

Objectives of the Field Trip

Schedule & Logistics



Global Water Partnership Technical Field Trip

Hosted by the
Global Water Partnership-Caribbean

*"A Close Look at the Caroni and
Arima Watersheds in Trinidad"*

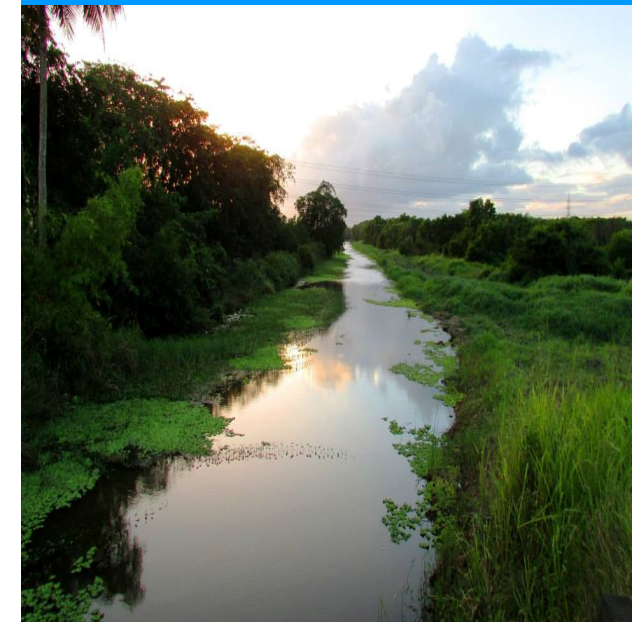
June 26th, 2014

Time	Activity
9:00 a.m.	Buses depart Hyatt Hotel
10:00 a.m.	Arrival at the Caroni Swamp Interpretation Centre
11:00 a.m.	Observation of quarrying activities in the Arima Watershed
12:00 p.m.	Arrival at the Asa Wright Nature Centre
1:00 p.m.	Lunch at the Asa Wright Nature Centre
4:00 p.m.	Depart Asa Wright Nature Centre
5:00 p.m.	Buses arrive at Hyatt Hotel



Note to Participants: Dress Comfortably!

Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes such as sneakers on the day of the field trip. Also, long and light clothing is recommended.

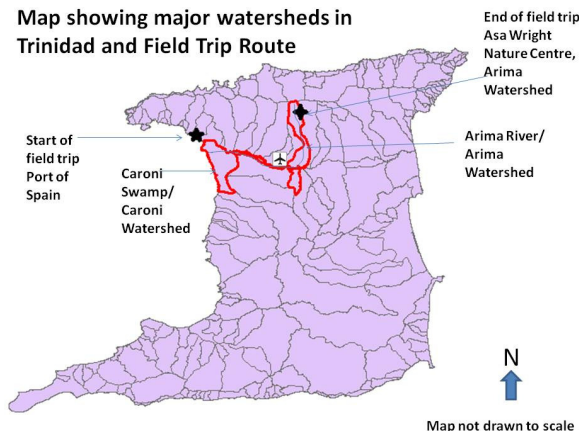


Watershed Management plays a critical role in IWRM.

The key objectives of the field trip are:

- To expose participants to the physical characteristics of rivers and watersheds in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- To highlight typical practices along Caribbean rivers, as well as, typical land use patterns in Caribbean watersheds.
- To showcase unsustainable watershed activities and also highlight best practices and success stories for watershed management
- To share and discuss watershed management experiences among regional partnerships.

Map showing major watersheds in
Trinidad and Field Trip Route



Background

The Caroni and Arima Watersheds in Trinidad:

Watershed Characteristics, Challenges and Best Practices for Watershed Management in Small Island Developing States

Limited land space, high population densities and population growth, coupled with increased urbanisation has led to a decline in freshwater and coastal water quality in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean. These issues are made more acute by the topography of many Caribbean islands in that watersheds are typically small, narrow and steep sided.

Unsustainable practices such as agriculture and housing are common sights on steep watershed slopes contributing to increased surface runoff and flooding downslope. Sediment and pollutant laden surface runoff enter rivers eventually discharging to the sea, negatively impacting on critical coastal ecosystems which support vital Caribbean economic sectors like tourism and fishing.

These concerns are likely to be exacerbated given future climate scenarios for the Caribbean which include more intense rain events and hurricanes. Given this backdrop, sound watershed management practices are critical to manage the Caribbean's freshwater and coastal resources.

Route, Activities & Landmarks



The Caroni Swamp

The field trip traces one of the main rivers in Trinidad, the Caroni River from its mouth at the Caroni Swamp to the head waters of one of its tributaries, which is the Arima River. The Caroni Swamp is one of two RAMSAR sites in Trinidad and is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna including the country's national bird, the Scarlet Ibis. Participants will be able to view typical mangrove swamp features and peruse the exhibits in the Interpretation Centre. A Wildlife Officer from the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources will be onsite to speak about the impacts of activities in the upper watershed areas on the Caroni Swamp.

From here, the tour follows the Caroni River upstream, passing through rice fields, residential and industrial areas. Participants will observe activities along the river and within the watershed which impact on river water quality and quantity. The buses will also pass the Caroni River Water Abstraction and Treatment Plant.



The tour continues up into the Northern Mountain Range travelling within the Arima Watershed ending at the Asa Wright Nature Centre.

Once at the Centre, an Asa Wright Education Officer will speak on watershed management challenges in the Arima watershed e.g. quarrying and agriculture. The Centre's work and best environmental practices will be highlighted. Participants will then have the opportunity to share relevant experiences from their own regions.



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Lunch will be at 1:00 p.m. at the Asa Wright Nature Centre followed by a guided nature tour. Participants will leave Asa Wright at approximately 4.00 p.m. to return to Port-of-Spain.

GWP-C welcomes further exchange on watershed management experiences after the field trip! If you think of anything else you would like to share, please email us at: knowledgeplatform@gwp-caribbean.org.

The information you send will be highlighted on our online **Caribbean Water and Climate Knowledge Platform**. Please also send us your pictures, thoughts and comments on the field trip. We would like to share these as well!