



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

Impressive CERMES alumni throughout the region

By Maria Pena

There is a saying that, “you can find a Barbadian anywhere in the world.” Well, the same can now be applied to CERMES alumni. This became evident while representing CERMES at the UNDP Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (J-CCCP) Knowledge-sharing and Project Wrap-up, and the subsequent launch of the Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDER) project, 16-19 September, The Harbor Club, Saint Lucia.

At both of these events, I had the pleasure of reconnecting with seven of some of our brightest and hardworking CERMES alumni. Just look at the line-up below.



L to R: Yours truly, Le-Anne Roper, Marium Alleyne, Donna Gittens, Danielle Evanson, and Astrid Lynch

Le-Anne is Climate Change Senior Technical Officer (Adaptation), Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation in Jamaica.

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The other four ladies are all associated with the UNDP. Marium is J-CCCP Project Technical Associate with UNDP Barbados and the OECS and is currently pursuing her PhD at UWI-Cave Hill; Donna is Technical Specialist with UNDP Barbados and the OECS; Danielle is Program Manager for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Resilience and Energy and the Environment, UNDP Barbados and the OECS; and Astrid is national focal point for the J-CCCP at UNDP Guyana.

Also at the events were Natalie Hutchinson, Senior Development Officer, Development Section, High Commission of Canada, Barbados; and Crispin D’Auvergne, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Coordinator, Environmental Sustainability Cluster, OECS.



Natalie Hutchinson and Crispin D’Auvergne

CERMES comprised part of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) for the [J-CCCP](#) project and has been invited to be engaged in a similar role for the [EnGenDER](#) project.

CERMES and USF identify potential synergies through WSRN S-Barbados project

By David Yawson

“The Water Sector Resilience Nexus for Sustainability in Barbados ([WSRN S-Barbados](#)) is a US\$ 45.2-million investment project being implemented by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) in collaboration with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Government of Barbados and the Barbados Water Authority (BWA). Project partners include the United States Agency for International Development Climate Change Adaptation Project (USAID-CCAP), the University of the West Indies (UWI), University of South Florida (USF), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the European Investment Bank (EIB)” (see caribbeanclimate.bz for more information).

Opportunities for collaboration and the engagement of CERMES MSC students in Water Resources Management are being explored. Stay tuned for more developments in subsequent issues of the CERMES Connections.



Saint Lucia fisheries policy

By Patrick McConney

As part of an international FAO team, CERMES participated in the Fisheries Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on the Development of a National Policy on Fisheries for Saint Lucia held in Castries, Saint Lucia, 17 to 19 September 2019. Our main task was to address the climate and disaster aspects of the policy. This

included facilitated interactive processes (see group photo).



Saint Lucia is forging ahead with a number of far-sighted fisheries plans and investment projects that take account of climate and building resilient fisheries social-ecological systems. Under another initiative, CERMES will also be tackling Saint Lucia’s fisheries and sargassum management plans as follow-up.

Ecosystem-based approaches to shrimp and groundfish fisheries

By Patrick McConney

Under a FAO project on activities in support of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Implementation in the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem several workshops and field investigations were held in Guyana (pictured), Suriname and Trinidad recently through CERMES. These concerned gender in fisheries, national inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms, training in EAF applied to sub-regional and national fisheries management plans and down-scaling CLME+ monitoring and evaluation to the sub-regional and national levels. A team of mainly regional consultants did this work which contributes to the implementation of the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme.



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Caribbean Gateway and 13 delegates attend the 3rd Latin America and Caribbean Protected Areas Congress

By The Caribbean Gateway Team



Congress participants including: Caribbean delegates, Caribbean Gateway Team, IUCN (Global and Regional) and IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) chair

From 14-17 October, 2019, 3,086 persons from 59 countries converged in Lima, Peru, for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) and its World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) third congress on protected areas (under the theme 'Solutions for welfare and sustainable development') for the Latin America and Caribbean Region. The Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (Caribbean Gateway), through the BIOPAMA programme, ensured representation from 13 of its 15 countries at the congress, which aimed at providing a space for experience exchanges and facilitated debate on the formulation and implementation of public policies, research and academia. Specific objectives of the congress included promoting best management practices of protected areas at the service of society; evaluating and strengthening the contribution of protected areas to international commitments of nature conservation for wellbeing and sustainable development; and demonstrating protected areas in systems, landscape approaches, management of wider territories and integration with social and economic sectors.

Throughout the congress, the Caribbean Gateway hosted and participated in several sessions, which included:

- a two-hour EU-Redparques pavilion session – introduction of participants to the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme and the Caribbean Gateway along with three panel discussion sessions - comprising Caribbean delegates and the Caribbean Gateway's Technical Officer - focusing on the areas of benefits of the BIOPAMA programme, capacity building and challenges surrounding data and information. The session also consisted of a final presentation session on sustainable financing;
- a one-hour Caribbean showcase – Caribbean delegates highlighted the work and research surrounding protected areas in their countries via maps, photos, information products, videos and engaging discussions;
- a one-hour forum session providing a more in-depth look at the Caribbean Gateway's platform, regarding the technology, data, envisioned functioning and potential direction moving forward. The session also featured a presentation on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management (CaMPAM) Network's recently launched database and the intended synergy between the two platforms; and
- a 10-minute presentation - within a block of presentations on platforms and tools – that provided participants with a brief overview of the Caribbean Gateway as a platform and essentially a tool to aid with decision-making regarding biodiversity and protected areas.

The congress also allowed for highly engaging regional interactions and sharing between and among the Caribbean delegates and their Latin American counterparts. Overall, the Caribbean delegates expressed the usefulness of the congress and highlighted the need for a parallel event for the Caribbean Region.

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Where am I now?

By Sherry Constantine

"I have not always chosen the safest path. I've made my mistakes, plenty of them. I sometimes jump too soon and fail to appreciate the consequences. But I've learned something important along the way: I've learned to heed the call of my heart. I've learned that the safest path is not always the best path and I've learned that the voice of fear is not always to be trusted."

— Steve Goodier

The quote above resonates with me as it truly represents how I live my life. Born under the zodiac sign Aries, I am very impulsive and sometimes jump before I think, making my life rich and fulfilling. Thankfully, my strong faith has grounded me and my guardian angels have kept me safe.

I am currently the Director of the Eastern Caribbean Program with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Our work is based in Barbados and the six independent OECS countries of St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada. Our Program focuses on management of projects related to coastal resilience, ecosystem-based adaptation, expansion and effective management of marine protected areas, debt conversions, marine spatial planning and conservation finance. I started work with TNC in 2013 and before this I worked as a Biologist with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat, was the Executive Director of the Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards, and the Managing Director of CePro Consultants Limited.

I left CERMES in 2001 and in 2004 I was fortunate enough to be awarded a Fulbright scholarship to further my studies at the University of Miami. Four years later, I graduated with a PhD in Biology (focus on Ecology and Marine Biology). I have spent the past 18 years working on environmental and marine conservation projects in several Caribbean islands. I am a certified Project Management Professional with the Project Management Institute (PMI).

My year at CERMES cemented my love for nature and my commitment to pursue environmental conservation and management as my life's work. It is our responsibility to preserve the beauty of our world for future generations and I am trying to play my little part in the work I do each day. CERMES also allowed me to

build lasting relationships that I call upon as needed so many years after graduation.

People always ask me where do I live and I find this is one of the most difficult questions for me to answer at this stage of my career since I travel extensively. However, I try to spend as much time as I can with my almost 3-year-old son. He loves cars and the beach so on weekends when I am in Saint Lucia, you can usually find us outdoors driving his electric cars or bathing on the beach.

I feel blessed to have been given so many opportunities in my life and I wake each day with a song of gratitude in my heart.



Leading an educational tour of the Grand Anse Marine Protected Area in Grenada with my son on my back

Surviving CERMES

By Kristie Alleyne



L to R: Joseph Weekes, Richeda Speede, Prof. Hazel Oxenford, Kristie Alleyne, Raja Gokhul and Kimara Dyer

19th October 2019 marked both an ending and a beginning for the CERMES graduating class of 2019. As these young minds embrace the world, we hope that they utilize the knowledge and skillsets acquired during their time at CERMES to make a significant difference in their fields of studies. We bade you Godspeed and good luck on your individual journeys.

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