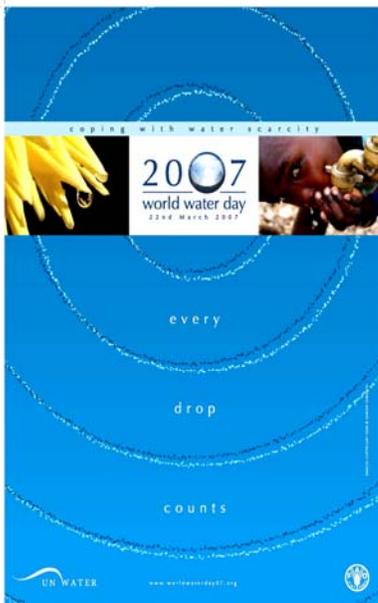


Caribbean WaterWays

Newsletter of the GEF IWCAM Project

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March 2007



Welcome by IWCAM Regional Project Coordinator, Vincent Sweeney, on the occasion of World Water Day 2007, March 22

It gives me great pleasure to welcome readers to the First Issue of our Quarterly Newsletter for the IWCAM Project. This first issue has been timed to coincide with the annual celebration on March 22nd of World Water Day, which has as its theme: *"Coping with Water Scarcity"*.

This year's observance of World Water Day seeks to remind us of the limited supply of water available globally and more so within parts of our region. It reminds us that we cannot take for granted that water will always be available to support our existence.

Rapid growth in consumer demand, coupled with the combined effects of natural and human interventions, means that the demand for water is

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World Water Day 2007 – Coping With Water Scarcity

“Even urban areas and countries with plenty of freshwater face the threat of water scarcity. Scarcity is a relative concept, which can mean either an absolute shortage of water or a lack of access to safe water supplies.”

**- UN Water
www.unwater.org**

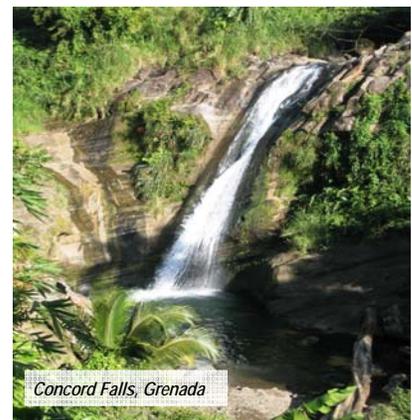
Feature Article:

How Integrated Watershed and Coastal Areas Management can make a Difference in Caribbean SIDS

In the Caribbean we take many things for granted: heavy flooding in towns after rainfall and the ensuing traffic; muddy water flowing across roads from construction sites; rivers so laden with sediment that they discolour coastal waters as they empty into the sea; water shortages in both wet and dry seasons; drains clogged by garbage of all types.

All experiences are familiar to us. All caused by poor management of our watersheds and coastal areas. Why should this be the case when our environment is so important to our well being, livelihoods and our way of life?

In small islands, the relationship between inland, upstream areas and coastal, downstream areas is closely linked, with the effects of one upon the other easily seen. The recurrent issues of small size and the coastal focus of development together with their linked problems make Caribbean islands a priority area for the introduction of Integrated Watershed and Coastal Areas Manage-



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outstripping the planet's ability to supply it. It should be noted that in the past century, demand has grown six-fold. It has been estimated that, under current conditions, more than two-thirds of humankind will experience severe and moderate shortages of water within the next 20 to 25 years. These are challenges which many of our countries face and many more will face unless the issues related to water management receive greater priority.

Public participation is essential in grappling with these important water management issues. We must not continue to believe that water management is the responsibility of others. The management of water is everybody's responsibility. In the Caribbean context, farmers are good examples of resources managers. Their farming practices (such as slash and burn or overuse of pesticides), in the upper reaches of watersheds, unless properly managed (by these same farmers), can compromise the quality and quantity of water.

According to the World Water Council, at least 1.5 billion citizens of this world are without water or are supplied with so little and so poorly. Additionally, only 5% of the public purse is devoted to this sector. We are however encouraged that funding for water management, including watershed and sustainable land management has recently been made available to the region. After much effort, the IWCAM Project is underway and financial support is flowing to the region and individual countries to address wide-ranging issues related to integrated watershed management, combined with coastal zone planning and land management issues in a number of Caribbean countries.

It is our hope that this year's commemoration of World Water Day, particularly as it focuses on water scarcity, will help to keep awareness high on the importance of water to our daily lives and by extension ensure that the global community continues to support our efforts.

Vincent Sweeney

BACKGROUND ON THE IWCAM PROJECT:

The Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management in Caribbean Small Island Development States (IWCAM) Project, with a value of USD 112 million, was approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in May 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-CAR/RCU) and the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) and the UN Office of Project Services (UNOPS). The thirteen participating SIDS are: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Grenada, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. The length of the Project is 5 years and commenced in the second quarter of 2005. The Project Coordinating Unit is located at the CEHI, as agreed by the Implementing and Executing Agencies and the participating countries.

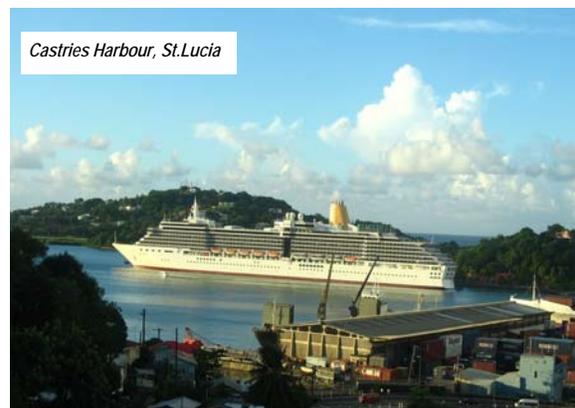
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ment (IWCAM).

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean are characterized by small size and limited resources for development. The issues and problems facing SIDS around the world were clearly stated in the Programme of Action (POA) for SIDS (United Nations, 1994); the two major issues being:

- Disadvantages caused by small size; and
- The concentration of the population, agricultural land, infrastructure, built development, most sectors of the economy, and exploitable resources in the coastal area.

An unsustainable sectoral approach to management of our wa-



Castries Harbour, St. Lucia

tershed and coastal areas now dominates in the public and private sectors. Administrative responsibility tends to be fragmented and jurisdiction over the management of resource use is unclear. This approach fails to take account of the high level of interaction between the resources and processes at work in the continuous watershed to coastal area. Lack of an integrated approach has resulted in degradation of the environment (habitats), overexploitation of natural resources, competing resource uses and conflicts between users. Problems include diminishing freshwater supplies; degraded freshwater and coastal water quality; inappropriate land use and; poor hygiene and sanitation.

Existing policies, legislation and regulations affecting these environments have been, and continue to be, introduced one by one over a period of time. In addition, sufficient and appropriate information does not always reach decision makers; policy is often the result of pressure from one interest group or another or in anticipation of short-term benefits; many sectors of our population are not properly informed and, even when informed, they may not be consulted. There are many opportunities for mistakes.

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Integrated management is when all the different uses of water resources are considered together. It means planning for change in the context of institutional roles, the enabling environment and management instruments. The IWCAM Project has the overall objective of strengthening the commitment and capacity of the participating countries to implement an integrated approach to watershed and coastal area management. The long-term goal is to enhance the capacity of the countries to plan and manage their aquatic resources and ecosystems on a sustainable basis.

Building regional capacity, while a challenge, is important because many SIDS depend on regional mechanisms and institutions for responding to environmental problems. Regional capacity in the following areas in particular can help:

- Developing data and monitoring networks;
- Engendering more effective systems for waste management and reducing sewage contamination;
- Promoting tourism practices geared to biodiversity conservation and protection;
- Minimizing dependence on destructive agricultural patterns.

The IWCAM Project seeks to:

- Undertake demonstration, capture and transfer of best practices;
- Develop IWCAM process, stress reduction and an environmental status indicator framework, and;
- Encourage technological and management approaches and policy and legislative reforms.

Project activities will benefit all of the participating countries. In 2007, key IWCAM activities are:

- A Legislative, Policy and Institutional Inventory with recommendations being made;
- A Capacity Assessment of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Capabilities;
- Development of IWCAM Indicators;
- Communications and Public Awareness Activities;
- The Implementation of nine Demonstration Projects in eight of the participating countries, and;
- Support for the preparation of national Integrated Water Resources Management Plan Development in several participating countries.

The demonstration projects will deliver on-the-ground demonstrations targeted at national hotspots where specific threats have been identified. They must, most critically, develop mechanisms for the replication of activities and for the transfer of best

lessons and practices.

One example of this is the Demonstration Project in the Dominican Republic. In that nation, the Haina river basin is one of the main industrial conglomerations of the country with over one hundred medium to large size industries (e.g. electricity generating plant, petroleum refinery, and vehicle battery factory). The region is highly contaminated by these industrial activities, as well as the solid and liquid wastes generated by the communities. At the same time, the waters of the basin are among the main potable water sources of the capital city. The project will work to reduce the pollutants in the Haina river basin through interventions in the industrial sector such as recycling, a heavy metal contamination survey to better guide policy and strategic planning, and overall integrated management programmes. The envisioned benefits of such an approach would be:

- Improving the quality of basin-related ecosystems;
- Protecting and conserving biodiversity within the river and coastal zone;
- Reducing diseases resulting from the deterioration of the environment;
- Reducing morbidity and mortality rates of the population related to pollution and poor water quality;
- Strengthening capacity, infrastructure and understanding within the public and private sector;
- Providing an effective model for replication within the country and the region.



Grand Anse, Grenada

IWCAM should be recognized as a continuous, proactive and adaptive process of resource management for environmentally sustainable development. It requires long-term commitment of resources and political support as well as a shift in approach. The importance of capacity building and training, at both the formal and informal levels (including all stakeholders and user groups) is also recognized. The IWCAM Project seeks to provide a catalyst for the start of this process, both through replicable demonstration projects and regional activities.

IWCAM Activity Feature:**Capacity Assessment of GIS Capabilities in the Caribbean**

The IWCAM Project recognizes the important role of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology as a tool for integrated data analysis and management. In January 2007 a detailed capacity needs assessment study, which will guide the process of developing GIS in participating countries, began. It is being conducted by the Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC), Panama, who were awarded the job after a process of competitive bidding. Among the tasks involved in this study are:

- Assessing hardware and software needs of participating countries in relation to the generation, maintenance, analysis and presentation of relevant GIS information;
- Evaluating relevant information sharing protocols;
- Assessing the quantity and quality of existing data related to GIS;
- Information audits to include the evaluation of relevant metadata standards;
- Assessing relevant institutional infrastructure/administrative protocols with respect to the generation, processing, analysis, presentation, sharing and dissemination of data and information for watershed and coastal areas monitoring and management with particular reference to GIS data;
- Assessing relevant human resource capacities and training needs related to GIS;
- Identifying, evaluating and assessing the challenges, constraints and problems regarding GIS use as a management tool; and
- Identifying, evaluating and assessing the challenges, constraints and problems for mainstreaming the use of GIS as a tool for watershed and coastal areas monitoring and management.

The main output of the assessment will be a Draft Road Map of recommended steps to be taken in order to bring capacity up to a level where GIS data can be generated, manipulated and shared among Participating Countries within a common framework. The Draft Road Map will be presented during a Regional Workshop titled: "Strategic Approaches to Application of GIS tools in Support of Planning for Watershed and Coastal Areas Management" which will be held later this year. The Road Map will be finalized using inputs received at the workshop.

The IWCAM Project has 9 Demonstration Projects set in 8 of the Participating Countries:

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

Partnering to Meet the Challenge

As is our nature, modern society tends to compartmentalize the environment. Mountains are in the middle of the island, coasts are at the outer edge, and the marine environment is offshore. We are accustomed to treating these as separate units, each not having an impact upon the other.

In Small Island Developing States (SIDS), this approach is changing with the growing recognition that, due to their small size, SIDS should be considered ecosystems in and of themselves. Deforestation and land development in watersheds cause erosion, sedimentation and discharge onto nearby coral reefs. Damage to live coral reefs, due to the practices of anchoring boats, walking on the reef, and nutrient discharge, diminishes their impact as shoreline protective barriers from storm surges. Adversely, conservation of mangroves provides important filtration of discharge into coastal areas and also helps prevent beach erosion. Sustainable management of aquifers can help to prevent salt-water intrusion and ensures that water quality is not compromised.

The highly interlinked nature of watersheds, coastal areas, and the marine environment underscores the need to address these in an integrated manner. These are complex issues which are best tackled collectively. Partnerships, coming together to synthesize and collaborate, enjoy a wider perspective and provide a larger set of tools with which to work.

Partnerships form the basis of the IWCAM approach. Both formally and informally, IWCAM seeks to facilitate the creation of partnerships for the integrated management of watersheds and coastal areas. This often requires significant effort. Guided by their mandates, groups are accustomed to establishing their goals and moving forward to achieve these goals. IWCAM is encouraging groups to examine their own goals and seek out partners with complementary perspectives and approaches. This often leads to more efficient use of available resources and a stronger approach.

One example of the IWCAM strategy related to partnerships is starting to take form on Union Island in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In late 2006, several organizations and projects noted that they shared complementary goals related to assisting Caribbean SIDS, including but not limited to:

- Preparation of roadmaps for IWRM plans (The United Nations Environment Programme's Collaborating Center on Water and Environment, UNEP-UCC)
- Development of IWRM plans (IWCAM, UNEP and the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute, CEHI)
- Adoption of strategies for protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (United States Department of Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, UNEP & IWCAM)

Based on these similar goals, and the expressed commitment of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to develop an IWRM plan as part of the IWCAM project, UNEP-UCC, CEHI, and NOAA approached the government to gauge its interest in collaborating on an IWRM project which

would benefit one of the islands of the Grenadines. The affirmative response led to a meeting in Saint Vincent, at which time staff from the IWCAM project, NOAA, and CEHI facilitated a consultation to determine an appropriate demonstration site in the Grenadines for this activity. The government partners took into consideration the following suggested criteria:

- Community size of over 1,000 persons
- Pollution concerns from tourism, farming, and sewage
- Inadequate water coverage (lack of water infrastructure, incomplete coverage, interrupted supply, poor water quality, etc.)
- Buy-in and commitment of NGOs, the community, and local government representatives
- Concerns over the sustainability of natural resources and the environment, and
- Logistical considerations such as distance from St. Vincent, ease of getting to the community, and ownership of land.

Participants in the meetings also added the criteria "consideration of ongoing projects at the national level" to the list. Based on an analysis of



Union Island, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

the criteria, the partners reached a consensus that the intervention would be most appropriate in Union Island. The next step, was a visit to Union Island, where this project idea was presented to local stakeholders.

At that point, the team wanted to gauge the feasibility of the undertaking and also verify that there were local partners with complementary goals. This was found to be the case in Union Island; these stakeholders and their synergistic goals are listed below:

- Protecting the environment of Union Island and promoting public awareness (Union Island Environmental Attackers)
- Integrated sustainable development of the Grenadine Islands area for the social and economic wellbeing of the people who live there (Sustainable Grenadines Project)
- Provision of potable water (Central Water and Sewerage Authority, CWSA)
- Maintenance of the water catchments (Union Island District Office)
- Promotion of sustainable tourism (Union Island Tourism Board)

Given the compatibility of these goals, the IWCAM Project, working with partners at the local, national, regional, and international levels, hopes to provide tangible support for IWRM planning on Union Island as well as concrete benefits to the community. Interventions, which are planned for the first half of 2007, are expected to include a training workshop, public awareness activities, a consensus-building workshop, and, once funds are identified, some infrastructural improvements. Union Island is one of the first on-the-ground interventions for the IWCAM Project. An integrated approach to watershed and coastal areas

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IWCAM Project Representation at Regional and International Meetings in 2006

UNEP/GEF Workshop on Lessons Learnt, 3-5 May, Bangkok, Thailand



The Regional Project Coordinator attended this meeting which was convened by the UNEP Division of GEF. He presented on lessons learnt in developing the IWCAM Project, participated in the discussions addressing lessons learnt in the development and implementation of other GEF IW projects and networked to improve delivery of the IWCAM Project. His participation was funded by the GPA.

OAS Preparatory Workshop, Integrated Water Resources Management, 19-20 June, Quito, Ecuador



This Preparatory Workshop was organized by the OAS' Office of Sustainable Development and Environment and held prior to the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities on Sustainable Development to discuss themes related to the region's sustainable development. It was designed to establish policy guidelines, strategies and priority actions in the area of IWRM and to identify major challenges and possible solutions for water resources management in the region. Vincent Sweeney gave a presentation on the IWCAM Project.

3rd Caribbean Environmental Forum (CEF-3) and Exhibition, 5-9 June, Antigua and Barbuda



CEF-3 was organized by the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI). A regional partnership meeting was one of several Partnership Fora at CEF-3. Working Groups defined "road maps" in the articulation of IWRM-Plans. The IWCAM Project will be a facilitatory mechanism for the development of IWRM Plans in the Caribbean Region.

2nd Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action (IGR-2), 16-20 October, Bei- jing, Republic of China



The meeting was attended by a large Caribbean delegation, including representatives of a number of IWCAM Participating Countries and Executing Agencies. Here Patricia Aquino, Acting Executive Director of CEHI and Anthony Headley of the Environmental Protection Department, Barbados, participate on a panel during one of the parallel sessions.

IWCAM Project Representation at Regional and International Meetings in 2006

GEF STAP Workshop on SIDS, Aquifers and Interlinkages, 6-9 November, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago



The Regional Project Coordinator attended this Workshop convened by the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Panel (STAP) of the GEF to consider the role of aquifers in environmental sustainability. He promoted the IWCAM Project and placed its objectives within the context of wider GEF discussions on groundwater in SIDS.

GEF IW:LEARN Regional Workshop in Transboundary Waters Management in Latin America and the Caribbean, 6-9 December, Montevideo, Uruguay



This Workshop responded to the needs of GEF IW projects for capacity building in the area of public participation. It also allowed participants to identify and share good experiences, effective approaches and lessons learned. Donna Spencer represented the IWCAM Project.

IWRM Strategic Planning Workshop, 4-5 December, Kingston, Jamaica



CEHI and UNEP – CAR/RCU, under the auspices of IWCAM, hosted this Workshop. Organizations and agencies in attendance worked together to: identify duplication and gaps in IWRM Work Plans of participating agencies and Caribbean countries and territories; develop a unified, strategic and coordinated Plan for IWRM in the Caribbean; collaborate on obtaining political commitment to reform, in relation to IWRM plans; and continue to identify methodologies to strengthen and promote partnerships and networking for the implementation of IWRM.

Carib-CapNet Training of Trainers Course, IWRM, 11-15 December, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago



This Training of Trainers course in IWRM had among its objectives to expand the pool of training facilitators who can deliver training programmes in IWRM in the Caribbean. Vincent Sweeney participated.

Upcoming IWCAM Project Meetings:

- May 2007: St. Lucia
 - Training in Coastal Water Quality Monitoring
 - IWCAM Demonstration Project Managers Orientation and Training
- June 2007: Barbados
 - Regional Technical Advisory Group Meeting
 - Barbados National IWRM Inception Workshop Barbados
- July 2007: Tobago
 - Implementing and Executing Agency Meeting
 - Steering Committee Meeting
 - Trinidad and Tobago National IWRM Inception Workshop

Please refer to the Project website for details:

www.iwcam.org

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management requires the building of partnerships at every level and stage, from visioning, through planning and implementation. Partnerships make a great deal of sense in order not to waste precious time, effort and resources (human and other). They also facilitate the sharing of best practice, information and lessons learned – all of which are important if the IWCAM Project is to benefit Caribbean SIDS in the longer term.

Meet the Regional Coordinating Unit Team:

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). He has also served, or currently serves on a number of Advisory Bodies within the region, including the National Water & Sewerage Commission in St. Lucia; the National Council for Science & Technology for Development in St. Lucia, the Board of Directors of the Caribbean Basin Water Management Program (Inc.), and Technical Advisory Committees for a number of regional projects. He was a member of the Work Group set up by Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas and is the Co-Chair of the Integrated Watershed Management Sub-Committee of the White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) Initiative. He was also member of the Organizing Committee for the Inter-American Dialogue on Water and a two-time Vice President of the Caribbean Water & Wastewater Association. Vincent has a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from the Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS) and a Masters of Applied Science from the Centre for Water Resource Studies, TUNS.

Sasha Beth Gottlieb, Technical Coordinator (TC)



Sasha Beth Gottlieb joined the IWCAM Project Coordinating Unit in October 2006 after several years working with the Caribbean region for the Organization of American States and Chemonics International. She has extensive experience in integrated water resources management, land management, and sustainable energy issues through the management and technical participation in a wide variety of projects, including the establishment of a Central American water level observation network, the Caribbean Dialogue on Water and Climate, the Eastern Caribbean Geothermal Development Project (Geo-Caraibes), a land management / sustainable livelihoods project in the Suriname/Brazil border region, the Global Sustainable Energy Islands Initiative (GSEII) and the Caribbean Open Trade Support Program. Sasha 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, Johns Hopkins University, with focus in international economics and energy, environment, science and technology. Sasha has also received

training in gender integration in project management and has conducted training in this area. Sasha is fluent in Spanish.

Una McPherson, Administrative Officer (AO)



After 19 years at UNEP-CAR/RCU in Kingston, Una joined the IWCAM PCU as Administrative Officer in August 2006. She has extensive experience in Administration and Human Resources and has worked with several GEF projects including the PDF Phases of the IWCAM. Una 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 from 1998. Her experience in information management and communications is varied including: channeling the results of marine research to a variety of users; the design, implementation and dissemination of information products; public and community education, media relations and public relations. She has coordinated national involvement in a number of initiatives including the Ocean Data and Information Network for South America and the Caribbean (ODINCARSA) and the first phase of development of Trinidad and Tobago's National Programme of Action (NPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution. 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. She also has a Certificate in Management – Management Information Systems, from ROYTEC.

Magnalia Goldson, Bi-Lingual Administrative Assistant (BAA)



Prior to joining the IWCAM Project in November 2006 Magnalia worked at the Embassy of Mexico in Kingston, Jamaica as the Personal Assistant to the Ambassador while also teaching Spanish at the University of the West Indies. Magnalia received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Modern Languages and Literatures while minoring in Government at the University of the West Indies, Mona campus. She further went on to pursue graduate studies at the School of Hotel and Tourism in Varadero, Cuba earning a degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management. She is fluent in Dutch and Spanish.

Participating Country Focal Points, Demonstration Projects and others are invited to submit articles. Please contact Donna Spencer at dspencer@cehi.org

Contact Information:
IWCAM Project Coordination Unit
 P.O. Box 1111, The Morne, Castries, Saint Lucia
 Tel: (758)-452-2501/1412; Fax: (758)-453-2721
 E-mail: dspencer@cehi.org