



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

CERMES survey

By Janice Cumberbatch

The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) promotes and facilitates sustainable development in the Caribbean and beyond through graduate education, applied research, innovative projects, professional training and involvement in the national, regional and global initiatives that shape our future. The MSc in Natural Resource and Environmental Management is a taught programme comprising several streams:

- Coastal and Marine Resource Management
- Climate Change
- Water Resources Management
- Waste Management
- Applied Meteorology

We are kindly requesting your time to complete the brief survey as we seek to determine the current and future demand for our existing streams and courses. See

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YDT95M3>.

In particular, we would like you to tell us, based on your practice and experience, what you see as the areas most needed in the region to address natural resource and environmental management issues. This information would be vital in helping us fulfill the mission of the UWI, i.e. providing the population of the region with access to high quality academic programmes that are effectively delivered and that help to build strong individual, national and regional capacities in response to changing human resource needs.

Further information on CERMES can be found at

<http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/>

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Rio+20 dialogues

Professor Robin Mahon was invited by the Government of Brazil to be on the 'Oceans Panel' of the Sustainable Development Dialogues at Rio+20 (June 19th). The Panel addressed the top 10 recommendations coming out of an internet dialogue that had started months before. Three were taken to the Heads of State and Governments at Rio+20.

In his opening statement Prof. Mahon focused on the need for a global ocean governance framework. "I am from a very small island out in a big ocean. Early in my career I realized that no matter how well we do at the island level we can only succeed in using our oceans sustainably if we work together with others that share that ocean. I like the action-oriented nature of the recommendations that have emerged. These are things we must do if we are to have healthy oceans supporting mankind. However, if these and all the other necessary actions are to succeed they must be supported at regional and global levels. In my view we are lacking the global ocean governance vision and framework needed to get these things done."

“Ocean governance is a large scale job. Resources and problems cut across national boundaries and High Seas. We need solutions that also cut across these boundaries. I would like us to send a message to governments that it is time to give us the mandate and support that we need to tackle the problems at the scale at which they are occurring; a mandate to develop that integrated ocean governance vision and build that framework.”

“Let me be clear. I am not talking about a top-down bureaucratic arrangement. We have outgrown that approach. We need innovative global ocean governance arrangements that allow us to fully use the lower level building blocks at regional, national and local levels, so that the global arrangement reflects the full value of inputs from all stakeholders at these lower levels. We need this so that when we engage fishers or any other stakeholder their input has an impact not only at the local level, but finds its way up to the levels above, at which decisions about the ecosystem are taken.”

“We need action at all levels. The global level must be UN led, but inclusive. At the level of the regional building blocks, we have a mixture of approaches to defining management areas (LMEs, Regional Seas, FAO Fishing areas, Ecoregions), these must be rationalized so that we are dealing comprehensively with the global ocean space. The same applies for institutions. We have a mixture of overlapping institutions that make up our regional systems. We have the concepts and the technical tools to rationalize these at the level of the entire global ocean space and to develop this multilevel ocean governance arrangement. What we need is the mandate to do it.”

The 60,000 people who voted on the Dialogues chose recommendation 1 (below). The second recommendation was chosen by the 1,500 people in the room on 19 June. The third recommendation was developed by the Panel on the day.

1. Avoid ocean pollution by plastics through education and community collaboration

2. Launch a global agreement to save high seas marine biodiversity

3. Take immediate action to develop a global network of international marine protected areas, while fostering ecosystem-based fisheries management, with special consideration for small-scale fishing interests.



The Oceans Panel at Rio +20 in session

Pacific is proactive on climate

By Patrick McConney

Since CERMES took on a consultancy in association with the CRFM and FAO to tackle “Climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in fisheries and aquaculture in the CARICOM region,” the lead investigator, Patrick McConney, decided to visit the Pacific. He attended a workshop on “Priority adaptations to climate change for Pacific fisheries and aquaculture: reducing risks and capitalizing on opportunities” in Noumea, New Caledonia, from 5-8 June 2012, convened by the Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.



Workshop participants

The workshop was attended by fisheries and environmental officers from around the Pacific as well as scientists from the SPC and personnel from NGOs and donor agencies. It was an excellent venue to learn a lot about how the Pacific Islands are tackling issues faced by the Caribbean. The days were long and intense with working groups after each presentation. One clear message from the experts was that in many cases “normal” threats will be far more serious than any incremental contribution to them expected from climate change, and that the impacts of the latter alone should not drive fisheries management. Good fisheries management is good enough to deal with climate change.

Movie night in the Bay and community outreach

By Katherine Blackman

The Conset Bay Pilot Project team, in collaboration with the newly formed Conset Bay advocacy group, spearheaded the stakeholder session, “Video Premier and Fish Fry” with the Conset Bay community on Saturday 14 April, 2012. Over 85 members of the community attended the session which showcased two of the project’s videos: “Applying the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in Barbados”, and “Watershed Ecology and Communities: A look at Conset Bay.” The videos were produced by Betula and featured various fisherfolk and residents of the Conset Bay watershed, along with government agencies. Special thanks to the Natural Heritage Department, Ministry of Environment and Drainage for funding this event.

As part of the Conset Bay Pilot Project’s community outreach activities, the project team donated four books to each of the five primary schools within close proximity to the Conset Bay Watershed in an effort to sensitise students about marine and terrestrial environments and associated biodiversity. The books were delivered on 24 May 2012 to St. Mark’s Primary,

St. John’s Primary, St. Margarets Primary, Mount Tabor Primary and Society Primary.



Children from St. Mark’s Primary School receiving books from Neetha Selliah

Combating Dennery’s water woes through community education

By Marsha Serville (CERMES graduate)

I am a graduate of the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), Barbados, currently residing in St. Lucia. I seize every opportunity to use my knowledge in water resources management to influence change in my country. In this regard, I recently coordinated a water management workshop in Dennery, St. Lucia.

Residents of Rocky Lane and Over the Bridge in Dennery, St. Lucia participated in a two-day water management workshop under the theme, “Our Water, Our Future,” 18-19 April, 2012 at the Clendon Mason Memorial Secondary School.

Approximately 114 residents of Over the Bridge and Rocky Lane received training in water storage and handling; water borne disease identification, prevention and treatment; rainwater harvesting and water conservation. Residents also received practical training in water testing. Workshop sessions were very engaging, practical and generated a lot of discussion. Residents received prizes for their

active participation in a venture which was a major success.



Residents turn out in large numbers to learn about water conservation

Sixty-nine percent of the workshop participants were female. This highlights the level of involvement of women who have traditionally been daily managers of water in their homes.

Many residents have expressed that the workshop has changed their lives; and they have pledged to adopt best practices for the management of their water supplies.

The workshop was facilitated by the St. Lucia Social Development Fund (SSDF) under the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)-funded, Basic Needs Trust Fund 6th Programme. It was an extension to a project to install and replace water infrastructure in Over the Bridge and Rocky Lane. The project is significant in addressing both water quality and supply issues in the District. The 2010 national census revealed that approximately 40% of Dennery residents did not have public water piped into their dwelling. As such, this places Dennery as the community with the second highest percentage of households without potable water supplies in St. Lucia.

Recycled art and greening exhibit

CERMES in collaboration with the Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences hosted an exhibit to celebrate and recognise World

Environment Day, 5-8 June at the University of the West Indies. The exhibit was organised by Maria Pena and Katherine Blackman and featured collages and mosaics using recycled material by two prominent artists, Allison Chapman-Andrews and Heidi Berger; jewellery made of newspaper and chopsticks by Angela Went and Velda Tyson; a styrofoam sculpture, "Offerings," depicting styrofoam consumption on campus, designed by four students of the Division of Fine Arts, Barbados Community College; a six-piece poster series on the Barbados Green Economy Scoping Study; and craft produced from recyclables made by campus staff. The exhibit was well received and it is hoped it will be a fixture in the University's annual calendar of events.

Stormwater management in the Caribbean

By Jenna Blackwood

PhD candidate and 2010 Shell Scholarship recipient, Ms. Jenna Blackwood presented her first seminar on 7 June in CERMES Lecture Room 1. The title of her presentation was "Exploring household-centred approaches to stormwater management in Caribbean islands," and provided an overview of her intended research which will focus on governance and stormwater management issues in Barbados, St. Lucia and Jamaica.

A mixed methods approach will be employed and specific methods will include face-to-face interviews with key informants, semi-structured interviews with key players in the governance framework, document reviews and household surveys in select urban communities. The proposed outputs include network diagrams of the governance structure in the various islands, assessment reports of the household stormwater management practices and finally, a conceptual model of a new household-centred governance structure for stormwater in the study islands. Ms. Blackwood also presented very preliminary findings from her interviews with players in the governance framework in Barbados.

On 14 June, Ms. Blackwood made a summarized presentation to her sponsors Shell Western Supply and Trading Limited at their offices at Mahogany Court, Wildey, St. Michael. The presentation was attended by various levels of staff headed by the General Manager and Country Chairman, Mr. Dave Chapman. A keen discussion followed where the attendees gave feedback as well as suggestions and Mr. Chapman expressed appreciation to Ms. Blackwood for sharing the components of her research with the staff and affirmed Shell's commitment to giving back to the community through avenues such as the scholarship award.



PhD candidate Jenna Blackwood giving her first PhD seminar at CERMES

SocMon at the International Ocean Institute, Dalhousie

Maria Pena, CERMES Project Assistant, was invited by Dr. Michael Butler, Director and Course Director, International Ocean Institute (IOI), Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada to participate in the 2012 Training Programme on Ocean Governance: Policy, Law and Management. Ms. Pena conducted a half-day workshop session on Socio-economic Monitoring for Coastal Managers (SocMon) in which the 17 participants were introduced to the purpose and benefits of SocMon, the methodology, the implementation of SocMon globally, and use of SocMon outputs *inter alia*.

This year's training programme, 16 May-13 July, attracted a wide and varied group of professionals from the Caribbean, Asia, Africa and Northern Europe.



2012 IOI Training Programme participants accompanied by IOI staff on a field trip in Nova Scotia

CERMES in Fisherfolk Week

By Patrick McConney

In Barbados the celebration of Fisherman's Day (29 June) is usually extended for a week and called Fisherfolk Week. This year the latter title seemed especially appropriate and gender neutral as the theme was women in fisheries. Ms Vernel Nicholls, President of the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO), took the theme seriously and sought to offer the public an enticing array of events for the week. CERMES joined in the celebrations with several members of staff along with past and present students having roles to play. These roles ranged from assistance in event management to presentations on gender, Sargassum seaweed, lionfish and sea eggs. It was an interesting week of reaching out to the fishing industry to exchange information and to socialise.

**Fisheries Forum
and
Lionfish Workshop**



Venue:
Fisheries
Division

Date: June 27, 2012
Time: 5:00 pm

Topics include:

- Sargassum (moss) (Prof Hazel Oxenford)
- Declining Fish Catches (Henderson Inniss)
- Food Law (Susan Seal)
- Managing the sea egg Fishery (Shelly-Ann Cox)
- Catching and Handling Lionfish (CZMU)



