needs of the countries are very different from each other, adding that for those countries with different priorities (other than sanitation implementation), the CReW+ project offers support to other activities, such as capacity building.

UNEP welcomed the mid-term report as "a very good report". It was highlighted that the governance of the project has more actors involved than in the first CReW project (2011-2017), making management more difficult. The UNEP representative added that: not all people representing the agencies are involved to the same degree in the meetings, there is a need for continued support to the PCG, as they are essential for the development of the



project; and there is a need for more engagement of partners in the SC meetings. Finally, a comment was made on the duration of the project activities, which is generally underestimated during the planning period.

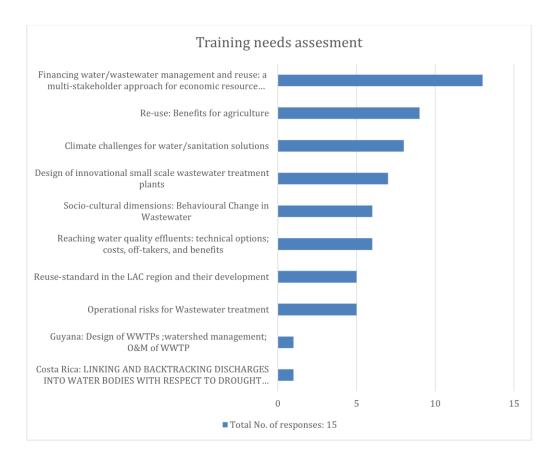
The PCG pointed at the long period taken for program formulation, especially for completing the feasibility studies under Component 3. The PCG commented that monthly follow-up meetings have been held with some countries. However, with those that have not yet been able to take place, he extends the invitation to contact him to schedule them. Usually the meetings take 30 min to 1 h.

Closing Remarks and Wrap-Up (Day 1)

An online survey was conducted among participants in the meeting, asking about the main training needs required by their countries. A total of fifteen (15) respondents provided their feedback, with responses including: needs in financing mechanisms and sources to engage in wastewater management and reuse (especially in agriculture); climate resilience strategies in the water and sanitation sector; innovations in decentralized/small scale treatment systems, behavioural changes to improve efficiency in water operation systems, and integrated water



resource management (see table with summary of responses below).



Participants at the meeting were asked to respond to needs for LBS ratification (for non-ratified countries) and needs for compliance and update on LBS activities (for ratified countries) (See table below with summary of needs).

Table 1. Summary of needs for LBS ratification

Country	Next steps	Needs
	Non-Ratified Countries	
Cuba		Support from the realization of initiatives and promoting the consensus of the Cuban Government towards the ratification of the Protocol



Country	Next steps	Needs
Mexico	To be defined by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Cabinet memo submitted to our Minister to further carry to Cabinet	Already received support- the draft was reviewed by UNEP.
	Ratified Countries	
Barbados	Working on a Marine Pollution Control Strategy under the GEF 4932 IWEco Project	Technical assistance on the Protocol's implementation
Costa Rica		Under implementation
Honduras	Ratified in 2018, still in the implementation phase without such a clear direction	Support in implementation of protocol with experiences lived in other countries.
Panama	It must be regulated given the legal changes in the current entities, as well as clarify the focal point.	The update of how to implement this law with the current legal context of Panama and meet the legal and budgetary commitments.
Saint Lucia	A draft wastewater policy exists but there has been slow tracking for further progress.	Institutional review of the sector for facilitating the right enabling environment

The PCG reminded that all presentations are available in English and Spanish in the link shared in the invitation. He also noted that the first day of this SC Meeting consists of PowerPoint presentations, while the second day involves more discussions on selected agenda items.

The PCG proposed a period of 15 days (starting on the first day of the SC Meeting) for the PCG to receive feedback on the mid-term Report Document available to the participants in the link previously provided.



Day 2 – PSC Meeting 2022

Terms of Reference for the Project Steering Committee (SC), and TORs of the National Focal Points

The Terms of Reference for National Focal Points were also presented. The responsibilities for Focal Points to actively prepare for, attend, participate/communicate and make decisions at the CReW+ PSC Meetings were presented. These include:

- + To present the project's overall direction and progress, workplan and budget for review and approval.
- + Hold high-level discussions on strategic aspects.
- + Submit proposals related to these project outputs for adoption/approval by the Steering Committee.
- + Share Information and decisions from the CReW+ PSC Meetings with relevant national stakeholders and specific focal points of national Projects implemented under CReW+.
- + Liaise with the CReW+ Project Coordination Group.
- Disseminate in a timely manner requests for support and/or news from the CReW+ Project
 Coordination Group and Executing Agencies.
- + Promote enhanced coordination and synergies among the CReW+ Project and related national and local-level activities.
- + Support the monitoring & evaluation of the implementation of the CReW+ Project.
- + Have as a minimum a basic understanding of the role & functioning of the GEF and of the strategic approach and objectives of the GEF's International Waters Focal Area.
- + Be familiar with the objectives, scope, and content of the CREW+ Project.
- + Have a good knowledge and understanding of their country's policies and strategies/action plans.



- + Be supportive of the principle of interactive participatory governance and be involved (as relevant) in country-level inter-sectoral consultation & coordination mechanisms/processes.
- + Provide input for and be informed of the outcomes of such relevant processes.
- + Be an active spokesperson for the CReW+ Project at national, regional, and international levels.
- + Be entitled to take decisions, on behalf of their country, or to communicate on decisions taken by the corresponding authorities of their countries, at the CReW+ Steering Committee, or to communicate in relation to key CReW+ Project outputs on behalf of their country.

As part of the open discussions in the review of the TORs, several points were made to be addressed by the SC. These include:

- + The representative of Colombia confirms that she does have responsibilities for representing the Ministry of Environment at the SC but lack decision making powers. The IDB SC member suggested that in such case, the Focal Point be present at the moment of voting, and that decisions be taken based on majority vote. Colombia suggested that the final vote be casted via electronically, so that approval can be sought at the adequate ministerial level.
- + It was agreed that the decision be taken based on two thirds (2/3) majority (minimum twelve countries approving). The non-objection period will be 2 weeks. If by that time no objection is received, the documents will be considered approved. The TORs will be modified accordingly.

Detailed Work Plan and Budget

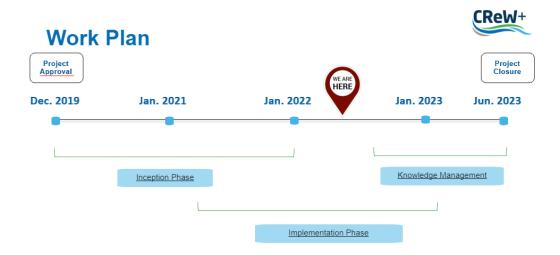
The PCG presented the CReW+ Workplan and Budget (Annex 3 and 4), with summary figures that include activities distribution (national activities, regional activities, M&E, and Project Management), project progress, and budget execution by component (See presentation in link). The PCG stressed that the level of disbursement was much lower in 2021 that projected in the CDP meeting in November 2020. Therefore, it is expected that in 2022 and 2023, disbursement will have to be much higher than anticipated for these years if project activities



are to be finalized in 2023.

The representative from Panama raised the question whether an extension would be feasible given the difficulties for executing the funds. The PCG responded that the execution of the project should become a high priority among the implementing and executing agencies, in order to meet the existing conclusion date. Otherwise, resources would have to be transferred from one agency to another.

The PCG proceeded to review the Project Work Plan, with the implementation phase expected to be completed in early 2023, and the Knowledge Management phase expected to be completed in June 2023.



Given the delays in execution, the PCG proposed an extension of six months for final execution, with a new end date on December 2023, even though the agreed project timeline indicated June 2023 for conclusion. UNEP raised the question whether such extension would be supported by additional funds for administrative costs, including funding for the PCG up until December 2023. The PCG responded that the additional costs need be reviewed. IDB confirmed the importance of achieving full completion of project objectives, so he proposed a review of any time extension with the beneficiary countries.



The Barbados Focal Point raised a question about maximum time fame required to submit a request to GEF for additional funding, given the increase in personnel cost implied in any time extension. The PCG responded that any administrative extension would be used to cover communication activities, lessons learned and development of best practice documents. Barbados asked if a progress report will be developed and presented for review by CReW+ partners in January 2023. The response from the PCG was affirmative.

Results Matrix and Monitoring nd Evaluation Plan

The CReW+ Project's Results Matrix sets the targets set for each component, while the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is used to track progress towards the achievement of these targets. The SC is responsible for proposing any necessary amendments to the M&E Plan during project implementation. As clarified by the PCR in the First SC Meeting in 2021, the release of the Inception Report should mark the start of actual project execution, with expected annual reports, co-financing reports and annual audits supporting the reporting of the project results. As indicated in the mid-term review presented in this Second SC Meeting, only 8% of the CReW+ Budget had been executed at the time of writing the Mid-term report, therefore, the SC today does not have enough elements to provide specific insights on actual execution. Nonetheless, the PCG presented in this SC Meeting a result matrix which already covers execution up until the first semester of 2022 (Q1).

The results matrix presented by the PCG reports the following outcomes:

Component 1

+ Outcome 1.1

 9 Countries currently implementing actions towards IWWM. At the end of project, sixteen countries will have their plans developed, covering the following policy and strategy



instruments:

- IWWM National Policies and Plans (Belize, Costa Rica, Grenada, Jamaica, Suriname, Saint Kitts and Nevis).
- IWWM National Norms and Regulations (Colombia, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Panama, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago).
- IWRM National Policies and Plans (Guyana).
- IWRM Norms and Regulations (Cuba, Guatemala).
- National Communications Strategy and Implementation Plan (Barbados).
- Freshwater Strategy and Nutrients Standards Papers finalized and endorsed by
 LBS COP 6 and will consider at COP in first quarter of 2023.
- SSFAs developed with RAC CIMAB and IMA to support LBS Ratification based on needs assessment.

+ Outcome 1.2

 National Water Information Water System Platforms (WIMS) are being developed by UNU-INWEEH in —Costa Rica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago). In Guyana, a WIMs is being supported, but separately from UNU-INWEH's contractual package. Link with Existing Regional Platforms (OLAS, UN Platforms).

+ Outcome 1.3

- 8 Workshops conducted in 2021.
- 1340 attendees were trained on governance in wastewater treatment and reuse.
- Minimum of 4 Workshops will be conducted in 2022.
- CReW+ Academy (Three completed blocks by 06/2022).

Component 2

+ Outcome 2.1

- 1 Compendium of recommendations for financial options to be available in 2022.
- 8 Financial plans will be developed:
 - Business Plan for the reuse of treated effluent (Barbados, Jamaica).



 Financing mechanisms adapted to small communities (Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Suriname).

+ Outcome 2.2

- 1 Compendium of recommendations for innovative incentive options and recommendations on IWRM to be available in 2022.
- 4 Financial plans (public–private mechanisms, payment options or recommendations) will be developed:
 - Tariff Reforms (Colombia, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago).
 - Models and guidelines for PPPs in rural communities (Costa Rica).

+ Outcome 2.3

- 3 Workshops conducted in 2021.
- 201 Beneficiaries were trained on financing.
- Minimum of 4 Workshops will be conducted.
- CReW+ Academy (Three completed block by 06/2022).

Component 3

+ Outcome 3.1

- 1 Innovative Technologies Compendium (available in the Summer 2022).
- At the end of project, 15 Wastewater Innovative Solutions will be implemented:
 - Conceptualizing IWWM technical solutions (Belize, Costa Rica, Panama, Suriname).
 - Implementing IWWM technical solutions (Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago).
 - WWTP optimization for reuse (Colombia, Jamaica).

+ Outcome 3.2

- 1 Guidelines for IWRM will be developed in 2023.
- 3 IWWM Pilot Interventions to be implemented by end of project:
 - Implementation IWRM plans (Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana).



- 8 Workshops conducted in 2021.
- 711 Beneficiaries were trained on innovative and low-cost solutions for wastewater reuse
- Minimum of 4 Workshops will be conducted.
- CReW+ Academy (Three completed block by 06/2022).

Component 4

+ Outcome 4.1

- 1 Communication Strategy.
- Free online training in the framework of the CReW+ Academy.
- Web/Social Media/Articles/Videos.

+ Outcome 4.2

• At the end of the Project, 20 Best Practices of successful projects: lessons and experiences.

At the end of his presentation, the PCG stressed the importance of reporting all co-financing involved in the implementation of CReW+ project activities, both monetary AND non-monetary (in-kind).

As part of the Monitoring an Evaluation activities, the PCG presented the status of various M&E instruments, as follows:

Monitoring and Evaluation Plan



Item	Status
Inception Report and Project Supervision Plan	Completed
Annual Operations Plan	2020-2021
Half-yearly Progress Report	2020-2021
Annual Financial report	2020-2021



Annual Progress Reports (Project Implementation Review - PIR)	2021
Procurement Plan	2020-2021
External Audit	2020-2021
Co-Financing Report	2021
Mid-term Review	Completed
Project Completion Report	To be completed by 2023
Terminal Evaluation	To be completed by 2023

Communication Strategy

The communications strategy provides the overall guidelines to promote the GEF CReW+ project in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) and beyond. It facilitates a professional and positive visibility of the project using different tools and channels. According to the project results matrix, the following outcomes and outputs have been defined for the communications component (component 4):

- + Outcome 4.1 Improved awareness and understanding of the advantages of implementing integrated approaches within the targeted communities to enable implementation of low-tech and integrated water and wastewater management solutions. This includes Output 4.1.1 (A communications strategy developed and implemented, including information and dissemination of products related to Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM) and watershed management).
- Outcome 4.2 Improved access to an information exchange mechanism, including knowledge derived from lessons learned during the implementation of component 3, as well as improved information sharing capability with GEF and the wider, local and national communities amongst all eighteen participating countries. This includes Output 4.2.1 (Documented best practices, lessons, and experiences from all components) and Output 4.2.2 (Establishing



an operational information exchange mechanism for GEF and non-GEF projects, including the IWLEARN Platform and general information about the project).

The Communication Strategy 2021-22 that was adopted by the CReW+ partners encompass internal and external stakeholders and pursued a set of goals with specific indicators and evaluation methods.



	GOALS	INDICATORS	EVALUATION METHODS
INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS	 Understand the objectives, approaches, and the importance of the CReW+ project and results. Demonstrate full understanding of the impacts and benefits at the local, national, and regional levels. Apply the CReW+ corporate design materials in a consistent and adequate manner. 	 Co-implementing and executing agencies make use of communications tools at national, regional, and global events. GEF CReW+ materials have been adopted by all agencies and are available to all. 	Survey satisfaction/feedback mechanism. Number of events attended by internal stakeholders during which GEF CReW+ materials were shared.
EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS	Understand the objectives, activities, and mode of operation (role of implementing and co-executing agencies) of the GEF CReW+ project. Are cognizant of the importance and local, national, and regional impacts/benefits of the project. Demonstrate ownership of CReW+ activities and approaches.	Communications materials are made available and accessible to external partners via channels such as website, social media, workshops, and meetings. External partners promote and share the project's communications materials. Key partners refer to the GEF CReW+ project and relevant implementing and executing agencies in their own reporting, communication, and outreach.	Survey satisfaction/feedback mechanism Number of published articles, social media posts (tweets, sector-relevant newsletters, forum posts) in which the GEF CReW+ is mentioned Number of events at which the project is discussed (or presentations made) and communications material disseminated.



During its first phase (March 2021), the Strategy included general information about the project, objectives, target audience, key messages, communication channels, press strategy and marketing. During the second phase (2021-22), the Strategy included specific communication products, such as the creation of Twitter and Instagram accounts, promotional videos, posts in social media, promotion of webinars and other communication methods.

The GIZ team in charge of developing and applying the communication strategy in coordination with IDB and all executing partners presented the status of the Strategy, noting that the Communication Strategy is now in the process of becoming fully operational through the development of a Communication Plan. Such Plan includes:

- + Links the results matrix to the products the CReW+ will develop throughout the entire project.

 It will grant that the successful completion of component 4, while monitoring and measuring its results for accountability purposes.
- + Measures the contributions of the communications products to the fulfillment of other components.
- + Organizes the products and activities to achieve cohesion between agencies, achieving brand alignment and messaging at all times.
- + Maximizes our visibility and outreach through joining efforts

The roles and responsibilities of various CReW+ partners were outlined, including:

For PCG:

- + Designing the communications plan.
- + Coordinating the implementation.
- + Articulating the organization of products, ideas and events.
- Generating spaces for discussion and feedback.
- + Granting cohesion in messaging and branding.
- + Measuring the effects of the communication products.



- + Ensuring accountability for component 4.
- + Managing the official CReW+ communications channels

For the Agencies:

- + Implementing the communications plan.
- + Providing feedback and technical advice to the communications plan, products and activities.
- + Collaborating in the development of new products, ideas and inclusions to the communications plan.
- + Conducting the activities at the country level.
- + Providing inputs for project-wide products.
- + Providing inputs for country-specific products.

The timeline for the Communication Plan was presented, with the following key intermediate results:

Timeline for the Communications Plan



First Feedback Rounds, PCG and Agencies Beginning of March, 2022

Integration of Feedback and Further Questions April, 2022

First Draft by PCG
February, 2022

Feedback Discussion
Meetings PCG and Agencies
End of March, 2022

Approval and start of implementation
End of May, 2022

The products to be delivered under the Communication Plan include:

- + 7 blog posts
- + 2 Country-lead Communication Activities



- + 5 Experience notes
- + 3 Fact sheets
- + 1 Infographic
- + 10 Press publications
- + 3 Newsletters
- + 1 Op-Ed
- + 3 Participation in Conferences
- + 1 Press kit and media protocol
- + 3 promotional activities
- + 1 project publication
- + 1 project report
- + 6 Social Media Campaigns
- + 2 Technical Publications
- + 18 Testimonials
- + 10 Videos
- + 1 workshop
- + Website

In their presentation, the communication team highlighted the flexibility in the production of communication products, inviting the partner countries to propose any communication product they deem important or necessary, which may not be already included in the list.

Several challenges were mentioned, including Coordination among stakeholders, longer timelines for receiving feedback, and undervaluing of communication activity (secondary and not a core outcome). Several opportunities were also outlined, including Generating new liaisons at the country-level with the communications teams at the Ministries, with the intention to increase collaboration, impact and visibility; participating physically or virtually in country-lead activities to collect content and capitalize on efforts; and linking social media efforts to increase traffic and reach wider audiences.



Comments by participants and responses

In the open session for comments, the UNEP executing partner requested that the link to the communication page be disseminate, adding that the page will be hosted in the UNEP-CEP's sever, similar to the original CReW+ project (2011-2017). Likewise, the representative for Panama consulted if at some point the public relations counterparts at the national level will be contacted for further dissemination of results from CReW+. The communication team clarified that that has not been included in the Plan, but it invites CReW+ partners to pursue such efforts, and that they will provide the assistance required.

Review and Adoption of Meeting Decisions

The last session concluding Day 2 of the SC Meeting involved the review and adoption of Meeting decisions. Annex 6 summarizes the decisions of the PSC, covering all items in the 2-day agenda. These include:

- + TORs for the SC
- + Role of Focal Points and National Committees
- + Budget and workplan
- + Results Matrix
- + Monitoring and Evaluation
- Communication Strategy/Plan
- + Mid-Term Review
- + General Comments

The PCG indicated that the Decision Document will be shared at the latest at the beginning of the week May 2-6, 2022. The PCG clarified that the co-financing should be reported following a specific format that had been distributed previously to all CReW+ regional and country



participants. This format will be sent again for use. Regarding item 14 in the Decision Document (encourage GEF CReW+ participating countries that that have Project Cooperation Agreements – PCA -- with the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, to submit their expenditure and narrative reports online), this only applies to national entities that have signed a PCA with UNEP.

The PCG proceeded to meeting closure and adjourn, thanking all participants for their attendance.



Annex 1 - Agenda

GEF CReW+ Project

Second Project Steering Committee Meeting

AGENDA @	
Central America (UTC- 06:00)	Wednesday, 27 April 2022
8:00 a.m 8:45 a.m.	Opening, Introduction and Adoption of Agenda
8:45 a.m 9:15 a.m.	GEF CReW+ Project Introduction and the Role of the Project Coordination Group
9:15 a.m 10:00 a.m.	UNEP - Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention Project Progress
10:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.	Coffee/Lunch Break Communication Activity
11:00 a.m 11:45 a.m.	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH Project Progress
11:45 a.m 12:15 p.m.	Organization of the American States (OAS) Project Progress
12:15 p.m 1:00 p.m.	Mid-Term Review Recommendations
1:00 p.m 1:15 p.m.	Closing remarks and wrap up

Financed by:

Co-implemented by:



Co-executed by:











GEF CReW+ Project

Second Project Steering Committee Meeting

AGENDA© Central America (UTC- 06:00)	thursday, 28 April 2022
8:00 a.m 8:25 a.m.	Introduction and Adoption of Agenda
8:25 a.m 8:50 a.m.	ToRs Project Steering Committee - Role of Focal Points
8:50 a.m 9:25 a.m.	Detailed Budget and Work Plan
9:25 a.m 10:00 a.m.	Results Matrix and Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
10:00 a.m 11:00 a.m.	Coffee/Lunch Break Communication Activity
11:00 a.m 12:00 p.m.	Communication Strategy
12:00 p.m 1:00 p.m.	Adoption of Decisions
1:00 p.m 1:15 p.m.	Closing remarks and wrap up

Financed by

Co-implemented by:













Annex 2 – List of Participants

First Name / Nombre	Last Name / Apellido	Country / País	Name of institution / Nombre de la institución que ud. representa	Job title / Cargo	E-mail address / Correo electrónico
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First Name / Nombre	Last Name / Apellido	Country / País	Name of institution / Nombre de la institución que ud. representa	Job title / Cargo	E-mail address / Correo electrónico
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First Name / Nombre	Last Name / Apellido	Country / País	Name of institution / Nombre de la institución que ud. representa	Job title / Cargo	E-mail address / Correo electrónico
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Annex 3 – Detail Budget



Annex 4 – Detail Work Plan



Annex 5 – Results Matrix



Annex 6 – Adoption of Decisions by the PSC

Decisions of the Project Steering Committee	Decisiones del Comité Directivo del Proyecto
Terms of reference for the Project Steering	Términos de referencia del Comité Directivo del
Committee	Proyecto:
 Reconfirmed the terms of reference of the Project Steering Committee as presented. 	 Reconfirma los términos de referencia del Comité Directivo del Proyecto tal como se presentaron.
Role of Focal Points and National Steering Committees:	Papel de los Puntos Focales y de los Comités Directivos Nacionales:
2. Reconfirmed the terms of reference as	2. Reconfirma los términos de referencia
presented.	tal como se presentaron.
Detailed budget:	Presupuesto detallado:
3. Provisionally adopted the budget, and required a two-week deadline so that members of the PSC to review the document in detail, provide additional comments and adopt same. If no comments are received within this period, the document will be considered as approved.	3. Adopta provisionalmente el presupuesto, y se solicitó un plazo de dos semanas para permitir que los miembros del Comité Directivo revisen el documento en detalle, proporcionen comentarios adicionales y lo adopten. Si no se reciben comentarios en este plazo, se considerará aprobado el documento.



Decisions of the Project Steering Committee

Decisiones del Comité Directivo del Proyecto

Detailed Work Plan:

4. Provisionally adopted the work plan budget, and required a two-week deadline so that members of the PSC to review the document in detail, provide additional comments and adopt same. If no comments are received within this period, the document will be considered as approved.

Results Matrix:

5. Provisionally adopted the result matrix, and required a two-week deadline so that members of the PSC to review the document in detail, provide additional comments and adopt same. If no comments are received within this period, the document will be considered as approved.

Monitoring & Evaluation plan:

6. Noted the importance of the monitoring and evaluation plan and committed to providing reports in a timely manner.

Plan de Trabajo detallado:

4. Adopta provisionalmente el plan de trabajo, y se solicitó un plazo de dos semanas para permitir que los miembros del Comité Directivo revisen el documento en detalle, proporcionen comentarios adicionales y lo adopten. Si no se reciben comentarios en este plazo, se considerará aprobado el documento.

Matriz de resultados:

resultados, y se solicitó un plazo de dos semanas para permitir que los miembros del Comité Directivo revisen el documento en detalle, proporcionen comentarios adicionales y lo adopten. Si no se reciben comentarios en este plazo, se considerarán aprobado el documento.

Plan de Monitoreo y Evaluación:

6. Destaca la importancia del plan de monitoreo y evaluación, y se compromete proporcionar informes de manera oportuna.



Decisions of the Project Steering Committee Decisione

Decisiones del Comité Directivo del Proyecto

Communication strategy, the draft communication plan and the handbook:

draft Estrategia de comunicación, plan de comunicaciones y el manual de marca:

- 7. Provisionally adopted the communication strategy, the draft communication plan and the brand handbook, and required a two-week deadline so that members of the PSC to review the documents in detail, provide additional comments and adopt same. If no comments are received within this period, the documents will be considered as approved.
- 7. Adopta provisionalmente la estrategia de comunicación, el borrador del plan de comunicaciones y el manual de marca, y se solicitó un plazo de dos semanas para permitir que los miembros del Comité Directivo revisen documentos en detalle. proporcionen comentarios adicionales y los adopten. Si no se reciben comentarios en este plazo, se considerarán aprobados los documentos.
- **8.** Encouraged the project countries to:
 - a. Document experiences and lessons learnt during implementation to facilitate reporting.
 - b. Promote the project through participation in environmental events and meetings.
 - c. Promote the coordination between communications units and the Project at national level.

- **8.** Se alentó específicamente a los países del proyecto a:
 - a. Documentar las experiencias y lecciones aprendidas durante la implementación para facilitar la presentación de informes.
 - b. Promocionar el proyecto mediante la participación en eventos y reuniones sobre el medio ambiente.
 - c. Promocionar la coordinación a nivel nacional entre las unidades de comunicación y el Proyecto.



Decisions of the Project Steering Committee

Decisiones del Comité Directivo del Proyecto

Mid-Term Review:

9. Provisionally adopted the mid-term review, and required a two-week deadline so that members of the PSC to review the document in detail, provide additional comments and adopt same. If no comments are received within this period, the document will be considered as approved.

Revision de medio Termino:

9. Adopta provisionalmente la revisión de medio termino, y se solicitó un plazo de dos semanas para permitir que los miembros del Comité Directivo revisen el documento en detalle, proporcionen comentarios adicionales y lo adopten. Si no se reciben comentarios en este plazo, se considerará aprobado el documento.

General

- 10. Acknowledged the importance of organize bilateral meetings between GEF CReW+ participating countries, PCG and executing agencies to accelerate implementation. Required to evaluate the format of the meetings for each case (virtual, face-to-face or hybrid).
- 11. Encouraged GEF CReW+ participating countries and National Focal Points to take full advantage of past resources provided by the CReW+ academy and actively participate in future training opportunities.

General

- 10. Reconoció la importancia de organizar reuniones bilaterales entre los países participantes del GEF CReW+, el PCG y las agencias ejecutoras para acelerar la implementación. Se solicita evaluar el formato de las reuniones para cada caso (virtual, presencial o hibrido).
- 11. Animo a los países participantes del GEF
 CReW+ y a los Puntos Focales
 Nacionales a que aprovechen al máximo
 los recursos anteriores proporcionados
 por la academia CReW+ y a que
 participen activamente en futuras
 oportunidades de formación.



Decisions of the Project Steering Committee

Decisiones del Comité Directivo del Proyecto

- **12.** Requested that all participating countries provide continuously document approximate levels of cash or in-kind co-financing.
- 13. Encouraged GEF CReW+ participating countries that are also members of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific grouping (ACP) to request support from the Cartagena Convention secretariat from projects such as ACP MEA III and activities that contribute to GEF CReW+.
- 14. Encouraged GEF CReW+ participating countries that that have Project Cooperation Agreements with Cartagena Convention Secretariat, to submit their expenditure and narrative reports in time.
- 15. Recognized the importance of the ratification of the Land-Based sources of Marine Pollution Protocol and the financial and technical support available through the GEF CReW+ Project for ratification. It encourages all countries

- **12.** Solicito a todos los países participantes que documenten continuamente la aproximada cofinanciación en efectivo o en especie.
- 13. Animo a los países participantes en el GEF CReW+ que también son miembros de la agrupación de África, el Caribe y el Pacífico (ACP) a solicitar apoyo a la secretaría del Convenio de Cartagena de proyectos como el ACP MEA III y actividades que contribuyan al GEF CReW+.
- **14.** Animo a los países participantes en el GEF CReW+ que tengan Acuerdos de Cooperación del Proyecto con la secretaría del Convenio de Cartagena, a que presenten a tiempo sus informes financieros y narrativos.
- Protocolo FTCM y el apoyo técnico y financiero para la ratificación que el Proyecto GEF CReW+ ha puesto a disposición. Esto solicita en los países que no hayan ratificado el Protocolo que



Decisions of the Project Steering Committee	Decisiones del Comité Directivo del Proyecto
who have not yet ratified the Protocol to	promuevan activamente su ratificación
actively promote ratification in their	en sus respectivos países.
respective countries.	
16. Acknowledged the importance of	16. Reconoció la importancia de iniciar la
starting national implementation as	implementación en sus países cuanto
soon as possible and requests all	antes, y solicita a todos los países que no
countries who have not yet completed	hayan completado la elaboración de
the elaboration of national activities to	paquetes nacionales lo hagan con las
finalize with the co-executing agencies	entidades ejecutores no después del
no later than end of June 2022 so that all	junio de 2022, de manera que las
contracts, where required, can be	contrataciones que se requieran hacer
completed by end of August 2022.	sean finalizadas a finales de agosto del
	2022.
17. Requested that all participating	17. Solicito que todos los países
countries that have not identified a	participantes que todavía no han
Focal Point yet, provide formal	identificado un punto focal para el
indication of their national project focal	Proyecto, que se realice a través de una
points as soon as possible and no later	comunicación formal y no después del
than June 2022 to ensure smooth flow	junio 2022, para así asegurar el flujo e
and exchange of information.	intercambio adecuado de información.



Approved by: Mr Christopher Corbin Coordinator
Cartagena Convention Secretariat
07 November 2022



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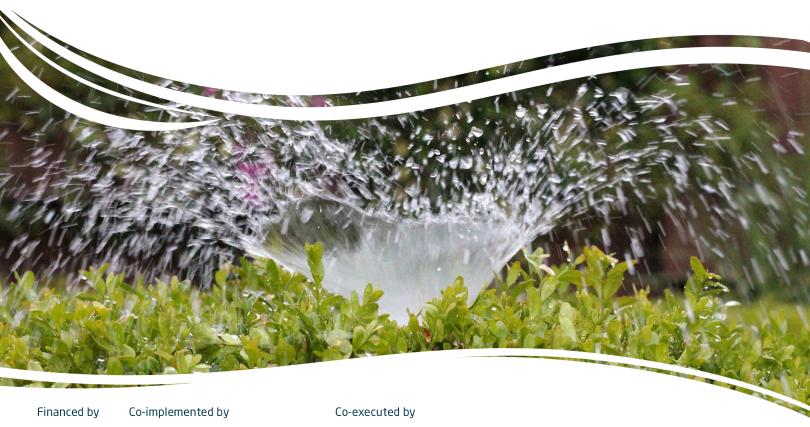






2nd Project Steering Committee Meeting

Detail Budget















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Design: GEF CReW+ Project

Date: April 2022

Commissioned by: Inter-Agency Coordination Group (IACG)

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Component/Outcome/Output	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Component I					
Institutional, policy, legislative and regulatory reforms for Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM)	114,173	256,494	1,746,669	573,664	2,691,000
Outcome 1.1					
Consolidated improved and reformed institutional, policy and legislative frameworks for IWWM	105,673	244,544	1,312,119	491,664	2,154,000
Output 1.1.1					
Diagnostic analysis of existing policy framework, legislations, guidelines and standards in support of IWWM, recommendations for reforms and development of national IWWM plans					
 - IBD: Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago (12) - UNEP: Cuba, Grenada, Guyana, St Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines (6) 	105,673	185,180	1,091,483	491,664	1,874,000
Output 1.1.2					
Recommendations for amendments to the LBS Protocol to facilitate increased reuse of domestic wastewater including adoption of new criteria or standards for domestic wastewater discharges	0	10,000	120,000	0	130,000
- IDB: N/A - UNEP: Regional Activity (1)					



Output 1.1.3					
Review, Analysis and Report for developing a new Strategy or Protocol on the management of freshwater resources within the framework of the Cartagena Convention	0	10,000	60,000	0	70,000
- IDB: N/A - UNEP: Regional Activity (1)					
Output 1.1.4					
Country specific Cabinet/Parliament Submissions prepared for formal ratification of the LBS Protocol	0	20.264	40.636	0	80 000
 IDB: N/A UNEP: Barbados, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname (8) 	0	39,364	40,636	0	80,000
Outcome 1.2					
Enhanced regional and national coordination, information exchange, science-based decisions, and reporting on relevant SDGs and MEAs, resulting from the use of national and regional platforms/databases for IWWM by national and regional institutions	0	0	240,000	0	240,000
Output 1.2.1					
New or updated national platforms/databases, supported by a regional platform for IWWM developed	0	0	240.000		240,000
 IDB: N/A UNEP: Costa Rica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago (6) 	Ü	U	240,000	0	240,000
Outcome 1.3					
Improved knowledge and skills to enable the monitoring of national reform processes for IWWM, and for reporting on relevant SDGs and MEAs	8,500	11,950	194,550	82,000	297,000



Output 1.3.1					
Capacity building workshops to drive national and regional reforms for IWWM and, for reporting on relevant SDGs	8,500	11,950	194,550	82,000	297,000
- IDB: 5 workshops - UNEP: 4 workshops					



Component/Outcome/Output	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Component II Sustainable and tailor-made financing options for urban, peri-urban and rural IWWM	247,731	273,085	1,077,634	226,550	1,825,000
Outcome 2.1 Improved understanding of different financing options and greater readiness for integrated wastewater management financing at small-scale local, community and national levels	115,731	173,791	577,128	226,550	1,093,200
Output 2.1.1 Compendium of recommendations on sustainable financing options considering micro credit, tariffing and other innovative mechanisms developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders, based on a review of existing financing mechanisms for IWWM at small, local, community or national levels, depending upon country context - IDB: 1 compendium - UNEP: N/A	16,000	14,150	9,850	0	40,000
Output 2.1.2 A series of community/rural specific financing action plans and business models to address IWWM including reuse - IDB: Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Jamaica, Panamá and Suriname (8) - UNEP: N/A	99,731	159,641	567,278	226,550	1,053,200
Outcome 2.2 Watershed management - Increased and sustainable financing for Integrated watershed management including for protecting surface and groundwater water sources	66,000	81,550	354,250	0	501,800



Output 2.2.1 Compendium of innovative incentive options and recommendations on financing mechanisms for water conservation, pollution prevention, and water and wastewater reuse - IDB: 1 compendium - UNEP: N/A	16,000	8,150	15,850	0	40,000
Output 2.2.2 Public–private mechanisms, payment options and recommendations on approaches to implement payment for ecosystem services developed - IDB: Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago (5) - UNEP: N/A	50,000	73,400	338,400	0	461,800
Outcome 2.3 Improved knowledge and skills for successful design, establishment and management of appropriate financial mechanisms	66,000	17,744	146,256	0	230,000
Output 2.3.1 Training modules for selected persons and agencies in the design, strategic planning, establishment and management of the financial mechanisms - IDB: 7 workshops - UNEP: N/A	66,000	17,744	146,256	0	230,000



Component/Outcome/Output	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total		
Component III							
Provision of innovative small-scale, local, rural, peri-urban and community-based solutions for IWWM	208,893	780,867	5,113,282	1,956,280	8,059,322		
Outcome 3.1							
Improved wastewater treatment, including reuse, in rural and peri-urban hotspots using low tech and IWWM solutions	175,893	716,317	4,412,532	1,324,580	6,629,322		
Output 3.1.1							
Compendium of innovative technologies adapted to small-scale situations, supported by technical assistance, made available to all participating countries	6,500	9,140	24,360	0	40,000		
- IDB: 1 compendium - UNEP: N/A							
Output 3.1.2							
Rural and community level Integrated and Innovative Water and Wastewater low tech solutions implemented							
- IDB: Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico, Suriname (7) - UNEP: Costa Rica, Cuba, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago (8)	169,393	707,177	4,388,172	1,324,580	6,589,322		
Output 3.1.3							
Intervention in Barbados re: Star Allocation from Barbados (Land degradation)	-	-	-	-	-		



Outcome 3.2					
Improved life cycle management, circular economy and efficiency in water use-consumption promoting source protection and water reuse in the joint management of surface and groundwater resources in critical watersheds/hot spots	26,000	54,000	373,300	516,700	970,000
Output 3.2.1					
Integrated guidelines and implementation plan consistent with IWRM with a focus on water source protection and use efficiency, land use protection and food, energy and ecosystems nexus trade-offs	0	0	0	66,700	66,700
- IDB: N/A - UNEP: 1 guidelines					
Output 3.2.2					
Demonstration projects implemented focusing on: (1) Prevention, Reduction and Control of point and non-point sources of pollution source through best land management practices and (2) Development and Implementation of water source protection, water use efficiency and reuse strategies and action plans	26,000	54,000	373,300	450,000	903,300
- IDB: Guatemala (1) - UNEP: Guyana and Grenada (2)					
Outcome 3.3					
Improved knowledge and skills within targeted communities to enable implementation of innovative low-cost integrated water and wastewater management solutions	7,000	10,550	327,450	115,000	460,000
Output 3.3.1					
Training on innovative low-cost integrated water and wastewater management such as though webinars, MOOC, training programmes with the participation of civil society	7,000	10,550	327,450	115,000	460,000
- IDB: 12 webinars - UNEP: 8 webinars					



Component/Outcome/Output	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Component IV					
Knowledge Management and Advocacy on the importance of IWWM order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals	63,273	120,420	635,634	837,673	1,657,000
Outcome 4.1 Improved awareness and understanding of the advantages of implementing integrated approaches within targeted communities to enable implementation of low-tech and integrated water and wastewater management solutions	20,000	52,969	404,988	359,966	837,923
Output 4.1.1 A communications strategy developed and implemented, including information and dissemination of products related to IWWM and watershed management	20,000	52,969	404,988	274,966	752,923
Output 4.1.2 Updated CReW clearinghouse mechanism on financial options, small- and large-scale wastewater treatment technologies, and wastewater and water management policies and practices developed	0	0	0	85,000	85,000
Outcome 4.2 Improved access to an information exchange mechanism, including knowledge of experiences and lessons learnt, as well as improved information sharing capability with GEF and the wider, local and national communities amongst all 18 participating countries	43,273	67,451	230,646	477,707	819,077



Output 4.2.1 Documented best practices, lessons and experiences from all Components	43,273	67,451	230,646	323,680	665,050
Output 4.2.2 Operational information exchange mechanism for GEF and non-GEF projects established	0	0	0	154,027	154,027



Component/Outcome/Output	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Component V Project Management - Monitoring and evaluation	54,349	56,960	81,489	518,818	711,616



TOTAL COST

TOTAL COST	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
TOTAL COST	688,419	1,487,826	8,654,708	4,112,985	14,943,938

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Detail Work Plan















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Detail Work Plan

Task Name	Date	Jul-Dec 2	2019	Jan-Jun 2020	Jul-Dec 2020	Jan-Jun 2021	Jul-Dec 2021	Jan-Jun 2022	Jul-Dec 2022	Jan-Jun 2023
Project Approval										•
GEF CEO Endorsement	Nov. 2019									
IDB Eligibility	Dec. 2019									
UNEP Approval	Nov. 2019									
Executing Agencies Cooperation Agreements										
GIZ Cooperation Agreement	Feb. 2020									
Secretariat of Cartagena Cooperation Agreement	Feb. 2020									
OAS Cooperation Agreement	Dec. 2020									
Inception Phase	1									
Preparation of the activities	Nov. 2020 Dec. 2021									



Task Name	Date	Jul-Dec 2019	Jan-Jun 2020	Jul-Dec 2020	Jan-Jun 2021	Jul-Dec 2021	Jan-Jun 2022	Jul-Dec 2022	Jan-Jun 2023
Project Activities Execution									
Execution of National Activities	Jan. 2021 Feb. 2022								
Execution of Regional Activities	Jan. 2021 Feb. 2022								
Knowledge Dissemination									
Knowledge Dissemination	Jan. 2022 Jun. 2023								
Dates according to the agreements of the executing agencies Dates on which the GEF CReW+ Project will support activities									

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Results Matrix Indicators















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Results Matrix Indicators

Component I

Institutional, policy, legislative and regulatory reforms for Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM)

Outcome/Output	Indicators	Unit of Measure	GEF Results Framework Target	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAI
Outcome 1.1 Consolidated improved and reformed institutional, policy and legislative frameworks for IWWM	Number of countries implementing actions towards improving IWWM	Countries	9		9	7		16
Output 1.1.1 Diagnostic analysis of existing policy framework, legislations, guidelines and standards in support of IWWM, recommendations for reforms and development of national IWWM plans - IBD: Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago (11) - UNEP: Cuba, Grenada, Guyana, St Kitts & Nevis, Saint	Institutional development plan designed	Plans	9		1	10	5	16
Output 1.1.2	Recommendations for amendments to the LBS Protocol to facilitate increased	Recommendations	1				1	1



Component I

Institutional, policy, legislative and regulatory reforms for Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM)

Outcome/Output	Indicators	Unit of Measure	GEF Results Framework Target	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Recommendations for amendments to the LBS Protocol to facilitate increased reuse of domestic wastewater including adoption of new criteria or standards for domestic wastewater discharge	reuse of domestic wastewater							
- IDB: N/A - UNEP: Regional Activity (1)								
Output 1.1.3								
Review, Analysis and Report for developing a new Strategy or Protocol on the management of freshwater resources within the framework of the Cartagena Convention	Recommendations for a new strategy or protocol on the management of freshwater resources	Recommendations	1				1	1
- IDB: N/A - UNEP: Regional Activity (1)								
Output 1.1.4								
Country specific Cabinet/Parliament Submissions prepared for formal ratification of the LBS Protocol	Submissions for formal ratification of the							
- IDB: N/A - UNEP: Barbados, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname (8)	LBS Protocol	Submissions					8	8
Outcome 1.2								
Enhanced regional and national coordination, information exchange, science-based decisions, and reporting on relevant SDGs and MEAs, resulting from the use of national and regional platforms/databases for IWWM by national and regional institutions	Number of countries implementing national databases suported by a regional platform	Countries	-				6	6



Component I

Institutional, policy, legislative and regulatory reforms for Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM)

Outcome/Output	Indicators	Unit of Measure	GEF Results Framework Target	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Output 1.2.1								
New or updated national platforms/databases, supported by a regional platform for IWWM developed	Number of databases developed	Database	6				6	6
- IDB: N/A - UNEP: Costa Rica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago (6)								
Outcome 1.3 Improved knowledge and skills to enable the monitoring of national reform processes for IWWM, and for reporting on relevant SDGs and MEAs	Percentage participants that perceive their knowledge and skills to enable the monitoring of national and regional reforms for IWWM and, for reporting on relevant SDGs increased	Percentage (%)	-		95%	95%	95%	95%
Output 1.3.1								
Capacity building workshops to drive national and regional reforms for IWWM and, for reporting on relevant SDGs	Training workshops delivered	Workshops	9		8	2	2	12
- IDB: 5 workshops - UNEP: 4 workshops								



Component II

Sustainable and tailor-made financing options for urban, peri-urban and rural IWWM

Component/Outcome/Output	Indicators	Unit of Measure	GEF Results Framework Target	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Outcome 2.1								
Improved understanding of different financing options and greater readiness for integrated wastewater management financing at small-scale local, community and national levels	Number of communities applying financing options proposed under the project	Communities	-			8		9
Output 2.1.1								
Compendium of recommendations on sustainable financing options considering micro credit, tariffing and other innovative mechanisms developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders, based on a review of existing financing mechanisms for IWWM at small, local, community or national levels, depending upon country context	Diagnostics and assessments completed	Diagnostic	1			1		1
- IDB: 1 compendium - UNEP: N/A								
Output 2.1.2	New financial instruments developed	Instruments	8			8		8



Component II

Sustainable and tailor-made financing options for urban, peri-urban and rural IWWM

Component/Outcome/Output	Indicators	Unit of Measure	GEF Results Framework Target	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
A series of community/rural specific financing action plans and busines.s m.odels to address IWWM including reuse								
- IDB: Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panamá and Suriname (8) - UNEP: N/A								
Outcome 2.2 Watershed management - Increased and sustainable financing for Integrated watershed management including for protecting surface and groundwater water sources	Number of watersheds benefitting from sustainable financing options on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)	Watersheds/ hotspots				4		4
Output 2.2.1								
Compendium of innovative incentive options and recommendations on financing mechanisms for water conservation, pollution prevention, and water and wastewater reuse	Diagnostics and assessments completed	Diagnostics	1			1		1
- IDB: 1 compendium - UNEP: N/A								
Output 2.2.2								
Public–private mechanisms, payment options and recommendations on approaches to implement payment for ecosystem services developed	New financial instruments	Instruments	4			4		4
- IDB: Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago (4) - UNEP: N/A	developed							
Outcome 2.3	Percentage of participants that perceive their knowledge in the	Percentage (%)	-		95%	95%		95%



Component II

Sustainable and tailor-made financing options for urban, peri-urban and rural IWWM

Component/Outcome/Output	Indicators	Unit of Measure	GEF Results Framework Target	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Improved knowledge and skills for successful design, establishment and management of appropriate financial mechanisms	design, establishment, and management of financial mechanisms has improved							
Output 2.3.1								
Training modules for selected persons and agencies in the design, strategic planning, establishment and management of the financial mechanisms	Training workshops delivered	Workshops	-		3	4		7
- IDB: 7 workshops - UNEP: N/A								



Component III								
Provision of innovative small-scale,	local, rural, peri-urban and	community-based	d solutions for	IWWM				
Component/Outcome/Output	Indicators	Unit of Measure	Framework Target	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Outcome 3.1	Volume of treated wastewater increased	m3/day	5,000,000			2,215	5,000	7,215
Improved wastewater treatment, including reuse, in rural and peri-urban hotspots using low tech and IWWM solutions	Households benefitting from waste water treatment	Households	20,000			2,462	5,000	7,462
Output 3.1.1								
Compendium of innovative technologies adapted to small-scale situations, supported by technical assistance, made available to all participating countries	Diagnostics and assessment completed	Diagnostics	1			1		1
- IDB: 1 compendium - UNEP: N/A								
Output 3.1.2								
Rural and community level Integrated and Innovative Water and Wastewater low tech solutions implemented								
- IDB: Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico, Suriname (7) - UNEP: Costa Rica, Cuba, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago (8)	Pilot interventions implemented	Pilots	12			7	8	15
Output 3.1.3								
Intervention in Barbados re: Star Allocation from Barbados (Land degradation)			-	-	-	-	-	-



Component III

Provision of innovative small-scale, local, rural, peri-urban and community-based solutions for IWWM

Component/Outcome/Output	Indicators	Unit of Measure	Results Framework Target	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Outcome 3.2 Improved life cycle management, circular economy and efficiency in water use-consumption promoting source protection and water reuse in the joint management of surface and groundwater resources in critical watersheds/hot spots	Number of watersheds benefitting from Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)	Watersheds / hotspots	3			1	2	3
Output 3.2.1 Integrated guidelines and implementation plan consistent with IWRM with a focus on water source protection and use efficiency, land use protection and food, energy and ecosystems nexus trade-offs - IDB: N/A - UNEP: 1 guidelines	Diagnostics and assessments completed	Diagnostics	1				1	1
Output 3.2.2 Demonstration projects implemented focusing on: (1) Prevention, Reduction and Control of point and non-point sources of pollution source through best land management practices and (2) Development and Implementation of water source protection, water use efficiency and reuse strategies and action plans	Pilot interventions implemented	Pilots	3			1	2	3
- IDB: Guatemala (1) - UNEP: Guyana and Grenada (2)								



Component III

Provision of innovative small-scale, local, rural, peri-urban and community-based solutions for IWWM

Component/Outcome/Output	Indicators	Unit of Measure	Results Framework Target	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Outcome 3.3 Improved knowledge and skills within targeted communities to enable implementation of innovative low-cost integrated water and wastewater management solutions	Percentage of participants that perceive their knowledge has increased to enable implementation of innovative low-cost integrated water and wastewater management solutions	Percentage (%)	-		95%	95%		95%
Output 3.3.1 Training on innovative low-cost integrated water and wastewater management such as though webinars, MOOC, training programmes with the participation of civil society - IDB: 12 webinars - UNEP: 8 webinars	Webinars delivered	Webinars	9		8	2	2	12



Component IV Knowledge Management and Advocacy on the importance of IWWM order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

Component/Outcome/Output	Indicators	Unit of Measure	Results Framework Target	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Outcome 4.1 Improved awareness and understanding of the advantages of implementing integrated approaches within targeted communities to enable implementation of low-tech and integrated water and wastewater management solutions	Number of countries benefiting from the communication strategy	Countries	-		18	18	18	18
Output 4.1.1 A communications strategy developed and implemented, including information and dissemination of products related to IWWM and watershed management	Strategies Implemented	Strategies	1		1			1
Output 4.1.2 Updated CReW clearinghouse mechanism on financial options, small- and large-scale wastewater treatment technologies, and wastewater and water management policies and practices developed	Website with clearinghouse support established	Website	1			1		1
Outcome 4.2 Improved access to an information exchange mechanism, including knowledge of experiences and lessons learnt, as well as improved information sharing capability with GEF and the wider, local and national communities amongst all 18 participating countries	Number of countries benefiting from knowledge of experiences and lessons learnt	Countries	-		12	12	12	12



Component IV

Knowledge Management and Advocacy on the importance of IWWM order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

Component/Outcome/Output	Indicators	Unit of Measure	Results Framework Target	2020	2021	2022	2023	TOTAL
Output 4.2.1								
Documented best practices, lessons and experiences from all Components	Technical notes created	Notes	20		1	13		14
Output 4.2.2	Information exchange mechanism developed		1			1		1
Operational information exchange mechanism for GEF and non-GEF projects established		Instrument						

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