



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

## 'Tis the season

This year has seen the celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CERMES; a milestone marked by several successful events! As we look forward to the next 30 and beyond (some of us will be long retired or otherwise disposed by then!), it's a good time to be appreciative of the people that have made and continue to make CERMES the well-known and regionally respected "institution" that it is.

As we prepare to say farewell to yet another year and look forward with anticipation to the ushering in of another, we would like to thank all of our partners for their continued support and collaboration throughout 2016. To our past and current students, continue making us proud throughout the region and internationally.

To all of you who continue to stay connected with us through this newsletter, we look forward to sharing more of our news with you in 2017.

Have a very Merry Christmas! See you next year.

## CERMES alumnus wins Queen's Young Leader Award

By *Jamilla Sealy*

CERMES Alumnus (2012-2014), Jamilla Sealy, is Barbados' sole Queen's Young Leader Awardee for 2017! It was announced by Prince Harry during his speech at the 50th Anniversary Independence Day Mega Concert at Kensington Oval. She is one of 60 outstanding young awardees from the British Commonwealth chosen out of over 3,000 applicants worldwide. She will receive her award next summer at Buckingham Palace from Queen Elizabeth II. While there she will also be meeting all the

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other award winners and taking part in a week-long residency programme. She will receive training to develop her leadership skills to help make change happen in Barbados. She will also complete a 12-month online course provided by the University of Cambridge's Institute of Continuing Education.



Jamilla being congratulated on her achievement by Prince Harry

The award was based on her work in the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) in which she is the Regional Chairperson and Project Coordinator of the Barbados Chapter. The main project she is working on is called *Unregulated garbage disposal sites*, which seeks to locate and map all unregulated dumpsites in Barbados and organise communities to do an islandwide clean-up. It also looks at raising the public awareness of the negative impacts of dumping and littering. CERMES also gives support to the project by providing training and access to GPS devices and the GIS programme. She expects the project map to be produced by the end of next year.

## Improving EBM with SocMon

*By Maria Pena*

Five project sites, nine capacity building workshops and nearly 50 Marine Managed Areas (MMA) stakeholders trained in SocMon and SocMon Spatial. It's been a hectic final quarter of the year for Maria Pena, Regional SocMon Caribbean Coordinator, and Jehroum Wood, SocMon Spatial trainer. CERMES has been working in partnership with The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) project to build capacity in socio-economic monitoring for improved and increased use of socio-economic information in coastal



management decision-making by stakeholders using integrated processes. SocMon is being deliberately integrated with ecological monitoring order in order to improve the human dimensions of ecosystem-based management at five ECMMAN project sites:

- The Northeast Marine Management Area (NEMMA), Antigua and Barbuda

- Cabrits National Park, Dominica
- Grand Anse Marine Management Area, Grenada
- The Narrows, St. Kitts and Nevis
- Praslin, St. Lucia

All training workshops have been completed and draft SocMon site monitoring plans are being finalised for implementation in January 2017. Already some sites have begun preparations for field data collection which will involve secondary data compilation and review as well as a combination of key informant interviews, the use of visualisation techniques, group interviews and stakeholder surveys.

Goals and objectives vary across sites but maintain links to ecological characteristics and conditions of MMAs of interest. Core SocMon variables will be measured across sites with the aim of comparing socio-economic conditions and characteristics across the project sites in order to develop a sub-regional synthesis of past, current and likely future conditions at these MMAs. There is lots more to come from this integrated monitoring project in the first quarter of 2017 and you will be the first to know about it.

## Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

*By Crystal Drakes*

The CWWA 2016 conference was held in Trinidad and Tobago, 24-28 September. One of the main contributions from the CERMES team was a multimedia presentation by Dr. Cashman during the Ministerial High Level Forum titled, "Imaging the future: Economic and social context and the implications for water and wastewater in the Caribbean". The presentation was based on research done under the Future Foresight Scenario work package of the Water-aCCSIS project. The presentation illustrated Caribbean Scenarios for the year 2050 and the various consequences each of these could have for water and wastewater management in the future. To view the video presentation of Caribbean Scenario 2050 please click here

<https://vimeo.com/188425016?ref=em-share>

Other technical presentations delivered by the Water-aCCSIS project team included, "Investigation of two simple microbiological monitoring tools for Domestic

Water Quality in the Caribbean” by Ms. Akilah Stewart and “Catchment modelling and assessment of the impact of climate change on water availability in the Nariva River, Trinidad” by Ms. Crystal Dasent.

## Water-aCCSIS stakeholder workshop and ecosystems services modelling training

*By Crystal Drakes*

The Water-aCCSIS stakeholder workshop was held in collaboration with CERMES, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs) and the Ministry of Science Technology and Environment Cuba from 14-16 November in Grenada. The workshop had two main aims: share key findings from the project to date and build capacity by training stakeholders on how to carry out economic evaluations of ecosystems services. Twenty-nine persons attended the workshop with participants mainly from Barbados, Jamaica, Grenada, Carriacou and Trinidad and Tobago. Various presentations were made on work done on the



Water-aCCSIS project, ranging from Climate Model Downscaling, Water, Climate and Health to Livelihood Modelling and Vulnerability Impact Assessment. Participants also engaged in a foresight evaluation session where various scenarios were assessed and several adaptation strategies were evaluated for the Caribbean. The last two days of the workshop were dedicated to ecosystem services modelling training, where participants were exposed to Economic Valuation Techniques (direct and indirect methods) and

the application of techniques such as Benefits-Cost Analysis and Multi-criteria Analysis.

## Scoping for research on water security

*By Adrian Cashman*

At the same time Barbados was preparing to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary, across the water in St Vincent a weather trough brought up to 150 mm of rain. Particularly affected was the Sandy Bay area on the west coast.

CERMES has been working with fellow academics from McMaster University in Canada to prepare a research proposal that looks at developing tools to promote water security in indigenous communities in both Canada and the Caribbean. As part of this, a scoping visit to Sandy Bay, St Vincent was included. Adrian Cashman (CERMES), Corinne Schuster-Wallace and Sarah Dickson (McMaster) travelled there in early December. The weather trough that affected the southern Caribbean between 29-30 November put a new spin on what ‘water security’ means - it’s so much more than just being able to access water. Sandy Bay was hit very badly, with six houses destroyed and the people in them just escaping with their lives. This photo from that site visit gives just a glimpse of the devastation.



## CERMES and GIFT at 69<sup>th</sup> GCFI

*By Maria Pena*

CERMES was yet again well represented at this year’s Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), 7-11

November 2016 in Grand Cayman. Staff, Post Doc and student presentations included:

- Bachew, D. Defining the spear fishery in Trinidad
- Baldwin, K. Drones for conservation: lessons learned in Antigua and Barbuda
- Di Cintio, A. potential for eco-label certification: the case of the Campeche Shrimp Fishery, Mexico
- Oxenford, H. Management recommendations to cope with pelagic sargassum landings in the Wider Caribbean region.

The Sargassum influx in the region was again on the GCFI programme with Prof. Hazel Oxenford taking part in an informal discussion organised by UNEP-CEP SPAW-RAC. Participants included coastal managers as well as researchers and representatives of NGOs and the fisheries sector. Discussion among the participants revealed the need for specific strategies, particularly on management and communication, to address the landings of Sargassum and cope with the issue. Visit the SPAW-RAC website for more information - <http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?GCFI-69th-session,697>.

In an effort to increase the awareness of the role women play in the development of fisheries in the Caribbean, the Gender In Fisheries Team (GIFT) hosted a Gender in Fisheries poster session and launched a 2017 Calendar, *4 Leading Ladies in Caribbean Fisheries*, at GCFI on 8 November. The calendar highlights leading ladies who have made a significant contribution to promoting sustainable fisheries and creating gender awareness. The launch was a riveting success!



Celebrity “Leading Ladies” Nadine Nembhard (left) and Vernel Nicholls (right) autograph copies of the calendar.

Two of the “Leading Ladies”, Nadine Nembhard and Vernel Nicholls, were present to share their experience about their involvement in the initiative and were on hand to sign copies of the calendars for those attending launch. The concept for the calendar was developed by Shelly-Ann Cox who led its creative direction.

Featured “Leading Ladies” include:

- Anna Ramirez, winner of the 2015 Belize Punta Fuego Outstanding Fisher Award and active fish vendor from Punta Gorda, Belize.
- Vernel Nicholls, President of the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO) and Chairperson of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO).
- Corrine ‘Feeny’ Bradshaw, avid fisherlady from Conset Bay, St. John, Barbados.
- Nadine Nembhard, Administrative Secretary of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO), and Co-Chair of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples.

Posters featured in the special session included:

- Blackman, K. Treating gender-blindness: Some considerations for Caribbean fisheries projects implemented at the community level
- Frangoudes, K. and D. Kleiber. Challenges and strategies for the implementation of the Voluntary Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines Gender Equity and Equality principle
- Nembhard, N. Exploring gender in Caribbean fisheries
- Nicholls, V. Caribbean fisherfolk perspectives on gender equality in the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines
- Pena, M. Do SocMon Caribbean data tell us anything about gender in fisheries?

There will be more from the GIFT in 2017. Keep an eye out!

## Collective action in fisheries

*By Patrick McConney*

FAO’s initiative on *Strengthening collective action and organization in small-scale fisheries for poverty reduction* held a *Write-shop to finalize peer-reviewed papers to be submitted for publication in MAST* from 16-18 November 2016 at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. CERMES researcher, Patrick McConney, participated in order to refine an article on the evolution of the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO) which is co-authored with Vernel Nicholls, Bertha Simmons and Rodrigo Medeiros.

The write-shop is a component of the long collaboration between FAO, CERMES and many other entities to better understand formal and informal fisherfolk groups and their development of capacity in the face of poverty and other challenges.



## Gender in the SSF Guidelines

By Patrick McConney

The CERMES-led Gender in Fisheries Team (GIFT) was well represented at the FAO *Expert workshop on gender-equitable small-scale fisheries in the context of the implementation of the SSF Guidelines* held from 28-30 November 2016 at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. Patrick McConney (CERMES), Peter A. Murray (CRFM Secretariat) and Katherine Blackman (Pasiton) attended at the invitation of FAO. The main output from the workshop is a revised draft of a document to guide the practical implementation of the gender provisions contained in the SSF Guidelines.



## Training in ocean governance

By Patrick McConney



CERMES contributed to the International Ocean Institute's Training Course on Ocean Governance, Ocean Sciences and Geoethics held from 21 November – 9 December in Pontal do Sul, Brazil. Invited by the organizers

from IOI-Brazil and IOI Costa Rica, Patrick McConney

shared information with mainly Brazilian participants on ocean governance from a Wider Caribbean perspective. The discussions were lively in several languages. The collaboration was also consistent with the International Cooperation Agreement between UWI and the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR).

## BIOPAMA helps EAG

By Carmel Haynes



The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme has helped improve the data management processes for

the Offshore Islands Conservation Programme (OICP) implemented within the North-East Marine Management Area (NEMMA) by the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG) in Antigua and Barbuda.

The OICP is a democratically governed initiative of the EAG, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, Fauna and Flora International, and Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. Through the OICP, thousands of Antiguan and Barbudans have come to experience and interact with wildlife on these offshore islands, some of which are found nowhere else in the world. Between March and November 2016, BIOPAMA supported the development of a case study by the EAG to demonstrate the value of data to support decision-making in the NEMMA, the largest protected area in the country.

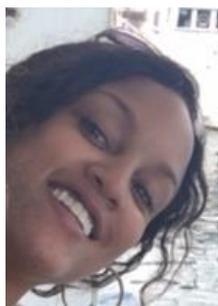
As a result of this, the EAG received technical support from the former BIOPAMA technical officer Jason Williams, and an intern provided by the Marine Institute Memorial University of Newfoundland in Canada, to standardise data collection forms specific to each monitoring activity, record the data in ArcGIS and then create shapefiles, leading ultimately to the creation of standardized monitoring forms, a Geodatabase, a Metadata Manual and a Workflow Manual.

Natalya Lawrence, Coordinator of the OICP for the EAG, explained that the project team maintained 12 offshore

islands habitat-free of invasive alien species, monitored the populations of plants and animals, and engaged local stakeholders to conserve local biodiversity. Data from biodiversity surveys were collected and thanks to the standardised templates, the data could be entered into ArcGIS, to be fed into the national Environmental Information Management and Advisory System (EIMAS). She added that the project also helped identify where priority gaps remained in: data on the biophysical, economical, or social carrying capacity of critical sites (for conservation) within the NEMMA; Ecosystems Valuation (EV) of the Ecosystem Services provided within the NEMMA; and data sharing between organisations due to a lack of metadata.

## Catching up with Lisa

By Lisa Soares



Lisa K. Soares, PhD Candidate in Politics and International Studies, and Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR) Studentship holder from the University of Warwick, United Kingdom, recently completed her 7-month stint as a Visiting Researcher at CERMES working in collaboration

with Dr. Patrick McConney. During her time at CERMES, Lisa was able to thoroughly refine her dissertation project which aptly is titled (working), "The Case of Barbados and the Politics of its Flyingfish Fishery". Lisa's research focuses on often over-looked policy/political issues in the Barbadian flyingfish fishery influenced by competing knowledge claims and tensions of power. She explores these issues within the thematic contexts of region/nation; development; and gender dynamics in the post-harvest process. The latter theme has been identified as a burgeoning policy focus for the Caribbean region championed by the CERMES Gender in Fisheries Team (GIFT). Lisa was able to complete upwards of 55 semi-structured interviews with various stakeholders connected to the Barbadian flyingfish fishery and also engage in extensive archival research. It is Lisa's hope that her work will substantially contribute to the wanting discourse on marine and fisheries socio-political issues affecting Barbados, and in general, the Caribbean. Lisa has now returned to the U.K. and is in the final phase of her dissertation with hopes of

submission in September 2017 and defense in December 2017.

## Shelly-Ann defends her PhD

By Shelly-Ann Cox

I woke up on the morning of 1 September, 2016, the day of my viva, with butterflies in my stomach and headed down to Batts Rock for a bit of wave watching to help calm my nerves. I felt a calming sensation taking over and was confident that



all would go well. But as the universe would have it, there was an island wide blackout! When I arrived at Graduate studies around 6:30am, the generator had kicked in, but the lights in the room were flickering and the projector kept restarting. The feathers in my angel wings were ruffled and those butterflies returned. The arrival of my supervisory committee, friends and family, and the warmth radiating from their smiles motivated me to do my best.

I delivered my presentation on *Conditions for the establishing and sustaining the adaptive co-management of the sea urchin fisheries in Barbados and Saint Lucia* and successfully defended my PhD that day!

This accomplishment would never have been possible without the support of a group of amazing people. I'm forever grateful to my supervisor, Dr. Patrick McConney, whose advice I will never forget. He told me that PhD really stands for Perseverance, Hard Work and Dedication, which were the keys to success. Thank you for your patience, guidance and valuable contributions to my work. Secondly, thanks to my committee members, Prof. Robin Mahon and Dr. Jonathan Lashley, for your invaluable input and encouraging words. I can't thank my friends and family enough for their support and encouragement. Last but definitely not least, I acknowledge the financial support I received from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

When one starts the journey of self-development the pathway seems straight with a few hurdles. In reality those hurdles turn into hills and sometimes mountains, but a skilled, determined climber reaches the pinnacle.

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