



3RD LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN REGIONAL TARGETED WORKSHOP FOR GEF IW PROJECTS

INFORMATION NOTE



Message from the GEF IW: LEARN Project Manager



Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

Welcome to the final targeted workshop for GEF IW projects in Latin America and the Caribbean (under this phase of the GEF IW: LEARN project). It has been a great pleasure to work with all of you in the preceding years, capped off indeed by our 7th GEF Biennial International Waters Conference last year in Barbados.

The primary objective of these roughly annual gatherings has been to build cohesion amongst the different projects in this important region; create linkages and help foster that true ridge-to-reef approach to ecosystem management. The goals of this workshop include learning from each other on how to better engage the private sector, high-level decision makers and finally, to coordinate amongst ourselves on how we monitor and subsequently communicate the positive impacts we are having on our ecosystems to key audiences. These works become ever more important as we approach a new GEF replenishment cycle and eventually, “implementation phase” projects for many of the transboundary basins in the region.

I would like to thank our partner, the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme for their immense support to this process of supporting these partnerships for the GEF portfolio in this region. On behalf of GEF IW: LEARN I wish us all a collectively productive workshop that provides benefits to the projects in the region and also beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mish Hamid'.

Mish Hamid

Message from the Coordinator of the United Nations Environment Programme- Caribbean Environment Programme- Regional Coordinating Unit



It is my pleasure to extend to you a warm welcome to Jamaica and the GEF IW: LEARN Third Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Targeted Workshop, as Coordinator of UNEP's Regional Coordinating Unit. We are honoured to host and coordinate the convening of this final workshop on behalf of the GEF IW: LEARN Project, especially having served as an executing agency for several GEF International Water Projects over the last few years, including the REPCar, IWCAM, and CReW Projects.

As we celebrate 2014 as the International Year of SIDS, this workshop emphasizes one key message, which is the need for a continued cooperative approach to water resource management and the sharing of information and lessons learned and the identification of new opportunities to build stronger partnerships for sustainable development across countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region.

On behalf of UNEP CAR/RCU, we wish you a successful and productive workshop and a wonderful stay in Jamaica.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nelson Andrade Colmenares'.

Nelson Andrade Colmenares

Rationale

IW LEARN stands for the “International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network” (IW: LEARN) and is a Project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). It is a unique initiative in the GEF portfolio and its third phase, 2011-2014, places a strong focus on groundwater protection and management. Its goal is to strengthen Transboundary Waters Management by facilitating information sharing and knowledge management amongst GEF IW projects and partners.

The GEF IW: LEARN workshops within this region aim to increase communication between project managers of marine, surface, freshwater and groundwater resources and promote a more integrated and holistic approach to water resources management. These workshops also seek to transfer management approaches, tools and best practices amongst GEF projects and partners to build capacity based on topics deemed the most appropriate by workshop participants. The GEF IW: LEARN project also involves project-project twinning exchanges that are replicated in other areas of the world (Africa, Asia and the Pacific) where the GEF operates.

The first targeted workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in St. Kitts and Nevis in 2012, identified priority topics around which to structure future regional workshops. Governance was highly ranked by GEF IW project managers during that workshop.

The second targeted workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Argentina in 2013, aimed to build capacity among GEF IW-Projects on issues of governance, specifically concerning how project outcomes could be sustained through the right mix of governance structures, policies and legislation and be more impactful at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.

This final workshop will seek to address two topics:

- Challenges associated with High Level Policy engagements and the sustainability of impacts or outcomes;
- Private Sector Engagement *and*
- Indicators & Results Frameworks.

It will focus on the monitoring and evaluation of Strategic Action Program implementations and the coordination of existing and establishing new synergies among GEF and non-GEF regional efforts on indicators. Project managers from across Latin America and the Caribbean Region, will be given an opportunity to jointly analyse options and opportunities to monitor and report on the state of the various ecosystems (for example, large marine ecosystems; rivers).

General Information

1. Venue

The workshop will be held at the:

International Seabed Authority

(Jamaica Conference Centre)

First Floor

14-20 Port Royal Street
Kingston, Jamaica W.I.

Contact:

United Nations Environment Programme
Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit
Caribbean Environment Programme
(UNEP CAR/RCU CEP)
(Jamaica Conference Centre)

Third Floor

14-20 Port Royal Street
Kingston, Jamaica W.I.
Tel: +876-922-9267 (-9)
Fax: + 876-922-9292



2. Access to Jamaica

Visa Information

Short-term business

Foreign nationals entering the country to conduct short-term business (such as consultations, meetings, inspections, repairs, technical advice) are admissible as 'visitors' in accordance with the entry requirements applicable to the visitors from their respective countries (e.g. A French national who is travelling to Jamaica to conduct business may enter as a visitor for 30 days without a visa). Each visit should not exceed thirty (30) days and the cumulative number of days within a calendar year should not exceed one hundred and eighty (180) days. The usual conditions remain in place with respect to persons who seek to be admitted on the basis of employment, study etc.

Where to Apply for an Entry Visa

Visas for entry into Jamaica are issued by a Jamaican Embassy, High Commission, Consulate General or Consulate. In any country where none of these exists, the Government of Jamaica may authorize a Mission or Consular post in a Commonwealth country or the British Consulate in a non-Commonwealth country to issue visas on its behalf (please contact the nearest Jamaican mission for information on this).

N.B. Please click [here](#) for list of visa requirements by country.

Airport transfers

Kingston, Jamaica is serviced by the Norman Manley International Airport (KIN). Most hotels are located approximately 40 minutes from the Norman Manley International Airport (KIN).

NO transportation will be provided to or from the airport. Taxis will be available at the airport and through the hotel (Reception area) and should cost approximately USD35 per trip. Taxis are easy to get at the airport however, only travel in taxis with **red licence plates** (PPV-Public Passenger Vehicles) as these are registered taxi operators e.g. JUTA Tours is a popular and trusted taxi operator and is located outside the arrival area.

3. Hotel Information

Participants are asked to cover their own accommodation. When making reservations at the Courtleigh, please request the **UNEP rate** which should be USD144.40 per night including taxes.

The Courtleigh Hotel and Suites

85 Knutsford Boulevard,
Kingston 5, Jamaica.

Tel: + (876) 936 3570, + (876) 929 9000

Fax: + (876) 926 7744.

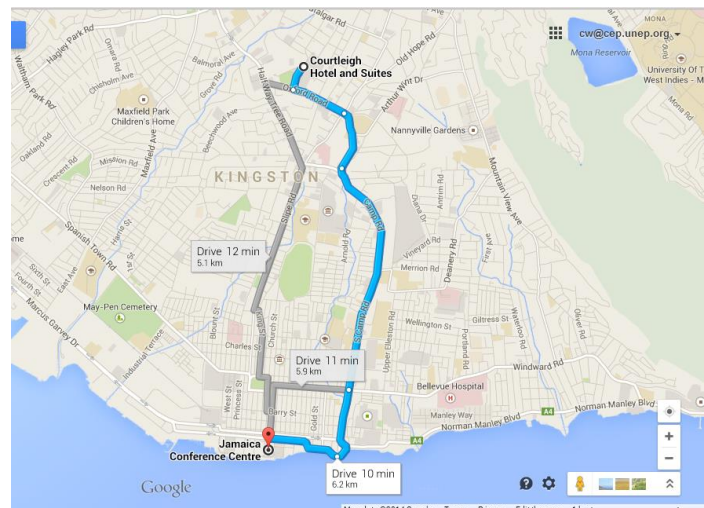
Email: sales@courtleigh.com

4. Access to the workshop

The driving distance from the hotel to the workshop venue may range from 15-30 minutes, depending on traffic.

Transportation will not be provided **to** the workshop. Participants are asked to speak with the hotel receptionist to arrange transportation to the workshop venue.

UNEP CAR/RCU CEP will assist in arranging transportation **from** the workshop venue to the hotel at the end of each day; however, this cost will be covered by the participant. Fares may range from USD5 to USD10.



[Link to Google Map](#) from Courtleigh Hotel to the workshop venue.

5. Meals

Two coffee breaks will be provided daily for the duration of the workshop.

Participants will be expected to cover their own lunch costs and will be directed to a reserved area at the “From Thought to Finish” Restaurant located in the vicinity of the workshop.

Breakfast and dinner will also be the responsibility of each participant.

6. Opening and Registration

Registration will be held on the first day of the workshop- Wednesday, April 23, 2014 beginning at 8:30 am. All participants are requested to register and obtain workshop badges on the first day of the workshop. **For identification and security reasons, all participants are requested to wear the badge at all times during the workshop, this will also ensure access to the building.**

The workshop will be held daily from 9 a.m. until approximately 5:00 p.m.

On the afternoon/evening of Friday, 25th April 2014, interested persons may join in a 'lyme' with the rest of the group at one of Kingston's many Friday evening spots.

7. Language

Official language in Jamaica

The official language in Jamaica is English. Jamaican Creole, otherwise known as Patois, is widely spoken.

Working language of the workshop

The workshop will be conducted only in English.

8. Documents

Participants are asked to take their own copies of any documents they will require including the Agenda and these will not be made available at the workshop.

Display tables for promotional materials

A display table will be made available within the workshop venue for the display of promotional materials and publications. Spaces for these items will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

9. Funding

Travel and Daily Subsistence Allowance Arrangements

Travel support for many GEF IW projects has been provided by the GEF for projects to participate in these IW learning events and thus we would aim to cost-share participation for **one** project representative. IW: LEARN and UNEP CEP will cover economy roundtrip flights, for one GEF IW project representative.

For resource persons and in other cases where DSA and terminal expenses are sponsored, participants will receive the full funds to cover accommodation, meals and transportation on the first day of the workshop. **Kindly take passports, and boarding passes along with you in order to be able to receive this DSA.**

10. Services

Internet

Wireless internet access will be available during the workshop.

11. Weather and time zone information

The standard time zone is UTC/GMT -5 hours.

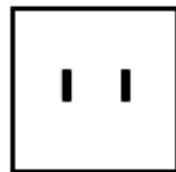
Jamaica has what is called a tropical marine climate. March and April are considered the windy months of the dry season. The weather in April is warm and you can generally expect daytime temperatures around mid-80's (Fahrenheit) and at night time around mid-70's. (April estimates- 85°F (29°C) 75°F (23°C)).

12. Health Requirements

There is no particular need for participants to take specific health precautions such as vaccines at this time. Persons with special conditions are advised to take their own medication. We also encourage persons to take insect repellents as the climate may attract mosquitos.

13. Electricity

Jamaica operates on voltage: 110-120 Volts, 60 hertz. The following types of electrical outlets are used:



unearthed



earthed

14. Currency

The monetary unit is the Jamaican Dollar however; the United States Dollar is also widely used and accepted. One United States dollar is equivalent to approximately 109.5 Jamaican dollars as at 31 March 2014. Travellers may also obtain more current exchange rates from currency converter tools online. (Please note that rates are subject to variation.)

Credit cards

Major credit cards are accepted in hotels, restaurants, and larger shops.

15. Security

We encourage participants to guard all personal items, especially while walking on the street and to exercise caution when wearing jewellery, especially gold, to avoid any possible occurrence of theft.

16. Contacts

For any additional queries, please contact any of the following persons:

Mr Mish Hamid
GEF IW: LEARN Project Manager
E-mail: mish@iwlearn.org
Office: +421.2.59337.168 (SK)
Mobile: +43.676.415.0281 (AT)
US-Based Internet Phone number:
+1.202.657.5290

Mr Patrick Weiler
GEF IW: LEARN Assistant Project Officer
E-mail: patrick@iwlearn.org
Office: +421.2.59337.260 (SK)
Mobile: +421.949.868.126 (SK)

Mr Christopher Corbin
Programme Officer
UNEP CAR/RCU CEP
E-mail: cjc@cep.unep.org
Tel: +876-922-9267 (-9) ext. 6240

Ms Pietra Brown
UN Volunteer - Communications Officer
UNEP CAR/RCU CEP
E-mail: pb@cep.unep.org
Tel: +876-922-9267 (-9) ext. 6234

Ms Chrishane Williams
Team Assistant
UNEP CAR/RCU CEP
E-mail: cw@cep.unep.org
Tel: +876-922-9267 (-9) ext. 6240

17. DISCLAIMER

The United Nations Environment Programme and the GEF IW: LEARN Project disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended that participants secure, prior to departure, international medical insurance for the period of participation and to endeavour to safeguard all personal belongings while attending the workshop.