



Implementing solutions for an integrated water and wastewater management for a clean and healthy Caribbean

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CRew+ Letter – The Newsletter of the GEF CReW+ Project

Biannual Publication – July 2022

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1. Message from the Regional Coordinator

After two and a half years of hard work, full commitment and support of our country focal points and their teams, we are happy to present the first ***CRew+ Letter: The Newsletter of the GEF CRew+ Project*** to share the experiences and lessons learned obtained so far.

The project has faced and will face many challenges with its wide variety of activities related to the most important aspects of the water and wastewater sectors -institutional, financial, technical and communications- both at national (the 18 participant countries) and regional levels. Nonetheless, this helps us to better understand the needs of the region and to be able to provide more specific support. It is also an opportunity to implement innovative solutions to achieve increased regional access and efficiency in the provision of services, and think outside the box to address the persistent and increasingly frustrating problem of pollution that reaches groundwater, soils, watersheds and ultimately, the Caribbean Sea.

The future well-being of the Wider Caribbean Region is in the balance; however, we are moving in the right direction and with the quality of professionals and people in the region, significant improvements will be made in the water and wastewater management sectors. Hence, we are proud to be able to provide our contribution to the region thanks to the members of the project team who provide excellent support and guidance, and it would not have been possible either without the support and expertise of a range of partners at local, national, regional and international levels. This will be very evident as you read about the many ongoing activities.

The GEF CRew+ Project is a small step in the long road ahead. We therefore encourage all partners to take advantage of the momentum. As we will continue to implement activities until the second half of 2023, you may stay updated on our latest news through this biannual publication. We welcome your support for the GEF CRew+ project.

Regional Project Coordinator

Pedro Moreo



2. GEF CReW+ Promotional Video

**Strategies, policies, laws,
criteria, guidelines
regulations concerning
water resources and
wastewater management**



concerning water resources and wastewater management.

Wednesday 27th
Thursday 28th

April 2022

3. Second Project Steering Committee Meeting

By the Project Coordination Group - On 27th and 28th April, 2022 representatives from the 18 countries gathered to address the most relevant matters of the GEF CReW+ project.

GIZ, UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the Organization of American States presented the status quo of the project, stressing the particular milestones for this past year.

The midterm review, the results matrix and the communications strategy and plan were also disseminated during the meeting.



Access the meeting documents [here](#).

4. Launch of the CReW+ Academy Block 3

By GIZ- The CReW+ project and the Central American Institute of Public Administration (ICAP) in Costa Rica designed and implemented an academic program to update the technical knowledge of collaborators from government institutions who work in wastewater management or related subject areas. The


participants, who were from different government institutions from the Wider Caribbean Region, represented the countries of Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname, Belize, Mexico, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Costa Rica, Barbados, Colombia, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Dominican Republic and Honduras, and we were able to improve the technical quality in the region.

Update, innovate and co-create solutions for the current state of water.








We invite you to the course

"Methods to develop the blue economy and the good use of wastewater"



Duration: 6 modules, from April 18 to May 29.
Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Central America)

It will be offered in Spanish and English.
A certificate of participation per module will be provided.
For more information and to register: <https://bit.ly/3Dgdujv>

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Block 3 was entitled "Methods to develop the blue economy and the good use of wastewater" and was carried out over the course of six weeks, between the months of April and May 2022. The programme consisted of six modules, and for each of them participants received an attendance certificate with regional recognition. In each module, approximately 90 people participated. Block 4 was launched on 1st July, 2022.

Furthermore, the Central American Institute of Public Administration (ICAP), in collaboration with and through funding from the CRew+ project, is offering a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) based on the new Compendium of Sanitation Systems and Technologies that will end on July 29th.

[Check out the CRew+ Academy to find out more](#)



2022 YOUNG CARIBBEAN WATER ENTREPRENEURS SHARK TANK

Young Caribbean Water Entrepreneurs **Shark Tank**

Calling Caribbean nationals aged 18 - 34 years with innovative water-related and wastewater projects/ideas.

UP TO US\$8,000 IN SEED FUNDING TO BE WON!

5. CRew+ Supports GWP-Caribbean's Shark Tank Competition

By UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat- In April 2022, GWP-Caribbean launched the third edition

of its **Young Caribbean Water Entrepreneurs Shark Tank Competition** funded by CRew+ and other partners. The competition seeks to provide a unique opportunity for young persons from the Caribbean, aged 18 to 34 years, to pitch innovative and impactful water-related project ideas to support better water resources management in their community, country or the Caribbean region. It also aims to encourage greater involvement of youth in the region in the application of Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM) solutions.

For the first time in this year's competition, seed funding of US\$4,000 will be awarded to the best proposal under each of the two categories. CRew+ is financing the award under category 2 which focuses on IWWM projects and ideas. Applicants submitting a project or idea under this category must be a Caribbean national residing in any of the GEF CRew+ Caribbean countries: Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint

Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

The deadline for the submission of applications is 7th August 2022 at midnight Atlantic Standard Time (AST). For further details, and to apply, please [visit](#)

6. Ecotechnologies for the Mayan Communities

By GIZ- Since 2020, CReW+ in Mexico has joined efforts to provide ecotechnologies to Mayan communities in the Yucatan Peninsula. This plan consists of collaborating with these communities in the design and construction of simple water supply and sanitation technologies, adapted to local conditions.

These ecotechnologies promote the socio-economic sustainability of a very poor and marginalized region. But the need to apply these technologies is especially strong due to the geological peculiarity of the peninsula. The area has a karst system, in which there are no rivers on the surface, but rather underground. One of the objectives of the ecotechnologies is to prevent wastewater from reaching these groundwaters, since drinking water is extracted for the communities. But not only do polluted waters pose a serious risk to human health in rural Mayan communities and cities; they can also disrupt the environmental health of extensive coastal wetlands, freshwater bodies, and marine ecosystems, including the coral reef.

Important steps of this CReW+ activity are already finalized: the socio-environmental diagnosis of the communities, the design of adapted technologies, the development of a strategy to strengthen the active participation of the people of the communities in the management of water, and socialization with the communities. "You could say that the involvement of the communities was very positive, for example, there is an Association of mothers belonging to the school of a community where the ecotechnologies are going to be built that has provided a lot of support to the project," says Sophie Müller, technical advisor of The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Mexico.

Once the administrative issues have been concluded, the construction of ecotechnologies will begin. Meanwhile, the materials already completed are already being used in projects other than CReW+ in the Yucatan Peninsula, replicating the impact of the activity.

INTERNATIONAL ONLINE TRAINING PROGRAMME ON

PREPARATION OF SHIT FLOW DIAGRAM (SFD) FOR CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

MARCH 21 – APRIL 1, 2022

Part A (Online): March 21 – 28, 2022 | 12 Hour
Platform: Moodle

Part B (Virtual): March 29 – April 1, 2022 | 12 Hours
Platform: Zoom | Time: 7:30 – 10:30 AM AST (5-8 PM IST)
Language: English

7. Caribbean Professionals Benefit From Capacity-Building to Strengthen Water and Wastewater Management

By *UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat*- The [UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat](#) has partnered with the [Global Water Partnership Caribbean](#) (GWP-C) to improve integrated water and wastewater management (IWWM) in the Caribbean under component 1 (strengthening of policies and IWWM standards) and component 4 (knowledge management and communications) of the GEF CReW+ project.

From 21st March – 4th April 2022, GWP-C in partnership with CReW+, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and Caribbean WaterNet (Cap-Net), held an international online training on the “**Preparation of Shit Flow Diagrams (SFDs) for Caribbean Countries**”, the first of its kind in the region.

At the opening of the instructor-led segment on 29th March, Ms. Simone Lewis, GWP-C’s Regional Coordinator, thanked the participants and collaborators for being part of the SFD regional training and shared valuable information on the work of GWP-C. Mr. Christopher Corbin, Acting Coordinator of the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, highlighted the work of CReW+ to implement solutions for integrated water and wastewater management, the need for SFDs in the region and the work of the Secretariat to support governments in the region.

As a result of the training, participants gained hands on experience on preparing SFDs and using SFD tools.

8. Sanitation Compendium Available to Everyone

By *GIZ*- The first Compendium of Sanitation Systems and Technologies

Online Launch
 Register: www.susana.org/en/webinar-registration-2116-line-english-2022
 Tuesday, June 21st, 2022, 09:00 – 09:40
 Mexico Time (UTC-5)

- Six Sanitation Systems, 48 Sanitation Technologies plus emerging technologies covering the entire sanitation service chain.
- Cross-cutting issues for decision making, regionally contextualized.
- Six regional case studies.
- MOOC offered by ICAP on July 1st, 2022 (Massive Open Online Course)

Compendium of Sanitation Systems and Technologies for the Wider Caribbean Region

Sponsored by: GEF, IDB, UN, GIZ, OAS, BORDA, GIZ, Susana, eawag

for the Wider Caribbean Region was launched on 21st June, 2022. Adapted to the characteristics of the region, it will serve as a guidance document for engineers and planners in the Caribbean and beyond. It is accessible to all – free of charge.

The compendium was elaborated by BORDA Las Americas in cooperation with the Connecticut Water Works

Association (CWWA), the Caribbean Water & Sewerage Association Inc (CAWASA), SuSanA Latinoamérica and the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG). It was executed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH acting on behalf of the Inter-American Development Bank and the German Federal Ministry of Cooperation and Development in the framework of the CReW+ project funded by the Global Environmental Facility.

The compendium will be available in GEF CReW+'s Website after its official launching.

Did you know that 15 countries in the Wider Caribbean have ratified the Cartagena Convention's Protocol concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities?



These Contracting Parties have all made a commitment to take action to control, reduce and prevent pollution from domestic wastewater. Activities under GEF CReW+ will support Non-Contracting Parties in their efforts to ratify this legal instrument.

DID YOU KNOW?



UNEP is the global custodian of SDG indicator 6.5.1 on Integrated Water Resources Management, supporting countries to develop and implement national IWRM processes.

Benefits of the conceptual framework

1	<i>It opens the IWRM process to other sectors such as environment and health, and to other processes such as Disaster Risk Management and Integrated Coastal Zone Management.</i>	5	<i>It observes the importance of having a water governance structure in place, supported by the Escazu Agreement, as a unique binding agreement for Latin America and the Caribbean.</i>
2	<i>It is based on common principles, particularly an ecosystem-based management principle, to promote integration and to build long-term solutions.</i>	6	<i>It uses the three-level governance model to leverage action from local to global and promote regional collaboration.</i>
3	<i>It is geographically focused on the coastal zone and oriented to the restoration/conservation of the marine ecosystem as a common goal.</i>	7	<i>It clarifies that although full water and sanitation coverage is urgently needed, it cannot be the only goal for the water sector in the region. IWRM must guide a broader process to build water security for all.</i>
4	<i>It seeks to build a climate smart and resilient ocean-based economy for the region.</i>	8	<i>It proposes an economic justification to support the value of integration, synergies and coordinated action for all.</i>

10. An integrated Water Resource Management Framework to support the implementation of the Cartagena Convention

By UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat - It has been almost 40 years since governments in the Wider Caribbean adopted the [Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean \(Cartagena Convention\)](#), and more than 20 years since the adoption of its Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities ([LBS](#)). While progress has been made in the prevention and control of pollution from wastewater and agricultural runoff, these issues remain a challenge in the region and one solution is to strengthen the incorporation of Integrated Water Resource Management into the Convention.

Through funding from GEF CReW+, a conceptual framework was developed to promote better incorporation of integrated water resource management into the Cartagena Convention. The main purpose of the framework is to identify those strategic approaches or issues that offer the potential to create synergies for the protection of the marine environment and trigger integrated processes for joint investments and governance. This will inform more programmatic and less project-focused approaches in the Wider Caribbean, including through the work of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat.

GEF CReW+ is a collaborative project financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). It is co-implemented by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The GEF CReW+ is being co-executed by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale

Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Organization of American States (OAS) on behalf of IADB, and by the Cartagena Convention Secretariat on behalf of UNEP in 18 countries in the Wider Caribbean Region.

GEF CReW+ Project

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