



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

## 2016-2017 CERMES students

Yet again, we have a new group of eager young MSc students ready to take up the natural resource management challenge. This year since both the Climate Change specialisation in Natural Resource and Environmental Management has been suspended, and the newly acquired Masters in Renewable Energy is being revised and revamped in time for the 2017-2018 academic year, our nine students will be focused on specialising in Coastal and Marine Management, and Water Resources Management. This year it's a predominantly local bunch of six Barbadians with two Bahamians and one Trinidadian providing some regional context. A hearty welcome again to you all we expect nothing but the best from each and every one of you!



We make sure they are comfortable in the water from the get go. What a nice way to start an intensive programme.

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## CERMES at the IUCN World Conservation Congress

By Maria Pena

CERMES was represented by Maria Pena (Project Assistant) at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (IUCN WCC), 1-10 September, Oahu, Hawai'i. The theme of this year's Congress was 'Planet at the Crossroads' to "reflect the serious choices and actions the world needs to make to reverse environmental declines and secure a healthy, liveable planet." Divided into a Forum (2-5 September) and Members' Assembly (6-10 September), the Congress was a unique opportunity where over 10,000 voices in the form of governmental officials, civil society, indigenous communities, faith and spiritual traditions, the private sector and academia, gathered "together to find common ground in a spirit of partnership and collaboration."

Within the Forum, Maria was invited by People in Nature (PiN), a knowledge basket of the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) to present on *Global Socio-economic monitoring to understand human use and dependence on coastal ecosystems* in one of many WCC Knowledge

Hub sessions. She also co-facilitated a *Conservation Campus session on People Matter: Enhancing Conservation and Natural Resource Management through Socio-economic Monitoring*.



Sharing information on the global SocMon initiative with a highly engaged and interested PiN group

As CERMES Authorised Vote Holder for the duration of the Congress, Maria was only too happy to exercise CERMES' right to vote on a number of motions during eight sittings of the Member's Assembly that included the election of regional councilor for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Sixto J. Inchaustegui from the Dominican Republic. It was quite an experience to participate in the Member's Assembly and observe the high level negotiations on motions.



All set to vote on IUCN motions

## Caribbean Gateway showing at IUCN WCC

*By Carmel Haynes & Caribbean Gateway Team*

The Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (Caribbean Gateway) had an invaluable opportunity to share its model for linking data to better decision making on an international scale when it hosted a Knowledge Café at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress 2016.



Coordinator for the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme in the Caribbean, Hyacinth Armstrong-Vaughn, used the roundtable discussion format of the Knowledge Café to discuss ideas and identify solutions for improving data access and reporting in the region through the Caribbean Gateway. The Technical Officer, Julian Walcott, highlighted the progress made with the regional reference information system (RRIS) of the Caribbean Gateway. He also shared the work that has been done in the Caribbean Gateway with respect to data gathering and analysis through the [Open Data Initiative](#) and towards bridging the data to decision gap.

The Caribbean team got valuable feedback from their counterpart in the Pacific BIOPAMA programme, who is also involved in a similar exercise, as well as from University of Hawai'i academics, donor representatives and regional partners who are familiar with and have an interest in improving regional data management. Armstrong-Vaughn noted that it was extremely useful to have been given their perspective on issues such as trust and relationship building in data sharing. Many other IUCN Congress events enabled the presentation and demonstration of the Caribbean Gateway. Learn more about it [here](#).

## Coastal games and CERMES Aquatic Skills 2016

By Renata Goodridge

Jillian Stands from Wageningen University, Netherlands, has created a game to help model and understand how climate and environmental changes can affect people and livelihoods in a marine coastal tourism environment. Of course, it was only right that the 2016-2017 CERMES MSc cohort played the game during Aquatic Skills held 7-9 September.



Playing Coastal Games

With many local actors and local changes in the environment, the game demonstrates how such factors combine and the resulting interactions that occur between people and the environment. The game can highlight types of vulnerabilities and how they may affect the coastal stakeholder, or even how the system as a whole is affected.

Stakeholder information as well as scientific data are inputted into the game, along with the roll of a di (Mother Nature always has something to throw into the game!), allowing for real-life scenarios for the game players.

Whether it is land-based pollution, low visitor numbers or a tropical storm event, the impacts on coastal tourism are felt first hand. Coastal Games helps Jillian to better model how complex adaptive systems work, and allows the rest of us to realise and better understand that we are all on the game-board of coastal life together and have a role to play.

## Sustainable fisheries and a healthier marine environment

Excerpt from CLME+ press release

Key partners of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems Project (“the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project”) assembled from 6 to 9 September in Miami to discuss and plan coordinated action towards the sustainable management and use of living marine resources in the region.



The CLME+ Project Executive Group convened for its second session since the project’s start in 2015, with representatives from CANARI, CERMES-UWI, CRFM, GCFI, FAO, IOC of UNESCO/IOCARIBE, OSPESCA, UNEP-CEP, UNDP GEF, UNOPS and the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit (PCU). They examined current project progress, shared experiences through presentations and discussions, and reviewed the work plan for the coming year. The session followed up on the recommendations of the first meeting of the CLME+ Steering Committee, which was held earlier this year in Cartagena, Colombia.

Representatives from Inter-Governmental Organisations with a formal mandate for fisheries and environmental protection in the region convened to evaluate and further plan overall progress under the 10-year CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP): UNEP CEP, IOC of UNESCO, FAO/FAO-WECAFC, OECs Commission, CARICOM Secretariat, CRFM and OSPESCA.

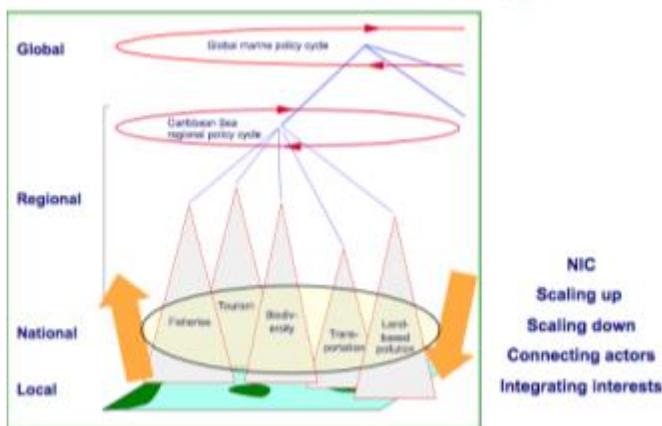
Forthcoming work expected under the CLME+ Project and SAP includes *inter alia*, the initiation of the development of region-wide action plans to deal with illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, the protection and restoration of key marine habitats, the

reduction of pollution from land-based sources, and the development of a collaborative effort to map and report on the state of the marine ecosystems in the region.

## Linking ocean governance in the Caribbean

By Patrick McConney

A Special Issue on *Linking Ocean Governance in the Caribbean*, edited by Nicole Parris, has been published by the Social Science Journal of the University of the West Indies, *Social and Economic Studies*, as Volume 65(1). It contains two articles with CERMES connections. The article on *Organising for Good Fisheries Governance in the Caribbean Community* by Patrick McConney, Terrence Phillips, Mitchell Lay and Nadine Nembhard examines the recent history of fisherfolk organisation networking as a regional collaborative initiative. The article on *Linking Caribbean Ocean Governance Efforts to Global Arrangements* by Robin Mahon and Lucia Fanning puts several regional initiatives into a global context that may not be fully appreciated even by those deeply involved in individual processes.



As the title of the Special Issue suggests, making clear linkages amongst our ocean governance initiatives is vitally important. This is especially so as we develop institutional arrangements for transboundary living marine resource governance across the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem and the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem under the CLME+ Project in which CERMES is a partner. One of our specific activities in the CLME+ Project is to investigate, monitor and evaluate national intersectoral consultative mechanisms (NICs)

that serve to integrate economic sectors nationally and link them to sub-regional and regional processes.

## Caribbean Gateway goes to International Open Data conference

By Julian Walcott

At all levels (local, national, regional or international), accurate and up-to-date data are critical for informing decisions. These decisions help to inform policies and can have significant ecological, economic, social and cultural impacts. Despite its importance, many are seemingly still unaware of the power that data hold, while others are simply unwilling to unlock its true potential. Globally, many key datasets remain closed, locked away, hidden and unshared, creating a major gap between the data and the users of the data; particularly stakeholders, decision and policy makers. To combat this is the global Open Data movement, where open data is defined as data that can be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone - subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and share alike.



Julian Walcott, Technical Officer, Caribbean Gateway participates in the IODC

One key component of this movement is the International Open Data Conference (IODC). The IODC is the essential meeting point for the global community to debate and study the future of open data. It aims to build stronger relationships between open data initiatives from different governments and establish a

dialogue between policy makers, private companies, NGOs, data journalists, academics, researchers and representatives of civil society among others. Titled *'Global goals, local impacts'*, the IODC 2016, 6-7 October held in Madrid, Spain, represents the fourth convening of this conference where the main objectives were to:

- bring together the most innovative and practical Open Data solutions
- identify and explore both new opportunities and new debates
- consolidate an international partnership on Open Data

Julian Walcott, Technical Officer, the Caribbean Gateway, attended the conference and notes that, "within the Caribbean region, the open data ecosystem is still emerging. A long history of data hoarding and secrecy still has to be overcome, but Open Data initiatives (such as the one between the Caribbean Gateway and the Caribbean Open Institute) are the way forward." The ideas of sector-specific, problem-driven initiatives and cases were highlighted as the way forward within the Caribbean context to highlight the need for open data.

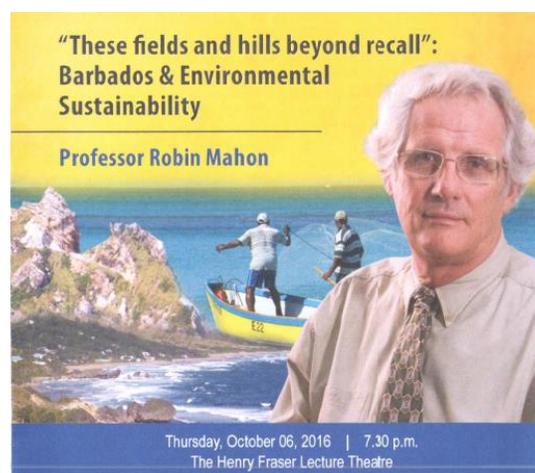
## Barbados and environmental sustainability

*By Robin Mahon*

Prof. Robin Mahon contributed to the UWI Cave Hill Campus Lecture Series to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Barbados' Nationhood speaking on *"These fields and Hills Beyond Recall": Barbados and Environmental Sustainability* held on 6 October at The Henry Fraser Lecture theatre, Cave Hill Campus. His lecture explored how the global trend towards inclusion of environment in sustainable development had been reflected in Barbados.

He noted that Barbados was engaged in global processes, had incorporated environment into national and sectoral planning, had a sound legal base for environment and natural resources and had made significant progress in many areas, through programmes and initiatives. His presentation also highlighted, that despite this sound basis there were legislative, implementation and institutional gaps that had the potential for significant impacts on achieving

sustainable development. He noted the need for legislation covering terrestrial biodiversity and protected areas. He argued that Barbados has failed to: (1) halt coastal marine degradation by pollution and overfishing; (2) prevent widespread illegal dumping and littering; and (3) establish a system of parks and protected areas. Two institutional gaps were flagged: (1) a mechanism for engaging all stakeholders (public sector, private sector and civil society) in generating overarching vision, policy and monitoring of progress for environment and sustainability; and (2) the need for a civil society watchdog to monitor the government and private sector and hold them accountable. Suggestions were made for filling these gaps.



## Gender at GCFI

*By Patrick McConney*

The CERMES Gender in Fisheries Team (GIFT) is planning a big splash at the 69th annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) in Grand Cayman in November. The GIFT is planning for a special poster session as well as the launch of the 'Leading Ladies in Fisheries' 2017 calendar that promotes awareness of gender equity and equality in keeping with the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines. The GCFI and the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) have generously offered to provide travel support to two of the leading ladies, Nadine Nembhard and Vernel Nicholls, featured in the calendar initiative that was led by Shelly-Ann Cox. Nadine and Vernel are also lead authors of posters along with GIFT members Maria Pena and Katherine Blackman. Several other members of the GIFT are co-authors.