

20 December 2007



# Connections

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, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus  
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Well it's that wonderful time of the year again and we made it through yet another year at CERMES! This final *Connections* for 2007 comes with wishes to you for a very Merry and Peaceful Christmas Season and a Happy 2008! Looking forward to staying connected with all of you in the coming year.

## Good CERMES participation at 60<sup>th</sup> GCFI in Punta Cana, DR



Dr. Patrick McConney taking notes as fishers Anderson Kinch and Mitchell Lay co-chair the Fishers Forum session at the 60<sup>th</sup> GCFI

CERMES shone brightly once again at the 60<sup>th</sup> annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, 5-9 November 2007, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. CERMES was well represented by Professors Robin Mahon and Hazel Oxenford, Dr. Patrick McConney and PhD

students, Kimberly Baldwin and Kemraj Parsram. Chaired sessions, papers and posters presented included:

- A session chaired by Dr. McConney on 'Socio-economics and fisheries management' and the convening of a Fishers Forum in partnership with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)
- Poster presented by Professor Oxenford on 'The little-known conch (*Strombus gigas*) fishery of

Barbados', with co-authors Angela Fields, Colvin Taylor and Damien Catlyn.

- Paper presented by Kim Baldwin on 'Stakeholder engagement in the development of a participatory GIS for the Grenadine Islands', co-authored with Robin Mahon, Patrick McConney and Hazel Oxenford.
- Paper and poster presented by Kemraj Parsram co-authored with Patrick McConney on 'A preliminary analysis of fisheries science networks in the eastern Caribbean' and 'A research framework for examining the characteristics of networks that determine resilience and adaptability in marine resource governance in the English speaking eastern Caribbean' respectively.



Kim Baldwin and Kemraj Parsram making their presentations



Neetha Selliah, Programme Coordinator at CERMES, with a prospective student

## UWI graduate fair

CERMES joined the rest of the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences at the first ever Graduate Fair of The University of the West Indies, 7 November 2007, Sherbourne Conference

Centre. CERMES and other Graduate Programmes on exhibit displayed promotional material in the form of brochures, detailed degree programme information folders and a PowerPoint presentation. Special thanks to the CERMES team - Carmel Haynes, Maria Pena, Neetha Selliah, Dale Benskin, Katherine Blackman and Bibi Selman - who helped to make the exhibit possible.

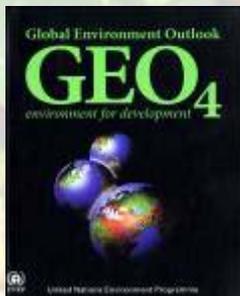
## ***Saving stranded marine mammals***

Marine/Laboratory Technician, Renata Goodridge, and students, Tanya Staskiewicz and Julian Walcott, attended a one day workshop on *Marine Mammal Stranding Response Training*. This special sidebar workshop for the Commonwealth Veterinarians' Conference held at the Barbados Fisheries Division, 8 November 2007 was an initiation into how to handle a marine mammal stranding. CERMES participants left the workshop with confidence and knowledge about how to approach the next stranding on our shores. Fortunately there were no real marine mammals to practice on!



Marine mammal stranding group to the rescue!

## ***Global Environment Outlook 4 (GEO-4) successfully launched***



The GEO-4 assessment report was launched globally at the United Nations Headquarters, New York on 25 October 2007 with multiple regional launches in 40 other cities worldwide. The GEO-4 report is a culmination of a complex global consultative process which involved some 400 individual

scientists and policy makers, and more than 50 GEO Collaborating Centres and partner institutions around the world. This marks the end of a two year assessment process in which Maria Pena, Project Officer, was one of the lead authors of the Biodiversity Chapter, having been awarded a GEO Fellowship in October 2005. Visit the website <http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/media/> for more information and for a downloadable PDF version of the report.

## ***Alumni e-group and recruitment for 2008/09***

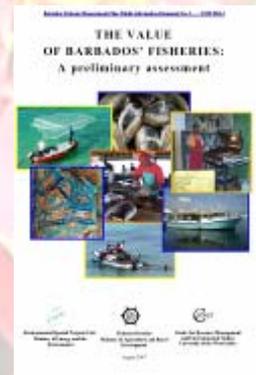
If you haven't already done so, all CERMES alumni are invited to join the recently launched CERMES Alumni E-group. The purpose of the e-group is to maintain contact among CERMES staff and students. So join now and keep us updated on your activities. Send an email to [cermes\\_alumni@yahoo.com](mailto:cermes_alumni@yahoo.com) to receive invitation to join the e-group or simply search for [cermes\\_alumni@yahoo.com](mailto:cermes_alumni@yahoo.com) and join.

CERMES is currently welcoming applications for 2008-2009 academic year. The closing date for applications is 31 January 2008. For further information on the MSc in Natural Resource and Environmental Management and application procedures, please visit our website at <http://cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes>. Looking forward to welcoming you to our regional centre of excellence in natural resource and environmental management!

## ***Publication on the value of fisheries in Barbados***

The recently published report, *The value of Barbados' fisheries: A preliminary assessment* is now available for download from the CERMES website

<http://cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes>. This preliminary assessment of the additional value of fish as it moves through various market pathways to the consumer was carried out for the major fisheries of Barbados and



indicates an overall additional value of about US\$19M to that of the landed value.

## ***Fishery authorities to receive training in socio-economic monitoring (SocMon) in 2008***

Due to the need long articulated by national and regional fisheries authorities in CARICOM for more attention to be paid to socio-economics in data collection, information generation and decision-making, CERMES recently started an 18-month project (1 October 2007 – 31 March 2009) on *Socio-economic monitoring by Caribbean fishery authorities* (we call it Fisheries SocMon for short).

Training in socio-economic monitoring (SocMon) methods is to be provided in 5 selected CARICOM countries by CERMES in partnership with the authorities and Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Secretariat via a series of five 3-day workshops with follow-up field studies at 5 assessment and monitoring sites. It is intended to train at least 50 fisheries stakeholders and produce outputs for the global SocMon database, UWI, CRFM and regional meetings to enhance further uptake of SocMon to institutionalize monitoring.

Site selection should be completed by the end of December with training sessions scheduled to start in early 2008. Keep up to date on the project's progress in future *CERMES Connections*.

## ***MarGov project scopes out eastern Caribbean study sites***

The IDRC-funded Marine Resource Governance in the eastern Caribbean project (better known as MarGov) is currently in the process of narrowing down the study sites in the eastern Caribbean that will make up the bulk of its research on large pelagic and the shallow reef fisheries.

During the last week of November, PhD candidate Kemraj Parsram and the project's communications assistant, Carmel Haynes, visited Antigua, Grenada and St Lucia where they held half-day meetings with fisheries officers and representatives of fisher folk organisations. This was repeated in Barbados in the first week of December.

During the meetings, Kemraj outlined the research project to participants and gained feedback on his methodology and assumptions while gaining additional knowledge on the current state of the two types of fisheries in each country. Carmel took the opportunity to learn first-hand what types of communications strategies were more successful for reaching fishers and other stakeholders on each island and what barriers existed.

Feedback was generally positive, but participants identified several challenges to translating the research into policy. The project team will have to tackle these as the project progresses.



Kemraj addressing representatives from the St Lucia Department of Fisheries and the Castries Fishermen Society Ltd. in Castries.

## ***Two esteemed UWI academics honoured by the government of Barbados***

Special congratulations are extended to Professor Hilary Beckles, Principal of the UWI Cave Hill Campus who recently was conferred the title of Knight of St. Andrew in this year's Independence Day Honours in recognition of his distinguished service in the field of education, in particular at the University level. Best wishes from us all Sir Hilary!

Also being honoured was CERMES' very own Dr. Leonard Nurse who received the Companion Honour of Barbados for his internationally recognised work in the field of Climate Change. This follows his recognition as part of the Nobel Prize winning IPCC panel a few weeks earlier.

'For they are Jolly Good Fellows!'

## ***Until 2008***

That's all from CERMES! Wishing you a very enjoyable holiday season. See you in 2K8!