



A bi-monthly electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
Editors: Maria Pena and Dr. Patrick McConney

CERMES2016@30

By Adrian Cashman



From February's issue, you would have learned that CERMES been operating for 30 years providing teaching and learning opportunities in natural resources management. Now that is a remarkable milestone.

We decided that this is something we should not only celebrate but use as a platform to move forward to the next 30 years. The need for a centre that focused on incorporating environmental issues into sustainable development was identified by CARICOM member countries and led to CERMES opening its doors to its first cohort of postgraduate students in 1986. Since then we have thrived and grown; occupied our own building and expanded it, broadened and extended our teaching offerings, and played an even greater role in Caribbean-wide research and capacity building - a remarkable achievement for an institution with six administrative and technical support staff and six academics.

To date CERMES has had well over 300 graduates from its taught masters programmes as well as MPhils and PhDs. The majority of our alumni have come from beyond the shores of Barbados; nearly 30% have gone on to work in educational institutions and 25% for government agencies. You cannot now go anywhere in the Caribbean for an environmental event without coming across a CERMES graduate in mid to senior level positions. Shaping young minds through quality education and research is our on-going contribution to a sustainable future for Caribbean countries; and we do all this with limited resources but building on the sense of shared purpose and a supportive 'family'

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environment. This sense of commitment and joint purpose was remarked upon when in 2015 CERMES received the Vice Chancellors Award for Excellence – it's part of what sets us apart.

However, any institution that rests on its past achievements without looking to new and exciting challenges runs the risk of losing its relevance. We live in exciting and challenging times, new technologies are opening new ways of teaching and carrying out research, there is a growing emphasis on collaborative learning and multi-disciplinary research, reflecting the multi-modal world we live in. Those who wish to expand the boundaries of their knowledge are looking for relevance and affordability. So not only do we need to rise to new environmental challenges, we need to reflect them in all aspects of what we do; teaching, research, outreach and capacity building.

We have a number of initiatives underway the aim of which is to meet those challenges. We are expanding the relevance of our programmes by looking at new course offerings, we now host the Renewable Energy Management Masters programme, recognizing the synergies between energy and environment. We are exploring the feasibility of establishing a marine studies facility and a centre for coastal capitals (ecosystem based services). We are active in current issues such as Zika and Sargassum. But we are also aware that we

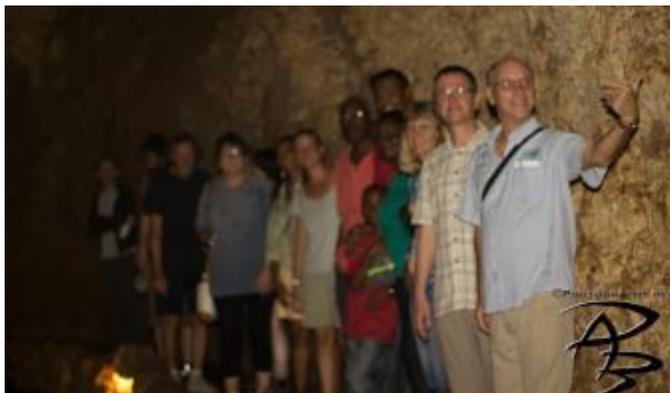
need to reach out beyond our traditional partnerships, to go beyond the talking amongst ourselves and engage with the wider public.

This is why the events we have planned for 2016 have been envisioned as outreach activities. There will be more on these as we go through the year. We started with an evening gathering with partners, collaborators and alumni on 31 March and followed this up with the first of our *Rumshop Rambles* on 1 April where we went into a rumshop to have a 'pontificatory experience' around Barbados' current water woes. We plan to replicate this on other subjects and in other parts of Barbados over the next few months.



Kicking off the celebrations with cocktails

The first environmental hike through Harrison's Cave was hosted on 2 April. The hikes are themed to coincide with our areas of specialization and led by CERMES staff. At the same time we are starting an *Artist in Residence* programme in collaboration with the National Cultural Foundation. All this is designed to take us beyond our comfort zone, to reach out, to listen and to learn. So if you are in Barbados during the next 12 months look out for our activities and more importantly, come along and join in.



Hiking through Harrison's Cave

Seeking StewardFish

By Patrick McConney

CERMES organised the StewardFish Project Validation Workshop in Georgetown, Guyana, from 5-6 April 2016 in collaboration with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat. StewardFish is a fisherfolk-focused project that CERMES is developing in partnership with the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO), Caribbean Natural Resource Institute (CANARI) and the CRFM Secretariat for FAO to submit to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).



StewardFish is developing organisational capacity and promoting ecosystem stewardship for securing the sustainability of small-scale fisheries livelihoods and resources in the Caribbean. The aim is to "implement the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme within CRFM Member States by empowering fisherfolk throughout fisheries value chains to engage in resource management, decision-making processes and sustainable livelihoods with strengthened institutional support at all levels." While these are still early days in the project development process there was strong support from the fisheries authorities and fisherfolk leaders from the seven proposed participating countries who are hopeful the project will be approved.

14th Caribbean Fisheries Forum

By Patrick McConney

The University of the West Indies (UWI) was represented by CERMES at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum held in Georgetown, Guyana, from 7- 8 April 2016. The UWI report on

fisheries-related research was well received by members of the CRFM and observers.



CERMES assisted the diversity and deliberations of the Forum by arranging for the CNFO to have seven fisherfolk leaders added to their list of observers with assistance from the FAO. The fisherfolk eloquently articulated their views on the various agenda items, emphasising the need to engage them much more in fisheries initiatives at all levels.

Integrated coral reef monitoring in Jamaica

By Julie Belmont and Maria Pena



Participants and trainers

From 18-22 April, 35 coral reef scientists and coastal managers from several territories within and outside the Wider Caribbean¹ gathered at the Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory, Centre for Marine Sciences, University of the West Indies, Jamaica, to participate in the first regional capacity building workshop of the recently revitalised Caribbean node of the Global Coral

¹ Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Saba, Sint Maarten, Saint Martin, Guadeloupe, Sint Eustatius, Saint Barthélemy, Venezuela and the United States

Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN-Caribbean). The objective of this five-day training workshop was to increase capacity for effective integrated coral reef monitoring among GCRMN-Caribbean countries through the use of bio-physical and socio-economic data in coastal management decision-making for improved standardised and strategic reporting at the regional level. The workshop was led by an impressive team of coral reef scientists and experts from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the Waitt Institute, Reef Check Dominican Republic, Universidad Simon Bolivar, the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program and CERMES.

Participants from government agencies, NGOs and academic institutions engaged in one of two training components dedicated to GCRMN-Caribbean bio-physical and socio-economic monitoring guidelines, but benefited from several opportunities during plenary sessions for sharing experiences from each component in an effort to further develop integrative aspects of coral reef monitoring.



SocMon participants during field scoping in Discovery Bay

The workshop presented the opportunity to strengthen the integration of all participants in the Caribbean network; train and identify future trainers; build long-term collaborations between islands and reinforce territorial networks such as the Jamaica Coral Reef Monitoring Network (JCRMN).

CERMES co-organised the workshop with UNEP SPAW-RAC and the Centre for Marine Sciences, UWI, Jamaica. Maria Pena and Jehroum Wood facilitated the Socio-economic Monitoring for Coastal Management (SocMon) training session.

Renata Goodridge represented CERMES in the bio-physical training component and is exploring the

incorporation of certain monitoring methods into Barbados' current reef monitoring programme.

The Caribbean Gateway partners with the EAG in Antigua

By Jason Williams

The Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (Caribbean Gateway), hosted by CERMES on behalf of The University of the West Indies was institutionalised under the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA). The goal of this initiative is to build a strong environment for accessing biodiversity, conservation and protected areas data in the Caribbean region. This is achieved through the creation of an online data portal (<http://caribbean-ris.biopama.org/>) that aims to collate reliable data that will contribute to the sustainable management of the region's natural resources and also to demonstrate how data can be linked to decision making.

Presently, the Caribbean Gateway is partnering with the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG) in Antigua and Barbuda developing a case study that will address the lack of credible data needed for effective protected areas management. EAG is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation working in the environment field in the country since 1989. It was established with the aim of informing and empowering the society on the sustainable use and management of the country's natural resources. Building the case study has been a highly collaborative effort between Sophia Punnett and Natalya Lawrence on behalf of EAG, assisted by visiting intern Lesley Mitchell from Memorial University of Newfoundland, and guided by Jason Williams, IUCN consultant technical officer with the Caribbean Gateway.



The work that is being done involves digitising over 20 years of biodiversity data collected through volunteer efforts within the Northeast Marine Managed Area. The datasets consist of survey data of lizards, sea and land birds, the critically endangered Antigua Racer snake and nesting turtles. This project is directly linked to the objectives of the Caribbean Gateway, i.e. to enable informed decision making and encourage active interest in sustainable protected areas management through data.

The Caribbean Gateway's intern



Lesley Mitchell is from Corner Brook, Newfoundland, the eastern most island of the Atlantic Provinces located in Canada. She holds a Forest Resource Technician diploma from the College of the North Atlantic (CNA), as well as a GIS Application Specialist post-diploma from CNA. As a recent

graduate of the GIS Application Specialist program Lesley is looking forward to applying her new skills with an active interest in contributing to progressive environmental management.

Currently Lesley is completing a three month geoinformatics support internship with the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG) in Antigua and Barbuda in partnership with CERMES under the IUCN Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA). Her work will involve collaboratively working on a case study under the BIOPAMA Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway project; this involves mapping existing biodiversity data for the North East Marine Management Area (NEMMA) and maintaining the integrity of environmental data currently collected.

New technical officer for The Caribbean Gateway

The Caribbean Gateway has a new Technical Officer, Julian Walcott. Julian is a highly motivated and goal-oriented individual with a passion for the conservation of natural resources, the environment and biodiversity in general. His work in this field began as a Research Assistant at CERMES in 2006.



Julian has a background in Ecology and Natural Resource Management. His interests are in the design, planning and decision-making processes associated with protected areas (PA), both terrestrial and marine. One of the major outputs from his PhD research

was the design of a PA for critically endangered hawksbill sea turtles nesting in Barbados. Another interest is the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS; primarily ArcGIS) as a tool for spatial and temporal analysis.

Visiting researcher



Lisa Soares is a young Jamaican emerging leader who immigrated to the United States to continue her education. Lisa is currently a PhD Candidate in the Politics and International Studies Department at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom, and a

holder of the Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR) Studentship.

Her current research expertise and interests include: Caribbean development and politics; rights-based approaches to governance and policy; marine and fisheries policy; The Law of the Seas; food security and poverty; multi-lateral institutional reform; and, diasporas and development.

Lisa's current research addresses the politics of the Barbadian flying fish fishery. As part of her interdisciplinary research agenda, Lisa is now aligned with CERMES as a Visiting Researcher. She is supervised by Dr. Benjamin Richardson and Dr. Christopher Browning from the Politics and International Studies Department, University of Warwick, United Kingdom.

CERMES students in action

By Antonio Di Cintio

Fighting for a plastic-free environment is a priority for this year's CERMES students. For this reason, on

13 March they organised a beach clean-up event along the coast of Long Bay, Barbados. Around thirty students



L to R: CERMES students Antonio, Joanne and Leanna

from the University of the West Indies also got involved. The selected location – a beach of outstanding beauty – does not host any restaurants, clubs, or hotels, but despite this, due to marine currents, the beach is full of plastic.

Lots of garbage of many shapes and sizes was collected during

the clean-up. Many of our bags were filled with small plastic fragments. It is known that large wastes (e.g. bottles) break up into small pieces – often smaller than your pinky nail – once dispersed in the environment. Small plastic fragments represent a serious threat to the marine wildlife health and, as a consequence, to human well-being.

CERMES students enthusiastically engaged in this clean-up initiative. A small presentation about the dangers related to the presence of plastic in our oceans was also delivered to the other students who joined the initiative. We firmly believe that raising awareness and creating environmental consciousness is the main step needed to walk towards the path of sustainable development. It is our aim to continue on this path by organizing other clean-up events. The goal is to cover larger portions of Barbados' coasts by involving more students from UWI.



Antonio raising awareness on the hazards of plastics in the oceans

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