

## **KEISHA MARIA GARCIA**

11 Plumrose Avenue, Santa Rosa Heights, Arima  
Tel Work 626-2628 (work); Home 667-4154; Mobile 353-7339  
E-mail: [kgarcia@thecropperfoundation.org](mailto:kgarcia@thecropperfoundation.org); [kgarcia@ema.co.tt](mailto:kgarcia@ema.co.tt);

**Employment Objective:** To contribute to policy and practice for sustainable development.

**Skills:** Well organized; self-motivated; able to think analytically; able to work independently or as part of a team; experience in undertaking inter-disciplinary research; able to meet deadlines and can work well under pressure; keen interest in learning; able to communicate effectively both orally and in writing; good knowledge of Microsoft.

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

#### **The Cropper Foundation**<sup>1</sup>

**February 2009 – present: Programme Coordinator**

- Leading, managing and coordinating day-to-day activities at The Cropper Foundation in the absence of the President

**January 2008 – present: Education Programme Consultant (part-time) and Financial Officer**

- Conceptualizing, programming, coordinating, delivering, evaluating and reporting on a Programme in Environment and Resource Education (IERE)
- Managing all financial matters at The Cropper Foundation

**April 2007 – December 2007: Programme Officer – Ecosystem Assessment and Education**

- Assisting with policy follow-up and outreach for the Northern Range and Caribbean Sea Assessment
- Conceptualizing, programming, coordinating, delivering, evaluating and reporting on IERE
- Working alongside the President of the Foundation to expand and deepen the Foundation's programmes and activities related to sustainable development

**Oct 2004 – Sept 2006: Education Programme Officer and Research Assistant**

- Assisted in the conceptualization and initiation of IERE
- Assisted with policy-related events within the Caribbean region which seek to follow-up on the Caribbean Sea Assessment (CARSEA)
- Organized and managed a Regional Consultation on CARSEA and the United Nations
- Supported other programmatic and administrative activities at The Cropper Foundation including functioning as the Officer-in-charge in the absence of the President.

**Oct 2002 – Oct 2004: Technical Support Officer – Ecosystem Assessments**

- Assisted in the coordination and management of The Northern Range Assessment, Trinidad and (2) The Caribbean Sea Assessment (CARSEA):
- Served as a Lead Author on the Assessment Process chapter of the MA Sub-global Volume
- Served as a member of the Core Secretariat of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

#### **The Environmental Management Authority of Trinidad and Tobago**

**January 2008 – present: Integrated Environmental Assessment Specialist (consultant)**

- Conceptualizing, programming, coordinating, and delivering the National State of the Environment Report for Trinidad and Tobago
- Organizing and delivering training seminars and workshops on environmental assessments
- Making inputs into the development and management of databases for the organisation

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<sup>1</sup> The Cropper Foundation is a not-for-profit, philanthropic organization in Trinidad and Tobago that aims to influence and contribute to Sustainable Development policy and practice.

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### **United Nations Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)**

#### ***Oct 2006 – Jan 2007: British Commonwealth Professional Scholar: Ecosystem Assessments***

- Assisting with the conceptualization and initiation of a programme that follows up on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment project (MA)<sup>2</sup>, especially focusing on work undertaken at local and regional levels at various locations around the world
- Assisting with the production of an Ecosystem Assessment Methodology Manual
- Contributing to other aspects of the work of WCMC, as appropriate

### **ACADEMIC BACKGROUND**

#### **Oct 2001 – Sept 2002: The University of Cambridge, England - Girton College**

Master of Philosophy (Environment and Development): Overall performance rating: Excellent

- Dissertation title: *Environmental attitudes, knowledge and behaviour in Trinidad and Tobago: exploring teenage paradigms in the context of the education system.*

#### **Sept 1999 – Aug 2001: The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad**

Master of Philosophy (Zoology: Environmental Toxicology)

- Dissertation title: *'Comparative Sensitivities of Tropical and Sub-tropical Mysids to Toxicants'*: A two-year research project conducted in collaboration with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to determine the suitability of the tropical mysid, *Metamysidopsis insularis*, as a toxicity test species in Trinidad and Tobago.

#### **Sept 1996 – May 1999: The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad**

Bachelor of Science (Zoology): First Class Honours

- Final year research project title: *The impacts of deforestation, urbanization and pine silviculture on butterfly populations in the Northern Range of Trinidad.*

### **ACTIVITIES RELATED TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Member of a national committee in Trinidad and Tobago responsible for the production of Compendia of Environmental Statistics for the country (April 2008 – present)
- Member of the Core Secretariat for the MA Sub-global Follow-up Programme (December 2007 – present)
- Member of the Core Secretariat and Author – Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Methodology Manual (September 2007 – present)
- Assisted in the planning, organisation and delivery of three biodiversity-related workshops for the Caribbean Region as follows:
  - November 3 – 7: Two parallel workshops organized by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):
    - one entitled 'Capacity-building workshop for the Caribbean region for the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Mainstreaming of Biodiversity and the Integration of Climate Change';
    - the other entitled 'Workshop on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) for the Caribbean Region'
  - December 9 – 11: Workshop organized by the United Nations Environment Programme- World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) on behalf of the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership (BIP) entitled 'Caribbean Biodiversity Indicators Capacity Development Workshop'
- Invited author – Global Environment Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean 4 (September 2007)
- Associate of the Cambridge Conservation Forum (Jan 2007 – present)

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<sup>2</sup> See [www.maweb.org](http://www.maweb.org)

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- Part-time Sales Assistant at WHSmith bookstore, Cambridge UK (Nov 2006 – Jan 2007)
- Member of the Environmental Management Authority Steering Committee for the 2005 State of the Environment Report (July - Sept 2006)
- Fellow in the Global Environment Outlook 4 (GEO-4) process: author on the Interlinkages Chapter, and contributor to aspects of GEO-4 related to Latin America and the Caribbean (Oct 2005 – present)
- Member of the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (Aug 2004 – present)
- Environmental education volunteer for the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) of Trinidad and Tobago (Jan 2004 – December 2007).
- Board member of the Rape Crisis Society (RCS) of Trinidad and Tobago (Jun 2006 – Jun 2008), and member (Dec 2004 to present):
  - Involved in most aspects of the work of the RCS: writing proposals for fundraising, organizing national conferences and workshops, preparing financial documents; advising on and assisting in the development of the RCS's work programme
- Member of the Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability – Medies (Dec 2004 – present)
- Member of the Sustainable Development Network - a group of concerned professionals initiated by The Cropper Foundation in 2001 whose purpose is to contribute to public policy and planning processes in Trinidad and Tobago - (Oct 2002 to present)
- Postgraduate Field Teaching Assistant for Geography undergraduate courses at The University of Cambridge (2002)
- Member of the Cambridge University Environmental Consulting Society (CUECS) through which assisted in conducting a survey to determine the feasibility of developing a park and cycle system for Cambridge (2002)
- Environmental Officer of the Girton College MCR (Graduate Committee), University of Cambridge (2002)
- Postgraduate Laboratory Teaching Assistant for Zoology undergraduate students at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine (1999 –2001)
- Organized and delivered interactive demonstrations on animal diversity (with primary and secondary school students) at The University of the West Indies (1999 – 2001)
- Volunteer lecturer on environmental issues for sixth-form biology/ geography students and primary school students in Trinidad (1999 – 2002)
- Assistant to Dr. Hari Maharaj (Psychiatrist and Therapist) with group sessions and individual consultations (1996 – 1999)

### **SPECIAL WORKSHOPS ATTENDED AND COURSES UNDERTAKEN**

- Diploma in Business Management (School of Business and Computer Sciences: May 2007 to May 2008)
- Training workshop in the use of the UNEP Global Environment Outlook Handbook for Latin America and the Caribbean (Jun 2007)
- Cambridge Conservation Forum (CCF) Symposium, Cambridge UK (Jan 2007)
- Workshop on Assessing Ecosystem Services in the UK, hosted by the UK Department of Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the British Ecological Society, London UK (Dec 2006)
- Workshop on 'What can the ecosystem approach deliver – rhetoric or insight: theoretical and practical issues' – The University of Nottingham, UK (Nov 2006)
- Discussion group on Leadership hosted by The British Commonwealth, London UK (Nov 2006)
- Seminar 'Learning as Sustainability' – The University of Bath, UK (Oct 2006)
- Environment on the Edge Lecture Series, Cambridge UK (2006 – 2007)
  - Europe's future: Environment at the heart or on the edge?
  - Are we running out of oil?
  - The effects of the Sanxia Dam on the Yangtze

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- Spanish – Intermediate level (The University of the West Indies: Jan to May 2006)
- Certificate courses – Financial Accounting; Project Management (School of Business and Computer Sciences: Jan- Feb 2006)
- Advanced Counselling (The Rape Crisis Society: Sept – Nov 2005)
- International conference ‘Education for a Sustainable Future’ India (Jan 2005)
- International conference ‘Bridging Scales and Epistemologies: linking local knowledge with global science in multi-scale assessments’ Egypt (March 2004)
- Three psychology courses: Introduction to Psychology; Introduction to Child Psychology; Counselling Adolescents– (The University of the West Indies: Feb - May 2004)
- Scenarios Training Workshop conducted by the Millennium Assessment (Apr 2002)
- Two-week training session in environmental toxicology at the US Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) laboratory in Rhode Island (July 2001)
- Completed five Spanish courses (to the intermediate level) at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine (1999-2001)

### **MAIN AWARDS**

- British Commonwealth Professional Fellowship Scholarship to pursue a four-month fellowship at the UNEP- World Conservation Monitoring Centre (Oct 2006)
- One of the recipients of the Zayed Prize Diploma, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, awarded to authors of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment for scientific and technological achievements in environment (2006)
- One-year Postgraduate scholarship awarded by The Ministry of Energy, Government of Trinidad and Tobago (Oct 2001)
- Completion grant awarded by The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine to candidates completing their MPhil degrees within 2 years (Aug 2001)
- Overseas travel scholarship awarded by The University of the West Indies to outstanding postgraduate students to build capacity in their field (June 2001)
- Two-year postgraduate scholarship awarded by the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine (Sept 1999)
- Awards of distinction in Zoology at The University of the West Indies (1996; 1999)
- Further Additional Scholarship awarded by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago based on outstanding national performance in the Cambridge GCE Advanced Level Examinations (Sep 1996)

### **SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS**

Ash, N., Blanco, H., Brown, C., Garcia, K., Henrichs, T., Lucas, N., Raudsepp-Hearne, C., Simpson, R.D., Scholes, B., Tomich, T., Vira, B., and Zurek, M. (in prep) Ecosystems and Human Well-being – A Manual for Assessment Practitioners.

Garcia, Keisha, Agard, John B. R. and Mohammed, Azad (2008). Comparative sensitivity of a tropical mysid *Metamysidopsis insularis* and the temperate species *Americamysis bahia* to six toxicants. *Toxicological & Environmental Chemistry* 90:4. 779 — 785.

CARSEA 2007. *Ecosystem Services of the Caribbean Sea: The Caribbean Sea Ecosystem Assessment (CARSEA)*. A sub-global Component of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), J. Agard, A. Cropper, K. Garcia, N. Girvan, T. Hirsch, J. Kenny, Eds., Caribbean Marine Studies. In print.

Northern Range Assessment 2005. Report of an Assessment of the Northern Range of Trinidad, Trinidad and Tobago: ‘People and the Northern Range’. *Environmental Management Authority State of the Environment Report 2004*. Trinidad and Tobago.

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Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005. *Multiscale Assessments: Findings of the Sub-global Assessments Working Group*. Ecosystems and Human Well-being, vol. 4. Island Press, Washington, DC.

Hayes, F.E., D.B. McNair, F.B. Lucas, C.L. Ramjohn, N.C. Johnson, S.T. Ballah, L.W. Doodnath and **K.M. Garcia**. 2003. Noteworthy observations of birds, including two globally threatened species in the eastern Paria Peninsula of Venezuela. *Cottinga* 20: 101-102.

Ramjohn, C.L., F.B. Lucas, F.E. Hayes, S. Ballah, N.C. Johnson and **K.M. Garcia**. 2003. Lek mating behavior of the Sooty-capped Hermit (*Phaethornis augusti*) in the Paria Peninsula of Venezuela. *Journal of Field Ornithology* 74: 205-209.