

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

This is the period of summer slow down at CERMES. Taught courses are finished for the year and students are doing their research around the region. Whether the student is hosted by an organisation in an internship, is directly under the supervision of CERMES faculty, or is being supervised by an associate of CERMES, the emphasis is on the student experiencing meaningful research. The time allocated is limited (only 3 months including write-up), but much can be accomplished in this period to prepare a person for the worlds of work or further academic excellence. As students complete their research we will share some of their findings with you.

Using demographic information on coastal fishing communities

Dr. Patrick McConney attended the CRFM / FAO / MALMR Regional Workshop on the Collection of Demographic Information on Coastal Fishing Communities and Its Use in Community Based Fisheries and Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago from June 13th – 17th 2005. He made a presentation on “Aspects of CERMES regional research and training with emphasis on socioeconomic and demographic information”. This informed participants about the SocMon Caribbean methods and coastal co-management guidelines. Visit the CERMES web site to download your copies today.

Visitor from the Pacific

Masanami Izumi, of the FAO Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific Islands based in Apia, Samoa, paid a courtesy call on 20 June during a brief familiarisation visit to the Caribbean. He discussed various avenues for cooperation between academic centres and fisheries authorities in the Caribbean and Pacific. It was agreed that exchanges of personnel and information between the two regions should result in many mutual benefits, and that the assistance of international donors should be pursued to facilitate such South-South interaction.

Administrative staff on training

Ms Bibi Selman, our departmental secretary, attended a human resource development training workshop on “Achieving Personal Excellence” on 16-17 June, 2005. Participation in the course was sponsored by the UWI.

Caring for our coasts and our future — a workshop for dive operators

CERMES, Counterpart Caribbean and the Barbados Marine Trust (BMT) offered a two-day workshop on “Caring for our Coasts and Our Future” on 27 June at CERMES and 4 July at Underwater Barbados for local dive operators. Senior Lecturer, Dr. Hazel Oxenford, and technicians Renata Goodridge and Kim Baldwin of CERMES were among the key organisers and resource persons. The participants (below) were enthusiastic.



An overview of Counterpart Caribbean 4C's (Caribbean Coastal Co-management and Coral Regeneration) programme was given by Susan Mahon. The 4C's programme is funded by the European Commission. Other topics included the WiSe (Wildlife Safe) accreditation scheme for boat operators; coral reef ecology; coral diseases; diver interactions with marine biota and good practices. There was much lively discussion. Participants learned and interacted with each other while designing an accreditation scheme that should encourage dive operators to distinguish themselves by good practices in the market place.

Participants worked on establishing a communications network which should help both their businesses and our coastal environment to thrive. The dive operators agreed that an accreditation scheme that recognises good boating and diving practises must be implemented in Barbados. It could piggy-back on the existing UK WiSe scheme. WiSe has offered, through Barbadian

Larry Williams, to support efforts to adapt and customise the scheme to the Barbados situation and adopt a name to indicate this, such as "Caribbean WiSe". Participants agreed on the types of things that they would like to see in such a scheme and it was agreed that the Barbados Marine Trust would lead the next step in the process of turning words to action.

Man and the Biosphere workshop

Dr. Hazel Oxenford was an invited participant at UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) workshop held in May Pen, Jamaica, 8-10 June. She was Barbados' representative in place of Dr. Julia Horrocks (MAB focal person for Barbados) who was unable to attend. The workshop, attended mainly by Jamaican government and environmental NGO personnel, plus country representatives from Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, was intended to further inform participants about the MAB programme.

In particular, the experiences of other Caribbean countries in designating MAB Reserves were highlighted. The example used was Colombia's Sea Flower Biosphere Reserve established over the entire San Andres Archipelago. Participants also heard of Dominica's intentions to apply for Biosphere Reserve status in the near future. Participants were encouraged to consider forming a Regional MAB Committee and Network to further the process of identifying and working with potential Biosphere Reserve sites. Trinidad and Tobago was asked to host the next Caribbean MAB workshop.



A field trip with Peter Espeut to see some aspects of the Portland Bight Reserve, including the Alligator Pond, was much enjoyed by visiting participants (see photo). Espeut is Executive Director of the Caribbean Coastal Area Management (CCAM) Foundation.

SocMon Caribbean now in Spanish

The first Spanish-speaking Socioeconomic Monitoring Training Workshop for Coastal Managers was held in Tela, Honduras, from 25-29 July. It was hosted by the University of Zamorano. The workshop was linked to the SocMon Caribbean programme for the English-speaking Caribbean lead by Dr Patrick McConney of CERMES. The SocMon Caribbean Guidelines, which are now available in Spanish, provided the basis for the workshop which:

- trained participants in the socioeconomic monitoring process, variables and methods;
- provided field experience to practice the SocMon methodologies; and
- resulted in the development of socioeconomic monitoring work plans for participants to initiate socioeconomic monitoring at their sites.

Tsunami workshop held in Mexico

Dr. Leonard Nurse participated in the International Conference for the Development of a Tsunami and Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean Sea and Adjacent Regions from 1-3 June, Mexico City, Mexico. It was agreed to establish an Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG) for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions. The Terms of Reference are at oc.unesco.org/indotsunami/IOC23/resolution13.htm.

The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) shall provide the Secretariat of the ICG.

GEF International Waters Conference

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) hosted its Third Biennial International Waters Conference from 20-25 June in Salvador, Bahia Brazil. The primary objective of the conference was to foster knowledge sharing and collaboration between participating governments, GEF International Waters projects, GEF Implementing and Executing Agencies, donor partners, and the private and non-profit sectors. Dr. Robin Mahon, Director of CERMES, who is regional coordinator for the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project participated.

Coastal livelihoods regional seminar

A regional seminar on Improving Coastal Livelihoods: Lessons Learned from Experience and Priorities for Future Research, was held in Soufriere, Saint Lucia, 28 - 30 July 2005. A presentation on "Coastal resource co-management" was made by Dr. Patrick McConney and Kemraj Parsram, a CERMES graduate now with the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA). McConney and Parsram were also there for the final project workshop of the Institutional arrangements for coastal management in the Caribbean (NRSP R8317) that was held on 28 July and organised by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) the project leader.