



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



SargAdapt is on!

By Hazel Oxenford

We are very pleased to announce that CERMES is one of 11 organizations within the Caribbean that have received funding under the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Facility's 1st Call for proposals.

Valued at just over US\$ 980,000, this three-year (Dec 2019 – 2022) project, *Adapting to a new reality: managing responses to influxes of sargassum seaweed in the Eastern Caribbean as ecosystem hazards and opportunities (SargAdapt)* will accomplish its project goal through the following objectives:

1. Developing appropriate management responses to sargassum influxes to lessen damage to coastal and marine ecosystems and human livelihoods.
2. Enhancing the capacity of stakeholders to cope with, sustainably manage, and adapt to sargassum influxes.
3. Reinforcing the ability of marine and coastal stakeholders for adaptive planning, management and livelihood resilience.

CERMES as project implementer will partner with the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and St. George's University, Grenada to work closely with NGO communities and government agencies in Grenada, St Vincent, St Lucia, Dominica and Barbados

EBA Facility's first Call for Proposals was a very competitive process in which over 100 applications from around the region were received. "The 11 projects to be funded in the insular Caribbean will provide a range of actions including protected areas' management, restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems, reduction of land-based stressors, measures to reduce physical damage and pressures on

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ecosystems, installation of artificial reefs and hybrid solutions relevant to the EbA approach" (extracted from CCI-CBF Newsletter #8, November 2019). The successful projects are being implemented in Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines and Trinidad & Tobago.

"The EbA Facility aims to issue a second call for proposals in February 2020. The Facility's resources are a contribution of the German Federal Ministry of Environment's International Climate Initiative through KfW, the German Development Bank (extracted from CCI-CBF Newsletter #8, November 2019)."

Get your updates on SargAdapt right here!



Photo credit: R. Goodridge.

Injection of funds for CBF

(Adapted from CBF Newsletter, 19 December 2019)

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) announced on 18 December, the top-up of € 20 million for its Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Facility from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU) International Climate Initiative, through KfW, the German Development Bank. The legal agreements for the injection of funds were signed on 17 December and the funds will be transferred to the EbA Facility before the end of the year. "This additional funding will allow the CBF to better support the development and the scale-up of EbA approaches in the region," reflected Joth Singh, EbA Facility Programme Manager. Countries eligible for this new contribution include Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Sargassum use tracker

By Anne Desrochers

As part of the Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CC4FISH) Sargassum Subproject, I have the task to develop a Sargassum Use Guide. In order to collect as much information on innovative and scalable potential Sargassum uses for the region, I had the opportunity to travel to Guadeloupe, Mexico and Dominican Republic during the months of October and November 2019 to meet with researchers and entrepreneurs.

The International Conference on Sargassum and Sarg'Expo, which took place in Guadeloupe from 23-26 October, were great meeting points to discuss with researchers and private businesses to learn more about their work on developing commercial uses for Sargassum, challenges encountered and future opportunities for the region.

Mexico is known as an innovation hub for the valorization of Sargassum. Meeting with several entrepreneurs and researchers in Cancun and Puerto Morelos was very interesting and insightful. I learned about new techniques being developed and views into a promising and lucrative Sargassum processing industry.

In Dominican Republic, I had the pleasure of meeting with prominent leaders who are investigating ways to benefit from large amounts of Sargassum arrivals, through biogas, activated carbon, compost, bioplastics, carbon credits, and others. During my visits, I had the opportunity to see in action a pilot project being developed and implemented by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) jointly with the Dominican Republic Navy on Sargassum Ocean Sequestration of Carbon (SOS Carbon).

Field visits and personal contacts made in Guadeloupe, Mexico and Dominican Republic with over 100 entities have been an eye opener on ways to successfully and sustainably valorize or make profit from Sargassum. This journey enabled me to gather great content for the development of the Use Guide and also to build links with potential future collaborators; stay tuned for more to come!



Inside view of the famous Sargassum house in Puerto Morelos (Mexico) with owner Omar Vásquez

IAU-BBC Sargassum video

The work and research of the University of the West Indies (UWI) in understanding and dealing with Sargassum influxes regionally due to climate change has been highlighted in the video, *Tackling the effects of climate change*, produced by the International Association of Universities (IAU) in collaboration with the BBC. Have a look here

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDWVOyt_A-c&feature=youtu.be



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FAO International Symposium on Fisheries Sustainability: Strengthening the Science-Policy Nexus

By Patrick McConney

This FAO symposium with over 700 participants took place in Rome from 18-21 November 2019. From CERMES, Hazel Oxenford chaired the climate session while Patrick McConney was in the policy panel.



Hazel Oxenford (third from right) after chairing the session on *Fisheries management in the face of a changing climate*

It was an excellent opportunity for networking in small or large groups on shared interests. Two of these were the Illuminating Hidden Harvest group and the many participants who work on gender in fisheries. Among the latter was Debra Joseph, a Cave Hill Campus colleague and member of the CERMES-led Gender In Fisheries Team (GIFT).



Illuminating Hidden Harvests

Alumni David Gill and Antonio Di Cintio were present along with GCFI colleagues Alejandro Acosta and Brian Luckhurst (who lives in Italy). A star of the symposium was keynote speaker Mitchell Lay of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) with which CERMES has had continuing collaboration since its formation in 2007.

The climate-poverty nexus in Caribbean fisheries

By Patrick McConney

CERMES participated in the FAO workshop on *Regional NDC-SDG Dialogue in the Caribbean* with the subtitle *Integrating climate-resilient fisheries and coastal community priorities into post-2020 climate action and leveraging SDG co-benefits for the rural poor and vulnerable*. It was held at the Hilton Hotel from 26-28 November and included a field trip organised by CERMES to Six Men's Bay on 27 November. Colleagues Leo Brewster (Coastal Zone Management Unit), Travis Sinckler (Environment Division) and Joyce Leslie (Fisheries Division) assisted with guiding the nearly 50 participants on the field trip to look at climate and poverty from tourism and fisheries perspectives.

The FAO and CERMES are collaborating on a couple of related initiatives led by Janice Cumberbatch and Catrina Hinds. These are the *Climate Change and Poverty Nexus for Enhancing Resilient Fisheries Livelihoods and Food security in Barbados, Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis* as well as *Development of a capacity-building programme on addressing the nexus between poverty and climate change in the fisheries sector in coastal communities, coastal areas, and Small Island Development States (SIDS)*. More on these in future issues.



The Caribbean PA Gateway participates at GCFI

By Julian Walcott

The Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (Caribbean PA Gateway) team participated in the 72nd annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) conference, 4-8 November, 2019 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. The Caribbean PA Gateway sponsored the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Science and Management session, which was moderated by Hyacinth Armstrong-Vaughn (Regional Coordinator). The MPA session featured nine oral presentations covering various aspects such as tools, databases, monitoring, financing and management approaches related to MPAs. Technical Officer at the Caribbean PA Gateway (Julian Walcott) delivered a presentation on the Caribbean PA Gateway which served to introduce the audience to the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme and the Caribbean PA Gateway, focusing on key components and highlighting some of the work being carried out towards better protected area management throughout the region.



Participants of the concurrent session

In addition to the MPA session, the Caribbean PA Gateway hosted a concurrent session, *BIOPAMA: The Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway - supporting better MPA Management*. This session, attended by 26 persons, aimed to provide an opportunity for participants to gain a better understanding of the Caribbean PA Gateway, including the use of the platform and key areas of work being conducted. Another key aim of the session was to bring together and interact with as many protected area practitioners from the Dominican Republic as possible. Stemming from the workshop, participants expressed willingness

to work with the Caribbean PA Gateway to ensure the availability of accurate and up-to-date data relating to protected areas. To this end, a number of management plans and geospatial data were shared by participants from the Dominican Republic to help update their data and information.

CERMES at GCFI

By Maria Pena

Patrick McConney and Maria Pena participated in the 72nd GCFI, 4-8 November, held in Punta Cana Dominican Republic. They, along with Gender in Fisheries Team (GIFT) member, Bertha Simmons, organised the fourth special poster session on Gender in Fisheries and highlighted their work on gender in the fisheries value through a six-part poster series, *Gender in similar occupations in the Barbados fisheries value chain*, that was very well received by GCFI participants.

Also attending and presenting at GCFI were former CERMES MSc student, Chad Bowman, who presented his MSc research on stakeholder perceptions of the impacts of managed access in Belize fisheries; and Kimberly Baldwin (CERMES alumnus) who presented on research that she co-supervised on the quantification of stranded Sargassum using drones. Kim is worked with Hazel Oxenford (CERMES Prof.) and Joseph Weekes (former MSc student, now alumnus and CERMES Lab Technician).



Patrick (centre) discussing gender in fisheries with two keen observers.

Merry
CHRISTMAS



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