

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 end of summer is quickly approaching and tales of well-deserved and equally well-spent summer holidays fill the corridors of CERMES. Our 2005/2006 students have been hard at work since June conducting field research with faculty or interning with organisations. Preparations for the new cohort of MSc students have been completed and we eagerly await their arrival next week. CERMES outreach and participation in local, regional and international arenas continues. We invite you to share in our news.

Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project holds first steering committee meeting in Panama

The First Regional Steering Committee Meeting for the CLME Project (PDF-B Phase) was held in Panama City on August 2-3, 2006. The meeting was organized by the CLME Project Unit, located at CERMES, UWI, Cave Hill Campus, with assistance from IOCARIBE and UNDP. The meeting was attended by representatives from 22 countries around the region as well as regional fisheries organizations (CRFM, OSPESCA, OLDEPESCA), UN agencies (FAO, IOCARIBE, UNDP, The GEF), UWI (CERMES) and TNC were also there. It was chaired by Dr. Antonio Diaz-de-Leon, the representative from Mexico.



CLME steering committee

The CLME project aims to strengthen regional cooperation to reverse degradation of the shared living marine resources within the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem and adjacent regions. Its focus is on the identification and agreement of major transboundary living marine resource management issues and their root causes; actions needed to address these constraints, including filling knowledge gaps and the implementation of governance reforms for living marine resource management and ecosystem-wide monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

The meeting discussed and approved the workplan for the PDF-B phase of the project. Discussion covered approaches to national level intersectoral consultation, the role of civil society and the operation of the Steering Committee itself. The next steps over the upcoming 12 months are to establish task teams to carry out the transboundary diagnostic analysis (TDA) for the region, training for the team members, and the TDA itself. This will lead to a synthesis of issues regarding transboundary living marine resources in the Wider Caribbean and recommendations for how these should be addressed in the Full Project.

For further information, contact Dr. Lucia Fanning, Project Manager at the CLME Project Unit, clme@uwichill.edu.bb.

Organising fisherfolk in Barbados

CERMES outreach to the fishing industry in Barbados recently included assisting the Barbados National Union of Fisherfolk Organisations (BARNUFO) to amend its constitution and consider other initiatives to ensure its sustainability and improve its performance through greater access to human resources. The amendments broaden BARNUFO's membership base and board of directors. BARNUFO has moved from relying only on primary fisherfolk organisations (full members) to include individuals in the fishing industry (associate members), people who are not engaged in fishing (affiliate members) and sponsors (sponsoring members). Directors for projects and membership have been added to the board. With these changes BARNUFO hopes to attract and retain more members who can offer critical skills in areas that are vital for the development of fisherfolk organisations and the industry in general.

Forum and workshop presentations and consultative participation

Kim Baldwin, CERMES PhD candidate, represented CERMES at the 3rd Caribbean Environmental Forum and Exhibition in Antigua in June and gave the following presentation: **'Mass Coral Bleaching in Barbados: A quantitative analysis and preliminary estimate of coral mortality'** by H.A. Oxenford, L. Nurse, R. Roach, A. Brathwaite, R. Goodridge, F. Hinds, K. Baldwin and C. Finney.

Dr. Hazel Oxenford attended the Caribbean Marine Reserves Research and Monitoring Workshop in St John, US Virgin Islands from 11-13 July as an invited participant and gave a presentation entitled: **'Research and monitoring in Caribbean marine protected areas: Lessons learned'** by H.A. Oxenford and P. McConney.

Robin Mahon participated in a FishGovNet workshop on **'Interactive governance and governability: The development of concepts and methodology'**, 17-19 July, 2006, University of Amsterdam, where he presented the CERMES policy perspective entitled **'Governing fisheries as complex adaptive systems'**.

Robin Mahon and Patrick McConney participated in an ad hoc Consultation on the Sandy/Island Oyster Bed (SIOB)MPA with stakeholders at the Melville Street Fisheries Complex in Grenada on August 9th, 2006 to review the progress with SIOB MPA to date and discuss the range of options for the way ahead.

Seamoss farming project

The proposal to conduct a pilot seamoss farming project submitted by the Sustainable Grenadines Project to The White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) group has been approved.

This project will be done with the Young Help Striders 4-H Club in Ashton, Union Island. Allan Smith of CANARI, St. Lucia, a well known seamoss farming expert, will be providing the expertise needed. We plan to be starting next month.

Hats off to the team who worked on this successful proposal: Katie Blackman (CERMES), Alexcia Cooke (SusGren), Kim Baldwin (CERMES) and Martin Barribeau (SusGren). Many thanks also to the WW2BW group and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation who are providing the funding for this project which is scheduled to commence in September.

Student research and internships

Since June, CERMES students have been hard at work on their research and internship projects. Currently, 12 are pursuing research projects while 11 are involved in internships. The research projects are varied and include a feasibility project on rearing tilapia using green water, research related to the conch fishery in Barbados, greening hotels in the Grenadines, assessing sustainable livelihoods in the Grenadines, a review of legislation relevant to environment and sustainable development in the Grenadines, evaluating marine protected area (MPA) management effectiveness at the Negril Marine Park and research related to the Barbados pelagic longline fishery.

Our interning students are working locally and regionally with eight host organisations - Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (Belize),

GUYSUCO (Guyana), Sanitation Service Authority (Barbados), Environmental Protection Department (Barbados), ICC World Cup Cricket West Indies 2007 (Barbados), Bermuda Biological Station for Research, Environmental Management Authority (EMA) (Trinidad), Caribbean Health Institute (CEHI) (St. Lucia) and UNDP (Barbados). The internships include examining the impact of droughts and rainfall variability (specifically the effect of El Nino Southern Oscillation) on sugar cane production, analysing waste collection routes in Barbados, formulating emission testing guidelines for Barbados and assessing vulnerability of the Nariva Swamp in Trinidad to climate change.

All there is to know about sponges

Renata Goodridge, CERMES Marine Technician, participated in a Sponge Taxonomy Field Course hosted by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute



Spongy group at the Bocas Research Station

(STRI) at the Bocas Research Station, Panama from 17-28 July. The UWI ATS Staff Training Funds enabled Renata to attend the course.

The intensive two week course was divided into three sections:

1. Taxonomic training
2. Biological and ecological work
3. Personal projects and presentations.

Almost every day was divided into field and lab work, emphasising the importance of both when working with sponges. Renata is now ready for your sponge questions!



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Congratulations corner

Congratulations to Dale Benskin who was recently appointed to the position of IT Technician. Since his arrival he has assisted with managing the CERMES website, providing network support to staff and students, ensuring that relevant software is available to staff and students, helping students with computer issues as well as troubleshooting and solving many of our computer and equipment issues. Welcome to the team Dale!