

# **CRew+** **LETTER**

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

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# 1

## Message from the Project Coordinator



It is a pleasure to address you again, especially after gathering in person at the Project's Third Steering Committee Meeting. It has been comforting to share three days with all the participants of the project, in which we were able to see the project advances through different sessions. We hope you enjoyed and learned from the experiences in the region. We would like to thank Mexico's government for kindly welcoming the region through the CONAGUA.

Not all are good news, the agreement cooperation between IADB and GIZ ended on June the 30th. On behalf of the project, we would like to thank GIZ for all of their support and we hope to meet during project completion.

As seen during the meeting, we have completed more than half of the project activities and we are entering on the final phase where we will be able showcase the work done. We will say goodbye on June, 2024, although we hope to keep supporting the region from new agencies and projects. The work must continue for a healthy and Clean Caribbean.

Thank you very much, and as always, thank you for your support and commitment to the participating countries and agencies



Regional Coordinator

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, appearing to read 'Pedro Moreo'.

**Pedro Moreo**

# 2

## Third Project Steering Committee Meeting Gathers GEF CReW+ in Mexico

 By the PCG

From June 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> the Third Project Steering Committee Meeting was held in Playa del Carmen, Mexico; with the participation of all implementing and executing agencies, IDB and UNEP, and OAS, GIZ and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat respectively, as well as the physical presence of 16 of the 18 countries composing the project. Representatives from the National's Water Commission of Mexico joined the event, as well as Amigos de Sian Ka'an, an allied NGO that is supporting the execution in the field in Quintana Roo.



The meeting opened a space to share good practices and lessons learned through plenary presentations and seven panels in which the representatives of the countries participated, as well as two clinics. Furthermore, there was a visit to the Tres Reys community to witness the functioning of an ecotechnology installed and its impact to the community.

**Thank you for joining us!**

### Steering Committee Meeting Photo Gallery



You can access the photos in this [album](#)

### 3 Tackling Climate Change, the Community of Isberiyala will have guidelines for the Environmental and Socio-Cultural Adoption

By the Ministry of Environment of Panama



The GEF CReW+ project and the government of Panama presented the Local Guidelines and the Good Practices for the Isberiyala Community and the Popular Guidelines Dii agued Igar (“Water Care”).

Check out the publication



### 4

### Strengthening Decision Making processes in the Wider Caribbean Region through a Regional Environment Monitoring Platform

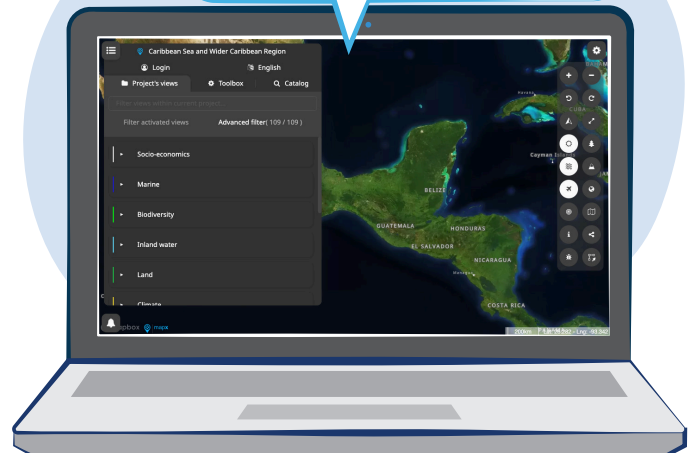
By UNEP the Cartagena Convention Secretariat

In the implementation of the GEF CReW and now the GEF CReW+ project, challenges on data availability, accessibility and reporting on regional and global targets relating to water and wastewater management have been well documented

The recent development of a new regional environment monitoring platform by the Cartagena Convention Secretariat through collaboration with the University of Geneva and co-funding from the GEF CReW+ Project and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) aims to address this deficiency. This new platform facilitates the compilation of environmental information from national monitoring and assessment programmes and makes such information more accessible to the general public and stakeholders for national and regional decision-making.

This platform also supports reporting by countries in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) on their environmental obligations and will inform development of future State of Environment reports for the region.

New regional environment monitoring platform by





To ensure sustainability of this regional platform, additional technical support is being provided through the GEF CReW+ project to **6 beneficiary project countries** through a partnership with the United Nations University INWEH. This will develop and/or enhance National Water Information Management Systems (WIMS) and complements other capacity building work under the project.

For more information about training carried out under the GEF CReW+ project so far, please check out our GEF CReW+ Academy Website [here.](#)



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**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
**Farewell Video**



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## Summary of GIZ at GEF CReW+

 By Bärbel Schwaiger, Programme Director of Sanitation for Millions

The engagement of GIZ in the GEF CReW+ project is coming to an end, as the contractual agreement between the Inter-American Development Bank and GIZ will run out by June 30th.

We are pleased to look back at numerous achievements, being the result of fruitful collaboration with our partners and many actors in the region. As one of the executing agencies of GEF CReW+, we are glad to have been able to contribute to the protection of the beautiful environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and the health of its inhabitants.

In more than two and a half years co-executing GEF CReW+, we managed to overcome various challenges, above all the COVID-19 pandemic. Together with our partners, we have found ways to succeed in advancing this regional project despite lockdowns, travel bans, and many other obstacles that occurred during the unforeseeable health crisis.

I would like to thank all our partners for the trusting cooperation, and I wish you continued good progress to complete the GEF CReW+ project and furthermore in your efforts to protect the region for future generations.



**Component 1**, which deals with policy and governance in the water and sanitation sector, has been a success in the countries that participate in the GEF CReW+ project. We have cooperated with the countries in the elaboration of public policies on water, wastewater, and reuse issues; and the development of regulatory instruments consistent with the worldview of indigenous communities, promoting more efficient, inclusive, and sustainable management of water resources and solid waste.

Within **component 2** it is concluded that water and sanitation require large investments by the countries. It is essential to improve the capacity of countries to explore financial innovations and take advantage of existing financial resources. From the financing component of the GEF CReW+ project, we focus on supporting countries in developing financing mechanisms and improving the sustainability of the sector through tariffs that promote the rational use of water and practices such as reuse.



The activities carried out in **component 3** have been marked by the creation of innovative designs for our counterparts in Costa Rica, Belize, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic, as well as the implementation of innovative tools in Guatemala, the pre-feasibility study in Suriname and the construction of latrines for the indigenous community of La Moskitia in Honduras, we have generated a genuine commitment to address the prevailing need to reduce wastewater pollution, improving the quality of life in the region and preserving our valuable Caribbean Sea.

**Component 4**, which is transversal to the previous ones, was in charge of making visible the work of the other components and a Regional Communication Campaign that will be of great help to the entire Wider Caribbean.



# 7

## GEF CReW+ Featured Pieces



**Reef Resilience Network**

**Case Studies**

The sanitation units in la Moskitia, Honduras is a featured case by the Reef Resilience Network and Nature Conservancy.

[More information](#)

The graphic features a blue background with a stylized reef illustration on the left, a globe with a red reef section on the right, and two yellow fish swimming above. A hand icon points to the 'More information' button.



**Wastewater Reuse: A resourceful yet underused strategy to preserve water**

**Let's Go Back to the Source**

*Inter-American Development Bank*

In this piece for IDB's blog we raise awareness about water reuse to preserve water.

[More information](#)

The graphic has an orange background. It includes an illustration of a shower head with water droplets, a faucet with a single drop, and a planter box with three green seedlings. A hand icon points to the 'More information' button.

# 8

## GEF CReW+ Supports Capacity Building for Improved Performance of Caribbean Utilities

 By UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat

At the end of March 2023, the Caribbean Water and Sewerage Association (CAWASA), in collaboration with the Operators Without Borders (OWB), successfully completed the delivery of a series of training courses for wastewater operators of four (4) Caribbean utilities. The programme was funded by the UNEP GEF CReW + Project.

CAWASA collaborated with the Operators Without Borders (OWB), a Canadian NGO, to develop a cadre of instructors trained in presentation methods and techniques by exposing all designated course instructors to a series of theoretical adult learning methods and techniques. The participants were offered opportunities for acquiring practical delivery skills in organized classroom sessions where the instructors made scheduled presentations under the supervision of OWB specialist trainers.

This first cohort of trainers made highly significant progress. From their first presentations, where there was a very small amount of pair/share and small group work and much reading of PowerPoint slides, their last presentations were on the whole creative, fun and with excellent knowledge transfer.



The overall objective of the Project was to strengthen the capacity building initiatives in the Caribbean Region by way of supporting the regional Water and Wastewater Operator training programme.



In the 4 pilot countries, namely, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, and Saint Lucia, the Project prepared a cadre of 86 wastewater operators for the certification programme of the Water Professionals International (WPI, formerly Associated Boards of Certification - ABC) - Levels I or II in both Wastewater Treatment and Wastewater Collection.



The WPI certification programme is the most widely recognized throughout North America and the Caribbean.

The courses were of five (5) days duration per country. Each course accommodated a maximum twenty (20) participants per utility.



The team of instructors comprised volunteers from the Operators Without Borders (OWB), led by Valerie Jenkinson, Chairperson of OWB, Mr. Skylar Lipson, Ron Enns, Lipson, Chirstopher Kerman, Jim Couchraine, Stacy Passaro, Ian Mcilwham, Shantelle Clarke.

The participating utilities in the Project were the Barbados Water Authority (BWA), Belize Water Services Ltd (BWS), Water and Sewerage Company Inc. (WASCO), Saint Lucia, and National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA), Grenada.

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## Have you Met the GEF CReW+ Team?

By the PCG

The social media campaign “GEF CReW+ Team” is coming to an end, but you can retrace the content in our platforms on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter:



Facebook



Instagram



Twitter

**CReW+ TEAM**

“ There is a grand variety of technologies for wastewater treatment, and one thing that makes me passionate about GEF CReW+ is to collaborate in the implementation of solutions according to the reality and needs of every participating country.”



**Gustavo Alvarado**  
Consultant

Agency  
UNEP Cartagena  
Convention Secretariat



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). GEF CReW+ is being executed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale

Financed by



Co-implemented by



Co-executed by



OAS | More rights for more people