



# 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  
Editors: Maria Pena, Dr. Patrick McConney

## ***FORCE kick-off***

*Submitted by Robin Mahon*

CERMES hosted the Kick-off meeting of the Future of Reefs in A Changing Environment (FORCE) Project at the Solutions Centre, the University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill Campus from 1-3 March. It was attended by over 40 participants from Europe and the Caribbean. Katherine Blackman (CERMES) was coordinator of the meeting.

The FORCE Project began in January 2010 and will run for four years. There are 17 partners from throughout the Wider Caribbean and the European Union. The total budget for the project is about €8.6 million. It is led by Exeter University, UK. The UWI component is €0.9 million. This will cover a Research Assistant, Post Doctoral Fellowships, PhD students and research costs.



The FORCE group at work dealing with socioeconomics and governance

CERMES is the second largest partner in the project after the University of Exeter and will be carrying out work in several areas: climate change modeling for the Caribbean, reef fisheries

assessment, livelihoods analyses of reef resource users, economic valuation of reef fish use by fishers and tourism, and governance networks for reef fisheries from local to regional levels.

## ***Shell Scholarship for Environmental Studies***

*Submitted by Robin Mahon*



We are very pleased to announce that the MOU between Shell Western Supply and Trading and The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus has been amended to include a second Scholarship in Environmental Studies. This Scholarship provides a stipend of BDS\$20,000 a year for a CERMES MPhil or PhD student for up to three years, as well as tuition costs and some research support.

## ***Caribbean MPA folks share and learn***

*Submitted by Maria Pena*

As part of the Coastal and Marine Management and Education in the Southeastern Caribbean (CaMMESEC) project, The Buccoo Reef Trust, Tobago, hosted a symposium for southeastern and eastern Caribbean MPA practitioners from 1-5 March. The objectives were to address the difficulties and needs associated with overall management of MPAs; to explore collaborative opportunities to facilitate the work of regional MPAs; and raise the profile of the Southeastern/Eastern Caribbean. The symposium which attracted nearly 50 participants was highly informative with sessions focusing on the

evaluation of MPA management effectiveness; communications; socio-economic monitoring; GIS and networking. Maria Pena (CERMES) was invited to facilitate the MPA management effectiveness evaluation and socio-economic monitoring sessions.



The symposium group on a field trip to Pigeon Point

## ***US embassy supports MarSIS workshops***

*Submitted by Kim Baldwin*



The Grenadines Marine Resource and Space-use Information System (MarSIS) that is part of Kim Baldwin's (CERMES PhD candidate) research has been on-going since 2005. The use of participatory research as the primary methodological approach in which participants offered data to create a Geographical Information System (GIS) as a technical tool, was used to

integrate social, economic and conventional biophysical information together with the local knowledge of marine resource users in a single framework to aid effective coastal resource management and sustainable livelihoods in the Grenadine Islands. The overall aim was to develop a useful public-access information system to facilitate stakeholders with equitable access to a range of integrated marine resource information.

From September 2009, CERMES Fulbright scholar, Meg Stewart, assisted in the conversion of the Grenadines MarSIS from ArcGIS into Google Earth for wider public access. For a week in November 2009, a series of three one-day workshops were held with various stakeholders in the islands of St. Vincent, Union and Grenada. These workshops provided stakeholders with a hands-on opportunity

to use the Grenadines MarSIS via a Google Earth interface. Basic training in the use of Google Earth was provided during these workshops enabling stakeholders to fully participate in the practical application of using the MarSIS as a planning, management and decision-making tool. These workshops were well received and stakeholders requested additional training in Google Earth for teachers in order to allow for wider dissemination and use of the Grenadines MarSIS information in school curricula.

As such, the Public Affairs Section of U.S. Embassy to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Bridgetown, announced that it would provide funding for a proposal to conduct a series of MarSIS/Google Earth training workshops for primary and secondary school teachers across the Grenadine Islands of St. Vincent and Grenada from 7-11 June, 2010. The Embassy quickly recognised the value of the data Kim collected and its multiple applications in education, marine resources, economic development, etc. and opted to support the workshops to assist in disseminating this work further consistent with the Mission's objectives in these areas. Please visit the MarSIS website at [www.grenadinesmarsis.com](http://www.grenadinesmarsis.com) to view the database in Google Earth (which includes underwater pictures and videos from the marine mapping surveys), as well as for further information on the research.

## ***SocMon webpage and regional meeting***

*Submitted by Maria Pena*

At the end of March the Global Socio-economic Monitoring (SocMon) Initiative launched its new and revived SocMon website and database. Have a visit at [www.socmon.org](http://www.socmon.org) and learn more about socio-economic monitoring in six regions of the world.

From 12-16 April, the NOAA Global Socio-economic Monitoring Coordinator, Dr. Christy Loper, met with regional wider Caribbean SocMon coordinators, Dr. Patrick McConney and Ms. Maria Pena (English-speaking Caribbean) and Mr. Arie Sanders (Central America) at CERMES, the UWI, Barbados, for a strategic planning meeting

on the way forward for SocMon in the region. Meeting objectives included, but were not limited to, discussion of the SocMon Caribbean/Central America status and accomplishments to date; outlining the vision of SocMon Caribbean/Central America for the next 3-5 years; development of a strategic plan for SocMon Caribbean/Central America; discussion of networking and mutual support systems among the regions, between regions and NOAA/donor agencies and among the "alumni"; sharing of successful training options that have worked in other regions; and the drafting of successful monitoring case studies from SocMon Caribbean/Central America.



The new and improved SocMon website



Strategising about SocMon in Barbados. Clockwise: Maria Pena, Patrick McConney, Arie Sanders and Christy Loper

## Loss of 'Caribbean' scientist

Submitted by Robin Mahon

We have lost a good friend and valued colleague. Allan Hugh 'Kaf' Smith passed away in London on 24 March aged 62. He is perhaps best known as the Caribbean's foremost expert on marine algae, but was also well known for his involvement in many activities towards conservation, monitoring and sustainable use of natural resources throughout his career. Apart from being able to identify just about anything green that you could find in the sea, he put his knowledge of marine algae to practical use developing techniques for seamoss farming in St Lucia and was instrumental in getting many farms started throughout the eastern Caribbean. Later in his career, he took up resource mapping and pioneered the use of kites and other technology for obtaining aerial photographs of reefs and mangroves.



Kaf in the foreground busily engaged in some mapping

Originally from Zimbabwe, Kaf was awarded an MSc from the Institute of Oceanography, McGill University in 1979, for his thesis entitled 'Mariculture and polysaccharide chemistry of the red alga *Gracilaria tikvahiae*.' For nearly 20 years (1985-2004) he was a research scientist with the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), based in St Lucia. After CANARI moved to Trinidad, he stayed in St. Lucia as a Research Associate with CANARI and started his own consulting business Resource Management Technologies Ltd., focusing on the assessment and mapping of coral reef and mangrove systems, and



provision of training in participatory mapping and PGIS.

Kaf was always happiest in the field, whether researching, mapping, working with community groups or teaching (or all four at once). Yet he was equally at home in front of the computer screen generating maps from Mapmaker and writing manuals. He was a humble man, but

contributed immeasurably to the development of environmental consciousness in the Caribbean, especially among local fishers and community groups. His technical skill, extensive knowledge of the Caribbean marine environment and patience with those who wanted to learn will be missed by many.



## MarGov project update

by Carmel Haynes and Patrick McConney

### ***LAMP meetings and workshops***

Members of the MarGov team undertook the first of two trips for the TNC/USAID-funded Local Area Management Project (LAMP) in February and March. In February, MarGov Principal Investigator and Project Manager, Dr. Patrick McConney, and CERMES Project Officer, Maria Pena, travelled to Grenada where they were able to assess the interest of stakeholders in the LAMP and the level of support available. Chief Fisheries Officer, Justin Rennie and his staff expressed strong interest in the LAMP as it related to the stage they were at in establishing marine protected areas for Grenada. At the invitation of MPA Coordinator Roland Baldeo, Dr. McConney delivered a presentation on 10 tips for MPA co-management and an overview of LAMP to the coordinating committee.

In March, Patrick, Maria and MarGov Communications Officer, Carmel Haynes, travelled to Dominica to hold the first inception workshop for that LAMP study site. The workshop, which was held in the heart of the study site – the Soufriere/Scott's Head Marine Reserve – attracted fisheries officers, fishermen, divers, members of the Local Area Management Authority (LAMA), tourism officials and members of the neighbouring

communities. The workshop also benefitted from the input of Richard Huber, Chief of the Biodiversity and Lands Section in the Department of Sustainable Development at the Organization of American States in Washington. Mr. Huber was also on island to meet with the same stakeholders and was able to outline for participants how LAMP complimented the OAS/IABIN ReefFix Project. The LAMP researchers also benefitted from access to the case files of the Dominica Fisheries Division and a number of interviews with key stakeholders who were able to trace the history of the LAMA, its pitfalls and its successes. Research on the project is ongoing.



Participants in the LAMP and ReefFix workshops

## ***Society for Applied Anthropology met in Merida***

Reflecting the strong social science content of the MarGov project, Patrick McConney once again journeyed to the Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) of which he is a member. This 70th meeting was held in the historic "white city" of Merida, Mexico from 24-28 March 2010. He chaired a session on 'Political Ecology, Resource Management, Health Hazards, and Power' during which he made a presentation on behalf of the entire MarGov team on 'Globalization and Marine Resource Governance in the Caribbean' in keeping with the conference theme. This drew upon some aspects of MarGov research that previously had not been shared. The audience appreciated the insight.

While there McConney networked with several other network researchers and attended their presentations which looked at diverse fisheries governance arrangements ranging from the Yucatan coast of Mexico to the New England states of the USA. Social network analysis remains a popular methodological tool in several disciplines albeit for different purposes. This was reinforced during an open discussion on "Anthropological perspectives on social-ecological resilience" where there were as many contributions from health science and other fields as from natural and social science.

## ***Organising fisherfolk in the Grenadines***

Sustainable Grenadines Inc. (SusGren) is continuing to implement activities funded under their MarGov small grant. SusGren held a *One Day Workshop on Strengthening Fisherfolk Collaboration in the Grenadines* at the Ashton Resource Centre in Union Island on 10 April 2010. Participating were Grenadines fishermen from Bequia, Union Island and Carriacou. Also there were fisheries officers and fisherfolk leaders from both Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat and CERMES were

represented. Three Canadian interns provided valuable assistance.

Participants shared information on the small grant project, the CRFM, the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) and the national fisherfolk organizations of the mainland countries. The workshop reviewed the progress made to date, especially by shortlisting and prioritizing for attention sets of issues that had been identified by Grenadines fishers in a series of consultations held previously.

Criteria for liking and disliking organizations were applied to network structure options presented by Patrick McConney of MarGov. Out of a choice among three network types: (1) highly insular (2) three clusters and (3) one large group, the participants selected the linked cluster arrangement (called "three part harmony") as their preference. A work plan to achieve this arrangement was also outlined. SusGren will soon be sharing the workshop report.



A small group discussing network structure options

## ***MPA Comanagement in Carriacou***

A *One Day Workshop on Finalizing the Co-management Agreement for Sandy Island/Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area (SIOBMPA)* was held in Carriacou on 11 April 2010. Patrick McConney was there as a resource person through the TNC/USAID funded Local Area Management project (LAMP) to which MarGov is affiliated. In this case, "local" in a governance context refers



mostly to the island of Carriacou in relation to mainland Grenada. The draft co-management agreement is between a multi-stakeholder board and the national MPA committee established by Cabinet that is viewed as a mainland institution. The Ministry of Carriacou and Petit Martinique Affairs, although a component of central government, is perceived as a more local agency and at the right level for exercising power and decision-making in the local interest (principle of subsidiarity). The workshop edited a draft co-management agreement for the SIOBMPA. This will be reviewed shortly by a wider range of Carriacou stakeholders and by the national MPA committee. The interested parties are aiming for an official launch of the MPA at the end of July.



Martin Barriteau of SusGren outlining the process and progress of the comanagement agreement

## Putting people at the centre



MarGov Principal Investigator and Project Manager, Dr. Patrick McConney, attended the Eight Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) in Belize from 22-23 April, 2010.

While there, Dr. McConney delivered a CERMES Policy Perspective that advocated moving towards a more "people-centred" approach in managing small-scale fisheries. The Policy Perspective was based largely on a chapter co-authored by Dr. McConney on "Managing small-scale fisheries: Moving toward people-centred perspectives" published this year in the text: "Handbook of Marine Fisheries Conservation and Management". In the policy brief, Dr. McConney noted that a fundamental perspective that needed to be changed was the view that small-scale fisheries were easily predictable and controllable. Instead, he advocated for more "resilience-thinking" to be brought to bear on fisheries management so that concepts such as vulnerability, adaptation and self-organisation were top of mind when dealing with the issues. However, he acknowledged that changing the conventional mind-set of fisheries management authorities would be a mind-set and urged fisheries managers to support the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem and MarGov projects as two measures for testing this new approach.

## Kemraj out in the field

MarGov PhD Researcher, Kemraj Parsram, will be immersing himself in his fieldwork for the next for six to eight months. Kemraj will leave Barbados for Grenada on 17 May, 2010 where he will be conducting substantive data collection to fulfill the major part of his research, which is focused on identifying characteristics of networks that concern the governance of small-scale fisheries in order to test what enhances their resilience. He will be living among, observing, and interviewing fishers and other stakeholders in Grenville, a major fishing town on the east coast of Grenada. While there, Kemraj will learn from the fishers about their ability to adapt and respond to changes that may have an impact on their livelihoods and the sustainability of the fisheries with which they are involved. He will be adapting and applying various aspects of a resilience assessment, coupled with social network analysis to achieve his research objectives.