

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Projects and Initiatives in the Caribbean

Title: Adopt a River Programme

Organisation: Water Resources Agency (WRA), Water and Sewerage Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (WASA)

Aims and Objectives:

The Adopt A River (AAR) Programme is an initiative to involve the community and corporate entities in the improvement of watersheds in Trinidad and Tobago in a sustainable, holistic and coordinated manner. The Programme aims to build awareness concerning issues impacting local watersheds and to facilitate the participation of public and private sector entities in sustainable and holistic projects aimed at improving the status of rivers and watersheds throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

Specific objectives include:

- Educate citizens across Trinidad and Tobago about water pollution issues locally, how they contribute towards some of these problems and how they can help to solve them
- Foster appreciation for the natural environment and by extension national pride whilst maintaining an open, sharing, facilitating atmosphere within the AAR programme
- Promote a volunteerism ethic at all levels of society
- Empower all users of water- private and public sector agencies, communities and schools- to protect water resources and participate in water resource management
- Facilitate the involvement of patrons and sponsors in stakeholder empowerment and water resource management strategies
- Develop and make available the necessary tools for training and empowering local implementing agents and other role-players
- Ensure optimum efficiency through involvement and linkages with other existing programmes and water resource initiatives
- Provide an agent for sustainable change in culture and behaviour toward sustaining the health and aesthetics of Trinidad and Tobago's rivers

Duration: Start Year: 2013 Completion Year: Ongoing

Additional Comments: Indefinite end date for this project

Global Water Partnership-Caribbean IWRM Projects and Initiatives Database

Estimated Cost (USD): Approximately \$100,000 per year

Funding Source: Water and Sewerage Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (WASA)

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Key Words: Adopt a River Programme in Trinidad and Tobago; Watershed Management in Trinidad and Tobago; Community-based initiatives in watershed management in Trinidad and Tobago; Water Monitoring Programmes in Trinidad and Tobago; Integrated Water Resources Management in Trinidad and Tobago

Geographic Coverage: Watershed of Trinidad and Tobago

Sectoral Focus: Wastewater; Agriculture; Education; Corporate; Media

Target Beneficiaries: Communities' Students; Corporate Entities; Utility Provider; Farmers; Non-governmental Organisations; Youth Groups

Outputs:

- Education and outreach through: School visits; community- based lectures
- Employee initiatives
- Reforestation and watershed rehabilitation exercises
- Clean-up programmes
- Water quality monitoring programmes
- School involvement and competitions
- Community based projects and competitions
- Voluntary Effluent Clean-up

Project Links and References:

<http://www.adoptarivertt.com/>

Impacts:

- Societal awareness on pertinent water resources and watershed management topics.
- A cultural change is expected on the value of water and the importance of the sustainable management of this resource.
- Improvements in surface water quality reducing treatment costs of the Authority's water treatment plants.
- Reduction in pollution incidences and activities that contaminate the natural water resources.
- Increased water conservation practices employed in the domestic, industrial and agricultural sectors.
- Improvements in the health of watersheds of Trinidad and Tobago.

Sustainability:

The Adopt a River Programme plans to bring all the existing and planned activities within the watershed under one umbrella to improve longevity and ensure success of each of these initiatives. This will be done through stakeholder collaboration.

The long term sustainability of the project may be limited by a lack of volunteerism and participation at the community level.

Lessons for the Future:

Information not available

Opportunities Arising from the Project:

Information not available

Further Comments:

Adopt a River Booklet