



A bi-monthly electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (ERMES)
 Editors: Maria Pena and Dr. Patrick McConney

CERMES established as a regional EBM/DSS node

By Julian Walcott

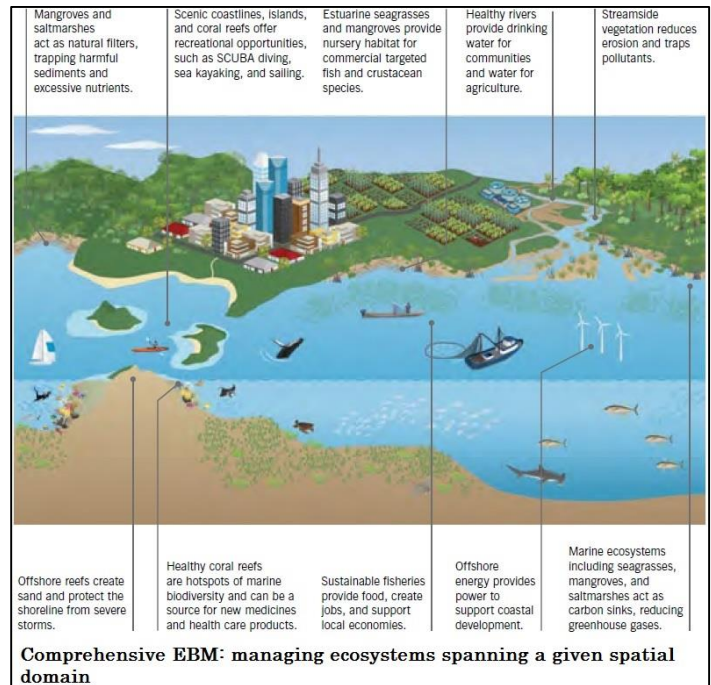
Through the *Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) Biodiversity for Sustainable Development* project (August 2017 - September 2018), CERMES is collaborating with the United Nations Environment Programme (UN-Environment) to advance an EBM Decision Support System (DSS) in the Caribbean. The project, which was developed by the Caribbean Environment Programme's (CEP) Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Sub-Programme (SPAW) in partnership with the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), aims to develop capacities through an information DSS for strategic/operational planning of marine managed areas and pilot test their application. It is envisioned that Governments and other organizations in the Caribbean can utilize this EBM approach to make planning and coastal resources decisions which may focus on marine protected areas, but is not necessarily restricted to them. The approach is based on five methodological steps which provide analytical methods and tools that support the implementation of EBM.

The primary objective of the regional node is to promote a more holistic approach to the conservation and use of marine resources and ecosystems. The regional node serves to provide guidance for English-speaking Caribbean countries via the building of capacities (through targeted trainings) and the monitoring and dissemination of results, especially in relation to managing protected areas through the EBM/DSS approach. Two pilot sites within the Dominican Republic have been utilized for testing the EBM/DSS approach. As the regional node, CERMES is currently developing a concept for further

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implementation of the EBM/DSS methodology. A multi-disciplinary CERMES EBM-DSS Team has been established and countries are being identified for the development of small-scale EBM-DSS pilot applications. Further information can be obtained from the [CERMES EBM/DSS webpage](#) and/or by contacting Julian Walcott (walcott.julian@gmail.com).



Improving disaster management in fisheries in the Caribbean

Extract from *Samudra News Alert*, 6 July 2018 and *Nation News*



Patrick McConney (left, foreground) discussing climate change vulnerability of fishing communities in Barbados during the workshop field trip. Source: www.nationnews.com

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) hosted a three-day workshop on *Implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management in Fisheries Management Planning*, 4-6 July at UN House in Barbados. The main aim of the workshop was to help fisheries industries in the Caribbean improve their adaptation to climate change and disaster risk resilience. Over 30 chief fisheries officers, other fisheries personnel as well as national project coordinators representing eight Caribbean countries attended. Also in attendance are fisheries experts from FAO, CERMES, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and the Barbados Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU). Workshop participants included seven CERMES alumni from five countries now affiliated with various prominent academic, non-governmental and governmental organizations.

The workshop was part of the larger FAO-implemented Climate Change Adaption of the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CC4FISH) Project developed in response to the serious challenges confronting the Caribbean fisheries sector as a result of climate change.

Dr Iris Monnereau, Regional Project Coordinator, CC4FISH Project, FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean, noted the training was important as the fisheries sector is suffering from the impacts of climate change which include coral bleaching, an increased frequency of high intensity storms and hurricanes, and sargassum influxes all of which have negative effects on marine ecosystems, food security, and livelihoods. She stated that, "...the hands-on and practical training will improve the institutional capacity of fisheries officers and others to implement measures aimed at improving the sustainability of the fisheries while incorporating the changes experiences and foreseen as a result of climate change in the region with benefits for all involved in the sector."

Through the EAF training, participants were introduced to a holistic approach to fisheries management that not only focuses on ecosystem conservation but also improvements in human wellbeing and governance of the fisheries sector. EAF identifies key sustainability issues from within and outside the sector, on the basis of wide consultation of stakeholders in order to empower them to actively participate in decision-making.

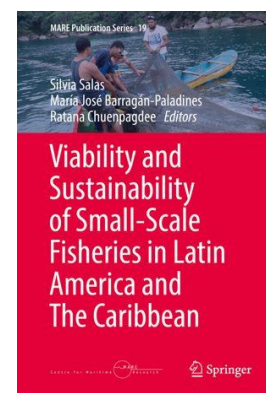
Publications announcements

By Hazel Oxenford

CERMES continues to make waves with important contributions to two significant global publications in fisheries.

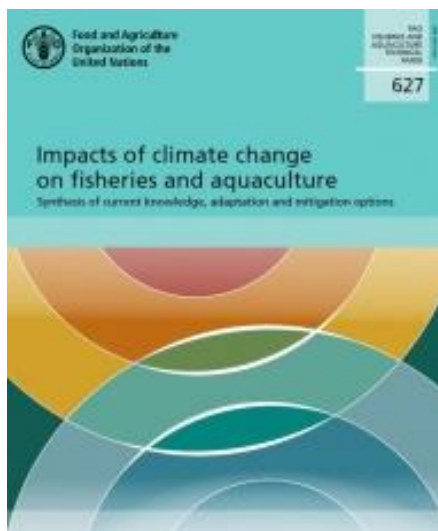
Three chapters in the recently released book [*Viability and Sustainability of Small-Scale Fisheries in Latin America and The Caribbean*](#) were co-authored by CERMES staff, alumni and associates.

1. [Socioeconomic Monitoring for Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries: Lessons from Brazil, Jamaica, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines](#) by Peter Edwards, Maria Pena, Rodrigo Pereira Medeiros and Patrick McConney



2. [Values Associated with Reef-Related Fishing in the Caribbean: A Comparative Study of St. Kitts and Nevis, Honduras and Barbados](#) by David A. Gill, Hazel A. Oxenford and Peter W. Schuhmann
3. [Supporting Enhancement of Stewardship in Small-Scale Fisheries: Perceptions of Governance Among Caribbean Coral Reef Fishers](#) by Rachel A. Turner, David A. Gill, Clare Fitzsimmons, Johanna Forster, Robin Mahon, Angelie Peterson and Selina Stead

CERMES staff member Hazel Oxenford and affiliate Iris Monnereau from the FAO co-authored the Western Central Atlantic chapter in FAO's [Impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture: Synthesis of current knowledge, adaptation and mitigation options](#), released in July 2018 and considered the most comprehensive publication on climate change and fisheries ever assembled. They provide a unique overview of the most current knowledge on how climate change is affecting this region and its commercially important fishery species, and how the livelihoods of fishers and fishing communities across the Wider Caribbean are being reshaped through impacts and adaptations.



If you haven't already, download them and check them out.

Student testimonial

Email extract from Joanne Felix, CERMES cohort 2015/16



We are always interested in keeping in touch with our CERMES alumni and are so thrilled to hear of their successes. We felt that the following email sent to Janice Cumberbatch, CERMES Lecturer, from one of our

students Joanne Felix, just had to be shared. Joanne's gratitude to her former CERMES lecturer is humbling and rewarding. Have a read.

Janice!

Guess what? That [Environmental Management System] EMS class wasn't so useless after all.

Jo here giving you a shout out for all the time you spent trying to teach us about EMS when us coastal folks were more interested in going to the beach and getting Patrick [McConney] to buy us free fish.

I got a job with the Jamaican government immediately after completing my thesis for CERMES and I've been working on reviving an ANCIENT policy on EMS that had never received approval from Cabinet. It took me almost two years but it has finally been tabled as a Green Paper:

<https://japarliament.gov.jm/attachments/article/1927/2018%20Green%20Paper%20%20-%20National%20Policy%20on%20Environmental%20Management%20Systems.pdf>

In the absence of your class and your creative teaching style I would never have had any interest in that draft policy. That's why I thought it fitting to share my excitement about this achievement with you. I can imagine it may often feel like you're not making any difference in the lives of the hundreds of students who come in and out of your classroom, so I want you to know that you've had a profound impact on me.

Thank you for your patience and perseverance in teaching us "younguns."

Sincerely,

Your former 2015/16 student

(Can you believe it's been so long?!), Jo

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Farewells and new directions

By Maria Pena

July 31 was when we said goodbye to two CERMES staff members and saw a change in our leadership.

Professor Leonard Nurse has embarked on his well-deserved retirement. Leonard, our resident coastal dynamics and climate change expert, joined CERMES in August 2004 as Senior Lecturer after a career in Government as former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Director of the Barbados Coastal Zone Management Unit. Leonard has served the region well through his Chairmanship of the Board of Governors of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs), headquartered in Belize, and as a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Task Force on climate change, established by regional Heads of Government in 2009. He has been a member of the scientific team of the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) since 1990, and has written and published widely on the impact of climate change on small island states. In 2007, this team was awarded the 2007 Nobel Prize for its contribution to global climate change research. An achievement for which CERMES was proud of one of its own.



Some of us (Neetha, Renata and I) had the joy of accompanying Leonard and the Climate Change and Water Resources Management MSc students on their annual field trip to Belize for a number of years. Memories of Leonard boarding flights with the smallest carry-on, boasting

of his skills gained from his Boy Scout days in compactly folding clothes yet going to mostly Neetha for pharmaceutical supplies; instructing the students on how to carry out beach profiling, sometimes knee-deep in the sea at Monkey River; charging through the forest and clearing bush and tree limbs (always a sight to be seen!) to collect carbon sequestration data in northern and southern Belize, and relaxing in the evenings after a hard day's field work talking about all manner of things, are those that will be cherished. And who could forget



karaoke with Leonard in Belize. Our favourite with 5Cs colleague, John Moody, was *Unforgettable* by Natalie Cole and Nat King-Cole! He is quite the crooner!

Here's wishing you a restful and enjoyable retirement, Leonard. We miss you.

Next on the departure list was Jehroum Wood, too young to retire but not old young to pursue other career options. Jehroum, a CERMES alumnus, joined us in August 2014 as Research Assistant. In his stint here, one of his main responsibilities was the development, implementation and maintenance of outreach and awareness activities and products to increase the visibility of CERMES locally, regionally and internationally. Jehroum's camera became more of an added appendage than an accessory. Visit our [YouTube Channel](#) to catch a glimpse of his work. He was also kept busy with many CERMES projects on water resources management and socio-economic monitoring. Since leaving CERMES, Jehroum has been unable to stay away since he still continues to connect with us here. We expect this to continue in the future as we cannot do without hearing his deep voice and characteristic knock.



Best wishes to you Jehroum in this next chapter of your life. We will be seeing you around.

Also in July we had a change in Directors! Dr. Adrian Cashman demitted office and Dr. Patrick McConney "took up the reigns." More on these two gentlemen in the October issue of the *Connections*.

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