



A bi-monthly electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (ERMES)  
 Editors: Maria Pena and Dr. Patrick McConney

## SargAdapt launched

By Janice Cumberbatch



On 25th June 2020 UWI-CERMES proudly launched its latest Sargassum Project - *SargAdapt: Adapting to a new reality managing responses to influxes of sargassum seaweed in the Eastern Caribbean as ecosystem hazards and opportunities*. SargAdapt is a project of the [Caribbean Biodiversity Fund \(CBF\) Ecosystem-based Adaptation Facility \(EbA\)](#) with financing from the [International Climate Initiative \(IKI\)](#) of the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety through KfW. The project is one of eleven funded through the EbA Facility's First Call for Proposals.

The USD \$981,392.75 project has the ultimate goal of reducing the impacts of and improving adaptation to sargassum influxes in the Eastern Caribbean with emphasis on converting a climate-linked ecosystem hazard into an asset that supports opportunities for socio-economic development. SargAdapt will be implemented over the next three years (2020-2022) with various Caribbean project partners in five eastern Caribbean Countries: Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Barbados.

The project involves several activities organised in three components:

- Component 1 Knowledge Mobilised
- Component 2 Capacity Developed
- Component 3 Adaptation Plans Institutionalised

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IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS



Component 1 focuses on mobilising knowledge for use by stakeholders. We will be building on existing knowledge and research and conducting new scientific research on sargassum as an ecosystem as well as its impacts on other ecosystems. We will assess the economic impacts of sargassum influxes and develop standard protocols for monitoring sargassum influxes with drones. This will culminate in the development of a knowledge platform to disseminate information to stakeholders and the general public.

In Component 2 we will establish a network of stakeholders to improve communications, as well as a Regional Action Learning Group. Training will be provided in various adaptive practices, including mainstreaming the use of the drone monitoring protocol in the five participating countries.

Under Component 3 the focus will be on bringing it all together by institutionalising adaptation plans. We will continue the production of our eastern Caribbean sub-regional Sargassum Outlook Bulletin and will convene the third Sargassum Symposium in 2022. We also plan to design and implement a series of community-based adaptation projects, and to develop a series of community and sectoral adaptation plans.

Please visit the [SargAdapt](#) project webpage for more information and learn more about the CBF EbA Facility [here](#). We look forward to engaging with our alumni in this endeavour.

For more information contact:

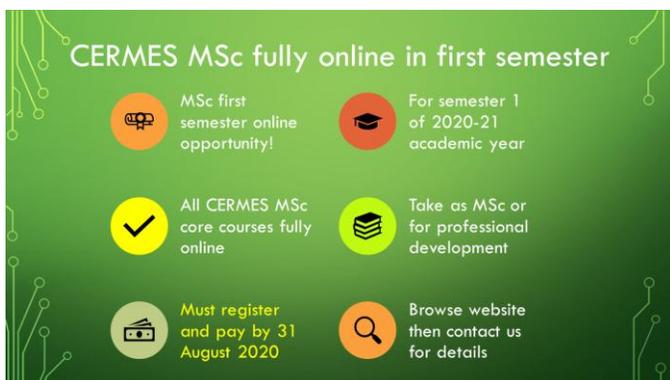
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## Online opportunity to start the MSc degree

By Patrick McConney

Breaking news! CERMES MSc modular 2-3 week core courses will be fully online in the first semester (Sep-Dec) of the 2020-21 academic year. They can be taken from anywhere in the world once a person has registered and paid. The second semester (Jan-May) courses in the four MSc specialisation streams (marine, climate, water and land) are still planned for being on campus with local field trips and practical activities. However, we are prepared to also take these fully online, similar to the quick transition a few months ago when COVID-19 changed everything.



Why is this an exciting opportunity? Persons applying for this interdisciplinary taught MSc programme can now reduce their COVID-19 risks while pursuing excellent postgraduate education. Given the global uncertainty around regional, national and even organisational COVID-19 measures, going fully online is the safe option chosen by many universities. Since our courses are compact modules, the fully online courses in professional skills, concepts and issues, introductory planning, environmental impact assessment, resource economics and geoinformatics (i.e. GIS) can also be taken for career development as professional training with special admission. Health, travel and other restrictions will not be a constraint.

UWI communications technology via several eLearning modes of delivery maintains the lively interaction of face-to-face sessions. Being fully online also reduces the lodging and other living expenses associated with relocation or with commuting if in Barbados. The benefits are significant. But we know that postgraduate students value direct interaction, so we are ready to welcome

successful applicants on campus in the second semester once circumstances allow. Check the [CERMES website](#) in coming weeks for information about online opportunities.

## Sustainable finance and funding of protected areas webinar

By Jay Van Meerbeeck

The majority of protected areas (PAs) are facing enormous challenges from the insufficiency of vital financial resources amidst global threats like COVID-19. PA managers must find innovative ways of acquiring funds and doing conservation. However, how can PAs optimize the use of financial resources? What are new funding sources their management can tap into?

A webinar hosted by the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (Caribbean Gateway) in collaboration with the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA) aimed to help protected area practitioners and environmental managers answer these questions. It kicked off a series of webinars organised by the Caribbean Gateway.

Quick statistics on the webinar:

- 145 registrations
- 86 persons joined live
- 36 questions submitted during Q&A segment
- 50 views on YouTube (and counting)



Mr. Guillermo Chan, guest speaker and sustainable finance expert, addressed the value of protected areas;

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the importance of financial sustainability in protected areas; and funding protected areas during challenging times.

“Managing protected areas goes beyond merely the biological part of the pie. It involves working proactively to improve sources of revenue and financial metrics.” Chan emphasised that conservation plans should be tied to “realistic budgets and investment portfolios, and not exclusively tied to government funds and donors” so as to ensure financial sustainability.

In his presentation, Chan noted it is paramount that governments and private sector work together towards “new roadmaps for internal finance during times of crisis.” Key takeaways from his presentation included:

- Rarely are PAs considered a wealth generator. PAs are estimated to require USD \$1.1-2.5 billion to meet basic needs, which is far greater than the 1% or less of GDP currently spent on conservation.
- Government, international agencies, NGOs and practitioners must continuously search for stable, innovative financing mechanisms to minimise the impact of visitation declines, reduced revenue from tourism and possible cuts to park operational budgets in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Initiatives such as the USD \$10 billion Bezos Earth Fund, established to fund activists, scientists, and NGOs in an effort “to preserve and protect the natural world” offer much needed hope. Indeed, many companies recognise the strategic and systemic risks arising from ecosystem degradation.

Access the webinar presentation [here](#) and the session report [here](#). You are also encouraged to read the BIOPAMA/IUCN publication on financing and resourcing of protected and conserved areas in Eastern and Southern Africa, and to continue this conversation in the BIOPAMA Yammer group:

<https://www.yammer.com/biopama>

## BIOPAMA Action Component call for proposals open

By Jay Van Meerbeeck

On 2 June 2020 the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Action Component launched the call for proposals for Rapid Response Grants. These grants are designed to respond to the risks and difficulties induced by the COVID-19 crisis in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

The funded projects (*maximum amount of € 50,000 with no co-financing required*) are expected to increase the resilience of protected areas and local communities' livelihoods facing the impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

The main objectives of the BIOPAMA Rapid Response Grants are:

- Enhanced management and governance of protected or conserved areas;
- Increased resilience to major shocks and recovery of the protected and conserved areas including sustainable/innovative funding planning;
- Maintained livelihoods and/or enhanced resilience of local communities to major shocks caused by COVID pandemic, whilst effectively contributing to protected areas management

The call for proposals is open-ended and interested organisations can apply at any time until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 (23:59 Brussels time). Rapid Response Grant proposals submitted in response to this call can have a maximum duration of 12 months. Project proposals will be reviewed and awarded on a regular basis from the launch of the call.

The BIOPAMA Action Component provides funding opportunities to address protected and conserved areas, sustainable use of biodiversity, natural resources priorities for actions on the ground in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) countries. This grant-making facility is managed by IUCN on behalf of the European Union (EU) and the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).

To learn more about eligible activities and to apply for the BIOPAMA Rapid Response Grant visit:

<https://action.biopama.org/rapid-response-grant/>.

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Information on the Rapid Response Grant is also available in French and can be accessed via <https://action.biopama.org/subventions-dintervention-rapide/>

## Caribbean Gateway welcomes communications officer



There's a new name attached to Caribbean Gateway articles in this issue of the *CERMES Connections*. A warm welcome to Jay Van Meerbeeck who joined the Caribbean Gateway team recently as the new Communications Officer. Jay introduces herself below:

I am a creative communications professional and multimedia journalist with over nine years experience in film, radio and communications. I have a Master of Arts degree in Multimedia Journalism (Broadcast) from the University of Westminster, United Kingdom and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication from Curtin University, Australia.

While conceiving and coordinating a range of local and regional programmes and initiatives as the former Communications Manager within the Ministry of Tourism in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, I secured the engagement of the private and public sectors, community groups, schools and civil society to advance the goals of the Ministry.

My experience in outreach and public relations activities includes media engagement, digital communication platforms, awareness campaigns, and developing multimedia content. Two accomplishments I am most proud of was the introduction of the Tourism Education Comic Book Series and the Tourism Radio Drama.

I have had the opportunity to research, document and self-produce a twelve-minute investigative film on the pressures facing the whaling tradition in Bequia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The film 'Big Fish' was part of the official selection and screening at the 2017 Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival.

I am extremely passionate about volunteering, travelling, learning about new cultures and documenting human stories, societal, and environmental matters through the use of multimedia.

## GIFT publications

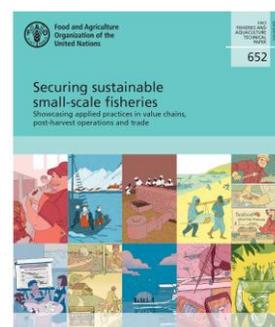
By Maria Pena

GIFT members and Friends of GIFT are pleased to announce three of our most recent publications:

- Pena, M., P. McConney, B. Simmons and N. Selliah. 2020. How has organization benefited women in the Barbados flyingfish fishery? A look from within. *Gender, Technology and Development* Vol. 24 No.1: 28-47. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09718524.2020.1729538>



- Pena, M., J. Cumberbatch, P. McConney, N. Selliah and B. Simmons. 2020. The Central Fish Processors Association: Collective action by women in the Barbados flyingfish fishery. Pp 23-37 in J. Zelasney, A. Ford, L. Westlund, A. Ward and O. Riego Peñarubia (eds.). *Securing sustainable small-scale fisheries: Showcasing applied practices in value chains, post-harvest operations and trade*. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 652. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca8402en>



- Pena, M. and P.A. Murray, 2020. Some characteristics of Caribbean women's involvement in the fisheries sector. *Yemaya Supplement No. 60—Turning Points, April 2020, pages 38-41*. International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, India.

Have a read...they're not bad, even if we do say so ourselves!

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