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# Connections

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

## ***Happy Holidays to one & all***

Every time I prepare the final issue of the *Connections* for the year I am always amazed at just how quickly one year transitions into another! We hope you have enjoyed staying in touch with CERMES through the *Connections* and look forward to sharing more with you in the new year. On behalf of Patrick and the entire CERMES staff, I would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and the very best for the New Year. Here's wishing that you will make use of the Holiday Season to recharge and energise yourselves for all that will come in 2011.

Happy Holidays,

*Maria*

## ***CERMES benevolence for our Caribbean neighbours***

*Submitted by Shelly-Ann Cox*



After St. Lucia was hit by hurricane Tomás on 30 October 2010, the stories of devastation and people in need touched CERMES PhD candidate, Shelly-Ann Cox so much that she single-handedly started a donation drive in CERMES. Donations by staff and students raised BBD 652.00. Assisted by fellow MPhil student, Caroline Gooding, and CERMES IT Specialist, Dale Benskin, the trio was able to buy 110 gallons of water and 42 cans of

tuna which was forwarded to the Barbados Red Cross for the St. Lucia relief effort. Thanks to Shelly-Ann for spearheading the effort and to CERMES staff and students for your generosity.



L to R: Shelly-Ann Cox, Caroline Gooding and Dale Benskin after their collection effort

## ***CERMES reaches out to Lions Club of Bridgetown and St. Leonard's Boys Council***

*Submitted by Patrick McConney and Maria Pena*



Outreach is one of the University's responsibilities to the wider community that CERMES takes seriously. So we were pleased to be invited by the Environmental Committee of the Lions Club of Bridgetown to make a presentation at their general meeting on 17 November 2010. Patrick McConney spoke on "What do the environmental folks at Cave Hill get up to?" in a photo-tour of CERMES activities. It was well received and we look forward to further interaction with service clubs in Barbados to assist and inform them in the

important roles they play in social and economic development.

In other outreach Maria Pena met with members of the St. Leonard's Boys Council on 26 November 2010 to discuss the UWI Recycling Initiative. The Council initiated the meeting since they are interested in developing a recycling programme for their school. After the discussion, the students were guided on a mini tour of the recyclables collection bay in the Properties and Facilities department. It was refreshing and encouraging to see how interested the boys were in the further development of their school through initiatives such as recycling. CERMES wishes them the best in their efforts and looks forward to continued communication with them.



St. Leonard's Boys Council visit to the University

## ***Management of coastal recreational resources and participation***

***Submitted by Janice Cumberbatch***

CERMES Lecturer Janice Cumberbatch attended the International Conference on the Management of Coastal Recreational Resources (MCCR), which was held 27-30 October in Grosseto, Italy. The conference was the third in the biennial series MCCR organized by the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics (ICoD) within the International Environment Institute at the University of Malta. This international event is characterized by its focus on selected coastal management issues relating to beaches, yacht

marinas, ecotourism and conservation, and the impact of coastal hazards on such resources.



A roof top view of Sienna

Dr. Cumberbatch presented a paper entitled "Social Carrying Capacity in Beach Management in Barbados" based on the research conducted by CERMES graduate Jonathan Moses, as well as five years of research on social impacts on Barbadian beaches undertaken by Dr. Cumberbatch between 2005 - 2009. The research sought to contribute to evidence-based decision making by providing data that can inform the revision of the beach management plan of the Government of Barbados.

Findings indicated that there are distinct demographic use patterns with respect to time of use, activities and amenity preferences. It was found that while the existing beach management plan seeks to create a balance between ecological and social objectives, it does not reflect or take the diversity of the users into account. The study concluded that the diversity of needs and uses has the potential for user conflict, and there have been minor events between hoteliers and beach vendors, users and beach vendors, and users and the beach wardens over the years. The study therefore made recommendations for addressing these user conflicts and for making the management plan more attentive to social carrying capacity issues.

Immediately following the Italy conference, Dr. Cumberbatch joined colleagues on the other side of the Atlantic in New Orleans for a Symposium entitled: "Walking a Fine Line: Scientists, Experts, and Civic Engagement." The

purpose of this symposium was to explore, discuss, debate, and resolve the oftentimes-contentious relationship between scientists, scholars, academics, and other experts on one hand, and the general public (and its need for information, particularly in the wake of disaster and in the context of environmental change) on the other.

Whereas the Italy conference focused on her research interest in beaches, this one catered to her specialty area of participation.

Dr. Cumberbatch presented the model which she developed as part of her doctoral research to assist in the design, monitoring and evaluation of participatory projects. She used the model at the Symposium to demonstrate how it can be used to address a number of the critical issues, especially:

- The “fine line:” characterizing the benefits and costs of expert civic engagement/public scholarship.
- What levels/gradients of engagement exist? In what ways can/are experts civically engaged?
- When should experts not civically engage?
- Who civically engages? Are there noticeable trends in the types of experts who engage?

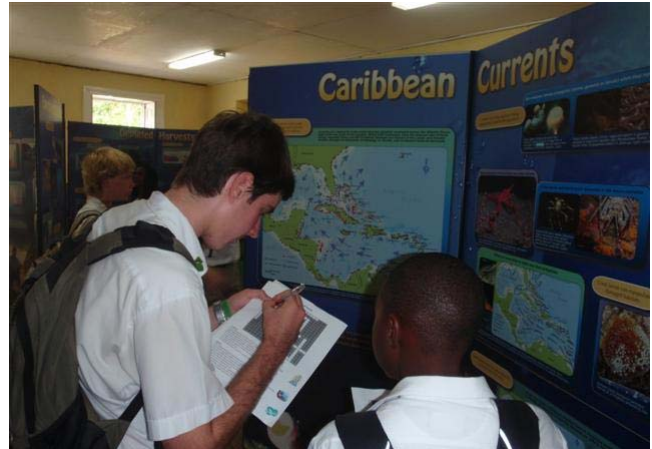
The meeting was attended by scientists, academics of all stripes, civically engaged experts affiliated with government agencies, think tanks, corporations, research centres, foundations, NGOs, journalistic organizations, as well as independent scholars. It centred on the post-Katrina recovery process and many of the critical issues of re-establishment. Trips to the Bayou Bienvenue and Lower Ninth Ward served to demonstrate what happens in the wake of a severe event and the critical importance of the civic engagement process.

## ***Our Reefs: Caribbean Connections***

*Submitted by Katherine Blackman and Renata Goodridge*

“Our Reefs: Caribbean Connections”, the regional travelling exhibit, has reached the shores of Barbados after leaving the Cayman Islands and Jamaica. The exhibit hosted by CERMES and the Coastal Zone Management Unit is being displayed at the Folkestone Marine Reserve from 7 December 2010 to 6 January 2011 during the

hours of 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The exhibit designed to promote awareness, understanding and stewardship of coral reefs among all people of the wider Caribbean focuses on environmental challenges and local attempts by various communities across the Caribbean to conserve and protect our coral reefs and their associated ecosystems.



Students viewing the coral reef exhibit

The exhibit currently open to the viewing public was designed and produced at Florida State University and was first unveiled at the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) in Ft. Lauderdale in 2008. It is a complete revision of the original travelling exhibit first developed by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute which debuted at the 8th ICRS in Panama in 1996, and subsequently visited multiple venues in the U.S., Honduras, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Belize and Panama.

This updated exhibit illustrates many environmental efforts from the eastern Caribbean, making it more region-specific and suitable for all ages. Within the first week of the exhibit, over 100 children from both primary and secondary schools have visited the exhibit at Folkestone Park and Marine Reserve. A tour of Folkestone’s Marine Museum was added to the experience.

## ***Bonding with Brazil***

*Submitted by Patrick McConney*

At several international meetings researchers from CERMES and several organisations in Brazil have



agreed on the need to work closer together in the field, but the opportunity to achieve this was elusive. Recently there was a breakthrough! Patrick McConney accepted an invitation to visit some field research sites to experience social-environmental issues in coastal Brazil from 5-6 December followed by participation in two workshops in Paraty from 7-11 December 2010. The field trips by road and boat were very interesting with many similarities to situations in the Caribbean as well as significant differences. There was much comparison of research and outreach methods.



Children learn fishing skills early in isolated coastal communities

The first workshop on "*Community-Based Coastal Resource Management*" was funded by IDRC/Canada and co-organized by Dra. Alpina Begossi (State University at Campinas - UNICAMP) and Dr. Fikret Berkes (University of Manitoba). The aim of the workshop was to discuss issues related to small-scale coastal fisheries in Brazil and to present all of the research being carried out within the scope of the IDRC Paraty Project lead by Dr.

Begossi and Dr. Berkes. The presentations by faculty and graduate students were fascinating.

The second workshop on "*Building an International Research Network for Collaborative Coastal Management*" was funded by the International Opportunity Funding, Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) of Canada, and co-organized by Dr. Iain Davidson-Hunt (University of Manitoba), C.S. Seixas (State University at Campinas - UNICAMP) and D. Kalikoski (the Federal University at Rio Grande - FURG). The main objectives of the workshop were to bring together international and Brazilian scholars and practitioners to present their main research interests and discuss potential future collaboration regarding coastal resource management. Dr. McConney had the opportunity to present information on MarGov and other CERMES projects. Along with his Brazilian counterparts he is exploring how this initial contact can be converted into a functional research network.

### ***More CTRs available***

***Submitted by Maria Pena***

The CERMES Technical Report (CTR) library continues to grow with the addition of seven more to the collection. Visit our website and look for CTRs nos. 33-39 covering the expert consultation on the operationalisation of the Caribbean Sea; priority areas for reforestation in the Scotland District, Barbados; Recycling at the UWI; governance perspectives on local area management in Dominica and Grenada; and communicating to support local area management.

## MarGov project update

by Lyn-Marie Deane and Patrick McConney

Contribution from Kemraj Parsram

### ***From the Field: Grenville fisherfolk relate to resilience and network concepts***

"... We are a strong people, we are a resilient people!" That was the general sentiment of the fisherfolk in Grenville, Grenada, at a recent meeting facilitated by PhD candidate Kemraj Parsram to validate some of his preliminary research findings and introduce the resilience and network concepts. The meeting, held on 30 September 2010 at the Grenville Fish Market Complex, was well attended with over 30 participants consisting of fishers, vendors, fish dressers, market staff and fisheries officers.



Validation meeting participants

Participants were grateful for the opportunity to share some of their issues of concern and how they deal with them; as well as have the opportunity to discuss with their peers in a single forum how they can collectively deal with these issues. They further commented that they were appreciative of Mr. Parsram's efforts to share research findings, although preliminary, seeing as not many researchers in the past have done so. Participants also expressed their willingness to accommodate and share information with Mr. Parsram as he gets into the deeper research aspects of social network analysis and resilience.

### ***Grenadines fisherfolk steering committee established***

The MarGov Small Grant Sustainable Grenadines Project hosted a meeting with approximately 30 Fisherfolk (FF) from Southern, Central and Northern FF organisations on 21 October. The meeting chaired by Mr. Martin Barriteau, Project Manager of the Sustainable Grenadines Project, was designed for the main function of facilitating the establishment of a steering committee for both the Northern Grenadines Fisherfolk Organisation (FFO) and the All Grenadines FFO to represent the Grenadines islands, their fishers and their priority issues.

Several key issues affecting the fisherfolk of the Grenadines were raised such as the difficulties in organising fisherfolk and accessing viable markets; inadequate representation; mistrust between fishers; poor infrastructure; lack of communication between fishers and the Fisheries Division and the difficulties surrounding transboundary access. Mr. Barriteau noted that the purpose of forming the All Grenadines FFO would be to have one unified voice to better deal with these issues.

Mr. Barriteau went on to explain the three tier structure of the All Grenadines FFO, comprising Southern (Carriacou and Petit Martinique), Middle (Union, Canouan, Mayreau), and Northern (Bequia, Mustique) Grenadines fisherfolk organisations. However, the issue which took priority for those in attendance was gaining access to foreign markets. It was mentioned that in order to access foreign markets, the government needed to be more involved.

The meeting concluded shortly after the establishment of the Northern Grenadines Fisherfolk Steering Committee, two members of which were selected to represent said committee on the All Grenadines FFO Steering Committee.