



Connections

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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
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Reef watchers now on video

A Reef Watchers instructional video was developed to brief volunteers about the protocol of the Reef Watchers programme at Folkestone Marine Reserve. On 14 January 2009, the cast for the video travelled to Folkestone Beach to shoot the scenes of the dry-run session. The cast included the Team Scientist of Reef Watchers, Renata Goodridge (CERMES), who was the narrator/host of the video, 'Reef Watcher volunteer' actors: Jennifer Cavanagh, Shamal Connell, Kerri King and Don Logan. The video was directed and produced by Katherine Blackman (CERMES) along with Kerri Birch, a freelance producer. Additional assistance was provided by Marlon Woodroffe of the Learning Resource Centre (LRC), University of the West Indies. Special thanks to Hightide Watersports for providing the underwater footage. The eight-minute video was distributed to participants at the Reef Watchers II training workshop held on 24 January 2009.

International chemicals management

Renata Goodridge represented CERMES at the Environmental Protection Department (EPD)-sponsored workshop: *Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)*. The workshop held on 5 February 2009 at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre was attended by the private and public sectors as well as other government departments. During the day long workshop, attendees assessed the capacity of the island for SAICM implementation. The whole methodology (ground tested in several countries before going global) is aimed at developing an Integrated National Programme for the Sound

Management of Chemicals and Waste, with a focus on governance, stakeholder participation, and partnerships that support the national SAICM. Barbados is the regional coordinator for all English speaking islands, including the Bahamas.

Students take to the field

The month of February is, for CERMES students, the time to don old clothes and bathing suits, as it is time for ENVT 6120: Measurement and Analysis in Natural Resource Management. No matter what specialisation stream a student is in, they all come together for this course. It is always interesting to see the students break up into working groups and get out into "the field". It also always amazes staff to see how much the students enjoy being out in the natural environment, whether on land or sea, whether a swimmer or not. During the length of the course, students end up in the red mangroves and white mangroves in Graeme Hall Swamp, in the recovering seagrass beds in St. Lawrence lagoon, on the fringing reefs off Bellairs Research Institute in Holetown, and in Jack-in-the-Box gully in the middle of the island. Our track record is good – we never come back with fewer students than we go out with!



Counting mangrove seedlings in Graeme Hall Swamp

New CERMES tech reports

Three new CERMES technical reports have been uploaded to the CERMES website (<http://cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes>) for your reading pleasure. Brief summaries of their content are provided below.

- Fanning L., R. Mahon and P. McConney. 2009. Marine Ecosystem-Based Management in the Caribbean: an essential component of Principled Ocean Governance. Report of Caribbean Regional Symposium, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, December 10-12, 2008. CERMES Technical Report No. 17, 44 pp

The Regional Symposium on 'Marine Ecosystem-Based Management in the Caribbean: an essential component of Principled Ocean Governance' was held at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, December 10-12, 2008. Participants



from throughout the region and beyond and from a diversity of occupational backgrounds came together in a facilitated process to explore principles, a vision and strategic directions for Marine Ecosystem-Based Management in the Caribbean.

- McConney, P., L. Nurse and P. James. 2009. *Impacts of climate change on small-scale fisheries in the eastern Caribbean: Final report to IUCN*. CERMES Technical Report No. 18. 36pp.

CERMES at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Cave Hill Campus in Barbados has very active teaching, research and outreach programmes in the graduate degree specialisation streams of climate change and of coastal and marine management. Small-scale fisheries (SSF) in the Caribbean feature prominently in the latter, but little emphasis has been placed on the linkages



between commercial SSF and climate change either in CERMES or in the several projects concerning both topics that are underway in many parts of the Caribbean. As a consequence, CERMES seized the opportunity to partner with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to investigate aspects of this interaction in some islands of the eastern Caribbean.

- *Ebanks, A.E., M. Miller and R. Mahon. 2009. *Best Management Practices for Marine Protected Areas of the Wider Caribbean Region*. CERMES Technical Report No 17. Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies. University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. 40 pp.

This report is the product of a three month internship at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) Regional Co-ordinating Unit (CAR/RCU) in 2005. The Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) like other regions in the world has begun to establish Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in an effort to protect and more sustainably use marine resources. The main focus of the internship was the compilation of this report on 'Best Management Practices' (BMPs) for MPAs of the WCR. This is important as most of the MPAs in the region are inadequately managed and therefore not benefiting the environment and its users as they should.



*This student internship research was recently converted into a technical report due to great demand for its high quality information.

EBM Symposium summary and report documents available

Documents from the Caribbean Regional Symposium 'Marine Ecosystem-Based Management in the Caribbean: an essential component of Principled Ocean Governance' held at UWI, Cave Hill last December are now available on the EBM Symposium website

http://marineaffairsprogram.dal.ca/MAP_Projects/EBM_Symposium.php . These include a four-page Summary and Messages leaflet and the full report of the symposium.

Training announcement

Wageningen International, a Netherlands based institute focusing on capacity development and institutional change, is offering two short courses

on fisheries management: ***Towards participatory fisheries governance*** (25 May to 12 June) and ***Fisheries data collection and analysis*** (2 to 20 November). Course brochures and application forms can be down-loaded from: www.cdic.wur.nl.

A limited number of fellowships for these courses is available for citizens from eligible countries. See www.nuffic.nl for the list of eligible countries.



MarGov project update

by Carmel Haynes and 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.

Strengthening fishers' capacity to influence policy

As part of its continued research into avenues for policy influencing the good governance of small scale fisheries in the eastern Caribbean, the MarGov project partnered with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Caribbean Natural Resource Institute (CANARI) to organize a workshop on *Regional Fisherfolk Organisation Policy Influence and Planning* that took place in St Vincent and the Grenadines from 13-15 January.



Dr. Patrick McConney addressing participants at the SVG workshop

MarGov Project Manager, Dr. Patrick McConney and Communications Officer Carmel Haynes were also co-facilitators in the workshop along with executive director of CANARI, Sarah McIntosh. A major outcome of this workshop was a Policy Statement drafted by the workshop participants and submitted to the CARICOM Ministers of Agriculture, who had gathered in St Vincent for the First Ministerial Council Meeting of the CRFM on 16 January. The Policy Statement called on the Ministerial Council to recognize and support the activities of the regional fisherfolk organization. This recognition was granted by the Council and it was agreed that more formal channels would be established for the fisherfolk to make interventions into decisions taken at future CRFM Fisheries Forum and Ministerial Council meetings.

MarGov stars on SVG TV

The MarGov Project and CERMES received significant exposure on Vincentian television in January when Dr. Patrick McConney was the feature guest on Science, Technology and You – an hour-long science popularisation programme, which airs on the channel SVG TV every Saturday at noon and is repeated on Tuesdays at 6 pm.

Dr. McConney was interviewed by the host of the show, Science and Technology Coordinator for the Vincentian government Phillip Jackson, on the significance of the project for the eastern Caribbean and the role that CERMES plays in

building a cadre of Caribbean professionals equipped to promote and advance the sustainable development of this region's natural resources. More information about the episode entitled "*Marine Resources: Fisheries*" can be found at <http://www.gov.vc/Govt/Government/Executive/Ministries/Telecommunications/Science&Technology/Issues.asp?a=5998&z=580>. A video clip of the interview will be uploaded to the MarGov website in due course.



Dr. Patrick McConney being interviewed by the host of Science, Technology and You, Phillip Jackson

Data mining in Grenada

MarGov PhD researcher Kemraj Parsram spent most of January 2009 in Grenada mining secondary data and grey literature to provide a thorough background description of his research sites (Grenville and Gouyave) and their fisheries.



Kemraj in Gouyave interviewing fishermen who are part of a social group who call themselves the 'Barbados group'

He used the time to talk to fishers, vendors, processors, the Fisheries Division, and other fisheries stakeholders about key issues of concerns

to them. These issues will be prioritised to begin to identify potential networks of interest for further analysis. This network analysis is the core of his research. Further information on Kemraj's research can be gathered by visiting the CERMES website under the MarGov Project or by emailing Kemraj at kemraj.parsram@cavehill.uwi.edu.

MPhils share research proposals

MarGov MPhil student Shelly-Ann Cox presented her research proposal on the topic, "*Conditions for establishing and sustaining the adaptive co-management of the sea urchin fisheries in Barbados and St. Lucia*" on 22 January. In this, her first MPhil seminar, Shelly-Ann outlined the project context and research questions. She provided some background information about sea urchin fisheries in the selected countries and summarised the methods that will be used in the project.



Shelly-Ann offering insight into her research on the sea urchin

In November, fellow MarGov MPhil student Tenile Grant also presented her research proposal as her first seminar in fulfillment of her MPhil requirements. Tenile's presentation on 4 November 2008 was entitled, "*The role of adaptive capacity and self-organization in enabling marine resource governance at the national level*". She used the opportunity to outline her proposed research which will focus on identifying the interventions and governance structures that are effective for enhancing adaptive capacity and enabling self-organization that contributes to resilience in Barbados. Both presentations were delivered at CERMES and engendered lively and thought-provoking discussions amongst the largely

academic audiences that attended.

Close work with Barbados FAC continues

MarGov MPhil student Tenile Grant continues to work very closely with the Barbados Fisheries Advisory Council (FAC) as part of her research into governance of marine resources in the eastern Caribbean. Along with attending the monthly FAC meetings, she also participated in a meeting on 11 February with fish processors where decisions were taken on the definition of fish "loins" and "fillets" versus "sides", which have been under debate as it relates to fish imports by primary processors. Tenile has also been assisting the FAC in completing its report on the FAC-MarGov small grants project. She is currently finalising her methodology for her research into the FAC and her other two case studies – the Arbitration team and The Fisheries Management Suite and the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime.

New report launched

The project has launched its "*Report of the Fishers Forum: Climate change and small-scale fisheries in the Caribbean*" at the 61st Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), Gosier, Guadeloupe 10-14 November 2008.

The 2008 GCFI Fishers Forum sought to tackle the topic of climate change in response to a demand for more information on this topic. The Board and Program Committee of the GCFI made it possible to hold the Forum as a session in the main programme with simultaneous translation (English, French, Spanish), elevating it from being a side session as it was in 2007. Major sponsorship was received from International Union for the Conservation of Nature for the research that went into answering the questions, while travel and research supervision was provided by MarGov project manager Patrick McConney with the aid of a grant from the International Development Research Centre, Canada. MarGov private sector sponsors the Sol Group, Barbados, and Island Heritage Insurers, Cayman Islands, contributed to the communication aspects of the Forum. For those interested in reading the report, please visit

http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/margov_documents.html.

Washington DC in winter was the place to discuss coral reefs



The NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) international working group is focusing on supporting existing regional efforts in three primary

regions: the Caribbean, Pacific (with a focus on Micronesia and Samoa) and the Coral Triangle. The overarching goal of the NOAA International Coral Reef Conservation Strategy is to support regional initiatives that intersect with the three management priorities of the CRCP: addressing climate change, impacts from fishing, and land-based sources of pollution. The International Strategy's Mission Statement is to "Increase the capacity of developing countries to manage their coral reef resources, and improve NOAA's management and science through international collaborations".

In 2007 the CRCP underwent an external review to assess the Program's effectiveness and provide recommendations for future improvement. Among its recommendations, the review panel proposed that the CRCP: increase participation in international coral reef conservation efforts; build and strengthen international partnerships; and strengthen NOAA international leadership.

Patrick McConney recently attended a 1-day CRCP workshop to help the Program develop strategic goals and objectives to more effectively support international coral reef conservation. He also attended the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting in Washington, DC. The draft CRCP international coral strategy will be available for public comment by March 27. The final strategy will be completed by May 29, 2009.

While in Washington, McConney also made a short presentation to staff of the Organisation of American States (OAS) Dept of Sustainable Development on the work of CERMES and its outcomes. OAS and CERMES are currently negotiating a cooperation agreement.