



# The CWWA InfoStructure

Caribbean Collaborations, Unified Solutions

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH ALL OUR READERS AND CONTRIBUTORS BEST WISHES AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO SUCCESSFUL ACHIEVEMENTS IN

2015

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS – CWWA 2015!

## Annual Environmental Events 2015



2<sup>nd</sup> February

[World Wetlands Day: Wetlands and agriculture](#)

21<sup>st</sup> March

International Day of Forests and the Tree

22<sup>nd</sup> March

World Water Day

22<sup>nd</sup> April

Earth Day

22<sup>nd</sup> May

International Day for Biological Diversity

5<sup>th</sup> June

World Environment Day

17<sup>th</sup> June

World Day to Combat Desertification

16<sup>th</sup> September


International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

16<sup>th</sup> October

World Food Day

6<sup>th</sup> November

International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict



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**World Wetlands Day**  
2 February 2015

Wetlands for our Future







## Seven ways wetlands provide for our future

**1 Wetlands ensure fresh water for all of us**

Only 3% of the world's water is fresh, and most of that is frozen. Yet every human needs 20-50 litres of water a day for basic drinking, cooking and cleaning. Wetlands provide that water. They also help replenish groundwater aquifers.

**2 Wetlands purify and filter harmful waste from water**

Plants from wetlands can help absorb harmful fertilizers and pesticides, as well as heavy metals and toxins from industry.

The Nakivubo Swamp in Kampala, Uganda filters sewage and industrial effluents for free; a treatment plant would cost \$2 million per year.

**3 Wetlands feed humanity**

Rice, grown in wetland paddies, is the staple diet of nearly three billion people. The average human consumes 19kg of fish each year. Most commercial fish breed and raise their young in coastal marshes and estuaries. 70% of all fresh water extracted globally is used for crop irrigation.

**4 Wetlands are bursting with biodiversity**

Wetlands are home to more than 100,000 known freshwater species alone, and that number is growing every year. In just 10 years, 272 new species of freshwater fish were discovered in the Amazon.

Wetlands are essential to bird life, breeding and migration.

**5 Wetlands act as nature's shock absorbers**

Peatlands and wet grasslands in river basins act as natural sponges, absorbing rainfall, creating wide surface pools that ease flooding in rivers. The same storage capacity can also safeguard against drought.

**6 Wetlands help fight climate change**

Peatlands alone store more than twice as much carbon as all the forests in the world!

In the face of rising sea levels, coastal wetlands reduce the impact of typhoons and tsunamis. They also bind the shoreline and resist erosion.

**7 Wetlands provide sustainable livelihoods and products**

61.8 million people depend directly on fishing and fisheries for a living. Timber for building, vegetable oil, medicinal plants, animal fodder, and stems and leaves for weaving can all originate from sustainably managed wetlands.



[www.worldwetlandsday.org](http://www.worldwetlandsday.org)



World Wetlands Day is made possible by the Danone Fund for Water.







### CLIMAQUEST: Planting the seeds of environmental change in young minds across Trinidad and Tobago



Students of Parvati Girls' Hindu College playing an informative game of Climaquest

In primary and secondary schools all across Trinidad and Tobago students are being educated about the environment; issues and solutions, the question is how to keep young minds conscious of the issues surrounding environmental change. Students and teachers of Parvati Girls' Hindu College in Debe, South Trinidad found a simple, innovative way of coaching young minds in becoming a catalyst for positive environmental change with the help of the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The product of this initiative, "CLIMAQUEST", will be seen in primary and secondary school around Trinidad and Tobago in 2015. US\$48,662.20 has been allocated by the GEF SGP to design, manufacture and distribute this interactive "edutainment" board game....

#### Read more:

[http://www.tt.undp.org/content/trinidad\\_tobago/en/home/our-work/environmentandenergy/successstories/UNDP\\_TT\\_GEF\\_SGP\\_Climaquest/](http://www.tt.undp.org/content/trinidad_tobago/en/home/our-work/environmentandenergy/successstories/UNDP_TT_GEF_SGP_Climaquest/)

Photo Source: UNDP Trinidad and Tobago

### Second Pointe Blanche Water Tank Completed in St Martin



Former Minister of Public Health Social Development & Labor, Cornelius De Weever, with Management of GEBE, Seven Seas and GEBE staff at the location of the two water tanks

GREAT BAY, ST MARTIN --- Former Minister of Public Health Social Development & Labor, Cornelius De Weever, responsible for the production and distribution of drinking water, Management of GEBE, Romelio Maduro, Rene Gartner and Management of Seven Seas Water Mr. Franklyn Richards on Thursday, December 18, 2014 visited the Pointe Blanche site where the second water tank has been built. "A milestone has been achieved here as storage capacity has been structurally increased," said Former Minister De Weever.

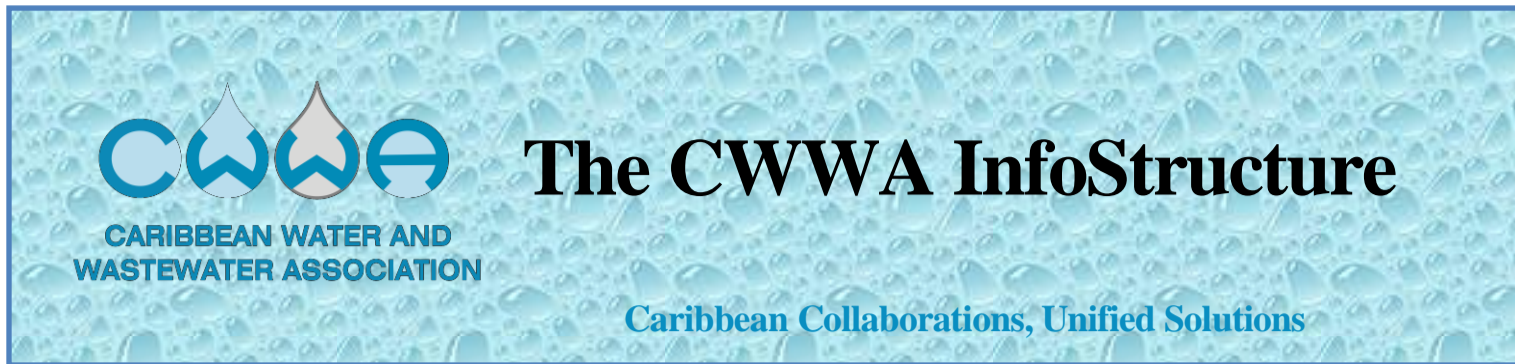
Former Minister De Weever mentioned the importance of having the necessary infrastructure in place for the supply of drinking water for the present and the next generation, which is essential to guarantee public health. He looks back on a fruitful three year period with real improvements in the area of water production and distribution, overall and in particular in the east area of our island.

GEBE will take the just completed second tank in operation soon. The first tank is already in operation. Both tanks will serve as reservoirs for the water produced by seawater reverse osmosis plant built in the "Yellow Building" on the Harbour Cargo premises. The tanks are connected to the water distribution system of GEBE and supply drinking water to the community. Each tank has a capacity of 3000 m<sup>3</sup>. The total increase in capacity of tank storage of 6000 m<sup>3</sup> equals 20% of the presently installed tank capacity.

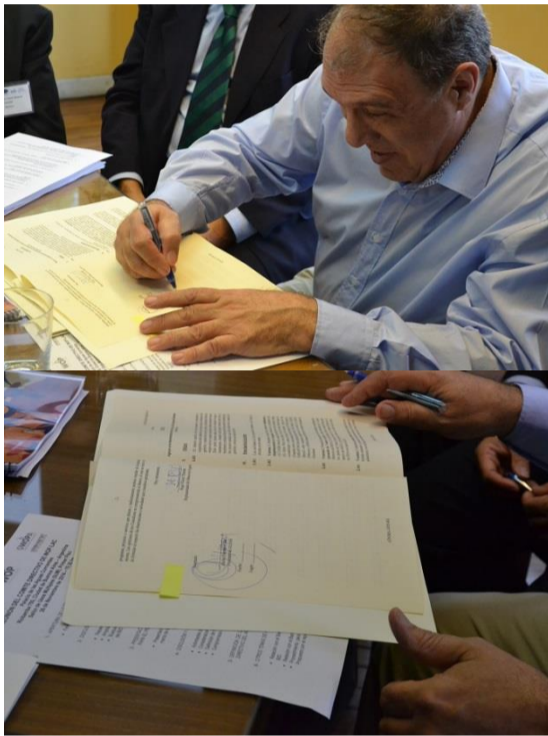
In August 2012 a three way agreement between Government, GEBE and Air-Fin /Seven Seas Water was signed specifying detailed arrangements of the supply, installation, commissioning, operation and ownership of two water tanks. The 3 way agreement is a sub agreement of the Water Supply (Production) Agreement between Government and Air-Fin / Seven Seas Water for 2008-2018.

The site is located uphill on the road to Monte Vista and is commonly known as the Pot Rum site.

<http://smn-news.com/st-maarten-st-martin-news/17516-second-pointe-blanche-water-tank-completed.html>



### The Inter-American Development Bank Approved A Technical Cooperation To Support Wop-Lac



IDB representative signs the MOU for the support of Wop-LAC

The Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) approved, last November 30, a Non Refundable Technical Cooperation to the Latin American Water and Wastewater Operators' Association (ALOAS), to support the implementation of the Business Plans over the next three years (2015-2017).

The Project, named as RG-T2541, is for a total amount of US\$750,000. The IADB will contribute with US\$450,000. The principal objectives of the Technical Cooperation are:

- i. Identify and develop at least 16 WOPs;
- ii. Promotion of best practices through the implementation of 5 workshops on selected themes;
- iii. Management and promotion of the Platform by launching a website, a newsletter and participation in international events

[More information](#)

### CWWA REPRESENTED AT THE GWOPA CONFERENCE IN BUENOS AIRES



CWWA Representative Alphonsus Daniel (center) with members at the Steering Committee Meeting of the Network of Sister Utilities/Companies of Water Operators partnership-Latin America and the Caribbean, (WOP – LAC)

Last November, Alphonsus Daniel represented CWWA at a Mission to Buenos Aires, Argentina. The aim of this mission was threefold:

- (1) To attend the Regional Conference/workshop: "Strategies of Water Operators in the Protection of its Sources and Watersheds: Challenges and Opportunities.
- (2) To represent the CariWOP in the General Assembly of Water Operators Partnership of Latin America and the Caribbean (WOP-LAC) and to attend its Steering Committee meeting and
- (3) To participate in the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Latin America Association of Water and Sanitation Operators (ALOAS). These activities all took place in the Palace of Running Waters, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The general objective of the workshop was to provide tools and experiences to guide operators of drinking water in their involvement in the preservation of watersheds. Specifically it was designed to encompass the following:

- Present innovative experiences and Best Practices in operations of drinking water employed in the protection of watersheds and water sources.
- Analyze the watershed environment, the urban and rural players, public and private stakeholders, and the role of the water operator in governance and management.
- Share initiatives and Best Practices in financing the preservation of Watersheds.
- Define guidelines and recommendations to achieve optimum operator involvement in the preservation of watersheds based on experiences.





CARIBBEAN WATER AND  
WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION

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## DOMINICA'S WATER DESCRIBED AS TOP QUALITY IN THE REGION



Bernard Etinoffe, GM Dominica Water & Sewerage

General Manager of Dominica Water & Sewerage Company, Bernard Etinoffe makes no bones about Dominica being ahead in the region in terms of the quality of the country's water resource.

"Even the cruise ships will attest to that," he said. "Other than the issue of turbidity when it rains, we do not have a water quality issue. We are well within the World Health Organization's standard for potable water to consumers. This is as a result of the government's initiative to preserve the environment and our forests especially within water catchment areas."

As a matter of fact, he adds, the nation is in a position to assist neighbouring islands with water.

Etinoffe says that although Dominica already exports bottled water, there are currently plans to export bulk water.

He says bulk water is already being sold mainly to cruise ships on a small scale through the Dominica Air & Sea Port Authority, the company is looking to expand this market.

He revealed that the company is in "discussions with a number of persons at this time and we are hoping that at least one of them will come into fruition in quick time."

Exporting bulk water forms part of the Dominica Labour Party Government's plans for this term

Source::*Dominica Information Service*

## Businesses Encouraged To Participate In National Risk Assessment Exercise



*Press Release: Government of BVI – 2-Feb. 2015*

Businesses and organisations, including registered and not-yet-registered non-profit organisations are encouraged to continue participating in the ongoing National Risk Assessment (NRA) exercise currently being conducted in the Territory.

The NRA exercise is currently in phase 2 which includes site visits and on-site interviews by NRA assessment teams. Whether you participated by responding to the initial NRA questionnaire or were unable to, we welcome your participation at this point.

The NRA exercise is confidential and information gathered will not be used for any other purpose; any information provided to NRA assessment teams is maintained solely by the NRA and will be kept in the strictest confidence.

We would like to thank the over 500 businesses and organisations from various sectors of the economy who have already responded to our calls for participation and assistance during this important initiative. The positive response is valuable and helps to ensure that the full spectrum of Money Laundering (ML) and Terrorist Financing (TF) risks can be identified prior to the next Territorial assessment in 2017.

The National Risk Assessment Steering Group (NRASG), which is leading the conduct of the NRA exercise, is committed to strengthening the Territory's ability to identify and assess the risks associated with money laundering and terrorist financing ahead of the 2017 assessment by the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF); advance preparation is critical to successfully meeting international standards.

We anticipate the full and continued cooperation of those business and organisations that are active in the relevant sectors of the economy during this important Territory wide initiative. For more information on the NRA exercise, contact the NRASG using [info@bvinra.org](mailto:info@bvinra.org) or visit the NRA website, [www.bvinra.org](http://www.bvinra.org).



CARIBBEAN WATER AND  
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## Curacao Government wants to reduce Non-Revenue Water within three years



**WILLEMSTAD** – The Council of Ministers decided on January 14 that the Non-Revenue Water (leakage) should be reduced to 17 percent within three years. This should be achieved by addressing both technical and administrative losses with measures that can be realized in the short term.

The research, which was conducted by Vitens Evides International, commissioned by the Bureau Telecommunications and Post (BTP), revealed that a substantial reduction in the Non-Revenue Water is possible. This research and also Aqualectra's proposed plan were influential in the decision of the Council of Ministers.

The Non-Revenue Water is namely, a component which is of importance in the calculation of the rate of water. Because Non-Revenue Water has a negative impact on the revenues of the utility company Aqualectra and the cost of producing and distributing drinking water, and hence the height of the end user price paid by individuals or companies, it is important to reduce this.

Non-Revenue Water in Curacao, according to BTP, has been measured, in previous years, at 24-28 percent of the total production of drinking water. That is relatively high. Although an international comparison is not simple, an analysis of the World Bank in 2006, as a rule of thumb, that in developing countries a Non-Revenue Water target of 17.5 percent can be considered reasonable.

Source: <http://curacaochronicle.com/politics/government-wants-to-reduce-non-revenue-water-within-three-years/>

## The World's Premier Forum on Landfill Gas and Biogas Utilization & Technology

The 38th Annual Landfill Gas and Biogas Symposium takes an in-depth look at where the industry is going, with presentations applicable to both small and large facilities. You'll find the latest information on regulatory issues, financial planning, high BTU and gas treatment. GHG, gas generation modeling and migration control. You'll get information and resources to improve the sustainability and economic performance of your landfill gas and biogas projects.



**LANDFILL METHANE  
OUTREACH PROGRAM**

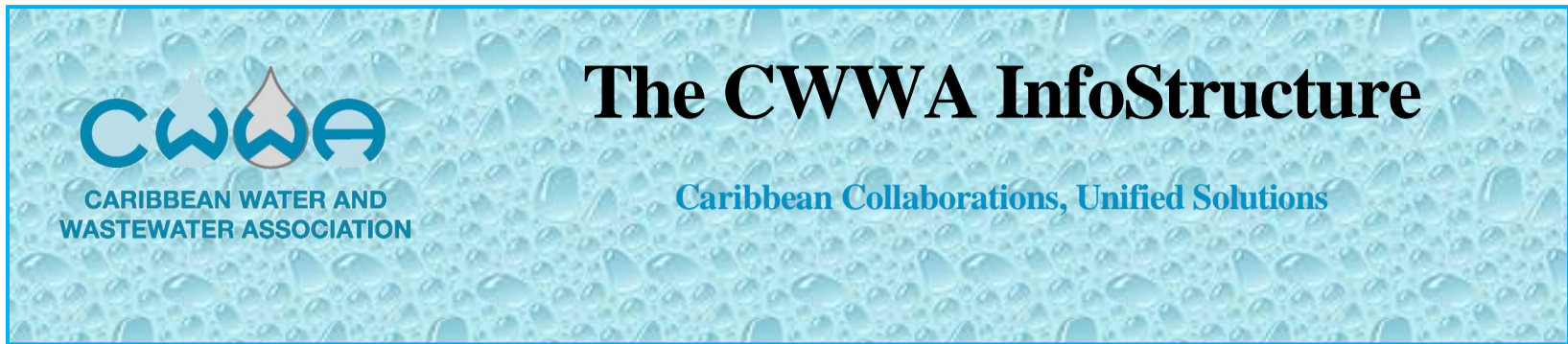
The U.S. EPA's *Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP)* is collaborating with SWANA to organize a workshop in conjunction with the 38th Annual Landfill Gas and Biogas Symposium. The half-day LMOP National Landfill Gas Energy Workshop will be held on **Thursday, March 19, 2015**. The LMOP workshop will highlight recent successes in landfill gas energy projects and include recognition of the 2014 LMOP Project and Partner of the Year awardees.

The LMOP workshop offers attendees a unique opportunity to network with a wide range of solid waste experts, share lessons learned and successes, and discuss where the LFG energy industry is headed. LMOP is not hosting a separate conference in 2015.

If you have any questions, please contact [techdivisions@swana.org](mailto:techdivisions@swana.org).

The preliminary program is now [online](#).





## NEWS IN THE SECTOR

### ***CDB Grant To Further Develop Vieux Fort, St. Lucia Water Supply Systems***

Caribbean Development Bank  
Tuesday, Dec 23rd, 2014

ST. MICHAEL, Barbados (CDB) -- The way is now clear for the next step in a collaborative process between the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Government of St. Lucia which will bring a reliable supply of potable water to over 19,000 people residing in the town of Vieux Fort

<http://news.caribseek.com/index.php/caribbean-islands-news/saint-lucia-news/item/94926-cdb-grant-to-further-develop-vieux-fort-st-lucia-water-supply-systems>

### ***DOWASCO TALKS SUSTAINABILITY OF DOMINICA'S WATER RESOURCE***

Published on Friday, 30 January 2015 15:29

Now that Dominica is only 2% away from achieving full access to potable water, the task now is to manage this invaluable resource.

General Manager of Dominica Water And Sewerage Company, (DOWASCO), Bernard Etinoffe, revealed that Government has already set policies in place that focus on conserving the resource to ensure sustainability.

Etinoffe was speaking at an exclusive interview with GIS.

Read more:

<http://www.news.gov.dm/index.php/news/2174-dowasco-talks-sustainability-of-dominica-s-water-resource>

### ***Caribbean Energy Security Summit Joint Statement, Jan. 26, 2015***

26 Jan 2015 04:49

Washington, DC--(ENEWSPF)--January 26, 2015. The Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Colombia, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, United States, together with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, Caribbean Development Bank, European Union, Inter-American Development Bank Group, International Renewable Energy Agency, Organization of American States, and the World Bank Group:

Read more: <http://www.enevspf.com/latest-news/science/science-a-environmental/58569-caribbean-energy-security-summit-joint-statement-jan-26-2015.html>

### ***Bill Gates drinks water distilled from human faeces***

*"tasted as good as any I've had out of a bottle"*

Bill Gates has drunk a glass of water made from human faeces, to showcase technology he said could provide clean water in the developing world.

The Microsoft founder said he wanted to begin sending processing plants around the world after tests later this year.

The project was welcomed by WaterAid, which said that it could particularly help in urban areas.

According to the charity, some 748 million people worldwide lack clean drinking water.

In a video posted on his blog, Mr Gates watched as the human waste was fed into the processor, before drinking the end product from a glass.

"Why would anyone want to turn waste into drinking water and electricity?" Gates asked.

See the answer and more here:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-30709273>