



# Connections

19 November 2004

An electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus

With the first semester well under way the Cave Hill Campus is busy again. CERMES got off to a great start with its graduate student orientation and lots of action on various projects that we will tell you all about below.

## **Student orientation**

Our new students were introduced to the Cave Hill Campus and CERMES in an orientation package put together mainly by Kim Baldwin (research assistant and CERMES graduate) and Bibi Selman (secretary), ably assisted by a number of other staff. On 3 September the recruits were guided around the campus and the facilities at CERMES.



The next day, Saturday 4 September, found them on a bus and boat discovering the "real world" of Coastal and Marine Management, Climate Change and Solid Waste. The all-day land and sea field trip took them around the island with stops at places of interest in the

context of the topics that they will cover in their year at CERMES. Wetlands, beach erosion, tourism, fisheries infrastructure, geological formations, mining, housing, agriculture and many aspects of resource use formed part of the fun and learning experience. The students got to know each other and CERMES faculty who conducted the tours.

## **COASTFISH 2004 meets in Mexico**

Dr. Patrick McConney attended the COASTFISH 2004 conference in Merida, Mexico, from 4-8 October. The meeting focused on the coastal fisheries of Latin America and the Caribbean. He presented a country profile paper on the small pelagic, sea egg, shallow shelf and deep reef fisheries of Barbados.



A paper co-authored with Roland Baldeo of Grenada Fisheries Division on "Some lessons in coastal resource co-management from beach seine and lobster fisheries in Grenada" was presented. It was an opportunity to showcase several of the

reports and publications put out by CERMES and other organisations that are members of the Coastal Management Research Network (COMARE Net) which sponsored Dr. McConney's participation. A few days after the conference, the meeting organiser, Dr. Silvia Salas of CINVESTAV, joined COMARE Net.

It is hoped that COASTFISH may be organised every two years in different countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Barbados is one proposal for host in 2006.

## **Sustainable Grenadines Project to be officially launched on 23 November**

Tuesday 23 November is an important date for the Sustainable Grenadines Project. It will be officially launched in Union Island. The launch will take place after the Steering Committee meeting at which the first annual workplan will be reviewed. There will be a brief ceremony followed by a reception at the Project's new office in Clifton. Look out for details of the launch and workplan in the next CERMES Connections. You will soon be able to visit the Sustainable Grenadines web page that is currently under construction.

## **Stakeholder study on Graeme Hall Swamp based on SocMon methods**

One of the recently concluded Coastal Resources Co-management Project (CORECOMP) activities was a stakeholder study that may lead to the co-management of the Graeme Hall Swamp. The study was done by consultant Angela Alleyne on behalf of the Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU) which was acting as the agent of the multi-stakeholder Science Committee set up to address deficiencies in scientific knowledge about the swamp. Enlightened, the CZMU sought to incorporate social science in their investigations.

The study focused on obtaining perceptions from the people who live and work around the swamp about the area and the concept of co-management. The SocMon Caribbean methodology of socio-economic analysis that is promoted by CERMES was adapted and used.

People interviewed attached high importance to this last remaining large area of mangrove wetland as a natural resource and an economic asset. They were in favour of participatory management of the area. It remains to be seen whether the authorities and stakeholders will be able to implement co-management arrangements.

## 57th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) meets in Florida

The 57<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) met in St. Petersburg, Florida, from 8-12 November. This year the meeting benefited from having a large group of participants from around the region sponsored by various CERMES projects.

There were seven paper presentations associated with CERMES projects or sponsorship:



*Gibson, J., D. Lizama and R. Pomeroy — Establishing a socioeconomic monitoring program for Glover's Reef Atoll, Belize*

*Joseph, K. — Socio-economic impact of the closed season for lobster in Corn Island, RAAS, Nicaragua*



*McConney, P. — Integration of fisheries into coastal management*

*Parker, C. and M. Pena — Possible paths to co-managing the sea egg fishery of Barbados*



*Rambusiek, C., H. Oxenford and P. McConney — A livelihoods analysis of two marine protected areas in Belize*

*Smith, A.H. — Using GIS tools for participatory management of coastal resources in Laborie Bay, St. Lucia*

One poster was also a CERMES production:

*Browne, M., M. Pena and P. McConney — Tobago Cays Marine Park: How is this MPA Doing?*

In addition, two other oral presentations, by PhD students, had connections to CERMES. They were:

*Eristhee, N., P.A. Murray, E. Kadison and A. Llewelyn — Preliminary Investigations into the Red Hind Fishery in the British Virgin Islands*

*Goetze, T.C. — Negotiating Difference: Stakeholder Challenges in MPA Co-Management*

Participants sponsored by CERMES who did not present papers included Messrs. Jack Nightingale and Dwight Neal from NGOs in Belize that co-manage MPAs. They were assisted by the Coastal Resources Co-management Project (CORECOMP) as part of the capacity building component of that project. A project planning meeting was held with partners in various CORECOMP activities in order to identify new initiatives under this project funded by the Oak Foundation.

CERMES faculty participated in an informal meeting on strengthening the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission. Dr. Robin Mahon, Director of CERMES, was there as the regional coordinator for the Caribbean

Large Marine Ecosystems project and Dr. McConney participated in his capacity as a GCFI board member.

Dr. Oxenford, also a GCFI board member of many years, contributed to several organisational sessions of the Institute. Next year's meeting is slated for the breath-taking San Andres islands of Columbia. We hope to see some of you there.

## Coastal Management Research Network (COMARE Net) in action

The UWI Office of Research's Coastal Management Research Network (COMARE Net), that is managed in part by CERMES, has taken on new life. Visit the new COMARE Net web page on the CERMES web site and you can find the membership application form, links to several coastal management projects and the various outputs from those projects. The latter include reports, briefs, presentations and final technical reports. The web page is still under construction and more links are to be added in the near future. The network will soon also be accessible from the new web site of the Office of Research (<http://www.uwi.tt/researchOffice.asp>).

COMARE Net also assisted in disseminating research results and other information on coastal management through sponsorship of several participants to attend some of the scientific and technical meetings mentioned previously. At each of these events project outputs, as CDs or paper copies, were taken along for display and distribution. At the GCFI meeting over 200 CDs and almost as many documents were acquired by meeting participants who visited the COMARE Net display table. These products covered almost all of the DFID-funded projects of the Natural Resources Systems Programme (NRSP) in the Caribbean.



COMARE Net is now in the process of increasing the UWI content on the web page by including initiatives related to coastal management. It is anticipated that this will be of considerable assistance to graduate students seeking project ideas and supervisors within our areas of specialisation in marine science.