



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

Partner agreement to support BIOPAMA II

By Carmel Haynes

The University of the West Indies (UWI) and International Union of Conservation for Nature (IUCN) Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, have signed the implementing partner agreement to renew their collaboration supporting the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme in the Caribbean.

The signing of the agreement took place on the first day of the Programme’s regional relaunch in Kingston, Jamaica on 6 March. This meeting hosted approximately 60 participants from 21 countries in the Caribbean and beyond, who represented the stakeholders and potential beneficiaries of BIOPAMA initiatives.



L to R: Professor Dale Webber, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Graduate Studies and Research at The UWI; Ms. Viviana Sanchez, acting IUCN Regional Director for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean; Mr. Edmund Jackson, Environment and Climate Change Programme Officer Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States; and Mr. Stefano Cilli, Attaché/ Programme Manager - Rural Development and Environment, Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica. Photo credit: BIOPAMA.

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“We are pleased to be working closely with The UWI to improve the quality of data for protected areas in the Caribbean region not only for information purposes, but also to facilitate the decision-making process in different sectors. This is very important for the effective management and good governance of protected areas, as well as to ensure sustainability of biodiversity and natural resources,” said Ms. Viviana Sanchez, acting IUCN Regional Director for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

“The BIOPAMA Programme offers great potential for our region in the form of technical and financial assistance to build capacity in our citizens who have oversight and management for the protected areas across our lands and shared sea spaces,” said Professor Dale Webber, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Graduate Studies and Research at The UWI at the signing ceremony in Kingston, Jamaica. “I therefore look forward to lending my support and the resources of the UWI to BIOPAMA in this second implementing phase and expect increased access and agility with this multi-organization alignment,” he added.

Highlights from BIOPAMA II inception meeting, 5-8 March

By Carmel Haynes

Over 80 participants from 25 countries were invited to assist in charting the way forward for the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme in the Caribbean as it entered a new phase.

This invitation was extended within the context of the Regional Inception Meeting, which took place in Jamaica the week of 5 March 2018. BIOPAMA Protected Areas Officer for the Caribbean, Hyacinth Armstrong-Vaughn, described it as, “an opportunity for the BIOPAMA Programme team to re-engage with the Caribbean community and introduce the second phase of the Programme.”

Armstrong-Vaughn said the primary objectives of the meeting were to inform BIOPAMA stakeholders of the programme’s goals and objectives for this second phase and get their input on aligning implementation with regional and national initiatives; to reaffirm the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway as the mechanism for supporting improved biodiversity conservation and protected areas management in the Caribbean; and to establish effective coordination and support mechanisms with Caribbean stakeholders for their ongoing needs during BIOPAMA and beyond in order to ensure longer-term sustainability and impact.

Emphasis has also been placed on the involvement of government agencies to encourage them to contribute the verified data and information needed by the Caribbean Gateway in its ongoing mission to link data to better decision-making in the management of protected areas that are integral to the livelihoods of those who use them.



CERMES joins CRND

By David Oscar Yawson

CNRD Centers for Natural Resources and Development

The [Centers for Natural Resources and Development](#) (CRND) is a global network of universities promoting academic exchange and cooperation in the area of natural resources management, in particular related to water, land, ecosystem and renewable energy resources. The CNRD aims to contribute immensely to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through education, research, capacity development, and outreach on sustainable use and management of natural resources.

Membership of the CNRD network is open to any higher education institution that carries out quality teaching, research and other capacity building activities in natural resources and commits to significantly contributing to the achievement of CNRD’s goals. CERMES was accepted as a member of the CNRD in January 2018. This is in recognition of the quality of the teaching and research activities in natural resources and environmental management at CERMES, and the high potential of CERMES to contribute to the goals of the CNRD.

As a CNRD member, CERMES will participate in student and staff exchanges with partner universities, joint curriculum development and research, joint grant proposal development, and many other capacity building and outreach activities in natural resources management in the coming years. CERMES will participate in the first network membership meeting in October 2018 in Germany. Drs. David Oscar Yawson and Adrian Cashman are the joint coordinators for the CNRD at CERMES.



Photo credit: www.crnd.info

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CLME+ Project workshops in Cartagena

By Patrick McConney



CLME+ Project Workshops on the *CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP) Monitoring and Evaluation Framework* and the *State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies (SOMEE) Report* took place in Cartagena, Colombia,

from 30 January to 2 February 2018. CERMES was well represented by staff and partners working on several CLME+ outputs.

The participants considered indicators and their measurement in order to systematically follow and understand the changes and trends in the CLME+ region's social-ecological marine resource systems. Selected authors will soon begin to compile the information for the region's first SOMEE report. The indicators will be applied at levels from national to regional to inform decisions on fisheries, habitat and pollution.

NIC Guidelines now available as CERMES Technical Report #88

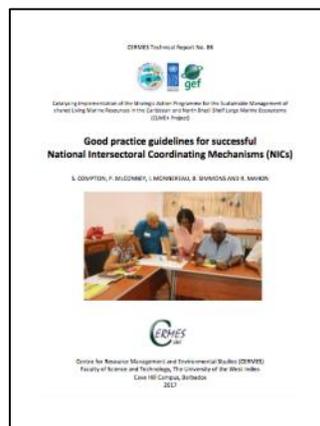
By Patrick McConney

So, what is a NIC? Every country in the Caribbean needs at least one for marine resource governance, not many have NICs that are fully functional, and NICs are the research focus of CERMES PhD candidate Sanya Compton. Give up? You shouldn't! Look for our new CERMES Technical Report (CTR) on NICs.

NIC is an acronym being used in the CLME+ Project and SAP [https://clmeplus.org] (you know about them right?). It stands for national inter-sectoral coordination mechanism. The 'm' is silent since in some places it stands for national inter-ministerial committee. But NICs can include so many other governance arrangements besides committees that we prefer the broader translation. NICs are a central feature of the CLME+ Project and SAP as they usually link the

regional/sub-regional levels to the national/local levels in transboundary living marine resource governance. Think of fisheries advisory committees and boards, ocean governance committees and commissions, integrated coastal management bodies and similar multi-stakeholder institutions as examples if they are properly designed and functioning.

Therein lies the rub. Few countries have NICs operating with ideal structures and functions according to the principles of good governance. The 15-page NIC Guidelines condense the findings of a survey of NICs in the Caribbean (see CTR #84) and offer summary guidance on how to improve our NICs (in CTR #88). We see NICs as critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and other socio-economic and environmental commitments whether they are entire blue economies, marine spatial planning or the Aichi targets. Stay tuned for more on NICs as Sanya's research progresses. Share your NIC experiences and ideas with her via sanya.compton@cavehill.uwi.edu.



Progress with draft protocol on securing small-scale fisheries

By Patrick McConney

The project partnership of CERMES, CRFM Secretariat, CANARI and CNFO continues to make progress with a draft protocol to incorporate the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (the SSF Guidelines) into the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy. Download the draft protocol from our project web page

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[\[https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/projects/ssf/index.aspx\]](https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/projects/ssf/index.aspx)

Having developed and received feedback on the draft protocol in a participatory process, the project partnership submitted the final draft to the CRFM Secretariat. It was reviewed by the Executive Committee of the CRFM prior to going on to the Caribbean Fisheries Forum on 16 April where it was endorsed. It goes next to the CRFM Ministerial Council on 18 May if all goes well. Endorsement by Ministerial Council and/or CARICOM's COTED should be the final step for the protocol to enter into force. Meanwhile, the partnership is not resting! We are promoting awareness and implementation of the SSF Guidelines by fisheries stakeholders throughout the CRFM region in collaboration with the FAO, which continues to support the work of the partnership.

Cuba SocMon collaboration

By Maria Pena

One thing definitely leads to another. It all began after the Jackson *et al.* (2014) publication of the *Status and Trends of Caribbean Coral Reefs 1970 – 2012* and one coral reef resilience workshop in Cuba in 2015 with a recommendation from Jeremy Jackson for participants to reach out to CERMES about the global Socio-economic Monitoring for Coastal Management (SocMon) initiative. The US-based non-profit organization, Ocean Doctor, contacted CERMES based on interest in implementing and integrating the SocMon methodology in Cuba into conservation efforts given the historical changes in Cuba-US relations. So began the further building of partnerships with US-based non-profits working in Cuba and national Cuban agencies for bringing SocMon to Cuba.

The Caribbean node of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN-Caribbean) provided the first opportunity for training representatives from Ocean Doctor and the Cuba Centro Nacional de Areas Protegidas (CNAP) in SocMon at its inaugural *Towards Integrated Coral Reef Monitoring Workshop* in Jamaica in 2016. The following year, two more representatives from CNAP joined the second GCRMN-Caribbean integrated training workshop, also held in Jamaica. Sponsorship for participation being provided by UNEP-CEP SPAW-RAC, CERMES, Ocean Doctor and LACEEP. The 2017 Cuban participants, Yunaika Alvarez Carrazana

and Carlos Gallardo Toirac, drafted the first SocMon site monitoring plan for Cocodrilo, Isla de Juventud to be later revised and refined by protected area specialists and participating communities. Initiation of SocMon at Cocodrilo was proposed for late 2018 after typical governance processes had been completed. The process is still ongoing but the story doesn't end there.

Earlier this year, CERMES was contacted by TNC's Cuba Program Manager (formerly of Ocean Doctor) to further the progress of implementing SocMon in Cuba via the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). Regional Coordinator for SocMon Caribbean, Maria Pena, and Bertha Simmons, Lead Coordinator for SocMon in the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, were invited by WCS to attend and participate in "Pesca, Contaminacion y Medio Ambiente" [Fishing, Pollution and Environment] conference, 4-6 April, organized by the Centro de Investigaciones Pesqueras (CIP). Pena and Simmons presented on SocMon Caribbean to relevant national Cuban institutional representatives during the conference and held a one-day introductory workshop for representatives from the Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez (FANJ) and Refugio de Fauna. Carlos Gallardo Toirac, CNAP, who had been previously trained in SocMon assisted the participants in practical SocMon exercises during the training.



Participants realize the value of SocMon for human dimensions monitoring and resource conservation and are positive that SocMon or a Cuban adaptation of the

methodology will be implemented for socio-economic monitoring at protected areas and coastal management sites there. They note however that a larger workshop, targeting wide stakeholder representation, and more in-depth training is needed to build greater support for SocMon among national agencies. Plans are afoot for such.

Coming in June... CERMES field tripping and 13th Training of Trainers Regional MPA course!

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