



# NEWSLETTER

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Caroni Swamp

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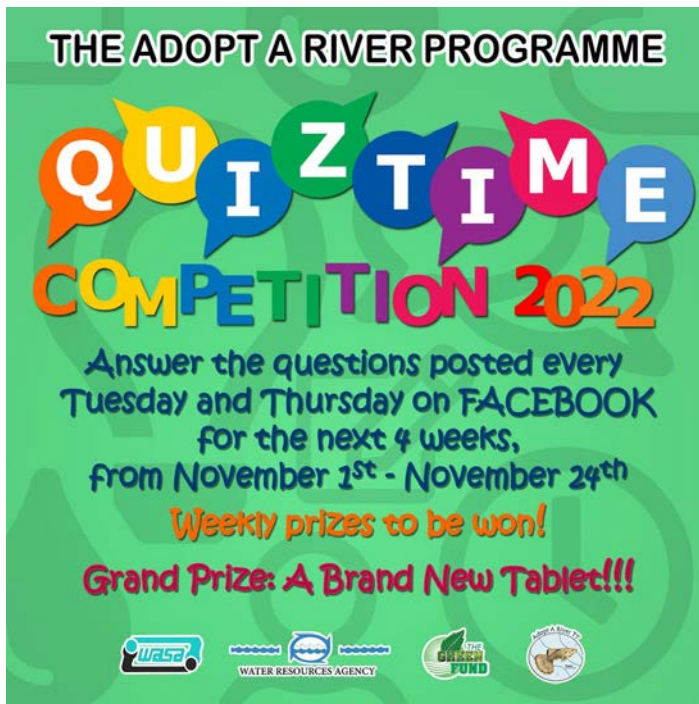
## QUIZ TIME SEASON 3

Season 3 Quiz Time created an even bigger buzz than the last 2 seasons. Interest levels soared with participation exceeding 30 persons per question posted. As in previous years, the competition format was maintained with eight (8) questions posed over a four (4) week period. Two (2) questions were posted weekly based on various aspects of our watersheds and conservation tips which were shared on our social media platforms throughout the year.

Based on a pool of accurate responses, weekly winners were chosen through random draws and walked away with some cool AARP memorabilia. The grand prize winner was a lot tougher to choose this year as many participants responded consistently over the 4-week period to qualify. After carefully reviewing responses, names were drawn and Ms. Naya Sinanan emerged as the Grand Prize Winner of Quiz Time 2022!

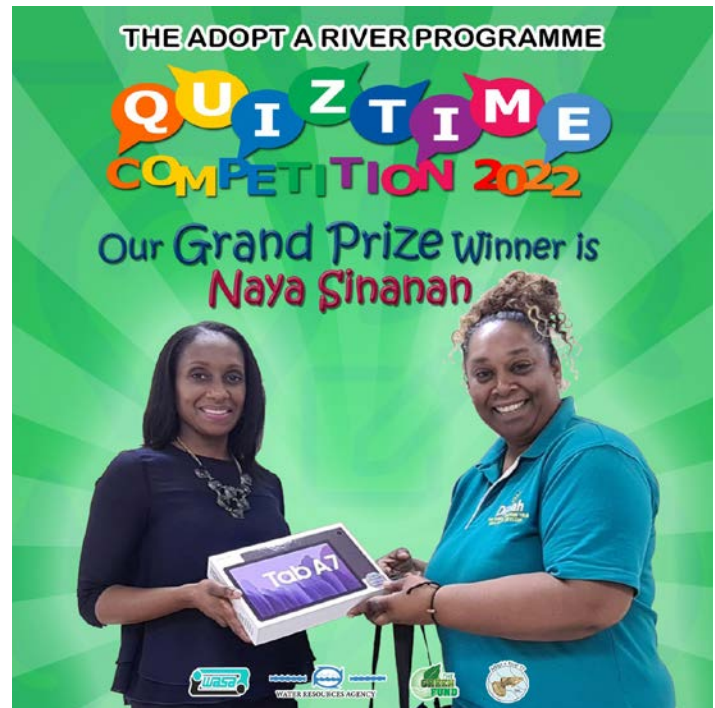
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# QUIZ TIME WINNERS



**QUIZ TIME SEASON 3** launch announcement

**GRAND PRIZE WINNER: Naya Sinanan**  
won a 10" Samsung Galaxy A7 Tablet



## BECOME AN ADOPTER TODAY!!!

Rivers are the most important natural resource in Trinidad and Tobago. They provide us with water for everyday processes such as cooking, washing, bathing and drinking. For a long time, rivers have been threatened by man-made activities such as illegal dumping of domestic and recreational garbage, factory waste, deforestation and poor building planning to name a few.

You and I have to take action to address these issues now. We call on Community Groups, NGOs, Corporate Entities, Youth Groups, All Schools

(Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary), we want YOU, the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, TO JOIN US in improving the status of our rivers locally!

**YOU CAN BECOME AN ADOPTER!**

**IT'S OUR WATERSHED...**

**OUR RESPONSIBILITY...**

**OUR FUTURE!**

### HOW TO BECOME AN ADOPTER (THE 10 STEP PROCESS):

1. Choose a river
2. Organise your team
3. Choose a project area
4. Register with the AARP
5. Sign MoU / Contract
6. Identify and meet stakeholders
7. Prepare project proposal
8. Implementation
9. Project review
10. Report submission



# VIRTUAL STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION



## North Trinidad!

Let's discuss issues affecting our rivers, water quality and water supply.

## Virtual Stakeholder Consultation

March 28<sup>th</sup> 2023  
6:00pm - 8:00pm

As the Adopt A River Programme embarked on a new year, the Implementation Unit gained renewed vigor and commitment to continue the mandate of the Programme. Our focus on integrated water resources management requires the involvement of all community stakeholders to ensure a holistic approach to issues affecting our watersheds, which includes improved water quality and water supply security, through viable and sustainable watershed projects, and environmental activities. As such, one of the key components of the Programme is public awareness and engagement.

With this in mind, the Unit sought to

engage new stakeholders and re-engage established partners. This led to the planning and hosting of the Unit's first virtual stakeholder consultation on Tuesday March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

This engagement focused on the northern region of the country, with the aim of subsequent consultations to focus on other areas within Trinidad and Tobago. Through notable presentations by a number of invited speakers, participants were introduced to the scope of work of the Adopt a River Programme and that of other agencies with responsibility for water and environmental management. These agencies included representatives from the Water and Sewerage Authority

(WASA) Operations North East and North West, the Water Resources Agency (WRA), Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, Ministry of Works, Drainage Division and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM).

Interest was sparked as the platform created a space for raising issues affecting the current state of our rivers, water quality and water supply by both presenters and participants alike. Further, individuals were encouraged to not only take action but develop an attitude of responsibility, to better manage our watersheds and preserve and conserve our water supply and natural resources.

# ENGAGING THE CITIZENS OF T&T

Engaging citizens through public outreach and educational awareness exercises is a key component of the Adopt A River Programme. We continue to highlight issues affecting our rivers and watersheds, and the action needed to improve the state of our rivers in various communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago. In the last quarter, our team conducted outreaches at different locations including schools, scouts and supermarkets. and in collaboration with various groups.

At Clarke Rochard Government Primary School, over 200 students from standards 1-4 were engaged in our educational exercises, as well as the Jamaat Al Muslimeen Primary School, where over 30 students from standards 2 and 3 were engaged through a presentation which informed students and teachers about the goals of the AARP, the significance of our watersheds, water conservation, and environmental responsibility. Similar exercises were conducted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Fullerton Scouts in Cedros.

## Here Are Some Highlights!



*Jamaat Al Muslimeen Primary School*



*Clarke Rochard Government Primary School*





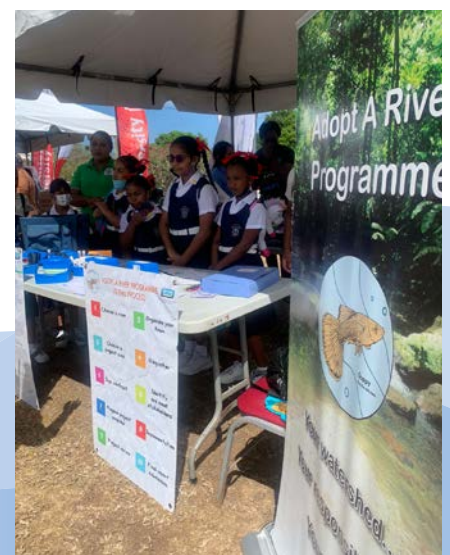
2nd Fullerton Scouts, Cedros



Railway Road, Caroni Community Fair



International Day of Forests, San Fernando Hill







AARP booth, Water Loss Conference, Hilton



The Minister of Public Utilities the **Honourable Marvin Gonzales** at the AARP booth during the Water Loss Conference, Hilton



Senior Manager, Water Resources Agency, **Mr. Keith Meade** and AARP Project Officer **Ms Dinnisha Rampersad** at the Water Loss Conference, Hilton



The Adopt A River Programme team at the Water Loss Conference, Hilton



Regus, Gulf City





AARP booth at the Trinidad And Tobago Field Naturalists' Club meeting



AARP booth, Brasso Seco/ Morne Le Croix Farmers Association Agri Fair



AARP representative addressing the Trinidad And Tobago Field Naturalists' Club membership



Land Settlement Agency booth, Brasso Seco/ Morne Le Croix Farmers Association Agri Fair



Caribbean Chemicals booth, Brasso Seco/ Morne Le Croix Farmers Association Agri Fair



Agricultural Development Bank booth, Brasso Seco/ Morne Le Croix Farmers Association Agri Fair



# KEEPING A CLEAN SCENE

Clean-up exercises are conducted with the aim of attaining healthier rivers and watersheds, thereby creating improved levels of water quality and useable resources. Our drive is to restore our watersheds and keep them free of pollutants which compromise our waterways. Through our continued partnerships with communities and various like-minded groups, we maintain our mandate of watershed management, restoration and preservation, providing a cleaner environment throughout our beautiful twin island of Trinidad and Tobago.



Clean-up at Matelot River





*Clean-up at Chaguaramas*



*Railway Road, Caroni*



# TRAINING WATER WARRIORS IN TOBAGO



The CReW+ Project, in collaboration with the Environmental Research Institute Charlotteville (ERIC), and the recently formed Charlotteville Water Warriors (CWW), will work towards ensuring that residents are provided with educational, technical and infrastructural resources to improve the capabilities of handling water and wastewater associated with their properties, as well as tools to mitigate the effects of climate change within their community.

Our water warrior training encompasses both awareness and education on topics such as: pollution and its

causes, the importance of water and its relation to the environment; watershed management; and water quality sampling and testing. As such, the Adopt A River Programme (AARP) has partnered with ERIC to work towards the development of the project's public engagement tool. AARP conducted a training session with content that was tailored to meet the needs of the CWW and by extension the CReW+ project. Participants were exposed to presentations covering Water Facts, Watershed Management, Wastewater, and a field exercise on water quality testing.





# “KNOW YOUR WATERSHED” BUS TOURS - Part 1

This year, in commemoration of World Water Day celebrated by the United Nations (UN) on March 22nd annually, the Programme decided to do something a little bit different by hosting a series of bus tours through various parts of Trinidad and Tobago. These tours were designed to introduce the general public to various watersheds and highlight the negative and positive effects on our watersheds as a result of human activities.

A series of four (4) free tours covering different locations was proposed and launched on our social media (Facebook and Instagram) platforms,

with access link to our website for registration. Within 72 hours of launch, all tours were fully booked and participants were rearing to go.

We kicked off with our first tour on Saturday, April 1st in South Trinidad which took us through the Moruga and South Oropouche Watersheds, with interest points which included Columbus Bay, Moruga Spring Bridge, Diggity Mud Volcano and Tulsa Trace Picnic Site.

Our second tour took us to East Trinidad, through the Tacarigua, Santa Cruz and Maracas Watersheds where we visited the St Michael's Agro

Forestry Facility, Bourg Mulatresse River, St Joseph River and Morang where participants were invited to take a dip in the cool waters after a scorching day on the road.

This forum provided us with the opportunity to not only expose our participants to some of the sixty-nine watersheds within our twin island republic, but also to highlight and show firsthand some of the issues, and raise awareness for actionable solutions by encouraging participation and responsibility in preserving and maintaining our watersheds.

## Highlights of the East Trinidad Bus Tour



Participants collecting tour brochures



Morang River



AARP Team and participants



Bourg Mulatresse River



St Michael's Agro Forestry Facility



## Highlights of the South Trinidad Bus Tour



*Participants enjoying the trip*



*Diggity Mud Volcano*



*Spring Bridge*



*Three Mouth River*

# DID YOU KNOW?

A person can live about a month without food but only about a week without water. Water is life!

Nearly 97% of the world's water is salty or otherwise undrinkable. Another 2% is locked in ice caps and glaciers. That leaves just 1% for all of humanity's needs

Check our pages below for our  
**Water Conservation Tips & AARP Tidbits, Activites and Events.**  
Full Stakeholder Consultation Clips available on our website at  
[www.adoptarivertt.com/website/consult](http://www.adoptarivertt.com/website/consult)

Facebook: **Adopt A River Trinidad & Tobago**

Instagram: **@adoptarivertt**

Youtube: **Adopt A River TT**