



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

“Change of hands” at CERMES

By Maria Pena

It’s official...CERMES has a new Director! The reigns of the leadership of CERMES passed from Robin Mahon to Adrian Cashman on 1 August 2014. In July we celebrated Prof. Robin Mahon’s career and directorship of CERMES with an abundance of fine food, drink and lots of banter, sending him on his way to a restful ‘retirement’. ‘Retirement’ is used loosely here since Robin will never really retire from the academic realm and is determined to keep his ties with all at CERMES. In fact, since his official ‘retirement’ at the end of last month, it is as if he never really left CERMES. Read more about what he is up to in subsequent issues of the *Connections*.

We welcome Dr. Adrian Cashman as the ‘new’ CERMES Director. ‘New’ is also used loosely here since Adrian has been with us at CERMES for years! Read on for insight into Adrian’s expectations for CERMES during his tenure as Director. Congratulations again to you Adrian. We all look forward to working with you in your new capacity.



A few words from the Director

By Adrian Cashman

When I joined CERMES at the start of 2007 to start up the Water Resources Management specialisation little did I think that one day I would be taking over as

Inside this issue

“Change of hands” at CERMES	1
A few words from the Director	1
Transforming wasted resources	2
Human dependence on nature	2
New book on governance & conservation	2
Visiting Nariva swamp	3
Preparations for 67 th GCFI	4
TBTI WG4 e-book	4
Caribbean Marine Atlas Phase 2	5
A fond farewell to CERMES	5

Director. Now either that is a huge vote of confidence on the part of my colleagues or they know something I don’t. Taking over from Robin Mahon is not going to be an easy task as a very high standard has been set. This is very clear, coming out from the recent academic review of CERMES that was led by the Quality Assurance Unit.

It is clear from this that CERMES is doing a lot of things, doing them well and having a significant positive impact, promoting good practice in natural resources management throughout the region. The fact that the phrase “keep doing what you are doing” recurs so many times in the report is evidence of this. Clearly, CERMES is punching above its weight, which is due to having a great team doing great work.

But we live in challenging times and past performance is no guarantee of future success. We are seeing in the undergraduate programmes, falls in the number of students applying to study at UWI. CERMES too is facing similar difficulties; there are more study options available to prospective students, job prospects are a concern and affording to study fulltime is an increasing challenge. As we look to where we all want CERMES to be in three years’ time we need to be sensitive to these concerns. The academic review is an opportunity for us all to think about what changes and improvements need to be made to what we do across the three core activities of teaching, research and outreach. How are

For more information contact:

we going to embrace the possibilities of new teaching technologies to get the best out of them, how are we going respond to the research needs of the region and should we have a continuing professional development role. There is much to ponder upon and we need to act positively if CERMES is going to continue to be one of the premier institutions within The University of the West Indies.

Transforming wasted resources for a sustainable future

By Patrick McConney

Headlined above is the theme of the FAO REBYC LAC-II project that held its logframe meeting in Puntarenas, Costa Rica from 1-4 July 2014. It addresses the sustainable management of by-catch in Latin America and Caribbean trawl fisheries. CERMES provided input mainly on the co-management, livelihoods and gender aspects of the project design.



Following the meeting, Patrick McConney and TBTI WG4 colleague, Andy Bystrom, took a trip to Tárcoles



on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica. We went to learn about the extensive community-based work being done by the Fishermen's Cooperative of Tárcoles R.L. in collaboration with CoopeSoliDar R.L. from which Vivienne Solis Rivera was our trip organiser and guide.

Much was learned from the men and women involved in small-scale fisheries and community tourism there. Of special interest were the initiatives already underway to prepare to implement the FAO International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines).

Human dependence on nature

By Patrick McConney



As a member of IUCN, there are many opportunities for CERMES to engage with colleagues globally in projects concerning the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

One such opportunity took Patrick McConney to IUCN headquarters in Gland, Switzerland from 28-29 July to a meeting on the methodological aspects of a new project concerning Human Dependence on Nature (HDN). Participants included a wide range of researchers from around the world.

The aim of HDN is to improve our understanding of the contribution of species and ecosystems to the livelihoods and economies of indigenous peoples and local communities. The work falls mainly under the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) and is led by Iain Davidson-Hunt. Iain is well known to CERMES through previous collaboration under the Marine Resource Governance in the Eastern Caribbean (MarGov) project. HDN has particular interest in Socio-economic Monitoring for Coastal Managers (SocMon) and the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme that both involve CERMES.



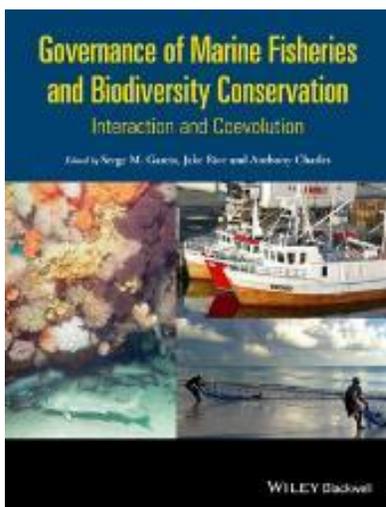
For more information contact:

Governance of marine fisheries and biodiversity conservation

By *Patrick McConney*

Hot off the press is a new book on “Governance of Marine Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation: Interaction and Co-evolution” published by Wiley-Blackwell and edited by Serge Garcia, Jake Rice and Tony Charles. The hefty tome explores governance of the world’s oceans with a focus on the impacts of two inter-connected but historically separate streams of governance: one for fisheries, the other for biodiversity conservation.

According to the publishers it is an essential purchase for fisheries scientists, economists, resource managers and policymakers, and all those working in fields of biodiversity conservation, marine ecology, and coastal livelihoods. Within it is a chapter by Patrick McConney, Bob Pomeroy and Zaidy Khan on “NGOs and SIDS: Environmental interventions in small island developing states” that may be of interest to some readers.



Visiting Nariva Swamp

By *Adrian Cashman*

At the end of June I had the opportunity to revisit the Nariva Swamp in Trinidad, courtesy of Professor John Agard of the Department of Life Sciences at UWI St Augustine. In the company of John, Akilah Stewart and Anushka Ramjag, two PhD students working on the Water-aCCSIS research project, we spent the day visiting various places within the Swamp. The Nariva area is one of the poorest in Trinidad and has multiple human and environmental challenges, some of which

have been documented over the last few decades, for example issues surrounding the introduction of rice farming into the area and tensions between them and traditional users of the land, noting that Nariva is an internationally recognised wetland under the Ramsar Convention. The purpose of the visit was to gain a better understanding of some of the activities that are taking place within the Nariva Swamp, which is a pilot catchment in the Water-aCCSIS research project headed by CERMES.



Panoramic view across Nariva

We were able to observe some of the challenges facing the management of natural resources in the area such as competition and conversion of land for agricultural purposes, subsistence farming practices, reforestation efforts, the challenges facing the measurement and management of water flows and of nutrient fluxes, the impact of significant coastal erosion, pollution from solid and liquid waste and development pressures. During the day we visited Plum Mitan, Biche and Kernahan as well as various locations within the catchment.



Prof. Agard checks instrumentation

The UWI has had a long association with the Nariva area as a site of research for a variety of disciplines. My first visit there was in 2008 when we carried out a social

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

mapping exercise as part of a Water and Gender training course, but this most recent visit was a chance to acquaint myself with the area and view it through the perspective of a researcher.

Water-aCCSIS is carrying out research into how water availability might be impacted under climate change, not just through changes in climate but also through environmental and anthropogenic responses. Under the project we are conducting research into the interconnected aspects of livelihoods and vulnerability, vegetation modelling, ecosystem services, health, and modelling of the water balance within the catchment.



Beach erosion near Kernahan

We are working in collaboration with other research initiatives in the area which are being carried out by Professor Agard's team, such as measuring greenhouse gas emissions from the Swamp, pollination services and nutrient flows. Whilst this work is still at an early stage, expectations and enthusiasm are high among the team. As a last word I have to say a big thanks to Professor Agard and the team at St Augustine for hosting me and for a great day in the field.

Preparations for 67th GCFI in high gear

By Maria Pena

The schedule is packed for the upcoming 67th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) to be held in Barbados from 3-7 November. In addition to the main conference, there are a number of interesting concurrent sessions with relevance to small island developing states. These special sessions will focus on marine protected areas (MPAs) as fisheries

management tools; fisherfolk organisations and collective action; small-scale fisheries guidelines; fisheries data; marine managed areas and livelihoods; project and programme information sharing and updates; and ocean zoning among others. Other programmed activities include a Fishers Forum the theme of which is *Fisheries livelihoods: Living for the work*.



What? You haven't registered yet for the meeting, you say? Well, get on with it! We expect to see you here in early November.

TBTI WG4 e-book on Enhancing Stewardship in Small-scale Fisheries; practices and perspectives is now available online

By Patrick McConney

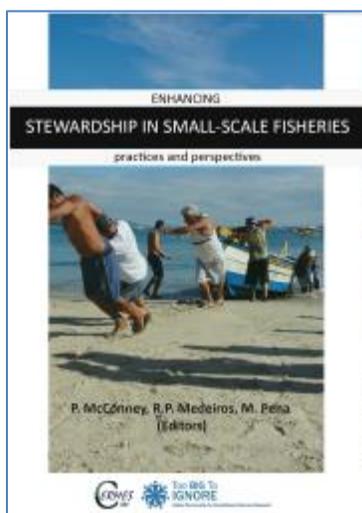
Are we there yet? — yes! The e-book published by CERMES and the Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) research partnership as a special CERMES Technical Report is finally finished. Weighing in at over 160 fisheries-focused pages, it will soon be available to download from the CERMES (www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/) and TBTI (toobigtoignore.net) web sites just in time for reading on your plane ride to attend the Second World Small-Scale Fisheries (2WFSC) in Merida, Mexico, where it will be featured in a special session.

Edited by Patrick McConney, Rodrigo Medeiros and Maria Pena, the e-book showcases the work and views of over 60 authors shared in over 20 articles on impacts, monitoring and stewardship in small-scale fisheries around the world. These authors include fishermen, students, NGO practitioners and a variety of academics. It draws upon knowledge from all five regions of TBTI.

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

The e-book is also one of the final outputs of Working Group 4 (WG4) under the leadership from CERMES as the baton is passed to another leader after 2WFSC. We wish to thank all WG4 members and collaborators who joined us in the journey to produce the e-book and participated in many other WG4 activities. Look out also for the WG4 special issue of the Brazilian peer-reviewed journal *Desenvolvimento e Meio Ambiente* due for publication December 2014. This will also be featured in the special session at 2WFSC.



Caribbean Marine Atlas (CMA2) shaping up

By Patrick McConney



The second phase of the Caribbean Marine Atlas (CMA2) got some shape at a design meeting held in Miami from 25-29 August. The CLME+ project is

intended to be a major focus of CMA2 to provide mapped information for transboundary resource governance. Attending from the CERMES circle were Patrick McConney (with interest in CLME+ and the BIOPAMA Observatory) and Hyacinth Armstrong-Vaughn (of IUCN-BIOPAMA). This project could interest many other departments of UWI.

A fond farewell to CERMES

By Katherine Blackman



It is well known that humans fear change, and “leaving the nest” which contributed to my professional and personal development was my biggest fear. However CERMES has prepared me well for my new journey, which commenced in June, as Programme Assistant for the Global Environmental Facility Small Grant Programme (GEF SGP) in Barbados. Over the past eight years, I worked as a Research

Assistant at CERMES, being responsible for many activities including implementing and managing projects and components related to coral reefs, marine protected areas and watershed management and assisting with Socio-economic Monitoring in the Caribbean. At the heart of it was working with communities including youth and fisherfolk – a key aspect of my current role.

I would like to take this special opportunity to thank everyone at CERMES for their assistance and guidance. A special thanks to my mentors and friends for your encouragement and support especially those in the “fun” office. It was a pleasure being a part of the CERMES family. I will truly miss all of you!

We miss you too Katie, but our paths are sure to cross in the future. We all know you will keep growing from strength to strength in your new post. Good luck always!

For more information contact: