

CWWA YEAR IN REVIEW



2024



CARIBBEAN WATER AND
WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION

A message from the President

From Foundation to Future: Leveraging Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA)'s 33 Years for Sustainable Progress in the Water and Sanitation Sector

Over the past 33 years, the CWWA has been at the forefront of driving transformative change in the Caribbean's water, wastewater, and waste management sectors, shaping policy, pioneering research, engineering knowledge exchange, facilitating capacity building and empowering regional growth.

Reflecting on 2024: Key Achievements

In 2024, we expanded our network of development partners by welcoming the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) and the World Bank (WB) into our ecosystem. This strategic growth enhances our ongoing collaborations with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Our commitment to international cooperation was solidified through the signing of MOUs with the International Water Association (IWA) and the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association (PWWA). Our partnership with the Department of Water Resources Management and Infrastructure at the Royal Agricultural University, United Kingdom, yielded tangible benefits through a targeted capacity-building initiative.

Regionally, we strengthened our affiliation with the University of the West Indies (UWI) by providing technical expertise to its St. Augustine campus and supporting the Food and Agriculture Organization Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean (FAO-SLC) in advancing Agrifood Systems. We expanded our academic engagement by collaborating with the West Indian Journal of Engineering (WIJE) to publish selected papers from Conference 2024, further contributing to knowledge dissemination in the sector.

Conference 2024: A record-breaking year

2024 was a landmark year of achievements, as highlighted by our record-breaking Annual Conference and Exhibition. Over 5 days, we welcomed more than 600 participants, including 5 regional young professional sponsored rapporteurs, alongside exhibitors, sponsors, technical paper presenters, delegates, utility managers, academics, and the highest number of Ministers responsible for Water and Waste ever gathered at a single conference.



We also proudly unveiled Untapped and Untold: The Hidden Connection between Water and Sustainability in Trinidad and Tobago, a groundbreaking publication authored by Past President Sara Jade Govia and Dr. Ronald Roopnarine.

This Conference proved itself to be a convergence of the Caribbean's leading minds and institutions in the water and sanitation sector. Since then, I have received compelling accounts of the conference's lasting impact. The Conference created pathways for new business opportunities, ongoing collaborations, and the integration of innovative solutions that will shape the future of water and wastewater management across the Caribbean

Building on the momentum, we signed two key policy documents, including the Water Declaration of Port of Spain 2024 and the Declaration of Port of Spain 2024 on Regional Action Towards Zero Waste. As a young professional and the original author of the water declaration, I experienced a milestone moment when our Caribbean Ministers unanimously signed it during the 20th High-Level Forum for Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Water and Wastewater. The Ministers acknowledged the significant challenges posed by the climate crisis and the pressing need for regional collaboration to promote water security. The declaration highlights key priorities, such as disaster risk financing, securing access to climate financing for water and wastewater projects, advancing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), and addressing the reduction of non-revenue water.

Accelerating in 2025 and beyond

As we advance into 2025, the final year of our Strategic Plan 2022-2025, we are unwavering in our commitment to the six core pillars that define our direction and drive our work plan. These pillars will continue to shape every action and decision we make. They are **Resource Mobilisation, Communication, Knowledge Creation and Exchange, Training and Capacity Building, Leveraging Technology and Membership Engagement.**

Under the stewardship of Executive Director Laurayne Lucky and guide by the Board of Directors, we have outlined a comprehensive work plan for the fiscal years 2025-2026, Here is a snapshot of what to look forward to in the coming months.

- Component 1 emphasizes **Capacity Development and Training**, aiming to equip representatives with vital skills in areas like climate-resilient infrastructure, wastewater management, drought planning, disaster response, and groundwater management. Collaborating organizations such as CIMH, CDEMA, UNECO IHP, CDB, IDB, and the World Bank will provide expertise and support, this initiative is designed to foster regional resilience through knowledge sharing and skill enhancement in the water sector.
- In line with modern communication trends, Component 2 introduces a **Webinars and Podcast Series** to disseminate knowledge on key thematic areas such as non-revenue water management, climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and innovative water technologies. Scheduled bi-monthly, these sessions will involve sector experts and thought leaders from organizations like GWP-C and CAWASA. This component will help bridge gaps in knowledge dissemination, making information accessible to a broader audience, including remote communities and professionals unable to attend in-person events.

- Further expanding on stakeholder engagement, Component 3 focuses on **Public Education, Stakeholder Collaboration, and Outreach**. This includes social learning campaigns targeting youth, promoting water conservation, climate risk adaptation, and public health through WASH initiatives. Partnerships with organizations like UNICEF, CCCCC, and regional water utilities will amplify the impact of these efforts, promoting sustainable practices and advocacy throughout the Caribbean.
- Components 6 to 8 include initiatives focused on youth and high-level stakeholder engagement. The **Youth Symposium on Water Security and Climate Resilience** targets young leaders aged 17-21, providing a forum for dialogue and advocacy on key water sector issues. The **Young Professionals Network** will promote mentorship and professional development. Finally, the **Annual High-Level Forums for Caribbean Ministers** will continue to provide a platform for advancing the regional water and sanitation agenda, supporting collaboration among policymakers and utility heads.

What I've shared above is only a glimpse of the workplan and let me be clear, there is much more critical work that we are committed to complete. There's a powerful saying: "The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago, and the next best time is now." This applies directly to your CWWA membership. If you're in the water and sanitation sector, there's no better time than now to become an active member. In 2025, we will prioritize Membership Engagement, and every single member, whether corporate, utility, or individual, will reap the rewards. This is your moment to be part of something transformative!

Gratitude is ah must!

I am deeply thankful to Immediate Past President, Lt. Col. Marlon Daniels, and everyone who served under his leadership. This team navigated the CWWA through challenging times, stepping up at the tail end of the Covid-19 pandemic and

successfully leading us to our first in-person conference in the Bahamas in 2022. He then led us to Guyana in 2023 and Trinidad and Tobago in 2024. A special mention goes to the incredible Ms. Louise Alfred from Dominica, whose dedication, expertise, and energy as a Director played a key role in our membership's growth and overall value.

I am also extremely grateful to my Board of Directors for their continuous support and commitment. A heartfelt thank you to my team, Immediate Past President Marlon Daniels, 1st Vice-President Kelvin Romain, 2nd Vice-President Stuart Hamilton, Secretary Cyrielle Casimire, Treasurer Dalven Harris, Public Relations Officer Angela Franklin, Directors Cornelio Acosta, Karlene Singh, and Lakiesha Johnson, and Conference Chair Kiera Clarke for their outstanding contributions. I must also express my sincere appreciation to our Executive Director Laurayne Lucky and the entire Secretariat team, including Programme Officer Sweeta Beharry and Finance Administrative Officer Michelle Rosales-Thompson. Their dedication has been key to our success, and I am truly fortunate to work with such a driven and talented team of individuals as we continue to achieve our shared goals. This is indeed a champion team!

As I step into the role of CWWA's 18th President, I extend my gratitude to our membership for providing me with a strong 33-year foundation to build upon. My team and I are committed to advancing our mission and vision, and we will work relentlessly to drive the progress of CWWA, support our members, and elevate the Caribbean water and sanitation sector. Under my leadership, the CWWA is unwavering in its commitment to be a key stakeholder, driving impactful change to improve the lives of the Caribbean people through water, wastewater and waste management.

Candice Santana
President, CWWA

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Webinars & Workshops

Nature-Based Solutions for Wastewater Management: A Regional Approach

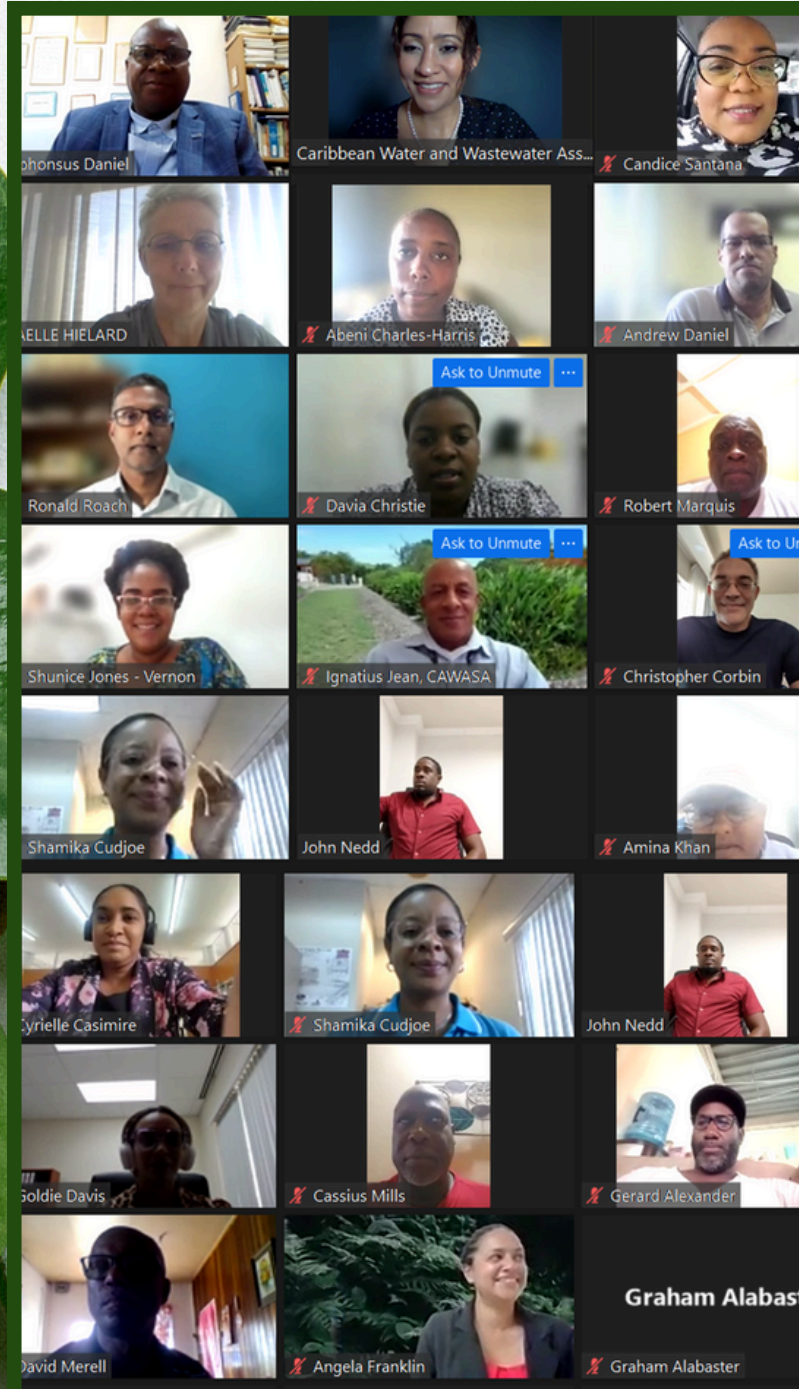
On April 25th, 2024, the CWWA Wastewater Specialist Group hosted a webinar focused on nature-based solutions for wastewater management in the region, attracting around 100 registered participants. Presentations featured insights from the Tobago Services Division of WASA-T&T, UN Habitat, and the Martinique Water Office, covering topics such as constructed wetlands, lagoon systems, and waste stabilization ponds within their respective territories.

Wastewater Reuse in the Region: Taking the Waste out of Wastewater

On July 16th, 2024, the Wastewater Specialist Group hosted its second webinar, which focused on the role of water reuse in enhancing water security and managing wastewater in the region. The session featured presentations from Mr. Brian Stuart of the Barbados Water Authority, Ms. Allison Elcock of WASA-T&T, and Mr. Mark Barnett, CWWA Past President.

Incident Command System (ICS) - Level 100 Training

On September 10th, 2024, the CWWA Health and Safety & Disaster Management Specialist Group hosted a training session on the fundamentals of emergency coordination, response, and management, presented by Alberto Burrero in collaboration with Operators Without Borders (OWB) and the Caribbean Water & Sewerage Association (CAWASA). The session focused on the purpose of ICS, emphasizing its role in providing a flexible, scalable framework for coordinating resources, personnel, and processes during emergencies.



Webinars & Workshops

10th World Water Forum

Regional Process of the Americas: Caribbean Sub-Region

On May 3rd, 2024, the CWWA hosted a webinar which provided an overview of the Caribbean Sub-Regional Report, developed as part of the Regional Process of the Americas for the 10th World Water Forum (*Bali Indonesia May 18th-25th 2024*). The CWWA assisted with the development of the report in collaboration with the Caribbean Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank.



New International Benchmarking Network for Water and Sanitation Services (IBNet) First Online Technical Session

On December 3rd, 2024, a session was held to explore how the NewIBNET system could improve utility performance through data-driven decision-making, benchmarking, and regional collaboration. Utility representatives learned how to register on the platform, upload their data, and utilize the new dashboards and features. The session also covered Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), management practices, and provided access to the Caribbean Water Community for enhanced collaboration.



CWWA & MIYA Sign A 3-Year Partnership Agreement



The Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) has signed a three-year partnership with MIYA, a global leader in water efficiency solutions. MIYA will be the official Technical Sessions Sponsor at the CWWA Annual Conference and Exhibition over the period 2024-2026. Additionally, the two organizations will collaborate on a youth-focused water conservation 'TikTok' campaign, to raise awareness about sustainable water management in the Caribbean. This partnership aims to engage and educate the public, while advancing the development of the regional water sector. The agreement was signed by the CWWA Executive Director, Laurayne Lucky and MIYA Chief Growth Officer, José Carazo.



Media Launch for the 33rd Annual CWWA Conference and Exhibition



On the 28th of August 2024, the CWWA hosted the official Media Launch for 33rd Annual CWWA Conference and Exhibition, at the Hyatt Regency, Port of Spain Trinidad. The event was attended by the Host Minister for the Conference, the Honourable Marvin Gonzales, Minister of Public Utilities, as well as the Permanent Secretary-Ministry of Public Utilities, Ms. Nicolette Duke, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Water and Sewerage Authority of Trinidad & Tobago, Ravindra Nanga, CWWA President Lt. Colonel Marlon Daniels, CWWA Vice President Candice Santana, CWWA Board Secretary Cyrielle Casimire, CWWA Executive Director Laurayne Lucky and Conference Chair Satish Johnson. Some of the key topics highlighted included Water Resource Management, Non-Revenue Water, Stakeholder Engagement and the Circular Economy.

DATES TO CEMEMORATE

Raises awareness about plastic pollution and encourages reducing single-use plastic for at least one day. With over 380 million tons of plastic produced yearly, this day highlights the long-lasting impact of disposable plastic, which takes centuries to degrade.

**INTERNATIONAL
PLASTIC FREE DAY
MAY 25**



**WORLD ENVIRONMENT
DAY
JUNE 5**

Encourages positive change and environmental action. People from over 150 countries come together to celebrate the power of governments, businesses, and individuals in creating a sustainable world.

Raises awareness about the 3.5 billion people living without safely managed sanitation and calls for action to address the global water and sanitation crisis, impacting health, education, and equality.

**WORLD TOILET DAY
NOVEMBER 19**



**WORLD WATER LOSS
DAY
DECEMBER 4**

Established in 2019 by the International Water Loss Association (IWA), to raise awareness about the critical issue of water loss in water distribution systems and the urgent need to take action. IWA estimates global water losses from drinking water networks at 346 billion liters daily.



**WORLD WATER DAY
MARCH 22**

Highlights the global water crisis, focusing on the 2.2 billion people lacking access to safe water. It calls for action to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030

REGIONAL MEETINGS INVOLVING CWWA PARTICIPATION

CARICOF 2024

The Caribbean Climate Outlook Stakeholder Forum (CARICOF) for the wet season was held on May 23rd and 24th, 2024 in Guyana and included the delivery of forecasts for the upcoming wet and hurricane season. The event primarily targeted Disaster Risk Managers, addressing the potential climate extremes expected in the year ahead and their significant implications for climate risk management. Additionally, the Dry Season forum took place in St. Lucia on November 28th and 29th, 2024.



XVI Meeting of National Committees & Focal Points of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme for LAC

The XVI Meeting of National Committees and Focal Points of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean was held on November 4th-5th, 2024, in Puntarenas, Costa Rica. This biannual event focuses on planning and monitoring the implementation of the programme across the region. The President of the CWWA Board represented the Association.



CDM 13

The 13th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM 13) took place from December 2nd-6th, 2024, Marriott Hotel, St. Kitts. Under the theme “Road to Resilience: Checkpoint 2024 – Levelling Up for a Dynamic Future,” the conference delivered impactful sessions focused on advancing disaster resilience across the Caribbean.



REGIONAL MEETINGS INVOLVING CWWA PARTICIPATION

UN-SIDS 4

The fourth United Nations, Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) took place from May 27th to 30th, 2024, in St John's, Antigua. Under the theme **"Charting the Course Toward Resilient Prosperity"** the Conference focused on assessing the ability of SIDS to achieve sustainable development, including the need for adequate and accessible financing, disaster risk reduction, climate change, water security and meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The event concluded with the adoption of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) which sets out the sustainable development aspirations of SIDS over the next 10 years and the support required from the international community to achieve them. Representatives from the CWWA and Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C) represented the regional water and sanitation community at the event.



Financing Circular Economy Solutions for Waste Management

The workshop entitled **"Zero Waste in the Caribbean: New Ways, New Waves,"** was organised by the United Nation Environment Programme, under the EU-funded initiative, co-financed by the German Cooperation in partnership with CARIFORUM. It was held over the period September 3rd to 6th, 2024, in Barbados.



This pivotal event focused on addressing key waste management challenges and promoting a circular economy across the region. It brought together stakeholders from both the public and private sectors, facilitating meaningful dialogue on sustainable solutions for waste management in the Caribbean.

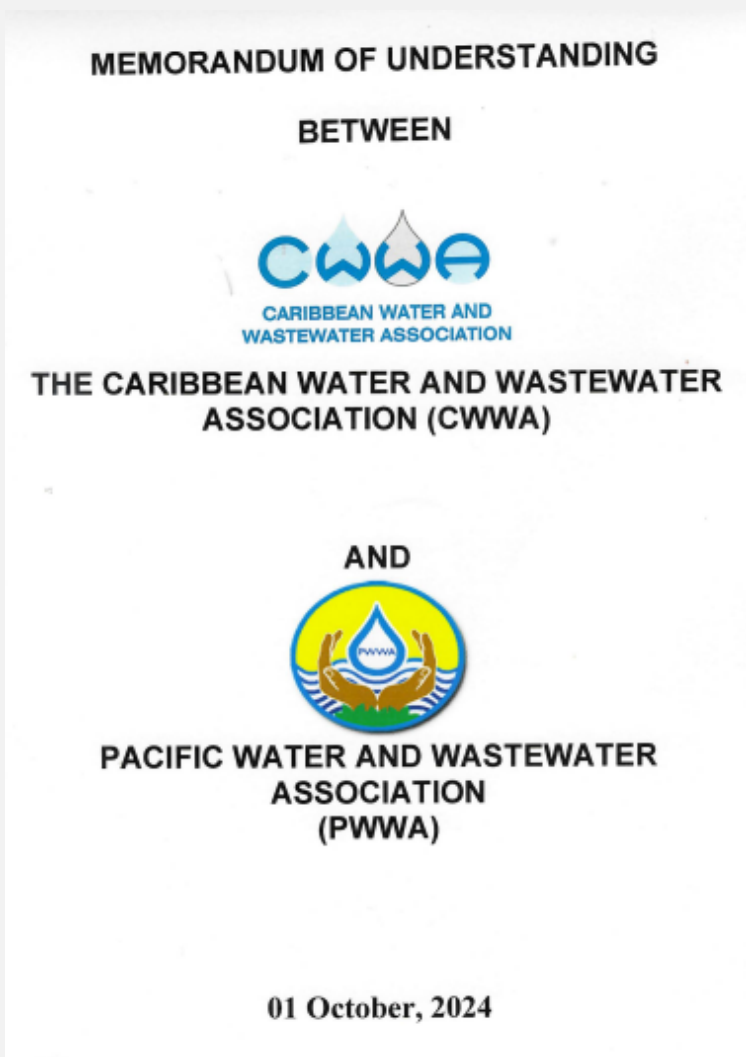
33RD CWWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

21st - 25th October 2024
Port of Spain, Trinidad

The theme for this year's event was "Collective Regional Action Toward a Climate Resilient, Water Secure and Zero Waste Caribbean". The Conference portion of the event included a Pre-Conference Workshop, the official Opening Ceremony, a Plenary on Wastewater, technical presentations by over 60 participants, technical tours and the official Closing Ceremony. The Exhibition portion of the event involved a three-day exhibition on water, wastewater and solid waste products and services from the Caribbean, North and South America and the United Kingdom. The event also included four days of High Level Ministerial meetings namely: the 20th High Level Forum (HLF) for Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Water; the 8th HLF for Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Solid Waste.

The CWWA Conference & Exhibition continues to provide a critical forum for the sustainable development of the water and sanitation sectors. The next Conference will be held in San Pedro, Belize 20th-24th October 2025.





In October 2024, the CWWA and the Pacific Water and Wastewater Association (PWWA) signed an MOU to formalize cooperation in various areas, including the exchange of information, and assistance in technology, methodology, training, and organizational development.

CWWA AND PWWA SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

HEALTH AND SAFETY + DISASTER MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST GROUP

The CWWA Health and Safety + Disaster Management Specialist Group was established in 2024 and they first convened in October 2024 during the 33rd Annual Conference & Exhibition. Its objectives are to advance occupational health and safety practices, procedures, systems, and management across the Caribbean through research, training, and information exchange, with the ultimate goal of enhancing worker safety and health. Additionally, the group aims to strengthen disaster preparedness, response, and recovery throughout the region, and to support business continuity within the Caribbean's utility sectors.

PUBLICATION LAUNCH

The CWWA was pleased to announce the official launch of the book "Developmental Study - Untapped and Untold: The Hidden Connection between Water and Sustainability in Trinidad and Tobago" at the 33rd Annual Conference & Exhibition. Authored by CWWA Past President, Sara-Jade Govia, and Dr. Ronald Roopnarine, Deputy Dean and Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Food and Agriculture at the University of the West Indies (UWI), this insightful work explores the critical links between water and sustainability in Trinidad and Tobago.

Download a free copy of the book here: [Download](#)



"CWWA represents the people at the heart of managing the Caribbean's water and sanitation —those who make decisions, accelerate action, and sustain livelihoods through this vital resource. I firmly believe that CWWA's platform is the most impactful place to amplify the message in this book; that water is the lifeblood of our Caribbean nations and that people are the hidden connection to secure this indispensable commodity. This knowledge product is a testament to the value CWWA brings to the sector, facilitating collaboration and resilience. I look forward to hearing your insights on the book and working together to replicate this product across the region."

Sara-Jade Govia

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ZERO WASTE IN THE CARIBBEAN
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