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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 IWEco 6<sup>th</sup> PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING DRAFT REPORT**

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

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Sixth Meeting of the IWEco Regional Project  
Steering Committee Meeting

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 18-20 July 2022

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document chronicles the proceedings of the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Project Steering Committee (RPSC) Meeting for the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States Project (IWEco).

With the global COVID-19 pandemic nearing its end, the RPSC meeting adopted a hybrid approach in which delegates attended both physically and virtually using the Microsoft Teams platform on 19 and 20 July 2022, from 8:30 – 16:00 hrs. The Meeting was preceded by a day of field visits to sites of intervention of the Trinidad and Tobago National sub-Project, in Guaico, North East Trinidad, and was hosted by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago through the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) and its line ministry, the Ministry of Planning and Development.

Representatives from some of IWEco's participating countries namely Barbados, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago physically participated in the meeting. There was virtual participation from Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, as well as a representative of the Bahamas' GEF Medium-sized Project (MSP). The regional co-executing partners: UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) were also in attendance, as well as other key project partners - UNDP Small Grants Programme, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI). A representative from the CARICOM Secretariat also joined virtually.

This document captures the meeting's discussions, any recommendations with regard to project implementation through to closure in August 2023 and decisions taken regarding the way forward.

It was prepared by the Regional Project Coordination Unit (RPCU) in Kingston, Jamaica which also serves as Secretariat to the IWEco Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting. The document will be circulated to all the meeting participants for comments and confirmation.

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE UNEP/GEF 6<sup>th</sup> IWEco REGIONAL PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE (RPSC6) MEETING

## PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

19-20 July 2022

### Day 1 – RPSC6, 19 July 2022

#### **Connection: Welcome to RPSC6 Participants/Opening Ceremony**

The meeting commenced at 8:43 AM (GMT-4). Ms. Donna Sue Spencer welcomed all (refer Annex 1 for list of participants) and noted the challenges of a blended meeting. A minute of silence was observed in memory of Honourable Orlando Jorge Mera, former Minister of Environment of the Dominican Republic, and Ms. Judy Daniel, Former Chair - Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C) and Former Deputy Chair, Board of Directors, Environmental Management Authority.

Mr. Hayden Romano, Managing Director of the Environmental Management Authority, Trinidad and Tobago chaired the opening ceremony. He said it was an honour to chair the session and indicated that IWEco project was important given that land degradation poses a significant threat to the region. He mentioned that, as was evident from the previous day's field visit to the rehabilitation sites (National Quarries Company Ltd.) of the IWEco Trinidad & Tobago National Sub-Project in Guaico, Trinidad, quarrying contributes to land degradation. He stated that he was pleased, as executing agency, with the positive eco-systemic and human contact of the project which will continue to expand land restoration projects in Trinidad and Tobago.

#### **Opening Remarks**

The Honourable Pernelle Beckles-Robinson, Minister of Planning and Development with responsibility for the Environment, Trinidad and Tobago, conveyed appreciation to the Cartagena Convention Secretariat for the opportunity to host the meeting and indicated their commitment to advancing the project while adjusting to the new norm. She said Trinidad and Tobago recognised the challenges and achievements during the past year and added that the discussions during the meeting would be critical to the success of the project and that knowledge sharing was important. Minister Beckles-Robinson expressed her pleasure that a site visit was done to the Guaico area and pointed out that the quarry impacted negatively on transportation and agriculture, among other sectors.

She emphasised the need to get it right as project activities were not always articulated in a way in which the general public can understand.

The Minister mentioned the number of hectares of land being restored and pointed out that when leaving Trinidad by airplane it was possible to vividly see the project's importance - the removal of forest cover as a result of quarrying was very evident. She congratulated Mr. Romano and the project partners and stated that the project had not been not greatly affected despite the setbacks of the COVID-19 pandemic. The project in Trinidad and Tobago, she said, showed that it allowed people

to think for themselves. She congratulated UNEP and the GEF for their efforts in assisting the Caribbean to deal with the challenges faced.

Minister Beckles-Robinson declared the meeting officially open at 9:10 AM and wished for fruitful discussions that would lead to the pathway of sustainable development.

Mr. Romano cited that the major takeaway from the Minister's remarks was that technocrats seem to forget whatever was being done for the people of the countries. Consequently, it was important to ensure community involvement; once there was buy-in by the communities then change would be inevitable.

### **Agency Statements**

Mr. Romano continued moderating this session. Below are the speakers and the order in which they spoke.

- Christopher Corbin, Acting Coordinator, UNEP-Cartagena Convention Secretariat (representing Isabelle Vanderbeck, GEF IW Task Manager, UNEP, and, the Cartagena Convention Secretariat)
- Shane Kirton, Programme Manager -Environmental Health and Sustainable Development Department, CARPHA
- Kareem Sabir, Senior Project Officer, Sustainable Development, CARICOM Secretariat (virtual)
- Joan John-Norville, Programme Coordinator – Biodiversity & Ecosystem Management, OECS

#### *Christopher Corbin*

Mr. Corbin represented Isabelle Vanderbeck, UNEP/GEF Task Manager. He commenced by acknowledging Minister Beckles-Robinson and the time taken to be at the meeting, as political leadership was critical in project implementation. He then welcomed all present and apologised on behalf of Ms. Vanderbeck who was absent due to a family emergency and added that she sent her regards.

In his capacity as Acting Coordinator of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, he stated that the development of the project had not been an easy one from its development and applauded the project team for the work done during the COVID-19 pandemic. He highlighted that the IWEco Project was one of implementation, working with communities and doing analyses, not writing papers. He said UNEP was committed to working with countries of the region to develop projects for submission to the GEF and looked forward to building on the work of IWEco. On behalf of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, he recalled that Trinidad and Tobago was the first English-speaking country in the region to ratify the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol). He also recalled the journey for the Secretariat and the IWEco team on integrated watershed management towards building a watershed framework which is now a regional framework.

He mentioned that CANARI was instrumental in supporting the work of IWEco on livelihoods and the sharing of knowledge management products. He pointed out that ecosystem restoration was not just a conservation issue but one of empowerment and that projects should have a beneficial impact on local communities.

He informed the meeting that it was Jan Betlem's, IWEco Regional Project Coordinator (RPC), final Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting (RPSC). He noted that while the level of interaction was limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic, significant progress had been made. He acknowledged and thanked Mr. Betlem for his leadership over the previous four and a half years. Mr. Corbin concluded by wishing for a successful meeting and encouraged all participating to use the breaks to network and, upon their return home, to make every effort to move forward in a concerted effort.

Mr. Romano remarked on Mr. Corbin's ability to motivate in the most challenging times. He then invited the CARPHA representative to speak.

### Shane Kirton

Mr. Kirton brought warm greetings and sincere apologies from Joy St. John, Executive Director of CARPHA, who was unable to attend as CARPHA was also, during this week, hosting High Level Meetings to discuss regional health security and solidarity in Trinidad and Tobago.

He mentioned that CARPHA is pleased to be an IWEco executing partner, and that the project remains a high priority. Mr. Kirton added that the belief is held that partnership and collaboration is important to achieving sustainable progress towards the SDGs in CARPHA's Member States. He further added that project partnership, as it relates to CARPHA, is strengthened by elements of their mandate, principles and strategic plan. Achieving the project objective is critical to regional development and in achieving CARPHA's vision – "*healthy people, healthy spaces, healthy Caribbean*".

Mr. Kirton closed by stating that CARPHA was pleased to participate in this 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Project Steering Committee meeting and looked forward to the opportunity to continue working with stakeholders from a wide range of sectors. He indicated that CARPHA highly values partnership, which has been integral to successful completion of six (6) CARPHA-implemented Component 2 activities. He acknowledged that there were challenges during the project lifecycle, as well as sensitive negotiations, tough discussions, difficult decisions and innovative solutions; however, the purpose remained consistent - delivering the project benefits to the participating countries. He maintained that CARPHA would continue to collaborate with and offer support to project partners in delivering the remaining intended benefits and thanked the donors for entrusting them to deliver and contribute to the needs of the region.

Following Mr. Kirton's statement, Mr. Romano stated that CARPHA is a Caribbean giant which had demonstrated its value during the pandemic.

Kareem Sabir

Mr. Sabir acknowledged the members of the head table. He brought greetings on behalf of Mr. Joseph Cox, Assistant Secretary General in the Directorate of Economic Integration Innovation and Development of the CARICOM Secretariat, and offered sincere apologies for his physical absence. He indicated that it was good to have a hybrid meeting and congratulated the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for hosting the meeting, especially as the region moves to a new normal. He expressed gratitude for the invitation to participate in this Steering Committee meeting and gave assurances of CARICOM's continued engagement as the project comes to a successful conclusion. He congratulated the project team and the implementing partners, both regional and national, on the progress made. Mr. Sabir proclaimed that the project was timely as the region had suffered from several global shocks such as hurricanes, Sargassum influx, and the COVID-19 pandemic and stated that these crises made it necessary for the small island developing states (SIDS) to live in harmony with nature as a key resilience strategy in recovering from those shocks.

He concluded by congratulating the team, donors, and partners on a successful project thus far. He also congratulated Mr. Betlem for his successful delivery of the project, and his contribution to the region and then wished him a happy, wholesome, and rewarding retirement.

Mr. Romano congratulated Mr. Sabir on the new addition to his family.

Joan John-Norville

Ms. John-Norville acknowledged the members of the head table and conveyed warm greetings to the in-person and online meeting attendees on behalf of Mr. Didicus Jules, Director General of the OECS. She congratulated the IWECO project team and partners for the phenomenal progress made over the past year. She recalled that the OECS' intervention is under Component 3, which focuses on the strengthening and upgrading of policy within the project countries. She highlighted that they learnt to integrate projects and were able to create synergies with other projects such as BioSPACE and the 5Cs. She added that some challenges had impacted procurement and that brainstorming at the technical level was required to keep to the project deadlines. Despite the challenges, they had been able to do the procurement based on an agreement in principle. She expressed her pleasure with the support of government partnership and the ability to meet and share information. She pointed out that the IWRM framework had been developed and that they were doing more but within the budget. Ms. John-Norville expressed gratitude to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the warm hospitality from the time of arrival and congratulated them on the work being done at the quarry. She concluded by wishing for a successful meeting.

Mr. Romano thanked Anna Lisa Arlen-Benjamin, Project Manager at the EMA with responsibility for IWECO Trinidad and Tobago, and the team for the work done.



## **Agenda Overview & Rules of Engagement**

Mr. Betlem mentioned that the project had had successes, and, in their absence, lessons learnt. He added that challenges had been overcome. He gave a few housekeeping remarks and then an overview of the agenda and wished for a very good meeting.

## **Adoption of the Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting**

The minutes of the Fifth Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting held virtually 23-24 September 2021 were presented to the PSC for endorsement. Motions were raised to amend the minutes as follows:

- Annex 1 (list of participants) - Mr. Hayden Romano had not been in attendance and had been represented at the RPSC5 by Ms. Anna Lisa Arlen-Benjamin, and therefore his name should be removed and hers added
- Ms. Alicia Aquing had been in attendance and therefore her name should be added to the list of participants in Annex 1
- Annex 1 - Correction to the spelling of Mr. Jonathan Delance's first name.

Mr. Betlem advised the PSC members that the PCU would permit an additional two (2) weeks post meeting for submission of any additional comments or further amendments, after which, the minutes would be considered adopted and approved by the PSC.

He informed that after that period, the meeting report would be sent for signing by the relevant Meeting Chair (RPSC5) – Honourable Minister Eric Evelyn, Minister of Environment and Cooperatives for St. Kitts and Nevis.

## **Status of Project Implementation at National Level**

Ms. Spencer moderated the session.

### *National Projects and Regional Interventions*

- Barbados (Ms. Ann-Marie Eversley) - Refer Annex 3, Presentation 1

Ms. Eversley reported on the Hedgerow Rehabilitation Project which is being implemented within the context of the National Beautification Programme's Clean and Green Initiative and is being funded by IWEco to the sum of US\$ 100,000. She indicated the funds had not yet been spent due to late disbursement. She reported that a germplasm laboratory and a khus-khus (vetiver) grass nursery had been established, as well as that a consultant had been hired.

She indicated that the project is being implemented within the context of the National Beautification Programme and the Clean and Green Initiative. The second component, she stated, would be spread out and information gathered from other projects.

- St Kitts and Nevis (Dr. Halla Sahely) - Refer Annex 3, Presentation 5

Dr. Sahely reported on the St. Kitts and Nevis National sub-Project which focused on mitigation of land degradation using nature-based solutions including the planting of khus-khus (vetiver) grass. She informed that the hiring of a consultant was delayed due to elections to be held in August 2022, but that in-depth consultation was anticipated. The land degradation control works in the College Street Ghaut and restoration activities had been completed. The project is expected to end by December 2022.

Mr. Corbin commented on the excellent use of vetiver grass in St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados, and asked if experience notes on the use of nature-based solutions will be made available. Ms. Spencer confirmed that since a few project countries have used vetiver, experience notes could be prepared, but that in any case the experiences would be documented in the case studies.

Mr. Corbin congratulated Dr. Sahely on the excellent work which was done in St. Kitts and Nevis, under IWEco. On the matter of monitoring stress reduction, he asked for consideration to be given to monitoring even beyond the project life through a national agency to be able to demonstrate to the GEF the impacts.

Mr. Augustine (Saint Lucia) advised that vetiver can be invasive so that there is a need to have a canopy. He added that as it was heavily used, there were some concerns.

- Cuba (Ms. Tatiana Alonso Perez) - Refer Annex 3, Presentation 2

Ms. Alonso Perez reported that the Project Manager, Alain Muñoz Caravaca was not able to attend the PSC due to other commitments. She highlighted the achievements of the project and stated that a challenge was that they did not have much interaction with the rest of the Caribbean. She pointed out that they needed to procure additional items and that there was a need to work on a plan to have workshops and to work as a team to take the best decisions moving forward. She added that there was need to improve the capacity of small farmers and that Cuba would continue work with the master's programme. She underscored that they would also work on acquiring land and equipment and focus on reforestation until 2023.

Mr. Betlem thanked Ms. Alonso Perez for the updates and asked about the procurement of items mentioned. He also expressed the hope that all items required to complete the activities had been acquired. Ms. Alonso Perez responded that 90% of acquisition had been completed and that the outstanding items planned for could be purchased within the country; they were awaiting disbursement to do so.

Mr. Corbin asked if there was a relationship between the CEAC and the RAC CIMAB, and the type of support that was provided. Ms. Alonso Perez responded that the RAC CIMAB was a part of the project in terms of establishing the baselines and had also provided assistance and training.

- Jamaica (Ms. Maureen Milbourn) - Refer Annex 3, Presentation 4

Ms. Milbourn gave an overview of Jamaica's National sub-Project under IWECO. Some of the activities highlighted included studies towards the Negril Great Morass hydrological restoration, revegetation, farmer training, and assessments conducted on the wetland and seagrasses, West Indian Whistling-duck (threatened species), and land use and land tenure. She outlined the challenges which included maintaining project visibility, attrition of staff, and the suspension of project activities. Project activities had, she explained, effectively been delayed as a result of the PCU's request for an internal peer review; she said that NEPA anticipated that project implementation would continue.

Mr. Corbin stated that they could continue with implementation and that by the end of August 2022 an amendment would be done to ensure the continuation of project implementation. He stated that it would be necessary to have the right partner and agencies involved, as well as stakeholder engagement. He reminded that the Project Steering Committee was important in guiding the work forward and should be fully engaged. The agreed hydrological model identified should be the output of the hydrological study

Ms. Natalie Boodram, CANARI, queried why the use of pond apples as mentioned in the presentation. Ms. Milbourn indicated that it was a native species and that they would look at how to benefit from it.

- Saint Lucia (Mr. Karl Augustine) - Refer Annex 3, Presentation 6

Mr. Augustine presented on the national sub-project focusing on the mitigation of poor biophysical conditions. Over half of the project budget had been spent and the achievements to date included the restoration of 28 hectares of land, the engagement of farmers, hosting of trainings, and water monitoring. He added that a nursery had been established to support replanting while other nurseries supplemented; fruit-bearing trees had been provided to the farmers.

Livelihood activities included an agro-tourism park which encompassed the community all the way to the forest reserve; the old forest trail had been rehabilitated. They also wanted to test different growth habitats and pollinating methods for vanilla. He said the community nursery was not yet operational and hoped that CANARI (under the regional sustainable livelihoods initiative) could help with the business viability aspect as well as working with the local agro-processors.

Mr. Augustine mentioned that the agro-tourism park consists of three (3) pillars and direct benefits could be extracted from the tourism sector. Activities, he stated, would start from the middle of the community with overnight stays possible. This would also provide diversified livelihood opportunities to help absorb external shocks, and in transitioning to a more sustainable cropping system.

He highlighted some of the project's strategic alliances which included the OECS, the Southeast Coast Project, Sir Arthur Lewis Community College and the Department of Sustainable Development. He expressed hope to acquire handheld devices, and to link the project to Water Resources Management (WRM). He added that there was a new diagnostic centre and that while the WRM had limited capacity, space, and limited staff, the new centre had staff and equipment and that he would pursue this further.

He mentioned that there were gaps in data collection and that the outcome of the biophysical assessment would be used as a guide. He concluded by stating that they hoped to improve the rate of implementation.

Following the presentation, Mr. Corbin stated that activities that improve financial security were good and since the GEF looks for the impact on lives and livelihoods by numbers there was a need to document numbers; financials could be important in this regard. He asked about the direction of water quality monitoring and Mr. Augustine responded that while they may not be able to publish data, they wanted to get the community involved so that they would be cognizant of project activities. He added that previous work done had provided a baseline but finding the data was an issue. Thus, he stated that they wanted to purchase more memory to support data collection and sharing with WRM; with the data known, then corrective steps can be taken.

Ms. Yusuf-Leon, OECS, in reference to Mr. Corbin's question, said that under IWEco the OECS will develop a regional environmental monitoring data portal, REMDAP, which will serve regionally and nationally. The data integration will be from the various countries in the region. Mr. Augustine said that would be welcomed.

Mr. Kirton, CARPHA, regarding data management issues, added that there was a national environmental information system that can also be explored for data management.

Ms. Spencer reminded the meeting that information could be shared at any time, one did not have to wait for the Steering Committee Meeting to do so.

### **Video Presentation: "Collective Action to Protect the Caribbean Sea"**

During the lunch break, a video celebrating 35 years since the entry into force of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (also known as the Cartagena Convention) was presented to the Project Steering Committee.

It was stated that since 1986 when the Convention entered into force, twenty-six (26) governments in the Wider Caribbean had pledged their political commitment to the region's only legal instrument for "collective action to protect the Caribbean Sea".

Ms. Spencer also highlighted that the IWEco Project supported production of the video.

### **Status of Project Implementation at National Level (cont'd)**

- St. Vincent and the Grenadines (Mr. L. Fitzgerald Providence) - Refer Annex 3, Presentation

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Mr. Providence presented on the National sub-Project of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. He highlighted the sub-Project's aim which was to reduce and revert land degradation within the Georgetown watershed. One challenge he pointed out was that since project start, the project had already changed two (2) project managers.

Mr. Providence stated that persons from the community would be hired to assist with the project's reforestation efforts. He further mentioned the need for better waste disposal (a waste management composting system) and that awareness about endemic species was being harnessed.

He mentioned that the La Soufrière volcanic eruption in 2021 had impeded the project's progress.

Mr. Corbin stressed the importance of capacity building for persons to understand the procurement and reporting process associated with UNEP and UNDP contracts and that implementing agencies could try to work it into the decisions being taken.

Mr. Providence agreed that public servants have a responsibility to understand the process.

- Trinidad and Tobago (Mrs. Anna-Lisa Arlen-Benjamin) - Refer Annex 3, Presentation 8

Mrs. Arlen-Benjamin presented on behalf of Ms. Alicia Aquing, the National Project Coordinator, who was unavoidably absent.

The national sub-Project of Trinidad and Tobago focused on quarry rehabilitation, she stated. Approximately 75% of the budget had been spent and the rest was committed, and all fieldwork had been completed; however, additional time would be needed for terminal reporting. Mrs. Arlen-Benjamin indicated that some project funding had been provided towards development of the Management Plan for the NE Tobago Biosphere Reserve, which would effectively add to the number of hectares to be rehabilitated under the project. She stated that the project team had experienced some challenges in locating some of the demonstration sites and there was limited road access in some areas.

She highlighted that, in collaboration with the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), a workshop on livelihoods with a mentoring component had been held. In that regard, she stated that participants learnt how to establish grow boxes and developed their craft making skills using vetiver. Additionally, there was a closed loop system to see how a business using vetiver fronds could be established.

Mrs. Arlen-Benjamin mentioned that there had been a delay in the resumption of activities as the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the administrative capacity of non-governmental organisations, and that, as such, some hand-holding with regard to reporting had to be done. Further, she highlighted the priority activities and expected outputs. Some land rehabilitation activities would continue beyond IWEco, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and led by IAMovement.

Mr. Corbin reinforced the point about new business opportunities and indicated that such initiatives were favourable to the GEF as their funds should be catalytic and enabling, and that these should be reflected in the progress reports.

Ms. Spencer highlighted that during the previous day's field visit, the local project had showed a few demonstration sites demonstrating methods that had been successful. She said the richness of experience should be documented. She highlighted that the Trinidad and Tobago project had been the first national sub-project under IWEco to work with CANARI on sustainable livelihoods initiatives. In this case, she stated, the regional project recognized that all of the countries could benefit

from similar assistance. She reminded the meeting that participating countries could learn from one another and that the wider region could also learn from the countries.

- Dominican Republic (Ms. Yesly Ramirez Torres) - Refer Annex 3, Presentation 3

Ms. Ramirez Torres presented on the national sub-Project which has been focusing on integrated management of the biodiversity, freshwater and land resources of the Higuamo River Watershed.

The achievements which Ms. Ramirez Torres highlighted, included training in the management of equipment and tools, and information collection in the field (3 months). She informed that the monitoring plan for water quality was completed and source points identified. She also advised that participatory environmental diagnostics were rolled out in nine (9) communities; this was meant to ensure that stakeholders felt like active participants.

Ms. Ramirez Torres shared the timeline of activities. She mentioned that landfills and dumps were identified as pollution hotspots which affected the watershed. Further, she added that a map was updated with hotspots for industries, landfills and dumps, and how the movement of water in the watershed will be observed. She mentioned that support in identifying other points will be provided by the Santo Domingo University.

Ms. Ramirez Torres indicated that Cuba had offered to assist with the work on livestock producers. She also advised that a coral reef nursery was built and was in place to support the conservation programme.

The project highlights which Ms. Ramirez Torres highlighted include data collected by land, river and drones in response to the monitoring plan. With regard to challenges faced, she informed the Meeting that there were logistical issues with the Watershed Council, but that activities were expected to continue despite the challenges. These included seeking alternatives to reduce pollution and translation of the master plan into an easily understood format.

Ms. Ramirez Torres indicated that a lot had been learnt from the experiences of Trinidad and Tobago. She concluded by stating that the project will end in August 2023.

Mr. Corbin thanked Ms. Ramirez Torres for the excellent presentation, he then stated that work on guidelines for wastewater management through the CReW+ Project, in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), regarding development of a compendium, could be a useful resource. He further stated that there were opportunities through GEF IW:Learn for the sharing of experiences and that they could work with the IWeco project to determine which projects could benefit. He asked what main water quality parameters were being monitored and indicated that the CReW+ Project had been helping the Dominican Republic National sub-Project. He further expressed pleasure at the potential for exchange between projects to see how different options could be applied to the local project. He said the National sub-Project had been able to develop a series of standards for the Ministry in regard to monitoring equipment, fieldwork, among other areas so that post-IWeco there would be results that would enable the Ministry to move forward with the strengthening of its activities.

On the issue of collaboration, Mr. Delance (Dominican Republic) commented that they had been experiencing difficulties in finding personnel specialised in water management. He added that underground water was a huge challenge and wanted to know if other countries had the same issue and what was done.

- UNDP Small Grants Programme (SGP) Projects in the participating countries (Mr. Murat Okumah) - Refer Annex 3, Presentation 9

Mr. Okumah presented on the community-based component of IWEco – UNDP Small Grants Programme. He began by giving apologies on behalf of Dr. Sulan Chen, UNDP SGP International Waters representative who was unable to attend due to another commitment. He thanked all who worked on the project as their input was critical to the success of the project. He mentioned that communities affected the environment, and the reverse was true. Of the fifty-nine (59) SGP projects, twenty-two (22) were supported through IWEco. All of the projects focused mainly on baseline assessments, some on awareness raising (plastic pollution in the environment), and others on sustainable livelihoods, waste management and ecosystems management.

Approximately US\$ 2.2M had been spent on projects in IWEco countries and co-financing was approximately US\$ 2.8M. All of the projects in IWEco countries had been completed. Some project funds were less than US\$ 50k; as such projects were not strictly comparable. He added that the key results obtained through the fifty-nine (59) projects were shared and that the projects were good at ensuring social inclusion, job creation (socio-economic).

He mentioned that case studies were developed to highlight sustainable livelihoods, waste management and ecosystem management. The following projects were highlighted:

1. The Saint Lucia project – young people were trained, strategy for sales and marketing of products developed, and income earned from the projects through the sale of smoothies.
2. Jamaica project – monitoring water quality was done by the Altoa Fisherman's Cooperative Society. Three (3) fishermen were trained, eight (8) community members gained employment, water pollution hotspots were identified, and awareness of water quality problems and mitigation measures improved.
3. Trinidad and Tobago project – Abandoned Quarry Sites at National Quarries were rehabilitated, ten (10) check dams established, nine (9) hectares of degraded lands restored.

In his presentation, Mr. Okumah denoted the key challenges which the projects faced in execution, this included the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic with the closure of the venue for community education and outreach events in Jamaica and Antigua and Barbuda, time and cost investments to clean project sites in St. Vincent and the Grenadines as a result of the volcanic eruption, and a limited supply of building material in Cuba resulting in fewer tabular biodigesters being installed (41 out of 59).

The key lessons learnt as identified by Mr. Okumah included partnership and stakeholder engagement, action-oriented learning (Cuba), capacity building and provision of evidence (Jamaica), gender mainstreaming (Trinidad and Tobago), adaptability, and the showing of a clear post-implementation plan.

He affirmed that the next steps would be the creation of knowledge products and regional partnerships for replication and sustainability (ProCaribe+).

Ms. Milbourn (Jamaica) asked about the increase in capacity in terms of skills learnt/learning. Mr. Okumah responded that students from the community were trained and involved in data collection, questionnaire implementation, sampling, and jobs related to scuba diving. He informed that plastics had been replaced with other materials, but the nature of the replacement material was unknown.

Ms. Spencer added that the use of nature-based resources (such as vetiver products) was detailed in the SGP report. She said the original intent of the SGP component was to have it aligned with the national sub-projects; however, UNDP was ready to begin implementation before most of the national projects were. The second Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting in 2018 therefore agreed that in some cases, for example, Jamaica, community projects in areas outside of the national sub-project sites could be executed, providing they were in line with the overall objectives of IWEco.

- CANARI (Dr. Natalie Boodram)

Dr. Boodram stated it was her first face-to-face meeting since 2020 and that it was pleasing to see colleagues. She presented on the two (2) projects that were being executed through collaboration with the IWEco Project.

- i) Capacity building and knowledge products for Grenada (Refer Annex 3, Presentation 10)

Dr. Boodram stated that the aim of this project was to facilitate the uptake and use of ecosystem valuation in the Grenada National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) through the development of a SCO/citizens guide to the NEA, and to convene a workshop on advocacy/communication of environmental information. The larger project was being executed on behalf of the Government of Grenada, intergovernmental platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES) for which the main output is a report which will become due in March 2023. Policy support was a key output of the project, and a strong participatory approach was being used to ensure the involvement of stakeholders.

The final documents were still being sorted and the project is expected to end by June 2023.

Ms. John-Norville (OECS) asked if the change in government envisaged might affect policy. She added that the OECS is hoping to replicate the project. Dr. Boodram responded that a change in government was anticipated and hoped that it will be in favour of the project.

Mr. Corbin asked if there was an opportunity to see if there was anything drawn from the IPBES and if the report will be conveyed to civil society. Dr. Boodram responded that the activities were generally aligned (methodologies assessment of the diverse value of nature). While the focus was on nature's contribution to people, there was an appeal in cultural and social value.

Mrs. Benjamin (Trinidad and Tobago) stated that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Trinidad and Tobago had the technical knowledge and produced communication products for lay people. She added that there was a need to reach the communities



being served so we should stop telling and start selling. She added that she was happy about the approach of getting material generated for the different audiences.

Ms. Spencer, in relation to information products, highlighted that one needed to understand the story in order to sell it and that repetition of the message was also important.

ii) Regional – strengthening nature-based enterprises and livelihoods (Refer Annex 3, Presentation 11)

Dr. Boodram explained that the primary objective of this project was to strengthen and support stewardship and sustainable livelihoods. Work was done with seven (7) small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across four (4) countries. Project components highlighted with examples. Youths were included through the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN). The mentoring approach was used; business mentors were assigned after screening, and they work directly with the SMEs to provide guidance in terms of proposal submission. Some of the groups being worked with were highlighted. They included Hanover Bee Farmers' Cooperative Society in Jamaica (a synergy with UNDP SGP), Madiera Valley Heritage Park, Inc in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Nevis Turtle Group and Jessup Cotton Ground and Baner Ghaut Fisheries Association in St. Kitts and Nevis, the Fond St. Jacques Development Committee (also taking part in the CYEN advocacy course) and Jacq-O Valley Products in Saint Lucia.

She stated that assessments had been conducted. Since the last RPSC, CANARI had been very involved in trying to make SMEs more aware of the process. She added that handholding was a long and intense process but well worth it. She highlighted those project activities which had already been completed as well as those which were advancing. She informed that the project had been greatly impacted when two (2) mentors fell ill with COVID-19, in particular the advocacy course which was being done with Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN). In closing, she informed the PSC that the resources were available on CANARI's website.

Mr. Okumah (UNDP SGP) thanked Dr. Boodram for the excellent presentation. He said there was a lot of capacity in business development and wanted to know if they often tracked the impact on local economic development in the long-term. Dr. Boodram responded that they did not and indicated that more needed to be done in that regard.

Ms. Spencer informed the country representatives about the items that would be shared with them (bags, t-shirts and posters). She pointed out that sample posters were displayed, copies of which would be mailed to them after the meeting and expressed hope that the posters would be used for public awareness and educational purposes. She indicated that the posters had QR codes that would lead persons to the website, where additional information about the species featured could be obtained and she encouraged the countries to appreciate the posters of the other countries.

## Day 2 – RPSC6, 20 July 2022

### Status of Project Implementation at Regional Level

Ms. Spencer moderated this session and indicated the presenters as follows:

- Christopher Corbin – Acting Coordinator, UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat: Status of UNEP CEP interventions
  - Allison Astwood – IWeco Consultant: Strengthening of Environmental Laboratories for Caribbean countries participating in the IWeco Project
  - Shane Kirton – Environmental Health and Sustainable Development Department, CARPHA: Status of CARPHA-coordinated interventions under Component 2
  - Farzana Yusuf-Leon – IWeco Technical Specialist, Environmental Sustainability Division, OECS: Status of Interventions under Component 3
- 
- Cartagena Convention Secretariat (Mr. Christopher Corbin) - Refer Annex 4, Presentation 1

Mr. Corbin started by stating that the IWeco project was grounded within the framework of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and that the GEF considered ratification of the instruments a strong commitment. He added that all IWeco countries had ratified the Cartagena Convention but not the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol). He said that countries that ratified the LBS Protocol used projects to support implementation and added that it was anticipated that Cuba, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines would ratify the LBS Protocol by the time of project closure.

He mentioned that the Secretariat collaborated with other entities in areas such as partnership strengthening, policy reform, research, knowledge management, and national projects which were supported by the Regional Activity Centres (RACs). Some of the partners were CANARI, CARPHA, IDB, UN Habitat, and the OECS. He mentioned that the activities being implemented by the OECS will advance the policy agenda in the region and are expected to be adopted by CARICOM. Some of the project outputs Mr. Corbin highlighted included thematic briefs available in English, French, and Spanish which were now available.

Mr. Corbin added that a strategic partnership was catalysed through IWeco and another GEF-funded project - CReW+, of which many activities are complementary to those of IWeco. He indicated that water information management systems were the focus of four (4) countries and the CReW+ Project will build on the achievements of IWeco St Kitts and Nevis.

He remarked that the REMDAP assessment had been completed, and a regional data and information management platform was being developed. Further, he mentioned that the OECS had one such platform and that it was necessary to ensure that the systems can communicate effectively with each other.

Mr. Corbin emphasised that the IWEco Project supported the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and that the Secretariat supported the reporting on these goals. He added that knowledge management products were developed in collaboration with IWEco and that they were in the process of doing a video series on sargassum.

Mr. Corbin highlighted sargassum and plastics as emerging issues. He also indicated that the work of IWEco was promoted by the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and could be evidenced on its website and social media platforms. He highlighted that the Hedgerow Project in Barbados promoted a podcast on the work being done and that a number of findings from reports such as the SOCAR was showcased. Also highlighted was the South-South Cooperation and the work being done in OECS countries as well as Barbados, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Belize. This, he said, reminded countries and partners that there was no need to reinvent the wheel but instead they should make use of existing opportunities.

He stated that the UNEP-CEP, as project executing agency, was shifting its role to providing support versus execution.

Mr. Corbin highlighted challenges experienced by the Secretariat in the collection of contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF), this he said enabled the CEP to develop projects to support the countries. Mr. Corbin then stated that invoices regarding contributions were to be shared with the countries. Another challenge he mentioned was due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, while priorities have had to change work did not stop.

Mr. Corbin pointed out that UNEP's procurement procedures and reporting were not simple and that an attempt was being made to synergise as much as possible the overlap observed among projects as a lot of work was being done but with little impact. He emphasised the need for the reports to indicate to donors that the project was successful and encouraged the countries and partners to document and share experiences.

- Strengthening of Environmental Laboratories for Caribbean countries participating in the IWEco Project (Ms. Allison Astwood - IWEco Consultant) - Refer Annex 4, Presentation 2

Ms. Astwood gave an extensive presentation on the laboratory strengthening activity. This regional capacity-building activity included training and the acquisition of laboratory equipment to improve environmental monitoring in the Wider Caribbean Region. She pointed out that information was needed to enable the region to make sound environmental decisions. She expressed gratitude to Mr. Betlem for his guidance.

Ms. Astwood highlighted the purpose of laboratory capacity; showing evidence that efforts were working. She stated that it was evident that equipment and exchange between laboratories was important. She further mentioned that during Phase 1 of the laboratory assessment activity, needs and weaknesses were identified, and recommendations were given. For Phase 2, she reported, training was delivered on quality assurance/quality control, as well as the technical aspect with the aim to laboratories achieving International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard even if certification was not being sought. Ongoing were: the creation of a regional laboratory network; the purchase of equipment for delivery to each country, and the maintenance and repair of equipment.

The training methodology was coordinated by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the materials were developed by the Water Institute of the University of North Carolina (UNC) in collaboration with UNITAR and IWEco. She indicated that almost all the laboratories that were assessed were recommended for training. She added that the training was conducted virtually, and all training resources had been uploaded to UNITAR's website.

She highlighted the methodology for the procurement of equipment– it was recommended that one (1) laboratory per country be supported with equipment. She also mentioned that only authorised distributors were used in order to get the equipment warranty. The next step in this process was the selection of a procurement agency, which was being done.

Ms. Astwood elaborated the methodology for forming a regional environmental laboratory network. For this step, she stated that the workshop participants were consulted and agreed to be a part of the network. Additionally, she mentioned that possible functions and objectives of the network and other questions were posed in the questionnaire.

She also gave an overview of the training delivered, including the number of participants in each course. She, however, indicated that the numbers may have been underestimated due to the fact that the link was shared with persons who had not registered.

Ms. Astwood informed the PSC that during the overview meeting of the training modules, the recommended training versus what was delivered was discussed, as well as the level to which the objectives were met and the constraints. She stated that it was revealed that Module 4 (Sampling for Biological and Chemical analysis in Environmental Matrices) had the most attendees. Additionally, she stated that it was discovered that the same methodology for ambient waters was used for wastewaters though this was not correct as there were traces that were not being identified.

She added that the objectives of the Module 3 (Nutrient analysis methodologies with focus on surface waters) were met but it may have been a bit advanced for many laboratories. For Module 5 (Working with Environmental Monitoring and QC Data), she said, the participants preferred using a common set of data (not their own).

She mentioned that with regard to the establishment of regional environmental laboratory networks, it was determined that two (2) were needed; one (1) for English-speaking countries and the other for Spanish-speaking countries, but that there would be collaboration. She said this was the case as the Spanish-speaking countries seemed more advanced in legislation and monitoring programmes. Ms. Astwood shared the proposed objectives of the network; the sharing of laboratory contact information and lab-specific information were the biggest priorities. She indicated that the Working Group met on 20 June 2022 and initial objectives were agreed upon.

Additionally, she shared that later objectives of the networks and lessons learnt were discussed. She indicated that some laboratories had gone ahead and purchased their own equipment, and so for future projects it would be suggested that the national budgets include a budget for the acquisition of laboratory equipment in consultation with countries to ensure that the country-specific needs were being met. She added that in retrospect a training concept note would have been useful but that a flyer was distributed ahead of each training. She further stated that there was not much hope for leadership

of the regional laboratory network; while it was a great idea there was a shortcoming – it was an unpaid job and there was no workable solution for that.

Mr. Corbin (UNEP) thanked Ms. Astwood for the level of effort put out in addressing a significant challenge of the region in terms of environmental laboratories. He indicated that having a laboratory network was critical and should be institutionalised. He then suggested that it should be looked at as a mechanism of cooperation within the Caribbean region. He mentioned that one of the objectives of the network, in collaboration with the Protocol concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol), was that more fundamental support would be to provide input to reports of the region, such as the SOCAR (marine pollution report).

Mr. Corbin stated that this fitted into the framework of data and information management systems. For the information side of things, working with UNITAR to provide continued training with CREW+ on wastewater management was anticipated. He also requested that the recommendations from the recently concluded training would be shared as this would be appreciated.

Mr. Corbin also thanked Ms. Astwood for agreeing to do the presentation and for the recommendation in addressing nutrients as there was a need to strengthen nutrients monitoring as requested by the region. Adding that the reduction of nutrients was important and needed to be monitored more as it impacted livelihoods. He said a mechanism of institutional grounding for the laboratory network was for other laboratories to join and not just laboratories in IWEco project countries. Regarding input to the SOCAR by laboratories, he indicated that it needed to be done and that they were not to be asked the best test methods to achieve the limits for the different categories of water.

Mr. Kirton (CARPHA) registered his agreement with Mr. Corbin's intervention. He noted the need for alignment of the Regional Indicator Compendium, the DNA and corresponding network, and the upcoming REMDAP project – which all focus on regional data, indicators, and multi-lateral environment agreements (MEAs).

Mr. Kirton fully agreed with the call for an institutional arrangement to anchor and support the laboratory network for the purposes of sustainability. He proposed, for the consideration of the PSC, partnering or collaborating with the Cartagena Convention Secretariat on the institutional arrangement as the CARPHA Environmental Lab was already mandated to provide the stated support to its Member States (CMS).

Mr. Augustine (Saint Lucia) asked if all engagements were with governments and if there had been thoughts of engaging private entities to see if they were willing to include those things.

Mr. Corbin thanked Mr. Kirton for his intervention and stated that he was thinking of modalities for consideration to have centres of excellence including Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (INVEMAR), among other labs. He responded to Mr. Augustine's question and stated that the focus was on government laboratories but others that might have less constraint in data sharing could be considered. Citizen Science could also be look at, he said.

Ms. Spencer (PCU) indicated that the laboratory assessment report was available on the project's website.

- Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) (Mr. Shane Kirton) - Refer Annex 4, Presentation 3

Mr. Kirton presented CARPHA's intervention in relation to Component 2. He began by giving an overview of achievements which included a regional environmental indicators compendium.

In project highlights he indicated that the methodology for scientific research to support monitoring of the national projects changed twice. The products had been published on IWEco's website. The challenges experienced were as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and they were forced to execute differently.

He stated that all implementation activities had been completed and technical support, as well as support to Component 3, will be provided.

Mr. Alain Muñoz Caravaca highlighted the importance of grounding work within Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 which all governments signed on to and added that El Centro de Estudios Ambientales de Cienfuegos (CEAC) was working in support of that. He added that work was also done in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which also provided capacity building through Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (INVEMAR) on ocean acidification (climate change) with impacts on biodiversity. He further mentioned that CEAC had the capacity and was willing to share lessons learnt on work done to date.

Mr. Kirton then continued by sharing the timeline for future activities and stated that technical support for the acquisition of lab equipment would be provided.

Mr. Corbin, in reference to the issue of sargassum and monitoring work on plastics, mentioned that a discussion was underway with Africa, Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP) and anticipated organising training on microplastics in English and Spanish. He stated that details of the workshop would be shared with IWEco. He mentioned the collaboration with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) on remote sensing for oil spills and Sargassum and pointed out that capacity in this regard was already built in Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA). They were looking forward to doing the same in other countries. He concluded that there was good opportunity for continuing work with CARPHA.

- Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) (Ms. Farzana Yusuf-Leon) Refer Annex 4, Presentation 4

Ms. Yusuf-Leon reported on the status of interventions being executed by the OECS under Component 3: Strengthening of the policy, legislative and institutional reforms and capacity building for SLM, IWRM/WUE and ecosystem services management taking into consideration climate resilience building.

She indicated that Component 3 complemented the work being done by CARPHA. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Governance Partnership meeting had been convened on 29 March 2022. Recommendations included: 1) Public/private partnerships as a mechanism to support sustainability; 2) Close collaboration during

implementation of planned/ongoing data and information related initiatives, and; 3) Institutionalizing knowledge and outputs to transition from projects to a more programmatic approach.

Ms. Yusuf-Leon outlined two main activities. The first is a review of the status of policy, legislative implementation, action plans and strategies for improved water, land and ecosystems management at the regional level as well as within the countries towards development of an Integrated Management System Development Model (IMSAM). As a result of this consultancy, conducted by OpenPlan Consultants Ltd, 26 concepts had been developed and 12 Terms of Reference developed (for 8 national interventions and 4 regional interventions). Six priority interventions had subsequently been confirmed (see details in the presentation, Annex 3) and procurement to execute these had begun earlier in 2022. The OECS hoped to have all contracts signed by November 2022.

The second activity, also a priority for participating countries, is to develop and implement a regional action framework for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) for the CARICOM Region. This began in June 2020 and was progressing. In April 2022 the Final IWRM Framework was developed by the consultants, the Global Water Partnership – Caribbean (GWP-C). Significantly, this received support at the OECS Council of Ministers for Environmental Sustainability (COM:ES) in May 2022 and was subsequently presented at the CARICOM COTED: Environmental Sustainability 2022. The important work of soliciting regional as well as national support for the new Framework would continue until project-end in August 2023. Ms. Yusuf-Leon also described complementary regional initiatives, not least the OECS Sub-Regional Environmental Information System being developed with UN-ECLAC.

She described the challenges which had resulted in delays in implementation. These included: communication between CARPHA and the OECS for updates regarding agency agreements as well as communication and collaboration in other aspects of planning, procurement and remediation of procurement delays. As a result, the OECS had agreed to provide procurement assistance and periods for implementation of interventions had had to be revised in addition to increased collaboration between similar projects to reduce delays in data collection.

In addition to the outputs described, Ms. Yusuf-Leon stressed the importance of an operational Governance Partnership to sustaining and upscaling IWEco activities.

## **Status of Expenditure and Presentation of Work Plan 2022-2023 with Budget - Refer Annex 5, Presentation 1**

Mr. Betlem presented the 2022-2023 budget. He pointed out that most of the remaining funds had been disbursed to the countries. He reminded that during project planning stage there had been a change in hosting arrangements for the project so that it is hosted by UNEP CEP instead of CARPHA, as was originally planned. A project extension had been requested at the last RPSC, until the end of 2023.

He indicated that the national sub-project of Antigua and Barbuda had to be stopped but that the funds could not be spent elsewhere; they were being held with the hope for submission of a new proposal by the respective country. He pointed out that the operational cost budget line was the only category that the PCU could access in providing support to the countries. He further inferred that an alternative source of funding would need to be sought to fund the RPSC meeting (RPSC7) in 2023.

Mr. Betlem then gave a general overview of the spending over the years as well as the amount which had been spent by the countries based on reported expenditure; overall there was, he said, a low spend rate. While the dashboard showed progress with some countries nearing completion namely: Cuba, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago, only a third of the overall budget had been spent to date.

In concluding, he pointed out that higher staffing costs were not allowed due to the project extension and therefore encouraged the countries to progress faster. He reminded the RPSC of the decision taken in the previous RPSC Meeting in 2021 regarding the 3% charge to offset the Secretariat's costs for administrative services which would be provided to the countries and that the charges would begin after August 2023 with a few exceptions (in the cases of soon-to-be-finalised contracts). In addition, he stated that those agreements signed later in the project cycle would not be impacted by the 3% charge.

Mr. Kirton (CARPHA) thanked Mr. Betlem for the comprehensive update. He sought clarification on committed but undisbursed funds and asked if contracts to be signed for activities that were stretched and committed would attract the 3% charge. Mr. Betlem affirmed that it would be applicable to the amounts not yet disbursed.

Mr. Augustine (Saint Lucia) asked if the 3% charge was applicable to undisbursed funds. It was reiterated that the charge would apply to undisbursed funds.

Ms. John-Norville (OECS) indicated that their funds had been committed up until 2023.

## **IWEco.org: Presentation on the IWEco Website and Information Resources - Refer Annex 5, Presentation 2**

Ms. Spencer presented on the IWEco Project's website ([www.iweco.org](http://www.iweco.org)) and its functionalities. Among the capabilities, she highlighted, there is a toggle switch that facilitates the translation of the page into Spanish. The website can also connect to Instagram, and the Flickr photo gallery. She encouraged the countries to submit captioned photos for upload to the photo gallery.



She indicated that the contacts on the country pages needed to be updated and reminded that the website was the repository of final project outputs, including reports and public awareness and education materials. She pointed out that the IWEco “Snapshots of Biodiversity” poster series, which had been developed with significant inputs from the countries, and earlier distributed to participants, were all on the website; each poster included a QR code which linked to the descriptions of featured species on the relevant country pages and the posters were downloadable. She noted that the Bahamas project website was linked to the IWEco website and had hoped to have a presentation from The Bahamas during the meeting; however they had not been able to connect.

The section of the website dedicated to the Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) in the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean Project information products was highlighted as these remain relevant to IWEco; the Community Based Resource Assessment Toolkit for protecting watersheds and coastal areas was highlighted and she pointed out that it is available in English, Spanish and French.

Ms. Spencer urged the country representatives to read the newsletter and pointed out that the shorter-format e-bulletin was also available online and also downloadable.

### **Discussion:**

Mr. Corbin spoke on behalf of Ms. VanderBeck, UNEP Task Manager for the IWEco Project, thanking Mr. Betlem and the rest of the PCU team for the successful implementation of the IWEco Project. He further added that the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic did not reflect on the team and what it did to make things happen he said.

He recalled his first meeting with Mr. Betlem as Task Manager for the Chemicals Portfolio and that he was most excited when out in the field. He said it was important to know someone in Nairobi who could get things done faster and who knew how to use the networks. He said he appreciated the fact that although they often disagreed, they were always able to find a workable solution. He said Mr. Betlem had a very frank and open way of speaking to get things done. Mr. Corbin thanked Mr. Betlem for the support provided and said that he will be missed. He continued stating that there was still heavy lifting to be done and that country support was needed to make things easier and to ensure that they all have something positive to show at the terminal evaluation. He indicated that funds were not available to hire a replacement Project Coordinator; however, UNEP would explore how to proceed without readily losing Mr. Betlem’s institutional knowledge. He affirmed that the state of the project would be looked at and how support could be provided to the IWEco Team.

Mr. Romano (Trinidad and Tobago) said he knew that effort was put into the project and was concerned about whether UNEP was making the right decision. He noted that while Trinidad and Tobago’s National sub-Project would end by December 2023, other projects had a year left. He implored that all options be explored to ensure value for money at the end of the IWEco Project.

Mr. Providence (St. Vincent & the Grenadines) stated that in the early phase, the national sub-project of St. Vincent and the Grenadines had experienced a lot of issues and that over the years Mr. Betlem’s mediation was instrumental in getting the project started. He shared that, as the project National Focal Point, with other responsibilities, it would be difficult for him to give 100% follow-up to the project.

He said Mr. Betlem held a lot of information and energy that started the process and agreed with Mr. Romano in finding a way through which Mr. Betlem's skills, knowledge and experience could be used to assist the islands through to project closure.

Ms. Milbourn (Jamaica) said the project implementation rate was very slow and wanted to know if there was any way of rescoping the project to allow for the completion of project activities.

Mr. Augustine (Saint Lucia) mentioned that Mr. Betlem had had a good relationship with the previous National Project Manager and had assisted tremendously with their process. Consequently, he wanted to know if it were possible for Mr. Betlem to provide this mentorship/guidance role, perhaps through a consultancy.

Mr. Corbin indicated that the Unit was constrained by UN Rules and Procedures but that there are ways that could be explored, perhaps advisory, mentoring, or perhaps a support role for a limited time per month. He mentioned that he hoped for Ms. Spencer to assume the mantle as it would be good experience for her. Nevertheless, the expressed desire could be reflected in the decisions.

Ms. John-Norville (OECS) asked what arrangement UNEP had in place since the project was coming to an end so close to the departure of the Regional Project Coordinator, Mr. Betlem.

Mr. Corbin responded that UN rules and administrative processes would apply. He clarified that even though Mr. Betlem was working on the project, he was UN Staff. He added that he could provide short-term support, however, there was a cap on the time and the amount that could be paid to him over a period and there was no flexibility on that.

Ms. John-Norville (OECS) recognised the concern with the end of the project being close and stated that there was a need to make arrangements that allow for continuity. She indicated her support for some of the recommendations mentioned.

Mr. Betlem thanked the representatives for the appreciation and support shown. He added that they were in good hands with the rest of the team that was left.

### **Farewell to the IWECO Regional Project Coordinator**

A heart-warming slide presentation was shared with the Regional Project Coordinator extending well wishes from project partners on the retirement of Mr. Jan Betlem. Additionally, a slideshow was shared from CARPHA's Executive Director, Dr. Joy St. John, documenting their journey through project execution with Mr. Betlem, ultimately wishing him sincere best wishes on his retirement.

Mr. Betlem wished good health for all and expressed that we should all be grateful if we could reach such a milestone in our lives. He added that the work that was being done was part of our lives, and that living in the region for the past five (5) years had enriched his life.

He concluded by expressing his gratitude for the appreciation shown for his work and that he was happy for a committed and dedicated team. He urged the project countries and regional partners to take care of their (Caribbean) environment.

## Review of Decisions

The representatives of participating co-executing and implementing partners of the IWEco Project reviewed the draft decisions and agreed upon the following (refer Annex 2 for Meeting Decisions):

1. Encourage the governments of the region, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols by end of project.
2. Urge all IWEco Participating Countries to honour their voluntary contributions with support of the Executing Partners to the Caribbean Trust Fund for Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme in order to sustain the Cartagena Convention Secretariat based in Kingston, Jamaica.
3. Approve the 2022-2023 IWEco workplan and budget as presented by the IWEco Regional Project Coordinator.
4. Recall that the IWEco Regional Project end date for all activities in the field was extended at the Fifth Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting to 31 August 2023, with no further extension possible.
5. Recall that the IWEco Regional Project end date to complete all financial and administrative arrangements related to the project, including conduct of the Terminal Evaluation, is 31 December 2023.
6. Urge all Participating Countries and Partners to accelerate execution of agreed project activities.
7. Urge all Participating Countries and Partners to submit progress and financial reports in a timelier manner and to ensure that all final products are also submitted for sharing with the wider project community.
8. Begin implementing the previously approved 3% charge to all projects with undisbursed funds from 1st September 2022 to support the Secretariat in continued hosting of the Regional IWEco Project and associated administrative and financial services.
9. Support the further development and implementation of the Regional Environmental Monitoring Data Portal (REMDAP) in collaboration with other regional efforts to improve environmental data and information management.
10. Request that following the training for regional environmental laboratories, the IWEco PCU and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat continue efforts to procure already determined equipment with support from the specialized consultant, preferably through involvement of an established regional institution with relevant experience and interest.
11. Encourage the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, regional partners and participating countries to maximize on existing capacity in the region and the availability of already existing resources when developing and/or implementing new training programmes.
12. Recommend that Cartagena Convention Secretariat and regional partners explore mechanisms for the formalization of the Regional Environmental Laboratory Network in order to optimize greater collaboration on environmental monitoring and assessment.
13. Solicit offers from governments of the IWEco project's beneficiary states to host the Final Project Conference/Closing Event during the first half of 2023 with first consideration being given to countries that have not previously hosted and noting the 6th PSC meeting's preference for an in-person or blended meeting.

14. Urge the UNEP/Cartagena Convention Secretariat to engage in discussions with UNEP Headquarters towards keeping the current Regional Project Coordinator involved in the IWeco project as appropriate given the fact that it is entering the final year of implementation.
15. Request the UNEP to convey a message of thanks to the CEO of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the support received for the region through the GEF IWeco Project.
16. Further request UNEP, regional partners and country focal points to emphasise to the GEF and other development partners the need for a longer-term programmatic approach to addressing integrated resource management for Caribbean SIDS.

## **Final Remarks and Observations**

### Host Country

Mr. Romano recognised partners and participants present and then stated that, as the GEF Focal Point and Head of the Executing Agency (EMA) in Trinidad and Tobago, he was pleased on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to welcome all and happy to have hosted the meeting. He thanked the EMA team for successfully hosting the meeting and for the work done on the project. He congratulated the PCU on work well done to ensure the successful organisation, execution and overall conduct of the meeting. He also extended appreciation to all the participants for their attentiveness to the discussions, and also to the interpretation team for their language and technical support.

The PSC members expressed their appreciation to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, through the EMA, for hosting and chairing the RPSC6, and for the hospitality shown to all.

### UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat

Mr. Corbin thanked Mr. Romano and his team for the hospitality shown. He expressed appreciation for the significant support provided and requested that appreciation be conveyed to the Minister for her remarks and for the challenges issued. He acknowledged the support of the Secretariat and remarked that the work continued. He stated that the camaraderie, sharing, and bilateral discussions over the past two (2) days had been enriching. He concluded by urging the partners to contact the Secretariat in the event of any challenges as it was there to provide support. He wished for safe travels for all.

The Chair declared the Meeting adjourned at 4:34 PM (GMT-4).

**ANNEX 1 – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS (6<sup>th</sup> IWEco Regional PSC Meeting – hybrid: Trinidad and Tobago/ Microsoft Teams)**

*Project Countries*

- |                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. <b>ADAMS-MATTHEW</b> , Rashauna    | Antigua and Barbuda            |
| 2. <b>EVERSLEY</b> , Ann-Marie        | Barbados                       |
| 3. <b>MUÑOZ CARAVACA</b> , Alain      | Cuba                           |
| 4. <b>ALONSO PEREZ</b> , Tatiana      | Cuba                           |
| 5. <b>RAMIREZ TORRES</b> , Yesly      | Dominican Republic             |
| 6. <b>DELANCE</b> , Jonathan          | Dominican Republic             |
| 7. <b>PALMER</b> , Dillon             | Grenada                        |
| 8. <b>MILBOURN</b> , Maureen          | Jamaica                        |
| 9. <b>JONES</b> , Loureene            | Jamaica                        |
| 10. <b>SAHELY</b> , Halla             | St. Kitts and Nevis            |
| 11. <b>AUGUSTINE</b> , Karl           | Saint Lucia                    |
| 12. <b>PROVIDENCE</b> , Fitzgerald    | St. Vincent and the Grenadines |
| 13. <b>ROMANO</b> , Hayden            | Trinidad and Tobago            |
| 14. <b>ARLEN-BENJAMIN</b> , Anna-Lisa | Trinidad and Tobago            |
| 15. <b>SMITH</b> , Julius             | Trinidad and Tobago            |
| 16. <b>CLARENCE</b> , Candice         | Trinidad and Tobago            |
| 17. <b>CARTWRIGHT</b> , Danielle      | IWEco Bahamas                  |

*Organisations*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <b>BECKLES-ROBINSON</b> , Pernelle<br>(Honourable Minister) | Ministry of Planning and<br>Development (Trinidad and Tobago) |
| 2. <b>BOODRAM</b> , Natalie                                    | CANARI  |
| 3. <b>SABIR</b> , Kareem                                       | CARICOM Secretariat   |
| 4. <b>KIRTON</b> , Shane                                       | CARPHA  |
| 5. <b>JOHN-NORVILLE</b> , Joan                                 | OECS  |
| 6. <b>YUSUF-LEON</b> , Farzana                                 | OECS  |
| 7. <b>OKUMAH</b> , Murat                                       | UNDP SGP International Waters (New York)                      |
| 8. <b>ASTWOOD</b> , Allison                                    | Consultant – Lab Strengthening (IWEco)                        |

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9. <b>CORBIN</b> , Christopher     | UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat |
| 10. <b>BARRETT</b> , Jhenelle      | UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat |
| 11. <b>TUCKER</b> , Tracey         | UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat |
| 12. <b>BETLEM</b> , Jan            | UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat |
| 13. <b>SPENCER</b> , Donna         | UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat |
| 14. <b>HENRY-HERNANDEZ</b> , Donna | UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat |
| 15. <b>PARKER</b> , Shamene        | UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat |

DRAFT

## ANNEX 2 – MEETING DECISIONS (6<sup>th</sup> IWEco Regional PSC Meeting)

### **The representatives of participating co-executing and implementing partners of the IWEco Project:**

**Having convened** the Sixth Meeting of the IWEco Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting on 19 and 20 July 2022;

**Recalling** their respective Project Cooperation Agreements (PCAs) and other contracts and **welcoming GEF funding and technical support** provided for supporting the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols;

**Recognizing** that ecosystem restoration is a complement to conservation activities and that priority should be given to conserving biodiversity and preventing the degradation of natural habitats and ecosystems by reducing pressures and maintaining ecological integrity and the provision of ecosystem services;

**Acknowledging** the work of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat in general which addresses emerging issues such as Sargassum influx, as well as the continued work on conservation of coral reefs, mangroves, seagrasses, fishes and other marine life as well as Land-Based Sources of pollution (the latter which is being addressed by many of the IWEco-supported interventions);

**Acknowledging** the progress in execution of project activities during the years 2021-2022 by the IWEco Project partners as reported in general compared to the previous Regional Steering Committee Meeting, despite the extremely difficult circumstances in the region not only because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, but also because of continuous capacity constraints, executing governance structures, insufficient resources at most levels, as well as climatic conditions and (specifically for project country Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) the eruption of volcano La Soufriere on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021;

**Assuming** that all contracted partners submit Quarterly Financial Expenditure Reports and Half Yearly Progress Reports in a timely manner to the IWEco Project Coordination Unit (PCU) allowing for timely reporting to UNEP and the donor;

**Acknowledging** the continuous need for partnering with other UN and non-UN agencies and organisations in the region in order to combine forces and resources to better respond to the needs of the countries;

**Noting** that IWEco project activities have been delayed, also because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which has hit all participating countries and project partners hard for a prolonged period of time;

**Taking note** of the recommendations of the IWEco Mid Term Review (MTR), which took place in mid-2020, as well as of the follow-up measures undertaken by all involved with the IWEco Project;

**Taking note** of the proposed dates of extension for most of the project execution arrangements in place;

**Taking note** of the fact that even ‘no cost extensions’ for the project partners will incur costs for the Cartagena Convention Secretariat even though -as agreed upon during the previous IWEco Regional Steering Committee in 2021- the Secretariat will charge 3% to all projects with undisbursed funds as per 31 August 2022 also considering the budgetary and human resource challenges faced by the

Cartagena Convention Secretariat (as host of the regional PCU) regarding the coordination and execution of project activities after August 2022;

**Considering** the significant work of the IWECO Project Coordination Unit (PCU) that has been carried out to make interventions possible by all partners despite reduced staff and other limiting conditions, as well as in the area of communications, awareness raising and training;

**Acknowledging** the successful completion of the by IWECO Project Coordination Unit (PCU) organised training as a follow-up on the Regional Environmental Laboratory Assessment (as requested by the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting);

**Having reviewed and approved** the minutes of the Fifth IWECO Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting, which was a virtual meeting and took place in September 2021, hosted by the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis;

**Recognizing** the importance of ratification, implementation and reporting for relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements including the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols by IWECO participating countries;

**Recognizing** the upcoming mandatory retirement age of the IWECO Regional Project Coordinator Mr. Jan Betlem and thank him for his professional guidance and his tireless and unbridled commitment to the project and to the region over the past few years.

**Decide to:**

1. **Encourage** the governments of the region, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols by end of project.
2. **Urge** all IWECO Participating Countries to honour their voluntary contributions with support of the Executing Partners to the Caribbean Trust Fund for Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme in order to sustain the Cartagena Convention Secretariat based in Kingston, Jamaica.
3. **Approve** the 2022-2023 IWECO workplan and budget as presented by the IWECO Regional Project Coordinator.
4. **Recall** that the IWECO Regional Project end date for all activities in the field was extended at the Fifth Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting to 31 August 2023, with no further extension possible.
5. **Recall** that the IWECO Regional Project end date to complete all financial and administrative arrangements related to the project, including conduct of the Terminal Evaluation, is 31 December 2023.
6. **Urge** all Participating Countries and Partners to accelerate execution of agreed project activities.
7. **Urge** all Participating Countries and Partners to submit progress and financial reports in a timelier manner and to ensure that all final products are also submitted for sharing with the wider project community.
8. **Begin implementing** the previously approved 3% charge to all projects with undisbursed funds **from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022** to support the Secretariat in continued hosting of the Regional IWECO Project and associated administrative and financial services.
9. **Support the further development and implementation of the** Regional Environmental



Monitoring Data Portal (REMDAP) in collaboration with other regional efforts to improve environmental data and information management.

10. **Request** that following the training for regional environmental laboratories, the IWEco PCU and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat continue efforts to procure already determined equipment with support from the specialized consultant, preferably through involvement of an established regional institution with relevant experience and interest.
11. **Encourage** the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, regional partners and participating countries to maximize on existing capacity in the region and the availability of already existing resources when developing and/or implementing new training programmes.
12. **Recommend** that Cartagena Convention Secretariat and regional partners explore mechanisms for the formalization of the Regional Environmental Laboratory Network in order to optimize greater collaboration on environmental monitoring and assessment.
13. **Solicit** offers from governments of the IWEco project's beneficiary states to host the Final Project Conference/Closing Event during the first half of 2023 with first consideration being given to countries that have not previously hosted and noting the 6<sup>th</sup> PSC meeting's preference for an in-person or blended meeting.
14. **Urge the UNEP/Cartagena Convention Secretariat** to engage in discussions with UNEP Headquarters towards keeping the current Regional Project Coordinator involved in the IWEco project as appropriate given the fact that it is entering the final year of implementation. (preamble)
15. **Request** the UNEP to convey a message of thanks to the CEO of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the support received for the region through the GEF IWEco Project.
16. **Further request** UNEP, regional partners and country focal points to emphasise to the GEF and other development partners the need for a longer-term programmatic approach to addressing integrated resource management for Caribbean SIDS. (preamble)

-----  
Date

-----  
Mr. Hayden Romano  
(Chair of the 6<sup>th</sup> IWEco Regional PSC Meeting)

DRAFT



**IWEco Project Coordinating Unit (PCU)**

c/o UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat  
 3rd Floor, Jamaica Conference Centre Complex  
 14-20 Port Royal Street | Kingston, Jamaica, W.I.  
 P: +1 (876) 922-9267  
 W: [www.iweco.org](http://www.iweco.org)





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**6<sup>th</sup> IWEco Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Status of Project Implementation**  
**at National Level**





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# National Project Update & Planning:

Presenter

Ann-Marie Eversley



# The Project: Hedgerow Rehabilitation Project

reintroduce and encourage the practice of planting hedgerows, establish nurseries for the Khus Khus and lemon grass, and to reinstate hedgerow between agricultural fields, roads and gully systems.



## RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

## BUDGET

## ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Project Managing Unit:  
Environmental Protection  
Department  
National Conservation  
Commission

Focal Point:  
Environmental Protection  
Department

Budget:  
\$100,000

Amount Used:

- Listed Major Achievements
- Procurment of the germplasm laboratory
  - Extension of the nursely
  - Initial work at some sites
  - Contract signed by Consultant



# Timeline of the Project



# Project Highlights:



Germplasm  
Laboratory



Inside the Laboratory



Gauges



# Project Highlights:



Extension of nursery

# Project Highlights:



Botanical Gardens



Constitutional River

# Project Highlights:



Bridge Road Site

# Project Highlights:



Three Houses Park



# Project Highlights:



Pine Basin Site



# Project Highlights:



Potential sites



# Project Highlights:



Consultant signing contract

# Project Highlights:



15

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15.07.2022 13:35



# CHALLENGES

## Scheduling

Heavy work schedules of officers.

- Increase communication with each other to keep track of activities.

## Sourcing of Seeds

Sourcing of Seeds

- Locating vendors
- Found the appropriate broker

## Climate Change

Extended dry season

# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

Setting up germplasm laboratory

Procure equipment and materials including the procurement of different species of Khus Khus, and Lemon grasses

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Germplasm laboratory expanded to include Khus Khus and Lemon grasses.

One (1) 2-acre plant nursery at the National Botanical Garden established.

# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

Prepare standard operating procedures

Planting of Khus Khus and Lemon Grass in vulnerable areas

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Between 5 and 10 km of hedgerow planted within the National Park and community parks.

30 hectares of land stabilised through the Hedgerow Rehabilitation project in agricultural areas prone to soil loss.

5km Hedgerow planted along roadways and highway

5km Hedgerow planted the access slopes to critical gully system

Hedgerow planted around at 5 drainage wells along the roadways and highways drainage wells

# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

Prepare training manual and standards and conduct training to ensure consistent and reliable installation of hedgerows.

Documentation of project lessons and the creation of messages to share with stakeholders.

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

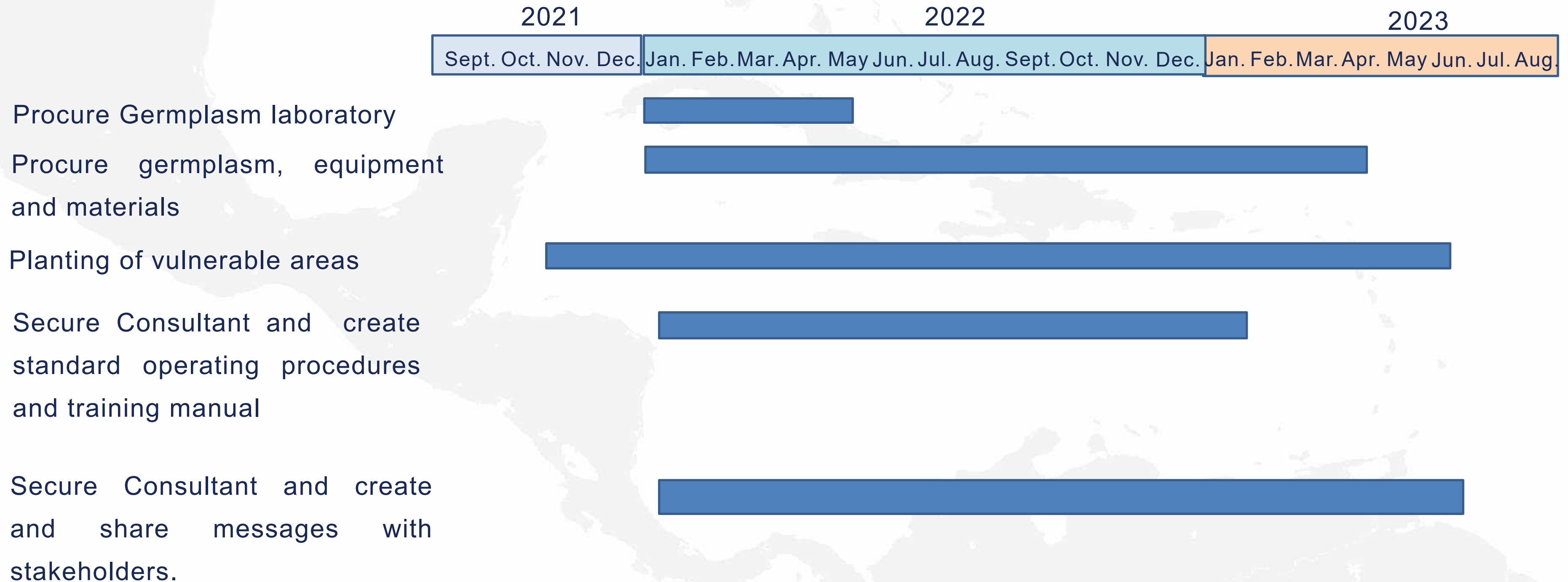
Training manual and operations manual for hedgerow reinstallation prepared

Fifty (50) staff trained in the installation and maintenance techniques

Communications message prepared for the Clean and Green Initiatives to communicate lesson learned, including best management practices for hedgerow rehabilitation

# Timeline for Future Activities

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives





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# Thank You



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPARTMENT



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# National Project Update:

Presenter: MSc. Tatiana Alonso Pérez



# The Project:

**Project's Objective:** To conserve, protect and ensure the sustainable use of Cuba's biological diversity in support of the country's future socio-economic development, for the benefit of current and future generations, and to protect and rehabilitate four already fragile and vulnerable insular hydrographic and coastal ecosystems from further damaging anthropogenic activities and the effects of global warming.



## RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

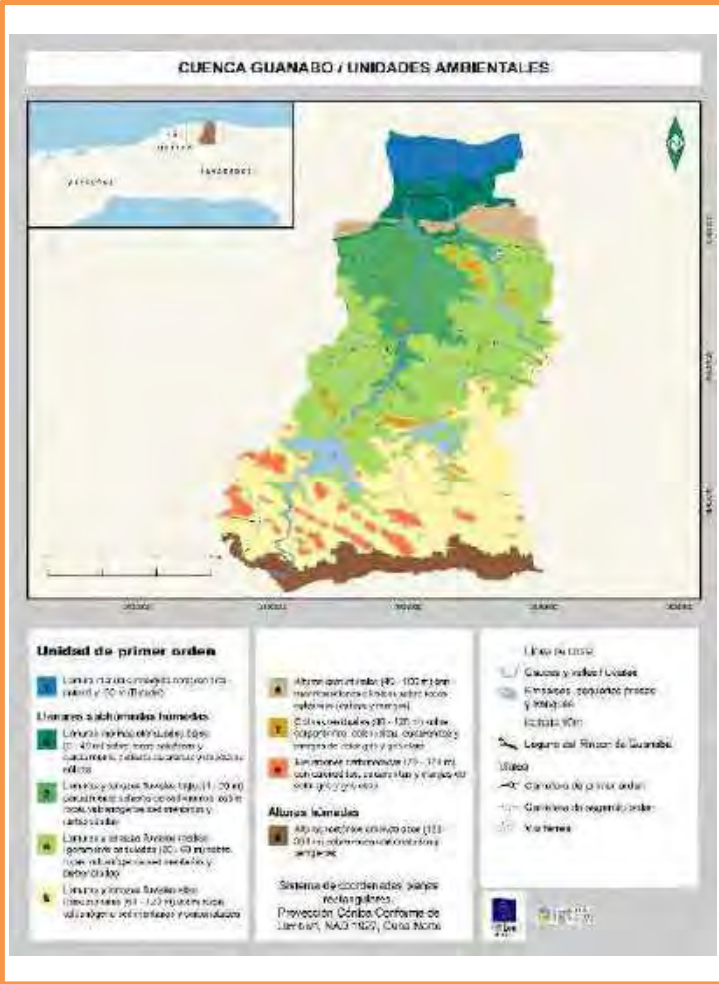
Project Managing Unit:  
 Centro de Estudios Ambientales de Cienfuegos, Cuba  
 Focal Point: Alain Muñoz

## BUDGET

Budget:  
 2 169,685.00  
 Amount Used:  
 1 864 074.62  
 (85,91%)

## ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- Biodiversity baseline documents in the four project basins.
- Environmental Diagnosis of the Guanabo Basin.
- Start of the 7th edition of the academic program for the Master's Degree in Integrated Management of Coastal Zones.



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Biodiversity**



# Timeline of the Project



# Project Highlights:



**Picture 1.**  
Increased environmental education actions in the four areas of intervention.



**Picture 2.**  
Applied Good Agricultural Practices and seed germination at Finca Recreo 5 in the Guanabo basin.



**Picture 3.**  
Publication of 8 project research results in high-impact scientific journals.



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Biodiversity**

# CHALLENGES

## CHALLENGE 1

- Acquisition of equipment and materials for demonstration projects

## CHALLENGE 2

Compile all the results with a high scientific, social and environmental value.

## CHALLENGE 3

Develop a project communication campaign.

# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

A.1.1.1.1 Land use planning model

A.1.2.1.1 Acquisition of equipment and materials for demonstration projects

A.1.1.2.3 Reforestation 800 Ha

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Governing document of the territorial environmental ordering.

Strengthening the capacities of farmers for the production of food and personal income.

800 Ha of new o repaired forests



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Biodiversity**

# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

- A.3.1.3.1 Existing procedures for the resolution of conflicts between different institutions
- A.3.2.1.2 Teach the new edition of the Master's Program in ICZM at the national level
- A.3.2.1.5 Carry out an Education program Communities Environment

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Procedures to support the ICZM
- At least new 20 students on MISC will be graduated
- Improved environmental education and risk perception



# Timeline for Future Activities

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Biodiversity**



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Land degradation**

# Timeline for Future Activities

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Biodiversity**



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Land degradation**



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# National Project Update & Planning:

Yesly Ramirez





# The Project: Integrated Management of the Biodiversity, Freshwater and Land Resources of the Higüamo River Watershed and its Associated Coastal Zone, including Mitigating Climate Change Impacts

**Project's Objective** The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through the strengthening of national capacities for the integrated management of the Higüamo River watershed, including the maintenance, restoration and sustainability of ecosystem services, supported by appropriate policies, institutional reforms, legislation, as well as by the application of supportive efficient and effective technologies

## RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Project Managing Unit:  
Ministry of Environment  
and Natural Resources  
UNEP

Focal Point:  
Jonathan Delance

## BUDGET

Budget:  
1,430,646 USD

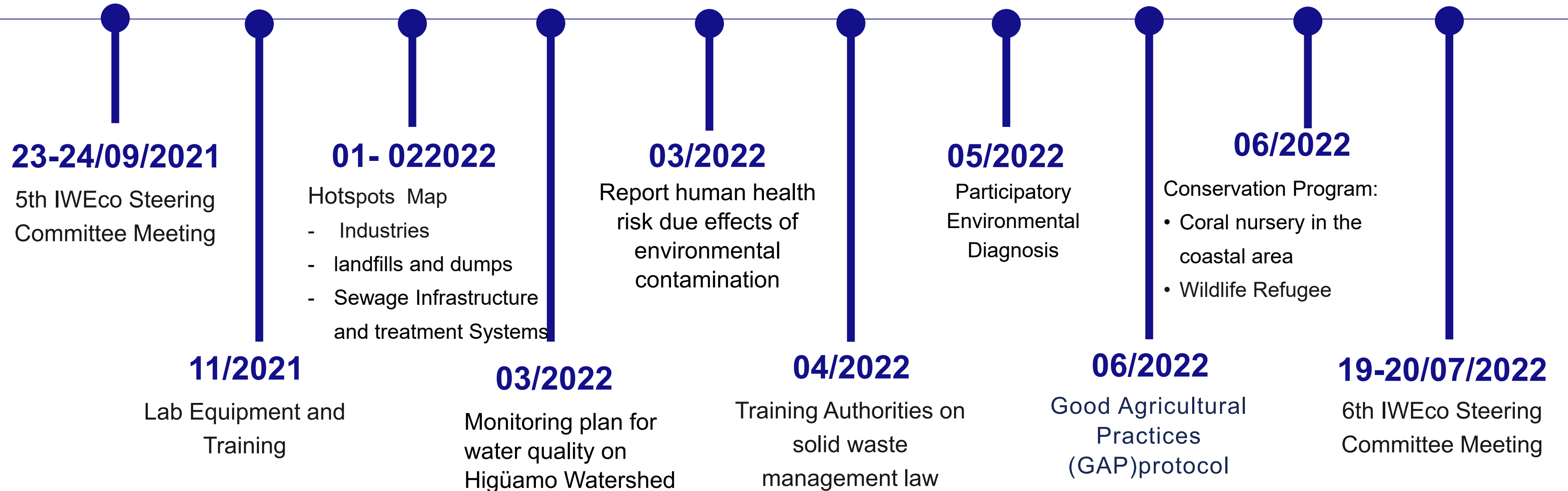
Amount Used:  
419,000 USD

## ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- Training Management of Equipment and Tools for Spatial Data Collection
- Monitoring plan for water quality on Higüamo Watershed
- Participatory Environmental Diagnosis
- Report on risks to human health due to the effects of environmental contamination



# Timeline of the Project



# Project Highlights:



**Improve the Lab and design water monitoring plan**



**Good Agriculture Practice**



**Reforestation Program on critical areas**

# CHALLENGES

## Watershed Council

- Training program Awareness on governance and management of natural resources
- Complete the work plan for each micro-watershed and coastal committees

## Alternatives to reduce the pollution

Coordination strategy for solid waste treatment at municipal level

Monitoring plan for water quality

Small grants

## Master Plan

MoU with non- profit supporting organizations

- Monitoring
- Reforestation and forest livelihood program
- Capacity budlings at local level

Sharing of project information, lessons learned and good practices, and promoting project replication

# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

Develop necessary professional skills

Develop guidelines for coastal bioengineering and reforestation.

Develop guidelines for watershed reforestation.

Develop and apply guidelines for small wastewater treatment systems.

Develop a plan for reducing water pollution from land-based activities in the watershed.

Develop a good agricultural practices (GAP) protocol for the management and control of organic waste.

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Trained professionals and stakeholders

Guidelines for watershed restoration

Guidelines for coastal bioengineering and reforestation

Guidelines for bioengineering for slope stabilization, runoff control and aquifer replenishment.

A plan for reducing land-based sources of water pollution

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) protocol



# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

Develop guidelines for bioengineering for slope stabilization, runoff control and aquifer replenishment.

Create a habitat conservation program for ecosystems and threatened species in the watershed and its estuarine zone.

Promote ecotourism in the watershed and its estuarine zone.

Creation of the watershed councils for the governance

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Guidelines for bioengineering for slope stabilization, runoff control and aquifer replenishment.

A conservation program for ecosystems and threatened species,

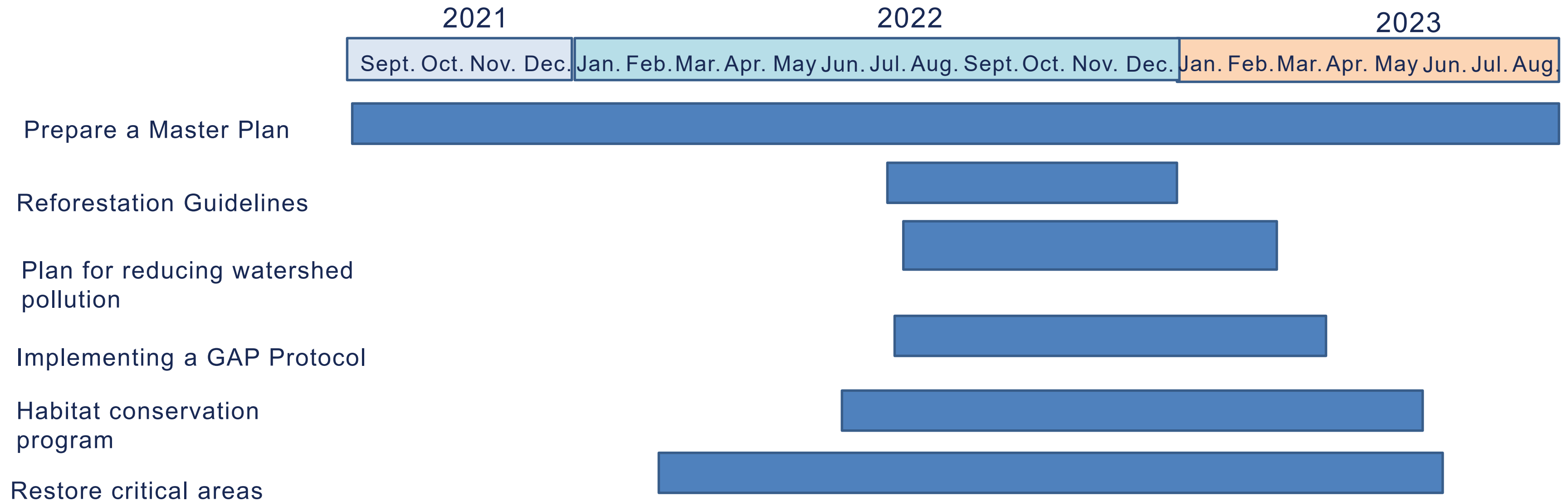
A master plan for integrated management of the Higüamo River watershed and its estuarine zone

A strengthened National Intersectoral Committee



# Timeline for Future Activities

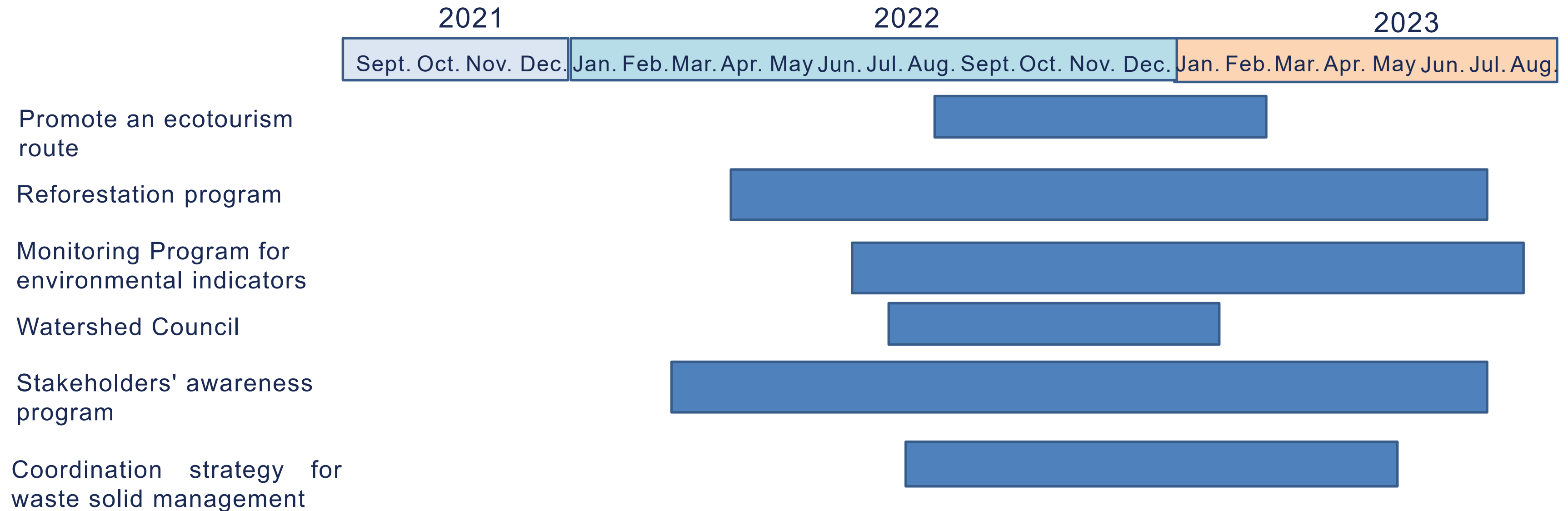
Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Biodiversity**

# Timeline for Future Activities

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Biodiversity**



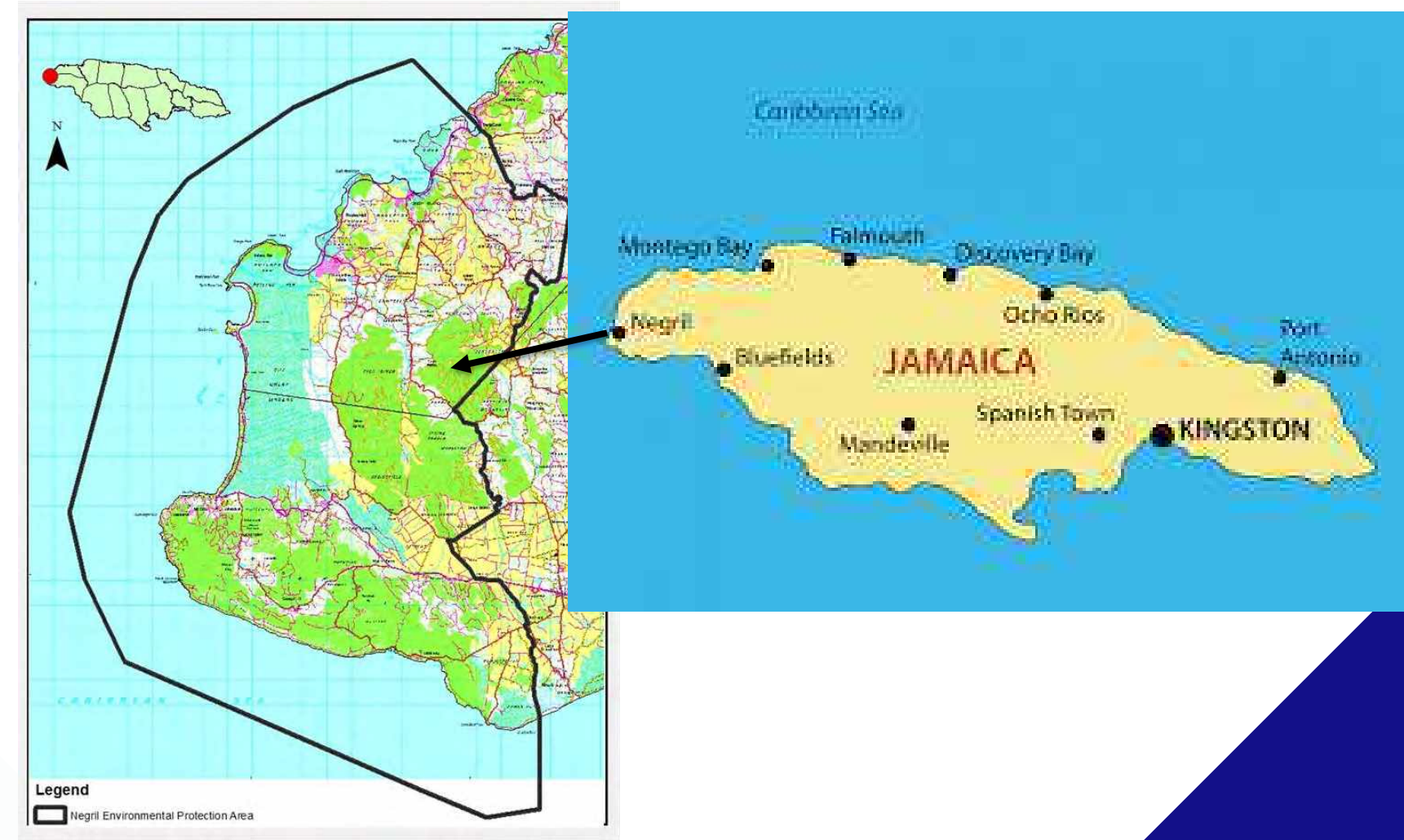


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# National Project Jamaica Update & Planning:

Presenter: Maureen Milbourn, IW EcoJa



# Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Coastal Landscapes within the Negril EPA of Jamaica

**Objective:** To achieve the conservation of internationally significant species biodiversity, the restoration of wetland ecosystem services and the sustainable use of wetland biological resources.



## RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

## BUDGET

## ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE



GEF/Grant funds -  
US\$3,114,685

GOJ - US\$438,413

Co-finance -  
US\$10,343,678

Grant committed – 66%  
US\$2,051,108.93

Funds spent - 33%  
US\$ 1,028,923

**Project has 40 activities and 5 sub-activities across 5 components**

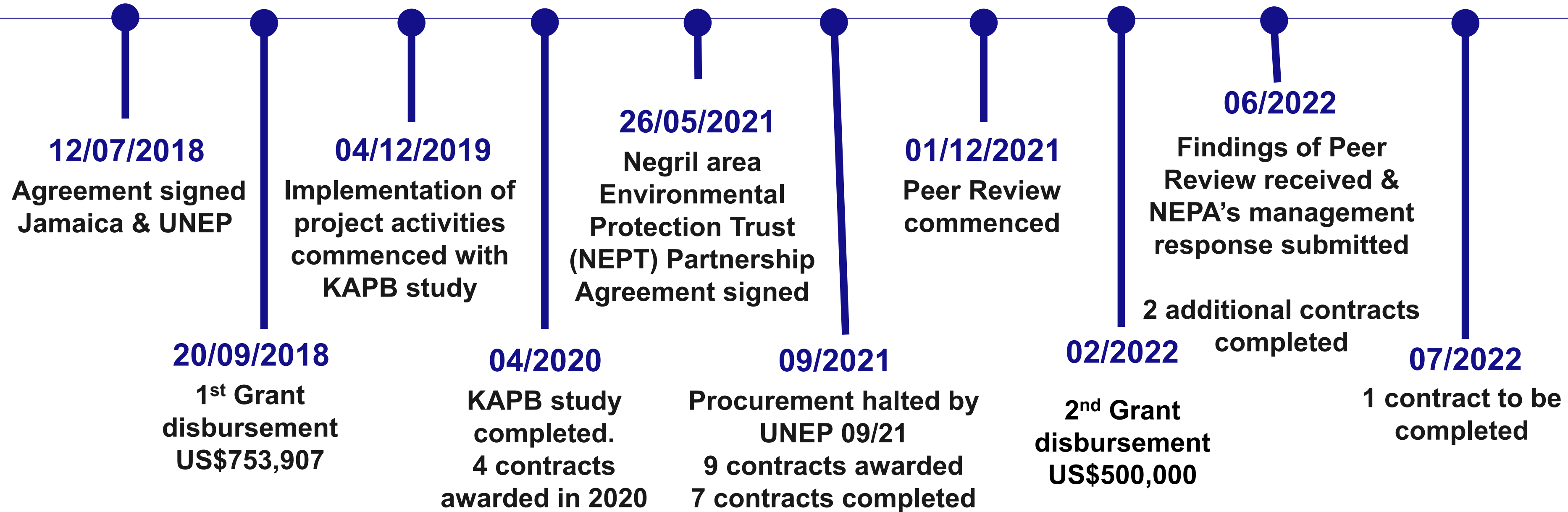
**1) NGM Hydrological Restoration** – 4 proposed scenarios offered

**2) Revegetation** – 11 Pond Apples and 27 Royal Palms planted at Royal Palm Reserve; 70 Royal Palms propagated for planting; 5 sites mapped for replanting

**3) Farmer Training (NEPT)** – 162 farmers (121 males and 41 females); Climate Smart Agriculture Handbook distributed; Greenhouse and hydroponics unit

**4) Assessments** – Wetland, Seagrass, West Indian Whistling-duck, Land Use and Land Tenure

# Timeline of the Project



# Project Highlights:



**Figure 1: Revegetation with native plants (Royal Palm)**



**Figure 2: Stakeholder engagement**



**Figure 3: Greenhouse & Hydroponics Unit**

**Harvest to date:**  
1036 lbs sweet pepper  
44 lbs mixed lettuce  
20 lbs cilantro  
11 lbs basil

# CHALLENGES

## CHALLENGE 1

### Maintaining Project Visibility

More targeted public education and awareness activities for groups not previously engaged. Communities to be targeted include Little Bay, Green Island and Industry Cove. Also, the Communication Plan was revised to fill this gap.

## CHALLENGE 2

### Attrition (project not fully staffed)

Communication Specialist demitted in September 2021. The Technical Officer based in Negril EPA has assumed some of the communication officer's responsibilities.

New Project Manager (PM) appointed to post on 1 June 2022.

## CHALLENGE 3

### Project activities suspended due to Peer Review Process (Dec 2021 to present)

No new procurement activities have been allowed by UNEP since Sept. 2021. The peer review process commenced in December 2021, findings submitted in June 2022. NEPA has provided a management response. Awaiting final decision on way forward.

In the interim, existing consultancies have continued and action plan prepared to allow for continued execution of key activities.

# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. **Select appropriate hydrological models**
2. **Apply hydrological solutions in NGM**
3. **Establish Interpretive Visitor Center**
4. **Ecosystem Restoration (revegetation) activities**
5. **Eradication of alien invasive species**
6. **Execution of Communication Plan (WOW Campaign)**

Restore hydrological processes and ecosystem services

Restore hydrological processes and ecosystem services

Increased appreciation and understanding of the function of wetland ecosystems and need for conservation

Restore flora and fauna, wetland ecosystems & services

Native flora and fauna thrive in a healthy wetland ecosystem

Foster changes in understanding, attitudes and behaviors

Key:  Completed  Ongoing  To Commence

# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

**7. Build Local Institutional Capacity**

Ensure long-term management of the Negril EPA and sustainability of the IWEco project outcomes

**8. Revise Negril EPA management plan**

Strengthened management of the Negril EPA

**9. Develop Wetland Use Management Plan**

Wetlands within the Negril EPA protected and used sustainably

**10. Work with Private Landowners to reduce impacts on wetlands**

Wise use of wetland resources to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functioning

**11. Train Farmers in using best environmental practices**

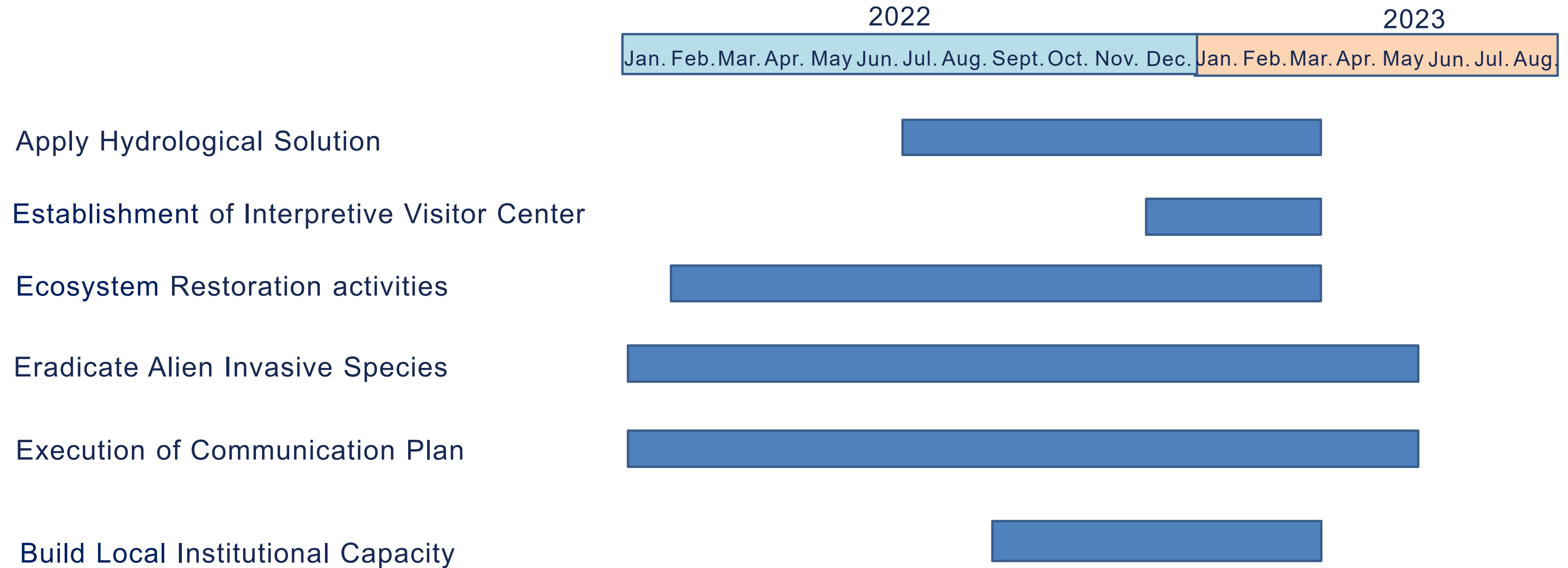
Improved water quality, reduced bush fires and improved peat reserves in the NGM

**12. Develop a spatial and ecosystem database**

A wetland resource repository using site specific spatial database

# Timeline for Future Activities

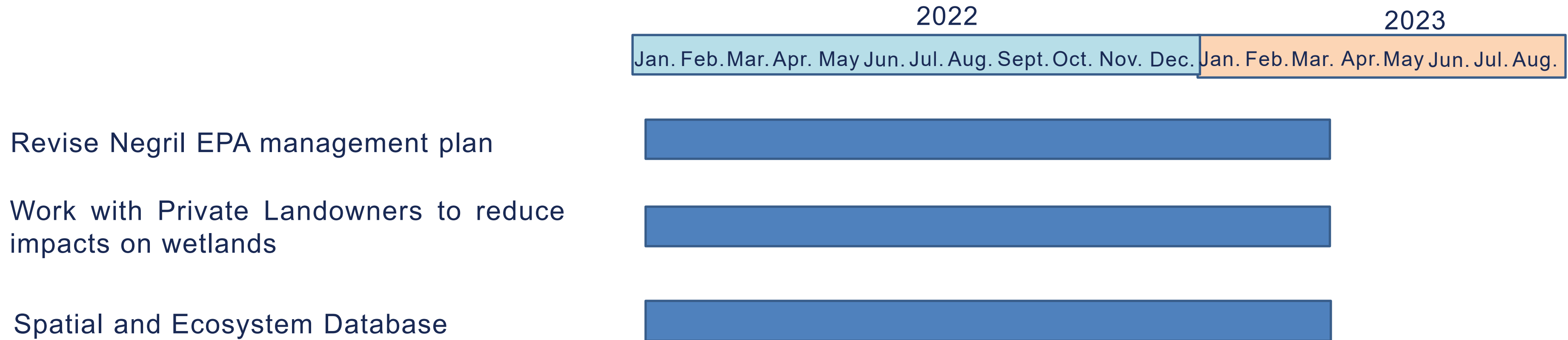
Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives





# Timeline for Future Activities

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives



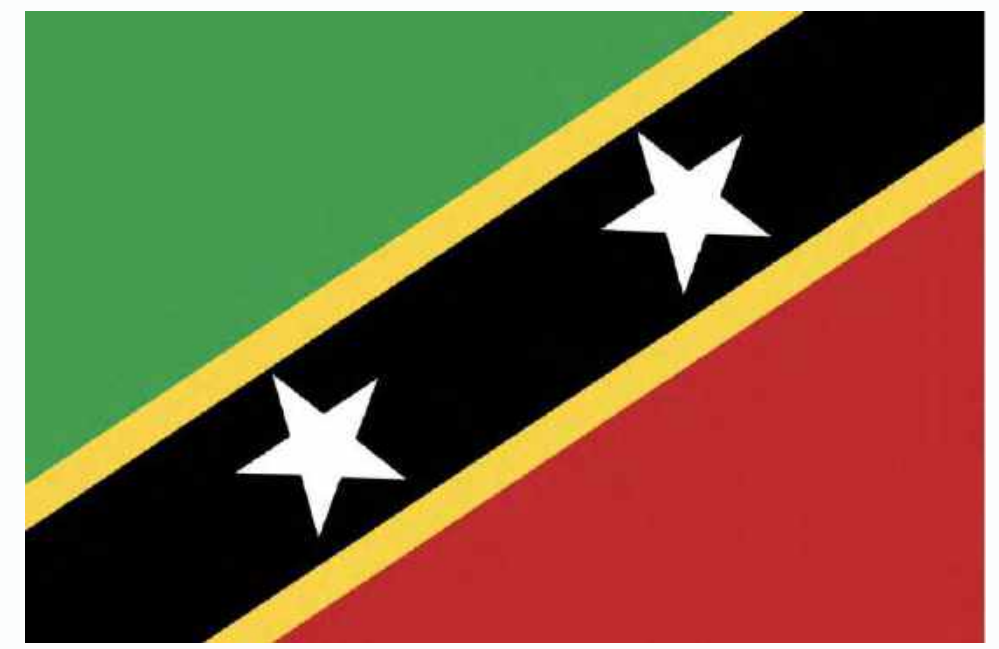
Thank  
You



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# National Project Update

Dr. Halla Sahely, Project  
Coordinator



# The Project:

## Addressing Impacts of Acute Land Degradation in the College Street Ghaut St. Kitts and Quarries and Sand Mining Hotspots on Nevis

Reduce and reverse land degradation in SKN via IWEco approach:

1. Measurable **stress reduction** and **enhanced livelihoods** in target areas
2. Strengthened systems for **environmental monitoring**
3. Improved **policies, legislation and institutions**
4. **Knowledge sharing, public awareness and outreach**



### RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Project Managing Unit:  
Dr. Halla Sahely, Project Coordinator

Focal Point:  
Ms June Hughes,  
Director, Department of Environment

### BUDGET

Budget: 999,698 USD

Amount Used:  
835,320 USD

### ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- 325 gabion baskets and 400 clumps of vetiver grass installed in CSG
- 3000+ trees planted at three sites in Nevis
- Training to 300+ persons on various topics
- 2000+ kg of beach trash cleaned up by over 245 youth volunteers



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Land degradation**

# Timeline of the Project

**23-24/09/2021**

5th IWECO Steering Committee Meeting

**March 2021**

Review of NCEMA complete, consultations planned in August / Sept 2022

**June 2022**

Land degradation controls works in CSG complete

**May - July 2022**

Coral reef restoration activities started including installation of 12 MoReefs modules

**March-July 2022**

Operation of DOE nursery started with formal launch planned in September 2022

**February 2022**

Upgrade of water quality monitoring protocols in SKN consultancy complete

**May 2022**

Design of pilot greywater collection, treatment and reuse in College Street Ghaut complete

**June 2022**

Restoration activities at three sites in Nevis spearheaded by Nevis Historical and Conservation Society complete

**July 2022**

Final draft reports SKN Minerals Sector Study issued and training mission completed

**18-21/07/2022**

6th IWECO Steering Committee Meeting

IWECO Project Focus:  
**Land degradation**



# Project Highlights:



Land Degradation  
Control Works  
College Street Ghaut



Community based environmental  
monitoring (tree planting, beach clean  
up, beach profiling)



Coral Reef  
Restoration  
Activities including  
installation of  
MoReefs



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Land degradation**

# CHALLENGES

## Timely completion of coral reef survey and restoration activities

- Various delays related to weather, COVID 19, DMR boat and staffing levels and overall experience with conducting this type of survey
- Restoration activities initiated late in the project and will be completed in time but there will not be enough time to truly assess the impacts of these activities

## Timely completion of SKN Mineral Sector Study

- Draft final reports completed in May – June 2022
- As a result of COVID 19 and the knock-on effects, this element of the project was scaled down and no concrete interventions were taken at active quarries or sand mines
- Training mission was completed in early July and substantial recommendations made for future actions

## Enactment of National Conservation and Environmental Act (NCEMA)

- Final drafting completed in early 2022
- Stakeholder consultations planned for Aug / September 2022 but with the upcoming elections it has become difficult to gather stakeholders together to consult on the final draft.
- As such, it is not likely that NCEMA will be passed in Parliament during the lifetime of the project and the Environmental Council will not be constituted.
- Challenge to find activities to do under Component 3

# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

Completion of planting of vetiver grass College Street Ghaut

Establishment and launch of DOE nursery

Coral reef survey and coral reef restoration activities

Completion of SKN Minerals Sector Study

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Land degradation control at CSG

Land degradation control country wide

Coral reef report card for vulnerable reefs, artificial reefs installed at three sites and coral reef nursery established at one site

Wide ranging analysis / outputs / training / policy



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Land degradation**



# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

Procurement of laboratory equipment

Final consultations on NCEMA

PEO and knowledge sharing

Terminal reporting

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Upgraded equipment

Final text ready for enactment of NCEMA

Case studies / conferences / videos / articles

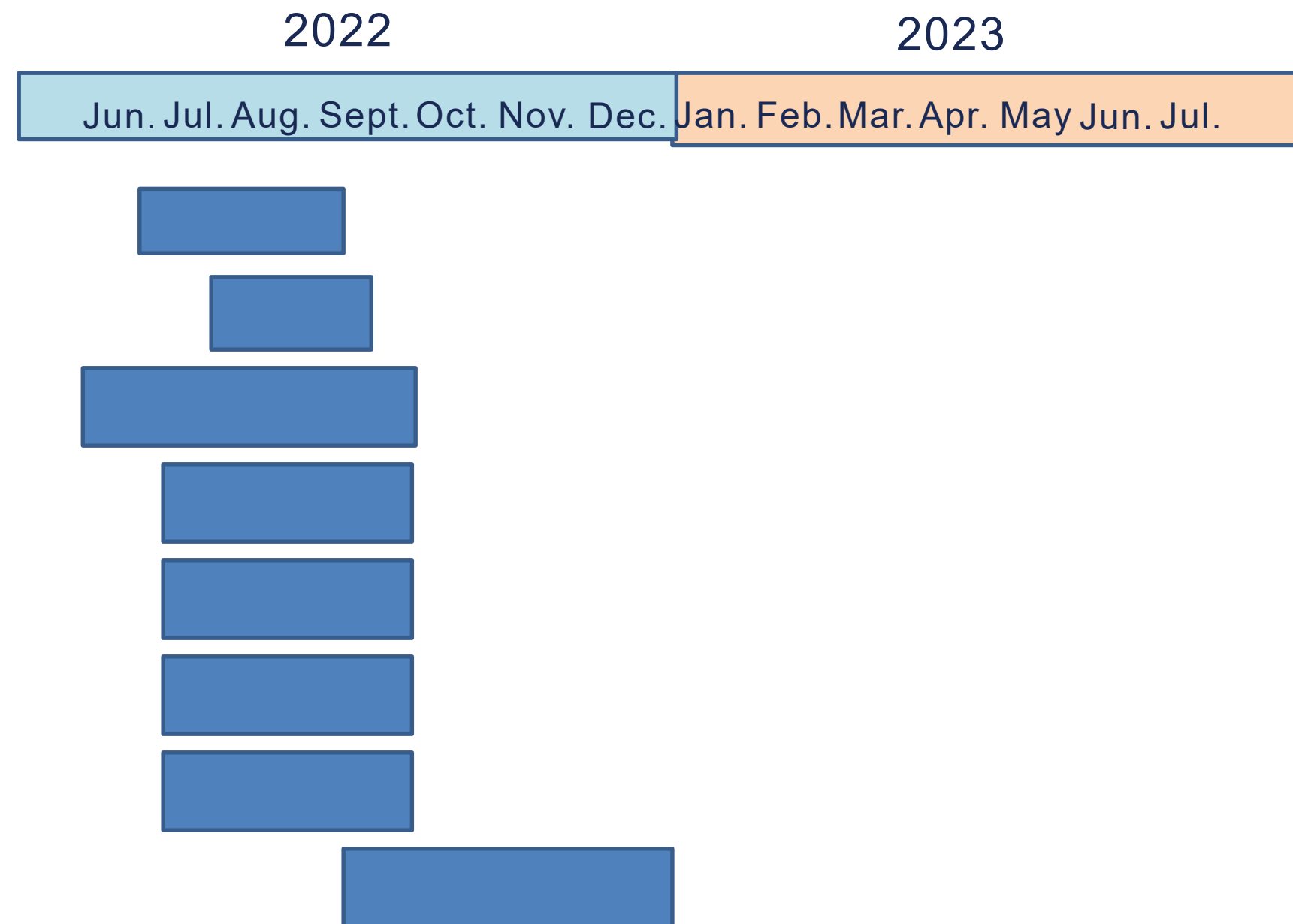
Terminal report and audit



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Land degradation**

# Timeline for Future Activities

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives



- Planting of vetiver grass CSG
- Establishment and launch of DOE nursery
- Coral reef survey and restoration activities
- SKN Minerals Sector Study
- Procurement of laboratory equipment
- Final consultations on NCEMA
- PEO and knowledge sharing
- Terminal reporting



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Land degradation**



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

*#CaringForOurFuture*

# National Project Update:

Presenter: Karl Augustine



# The Project:

## Project's Objective

To mitigate the poor biophysical conditions (due in particular to unsustainable land management practices) in the Soufriere Watershed, which have impacted sustainable livelihoods of the population.



### RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Project Managing Unit:  
Forest & Lands Division

Focal Point: Alwin Dornelly

### BUDGET

Budget:  
794,685.00

Amount  
Used:472,125.65

### ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

Listed Major Achievements

- Restorative actions 28 ha
- 120 + farmers engaged
- Training ;
- Vanilla mainstreamed
- ECAT training 30 C/m
- Livelihood suite started
- Assistant to FSJDC
- Water quality monitoring



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Biodiversity**

Activity

Agrotourism Park

Work has started on resurfacing & replacement of steps on Mircroreflector Trail  
Identification of sites for gazebos, tent site and campfire site undertaken  
Production of timber for construction is ongoing  
Assistance provided to the FSJDC to pursue other sources of funding  
OECS 50,000 EURO, IAF 120,000 USD, GEF SGP 100,000

Below Forest Canopy Cropping systems(  
vanilla, orchids & mushrooms)

Training component for vanilla management done, 8 sessions completed  
orchids aspect pending  
A joint approach to the mushrooms being pursued with South East Coast Project

Farmer Engagement/ perennials  
initiative

Vines crops; passionfruit & christophene + trellis system setup  
Coconut & papaya  
Continuation of tree crop program

Community Nursery

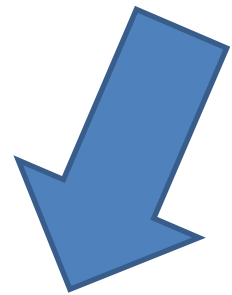
A plan has been developed for comanagement with FSJDC  
  
Funds needed for augmenting infrastructure

ONAF Development /

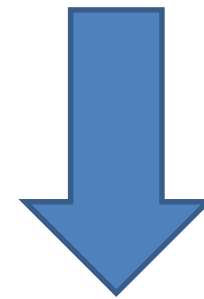
Lower Valley Forest and the Forest Stewardship Development Committee are providing funding for CANADIAN

# AGRO TOURISM PARK

- Landscape management approach which seeks to leverage the aesthetic value of the Fond St Jacques to Edmund Forest landscape while enhancing the resilience and productivity



Extract direct benefits from Tourism sector( visitors & internal)

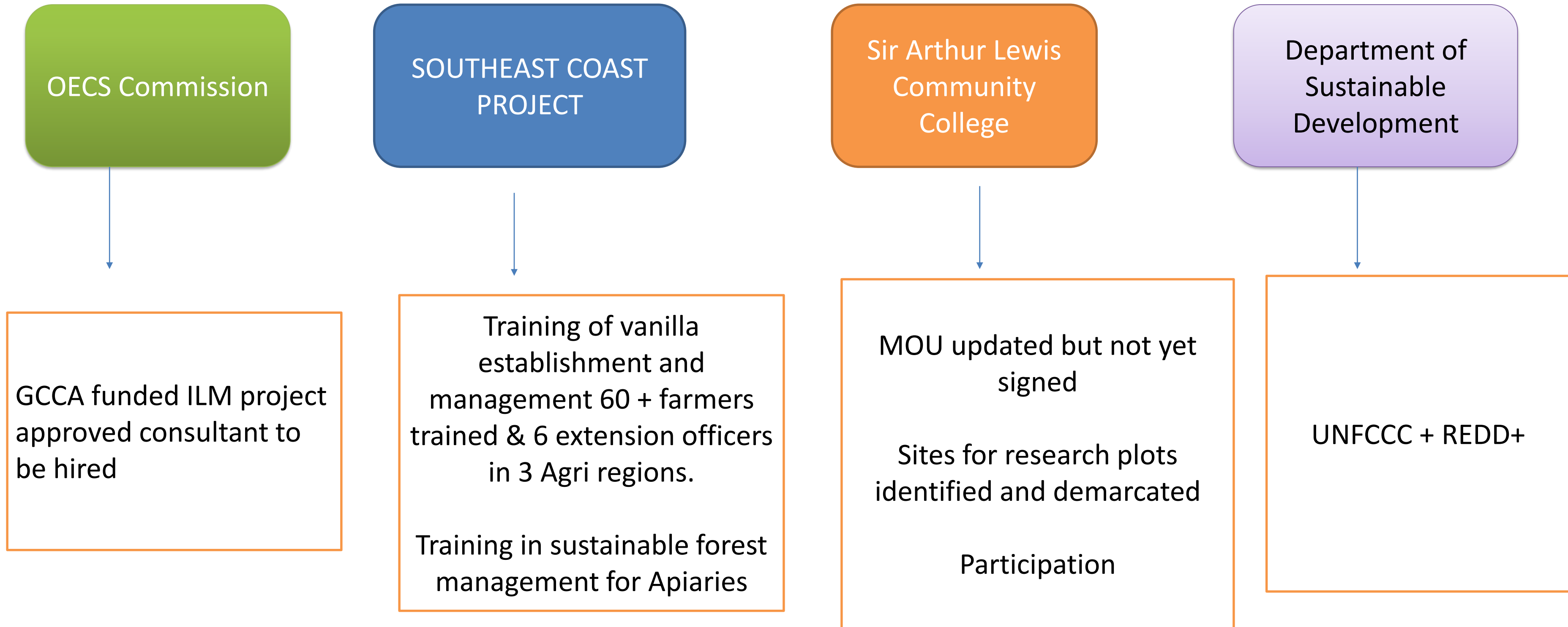


Provide diversified Livelihood / economic opportunities



Transition to more sustainable cropping systems/ Agroforestry

# Strategic Alliances being formed & strengthened







- Biophysical assessment of restorative interventions/ tree planting
  - First round 38% survival rate
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> round being undertaken
  - Results will guide farmer engagement
- Riverbank assessment of certain points along Soufriere river
- A media challenge being developed with WaterWays

# CHALLENGES

## Navigating National COVID19 measures

Try to stay up to date with the official measures and adapt plans to suit them.

Reduction in sizes of in person forums

Modify training session to be mostly outdoors

## Mainstreaming & Administrative support

Give specific project tasks to a select group of officers

Have a dedicated project Administrative staff

## Access to Technical capacity

Tailor activities for in house implementation

Try to engage cadre of retired foresters

# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Sustainable Livelihoods

Below forest canopy suite  
 Agrotourism park  
 operationalized

Water Quality Monitoring

WRMA lab resupplied  
 Community mechanism  
 activated

Erosion control Demo  
 plots

3 demonstration plots( strip  
 cropping, terracing, reuse of  
 waste)

Outreach and social

Training of farmers/land mgt

Radio program,  
 community meetings,  
 memorial school



# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

Documentation/ Info mgt/  
 promoting best practices

Partnerships and  
 collaborations

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Activity reports,  
 manuals(digital, web based),  
 server/storage capacity, social  
 media presence

MOUs  
 Support to community groups,  
 Support to GEFSGP projects  
 Explore complementary funding  
 Technical support to community





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

*#CaringForOurFuture*

# National Project Update & Planning:



Presenter: L. Fitzgerald Providence DoF



# The Project:

Project's Objective: : The goal of this sub-project is to reduce and revert land degradation within the Georgetown watershed, Saint Vincent, by an integrated water, land and ecosystems management approach.

## RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Project Managing Unit: St Vincent Forestry Department and UNDP

Focal Point: Mr. Fitzgerald Providence (DoE) and Samuel Henry (UNDP)

## BUDGET

Budget: \$1,319,015.78USD

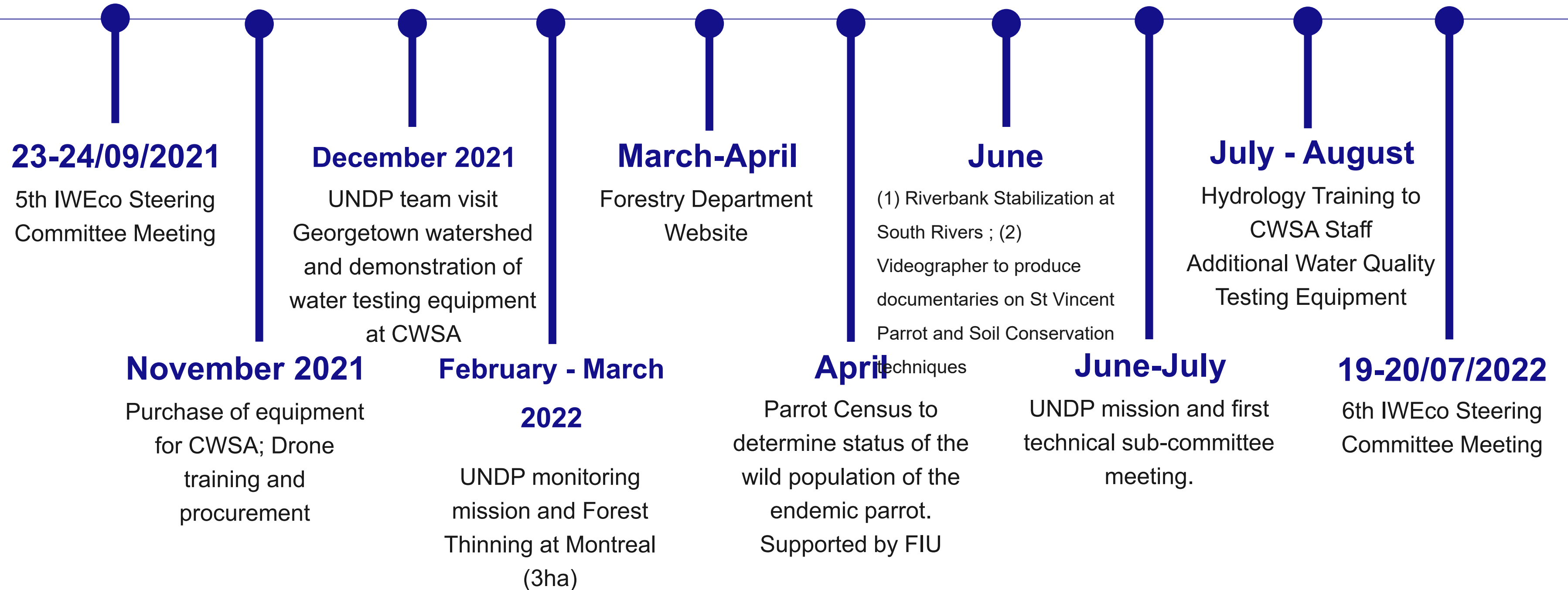
Amount Used: \$118,525.61USD

## ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- Listed Major Achievements:
- Post-Eruptions Rapid Parrot Assessment (2021) and Parrot Census 2022
  - Forest thinning of 3ha
  - Riverbank Stabilization using
  - Drone training for Forestry Staff
  - Website developed for Forestry Department
  - Water Quality Testing Equipment provided



# Timeline of the Project



# Project Highlights:



Picture 1  
Description



Picture 2 Upper Perseverance  
(Georgetown) Watershed



Picture 3: Project  
Coordinating Unit  
and UNDP Team at  
Water Treatment  
Facility at  
Perseverance



# CHALLENGES

## CHALLENGE 1: Project Coordination

Description on how to overcome:

Within three years we have had 2 coordinators who have left or not renewed their contracts;  
Better remuneration to attract suitable candidates

## CHALLENGE 2: Budget

Description: Understating the UNDP financial processes ; More training even of public servants

## CHALLENGE 3:

Additional exchanges between IWEco projects to share resources and methodologies

# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

**NB: Due to issues related to use of an appropriate project bank account, funds could not be transferred till February 2020. This situation has now been resolved and the National sub-Project is expected to start by mid-2020. However, at the time of the Mid-Term Review, all outputs had a level of achievement of 0%. However, an assessment was made by the Project Officer to correct the trajectory and accelerate delivery.**

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

Stakeholder Engagement and review of initial activities

Parrot Census

Capacity-Building of national agencies

Forestry soil conservation operations

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Two monitoring missions undertaken to assess the relevance of the project workplan. Activities have therefore been adjusted.

Parrot census undertaken; Conservation and Action Plan pending (2022)

Drone procurement and training ; Procurement of water quality testing equipment ; Hydrology training

3 Thinning cycles (1 completed); riverbank stabilization of 1800m<sup>2</sup> at South Rivers (ongoing); Liberation work

# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

Enhancing Sustainable  
 livelihoods

Road rehabilitation

Reforestation in Montreal

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Individuals (10) hired within the communities to undertake thinning and riverbank stabilization work.  
 (ongoing) stakeholder consultation for Jennings Bird Watching Trail. Call for ideas and granting mechanism will support ecotourism ventures in the area.

Due to significant delays in implementation, another project is renovating the access road initially targeted. Therefore, the project will rehabilitate the access road to Jennings (water catchment and bird watching trail; area targeted for eco-tourism)

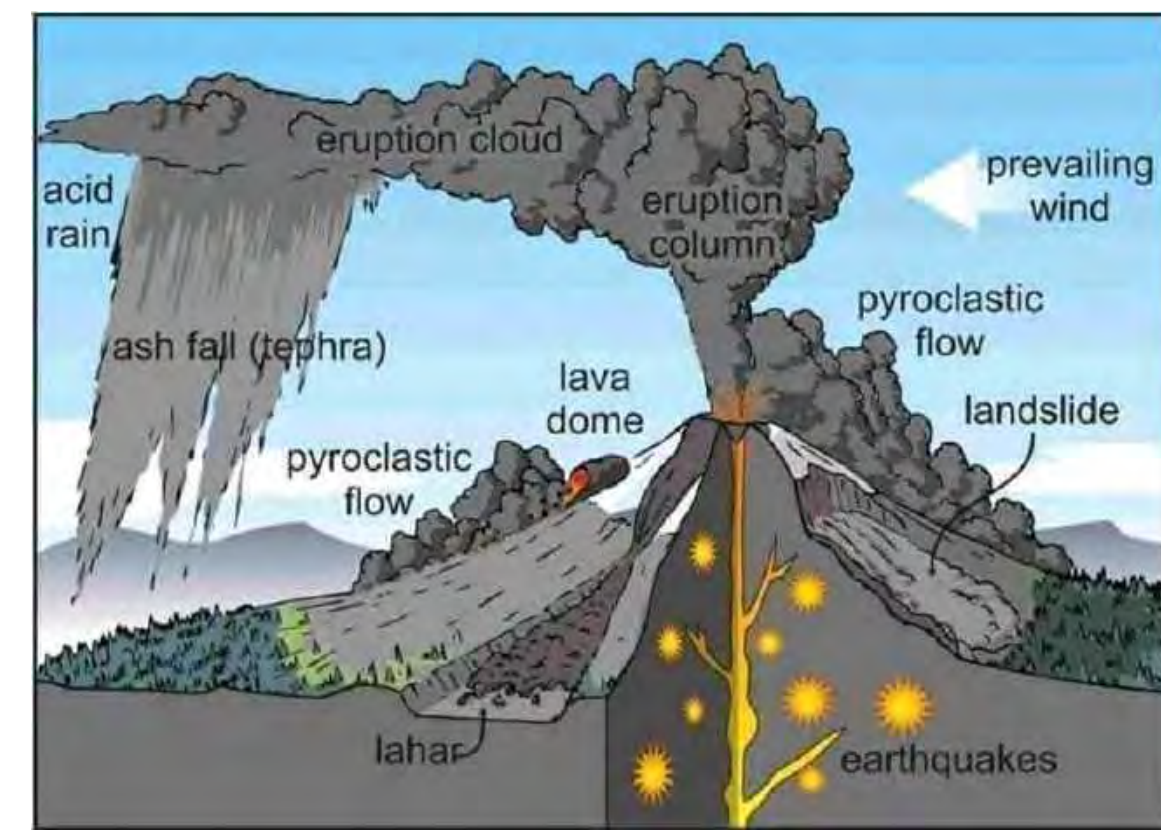
Due to the extremely high quotes received, decision was made to go back to market.



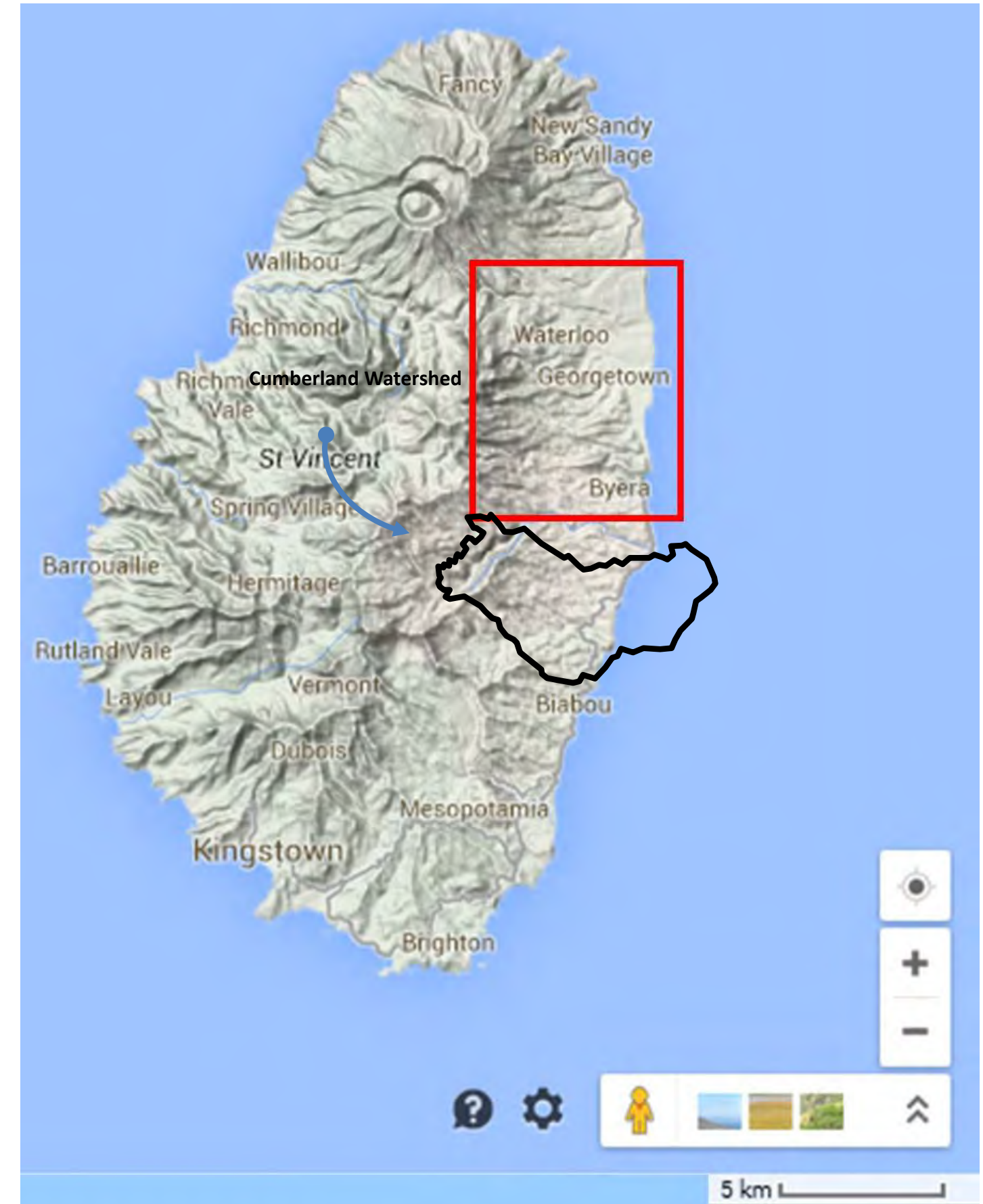
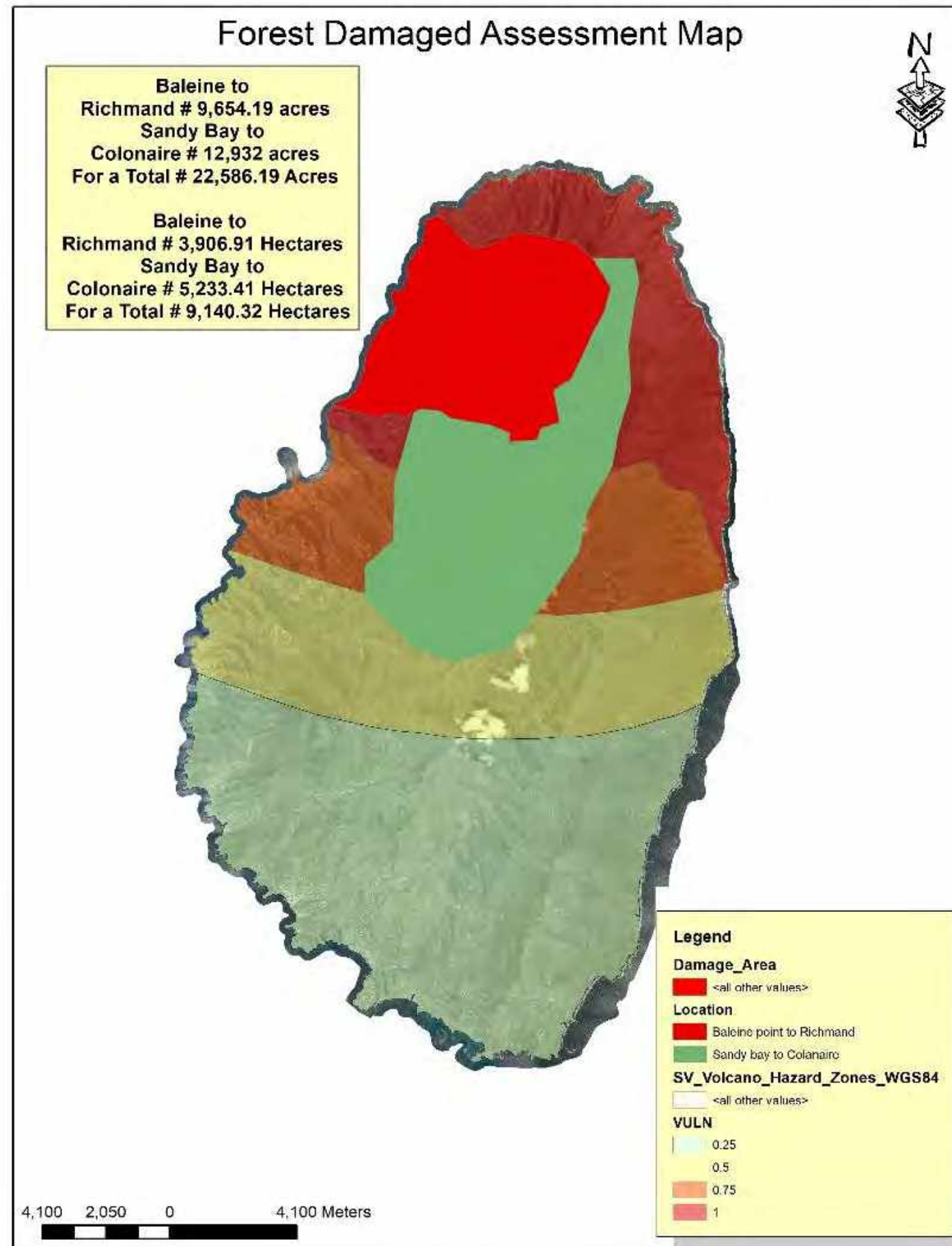


## Eruptions & Impacts

- Ash –
  - Air Quality
  - Smother leaves & defoliation
  - Breaking of branches and canopy destruction.
- Compression clouds / Pyroclastic flows
  - Total destruction
- Lahars
  - Erosion/scouring with rains over an extended period



# Impact of Volcanic Eruption





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in Caribbean Small Island Developing States*

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# National Project Update: Trinidad and Tobago

Presenter: Anna Lisa Arlen-Benjamin, Project Manager





# The Project: Quarry Rehabilitation

Project's Objective: Reduce and reverse land degradation at selected quarry sites in the NE of Trinidad using an integrated water, land and ecosystems approach



## RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

## BUDGET

## ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

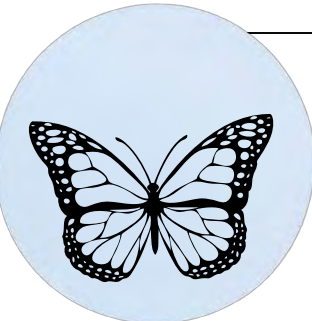
Project Managing Unit:  
The Environmental Management Authority

Focal Point: Mr. Hayden Romano, Managing Director

Budget:643,658

Amount Used:336,739.67 (as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021)

- 27 QRCs trained
- 18 ha demonstration sites: 9 completed; 9 in progress
- 10K+ seedlings propagated
- 6K+ trees planted
- Quarry Rehabilitation Guidelines Completed



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Biodiversity**

# Timeline of the Project



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Biodiversity**

# Project Highlights:



Trees ready to plant  
November 2020



Champs planting on Taungya Site  
February 2021



Soils Study plots  
July 2021



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Biodiversity**

# CHALLENGES

## Restricted Field Access Impacting Project

- Initiated roster of minimum 2 Champs to manage sites (short lived)
- Relocated mature nursery plants to borders of sites to reduce mortality
- Relocated food seedlings off site

## Covid related delays

- Adjusted project timelines – extension granted
- Increase in weekly activities at site (where feasible/safe)

## Vaccinated vs Unvaccinated

- Encouraged vaccination of field team
- Implemented Covid screening protocols in partnership with NQCL
- Where possible grouped vaccinated/non-vaccinated field team

# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

Collaborative Restoration

Develop and apply Monitoring Protocols and Indicators

Develop Quarry Rehabilitation Guidelines

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

18+ ha rehabilitated demonstration sites

Soils and hydrology studies; data on flora biodiversity, plant survival rates

Guidelines endorsed and utilized in sector



IWEco Project Focus:  
**Biodiversity**

# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

Capacity Building Initiatives

Green Enterprise Generation

Promote Knowledge Exchange

Encourage Train the Trainer Initiatives

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Canari training Programme; formalization of group; NGO exchanges

Community nursery; agri-sales; handicraft

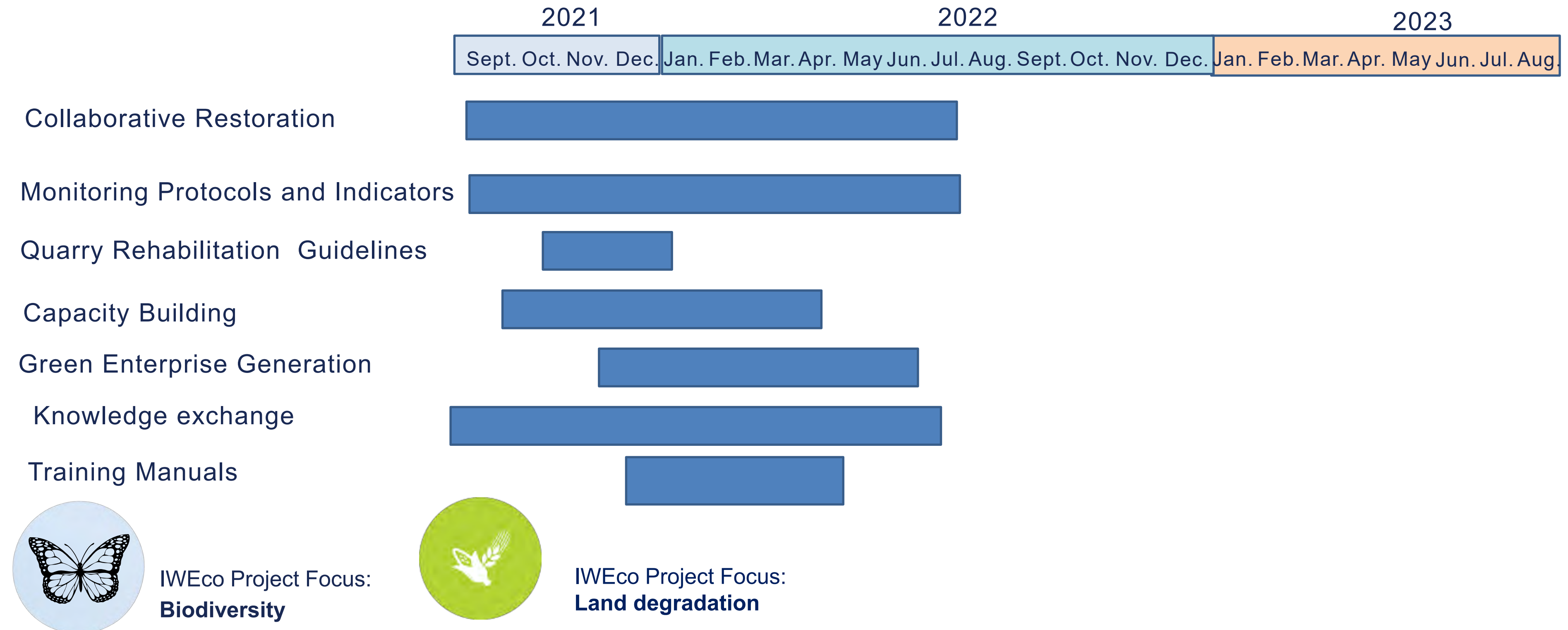
Increased awareness; site visits; collaboration with regional counterparts; replication (Tobago)

Finalization of manuals; curriculum



# Timeline for Future Activities

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives





Thank You !





## LOCAL ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT

Implementation of community component of IWEco

**Murat Okumah**

[murat.okumah@undp.org](mailto:murat.okumah@undp.org)

**6<sup>th</sup> IWEco Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting**  
**July 18 - 20, 2022**

# Outline of Presentation

- General overview
- Finances
- Key results
- Case studies
- Challenges
- Key lessons
- Next steps



Out-planted fragments of coral photographed by CORALL member, Lucy Agace.



## LOCAL ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT

### General overview

- GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) was used as a delivery mechanism to implement 59 community sub-projects; 22 IWEco and 37 SGP funded projects;
- Community subprojects focused mainly on
  - baseline assessments, awareness raising, technical and technological support and infrastructural provision;
  - sustainable livelihoods, waste management, and ecosystems restoration and management.



Wills Recycling educating about waste pollution and management in a school



Local producers in Dominican Republic taking part in a basic course on beekeeping.

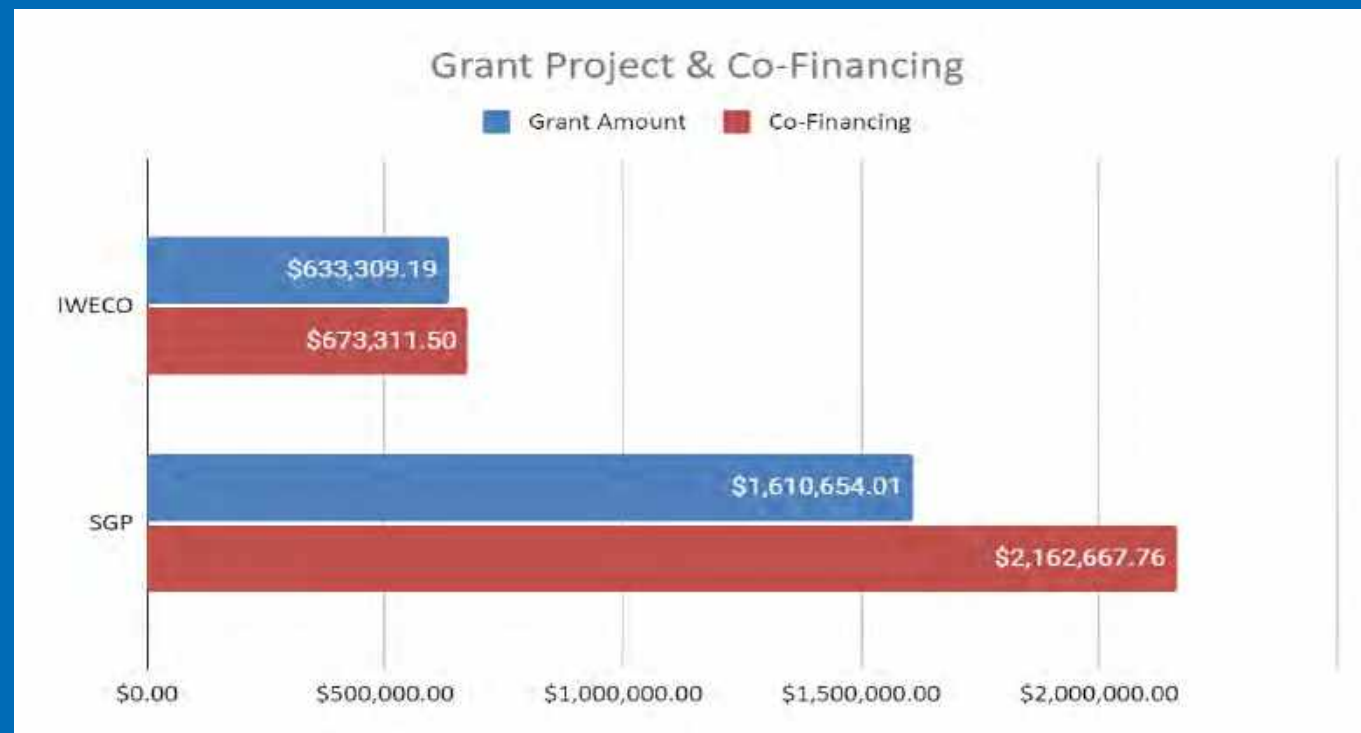


A demonstration training workshop for the installation of a 10 cubic meter geomembrane tubular biodigester on a farm.

# LOCAL ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT

## Finances

- Cumulative amount of over USD 5 million;
- Overall co-finance ratio of 1:1.26;
- No pending IWECO funded project activities.



	<i>Country</i>	<i># Projects</i>	<i>Grant Amount</i>	<i>Co-financing</i>
<b>1</b>	ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	10	335,000.00	251,245.00
<b>2</b>	CUBA	5	185,037.19	374,153.00
<b>3</b>	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	9	235,100.00	361,224.50
<b>4</b>	JAMAICA	4	179,000.00	150,990.00
<b>5</b>	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	10	<b>395,987.64</b>	<b>657,417.00</b>
<b>6</b>	SAINT LUCIA	8	212,372.00	299,762.00
<b>7</b>	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	6	240,432.37	386,307.00
<b>8</b>	SAINT VINCENT & GRENADINES	4	315,244.00	204,835.76
<b>9</b>	BARBADOS	3	145,790.00	150,045.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>2,243,963.20</b>	<b>2,835,979.26</b>

# LOCAL ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT

## Key results

### Socio-economic:

- 3,052 young people and 17 disabled persons included in the project;
  - 1,474 persons trained in business development, water catchment management, land restoration;
  - 407 productive facilities provided;
- 
- 81 small-scale businesses established;
  - More than 151 jobs created;
  - 399 persons reported increased or diversified income;
  - 5,109 persons reported improved water and sanitation access.

### Environmental:

- 59,680 trees planted;
- 13,301.52 hectares of coastal areas sustainably managed.



Handing over of sea moss facility in St Vincent and the Grenadines



Constructed honey facility in St Vincent and the Grenadines

# LOCAL ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT



Sea Moss farming



Wills Recycling working with stakeholders on plastic pollution

## Case studies

- Sustainable livelihoods;
- Waste management;
- Ecosystems restoration and management.



Project participants planting native species

# LOCAL ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT

## Project title:

Sustainable employment for youth using indigenous fruits in and outside of the Qualibou Caldera.

Country: **St. Lucia**; Grantee: **Fruitage Jeunesse**

## Key activities:

- Trained about 20 young people in basic accounting and management, smoothie preparation, sales and marketing;
- Provided equipment and tools needed for the establishment of a Smoothie Booth;
- Established a strategic partnership between about 60 local farmers and Smoothie businesses.

Fruitage Jeunesse Outlet



Residents enjoying Fruitage Jeunesse's smoothies

## LOCAL ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT

### Results

- Provided employment for over 25 young people;
- Provided readily available market for about 65 local farmers;
- About US\$5,280 is being generated annually through sales of the locally made smoothies;
- Reduced the amount of water used from about 35 pounds to 20 pounds per month;  
Achieved by replacing the use of ice with frozen pulp of fruits in smoothie preparation;
- Replaced about 4,800 plastic items used per annum with biodegradable packaging materials;



## LOCAL ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT

### Project title:

Evaluating Discovery Bay Inshore Coastal Water Quality to Improve Capacity for Environmental Management.

- Country: Jamaica; Grantee: **Alloa Fisherman's Cooperative Society**.
- Monitored water quality for nitrates, phosphates, and faecal coliforms;
- Trained 3 fishermen in scuba diving to help collect samples and survey the reef;
- Evaluated wider community's perceptions on water pollution through surveys.
- Disseminated survey and water quality results among key stakeholders



## LOCAL ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT

### Results

- Created employment for eight community members;
- Improved income of at least 60,000 to 70,000 Jamaican Dollars (between \$ 390 and 455) per month;

---

- Helped to identify water pollution hotspots;
- Improved awareness of water quality problems and mitigation measures.

## LOCAL ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT

**Project title:**

Abandoned Quarry Site Rehabilitation Project at National Quarries, Turure Road, Sangre Grande.

**Country:** Trinidad and Tobago; **Grantees:** Trust for Sustainable Livelihoods; IAMovement

**Key activities:**

- Trained and developed the capacity of 23 women and 7 men in landscape restoration;
- Empowered the “quarry rehabilitation champions” to rehabilitate abandoned quarried lands;
  - o planted mixed tree species and vetiver;
- Established a nursery to produce plants for future restoration projects.

# LOCAL ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT

## Results

- Restored 9 hectares of degraded lands;
- Established 10 check dams;
- Prevented about 100 tons of organic waste from being sent to landfills;
- Provided sustainable livelihoods.



**Planted vetiver.**



**Harvesting of vetiver.**



**Products made using vetiver.**

# Key challenges

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- ❑ COVID-19 pandemic impacted **implementation** and project **outcomes**.
  - Lockdown in Jamaica and Antigua and Barbuda led to the closure of venues for community education and outreach events;
  - In Trinidad and Tobago, livelihood activities linked to a land restoration project were halted due to lockdowns;
- ❑ Volcanic eruption in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
  - Eruption of La Soufriere Volcano in 2021 affected execution in the Sandy Bay community as the community is directly below the volcano;
  - Much time and resources had to be spent on cleaning mountains of ash within project location.
- ❑ Limited supply of inputs.
  - In Cuba, limited supply of building materials led to the installation of 41 out of 59 tabular biodigesters (within the planned time);
- ❑ Weak institutional capacity; overreliance on volunteerism.

# Key lessons

Partnership and stakeholder engagement

Action-oriented and peer-to-peer learning

Capacity building and provision of evidence

Gender mainstreaming

Adaptability

Clear post-implementation plan



Tree planting in Dominican Republic



# Next steps

- Knowledge products
  - Non-academic publication - *10 case studies, challenges and lessons learned*
  - Academic publication – *2 case studies on coastal interventions*
- Regional partnership for replication and sustainability
  - PROCARIBE+



Community-based Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States: Experiences and Lessons Learnt from IWEco-UNDP/SGP Partnership Program



## Effects of small-sized coastal management interventions on multiple socio-environmental variables: evidence from IWEco-UNDP Partnership

Murat Okumah<sup>a</sup>, Sulan Chen<sup>a</sup>, AnaMaria Nunez<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> United Nations Development Programme, New York, NY 10017, USA

<sup>b</sup> United Nations Development Programme, Teófilo de la Torre 129, Panamá

\*corresponding author: [murat.okumah@undp.org](mailto:murat.okumah@undp.org)

### ABSTRACT

Despite efforts to mitigate coastal pollution, the majority of the world's coastal areas have been assessed to be polluted. This has been attributed to a wide range of anthropogenic factors including poor agricultural land management and poorly regulated urban and industrial activities. These activities

## LOCAL ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT

Thank you!

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From UNDP GEF SGP





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

*#CaringForOurFuture*

# Capacity building and knowledge products to enhance the use and uptake of the National Ecosystem Assessment of Grenada (NEA)



# The Project:



The overall objective is to facilitate the uptake and use of the ecosystem valuation information in the Grenada NEA by a range of stakeholders towards improved natural resources management in Grenada.

- Development of a CSO/citizen’s guide to the NEA
- Workshop on advocacy/communication of environmental information to support civil society in the use of the NEA information.

### RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

### BUDGET

Project Managing Unit:  
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute

Focal Point:  
Natalie Boodram

Budget: US\$ 46,337

Amount Used:  
US \$0.00



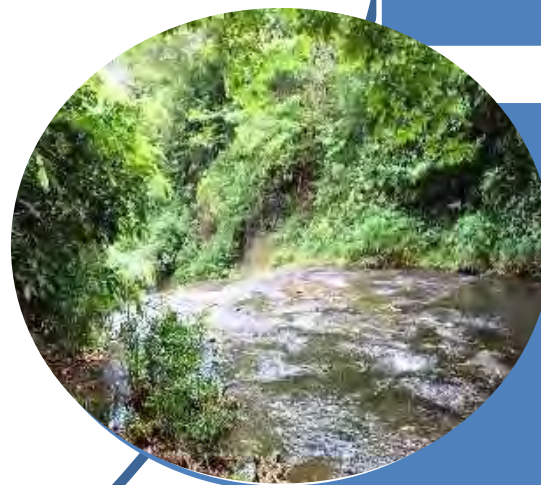
# Project Background



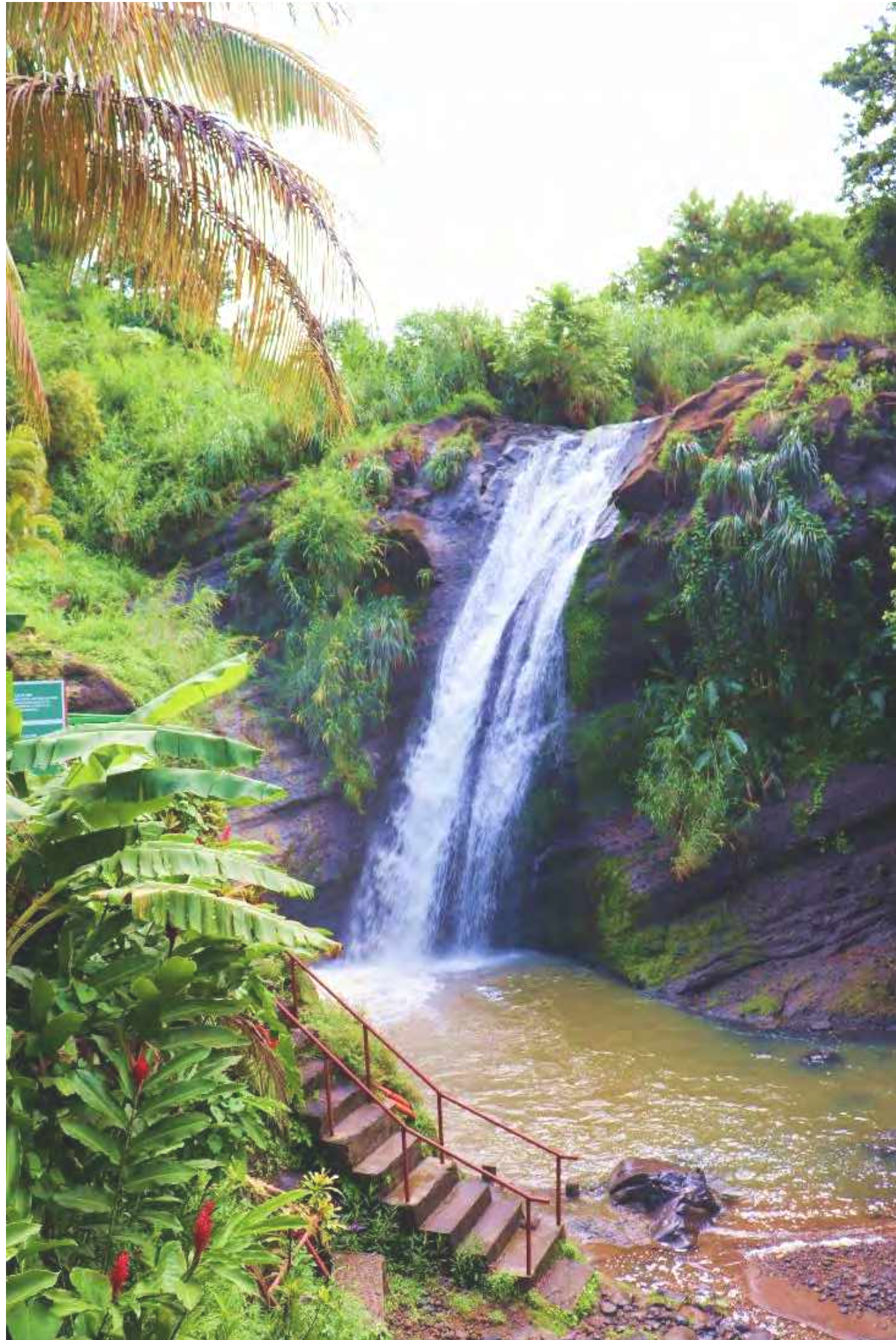
CANARI executing the National Ecosystem Assessment of Grenada on behalf of the Government of Grenada (2020-2023) Funding 500K US.



Project-part of a global initiative on “Supporting decision making and building capacity to support the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) through national ecosystem assessments.”



Funding is through the Government of Germany, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, International Climate Initiative (IKI) with global project oversight by the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre.



# Key outputs

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Assessment report on current status and threats to key ecosystems in Grenada; importance and value of ecosystems including economic value, exploration of future scenarios- highlighting trade-offs among development options

---

Policy support tools and methodologies for decision makers to guide and enhance conservation and sustainable management of Grenada's ecosystems using the assessment information.

---

A national multi-stakeholder platform to support the assessment process

---

A series of case studies and lessons learned and communication materials to facilitate uptake of the assessment findings by practitioners and policy makers

# Large scale collaborative research project



- Over 100 authors involved from over 10 countries representing:
  - Grenadian civil society/community groups
  - key Grenadian Government Agencies
  - Regional/intergovernmental agencies e.g. OECS Commission
  - Majority of authors are affiliated with Universities such as:
    - St. Georges University in Grenada
    - The three campuses of the University of the West Indies
    - University of Trinidad and Tobago
    - Cambridge University; University of Edinburgh, University of Tokyo; Illinois Institute of Technology,
- See <https://canari.org/grenada-national-ecosystem-assessment-co-chair-and-contributing-lead-author-profiles/> for profiles of the assessment co-chairs and chapter coordinators

**Working on Second Order Draft... completion in March-Aug 23**

# The Assessment chapters are exploring



- What are the status, trends and threats to Grenada's forest, coastal, marine, freshwater and agricultural ecosystems and ecosystem services?
- How do Grenada's ecosystems contribute to climate resilience (food and water security, disaster resilience, climate change adaptation/mitigation)?
- What is the value of the genetic resources across the different ecosystem types, in particular, the agricultural landscapes of Grenada? What is the current and projected value of coastal, marine, freshwater and agricultural ecosystem services for the Grenadian economy and human well-being?
- What opportunities exist to support, enhance and amplify the delivery of ecosystem services for the economic and social well-being of Grenadians?
- Scenarios and pathways to a sustainable future.

# Strong participatory approach aimed at ensuring that stakeholders:

- are involved in the development of the assessment through inclusive and participatory processes;
- can easily and efficiently input data and information into the NEA
- **are able to easily access, understand and utilise the findings and products for decision-making and advocacy at all levels; and**
- endorse, promote and use the Grenada NEA outputs and methodology locally, nationally and regionally.



# Participatory approach

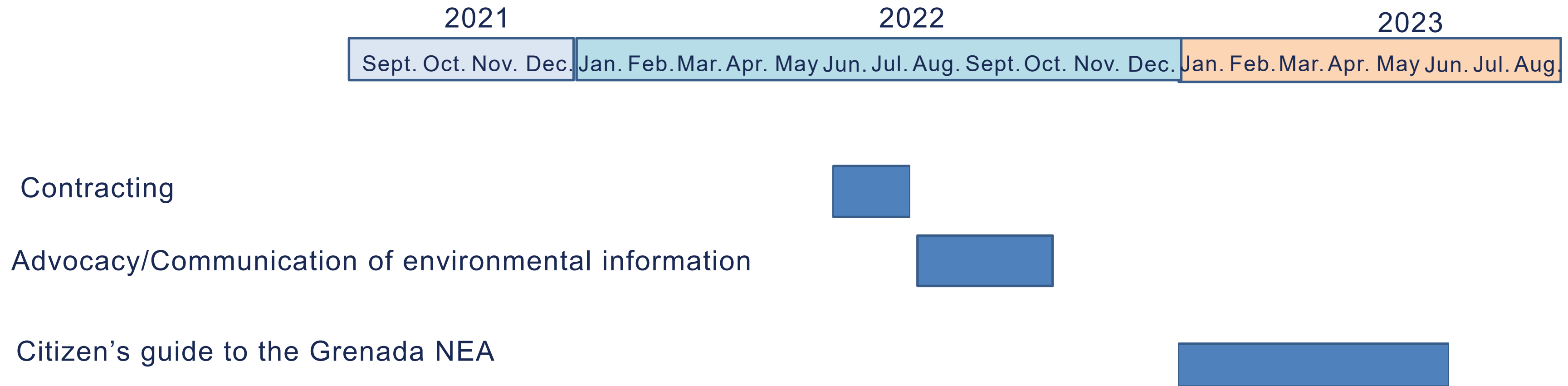
- First meeting to design the NEA was with civil society who requested
  - a “citizens guide” to the NEA for advocacy to be produced
  - request to build capacity of all stakeholders e.g. environmental advocacy using NEA
  - Not core activities under the original project- approached the GEF-IWEco project unit for supplementary funding
  - Synergies with GEF-IWEco objectives e.g. Decision making at policy level is supported by improved stakeholder engagement; Stakeholders are demonstrating empowerment in enhanced capacity for natural resources management through the provision of skills and information.





# Timeline for Future Activities

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives





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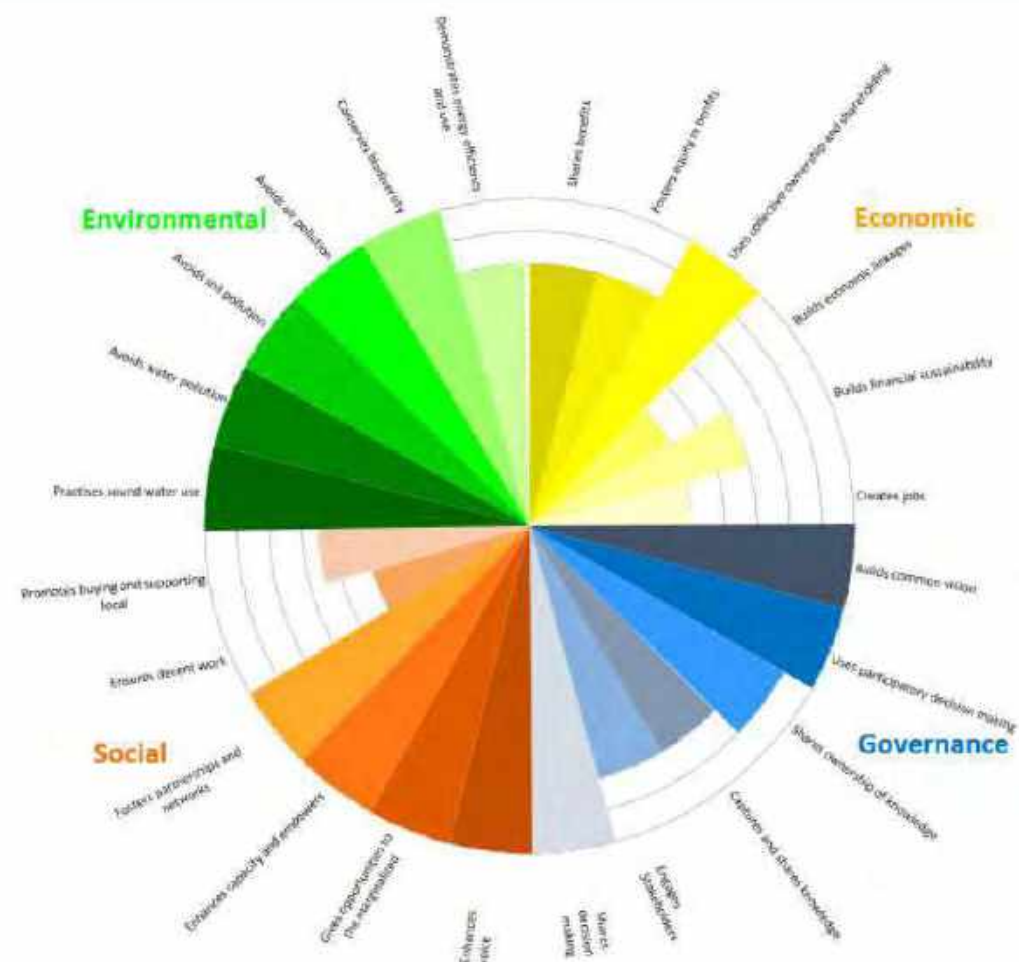
Thanks! Questions



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# Strengthening nature-based enterprises and livelihoods project:



# The Project:

To strengthen and support stewardship and sustainable and climate-resilient livelihoods in the targeted IWEco countries to in turn facilitate healthy and resilient ecosystems.

### RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Project  
Managing Unit:  
Caribbean  
Natural  
Resources  
Institute

Focal Point:  
Natalie  
Boodram

### BUDGET

Budget:US\$  
225K

Amount  
Used:  
US \$80,529

### Target countries

Current: focal countries:

- Jamaica,
- Saint. Vincent and the Grenadines,
- Saint. Lucia and
- St. Kitts and Nevis



# Project components:

- Strengthening small/micro nature based enterprises (SME) to ensure sustainable use and enhance socio-economic benefits to surrounding communities (SME)
- Enhancing ecosystem stewardship to support sustainable livelihoods of surrounding communities (SME)
- Building resilience of livelihoods to climate change (SME)
- Knowledge sharing for sustainable nature-based livelihoods/Environmental Advocacy (SME and CYEN)

# Project Approach:

- SMEs paired with mentors
- Mentors conduct assessments: Capacity assessment and Green Blue Radar Tool Assessment
- SMEs work with mentors to develop submit proposals and receive grant under each component (US 2000/ US 1800)
- Mentors/CANARI support grant execution/reporting
- Mentors/Mentees receive training: How to be a mentor/Ecosystem Stewardship/Climate proofing. Training also opened up to IWEco country staff/CYEN etc.

Country	Enterprise/Group	Business strengthening Grant
Jamaica	Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust	Purchase and install SMART Pay and QuickBooks Accounting software over a period of two months
Jamaica	Hanover Bee Farmers' Co-operative Society Ltd.	Customs duty on a machine to produce sachets to package honey.
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Madeira Valley Heritage Park Inc.	Brand awareness through the development of a marketing plan, digital and print brochure and t-shirts for local and wider community in St. Vincent.



Photo credits Robert FitzPatrick and Hanover Bee Farmers Cooperative Society

Country	Enterprise/Group	Business strengthening area of focus
St. Kitts and Nevis	Nevis Turtle Group – Turtle tours/conservation	Website/social media/purchase of a tablet for social media
St. Kitts and Nevis	Jessup Cotton Ground and Barnes Ghaut Fishers Association (JCB)	Marketing plan/consultant Improving social media interface. Redesigning logo and labels for products.
Saint Lucia	Fond St. Jacques Development Committee	Promotion of the Agro-Tourism Park (ATP). Improved brand recognition of the ATP. Detailed promotional campaign created for the ATP
Saint Lucia	Jacq-Co Valley Products Ltd.- The range of products include fruit pops, dried herbs, barbeque sauce, green seasoning, sun-dried fruits and local teas such as soursop and basil.	Facility upgrades to become HACCP compliant; Application to SLBS for certification of labels and bar codes.



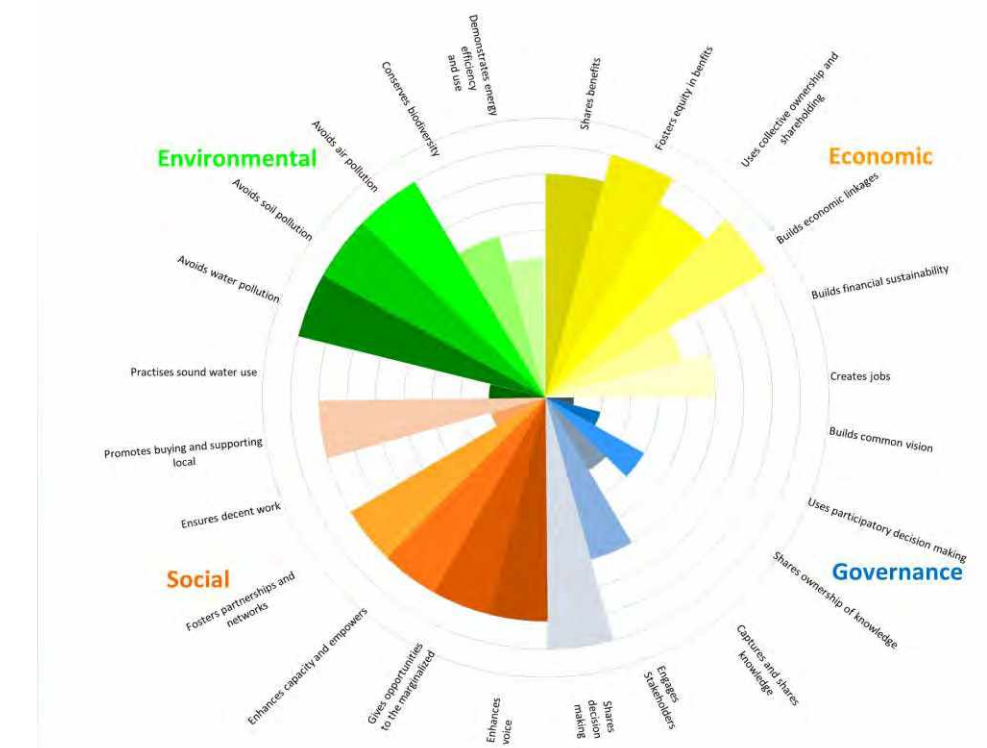
Photo Credits: Nevis Turtle Group and Jacq-Co Valley Products



# ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- SMEs/Mentors finalised
- Capacity and Green Blue Radar assessments conducted
- SMEs/mentors working on activities under business strengthening grants (proposals received assessed/funds disseminated)
- Two SMEs moving on to ecosystem stewardship grants
- Training programme nearly completed with Mentors/SMEs/Business strengthening organisations
  - Characteristics of Nature based enterprises
  - Mentoring; Mentor Mentee Relationships
  - Capacity assessments
  - Triple Bottom Line Approaches (Blue Green Radar Tool)
  - Ecosystem Stewardship
  - Building Climate Resilience
  - **Knowledge product training for CYEN**
  - **Thinking about sustainability: Planting seeds for a sustainable business model**
- Advocacy course in progress with CYEN and SMEs.

Photo credit Catherine Forbes



# Timeline of the Project



# CHALLENGES

## CHALLENGE: COVID 19

Mentors and SMEs ill or in lockdown situations. Business activities stalled. Two mentors recently had COVID. Limited in person meetings between mentors and mentees

Assist where we can... otherwise be patient.

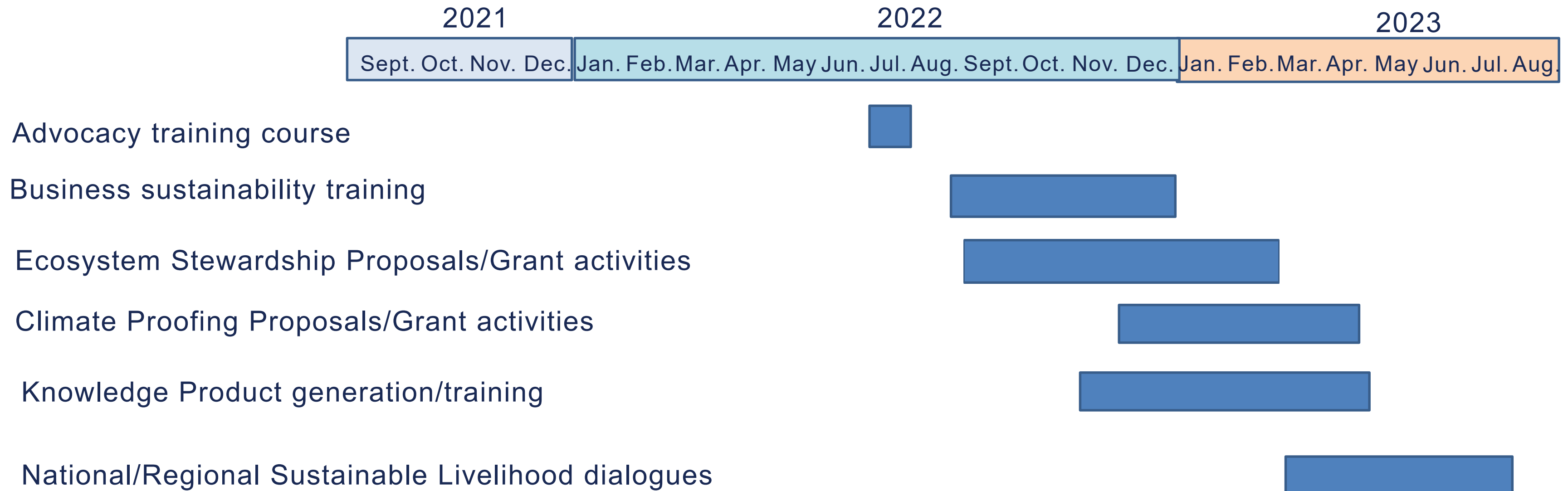
## CHALLENGE 2

Challenge: CANARI has had a lot of practice/experience in doing this type of work with SMEs

but detailed hand holding required e.g. vis a vis fund disbursements, reporting etc. Lots of unanticipated stumbling blocks.

# Timeline for Future Activities

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives





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Resources/Training sessions :

<https://canari.org/strengthening-nature-based-enterprises-and-livelihoods/>

Thanks!



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**6<sup>th</sup> IWEco Regional Steering Committee Meeting**

**End of Presentations -**

**Status of Project Implementation**

**at National Level**



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6<sup>th</sup> IWEco Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting  
**Status of Project Implementation  
at Regional Level**

# Presentation 1



## 6th GEF IWEco Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting

18 – 20 July 2022 – Trinidad and Tobago

**Presented by:**

Christopher Corbin

Acting Coordinator

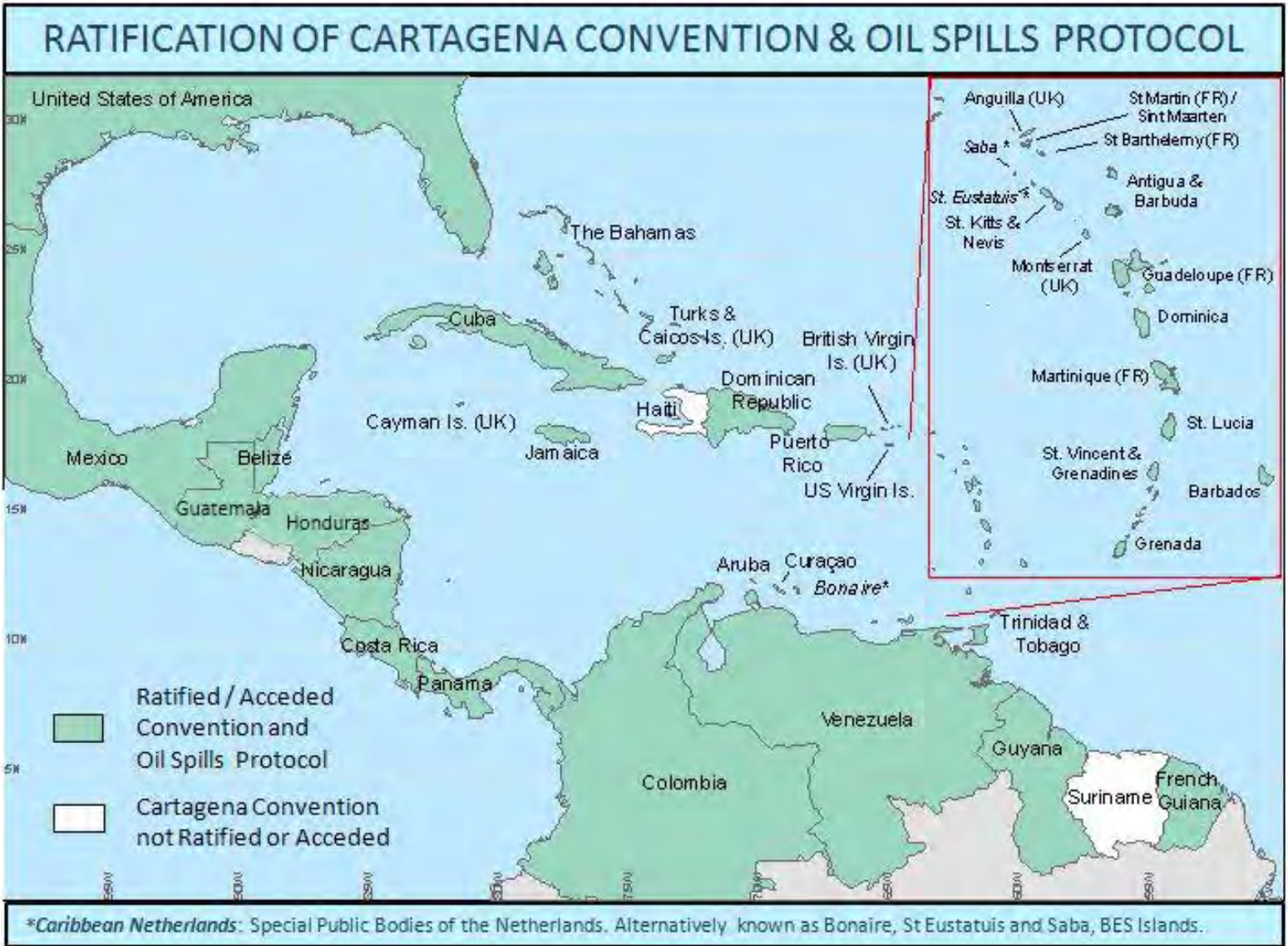
Cartagena Convention Secretariat

[Christopher.Corbin@un.org](mailto:Christopher.Corbin@un.org)





# Cartagena Convention has been ratified by 26 United Nations Member States in the Wider Caribbean Region.



IWEco Project country	*Ratification date of the Cartagena Convention
Antigua and Barbuda	Sept. 11, 1986
Barbados	May 28, 1985
Cuba	Sept. 15, 1988
Dominican Republic	Nov. 24, 1998
Grenada	Aug. 17, 1987
Jamaica	April 1, 1987
St. Kitts and Nevis	June 15, 1999
Saint Lucia	Nov. 30, 1984
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	July 11, 1990
Trinidad and Tobago	Jan. 24, 1986

\*Ratified simultaneously with Oil Spills Protocol

# GEF IWEco Highlights

<http://www.iweco.org/>



## Partnerships

CANARI, CAWASA, CWWA and GWP-C – Regional Strategic Action Plan on Water and Climate (RSAP) IDB, CDB, UN Habitat



## Policy Reforms

Regional review to strengthen policy, legislative and institutional capacity to support sustainable land and water resources and ecosystems management in IWEco participating states (OECS) – Ministerial Decisions



## Research

Regional Research activities on Sargassum & Nutrients/Toxic Chemicals (UNU INWEH & CARPHA)

## Knowledge Management

Project Newsletter & Bulletin; webinars & training; SOCAR Summary Documents for policymakers, civil society, and private sector



## National Projects

Technical Support and Showcasing of National Projects; IWEco – CReW+ (Saint Kitts Nevis)



# Project Highlights:



**¿Qué es la RSAP y cómo beneficiará a la sociedad civil?**

Si usted vive o trabaja en una comunidad costera, es muy probable que haya observado de primera mano que la salud de los hábitats marinos y costeros, como los arrecifes de coral, las manglas y los lechos de pastos marinos, se ha ido deteriorando. También, quizá ha experimentado o presenciado el impacto devastador que estos cambios están teniendo en los medios de vida y en el bienestar.

La Estrategia Regional y Plan de Acción para la Valoración, Protección y/o Restauración de los Hábitats Marinos Clave en el Gran Caribe 2021-2030 (RSAP)<sup>1,2</sup> fue desarrollada para abordar el continuo deterioro de los recursos marinos. Proporciona dirección estratégica, soluciones prácticas y acciones específicas para conservar y restaurar estos hábitats vitales.

La implementación urgente de la RSAP es un paso fundamental para proteger estos recursos vitales y a las personas que dependen de ellos. Las organizaciones de la sociedad civil (OSC) tienen un rol clave que desempeñar en la implementación de la RSAP.

La exitosa implementación de la RSAP requerirá de la participación activa, colectiva y colaborativa de la sociedad civil/organizaciones de la sociedad civil (OSC), el sector privado, los responsables de formular políticas y los investigadores, incluidas las partes interesadas locales, nacionales, subregionales, regionales e intergubernamentales. Las OSC pueden desempeñar un papel fundamental para garantizar la participación de las comunidades locales, en particular dando voz a las partes interesadas vulnerables o históricamente subrepresentadas.

1. [Restoration Begins with Me!](#)  
2. [Restoration Begins with Me!](#)

El bienestar económico y social de más de **134 millones de personas** en el Gran Caribe depende de la salud de estos hábitats. El valor económico del mar Caribe para la región se estima de forma conservadora en **US\$407 mil millones** anuales, de los cuales **US\$54.55 mil millones** están directamente vinculados a los hábitats marinos y costeros<sup>3</sup> (ver desglose por sectores industriales clave).

Sector	Valor (US\$ mil millones)
Transporte marítimo	US\$311.22
Turismo	US\$47.1
Petróleo y gas	US\$39.89
Pescas	US\$4
Agricultura	US\$1.9
Desalinización	US\$0.23
Protección costera y restauración de carbono	US\$1.56

3. Potts, P.C., Wells, J., Diaz, S.M., Roberts, J. and Steph, A. (2019). *Unveiling A Blue Economy: A Promise for Sustainable Growth in the Caribbean*. An Overview. Washington D.C.: The World Bank.

**Sectores industriales clave**

- Turismo 13%
- Petróleo y gas 10%
- Transporte marítimo 77%

Catalizando la implementación del Programa de Acciones Estratégicas para los Grandes Ecosistemas Marinos del Caribe y de la Plataforma del Norte de Brasil (2015-2020)

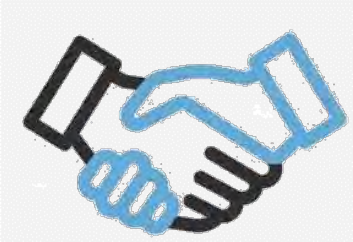
RSAP summary for policymakers, civil society, and private sector developed in English, Spanish, and French

**"Restoration Begins with Me!"**

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

Logos: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, IWEco, UN environment programme, 50 1972-2022, Caribbean Community, and ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021-2030.

*"Restoration Begins with Me"* joint campaign to raise awareness on ecosystem restoration in the Wider Caribbean



# Strategic Partnerships:

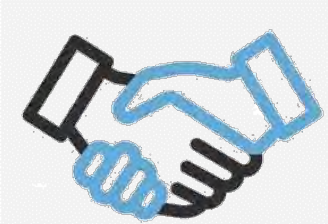


Collaboration with the GEF CReW+ Project supported the development of :

- Water Information Management Systems (WIMS) in 4 IWEco countries,
- Project Corporation Agreement with the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis to develop a pilot Wastewater Project for greywater reuse and treatment designed through IWEco.
- Joint Training and Capacity Building through CReW+ Academy on the “Reuse of Treated Domestic Effluents” and “Methods to Develop the Blue Economy and the Good Use of Wastewater.”



- Regional Data & Information Management Platform on Marine Biodiversity and Marine Pollution (University of Geneva)
- Implementation of Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy: National Nutrient Reduction Strategies in Jamaica and Barbados – Building on SOCAR
- Regional clearing houses, databases, and information systems to facilitate improved reporting on MEAs and SDGs
- Technical support provided through LBS RACs IMA and CIMAB for National and Regional IWEco activities



# Strategic Partnerships cont'd:



## ACP MEAs 3

- **Jointly-funded consultancy with GEF IWEco to design knowledge management products: reports and factsheets on marine pollution and marine biodiversity.**
- **Launch of Commemorative video highlighting achievements of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat.**
- **Video series on Sargassum influx within the region and using Sargassum as a resource.**

## Promotion and Collaboration

- **Promotion of GEF IWEco publications through social media and webinars;**
- **Collaboration on “Restoration Begins With Me” campaign to raise awareness on ecosystem restoration in the Wider Caribbean.**
- **Interviews and Podcast by UN New York – IWEco in Barbados**
- **IWEco webinars**
- **Findings of SOCAR report presented:**
  - *National data and information management platform (ICAM) launch in Colombia;*
  - *BlueFest Webinar in Barbados;*

# South-South Cooperation:



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## Caribbean

- National Regulations on Wastewater, National Pollution Reduction Strategies & Action Plans, Harmonized Regional Standards for Nutrient Levels in Sewage Effluent, Use of Nature-Based Decentralized & Innovative Solutions, Data bases

## OECS

- Policy & Legislative Reforms in Water and Wastewater Sector

## Barbados

- Communications Strategy & Implementation Plan for Water Reuse, Water Protection & Land Use Zoning Policies

## Jamaica

- National Policy on Wastewater & Sludge Management

## Suriname

- National Policy & Strategy on Wastewater Management

## Trinidad & Tobago

- Wastewater Reuse Standards

## Belize

- National Policy & Strategy on Wastewater Management

# Budget:



## RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

**Project Managing Unit:**  
UNEP Cartagena  
Convention Secretariat

**Focal Point:**  
Mr. Christopher Corbin

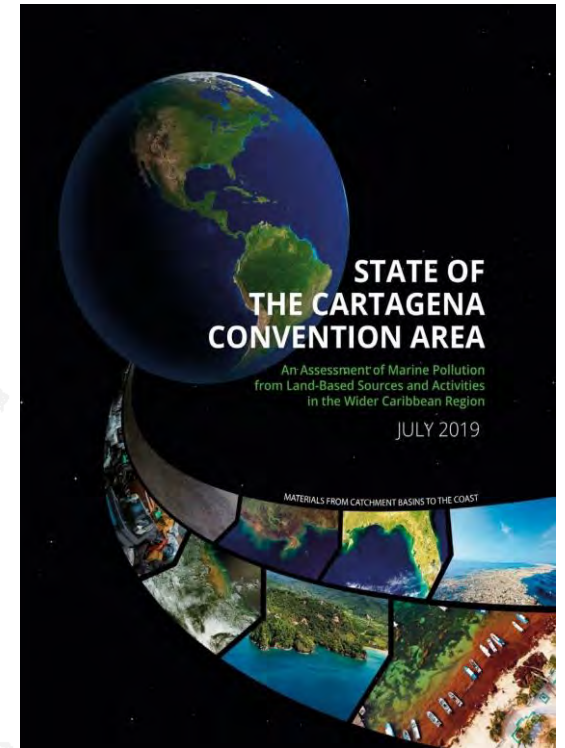
## BUDGET (USD)

**Budget:**  
\$283,850.00

**Amount Used:**  
\$283,850.00

## ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE 5th PSC

- SOCAR for the Wider Caribbean Region on marine pollution and the State of Marine Habitats Report developed.
- SOCAR being translated into Spanish and French
- Funding of a Communications consultant for a 1-year period



**Secretariat provided in-kind, operational, networking and political support to IWEco project implementation.**



**CHALLENGE**



### Administrative and Financial

- **Contributions by IWEco beneficiary countries to the Caribbean Trust Fund.**
- COVID-19 and associated social & economic challenges has resulted in adjusted priorities and delays in project implementation.
- Communication & lack of familiarity of some project focal points with the Secretariat's work – National Intersectoral Committees.
- Delays in UNEP Procurements & Payments

### Governance and Technical

- **No further ratification of LBS and SPAW Protocols – Support available through other projects**
- Reduce overlap and duplication from the multiple regional and national projects
- Workload and reporting demands on National and Project Focal Points.





*Protecting Our Caribbean Sea, Sustaining Our Future*

1. [https://www.dropbox.com/s/gu6rzenvzylx6fm/MPW\\_to\\_caribb\\_GLBv08\\_2015\\_2019\\_24fps.mov?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/gu6rzenvzylx6fm/MPW_to_caribb_GLBv08_2015_2019_24fps.mov?dl=0) This is a link to a collaborative project with Florida Atlantic University to map microplastic movement in the Caribbean Sea.
2. [Home | Cartagena Convention \(unepgrid.ch\)](https://unepgrid.ch/) This builds on the work of SOCAR, Regional Indicator work by CARPHA etc.

UNEPCartagenaConvention

UNEP\_CEP

Youtube: CEPUNEP

LinkedIn: UNEP-Caribbean Environment Programme



*Protecting Our Caribbean Sea, Sustaining Our Future*

# THANK YOU/GRACIAS

United Nations Environment Programme Caribbean Environment Programme and Cartagena Convention Secretariat

14-20 Port Royal Street  
Kingston, Jamaica, W.I.

<https://www.unep.org/cep/>



UNEPCartagenaConvention



UNEP\_CEP



Youtube: CEPUNEP



LinkedIn: UNEP-Caribbean Environment Programme

# Presentation 2



*integrating water, land and ecosystems management  
in caribbean small island developing states*

## Status of Implementation of Laboratory Recommendations for Strengthening Capacity for Environmental Monitoring in IWEco Project Participating Countries

*#CaringForOurFuture*





## Presentation Overview

1

### Recap - Phase 1

- Purpose of Building Lab Capacity*
- Recommendations*

2

### Status - Phase 2

- Summary of Objectives and Status of Delivery*

3

### Methodology

- Training*
- Equipment Procurement*
- Creation of Regional Environmental Laboratory Network*

4

### Modules Delivered and Perception of Training by Participants

5

### Regional Environmental Laboratory Network

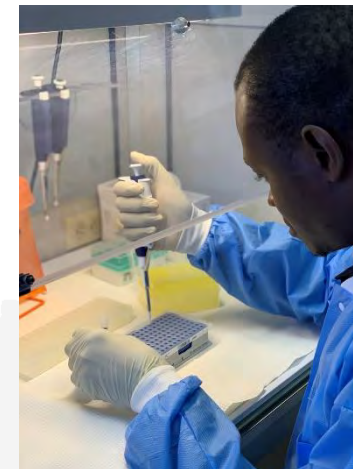
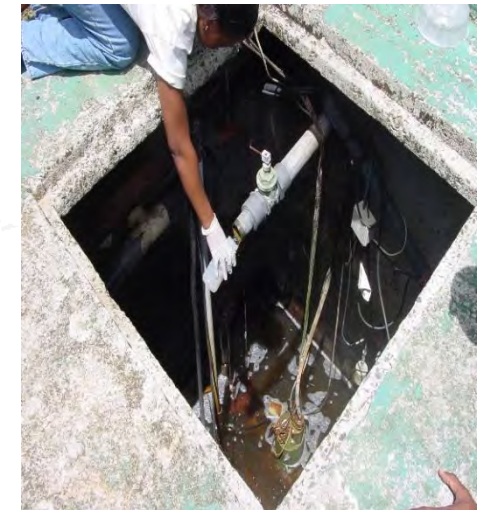
1

# PURPOSE OF BUILDING LABORATORY CAPACITY

## ULTIMATE GOAL:

To strengthen capacity for environmental monitoring and surveillance in participating SIDS by building laboratory capacity within the WCR

**Lab Objectives:** To enable environmental laboratories to test for required field and lab parameters and to consistently **provide results suitable for their purpose** through the provision of training and equipment and providing a means of facilitating the exchange of laboratory specific information between laboratories within the Region



1

# The Laboratory Strengthening Initiative - *Phase 1*

## PHASE 1 – INVENTORY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ **IWCAM lab** assessment exercise (2008-9) updated and expanded
  - ✓ Inventory of tests and corresponding matrices produced
  
- ❑ **Lab strengths and weaknesses identified and recommendations made to fulfil identified needs:**
  - ✓ **Training** – general & technical
  - ✓ **Equipment**
    - field sampling, monitoring equipment & basic lab equipment
  - ✓ **Creation of Regional Lab Network (verbal communication)**

## The Laboratory Strengthening Initiative - *Phase 2*

### OBJECTIVES

1. To develop and deliver training modules in accordance with the objectives of the training recommended in phase 1
2. To form a Regional Environmental Lab Network to guide and coordinate continuing lab strengthening activities within the Region even after completion of IWeco Project
3. To procure and deliver recommended lab equipment and associated materials to the port of entry.



### DELIVERED

- Delivery of Training**
  - ✓ QA/QC
  - ✓ Technical
  - Both with reference made to meeting ISO 17025 requirements
- Creation of Regional Lab Network**
- Procurement of Equipment – in process**
  - field sampling, monitoring equipment & lab equipment
  - Repair of some existing equipment

3

# METHODOLOGY - TRAINING

- ❑ Coordinated by United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- ❑ Training materials developed by Water Institute (WI) of UNC in collaboration with IWEco and UNITAR on content of webinar;
- ❑ Concept note prepared by WI and approved by UNITAR and IWEco
- ❑ Letter of invitation and flyer with registration link issued by IWEco and sent to laboratory heads or their superiors (as requested).
- ❑ Training materials delivered by WI





3

# METHODOLOGY – TRAINING cont

- ❑ Training materials uploaded to website by UNITAR:

<https://chemicalsandwaste.wixsite.com/env-monitoring/training-modules>

- ❑ Translation to Spanish of the presentation slides and subtitles to interviews are being done
  - Module 1 translations are complete
  - Modules 2 – 5 will begin soon



alamy

Image ID: 20CABNM  
www.alamy.com

# METHODOLOGY – EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT

## □ Output of Lab Assessment

- List of equipment categorised by country and laboratory for procurement or repair.
- In most cases, it was recommended that >1 lab be supported for equipment acquisition
- Estimated cost of equipment and delivery per port of entry prepared
  - List of equipment with associated specifications and/or catalog number documented by country and divided up into separate lists based on appropriate vendor
  - For generic equipment, list sent to more than one vendor for quotation



# METHODOLOGY – EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT (cont.)

- For high value equipment where it was important to have installation, warranty and repair services, only the authorized reseller was to be asked to quote
- Based on responses received from the vendors and the given budget, a final list by country, cost estimate and best vendor contact information was prepared and submitted to the IWEco PCU.
- Next Steps: Selection of procurement agency and vendor selection process



## METHODOLOGY – FORMING A REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY NETWORK



- Discussion held with RPC regarding forming a network of environmental laboratories
- It was agreed that an organized network for mutual support of laboratories was a good idea
- Participants (about 70) in the first UNITAR training module thought it was a need in the Region
- Agenda, functions and objectives of Network and various questions for consideration were prepared by Lab specialist

## Overview of Training Delivered

Contracted Time Frame for Delivery of Training: January to July 2022

Modules	Dates	Materials	Number of participants*
Module 1: Improving Laboratory Management Practices – An Introduction to ISO 17025	15 – 16 March	8 ppts, 2 recorded interviews	75
Module 2: Current Methods (of Water Analysis) and Quality Control	20 – 21 April	10 ppts, 7 videos	39
Module 3: Nutrient analysis methodologies with focus on surface waters	12 May	5 ppts, 3 videos	42
Module 4: Sampling	1 – 2 June	5 ppts, 5 videos	105
Module 5: Statistical Analysis and Data Interpretation	21 – 22 June	8 ppts, exercises	27

## Training Delivered Versus Training Recommended

### Recommended

- ISO 17025:2017 - Requirements and Implementation
- Current Methods for the Laboratory Analysis of Water and associated Quality Control.
- Use and Calibration of Basic Lab & Field Equipment
- Nutrient Analysis Methodologies
- Methods of Sample Collection and Design of a Sampling Programme

### Delivered

- An Introduction to ISO 17025:2017
- Current Methods of Analysis of Water + Quality Control combined with Use and Calibration of Lab and Field equipment
- Quantification of Macronutrients in Freshwater to Coastal
- Sampling for Biological and Chemical Analysis in Environmental Matrices
- Working with Environmental Monitoring and QC Data

MODULE 1	RECOMMENDED	DELIVERED
NAME OF WEBINAR	<b>ISO 17025:2017 Requirements and its Implementation</b>	<b>Improving Laboratory Management Practices – An Introduction to ISO 17025:2017</b>
CONTACT HOURS	Expected: 32 HOURS	2 x 4 HOURS March 15 & 16, 2022
OBJECTIVES	Detailed Requirements and Guidance on Implementation of Standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explanation of benefits of adopting GLP- <b>via interview and discussion</b></li> <li>• Introduction to ISO 17025:2017 and some key concepts identified as specific areas of concern in needs assessment</li> </ul>
RECOMMENDED OBJ. MET?	While detailed requirements and guidance on every aspect of the standard could not be provided, the KEY AREAS of weakness were presented and discussed in detail. The experiences and advise of lab heads from PC were immeasurable w.r.t implementing GLP and providing advise on the roadmap to accreditation	

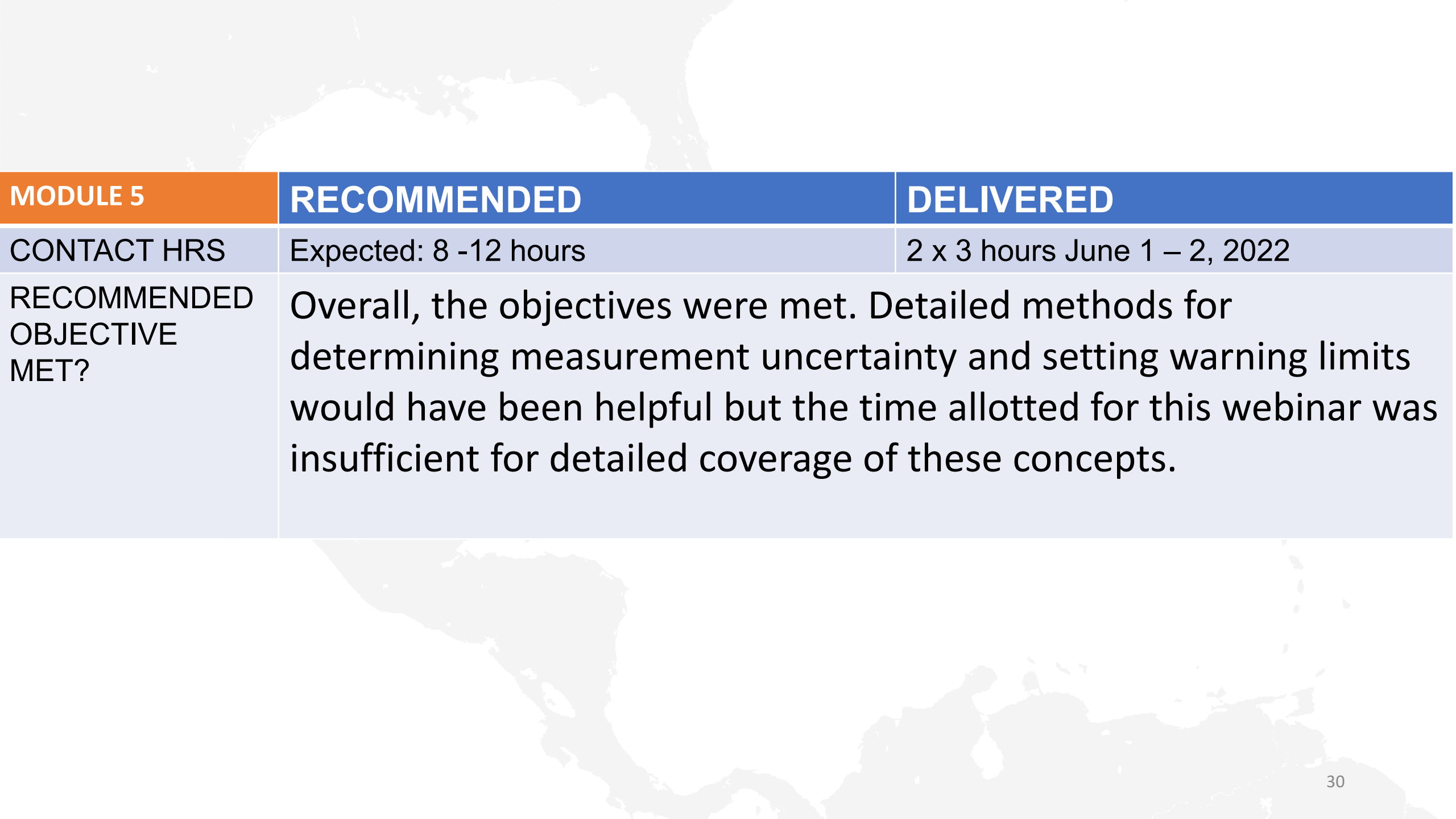
	RECOMMENDED	DELIVERED
NAME OF WEBINAR	<p><b>1.Current Methods</b> for the Laboratory Analysis of Water and associated Analytical and Microbiological Test Method <b>Quality Control</b></p> <p>2. Use, calibration, verification of accuracy of field and lab equipment with associated recordkeeping</p>	Improving Laboratory Management Practices – <b>Current Methods + Quality Control</b>
CONTACT HOURS	Expected: 16 hours	2 x 3.5 - 4 hours April 20 -21, 2022
OBJECTIVES	As name implies. Also to have included various statistical methods of treatment of QC data but time constraints did not allow except for method verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course focused on priority parameters identified in SOCAR &amp; basic concepts, principles, and elements of laboratory QA/QC systems.</li> <li>• Case studies and partner experiences w.r.t. implementation of QA/QC best practices</li> <li>• Guidance on refining QA/QC practices to meet ISO 17025 req.</li> </ul>
RECOMMENDED OBJ. MET?	Yes, taking into account time allotted. Use, calibration and maintenance of various equipment demonstrated by video – a definite plus. Test and QC requirements were linked to the ISO 17025 standard requirements	



MODULE 3	RECOMMENDED	DELIVERED
NAME OF WEBINAR	Nutrient Analysis Methodologies for Water including Seawater and Determination of chlorophyll a – manual and automated methods	Nutrient Analysis Methodologies with a Focus on Surface Waters Also entitled: Improving Quantification of Nutrient Enrichment Effects along the Freshwater to Coastal Water Continuum
CONTACT HOURS	Expected: 4 hours	3 hours May 12, 2022
OBJECTIVES	<p>Overview of:</p> <p>Sample preparation and extraction methods based on test method</p> <p>Appropriate technologies based on type of water, sample throughput, cost of maintenance.</p>	<p>Accurately and precisely quantify phytoplankton biomass as chlorophyll <i>a</i> and the macronutrients (N and P) that stimulate phytoplankton production; and Interpretation of phytoplankton and macronutrient data.</p>
RECOMMENDED OBJ. MET?	Objectives met. However, instrumentation and methods discussed may have been too advanced for many laboratories. Insights on use of chlorophyll a sensor versus lab method were insightful.	

MODULE 4	RECOMMENDED	DELIVERED
NAME OF WEBINAR	<p><b>Sample Collection, Preservation and Transport Techniques for soil, sediment and water</b> (surface waters, coastal water and groundwater) for microbiological, and chemical analysis – to include samples for pesticide analysis, PCB analysis and herbicides analysis:</p> <p><b>Design of a statistical sampling plan/programme</b>  <b>Data collection, interpretation of the data and identification of trends in the data</b></p>	<b>Sampling</b>
CONTACT HOURS	8 -12 hours	2 x 3 hours June 1 – 2, 2022
OBJECTIVES	<p>To describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sample collection, preservation and transport techniques for soil, sediments and surface and ground waters with an emphasis on collection of soil and sediment samples for chemical analysis</li> <li>• factors for consideration in the design of a statistical sampling plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on soils, sediments and groundwater sample collection</li> <li>• Factors for consideration in sample plan design</li> <li>• Sampling requirements as specified in the ISO 17025</li> </ul>
RECOMMENDED OBJ. MET?	<p>Yes. Webinar most well attended with over 100 participants from laboratories and various agencies responsible for designing sample plans and collecting samples. Videos described processes with discussion afterwards.</p>	

MODULE 5	RECOMMENDED	DELIVERED
NAME OF WEBINAR	<p><b>Statistical analysis of QC and Sample Results*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laboratory Statistical Analysis of Results (Test and QC results) to include trends in data</li> <li>• Determination of Measurement Uncertainty for Analytical and Microbiological Test Methods</li> <li>• Data Collection, interpretation of the data and identification of trends in the data</li> </ul>	<p><b>Working with Environmental Monitoring Data</b></p>
OBJECTIVE	<p>Capacity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>recognise trends in sample data</li> <li>analyse sample data to determine the effectiveness of amelioration measures</li> <li>perform statistical analysis of QC data with Excel</li> <li>set warning limits for QC data</li> <li>treat outliers</li> <li>Determination of Measurement Uncertainty</li> <li>Statistical calculations for QC with Excel</li> <li>Interpretation of the statistics</li> <li>Setting QC limits (warning limits)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect, manage, and review environmental data as needed for routine monitoring and reporting activities</li> <li>• Conduct basic data analysis, generate relevant summary statistics, and interpret these efficiently</li> <li>• Review options for laboratories interested in exploring more extensive data analysis options</li> </ul>



<b>MODULE 5</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED</b>	<b>DELIVERED</b>
CONTACT HRS	Expected: 8 -12 hours	2 x 3 hours June 1 – 2, 2022
RECOMMENDED OBJECTIVE MET?	Overall, the objectives were met. Detailed methods for determining measurement uncertainty and setting warning limits would have been helpful but the time allotted for this webinar was insufficient for detailed coverage of these concepts.	

## CREATION OF REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY NETWORK

- Two networks needed – one for English speaking Caribbean and one for Latin Caribbean countries
  - Language barrier
  - Latin Caribbean countries overall seem to be more advanced in country legislation and monitoring programmes
- First meeting of English speaking Caribbean network held on May 19, 2022
  - Meeting attended by about 20 laboratory heads / directors along with their deputies
  - Small Working Group (Implementation Committee) formed to develop TORs, map out objectives, chart the way forward
  - IWEco represented by lab specialist on Implementation Committee

## PROPOSED OBJECTIVES OF NETWORK

### 1. Sharing of Laboratory Contact Information

### 2. Sharing of Laboratory-specific Information

- Mutual support through provision of advice – general and technical –Network or one-on-one
- Information that can be shared are:
  - QA/QC issues and solutions
  - Sources of certified and standard reference materials and microb strains
  - Authorized sellers within the Region for equipment and reagents
  - Suitable PT providers and tests performed
  - Solutions to lab problems that are non-QA/QC specific
  - Tests and methods utilized – including, instruments used, agent (service / third party provider) + contact info: Allows for consultations between labs

### 3. To promote improved laboratory quality assurance and quality control

### 4. Promotion of Implementation of robust QMS – initially through 2 above

## Working Group – Implementation Committee

- Working Group held first meeting on June 20, 2022
- Initial objectives agreed on
- Inventory of tests form sent out to participating network laboratories to capture additional information such as authorized reseller or service provider
- Request for sources of PT providers and CRM providers
- Information will used to chart the way forward and to fulfill the information sharing objective of network

# LATER OBJECTIVES

1. Preparation of research grant proposals – sharing of donor agencies by members required
2. Promotion of regional research
3. Strengthening capacity for analytical determination of various analytes
4. Promotion of the implementation of various multilateral agreements – e.g., LBS protocol



# LESSONS LEARNT

## 1. ASSESSMENT OF LABORATORY NEEDS

- I. Best done by visiting laboratories – to see facilities firsthand and to interview staff on the ground
- II. Time between the determination of lab needs and fulfillment is too long to address short term needs esp for equipment

## 1. TRAINING

- I. The concept note should be sent out with invitation documents – contains detailed information on objectives and content of webinar
- II. Send out full schedule of webinars to laboratories for planning purposes
  - I. In this case, it was not possible due to the tight time frame for training to take place and the coordination required among various UNC departments
- III. Always use provided data where multiple labs are represented; people prefer to work in groups

## 2. REGIONAL LABORATORY NETWORK

- I. Laboratory personnel may be too busy to contribute to Network but still hope to benefit from the Network.



# IWEco

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Thank you  
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# Presentation 3



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## Regional Project Update & Planning:

Shane Kirton

Programme Manager, EHSD

CARPHA

# The Project:

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	ACHIEVEMENTS (2021)
---------------------	---------------------

Project Managing Unit:  
EHSD, PCU-CARPHA

Focal Point:  
Shane Kirton

A Regional Environmental Indicators Compendium

A report on the Development of a private-public partnership (PPP) to Reduce Marine Pollution from Pleasure Vessels and Tourism Centres

A publication on the Sources of Microbial Contamination in the Watershed and Coastal Zone of Soufriere, St. Lucia


**INTEGRATED WATER, LAND AND ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT (IWECO) PROJECT**

CONSULTANCY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO REDUCE MARINE POLLUTION FROM PLEASURE VESSELS (YACHTS) & TOURISM CENTRES

**Sources of Microbial Contamination in the Watershed and Coastal Zone of Soufriere, St. Lucia**

Marsha Serville-Tertullien<sup>1</sup>, Kareem Charlemagne<sup>2</sup>, Newton Eristhee<sup>2</sup>, Anna Majury<sup>3</sup>, Tamanna Sultana<sup>1</sup>, Chris D. Metcalfe<sup>1</sup>

1) School of the Environment, Trent University, Peterborough, ON, Canada  
2) Caribbean Public Health Agency, Castries, St. Lucia  
Public Health Agency, Kingston, ON, Canada



**INTEGRATED WATER, LAND AND ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT (IWECO) PROJECT**

CONSULTANCY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS COMPENDIUM IN IWECO PARTICIPATING STATES (PSM/20069)

**Regional Environmental Indicators Compendium**  
*Final Report*

on the southwest coast of the Caribbean island of St. Lucia is and supports a local fishery. There is a history of high levels of arshore zone of Soufriere Bay. Possible sources of microbial discharges from the Soufriere River and transport of wastewater ocations in the town of Soufriere. To identify the sources of ierie Bay, a range of monitoring methods were employed in this ce water collected from the Soufriere River, counts of total rated above water quality guidelines. However, the spikes in ndicator organisms in the river did not necessarily coincide with oliforms and E. coli detected in samples collected on the same g that there are other sources of pollution in the Bay besides itoring for chemical indicators of wastewater (i.e., caffeine, ufriere River indicated that there are inputs of sewage or fecal tershed. However, analysis of *Bacteroidales* 16S rRNA genetic

## Component 2:

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

# Project Highlights:

**Output 2.1.2:** Scientific research to support monitoring at national projects

**Status:** Complete and accepted

## Overview

- Utilization of grant as co-financing to supplement an existing activity under UWI-CERMES' SargAdapt project that focuses on economic assessment of sargassum influxes
- To support spatially explicit, country-level assessments of sargassum impacts across Barbados

*The potential economic impacts of sargassum inundations in the Caribbean, Part 1 Insights from the literature*

*Applying hazard risk assessment and spatial planning tools to sargassum inundations in the eastern caribbean small island states as a basis for improving response*

# Project Highlights:

## The Potential Economic Impacts of Sargassum Inundations in the Caribbean, Part 1: Insights from the Literature

Peter W. Schuhmann, Jeanelle Irvine, Hazel A. Oxenford,  
A. Karima Degia and Julian Prato Valderrama

SargAdapt Project Report

January 2022

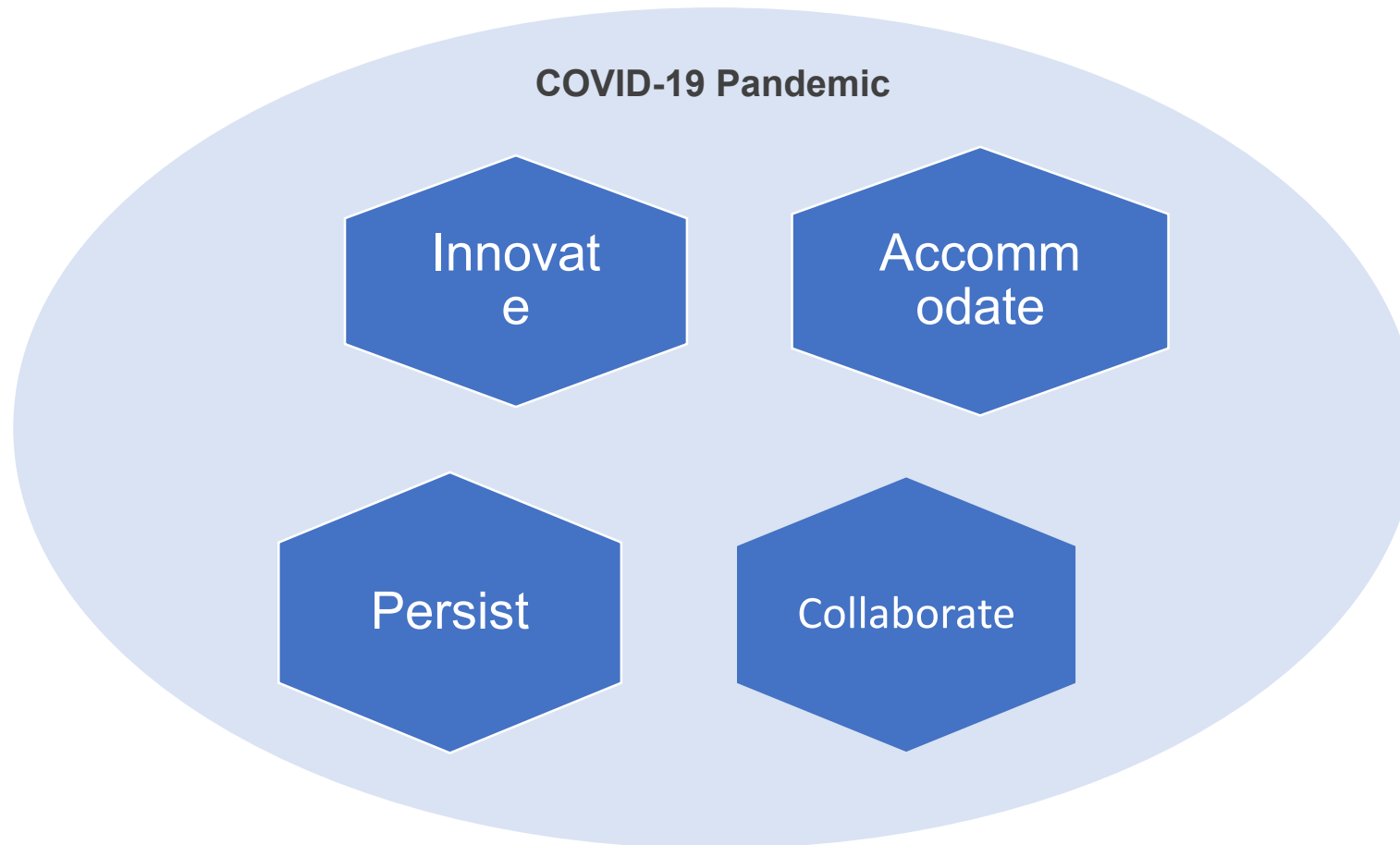
## Applying Hazard Risk Assessment and Spatial Planning Tools to Sargassum Inundations in the Eastern Caribbean Small Island States as a Basis for Improving Response

A. Karima Degia, Micaela Small, and Hazel A. Oxenford

SargAdapt Project Report

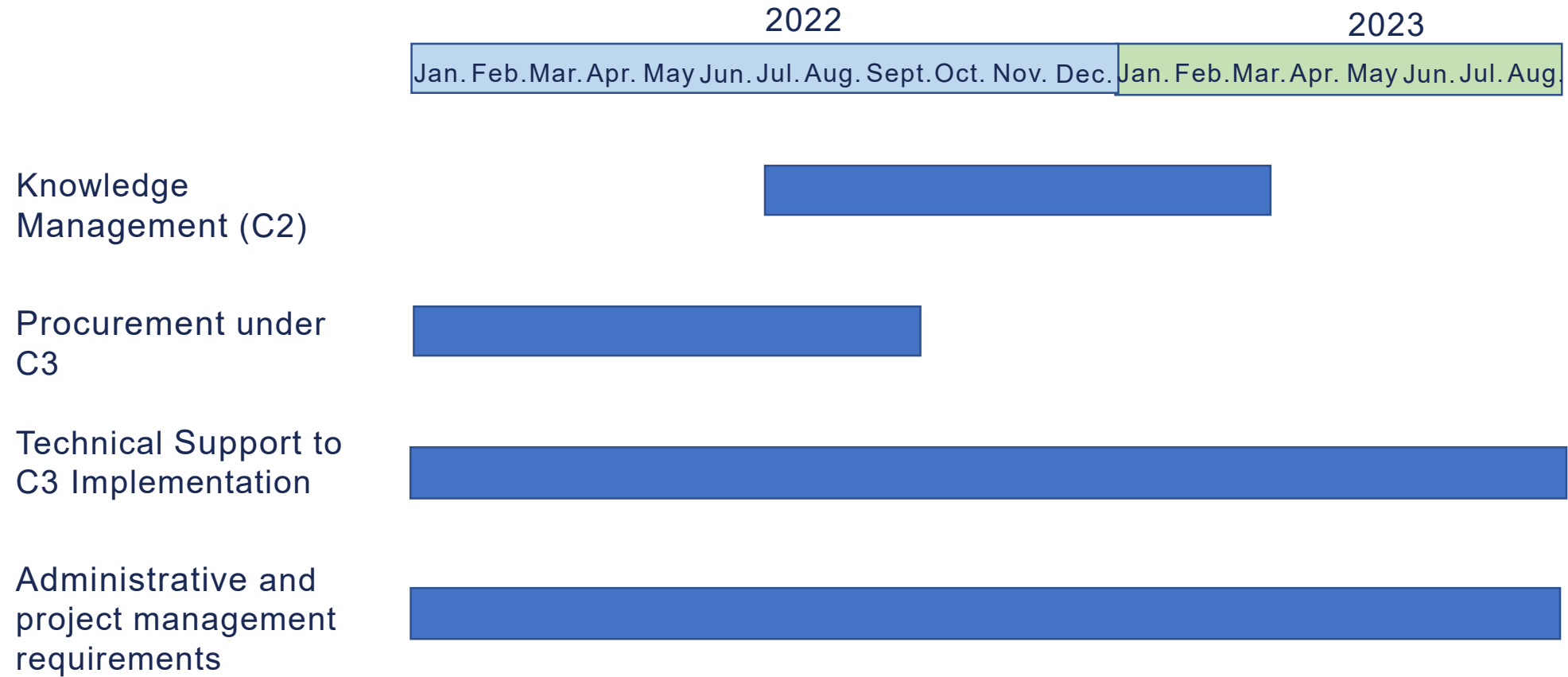
March 2022

# CHALLENGES





# Timeline for Future Activities



# Presentation 4



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

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## Regional Project Update: Component 3

Strengthening of the policy, legislative and institutional reforms and capacity building for SLM, IWRM/ WUE and ecosystem services management taking into consideration climate resilience building

Presented by: Farzana Yusuf-Leon, Technical Specialist, IWEco Project,  
ESD, OECS

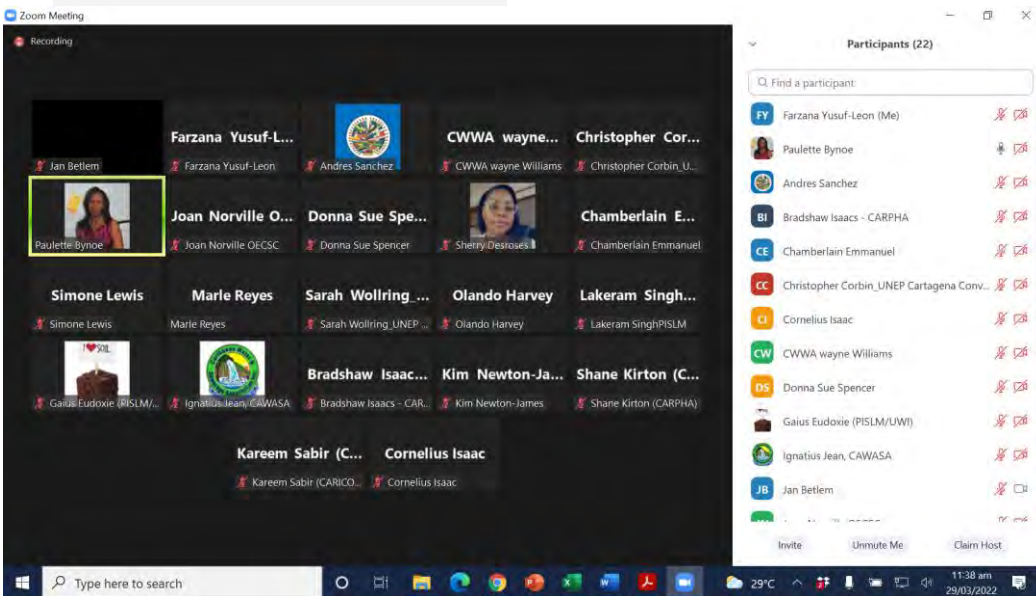


**Output 3.1.1:** Review of status of national and regional-level policy, legislation, plans and strategies for improved water, land and ecosystems management

**Activity 3.1.1.0:** Planning Component 3

## RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

CARPHA & OECS



## ACHIEVEMENTS

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Governance Partnership Meeting convened 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Agencies Present:  
CARPHA, UNEP, IWEco PMU,  
CARICOM Secretariat,  
Organization of American  
States (OAS), The Nature  
Conservancy, CAWASA,  
CWWA, UWI, PISLM, Global  
Water Partnership –  
Caribbean and the OECS  
Commission

Draft Report of 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Governance Partnership  
Meeting developed

Recommendations:

1. Public/private partnerships as a mechanism to support sustainability
2. Close collaboration during implementation of planned/ongoing data and information related initiatives
3. Institutionalizing knowledge and outputs to transition from projects to a more programmatic approach



**Output 3.1.1:** Review of status of national and regional-level policy, legislation, plans and strategies for improved water, land and ecosystems management

**Activity 3.1.1.1:** Conduct a review of the status of policy, legislative implementation, action plans and strategies at the regional level as well as within the countries – Consultant: OpenPlan Consultants Ltd.

## RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

CARPHA & OECS

## BUDGET

Budget:  
US\$170,000

Amount Used:  
US119,775

Activity  
Completed 30<sup>th</sup>  
September 2021

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### 1. Integrated Management System Assessment Model (IMSAM)

### 2. Technical Reports

- Situational Analysis
- Gap Analysis Assessment
- List of Appropriate Interventions and Methodology for Prioritisation
- Final Report

### 3. Project Concepts and Terms of Reference

- 26 Concepts developed
- 12 Terms of Reference developed (8 national interventions, 4 regional interventions)



REVIEW AND STRENGTHEN POLICY, LEGISLATIVE AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE LAND AND WATER RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT IN IWEco PARTICIPATING STATES

Final Report: Results of National Workshop and selected Terms of Reference



**Output 3.1.2:** New and/or upgraded/strengthened regional and national-level policies, legislation, regulations, frameworks, action plans and strategies for improved water, land and ecosystems management

**Activity 3.1.2.1:** Support the development of new and the upgrade/strengthening/ implementation of existing policies, legislative instruments, frameworks, action plans and strategies at the national level.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTIES**

CARPHA & OECS

**BUDGET**

Budget:  
US\$954,000

Amount Used:  
None

Amount committed:  
US\$875,000

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

CONFIRMED PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS- PROCUREMENT COMMENCED

ACTIVITY 3.1.2.1					
Item	Terms of Reference	Budget (US\$)	Duration (Weeks)	Procurement Period	Implementation Period
1	Development of a Methodological Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (GRN, JAM, SVG, SLU)	225,000.00	52	February - July 2022	August 2022 - August 2023
2	Development and implementation of a Regional Environmental Monitoring Data Portal (REMDAP) for Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago	198,600.00	52	February - August 2022	September 2022 - August 2023
3	Development of National Water Information Systems for Saint Kitts and Nevis.	125,000.00	52	February - August 2022	September 2022 - August 2023
4	Development of a National Research Strategy for the Collection of Environmental Data Necessary to Inform Environmental Management Decision-making (ANB, TNT)	161,400.00	52	February - August 2022	September 2022 - August 2023
5	Development of a Marine Pollution Management Strategy and National Action Plan for <i>Barbados</i>	90,000.00	34	February - June 2022	October 2022 - July 2023
6	Update of National Risk Management Plan for the <i>Dominican Republic</i>	75,000.00	52	June - September 2022	October 2022 - August 2023
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>		<b>875,000.00</b>			



**Output 3.1.2:** New and/or upgraded/strengthened regional and national-level policies, legislation, regulations, frameworks, action plans and strategies for improved water, land and ecosystems management

**Activity 3.1.2.1:** Support the development of new and the upgrade/strengthening/ implementation of existing policies, legislative instruments, frameworks, action plans and strategies at the national level.

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	BUDGET	PROGRESS TO DATE
CARPHA & OECS	Budget: US\$954,000 Amount Used: None	Evaluations of Proposals underway for four (4) interventions; RFP for one (1) intervention launched; REOI for one (1) intervention launched.



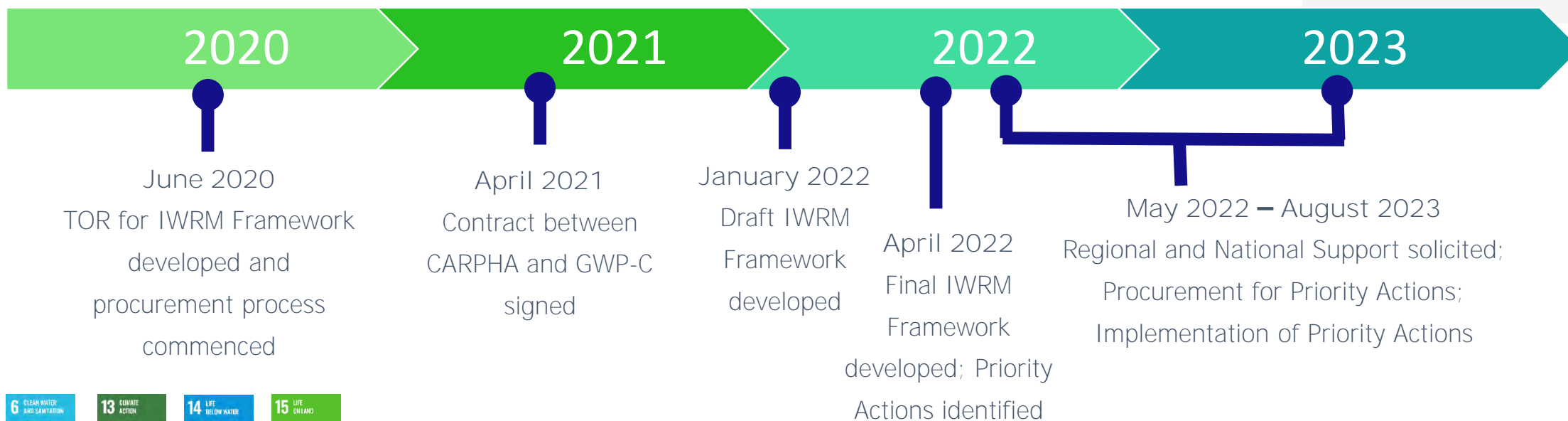
<p>January 2022 Final decisions regarding procurement procedures</p> <p>February 2022 Commencement of Requests for Expressions of Interest</p>	<p>August - November 2022 Contracts for all interventions to be signed</p>	<p>July 2023 1. Marine Pollution Strategy and Action Plan complete (BAR)</p>	<p>August 2023 2. ICZM Plans complete (JCA, GRN, SVG, SLU) 3. REMDAP developed and training complete (Regional) 4. National Water Information Systems complete (BAR, SKN) 5. National Research Strategy complete (ANB, TNT) 6. Update of National Disaster Risk Management Plan (DR)</p>
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**Output 3.1.2:** New and/or upgraded/strengthened regional and national-level policies, legislation, regulations, frameworks, action plans and strategies for improved water, land and ecosystems management

**Activity 3.1.2.2:** Develop and implement a regional action framework for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) for the CARICOM Region – Consultant: Global Water Partnership – Caribbean (GWP-C)

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES	BUDGET	ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE
CARPHA & OECS	Budget: US\$273,785  Amount Used: US\$90,000	Action Framework for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) for CARICOM Region developed  Support received at COM:ES 2022 towards finalization and implementation of the Framework  Framework presented at COTED: Environmental Sustainability 2022



**Output 3.1.2:** New and/or upgraded/strengthened regional and national-level policies, legislation, regulations, frameworks, action plans and strategies for improved water, land and ecosystems management

- The Biodiversity Support Programme for ACP Coastal Environments (BioSPACE) - European Union Commission
- Access and benefit sharing (ABS) in the Caribbean funded by GEF, implemented by UNEP and executed by IUCN- Capacity building initiative to establish regional and national ABS systems ongoing.
- Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (CROP) - World Bank
- Integrated Landscape Approaches and Investments in Sustainable Land Management in the OECS (ILM) - European Union Commission
- OECS Sub-Regional Environmental Information System - UN-ECLAC

## COMPLEMENTARY INITIATIVES



World Water Day 2022 Video Link: <https://youtu.be/aMj5rhfJWZ4>





# CHALLENGES

## Delays in the extension of formal agency agreements

### Mitigation measures:

Communication between CARPHA and OECS for updates regarding agency agreements.

Continuous communication and collaboration between CARPHA and OECS towards planning of activities.

Agreement in principle to continue in certain areas to address delays in the procurement process

## Delays in procurement

### Mitigation measures:

Agency discussions regarding potential remediation of procurement delays- OECS agreed to provide procurement assistance.

Revise implementation period for interventions; facilitate collaboration among similar projects to reduce delays in data collection



# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

1. Collation of activities undertaken by Governance Partners under thematic areas to facilitate collaboration and encourage continuity and sustainability.
2. Development and implementation of national and regional interventions to strengthen policy, legislative and institutional reforms and capacity building.

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

Operational Governance Partnership which will contribute to the sustainability of IWEco activities, with a view of upscaling from project activities to programme areas.

- Marine Pollution Strategy and Action Plan for Barbados
- Methodological Framework and Action Plan, and Pilot ICZM Shoreline Plans for Jamaica, Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Revised ICZM Plan and Stakeholder and Engagement Plan for Saint Lucia
- Water Information System for St. Kitts and Nevis
- National Research Strategy for Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago
- Updated Risk Management Plan for Dominican Republic
- Regional Environmental Monitoring Data Portal developed and implemented



# Priority Activities & Expected Outputs

Given the results from the mid-term review and review of the results framework, outputs and activities were assessed and prioritized in order to achieve intended Outcomes and Objectives

## PRIORITY ACTIVITY

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

3. Contribute to finalization of the Action Framework for IWRM for the CARICOM Region

Final Action Framework for IWRM for the CARICOM Region

4. Implementation of activities to support IWRM within the region

Implementation of priority IWRM activities



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Thank You!



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6<sup>th</sup> IWEco Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting

# End of Presentations - Status of Project Implementation at Regional Level





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**6<sup>th</sup> IWEco Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting**

**PCU Presentations:**

**Status of Expenditure and Presentation of Work Plan  
2022-2023 with Budget**

**&**

**IWEco.org: Presentation on the IWEco Website and  
Information Resources**



# Presentation 1



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in caribbean small island developing states*



## Status of Expenditure as at 31 December **2021** + proposed budgets to end of 2023

with an update of reported expenditures per project partner as of 31 December 2021

*Jan Betlem – Regional Project Coordinator*

*#CaringForOurFuture*



Transfer Grant to IP

Staff Personnel &  
Consultant

Operational &  
Other Costs

Equipment, Vehicle  
& Furniture

Travel

Supplies &  
Materials

Contractors





Transfer Grant to IP

Staff Personnel &  
Consultant

Operational &  
Other Costs

Equipment, Vehicle  
& Furniture

Travel

Supplies &  
Materials

Contractors



Transfer Grant to IP

Staff Personnel &  
Consultant

UNDP

Operational &  
Other Costs

Equipment, Vehicle  
& Furniture

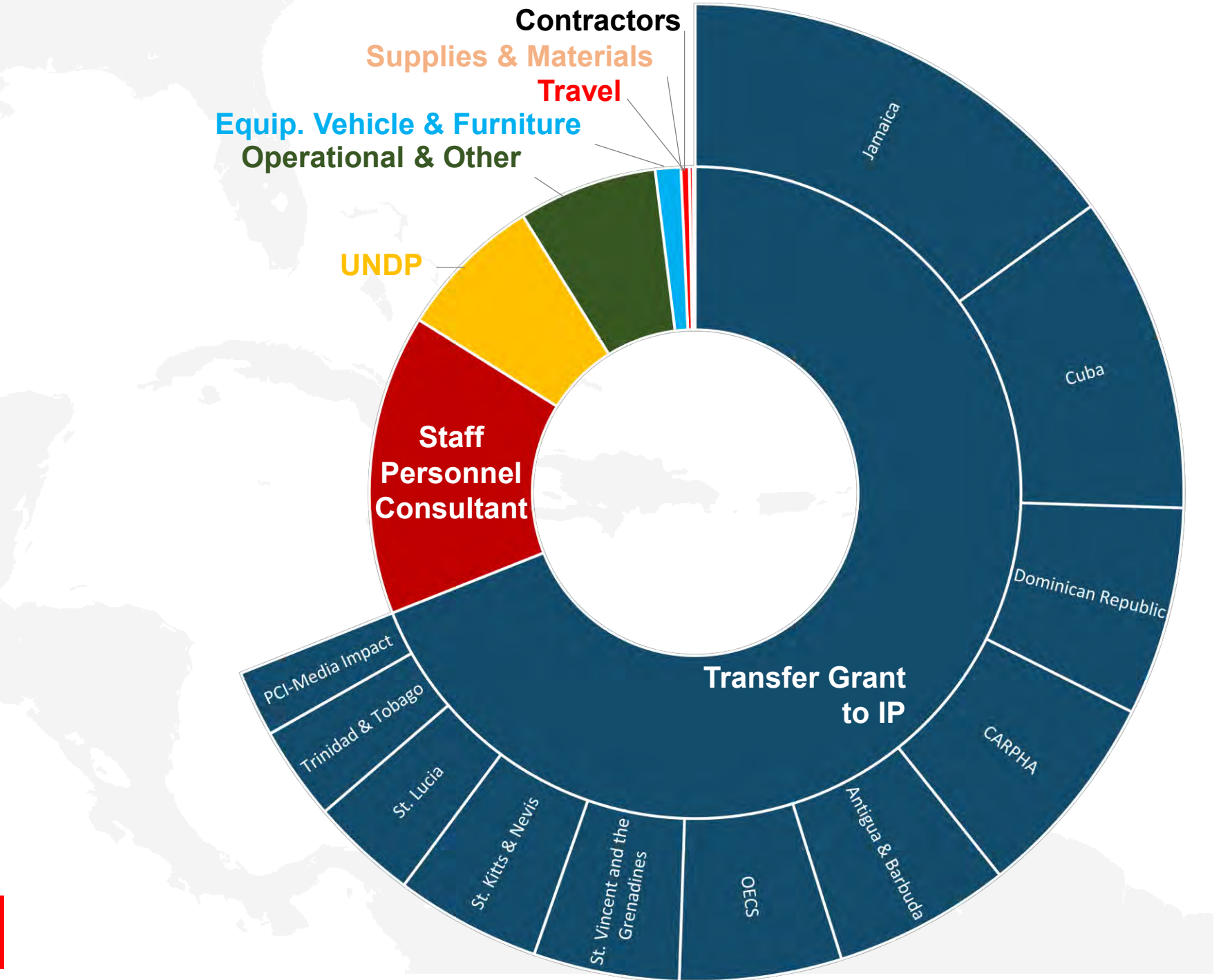
Travel

Supplies &  
Materials

Contractors

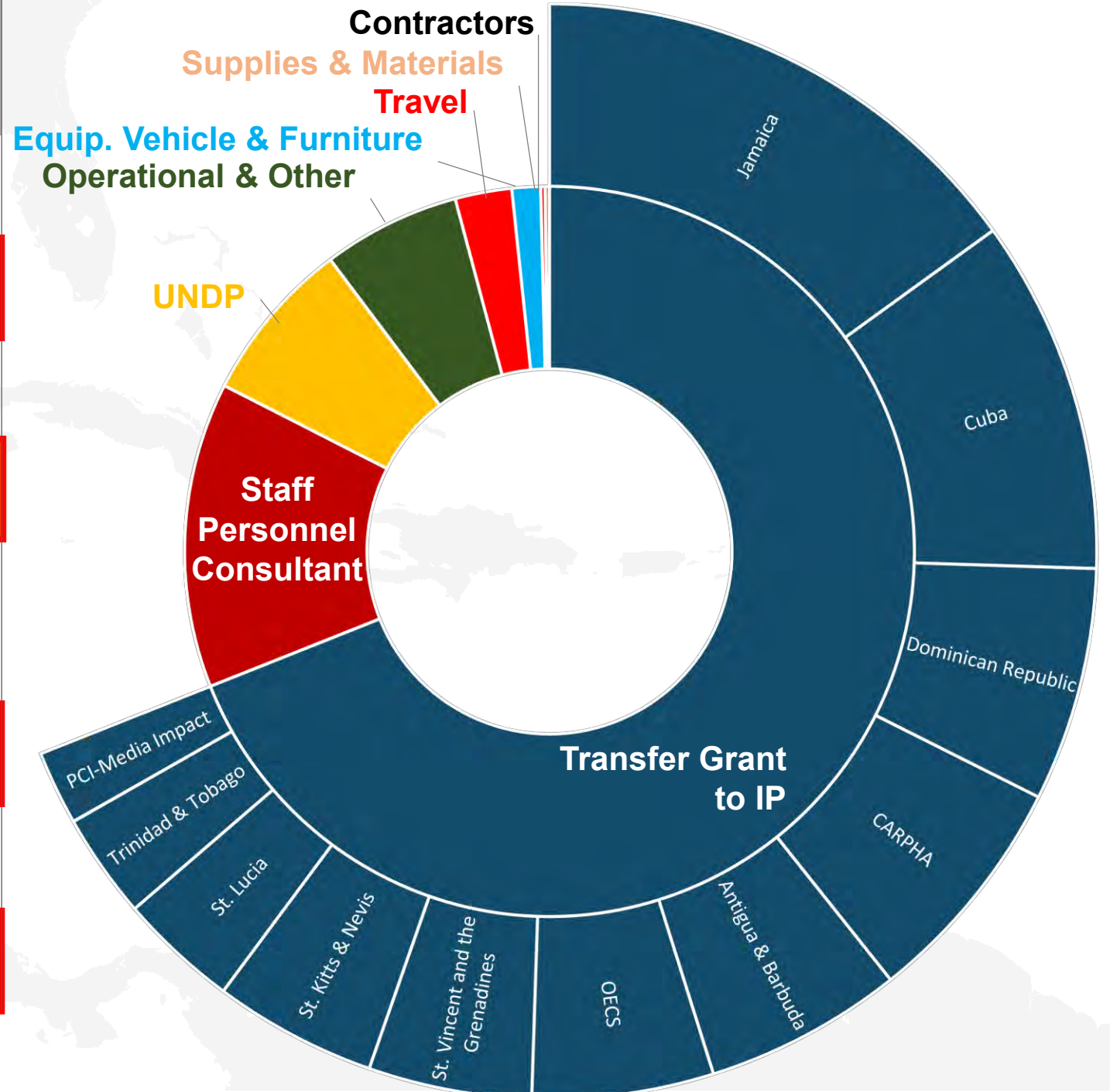


	Original Budget Allocation
Transfer Grant to IP	14,294,750 \$
Staff Personnel & Consultant	3,089,986 \$
UNDP	1,500,000 \$
Operational & Other Costs	1,429,336 \$
Equipment, Vehicle & Furniture	262,650 \$
Travel	84,782 \$
Supplies & Materials	39,875 \$
Contractors	21,196 \$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,722,575 \$</b>





	Original Budget Allocation	Current Budget Allocation
Transfer Grant to IP	14,294,750 \$	14,294,750 \$
Staff Personnel & Consultant	3,089,986 \$	2,801,783 \$
UNDP	1,500,000 \$	1,500,000 \$
Operational & Other Costs	1,429,336 \$	1,264,118 \$
Equipment, Vehicle & Furniture	262,650 \$	262,650 \$
Travel	84,782 \$	520,000 \$
Supplies & Materials	39,875 \$	39,875 \$
Contractors	21,196 \$	39,399 \$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,722,575 \$</b>	<b>20,722,575 \$</b>



# Timeline of remaining project interventions

Q3&4 2022

Q1&2 2023

Q3&4 2023



Cuba (Fieldwork)

Jamaica

St. Kitts & Nevis

Trinidad & Tobago

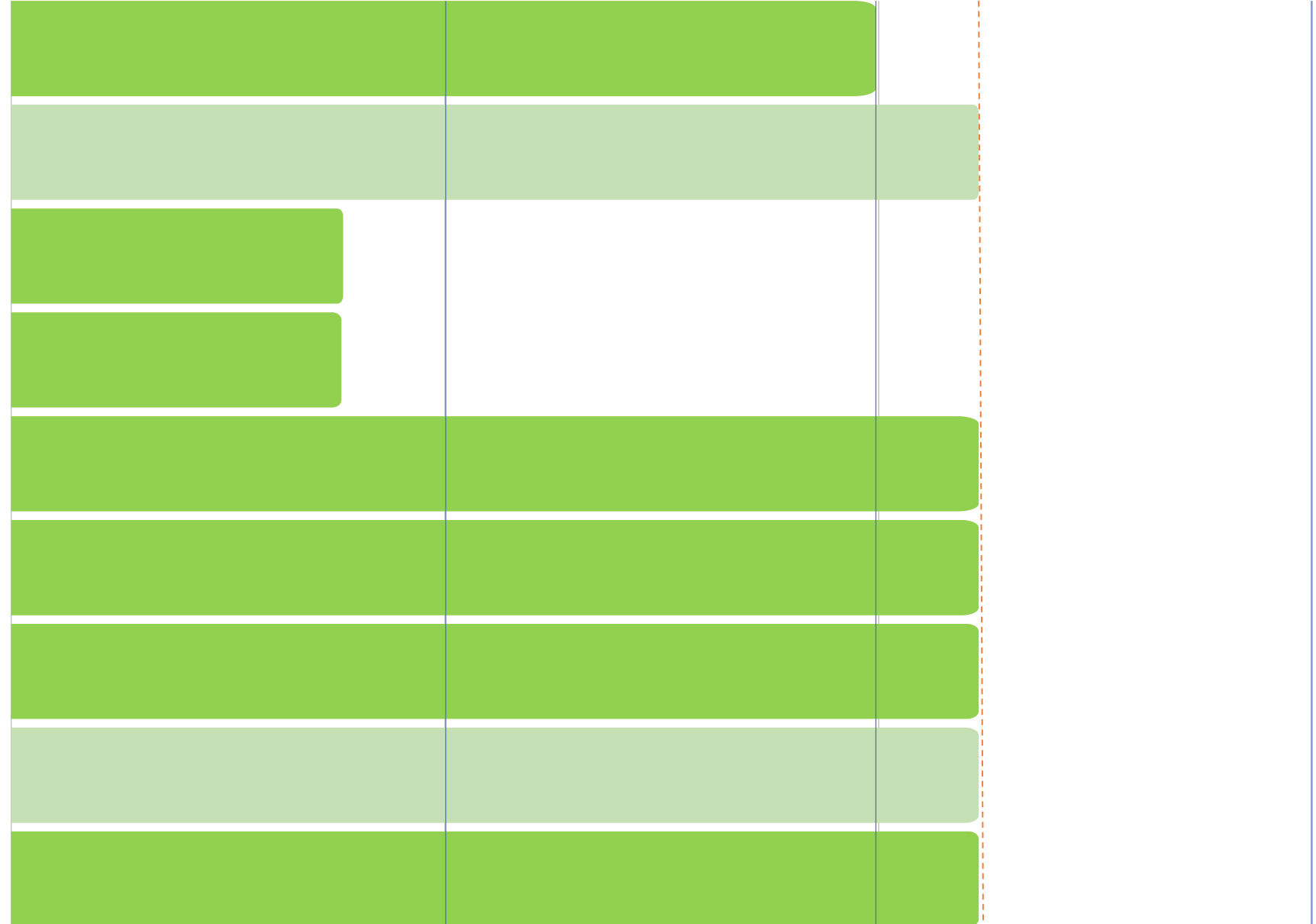
Saint Lucia

St.Vincent & Grenadines

Dominican Republic

Antigua & Barbuda

CARPHA/OECS



Aug 2023

# Timeline of remaining project interventions

Q3&4 2022

Q1&2 2023

Q3&4 2023



CANARI Grenada



CANARI regional



Barbados



Communications

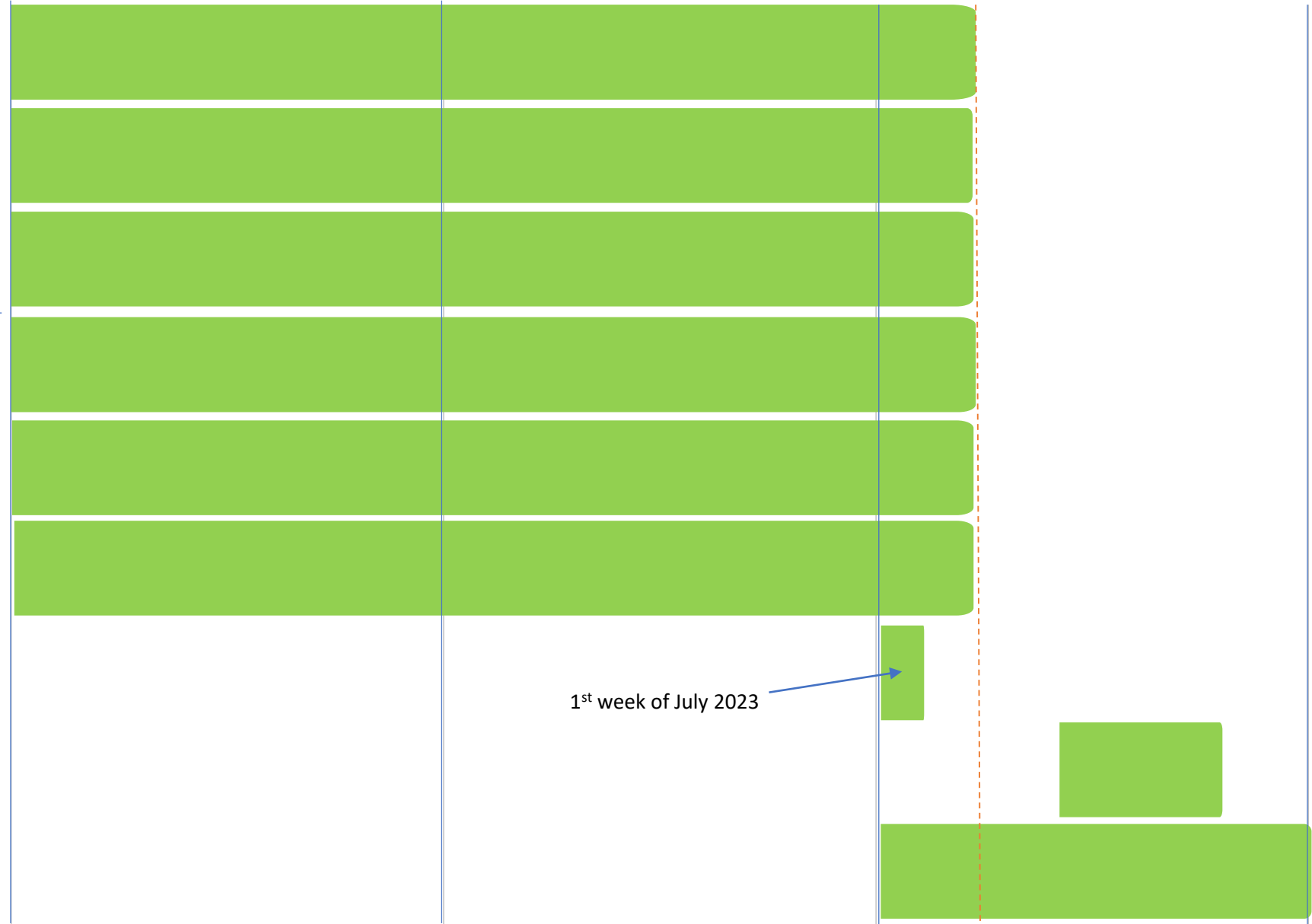
Procurement for Env. laboratories

Support to Convention Secretariat

End-of-IWEco-project-event

Terminal Evaluation

Administrative & Financial closure



1<sup>st</sup> week of July 2023

Aug 2023



	Current Budget Allocation	Expenditure/Commitments 2016-2021	Balance (31/12/2021)	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Balance end 2023
Transfer Grant to IP	14,294,750 \$	13,077,874 \$	1,216,876 \$	0 \$	0 \$	-1,142,754 \$
Staff Personnel & Consultant	2,801,783 \$	2,362,953 \$	438,830 \$	447,650 \$	350,000 \$	
UNDP	1,500,000 \$	1,500,000 \$	0 \$	0 \$	0 \$	
Operational & Other Costs	1,264,118 \$	163,789 \$	1,100,329 \$	719,750 \$	133,500 \$	
Equipment, Vehicle & Furniture	262,650 \$	76,379 \$	186,271 \$	- 31,233 \$	1,000 \$	
Travel	520,000 \$	595,514 \$	-75,514 \$	51,137 \$	20,000 \$	
Supplies & Materials	39,875 \$	8,869 \$	31,006 \$	0 \$	0 \$	
Contractors	39,399 \$	85,406 \$	-47,007 \$	10,000 \$	7,233 \$	
TOTAL	20,722,575 \$	17,870,784 \$	2,851,791 \$	1,197,304 \$	511,733 \$	-1,142,754 \$



	Current Budget Allocation	Expenditure/Commitments 2016-2021	Balance (31/12/2021)	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Balance end 2023
Transfer Grant to IP	14,294,750 \$	13,077,874 \$	1,216,876 \$	0 \$	0 \$	- 1,142,754 \$
Staff Personnel & Consultant	2,801,783 \$	2,362,953 \$	438,830 \$	447,650 \$	350,000 \$	
UNDP	1,500,000 \$	1,500,000 \$	0 \$	0 \$	0 \$	
Operational & Other Costs	1,264,118 \$	163,789 \$	1,100,329 \$	719,750 \$	133,500 \$	
Equipment, Vehicle & Furniture	262,650 \$	76,379 \$	186,271 \$	- 31,233 \$	1,000 \$	
Travel	520,000 \$	595,514 \$	-75,514 \$	51,137 \$	20,000 \$	
Supplies & Materials	39,875 \$	8,869 \$	31,006 \$	0 \$	0 \$	STAR Allocation remaining available for Antigua & Barbuda:
Contractors	39,399 \$	85,406 \$	-47,007 \$	10,000 \$	7,233 \$	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20,722,575 \$</b>	<b>17,870,784 \$</b>	<b>2,851,791 \$</b>	<b>1,197,304 \$</b>	<b>511,733 \$</b>	<b>- 1,142,754 \$</b>





# Timeline of remaining project interventions

Q3&4 2022

Q1&2 2023

Q3&4 2023



Cuba (Fieldwork)

Jamaica

St. Kitts & Nevis

Trinidad & Tobago

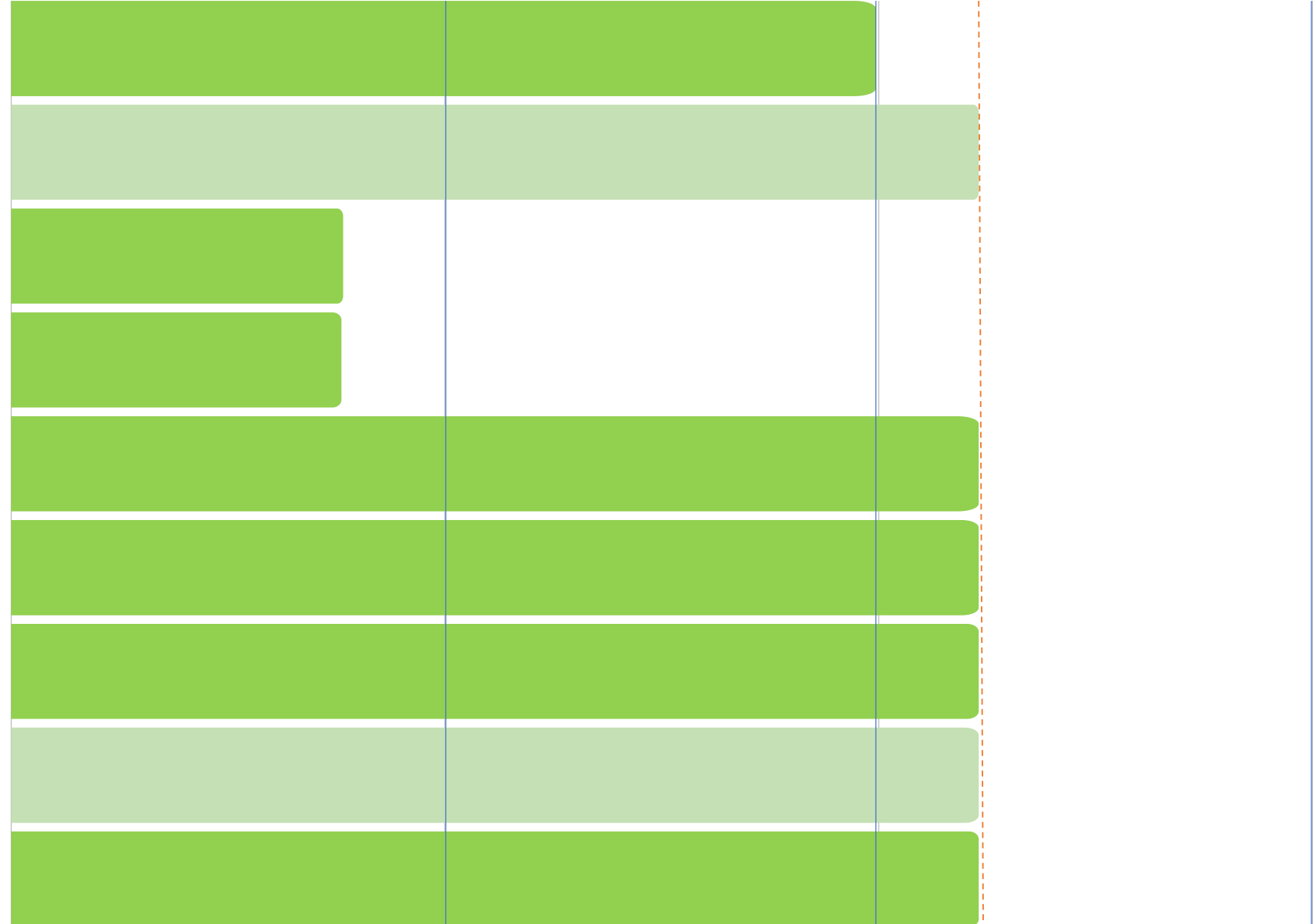
Saint Lucia

St.Vincent & Grenadines

Dominican Republic

Antigua & Barbuda

CARPHA/OECS



Aug 2023

# Timeline of remaining project interventions

Q3&4 2022

Q1&2 2023

Q3&4 2023



CANARI Grenada



CANARI regional



Barbados



Communications

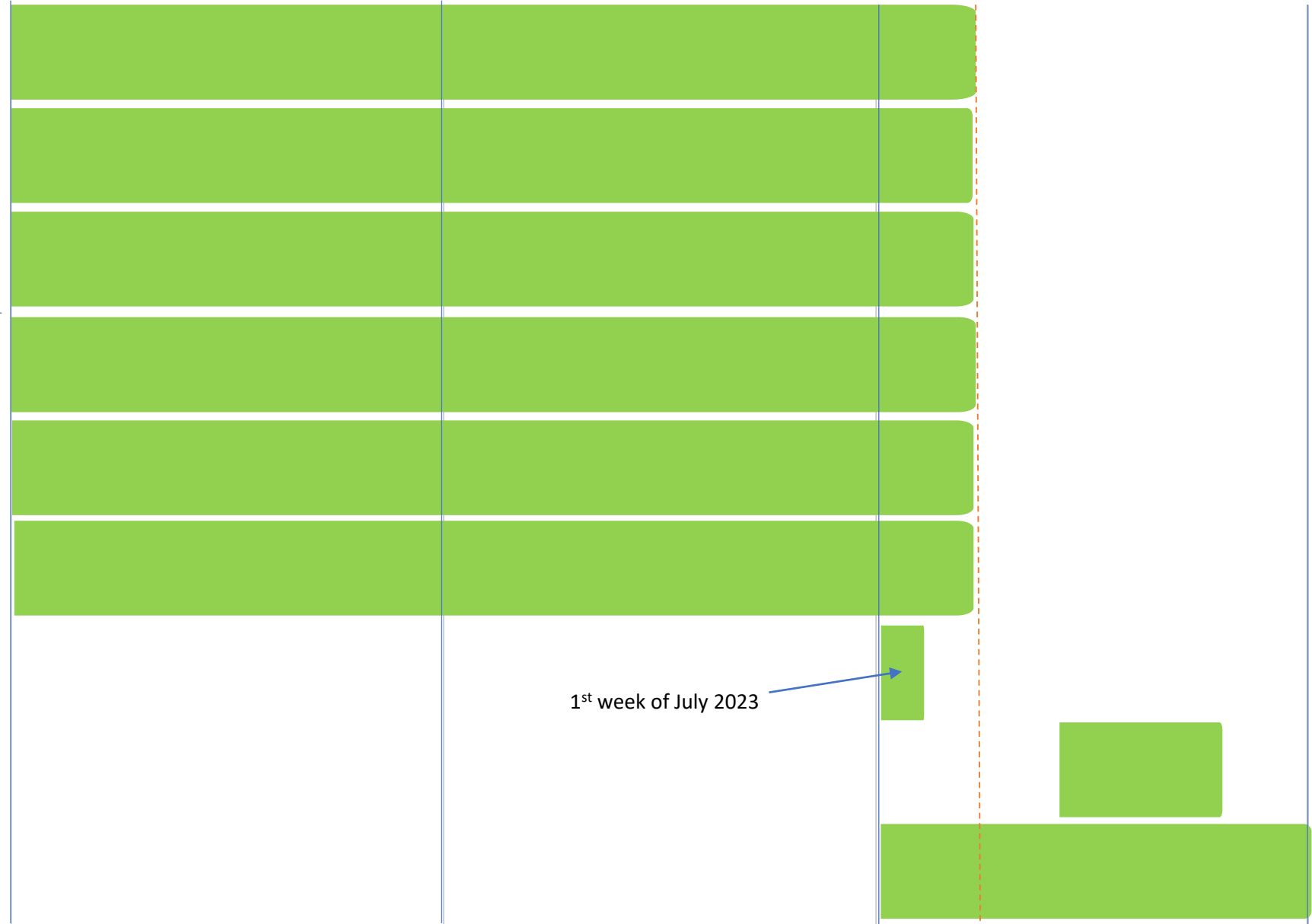
Procurement for Env. laboratories

Support to Convention Secretariat

End-of-IWEco-project-event

Terminal Evaluation

Administrative & Financial closure



1<sup>st</sup> week of July 2023

Aug 2023



**Donna Sue Spencer**  
IWEco Communications  
Specialist

**Nicole Caesar**  
IWEco Technical and  
Monitoring Specialist

**Jan Louis Betlem**  
IWEco Regional Project  
Coordinator

**Donna Henry-Hernández**  
IWEco Programme  
Management Assistant

**Shamene Alyssa Parker**  
IWEco Programme  
Management Assistant

**Donna Sue Spencer**  
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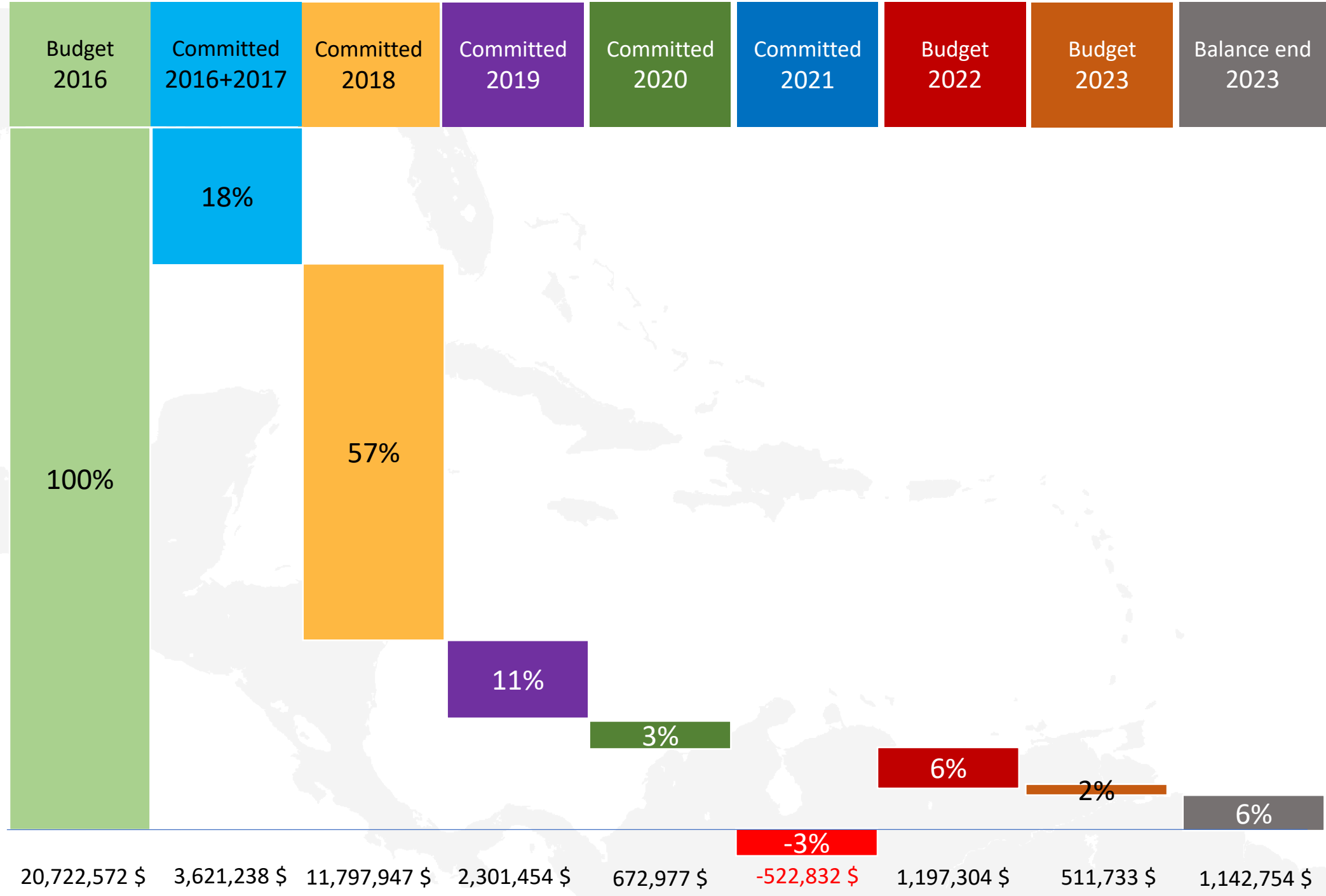
**Jan Lou Wetlem**  
IWEco Regional Project  
Coordinator

**Shamene Alyssa Parker**  
IWEco Programme  
Management Assistant





Remaining Budget Balance including project extension – August to December 2023 for administrative & financial closure)



Original Budget Allocation

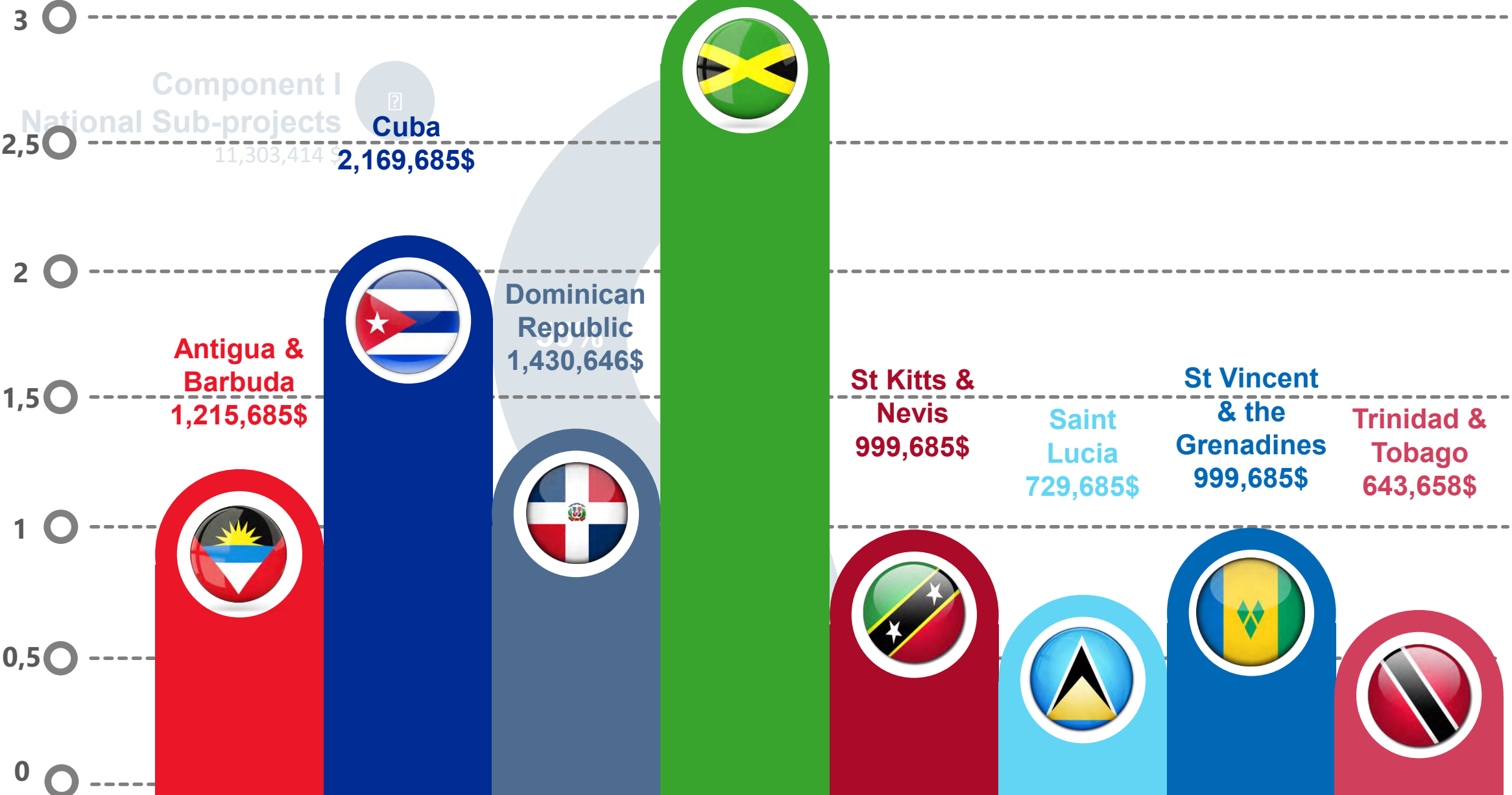
Transfer Grant to IP	14,294,750 \$
Staff Personnel & Consultant	3,089,986 \$
UNDP	1,500,000 \$
Operational & Other Costs	1,429,336 \$
Equipment, Vehicle & Furniture	262,650 \$
Travel	84,782 \$
Supplies & Materials	39,875 \$
Contractors	21,196 \$

TOTAL 20,722,575 \$

What happened with the > 14 million US \$ made available specifically for the countries executing activities under Component 1?



US M \$ Financing from GEF



Jamaica  
3,114,685\$

Component I  
National Sub-projects  
11,303,414 \$

Cuba  
2,169,685\$

Dominican  
Republic  
1,430,646\$

Antigua &  
Barbuda  
1,215,685\$

St Kitts &  
Nevis  
999,685\$

Saint  
Lucia  
729,685\$

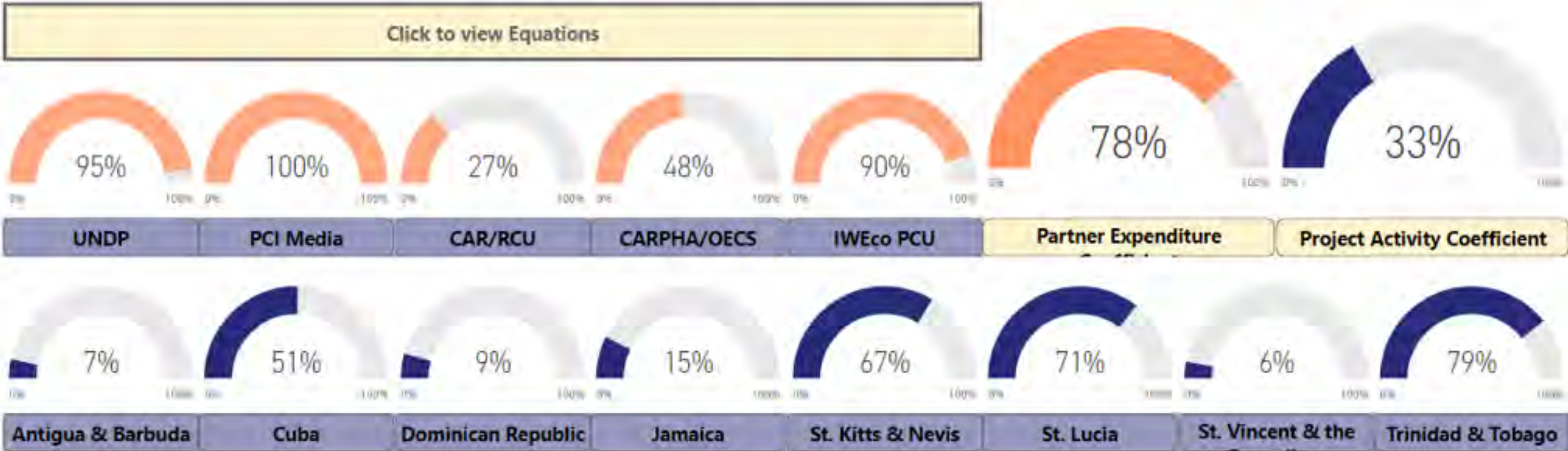
St Vincent  
& the  
Grenadines  
999,685\$

Trinidad &  
Tobago  
643,658\$





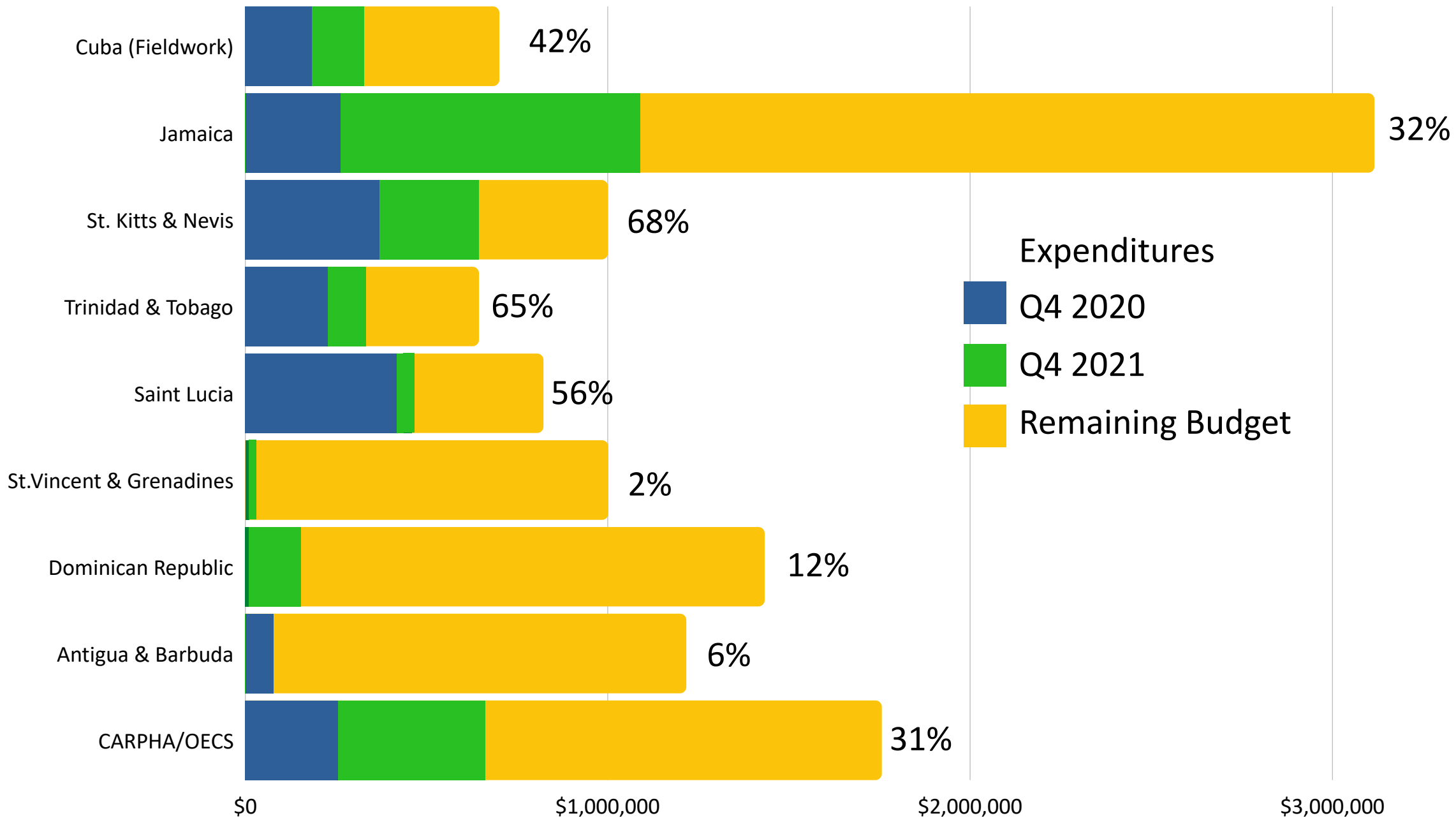
The IWEco project Progress Dashboard showing progress as per 31 December 2021



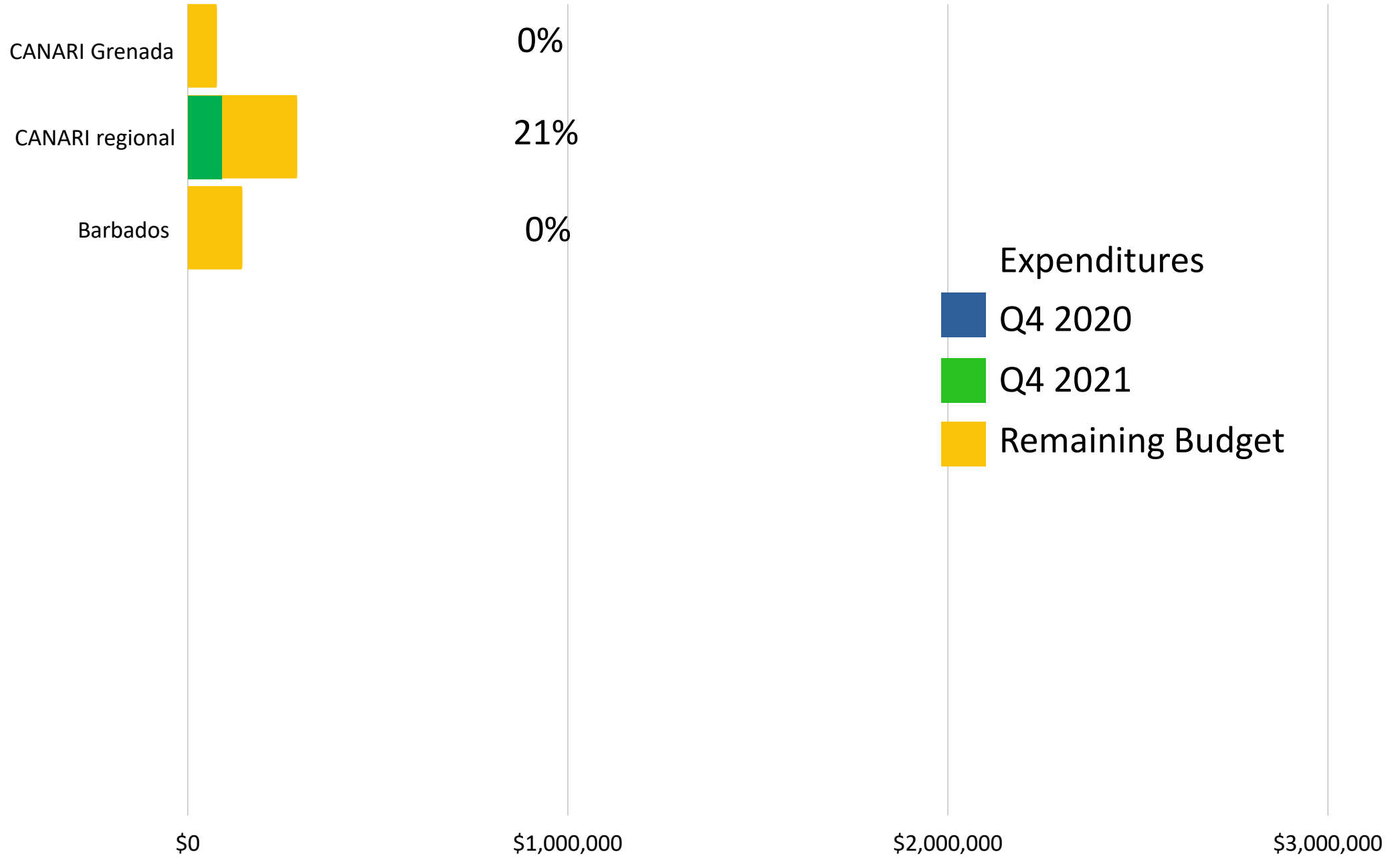
**Comments:** Significant technical progress has been reported by Cuba, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia and Trinidad & Tobago. The project in Antigua has been closed, and the project in Jamaica has been halted to allow for an internal investigation. Execution of the projects in Dominican Republic and St. Vincent & the Grenadines (both countries started very late with project execution) is still in the preparatory phase prior to real field interventions.

On the regional level, progress by CARPHA/OECS for the components 2 and 3 is slowly but steadily.

# Gap Between Budget and Expenditure














# Gap Between Budget and Expenditure (continued)



# Expenditure Percentage By Country/partner



Country	Budget	Expenditure	
Cuba (Fieldwork)	700,000 \$	296,713 \$	 42%
Cuba (Procurement)	1,469,685 \$	1,469,685 \$	 100%
Jamaica	3,114,685 \$	991,017 \$	 32%
St. Kitts & Nevis	999,685 \$	678,405 \$	 68%
Trinidad & Tobago	643,658 \$	415,870 \$	 65%
Saint Lucia	821,684 \$	459,344 \$	 56%
St. Vincent & Grenadines	999,685 \$	23,195 \$	 2%
Dominican Republic	1,430,646 \$	165,789 \$	 12%
Antigua & Barbuda	1,215,685 \$	74,400 \$	 6%
CARPHA & OECS	2,145,956 \$	654,194 \$	 31%
Total	13,541,369 \$	5,228,612 \$	 39%

## Conclusions

= Overall Expenditure Rates of countries & partners are much lower than they should be at this point.

= Longer execution time will involve a higher % staffing costs (not allowed by the GEF).

= Countries & partners need to be progressing faster and speed up the spending of funds allocated for activities.

> Note: as agreed during the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Steering Committee Meeting, as per 31 August 2022 the Secretariat will charge 3% over all undisbursed funds.

## Overall Expenditure components 1 & 2 as per 31 Dec 2021



5. **Approve** a 3% charge to all projects with undisbursed funds after 31 August 2022 to support the Secretariat in continued hosting of the Regional WEco Project and associated administrative and financial services.

## Conclusions

= Overall Expenditure Rates of countries & partners are much lower than they should be at this point.

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## Overall Expenditure components 1, 2 & 3 as per 31 Dec 2021



5. **Approve** a 3% charge to all projects with undisbursed funds after 31 August 2022 to support the Secretariat in continued hosting of the Regional WEco Project and associated administrative and financial services.



# IWEco

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**Thank you**

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# Presentation 2



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## IWEco Website and Information Resources

Sixth Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting, 20 July 2022

Donna Sue Spencer, Communication Specialist - [donna.spencer@un.org](mailto:donna.spencer@un.org)

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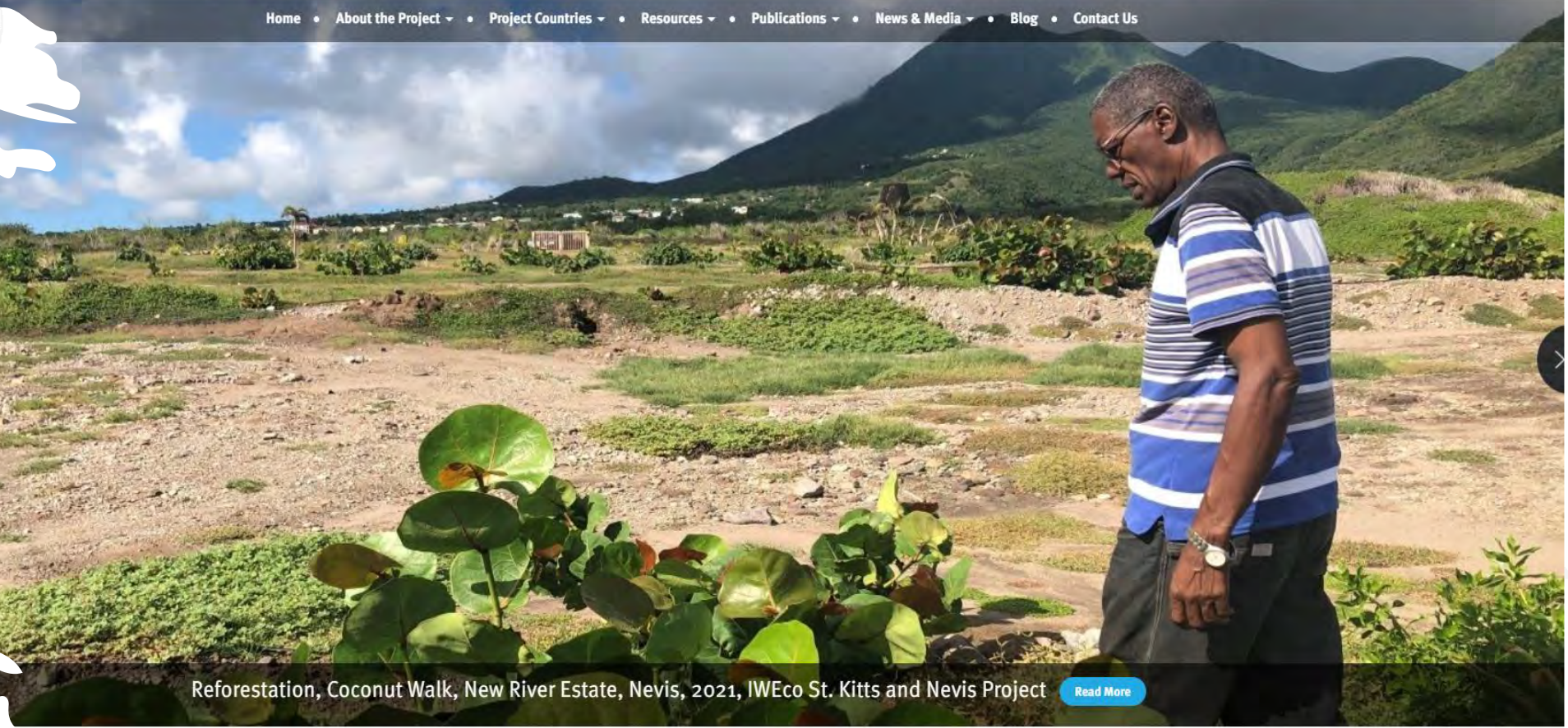
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Reforestation, Coconut Walk, New River Estate, Nevis, 2021, IWECO St. Kitts and Nevis Project [Read More](#)

[www.iweco.org](http://www.iweco.org)



## Why is identifying, documenting and disseminating lessons learned and best practices important to IWEco?

### IWEco is to...

01

Undertake **specific interventions/activities** in identified hot spots/ national sub-Projects in order to deliver actual achievements in mitigation and to find resolutions to threats and root causes. The process of identifying best practices and lessons learned is therefore important.

02

Continue to contribute to the **uptake of appropriate solutions** to address water, land and biodiversity resource degradation in the Caribbean.

03

Focus on **low-cost, yet effective solutions** given the resource constraints of the countries that can be easily mainstreamed into common practice.

04

Identify, document and disseminate **lessons learned and best practice** to ensure replication and sustainability of what works.

05

Among expected outputs of the national sub-projects are “**a suite**” of **best practices and lessons learnt**, contributing to a Community of Practice in IWEco.

06

Expand the **networking and knowledge sharing** from community to the global level.



## Why is identifying, documenting and disseminating lessons learned and best practices important to IWEco?

- A lesson learned is a good practice or an innovative approach that is captured and shared to promote replication, or, to avoid reoccurrence.

### The Knowledge Distillation Process:



- Context is important - Richer, contextual information places the experience in time and helps the user to decide upon its relevance.
- The GEF encourages projects to highlight achievements and lessons in relation to key features such as: Integrated approaches; Gender; Private sector engagement; Stakeholder engagement; Knowledge management; and, Sustainability.
- The framework and process proposed here aims to capture knowledge gained and enable the generation of useful knowledge products at all levels of the IWEco Project.



## Approach to identifying lessons learned and best practices

IWEco should gather lessons learned and good practices from both national and regional activities:

- **Triple-Bottom-Line (TBL)** approach for the national sub-projects;

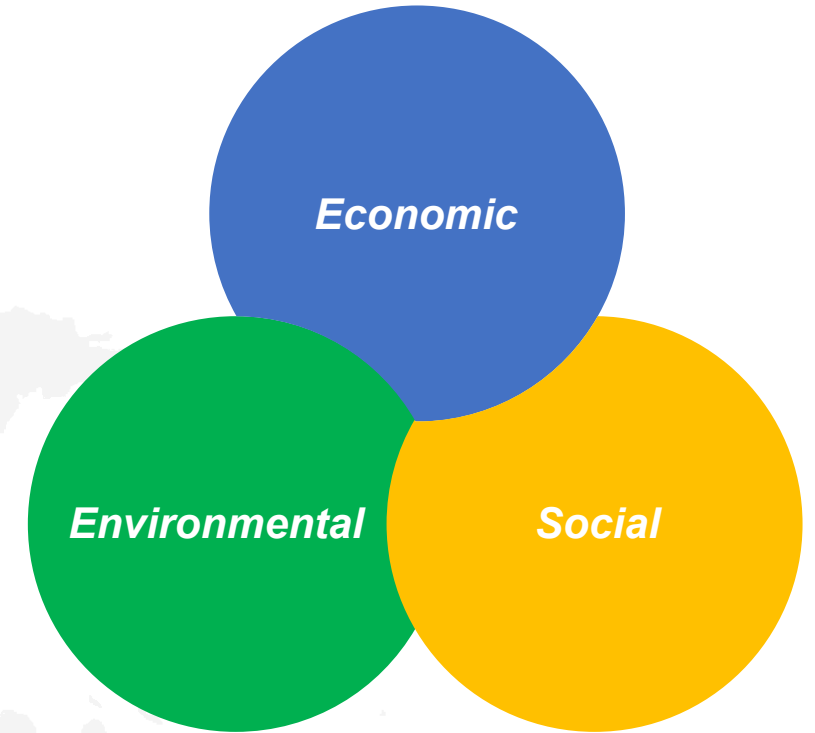
- *Attempts to assess the **social, economic and environmental opportunities** for positive change which may occur in a **community** as a result of any development or management project.*

- *The **lens** through which the National Projects were assessed in IWCAM and useful for IWEco, given its emphasis on **livelihoods and nature-based solutions**.*

- ***Equal weighting to socio-economic, environmental and financial considerations**, which are all necessary for sustainability.*

- *Assumption: Projects will not achieve the desired outcomes unless an integrated approach to project assessment is applied.*

- More **general approach** for regional activities.



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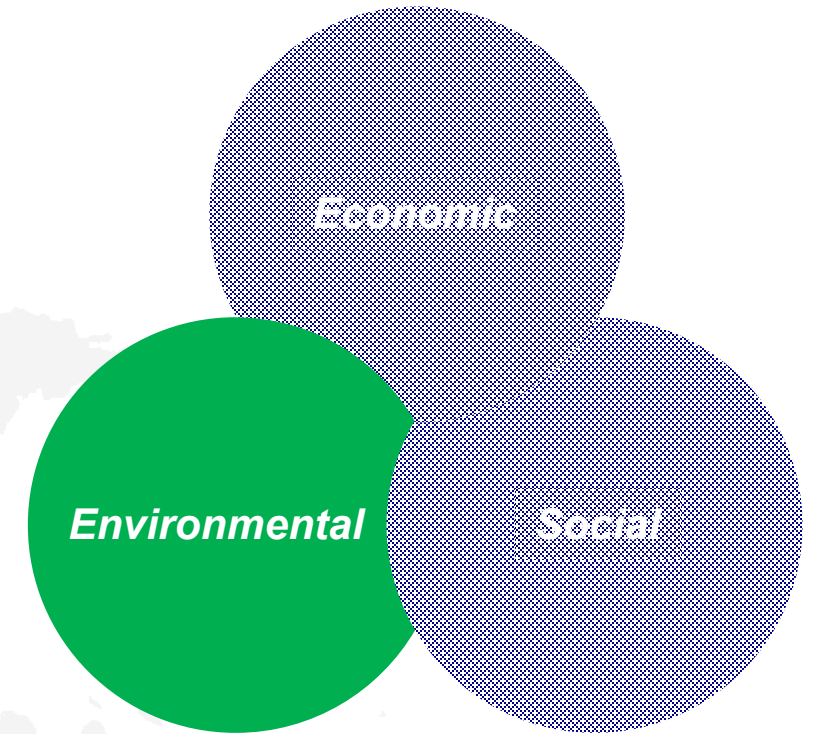
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## Possible TBL questions for IW Eco national sub-Projects - ENVIRONMENTAL

**Environmental:** *To demonstrate the capacity of a project to contribute to an improved natural environment.*

- What **measurable improvements in environmental conditions** were captured and recorded for the relevant GEF Focal areas?
- Describe **improved land management practices**, solid and liquid waste management practices and ecosystem management practices.
- Describe any **innovative appropriate technologies** that emerged from the project; e.g. soil restoration techniques; etc.
- Describe any **specific measures at increasing land, water or habitat conservation** or quality in the community.
- Was there an **Ecosystem/Environmental Management System** in place for planning the community project? If yes describe. If no, provide reasons why.
- Describe any **educational and awareness building activities** designed to change behaviour?



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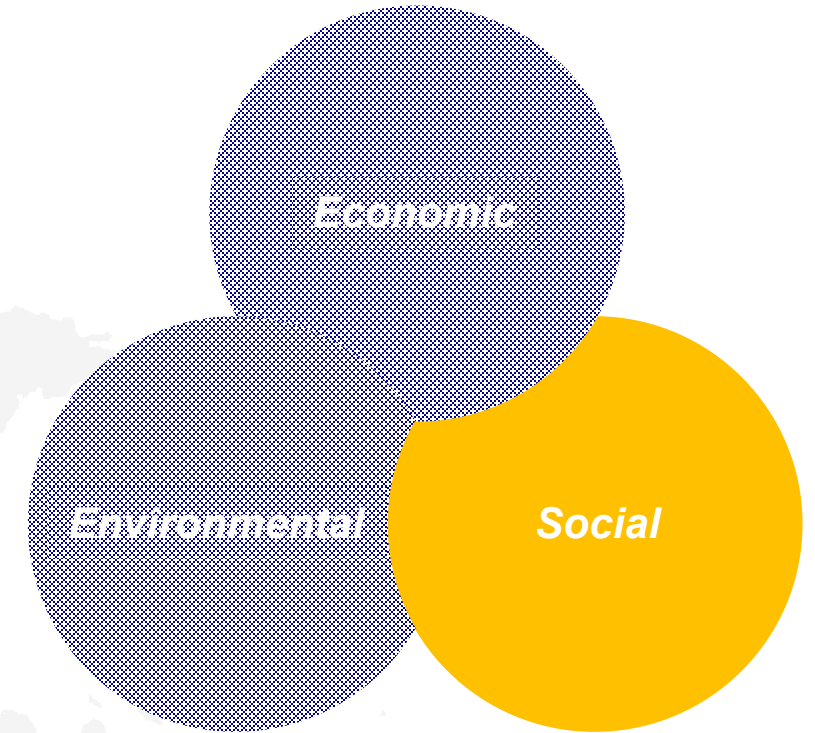
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## Possible TBL questions for IWECO national sub-Projects - SOCIAL

*Social: To demonstrate the capacity of a project to contribute to social development*

- How were community persons involved in **planning the project**?
- How were **community priorities addressed**?
- How were **community skills/talents** used above imported ones, where available?
- How did the **community benefit** from the project?
- Are there examples where the **livelihood of impacted persons was improved**? If so identify.
- Describe **how the project facilitated greater access to assets**; e.g. land, public facilities, etc.
- Was there an **increased appreciation of local culture, including music, dance, traditional knowledge and practices**? Describe any examples.
- How would you **rate chances of sustainability** of project initiatives and benefits on a scale of 1 - 10?



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## Possible questions for IW Eco national sub-Projects - ECONOMIC

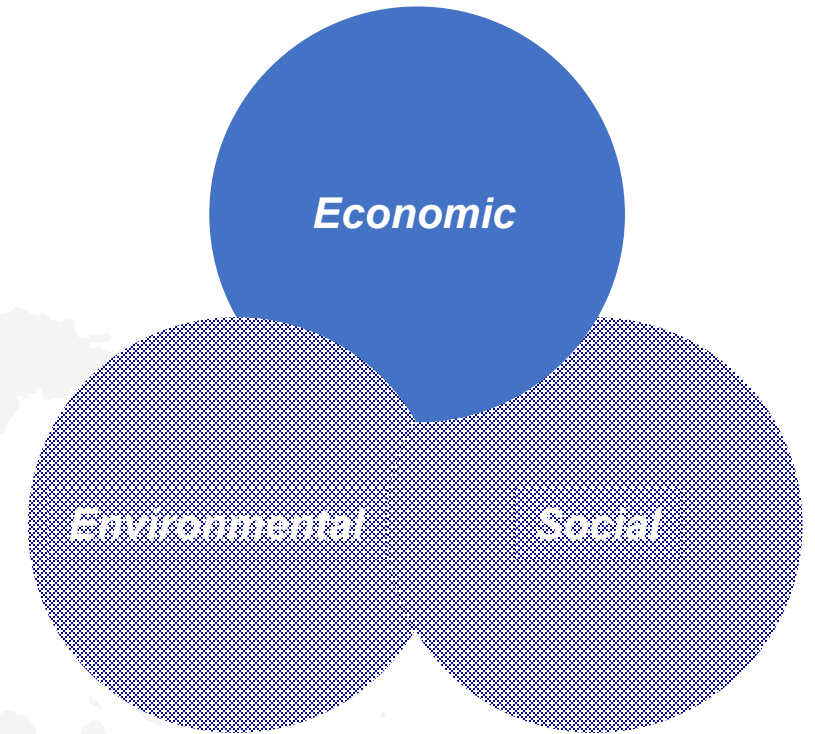
**Economic:** *To demonstrate the capacity of a project to contribute to viable and sustainable economic activity.*

Describe the **potential of the project** to contribute to an increased number of viable small businesses and any success stories in this regard.

Was there an **increase in employment opportunities** consequent to conservation or protection activities? If yes, describe.

Did community persons perceive **opportunities for entrepreneurial activity** from the project and to what extent were these exploited?

Were **community entrepreneurs able to attract increased access to finance for spin-off business initiatives** connected to the project?



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## Regional Activities: IWEco could use a more general set of questions, such as:

- 1 What went well?
- 2 What did not go well or had unintended consequences?
- 3 If you had it all to do over again, what would you do differently?
- 4 What recommendations would you make to others doing similar projects?
- 5 Were the project goals attained? If not, what changes need to be made to meet goals in the future?
- 6 What surprises did the team have to deal with? What project circumstances were not anticipated?
- 7 Did you develop any useful workarounds or solutions to problems that cropped up during the project? Document the details in a way that will make sense later.
- 8 For any problems that went unresolved what preventative measures can you invent now that can help things go more smoothly next time?
- 9 Are there any new “best practices” you can derive from this activity / intervention? Note anything that went so well – and now seems to be so thoroughly “road tested” – that you would want to repeat the positive experience next time.





## **Documenting** lessons learned and good practice:

Quality of documentation is essential. Suggested formats:

### **Short Case Studies**

*in recently conducted Stakeholder Perception Survey, the majority selected these as a way they would like to see information presented.*

### **Infographics**

*ability to convey information at a glance and also preferred by those surveyed.*

### **Short Audio-visual clips**

*user-friendly and accessible; multiple uses (traditional and social media features, website, use in longer documentary etc.).*

### **Project Documentary**

*already part of IWEco's Work Plan and Budget and an effective means of telling the whole IWEco story retrospectively, therefore ideal for highlighting the major lessons learned and good practices/achievements in one product.*



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## **6<sup>th</sup> IWEco Regional Project Steering Committee Meeting**

## **End of PCU Presentations**