



Capacity building workshop with National Agencies to drive national and regional reforms for IWM and, provide guidance for reporting on relevant SDGs.



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The capacity building workshop with National Agencies to drive national and regional reforms for IWM and, provide guidance for reporting on relevant SDGs was spearheaded by the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) and financed by The Global Environment Facility (GEF) under the GEF CReW+ Project.

The GEF CReW+ is a partnership project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) that is being co-implemented by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 18 countries of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR).

This project builds upon its previous successful phase “The Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CReW)” project (2011-2017). CReW+ is being executed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the Organisation of the American States (OAS) and the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention (CAR/RCU) on behalf of the IDB and UNEP respectively.

The 18 participating CReW+ countries (Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago) vary geographically from large, continental countries to small island states, with significantly different political, linguistic and cultural contexts.

About the GEF: The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has provided \$22 million in grants and blended finance and mobilised nearly \$120 billion in co-financing for more than 5,200 projects and programmes. The GEF is the largest trust fund focused on enabling developing countries to invest in nature and supports the implementation of international conventions on biodiversity, climate change, chemicals and desertification. It brings together 184 governments, plus civil society, international organisations, the private sector and partners.

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1. GEF CReW+ Project

The GEF CReW+ is a partnership project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) that is being co-implemented by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 18 countries of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR). The concept was approved in November 2017 for an amount of 14,943,938 US\$ by the GEF Trust Fund. The GEF CReW+ started 2020 with an inception phase.

This project builds upon its previous successful phase “The Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CReW)” project (2011-2017). CReW+ is being executed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the Organisation of the American States (OAS) and the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention (CAR/RCU) on behalf of the IDB and UNEP respectively. The executing agencies are responsible for achieving its goals and outcomes, within the respective Technical Cooperation Agreements, and consistent with GEF, IDB and UNEP policies and procedures.

The eighteen participating CReW+ countries (Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago) vary in size from large, continental countries to small island states, with significantly different political, linguistic and cultural contexts. The technical specialists from the implementing and executing agencies are coordinating with the

CReW+ focal points to support implementation of project activities.

About GEF: The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has provided \$22 billion in grants and blended finance and mobilized nearly \$120 billion in co-financing across more than 5,200 projects and programs. GEF is the largest trust fund focused on enabling developing countries to invest in nature and supports the implementation of international conventions on biodiversity, climate change, chemicals and desertification. It brings together 184 governments, as well as civil society, international organizations, the private sector and partners.

GEF CReW+ cooperates with national, regional, and local stakeholders on the range of innovative sanitation technologies and efforts to safeguard freshwater resources. This also includes consultation with the private sector.

At the institutional level, GEF CReW+ promotes the development of norms, strategies and policies concerning water resources and wastewater management. Aiming at long-term service provision for all, the project identifies sustainable finance mechanisms such as payment for ecosystem services, incentive creation and revolving funds. The technical activities of GEF CReW+ comprise design and construction of natural wastewater treatment plants and sanitary facilities, based on the results of country-specific assessments. Furthermore, knowledge management forms a crucial part of GEF CReW+, including the development of a communication strategy. The strategy includes comprehensive inventories of material on wastewater infrastructure, reuse, watershed protection and financing tools at the regional and national level.

The Wider Caribbean Region faces multiple challenges in the wastewater and sanitation service provision. About 70% of the region's population lacks access to safely management sanitation facilities and adequate hygiene services.

It is estimated that between 70% and 80 of domestic wastewater is discharged into the environment partially treated or untreated. Weak legislative, political, and

regulatory frameworks as well as the lack of financial resources to enable adequate levels of treatment further compound the problem. This causes severe pollution of groundwater, soil, watersheds and ultimately the Caribbean Sea resulting in significant environmental, economic and social impacts.

The GEF CReW+ project provides innovative and nature-based solutions to mitigate the effects of partially or untreated wastewater on the environment and public health.

Valuing water as a precious resource, the concept of Integrated Water and Wastewater Resources Management (IWWM) applied in the GEF CReW+ project is based on the four Rs of the circular economy approach: reduce, reuse, recycle, and recover. The project treats wastewater not as waste, but as a valuable resource with reuse potential in agriculture, industries and other commercial sectors. With regards to the environment, treating wastewater safely supports regional efforts for sustainable development by reducing pollution, safeguarding marine biodiversity and protecting human health. GEF CReW+ thus contributes directly to the achievement of the SDGs 3, 6, 11, 14 and 15.

2. CWWA and GEF CReW+ Partnership

On April 30th, 2025, the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA), in partnership with the Global Environment Facility's Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (GEF CReW+), the World Bank, and CAP-NET UNDP, convened a virtual regional technical training workshop entitled "Strengthening Monitoring and Reporting for Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6)."

This workshop forms part of an ongoing initiative to build institutional and technical capacity across the Caribbean for more effective monitoring and reporting of SDG 6, specifically indicators:

- + 6.1: Safely managed drinking water
- + 6.2: Sanitation and hygiene
- + 6.5.1: Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

Facilitated by Dr. Ronald Roopnarine, Deputy Dean at The University of the West Indies, the session adopted a practitioner-oriented approach combining theoretical explanations, regional context, and global reporting mechanisms. Emphasis was placed on interactive participant engagement and peer learning.

3. Implementation of Activities

3.1. Executive Summary

The GEF CReW+ Project through CAWASA provided support for activities in two main components. These include:

Component I. Institutional, policy, legislative and regulatory reforms for Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM). *Outcome 1.3. Improved knowledge and skills to enable the monitoring of national reform processes for IWWM, and for reporting on relevant SDGs and MEAs.* Output 1.3.1. Capacity building workshops to drive national and regional reforms for IWWM and, for reporting on relevant SDGs

- + Workshop with National Agencies to drive national and regional reforms for IWWM and, provide guidance for reporting on relevant SDGs.

3.2. Execution of the activities

Workshop with National Agencies to drive national and regional reforms for IWM and, provide guidance for reporting on relevant SDGs.

Executing Agency: Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA)

Workshop Objective:

To strengthen national and regional capacity for monitoring and reporting on SDG 6 indicators in the Caribbean, especially those most relevant to climate vulnerability, water stress, and infrastructural limitations.

Workshop Agenda

The workshop was structured into four core technical sessions supported by presentations, discussion, and an interactive SDG quiz.

Agenda Overview:

| Time | Session Description | Facilitator |
|----------|---|-----------------------|
| 9:00 am | Welcome and Opening | CWWA |
| 9:15 am | Session 1: Understanding SDG 6 and Indicator Frameworks | Dr. Ronald Roopnarine |
| 10:00 am | Session 2: SDG 6 in the Caribbean Context | Dr. Ronald Roopnarine |
| 11:00 am | Break | |
| 11:15 am | Session 3: Technical | Dr. Ronald Roopnarine |

Key Insights and Technical Discussions

Understanding SDG 6 Frameworks

- + Evolution from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to SDGs highlighted the importance of equity, access, and sustainability.
- + The structure and content of SDG 6's 8 targets and 11 indicators were explained, with focus on aligning global definitions with national measurement tools.
- + IWRM (6.5.1) discussed using the composite index methodology developed by UN Environment.

Reporting Framework

Participants were introduced to the global framework supporting SDG 6 reporting, including the roles of custodian agencies such as WHO, UNICEF, UNEP, and UN-Water. These agencies are responsible for developing methodologies, supporting national data collection, validating submissions, and publishing global progress through platforms like the SDG 6 Data Portal.

Responsibilities of national SDG 6 focal points were clarified:

- + Cross-ministry coordination
- + Engagement with national statistical offices
- + Dataset harmonization
- + Reporting through the SDG 6 Data Portal

While focal points are essential to effective reporting, many operate without formal mandates or dedicated resources. The need for institutional clarity and capacity-building was a recurring theme.

A key concern raised was the limited visibility of Caribbean data, often considered under the broader “Latin America and Caribbean” category. Participants advocated for greater disaggregation and tailored reporting tools to better reflect the unique challenges of the region.

Constraints in the Caribbean Context

- + Caribbean countries are often aggregated under LAC, masking their unique challenges.
- + Fragmented institutional mandates hinder unified reporting.
- + Definitions used in national census/surveys often misalign with global indicator definitions.
- + Limited financial and technical resources for sustained monitoring.

Available Resources

- + IMI-SDG6 Helpdesk
- + SDG 6 Global Data Portal: <https://sdg6data.org/>
- + IWRM Self-Assessment Toolkit
- + CAP-NET Caribbean WaterNet for ongoing training and knowledge exchange.

3.3. Recommendations and Next Steps

Institutional Coordination

- + Formally appoint and empower SDG 6 focal points in each country.
- + Establish multi-stakeholder national working groups to consolidate indicator

responsibilities.

- + Align national environmental and development plans with SDG 6 mandates.

Technical Support and Data Systems

- + Customize UN survey instruments to fit national terminology and structures.
- + Invest in harmonized data systems that link census, utility, and sector-specific databases.
- + Ensure that monitoring frameworks are embedded within official statistical operations.

Capacity Building

- + Conduct regular capacity-building workshops (virtual and in-person) through Caribbean WaterNet and CAP-NET.
- + Develop a Caribbean-specific SDG 6 Monitoring Manual as discussed during the workshop.
- + Invest in the development

3.4. Participants

The workshop saw participation from a diverse cross-section of institutions and Caribbean states.

Countries Represented:

- + Trinidad and Tobago
- + Belize
- + Barbados
- + Suriname

- + Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- + Grenada
- + Saint Lucia (based on workshop discussion)

Institutions Represented:

- + Government Agencies: Environmental Management Authority of Trinidad and Tobago
- + Utilities: Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL), Water and Sewerage Authority of Trinidad and Tobago
- + Academia: University of the West Indies
- + International Bodies: UNDP, UN-Water
- + Others: Independent consultants and technical advisors

3.5. Conclusion

The CWWA SDG 6 Technical Workshop served as a critical milestone in advancing regional dialogue and technical readiness for SDG 6 monitoring. Discussions reflected both shared institutional challenges and collective motivation to strengthen data systems, align mandates, and collaborate more effectively across borders.

Moving forward, it is essential that the insights, tools, and recommendations from this workshop be embedded into national SDG planning and reporting frameworks. With support from development partners, and active engagement by national stakeholders, the region can significantly improve the visibility, accuracy, and impact of its water and sanitation monitoring systems under the 2030 Agenda.

4. Focal point and national stakeholders

| Name | Role in CReW+ | Position and Organization | e-mail |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| Ms. Laurayne Lucky | Key Regional Stakeholder | Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) | llucky@cwwa.net cwwattsecretariat@gmail.com |

Table 1. Focal points and stakeholders

5. Project implementing structure

| Agency | Position | Contact | e-mail |
|--|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) | Lead Implementing Agency | Rodrigo Riquelme Water and Sanitation Lead Specialist, INE/WSA | rodrigor@iadb.org |
| United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) | Implementing Agency | Isabelle Van der Beck GEF International Waters Task Manager Water and Sanitation Division Ecosystems Division, Marine and Coastal Infrastructure and Environment Ecosystems Branch | isabelle.vanderbeck@un.org |
| | Project Coordination Group (PCG) | Pedro Moreo Mir Regional Coordinator | pmoreo@oas.org |
| Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH | Executing Agency | Bärbel Schwaiger Programme Director Sanitation for Millions Division Environment, Climate and Infrastructure | baerbel.schwaiger@giz.de |

| Agency | Position | Contact | e-mail |
|---|------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention (CAR/RCU) | Executing Agency | Christopher Corbin Programme Officer Pollution and Communications Sub-Programmes Cartagena Convention Secretariat Ecosystems Division | christopher.corbin@un.org |
| Organisation of the American States (OAS) | Executing Agency | Andres Sanchez Water Program Specialist Secretaría Ejecutiva para el Desarrollo Integral (SEDI) Departamento de Desarrollo Sostenible (DDS) Sección de Gestión Integrada de Recursos Hídricos (GIRH) | asanchez@oas.org |

Table 2. Implementing structure

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