



*A bi-monthly electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the
Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
Editors: Maria Pena and Dr. Patrick McConney*

From the PC's corner

By Neetha Selliah (Programme Coordinator)

We are mid-way through the first semester of this academic year (2011-2012). Our 21 new MSc students have already finished two courses and are currently wrapping their heads around statistics. This year's MSc class is a cultural brew of 11 countries: Anguilla, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, The Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States of America. We are also happy to report that 15 of our 21 were awarded scholarships... from AUSAID, the CARICOM Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), OAS and USAID. They will be specialising in one of the three streams being offered this year: Coastal and Marine Resource Management, Climate Change or Water Resources Management. We look forward to learning from their collective regional experience and to them enriching our CERMES alumni. Welcome class of 2011-2012!

Learning aquatic skills

By Renata Goodridge

The CERMES class of 2011-12 tested their mettle against the sea during four days of Aquatic Skills, held from 23-27 September. This year the class had three scuba divers, seven snorkelers and eleven 'let's learn the basics of swimming' folks. All of the students stepped beyond their comfort zones within their individual groups and came away knowing a bit more about the sea - and themselves - than

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they did prior to the course. In the mornings the individual groups would each do their own thing, and in the afternoons, the class would come together for practicals.

The divers were supervised and checked out by CERMES MPhil student, Caroline Bissada, and FORCE Research Assistant, Myles Phillips, and then proceeded to learn underwater research techniques in Carlisle Bay. The snorkelers were managed by UWI PhD candidate, Julian Walcott, and CERMES PhD candidate, Shelly-Ann Cox. After familiarising themselves with their gear, then swam off into Carlisle Bay, offshore of the



Happy group enjoying their field time

Boatyard, and also did a snorkel at the Accra Breakwater, along with the divers.

The other half of the class stayed at Underwater Barbados with CERMES Senior Marine Technician, Renata Goodridge, and participated in Michael Young's learn to swim class, which, by the end of the first day, had the students jumping off a barge about 75 m from shore, and swimming into the beach! It is always so gratifying to see people believe in themselves enough to take a chance and learn a new skill, especially in the marine environment.

In the afternoons, the students learned to climb into and out of our CERMES boat (*UWI-Chill*), how to steer the boat and bring it up to a mooring buoy, and how to use the depth sounder and GPS onboard. They also learned some basic knots, an important lesson when working in the field. The students broke up into four groups and had relay races on kayaks, with a Lemans start off the beach, and also ran a geocaching race to see which team could first locate all six caches hidden around Underwater Barbados and then make a bowline for Renata in order to win! Team Juice won overall for the two events, winning a CERMES t-shirt each – go Juice!



Learning to snorkel

On the final day, the snorkelers and new swimmers took the barge to the wrecks and spent a great time swimming amongst the wrecks, using their new-found skills and helping each other to enjoy snorkeling the clear waters

filled with fish. By the end, everyone had a new-found respect for working near, on or in the sea, and I believe, a new respect for themselves and what each can do when pushed outside one's comfort zone - a great life lesson that we never stop learning from.

Water & the green economy

By Dr. Adrian Cashman

There is a flurry of international activity taking place in the lead up to the Rio+20 Conference to be held in Brazil in June 2012. One of the two themes is the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. The concept of the 'green economy', championed by the United Nations Environment Programme has moved into the mainstream of political discourse over the last two years with interest intensified by growing disillusionment with the prevailing economic paradigm. A key idea is that in green economies, the role of water in both maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services, and in providing social and economic goods and services is recognised, valued and paid for.

As part of the build-up to Rio+20 UN Water



Dr. Adrian Cashman taking part in the ECLAC panel discussion

convened a Conference¹ to showcase how water is a key factor in the green economy and to illustrate this through specific practical examples in the different

¹ Water in the Green Economy in Practice: Towards Rio+20, 3-4 October 2011
Zaragoza, Spain

http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/green_economy_2011/



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regions of the world. Barbados' Green Economy Scoping Study was chosen as one of the examples of lessons to be learnt from practical implementation experiences, especially given its specific context as a Small Island Developing State and the challenges this entails. CERMES is closely involved in the carrying out of the Scoping Study with the water and wastewater cross-cutting theme being handled by Dr Adrian Cashman, who was invited to present a paper on "Water's potential role in supporting a green economy in Barbados". In addition, he was on the Conference panel discussing Water in Green Economy initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean organised by ECLAC.

There was much discussion during the conference and not surprisingly there was a lot of revisiting of concepts and ideas that have been around for some time; the need for better governance, institutional reform, the importance of access to water and sanitation services and, the undervaluing of water as an economic resource, etc. These were joined by the usual suspects of reasons why things have not improved; insufficient investment in infrastructure and lack of political will amongst others. Such things strike a familiar chord with water professionals in the Region.

One of the concepts that received a lot of attention was that of Payment for Environmental Services (PES). A variety of examples of this approach, many of them from Central and Latin America but also including East Africa, were shared with conference participants. Worryingly though there was a tendency to see the Green Economy as an opportunity to give a green gloss to common sense actions, such as investing in water loss reduction and better system maintenance. For some there seemed to be too much of a focus on the 'greening' of water services in the economy rather than in conceptualising a sustainable, green economy in which water has a pivotal role.

Scholarships for CERMES

By Prof. Robin Mahon

Shell continues to support for UWI environment studies

Shell Western Supply and Trading recently demonstrated its continued support and commitment to the environment of Barbados through scholarship funding for UWI PhD candidate in Environmental Studies, Ms. Jenna Blackwood. Having already received funding for her first year of studies from Shell, Ms. Blackwood just commenced her second year in the PhD programme. She is specialising in stormwater management. Making the presentation for Shell was General Manager of Shell Western Trading and Supply, Mr. Dave Chapman who reinforced Shell's commitment to education and the environment.



Shell scholarship presentation.

L to R: Prof. Robin Mahon, Ms. Jenna Blackwood and Mr. Dave Chapman

"We are extremely pleased to be contributing to the local body of knowledge in the area of environmental studies. The environment is near and dear to us at Shell and there is a global mandate to contribute to the environment wherever we operate. We commend and support the work that the University of the West Indies is doing; and we are particularly pleased with the progress that Ms. Blackwood has been making in her studies. Climate change is demanding that stormwater management be looked at even more closely, as we have been experiencing challenges in this area on the



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island, especially when there is heavy rainfall. We believe that Ms. Blackwood's area of study is very timely and relevant and we are happy to make this contribution not only to her but we also see the island of Barbados as a beneficiary as well."

Also present was CERMES Director, Professor Robin Mahon, who noted that, "One of the main impediments to graduate studies and to research is the difficulty in obtaining funding, especially for student support. Consequently, provision of scholarships by private sector partners is an important contribution to furtherance of research and to capacity building for Barbados and the region. In this regard CERMES is grateful to Shell Western Supply and Trading for the Shell UWI Environmental Studies Scholarship that it is providing for Ms Jenna Blackwood."

Delighted dozen get scholarships

By Dr. Adrian Cashman

Twelve of the incoming CERMES students are the lucky recipients of Scholarships. CERMES has been in negotiations with international donors discussing ways in which the CERMES programme could be supported. One of the critical elements identified, particularly during the current global economic downturn was the issue of making access to funding available to enable potential students to enter the programme. Past experience has shown that potential candidates are finding it increasingly difficult to be in a position to make the financial commitment required to enable them to undertake further studies, especially as governments across the Region are scaling back on their support. This trend is unlikely to be reversed in the short-term. Fortunately, we have been able to negotiate support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Australian Aid (AusAid) to add to the existing scholarships that have been made available through the Caribbean Community Centre for Climate Change (5Cs), to students following the Climate

Change specialisation. As a result CERMES has been able to award to students enrolled in the masters programme six USAID, six AusAid and two 5Cs-funded scholarships.

The scholarships are supporting four students in each of the three specialisation streams. Although this support is most welcome and encouragingly there is further support promised to CERMES in the form of scholarships for another year, it does highlight the need for CERMES and the University to look at ways in which the financial burden on potential students can be lightened, without compromising on teaching and learning quality. The provision of scholarships is one way of doing this but we will have to move beyond relying on episodic awards from donors and ensure that more sustainable funding support can be put in place.

FORCE in Bay Islands

By David Gill

The FORCE social science team has just completed their field work in the Bay Islands, Honduras. From June-August, five researchers from CERMES, Barbados and Newcastle University in the United Kingdom carried out field data collection within three coastal communities.



This is the second of five countries to be investigated by the team. The work primarily involved administering surveys to resource users and community members to gather information on coastal livelihoods, resource use



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(and associated costs and revenues), perceptions of governance, efficacy of management tools and recommendations for future management. Two of the sites were located on the island of Utila and one in Roatan. National and local-level meetings were also conducted to introduce the project to stakeholders as well as to identify key changes that have influenced livelihoods and coral reefs within the last 50-60 years. At the end of the field work, preliminary results were presented to the communities. At these meetings, future analysis techniques were used to explore how potential changes could affect the community and how persons may respond and/or adapt to these changes. Results of this field work will be

integral towards improving our understanding of how future effects of climate change could impact Caribbean coastal communities and to recommend appropriate management responses.



FORCE team in session







MarGov Project Update

by Lyn-Marie Deane and Patrick McConney
with contributions from
Shelly-Ann Cox and Kemraj Parsram,
PhD candidates



MarGov governance and networks workshops near completion

By Lyn-Marie Deane

From 7-8 September the MarGov project in collaboration with the Fisheries Division of St. Vincent and the Grenadines held two, one-day workshops on resilience in fisheries governance and social network analysis. These workshops were the 6th of 7 proposed two-day workshops organised by the MarGov Project and held throughout the eastern Caribbean.

This series of fisheries governance and network analysis workshops were hosted and locally

organised by Mr. Hyrone Johnson and attracted more than 20 participants each and in particular a large contingent of media personnel.

Participants included Mr. Raymond Ryan, the Chief Fisheries Officer, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Mr. Peter A. Murray, Programme Officer for the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Also in attendance were Ms. Keisha Sandy, Technical Officer of Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and Mr. Martin Barriteau, Director of Sustainable Grenadines Inc., who had worked on research under their MarGov small grants.



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Prior to the workshop in St. Vincent, workshops were implemented in Antigua and Barbuda (May), St Kitts and Nevis (May), Barbados (June), Grenada (July) and Dominica (July). Currently talks are underway to finalise the dates of the final two, one-day workshops which are expected to be held in November in St. Lucia.

The idea for this workshop series was conceptualised at the MarGov workshop on the application of resilience thinking to fisheries governance in the Eastern Caribbean held in Barbados from 1-2 September 2010, at the UWI Cave Hill Campus, and hosted by CERMES MarGov Project, in collaboration with CRFM and ESDU.

CANARI completes MarGov Small Grant

By Lyn-Marie Deane

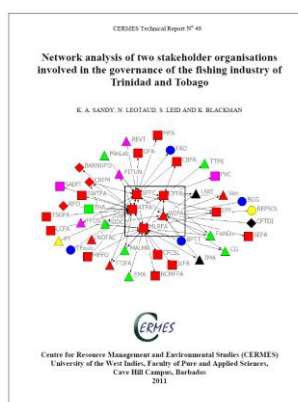
In December 2010 the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) entered into a small grant agreement with the MarGov Project. The overall purpose of the small grant entitled, "Institutional framework and capacity for fisheries governance both at the national level and in a few selected regions," was to finalise the previously attempted analysis of the current institutional framework and capacity for fisheries governance both at the national level and in a few selected regions in Trinidad and Tobago, with a view to contributing to a better understanding of:

- a) characteristics of networks that are relevant to resilience and adaptability of fisheries governance; and
- b) the kinds of interventions and governance

structures that have been effective in enhancing adaptive capacity and enabling self-organisation.

This analysis was completed based on research previously conducted by CANARI in 2008. Data were collected on the Monitoring and Advisory Committee on the Fisheries of Trinidad and Tobago (MAC) and the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Fisherfolk (TTUF) organisation to determine the characteristics of networks that were relevant to resilience and adaptability of fisheries governance.

This small grant came to successful close with the publication of the Sandy *et al.* (2011) MarGov report entitled "Network analysis of two stakeholder organisations involved in the governance of the fishing industry of Trinidad and Tobago". The study revealed that both MAC and TTUF possessed characteristics of adaptive capacity.



This report contributes to understanding the kinds of interventions and governance structures that have been useful in enhancing adaptive capacity in Trinidad and Tobago's fishing industry. The Sandy

et al. (2011) report is available for download and viewing by clicking on the following link http://cermes.cavehill.uwi.edu/Technical_Reports/Sandy_2011_Network_analysis_TT_fisheries_organisations_CTR%2049.pdf



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