



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 alumnus leading champion in climate adaptation

By Leonard Nurse

We were elated to read this article in the *The Gleaner* (3 January 2019) about Le-Anne Roper and her most recent professional achievement as senior technical officer for adaptation with the Climate Change Division (CCD) of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Jamaica. Below are excerpts from the article.

“Le-Anne Roper has no illusions about the 'heavy lifting' involved in her work. In fact, she welcomes it and is keen on ensuring she makes her mark, serving as part of the team tasked to help Jamaicans see the value of climate change adaptation and with creating the enabling environment that allows them to take the steps required to build individual and collective resilience to impacts, including extreme weather events.”

“Thus far, it's been a good experience,” Roper said of her new job. “There is lots to do, so one thing I'm learning ‘off the bat’ is that time management is important so as not be overwhelmed by it all. As the officer responsible for adaptation, I'm aware of how important my role is in supporting Jamaica to be more resilient, and I intend to do all I can in this regard.”

“According to the former sustainable development planning officer with the Planning Institute of Jamaica, climate change has long held her interest. “Climate change has been a passion of mine for years, so much so that it was a specialization when I did my Master's degree a decade ago. When the opportunity arose, I felt that I should throw my hat in the ring, as it's something I knew I could do.”

“Roper said she is committed to working collaboratively with stakeholders to realize success in her role.”

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That familiar Le-Anne smile.
Source: The Gleaner (Jamaica W.I.), 3 Jan 2018

“My one goal is to play a part in building the country's resilience through sound, effective adaptation measures, particularly for those most vulnerable and in the most critical sectors of our society. I hope to do

this through, *inter alia*, working alongside stakeholders at all levels, understanding the needs, and helping to fill the gaps where it's in my ability to do so.”

“On being female in a field that has typically been dominated by males, she said what is important is that she does a good job and sets a great example for other women to emulate.”

“It's about being competent to carry out the job that needs to be done. I can only hope that in doing my job well, I can be an example of how women can excel and achieve whatever we put our minds to.”

Continue making those strides Le-Anne, CERMES is proud of you.

Parliamentary Front against Hunger: Barbados and Grenada

By Adrian Cashman

In December 2017, CERMES was appointed by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to provide “Technical and advisory Services to generate large-scale impacts in the Caribbean through policy engagement processes.” The aim was to support national public policies by generating opportunities for dialogue, especially in countries going through electoral processes during 2018. An important part of the technical support provided by CERMES was to facilitate the process of the formation of a national Parliamentary Front against Hunger (PFH) in Barbados and Grenada. The line ministries in both countries had expressed support for the Fronts but there was a need to sensitize and inform Parliamentarians about what such a move would entail, the potential benefits and in doing so generate cross-party support and momentum. Such support from parliamentarians would be critical in ensuring the passage through the parliaments of the formal motions required to establish the respective national Fronts.



Grenada meeting participants

Working in collaboration with the FAO Subregional Office and with the support of the national Ministries of Agriculture, CERMES organized parliamentary meetings in Barbados and Grenada. The meetings brought parliamentarians together, to share with them the experiences, benefits and progress that has been made in Latin America and the Caribbean by the Parliamentary Front against Hunger and Malnutrition as a first step to getting the Governments and Peoples of

Barbados and Grenada to embrace the concept and work towards the establishment of National Parliamentary Fronts. The sharing of experience is best done through contact with a person who has been deeply embedded and is committed to the realization of the PFH through their own close involvement and on-going commitment. To this end FAO Zero Hunger Special Ambassador for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mrs Guadalupe Valdez, and a former Senator in the Legislature of the Dominican Republic, was invited to address Parliamentarians in Barbados and Grenada. Meetings were arranged in the two countries, in December 2018, in the respective Parliament Buildings.

In Barbados, the Hon. Minister Indar Weir hosted the meeting and the FAO Representative was Dr Lystra Fletcher-Paul whilst Hon. Minister Yolande Bain-Horsford hosted the Grenada meeting with Dr Rueben Robertson representing the FAO.

Grenada has already done much preliminary work and a resolution to initiate the process of formation had already been passed by Parliament. Hon. Minister Weir of Barbados indicated that he would be bringing to Cabinet and then to Parliament a resolution for Barbados to formally enter into the process. In both countries there was solid support for the PFH and a willingness to work to achieve their introduction.

On the same occasions Dr Cashman made presentations on the other policy engagement parts of the work carried out in supporting Agriculture and Food Security Policy. The findings of the dialogue and engagement with national stakeholders were shared and the implications for the future support and development of the agriculture and food production sectors in each country were outlined with respect to policy formation and support. During the follow-on exchanges with the parliamentarians, they emphasized the potential role of youth and technology in agriculture. The importance of increasing the contribution of agriculture to the economy of both countries was emphasized and the role of agriculture in addressing issues of poverty and obesity whilst at the same time contributing to food security and food sovereignty were highlighted during Q&A sessions.

The outcomes from the project are being used to shape FAO’s high level engagement and support for Barbados and Grenada. Two Policy Perspective Papers have been

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produced and work is nearing completion on a set of Infographics highlighting the outcomes.

Discussing data and reporting in mitigating biodiversity loss – the 6th National Reporting Meeting

By Carmel Haynes

In Barbados, from 23-24 January 2019, participants from 17 Caribbean and Central American countries met to discuss data and reporting needs to help their governments, and the world, understand what actions need to be taken to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in this region.



This two-day Technical Support Workshop was hosted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) and the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme. These agencies assisted participants to exchange best practices, share experiences, and overcome information gaps in monitoring and reporting on the state of nature in their countries. As part of each country's obligations to the CBD, this information is periodically required in the form of a National Report. The countries are each working to prepare a high quality, gender-responsive, and data-driven Sixth National Report to the CBD.

Speaking during the workshop, Hyacinth Armstrong Vaughn, Protected Areas Officer for BIOPAMA in the Caribbean, outlined how BIOPAMA is assisting its project countries to apply the management effectiveness framework developed by the International

Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This process will help demonstrate how the countries involved are progressing towards achieving Aichi target 11, and forms part of their national reporting. Julian Walcott, Technical Officer with the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (a joint collaboration between BIOPAMA and the University of the West Indies) also informed participants that the Gateway was a free and secure tool that could be a repository for the data collected by the countries and would allow them to minimize the duplication of efforts while maximizing the use of scarce human and financial resources.

From here, these 17 countries will complete their Sixth National Report and submit it to the CBD by June 2019. The workshop hosts will also continue providing technical support to the countries to develop and share the results of their reports through info graphics, policy briefs, and best practices.

Technical assistant for the BIOPAMA Programme

By Justin Springer and Hyacinth Armstrong-Vaughn



IUCN has recruited Justin Springer as Technical Assistant for the BIOPAMA Programme. Justin is a dedicated ecologist who started as a research assistant at UWI, Cave Hill in 2012. He has a background in Landscape Ecology and

his MSc thesis (Cranfield University, UK) investigated the link between landscape morphology and connectivity for jaguars in Bolivia. Justin has a keen interest in integrated landscape management and linking field research and spatial analysis for biodiversity conservation at various scales. As Technical Assistant, he will provide technical support to protected areas *inter alia* through the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway and the implementation of BIOPAMA's Action Component (grant mechanism). He envisages that through BIOPAMA he can support biodiversity conservation across the Caribbean region. Justin is a

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photographer, musician and enjoys extreme sports. Welcome on board Justin!

The experience of a Van Dover Inclusive Graduate Education Travel Award recipient

By Kristie Alleyne



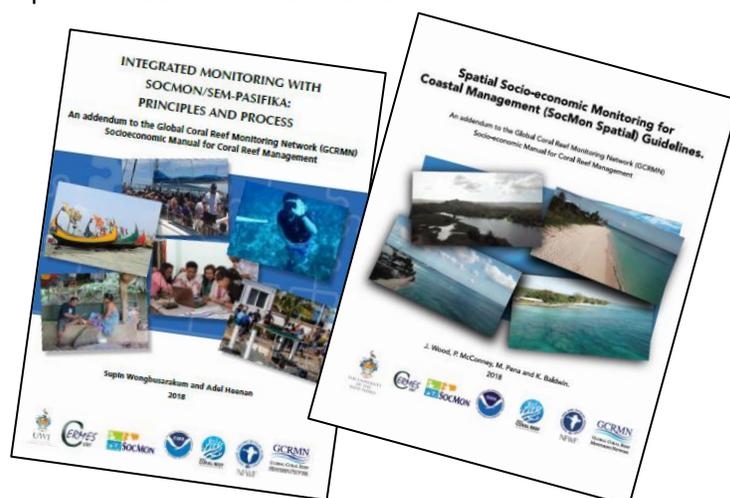
As a student keen on pursuing a PhD programme, the Van Dover Inclusive Graduate Educational Travel Award provided the perfect opportunity to experience life into postgraduate education. In Beaufort North Carolina, Duke University Marine Lab is a small but exceptional work environment with a vast variety of research projects that span the entire field of marine science. During a three-day visit to the lab I was afforded the opportunity to: attend seminars and seminar-related events; shadow PhD students; meet with various faculty members who are undertaking different areas of research; and engage in a one-on-one discussion with the programme coordinator who was more than willing to discuss the steps I should take on my path to postgraduate education. Additionally, my personalized schedule allowed me to explore the beautiful town of Beaufort. As part of the travel award trips to the town's museum, aquarium and Macon Fort were organized. Despite the short period of time, I learnt so many things from the staff and students who ensured they took the time to make my Duke experience extremely memorable. To say this experience was amazing does not do it justice, it was an absolute pleasure to be awarded the opportunity and I look forward to pursuing my PhD.

New SocMon products

By Maria Pena

The [Global SocMon initiative](#) is pleased to announce the development of eight complementary updates to the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) Socioeconomic Manual for Coral Reef Management developed through the recently completed (December 2018) CERMES-implemented, NFWF-funded *Coordination of a Global Socio-economic Monitoring Initiative for Coastal Management II* project.

As the main reference material on the SocMon process and field data collection methods used during trainings as a companion to the regional guidelines, this revision was overdue. Two of these products were professionally designed and limited copies of each were printed due to their substantive nature.



SocMon now has guidelines for integrating monitoring, spatial socio-economic monitoring, climate vulnerability assessment, guidance on communicating SocMon findings, updated worksheets for planning SocMon assessments and monitoring programmes, tips on incorporating SocMon with the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach, the inclusion of the visioning better futures tool to the suite of visualization techniques SocMon makes use of, and a case study from Brazil on the application of SocMon to bycatch monitoring and management that can be easily replicated.

All products and outputs will shortly be uploaded to the SocMon website. Check there in April!

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