



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

CERMES SargAdapt drone monitoring protocol receives global recognition and support

By Kimberly Baldwin



In recent years, recreational drones together with easy to use photogrammetry software now allows the ability to easily collect remotely-sensed aerial imagery and produce professional-grade three dimensional (3D) maps. [DroneDeploy](#), the leading global drone software platform and their [Drones For Good](#) (#DFG) initiative seeks to help non-profit organisations improve aerial data collection, analysis, and communication across teams. DroneDeploy staff also volunteer their time and expertise to provide technical support TO organisations that are working to make the world a better place.

Under the on-going CERMES [SargAdapt](#) Project and Dr. Kimberly Baldwin's on-going research and development towards creating a standardised sargassum drone monitoring protocol, CERMES has been awarded as the newest 2020-2021 [#DFG](#) Partner Organisation. This grant provides CERMES and SargAdapt Partner drone monitoring teams full access to Drone Deploy software to support the objectives of the SargAdapt Drone Monitoring Protocol activities.

Additionally the [Center for Geospatial Analytics](#) at North Carolina State University (NCSU) Capstone Community Partnerships Program is providing advanced geospatial analytic support to the development of an automated

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analysis workflow (using ArcGIS Pro and Model Builder) for Drone Monitoring Protocol. This will allow remotely-sensed coastal habitat and elevation drone data collected by [SargAdapt](#) survey teams across the Caribbean to be standardly mapped and classified to quantify the abundance of freshly beached sargassum.

Moreover, a web-based [SargAdapt](#) mapping platform using ArcOnline will be leveraged to share our developed methods for drone mapping, spatial analysis, maps and results to enhance regional information sharing and public engagement in the project.



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Barbados StewardFish EAF workshop

By Shelly-Ann Cox



The first of a series of Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) training workshops was hosted by UWI-CERMES, 29-30 September 2020 at the 3Ws Pavilion, UWI Cave Hill Campus, Barbados. This is the first of seven workshops to be delivered under the FAO-implemented StewardFish Project. The workshop entitled *EAF Application for Positive Change in Coastal & Marine Habitats and Socio-economic Development* is delivered for one of the project's activities in Component 2 of the project which aims to enhance ecosystem stewardship for fisheries sustainability.

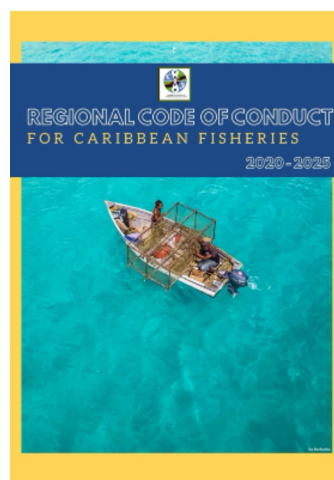
The workshop featured presentations and breakout activities on the EAF concept, its 17 principles, EAF management and a mini EAF innovation expo. On Day 2 of the workshop participants were kept busy developing an action plan for a national EAF code of conduct for Barbados and participated in sessions on gender, policy engagement and National Intersectoral Coordination Mechanisms.

Forty-one persons including fisherfolk, representatives of government agencies, civil society and the private sector participated over the two days. Feedback from participants was very positive with many commenting that their expectations were met or exceeded in some cases. The EAF workshop was organized by the CERMES StewardFish project team – Shelly-Ann Cox, Lisa Soares, Sanya Compton and Maria Pena.

CNFO Regional Code of Conduct for Caribbean Fisheries

By Shelly-Ann Cox

In order to advance an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) management in the Caribbean, there is the need for a Code of Conduct which articulates a shared understanding of what EAF entails at regional and national levels. The Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO) has taken the lead in developing a Regional Code of Conduct for Caribbean Fisheries. This Code was formulated by and for persons in the fishing industry to enhance ecosystem stewardship for fisheries sustainability. The ten Articles of the Code were heavily influenced by the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF), the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), the Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy and its associated Protocols, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



The development process improved on the methodology previously used in Barbados to develop a local fisheries code of conduct in Conset Bay, an east coast fishing community. The iterative social learning process employed emphasizes industry engagement, formal endorsement, implementation and participatory monitoring

and evaluation. Five online consultations saw the participation of stakeholders from the CNFO, Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (UWI-CERMES), Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), and the FAO in the co-production of the regional code. The Code was accepted by stakeholders on the 30th July 2020 and will be formally endorsed and adopted at the CNFO General Assembly in November. Next steps and recommendations suggest actions to inform the implementation of the regional Code and adaptation to the national contexts of seven Caribbean countries - Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados,

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Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The development of the regional Code is an activity delivered under the *Developing Organisational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries* (StewardFish) project. This project aims to promote EAF application by empowering fisherfolk to engage in resource management and decision making.

Download the Code here: <https://bit.ly/CNFOCode>

Read more about the development process here: <http://bit.ly/FishCodeDev>

StewardFish gender analysis preparations

By Maria Pena



Four online Gender “Meet & Greet” sessions with fisherfolk organisation leaders from Jamaica, Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Guyana were initiated in September for mutual familiarisation between the CERMES project team and fisherfolk leaders; to inform fisherfolk leaders of StewardFish gender analysis project activities; and to gain support for the upcoming gender analyses required for the identification of capacity gaps of men and women, especially youth, in relation to fisherfolk leadership. These StewardFish sessions were deliberately named, “Meet & Greet” for the purpose of attracting a sizeable number of fisherfolk leaders to participate in informal but relevant and important preludes to the gender analyses.

The response to the sessions was overwhelming and somewhat unexpected given the online mode of engagement and uncertainty associated with acceptance of this mode for meeting by the target

group. Overall, 125 persons attended all sessions. A total of sixty-two fisherfolk leaders, 25 women and 37 men benefited from the sessions.

This “Meet & Greet” model was an overall success in engaging the StewardFish gender analysis target group and can be replicated for use in future project activities. It is highly likely that CERMES will have to implement similar sessions next month for planned gender analysis individual and group interviews. There is no doubt that gathering information via this means will be successful.

Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway adapts to COVID-19

By Julian Walcott

Dubbed as a super year for biodiversity conservation (before the onset of the global pandemic), 2020 was expected to be filled with various Conference of Parties (COPs) and high level meetings, *inter alia*, which would outline the way forward regarding the improved conservation of biodiversity and natural resources. Protected and conserved areas, where the focus is placed on quality rather than quantities, are of course expected to play a pivotal role in such conversations.

The Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (CPAG), whose mission is to improve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural resources by reinforcing the management and governance of protected and conserved areas, intended to play its own small part by embarking on a number of country missions. These missions would have entailed short visits to several countries to forge deeper relationships and connections with regional stakeholders and practitioners and would have sought to improve existing data flows with data providers.

In light of the global pandemic, and the myriad of ensuing restrictions, the CPAG remained determined in its mission to engage with countries and decided to embark on in-country consultancies. The idea was centred on the premise that the use of consultants based within the respective countries would be better guided by local protocols and be able to access the relevant players more readily than we could remotely. Four of these consultancies are currently underway (for Belize, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) and a fifth one (for Dominica) started earlier this month.

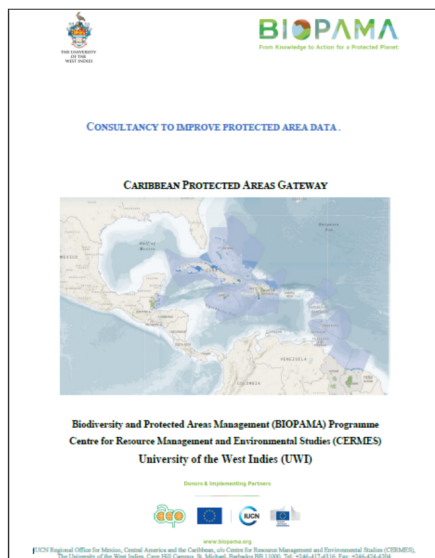
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The primary aim of the consultancies will be to improve the available protected area data for each country, to facilitate better reporting (especially to multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity) and more accurate tracking and monitoring of progress being made towards, national, regional and global targets (e.g. Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals). The consultancies are set to end in December 2020, so stay tuned for final outcomes.

Celebrating the ‘Day of the Protected Areas’

By Jay Belmar

In 2019, a proposal requesting the declaration of 17th October as the *Day of the Protected Areas of Latin America and the Caribbean* was brought before the Executive Committee of the Third Latin America and the Caribbean Protected Area Congress (III CAPLAC). The Congress held in Lima, Peru, under the theme *Solutions for Welfare and Sustainable Development* provided an opportunity to highlight the actors linked to the management of protected areas. [Learn more about the Caribbean’s participation in III CAPLAC here.](#)

During the closing ceremony of the Congress, the 17th of October was declared as the Day of Protected Areas in Latin America and the Caribbean. Following up from the Lima Declaration, the week of 12-18 October 2020 was dedicated to celebrating protected and conserved areas and the role they play across the region, their

importance for the well-being of people and sustainable development in the region.

The concept of celebrating protected areas was not limited to those formally recognised for their conservation but includes everyone who appreciates spaces for their natural and cultural value. The effort of organisations and persons who care for and enjoy the natural and cultural diversity of the protected and conserved areas of Latin America and the Caribbean was also celebrated.

On the occasion, the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway released a celebratory video message in collaboration with the following conservation supporters:

- [Walkers Institute for Regeneration Research Education and Design Inc.](#)
- [The Welchman Hall Gully](#)
- [The Flower Forest](#)
- [The Folkestone Park and Marine Reserve](#)
- [Coco Hill Forest](#)

To watch video please visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNjWJxm6Yf4>

‘Big-up’ to the Bursary and HR -- our internal project partners

By Patrick McConney

CERMES implements projects all around the Caribbean with several partners and many contractors. What we are able to achieve would not be possible without the close collaboration of colleagues especially in the campus Bursary and Human Resources Section. The Bursary works with us from grant proposal through to final report, addressing all manner of financial matters. The HR Section contributes by issuing contract to research assistants working in CERMES and in many other countries. We take a moment here to acknowledge their involvement in the research and development project cycle. Such project not only facilitate Caribbean sustainable development as an overall aim, they help to build the capacities of many students who go on to play critical leadership roles in regional state and non-state organisations.

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