



Ms. Asha Singh

Guyana



Bio-sketch

Ms. Singh is an interdisciplinary scientist working mainly in the area of marine management and policy. She holds a PhD from The University of Plymouth, U.K., M.Sc. from University of the West Indies and a B.Sc. from the University of Guyana. Asha's professional experience included various positions in the environmental field with organizations such as Guyana Forestry Commission (Guyana), University of Plymouth (U.K.), The Cropper Foundation (Trinidad and Tobago) and the Florida International University (U.S.A.). She also worked as a consultant with agencies such as UNEP. Over the last 5 years, most of her research work is on regional seas, bias to The Caribbean Sea and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), of which she has published in a number of journals and conference proceedings. Other areas of work undertaken by Ms. Singh include climate change and environmental changes on human wellbeing in Latin America and the Caribbean region.

Fellowship Host Institutions and Supervisors

1. Marine Affairs Programme, Dalhousie University (Dr. Lucia Fanning)
2. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations (Dr. François Baillet)

Research Abstract

Examining the applicability and implications of the Law of the Sea convention to sustainable management of regional seas

The Caribbean Sea is under threat from various forms of pollution and over-exploitation of its resources; in which the existing policies and management regimes have been ineffective in curbing the degradation of this sea. In order to arrest this problem, a sound sustainable management regime needs to be implemented to respond to the growing crisis. The United Nations, under Resolution A/RES/61/197 has provided the region an avenue to proceed with integrated sustainable management of the sea. This resolution paves the way for the sea to be managed as a large marine ecosystem, where resources and activities will be managed collectively by all States. However, under UNCLOS, many of the 39 States in the region exercise control over the resources found within their jurisdiction or sovereign areas, of which, these resources are often mismanaged.

Given the rights afforded under UNCLOS, the present practices by Latin America and the Caribbean States and the need for effective management, this research aims to determine whether UNCLOS will impede or compliment the UN Resolution and to determine what is needed under these two instruments for sustainable management of the Caribbean Sea. Preliminary findings in this study have suggested that in order for any success in sustainable management, States including UNCLOS members need to collaborate in all areas necessary, which may require a reinterpretation of their sovereignty afforded under UNCLOS.

Fellow Contact Information

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