



CARIBBEAN WATCH

Caribbean One Health Newsletter

August 2015

Our People

Our Animals

Our Environment

HEADS-UP!

Zika Virus Alert

The Caribbean is facing yet another emerging disease associated with the familiar *Aedes aegypti* mosquito; **Zika Virus infection**. With confirmed cases in Brazil, PAHO has issued an alert to the Americas. Individual countries, including Guayana, Trinidad and Tobago, Costa Rica and Jamaica, have issued national alerts through their respective Ministries of Public Health. Learn more about this emerging regional threat below:

http://carpha.org/Portals/0/docs/ZIKA/Zika_virus_QnA.pdf

<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/geo/index.html>



Avian Influenza Alert

As Avian Influenza reels across the US forcing several states to move into '**plan-demic**' mode, Caribbean officials and members of the regional poultry sector are on high alert. Read more here and contact your local Ministry of Agriculture office for island-specific information:

<http://www.caribvet.net/en/news/2015/caribbean-scales-up-preparedness-plans-for-avian-influenza>

Exercise Hummingbird

In July 2015, the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), in collaboration with the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) hosted an Ebola simulation exercise in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The regional capacity building exercise was entitled 'Exercise Hummingbird'. Read more here:

<http://carpha.org/articles/ID/74/The-Caribbean-successfully-conducts-Ebola-simulation-exercise>



Palytoxicosis

With coral reefs under threat globally, there are strict legal restrictions pertaining to the acquisition and handling of live coral. Another threat looms, however. Zoanthid corals, marine invertebrates found in abundance throughout the Caribbean, can pose a serious risk to human and animal health. Beware of the risk of Palytoxicosis. Read more below:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6431a4.htm?cid=mm6431a4_e

The Sargassum Saga continues

Sargassum seaweed continues to wreak havoc:

<http://www.ibtimes.com/what-sargassum-smelly-seaweed-invasion-declared-emergency-caribbean-2046197>





One Health Around the Region

Developing One Health Leadership in the Caribbean Region

Dr. Adana Mahase-Gibson

June 2015 - The European Union funded 'One Health One Caribbean One Love Project' brought together thirty-five participants from 12 countries for the 2nd Leadership and One Health Training Workshop, 'Interconnectivity for Food Security and Food Safety' in Runaway Bay, Jamaica. This 2nd workshop is part of the project's Leadership Series, which aims to train and connect a core group of One Health Leaders across the Caribbean. Two more workshops are scheduled – November 2015 in Guyana and June 2016 in Grenada.

Why One Health & Leadership?

Our Caribbean region faces regional challenges including climate change, emerging zoonoses and invasive species. These wicked problems require us to collaborate and work across borders and disciplines. One approach to these issues is called One Health. Its foundation is that human, animal and ecosystem health are inextricably linked. According to One Health One Caribbean One Love's Project Leader, Professor Chris Oura, "Through the One Health Leadership training we are aiming to change the way people approach some of the major health issues that we are facing in the Caribbean. Our leaders are learning about the importance of addressing priority health issues from a multidisciplinary perspective using effective leadership skills."

PROJECT LEADER

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Learning by Doing

The approach used in the Leadership Series is "learning by doing" and apart from the training received at these four workshops, participants are required to collaborate on the development, management and implementation of a small One Health pilot project that involves intersectoral collaboration nationally. Projects include sustainable agriculture initiatives, invasive species, waste management, antimicrobial resistance and water safety and security.

The "One Health, One Caribbean, One Love" project is managed by the University of the West Indies, in collaboration with PAHO/WHO, the FAO, CIRAD, Ministries of Agriculture of Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis and Grenada. The Leadership Series is co-sponsored by the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), under the 10th EDF project "Support to the Forum of Caribbean States in the implementation of the commitments undertaken under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA): Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)."

For more information, please contact:

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One Health leaders at field trip to organic farm, 'Stush in the Bush', St. Ann, Jamaica. Photo courtesy Dulcie Furlonge.



FLYING A BLUE FLAG

Dr. Adana Mahase-Gibson



Although there may not be a single, best beach in T&T, some beaches are cleaner, safer, and more environmentally sustainable than others. Around the world, clean, safe, and environmentally sustainable beaches often fly a Blue Flag.

The Blue Flag is an eco-label that proves that a beach or marina meets international standards of water quality, environmental education and information, environmental management, and safety and other services. Blue Flag is promoted and owned by the NGO, the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) with headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark. Started in France over 30 years ago, Blue Flags are now flying at over 4,000 locations in more than 48 countries worldwide. The Blue Flag is a globally recognised symbol of sound environmental management and a safe place for people to enjoy the world's beaches and oceans. The Blue Flag programme is an international success story of sustainable development through education, tenacious work, and best practises.

So far, there is only one Blue Flag certified beach in the Southern English-speaking Caribbean, and that is Las Cuevas Beach, on the North coast of Trinidad. Las Cuevas flies a Blue Flag thanks to the hard work of the Tourism Development Company, (TDC) as the Beach Operator, with guidance from Asclepius Green, the local NGO that is the National Coordinator for Blue Flag in T&T and the local representative of FEE.

Blue Flag beaches are special not just because they are a clean and safe place for people to enjoy the sun and sand. Blue Flag's rigorous environmental criteria mean that these beaches are also a clean and safe place for the many animal and plant species that need beaches to survive. The award is based on compliance with 32 beach criteria and 24 marina criteria dealing with environmental education and information, environmental management, water quality, safety and other services; which must be maintained during each season for the Blue Flag status to be upheld. The Blue Flag bathing season for Las Cuevas Beach in 2015 starts on January 16 and ends November 16.

What should visitors expect at a Blue Flag beach?

Visitors to Blue Flag beaches can definitely expect the following:

- There is information on the local ecosystems and environmental phenomena
- There is an information board with a map of the beach indicating where the different facilities are
- The beach has fully complied with the standards and requirements for water quality analysis
- There are no industrial, wastewater or sewage-related discharges that would affect the beach area
- The beach is kept clean
- Waste disposal containers including recycle bins are available at the beach in adequate numbers and are regularly maintained
- There is an adequate number of clean restrooms
- All buildings and beach equipment are properly maintained
- Appropriate public safety control measures are implemented and first aid equipment are available at the beach
- There is access and facilities provided for the physically disabled.

For more information:

Contact Asclepius Green, Blue Flag National Coordinator - Mrs. Joanna Moses-Wothke

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Children from the Fast Learners Academy, Valsayn enjoy turtle watching with the Las Cuevas Eco Friendly Association and National Coordinators of Blue Flag T&T. Photo courtesy Joanna Moses-Wothke.



SPEAKING OUT...

No worries

Donnamarie Alexander

Why worry they say... as tomorrow always takes care of itself

Totally disregarding that the state and health of the future starts with themselves

"Why worry love? When a sugar daddy or a sugar mama or even a Government could give you \$500.00 for the month"

Not realizing the choices we make today could make a significant difference between the haves and the have nots

"But why worry "do do"? When you can do what you want and live like royalty for a day, disregarding is the devil to pay next day"

As we are a nation increasingly forgetting how to pray and obey not the laws of the land as we have long lost our way

"But don't worry sugar with time, old wounds soon heal"

Disregarding that, we still trying to recover from silent deals and bad decisions that keep us crushed under the oppressor's heel

"But don't worry baby? History always repeats itself".

And it's that level of thinking and miseducation that makes a people unwilling to elevate themselves

"But why worry darling? As from one time is a next and with this next I mean NEXT

Because why should I fight and worry myself, as heaven soon come for me and it's on to the next, another misguided generation of people with the no worries complex"

"So don't worry you hear".

"As an advocate for positive change in and beyond my country (Trinidad and Tobago), my mission is to evoke constructive thinking and action in people I interact with and by extension the people they interact with, through my own words and actions for an improved society."

*Donnamarie Alexander
Agriculturist.*

LAGNIAPPE

Save our wetlands

The beautiful but troubling story of the unspoiled Caribbean island of East Caicos. Read the story here:

http://e360.yale.edu/feature/on_an_unspoiled_caribbean_island_grand_plans_for_big_tourist_port/2889/



<http://m.sothebysrealty.com/23610/ensxdp21x7xbmnamjes80z2d60>

HUMAN, ANIMAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FROM AROUND THE REGION

USEFUL LINKS

Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA)

<http://www.oecd.org/aidfortrade/47479430.pdf>

Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) – Health Topics

http://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_topics&Itemid=40241&lang=en

Caribbean Epidemiology Centre (CAREC)/ Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)

<http://carpha.org/>

Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism

<http://www.crfm.net/>

Caribbean 360 – News from around the Caribbean

<http://www.caribbean360.com/>

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Spread the word and join the One Health movement throughout the region.

Together, we can raise awareness of regional human, animal and environmental health threats and collaborate to bring positive change. Join the revolution!

Submit to onehealthcaribbean@gmail.com.

Use the subject "One Health Submission".

Provide your name, affiliation, and primary contact information.