

MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL PROJECT COORDINATOR



Vincent Sweeney, Regional Project Coordinator

It gives me great pleasure to welcome readers to our first IWCAM Bulletin. The **Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management** (IWCAM) project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), is the culmination of over 7 years of effort by the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and partners, and will receive a grant of US\$14M from the GEF.

This bulletin is designed primarily to keep our stakeholders informed of the progress being made with project implementation, from the standpoints of both the region and the demonstration projects. It will be one of many forms of project outreach and will encourage the sharing of information among participating countries as well as with the wider community. A longer format newsletter to be published quarterly will provide more detailed information and have wider reach.

As we reflect upon 2006, we wish to update readers on its highlights in relation to implementation of the IWCAM Project in the region. These include **the establishment of the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) and recruitment of all project staff**. This accomplishment now makes available to participating countries, a cadre of dedicated staff to service the project and ensure that the components move forward according to agreed schedules. Full-time project staff include



PCU members (L to R): Una McPherson, Donna Spencer, Vincent Sweeney, Sasha Gottlieb, and Magnalia Goldson

the Regional Project Coordinator (RPC), a Technical Coordinator (TC), an Administrative Officer (AO), a Communications, Networking and Information Specialist (CNIS), and a Bi-lingual Administrative Assistant (BAA), all supported by personnel at CEHI, the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) of UNEP and the Implementing Agencies.

In 2006 the project website (www.iwcam.org), was established. It has been populated with many project-related documents and serves as a "one-stop shop" for information on the history and progress of the project. This website will remain a dynamic tool, serving to keep stakeholders continuously updated on project activities and progress.

The First meeting of the Project Steering Committee took place just one month after the RPC assumed duties. It was hosted by the Government of Antigua & Barbuda and included representatives from 12 of the participating countries as well as the Executing Agencies and Implementing Agencies. Participating countries agreed on the

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management of our watersheds and coastal
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IWCAM PROJECT COORDINATION UNIT

overall budget for the First Year of operation (i.e. 2006/07) and Work Plan.

Major events for 2006 in which the IWCAM Project was involved were:

- The **3rd Caribbean Environmental Forum (CEF) & Exhibition**, hosted by the Government of Antigua & Barbuda and which coincided with World Environment Day celebrations. This event included a **Partnership Workshop on Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management** and was highly successful, attracting a number of partners, countries and agencies.
- **Workshops and/or meetings focusing on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)** convened by the Organisation of American States, the Caribbean Water & Wastewater Association, the Global Environment Facility, the Global Water Partnership, CAP-NET, UNDP, UNEP and CEHI.
- **Promotion of the project and IWCAM at regional and international meetings** such as the Intergovernmental Review of the GPA, the Intergovernmental Meeting of the Caribbean Environment Programme of UNEP, regional workshops on the LBS Protocol, and workshops on Sustainable Land Management in the Caribbean.

In 2007, the IWCAM Project will be conducting a number of regional activities and assessments. These include the following assessments: of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities; of legislation and policies related to integrated watershed and coastal area management; of indicators of IWCAM; of on-going and relevant projects and; of capacities in the region for monitoring for IWCAM.

The work planned for 2007 also includes implementation of the 9 demonstration projects and integration of IWCAM activities with those of other partners, particularly focusing on those countries without demonstration projects. Also planned are training activities and exchanges, development of appropriate information management systems, conduct of additional Hot Spot Diagnostic Assessments, and support for the preparation of National IWRM Plans.

We look forward in 2007 to building on the work already started. The emphasis will continue to be on adding value to other regional initiatives, building sustainable partnerships, and integrating IWCAM into on-going programmes at the national and regional level.

PROJECT COORDINATION UNIT MEMBERS:

Vincent Sweeney - Regional Project Coordinator (RPC)

In May 2006 Vincent was appointed Regional Project Coordinator for the GEF-funded IWCAM project. Prior to that he served for 10 years as Executive Director of the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI). Vincent received his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from the Technical University of Nova Scotia after receiving a Diploma in Engineering from Dalhousie University. He then completed a Masters of Applied Science program at the Centre for Water Resources Studies, TUNS.

Sasha Beth Gottlieb - Technical Coordinator (TC)

Sasha joined the IWCAM Project Coordinating Unit in October 2006 after several years of working with the Caribbean region for the Organization of American States. She holds two masters degrees, one in Latin American Studies from Stanford University, focusing on the impact of free trade agreements on the environment and the other from the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of Johns Hopkins University, with a focus on international economics and energy, environment, science and technology.

Una McPherson - Administrative Officer (AO)

After 19 years at UNEP-CAR/RCU in Kingston, Una joined the IWCAM Project as its Administrative Officer in August 2006. She holds a B.Sc. in Business Administration from the University of the West Indies and a Masters in Business Administration from the Institute of Financial Management, University of Wales and Manchester Business School. She also has a certificate in Project Management from the University of New Orleans.

Donna Spencer - Communications, Networking and Information Specialist (CNIS)

Donna joined the IWCAM project in November 2006 after being the Chief Information Officer at the Institute of Marine Affairs in Trinidad and Tobago for several years. She has a B.A. Hons. in Environmental Studies and Sociology from the University of London, and a M.Sc. in Environmental Science from George Washington University as well as a Certificate in Management – Management Information Systems, from ROYTEC.

Magnalia Goldson - Bi-Lingual Administrative Assistant (BAA)

Magnalia joined IWCAM in November 2006 from the Mexican Embassy in Kingston, Jamaica where she was the Personal Assistant to the Ambassador. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Modern Languages and Literatures with a minor in Government from The University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona. She also pursued graduate studies at the School of Hotel and Tourism in Varadero, Cuba.

Nine IWCAM Demonstration projects were approved and are in the early stages of execution:

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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