



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

UWI at the UN Conference

By Prof. Robin Mahon

UWI had five persons attending the [UN Ocean Conference](#) June 5-9, UN Headquarters, New York. The conference was held to chart the way ahead with Sustainable Development Goal 14 'Life under water'. There were over 200 side events, seven dialogues around SDG14 targets and a plenary that resulted in a ['call to action'](#) on oceans.

UWI was accredited to the meeting as an NGO and a UWI team was assembled through the internal UWI Ocean Governance Network to provide support to the many CARICOM delegations that attended. CARICOM states were well represented throughout the meeting with interventions in the plenary, dialogues and side events, many at the level of Heads of State, Ministers and Ambassadors. CARICOM cosponsored two side events. One was on 'Ocean Governance and SIDS Sustainable Development', together with UWI and the Governments of Barbados and Belize. The other was on 'Sustainable Fisheries' together with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), United Nations University and Government of Norway.



Left to right: Minister Figueroa (Belize), Minister McClean (Barbados), Prof. Mahon and Ms. Pratt (Pacific Islands Forum)

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CERMES' Prof Robin Mahon spoke at both CARICOM side events. At the governance session chaired by the Honourable Maxine McClean, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Barbados, he shared the podium with Minister Omar Figueroa of Belize (keynote), representatives from the Pacific Islands Forum and the Indian Ocean Commission, and the CLME+ Project as the session explored efforts at strengthening regional ocean governance within these three key SIDS regions. At the fisheries session where the focus was on intraregional (UWI and CNFO) and extraregional (UNU and Norway) partnerships he provided an overview of activities that were taking place under the MOU between the CRFM and UWI.

50 Reefs

By Patrick McConney

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), in collaboration with Bloomberg Philanthropies, invited Patrick McConney and CERMES alumnus David Gill to participate, with other marine scientists from around the world, in "[50 Reefs: A Conservation Convening](#)" from 30-31 May in New York City. It was an interesting gathering designed to advise on a major upcoming grant-making initiative to conserve coral reefs in a changing climate.



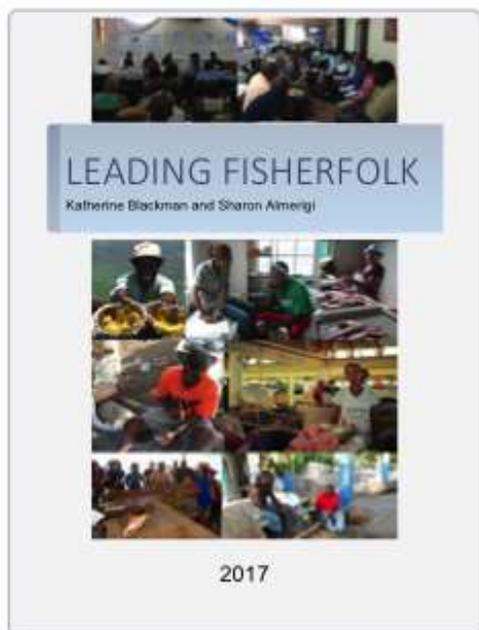
David (left) attentively listening to the discussion

David has been much in demand since publishing an article in a prestigious journal (Gill, David A., et al. 2017. Capacity shortfalls hinder the performance of marine protected area globally. *Nature* 543.7647: 665-669). He and other young scientists who co-authored the article are making significant contributions to marine science.

Leading fisherfolk

By Patrick McConney

CERMES, with assistance from FAO, engaged Katherine Blackman and Sharon Almerigi to produce the guidebook “Leading fisherfolk” accompanied by training slides. Fisherfolk leaders are expected to make extensive use of this resource in their implementation of the Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines. The book, which is aimed at assisting capacity development, can be downloaded from the [CERMES](#) web site.



Water security in Carriacou

By Adrian Cashman

A team from CERMES recently made a follow-up visit to Carriacou as part of the Water-aCCSIS research project, which is looking at the impact of climate change on water availability in the Caribbean. Carriacou is a particularly challenged smaller island when it comes to water availability as it has traditionally relied on rainwater harvesting to meet all of its water related needs. Through our various visits it has become apparent that the Kayaks (the people of Carriacou) have a range of coping strategies, of which the introduction of a desalination plant is just the latest manifestation.



All homes capture rainwater which is stored in cisterns or in the case of newer houses in ‘black tanks’ which are a much cheaper option. A regular practice is for those living overseas but who have houses to ‘loan’ water to members of their extended families which has resulted in an intricate web of social accounting of favours. At the village level, community cisterns are making a comeback and are being refurbished. Farmers rely on wells and ponds, particularly for stock watering and in some cases cattle and goats drink from the inland parts of the mangroves. Even though the groundwater in the

capital Hillsborough is brackish, some of the hotels use this for flushing toilets as a way of making their harvested rainwater go further. This otherwise resilient water system has in the past been stressed, for example during the drought of 2009-10. Whilst Kayaks believe that they don't have a problem with water, our research indicates that under climate change such drought events could become more common.

Now we're cooking on biogas

By Adrian Cashman



During our recent visit to Carriacou, we were shown an example of the use of biogas as a renewable energy source. On the small holding we visited a biogas bag has been installed which is fed with chicken and goat manure mixed with waste vegetable matter. This produces enough gas daily to allow the family to cook not only their own meals but also

food for sale at lunchtimes to passers-by earning additional income. Diversification of income generating activities is a way of life for people in the rural communities. The installation of the biogas has certainly made this family more economically secure.

As we travelled around Carriacou this was just one of the strategies we saw as to how people on the island are developing strategies to secure their future.

CERMES Technical Reports

By Maria Pena

Have a look at our [CERMES Technical Reports](#) webpage for the following:

1. CTR#81: **Ramlogan et al. 2017**. Socio-economic impacts of Sargassum influx events on the fishery sector of Barbados. 86pp.
2. CTR#82: **Drakes et al. 2017**. Caribbean Scenarios 2050: GoLoCarSce Report. 33pp.

3. CTR#84: **McConney et al. 2016**. Report on the survey of National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanisms. 75pp.
4. CTR#85: **Fanning et al. 2017**. Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP) Assessment of Governance Arrangements for the Ocean: Annex to Volume 1 – Individual Governance Architecture Assessment for Fifty Transboundary Large Marine Ecosystems. 834pp.

Mobilisation of invasive species data through EU funded project

By Julian Walcott



GBIF

Global Biodiversity
Information Facility

CERMES has been awarded a small biodiversity data mobilisation grant from the [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](#) (GBIF). Through the [European Union](#) (EU) funded [Biodiversity Information for Development](#) (BID) programme, GBIF seeks to increase access and sharing of biodiversity data related to protected areas, threatened species and alien invasive species, with the overall goals of improving the information available for decision-making and policy formulation.

CERMES' BID grant will focus on the alien invasive red lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) under the project titled 'Tracking the red lionfish invasion in Barbados' (BID-CA2016-0013-SMA). The project is to run for one year from May 2017 under Principal Investigator, Dr Julian Walcott, and the intended outputs include: 1) a catalogue of data holdings, experts, literature, publications and legislation relevant to lionfish; 2) an electronic lionfish database; 3) identification of decision making and policy formulation data; 4) publication of a [data paper](#); and 5) publication of national datasets through GBIF. Keep your eyes on the 'Lionfish Mitigation' page on the CERMES website for more information.