



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



## Season's Greetings

It's difficult to believe that another year will soon be at an end. Where does the time go? This year was a particularly hectic one for all us here at CERMES, as I am sure it has been for you. Many of us have achieved personal accomplishments – awards of excellence, long-service awards, MSc and PhD degrees. Our Director, Prof. Robin Mahon retired and was recently made Professor Emeritus, and our new Director, Dr. Adrian Cashman, seamlessly took up the helm. We thank you all for staying with us throughout 2014 in whatever capacity – as partners, collaborators, alumni and friends – and look forward to connecting with you in 2015. We wish you all the very best for the Season and 2015. The CERMES *Connections* will have a new look in February! Are you excited yet?

## GCFI 2014 an amazing success

By Maria Pena

The University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus recently hosted the 67th annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) from 3-7 November at the Accra Beach Hotel and Spa, Rockley, Christ Church. Patrick McConney and Maria Pena were the local organisers of the conference. This year's conference attracted approximately 270 participants from 40 countries in the wider Caribbean region, the Gulf States of the USA, Central and South America, and the Pacific.

The theme for this year's meeting, *Small islands, big issues: applying fisheries and marine science to solve problems and create opportunities* acknowledged 2014 as the UN International Year for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and also the 20th anniversary of the Barbados (SIDS) Programme of Action crafted at the first international SIDS conference held here in 1994.

Many local and international organisations provided support, both financial and in-kind, for this year's

### Inside this issue

Season's Greetings	1
GCFI 2014 an amazing success	1
CERMES hosts BIOPAMA regional observatory	2
Meet BIOPAMA's technical officer	2
Strengthening fisherfolk organisations	2
Blue growth	3
Opening the GAP for small-scale fisheries	3
A visit from the University of Sheffield	4
CERMES water group new member	4
Rewarding excellence	4



L to R: Bob Glazer, Executive Director GCFI, Patrick McConney, Maria Pena and Alejandro Acosta, Program Chair GCFI

meeting. Local sponsors included the UWI Cave Hill Campus, the Barbados Tourism and Marketing Inc., the Coastal Zone Management Unit and the Barbados Fisheries Division. Many thanks to all of them!

CERMES staff, students and faculty provided overwhelming administrative and technical support prior to and throughout the duration of the conference and we all had fun while being kept exceedingly busy. There is no other team like this CERMES group! Have a look at the Lighter Side of GCFI video

[http://youtu.be/4V\\_40TiBak4](http://youtu.be/4V_40TiBak4) produced by CERMES Research Assistant, Jehroum Wood, who caught some of the conference events on film.

## CERMES hosts BIOPAMA Regional Observatory

By Carmel Haynes



The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Cave Hill Campus has been chosen to host the Regional Observatory for Protected Areas and Biodiversity, a regional information centre, which will support the collection, management, analysis and application of data and information relevant to protecting the wide range of species and habitats found in the Caribbean.

This Observatory, is one component of the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA). BIOPAMA is an initiative of the African-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) Secretariat, funded by the European Union (EU), and implemented by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC). BIOPAMA's main objectives are to assist countries to improve their technical and institutional approaches to conserve biodiversity, and address threats to biodiversity in ACP countries while also reducing poverty.

"The basic aim of the Observatory for the Caribbean is to facilitate access to, and exchange of, data and information that would be useful to improve decision-making for protected area management, not just the management of our biological diversity, but also taking into consideration the socio-economic aspects and the governance issues that impact on how we manage our natural resources," explained Hyacinth Armstrong-Vaughn, the BIOPAMA Protected Areas Officer for the Caribbean.

"The University of the West Indies is pleased to partner with IUCN in implementing BIOPAMA, and specifically the Observatory, to deliver services to Caribbean countries," said Dr. Patrick McConney, Senior Lecturer at CERMES and the focal point for the BIOPAMA Observatory at the centre.

To learn more, please visit the IUCN YouTube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq6SWKpRrw0&feature=youtu.be> to watch a short video on BIOPAMA in the Caribbean.

## Meet the Regional Observatory's technical officer

By Jason Williams

*A warm welcome to Jason Williams who recently joined BIOPAMA's Caribbean programme. Read a bit about him below.*

Jason Williams has joined the CERMES family and the BIOPAMA team as the Technical Officer for the Caribbean Regional Observatory for Protected Areas and Biodiversity ("The Observatory"). The Observatory is a component of the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme and is being hosted by CERMES at the UWI, Cave Hill campus.



Jason is a Belizean and holds a Master's Degree in Integrated Management of Coastal Zones from the Marine Research Centre, La Havana, Cuba. Prior to joining IUCN, Jason worked as an Environmental Data Manager at the Environment Division in Antigua and Barbuda.

Jason will be responsible for overseeing the establishment and operation of the Regional Observatory in collaboration with the Observatory Host and the EU Joint Research Centre and providing support to stakeholders at the national and regional level for improved management of data and information for protected areas.

## Strengthening organisations and collective action in fisheries

By Patrick McConney

FAO, assisted by CERMES, organized the Workshop on strengthening organizations and collective action in fisheries: Towards the formulation of a capacity development programme in Barbados from 4–6 November 2014. Twenty-four workshop participants

For more information contact:

from Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Caribbean and Europe attended. Among the participants were several Caribbean fisherfolk leaders associated with the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO).



A case study on the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO) was one of the case studies delivered. The case study was prepared by CERMES in collaboration with BARNUFO. A main aim of the workshop was to assist in developing a programme to strengthen organizations and collective action in small-scale fisheries to support the successful implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines). Outputs from the workshop will contribute to the Global Assistance Programme being formulated for the SSF Guidelines.

## Blue growth

*By Patrick McConney*

CERMES participated in the CRFM/CNFO/CTA Regional Fisheries Workshop: Investing in Blue Growth held in St. George's, Grenada, from 20 – 21 November 2014. In the working sessions the participants developed recommendations for the implementation of the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines).



The workshop was hailed as a success, and one of the most productive in recent times, in terms of exchanging information and perspectives among CRFM Secretariat staff, fisheries officials, fisherfolk leaders and private companies operating in the fishing industry and in aquaculture/aquaponics. There is, however, a need for deeper consideration of what “blue growth” really means for the region’s fisheries and aquaculture sectors as an integrated development strategy that can create new opportunities.

## Opening the GAP for small-scale fisheries

*By Patrick McConney*

Along with representatives from the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and Caribbean National Fisherfolk Organisation (CNFO), CERMES attended the Workshop on the Development of a Global Assistance Programme in Support of the Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, FAO headquarters, Rome, Italy, 8 - 11 December 2014. The Global Assistance Programme (GAP) is expected to be the main means globally of supporting implementation of the Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Guidelines. Patrick McConney of CERMES contributed mainly to the working group on the science-policy interface, members of which are shown in the photo.



CERMES anticipates playing an important role in assisting fisherfolk to implement the SSF Guidelines in partnership with several other fisheries-related organisations in the region.

For more information contact:

## A visit from the University of Sheffield

By Tara Mackey



L to R: Adrian Cashman, Steve Mounce, Tara Mackey and Joby Boxall

Prof. Joby Boxall and Dr. Steve Mounce from the Pennine Water Group (PWG) at the University of Sheffield (UK) visited with CERMES the week of December 1, 2014. During the course of the week, Prof. Boxall and Dr. Mounce participated in several activities which included a 'meet & greet' held at CERMES; a journal club meeting with the CERMES Water Group (CWG); a social event with CWG; three separate sessions to discuss in detail the research work being carried out by Tara Mackey (CERMES MPhil student for whom they are co-supervisors); and three separate seminars entitled "Managing Infrastructure in the Water Sector" for which they were featured speakers. These seminars were hosted by CERMES with the aim of engaging persons working in the public and private sectors in the field of urban water management in Barbados.

## CERMES water group new member

By Crystal Drakes



*The CERMES Water Group led by Adrian Cashman has been growing steadily over the past year. The following is a self-summary by the newest team member, Crystal Drakes.*

Crystal is young social economist who is passionate

about finding innovative solutions to issues facing the Caribbean region. She recently joined the CERMES Water aCCSIS team as a Research Associate, with specific research focus on socioeconomic and political future foresight scenarios and adaptation strategies for the Caribbean in regards to water availability under climate change. Crystal holds a Masters of Philosophy in Economics and a Bachelor's of Science in Economics and Management from the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus. Her professional experience spans areas of such as entrepreneurship, international consultancy in private sector development projects and business development research.

## Rewarding excellence

By Maria Pena

What's that old saying about "not tooting one's own horn?" Well, at times we must make exceptions, and there can be no other exception than when no less than four CERMES staff receive awards for excellence and service to The University of the West Indies.

Heartiest congratulations to our colleagues who recently received awards at this year's UWI Annual Staff Awards Ceremony:

- Dr. Janice Cumberbatch – CERMES Lecturer – Receiving the Principal's Award for Excellence in the Academic Category;
- Dr. Jennifer Hurley – CERMES' Administrative Assistant – Receiving an award for 25 years service;
- Prof. Robin Mahon – Retired CERMES Director – 2014 Retiree; and
- Ms. Lisa-Ann Rollins – CERMES' Secretary – Receiving an award for 15 years of service. Lisa-Ann provides the following perspective of her time at The UWI, "As I sit back and reflect on the past 15 years of working at the UWI, I am so grateful to all those persons who have given me the opportunity to showcase my skills, knowledge and the potential to do great things. So, here's to celebrating 15 years of service, and may I live to see many more years at the UWI! Cheers!

