

PRESS RELEASE

CARIBSAN: FIRST TECHNICAL MISSION IN THE CARIBBEAN

This is the first face-to-face meeting of the partners of the CARIBSAN project in Saint Lucia and Dominica. It will be an opportunity for the water and sanitation engineers to advance in their preliminary work to develop Treatment wetlands, a technology inspired by the purification capacities of nature to treat wastewater.

27 January 2022

From January 24 to 31, a delegation of engineers from the Martinique Water Office, the International Office for Water (OiEau) and the French National Institute for Research on Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE) are meeting their counterparts from the Water and Sanitation Department of the Dominica Water and Sewerage Company Limited (DOWASCO) in Dominica (24-25) and of the Water and Sewerage Company (WASCO) in Saint Lucia (26-28).

The objectives of this mission are multiple:

- Visit DOWASCO and WASCO wastewater treatment plants and laboratories.
- Collect sanitation data to identify future sites for the installation of Treatment wetlands.
- Interact with sanitation and local officials to understand their needs, following the first webinar last December.
- Collect communication material by taking pictures, interviewing different actors of the sanitation sector and make known this promising technology in the Caribbean.

The third steering committee of the project will be held in a hybrid format in Saint Lucia in the premises of the Caribbean Water and Sanitation Association (CAWASA).

CARIBSAN is a Caribbean cooperation project that 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). CARIBSAN is cofinanced by the European Union through the INTERREG Caraïbes programme, the French Development Agency (AFD), and the Water Offices (ODE) of Martinique and Guadeloupe.

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