

Interreg
Caribbean
European Regional Development Fund



CARIBSAN

THE CARIBBEAN COOPERATION
FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT
INSPIRED BY NATURAL HERITAGE

CARIBSAN, THE CARIBBEAN COOPERATION FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT INSPIRED BY NATURAL HERITAGE

The majority of the Caribbean population lives near the fragile ecosystems of coastal areas. These zones are used for habitation (domestic pollutants), activities (industrial and agricultural pollutants) and leisure (swimming). However, wastewater is often insufficiently treated, leading to considerable discharges of pollution that are dangerous for human health and ecosystems.



REDUCING THE IMPACT OF WASTEWATER IS CRUCIAL TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH IN THE CARIBBEAN

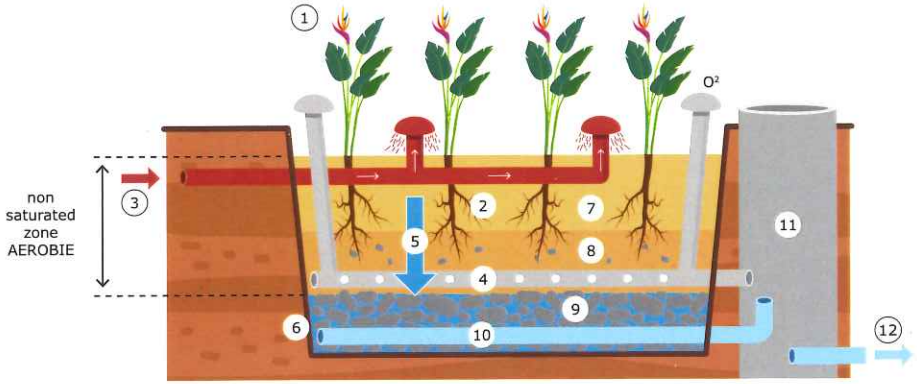
Cuba, Dominica, St. Lucia, Guadeloupe and Martinique have decided to work together to improve sanitation with the CARIBSAN project.

CARIBSAN promotes wastewater treatment using treatment wetlands. Tested in Guadeloupe and Martinique for several years, this nature-based solution has already demonstrated its effectiveness. Inspired by nature's purification capacities, it has the advantage of being simpler and cheaper to build and maintain than a conventional wastewater system and resistant to the climatic events that impact tropical regions (like cyclones).



TREATMENT WETLANDS

the example of the Taupinière treatment plant in Diamant commune (Martinique)



- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1) Birds of Paradise | 5) Filtration, purification | 10) Collection drains for purified water |
| 2) Rhizosphere | 6) Geomembrane | 11) Loading manhole with drain plug |
| 3) Inlet of raw water to be treated | 7) Filtration layer | 12) Purified water outlet |
| 4) Aeration drains | 8) Transition layer | |
| | 9) Drainage layer | |

CARIBSAN, A SOLUTION:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| ➤ BASED ON NATURE | ➤ SIMPLE BUT INNOVATIVE |
| ➤ TESTED AND APPROVED | ➤ INEXPENSIVE FOR SMALL MUNICIPALITIES |
| ➤ ADAPTED TO TROPICAL ISLANDS | ➤ RESILIENT TO NATURAL HAZARDS |



Which islands are taking part?

Cuba, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Lucia



Planning phase 1:

June 2021
December 2022



Amount: EUR 1.7 million, cofinanced by the EU through the INTERREG Caraïbes programme, the French Development Agency (AFD), and the Water Offices (ODE) of Martinique and Guadeloupe.

Project management: Office De l'Eau Martinique

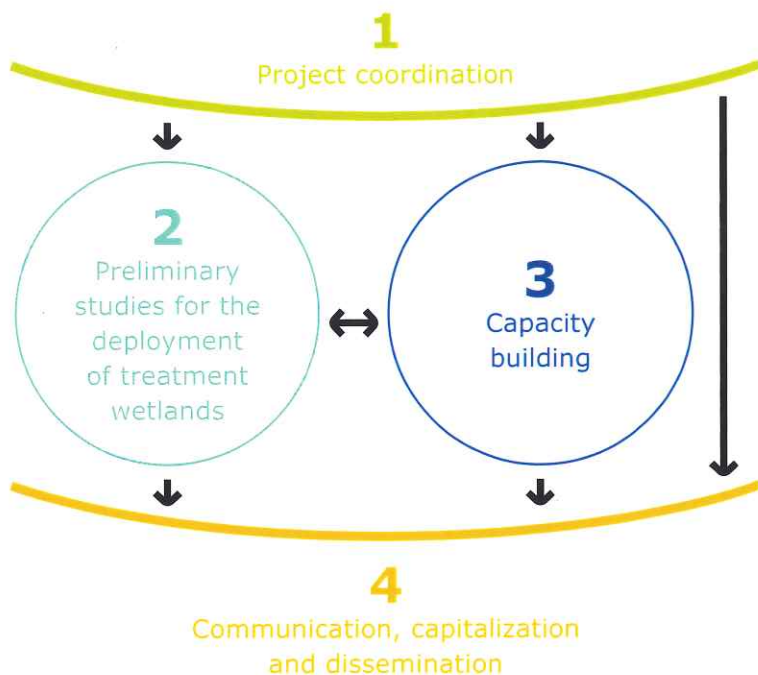
Project operator: International Office for Water (OiEau)

Project partners:



CARIBSAN, WHO ARE THE PARTNERS?

The CARIBSAN project carries out research and training to develop the technology of treatment wetlands in Cuba, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Saint Lucia. Different configurations are possible for this technology, and CARIBSAN supports beneficiaries to choose the most appropriate option.



INTERESTING FACTS

A method has been specially developed to define the feasibility and most suitable configuration for treatment wetlands. It takes into account: population density, wastewater volumes and pollutant loads to be treated, climate, soil type, regulations, locally available materials and many other socio-economic aspects.

OUR MISSIONS



1. DEPLOY TREATMENT WETLANDS TECHNOLOGY

The treatment sites are determined following a multi-criteria method that can be replicated in all territories. In parallel, the most suitable local plants are identified with the help of local experts in biodiversity.



2. TRAIN WATER AND SANITATION ACTORS IN THE CARIBBEAN

Training on the technology of treatment wetlands is provided to authorities in charge of sanitation and technicians working on the design, construction and maintenance of sanitation facilities. Thanks to stronger technical capacities, actors can make informed, appropriate decisions and widely deploy the nature-based solution of treatment wetlands for wastewater treatment.



3. SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND RAISE AWARENESS

New knowledge and experience acquired on treatment wetlands is shared between researchers, technicians and authorities responsible for sanitation.

Information and events raise the general public's awareness about the crucial issue of sanitation and the importance of preserving an exceptional environmental heritage.



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CARIBSAN

7 Av. Condorcet, Fort-de-France 97200, Martinique
WWW.CARIBSAN.EU



CARIBSAN project is cofinanced by the European Union, through the INTERREG Caraïbes programme under the European Regional Development Fund, the French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement, AFD), and the Water Services (ODE) of Martinique and Guadeloupe.

