

CERMES Connections

24 March 2005

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

Over the past two months CERMES has participated in a number of regional and international meetings. We have also received funds in our quest for scholarships to be awarded to students in the names of persons who have contributed prominently to resource management locally and elsewhere in the Caribbean. Increasing the output and availability of our publications, including the Connections is another aim that received attention.

Working at the CarWASSH

CERMES has now officially joined the CarWASSH (Caribbean Water Assessment Snap Shot) initiative of the Southeast Environmental Research Center, Florida International University, as a collaborator. The initiative is to establish a wider Caribbean, long-term, marine water quality monitoring network. In the initial pilot phase a single set of water samples will be collected by 20-30 collaborating institutions from the region for analysis of nutrients (nitrite, nitrate, phosphate etc.) which have implications for the health of critical marine ecosystems such as seagrass communities and reefs.

Principal at launch of our web site

The CERMES web site (www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes) had its official launch with the Principal of the Cave Hill Campus, Prof. Hilary Beckles, in attendance. Also there was Dean of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences, Prof. Leo Moseley, and CERMES faculty. During the tour of the web site several innovative ideas for further developing the campus and CERMES were shared.

Eminent coral reef scientist visits

Dr. Robert Ginsburg of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS), University of Miami, visited CERMES from 17-18 Feb. to plan an Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA) coral reef monitoring training workshop for the eastern Caribbean. Whilst here he shared with us many of his experiences as a marine geologist of many decades and gave an informal presentation introducing the AGRRA programme at our 'brown bag' lunch session.

CERMES Colin Hudson Scholarship

On the anniversary of the death of Dr. Colin Hudson, CERMES enhanced the Colin Hudson Scholarship with a donation from Mr. Dieter Mennekes. Mr. Mennekes, who has been visiting Barbados for 24 years, has been

a supporter of environmental causes here, including the efforts of Dr. Colin Hudson at the Future Centre and Treading Lightly. CERMES Director, Dr. Robin Mahon, and Lecturer Janice Cumberbatch gladly accepted the contribution from Mr. Mennekes.



Prof. Oliver Headley. There will be an official launch of the three scholarships in the near future. Anyone wishing to contribute to any of these scholarships, or to find out more about them, should contact CERMES at (246) 417-4316.

CERMES has initiated three scholarships in the memory of three Barbadians who have made a significant contribution to aspects of the environment and sustainable development here. The other two are Sir Harold St. John and

Fisheries Biology and Management

CERMES marine resource management students got hands-on experience of catching, measuring and releasing over 300 reef fishes with the assistance of fisher Stanton Thomas, as part of their graduate specialisation course in Fisheries Biology and Management. Many of the courses include field trips in order to provide very practical learning opportunities.



Co-management teaching materials

CERMES is a participant in the regional project on "Institutional Arrangements for Coastal Management in the Caribbean" being implemented by the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA), Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and Marine Resources Assessment Group (MRAG). The project is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) Natural Resources Systems Programme (NRSP). One of the project objectives is to promote the use of teaching materials on coastal resource co-

management. To this end Dr. Patrick McConney met with lecturing colleagues at the Mona and St. Augustine campuses to present a wide array of teaching materials that already exist or are being developed under the project. The materials received enthusiastic reception. The next step is to put them to the test in teaching. If you want to obtain the materials contact Dr. McConney at nrmoutreach@caribsurf.com or download them from the CCA web site www.ccanet.net.

Presentation at Symposium on Adaptive Co-management

From 4-5 February, Dr. Patrick McConney braved the Canadian cold to present a paper at a symposium on adaptive co-management entitled *"Moving Beyond the Critiques of Co-management: Theory and Practice of Adaptive Co-Management"*. The event was held at the Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario.

A paper on *"Coping with complexity and uncertainty in coastal resource co-management in the Caribbean"* by Patrick McConney, Robin Mahon and Robert Pomeroy was presented to colleagues who work on the cutting edge of co-management research and theorizing.



Among the participants were Dr. Brian Davy of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, and Dr. Robert Pomeroy, a researcher in the CERMES Coastal Resources Co-management Project (CORECOMP).

Workshops in Nicaragua and Belize implemented under CORECOMP

Fisheries lecturer Karen Joseph of Universidad de las Regiones Autonomas de la Costa Caribe Nicaraguense (URACCAN) conducted a workshop for over 20 people from several communities in the Pearl Lagoon basin of Nicaragua from 14-18 March. The workshop focused on fisheries resource co-management and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Men and women who fish, the fisheries officer for the basin and leaders of various communities were among the participants.



The Vice-Rector (Principal) of the Bluefields campus opened the workshop, and participants enjoyed the many small group assignments (see photos).

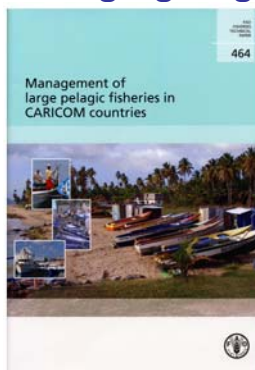
In Belize the Wildlife Conservation Society organized a workshop on co-management for the Glover's Reef Advisory Committee. It was delivered by Dr. McConney and committee members included representatives from the fishing and tourism industries, town council, coastal and fisheries management authorities and NGOs. Like



the Nicaragua workshop, the co-management materials prepared for lecturing and training were tested as part of an outreach initiative. Again, the materials were well received and the workshop organizer,

Janet Gibson of WCS, indicated that such training may be useful for other MPA advisory committees in Belize.

Managing large pelagic fisheries



Hot off the presses in Rome is FAO Fisheries Technical Paper 464 on *"Management of large pelagic fisheries in CARICOM countries"*. Eight regional and international fisheries experts contribute to this volume that is edited by Dr. Robin Mahon and Dr. Patrick McConney, both of CERMES. The 149 page book compiles the outputs of an FAO project that was completed in 2003. The project involved all

of the authors and many regional fisheries authorities in an effort to strategically examine what implications the international management of tunas, billfishes, swordfish and other large pelagics has for CARICOM countries. It is a critical area of fisheries management since these fishes may provide opportunities for export and foreign exchange earnings if their harvest is sustainable.

Trade and fisheries officials meet to discuss issues in WTO negotiations

Senior Caribbean trade and fisheries officials met in Barbados from 21-22 March to discuss issues in WTO and EPA negotiations. A presentation on regional fisheries and their management was made by Director of CERMES, Dr. Robin Mahon. Dr. Hazel Oxenford, Senior Lecturer in fisheries participated throughout. The meeting was organized by the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Mechanism, Commonwealth Secretariat and Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism. The hot issues of subsidies and technical barriers to trade got a lot of attention from the participants.