

IN MEMORIAM: DR SHELLY-ANN COX (CHIEF FISHERIES OFFICER)



The staff and students of the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) of The University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill Campus, mourn the loss of the Chief Fisheries Officer, Dr Shelly-Ann Cox.

Most Barbadians, as well as many of her friends and colleagues around the world, knew Shelly-Ann as a Chief Fisheries Officer who loved her job with passion and deeply valued her role in strengthening the structures and mechanisms for resilient fisheries development and sustainable management of fisheries resources and related livelihoods.

To CERMES, however, Shelly-Ann was an excellent MPhil and PhD student who had unmistakable focus on the value of knowledge and scholarship for development. By dint of hard work and scholarly promise, Shelly-Ann was appointed a postdoctoral researcher at CERMES to give life to her deep-seated interest in tightly linking knowledge and scholarship to development practice through applied research and projects. Shelly-Ann distinguished herself in this role, imbuing her love for the sea, fisheries and fisherfolks with youthful energy. She developed strong relationships and communities among fisherfolks. Through these broader engagements, she understood the technological and scholarly constraints to sustainable fisheries management and never failed to seize an opportunity to discuss technological solutions to some of the problems. Prior to becoming the Chief Fisheries Officer, Shelly-Ann left her mark at CERMES as a promising young scholar with heart and hands trained on transforming fisheries development and management with science and technology anywhere in the world.

It was therefore not surprising that she answered the call to become the Chief Fisheries Officer. In her short tenure as Chief Fisheries Officer, her vision, initiatives, and drive have been clear to all. She brought energy, purpose, and compassion to all that she did. Her love for the sea, fisheries, and fisherfolk was evident in the strong relationships she cultivated throughout the sector. These close connections gave her a profound understanding of the challenges facing fisheries development and management and strengthened her determination to champion innovative, science-based, and technological solutions to address them. Her calm demeanour, cheerful disposition and professional depth endeared her to both her peers and superiors. She will dearly be missed. I will personally miss her genuinely charming smile which was her first response to a difficult question. The Fisheries Division has lost an iconic officer. CERMES has lost a distinguished alumna and a scholar-practitioner.

We extend our deepest condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues. May her beautiful soul rest in peace.

Professor David Yawson
Director, CERMES

