

## COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

Countries increasingly recognize the importance of improving wastewater management, and are seeking a solution designed to:

- Supply accessible, sustainable financing for investments in wastewater management;
- Implement effective national policies, laws and regulations and improved enforcement of existing laws and regulations;
- Facilitate a holistic approach to wastewater management with productive communication among sectors and agencies;
- Produce improvements in technical capacity in terms of project proposal development; operating & maintaining treatment systems; and, monitoring and analyzing wastewater discharges and impacts;
- Result in increased awareness, knowledge and understanding of appropriate, alternative and low cost wastewater treatment technologies.

## ...AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY...

*Coral reefs are inextricably linked to the key income generating activities of tourism and fishing in the Caribbean. A staggering 80% of living coral in the region has been lost over the past twenty years, with untreated sewage being one of the main contributing factors.*

## CREW PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES:

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

BARBADOS

BELIZE

COSTA RICA

JAMAICA

GUATEMALA

GUYANA

HONDURAS

PANAMA

SAINT LUCIA

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

SURINAME

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



### GEF-CReW

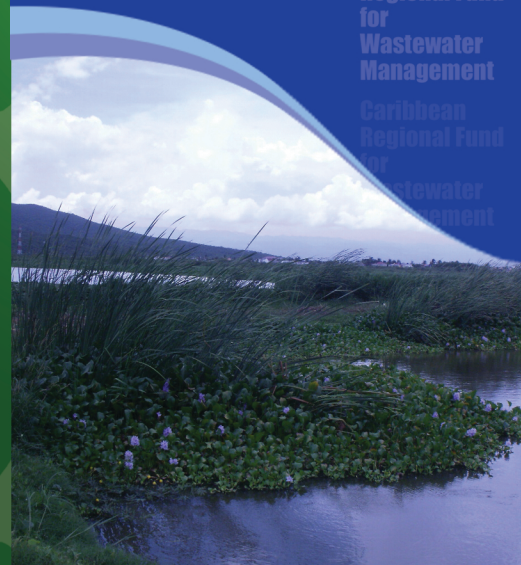
Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management

c/o Inter American Development Bank  
40-46 Knutsford Boulevard (6th Floor)  
Kingston 10, Jamaica.  
Telephone: 876-764-0815  
E-mail: crew@iadb.org  
www.gefcrew.org



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*Sustainable Financing for Environmentally Sound and Cost-Effective Wastewater Management Solutions*

## SAFEGUARDING THE CARIBBEAN SEA

The degradation of the Caribbean marine environment caused by the discharge of untreated wastewater is a serious concern for those countries whose livelihoods depend heavily on their natural marine resources. Recent scientific studies concur that "sewage pollution from land-based sources and from ships has been the most pervasive form of contamination of the coastal environment"

Rapidly growing populations, poorly planned developments and inadequate or non-functioning wastewater treatment facilities are but a few of the contributing factors resulting in drastically low levels of effective wastewater treatment in the region:

- 85% of wastewater entering the Caribbean Sea remains untreated
- 51.5% of households lack sewer connections
- Only 17% of households are connected to acceptable collection and treatment systems

## UNTREATED WASTEWATER: A THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH...

*Enteric, infectious and respiratory diseases can be caused by swimming at beaches and in rivers contaminated by untreated domestic wastewater.*





## THE CREW: SERVING THE REGION'S WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT NEEDS

The Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CReW), established in 2011, seeks to provide sustainable financing for the wastewater sector, support policy and legislative reform, and foster regional dialogue and knowledge exchange among key stakeholders in the Wider Caribbean Region. The four year project, is being funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will be the co-implementing agencies for the project.

The Project Coordination Group (PCG) based in Jamaica will carry out the day-to-day management of the CReW project under the oversight of UNEP and IDB, and comprises a Project Coordinator, a Technical Specialist, a Communications Specialist and a Financial /Administrative Specialist. The PCG will be supported by Pilot Executing Agencies (PEA) in the four countries: the National Water Commission in Jamaica; the Ministry of Finance in Belize; the Ministry of Housing and Water in Guyana, and the Tobago House of Assembly in Trinidad and Tobago and by the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention (CAR/RCU) based in Kingston, Jamaica.

### CReW's 3 Interlinked Components

- Investment & Sustainable Financing
- Reforms for Wastewater Management
- Communications, Outreach & Training

## INVESTMENT AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

The CReW aims at testing four individual Pilot Financing Mechanisms (PFMs) that will provide innovative financing modalities for wastewater management projects. CReW resources will be used for the capitalization of these four PFMs, and for providing technical assistance, such as design services, to ensure that the projects to be financed under the PFMs satisfy the technical, financial, socio-economic and environmental requirements of the CReW and local governments.

A number of options were considered and evaluated in order to design the individual PFMs including revolving funds, reserve accounts and extended liquidity guarantees. The structure of the PFMs reflect local financial conditions, regulatory frameworks, water utilities capacity and national government objectives.

Wastewater management projects financed by the PFMs will have the following characteristics: (i) high priority projects for wastewater service providers; (ii) high impact in terms of significant improvements or prevention from further deterioration in the quality of coastal waters; (iii) potential to stimulate policy reforms; and (iv) require innovative financial and advisory assistance to bring project financing costs within ratepayers' ability to pay.

## ADDRESSING KEY CAPACITY CONSTRAINTS WITHIN LEGAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS

CReW's support in the areas of policy, institutional strengthening and legislative reform will encompass the following:

- Improving skills and knowledge at the national and local level needed for policy formulation, planning and financing in water, sanitation and wastewater management.
- Developing tools to improve and strengthen the legislative framework for wastewater management, including improving compliance with obligations of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocol on Land-Based Sources of Pollution, with the support of the Convention's Secretariat, the Caribbean Environment Programme.
- Developing education and awareness programmes about wastewater and sanitation targeting local and national governments, the media, the formal education system, community members and the general public, including training for decision makers on the choice of appropriate and cost-effective technologies for wastewater management.

## ONE-STOP SHOP FOR WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

CReW will support communications, outreach and information exchange through the following activities:

- Sharing of pilot and demo project information and results such as experience notes, case studies and lessons learned through the GEF International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (GEF IW-LEARN), with a view to promoting South-South cooperation, engendering greater local, national and regional stakeholder commitment to wastewater management, and developing strategies for future replication;
- Development of a WCR clearinghouse mechanism to provide information about wastewater management to technical experts within the water and wastewater sector as well as national leaders, policy makers, the private sector, the media and the general public. Linking various information websites and networks currently in existence, the clearinghouse mechanism will also provide a platform for presenting relevant information not yet available online.

