



# Connections

31 August 2010

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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## ***New academic year, new students***

A special welcome to our new CERMES students! This year we have 27 students in the Programme coming to us from the Caribbean and further a field – Barbados, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, Belize, the USA and Nigeria. Their orientation began on 30 August and continued with a land tour on 31 August. Teaching is set to begin on 1 September. Follow their progress with us in subsequent *Connections* issues.

## ***Expert Consultation on Operationalisation of the Caribbean Sea Commission***

*Submitted by Robin Mahon*

The Expert Consultation on *Operationalisation of the Caribbean Sea Commission - Building a science-policy interface for ocean governance in the Wider Caribbean*, was held at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados, 7-9 July, 2010. It was organised by CERMES on behalf of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) - Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC) and was funded by the Government of Finland.

The ACS and partners have been pursuing the Caribbean Sea Initiative since 1998 through the UN General Assembly Resolution (63-214) 'Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations'. In the process, the CSC was established in 2008 to promote and oversee the sustainable use of the Caribbean Sea. The Expert Consultation was held

to carry forward the process of establishing the CSC and its functions.

The 54 participants attending the Consultation were from a wide range of countries and organisations. Overall, 30 regional organisations or organisations operating in the region were represented. These included: six Intergovernmental organisations, five United Nations Organisations, eight NGOs, five regional projects and six universities. Experts from the Black Sea and Baltic Sea Commissions as well as extra-regional institutions also provided inputs.

The purpose of the Expert Consultation was to:

- Share information on the plans for and status of 'Operationalisation of the Caribbean Sea Commission' with critical partners;
- Obtain their feedback on the feasibility of the proposals and ideas for improvement of the plan;
- Build consensus on how the partners can work together to achieve the overall goal of ocean governance in the Wider Caribbean Region.



One of the Working Groups discussing the Consultation topics

The Consultation was organised to address three topics that are key for the CSC:

1. Regional ocean governance architecture and the role of the CSC
2. The science-policy interface of the CSC
3. The information system to support the interface.

Participants conclusions included:

- The Caribbean Sea is a common shared resource and the function of the CSC should be to oversee and promote the sustainable use of the Caribbean Sea as a whole.
- Considerable expertise and information is available but is seldom used by decision makers. The likely reason for this is that many sources are unconnected to science-policy interfaces.
- There is the need for a regional science-policy interface.
- The CSC should focus on the connection between science, policy making and policy coherence at the regional level.
- The proposed structure was workable with modifications.
- Committed to working together to build this interface.

In general, it was agreed that the proposed structure and operation of the CSC could provide considerable added-value to the current ocean governance arrangements in the Wider Caribbean Region. The meeting concluded with comments from a panel and a general discussion.

Presentations and other meeting documents are available at [www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes](http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes)



The final panel (L-R): Moderator, Prof Robin Mahon, CERMES; Ambassador Luis Fernando Andrade Fall, Secretary General of the ACS, Trinidad and Tobago; Mr. Franklin MacDonald, Institute for Sustainable Development, University of the West Indies, Jamaica; Dr. Bob Glazer, Executive Director Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Inc., Florida; and Mr. Christopher Corbin, UNEP, RCU, Caribbean Environment Programme, Jamaica. (Dr Ana Maria Suarez, Centro de Investigaciones Marinas, Universidad de la Habana, Cuba is missing from the photo)

## ***CANARI offers more than partnership***

*Submitted by Patrick McConney*

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) has often been mentioned as a CERMES partner, particularly in the former's new programme area of Coastal and Marine Governance and Livelihoods. But CERMES collaboration with CANARI goes deeper than the occasional project. CANARI's elected partners meet twice a year (most recently from 4-6 August in Trinidad), and include Patrick McConney. Janice Cumberbatch has had an even longer association with CANARI in several roles.

Both organisations are currently developing a framework funding agreement along with Panos Caribbean to jointly pursue major areas of new sustainable financing. A major first step to institute the arrangement took place at the CANARI meeting when Cletus Springer, Chairman of the Partnership and a Director of Panos Caribbean signed the formal agreement document. Panos Caribbean and the UWI followed suit in the next weeks. There will soon be an official launch of the new collaborative arrangement. Stay tuned.



CANARI elected partners meeting

## ***Meet the FORCE team***

*Submitted by FORCE team members*

In our April issue, we introduced you to the Future of Reefs in a Changing Environment (FORCE) project – led by the University of Exeter with 17 partners. CERMES is the second largest partner in the project after the University of Exeter and will

be conducting 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. This work will be carried out by Dr. Henri Valles FORCE Post Doctoral Fellow, Dr. Rachel Turner FORCE Research Associate, and three PhD candidates, Ms. Angelie Peterson, Ms. Rachel Allen, and Mr. David Gill. Get to know a few of them below who have already settled-in to work at CERMES.



Henri Valles

"I have spent most of my adult life associated, in various degrees, with universities of the Caribbean, Spain and Canada. My strong interest in the natural sciences led me to pursue a BSc in Biology at the University of Oviedo (Spain)."

"I later pursued a MSc in Natural Resource Management at the University of the West Indies (Barbados) and a PhD at McGill University (Canada). My post-graduate work has predominantly focused on factors influencing the settlement and early post-settlement stages in coral reef fishes."

"Throughout my post-graduate years, I have extensively taught or assisted in teaching courses such as General Biology, Bio-statistics, Marine Biology and Population Ecology at various institutions including the University of State of Haiti, the University of the West Indies and McGill University. I have also developed strong quantitative skills and a good understanding of a wide range of statistical tools available to ecologists."

"Over the past two years I have worked as a technical advisor to the Haitian government in a project aiming to improve the livelihood of artisanal fishers in the southeast of Haiti. This experience has been an eye-opener into the social and governance dimensions of reef fisheries

management and has steered my general interest in reef fish population dynamics toward issues more directly associated with the management of (reef) fisheries in developing countries."



Angelie Peterson

"Though originally from California, I've spent little time there in my "adult" life. Having called many places home, I'm happy to now be adding Barbados (and of course, CERMES) to the list. So for all the friends of my new family, here's a little about me..."

"I completed my Bachelors at Smith College in Northampton, MA, USA with a BA in Geology and a minor in Marine Science (it has been said that I majored in field trips). As part of my degree, I participated in an ongoing AGRRA (Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment) project in Belize. Rather than focusing completely on the surveying, I was asked if I wanted to do something a little different, as such, I ended up taking hours of video of the reefs and the survey process, ultimately creating a short educational video on the reefs of Belize."

"After graduating with my Bachelors, I decided against the normal job route and moved to the Caribbean to work as a SCUBA Instructor. In this capacity I had the chance to observe Caribbean reefs on a daily basis, a frequency that very few people outside of the diving industry are able to achieve. With the science part of my brain lurking just behind the curtain, I always noticed changes in my local reefs and knew that ultimately I would have to return to my studies. Diving provided me with a strong familiarity with local species, opportunities to interact with the islanders, interact with and understand the tourism side of the reefs, and take part in several slightly different projects such as looking for the wreck of the slave ship Trouvadore in East Caicos, Turks and Caicos (we found several wrecks, and remnants of, though I don't know if they were in fact the one we were looking for!)."



"Several years into this life, I found myself crammed into a Landrover crossing the deserts of Africa with several marine science PhD students from Australia, this only increased my desire to get back into science. Just a few months later, I headed to Tobago as a dive instructor for Coral Cay Conservation (CCC) and with my Caribbean experience, I definitely was involved in a lot more than just scuba instruction. My involvement with CCC led to volunteering with their local partner, Buccoo Reef Trust, and eventually to a MSc in England.

"For my MSc research, I travelled to Rodrigues Island in the Western Indian Ocean to look at the relations between livelihood preference and fisheries compliance. After finishing my MSc, I stayed on at Newcastle University working with Dr. Selina Stead (who is also part of the FORCE Project) on socioeconomics of coastal communities in Rodrigues."

"I've always tended towards the social (people) side of the marine environment and within the FORCE Project, I am continuing down that path. As a member of the FORCE team, I will be completing a PhD in Coral Reef Governance and as part of this, one of the things I will be looking at is the social networks across different governance scales. I'm extremely happy and excited to be here working within the CERMES group and on the FORCE Project."



David Gill

"My first degree was at Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia Canada where I studied under Dr. Ransom Myers for my first thesis on "Nest-Site Fidelity in Female Hawksbill Turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) of Barbados".

"After returning to Barbados, I worked for the Barbados Marine Trust for 3 years. This is a major marine NGO in the island and it focuses mainly on public education and awareness, reef restoration and sustainable livelihoods. Here I built relationships and linkages with other conservation

organisations (government and non-government) in Barbados and the Caribbean, supporting ongoing initiatives such as community reef monitoring and coral transplantation."

"In 2005, I embarked on my Master's Degree in Natural Resource Management at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), University of the West Indies. With a focus on coastal and marine ecosystems, this was an intensive, hands-on programme which ended with my research project on creating a socio-economic profile of fishers in the Grenadine Islands."

"For the past 3-4 years, I have been working in the consulting field on a wide variety of projects around the region. This ranged from environmental impact assessments in the petroleum industry to desktop reviews of large GEF coral reef projects in the Wider Caribbean. One area however that has peaked my interest is resource economics having being involved with reef valuation projects such as, *The Value of Coral Quality to SCUBA Divers in Barbados* with Dr. Peter Schuhmann and the OAS' ReefFix project. My PhD with the FORCE project will focus on the economic value of reef fish to the tourism and fisheries sectors in select countries around the region with the hope that this will allow for more informed and better management of reef fish resources in the Caribbean."

## ***CERMES represented on UWI Service Excellence Circle***

***Submitted by Patrick McConney***

The UWI Service Excellence Circle (SEC) was officially launched on 30 June approximately two years after the design and implementation of the Service Quality Programme (SQP) at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. The SEC is the sustainable arm of the SQP and its members are accountable for continuous quality improvement (CQI) at the Cave Hill Campus. Over the short and medium term, they will provide support to the Chairperson in overseeing the timely follow up necessary to ensure that the recommendations contained in various SQP reports

are implemented. We are very pleased to announce that Mr. Dale Benskin, CERMES IT Technician, was appointed to serve on the SEC. Congratulations Dale!

## ***So long Meg!***

*Submitted by Maria Pena*



Earlier this month we said farewell to Meg Stewart, CERMES' first Fulbright Scholar. Meg, who is a GIS Specialist, joined us in September 2009 and quickly

became part of the CERMES family. Following is a parting perspective from Meg:

"Dear CERMES,

I arrived back to the U.S. late Monday 16 August and have been unpacking ever since. As I put away my things I am filled with terrific memories of my time spent at CERMES, at the UWI, and in Barbados. CERMES feels a lot like a family and from the beginning of my Fulbright experience I felt right at home. Thank you for a wonderful send-off complete with banana bread, cupcakes, and coconut balls. I love the Caribbean cook book and the two cards. They are on my desk here at home."

"My year at CERMES was a full one. I was privileged to help Kim Baldwin on her Grenadines MarSIS project by taking her many GIS data layers and putting those into Google Earth, thus making the collected data more easily accessible and useable by more people of the Grenadines. This file is now available on the Grenadines MarSIS web site so please go and check it out. I enjoyed getting to travel to St. Vincent, Union Island and Grenada to help Kim give some hands-on workshops showing people how to use the Google Earth file as well as gather feedback about how to

improve the Google Earth project. The U.S. Embassy really liked this form of community outreach and supported a grant to Kim to go on an additional trip to the Grenadines in June, that one targeted for training teachers on the use of Google Earth and the MarSIS data. I'm pleased to say there is a nice alliance between CERMES and the U.S. Embassy."

"One of the aspects I enjoyed most about being at CERMES were the drop-in visitors to my office. Many CERMES students came to me with all sorts of GIS questions and it was great fun to try to help them figure out answers. Another drop-in regular was Dr. Adrian Cashman. From one of our discussions, we figured out that we had similar interests in instructional technology – such as use of video, podcasting, and blogging - and that brought about a splendid opportunity to help on a field trip to Belize in March led by Adrian and Dr. Leonard Nurse. In the Natural Resources Management field course they tried adding a little mapping (all of the students had the GIS class taken with Kim and me), a short video project, and some blogging. It was a blast to be on this trip with the students, Adrian and Leonard, as well as, Neetha Selliah with her Mary Poppins bag of all-you-need-in-the-field."

"The final project I worked on was building and organizing the CERMES GIS dataset library. I hope that this GIS library will benefit the CERMES students and Faculty for years to come and that more data will be added as time goes on."

"I could go on with more stories but I will end here. I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Professor Robin Mahon for working with me to build a strong case for bringing me to CERMES. I will be forever grateful for this opportunity of working with the first-rate CERMES students, faculty, and staff.

Thank you,

Meg"

Come back any time Meg!

## MarGov project update

by Lyn-Marie Deane and Patrick McConney

Contributions from Shelly-Ann Cox and Kemraj Parsram

### ***Caribbean and Canada share coastal zone concerns***

The Coastal Zone Canada (CZC) conference took place in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, from 24 to 29 July. The Caribbean contingent included Patrick McConney from CERMES, Michael Sutherland from the St. Augustine Campus and several Caribbean graduates (Suzette Soomai, Sarita Williams-Peter and Olando Harvey) from the Marine Affairs Programme of Dalhousie University in Halifax. The latter is a partner with CERMES in PROGOVNET and other initiatives. McConney presented "Tourism and fisheries: Conflict and complementarity in Canada and the Caribbean" co-authored with Tony Charles of St. Mary's University.



Overseas participants at CZC share issues and information

During the conference several themes common to both the Caribbean and Canada emerged. Perhaps the most prominent was the challenge of communicating marine science to the general public and policy-makers. It was the theme of one of the keynote speakers and discussed further at

an impromptu gathering of the overseas conference participants. Many of the latter, hailing from the Middle East and Brazil, had ties to IDRC through various projects associated with fisheries and climate change. McConney's participation in the conference was sponsored by IDRC.

### ***Commencement of livelihood assessment in Silver Sands***

On 28 June PhD researcher, Shelly-Ann Cox began her livelihoods assessment of the Barbados sea egg fishery in the Silver Sands area. To date she has completed more than half of an ambitious sample size of 198 households. Shelly-Ann intends to complete this assessment by the end of August, at which point the second segment of her assessment will commence in the fishing community of Consett Bay.

Preliminary analysis of the data being collected indicates that the money generated from sea egg diving, breaking or selling accounted for approximately one quarter of the yearly income of persons involved in the fishery. In the present economic climate an open season would be enthusiastically welcomed, however, the resource has not reached a level for sustainable harvesting. It is expected that the assessment will provide good information which will show the importance of the sea egg fishery to the households interviewed and by extension support the need for better management and proper governance of this culturally and economically significant resource.





## ***Research continues on current identity and governance regime of the fisheries in Grenville, Grenada***

Kemraj Parsram, PhD researcher has been compiling information about the harvest and post-harvest sectors of the fisheries in Grenville, Grenada. His requirement was to determine the current identity and governance regime of the fisheries from social-ecological systems and resilience perspectives. Information on the harvest and post-harvest sectors of the fisheries in Grenville and associated issues of concern to stakeholders were collected mainly by reviewing existing literature, fisheries statistics from the Fisheries Division of Grenada, observing the ongoing activities at the Grenville Fish Marketing Complex, landing site and the community in general, and talking informally with key informants about the fisheries and life in the community.

Kemraj is currently in the field validating the information and filling existing gaps in the information such as information on the livelihoods, seasonality of activities, and history of fishing and the community. Key informant interviews are being used to collect missing information. A one-day validation workshop is being planned for August 2010 with key informants and other invited fishery participants from the community.

## ***A step in the right direction***

On 18 July the LAMP Team (Patrick McConney, Lyn-Marie Deane and Maria Pena) converged on the shores of Dominica for what would prove to be a very eventful yet rewarding four days.

The task at hand, was to host a validation meeting on the Draft Report on the Local Area Management Authority of the Soufriere/Scott's Head Marine Reserve (SSMR). Held on 19 July at the Fisheries Division Conference Room in Rousseau, the meeting commenced with a presentation on the report by Principal Investigator and Project Manager, Dr. Patrick McConney. The presentation was segmented to allow for maximum discussion and input from those gathered which consisted of officials from

the Dominica Fisheries Division, stakeholders from the areas in and around Soufriere and Scott's Head, members of the SSMR Local Area Management Authority and the remaining members of the LAMP team. The meeting proved to be very advantageous and amid some humour and tense emotional moments, the members of the SSMR LAMA agreed to hold a Board meeting to discuss the way forward. This in itself was a fantastic achievement as six years had passed without a SSMR LAMA meeting having been held. This meeting took place on 28 July and concluded with plans being made for another meeting within the following two weeks.



Dr. Patrick McConney (foreground) discussing aspects of LAMP research with participants

On 20 July in the conference room of the Garraway Hotel in Rousseau, persons from the Dominica Fisheries Division, members of the SSMR LAMA and its stakeholders assembled for the taping of a Regional Panel Discussion on "Communication between marine science and marine policy". The five panelists were of varying backgrounds and expertise and included: Dr. Patrick McConney, CERMES; Indi Mclymont-Lafayette, Panos Caribbean; Nicole Leotaud, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI); Roland Baldeo, Grenada Fisheries Division; and Andrew Magloire, Dominica Fisheries Division with Kamala JnoBaptiste Aaron as moderator.

## ***From concept to reality: Grenada launches first Marine Protected Area***

After approximately ten years of community consultation, research and planning the Sandy Island Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area (SIOBMPA) was officially launched on 31 July. The launch culminated a two-day series of events (30-31 July) which saw members of the local media, the National MPA Management Committee and the SIOBMPA Management Committee congregate in Carriacou for SIOBMPA launch-related events.

The two-day schedule of events commenced with a site visit to the MPA by boat. Participants were presented with an opportunity to take a guided tour of both Sandy Island and the Oyster Bed as well as view the recently installed moorings, demarcation buoys and signage. In the latter stages of the day, the opening ceremonies for the Co-Management Agreement Signing and Handing Over of warden operating equipment by key sponsor TNC, were held. This was immediately followed by a reception in the company of the members of the National MPA Committee and the SIOBMPA Management Board which concluded that day's events.



Ruth Blyther, TNC Caribbean Coordinator, presenting warden equipment to Senator George Prime, Minister of Carriacou and Petit Martinique Affairs

Day two commenced with an open discussion with members of the local media, the National MPA Committee and members of the SIOBMPA Management Committee, regarding MPAs, local area management and the role of the media in educating and encouraging the members of the general public on matters of marine stewardship and promoting the cultures of conservation and responsibility. The afternoon segment of the day was filled with a guided tour by bus of the magnificent island of Carriacou featuring various places of interest in and around Carriacou. The two-day schedule of events drew to close on Saturday evening in Hillsborough with The Official SIOBMPA Launch Ceremony.



SIOBMPA management committee with members of the National MPA Management Committee

The attendance of the members of the media was sponsored by the Local Area Management Project (LAMP). The LAMP sought to use this opportunity to inform, educate and sensitize the media on matters of marine stewardship and the promotion of the cultures of conservation and responsibility particularly as their comprehension of these issues can be relayed through advocacy and indirect exposure to the people of Grenada.