

Funded participation at international or regional events for UKOTs

Report on funded participation at international/regional eventsⁱ

Eric F. Salamanca from *Turks and Caicos Islands* was being funded by JNCC to attend the **Second International Symposium on mangrove as Fish Habitat on April 7-11, 2014 in Mazatlan, Mexico.**

Participant Information

- Name of participant: **ERIC F. SALAMANCA**
 - Contact details (job title, address, email, phone number): **Environmental Research and Development Officer /efsalamanca@gov.tc; ericfsalamanca@gmail.com/ DEMA, Lower Bight Road, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands/+1-649-941-5122**
 - Name of event: **Second International Symposium on mangrove as Fish Habitat**
 - Location of event: **Mazatlan, Mexico**
 - Web link to event: www.fishconserve.org
 - Participation funded by: **JNCC**
 - Nature of participation: **Speaker/Presenter**
 - Nature of representation: **TCI Government**
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Event feedback

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Brief overview of event: **Mangroves are remarkable ecosystems – highly productive forests built by a small group of trees and shrubs that have adapted to survive in the harsh interface between land and sea. They are host to a rich and complex array of associated species, and in turn provide considerable services to human communities.**

The complex root systems of mangroves provide habitat for a diversity of terrestrial and aquatic species. Some marine organisms, such as small crabs and gastropods, spend their entire life cycle within the mangrove forest. Others, such as lobsters, groupers, and snappers, use mangrove forests as nursery areas during their early life stages. Still others, such as juvenile sharks and adult bonefish, use mangroves as foraging grounds. As a result, for much of the temperate and tropical coastal areas around the world, the mangrove ecosystem serves as the physical lattice that houses much of the food web systems for many biologically and economically important marine species. This symposium, which is the second in a series, brought together scientists from around the globe to share knowledge on the links between fisheries, ocean health, and the growing need for protecting the mangrove ecosystem.

- **Main points that would be useful for the region: The connectivity of healthy mangroves, seagrass, coral reef and fish population is becoming clear. As such protecting and conserving mangroves, seagrass and coral reefs is critical and necessary.**
- **Main points that would be useful for territory. Proper protection and conservation initiatives of mangroves, seagrass and coral reefs are critical and necessary. The current efforts of the TCI government should be maintained or level up.**

Post event information

- **Action to follow up. (any actions that require follow up by participant/territory/region) The Organizing Committee will prepare a Proceedings and I will be submitting a short paper. The 3rd Symposium of similar theme will take place in the near future. I will be continuing my works on mangrove mapping and enhancement in TCI.**

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- **Conclusions/recommendations:** *(any overall conclusions/recommendations by participant for participant/territory/region).*
Participation on said symposium is very important because leading researchers from all over the globe (US, UK, Australia, Canada, etc.) were present and shared their insights on how to increase fish productivity by protecting/conserving/enhancing the fish habitats/ecosystems such as mangrove, seagrass and coral reef.
 - **Any other points.**
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Publicity

- **Media coverage:** If your participation has been covered in the media anywhere, please provide links/scans of articles where available. **The poster is displayed at the Conference Room of the TCI National Environment Centre (NEC). Such room is frequently used by government officials, students and some private organizations, hence the poster is given wide dissemination.**
 - **Photographs/DVDs:** If you have any photographs or DVDs of the event that can be used for publication, please attach with the report and list here who should be copyrighted. **(See attached Travel Report)**
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Presentations/posters/papers

- Please send copies of any presentations/papers/posters presented at the event. **(See attached Travel Report)**
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Dissemination of information

- It is envisaged that the information provided can be put online and shared with other OTs. If there is any section of this report that should not be put in the public domain, please highlight here. **The website of DEMA is under**
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construction. The salient points and the poster itself will be posted in the DEMA website.

Additional detailed information

Appendices

Territory background reports; any other information where the detail might be interesting to OTs in the region; useful contacts.

ⁱⁱ If you have any suggestions for changes to this form, to make the information more relevant/useful please add these here.