



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

Our new senior lecturer



Dr. David Oscar Yawson joined CERMES as a Senior Lecturer in Environmental Management in September 2017. The appointment of Dr. Yawson arose from the need to strengthen the terrestrial aspects of the CERMES teaching and research activities in natural resources and environmental management. David hopes to focus his research on land use and natural resources management. Specifically, his research will be at the interface of land use, water and environmental sustainability in a changing climate. In terms of teaching, David will likely be part of the Water Specialization stream but will play a supportive role to the other specializations at CERMES. He is very happy to join CERMES and looks forward to both a challenging and rewarding career here.

David has a backgrounds in agriculture, geo-information and environmental science. Prior to joining CERMES, he was a senior lecturer at the University of Cape Coast (Ghana) and was contributing to both graduate and undergraduate programs in agriculture and environmental science. In Ghana, David's research theme was agri-environmental resources management

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and food security. David has provided research, advisory and consultancy services to the Government of Ghana and other national or local organizations, as well as international organizations (including the United States Agency for International Development and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa - AGRA). He won a number of international and national grants during his tenure at the University of Cape Coast. David has also served as a visiting lecturer for other universities in Ghana and abroad. He hopes to contribute enormously to the teaching and research profile of CERMES.

Welcome David!

BIOPAMA into Phase 2

By Carmel Haynes



From Knowledge to Action for a Protected Planet

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, and the University of the West Indies through the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (UWI-CERMES) are pleased to

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renew their commitment to improving the long-term conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources in the Caribbean through the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA).

This continued collaboration has been made possible by the decision of the European Union and the African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) Group of States to renew their investment in continuing BIOPAMA into a second phase. This extension, will among other things, provide added value to ACP conservation and protected area management efforts in the form of a 20 million Euro funded grant instrument.

Under BIOPAMA I, a series of interlinked, but regionally centred, Observatories for Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management were established in each ACP region, with the Caribbean Observatory being launched in September 2015 as the “Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway” (Caribbean Gateway). The Caribbean Gateway (<http://caribbean-rris.biopama.org>), hosted by The UWI at CERMES is a resource hub for facilitating and promoting viable decisions and policies by decision makers and resource managers for effective and sustainable management of protected areas (PA) and biodiversity.

Under the second phase of BIOPAMA, regional stakeholders will be encouraged to strengthen their efforts toward information monitoring and the contribution of verifiable data to the Caribbean Gateway; sharing resources; and developing capacity on PA management and governance. The support provided to the region by BIOPAMA and the Caribbean Gateway is expected to result in a public, and policy makers, who are equipped with the best available information to drive appropriate conservation actions and decisions crucial for the sustainability of PAs and the people who depend on them for their livelihoods.

Transboundary waters – an emerging issue

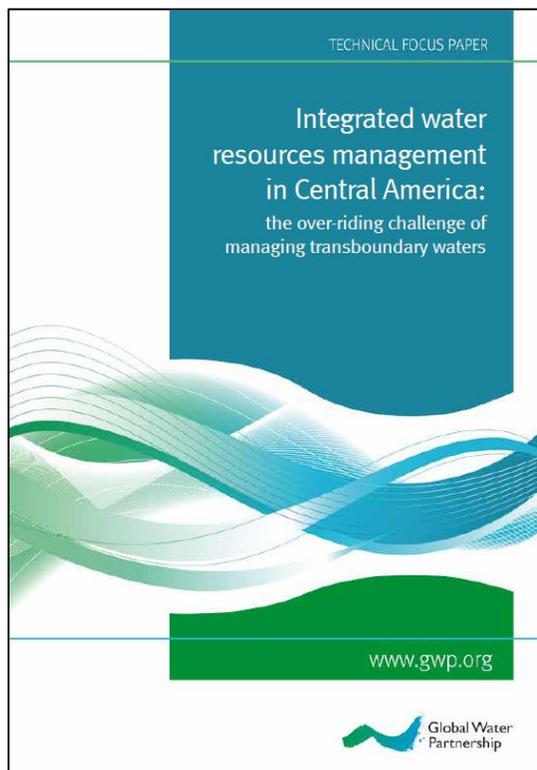
The following is an excerpt from an interview with CERMES Director Adrian Cashman featured on the Global Water Partnership webpage (www.gwp.org). Adrian was discussing the recently published Technical Focus Paper, *IWRM in Central America: the over-riding challenge of managing transboundary waters*.

View the full interview at

<http://www.gwp.org/en/About/more/news/2017/transboundary-waters--an-emerging-issue/>

“There are so many people globally that live in transboundary basins, and you have a lot of economic activity going on there, which is dependent of water in various sectors of the economy. So globally this is an emerging issue – and as climate change and other things happen, water is a resource that it is going to be increasing competition for. When you get competition, you need allocation and sharing mechanisms,” says Professor Cashman.

“To the relevance of the audience of the wider work of GWP, one of the emerging themes that I think we’re going to see over the next 5-10 years, is around this theme of water sharing, water allocation and best practices. [This paper](#) feeds into that emerging theme. Transboundary water management is all about integrated water resources management (IWRM),” says Cashman.



Learning from the certification of the Suriname seabob fishery

By Patrick McConney

Few fisheries in developing countries are certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), which offers a global standard for sustainable fisheries. Patrick McConney and Yorgos Stratoudakis were both affiliated with the MSC's previous stakeholder council and wrote about certification in the developing world, but were keen to obtain firsthand information based on experience. As a contribution to the FAO Sustainable Management of Bycatch in Latin America and Caribbean Bottom Trawl (REBYC-II LAC) Project we investigated what social-ecological impacts MSC certification of the Suriname seabob trawl fishery has had on the country's entire fishery system. Impacts (positive or negative) can affect fisheries management, livelihoods, institutions, attitudes, ideas and more.



Artisanal and industrial fishing vessels offloading catch

The weeklong field research was assisted by Tomas Willems, the national coordinator for REBYC II LAC in Suriname, and informed by the very knowledgeable staff of the Suriname fisheries authority. The latter is now headed by CERMES alumnus Yolanda Babb-Echteld. We also met with fisherfolk on formulating a SSF Guidelines protocol to the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy.

CERMES connects with CLME+ Project partners

By Patrick McConney



Prof. Emeritus Robin Mahon represented CERMES at the Meeting of the CLME+ Project Executive Group (PEG) in Miami from 11-13 September 2017. It was an opportunity for the PEG to review the progress of the mammoth project and exchange information with partners on the several CLME+ activities in which CERMES is involved. These activities include work on national inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms (NICs); inventories of regional plans and programmes related to the CLME+ SAP; keeping up to date information on EBM and EAF policies, laws and initiatives; and sharing knowledge from and about the good practices undertaken within the project by its many partners.

CERMES PhD candidate, Sanya Compton, is engaged in the first-mentioned activity. Her research on NICs is expected to enrich our understanding of how these institutional arrangements work or do not work for both good and effective governance. Shelly-Ann Cox has returned to CERMES as a post-doc to assist with the EBM-EAF activities in this and other projects, including the critical climate and disaster aspects. Julian Walcott, in addition to his work on protected areas is assisting with the database components of the CLME+ activities. Several other CERMES contracted assistants and alumni are involved to lesser extents in other activities.

Drought risk management in the Caribbean Community

By Antonio Joyette

Drought Risk Management in the Caribbean Community: Early Warning Information and Other Risk Reduction Considerations, is the title of a book chapter recently published by CERMES-affiliated co-authors, Antonio Joyette, continuing PhD Candidate, and Dr. Shelly-Anne Cox. The chapter was published on October 16, 2017, in the *Drought and Water Crises: Integrating*

Science, Management, and Policy, Second Edition by CRC Press (Taylor and Francis).

As indicated by the title, the chapter examines regional drought in the context of the twenty-member political and economic grouping. It gives a concise review of the historical aspects of drought and the climatological elements of the region. More importantly, it highlighted some of the more recent developments and continuing efforts in mitigating drought across the region.

The chapter examines the socio-economic and environmental consequences of rainfall decline during the most recent episodes of drought on multiple sectors in the region. Drought early warning information in the Caribbean, including forecasting, risk reduction policy and planning, national level intervention and other risk reduction options are explored in the article. The paper also considers some of the gaps in regional drought management policies.

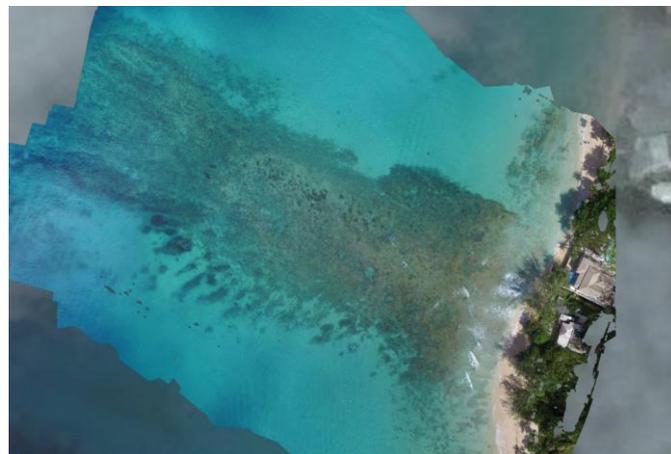
This chapter may serve to provide a good overview on drought; it's underlying regional drivers, impacts, technical and policy-making efforts to mitigate the phenomena and management challenges facing the region. Graduate students in search of published information, researchers digging for facts, practitioners seeking insights and technocrats getting informed on the latest on drought endeavours in the region will all find this chapter more than informative.

A bit about our drone

By Renata Goodridge

One of CERMES' latest pieces of field equipment is our DJI Inspire 1 drone, lovingly named April. Internal drone training classes started in May at CERMES, with the goal of collecting field data from the air. We have mapped Mullins Reef, the Sandy Beach seagrass lagoon, and the drone's latest mission was flying over suckwells in St. Peter.

Having a drone for research has increased the amount and type of information that we can collect at a site, allowing for more data collection in less time, and for an ortho-rectified, real-time, aerial map of a field site, whether it is shallow reef, a beach, an agricultural field or CERMES' backyard!



Mullins flight 4 Nov 2017

The one thing that the drone does not do well in is any kind of water, so rain does affect our scheduled flights. Perhaps our next drone iteration will be a submersible one, or at least one that can stay up in the rain.

Best of luck Lisa-Ann but we will miss you



We are happy to share in the recent good news and appointment of our long-standing Stenographer Clerk, Lisa-Ann Rollins. Lisa-Ann left CERMES in September to start her new post in the Faculty of Science and

Technology Faculty Office as Administrative Assistant (Projects and Planning) to work directly with the Dean – Dr. Colin Depradine.

Though she may be in another office, she is only a short walk away from CERMES and we are sure to see her often. Remember Lisa-Ann, CERMES will always be home. Good luck from us all!



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