



IWCAM Project Coordination Unit

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MEDIA RELEASE

Policy, Law and Institutional Structure in Support of Integrated Management of Watersheds and Coastal Areas (IWCAM)

GEF-IWCAM Regional Workshop on Policy, Legislation & Institutional Structures related to IWCAM 27 - 28 November 2007, Nassau, Bahamas

Caribbean countries have recognised the need for sound and relevant policies, laws and institutions in order to see improved management of watersheds and coastal areas. With this in mind, the Global Environment Facility - funded Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management (GEF-IWCAM) Project is convening a Legislation, Policy and Institutional Workshop at the Wyndham Nassau Resort on 27 and 28 November 2007. The Bahamas is one of 13 countries participating in the Project which has the overall aim of improving the management of watersheds and coastal areas in Caribbean small islands in an integrated manner.

According to Environmental Advisors Inc. which recently completed a review of national policies and institutional structures related to IWCAM: *“A review of the laws of Caribbean countries portrays a robust terrestrial focus with weak considerations for the protection of the marine environment. Coastal and marine resources are very important to the economic development and well-being of Caribbean countries. Their legislative regimes should be tailored to occupy a high priority to the protection of these resources.”*

The Workshop has the following objectives:

- To provide basic background information on the integrating watershed and coastal areas approach for the benefit of legal officers and technical experts in attendance.
- To review a toolkit produced by the Project.
- To identify the most appropriate way to implement the guidelines / toolkit.
- To suggest concrete interventions that the GEF-IWCAM Project could present at national and regional forums to assist in the adoption of the IWCAM approach.

It is hoped that at the end of the Workshop, participants will be better prepared to take actions necessary to protect the land and water resources of Caribbean countries from pollution and other threats.

For more information please contact: **...BAHAMAS NFP to insert**

The GEF-IWCAM Project is co-implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and co-executed by the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention, UNEP Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (UNEP-CAR/RCU) and the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI). Further Information on the GEF-IWCAM Project may be found at: www.iwcam.org