

# Jahson B. Alemu I, PhD

A marine scientist with 10+ years of leadership in research, community service, project management and conservation strategy.

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## 📖 EDUCATION SUMMARY

- PhD in Environmental Biology**                      **University of the West Indies / 2018**  
Dissertation: *A novel framework for optimising coral reef ecosystem service trade-offs to deliver benefits to people: A case study of Tobago*
- MSc in Marine Biology**                              **University of Wales (Bangor) / 2008**  
*Protected area management and equity in coastal communities*
- BSc in Biology**    **University of the West Indies / 2005**

## 🏢 CAREER SUMMARY

- Coastal Sustainability Fellow**    / 2021-present  
Northeastern University (Boston, USA)  
• Nature-based solutions to climate change and equity in coastal communities
- Country Research Scientist / Postdoctoral Fellow**                      / 2018-2021  
National University of Singapore (Singapore)  
• Established a basis for blue carbon predictive models  
• Coastal protection and water quality modelling  
• Spatial equity of recreational diving and fishing communities
- Director / Co-founder**    / 2017-present  
SpeSeas (Trinidad & Tobago)  
• Ocean advocacy and literacy through the [Maritime Ocean Collection](#)  
• Environmental justice champion
- Marine Biology Program Developer / Lecturer**                      / 2015-2018  
University of the West Indies (Trinidad & Tobago)  
• Co-developed and delivered the first in-country Marine Biology minor in Trinidad & Tobago, including courses on practical research skills including lab work, fieldwork and science communication
- Program Coordinator / Coral Reef Research Scientist**                      / 2009-2015  
Institute of Marine Affairs (Trinidad & Tobago)  
• Coral reef conservation strategy, research and monitoring  
• Focal point of social resilience strategy to lionfish and heat stress  
• Project management, community engagement and facilitation
- Asst. Project Manager (Regional)**    / 2008-2009  
Buccoo Reef Trust (Trinidad & Tobago)  
• Southeast Caribbean focal point for capacity building in coral reef monitoring, impact assessment and protected area management  
• NGO community mentor  
• Editor of the CaMMESEC newsletter
- Environmental Scientist**    / 2005-2007  
Eco-Engineering Consultants Ltd. (Trinidad & Tobago)  
• Social & Environmental Impact Assessments for the establishment of protected area establishment in the Caribbean



## Research competency

Systematic Review	●●●
Field & Lab Experiments	●●●●
Documentation & Writing	●●●●
Statistical Modelling	●●●●
Marine Taxonomy	●●●●
Scientific Diving	●●●●●
Science Communication (conventional)	●●●●
Science Communication (social media)	●●●
Questionnaire Development	●●●
Stakeholder Engagement	●●●

## Software competency

MS Office	●●●●●
R	●●●●
SPSS	●●●●
ArcGIS	●●●
Photoshop	●●●●
CPCe	●●●●●
Marine InVEST	●●●●●
DHI MIKE 21	●●●
LIMDEP	●●●

## Language competency



## SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Citations: 414 | h-index: 7 | i10-index: 6 (Google scholar: July 2021)
- Full publication list [here](#)
- Research highlights: [coral reef community dynamics](#), [mangrove](#) & [coral reef multi-functionality](#), [lionfish control](#), blue carbon (in press)

## SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP

### Projects

- [ProEcoServ](#): Lead country investigator on coral reef coastal protection, fisheries & recreation services modelling and valuation.
- [Natural Capital Singapore](#): Country investigator on seagrass blue carbon, nutrient regulation and sediment stabilization.

### Policy & Scientific committees:

- Strategy advisor on the national biodiversity committee for Trinidad & Tobago
- Strategy advisor on three protected areas in Trinidad & Tobago

**Invited talks:** Topics ranging from career development to conservation and sustainable development. Selected highlights:

- Managing urban mangroves for sustainability | Duke University / 2021
- People and nature in coastal communities | Green Screen / 2018
- Managing reefs for resilience | University of the West Indies / 2015

**Scientific Review:** Scientific reviewer for several journals, including Estuarine, Coastal & Shelf Science, Coral Reefs and Science of the Total Environment

### Affiliations

- Postdoctoral Research Fellow | [The Mangrove Lab](#) (NUS, Singapore)
- Visiting Scientist | [Silliman Lab](#) (Duke University, USA)
- Director / Founder | [SpeSeas](#) (Trinidad & Tobago)

## GRANTS

- Secured multiple grants totaling over USD\$570,000.00
- Brokered for collaborative initiatives between industry partners, private donors and government.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

- Commonwealth Fellowship | [NRF](#) (International) / 2018
- Tobago "TOP" Achievers | [THA](#) (local) / 2014
- National Young Scientist | [NIHERST](#) (local) / 2013
- Conservation Leaders Scholarship | [CLP](#) (International) / 2008
- Future Conservation Award | [CLP](#) (International) / 2006

## COMMUNITY SERVICE & OUTREACH

- Leading ocean literacy and environmental justice advocacy through my NGO, [SpeSeas](#)
- Ad hoc Blogger ([here](#)), podcaster ([here](#)) and writer in the local media
- Assistant troop leader: 6th Trinidad Sea Scouts
- Organizational support to the Tobago Eco-Spearfishing competition

## Hobbies & Interests

- Boating and Rowing
- Trail running
- SCUBA diving
- Hiking
- Puzzling