



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

Conset Bay project

By Katherine Blackman and Neetha Selliah

Further interest is being paid to the Conset Bay fishing communities through the project ***“Upscaling Sustainable Resource Management in Coastal Watershed Communities of Barbados’ National Park and System of Open Space”*** which is being conducted by The Ministry of Environment and Drainage, in conjunction with CERMES. The project seeks to improve management and monitoring of the nearshore marine and terrestrial natural resources within the coastal watershed area and to enhance the capacity of the local fishing community to participate in sustainable fisheries governance and management. The project follows-on from ongoing and past initiatives with the Conset Bay fishing communities such as the Sustainable Fishing Educational Exposition in Conset Bay (2009-2010) which was hosted by The Ministry of Environment and Drainage of Barbados. The project is being funded by United Nations Environment Programme.



Katherine Blackman and Neetha Selliah (foreground) meeting with Conset Bay stakeholders

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The lionfish is in town!

A few weeks ago a spear diver caught the beautiful but predatory and invasive fish on the West Coast, just off Porters, St James. We’ll keep you updated on what’s being done to control this invasive in Barbados in future issues of the *Connections*.



Strong CERMES presence at annual GCFI

By Maria Pena

CERMES had extensive participation in the 64th Annual Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean

Fisheries Institute, Puerto Morelos, Mexico, 31 Oct - 4 Nov 2011. Three faculty members, the Project Assistant, the MarGov Communications Officer and five graduate students attended. Altogether there were four oral presentations and six posters (see below).



Prof. Hazel Oxenford (centre) making a point about her poster to an interested audience

Oral presentations

1. **Pena, M. and P. McConney.** Outcomes and experiences from a small grant scheme in support of marine resource governance.
2. **Parsram K,** Social-ecological dynamics and the effects of bonding social capital on local fish marketing in Grenville Grenada.
3. **Peterson, A.** Exploring the role of different actors in Caribbean coral reef governance through multi-level social networks
4. **Turner, R., C. Fitzsimmons, J. Forster, R. Mahon, A. Peterson** and S. Stead. Resource user perceptions of marine governance and coral reef management in the Bay Islands, Honduras.

Posters

1. **Bissada, C.E., H.A. Oxenford** and D. Aldana Aranda. Reproductive characteristics of queen conch in Barbados.
2. **Cox, S. and P. McConney.** The role livelihood strategies and outcomes play in adaptive co-management of the sea urchin fisheries in Barbados and St. Lucia.
3. **Deane, L.** Why communication matters: the case of the MarGov project.

4. **Gill, D., P. Schumann and H.A. Oxenford.** Factors influencing recreational diver satisfaction in Barbados and Honduras.
5. **McConney, P.** Fine-tuning failure: how to fail to succeed.
6. **Vallès, H. and H.A. Oxenford.** Do different community indicators of the status of exploited reef fish communities tell the same story across the Caribbean?

Building adaptive capacity for MPA governance

By Patrick McConney

Twelve MPA managers and wardens from Grenada, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines gathered from 21-23 November in Grenada for a workshop on 'Adaptive capacity for MPA governance in the eastern Caribbean'. It was the first of three workshops to be implemented under the CERMES MPA governance project. The fourth is a writeshop.



Small group MPA session

Workshop resource person, Bob Pomeroy, was assisted by the CERMES project field manager, Zaidy Khan, who is based in Grenada. CERMES project leader, Patrick McConney also attended.

The workshop covered topics related to making MPAs more resilient, especially from a governance perspective. Climate change, ecosystem-based management and measuring management effectiveness were all addressed. Practical application of concepts and tools was discussed during a field trip to Woburn Clarke's Court Bay MPA which is now being established.

Plans were formulated for follow-up action at the five participating MPAs. Following this event the three resource persons participated in two one-day workshops on co-management and the effectiveness of MPA management boards organised by the Grenada Fisheries Division.

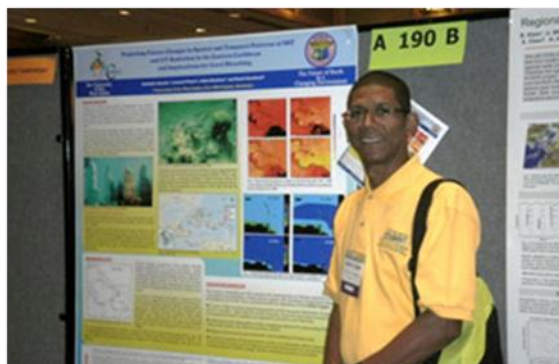
World Climate Research Programme Open Science Conference

By Antonio Joyette

CERMES PhD Candidate, Antonio Joyette attended the World Climate Research Programme's (WCRP) Open Science Conference held at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel in Denver, Colorado from 24 – 28 October, 2011.

The forum held under the theme "Climate Research in Service to Society" brought together more than 1900 climate science researchers, practitioners and users from 86 countries; 855 were from developing countries. The conference was designed to assess the current state of climate research and the changing climate.

While at the event, Antonio presented a poster on a proposed research project entitled "Projecting Future Changes in Spatial and Temporal Patterns of SST and UV Radiation in the Eastern Caribbean and Implications for Coral Bleaching" to be undertaken by himself, Dr. Leonard Nurse and Dr. John Charlery (Supervisors) with support from Prof. Hazel Oxenford.



Antonio Joyette and his poster

Antonio's attendance at the conference was facilitated by a Student Research Award from the Department for Graduate Studies and Research of the UWI and an affiliate project, the Future of Reefs in a Changing Environment (FORCE) Project.

Caribbean Challenge SocMon

By Maria Pena

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) funded project, *Socio-economic Monitoring by Caribbean Challenge MPA managers* (Caribbean Challenge SocMon) is underway with the first of three 5-day training workshops completed. The workshop targeting MPA managers, field staff and other relevant stakeholders from St. Vincent and the Grenadines was held from 17-21 October in St. Vincent. Ms. Maria Pena assisted by Ms. Katherine Blackman, trained eight persons from the National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority (NPBRA); the Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP); the St. Vincent Fisheries Division; Forestry Department and Ministry of Tourism and Industry. Participants are in the process of developing site monitoring plans for the focal study sites – TCMP and the South Coast Marine Conservation Area (SC MCA) – for initiation of assessment/monitoring.

Caribbean Challenge meeting

By Maria Pena

CERMES participated in the 2011 Regional Update Meeting of the UNEP-CEP project, "Regional support for the Caribbean Challenge Initiative: Networking, consolidation and regional coordination of MPA management" held at the 64th Annual Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, Puerto Morelos, Mexico, 31 Oct - 4 Nov 2011. The Meeting was attended by Caribbean Challenge countries, as well as several MPA experts and observers. Participants shared information on project activities and country efforts to accomplish Caribbean Challenge objectives, and provided feedback on improving project implementation over the coming months.



MarGov Project Update

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

FAO Code Workshop

By Lyn-Marie Deane

From 6-9 December over 50 participants met at the Solutions Centre, UWI Cave Hill Campus to attend a workshop hosted by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in association with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management of Barbados.

Entitled “FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the Caribbean: Achieving Improved Fisheries Management and Utilization in the Wider Caribbean Region” the workshop’s major goal was to provide essential information concerning the contents and devise ways and means of encouraging the implementation of the Code For Responsible Fisheries by incorporating its objectives and general principles into fishery policy and plans adopted for management.

Sea eggs soon to be on film

By Lyn-Marie Deane

In September the MarGov project embarked on a journey of epic proportions, the creation of an educational video on the sea egg fishery entitled “Rebuilding the sea egg fishery in Barbados.” Almost four months later as the video nears completion; we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to MarGov PhD researcher, Ms. Shelly-Ann Cox for all the time, hard work and effort she has voluntarily contributed towards the making of this video.

Please note that on completion of the video CERMES staff and students will be invited to a viewing where they will be asked to provide feedback for the purpose of improving the final video product before its regional distribution.

Parting perspective

By Lyn-Marie Deane

As the year draws to a close so does my time here at CERMES. While it seems as though I only started yesterday, a year and a half has passed. Guess what they say is true, time does fly when you’re having fun!

In the short space of time I have been here, I have had the honour and privilege of meeting and befriending quite a number of wonderful persons. I must say I have learnt quite a lot from you all as each day spent here was a learning experience. While always environmentally conscious, I am now more acutely aware of the impact that my individual actions and the actions of others can have on the environment and I have renewed my dedication to diminishing the negative impact that man has had on the earth.

As a new year dawns I leave Barbados for Jamaica to pursue my Masters in Communication for Social and Behavioural Change at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus. However, while I may not be here with you physically, I will always reside with you and you with me in my heart and memories.

I will miss you all dearly so I am bidding you all adieu because this is by no means goodbye.



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