



*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*

The latest student cohort

By Neetha Selliah

As the new academic year (2013-2014) unfolds, CERMES continues to get to know our new additions to the family, the 13 students in our MSc Programme in Natural Resource and Environmental Management. This year the region is represented by six Caribbean countries: Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and The Bahamas. We are also pleased to report that our programme has attracted two international students from Canada and the USA. They will all be taking one of our three specialisation streams: Coastal and Marine Resource Management, Climate Change or Water Resources Management. We look forward to sharing our collective knowledge with them and are confident that they will enhance our diverse CERMES alumni. Welcome class of 2013-2014!

Honing aquatic skills

By Renata Goodridge



The 2013-14 CERMES cohort of students was inducted into Barbados' waters through the Aquatic Skills course held 5-6 September. The course was held at Underwater Barbados in

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Carlisle Bay. With the help of two great National Conservation Commission (NCC) lifeguards, those students who did not know how to swim or needed a refresher were taught in their comfort zones enough to snorkel the wrecks by the morning of the second day! The enthusiasm this group had for the sea was a joy to observe. The divers in the class were treated to a personal dive around the wrecks, with the assistance of PhD candidates David Gill and Angelie Peterson.

On shore, there were lessons on knots and



splices, and using a GPS, along with a special workshop on lionfish (watch this class – they really enjoyed dissecting the fish!!!). Aquatic Skills was a success, bringing confidence to the new

swimmers and creating a bond between all the students in the class that will work well for them throughout the rest of their sojourn at CERMES.

Australia-Caribbean coral reef collaboration

By Hazel Oxenford

CERMES has joined the Australia-Caribbean Coral Reef Collaboration initiative of AusAID implemented by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) in partnership with CARICOM and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre. In early September we participated in a workshop held recently in Soufriere, St. Lucia which brought together Caribbean and Australian reef experts to develop a prototype rapid assessment and monitoring protocol (dubbed the monitoring 'multi-tool') for addressing key information needs of coral reef managers in the Caribbean. Based on a similar protocol, 'Eye on the Reef,' used by the GBRMPA, this rapid protocol is aimed at providing real-time coral reef health assessments to help local managers stay on top of addressing key local stressors. It is designed to be conducted by day-to-day reef users such as dive operators and park rangers with minimal equipment and easy to use reporting templates. This rapid assessment tool that examines both ecological and social indicators is expected to complement the more scientifically rigorous long-term coral reef monitoring programmes that may already be in place.

The more timely and targeted information provided by this rapid protocol will be especially helpful for managers responding to incidents (hurricanes, ship groundings, etc.) and in evaluating effectiveness of management actions.



Workshop participants

Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association Annual Conference

By Adrian Cashman

The Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) Annual Conference is the premier event for water professionals and practitioners in the Caribbean Region to attend, listen to the latest developments in water science, engineering and management, and to present their work.

Over the past several years CERMES students have become increasingly active in attending and presenting their work. One result of this has been the introduction of a student's registration fee to attend the conference as well as for the first time this year an invitation extended to students to attend an open half-day to listen to presentations. This year's conference from 6-11 October in Barbados was notable for the fact that it was attended by current and former CERMES students. They were there either as presenters as in the case of Ms Jenna Blackwood (Jamaica), company representatives as in the cases of Ms Onika Edwards (Trinidad) and Ms Kelly-Ann Knight (Barbados) or as participants as Ms Marsha Serville (St Lucia). Clearly, CERMES students are continuing to make their mark on the water sector in the Caribbean.

CERMES at the High Level Forum for Water Ministers

By Adrian Cashman

From 10-11 October the annual High Level Forum for Ministers with responsibility for Water in the Caribbean met in Barbados to discuss "Wastewater Policy and Finance Challenges in the Caribbean." Over the two days there were a series of presentations that explored from a policy perspective, wastewater management practices in the Caribbean and the linkages to financing and cost recovery. There was agreement that wastewater services make

a positive contribution to social, economic development but that a lack of investment poses a serious problem as reflected in the final Ministerial Declaration. CERMES through Adrian Cashman was involved in the organisation of the Ministerial meeting, which was attended by five ministers and five country representatives. Dr Cashman assisted the meeting in preparing the final Ministerial Declaration.

LEAP-CARICOF workshop

By Antonio Joyette

Antonio Joyette (CERMES PhD candidate) recently participated in a combined training and sensitisation workshop in Barbados from 15-17 October. The event was facilitated by the CARIBSAVE Partnership and held at the Ministry of Environment and Drainage. It included training on the Long Range Energy Alternative Planning (LEAP) System Model for Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Assessment and promotional activities on the Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum. Several stakeholders from research, government and non-government organisations attended.



A section of the CARICOF workshop. Backing are the SEI representatives.

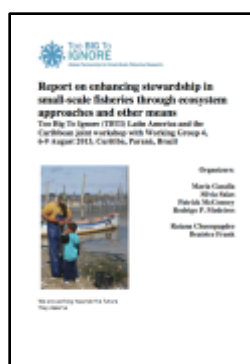
The new (LEAP) software tool for assessing greenhouse gas emission at the country level also allows for projection of such emissions given variations in the suite of energy options employed by a given country. The training sessions were facilitated by representatives of the Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI) -

Dr Charlie Heaps, creator of the model and Mr Taylor Binnington.

The CARICOF component of the workshop was geared towards sensitising technical stakeholders on the availability of Caribbean Climate (mainly precipitation) forecast and soliciting their inputs in terms of making the product usable among themselves. It was facilitated by Dr Cedric van Meerbeeck and Ms Shelly-Ann Cox.

Report of regional workshop now available

By Patrick McConney



The report of the Too Big to Ignore (TBTI) joint workshop of the Latin America and the Caribbean group with Working Group 4 that took place 6-9 August 2013 in Curitiba, Brazil, is now available. You can download the report on "Enhancing Stewardship

in Small-Scale Fisheries through Ecosystem Approaches and Other Means" from the TBTI web site via <http://toobigtoignore.net/?p=1971>.

CERMES, as leader of WG4 on Enhancing the stewardship, will be engaged in workshop follow-up activities. One of these, available immediately, is a special issue on the social-ecological impacts, monitoring systems and stewardship in the Brazilian journal 'Desenvolvimento e Meio Ambiente' (<http://ojs.c3sl.ufpr.br/ojs2/index.php/made>).

This peer-reviewed journal publishes articles in Portuguese, Spanish and English. The deadline for indicating interest in contributing to the special issue is 31 October 2013. Details of the call for papers can be downloaded from the TBTI or WG4 web pages.



Effective communication for biodiversity conservation

By Katherine Blackman

Efforts continue to mentor civil society groups as youth groups participated in the training workshop on "Communication and advocacy skills for biodiversity conservation" on 25 October 2013 at CERMES. CERMES Research Assistant and mentor for civil society organisations, Katherine Blackman, along with Kerri Birch of Betula Productions equipped the young participants with the tools to enhance their communication and advocacy skills, from developing a communication plan to the development of a participatory video on pollution. This highly interactive workshop was well-received by the participants and provided a great opportunity for organisational networking.



Participants developing their *Save the Egg* (sea egg) communication plan and product

This workshop is an initiative of the project "Consolidating the role of civil society in biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean islands", funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for 2011-2013, and implemented by the Caribbean Natural Resource Institute (CANARI).

CRFM/CNFO/CTA workshop

By Maria Pena

Maria Pena represented CERMES at the CRFM/CNFO/CTA Workshop on Regional

Fisheries Policies, 7-8 October in Georgetown, Guyana. The main objective of the workshop convened by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) in collaboration with the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) was to develop policy recommendations for presentation by a CNFO representative at the meeting of The Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu in the Wider Caribbean.

During two working group sessions, participants of the workshop drafted key statements for presentation at The Alliance meeting. These statements on various fisheries guidelines, strategies and policies and conventions were to be based on the fisherfolk perspective. Statements on the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure; the development of Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines; ILO Fishing Convention (C-188) and Recommendations (R-199); Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy; and Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) were presented at The Alliance meeting by Mitchell Lay, CNFO.

Ministers urge expedited approval of CCCFP

Extracted from CRFM press release, 15 October, Georgetown Guyana

Following the CRFM/CNFO/CTA Workshop on Regional Fisheries Policies, the 4th Special Meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) was held at the CARICOM Secretariat in Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana, on 10 October, 2013. The Ministerial Council reiterate its support for the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy (CCCFP) drafted in 2011 and calls on Member States to ensure that their internal consultations are expedited to facilitate this approval.