“Working to control, prevent and reduce pollution of the coastal and marine environment from land and marine-based sources and activities thereby enabling countries of the Wider Caribbean to meet their obligations under the Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution and Oil Spills Protocols of the Cartagena Convention.”
Programme Coordination

62nd Annual CARPHA Conference on Healthy Planet, Healthy People

Mr. Christopher Corbin, Programme Officer for Pollution and Communication Sub-programmes of the UN Environment’s Caribbean Environment Programme, attended a series of four meetings in Georgetown, Guyana from 23-29 April, 2017: the Eighth (8th) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Annual Conference & Two Pre-Conference Sessions.

We partnered with the CARPHA to address the changing nature of public and environmental health and associated environmental management challenges. Such cooperation will ensure that health policies are positively impacted and contribute to improving health, the environment and development prospects for Caribbean people.

Blue Planet Symposium

Mr. Corbin was a feature presenter at the 3rd GEO Blue Planet Symposium in College Park, MD, USA, 31 May to 2 June, 2017. This international symposium served as a forum for discussion of societal information needs resulting from the important role the oceans play in Earth’s life-support system and the challenge of minimizing the impacts of human activities on the oceans while utilizing the resources of the oceans to meet our needs.

The presentation focused on the “Current and Predicted States of Marine Pollution” during Session 2 of the Symposium. The LBS protocol which was highlighted as a regional framework that promotes the need to reduce the pollutant load to the seas from land-based sources and activities.
GEF Amazon-Caribbean Cooperation

Lessons learned of the implementation of the Global Environment Facility funded projects in Latin America and the Caribbean including GEF CReW, IWLearn, Amazon, IWEco and CLME+ projects were discussed during the GEF Amazon-Caribbean Cooperation Workshop in Belem, Brazil from 8-13 May 2017.

This joint experience strengthened cooperation around environmental issues of common concern to Brazil and the residents of the Amazon Basin and the Wider Caribbean region. Impacts of nutrients, sediments and climate change have all been priority areas of projects funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) but remain a significant challenge for the respective regions.

State of the Convention Area Report

Following the data validation workshop held in March 2017, countries were asked to submit national data on coastal waters, quality and parameters for domestic sewage, etc.

Countries that had not submitted data were given an extension from the Conference of Parties and 17th Intergovernmental Meetings until April 2017. To date, twelve (12) of the thirty-eight countries have submitted their country data. Countries that have not submitted data are now given another extension until August 2017.

The first draft of the report is intended to be complete in October 2017.

Trash Free Partnership

The National Steering Committee for Jamaica is in the process of being established by the National Environment & Planning Agency as the lead agency for Trash Free Waters in Jamaica. Following internal consultations, the draft proposal been developed which will focus on the areas, Bluefields & Whitehouse in Jamaica.

The Bluefields & Whitehouse Project led by Sandals Foundation is set to be complete by September 2017.
GEF Project Updates

GEF IWEco

During the April to June period, project agreements totalling USD2 million for Trinidad and Tobago has been signed. Work will continue with other countries to finalize their agreements to hopefully start implementation in September 2017.

The selection process for project staff is still in progress and final selection is expected to be complete by October 2017.

The Regional Communications and Capacity Building Workshop originally scheduled for June 2017 has been postponed to September 2017 at a venue to be confirmed.

GEF CLME+

The proposal for the development of an Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) approach to the North Brazil Shelf was submitted and approved by the UNDP/GEF CLME + Project Coordinating Unit.

This project will provide USD$500,000 financial support to Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago and is expected to be implemented in October 2017.
World Environment Day on June 5, 2017 was celebrated under the theme “Connecting People with Nature” and World Ocean’s Day celebrated on June 8, focused on plastic waste under the theme “Our Oceans, Our Future”. In celebration of both days, the GEF CReW Project organized a Photo Competition as well as a social media story collection both focused on using wastewater as a resource.

The reuse and recycling of wastewater was also the basis for a blog and two articles on re-purposing wastewater and our connection with wastewater which were both shared across regional media.

The project also partnered with UN Environment CEP in hosting the Plastic Aware Shopper’s Challenge and in conducting video recordings for the UN Ocean’s Literacy Video to raise awareness on the impacts of marine pollution.

In the GEF CReW’s efforts to inform and raise awareness on the outcomes of the project as well as in celebration of World Environment and World Ocean’s Day, two short documentaries of the project were aired on Jamaica’s CVM Television: Wastewater Warning: Health Hazard and The K-Factor and Jamaica’s Quest for Better Wastewater Management.

New Case Studies and Experience Notes now available!

Under Component III of the GEF CReW Project, which is executed by the UN Environment Caribbean Environment Programme, seven case studies and six experience notes are now available under the publications section of the GEF CReW Website.

New materials continue to be added in English and Spanish so keep visiting the project’s website (www.gefcrew.org). Learn more here and visit the resources, media and publications sections of the website for more information.

New GEF CReW videos now available!

“Guyana and the CReW- Putting Wastewater on the National Agenda” shares the experience of the pilot project that was executed in Guyana and the efforts made through the project in making wastewater a national priority.
Sharing experiences on Innovative Financing in the GEF CReW Project

As a part of the Source-to-Sea Webinar Series, UN Environment Centre on Water and Environment will be focusing on “Financing Source-to-Sea Action” during its fourth webinar held on July 5, 2017 at 15:00 CEST.

The webinar featured four presentations including one from Mr Christopher Corbin entitled ‘Financing for wastewater-experiences from the GEF CReW Project’. His presentation will focus on the financing mechanisms tested in the four pilot project countries of the CReW.

The overall webinar considered a range of innovative financing options for supporting sustainable development, management and use. Options covered will include those relevant for regional, urban, and ecosystem settings.

If interested, you may go to the following link to access more information:

GEF CReW Facebook merges with UN Environment CEP Facebook page

As the project winds down to formal closure, the GEF CReW Facebook page has been merged with that of UN Environment Caribbean Environment Programme. As the journey continues, we encourage you to keep following UN Environment CEP for information about Wastewater Management in the Wider Caribbean Region.
National Activities under the GEF CReW

All national activities under the GEF CReE Project are nearing completion. These are two of the country highlights completed in Antigua and Barbuda and Costa Rica:

**Antigua and Barbuda:** Infrastructure options for wastewater management were identified, several workshops on capacity building and technical training were conducted, drafting of a wastewater policy for the McKinnon’s Wastewater Treatment Plant was done as well as a review of laws relating to wastewater disposal. Planning is currently taking place towards the opening of the McKinnon’s Wastewater Treatment Plant.

![Workers at the McKinnon’s WTP Site](image)

**Costa Rica:** The national project on the *Development of Capacities in Sanitation for the Administrator’s Association of Communal Aqueducts and Sewers within the framework of the GEF CReW Project* has ended. The project developed several educational and informative materials and audio-visuals and organised several technical and political meetings. Outputs from the project will be shared on the Costa Rica country page on the GEF CReW Website.

**N.B. Outputs from other national activities are being updated on the country pages of the GEF CReW website. Stay tuned!**

CReW+ Project Information Form (PIF) Proposal

Unfortunately the CReW+ proposal was not approved for inclusion in the 2017 GEF work programme for further development. Following recommendations from the GEF Secretariat, we will modify our CReW+ proposal concept (PIF). Activities relating to chemicals and waste will be removed and more specific activities for the development and implementation of decentralized, innovative and rural wastewater and sanitation solutions added; as well as a new component on Freshwater Management.

We propose to re-submit to the GEF Secretariat by the first week of August for further consideration.
Oil Spill Response / RAC REMPEITC - Caribe Highlights

Managing Incident Response
Commander Keith Donohue, Ms. Carla Bikker and RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe’s newest member, Maartje Folbert, organized, facilitated and conducted the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Sub-Regional Workshop on the Implementation of an Incident Management System (IMS), held in Nassau, The Bahamas from 20-25 May, 2017.

Sixteen senior maritime officials from Caribbean governments were sponsored by IMO and RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe to attend the workshop.

Bahamas national media outlets conducted interviews and provided coverage of the opening ceremony.

The workshop improved participants’ knowledge relating to oil spill preparedness, response and cooperation; using practical and theoretical exercises. It also enabled contingency planning pertaining to offshore oil pollution response for future revisions of the regional plans.

Ballast Water Management
The Regional Workshop on Ballast Water Management (BWM) was held in Panama City, Panama from 5-9 June 2017. It was organized, facilitated and conducted by Commander Keith Donohue and Ms. Carla Bikker. Approximately 39 participants representing the Wider Caribbean States participated in the workshop.

The workshop reestablished the Regional Task Force on Control and Management of Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments in the Wider Caribbean Region and El Salvador (RTF-WCR). It revised and revitalized the Regional Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) to Minimize the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens in Ships’ Ballast Water and Sediments, for the Wider Caribbean Region.

Support and commitment was received from delegates of Colombia, Belize, Jamaica, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago to establish a Caribbean Maritime Invasive Species Clearinghouse Mechanism that will be connected via RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe’s website.
Celebration of World Environment Day & World Oceans Day 2017

Protecting our environment and in particular the ocean took centre stage in early June as millions of persons globally celebrated World Environment Day and World Oceans Day on June 5th and June 8th respectively. International conferences in New York and Costa Rica, were held to coincide with these commemorative days and encouraged high level political commitment and partnerships.

Dr. Lorna Inniss, Coordinator of UN Environment CEP attended both Conferences in Costa Rica and New York during the period.

Locally, UN Environment CEP office and the Caribbean Sub-Regional Office (CSRO) hosted a series of awareness raising activities for World Environment Day and World Oceans Day.

UN Environment showcased successes, challenges and opportunities through social media, radio, television and public events to help persons “connect with nature” - the theme for World Environment Day. These included:

---Invitations to the public to share pledges on how they can protect the environment;
---Videos on the importance of the ocean by students in Jamaica from the Hydel Preparatory and High schools, St Andrew High School for Girls, and staff of the Ora-cabessa Bay Fish Sanctuary;
---Photo competitions on the environment and the reuse of wastewater;
---Airing of environmental videos on national television stations in Jamaica;
---Interviews with UN Environment staff on national and regional radio stations on the importance of environmental protection.
Below are snippets of the Be ‘Plastic Aware’ Challenge, Interviews and visuals of the pledges and flyers for the photo challenges and the UN Ocean Literacy Videos marking the week of celebrations.

Over 80 persons who visited the exhibition at the Be ‘Plastic Aware’ Challenge held at General Foods Supermarket in Kingston, Jamaica on June 8, 2017 had an opportunity to learn how their actions, as it relates to the generation and disposal of plastic waste.
Visual Arts Exhibition: From Trash to Beautiful Artwork

As part of the awareness campaign for World Environment & World Oceans Day activities, students from the Edna Manley College of Visual and Performing Arts in Kingston, Jamaica were asked to exhibit their environmental pieces of art from their Final Annual Year Exhibition.

These students investigated key issues pertaining to plastic pollution and its impact on the environment. Works of art also demonstrated alternative uses of plastic through site-specific sculptural constructs.

The pieces were an interesting blend showcasing marine life created from recycled material and other forms of trash.

The following are the students and their specific artwork:

**Reynaldo Russell**: Walk-through of Downtown Kingston, Jamaica depicting Environmental Pollution and re-engaging Plastics for alternative use.

**Akaylia Adams**: showcased structural Architecture of Environmental Art creating an expansive chandelier from plastic bags.

**Ana Kay Cuffe**: depicted the life stage of a coral reef showing living, dying and dead phases using clay.

**Mark Bowman**: designed a website which focused on rebranding wastewater and showcased the company, Caribbean Eco-Wastewater Solutions.

The students were interviewed to find out about the inspiration behind their pieces. Check out our youtube to listen to the artistes and what inspired them.
What’s New: Changes within Secretariat

Staff & Intern

Martin Okun, Administrative/Fund Management Officer returned to Nairobi, Kenya at the end of May following a one year secondment in the position based in Kingston, Jamaica. Farewell Martin!

Sancha Foreman, Pollutions and Communications Team Assistant is set to proceed on maternity leave on July 10, 2017. All the very best on this journey!

Jessica Stabile, SPAW Intern has completed her internship mid June and we wish her the very best on her new endeavours.

What’s New: Off-the-Shelf Resources

New resources include the updated factsheets, 1) Tourism & the Environment and 2) Climate Change and the Impacts on the Caribbean Sea. They can be downloaded at http://www.cep.unep.org/factsheets.

Applications for the position of Programme Management Officer for the Specially Protected Areas & Wildlife programme are now being accepted. Find out more here.
Social Media

Continue to like, follow and share our posts. CEP Facebook Likes have risen to over 4,700 Likes and Twitter followers to over 3,100.

CEP also has a Youtube page so please checkout our videos. The Ocean Literacy Videos, pledges to protect the Environment & the Caribbean Sea have been added as well as videos of the Visual Arts Exhibition and interviews of the artists. Check them out!

Focal Point Corner

Government Focal Points should provide updates on contact details for their national and technical focal points.

Please send news items, pictures and/or stories for our website, social media and newsletters.

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Keep updated on upcoming meetings and events by checking out our online calendar.
# Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Proposed dates</th>
<th>Proposed venue</th>
<th>Organization(s)/Project</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10th International Convention on the Environment &amp; Development</td>
<td>3-7 July</td>
<td>Havana, Cuba</td>
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<tr>
<td>40th Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Conference</td>
<td>1-8 July</td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
<td>FAO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twelfth meeting of the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention (CRC.12)</td>
<td>14-16 July</td>
<td>Metropolitan City of Rome, Italy</td>
<td>Rotterdam Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joint sessions of the 29th meeting of the Animals Committee and 23rd meeting of the Plants Committee</td>
<td>22-27 July</td>
<td>Geneva, Switzerland</td>
<td>CITES</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Youth Day</td>
<td>12-Aug</td>
<td>Panama City, Panama</td>
<td>UN Environment CEP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Launch of Trash Free Partnership in Panama</td>
<td>14-18 Aug</td>
<td>Panama City, Panama</td>
<td>UN Environment CEP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Workshop on Marine Protected Areas Tamandaré (PE)</td>
<td>15-17 Aug</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>The Brazilian Ministry of the Environment and the UN Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer</td>
<td>16-Aug</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Water Week</td>
<td>27 Aug-1 Sep</td>
<td>Jamaica/St. Lucia/Cuba</td>
<td>UN Environment CEP</td>
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<td>IWEco Regional Communications and Capacity Building Workshop</td>
<td>September</td>
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<td>4th International Marine Protected Areas Congress, IMPAC4</td>
<td>4-8 Sep</td>
<td>La Serena, Chile</td>
<td>IMPAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th International Conference on Sustainable Development</td>
<td>6-7 Sep</td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
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<td>Bonn Agreement</td>
<td>20-21 Sep</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>140th Meeting of the Committee of the Permanent Representatives to UNEP</td>
<td>21-Sep</td>
<td>Nairobi</td>
<td>UNEP</td>
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