



## News Release

For Immediate Release  
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### **Workshop to Discuss Integrated Management of Watersheds and Coastal Areas in Saint Lucia**

The importance of an integrated approach to managing land and water resources and the need for collaboration amongst key sectors and partners will be among the key issues for discussion at a workshop to take place at the National Insurance Corporation Conference Room on the Castries Waterfront on Tuesday, August 12, 2008

According to Sasha Beth Gottlieb, Technical Coordinator of the Global Environment Facility-funded Integrating Watersheds and Coastal Areas Management (GEF-IWCAM) in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean Project,<sup>1</sup> the workshop's focus on coordination and integration is a reflection of fact that "*Uncoordinated activities by international donors, projects, technical agencies, and others can result in duplication of efforts and a waste of valuable human and financial resources*"

In an effort to avert these consequences, participants at the workshop being organized by the GEF-IWCAM Project, in collaboration with the Ministry of Physical Development, The Environment, Housing, Urban Renewal and Local Government; the Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Fisheries and Forestry, and the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) will seek to develop strategies for improving the integrated management of watersheds and coastal areas in Saint Lucia.

The workshop will be facilitated by Mr. Cletus Springer, Director of the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States.

Participants will discuss ways in which local stakeholders can establish effective alliances in water resources management that are representative and participatory at the community, institutional and national levels. They will consider how Saint Lucia can align its national programmes with similar initiatives in the region and internationally, thereby benefiting from wider experience and know-how. Strategies for improving Saint Lucia's water governance through the promotion, and implementation of effective laws, policies, programmes, institutions and administrative frameworks will also be discussed.

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<sup>1</sup> The GEF-IWCAM Project is co-implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and co-executed by the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) and the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention, UNEP Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (UNEP-CAR/RCU).

The GEF-IWCAM Project together with the Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Fisheries and Forestry is currently executing a demonstration project in Saint Lucia, to protect and value watershed services and develop management incentives in the Fond d'Or watershed.

Water resources management in Saint Lucia will receive additional support from the GEF-IWCAM Project and CEHI through the establishment of an environmental Indicators database, laboratory strengthening, enhancement of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capacities for watershed management, and guidance on legislative, policy and institutional arrangements.

Information on the GEF-IWCAM Project may be found at: [www.iwcam.org](http://www.iwcam.org).

For further information on the workshop and related activities, contact:

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