



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

Transboundary Waters Governance Assessment methodology workshop

By Robin Mahon

CERMES is involved in the GEF Transboundary Waters Assessment Project (TWAP) which is developing a global assessment methodology for all five of the GEF International Waters categories (LMEs, Open Oceans, Aquifers, Rivers and Lakes). Robin Mahon and Patrick McConney from CERMES teamed up with Lucia Fanning from Dalhousie University to develop an approach to assessing the completeness of governance arrangements in the transboundary water systems in these categories. The next stage of this work will be to develop a methodology for assessing the performance of these arrangements.

En route they decided to get some well-known international governance experts to look at what they had done and to try and get them involved. They held a two-day workshop at Dalhousie University on March 22-23 to share and discuss these new ideas and approaches.



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The working group in the photo bottom left comprised (left to right) Elizabeth De Santo, Marine Affairs Program, Dalhousie University, Canada; Patrick McConney, CERMES, UWI, Barbados; Lucia Fanning, Marine Affairs Program, Dalhousie University, Canada; Steinar Andresen, Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Norway; Ratana Chuenpagdee, Department of Geography, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada; Robin Mahon, CERMES, UWI, Barbados; Susan Rolston, Seawinds Consulting Services, Canada (Rapporteur); Oran Young, Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA.

The methodology survived the two days of discussion and review and came out much improved. The group decided to continue to work together in the next Phase of TWAP to improve the current methodology and to develop the performance assessment.

Norway: hot venue for MPAs

By Patrick McConney



The attractive graphic here, used in their promotional flyer, illustrated the context of the International Workshop on

Exploring the Role of MPAs in Reconciling Fisheries Management with Conservation that was held in Bergen, Norway, 29 – 31 March 2011. It was hosted by the Institute of Marine Research in Norway and the Norwegian Fishery Forum for Development Cooperation. The Nordic Council of Ministers had requested the organization of a workshop aiming at bridging the understanding of fisheries and conservation practitioners, and translating this experience into more practical guidance for the effective utilization of this tool.

Working Group 3 addressing “How can management approaches operationalise reconciliation?” was co-chaired by Stephen K. Brown of NOAA and Patrick McConney of CERMES. There was a wide range of participants from all over the world. Participants from the insular Caribbean were Nathalie Zenny of TNC in Jamaica, Davon Baker of the Sandy Island MPA in Grenada and Rafael Correa of Cuba. In due course a publication will be one of the workshop products, but presentations and interim products can be freely downloaded from <http://www.imr.no/mpafish2011>.

FORCE underway in Barbados

By Rachel Turner

The Future of Reefs in a Changing Environment (FORCE) project started last month in Barbados with a national consultation meeting held at the UWI. A range of representatives from government, NGOs, the private sector and UWI, participated in an interactive workshop.



National consultation meeting participants. In the background, the 60+ year historical timeline of fisheries, tourism, environment, social and economic events that have affected reef livelihoods in Barbados

Participants explored the key changes in Barbados with respect to environment, society, economy, and the policies and management systems relating to coral reefs.

Following the national level meeting, fieldwork began in Six Men's Bay, where a community meeting was held to introduce the FORCE project and discuss local perspectives on historical use of the reefs and changes in the community. The FORCE team has been conducting interviews with resource users involved in reef-related fisheries and tourism to gain a better understanding of reef dependent livelihoods. In addition, people's perceptions of the environment and their responses to change are being explored through a household survey conducted throughout the community. Over the next two months, the team will also be working in Holetown and Pile Bay.

The purpose of this work is to address important questions about how changes will affect coastal communities and people's livelihoods from fisheries and tourism. The project ultimately aims to identify ways of managing reefs that are best suited to regional and local contexts. Recommendations will be disseminated to stakeholders throughout the Caribbean on how to protect their reefs.

2011 Belize field trip

By Maria Pena

Drs. Leonard Nurse and Adrian Cashman led the seventh annual Climate Change and Water Resources Management field trip to Belize from 19-28 March, 2011. Along with 10 students and two support staff, the group started in the south and worked their way north setting up carbon sequestration plots, conducting beach profiling, river flow gauging as well as a social assessment of a village, and participating in educational tours. More details to come in May in a special *Field Trip Connections* supplement. Special thanks to the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre for their hospitality and assistance in making logistical arrangements.



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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



ACP Fish II is moving on

By Patrick McConney

All Caribbean countries participating in the international ACP Fish II project met in Belize from 4-5 April 2011 to discuss progress to date and the very hectic schedule of projects coming up in the next phase. Dr. Sandra Grant, based in Belize, and her team of colleagues based in Europe carried participants through the EU project processes and worked with them on refining project profiles and terms of reference.



ACP Fish II meeting participants

Patrick McConney of CERMES represented the UWI and was keenly interested in the sets of projects concerning national level fisheries governance plus two concerning fisher folk organisations. The extent to which fisheries authorities are, or are not, actively collaborating and networking (even just for information exchange) within the sub-regional groupings of CARICOM and the OECS was a recurrent theme that links closely to the investigations being undertaken by the IDRC-funded MarGov project.

Prickly sea egg issues

By Shelly Ann Cox

Shelly-Ann Cox moderated three focus group meetings tailored to sea egg divers and those responsible for management in February as part of her research activities. The first meeting took place at the London Bar in Silver Sands on 6 February 2011. Participants contributed to a lively discussion centered on enforcement and compliance issues for the sea egg fishery. A great deal of ecological information was also exchanged at the meeting.



Focus group meeting at London Bar, Silver Sands

On 17 February the second meeting was held at the 'Bay Dog Association' headquarters in Consett Bay. Although there was discussion about enforcement and compliance, the highlight of the evening was the divers' strong arguments to support their opinions concerning the use of SCUBA to harvest sea eggs. One of their main arguments was the advantage SCUBA provided to test and choose the ripe sea eggs. They also said that a SCUBA diver was more likely to spend less time daily diving than free divers. Although they agreed that SCUBA allows the entry of inexperienced sea egg divers into the fishery they believe good licensing



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measures would remedy that problem. Much ecological information was shared in the meeting.



Getting into discussion at London Bar

The final meeting was held at the training room of the Fisheries Division on 28 February. This meeting allowed the managers for the sea egg fishery to discuss pertinent issues and the way forward for the sea egg fishery which is a fully functional co-management arrangement called the Sea egg Fishery Management Advisory Council (SEFMAC). Shelly describes the focus group sessions as a great experience where she received a greater insight into the issues of the sea egg fishery and the ways in which it can be managed effectively.

Shelly-Ann will be in St. Lucia for the next three months executing her research activities. The communities under her study are Laborie, Vieux Fort and Anse Ger. Stay tuned for updates on her St. Lucian experience.

Communication for linking research and policy

By Lyn-Marine Deane

MarGov Communications Officer Lyn-Marie Deane attended *Caribbean Impact 2.0: New Mechanisms for linking research and policy*, a two day workshop held in Kingston Jamaica, from 22-23 February 2011. The workshop covered fundamentals of communication planning, the strategic use of video, Web 2.0 strategies for network building, research dissemination and impact and data visualization techniques.

The expert programme organised by Fundación Comunica and Panos Caribbean, in collaboration with the Telecommunications Policy and Management Programme of the Mona School of Business, UWI, and with the support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), attracted about 35 participants - resource people, expert trainers, researchers and representatives of various IDRC funded projects. Lyn-Marie who attended on behalf of the MarGov project made a well received presentation entitled *"Elements of a communication strategy: The case of the Marine Resource Governance in the Eastern Caribbean Project"*.

The workshop also offered participants the opportunity to submit proposals to develop a specific communication output based on the four major tenets on which the workshop was based. Submission of the proposal made participants eligible for professional certification as well as the opportunity to obtain US \$5, 000 funding. The MarGov project was one of many IDRC research projects to take advantage of this opportunity by submitting a proposal for the production of a 20 minute documentary entitled, *"Rebuilding the sea egg fishery in Barbados."* Keep updated on the latter in subsequent *Connections* issues.

Resilience and social network analysis workshops coming soon

By Lyn-Marine Deane

Commencing next month, the MarGov project will launch a series of two-day workshops on resilience in fisheries governance and social network analysis in several countries within the MarGov geographic scope including Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The idea for this series of workshops was a product of the MarGov Resilience Workshop which was held from 1-2 September 2010.



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