



Connections

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An electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the
Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus
Editors: Maria Pena, Dr. Patrick McConney

Summer breezing

Summer has begun and CERMES is quiet with the departure of the MSc students. Another academic year has been completed with a complement of students on the verge of embarking on their three-month research projects. We will keep you abreast on outputs of this research once available. Summer goes hand-in-hand with vacation and CERMES staff is ever eager to get started on these well earned breaks of rejuvenation. Enjoy your holidays everyone!

CERMES PhD student awarded PROVOGNET scholarship

Submitted by Robin Mahon

The UWI Cave Hill Campus' collaboration with international agencies and universities abroad continues to yield opportunities for research that could spur local and regional development.

UWI graduate Ms. Alexcia Cooke has received a Principled Ocean Governance Networks in the Caribbean (PROGOVNET) scholarship sponsored by the Nippon Foundation of Japan. She was presented recently with her award by Dr. Lucia Fanning, Director of the Marine Affairs Program at Dalhousie University. The presentation took place at Cave Hill campus.

Ms. Cooke completed her undergraduate studies at UWI Mona and her MSc at here at CERMES, where she graduated with distinction. She will be undertaking doctoral studies at CERMES. The topic of her research is, *Organizational Networking for Ocean Governance within the Wider Caribbean at the Regional and Sub-regional Levels*.

PROGOVNET is a project funded by the Nippon Foundation in collaboration with Dalhousie

University (Marine Affairs Program and Environmental Law Institute), the International Ocean Institute – Canada, and the University of the West Indies (CERMES).



Dr. Lucia Fanning (left) presenting Ms. Alexcia Cooke (right) with her scholarship cheque

International Marine Conservation Congress

Submitted by Robin Mahon

Professor Robin Mahon and Dr John Ogden convened a symposium on *'Regional Marine Governance in the Wider Caribbean Region'* at the International Marine Conservation Congress: Making Marine Science Matter, George Mason University, Fairfax Virginia, 19-24 May 2009. Speed presentations from the Panel were followed by a lively discussion that covered such diverse issues as engagement of local communities in governance, effectiveness of linkages between national governments and regional organizations, and ecosystem based management.



Symposium participants from left to right Mr. Milton Haughton (CRFM), Professor Robin Mahon (CERMES), Dr. Ruth Blyther (TNC), Dr. Patrick McConney (CERMES), Dr. Lucia Fanning (Dalhousie University) and Dr. John Ogden (Florida Institute of Oceanography). Other panel members were Dr. Clem Lewsey (NOAA/IOCARIBE), Dr. Jorge Cortes (Universidad de Costa Rica), Dr. Melanie McField (Smithsonian Institution/Healthy Reefs Initiative).

Global fisheries experts group formed

Submitted by Hazel Oxenford

Professor Hazel Oxenford accepted an invitation to become a member of a small group of global Fisheries Experts under the IUCN's Commission on Ecosystem Management. The official name of the group will be IUCN/CEM/FEG. The group's task will be to ensure that the developments towards ecosystem management in the conservation community and the fisheries community are meshed, or are at least complementary.



Global Fisheries Experts working group.
Fourth from left, Professor Hazel Oxenford

The group, currently comprising nine members (chaired by Serge Garcia, co-chaired by Jake Rice and co-ordinated by Despina Symons) had its first meeting from 24-25 May in Washington DC and has planned out an ambitious programme of

activities over the next 12 months. Key amongst these will be the production of a series of literature reviews and policy briefs. Activities will soon be featured on the IUCN website.

Grenadines field trip '09

Submitted by Kim Baldwin

The 2009 Grenadines week-long fieldtrip was well-enjoyed by the eight CERMES Coastal and Marine Resource MSc students as part of their specialisation course, Managing Coastal and Marine Resources and Biodiversity. They were accompanied by Professor Robin Mahon and PhD Student Kim Baldwin from 30 May – 5 June.



Students listening to a talk about the history of whaling in the islands at the Bequia Whaling Museum

The students started the trip in St. Vincent and were transported (via ferries, airplanes, water-taxis and even a ship) throughout the fieldtrip before finishing in Grenada. They visited Bequia, Mayreau, Union and Carriacou and were exposed to various types of coastal and marine resources as well as issues faced by the various Grenadine institutions, community groups and the people.

The class field trip assignment was to examine the current situation (physical environment, legislation, government structure and operation, existing infrastructure and the local capacity of groups and institutions) and give guidance to a prospective donor as to the most efficient and effective way to assist the implementation of biodiversity conservation within the area. The students thoroughly enjoyed the multi-faceted culture of the Grenadines and eagerly experienced as much as they could during the trip whether it was

enjoying the bountiful marine-life, maritime culture or even the nightlife. The students talked to a variety of people in each island at every chance they could and truly gained a sense of love and respect for this uniquely beautiful area and people!

CSI for coral reefs

Submitted by Renata Goodridge

Renata Goodridge, CERMES Senior Marine Technician attended an ICRI Coral Reef CSI Workshop, held in Tobago, from 9-14 June, 2009. This workshop was one of several that have been run globally as part of an international effort to promote capacity building in the area of marine enforcement and natural resource investigations geared towards coral reef ecosystems. The workshop is the first step in training coral reef managers, enforcement officers, litigators, researchers (such as Renata) and NGOs in the field of underwater natural resource impact investigation using standardized tools and techniques. Be warned, don't be mashing up the reef anywhere near this girl, as she is ready to collect evidence in order to prosecute, since the loss of ecological services from a large coral head are so much greater than just the loss of the coral!



The CSI team. Second from right, Ms. Renata Goodridge.

CANARI receives prestigious MacArthur Foundation award

Submitted by Patrick McConney

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) continues to be a close partner with CERMES on several projects. CANARI was recently awarded the prestigious MacArthur Award for

Creative and Effective Institutions (MACEI) at the Foundation's headquarters in Chicago on 11 June in the company of other award winners from Russia, Nigeria, India and the USA. Accompanying Sarah McIntosh, Managing Partner of CANARI, was Patrick McConney of CERMES, an elected partner (board member) of CANARI. Following the two-day gathering in Chicago, the two travelled to Washington DC where they met with the CANARI Chairman, Cletus Springer of the OAS, and colleagues from several organizations working in the Caribbean to exchange information on current and proposed projects with prospects for collaboration.

Fisheries SocMon webpages

Submitted by Maria Pena

Quite recently web pages to support the *Socio-economic Monitoring by Caribbean Fishery Authorities (Fisheries SocMon)* project were uploaded to the CERMES web site. Please visit http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/socmon_project.html for details on the project including project goals and objectives; project sites; training resources; and project documents. As the project progresses additional information will be uploaded to the site.

CLME in full project phase

Submitted by Robin Mahon

The Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem and Adjacent Regions (CLME) Project is underway. CERMES Professor Robin Mahon was in Cartagena from 11-30 June assisting with the project start-up with a view to facilitating continuity between the project development phase, which was based at CERMES, and this full project phase. Based at the UNESCO-IOC IOCARIBE office in Cartagena, Colombia, the project, began on 1 May when Dr. Martin Johnston, CLME Regional Project Coordinator and Mr. Ivan Soto, Senior Project Officer, took up their posts. Activities thus far have focused on establishing the office, hiring the other four staff members who will be based there, and preparing technical inputs for the first Steering Committee Meeting in September 2009. This exciting regional project is poised to make a significant difference in the way shared marine resources are managed in

the Wider Caribbean region and we wish Martin, Ivan and the incoming staff great success with it.



Left to right Ivan Soto, Martin Johnston and Robin Mahon at IOCARIBE

Participatory MarSIS mapping

Submitted by Kim Baldwin

Over a four week period in May, a series of participatory mapping exercises was conducted by PhD student Kim Baldwin with a variety of marine resources users in each of the nine inhabited Grenadine Islands and surrounding cays for inclusion in the public access Grenadines Marine Resource and Space Use Information System (MarSIS). A variety of marine resource users were engaged in participatory mapping exercises in order to identify locations of: coastal and marine resources (areas that provide food or materials of tangible value for local communities); resource use or livelihood areas; conservation areas; as well as areas under threat or where there are space-use conflicts.

Data collected are now being digitized and all of the individual islands' datasets will be merged

together using the ArcEditor GIS software. Final atlas maps will be printed and distributed for validation and feedback in a series of community meetings within each island during August 2009 during a three week MarSIS marine habitat mapping research cruise aboard a 47' Moorings



Kim Baldwin (left) and two Grenadine marine resource users in mapping exercise

catamaran. Participatory feedback and evaluation techniques central to the MarSIS collaborative research principles will be used during this validation exercise.

Information obtained from these mapping exercises will be used for comparison areas in which scientific information is available but will primarily be used to supplement the limited scientific information which currently exists for the Grenadine Islands. Inclusion of this type of information is crucial in that it can allow for more informed decision-making in regards to marine conservation and sustainable management, planning and development within the Grenadines.

MarGov project update

by Carmel Haynes and Patrick McConney

This section has been specially added to our e-bulletin to inform, update and share lessons learned with partners, stakeholders, policy makers and other interested persons about the IDRC-funded CERMES Marine Resource Governance in the eastern Caribbean (MarGov) project.

MarGov scoping results

MarGov PhD student Kemraj Parsram delivered his second seminar at the end of June. The topic of this presentation was, *"Governing fisheries for large pelagics in Grenada: Connective practices and relational webs"*, which was the result of preliminary findings coming out of his scoping missions to that eastern Caribbean island during the course of this year. Using the village of Gouyave – one of the two study sites in which he is conducting his Grenada fieldwork – Kemraj outlined how the fisheries system is a set of human/nature relationships fraught with many uncertainties and complexities, which are compounded by weak institutions, poor leadership and capacity issues. Within the next month Kemraj will begin his three-month fieldwork stint in Gouyave and Grenville where he will test the initial findings coming out of his scoping visits and the theoretical concepts which frame his network analyses.



Kemraj Parsram delivering his second PhD seminar based on initial findings from scoping visits to Grenada

Researching sea eggs by the sea shore

MarGov MPhil student Shelly Ann Cox has started her field work with a three-week stint of preliminary interviews, which will form the basis for her research into the sea urchin fishery in Barbados and St Lucia. Shelly Ann has spent the last week in Silver Sands, Christ Church on the south east coast of Barbados talking with fishermen, sea egg divers, and other stakeholders as she works on her site description and develops her questionnaire for her survey work while deciding on key informants for the survey stage. Silver Sands is one of two sites in Barbados that Shelly will focus her research on, the other site being Consett Bay in St John. She will then repeat this process in St Lucia in the districts of Laborie and Vieux Fort in the final quarter of this year.

Spreading MarGov concepts further afield

Principle researcher on the MarGov Project, Dr Patrick McConney, introduced MarGov and its concepts to a wider audience in May when he participated in the International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC) held in Washington, DC, 20-24 May. His presentations were made in the session on Regional Marine Governance in the Caribbean Sea entitled *"Fisheries governance in the CARICOM/CRFM region from a network perspective"*, and in the session on MPA Governability entitled *"MPA governability: Three Caribbean cases"*. The IMCC was the first stand-alone meeting of the Marine Section of the Society for Conservation Biology. The IMCC was aimed at advancing marine conservation by facilitating discussion among scientists, managers and policy makers and developing science-based products that inform policy change and implementation.

Collaborating on information sharing in the CFP process

MarGov Communications Officer, Carmel Haynes, continues to work with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) on creating avenues for public dissemination of information on the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) currently under negotiation in order to increase awareness among stakeholders on the subject.

In May, she attended the Special Meeting of the CRFM Ministerial Council in St Vincent and developed, in conjunction with Chairman of the Ministerial Council, Montgomery Daniel, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in St Vincent and the Grenadines, the Ministerial Statement that was read at the closing Press conference and subsequently disseminated to regional media. During that visit, she also conducted an interview with CRFM Deputy Executive Director, Milton

Haughton, and St Vincent's Chief Fisheries Officer, Raymond Ryan, in the API Studio in Kingstown, which was aired on SVG TV9 on 14 May as a television special as part of the celebrations for Fisherman's Month of Activities there.



Carmel Haynes interviewing Chief Fisheries Officer for St Vincent and the Grenadines, Raymond Ryan, for a CFP special that aired on SVG TV9