



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

New directions: doing more of what we do well

By Patrick McConney

On taking up the short-term post of Director from 1 August 2018 for the next few years, the saying "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" came to mind. Despite some university-wide and regional financial constraints, CERMES continues to do well. We attract a fair number of graduate students to both our taught MSc and our research degrees. Partnerships in a wide array of projects are regularly offered to us. We continue with our developmental outreach and consultancies that engage civil society and the private sector, often in collaboration with government initiatives. Not much to be fixed, but there is always room for improvement.

Some of the things we will try to accomplish in the near future include strengthening the alumni network, improving the online communication via our website and social media, engaging graduates who are interested in project implementation and refreshing our course offerings to meet changing market demands. We will be having new academic staff in climate change and water resources management to join the journey.

Readers of *CERMES Connections* are invited to be part of the process by providing feedback on the changes to come, and to share their experiences and perspectives on what we are doing. Remain connected!



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GIFT in Thailand

By Maria Pena



Five members (two in absentia – Leisa Perch and Debra Joseph) of the Gender in the Fisheries Team (GIFT) have been busily representing and networking the rest of the team at two very imminent global fisheries conferences, both held this month in Thailand. Accompanying some of the CERMES team members was Margaret Harding, microenterprise fish processor and member of the Central Fisheries Postharvest Association (CFPA), Barbados.



UWI-Cave Hill proud to be a GAF-7 partner – the team pointing to the UWI crest

First stop for Patrick McConney, Maria Pena, Bertha Simmons and Margaret was the 7th Gender in Aquaculture and Fisheries (GAF-7) conference, 18-21 October in Bangkok, Thailand. Approximately 150 participants, primarily from Asia and Africa, but with others from North America, Latin America and Caribbean, gathered under the theme, *Expanding the Horizons*, for an impressive gendered look at global fisheries and aquaculture through a number of sessions and special workshops focusing on gender-disaggregated statistics, gender and the seafood industry, gender assessments, governance, climate change, focus on Sustainable Development goal 5 (SDG5) and other SDGs, experiences and lessons of learning exchanges and gender research methods.

The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, was a partner of GAF-7.

The GIFT presence was quite strong through six presentations (oral and poster). We had our own Caribbean corner highlighting current GIFT research into gender in Caribbean fisheries and specifically women in the Barbados fishing industry. *The Faces of Women Fisherfolk in Barbados* case study research being led by Debra Joseph, Department of Government, Sociology and Social Work, UWI, Cave Hill Campus was a particular hit. Highlighted videos produced as outputs of this research used for display drew a number of queries from many participants, as well as one tool, PhotoVoice, for collecting information on women's livelihoods in the flyingfish fishery in Barbados. Have a look at the [Faces of Women Fisherfolk Barbados](#) YouTube Channel for a selection of videos of fisherfolk ladies telling their livelihood stories.



Small group gathering at the lunchtime GIFT Caribbean Corner

Margaret Harding, proudly and ably represented the only postharvest fisheries association in Barbados – the Central Fish Processors Association – the subject of GIFT research in Barbados. She was one of only a few fisherfolk attending the conference, and as such was a point of interest for many researchers in attendance.

After GAF-7, the GIFT trio and Margaret headed to the 3rd World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress (3WSFC), 22-26 October, Chiang Mai. The conference theme for the Too Big Too Ignore (TBTI) conference, was *Transdisciplinarity and Transformation for the Future of Small-Scale Fisheries*. UWI-CERMES and GIFT continued to have a presence among the 375 participants, 320 presentations and 50 fishers and CSOs. GIFT members presented on Caribbean perspectives of gender in small-scale fisheries, fisher learning exchanges and understanding working women's issues in a fisherfolk organization in Barbados.



Learning exchanges talk circle

Highlights of this year's conference were a special session on *Women and Gender Relations in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Coastal Communities* and the inclusion of fisher talk circles and other topics. Patrick McConney led a well-attended talk circle on learning exchanges. Margaret participated in one of the talk circles on gender knowledge mapping and enjoyed the fisher-specific discussion on the last day on the ways forward for fishers in small-scale fisheries.

Patrick McConney and Maria Pena represented UWI-CERMES on the global organizing committee for the conference. Check the GIFT website soon for conference presentation abstracts and photos!

For more information contact:

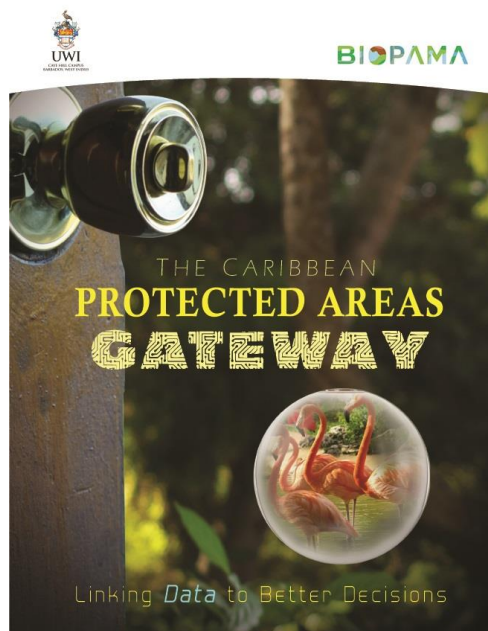
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Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway embarks on the establishment of country CREWs

By Dionne Carbon



Pertinent and up-to-date data/information/knowledge are key elements required for effective conservation, management, decision and policy making when it comes to biodiversity and protected areas. These crucial elements reside within countries, with persons/organizations that have vested interests and operate on-the-ground. Such organizations include Government organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), academic/research organizations, funding agencies, regional and sub-regional entities (e.g. CARICOM and OECS Commission) *inter alia*. Such organisations/agencies/entities usually possess pockets of data/information/knowledge, but in many instances rarely work together or even collaborate to formulate the 'big picture' which is needed for effective conservation, management and decision making. The Caribbean Gateway therefore proposes to establish groups within countries that are comprised of key persons from the above-mentioned organizations/agencies/entities who are Credible, Reliable, Energetic and Willing (CREWs). In so doing,

some of the foreseen benefits of the CREWs to countries include, but are not limited to:

- better networking, collaboration and sharing of data/information/knowledge within and across countries
- minimization of duplications of efforts and better utilization of limited resources
- better representation of biodiversity and protected area information (within the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway and the World Database on Protected Areas)
- development of tools and analyses needed to support improved natural resource management and governance
- easier tracking of progress made towards international, regional, national and even local conservation targets
- more informed decision and policy making

CREWs will be comprised of key persons from a wide-cross section of organizations/agencies/entities to ensure inclusion and the bringing together of crucial data, information, knowledge, expertise, opinions, insights, networks, opportunities etc. The BIOPAMA Yammer platform, a social networking service used for private communication within organizations, will be utilized to create a virtual space for members of country CREWs to be able to network, communicate, collaborate, share ideas, and much more. Key functions of country CREWs will be to:

- provide accurate, up-to-date data on protected areas and other recognized, managed conservation areas within a country
- identify management capacity gaps and areas in which training and capacity building are needed
- identify tools and analyses currently utilized or in need of development

Persons interested being part of a country CREW should contact either Hyacinth Armstrong-Vaughn at hyacinth.armstrongvaughn@iucn.org or Julian Walcott (walcott.julian@gmail.com).

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FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Response in Emergencies

By Patrick McConney

In mid-September FAO held training and training of trainers workshops in fisheries and aquaculture response in emergencies (FARE), run over six days in Grenada. CERMES and the Grenada Red Cross Society provided regional training support. The first three days consisted of a 3-day FARE training to enhance the quality and accountability of preparedness and response to emergencies affecting the fisheries and aquaculture sector. It was followed by three days focused on adult learning, training practice and planning to be a FARE Trainer.



FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Response in Emergencies (FARE) participants

Fisheries officers and disaster risk management officers from CC4FISH countries participated. The FARE training builds on the *Fisheries and Aquaculture Emergency Response Guidance* and the *Guidelines for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector on Damage and Needs Assessments in Emergencies*. These officers are now able to share their expertise in their countries to build more capacity among stakeholders.

PISCES project

Invited article from CANARI, by Kevin Garcia



The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) recently invited CERMES to sit on its

[Powering Innovations in](#)

[Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean \(PISCES\)](#) project steering committee. Maria

Pena is representing CERMES, with Julian Walcott, Technical Officer, BIOPAMA Caribbean Gateway, as alternate. The other advisory members are the OECS Commission, Caribbean Marine Protected Area (CaMPAM) network, and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM).

The PISCES project aims to support innovative actions by civil society and coastal community small and micro-enterprises for conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity as well as development of sustainable and resilient livelihoods. This four-year project (2017-2020) is being supported by the European Union.

PISCES will enhance conservation and sustainable use in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) in 10 Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

One component of the project focuses on organizational strengthening of civil society so that they are better able to contribute to marine and coastal management and governance. Under this component, a network of 21 mentors from across the 10 project countries was established. These in-country mentors will work directly with fisherfolk organizations (FFOs) and other civil society organizations (CSOs) that work in and around MPAs/MMAs in the project countries.

Progress to date includes:

- First Mentors Training Workshop, March 2018, Trinidad and Tobago: focused on enhancing mentors' skills and knowledge in organizational strengthening of CSOs under five areas.
- Organizational capacity assessments conducted by mentors of each CSO they support: identified key strengths, key areas for strengthening and recommendations on capacity building priorities for each CSO to focus on.
- Regional Capacity Building Strategy developed by CANARI: to support organizational strengthening of the target CSOs. Governance and board strengthening, strategic planning, leadership and organizational culture, strategic financial management and fundraising for long-term sustainability have been identified by CANARI as the main regional and specific priority capacity needs.
- CANARI is continuing to train and build the mentors' capacity in these priority areas as the mentors focus their efforts on tailored capacity building activities for each CSO.

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