

# CERMES Connections

21 December 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

It's that time of the year again. It has been a pleasure sharing our news with you throughout the year and we do hope you have enjoyed learning and keeping abreast of our activities. 2006 has certainly been a busy one for us at CERMES! There have been two staff promotions to the position of Professor, the addition of a new IT Technician, a full new complement of graduate students eager to take on the work of environmental and natural resource management and numerous staff activities with accomplishments both within the region and internationally. Please enjoy our final issue of the CERMES Connections for the year. Happy New Year!

## **CERMES grand promotion by mail**

Through a grand effort in late October, over 150 packages comprising CERMES information folders and or information flyers were mass mailed locally and throughout the Caribbean in order to raise institutional and organisational awareness of our graduate teaching programme and outreach activities at CERMES. Special thanks are extended to the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences which facilitated the mailing of this promotional material.



Maria Pena in the process of carting the promotional material to the Faculty Office

## **Status of coral reef ecosystems in the Caribbean, and management**

At the 14<sup>th</sup> US Coral Reef Task Force Meeting 25-28 October 2006 in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, CERMES Project Officer, Maria Pena, on behalf of Dr. Patrick McConney, presented case studies of CERMES approaches to coral reef management in the Caribbean in a session on the state of Caribbean coral reef ecosystems. The presentation entitled, *People-centred approaches to coral reef management: Lessons learned at CERMES, UWI Cave Hill Campus*, focused on coastal co-management, socio-economic monitoring, fisheries planning for marine protected areas (MPAs)

and MPA management effectiveness implemented by CERMES at coral reef sites in Belize, the Grenadines and Jamaica. The very well attended meeting gained enormous coverage by being featured in over 200 articles in the international press.



Task Force Meeting participants

Participants at the meeting were also taken on field trips to a condominium construction site to examine numerous environmental mitigation measures being employed to prevent or reduce sedimentation on

nearby fringing coral reefs, and to Bordeaux to examine the efforts of a community-based organisation in the Estate Bordeaux farming community to rehabilitate six stormwater retention ponds built in the 1960s to retain stormwater runoff to mitigate downstream erosion and sediment impacts to adjacent coastal waters, and to provide supplemental water to the farming community.



Water retention pond in the Estate Bordeaux community

## **MPA evaluation workshop**

Dr. Patrick McConney organised and attended the Workshop on MPA Evaluation Products and Process, Punta Gorda, Belize, 4 November 2006 as part of the CERMES Regional Project on Enhancing Management Effectiveness at Three Marine Protected Areas in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica and Belize. The purpose of the workshop was to review both the products and process of management effectiveness evaluation in the CERMES regional MPA-ME project

Also present were representatives from each of the MPA project sites – Meritha Baptiste (Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP), St. Vincent and the Grenadines), Elsa Hemmings (Negril Marine Park (NMP), Jamaica) and Jack Nightingale and Christina Garcia (Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve (SCMR), Belize). Maria Pena and Meritha Baptiste; Donna Roach (CERMES



MPA workshop participants

graduate student) and Elsa Hemmings; and Jack Nightingale and Christina Garcia presented evaluation findings for the TCMP, NMP and SCMR, respectively.

## CERMES shines at 59<sup>th</sup> GCFI

CERMES was well represented at the 59<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) in Belize City, Belize from 6-10 November 2006. The contingent comprised three staff members, Dr. Patrick McConney, Professor Hazel Oxenford and Maria Pena, as well as four CERMES graduate research students, Kimberly Baldwin (PhD student), David Gill, Donna Roach and Tanya Staskiewicz (MSc students).

Kimberly presented a multi-authored poster on “*Marine resource user profiles in the Grenadines Marine Resource Space-Use Information System (MARSIS)*” outlining preliminary findings of her PhD research.

David’s research on “*A socio-economic profile of fisheries in the Grenadines*” aimed to create a demographic and socio-economic profile of fishers in the Grenadines. This information will help resource managers better understand the social and economic factors that affect fisheries in the Grenadines and may lead to more sustainable and informed decision-making.



David Gill

“*A livelihoods analysis of fishermen in the Grenadines*” was the topic of Tanya’s research paper. The aim of this study is to provide relevant organisations and persons with information that can



Tanya Staskiewicz

contribute to improving the effectiveness of decision-making, interventions and organisation with respect to the management of fisheries and other marine resources. The qualitative data obtained from this livelihoods analysis can be used as a common ground for working with fishers to achieve sustainable development and utilisation of marine resources in the Grenadines.

Donna presented an overview of “*Learning from evaluating MPA management effectiveness*”. Her presentation reported on the CERMES regional project for enhancing management effectiveness at three marine protected areas (MPAs) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica and Belize. Preliminary results of the evaluation, lessons learned from both the results and the process and recommendations for adaptive management were presented.



Donna Roach

Patrick McConney and Hazel Oxenford both participated in the Symposium on “Large Pelagic Fishes in the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico: Current Status and Integrated Management” on 7 November. As theme speaker on Management: Strategies, Problems and Solutions at the Symposium, Patrick gave a presentation on “*Management in the Gulf and Caribbean: Mosaic or melting pot?*” (co-authored with H.A Oxenford and M. Haughton).

He also presented a multi-authored poster on “Reforming marine resource governance: Can we cope with co-management?”

Hazel Oxenford also served as an invited panellist on demersal connectivity at a Special Symposium on “Caribbean Connectivity” and as moderator for a session on “Fisheries Management: Strategies, Problems and Solutions”. She also presented three research posters with colleagues and students.

Also on show was a poster co-authored by the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project Unit and CERMES on “Sustainable management of the shared resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and adjacent regions.”

## Christmas wishes



Well that’s it for another year. We look forward to bringing you further updates about CERMES and our research in the coming year. To all of you, from all of us, we wish you

*Merry Christmas and  
Best wishes for 2007.*

Until next year!