



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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Getting aquatic

Submitted by Renata Goodridge



The new cohort of CERMES students took to the sea with enthusiasm during their Aquatic Skills course in early September. Of the 13 students who attended, two were

certified PADI divers, whilst the other 11 took advantage of Michael Young's great swimming lessons. By the end of the course, the divers had completed two research dives, helping one of last year's students with his research. Needless to say, they had a blast underwater!

The rest of the students not only gained confidence in their swimming abilities, they also learned to snorkel at the wrecks in Carlisle Bay, and took a kayak trip into the Careenage and up the Constitution River. During lunches, everyone learned what all those different knots and splices were for, and practised until they had them right! The inclement weather did not allow the students to do the planned hands-on boat skills, but that did not stop all from having a great time learning and bonding with each other before diving into the lecture rooms back at CERMES.

CERMES makes a splash at conference

Submitted by Adrian Cashman

Every year the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association organise one of the premier water related conferences in the Region. This year the Conference was held in Grenada and hosted by

the National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA). Of special interest for CERMES was that five of the 44 technical papers presented had been submitted by CERMES graduates or staff.

The topics covered participatory approaches to watershed management in Dominica; the health impacts of water pollution in a watershed in St Lucia; determining the sources of nitrates in groundwater in Barbados; identification of land-based sources of pollution and pollution pathways in Barbados; and the use of water permits to manage the consumption of hotels in Barbados.

All the papers were well received by the conference and generated much discussion. However, the highlight came during the Awards Ceremony when Ms Marsha Serville (former CERMES student) won the Best Technical Paper Award for her paper on *"Towards linking river water quality in the Fond D'Or watershed, St. Lucia with the health of watershed residents"*.



Ms. Marsha Serville presenting her research that would later be awarded Best Technical Paper

New NGO launched

Submitted by Katherine Blackman

The Sustainable Grenadines Project (SusGren) comes to an end in December 2010 after 8 years

of civil society strengthening work in the Grenadine Islands to contribute to sustainable development. The core funding of the project was provided by the Lighthouse Foundation.

SusGren's role will be taken up by a transboundary Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), Sustainable Grenadines Inc., which was launched on 2 September 2010. As an NGO, it will continue to support regional and international obligations. The NGO will be structured in such a way as to continue to facilitate the growth and development of Grenadines NGOs and their role in sustainable development and to build capacity at the level of the individual, the organization, and strategically at the level of the Grenadine Islands. SusGren will continue to be a supportive body for the Grenadines.



L to R: Martin Bariteau (Program Manager SusGren), Roseman Adams (Chairman of launch event) and Robin Mahon (SusGren Project Investigator)

The NGO will offer four internships over the next two years and several projects are on-going (e.g. OPAAL, Strengthening of the Fisher Folk Collaboration in the Grenadines, Seamount Farming and Reducing Marine Litter in the Wider Caribbean). SusGren has also attracted international funding for future projects.

Maritime week celebrated

Submitted by Katherine Blackman



Katherine Blackman (left) chatting with a visitor to the CERMES booth

"Life at Sea" was the theme for World Maritime Day hosted by Ministry of International Business and International Transport. CERMES was represented on the Planning

Committee by Ms. Katherine Blackman to discuss the activities for Maritime Week 19 -25 September.

During the week of activities, CERMES staff, Renata Goodridge and Katherine Blackman, participated in the Career Showcase on World Maritime Day, 23 September 2010. The CERMES exhibit focused on recruiting students to the University, and the work of the research diver was featured.

A week of FORCE in the UK

Submitted by Rachel Allen and Angelie Peterson

During the week of 13-17 September, five CERMES staff (Robin Mahon, Patrick McConney) and students (Rachel Allen, David Gill and Angelie Peterson) traveled to England to attend the annual meeting for the Livelihoods and Governance work packages of the Future of Reefs in a Changing Environment (FORCE) project. For many of us this was the first real meeting and lively exchange since the inception of the FORCE project. It was deemed an important step in forging relationships that will be expanded through our continued collaboration throughout the 4-year project. There are areas where the overlaps of governance and livelihoods aspects of the FORCE project will be highly integrated, such as during the field data collection.

The first two days of the meetings were hosted by Integrated Marine Management Ltd (IMM) at the University of Exeter. This consultancy group works towards building partnerships for sustainable



development, and has extensive experience working with fisheries resources in vulnerable coastal communities. Having developed and implemented

Sustainable Livelihoods Enhancement and Diversification (SLED) successfully in Asian and African countries, the IMM team was able to guide us through exercises to build up a common understanding of 'livelihoods' and its relative components. Developing this common understanding was much of the basis for the livelihoods framework that will be used in the FORCE Work Package 1 –Livelihoods. Research

goals, questions, methodologies, and plans for data collection were also discussed in more detail.

From Exeter it was on to Newcastle University to discuss the governance work package and the specific areas where the two work packages will intersect. One of the main goals of the Work Package 2 – Governance, is to develop an adaptive governance framework. During this time, much emphasis was spent on discussing management tools, drivers of reef health, constraints on governance, and to a large extent the breadth that each of these could include.



The FORCE team at work in Exeter

Our time in England was a big step forward in learning the intimate workings of the FORCE project, allowing us to sit together and build a common understanding and approach to executing the activities of a promising project that we will be involved in for the next four years.

2010 Shell scholarship

Submitted by Katherine Blackman



Jenna Blackwood is the Shell/UWI Postgraduate Scholarship winner for 2010. David Chapman, Caribbean Cluster Country Chairman for Shell Western Trading and Supply presented Jenna with the scholarship by at an official ceremony held at the

3Ws Pavilion on the UWI campus on 28 September. The Memorandum of Understanding between Shell and UWI was also signed by Mr. Chapman and Professor V. Eudine Barriteau, Acting Principal of UWI.

The programme was chaired by Professor Alan Cobley, Campus Coordinator of the School for Graduate Studies and Research. In his remarks,

Prof. Cobley stated that the University has seen rapid growth in the number of graduate students attending over the last few years which is crucial to the University's core purpose for creating and disseminating new knowledge. He also noted that Shell is the only non-government sponsor of the 20 postgraduate scholarships recently introduced by the University. Remarks were also made by Prof. Barriteau and Dr. Leonard Nurse, Acting Director of CERMES.

In her response Jenna stated that she is using the scholarship to pursue a PhD in Water Resources Management with a focus on stormwater management. She noted that these topics are now in focus and highlighted the extremes of this year's weather patterns which have caused drought and severe flooding as an example of the need for additional research into these areas. Jenna is a CERMES graduate who specialized in Coastal and Marine Resource Management.

Publications and technical reports

Submitted by Maria Pena

Publication and technical report production is growing at CERMES. Recent publications include:

- **Mahon, R.**, L. Fanning, **P. McConney** and R. Pollnac. 2010. Governance characteristics of large marine ecosystems. *Marine Policy* 34: 919-927.
- **Oxenford, H.A.**, C. Gooding, J. Walcott, T. Staskiewicz and H. Valles. 2010. Assessment of the queen conch, *Strombus gigas*, in Barbados. Report prepared for the Natural Heritage Department and the Environment Unit, Ministry of Environment, Water Resources and Drainage, Government of Barbados. 49 pp.
- Schuhmann, P.W., **H.A. Oxenford**, T. Staskiewicz and J. Walcott. 2010. Landings, cost, net profit and return on investment in two contrasting fisheries: Part 1 – The longline fishery. *Economic Valuation of the Fisheries of Barbados: Second Project Report for Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Barbados*. 59 pp.

Visit our website to see the latest CERMES Technical Reports (CTR) on socio-economic monitoring, social network structure of stakeholder organisations and applying resilience thinking to fisheries governance. Look for CTRs nos. 25-32.

Dive into Summer

Submitted by Katherine Blackman

Katherine Blackman, CERMES Research Assistant, supported the coordination of the Folkestone Marine Reserve Summer Camp from 16-27 August. The camp was originally developed through the Caribbean Conservation Association's Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management project funded by SGP/GEF through UNDP.

The camp, targeting kids from ages 9-12 years, focused on sensitization of the marine environment and marine protected areas. Resource persons from various fields of the environment assisted in the daily modules about marine protected area, beaches, marine life, coral

reefs, mangroves, climate change and marine litter.

Our very own Renata Goodridge participated in one of the modules which focused on marine flora and fauna, along with snorkeling lessons in the reserve – one of the highlights of the camp!



Busy in the water



MarGov project update

by Lyn-Marie Deane and Patrick McConney

Contribution from Shelly-Ann Cox

Resilience Workshop a success

From 1-2 September CERMES in collaboration with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and OECS Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU) hosted the MarGov workshop on *The application of resilience thinking to fisheries governance in the Eastern Caribbean*. Facilitated by Patrick McConney, the main goal of the workshop was to facilitate the improvement of marine resource management in the eastern Caribbean through the use of new and innovative approaches. This was achieved through the sharing of knowledge on the application of resilience thinking to small scale fisheries in the Eastern Caribbean; the evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of applying resilience thinking in small scale fisheries governance; and by way of suggestions from participants for future research, testing and ways of better communicating of resilience thinking in small scaled fisheries.

Workshop participants included senior fisheries officers from St. Kitts and Nevis, Grenada, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia and Barbados. Representatives from NGOs such as the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations were also in attendance, as well as the Dr. Renaud De Plaen from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada (the project's main funder) also attended.



Participants admitted that the workshop was quite intriguing and challenging, as many of them had never been introduced to the concepts of resilience and resilience thinking. However, they did acknowledge that they had all learnt a significant amount about the concept of resilience which would be used to inform and educate their colleagues, as well as for the empowerment of their respective fisheries divisions, departments and organisations.

Governance of land and sea

Patrick McConney attended the *Regional Consultation: Central America and the Caribbean on the voluntary guidelines for responsible governance on tenure of land and other natural resources* in Panama City from 6-8 September, 2010 that was organised by the FAO in association with other partners. There he made a presentation on "Governance of fisheries and coastal resources with emphasis on tenure". He also moderated a small working group on coastal and marine governance that included Terrence Phillips of the CRFM Secretariat and Justin Rennie, Chief Fisheries Officer of Grenada. Also in the group was Norberto Romero from El Salvador who is head of the Central American Small Scale Fishers Confederation or Confederación de Pescadores Artesanales de Centroamérica (CONFEPESCA) that is similar to the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO). It was an enlightening event.



Karipanou launched!

Panos Caribbean, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and CERMES have formed a regional alliance called Karipanou. Karipanou, which means "our Caribbean" in creole, focuses on strengthening participatory natural resource management and governance. It will increase their

policy and programme impact and facilitate capacity building initiatives in other organisations. Karipanou was launched on 8 October at the Ritz Carlton Golf and Spa Resort in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Nicole Leotaud, Executive Director, CANARI; Leonard Nurse, Senior Lecturer, CERMES; and Jan Voordouw, Executive Director, Panos Caribbean, spoke at the launch. The speakers were introduced by Chris Corbin, Programme Officer, UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme. The launch was held as a separate side event at the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region held from 6 - 9 October 2010 at the same venue.

Livelihood Assessment Progresses to Consett Bay

After successfully completing the livelihoods assessment of the Barbados sea egg fishery in the Silver Sands area, Shelly-Ann Cox, CERMES PhD candidate, has progressed to the Consett Bay/College Savannah community. With a goal of 98 households to be surveyed, she hopes to be finished before the end of October.

Next steps in the data collection phase include executing focus groups with sea egg divers in Silver Sands and Consett Bay. It is anticipated that these focus groups will be very interactive and will provide information which will help to influence the management of the sea egg fishery.

Later this month Shelly-Ann heads to St. Lucia to attend community meetings organized under the MarGov small grant project spearheaded by the Department of Fisheries. The meetings will be conducted in Laborie, Anse Ger and Vieux Fort which are traditional sea egg communities. These meetings are the first step in achieving the overall project objective, which is to empower the resource users and help to develop their ability to use the resource sustainably. While there Shelly-Ann will give presentations on her project and explain how her research can benefit and inform the management of the sea urchin fishery in Saint Lucia.