

CRew's Lines

Newsletter of the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management

Vol. 3, Issue 2

June 2014

In this issue:

- GEF CRew and the LBS Protocol (Pgs. 1,2,3)
- Belize's first generation GEF CRew project is the Belmopan WWTP (Pgs. 1,6)
- Landmark Agreement makes Online Training in Water and Wastewater Management Available to more Caribbean Countries (Pgs. 2,6)
- Regional Water Security—Strengthening Collaboration (Pg. 4)
- Countries focus on Public Education and Awareness and Policy and Institutional Strengthening (Pg. 5)
- Upcoming Events (Pg. 7).
- Wastewater Media Brief launched (Pg. 8)
- "Wastewater Warning: Health Hazard"—2nd GEF CRew Video Documentary launched (Pg. 8)

Belize's first generation GEF CRew project is the Belmopan WWTP

The Placencia Project, which was to be GEF CRew's first generation project in Belize, has encountered delays, due largely to the challenges of finding an optimal location for the wastewater treatment plant. As a result, the Placencia Project will not require revolving loan funds before January 2016. In the meantime, due to the need to test the financing mechanism (the main objective of the GEF CRew Project) within the timeframe of the Project, it was decided that a new selection strategy was needed to determine the first generation project.

In 2013, the Project Coordination Group requested a list of potential first generation projects from the Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL). Following visits and assessments by the CRew Technical Specialist to all the sites listed, and in agreement with the Government of Belize (GOB) and BWSL, it was de-

(Continued on page 6)

GEF CRew and the LBS Protocol

GEF CRew countries urged to take advantage of the financial and technical support to promote ratification and implementation of the LBS Protocol.

The GEF CRew Project recently supported the convening of the 2nd Scientific Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC 2) Meeting for the Protocol on the Control of Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS Protocol). UNEP CAR RCU, regional executing agency for the GEF CRew Project, is the Secretariat for the LBS Protocol and coordinated the organization of this meeting which was held in Managua, Nicaragua from 10th – 13th June, 2014. Over 40 experts from participating and non-participating CRew countries representing national governments as well as regional, inter-governmental, and non-governmental organizations attended the Meeting.

The meeting's objectives were to:

- Evaluate the projects and activities implemented by UNEP CAR RCU within the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme during the period 2013-2014;
- Review the progress made in the implementation of the Recommendations of the First LBS STAC Meeting, Decisions of the First Conference of Parties to the LBS Protocol and relevant Decisions of the Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention;

(Continued on page 2)



Participants in the 2nd LBS STAC

Landmark Agreement makes Online Training in Water and Wastewater Management Available to more Caribbean Countries

As countries prepare to celebrate World Environment Day on June 5th and World Oceans Day on June 8th, untreated sewage continues to be one of the major threats to public health and the Region's rich biodiversity. Limitations in technical capacity for environmental management and limited awareness, knowledge and understanding of alternative and appropriate treatment technologies are among the factors that negatively affect wastewater management in the Region.

Through an initiative of the Global Environment Facility-funded Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (GEF CReW) Project, 125 persons from four countries in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) will receive training in water and wastewater management from the Water Center, a center of excellence which was established in 2008 in Monterrey, Mexico.

The four countries - Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama - are all participating in the GEF CReW Project which is being jointly implemented by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the United Nations Environment Programme through its Caribbean Regional Coordination Unit (UNEP CAR /RCU) based in Kingston, Jamaica. The GEF CReW Project aims to: provide sustainable financing for the wastewater sector; support policy and legislative reforms, and; foster regional dialogue and knowledge exchange amongst key stakeholders in the WCR.

Courses being covered under this landmark agreement are: a Diploma in Strategic Management for Water Utilities; a Diploma in Energy and Water Efficiency for Water Utilities, and; shorter courses in Wastewater Treatment Fundamentals and Commercial Management of Water Utilities.

The courses will be conducted online via Internet portal between June and November 2014 (See Upcoming Events, pg. 7). This mode of delivery will enable more participants to be trained per country, thus promoting long-term sustainability.

The GEF CReW Project was established in 2011 and works through three inter-linked components: (1) Investment and Sustainable Financing; (2) Reforms for Wastewater Man-

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 1)

- Review the status of ratification and/or implementation of the LBS Protocol in member countries;
- Develop the AMEP Work plan and Budget for the 2015-2016 Biennium for subsequent submission to, and approval by, the 2nd Conference of Parties to the LBS Protocol;
- Provide recommendations concerning the LBS Protocol for consideration by the 2nd Conference of Parties to the LBS Protocol.

Domestic Wastewater is the No.1 point source of pollution affecting the Caribbean Sea and Annex 3 of the LBS Protocol establishes targets and criteria for domestic wastewater management in the region. One of the objectives of the GEF CReW project is to assist countries who have ratified the Protocol to meet their national obligations and also to encourage non-Contracting Parties to ratify the LBS Protocol. Out of the 28 countries of the Wider Caribbean Region, 11 are Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol and six of these are participating in the GEF CReW Project. This meeting offered an opportunity for the CReW Project to work with the other seven non-Contracting Parties of Jamaica, Costa Rica, Honduras, Suriname, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Guatemala and Barbados to promote ratification of the LBS Protocol.

The LBS STAC 2 also enabled an assessment of compliance of countries with the obligations of the LBS Protocol and provided a forum for exchange of experiences between CReW and non- CReW participating countries on wastewater management in the Wider Caribbean Region.



Paulette Kolbusch, GEF CReW Jamaica Focal Point, and Alfredo Coello Vazquez, Acting Project Coordinator

During the meeting, Acting Project Coordinator, Alfredo Coello made a presentation on the CReW project, its achievements and future activities. He highlighted linkages between project activities and pollution prevention in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR).

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)



(L to R) Chair of the 2nd LBS STAC, Miguel Espinosa of the Dominican Republic, Coordinator of UNEP CAR RCU, Nelson Andrade Colmenares and AMEP Programme Officer, Christopher Corbin

Mr. Coello noted the ways in which the GEF CReW Project directly contributed to pollution prevention and indicated that in some countries, regulations are stricter than what is required under Annex III of the LBS Protocol. However, he outlined that the maintenance of wastewater treatment plants was very costly and that many of these plants were not properly maintained leading to pollution of the marine environment. He then discussed the replication of the financing mechanisms and the possibility of a follow up project to GEF CReW. Information sharing activities and communication efforts of the GEF CReW Project were discussed including the development of the GEF CReW website, Facebook page, newsletters and bulletins, case studies and professional exchanges.

Several government representatives expressed a strong interest in the development of a follow up project to CReW given the significant challenges facing the region to improve wastewater management and to increase financing for wastewater projects.

UNEP CAR RCU encouraged participating countries of the GEF CReW to take full advantage of the financial and technical support available to promote ratification of the LBS Protocol, but more importantly implementation in their respective countries.

Contracting Parties to the Protocol suggested that any follow up project to CReW should consider increasing the number of countries that would develop pilot financing mechanisms as well as including other activities such as the pre-treatment of industrial wastewater found in the domestic wastewater stream, management of sewage sludge and addressing wastewater discharges from ships.

The meeting also recognized the significant input of the GEF CReW Project to the development of a Regional Water Quality Report for the Caribbean being coordinated by the World Bank as

part of its Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO).

The Global Partnership for Oceans is a growing alliance of governments, international organizations, civil society groups, and private sector interests committed to addressing the threats to the health, productivity, and resilience of the world's oceans. It aims to tackle widely documented problems of overfishing, pollution, and habitat loss. The Wider Caribbean Region has been identified as a priority area and pollution interventions are expected to focus on the reduction of marine litter, nutrients and wastewater.

Several Recommendations of the Meeting were of direct relevance to future work of the GEF CReW Project and included:

1. The Secretariat mobilize funding to support an assessment of nutrient loadings to the Caribbean Sea in order to prioritize future interventions in relation to pollution load reduction, and in order to guide future activities of the Caribbean Platform for Nutrients Management.
2. The Secretariat collaborate with the GPA and the Global Partnership for Nutrients Management (GPNM) in the testing of innovative approaches and technologies for improving nutrient management including monitoring, nutrient recovery and nutrient use efficiency.
3. The Secretariat continue to ensure close cooperation between the GEF CReW Project and the Global Wastewater Initiative in the future, with the development of concrete joint activities in priority areas.
4. The Secretariat facilitate sharing of outputs and methodologies used to develop the Regional Water Quality Assessment Report under the GPO with all Contracting Parties.



Paulette Kolbusch, Jamaica's CReW Focal Point, makes a contribution

The recommendations of the 2nd LBS STAC will be presented at the 2nd LBS Conference of Parties for approval and the Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention for information. These meetings are scheduled to take place in Cartagena, Colombia from 10th to 13th December, 2014.

Regional Water Security: Strengthening Collaboration



Over 30 participants from regional agencies and national governments met in Barbados on April 28th and 29th, 2014 to critically explore ways of strengthening their collaboration to improve water security in the region.

The Meeting of Regional Partners in the Water and Wastewater Sector was spearheaded by the Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C), the United Nations Environment Programme, Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (UNEP-CAR/RCU) and the Global Environment Facility's Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (GEF CReW).

The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- Suggest new mechanisms and/or ideas to strengthen existing mechanisms to raise the profile of water and wastewater in the Caribbean region;
- Suggest ways to increase high level policy engagement on the issue of wastewater management and climate resilience in the water sector, at the national and regional levels;
- Identify priority interventions for new water and wastewater projects that are informed by present experiences and perspectives including opportunities for enhanced partnerships;
- Highlight ongoing or planned projects, activities, tools and resources developed by various regional agencies, and areas of collaboration and potential collaboration.

During the two-day Meeting, participating organisa-

tions discussed collaborative opportunities on specific projects and activities and possible mechanisms to enhance the profile of water and wastewater in the region. The workshop also highlighted critical regional water and wastewater management issues and allowed participants to share details of ongoing and planned projects.

The meeting built on past regional collaborative initiatives including the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Consortium on Water which was established in 2010 with a mandate to develop a Common Water Framework for its member states in order to rationalise and coordinate the region's programmes and activities in the areas of water resources management.

Several issues were discussed including the existing roles and mandates of regional institutions, the role of CARICOM and its Ministerial Mechanisms such as COTED, the role of the media and private sector as well as the role of academia and research institutions.

The following were highlighted as some of the main areas for immediate cooperation:

- Data and Information Management;
- National and Regional Policy Reforms;
- Investments in Water and Wastewater Infrastructure; and
- Capacity Building and Training

Key among the decisions was that UNEP and GEF CReW would continue discussions with CARICOM on how best to support the Common Environmental Policy and Common Water Framework for the region where issues of wastewater management, water quality and pollution can be included.

On the evening of April 29th, 2014 GWP-C, the UNEP-CAR/RCU and the GEF CReW hosted a Knowledge Sharing Session which highlighted and launched recently developed Caribbean IWRM knowledge products which focus on tools geared toward building climate resilience in the Caribbean water sector, as well as, resources for wastewater sector professionals.

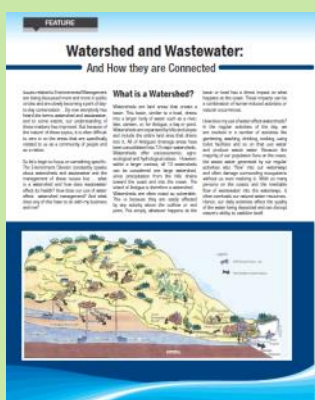


Countries focus on Public Education and Awareness and Policy and Institutional Strengthening

National capacity building activities under CReW Components 2 and 3, executed through a series of Small Scale Funding Agreements (SSFAs) negotiated between UNEP CAR RCU and the respective governments, are ongoing in Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Saint Lucia, Barbados and Guyana.

Antigua & Barbuda and Saint Lucia have focused on public education and awareness activities, in particular, in the past few months. Guyana, which is already engaged in a strategic marketing and public relations campaign for the Guyana Wastewater Revolving Fund (GWRF) under Component 1, is through its SSFA, focusing more on the strengthening of policy and institutional frameworks.

Antigua & Barbuda: Public Education on Wastewater and Related Issues



The Environment Division, which along with the Ministry of Health is responsible for wastewater management, carried out survey of the public (knowledge and attitudes) towards the preparation of a comprehensive communication strategy on environmental issues, to include wastewater. In addition, a series of five public education articles was prepared for placement as advertorials in the "Business Focus", a local magazine that targets businesses and entrepreneurs, in the four quarterly issues between from April 2014 and March 2015. Themes included "Watersheds and Wastewater" and "Love Where you Live".

Saint Lucia: Wastewater Management Media Training Workshop

On 29 June, the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology, held a Wastewater Management Media Training Workshop at Le Sport Hotel in Cap Estate. In addition to presentations on the GEF CReW Project, the journalists were introduced to the issues of Solid Waste and Wastewater Management and the relationship between Wastewater and Health. Participants then toured Le Sport's own wastewater treatment plant before going to visit the Beausejour Wastewater Treatment Plant in Gros Islet. Run by the Water and Sewerage Company, this is the country's only WWTP and uses an Advanced Integrated Pond System.



Visiting the Beausejour Wastewater Treatment Plant

Guyana: Strengthening of Policy and Institutional Frameworks for Wastewater Management

Guyana's SSFA has focused upon the Strengthening of Policy and institutional Frameworks for Wastewater Management in Guyana. A consultant was hired to review and update of standards and policies relating to wastewater; draft a Board Paper for National Wastewater Improvements and; to develop a National Wastewater Management Strategy. Terms of reference were finalized for the Strategic Operations Review of the Sanitation Department of the Guyana Water Incorporated. In addition, a **Workshop on Wastewater Management in Guyana – Situation Analysis and Actions for Improved Management** is being planned to take place on 17th July 2014. The purpose of the Workshop will be to present the preliminary findings of the Situation Analysis on wastewater management in Guyana and to identify and discuss actions for improved wastewater management.



Playa Espadilla Norte, Costa Rica

Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama

The final report on LBS Compliance in GEF CReW's Spanish-speaking countries, prepared by the Regional Activity Centre, CIMAB, following the workshop in December 2013, was published to the project website at the end of April. This report is informing the development of Small Scale Funding Agreements (SSFAs) with Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala which will be coordinated by RAC/CIMAB in Cuba. RAC/CIMAB is one of the two Regional Activity Centres for the LBS Protocol.

(Continued from page 2)

agement and (3) Communications, Outreach and Training. Component 2 in particular aims to address key capacity constraints by improving skills and knowledge at the national and local levels needed for policy formulation, planning and financing in wastewater management.

The Water Center was established as the result of an initiative of Tecnológico de Monterrey, the Fomento Económico Mexicano (FEMSA) Foundation and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). This Center develops capacities, generates and shares knowledge on the use and management of water resources in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Within the framework of the GEF CReW Project, UNEP-CAR/RCU is executing activities to address the limited capacity of water and wastewater utilities in the region for effective water and wastewater management. This training will help improve skills and knowledge at the regional, national and local levels for water and wastewater management. In addition, knowledge gained will assist the countries to implement technologies appropriate to their current and future conditions as it relates to wastewater management, including improving compliance with obligations of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocol on Land-Based Sources of Pollution for which UNEP CAR/RCU is the Secretariat.

According to Christopher Corbin, Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) Programme Officer at UNEP CAR/RCU, *"This online training is a more innovative approach to capacity building being used by the GEF CReW Project and it is hoped that similar partnerships will be established with other agencies to provide on-line training on water and wastewater management throughout the Wider Caribbean Region"*.

Project Coordinating Group Update

With the departure of Denise Forrest from the post of GEF CReW Project Coordinator at the end of May, Alfredo Coello-Vazquez has been Acting Project Coordinator since June 2014.



While on a field visit in Jamaica, we caught him engaging a new kind of stakeholder....

Go Alfredo!

(Continued from page 1)

cided that upgrade of the Belmopan Wastewater Treatment Plant was the best option. This therefore is the first generation project to be funded by the BWRF, after which funding will be available for the Placencia Project, as was originally intended.

The GEF CReW Grant Agreement with the GOB was fully tied to the Placencia Project. It was therefore necessary to sign an Amendatory Agreement to allow the GOB to use the resources of the BWRF to finance other eligible wastewater projects. Care has been taken to ensure that the development of this new project does not jeopardize, delay or hinder, in any way, the execution of the water and sanitation program for the Placencia Peninsula.

The operation has been divided in three phases:

Phase I: Retroactive payment of the works already done for the first upgrade of the old existing wastewater treatment plant, which entailed building three new facultative ponds in series.

Phase II: New upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant by adding an anaerobic pond just after the primary treatment and before the first facultative ponds mentioned above, the addition of a tertiary UV disinfection system, the construction of a collection system and a lifting station.

Phase III: Construction of the rest of the collection system to link it with the collection system mentioned in phase II. The expansion is intended to collect wastewater from north-east of Belmopan, including the community of East Picinni.

BWSL is responsible for all design and for the development of the procurement documents. The design for phase II of the collection system and the upgrade of Belmopan Wastewater Treatment Plan has already been finalized. The procurement process is due to begin in September 2014 and should be completed by early 2015. Work is expected to begin in early-2015 and to be completed by mid-2015.

A new Project Coordinator is expected to be appointed by October 2014.

Look out for the following GEF CReW and Regional Wastewater Related Events coming up soon!

DATE	EVENT	PLACE
July—November 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diploma in Energy & Water Efficiency for Water Utilities • Strategic Management for Water Utilities • Water Treatment Fundamentals • Commercial Management for Water Utilities 	Online and blended courses run by the Water Center for Latin America and the Caribbean, Monterrey, Mexico
21 – 22 July 2014	GEF CReW and GWP Central America Regional Media Workshop on Wastewater	Ciudad del Saber, Panama
30 September 2014	Launch of the CReW Community of Practice	Online
29 September – 5 December 2014	World Bank Utility Reform Online Course for Mid-Level Managers and Technical Staff (World Bank/Caribbean Development Bank/CReW collaboration)	Online
September—November 2014	UNITAR/CDB/CReW Sanitation and Governance Online Course	Online
6 -10 October 2014	23rd Annual Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association Conference and Exhibition and 10th High Level Session (HLS) Ministerial Forum	Nassau, The Bahamas
15—17 October 2014	Coordinating Meeting for GEF CReW Focal Points of Spanish-Speaking Countries at CIMAB	Cuba
27 – 28 November 2014	Caribbean Water Utilities CEO Workshop	Barbados
1- 5 December 2014	Mid-Level Managers and Technical Staff Workshop	Barbados
8 – 13 December 2014	Technical Workshop on Sanitation and Governance (part of UNITAR/CDB/CReW training series)	Antigua & Barbuda
8 - 13 December 2014	Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region (2nd LBS COP). Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (13 th COP).	Cartagena, Colombia

Wastewater Media Brief now available in both English and Spanish!

- at
www.gefcrew.org



GEF CReW has released the second in its series of Video Shorts : "Wastewater Warning: Health Hazard."

It looks at how dangerous complacency about wastewater treatment can be.

Check it out on the project website:
www.gefcrew.org



GEF CReW Project Background:

The CReW is a four-year project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It was established in 2011 and will end in July 2015.

It aims:

- To provide sustainable financing for the wastewater sector
- To support policy and legislative reforms, and
- To foster regional dialogue and knowledge exchange amongst key stakeholders in the WCR.

There are thirteen participating countries: Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad & Tobago.

The Project Coordination Group (PCG) is based in Jamaica, at the offices of the IDB and at UNEP's Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit which is Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention (UNEP CAR/RCU).

Please check our website and visit (and like!) our Facebook page: [facebook@gefcrew.org](https://facebook.com/gefcrew.org)

*We also welcome contributions on wastewater issues from within the Wider Caribbean Region.
Contact Donna Sue Spencer at: ds@cep.unep.org for more information.*

For more information contact:

Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management Project Coordination Group
6th Floor, Dyoll Building, Inter-American Development Bank
40—46 Knutsford Boulevard
Kingston 5, Jamaica, W.I.
Phone: (876) - 764—0815
E-mail: crew@iadb.org or ds@cep.unep.org