



NEWSLETTER

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Hollis Reservoir

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“KNOW YOUR WATERSHED” BUS TOURS - Part 2

These tours were aimed at exposing our citizens to various watersheds throughout Trinidad and Tobago, highlight and show firsthand some of the issues created as a result of human activities, raise awareness of possible solutions, and their role and responsibility in preserving and maintaining these watersheds.

On the Tobago tour, participants were taken to places of interest through the Hillsborough East, Hillsborough West and Courland Watersheds. The highlight of the tour by consensus was the Highland Waterfall, where some folks took the opportunity to cool down in the refreshing waters after a day well spent. The East Trinidad tour covered the Chaguaramas Watershed trekking to Nutmeg River, Covigne River Gorge and D’eau Blanc River, Blue Basin.

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Highlights of the Tobago Bus Tour



Highlights of the West Trinidad Bus Tour



WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2023



Adopt A River



Shaw Park Complex, Tobago



Recycling Waste Logistics



Tobago Apicultural Society



GEF Small Grants Programme Under UNDP



The Adopt A River Programme (AARP) along with representatives of GEF Small Grants Programme under United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), commemorated World Environment Day on June 5th at the Shaw Park Complex Tobago. This event was one of many held at various locations globally in observance of the day. Other organizations that participated include Tobago Recycling Resource Initiative and the Tobago Apicultural Society.

The 2023 theme and focus was 'Solutions to Plastic Pollution', highlighting one of the many issues created by human activity which affects our water sources and environment. The AARP continue to do our part in reducing plastic pollution through our educational outreaches conducted physically and virtually, and removing plastic pollution from our waterways through collaborative initiatives with our partners, adopters and other stakeholders.

RIVERSPEAK 4

RiverSpeak is a spoken word and poetry competition initially targeting Secondary Schools, but expanded over the last 3 years to include Primary Schools as well. The competition engages students in a sustained process where information is sought and used to create innovative pieces which incorporates theme, issues and possible solutions to improve the health of Watersheds throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

Other areas captured are facts about the manner in which man's activities

have been detrimental to our water supply, drive home the direct connection between our rivers and potable water, encourage students to be motivated and to motivate their peers and family members, to understand the importance of water and practice water conservation and preservation.

This season's competition was launched June 9th 2023, under the theme "People's Solution to Plastic Pollution". Participants registered and submitted scripts to our website by July 26th, with finalists being

announced on our social media pages on August 14th. A live finals was successfully held on Friday, September 22nd to commemorate World Rivers Day on September 24th, 2023.

Many thanks to all the schools that participated, and the sponsors such as Coca-Cola, Bermudez, Digicel, and Carib Brewery (Vitamalt), who were part of this initiative. Through their contributions, we were able to distribute varied items to participants of the competition and as well as audience members.



Host and Communication Officer, Alisia James-Perez



Judges



Keith Meade, Senior Manager, Water Resources Agency.



Members Of The Audience



Suri Gosine, First Place Primary School



Arelon Felmine, Second Place Primary School



Amari Pacheco, Third Place Primary School



Siri Vadlamudi and Kaelyn Dipchand, First Place Secondary School



*Jaeda Ar-Razi, Samantha Acosta and Maikhailanne,
Second Place Secondary School*



Joeshel Jewel Dann, Third Place Secondary School



Judges: (left to right) College Boy Jesse, Darion Fraser, Candace Dewsbury, Trina Bartholomew, Derron Sandy



AAR Team



Presentation of Challenge Trophy To Naparima Girls' High School



Presentation of Challenge Trophy To Naparima Girls' High School



ENGAGING CITIZENS THROUGH EDUCATIONAL OUTREACHES

A key component of the Adopt A River Programme is to engage our citizens through public outreaches and educational awareness exercises.

In the last quarter, the programme/our team expanded and intensified outreach activities in various locations throughout Trinidad and Tobago inclusive of schools, and events hosted

by various stakeholders. 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 our beautiful Twin Island. Engaged participants were informed of the goals of the AARP, the significance of our watersheds, water conservation, and environmental responsibility.



Outreach at Princes Town Presbyterian No. 2 Primary School Science Fair



Students Collecting Water Samples



Students Testing Water Samples



The resumption of vacation camps during July and August period provided the opportunity to reach more of our younger audiences. Our Camps Time Series commenced with a visit to the Caroni Police Youth Club on July 10th. St James Public Library was next on our camp tours, followed by Graham's Top Legacy Vacation

Camp in Valencia, La Joya Vacation Camp in St Joseph, Santa Cruz Police Youth Club at the La Pastora Community Center, the Enchanted Forest Vacation Camp in Cocoyea, San Fernando, with the Caura Valley Foundation Vacation Camp at the Caura Community Centre wrapping up the series on August 8th.

Topics covered included water facts, water pollution, water conservation, recycling, water quality and supply and watershed management and protection. We thank our many partners and stakeholders for collaborating with us to serve their communities.



Caroni Police Youth Club



Top Legacy Vacation Camp, Valencia



Enchanted Forest Vacation Camp, San Fernando



La Joya Vacation Camp, St Joseph



Santa Cruz Police Youth Club



St James Public Library



Caura Valley Foundation Vacation Camp

CONSULTATIONS

Stakeholder Consultations are designed to provide a platform for citizens and stakeholders to voice their concerns and provide information relating to watersheds, water supply and treatment, provide innovative ideas and solutions for water management, and raise awareness on environmental issues. As such, the AARP continue to conduct these exercises among others, in carrying out the mandate of the Programme. Focus on integrated water resources management (IWRM) requires the involvement of all stakeholders to ensure a holistic approach to issues affecting our watersheds, through viable and

sustainable watershed projects, and environmental activities.

The Unit's first stakeholder consultation was held virtually on March 28th 2023, and focused on the northern region. 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. Subsequently, in-person consultations were held in Tobago on June 22nd at the Anne Mitchell-Gift Auditorium in Scarborough, and at City Hall, San Fernando on October 27th, catering

to the southern region of Trinidad.

Representatives from participating agencies for both consultations included the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) Operations, the Water Resources Agency (WRA), Department of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, Ministry of Works, Drainage Division, Recycling Waste and Logistics Limited and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM). 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.



CLEAN UPS

In our continued goal to save and restore our watersheds and the environment, clean-up exercises remain a major component of the Programme. Several exercises were conducted by Team AARP and other

Stakeholders in various watersheds throughout Trinidad and Tobago during the months of May to November. Thank you to all volunteers joining us on some of these initiatives. Here are some highlights!



Richmond River, Tobago



Ortoire River, Manzanilla



Cuesa River, Chaguaramas



Cunupia River, Felicity Cremation Site



I.C.C. Cleanup, Caura River



I.C.C.T.T. Balandra Beach

WATER WARRIORS TRAINING

Eager to become Water Warriors, the Caroni Police Youth Club and TT A Team, two groups within the Caroni Watershed, participated in the Adopt A River Programme (AARP) Water Warriors training exercise on Saturday, October 7th. Some of the topics covered included watershed awareness and management, pollution issues, possible

solutions, and water quality sampling and testing. Participants were quite excited to learn all about the various aspects of water including monitoring, and to partake in the water testing and analyzing exercise.

All groups trained are provided with certificates of participation and are

tasked with the responsibility of monitoring and testing various river sites within their watersheds on a monthly basis. This exercise is conducted for one year with the guidance of the AARP Team, as we continue to partner with numerous stakeholders in creating change to improve our relationship with nature from degradation to restoration.



TAMANA RAINWATER HARVESTER

The Adopt a River Programme, through engagement with the Tamana Roman Catholic Primary School, recognized the need for a reliable and sustainable water supply at the school compound, due to a lack of pipe-borne water. The community is heavily reliant on truck-borne water and as such, face many associated challenges. A significant step was taken towards providing a sustainable solution for easily accessible water, alleviating some of

the challenges and addressing some of the immediate water needs of the school.

A Rainwater Harvesting System, was successfully installed at the school, through the effort and support of corporate sponsors Cross Country Supermarket, Brazil Village and J. Chai Hardware Arima, who provided the financial backing to make this initiative possible. The construction and technical

support of the Harvester was provided by Mr. Ryan Rampersad, Chairman of the Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo Regional Corporation and his dedicated technical team. A true example of private and public entities working together for meaningful environmental change!

An official handover of the Rainwater Harvester took place at the school's compound on Thursday, October 26th 2023.



Check our pages below for our
Water Conservation Tips & AARP Tidbits, Activities and Events.
Full Stakeholder Consultation Clips available on our website at
www.adoptarivertt.com/website/consult

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

Instagram: **@adoptarivertt**

Youtube: **Adopt A River TT**