

CERMES *Connections*

23 December 2008

An electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the
Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus
Editors: Maria Pena, Dr. Patrick McConney



***"So this is Christmas,
and what have you
done?..."***

Dear All,

This is the final issue of the *CERMES Connections* for 2008, amazing but true. Where has the year gone to? We do hope that you have enjoyed staying *Connected* with the CERMES group and being kept updated on our comings and goings. On behalf of Patrick and I, and the entire CERMES staff, I would like to wish each and everyone of you a very Merry Christmas and the very best in 2009. Looking forward to keeping in touch with you next year!

Best always,

Maria

Recycling at Cave Hill

Come mid-January 2009, the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies, will be equipped to make a substantial contribution to recycling efforts in Barbados. On 28 October 2008, Ms Maria Pena and Professor Robin Mahon organised and facilitated a recycling meeting, *Towards Recycling at the University of the West Indies*, to introduce a campus-wide recycling initiative at Cave Hill promoted by CERMES. Maria Pena presented details of the initiative to those in attendance, including information on areas to be targeted (open-use areas and departments); recyclables of interest; those involved and to be involved (Campus recycling core group, recyclers and UWI recycling network); recycling bin designs, numbers required and placement; as well as collection and storage of recyclables. Feedback from participants was very encouraging with all gathered keen to

see implementation of the initiative. The Bursary has committed to obtaining the bins for public areas and departments will purchase their own.

UWI-Graduate Fair

CERMES again had a desk at the UWI Graduate Fair at Sherbourne Conference Centre, 6 November. This was coordinated by Neetha Selliah and manned by several CERMES staff.



The CERMES booth

CERMES goes to GCFI again

It was another good showing by the CERMES group at the 61st Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, 10-14 November, Gosier, Guadeloupe. CERMES research on conch, the white sea urchin, long-line fishery, socio-economic monitoring and marine resource governance were all showcased in poster and oral presentations by staff and students. See below for a list of topics presented:

- **Baldwin, K.** and S. Punnett. A preliminary investigation of the queen conch fishery in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. 61st Annual Meeting of the Gulf & Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Gosier, Guadeloupe, November 2008.
- **Pena, M.,** C. Parker, **H. A. Oxenford** and A. Johnson. Biology, fisheries and management of the white sea urchin, *Tripteneustes ventricosus*, in the Caribbean. 61st

Annual Meeting of the Gulf & Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Gosier, Guadeloupe, November 2008.

- **Pena, M., P. McConney,** A. Barrett, J. Cottle, C. Isacc, J. Leslie and A. St. Louis. Socio-economic Monitoring by Caribbean Fishery Authorities: Preparation, monitoring site selection and training workshops. Poster presentation and accompanying paper for 61st Annual Meeting of the Gulf & Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Gosier, Guadeloupe, November 2008. Poster presented by Dr. Patrick McConney.
- **Walcott, J., H.A. Oxenford** and P. Schuhmann. Current status of the longline fishery in Barbados. 61st Annual Meeting of the Gulf & Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Gosier, Guadeloupe, November 2008.

Also see the MarGov project section for other items from CERMES and some of our partners.

Natural Disaster Mitigation in the Caribbean: a seminar

A seminar held on 4-5 December marked the end of a joint project between the University of the West Indies, the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI), and the International Centre for Geohazards (ICG). Presentations highlighted disaster mitigation projects in Caribbean while the essential role of GIS was showcased through regional landslide modelling and regional tsunami modelling. The seminar participants were stakeholders from across the Caribbean who, during the event, expressed a desire for increased capacity building and cooperation at all levels. This event was coordinated by Jenna Blackwood. The research of Nadia Gour (CERMES MSc student) on *Bridgetown's Tsunami Vulnerability*, was presented by Renata Goodridge (CERMES Senior Marine Technician).



One of the presentations on disaster mitigation

Symposium on marine ecosystem based management for the Wider Caribbean

This symposium was held at UWI, Cave Hill Campus, 10-12 December, 2008. It was attended by about 70 persons from about 16 Caribbean countries and about another 10 from outside the region. The symposium opened with welcomes from UWI, Dalhousie University and the Government of Barbados, followed by keynote presentations on Principled Ocean Governance for the Caribbean and the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries.



Participants listening attentively to a presentation

Participants then listened to 21 presentations over a two-day period on a diversity of topics ranging from land based sources of pollution and issues in specific fisheries to legal and institutional arrangements needed for ecosystem based management (EBM). On the second and third days of the symposium, participants worked in groups to develop a shared vision for EBM in the Wider



Symposium working group discussing the vision for EBM in the Caribbean and how to achieve it

Caribbean. After reporting these to the plenary, they returned to their groups to work in a World Café setting to discuss the actions needed to achieve the vision.

Details and symposium materials are available at http://marineaffairsprogram.dal.ca/MAP_Projects/EBM_Symposium.php. Thanks to the CERMES team of Bertha Simmons, Katherine Blackman, Dale Benskin, Carmel Haynes, Jen Cavanagh, Don Logan, Tenile Grant, Shelly-Ann Cox and Kemraj Parsram who assisted in organising and note-taking for a successful regional symposium.

Junior Coral Reef Ambassador programme

And the winner is...

Danielle Gill, age 10, of the George Lamming Primary School emerged as the winner of the Junior Coral Reef Ambassador (JCRA) logo competition. A total of six entries were submitted in hopes that their logo would be incorporated into the JCRA training manual. On 14 November 2008, Danielle and runner-up, Tontré Gibson-Harris, of the same school, were presented with an award certificate and prize. Mrs. Pamela Small-Williams, Deputy Principal, accepted the book prize on behalf of the school for its participation in the logo competition. The collection of books focused primarily on marine life and habitats. You can check the Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management website to view the programme's manual and its logo.



L: Ms. Katherine Blackman (CERMES Research Assistant) presenting the prize of books to Ms. Small-Williams (Deputy Principal, George Lamming School). R: The winning logo for the JCRA manual

JCRA students learn about water quality monitoring

Fifteen students JCRA programme students from the Alexandra School participated in a water

quality monitoring exercise on 15 December 2008. Before the exercise, the students were briefed about mangroves and their importance in relation to coral reefs by Ms. Renata Goodridge, CERMES Senior Marine Technician.

The monitoring was conducted at the Holetown Lagoon, commonly known as the Holetown Hole in St. James, a site with remnants of a mangrove stand. Ms. Goodridge introduced the students to the various types of water quality equipment and allowed them to test for parameters such as turbidity, salinity and temperature within the water of the lagoon and the adjacent sea. The session concluded with a tour of the water quality laboratory at the Bellairs Research Institute.



JCRA students getting some hands-on water quality monitoring experience instructed by Renata Goodridge (centre)

Coral book launch

Prof. Hazel Oxenford and her two co-authors from the CZMU, Angie Brathwaite and Ramon Roach, launched their recently published book "Barbados: A coral paradise" at the closing ceremony for the International Year of the Reef 2008 (IYOR 2008)



L to R: Angelique Brathwaite, Hazel Oxenford and Ramon Roach authors of *Barbados: A Coral Paradise* autographing copies of the book

at the Errol Barrow Centre for Creative Imagination (EBCI) amidst story-telling, dance, poetry and film that recounted the year's activities. The book, published by Miller Publishing Co. Ltd, Barbados, is stunningly illustrated by local photographers and brimming with information on the history, science, management and art of corals in Barbados. A wonderful contribution to the IYOR and to future coral reef research in the island, since a significant portion of the profits will be placed in a designated research fund.



Barbados: A Coral Paradise – a worthy addition to any library!

Getting festive with recyclables

This year in order to raise awareness about recycling on the UWI Cave Hill Campus, Maria Pena entered CERMES for the first time in the Inter-Departmental decorating competition. This year special emphasis was given to the use of recyclables in decorations and decorating with CERMES providing t-shirt prizes to the department with the most creative recyclable decorations.



Santa's workshop CERMES-style

With only about a week and a half to get ourselves together some staff and few students busied themselves making gorgeous decorations for the Christmas tree out of used CDs, Christmas wreaths made of strips of plastic bags and old hangers, garlands of PET bottle bottoms, snowmen carved from styrofoam packing material and PET bottle Christmas trees. The idea behind the decorations was to show that one can make very cheap, yet beautiful decorations from the 'trash' around us. Unfortunately, we did not win the competition...but just wait for 2009!

Celebrating Christmas with the students

Due to the diversity of students we currently have in CERMES, Programme Coordinator, Ms. Neetha Selliah, had the brilliant idea of organising a student Christmas party of culinary flair. Students and staff were asked to prepare their specialty dishes for the occasion. Needless-to-say, the result was a culinary extravaganza! The banquet was a resounding success leaving its invited guests satiated and happy! This must be repeated next year.



Neetha Selliah (left) having a good chat with the students

Faculty and staff were exceedingly impressed by the effort and pondered the correlation between culinary and academic excellence as they enjoyed the fare. One of the hallmarks of a successful graduate programme may be such camaraderie among staff and students outside the classroom.

MarGov project update

by Patrick McConney

This section has been specially added to our e-bulletin to inform, update and share lessons learned with partners, stakeholders, policy makers and other interested persons about the IDRC-funded CERMES Marine Resource Governance in the eastern Caribbean (MarGov) project.

Symposium on Enhancing Resilience

Patrick McConney was invited to attend the Virginia Tech Symposium on Enhancing Resilience to Catastrophic Events through Communicative Planning, 16-18 November 2008, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA. There he made the following oral presentation that should be included in a later publication.

- McConney, P. "Crossing the Caribbean: networks, resilience and adaptive capacity in marine resource governance".

Science, Media and Society

Carmel Haynes (Communications Officer) and Kemraj Parsram (PhD candidate) attended the Regional Conference "Science, Media and Society: Towards more effective communication", 24 and 25 November 2008 at the Chaconia Hotel, Trinidad and Tobago. The two-day conference targeted scientists, journalists, policy makers and other science communicators from Latin America and the Caribbean.

The overarching goal was to support national and regional capacity-building in key areas of science communication, which lead to enhanced public engagement, greater networking among individuals and organizations, and increased media interest in, and coverage of, science and technology issues.

More specifically, the conference's aims were to:

- stimulate debate on science, media and society;
- explore practical ways to improve the communication of science and technology; and
- promote visibility of local science and technology

Policy Perspective on representation

A CERMES Policy Perspective on Member State representation at meetings of the CRFM Caribbean Fisheries Forum was strategically produced to coincide with the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Forum in Barbados on 8-9 December 2008.

The policy brief, available from the CERMES web site, used data from the participation records of the Forum to argue for more policy-based attention to be paid to effective representation and pointed out the relevance of network governance perspectives.

Another article in Marine Policy

Members and partners of the MarGov team continue to share perspectives in the primary literature. In the most recent issue of Marine Policy appears an article on emerging views related to the large marine ecosystem (LME) approach with which the Caribbean region is now engaging. The reference to the article is:

- Mahon, R., L. Fanning and P. McConney. 2009. A governance perspective on the large marine ecosystem approach. *Marine Policy* 33: 317–321.

MarGov at the EBM symposium

The MarGov project used the occasion of "Marine Ecosystem Based Management in the Caribbean: an essential component of Principled Ocean Governance" a regional symposium held at Solutions Centre, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, 10-12 December 2008 to show case its achievements and to network with participants. The entire MarGov team took part. Contributions included papers presented by team members and partners including the following:

- Mahon, R., L. Fanning and P. McConney. Principled ocean governance for the Wider Caribbean – Keynote presentation
- McConney, P. and S. Salas. "Social considerations for marine EBM"

MarGov at GCFI in Guadeloupe

The MarGov project and its international partners had a good showing with several presentations and posters at the 61st Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, 10-14 November in Gosier, Guadeloupe. A list below includes contributions from authors based at CERMES, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat, University of Manitoba and Dalhousie University.

Oral presentations

- Nayar R., I. Davidson-Hunt, P. McConney and B. Davy "Divers and Networks in the Sea Egg Fishery of Grenada"
- Parsram, K. "Social-ecological system interactions in small-scale fisheries: case studies of the large pelagic and shallow reef fisheries of Grenada and St. Lucia under construction"

Poster presentations

- Haynes, C. "A Communicative Planning Approach to Fisheries Management Planning"
- Tabet, L. and T. Phillips "A Caribbean Regional Network of National Fisherfolk Organizations"

Developing Networking And Communication Strategies For Effective Fisherfolk Participation In Sustainable Fisheries Development

Introduction
 Community fisheries is a means to allow fish effective participation in decision-making process. However, after a decade of further regional fisheries organizations (RFOs) in capacity development, the Caribbean still witnesses limited and isolated participation which have severely hampered CRFM efforts.

Findings on Information Management
 • Community-based information management systems are essential for sustainable fisheries management.
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Conclusions on the Viability of a Regional Network of National Fisheries Organizations
 • A regional network of national fisheries organizations is viable.
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Three-tier model for the regional fisheries network
 • The three-tier model for the regional fisheries network is viable.
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A Communicative Planning Approach to Fisheries Management Planning

Introduction
 Fisheries management is evolving globally into the management of ecosystems, including the human element, within the jurisdiction of the fisheries management authorities.

Case Study
 Since 2003, the process of arriving at the plan itself has been an open dialogue – drawing influence from a series of regional and international treaties and conventions; feedback from stakeholders at a series of national consultations held across the region; and amendments prompted by 18 meetings of the ad hoc working groups and the Caribbean Fisheries Forum since May 2003.

Conclusion
 The CP&R performs the communicative work of informing those who read it of the plans for the sustainable management of the regional fisheries sector and the projected outcomes when it eventually becomes signed into effect.

References
 • Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat. (2003). *Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat*.
 • Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat. (2003). *Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat*.

Happy holidays
from CERMES