

CERMES Connections

18 March 2004

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

Announcing from the UWI Office of Research: a Coastal Management Research Network (COMARE Net)

The UWI internal Environmental Research Network of the Office of Research has initiated the Coastal Management Research Network (COMARE Net), an external or outreach component to be funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) Natural Resources Systems Programme (NRSP) from 1 March 2004 to 31 March 2005.

Its purpose is to promote and institutionalise improved integrated coastal management practices and policies in the Caribbean. COMARE Net will combine the processes and products of NRSP Land Water Interface (LWI) research projects with other research initiatives. It will facilitate electronic and physical exchanges of information, presentations and policy briefs, and provide other means of promoting research aimed at improving all aspects of coastal management in the Caribbean.

The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at the UWI Cave Hill Campus and the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), a regional NGO, will co-manage COMARE Net. Membership is open to individuals and organisations that have an interest in achieving the purpose of the Network; special emphasis is placed upon recruiting regional organisations. Some aspects of the Network should be up and running by the end of April.

For further information contact Dr. Patrick McConney via nrmoutreach@caribsurf.com. Application forms are available upon request as PDF files.

CERMES web site launched

The CERMES web site will be available to the public for access from Friday 19 March. Check us out at: <http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes>

On the web site you will find a wealth of information on CERMES and the many initiatives that we are involved in. Special thanks to Mr. Winfield Alleyne on our staff for working to get it on line and managed.

CERMES at Sci-Tech Xpo 2004

CERMES showcased its teaching programme and its research at the recently concluded National Science and Technology Exposition, 4-6 March 2004 at the Sherbourne Conference Centre.



The exhibit was modest in size, comprising a series of slide shows and posters. However, many fellow participants and members of the general public expressed interest in our Masters Degree programme and the diverse research conducted by students and staff. Ms Maria Pena, our projects person, assisted in making this event a success.

Partnering for sustainable development in the Caribbean

The US State Department, held a one-day conference on "Partnering for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean: How Could a Forum for Environmental Cooperation Help?" in Washington DC on 6th February 2004. It brought together several governmental and non-governmental organizations from around the Caribbean to explore better ways for coordinating environmental initiatives in the region.

Dr. Robin Mahon of CERMES was a panellist and presenter in the session "*Working Together in the Region: Lessons Learned*". His presentation focused on how a complex adaptive systems approach could inform collaborative initiatives for change in the Caribbean. Contact him at rmahon@uwichill.edu.bb.

At the White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) Partnership Conference in Miami, 22-26 March 2004

Several CERMES lecturers are due to take part in this conference. See the next issue for all the details of sessions and training events that were organised.

CERMES is getting greener ... not with envy, but environmentally

CERMES staff and students have vowed to become more environmentally active from the start of April. Every month, for at least four days a month, students and staff will be asked to participate in various types of environmentally conscious activities. Recycling will be an ongoing priority, and will involve collecting PET bottles, printer cartridges and old newspapers.

Reduction is also a theme. Energy conservation such as not using air conditioning for specified periods of time, remembering to turn off lights when they are not needed, walking to work etc. will be promoted. We hope that, with time, our environmental campaign will spread throughout the entire Campus. We will keep you posted on just how green we have become! Let us know about your environmental initiatives too.

Counterpart Caribbean's Coastal Co-management and Coral Regeneration (4Cs) Programme

Scoping began in the Grenadines and in Negril, Jamaica, for the European Union funded "Coastal Co-management and Coral Regeneration (4Cs) Programme" being implemented by Counterpart Caribbean, for which CERMES is providing technical input. The project will focus on building civil society capacity. In the Grenadines, it will work with the newly formed Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association and seek to establish sister water taxi associations in Bequia and Carriacou. Emphasis will be on building the capacity of water taxi operators to earn sustainable livelihoods. This will be by providing services to tourists and locals, through improved vessel safety, better customer service via a code of conduct, greening of boats, and more environmental information being given to customers.



Dr. Patrick McConney of CERMES discusses with Mr. Carl Hanson and Ms Jean Brown of NCRPS opportunities for capacity building at Negril

Details are still to be worked out with the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society (NCRPS) that manages the Negril Marine Park, but several ideas concern ways in which the stakeholders could become more involved in managing the marine protected area.

Barbados Fisheries Management Plan 2004-2006 in the making

With all of the recent focus on fishing it should come as no surprise that the management of the fisheries around the island is of considerable importance. The Fisheries Act stipulates that there should always be an up to date plan for managing the fisheries in the waters of Barbados. The first Barbados fisheries management plan (FMP) was for the period 1997 to 2000. The second plan for 2001 to 2003 is soon to be replaced by the 2004 to 2006 FMP.

Assistance in the formulation of the 2004 to 2006 FMP is one of the activities under the Coastal Resources Co-management Project (CORECOMP) that has been mentioned in the previous issues of CERMES Connections.

Indeed the UWI Cave Hill Campus has had a long history of involvement in the management of fisheries in Barbados and elsewhere in the region. This has mainly been through provision of scientific and technical advice. A general principle governing natural resource management is that the best available scientific information should be used where possible. It is the responsibility of academic and research institutions such as CERMES to ensure that such high quality information is available to any party interested in the management of fisheries.

CERMES contributed to drafting a sub-regional management plan for flyingfish via the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (WECAFC of the FAO). Fisheries officers from several nearby countries participate in the WECAFC *ad hoc* working group on flyingfish. This informal technical group, and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), have important roles to play in fisheries management.

Capacity building for the Boards of Directors of NGOs offered in Belize

Early in February two one-day refresher courses were held in Punta Gorda and Belize City for NGO Boards of Directors and government agencies with responsibility for the co-management of fisheries and marine protected areas (MPAs). This was done under the Coastal Resources Co-management Project (CORECOMP), and aimed at building the capacities of co-management partners. These one-day courses form part of the series of capacity building activities that CERMES is working on in support of its projects.

In the near future there should be a package of short courses available for any interested party to choose from and have delivered on site through CERMES.