

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

The second semester has started and with it has come a flurry of activity and events connected to a number of projects. CERMES regional presence is reflected in the geographic scope of our outreach and applied research initiatives. Our participation in international meetings was also prominent as we shared a SIDS perspective on issues such as the governance of marine resources.

MPA management effectiveness inception training workshops

The CERMES project on "Enhancing management effectiveness (ME) at three marine protected areas (MPAs) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica and Belize" held its three inception training workshops from mid-December to early February. Lead author of the guidebook "How is your MPA doing?", and long time research collaborator, Dr. Robert Pomeroy now at the University of Connecticut, was the trainer at workshops along with project manager Dr. Patrick McConney.

The workshop for the Tobago Cays Marine Park, St. Vincent and the Grenadines was in Union Island from 19-20 December. See them working hard below.



This was followed by an information meeting on the project and sharing workshop results in Kingstown on 21 Dec 2005. The results of Bertha Simmons (a CERMES MSc student) who researched the

conditions for co-managing the marine park were also presented to Union Island and Kingstown audiences.

The inception training workshop for the Negril Marine Park, Jamaica, took place in Negril from 26-27 January 2006. It was closely followed by one in Punta Gorda, Belize, for the Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve. Nearly 60 people in total attended these workshops, doubling the number set out as the target for this training. Teams were formed to undertake the evaluations which start this month and continue until September in the field.

Tobago Marine Park office in Union Island, the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society in Negril and Toledo Association for Sustainable Tourism and Empowerment in Punta Gorda are managing partners on this project.

Sustainable Grenadines Project

The third meeting of the Steering Committee for the Sustainable Grenadines Project was held in Carriacou, Grenada, on 2 December 2005. The project achieved quite a bit in 2005, its first full year of operation in Phase 2, and is on its way to do even more in 2006.

- To find out what was done in 2005, check out our Sustainable Grenadines Project Annual Report for 2005.
 - To find out what is planned for 2006, check out our Sustainable Grenadines Project Workplan for 2006.
- Also available is a brief overview of the project, what it hopes to achieve in its five-year lifetime and its strategy for achieving it. See the Sustainable Grenadines Project Overview. These documents are available from us or the Project Office (susgrenpa@vincysurf.com) as PDF files by email, or by regular mail as paper copies (but we prefer to send you email).

The PADI AWARE Reef Check Implementation Grant 2 is a go!

A second grant was awarded to Kim Baldwin of CERMES from the NGO PADI Project AWARE to continue the implementation of Reef Check in the Grenadines during 2006. Last year PADI Project AWARE awarded a grant to begin the implementation of Reef Check in the Grenadines.



In 2005, 7 teams were mobilised in 5 islands. Under this grant, a technical planning committee formed in St Vincent. Volunteers were educated on basic marine ecology; marine organism identification, Reef Check techniques and

data management. All survey supplies were provided free of charge to newly formed teams and initial surveys were conducted in St. Vincent, Bequia, Mustique, Union Island and the Tobago Cays Marine Park.

This year, additional training and surveys will be conducted for local communities in the remaining islands of the Grenadines and Grenada in order to complete the monitoring network for the Grenadine

Bank. Establishment of a Grenadian Technical Planning Committee will be a priority in order to allow for the utilisation of data collected for local management decisions and help ensure the long-term sustainability of the project.

The Sustainable Grenadines Project will collaborate again with Reef Check to improve environmental education within the Grenadines, solicit local interest in the project and disseminate monitoring results.

Third Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts discusses capacity issues

Dr. Robin Mahon attended the Third Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, 'Moving the Global Oceans Agenda Forward', 23-28 January at UNESCO, Paris.



He was a member of a task group and panel on 'Capacity Development for Ocean and Coastal Management: Mobilizing to Address Needs'. The role of indigenous tertiary educational institutions, such as UWI, in general, and SIDS Consortium of

Universities in particular were prominent in discussions.

While in Europe Dr. Mahon also met with Fisheries Governance Network (FishGovNet) partners in Amsterdam, January 21-22, to work on a cluster of papers on governability to be submitted to the journal Ocean and Coastal Management.

On-Line with WebCT at UWI

The UWI Educational Media Services hosted a two day WebCT Seminar in January 2006. The purpose of the seminar was to educate WebCT users about on-line Assignments, Tests and Surveys. Our IT Technician, Dale Benskin, attended and experienced first hand the creation and delivery of online Tests and Surveys.



For a lecturer, the creation of the online WebCT tests/surveys may be a bit tedious, but they simplify the grading process, the computation of results and virtually eliminate human error once the test and its

pre-programmed answers have been validated by its creator. This facility also makes the distribution of grades/results extremely simple and gives lecturers the control to release results immediately or any other time. From the student perspective, the on-line tests give students the flexibility to schedule their tests at any time specified by the lecturer anywhere they are in the world.

Counterpart Caribbean 4Cs Project

The 4Cs Project for which CERMES was the primary technical implementer in Barbados, Jamaica and the Grenadines on behalf of Counterpart Caribbean came to a close in January with its 'Terminal Workshop' at The Future Centre on 11-12 January. CERMES staff involved in this included Robin Mahon, Hazel Oxenford, Patrick McConney, Renata Goodridge, Maria Pena, and Katherine Blackman.



Colleagues from all three project sites shared their many experiences and the lessons that were learned. The final project documents are in preparation. The workshop was run by Susan Mahon of 4Cs.

Canadian connection

Dr. Robin Mahon participated in the 'International Marine Ecological Experts Workshop' at Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, which took place from 6 to 8 December 2005 in Ottawa. The meeting reviewed criteria for designation of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas on the High Seas, for adoption by IUCN/CBD/FAO.

A research agenda for Caribbean SIDS, marine resource governance

On 8 February CERMES and CANARI hosted a forum at Cave Hill to examine research, teaching and projects connected to the SIDS strategy and marine resource governance. Attending were colleagues from the host institutions, Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA), the Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme (CREP) and Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES).

Participants shared information on the current post-Mauritius initiatives at all UWI campuses and avenues to improve collaboration at several levels. There was consensus on the need to conduct research on marine governance issues as a critical aspect of development.

Other outreach and internal events

Neetha Selliah attended a meeting entitled "From Sea to Table: Project Concept Development" hosted by the Ministry of Housing, Lands and Environment and Policy Network International Inc. at the Fisheries Complex, Bridgetown, on 15 December 2005.

Dale Benskin provided support to facilitate the launch of the Solid Waste, Composition and Collection WebCT course on 23 January 2006. Support for this course will be continued for its duration.