

## PRESS RELEASE

Wastewater treatment with plants:  
launch of the CARIBSAN project on 27  
& 28 September



### Caribbean cooperation to protect and enhance local natural heritage

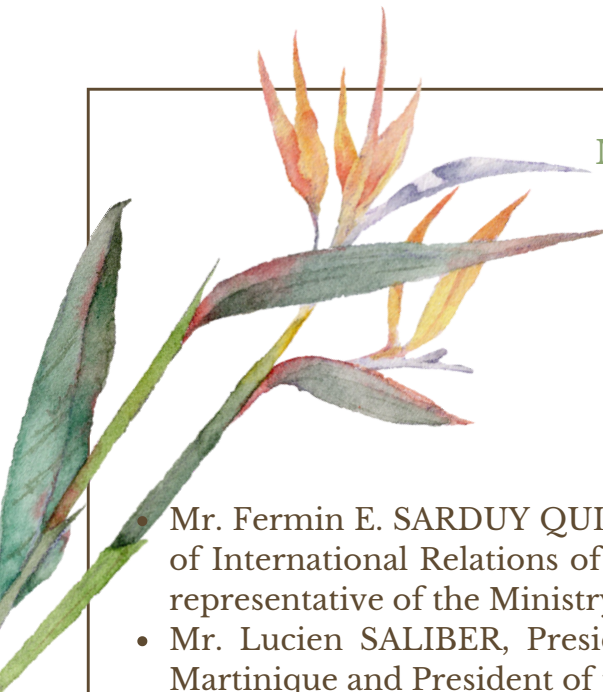
On **September 27 & 28, 2021**, the virtual inauguration of the **CARIBSAN** project will be held by videoconference. This **high-level event** will bring together **political leaders** as well as all **technical and institutional partners** of the participating countries.

**CARIBSAN** is a Caribbean cooperation project that aims to deploy an **innovative, environmentally friendly technology** adapted to the **tropical context** for wastewater treatment using local plants.

The impact of wastewater is an **environmental emergency in the Caribbean**. The majority of the Caribbean population lives near a fragile aquatic environment that is subject to impacting uses, where sanitation infrastructures are often insufficient and lead to pollution that is dangerous for health

### Plant-based sanitation in the Caribbean

**CARIBSAN** aims to promote and develop **plant-based wastewater treatment** throughout the Caribbean. In the French West Indies, wastewater treatment plants using local plants (*Heliconia psittacorum* "birds of paradise") have been demonstrating their effectiveness for several years. This nature-based technology has the advantage of being efficient, environmentally friendly, simpler and cheaper to manage than a conventional system and resistant to the climatic disturbances of our regions.



## Main participants

- Saint-Lucia State Representative in charge of water issues and Mr. Edmund REGIS, Managing Director of WASCO
- Dominica State Representative in charge of water issues and Mr. Bernard ETTINOFFE, General Manager of DOWASCO
- Mr. Fermin E. SARDUY QUINTANILLA, representative of the State of Cuba, Director of International Relations of the National Institute of Hydraulic Resources (INRH), & representative of the Ministry of External Relations of Cuba
- Mr. Lucien SALIBER, President of the Assembly of the Territorial Collectivity of Martinique and President of the Martinique Water Office
- Mrs. Isabelle AMIREILLE-JOMIE, President of the Guadeloupe Water Office
- Mrs. Marie-Marthe BREDAS, Regional Cooperation Officer at the Prefecture of Martinique
- European Union Representative
- Mr. Clément MEDEE, from the Environment Department of the French Ministry for Overseas France (to be confirmed)
- Mrs. Christel OUTREMAN, Counsellor for Regional Cooperation at the French Embassy to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), resident in Saint Lucia (to be confirmed)
- Mr. Jean-Michel PORTEFAIX, French Embassy in Cuba
- Mr. LACOGNATA, Atlantic Regional Director, French Development Agency (AFD)
- Representative of the National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE)

## CARIBSAN project partners and funders

Led by the Martinique Water Office (ODE) with the assistance of the Guadeloupe Water Office (OE971), **CARIBSAN (June 2021-December 2022, 1.7 million euros)** is implemented by the French technical partners, in particular INRAE (National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment) and OiEau (International Office for Water), as well as by the technical partners of the participating countries, which are: INRH for Cuba (National Institute of Hydraulic Resources), CAWASA (Caribbean Water and Sanitation Association) and WASCO for Saint Lucia (Water & Sanitation Management Company) and DOWASCO for Dominica (Dominican Water and Sanitation Company).

**CARIBSAN** is financed by the European INTERREG Caribbean programme, the French Development Agency (AFD), the Water Offices (ODE) of Martinique and Guadeloupe.

