



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

MSc research projects underway

By Patrick McConney

CERMES MSc students are now well engaged in a diverse set of interdisciplinary research projects, aiming to submit their research papers before year end. The breadth and depth of their coverage is a good reflection on the potential of the region’s young people to actively contribute to Caribbean sustainable development through applied research. They follow the long tradition of CERMES alumni.



Photo credit: A. Cashman

Not all of the students have topics closely aligned to their MSc specialisation stream as the programme provides the flexibility to broaden practical field skills. Some pursue research that meets the needs of the several partner organisations with which CERMES collaborates. These partners include coastal and fisheries authorities, water management agencies, agriculture interests, protected area organisations and others in several countries.

MSc research topics include climate adaptation, water scarcity and supply, storm water, environmental impact assessment, coral reef resilience, diseases and disasters,

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biodiversity conservation, fisheries and protected area management. Research supervisors are drawn from several of the partner organisations in collaboration with an academic member of CERMES staff or a post-doctoral research associate. Look out for further news on their research as the best papers often get published once they are finished.

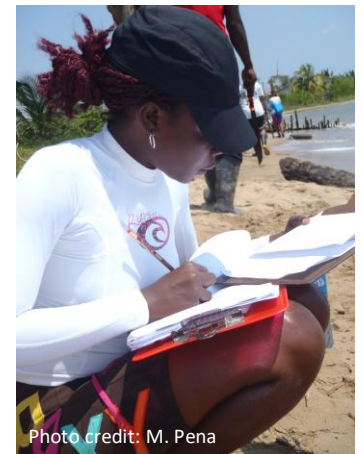


Photo credit: M. Pena

SSF Gender policy champions

By Lisa Soares

Throughout July 2020 the Gender in Fisheries Team (GIFT) introduced three SSF Guidelines policy champions to support the implementation of the SSF Guidelines and highlight the importance of gender mainstreaming in Caribbean small-scale fisheries (SSF). The first policy champion is Ms. Alexandria Rhooms representing the Caribbean Youth Environment Network – Jamaica Chapter. Mr. Cecil Marquez, Director and PRO of Gouyave Fishermen’s Cooperative Society, Grenada, is the second policy champion. Our third

policy champion is Mrs. Shellene Berry, Fisheries Officer at the Ministry of Commerce, Agriculture, Investment and Fisheries (MICAF), Jamaica.



L to R: Policy champions Alexandria, Cecil and Shellene

This initiative is an activity undertaken under the FAO-funded [SSF Gender project](#) which aims to implement gender aspects within the SSF Guidelines and the protocol to the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) for securing SSF. It is anticipated that the SSF Guidelines Policy Champion initiative will be promoted from now, leading up to the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA) in 2022 and beyond. In their voluntary roles, the GIFT SSF Guidelines Policy Champions will commit time largely to communication and networking and will engage in activities that may include:

- Encouraging regional, national, and local partners to lead action to implement the SSF Guidelines and SSF Protocol in CARICOM/CRFM.
- Sharing key messaging points to promote the SSF Guidelines and SSF Protocol, including gender awareness and gender mainstreaming.
- Influencing partners to include SSF Guidelines, SSF Protocol and IYAFA at strategic local, national, regional, and international meetings.
- Helping to mobilise resources and support for the SSF Guidelines, SSF protocol and major IYAFA events through relationship building.

- Communicating with regional, national, and local partners including fisherfolk organisations and private sector on policy matters.

Lisa Soares, the Principal Investigator, for the SSF Gender project shared, “we are elated to have these policy champions on board that through their varied capacities have shown their unwavering commitment and support to promote the welfare of Caribbean small-scale fisheries”. We congratulate them on accepting their roles and look forward to working with them to advance the interests of Caribbean small-scale fisheries and highlighting the importance of gender mainstreaming in Caribbean fisheries.

Climate change adaptation in Dominica’s small-scale fisheries

By Patrick McConney

An article just published in the journal *Coastal Management* addresses *Climate Change Adaptation and Extreme Weather in the Small-Scale Fisheries of Dominica*. Its authors are Rachel Turner (University of Exeter), Patrick McConney (UWI-CERMES) and Iris Monnereau (FAO). Tropical Storm Erika (2015) and Hurricane Maria (2017) were the most destructive disasters in Dominica since Hurricane David in 1979.



Photo credit: M. Pena

Turner and co-authors present findings of a scoping visit to Dominica which examined the impacts of these extreme weather events in coastal communities. They were assisted by past and present officers of the Dominica fisheries authority, especially Andrew Magloire. Fisheries officer Jullan Defoe presented an

For more information contact:

CERMES, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, St. Michael, Barbados

Phone: (246) 417-4316 Fax: (246) 424-4204;

cermes@cavehill.uwi.edu; www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes



early version of the scoping study results at the 2019 MARE conference in Amsterdam.

Climate hazards challenge Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as Dominica because of the important contribution of fisheries to multiple aspects of coastal communities' wellbeing, including food security, coastal economies, and social and cultural identities. Supporting the adaptive response of fisheries to storm events is therefore a priority, yet efforts to enhance adaptive capacity are limited by knowledge gaps relating to fishing communities' needs and behaviour.

Using a framework outlining five key domains of adaptive capacity, the authors identify insights related to the diverse experiences of fishing communities, and the individual, household and institutional capacities that have implications for resilience to future shocks. Understanding the experience of Dominica can inform the development of targeted adaptive capacity-building strategies nationally and in other contexts.

Link to this article via

<https://doi.org/10.1080/08920753.2020.1795970>

Social Vulnerability Index for Barbados

By Janice Cumberbatch

A widely applicable and flexible Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) was recently developed for Barbados to identify geospatial variations in social vulnerability. Focused on socioeconomic status, gender, age, special needs and property, medium and high levels of social vulnerability appear to be widespread across Barbados with no discernible spatial pattern, reinforcing the importance of island-wide efforts to reduce vulnerability. The SVI is a useful starting point for further investigation of social vulnerability; the analysis showed what can and, perhaps as importantly, what cannot be determined about the spatial distribution of social vulnerability using existing available data. There is a need to validate the SVI, and improved data collection to record and evaluate post-disaster social impacts would enhance predictive tools. More extensive georeferenced social data collected during the decennial census would provide robust data to support the development of SVIs. However, census data may not offer solutions unless it is possible to spatially aggregate the data by smaller units that are more

demographically homogeneous, and therefore, cross referencing with other data and/or strategically collecting additional data using the SVI as a framework.

To link to this article, *Social Vulnerability Index: Barbados – A Case Study, Coastal Management*, published in *Coastal Management*, visit

<https://doi.org/10.1080/08920753.2020.1796193>

New e-newsletter from the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway

By Jay Belmar



announce the launch of the *Caribbean Gateway Insights*. The first issue of the email newsletter was published on 1 August, 2020. The quarterly newsletter aims at keeping stakeholders informed about advancements of the Caribbean PA Gateway, sharing relevant PA news and valuable updates from across the region.

Here is some of what you can expect in the first issue of the Caribbean Gateway Insights:

- World Ranger Day Features
- Webinar Recap: BIOPAMA Rapid Response Grants
- Frequently Asked Questions
- BIOPAMA Update

You can view the e-newsletter [here](#).

In an effort to remain as relevant as possible to stakeholder needs and improve with each issue, the

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cermes@cavehill.uwi.edu; www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes



team at the Caribbean PA Gateway looks forward to hearing your comments on the first issue.

Please send your thoughts, ideas and suggestions for resources you need. You can also contribute by writing articles or sharing your updates from your territory.

Do you want to stay up to date about events and webinars? Interested in having tips on protected areas, receive recommended readings, or job vacancies delivered straight to your email inbox? The Caribbean Gateway Insights will be a welcome addition to your inbox and you are encouraged to subscribe by clicking this [link](#). Don't forget to add communicationsofficer@caribbeanprotectedareasgateway.com to your contact list/address book to ensure you receive correspondences.

CERMES participates in UNEP webinar series on Sargassum

By Anne Desrochers



Top left: Anne Desrochers during the webinar

PhD candidate Anne Desrochers was invited to participate as a panelist and presenter in the second webinar of the UNEP Webinar Series on Sargassum. The virtual event *'The Science of Sargassum'* was held on 21 July 2020 with 400 persons in attendance. Panelists discussed the following topics of interest: (1) biology and impact of pelagic sargassum, (2) sargassum monitoring, and (3) sargassum commercialisation.

Anne in her presentation entitled *'Turning a hazard into an opportunity: Commercialisation of sargassum in the Caribbean,'* discussed current and potential commercial uses of sargassum. CERMES has been collaborating with the FAO-CC4FISH project to develop the *'Sargassum Uses Guide: A resource for Caribbean researchers,*

entrepreneurs and policy makers'. Stay tuned, the guide will be available in the coming weeks!

The webinar summary and recording are available at the link below:

<https://www.unenvironment.org/events/webinar/webinar-science-sargassum>

UNEP and partners have designed this webinar series to highlight sargassum-related work being carried out on key scientific, societal and ecological challenges and responses to prevent impacts and trans-disciplinary and trans-institution collaborations in the context of the Caribbean and West Africa.

The third webinar on sargassum, *'West Africa Region Perspective'* is scheduled for 22nd September 2020, the registration link is available below:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8274668733454735629>

Exploring scale in ocean and coastal governance in the wider Caribbean

This article by our Prof. Emeritus Robin Mahon published in *Gulf and Caribbean Research* is one to add to your reading list.

Early childhood attraction to the sea led to Robin's career in marine ecology, fisheries and ocean and coastal governance. This paper tracks the development of Robin's career from tertiary education, through a variety of jobs and positions with government, private sector, international and academic organizations. These positions took him from national to regional levels of governance, then down to local levels and ultimately back up to regional and global levels. At each stage new concepts join those already there to build what is ultimately a multilevel perspective on ocean and coastal governance. This perspective is built around ideas of institutional architecture and process, complemented by a learning-by-application approach. Its growth and application in the Wider Caribbean has been a fascinating and rewarding journey, with the biggest reward being the many, many amazingly smart and dedicated people encountered at every stage.

Have a good read:

<https://doi.org/10.18785/gcr.3101.06>

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