



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

Strategic planning for MPAs

By Patrick McConney

The project on ‘Adaptive capacity for MPA governance in the eastern Caribbean’ held its second workshop in Grenada from 22 to 24 February at the Fisheries Division conference room. Marine Protected Area (MPA) participants came from Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines with resource persons from Barbados, Fiji, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The focus of this workshop was on strategic planning for MPAs. The third workshop is expected to be held in Carriacou at the end of May and will address communication and community mobilisation. Workshop participants are busy implementing follow-up activities between these workshops in order to learn from and share their collective experience of putting their knowledge to use.



Participants in strategic planning mode

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Caribbean regional writeshop to support developing country publications on adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction

By Robin Mahon

CERMES held a ‘Writeshop’ which sought to provide mentorship (on the peer-review process) to 14 young Caribbean academics with an interest in writing papers for submission to scientific journals. It was sponsored by the



Writeshop participants

Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN-ISDR). Participants came from Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Colombia and Cuba.

The initiative was coordinated by Dr Leonard Nurse in collaboration with Drs. Adrian Cashman and John Charlery (UWI, Cave Hill), John Agard (St. Augustine) and Michael Taylor (Mona). Dr. Lisa Schipper (SEI) also contributed to coordination and delivery of the workshop. It was held at the Solutions Centre, Cave Hill Campus, 27 February to 02 March.

Bridging governance gaps

By Patrick McConney

The oral presentation made at the Society for Applied Anthropology 2012 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, 27-30 March 2012 was the last major show of the MarGov project. Co-authored by P. McConney, R. Mahon, K. Parsram and S. Cox, the presentation on “Bridging gaps in Caribbean marine resource governance” summarised some of the main findings of the MarGov project and set out the many questions that are poised for further research. The talk given by Patrick McConney was among several that highlighted the use of social network analysis as an analytical tool in fisheries. The session chair and organiser was Ava Lasseter of NOAA who conceived the panel on “Bridging Boundaries in Fishery Management and Governance”.

FORCE completes more fieldwork

By Angelie Peterson and Rachel Turner

The FORCE social science team has just returned from another set of fieldwork, this time in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis. This marks the finish of the third of four countries where we are conducting research. The goal of our research is to get a better understanding of the dependency of coastal communities on coral reefs and coral reef management around the Caribbean. In each

country in which the FORCE team works, we conduct research in three different communities with a range of dependency on reef fishing and reef tourism.

We arrived in St. Kitts on 13 February and recently returned on 21 April. The team spent most of its time carrying out surveys with resource users and community members to gather information on coastal livelihoods, resource use, perceptions of governance, efficacy of management tools and recommendations for future management.

Our research took us initially to the small fishing village of Dieppe Bay in the north of St. Kitts. The second community we visited for our research was the community of Jessups, located on the west coast of the island of Nevis, near the Four Seasons resort. We wrapped up our research in Newtown, part of the urban community that makes up the capital city of Basseterre. We had very good responses from all the sites we worked in, lively and interesting community meetings, and went back to each of the communities with a validation presentation and feedback reports.



FORCE team members, Angelie Peterson and Rohan Ford, map the community of Dieppe Bay, St. Kitts

In addition to our work in the communities, we also spoke to people in government agencies and organisations to get a range of different perspectives on reefs and reef management. We had a successful national meeting on 3 April, with good representation from a range of government departments and organisations

from both St. Kitts and Nevis. The meeting was well received by participants and feedback for the project in general has been very positive.



First community meeting in Dieppe Bay, St. Kitts

Having just returned to our respective home bases (Barbados and England) we are already planning our next fieldwork adventure. We will be heading to Belize in June to complete our fourth and final study country.

Final PhD Seminar

By Shelly- Ann Cox



On 15 February, Shelly-Ann presented her results and findings to date of her PhD research to a largely academic audience. Her

presentation was entitled, "Don't put all your sea eggs in one basket: Conditions for successful adaptive co-management of the sea urchin fisheries in Barbados and St. Lucia." During the presentation she outlined the reason for the study, research questions, key concepts, methods, findings and interpretations. The main message communicated was that although implementing adaptive co-management approaches in Barbados and St. Lucia will be met with many challenges, there are conditions manifested in the fisheries which will enable success.

2012 CERMES Belize field trip

By Maria Pena and Renata Goodridge

Drs. Leonard Nurse and Adrian Cashman led the eighth annual Climate Change and Water Resources Management field trip to Belize from 16-26 March. Along with 14 students and two support staff, Renata Goodridge and Maria Pena, the group started in the south in Punta Gorda and worked their way north to Belize City conducting riverine and marine water quality testing, beach profiling and river flow gauging, forest sequestration research and a socio-economic assessment. Field visits included stops and discussions at a seed rice growing area, rice mill and farms in the Toledo District; the Toledo cacao cooperative and chocolate factory followed by a cacao plantation in Punta Gorda; and forestry department in Toledo. There was also time to visit a private eco-resort on Hatchet Caye, and to rest and relax a bit while learning about tourism in Belize by visiting the Hol Chan Marine Reserve, Caye Caulker and the Lubaantun Mayan site.

Very special thanks to the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) for hosting the field trip. Their hospitality and assistance in making logistical arrangements is always very much appreciated.



Clockwise: carbon sequestration work in a pine forest, river flow gauging, beach profiling and enjoying a bit of rest and relaxation