



# Connections

16 February 2007

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

Already two months into 2007 and CERMES is quite the 'hive of activity'. We have welcomed two visiting academics and we await the arrival of a new additional teaching staff member. Our students have taken three exams so far with good results and have settled down in earnest to completing their second semester.

## **CERMES-Carolina connection**

In January 2007, CERMES welcomed Dr. Peter Schuhmann to the department. Dr. Schuhmann is visiting CERMES until late June 2007 while on research sabbatical from the University of North Carolina (UNC), Wilmington. Dr. Schuhmann is a natural resource economist and while here he will be working on an economic valuation project in collaboration with CERMES. The objectives of this project are to estimate the economic value of natural resources related to recreation and tourism in Barbados, to contribute to the understanding of the natural resource valuation process, and to extend collaborative research between UWI Cave Hill and UNC Wilmington. The project will also augment existing information on characteristics of Barbados' recreational tourist sites, including perceptions of beach and reef quality, the importance of substitute destinations, and the quality and availability of tourist facilities and recreation opportunities.

## **CABI-GEF, CERMES and invasive alien species**

CERMES is a collaborator on marine aspects of the Centre for Applied Biosciences International (CABI)-Global Environment Facility (GEF) project on **Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean**. This project will contribute to the goal of the conservation of globally significant biodiversity water bodies. CERMES' contribution to this project will be via attendance at various fora and orientation of students towards the project. Neetha Selliah (Programme Coordinator) recently represented CERMES at the Project Development Facility-A (PDF-A) international stakeholder planning workshop, 22-24 January 2007 in Trinidad, and gave a presentation on CERMES and its contribution to the project. The purpose of the workshop was to bring countries/territories and other stakeholders together to exchange information and formulate project plans and management structures.

## **IDRC interest in marine resource governance in the Caribbean**

Dr Brian Davy, Senior Programme Specialist at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), in Ottawa visited CERMES from 4-11 February to discuss opportunities for collaboration between CERMES and the expanding group of IDRC projects elsewhere in the Caribbean, Latin America and Asia.



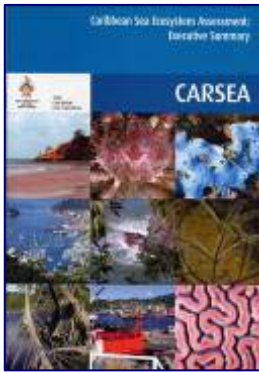
Dr. Brian Davy presenting reading material relevant to the Rural Poverty and Environment Program to Dr. Patrick McConney

Discussions focused on plans for implementing the CERMES project on **Marine Resource Governance in the Eastern Caribbean** (MarGov project) recently approved for funding by IDRC. Dr Patrick McConney, the project leader, will provide more information on this project in future editions of the CERMES Connections.

Discussions also examined linkages with IDRC project partners through its Rural Poverty and Environment program ([http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-58566-201-1-DO\\_TOPIC.html](http://www.idrc.ca/en/ev-58566-201-1-DO_TOPIC.html)) which is seeking to promote shared learning approaches across a variety of contexts. Books and background material summarising some of the IDRC-funded work were presented to Dr. McConney and his MarGov team.

## **Caribbean Sea Assessment**

The Caribbean Sea Assessment (CARSEA), a sub-assessment of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, has been completed and the Executive Summary is now available. The full report will be available shortly. This assessment has been pivotal in pursuing the declaration of the Caribbean Sea as a special area by the UN General Assembly. It will also provide



a sound base for the development and implementation of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project. CERMES is pleased to have been associated with CARSEA and compliments the Cropper Foundation on this important contribution to the sustainable use of our shared marine heritage.

## Long Pond conservation area

CERMES is exploring options for establishing a conservation area at Long Pond St. Andrew. CERMES student, Rosalind Charlemagne, recently completed a MSc research project to put all the spatial information about the proposed conservation area into a GIS. The report entitled, ***“A geographical information system for the proposed conservation area at Long Pond, St. Andrew, Barbados”*** will soon be available for download from the CERMES website. Please have a look.

## Ocean security in the Caribbean

The Ocean Security Institute, a Washington-based NGO, recently held its International Conference on Ocean Security in the Wider Caribbean, Corpus Christi, Texas, 10-12 February, 2007. The conference thematic areas were:

- Natural Hazards - Monitoring and Ocean Early Warning Systems
- Environmental security – GEF projects in the Wider Caribbean
- Maritime and Port Security- role of the defense community
- Economic Security - Trade, Energy and Development of Sustainable Tourism in the Wider Caribbean

Following technical sessions, recommendations were taken forward to ministerial sessions involving several members of congress and ministers from Wider Caribbean countries. Professor Robin Mahon took part in the round table on environmental security where he spoke on the role of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project in promoting good governance for transboundary living marine resources.

## Tobago Cays Marine Park evaluation

Patrick McConney and Maria Pena organised and participated in project results sharing meetings in Union Island (31 January 2007) and Kingstown (1 February 2007). The purpose was to share information on the results of the CERMES project on evaluating the

management effectiveness of the Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP) along with other marine protected areas in Jamaica and Belize. Patrick McConney provided an overview of the regional project and led a discussion on the other project sites, adaptive management and lessons learned. Maria Pena presented the results of the TCMP management evaluation.



Patrick McConney leading the discussion on lessons learned and adaptive management at the TCMP

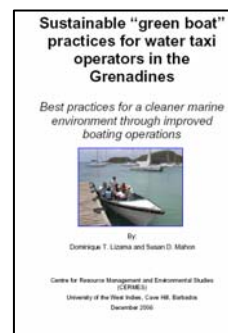
The decision to hold three MPA site meetings to share information was taken at the Belize joint workshop in November 2006 where participants suggested that MPA stakeholders would benefit from direct communication with members of the CERMES research team in addition to the three MPA representatives who attended the Belize workshop.

Participants were informed that the project end date is 31 March 2007 but a no-cost extension to 31 July 2007 may be requested to facilitate the production of training materials and allow enough time to see results from adaptive management.

The completed TCMP evaluation report and associated results sharing meeting report will be available for download from the CERMES website later this month.

## ‘Green boat’ practices for water taxis

A booklet guiding sustainable “green boat” practices for water taxi operators in the Grenadines has just been produced by Dominique Lizama (recent CERMES MSc graduate) and Susan Mahon (Counterpart Caribbean).



This booklet was produced with substantial input from the water taxi operators themselves. The information in this booklet is therefore both from and for the water taxi operators. It details some of the “best practices” that operators can follow to become better stewards of the marine environment through improved boating operations.

This booklet is also useful for other boat owners; operators of boatsheds, slipways and marinas; local environmental officers and the public in general.