



Connections

An electronic bulletin about interdisciplinary research, teaching and outreach at the
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Welcome to the first *Connections* issue for 2008. We do hope you continue to join us throughout the year for interesting news on CERMES research and outreach.

Sustainable Grenadines Project passes mid-point

The Sustainable Grenadines (SusGren) Project which is known for its aim in strengthening civil society to contribute to sustainable development in the Grenadines is now midway through Phase 2 (2004-2009). The project, funded by The Lighthouse Foundation, can boast of its



SusGren achievements flyer

this year, SusGren, will be celebrating its myriad accomplishments. Stay tuned for more details! Visit the CERMES website and have a look at the SusGren's achievements flyer.

CERMES' pre-election challenge

In December last year, prior to general elections being called in Barbados, CERMES used the medium of the press to invite each political party

to take up the challenge of making sustainability and environmental considerations key platforms in their political manifestos and dialogue with the electorate.

CERMES' outreach effort was carried across three pages in the Weekend Nation newspaper of 14 December 2007. It identified a number of 'hot topics' identified by the CERMES team of faculty and other staff who met to discuss what the designation of developed country status would mean for Barbados in the context of this small island developing state's limited natural resources.

The news article focused on these key issues:

- The need for meaningful social, environmental and economic cost-benefit analysis to determine to what point residential, commercial and agricultural development can be taken before threatening Barbados' landscape and long-term sustainability
- The need for serious implementation of a system of parks and protected areas (land and sea) for preservation and use of natural heritage as a good indicator of its commitment to defining limits to growth.
- The need to determine Barbados' carrying capacity even as it seeks to achieve higher targets for tourism as Barbados' main economic driver and foreign exchange earner
- The limits of sustainability when one considers the major road network expansion currently underway and the high ratio of cars to people that currently exists given that cars use non-renewable energy, generate air pollution, and create problems for disposal once the cars have passed their useful life
- The need for Barbados' status as one of the most water scarce countries in the world to be

reflected in people's and industries' attitudes to water use and management of water resources

- The need for greater incentives to encourage energy conservation and a higher percentage of renewable energy included in the energy mix, especially since there remains a lack of diversification into other areas of solar technology beyond solar water heating initiatives
- Recognising that the shift toward natural gas usage should be carefully monitored as Barbados moves toward a low-carbon economy since burning natural gas still produces the 'greenhouse gases' carbon dioxide and methane
- Barbados' lead role in the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime for CARICOM, despite deficiencies in its domestic fisheries legislation (mainly due to the absence of regulations under the Fisheries Act after 15 years), which would make the island unprepared in legislation and administrative provisions to undertake fisheries management.

CERMES intends to forge ahead with further public outreach efforts on environmental issues in the near future.

The BBC raising environmental awareness among regional journalists

CERMES had its profile raised among regional news media earlier this month when Dr Adrian Cashman, CERMES Lecturer, represented the Department during a five-day environmental awareness workshop hosted by the BBC World Service Trust for the benefit of regional journalists at the Hotel PomMarine, 4-8 February, Barbados.

The workshop was aimed at supporting journalists from the region in developing their understanding of the main environmental challenges facing the Caribbean, their knowledge of audience-appropriate methods of raising public awareness of key environmental issues, and their skills in impartial and balanced reporting, accurate sourcing and verification of facts, and representation of all voices in the community.

Thirteen journalists from eight islands, including Barbados, attended.

As part of a three-member panel on the third day Dr. Cashman gave a short presentation on the main environmental issues currently facing the Caribbean.

In his presentation, Dr Cashman introduced the work of CERMES and its areas of expertise. Among the main environmental issues facing the Caribbean he cited:

- Determining the limits to economic growth and development
- The impact on the environmental services that support much of the economic activity
- The institutional capacity to determine and manage the trade-offs between development, society and environment
- Energy, waste management and water resource vulnerabilities
- The impact of extreme climatic events on the environment and societies
- Climate change and its implications for tourism among other things



Adrian Cashman being interviewed by Brian Francis (right) of the Dominica Broadcasting Corporation and Toni Frederick (backing) of WINN FM 98.9 in St Kitts and Nevis.

Dr Cashman's presentation was well received, prompting numerous questions during the informal discussion session that followed. Several journalists took the opportunity to make arrangements to contact him as a source in the future. Three of the non-Barbadian journalists also took the opportunity to interview him during the post-lunch session for print and broadcast on returning home.

Carmel Haynes, Marine Resource Governance in the Eastern Caribbean project (MarGov) Communications Assistant also participated in the workshop where she took the opportunity to make contact with print and broadcast journalists based in the MarGov study sites and present them with information on the research project.



MarGov communications assistant, Carmel Haynes (right), making a point during the workshop, while veteran Barbadian journalist, Mike Goddard, listens closely.

MarGov project highlights

New partnerships

MarGov has been deepening its relationships with stakeholders on a number of different fronts.

The MarGov team is in the process of incorporating the research agenda of partnering project, Sustainable Aquatic Resource Management (SARM), into MarGov's communication research and activities. SARM is a project led by Dr. Brian Davy of the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD). It is focused on translating research results and knowledge into strategic policy influence. This dovetails nicely into MarGov as SARM's two Caribbean case studies are: the Common Fisheries Policy and Regime (CFP&R); and the organisation and involvement of fisher folk groups in the CFP&R. SARM is being undertaken in collaboration with the CARICOM Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM).

In February, MarGov received US\$15,000 through the Small Grant Fund for Sustainable Fisheries and Alternative Livelihoods for Fishers administered by the Gulf & Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) to

fund four one-day communication workshops for representatives of fisher folk organisations and fisheries management authorities in Antigua, Barbados, Grenada and St. Lucia.

The workshops cover areas including: communication strategy, public speaking, speaking for broadcast purposes, writing for the print media, electronic mailing and the use of Internet-based forums, database management, conflict resolution and dispute mediation. These workshops will augment the work of the four-year applied research project as efficiency and effectiveness in disseminating project research to partners, target institutions and other stakeholders is integral to translating such findings into beneficial change for natural resource governance policy and management.

Conference contacts

MarGov PhD candidate, Kemraj Parsram, received important feedback on the networking aspect of his research when he attended the International Social Network Analysis Conference (Sunbelt XXVIII) in Florida from 21-28 January, 2008. The International Sunbelt Social Network Conference is the official conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis. There, Kemraj presented a well-received poster entitled, "*A network approach to understanding coastal management and governance of small scale fisheries in the eastern Caribbean.*" The poster presentation stirred-up interest in the approach of applying social network analysis to fisheries governance among some of the participating social scientists and mathematicians. Several shared information on their own research, highlighting relevance and similarities to his study.

Cooperation between CERMES and McGill University

The traditional cooperation between CERMES and McGill University's Bellairs Research Institute in Holetown has now moved into water resources. Each year some 20 final year McGill students spend a semester studying in Barbados at Bellairs. As part of their studies they undertake a local research project which counts towards their final grades. However, the purpose of the projects is not purely academic but exposes students to

cultures different from their own. It also gives them the opportunity to experience the joys and frustration of carrying out real fieldwork.

This year four of the students were co-supervised by Dr Adrian Cashman CERMES Water Resources Lecturer. He helped them identify research projects, assisted in developing their research proposals and guided their field research and writing up. Working in pairs, the students undertook two research projects, "*Water, gender, and development: Towards equity in the management of water resources in Barbados*" and "*An analysis of water supply and consumption: Rock Hall south, Barbados*", undertaken jointly with Barbados Water Authority (BWA). The students carried out over 400 household surveys and questionnaires related to various aspects of water consumption and water use practices.



McGill students conducting field work

Some of the findings from the two projects have served to provide a factual basis for what previously was opinion and anecdote. While gender roles in domestic water matters are less segregated than is the case in some countries, none-the-less gender inequalities are still present. Barbadian women spend proportionally more time on water related activities, even when both partners are working. Consequently, they are more affected by problems of supply and reliability of the service provided by the BWA.

The second project confirmed that there are significant levels of unaccounted for water in parts of the BWA system and approximately 25% non-working meters. Relatively high rates of household consumption coupled with a lack of a water conservation ethos and incentives, and reported widespread leaks in the system, indicate that there is a lot that needs to be done to improve water

management and water use efficiency in Barbados. The findings were discussed with BWA and it is hoped that this is the start of an on-going co-operation between CERMES and the BWA to contribute to water management in Barbados.

SGP/CCA Folkestone Marine Reserve project

CERMES will be collaborating with the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) in a project, *Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management project based at Folkestone Marine Reserve (FMR), Barbados*. The project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) has as its goal the improvement of management of coral reef biodiversity and associated resources at the FMR through strengthening stakeholder partnership and capacity. Some outputs of the project will include the development of the Junior Coral Reef Ambassador Programme for students, establishment of a community-based coral reef monitoring regime at Folkestone and stakeholder training in enhancing MPA effectiveness. The project's website is expected to be launched at the end of February. Further information on this project will follow in subsequent *Connections*.

BMT monthly Friday 'limes'

The Barbados Marine Trust (BMT) will be holding Monthly "Limes" in 2008 at Underwater Barbados, Carlisle Bay, Bay Street, St. Michael. The 'limes' will feature short marine-focused presentations. 'Limers' will be informed about the marine environment; relationships between human activity, the land and the sea; and on the work of the BMT. The next 'lime' will be held 07 March, 6.00p.m so be sure to schedule this into your Friday evening activities! The Trust will invite different experts as well as BMT Directors and Members to conduct presentations. Following the presentations and discussions, refreshments will be on sale. The Trust also hopes to recruit members (both individual and corporate) to partner with them as they seek to protect our coasts. For further information on these 'limes', please contact the Barbados Marine Trust at 228-8071/2 or bmtrust@sunbeach.net.