



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

## Fisheries get governance performance assessed

By Patrick McConney

The Second Joint Meeting of the CRFM/CLME Eastern Caribbean Flyingfish and Large Pelagic Fisheries Case Studies Committees took place 11-12 March 2013 in Dominica.

Prof. Hazel Oxenford represented UWI while Dr. Patrick McConney went to follow-up on the CLME governance framework consultancy.



The meeting provided the opportunity for a participatory 'Level 2' assessment of the performance of the governance arrangements for these fisheries. One was done on each day, involving three groups of participants - fisheries authorities, the fishing industry and a mixed 'others' (comprising regional and international organisations, and non-CARICOM Caribbean countries). The groups used a set of governance principles to assess the current arrangements for the fisheries through discussion and rating. Their outputs were used to upgrade the Level 2 assessments in the governance reports for the fisheries now co-

### Inside this issue

Fisheries governance performance assessed	1
Caribbean cultural resources in a natural environment	1
Water management under climate change	2
GEF transboundary waters assessment	2
CERMES and MPA research at SESYNC	3
Connecting to Fiji	3
CERMES technical reports	3

authored by both CERMES and CRFM. They are on the CERMES and CLME web sites.

## Cultural resources in a natural environment

By Katherine Blackman

CERMES participated in the "Management of Caribbean cultural resources in a natural environment: Sites of Memory and participation of local communities" workshop from 11-15 March 2013 under the framework of the Caribbean Capacity Building Programme (CCBP). The workshop trained participants from Barbados, Curacao, Grenada, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to foster better involvement of local communities in world heritage. All of these countries currently have sites in the Tentative lists for World Heritage sites. The workshop addressed conservation and management of natural areas, the use and management of cultural resources and the involvement of communities. The workshop was organized by UNESCO Offices in Havana and Kingston and UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, in coordination with the Barbados National Commission for UNESCO and the University of the West Indies.

## Water management under climate change

*By Adrian Cashman*

CERMES in collaboration with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) are embarking on a three-year research project to address climate change impacts on water resources in the Caribbean. The project, Sustainable Water Management under Climate Change in Small Island States of the Caribbean (Water-aCCSIS) is funded by the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and is geared towards producing evidence-based solutions to threats to the Region's fresh water resources.

The project valued at USD 1.5 million builds on research being done by The University of the West Indies (UWI) under the European Union's ACP Caribbean and Pacific Research Programme for Sustainable Development by downscaling climate change scenarios to regional and national levels. The research is to be conducted at the water catchment level in a number of pilot countries: Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad, in order to evaluate the range of conditions found within the Caribbean. It will help to inform adaptation measures and policy in water resources management, both at the national and regional level. This interdisciplinary project brings together researchers from various departments across the three UWI campuses, in addition to the CCCCC and CIMH. The principal investigator is Dr. Adrian Cashman.

From 26-27 March, 2013, a Project Inception Meeting was at the UWI Cave Hill Campus, to set targets for collaboration among partners; provide and opportunity to discuss how to share resources; finalize work plans; confirm site selection and discuss research outputs. The meeting brought together project partners as well as representatives from the funding agency.

Special thanks to Ms. Lisa-Ann Rollins (CERMES) who assisted Dr. Cashman with the

preparations, coordination and hosting of the meeting, and Mr. Dale Benskin (CERMES) who provided IT support for the duration of the meeting.

## GEF transboundary waters assessment

*By Robin Mahon*

The GEF Transboundary Waters Assessment (TWA) Project has started with an inception/Steering Committee meeting in Copenhagen (3-5April). The TWA Project aims to carry out global assessment of Transboundary Water Systems as defined by the GEF International Waters Focal Area: aquifers, lakes, rivers, Large Marine Ecosystems and Open Oceans. CERMES (Prof Robin Mahon) and Dalhousie University (Dr Lucia Fanning) have teamed up to lead the governance assessments for Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) and the Open Oceans, and to co-chair the Crosscutting Working Group (CCWG) on Governance that will integrate governance assessments across the five water categories.



The overall objective of the TWA Project is to produce the first truly global assessment of all transboundary waters within the five water categories, and at the same time formalise the network of partners to establish a firm institutional basis for future periodic global assessments of transboundary waters. It will run for two years.

## CERMES in MPA research at SESYNC

*By Patrick McConney*

The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) is a US national research centre funded through a grant to the University of Maryland. SESYNC brings together different disciplines and stakeholders to increase knowledge on the complex interactions between human and ecological systems.



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Under various themes such as “Informing sustainability and adaptation decisions through assessment and modelling of ecosystem services” it funds specific “pursuits”. A current pursuit is “Solving the mystery of marine protected area (MPA) performance: linking governance, conservation, ecosystem services, and human well being” led by Helen Fox and Robert Pomeroy and involving about 25 MPA scientists from around the world including Patrick McConney of CERMES.

At its first meeting in Annapolis (26-28 Feb 2013) this “MPA social-ecological systems” group developed a research framework and pilot projects to test it. The three main areas of interest to CERMES are a look at the Caribbean region for the entire model, and looks at SocMon and “How is your MPA doing?” global data. The first should be of particular interest to many organisations involved in MPA management, research and capacity-building in the Wider Caribbean Region.

### Connecting to Fiji

*By Patrick McConney*

CERMES strengthened its South-South cooperation during the recent visit of Patrick McConney to Fiji. He went to assist the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI) with their Communities and Coasts Programme strategic planning workshop and advise on new programme areas.

The trip, arranged by Zaidy Khan of FSPI, was an extension of the cooperation that engaged Ms Khan as MPA Specialist with CERMES on a project based in Grenada. FSPI staff took Dr McConney on a thoroughly guided tour of the big island, Viti Levu, to learn about fisheries and coastal management in Fiji over several days.



Dr. McConney made a presentation on “Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations and highlights of the Caribbean Challenge” in the Ma’afu Marine Lecture Series at the IUCN Oceania Office. He made another on “Social-ecological things we do at CERMES” at the School of Marine Studies, University of the South Pacific (USP) in Suva. Colleagues at USP expressed strong interest in examining possibilities for collaboration with CERMES.

### CERMES technical reports

*By Maria Pena*

If network analysis of stakeholder organisations; ocean governance and governance assessment of fisheries; economic valuation of coastal resources from tourists’ perspectives; valuation of marine ecosystem goods and services in the wider Caribbean; adaptive capacity for marine protected area governance; and bibliographic information on the Grenadines is your fancy, then you need to visit our website to check on our most recent CERMES technical reports. Click on [www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes](http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes), go to the publications section and enjoy.