CERMES Connections

April 2021

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

100+ CTRs published!

By Maria Pena

CERMES Faculty and students continue to steadily publish their research as CERMES Technical Reports (CTRs). In March we reached the 100 publications milestone and earlier this month, one of our MSc students, Micaela Small and her supervisor, Prof. Hazel Oxenford, pushed us over that century. In case you haven't been keeping track, below are the top four must-reads for early 2021:

- Irvine, J.A., H.A. Oxenford and R. Suckoo. 2021. **A coral report card for Barbados: development, design and metadata.** Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. CERMES Technical Report No. 98, 48.pp.
- Mahon, R. and L. Fanning. 2021. **A monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Strategic Action Programme (SAP).** Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. CERMES Technical Report No. 99: 26 pp.
- Fanning, L. and R. Mahon. 2021. **Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem+ Strategic Action Plan Monitoring Report: Baseline 2011-2015.** Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. CERMES Technical Report No. 100: 98pp.
- Small, M., and H.A. Oxenford. 2021. **Assessing anchoring impacts of cruise ships in Barbados during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020.** Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. CERMES Technical Report No.101, 68 pp.

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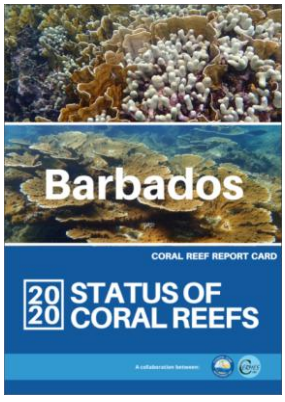
Highlighting student CTRs

Two of the 'hot' CTRs published in March and April are by two CERMES graduates, Jeanelle Irvine (CTR#98) and Micaela Small (CTR#101) both supervised by Prof. Hazel Oxenford. Jeanelle's MSc research has contributed to the development of Barbados's first Coral Reef Report Card. The report card has been produced in collaboration with the Barbados Coastal Zone Management Unit. Jeanelle says, "The production of this document was approached as both a scientific and creative endeavour. Its aim is to close the knowledge gap between marine scientists, government officials and the general public, and so, inspire the average Barbadian to play their part in the management of Barbados' marine environment. The status and health of the island's coral reefs, mangrove and seagrass ecosystems are illustrated in an output that is colourful, succinct, accurate and uses simple language that the non-scientific public can understand." News of the report card has gone regional and global, through our networks and most recently through Jeanelle's



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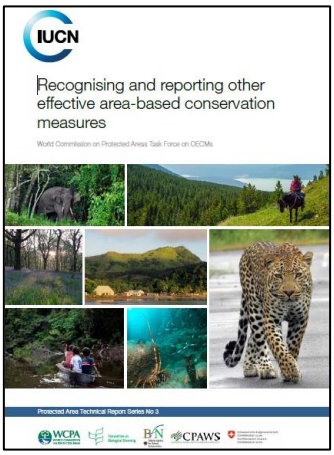
contribution to the March 2021 issue of the International Coral Reef Conservation Society's (ICRS) news journal, REEF ENCOUNTER. See pages 60-61.

Micaela's exciting research delved into anchoring impacts on coastal marine habitats of cruise ships in Barbados during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. She notes, "The Barbados Government welcomed cruise ships to the island to use the Bridgetown Port facilities and allowed them to anchor along the west and south coasts of the island during the early COVID-19 period of 2020, at a time when many other countries were turning them away. The potential area of habitat damage from all anchoring events of 28 cruise ships was estimated to be in the region of millions of square metres."

"Given the recognised value of coral reefs as indicated by the stated fines in the Coastal Zone Management Act for damaging reefs (USD150 m-2), this equates to millions of dollars in actual damage and far exceeds any short-term financial gains from permitting visiting cruise ships to anchor for a nominal fee." Micaela's research highlights policy failures in the management of coral reefs in Barbados that allowed cruise ships to anchor in coral rich areas and highlights the need for better communication of information and analysis of costs and benefits to better inform policy decisions and actions that impact the marine environment. Miacaela believes, "these important lessons are also relevant to other Caribbean islands that may be considering permitting cruise ships to anchor in their waters."

OECMs: Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures

By Julian Walcott



When you think about the conservation of biodiversity and natural resources, what is the first conservation tool or approach that comes to mind? More than likely, you thought of designated or established protected areas (PAs) - which have been defined by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as:

"a clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the lon- term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values" (IUCN 2008).

However, in addition to PAs there are many geographic spaces that are not established/created/managed to achieve such long-term conservation, but inadvertently provide such positive biodiversity outcomes. Can you think of any such places? Some examples include traditional agricultural systems, sacred natural sites, historic shipwrecks, protected water catchments, military training areas and hunting reserves. Such areas can therefore function as Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), which have been recently defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as:

"a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio–economic, and other locally relevant values" (CBD 2018).

The IUCN has developed and disseminated Guidelines for recognising and reporting other effective area-based conservation measures. The identification of these important areas should provide an opportunity to

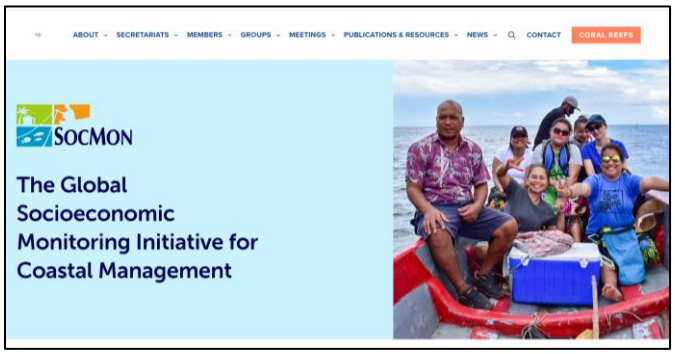
increase recognition and support for *de facto* effective long-term conservation that is taking place outside of established or designated protected areas. The UN Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) has created and manages a global database on OECMs (World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures: WD-OECM).

At present, there are no recognised OECMs within the Caribbean Region. The Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (CPAG) is working with UNEP-WCMC and the IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) to host a series of regional online webinars related to OECMs. The first, an introductory webinar to OECMs, is tentatively scheduled for 18 May 2021. Stay tuned as invitations will be disseminated in the upcoming weeks.

Useful resource (journal article): The essential role of other effective area-based conservation measures in achieving big bold conservation targets

New global SocMon website

By Maria Pena



Here at last! On 16 April 2021, the new and updated website for the Global Socioeconomic Monitoring Initiative for Coastal Management (SocMon) was launched. From the inception of the initiative, the website was hosted by WorldFish with web maintenance largely provided without cost. In 2019, due to the depreciation of the WorldFish server, the Global SocMon website had to find a new host platform. To cut a long story short, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) indicated its willingness to be the new host of the Global SocMon website. The transition is logical given the that the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) was established in the early 1990s to support ICRI's call for action to increase research and monitoring of coral reefs to inform policy and decision-making. The Global SocMon initiative developed under GCRMN.

Mary Allen, Global SocMon Coordinator, based at NOAA and Maria Pena, SocMon Caribbean Coordinator, worked with 4Site Interactive Studios to guide the development of the website.

The new website has a super cool interactive map populated with SocMon monitoring sites globally and associated assessment reports, as well as an updated resource library that is searchable by filter.

Visit the new site at https://www.icriforum.org/socmon and be impressed.

StewardFish moving to wrap-up

By Maria Pena, Shelly-Ann Cox and Sanya Compton

It has been a hectic few months as the CERMES project team implementing the FAO *Developing Organisational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries (StewardFish)* project, complete remaining activities and diligently produce deliverables.

Under Component 1 - *Developing organisational capacity for fisheries governance* – capacity building continues and is underway with women and youth-specific fisherfolk leadership training sessions on Navigating and Negotiating Leadership, and Gender-sensitive Proposal Writing and Project Management. Training will be completed by 20 May 2021.

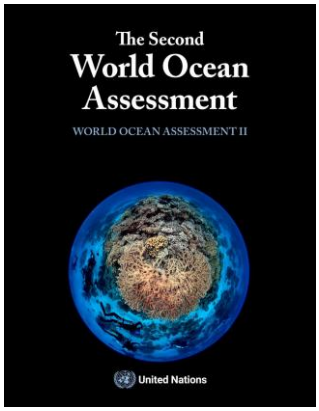
Component 2 - *Enhancing ecosystem stewardship for fisheries sustainability* – successful ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) training workshops were completed in mid-March, and reporting for this activity is underway. Following training workshops, EAF innovation online information sessions were conducted. National EAF Codes of Conduct consultations have either been

completed or are winding down in the seven project countries.

Under Component 4 - *Project management, monitoring and evaluation and communication* – meetings of National Intersectoral Coordinating Mechanisms (NICs), Fishery Advisory Committees, and fisherfolk organisations (FFOs) continue to be monitored for the inclusion of StewardFish review on their agendas. The next major deliverable, a guidance document on best practices will be finalised towards the end of the project when all project components implemented by the five regional partners - CANARI, CNFO, CRFM, UWI-CERMES and UWI-CIRP - have been completed.

CERMES contribution to WOA II

By Hazel Oxenford



The Second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II), the major output of the second cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the States of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, was launched on 21 April 2021, in connection with Earth Day 2021 observed on 22 April. It is the newest outcome of the only integrated assessment of the world's ocean at the global level covering all three pillars of sustainable development, and Prof. Hazel Oxenford is among the authors of two chapters:

- Webb, T.J., M-J. Juan-Jordá, H. Motomura, F. Navarrete-Mier, H. Ojaveer, **H. Oxenford**, C. Park, C. Roberts, M.D. Santos, T. Sutton and M. Thorndyke (2021). *Trends in the biodiversity of main taxa of marine biota: Fishes*. Chpt. 6C, Pp.161-175, in: World Ocean Assessment II (vol. 1). United Nations, New York. Approved draft available at: https://www.un.org/regularprocess/content/comments-received-states-third-draft

- Butler, I., K. Evans, **H. Oxenford** and H. Yamano (2021). *Trends in the state of biodiversity in marine habitats: Tropical and sub-tropical coral reefs*. Chpt 7D, Pp. 303-318, in: World Ocean Assessment II (vol. 1). United Nations, New York. Approved draft available at: https://www.un.org/regularprocess/content/comments-received-states-third-draft

NOAA-CERMES Climate Resilience Enhancement Programme (NCCREP)

By Patrick McConney

This capacity development initiative aims to increase resilience in the Caribbean region to the effects of climate change through learning and research. It is a partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the US government and CERMES. It is a 2-year programme that commenced on 1 April 2021 and offers MSc student support through scholarships and applied research fellowships. The NCCREP will work with interested Caribbean private sector, non-state, state and inter-governmental entities as potential applied climate research host organisations. The number of scholarships and fellowships awarded will depend upon the suitability of students. Eligibility and funding amounts will be based on student attributes, performance and needs as determined by UWI-CERMES with NOAA. For more information on the NCCREP email us at cermes@uwi.cavehill.edu.

Challenges to implementing regional ocean governance

By Patrick McConney

A recent journal article with CERMES co-authors notes that for over two decades, countries and intergovernmental organisations in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) have been implementing a regional governance approach for managing the shared living marine resources of the Caribbean Sea and adjacent regions. The paper sheds light on the challenges confronting the region and its efforts to overcome them. It is based on the Large Marine Ecosystem Governance Framework. While the lack of financial resources was an underpinning and cross-cutting issue, other key constraints were institutional, capacity building, awareness raising, leadership, legal, political, social capital, or socio-cultural.

Citation: Fanning, L., et al. 2021. *Challenges to Implementing Regional Ocean Governance in the Wider Caribbean Region*. Frontiers in Marine Science, 8, p.286.