



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 year, new look

By Maria Pena

For a fresh start in 2011, we decided to come up with a new look for the *Connections* and just look at what we have done! Nothing can be more refreshing than a little facelift. 2011 will see the 45th issue of the *Connections* and the eighth anniversary of publication! It seems as it was just a short while ago when Patrick produced the very first CERMES *Connections*. Judging from the buzz around the Department, it seems as if this year will be replete with many interesting projects, research and outreach activities to keep us busy and you interested. Let's keep connected!

New FORCE team member

By Antonio Joyette



Last month Antonio Joyette, CERMES MSc graduate, joined the Future of Reefs in a Changing Environment (FORCE) Project as the last of its PhD candidates.

Antonio comes to CERMES with a background in Meteorology and Climatology. He is an ICAO/ WMO recognised Aeronautical Meteorological Forecaster and has also served as head of the Meteorological Office in St. Vincent and the Grenadines for several years.

His academic background includes Meteorology, Climatology, Natural Resource Management, Climate Change, Information Technology and Education. He holds several certifications from the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), and a

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He has participated in a range of project development activities with a specific emphasis on meteorological, climatological, climate change, technological and disaster preparedness education areas. He has also served as a member of the Caribbean Meteorological Organisation (CMO) Operational Meteorology Advisory Group (COMAG) and on several ad-hoc committees related to Meteorology, Climatology and Climate Change in the Caribbean.

His research interests are diverse but focused on weather and climate impacts, natural hazards, climate and catastrophe data and mapping, vulnerability and resilience - particularly in coastal communities.

His research efforts with the FORCE project will see him focusing on downscaling output of Global Climate Models to high resolution for use in the Caribbean, particularly focusing on temperatures, integrating outputs from empirical work into an ecological simulation model, modelling future trajectories of Caribbean reefs under climate change and determine relationships between drivers of reef health.

Antonio is excited to be associated with this project because of its goals, its potential for

wider benefits in the Caribbean and the interactions with a cadre of talented researchers assembled to assist in its accomplishment.

FORCE update

By Rachel Turner

A team of researchers from CERMES, Newcastle University (UK) and Integrated Marine Management Ltd (UK) will shortly be commencing fieldwork as part of the FORCE project. The initial fieldwork in Barbados, which will begin in March, represents the first of five such studies that will take place across the Caribbean in the next 18 months. At each of these five countries (Barbados, Honduras, Jamaica, Curacao and Belize), three sites will be selected for socio-economic research into reef resource governance and reef-dependent livelihoods. Ecological fieldwork by FORCE scientists has also been underway since October in these study countries, and the ecological survey team from Newcastle and the University of Costa Rica will arrive in Barbados in March.

Through interviews, focus groups and household surveys undertaken across the five study sites, people's perceptions of the environment and their responses to change will be explored. Interviews and workshops with policy makers and reef managers will help identify current management systems and ways in which they are influenced by governance arrangements. Social network analysis will also be used to explore the links between resource user groups and organisations involved in reef management. The project will investigate people's ability to change their livelihoods and the systems that can be established to support such change, developing guidelines to support initiatives for enhancing, and diversifying livelihoods.

The fieldwork will also look at quantifying the value of coral reef fish for two important industries: fishing and tourism. Meanwhile, other FORCE researchers at CERMES are working on climate modeling and assessment of reef fisheries in the region. More information

on these activities and those of other FORCE partners can be found at www.force-project.eu.

CERMES brown bag lunches give food for thought

By Lyn-Marie Deane

This semester's series of brown bag lunches is off to a rousing start. The Food for Thought Brown Bag Lunches began with an insightful



and thought provoking discussion on *"The Protection of Intellectual Property, Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources"* presented by PhD Candidate, Rachel Allen.

Rachel provided staff and students with numerous case studies and examples of the exploitation of individuals,

industries and entire countries which occurred through the misappropriation of their traditional knowledge and genetic resources. These case studies and examples which spanned across the 7 continents were just the ingredient needed to drive Rachel's point home, striking at the hearts of all those gathered and even facilitating discussion among staff and students alike long after the conclusion of Rachel's presentation.

The purpose of the brown bag lunch session is the provision of a comfortable forum for the exchange of information and ideas.

Publications corner

By Maria Pena

CERMES Technical Reports 40-42 covering: communicating and coordinating mechanisms for ocean governance in the Wider Caribbean; fisheries management planning for the Grenada sea urchin fishery; and the small-scale seine fishery of Barbados are now available. Download them from our website!

Also check out FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Circular No. 1056 by Pena et al (2010) on the biology and management of the white sea urchin in the eastern Caribbean.



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MarGov Project Update

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



Transboundary governance of the Grenadines islands

By Patrick McConney

The MarGov project continued its involvement in the transboundary Grenadines islands marine resource governance through the participation of Patrick McConney in two multi-stakeholder workshops from 26-28 January 2011. The workshops were held in Carriacou and hosted by Sustainable Grenadines Inc. (SusGren), a NGO based in Union Island. The SusGren projects, focused on the marine resources and users of the Grenada Bank that stretches between the two mainland islands of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, are funded by NOAA (for Developing a Framework for a Comprehensive Marine Multi-use Zoning Plan for the Grenadines) and NFWF (for Strengthening Reef Management in the Grenada Bank).



Three MPs signed a declaration of partnership

The workshops were well attended by participants from both countries and a number of regional and international supporting agencies.

SusGren is proving to be well networked among key governance stakeholders, and one tangible output was an agreement among the area's three MPAs to work in partnership on marine matters.

Several aspects of the SusGren projects are of interest to MarGov. One of the consultants, Sandra Nichols, will look at the legal provisions for marine area co-management and marine spatial planning. In other components there will be stakeholder engagement and community mobilisation. The projects are just a small part of the slowly evolving move towards transboundary governance of the Grenadines.

MarGov small grant to SusGren nears completion

By Patrick McConney

Martin Barriteau and Patrick McConney took the opportunity to update fishers attending the SusGren workshops on the progress of the small grant from MarGov for *Strengthening fisherfolk collaboration in the Grenadines* and seek their opinions on final activities. Having held numerous meetings and reached an agreement to form a 3-part network organisation the various constituent fisher groups are still testing ways in which to network more cost-effectively and efficiently across the waters.

Initiatives discussed included a cell phone directory of fishers, fisher exchanges, further strengthening of formal organisations, and acquiring agents on the mainland to transact business and lobby on behalf of Grenadines fisherfolk groups. A need exists for continued



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strong leadership to ensure follow-up to sustain the network after the small grant, and SusGren will need to continue in its role of supporting NGO.

St Kitts and Nevis small grant builds on linkages

By Patrick McConney

The small grant on *Preparing for fisheries governance in St Kitts and Nevis based on the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF)* continues to make progress by building upon available linkages. First, the EAF scoping activities will use some of the outputs from a just concluded project on St. Kitts and Nevis Multi-Use Marine Zoning funded by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to illustrate multi-sector, multi-stakeholder trade-offs and negotiation that is part of EAF. Second, the OECS and Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) have both readily agreed to become involved in supporting the scoping activities by lending their practical expertise in the form of human resources Peter A. Murray and Terrence Phillips respectively. This should serve to elevate the status of the activities and embed them in a wider regional context for the introduction of ecosystem-based management of marine resources.

Extension of MarGov to February 2012 is formalised

By Patrick McConney

Although an extension of the MarGov project by one year to February 2012 had been informally agreed to with IDRC several months ago, this recently became formalised by the issuance of an extension contract. Among the main activities of the final project year will be a greater thrust from communication to reach more audiences with the key messages of our new thinking about marine resource governance. The additional time will also allow the two PhD students to finish their fieldwork, and the small grant partners to conclude their activities within their capacity limitations but with more MarGov assistance.

Maria Pena, CERMES Project Officer, who had been assisting with MarGov affiliated projects (such as LAMP) for some time also comes on board as a full MarGov team member in this last year in order to increase the flow of technical outputs. Also assisting, on a temporary basis, is Katherine Blackman who has expertise in social network analysis that she is sharing with Keisha Sandy of CANARI as that organisation seeks to conclude its small grant on fisheries organisation networking in Trinidad and Tobago. This final year should be very busy and exciting indeed.

Shelly hits St. Lucia again!

By Shelly-Ann Cox

From 13-21 October 2010, Shelly-Ann Cox visited St. Lucia to participate in a series of community meetings organized by the Department of Fisheries (DOF) as a part of their MarGov small grant project. These meetings took place in Shelly's three study sites, Laborie, Vieux Fort and Anse Ger. Her presentation which highlighted the Barbadian sea egg fishery and management measures employed over the years received overwhelming response at all three sites. Shelly-Ann's address preceded a presentation on the St. Lucian sea egg fishery situation and the results of the 2010 survey by government Fisheries Biologist, Thomas Nelson.

A lively discussion followed after the shows with fishers sharing their observations of impacts on the fishery and providing suggestions for management, including closed areas, transplantation of sea eggs from St. Vincent and the construction of a sea egg hatchery in Laborie to augment the sea egg population and provide education and tourism opportunities.

While in St. Lucia, Shelly-Ann had the opportunity to interview fishers, network with DOF officials, participate in a pre-harvest sea egg survey and continue preparations for her extended stay this year.



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