



Connections

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An electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the
Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
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FORCE to reckon with

Submitted by Robin Mahon

In January CERMES announced one of its most recent collaborations, the project - *Future of Reefs in a Changing Environment (FORCE): An ecosystem approach to managing Caribbean coral reefs in the face of climate change*. The project which is being led by Exeter University, UK, will run for four years and has 17 partners from throughout the Wider Caribbean and the European Union.



The FORCE project will work towards improving reef management in the Wider Caribbean by addressing the four key objectives:

- Understanding the ultimate and proximate causes of change in Caribbean reef environments.
- Assembling a region-wide management toolbox collating existing tools and offering enhanced tools that have been developed through the research activities of the FORCE project.
- Consideration of the efficacy of management tools and the governance constraints to successful implementation.
- Dissemination of its recommendations and tools to stakeholders, practitioners, and

policy-makers. Research will determine the preferred media for science communication and target key individuals and organisations for dissemination.

The total budget for the project is about €8.6 million. The University of the West Indies (UWI) component is €0.9 million which will cover a Research Assistant, Post Doctoral Fellowships, PhD students and research costs. Stay connected for more FORCE developments in subsequent *Connections*.



Coral reef ambassadors take to the gullies

Submitted by Katherine Blackman

In order to gain a better understanding of the impact of gullies on the marine environment, the Junior Coral Reef Ambassadors (JCRAs) of the Alexandra School joined the CERMES class on the morning of 15 February 2010 in conducting a multi-disciplinary field survey of part of the Jack-in-the-Box gully near Jackson, St. Thomas. The survey used for the activity was adopted from the Barbados Gully Ecosystem Management Study (2004) which has helped to identify conservation issues and strategies to protect the island's terrestrial biodiversity. While conducting the survey, the JCRAs were exposed to the

characteristics of gullies allowing them to observe the biodiversity and distressing sites such as illegal dumping and the type of materials illegally disposed there.



JCRAs on tour in Jack-in-the-box gully

Grenadines MarSIS featured at the Grenada Sustainable Development Council

Submitted by Kim Baldwin

PhD candidate Kim Baldwin travelled to Grenada to present the findings of the Grenadines MarSIS research at the re-launch of the Grenada Sustainable Development Council (SDC) on Friday, 19 February. The Grenadines MarSIS was the feature presentation of the SDC meeting and was highlighted as a practical tool to assist decision-making, planning and management of marine resources in the country.

More than 60 persons were in attendance, including three Ministers of Government, the Permanent Secretary of Environment, the UN ambassador for Grenada, several Parliamentary representatives as well as many other key members of government, NGOs, civil society and academic representatives of Grenada. The event was also covered via Grenada radio, TV and newspaper media in which UWI was accredited for their financial and in-kind assistance in this research initiative.

This presentation was very well received by the SDC and discussions have begun with the government on the implementation, maintenance and expansion of MarSIS within the country.

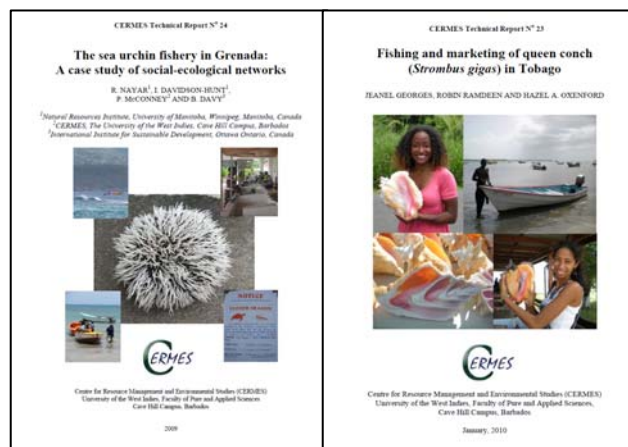


Kim Baldwin presenting an overview of the MarSIS project to key members of the Grenada government and NGOs

Check out the latest CERMES technical reports

Two more CERMES technical reports have been added to the steadily growing collection. If you are interested in conch and/or sea eggs, then these are a must-read for you! Visit the CERMES website to download copies for your library.

- Nayar, R., I. Davidson-Hunt, P. McConney and B. Davy. 2009. *The sea urchin fishery in Grenada: A case study of social-ecological networks*. CERMES Technical Report No. 24. 22 pp.
- Georges, J., R. Ramdeen and H.A. Oxenford. 2010. *Fishing and marketing of queen conch (Strombus gigas) in Tobago*. CERMES Technical Report No. 23, 55 pp.



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.

The LAMP is lit



The MarGov Project is now participating in a new CERMES initiative – the Local Area Management Project (LAMP), which is being funded through a sub-award by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The LAMP, which runs from January to September 2010, is being undertaken to advance the TNC Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Threat Abatement in the Eastern Caribbean Project. The LAMP team consists of Dr. Patrick McConney and Carmel Haynes of MarGov and CERMES Project Officer Maria Pena.

The LAMP study sites are Dominica and Grenada. From field research, workshops and communication will take place in these two countries using participatory approaches. Lessons learned from the history of the Local Area Management Authority (LAMA) in Dominica, the potential for improvement in Dominica, and the application of lessons to Grenada will be examined with the intention to help advance the governance of coastal and marine resources.

Project activities will include SWOT analyses of existing LAMAs; identifying strategies for

addressing sustainable fisheries by improving existing LAMAs and establishing others; strategies for establishing LAMAs or other management mechanisms to allow community management of resources to reduce fishing pressure in and around MPAs; identification of effective ways to influence decision-making in natural resource management, with particular emphasis on local (community) and national (policy/legislative) levels; and the development of communications products and training pathways for influencing policy makers and other key change agents on effective regional fisheries governance.

Small grant driving Grenadine fisher initiatives



Martin Bariteau (Left) leading a discussion at one of the fisherfolk meetings, Union Island

The Sustainable Grenadines (SusGren) Project is reporting strong interest from the fisherfolk of the Grenadines in its MarGov Small Grant-funded initiative that is aimed at assisting Grenadines' fisherfolk in the establishment of governance arrangements for strengthening collaborations. Following preliminary meetings last November with fisherfolk throughout that island chain, SusGren Project Manager Martin Bariteau is already noting

some successes with some of the islands' fishers taking steps to form primary fisherfolk organizations and fisherfolk co-operatives for the first time. Mr. Barriteau further reported that the SusGren project would be holding a workshop at the end of March to explore with fisherfolk the formation of a Grenadine-wide organisation of fisherfolk associations.

CNFO-CU gets MarGov small grant

The Coordinating Unit of the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO-CU) was the second organisation to be awarded a MarGov Small Grant in 2009. The grant, which was awarded in December, will assist the CNFO-CU to develop its adaptive capacity, focusing specifically on the areas of deepening fishers' understanding of the Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries, developing monitoring and evaluation systems for CNFO-CU activities, and collecting and reporting lessons learned for the benefit of fisherfolk organizations across the islands participating in the CNFO.

Antiguan fisherman Mitchell Lay, who is the CNFO-CU Coordinator, reported this February that a work plan has been developed and circulated to the members of the CNFO-CU who constitute the project team. Identification of project lessons for sharing and accumulation of EAF information has commenced while the communication plan is in the development stage. Carmel Haynes and Dr Patrick McConney of the MarGov team will continue to provide support to the CNFO-CU in their execution of the project.

From MPhil to PhD

MarGov researcher Shelly-Ann Cox has been upgraded from MPhil to PhD following her presentation at her upgrade seminar on 19 January to a five-member committee. Her research will focus on the possibilities of initiating an evaluative mechanism adapted to the Eastern Caribbean situation, which will provide an innovative management strategy for the influencing of decision-making.

The originality of Shelly-Ann's research lies in the field methods for operationalising the evaluative

framework through an integrated package; and the application of the framework to assist in predicting the success of adaptive co-management in the sea urchin fisheries of Barbados and St. Lucia. In addition, it is hoped that this research will provide remedies through governance interventions that will lead to success.



Shelly-Ann Cox, most recent CERMES PhD candidate

MarGov participation in UWI Research Expo

The MarGov team shared knowledge with the wider campus community; visitors from Barbados's secondary schools and the general public when it joined the rest of CERMES in participating in the 2010 UWI Campus Research Day.

The two-day event featured short presentations by MarGov Principal Investigator Dr. Patrick McConney on "Fisheries Networks"; MarGov Researcher Shelly-Ann Cox on "Sea Urchin Co-management in Barbados and St. Lucia"; and MarGov Communications Officer Carmel Haynes on "Communication and Fisherfolk Participation in Marine Governance".



Carmel Haynes during her presentation for Research Day