



Connections

5 September 2003

An electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)

About CERMES Connections

Welcome to the first issue of CERMES Connections. It is an occasional and informal electronic bulletin distributed by the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) in Barbados. We hope that you would like to keep up to date with what is happening at CERMES within our international network of students, alumni, staff, associates and collaborating organisations. We want to share your information as well, so give us some feedback and news.

Let the 2003 programme begin ...

September 8th will see the start of teaching in the 12-month Natural Resource and Environmental Management MSc programme at CERMES for the 2003/2004 academic year. This year CERMES has students enrolling from Barbados, Bermuda, Guyana, Jamaica and the UK to study. The Cave Hill Campus currently offers students two specialisation streams:

- Coastal and Marine Resource Management
- Climate Change.

Courses to choose from

In each specialisation stream there are courses to choose from. All of the MSc courses at CERMES are delivered in short 2-3 week modules, and individual courses will be available, subject to space, to the general public for a fee (US\$150 per credit). A list of the available courses is given here:

2-Credit Courses

- Introduction to Environmental Planning and Management in Natural Resource Management
- Concepts and Issues in Natural Resource Management
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Resource Economics
- Environmental Law and its Administration
- Geographic Information Systems
- Project Management

3-Credit Courses

- Professional Skills for Natural Resource Management
- Coastal Ecology and Management

- Fisheries Biology and Management
- The Value and Conservation of Biodiversity
- Sustainable Tourism in the Coastal Zone
- Climate Dynamics and Modelling
- Policy Response to Climate Change
- Vulnerability to Climate Change and Impact Assessment
- Climate Change Impacts: Mitigation and Adaptation

Professional skills come first

The Professional Skills Course starts students on the road towards their MSc in Natural Resource and Environmental Management. This course is designed to ensure that students leaving the programme are not only technically proficient as resource managers, but also well on their way to being truly professional in their approach. The course covers fundamental issues of verbal and non-verbal communication, geared at enhancing the students' ability to share information in a range of informal and formal settings. It seeks to improve their writing skills, introduces them to the wonderful world of research, and instructs them in the preparation of proposals and reports. The course also has strong emphasis on data handling and analysis. In addition, it provides a basic introduction to group dynamics in order to facilitate the students' ability to function effectively in team settings.

Internships are becoming popular

MSc students from the 2002/2003 academic year are currently undertaking their 3-4 month research projects and/or internships. Internships are with the:

- ◆ Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) in Barbados
- ◆ Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) in St. Lucia
- ◆ Department of Fisheries and Conservation in Tortola
- ◆ Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) in Barbados
- ◆ Coastal Resources Co-management Project (CORECOMP) of CERMES assigned to Belize
- ◆ Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CAST) in Puerto Rico,
- ◆ OECS Environmental Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU) in St. Lucia

- ◆ Caribbean Marine Institute (CMI) in Jamaica
- ◆ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jamaica
- ◆ Hydromet department in Guyana

Also, research projects are being undertaken on:

- ◆ Trade and the environment in Trinidad
- ◆ Climate change data management capacity in St. Lucia
- ◆ Impacts of El Nino on sugar cane yield in Belize
- ◆ Wind energy in Barbados
- ◆ Climate change impacts in coastal zone in Guyana.

For more information on what CERMES has to offer through this programme you can send a message to nrm@uwichill.edu.bb.

New specialisation streams coming

This MSc has recently been expanded to become a university-wide programme under the UWI School for Graduate Studies and Research, and will be offering additional specialisation streams

(1) At the Mona Campus (from September 2003) in:

- Integrated Urban and Rural Environmental Management
- Water Resources Management
- Tropical Ecosystems Assessment and Management

(2) At the St. Augustine Campus (from September 2004) in:

- Pollution Control and Abatement
- Land Use, Forestry and Biodiversity Management
- Water Resources Management
- Tropical Ecosystems Assessment and Management

3) At Cave Hill (from September 2004) in

- Solid Waste Management.

IOCARIBE Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project

Work continues on the preparation of the proposal to be submitted to the GEF for Block B funding for the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project. This project entered the GEF Pipeline in May 2003. It will focus on governance of transboundary living marine resources in the wider Caribbean. These include migratory species such as tunas and dolphinfish, as well as those that are transported by ocean currents as eggs and larvae, such as reef

fishes and corals. Governance will require strengthening of capacity to generate technically sound advice as well as the mechanisms for decision-making and implementation of decisions.

The project, submitted by IOCARIBE, the Caribbean arm of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) will engage all Caribbean states, and a wide range of institutions, with an interest in living marine resources.

For further information contact Dr. Robin Mahon, CERMES, Regional Project Coordinator for the CLME Project via rmahon@uwichill.edu.bb.

UWI at Green Expo 2003

The Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences will 'strut its stuff' at the upcoming Green Expo 2003. CERMES is coordinating this booth and the displays that will highlight teaching and research programmes. There will be posters and continuous slide shows, as well as displays. If you are at Cave Hill, not yet involved in the Expo but want to be, contact Dr. Robin Mahon at CERMES via rmahon@uwichill.edu.bb.

Co-management scene on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua

Nicaragua is a fascinating country. Researchers working with the Coastal Resources Co-management Project (CORECOMP) of CERMES have visited fisheries management authorities in Managua, and in Bluefields on the Caribbean coast, to discuss co-management. Of particular interest is the watershed and coastal area of Pearl Lagoon, which has been the scene of research and other initiatives concerning community-based coastal resource management.

A few years ago a Dutch-funded project wrote a fisheries management plan for the Pearl Lagoon area that was basically similar to a plan developed over several years of community participation by the IDRC-funded CAMP-Lab teams. The former plan received approval from the authorities in Managua who have little presence and capacity to work on the Caribbean coast. The community-based plan has received some approval at the local level, but here too the lack of capacity for implementation is an obstacle. Yet, the stakeholders on both coasts have expressed interest in promoting co-management.

In the latter half of September researchers from CERMES will be offering short workshops on coastal resource co-management to partner organisations in various locations in Nicaragua.

Next issue: More on projects and outreach