

CERMES Connections

12 April 2006

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 will soon be at an end but what a busy semester it has been! Our students will shortly embark on their research projects and internships and we will begin to prepare for the next round of students. Our outreach work at CERMES continues to increase and our staff is ever busy. All the best for a peaceful Easter season.

CERMES at Green Expo

From 9 - 11 March 2006, CERMES participated in the Sci-Tech Green Expo held at the Sherbourne Conference Centre. The rationale for the Expo was to promote science and technology in Barbados and to increase the environmental awareness of Barbadian society. The Faculty of Pure & Applied Sciences booth was designed and arranged by Natasha Corbin (Pure and Applied Sciences), Maria Pena, Katherine Blackman, Renata Goodridge and Dale Benskin (CERMES) and Colin Depradine (Computer Science and Mathematics). The exhibit incorporated posters



from CERMES and the other science departments with a focus on our students' research projects such as Alexcia Cooke's Livelihood Analysis of Water Taxi Operators in the

Grenadines and Bertha Simmons' Meeting Conditions for Successful Co-Management of the Tobago Cays Marine Park. This year's booth was very interactive. Secondary and primary school students viewed dolphinfish otoliths under the microscope and things became a little technical as they used the refractometer and turbidimeter for testing the quality of various water types found around the island. For most, the fun was the experience of writing underwater like a diver. In the end, we even found some who were interested in the CERMES programme.



New CERMES flyer

At CERMES we are always striving to promote our department and programme, and as such we have designed a two-page flyer for distribution to attract students from within the region and beyond.

Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus in Barbados

Our mission at CERMES is to make a significant contribution to sustainable development in the Caribbean. We are a regional institution of higher learning recognised internationally for excellence.

With over 22 years of experience, and more than 200 of our graduates from the Caribbean and beyond employed in scientific, technical, managerial and policy positions, we know that we can meet your learning needs through our:

- 1 year MSc in Natural Resource and Environmental Management
- Graduate research programmes for MPhil and PhD students
- Specialized training by means of short courses and workshops
- Online delivery of courses over the internet to study from home.

Students are attracted to CERMES from around the Caribbean:

Barbados	27%
Trinidad	27%
Guyana	11%
Jamaica	9%
St. Lucia	6%
St. Vincent	3%
Grenada	3%
Belize	2%
Antigua, Bahamas, St. Kitts, Nevis, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Suriname, others	12%

Master of Science (MSc) Programme

CERMES has a strong focus on natural resource management and environmental studies for small island developing states (SIDS) in the Caribbean. We offer a course-based MSc in Natural Resource and Environmental Management and research oriented MPhil and PhD.

The MSc in Natural Resource and Environmental Management is a University-wide programme comprising specialisation streams, four of which are based at CERMES on the Cave Hill Campus:

- Coastal and Marine Resource Management
- Climate Change
- Forest Management
- Applied Meteorology

Two more specialisation streams, in Water Resources Management and Renewable Energy, are planned for introduction in the near future.

Our courses of learning prepare graduates to assist the Caribbean to make best use of its resources and adapt to changing circumstances.

CERMES
Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences
University of the West Indies
Cave Hill Campus, Barbados
Tel: 246-431-6174
Fax: 246-431-6106

Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism meetings

Patrick McConney participated in the 'Meeting of the ad hoc working group on the social, economic and linkage issues that could impact on the establishment of a common fisheries policy and regime' on 19 March 2006 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. He also represented CERMES at the plenary sessions of the 'Second annual CRFM scientific meeting' in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, 13-22 March 2006.



In the photo Randolph Walters of the FAO and Terrence Phillips of the CRFM Secretariat peruse the recently released CERMES flyer, copies of which were distributed at the scientific meeting.

Caribbean Sponges

Congratulations to our very own Renata Goodridge, Marine Technician, who has been accepted to attend the 2006 Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) Short Course in Taxonomy and Ecology of Caribbean Sponges from 17-28 July in Bocas, Panama.

Grenadines Marine Space Use Information System (MarSIS)

CERMES PhD student, Kim Baldwin, recently announced the launch of her research project entitled 'Grenadines Marine Space Use Information System (MarSIS)'. This project is co-supervised by Dr. Robin Mahon and Dr. Hazel Oxenford of CERMES. The Grenadine Bank (within the countries of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) has been chosen as a site for development of an integrated marine space use information system (MarSIS). This GIS information system will aid numerous marine management initiatives by integrating and compiling a variety of information on marine resources and its uses, highlighting the importance of marine resources to the livelihoods of the people of the Grenadines. The integrated MarSIS will be used to identify areas for special attention such as: critical habitats (essential fish habitats, spawning aggregations sites, reef resilience, endangered species); areas of highest biodiversity;



representative marine ecosystems; areas of high aesthetic value and cultural importance; important fishing grounds (including fishing pressure and gear used); areas important for marine-based

tourism; safe anchorages and shipping lanes; areas of highest human threat; as well as areas which currently or potentially are locations of space use conflict.

For the successful development of the Grenadines MarSIS the participation of a variety of stakeholders is essential throughout the project. Proposal meetings for relevant government agency stakeholders (of both countries) were held in March allowing for sectoral input, approval and information collection on marine resources. During May, community meetings will be held in each island to inform and encourage marine resources users to participate in the Grenadines MarSIS project. This summer, research activities will include marine resource user socio-economic surveys to be conducted with the assistance of two CERMES MSc Coastal Management students.

'Jambo' from Nairobi

('Jambo' = 'hello' in Swahili)

Project Officer, Maria Pena, recently returned from the GEO-4 (Global Environment Outlook) Second Production and Authors' Meeting from 3-10 March at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi. GEO Fellows were briefed from 3-4 March on:

- The Pilot GEO Fellowship programme and its objectives
- Assessments: what they are; why they are needed; how they have been used; and challenges on writing an assessment
- An overview of the GEO process including the impact of GEO reports, the fourth GEO report (GEO-4), regional activities and the working groups that support the GEO process.

During the very productive authors' meeting from 6-10 March, the zero draft of the GEO-4 report was revised based on comments and recommendations obtained from UNEP internal review and the resulting Draft 1 was completed. This draft is now out for external review.



GCFI call for papers

The First Announcement and Call for Papers of the 59th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) to be held from 6 – 10 November 2006 at the Princess Hotel, Belize City, Belize has just been sent out. As usual, CERMES is deeply involved in GCFI and urges our



partners interested in fisheries and marine protected areas to attend this important regional meeting. The one-day symposium on "Large Pelagic Fishes in the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico: Current Status" consists of scientific presentations and discussions on the biology and management of large pelagic fishes in the region, and the development of recommendations for future research and management related to critical issues of regional concern. CERMES researchers (Drs. Mahon, McConney and Oxenford) are expected to participate in the symposium. A workshop of the CERMES regional MPA management effectiveness project is to be held just before the GCFI meeting where side sessions to share project outputs will take place. Visit the GCFI web site www.gfci.org for more information, to submit your abstract and to register for the conference.