



An introduction to the GEF-funded Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas (GEF-IWCAM) Management Project

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Introduction

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean are characterized by small size and limited resources for development. High population densities, combined with population growth, urbanization and increased development, particularly residential and tourist resort development, have led to the contamination of underlying aquifers and surface water, and deterioration of coastal water quality.

Throughout the Caribbean we have tended to manage our precious water resources in a fragmented and uncoordinated manner. This results in degradation of our freshwater and coastal waters, increased conflicts between resource users, compromised human health and sanitation, and degradation of important ecosystems such as mangroves and coral reefs.

Without careful integrated management of our water resources, sustainable social and economic development is at stake.

What is integrated management?

Integrated management is when all the different uses of water resources are considered together. It calls for different sectors to come together to make decisions so that water, land and other resources are used in a sustainable manner.



What issues most urgently need to be addressed?

- 1) Diminishing freshwater supplies
- 2) Degraded freshwater and coastal water quality
- 3) Inappropriate land use
- 4) Poor hygiene and sanitation

What is the GEF-IWCAM Project?

The Global Environment Facility-funded Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (GEF-IWCAM) Project is a regional project which has the overall objective of strengthening the commitment and capacity of the participating countries to implement an integrated approach to the management of watersheds and coastal areas.

The long-term goal of the Project is to enhance the capacity of countries to plan and manage their aquatic resources and ecosystems on a sustainable basis.

Project activities focus on improvements in integrated freshwater basin-coastal area management on each island.

What countries are participating?

The thirteen participating SIDS are: Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Who is behind the Project?

The GEF-IWCAM Project was developed in close consultation with the governments of participating countries and was approved by the Global Environment Facility in 2004.

Implementing agencies are the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Executing Agencies are the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention (UNEP Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit) and the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI).

The Project Coordinating Unit was established in May 2006 at CEHI in Castries, Saint Lucia.

IWCAM—Promoting an integrated approach to the management of our watersheds and coastal areas!
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GEF IWCAM PROJECT COORDINATION UNIT

How will the Project achieve its objectives?

Over a five-year period, the Project will:

- Undertake regional management, coordination and evaluation of IWCAM objectives;
- Demonstrate technological and management approaches and policy and legislative reforms within selected areas;
- Identify indicators for measuring IWCAM efficacy and implement a programme of measurement and monitoring which will drive policy reforms; and
- Establish networking, sharing of knowledge, and partnerships within the Caribbean SIDS for IWCAM.

What kinds of activities are being undertaken?

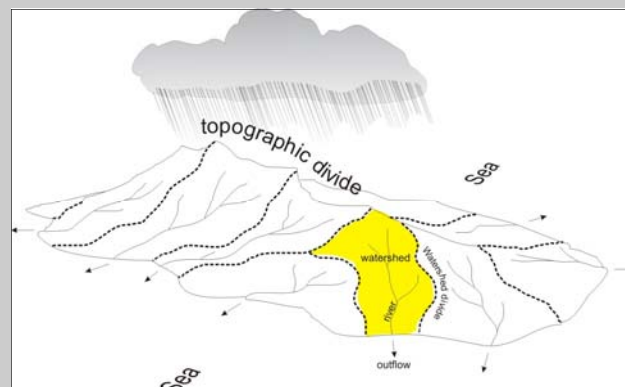
Project activities will benefit all of the Participating Countries. They include:

- Nine Demonstration Projects in eight of the Participating Countries (see below);
- A Legislative, Policy and Institutional Inventory with recommendations being made;
- Development of IWCAM Indicators;
- Communications and Public Awareness Activities.

What is a watershed?

A watershed is the land area over which water, from rainfall, drains down slope. This can be over land, within stream channels, or within the sub-soil to the lowest elevation point. The physical boundaries of a watershed are defined by ridges that surround the periphery of the watershed.

An entire island can be thought of as a collection of watersheds, some drained by larger streams than others.



"There is still enough water for all of us — but only so long as we can keep it clean, use it more wisely, and share it fairly."

U.N. Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon,
in address to the World Economic Forum, 24 January 2008

SUB-COMPONENT	COUNTRY	TITLE OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT
A: Water Resource Conservation and Management	St. Kitts and Nevis	Rehabilitation and Management of the Basseterre Valley as a Protection Measure for the Underlying Aquifer
	St. Lucia	Protecting and Valuing Watershed Services and Developing Management Incentives in the Fond D'or Watershed Area of St. Lucia
B: Wastewater Treatment and Management	Antigua and Barbuda	Mitigation of Groundwater and Coastal Impacts from Sewage Discharges from St. John
	Bahamas - Exuma	Marina Waste Management at Elizabeth Harbour in Exuma, Bahamas
	Dominican Republic	Mitigation of Impacts of Industrial Wastes on the Lower Haina River Basin and its Coast
C: Land-use Planning, Zoning and Alternative practices	Bahamas - Andros	Land and Sea Use Planning for Water Recharge Protection and Management in Andros, Bahamas
	Trinidad and Tobago	Land-Use Planning and Watershed Restoration as part of a Focused IWCAM Demonstration in the Courland Watershed and Buccoo Reef Area
D: Targeted Model IWCAM	Cuba	Application of IWCAM Concepts at Cienfuegos Bay and Watershed
	Jamaica	An Integrated Approach to Managing the Marine, Coastal and Watershed Resources of east-central Portland

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