

# CERMES *Connections*

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An electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the  
Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)  
Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus  
Editors: Maria Pena, Dr. Patrick McConney



## *'Twas a few days before Christmas...*

...When all through CERMES,  
staff and students were  
dreaming of that Christmas  
break, ham and jug-jug! Once

again the Christmas season is upon us and 2010 is not too far away. We do hope that you have enjoyed your *Connections* with the CERMES group and being kept updated on our comings and goings in 2009. On behalf of Patrick and I, and the entire CERMES staff, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and the very best for the New Year. Here's wishing that you will make use of the Holiday Season to recharge and energise yourselves for all that will come in 2010.

Best wishes,

Maria

## ***CERMES Hosts Training Course on Caribbean Flooding***

*Submitted by Adrian Cashman*

Between the 26 and 30 October, 22 Caribbean professionals and postgraduate students attended a week long training course on *Flood modelling, flood risk management and adaptation to climate change*. The 22 participants came from Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Lucia, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba and were a mix of mid-career professionals and post-graduate research students. One of the highlights of the course was

that they represented a cross-section of institutions with responsibility for flood risk management in one form or another. They included town planners, water utilities, regional disaster managers, environmental protection, other government ministries, private consultants and academics.



The Flood Modelling and Climate Change Course participants at the UWI 3 W's Pavilion

The course presented a mixture of theoretical concepts governing flood modelling, flood hazard identification and mapping together with illustrative case studies and hands-on exercises in the use of computer software applications to flood modelling. The aspects covered included rainfall-runoff modelling, sewer flow modelling, real-time applications, urban drainage and flood risk attribution. In addition to this, there were presentations on the economics of flooding and an overview of the effects of climate change on the Caribbean, together with an insight into the Caribbean's position at the Copenhagen summit in December 2009. The course was presented by

two experts in the field of modelling; Professor Slobodan Djordjevic of the Centre for Water Systems at the University of Exeter, UK and Dr Ole Mark, the Head of Research and Development at Danish Hydraulic Institute in Copenhagen. They were supported by Drs Adrian Cashman and Leonard Nurse from CERMES.



The course presenters (left to right): Professor Djordjevic (UK), Dr. Mark (Denmark), Dr. Adrian Cashman (UWI) and Dr. Leonard Nurse (UWI).

The training course also offered an insight into flood research being carried out in the European Union. It is to be hoped that by bringing together practitioners from across the Caribbean with colleagues from Europe there would be increased opportunities for collaboration in European research and development. This would complement on-going efforts in the Caribbean. Just as importantly it is hoped that by bringing people together this will facilitate the exchange of knowledge, build networks and by providing a forum to share experiences, the region would be able to 'leap frog' the development process. One of the last activities participants undertook as part of the course was to identify "12 golden opportunities" each of which would have a high impact and would be straight forward to implement. The challenge, especially for CERMES will be to track progress on the attainment of these opportunities.

The course training course was organised by CERMES but made possible by a grant from the British High Commission. Without the support provided it would not have been possible to have brought all the participants and presenters

together for this very successful event. It was also fortuitous that the course coincided with the premier of the film *The Burning Agenda – The Climate Change Crisis in the Caribbean* including a panel discussion with Dr Nurse which was attended by many of the course participants at the invitation of the High Commission.



In class discussions among participants

All in all, the event was judged by the participants to have been a great success and they called on CERMES to consider running similar events in the future. Thanks must go to Ms Lisa-Ann Rollins for all her work in helping to organise the course and the assistance she provided to the participants with their arrangements, accommodation and general advice. The course organiser was Dr Cashman.

## ***Adopt-the-reserve***

***Submitted by Katherine Blackman***

The private sector will be playing an important role with respect to the marine environment through the Adopt-the-reserve initiative. This initiative is a component of the Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management project based at Folkestone. The initiative seeks to engage Folkestone Marine Reserve (FMR) stakeholders such as hoteliers, real estate agencies and dive operators in partnering with the Reserve, in an effort to assist with the mobilisation of resources that will aid the enhancement, maintenance and monitoring of the Reserve.

A meeting facilitated by Ms. Sharon Almerigi of People Dynamics Associates was held with stakeholders at Discovery Bay Hotel on 28 October 2009 to discuss key actions and options for collaboration between the FMR and the stakeholders. Ms. Katherine Blackman (CERMES) introduced the participants to the Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management Project and emphasised the importance of the Adopt-the-Reserve initiative. Mr. John Nicholls (FMR Manager) informed the participants about the Reserve, its importance and associated regulations. As a result of the meeting, the participants assigned themselves the name "Folkestone Marine Reserve Action Group" and will be conducting an underwater clean-up amongst other activities at the Reserve. Meetings are expected to be held on a quarterly basis to discuss and arrange activities.



Ms. Sharon Almerigi guiding a participant in assigning priority actions for the Reserve during the FMR stakeholders meeting

## ***Memories of GCFI 2008, Cumaná, Venezuela***

*Submitted by Maria Pena and Carmel Haynes*

As always, CERMES had a large presence at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) held in Cumaná, Venezuela, 2-6 November 2009: Hazel Oxenford, Patrick McConney, Caroline Gooding, Shelly-Ann Cox, Kemraj Parsram, Carmel Haynes, Maria Pena and CERMES associate Julian Walcott.

CERMES also had a hand in organizing the participation of some partners in past and present

projects from around the region. These included Anderson Kinch (fisherman, Barbados), Ceylon Clayton (fisherman, Jamaica), Mitchell Lay (fisherman, Antigua, and coordinator of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations) and Crafton Isaac (fisheries officer, Grenada, and MarGov small grant researcher). The three fishermen are all winners of the GCFI's prestigious Gladding Memorial Award for fishers who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to fisheries conservation while also pursuing their livelihoods. They serve as role models for others.

CERMES research on conch, the white sea urchin fishery, socio-economics and fishery management and marine resource governance were all showcased in poster and oral presentations by staff and students. Below is a list of topics presented:

### *Oral presentations*

- **Bissada-Gooding, C.E. and H.A. Oxenford.** Estimating home range and density of a queen conch aggregation using acoustic telemetry and conventional tagging.
- **Cox, S., P. McConney and R. Mahon.** A resilience-based framework for evaluating adaptive co-management of the sea urchin fisheries in Barbados and St. Lucia.
- McIntosh, S., M. Lay and **P. McConney.** The development of a Caribbean regional network of fisherfolk organisations and its role in influencing fisheries policy.
- **Parsram, K.** People, issues and networks in small-scale fisheries in the eastern Caribbean.

### *Poster presentations*

- **Cox, S., P. McConney and R. Mahon.** A resilience-based framework for evaluating adaptive co-management of the sea urchin fishery in Barbados.
- **Haynes, C.** Consensus building in developing the CRFM Common Fisheries Policy and Regime.
- **McConney, P.,** S. Leid, K. Dennis and S. McIntosh. Networks in governance of fisheries in Trinidad and Tobago.
- **Pena, M., P. McConney,** L. Arthurton, C. Isaac, J. Leslie, L. Moss and R. Price. Socio-economic monitoring by Caribbean fishery authorities: Project progress and some site results.



Clockwise: Patrick McConney with a group of interested colleagues as he presented his poster; Carmel Haynes grabs the attention of world renowned fisheries scientist, Dr. Daniel Pauly; Caroline Bissada-Gooding and Kemraj Parsram at their oral presentations

Project Manager and Principal Investigator of the MarGov project, Dr. Patrick McConney, was one of the driving forces behind the successful staging of the first ever Gladding Memorial Awards (GMA) Regional Fishers Summit, which took place concurrently with the conference at the Hotel Nueva Toledo Suites in Cumaná.



Dr. McConney and Kemraj Parsram assisting one of the working groups during the GMA Regional Fishers Summit  
This Summit brought together over 20 English and Spanish-speaking fishers from the greater Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico to share ideas

and conceive solutions for issues and challenges that were common to them, such as the effects of overfishing and the growing threats to their livelihoods from climate change. It also offered the fishers an opportunity to air their thoughts and receive widespread feedback from the marine scientists and other researchers gathered for the GCFI conference.

## ***MarSIS validation workshops***

*Submitted by Meg Stewart*

PhD candidate, Ms. Kim Baldwin, recently ran a series of three one-day evaluation workshops for the Grenadines Marine Resource and Space Use Information System (MarSIS) in the islands of St. Vincent, Union and Grenada during the week of November 9-12, 2009. Ms. Baldwin was accompanied by visiting Fulbright Scholar, Ms. Meg Stewart, a geospatial technologist assisting on the MarSIS project.



Kim Baldwin with workshop participants

Organized to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to review the research activities and key project findings, all three workshops were well-attended by a wide variety of marine-related government agencies, local NGOs or groups and members of the Grenadine community involved in the research. Attendees had an opportunity for a 'hands-on' exploration of the MarSIS data using either ArcGIS or Google Earth software. Training in the use of Google Earth enabled stakeholders to fully participate in the practical application of using MarSIS as a planning, management and decision-making tool.

The feedback from the workshop was very positive and Ms. Baldwin collected much useful information on the MarSIS project. These comments and suggestions will be incorporated prior to final release on the web site early next year.

## ***CERMES welcomes Fullbright Scholar Meg Stewart***

CERMES welcomed its first Fullbright Scholar, Ms. Meg Stewart in September this year. Meg, a GIS specialist, joins us from Vassar College, New York and will be with CERMES for the 2009/2010 academic year. While here, Meg will contribute to the MarSIS Project by integrating all of that project's geospatial data into Google Earth. The purpose of which would be to make the information readily available to a wide range of stakeholders so that they can better participate in planning.

Additionally, Meg's expertise will be utilised in an upcoming project involving vulnerability mapping as an approach to assessing environmental and human impacts from flooding risks due to tsunami, hurricanes or longer term sea level rise.

Over the coming couple of years CERMES expects to enhance its in-house GIS capabilities and its use of GIS in research and outreach. Globally there is a trend to make more use of spatial planning tools and approaches. The ability to visually present and quantitatively analyse data and information in a geographic context assists in decision-making.

Follow Meg's internship with CERMES in upcoming issues of the CERMES Connections next year. Welcome and good luck Meg!



Meg Stewart, CERMES Fullbright Scholar

## ***Underwater and beach clean up at Folkestone***

*Submitted by Katherine Blackman*

On Saturday 5 December 2009, members of the Folkestone Marine Reserve Action Group hosted the inaugural Underwater and Beach Clean Up at Folkestone Marine Reserve on the west coast of Barbados. Whilst the dive volunteers cleaned the nearshore reefs such as the popular shipwreck site and Bellairs reefs, the beach volunteers cleaned the beach stretching from Sandy Lane to Colony Club hotel.

The beach volunteers collected a total of 26 bags of garbage weighing a total of 317lb. However garbage such as a surfboard, tyres, chairs and umbrellas were also collected and weighed approximately 115lb. On a good note, little garbage was found underwater. Only 106.8lbs of garbage consisting of bags and bottles and snorkeling equipment were collected.

Special thanks to all volunteers such as the Junior Coral Reef Ambassadors of the St. James Secondary School, Combermere Key Club and members of Reef Watchers.



Volunteers at the garbage weighing-in

The Folkestone Marine Reserve Action Group aims to protect, enhance and maintain the Folkestone Marine Reserve. The group was formed as a result of the Adopt-the-Reserve meeting in October 2009 and consists mainly of private sector agencies within the close proximity to the Reserve (hotels, dive operators and property owners).

## ***Two of our own honoured by UWI***

Professor Robin Mahon, Director of CERMES, was one of this year's five recipients of the UWI Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence. He was honoured for all-round excellent performance in research accomplishment and contribution to public service.



Prof. Robin Mahon receiving his Award of Excellence from UWI Vice Chancellor, Prof. E. Nigel Harris

The citation notes that 'Professor Mahon is a highly regarded researcher on marine ecosystems and has considerable experience and expertise in the governance and management of marine resources'.

He has collaborated with several regional and international environmental bodies in an interconnected research programme linking emerging global thinking with Caribbean needs, while developing and promoting an integrated regional approach to living marine resource governance. Congratulations Robin!

Dr. Jennifer Hurley, CERMES Administrative Assistant, received a Long Service Award for 20 years of service to the UWI. Jennifer joined the University in 1989 as a temporary secretary in the Department of Economics. She then joined Distance Education as an Administrative Assistant for a short while. From there she was posted in the Deputy Principal's Office during Professor Leo Moseley's term and, in August last year, CERMES welcomed Jennifer to its team. Jennifer has the distinction of holding Cave Hill's first doctorate in French. Congratulations Jennifer!

## ***2009 in photos***



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