



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

## Moving towards improving SocMon globally

By Maria Pena

Earlier this year, CERMES received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) valued at approximately USD 73,000 towards the *Coordination of a Global Socio-economic Monitoring Initiative for Coastal Management* (SocMon). This one-year project will build on over ten years of socio-economic data collected across six global nodes that have worked with local and regional partners to facilitate community-based socio-economic monitoring.



The project facilitates region level monitoring programs of SocMon; maintenance of the SocMon website ([www.socmon.org](http://www.socmon.org)) and, development and publication of printed products. In support of the monitoring programs sub-grants of up to USD 6,000 have been made available to each of the SocMon regions for one or more of the following: (1) repeat assessments at previously studied sites (site monitoring), (2) follow-up after training for gap-filling and adaptive management activities, and (3) implementation of innovative projects (new approaches or material to be tested) that contribute to the development of SocMon.

In April, regional SocMon coordinators submitted sub-grant requests, all of which were successful in their application. The Caribbean, South Asia and Southeast Asia regions are set to conduct repeat assessments at selected study sites; Micronesia is focused on developing a monitoring protocol for integrating

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SocMon and biophysical monitoring; Central America will be addressing enhancement of the SocMon methodology by testing the feasibility for incorporating conjoint analysis; and Brazil (the newest SocMon node) is set on developing a coordination strategy for implementing SocMon Brazil!

## Trends in socio-economic characteristics of fishing villages in Dominica

By Maria Pena

SocMon Caribbean is putting its NFWF sub-grant of USD 6,000 towards determining changes in the fisheries-related socio-economic characteristics between 2008 and 2015 of three west coast fishing villages - Colihaut, Dublanc and Bioche – in Dominica. The only SocMon assessment of the area was conducted in these fishing communities in 2008. Impacts of present and proposed development were assessed in 2008 with a view to ensuring sustainable use of the resource base of these communities. Since then, there has been no major development in the area but there has been a shift in the local fishery from coastal to off-shore operations as a result of the promotion of the FAD fishery and increase in the numbers of younger fishers to the fishing industry.

From 1-3 June 2015, Maria Pena (Caribbean SocMon coordinator) and Jehroum Wood (SocMon Spatial advisor) conducted an advance SocMon training workshop at the Dominica Fisheries Division to re-orient the previous Dominica SocMon team in the SocMon process as well as introduce new persons to the methodology. SocMon Spatial, a practical method for incorporating SocMon and participatory GIS, was piloted tested as an add-on module to enhance the training.



Jehroum (standing) discussing all things spatial

Approximately 15 persons from the Dominica Fisheries Division, the Physical Planning Department and each of the three communities participated in the training which comprised practical exercises, field trips and a community meeting. Field data collection is currently underway lead in part by Ms. Elsa Tokunaga from Dalhousie University who is interning with CERMES from May to August this year. Stay tuned for what should be some interesting results and key learning.

## CERMES co-hosts water managers workshop

By Lisa-Ann Rollins

CERMES and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) of the Columbia University co-hosted a *Water Managers Workshop*, on 2 June 2015 at the Bay Gardens Hotel in St. Lucia. CERMES partnered with the IRI to develop and deliver two initiatives: a series of continuing professional development courses for Water Managers to assist in decision-making under a changing climate; and the development of Discussion Briefs focused on water issues, and aimed to inform regional decision makers and water Ministers on

planning for climate variability as a climate change adaptation strategy. During the first part of the workshop, the collaborating agencies shared the two initiatives with workshop participants, and asked for their feedback on what needed to change. The second part involved listening and understanding Water Managers and Planners climate-related problems and their needs.

The workshop was funded by the CERMES Project Fund – *Building Capacity to Manage Water Resources and Climate Risks in the Caribbean*, managed by Dr. Adrian Cashman (CERMES Director).

Ms. Lisa-Ann Rollins (CERMES Secretary) was responsible for coordinating and organising the workshop.

## Water managers workshop

By Tara Mackey

Ms. Tara Mackey was the CERMES Representative at the Water Managers Workshop held on 2 June 2015, in Gros Islet, St. Lucia. The Water Managers Workshop was held on Day 2 of the two-day Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) which was hosted by the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) in partnership with the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) of Columbia University, and CERMES.



Tara providing the opening remarks at the workshop

One of the main objectives of the Water Managers Workshop was to present the climate outlook for the 2015 Wet/Hurricane Season and discuss how these climate products can be used to inform the decisions of regional water managers as it relates to planning and

operations. Ms. Mackey gave opening remarks and later recognised an opportunity for CERMES to contribute to the proposed efforts of regional coordination to promote holistic water management. A total of 20 participants attended the workshop, representing various water utilities, organisations, and institutions across nine Caribbean Countries.

## Worldwide views on climate and energy 2015

*By Candi Hosein*

On 6 June 2015, the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) hosted a public consultation entitled *World Wide Views on Climate and Energy*. This consultation was a first for Barbados, and CERMES was lucky enough to be involved. On this day, 140 simultaneous public consultations took place across the globe in 79 countries including the Bahamas, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti and Fiji just to name a few. The featured speaker was MP James Paul, Minister of Agriculture. In his feature address he stressed the importance of public awareness and participation as a way to move forward in preparing for the impacts of climate change in Barbados. This particular event in Barbados was funded by the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy and the global events were coordinated by the Danish Board of Technology in collaboration with Missions Publiques and the French National Commission for Public Debate and co-initiated by the UNFCCC.



Participants during a group session

The purpose of the meeting was to get feedback from the public (non-experts on climate change) on their views on climate change specifically whether or not

they saw it as a problem for Barbados; what they thought could be done in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and ways that international treaties could be designed so as to ensure that all countries involved did their part to cut emissions. The results from all 140 consultations would then be compiled and disseminated at the Paris 2015 COP21 meeting at year's end.

The consultation itself entailed video presentations and discussions on the importance of tackling climate change; tools to tackle climate change; UN negotiations and national commitments; fairness and distribution efforts; and making and keeping climate promises. The participants were divided into groups of 6-9 people and each group had a facilitator to ensure that the discussions did not steer too far from the topic. After the discussions, the participants were required to fill in voting forms (questionnaire) which were then collected and the scores for Barbados uploaded to an online site [climateandenergy.wwwviews.org/Results](http://climateandenergy.wwwviews.org/Results).

The turnout was approximately 50 participants and it was refreshing to see persons from all walks of life attend, including farmers, the disabled community, retired persons, women, local authorities and youth. Some of the motivation for attendance included a general interest in the topic and a curiosity to see what was really happening in the world regarding decisions surrounding climate change.

## Conservation information management in the Caribbean: why regional integration matters

*By Jason Williams, Hyacinth Armstrong Vaughn and Carmel Haynes*



Within the Caribbean, sustainable development is a top priority for many countries, given their fragile economies and vulnerability to the changing global climate. However, to be effective in development planning and resource management, the region needs to have access to the best credible and reliable data and information. Natural resource managers and policy-makers rely on these in order to respond to changes and to make well-informed decisions. However, the lack of sufficient robust data and the unsystematic manner

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in which data are shared across the Caribbean today has been a challenge. The regional integration of all available data is recognised as a valuable asset for the management of conservation information in the Caribbean, and BIOPAMA together with other initiatives, are providing a significant contribution towards this end.

The BIOPAMA Programme is aiming to address these challenges in the area of biodiversity conservation and protected areas governance by working with the fifteen Caribbean member countries of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group through the establishment of the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (Caribbean Gateway) hosted by CERMES. The Caribbean Gateway will serve as a hub for facilitating and promoting viable decisions and policies by decision makers and resource managers for effective sustainable management of protected areas and biodiversity. The approach that is being taken involves the collaboration of regional institutions, such as the University of the West Indies, as well as other organisations and initiatives that share BIOPAMA's commitment to natural resource management in the Caribbean. The ultimate goal of this is to create a dynamic system which allows these entities to contribute their knowledge and expertise to a process far exceeding their individual mandates.

This type of regional integration is recognised by other initiatives as being very valuable. Recently, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) hosted a regional integration workshop focused on developing a shared vision for improving access to information for marine protected area management. This workshop saw the participation of not only BIOPAMA but also other initiatives working on similar themes across the region, such as the United Nations Environment Programme-Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP), UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the Waitt Institute, the Caribbean Marine Atlas 2 initiative and the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem + initiative. It was a unique opportunity for these representatives to lay the foundation for a more collaborative future aimed at improving access to the information to which MPA managers, decision makers and the general public are needing and requesting. This approach to regional integration of efforts is exactly what is needed in the Caribbean in order to generate significant progress and successfully implement projects.

The benefits of regional harmonisation of efforts are numerous and the beneficiaries are countless. This process allows individuals to integrate their work and results while minimising duplication of efforts. This is extremely important and relevant in the Caribbean region where in many cases more than one initiative is working on similar related matters. BIOPAMA Caribbean promotes the networking and sharing of data and information on biodiversity and protected areas and strongly encourages its partners to continue working together for the growth and development of this sector within the region.

## Newest member to the CERMES Water Group

*Dr. Cashman's Water Group keeps growing in number to continue achieving its remarkable work. The most recent member of the group is former CERMES graduate student Candi Hosein. She introduces herself below. Happy to have you back with us Candi!*



Hello everyone, I am the newest member of the CERMES family. I recently started working on the *Sustainable Water Resource Management under Climate Change in Small Island Developing States*

project also known as the Water-aCCSIS project as a research assistant. My research will entail developing adaptation options based on future scenarios particularly as it relates to drought, high temperatures and extreme events. I will be tackling it from a worst case perspective for Carriacou, Speightstown, Nariva and Rio Cobre, Jamaica. This is not the first time I have been at CERMES, having completed my MSc in the Water Resource Management stream in 2013; and I am really happy to be back. In addition to my work on Water-aCCSIS, I will also be helping out on other projects such as the Barbados Habitat III report currently being done. I am really looking forward to working with everyone at CERMES and I know that my time here will be rewarding.