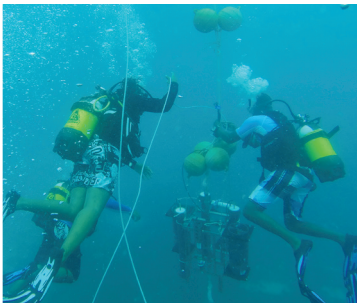
Commonwealth Marine Economies (CME) Programme

Enabling safe and sustainable marine economies across Commonwealth Small Island Developing States



About the project:

The CME Programme exists to support the sustainable growth of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), providing them with the skills and expertise to monitor and manage their surrounding marine environment. Through the provision of world-class multi-disciplinary marine expertise the programme aims to support the creation of prosperous, secure and resilient states that have an enhanced capability of developing safe and sustainable marine economies.

Many of the communities that are most vulnerable to on-going changes in the state of the oceans do not have the capability to identify regions at risk, or the capacity to implement appropriate remedial or preventative action. Enabling SIDS to understand and prepare for these challenges will have a critical impact on the decisions made by their societies.

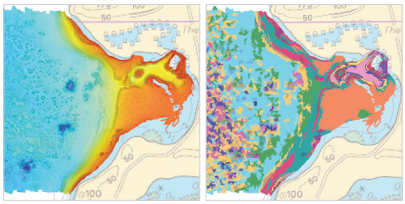
The NOC is working in conjunction with the CME Programme partners – the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) – to deliver scalable in-state capacity building and knowledge transfer in order to help SIDS meet their pressing needs for food, energy, security and economic growth.

National Oceanography Centre
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Marine Scientific Support:

Marine science research contributes to economic and social wellbeing directly or indirectly via policy implementation. The knowledge generated can augment human capital and create long-term economic and societal benefits through increased skills and innovation. Through the CME Programme the NOC is providing Commonwealth SIDS with support across a range of scientific themes, including:

- Installation of radar technology tide gauges to monitor the impacts of climate change on local sea level, and contribute to regional tsunami early warning systems.
- Characterisation and habitat mapping of the Exclusive Economic Zones around SIDS to inform marine conservation and the development of sustainable aquaculture industry.
- Deployment of autonomous marine sensors to characterise the impacts of climate change and pollution on the marine environment.
- Development of the capacity of SIDS to monitor, manage and withstand pressures on marine ecosystems from factors such as ocean acidification, invasive species and harmful algal blooms.
- Training in data management and maintenance mechanisms that support local stewardship of, and access to, irreplaceable marine data and information.
- Access to state of the art oceanographic equipment and services, including research ships, autonomous survey vehicles and satellite-based systems.



Seafloor bathymetric (left) and habitat (right) maps of Tyrrel Bay in Grenada. The habitat map was created using the latest image analysis methods as part of a broader assessment of the biological communities present in the area requested by local stakeholders.

Principal Investigators:

Mr Alan Evans

alan.evans@noc.ac.uk

Dr Christopher Pearce

c.r.pearce@noc.ac.uk