



A bi-monthly electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)  
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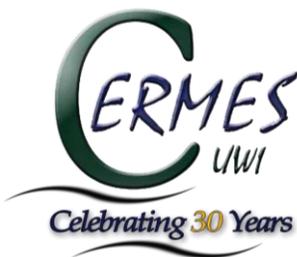
## CERMES@30

By Janice Cumberbatch

As CERMES enters its third decade this year we are proud to present *CERMES@30* - a series of exciting and educational activities that will engage faculty, students, alumni and partners in the celebration of this milestone. This happily coincides with the celebration of Barbados' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence, and so the year takes on an even more special quality. We do hope that you will be able to join us for the upcoming events:

What's on?	When?
An evening with Alumni and key partners <i>Artist in Residence</i> at CERMES	31 Mar 2016 Mar 2016 – Feb 2017
Themed guided educational hikes led by CERMES staff:	
• Local cave featuring groundwater (A. Cashman)	2 Apr 2016
• Coastal processes (L. Nurse)	4 Jun 2016
• Night time turtle tour (H. Oxenford)	6 Aug 2016
• Corals (H. Oxenford)	1 Oct 2016
• Gullies (R. Mahon)	3 Dec 2016
Monthly newspaper articles	From Feb 2016
<i>Rumshop Rambles</i> – taking CERMES research to the public for engaged dialogue with suitable libation	1 Apr 2016 1 Jul 2016 2 Oct 2017

More details will be shared about upcoming events in subsequent copies of *Connections* and also on the CERMES website.



We would like to hear from you. Send in 100-word testimonials of any positive difference CERMES has made to you and we will feature them in *Connections* issues throughout the year!

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## Sustainable water management under climate change: Water aCCSIS Research Project

By Adrian Cashman

A project progress and planning meeting for the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC)-funded, CERMES-implemented Water aCCSIS Project was held from 15 to 16 February 2016 at The UWI Cave Hill Campus. The research is looking at the impact of climate change on water availability in the Caribbean with the view to proposing robust adaptation measures and strategies. The year ahead will see the culmination of the research component and a shift in focus towards evaluating adaptation options and discussion of the policy implications.



Participants came from as far afield as Canada, Cuba, Germany, USA as well as from across the Caribbean and involved representatives from three UWI Campuses, from Instituto de Meteorología (INSMET), Cuba, Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC). The meeting mapped out the project work programme for the next year. The IDRC Project Officer, Dr Charlotte MacAlister emphasized to the meeting the need to think beyond just academic impact. She went on to say that the project should set itself the task of producing outputs that will have an impact on communities in the research pilot catchments, service providers and decision-makers in governments.

## First CLME+ Project Steering Committee

*By Patrick McConney*



CERMES participated in the first Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus North Brazil Shelf (CLME+) Project Steering Committee meeting in Cartagena from 26 to 28 January 2016. We presented a report on national inter-sectoral consultative mechanisms (NICs) and we were witness to the three Regional Fisheries Bodies signing an Agreement to Improve Coordination for Sustainable Fisheries in the Western Central Atlantic Region.

The meeting set in motion what should be the most impactful set of interventions to implement the strategic action programme agreed to by the countries and territories of the Wider Caribbean Region. Over the remaining four years of the CLME+ Project, CERMES will work with a number of agencies in the region on the

project components. Governance, monitoring, evaluation and learning for adaptation are some of the main interests of CERMES.

## Canadian Connection

*By Patrick McConney*



CERMES recently added to its many Canadian connections a new relationship with the Fisheries and Marine Institute (MI) of Memorial University of Newfoundland. The MI shares interests with CERMES in coastal and marine management and a quest for offering students applied science and technology experiences as integral components of innovative teaching and learning. The two educational and training institutions have taken advantage of an internship opportunity financially supported by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA). Two interns will be assisting CERMES from February to May 2016 in research and development projects concerning gender in fisheries and geoinformatics for protected areas. The young professionals, in completing their volunteer overseas placement, will gain valuable practical skills as well as the benefit of an international outlook on coastal and marine management. It is a worthy exchange of services for shared rewards. In this and the next issue we will profile the two interns and the research that they are assisting during their Caribbean volunteer experience.

## Intern Pam from MUN



Pamela Burke is from St. John's, Newfoundland, an island on the east coast of Canada. She holds a BSc in Biology from Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador (MUN), a graduate diploma in Integrated Coastal and

Ocean Management from the Fisheries and Marine Institute of MUN, and has recently completed the MSc program in Coastal Zone Management from the University of Ulster. This is her first time in the Caribbean, and the sunshine is a welcome change from the winter back home!

Pamela is currently completing a three-month internship as a research assistant with the newly created Gender In Fisheries Team (GIFT) at CERMES. During her time with CERMES she will be focusing on the current gender roles in fisheries in Barbados, as well as how the perception of gender within the industry relates to the guidance on gender equity and equality in the Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines.

## Caribbean PA Gateway: advancements

*By Carmel Haynes*

Since its formal launch on 2 September 2015, during the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Regional Conservation Forum in Panama City, Panama, The Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (Caribbean Gateway) has made significant advancement in terms of the Reference Information System (RIS) user interface and content ([caribbean-rris.biopama.org](http://caribbean-rris.biopama.org)).

Users can now:

- Access the RIS sites from the other Pacific and Eastern Africa regions;
- Access protected area (PA) statistics for the Caribbean region, e.g. number and total size (km<sup>2</sup>) of PAs and number and total size (km<sup>2</sup>) of terrestrial and/or marine PAs;
- Access comparative terrestrial and marine PA statistics in the Caribbean;
- Access links to Caribbean Gateway partners in the region, e.g. UWI CERMES, UWI Department of Geomatics, CaMPAM, and TNC's CaribNode;
- Create maps using global and regional PA and biodiversity-related data; plans to incorporate national datasets on the platform are being pursued;
- Access Yammer feeds on the Caribbean RIS;
- Access available training opportunities in the Africa, Caribbean, Pacific regions;
- Search PAs using advanced options, e.g. PA designation, status and terrestrial/marine;
- View BIOPAMA country pages containing:
  - a. list of PAs in the country
  - b. most recent WDPA country report produced by UNEP-WCMC

- c. environmental-related legislation and treaties
- d. key protected area statistics;
- e. links to country profiles from related sites, e.g. CBD, DOPA, WDPA, GBIF and Birdlife International
- f. key country indicators, such as, terrestrial area, total population, population density, population growth, GDP growth, GDP per capita;
- g. Additional country links, e.g. UNEP, UNDP, FAO, UN Data country profile, etc.

- View PA site pages containing:
  - a. information on habitats and species
  - b. management plans (only for selected PAs)
  - c. assessment reports (only for selected PAs)

Jason Williams, Technical Officer with the BIOPAMA Programme, said he was pleased with the level of interest being exhibited in The Caribbean Gateway by both governmental and non-governmental agencies as they recognised the potential the portal had for creating an enabling environment to make better and more informed environmental management decisions. He invited all who were interested to review the site and provide feedback to the Protected Areas Officer for BIOPAMA in the Caribbean, Hyacinth Armstrong-Vaughan at [hyacinth.armstrongvaughn@iucn.org](mailto:hyacinth.armstrongvaughn@iucn.org).

## CERMES outreach

*By Renata Goodridge*

Earlier this month, CERMES hosted four students from the Environmental Science Class of the Queens College Continuing Education Programme coordinated by CERMES alumnus, Jamilla Sealy. CERMES has become involved in the water quality component of the class through outreach by Senior Lab Technician, Renata Goodridge. The students collected marine water samples for water quality analysis, including: Fecal Coliform counts, nitrate, phosphate, and total suspended solids amounts. Four different beaches around the island were sampled and were brought to the CERMES Water Quality Lab, where the students learned to analyse their samples. CERMES looks forward to being a part of this programme again next year.



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