



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

Ontario Groundwater Association visits CERMES

By Adrian Cashman

On 8 February eight members of the Ontario Groundwater Association visited CERMES as part of a week-long series of training activities led by their President David Gunn. During their time in Barbados they were hosted by the Barbados Water Authority, who arranged for them to go down into the Bowmanston Well in the parish of St John. It was evidently one of the highlights of their itinerary. During the group's visit to CERMES they met with Adrian Cashman who provided them with an overview of Barbados' groundwater, how it is being managed and the difficulties and threats facing the sustainable management of this important resource.



Members of the Ontario Ground Water Association meeting with Adrian Cashman (second on left)

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SocMon strategic planning

By Maria Pena
 (Excerpt from official press release)



SocMon coordinators and advisors.
 L-R (Front) SupinWongbusarakum, Brooke Nevitt, Maria Pena, Arie Sanders, Patrick McConney and VineetaHoon.
 L-R (Back) Rodrigo Pereira Medeiros, Michael Pido, Peter Edwards and Max Sudnovsky.

From 25-27 February more than 20 partners from the Global Socioeconomic Monitoring Initiative for Coastal Management (SocMon/SEM-Pasifika) came together to share information, develop a strategic plan, and propose innovative strategies for the future of global coastal socioeconomic monitoring. The 3-day meeting was co-facilitated and sponsored

by The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) and University of the West Indies Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES). Participants included regional coordinators and technical advisors from the Caribbean, Central America, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Micronesia, the new Brazil SocMon network and representatives from NOAA and other partner agencies.

The meeting provided global partners with an opportunity to come together and chart the way forward for the Initiative. All participants agreed that SocMon/SEM-Pasifika is a powerful tool for the collection of social and economic monitoring data and that there remains much potential to further promote the methodology for coastal management decision-making. Amongst regional coordinators there was clear agreement on the vision of the Initiative and the strategic actions necessary to make it a reality. Next steps include designing improved monitoring, integrating comprehensive monitoring into decision-making, networking for resource mobilization, improving capacity development especially for decision-makers, communicating data to different stakeholders, identifying and securing sustainable financing and further strategic planning. A 5-year strategic plan will be drafted by the coordinators and technical advisors and will include a global work plan.

Water-aCCSIS stakeholder meeting in Carriacou

By Jeanel Georges



The opinions of stakeholders are important to the implementation of interventions for water resource management. Recognising the need for

engaging closely with stakeholders, the members of the Water-aCCSIS programme met with a diverse range of participants in the water sector of Carriacou on 11 March 2014 to share

information about the project, and to obtain stakeholder views about the research and implementation of findings in a local context. Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Mrs. Gertrude Simon-Niles, and Permanent Secretary of Local Government, Mrs. Bernadette Lendore Sylvester, attended the meeting along with 15 other representatives of various water-related agencies.

Carriacou has limited ground water and relies heavily on rainfall to meet the demands of the population thus residents are challenged to ensure an adequate supply of water for competing uses such as domestic, agricultural, livestock and fisheries production. Reduced precipitation is one of the expected impacts of climate change which means that water scarcity issues can only be expected to worsen within the coming years unless pragmatic strategies are put in place.

The meeting served to foster collaboration between the researchers and resource managers as they look for solutions to present and pending problems in the water sector. Principle Investigator, Adrian Cashman, encouraged the participants to continue considering and discussing possible adaptation strategies for their island. This meeting is just the first of a series of stakeholder meetings that will be held in each of the pilot sites that have been selected for the programme.



Stakeholders in the water sector and Water-aCCSIS researchers in Carriacou

CERMES student wins best poster competition

By Antonio Joyette

Antonio Joyette, CERMES PhD candidate, recently attended the World Climate Research Programme's (WCRP) Open Science Conference held at the Laboratorio Tecnológico del Uruguay (LATU) in Montevideo, Uruguay from 17 – 21 March 2014.

The forum convened under the theme "Developing, linking and applying climate knowledge," gathered more than 220 climate science researchers, including students, from Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) areas. The symposium's main objective was to "define the research agenda needed to contribute to the provision of effective climate services in the LAC region."

While at the event, Antonio presented a poster based, in part, on his current research work. It was titled, "Drought Management in the Eastern Caribbean: Challenges to Adaptation" and was finalised with assistance from his supervisor, Leonard Nurse. The poster was adjudged Best Poster in the Best Poster Competition.

Antonio's attendance at the conference was made possible by a Student Research Award from the Department for Graduate Studies and Research of the University of the West Indies and considerations from the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP).



Antonio Joyette, his award winning poster and former CERMES student and conference participant, Gaitrie Santnarain

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing under siege

By Patrick McConney

CERMES was represented at the FAO/WECAFC Workshop on the Implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing that took place in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 24-28 March 2014. The Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) Workshop dealt with what the countries in the region can do to address IUU fishing in which port calls are necessary for reasons varying from transshipping to re-fuelling or provisioning. Countries will determine appropriate follow-up.

Giving good advice?

By Patrick McConney

At the Fifteenth Session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 26-28 March 2014 the Member States decided that WECAFC should remain an advisory body until more information is available to weigh the costs and benefits of it becoming a Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (RFMO) under FAO.



The Commission also considered the work plan of inter-sessional activities and the several working groups. Fresh out of the PSMA Workshop, members were keen to establish another working group specifically to deal with IUU fishing. The large attendance that included

CERMES and the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations was evidence of an encouraging re-invigoration of WECAFC.

GCFI planning progresses

By Maria Pena

Planning for the 67th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) is progressing steadily. The first announcement for the conference and call for papers was made earlier this month. Check out this year's conference webpage at http://www.gcfi.org/Conferences/67th/Barbados_en.html to see how things are shaping up!

We are still seeking conference sponsors so if your organisation is looking at supporting a worthy endeavour, think about channelling some funds to the 67th GCFI.

For more information on sponsorship contact: Maria Pena at maria.pena@cavehill.uwi.edu or Patrick McConney at patrick.mcconney@cavehill.uwi.edu.

We would be delighted to put your money to good use!

Belize field studies trip

By Adrian Cashman

Once again the Climate Change and Water Resources Management students visited Belize for their annual fieldwork studies. This year there were nine postgraduates from the two Specialisation Streams, accompanied by Drs. Cashman and Nurse and Ms. Renata Goodridge. The studies programme is made possible and facilitated by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, and once again we were more than fortunate to be accompanied by Messrs Green and Moody from the Centre. We kicked off the trip by travelling south to Punta Gorda so that after a break of several years we could retrace our steps to the Hydro Maya mini-hydroelectric power generation scheme and we did a survey focusing on knowledge and understanding of climate change in the village of Big Falls.



Listening to a shopkeeper in Big Falls as part of a village survey

After this we re-located north to the town of Independence which served as our base for the majority of the visit. From here we went out to undertake our regular suite of field activities. This year we undertook a new assignment in Monkey River Village, engagement with the St. Stephen's Primary School which was not only a great success but entertaining as well. The group made presentations on climate change and water management and involved the school children in a variety of classroom activities. The highlight of all this was the showcasing of a potentially chart-busting song by CERMES students on the merits of recycling!



CERMES student Ryan Zuniga reaches out to his new friends at St. Stephen's

Once again our thanks go to the Climate Change Centre and especially to the Executive Director, Dr. Kennrick Leslie for being such generous hosts.