

An electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the
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Doing more in 2004

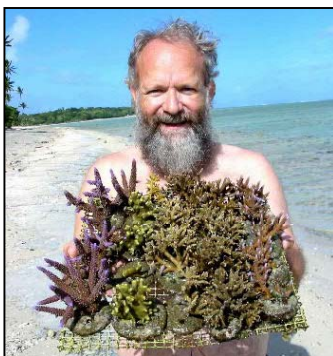
CERMES Connections wishes all of our partners and colleagues prosperity and progress in this new year. We hope to be doing more in 2004 for and with you. Our connections in the Caribbean and beyond are growing stronger and more diverse. We have some new projects and publications to unveil. Read on ...

Caribbean sea level change

The threat of sea level change from global warming is the basis of a new study by Dr. Eugene Ramcharan. His aim is to determine the extent to which Caribbean sea levels have changed over the past 1,000 years. To complement existing data from Barbados and Trinidad, field trips were undertaken to collect sediment cores from tidal mangroves in the Caroni Swamp in Trinidad, Bon Accord lagoon in Tobago, and Tyrrel Bay in Carriacou. Samples from these cores will be dated using radiocarbon techniques and the data compared to known climatological events so as to assess their influence on sea levels. The research results are expected to support efforts to predict future sea level change and its impacts on Caribbean coastal ecology and settlements.

Coral gardening in the Caribbean?

Dr. Austin Bowden-Kerby, from The Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSPI) in Fiji, visited CERMES on 10 December 2003 with Susan Mahon of Counterpart Caribbean, and their colleagues from Counterpart International, Margaret Hayward and Alexandra Cousteau.



Dr. Bowden-Kerby displays a frame with corals grown from fragments

Dr. Bowden-Kerby presented his BBC documentary on resort wastewater treatment in Fiji, then followed up with a slide show on coral rehabilitation for *Acropora* species in the Caribbean.

The rehabilitation techniques for coral are based on his extensive fieldwork in Puerto Rico.

Counterpart International is interested in pursuing their Pacific 'Coral Gardening' concept in the Caribbean. The Barbados Marine Trust is one of the local organisations interested in the techniques.



FAO Working Party on Small-scale Fisheries

This Working Party (WP), convened under the FAO Advisory Committee on Fisheries Research (ACFR), met in Bangkok 18-21 November to:

- Undertake an evaluation of the role and importance of small-scale fisheries;
- Elaborate a research agenda for the sector;
- Review strategies and mechanisms to bridge the gap between research and action; and
- Provide views on key elements that should be included in the Code of Conduct guidelines on small-scale fisheries.

Dr. Robin Mahon participated and presented a background paper on 'Small-Scale Fisheries, Past Experience and Future Solutions' co-authored with Dr. Douglas Wilson (Institute for Fisheries Management and Coastal Community Development, Denmark) that looked at the management regime for small-scale fisheries in CARICOM countries and discussed five critical management issues.

Discussions at the WP were heavily weighted towards poverty alleviation issues in the large small-scale fisheries of Africa and Asia. This flags the need for SIDS scientists and managers to pay greater attention to documenting their fisheries issues and presenting them forcefully in international meetings.

Sustainable Grenadines

In the previous issue we introduced the project 'Sustainable Integrated Development and Biodiversity Conservation in the Grenadine Islands', better known as 'Sustainable Grenadines' and funded primarily by the Lighthouse Foundation of Germany. The project's Phase 2 got off to a start recently with its first Steering Committee Meeting, in Union Island, on 9 December 2003. Among the key issues discussed were the location and staffing of the project implementation unit in the Southern Grenadines.



The project Steering Committee (Left to right) Mr Ashwa Stewart, President, Union Island Museum and Ecological Society; Mr. Cecil Ryan, Manager, Projects Promotion Ltd.; Ms Theresa Bartholomew, Secretary, Mayreau Environmental Development Organisation; Mr. Hansel Henry, PRO, Canouan Island Council and Club Nuevo; Mr. Brian Richards, Dive Master, Mustique Island Company; Ms Lydia Ollivierre, President Anglican Youth Group of Bequia; Dr. Robin Mahon, CERMES, UWI, Barbados; Mr. Benson Patrice, President, Carriacou Environmental Committee; Mr. Sylvester Tannis, Administrative Officer for the Northern Grenadines, Bequia; Ms Cecilia St. Ignac, President, Petite Martinique New Woman's Movement; Mr. Werner 'Max' Nagel, President, Grenada SCUBA Divers Association, Carriacou; Mr Dennis Gay, Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Carriacou

CORECOMP Holetown project

CORECOMP is CERMES' Coastal Resources Co-management Project. Among its activities are a series of small projects aimed at demonstrating successful co-management in various locations in the Caribbean and Central America. Several small projects are being implemented in Barbados.

The beach behind the Holetown Government Complex in St. James is a high visibility area for tourists and local beach users. At present it suffers from several problems that make the area unsightly. Some are environmentally unacceptable: stagnant water, garbage, etc. Proximity to the sea means that the problems in this area can also affect the marine environment.

However, this tiny parcel of open coastal land in a highly built-up area has the potential to become an attractive small recreational and nature site that can also play a role in the conservation of the adjacent marine environment. The objective of the project is to link the northern and southern areas of Holetown with a structured amenity area and community park that will serve local residents and visitors alike.

The Holetown Watersheds Group (HWG) cleaned-up the area in May 2000 as part of the Greening of Barbados programme. As a CORECOMP activity the process of creating the beach park has started. The site development-planning phase is underway. Hotels and businesses in the area have pledged donations toward the preparation of the site development plan. Area residents are also being mobilised to make this a true community undertaking. Responses have been encouraging. Stay tuned for future updates.

Caribbean Coastal Co-management Guidelines Project comes to an end



This project of the Caribbean Conservation Association involved CERMES staff as the principal investigators since early 2002. A series of output documents is now in press for paper and electronic distribution, but mainly the latter. They should be on CCA and CERMES web sites soon for free download. Below is a list of them:

- McConney, P., R. Pomeroy and R. Mahon. 2003. *Guidelines for coastal resource co-management in the Caribbean: Communicating the concepts and conditions that favour success*. [56pp]
- McConney, P. 2003. *Grenada case study: legalisation of beach seine traditional rules at Gouyave*. [70pp].
- McConney, P. 2003. *Grenada case study: the lobster fishery at Sauteurs*. [65pp].
- McConney, P., R. Mahon and C. Parker. 2003. *Barbados case study: the sea egg fishery*. [74pp].
- McConney, P., R. Mahon and H. Oxenford. 2003. *Barbados case study: the Fisheries Advisory Committee*. [77pp].
- McConney, P., R. Mahon and R. Pomeroy. 2003. *Belize case study: Fisheries Advisory Board in the context of integrated coastal management*. [70pp].
- Pomeroy, R.S. and T. Goetze. 2003. *Belize case study: Marine protected areas co-managed by Friends of Nature*. [69pp].
- Pomeroy, R., P. McConney and R. Mahon. 2003. *Comparative analysis of coastal resource co-management in the Caribbean*. [30pp].

A follow-up project, in which the CCA is involved, started recently to promote the use of these outputs and those of other similar projects in the Caribbean. CERMES is in the process of developing training and teaching materials around these products. For further information you can contact Dr. Patrick McConney at nrmoutreach@caribsurf.com.