

# CERMES Connections

27 January 2005

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

The second semester is well under way at CERMES. Students are taking their last few courses before going on overseas field trips and starting their own research projects. The Climate Change group will be making a trip to Belize thanks to collaboration with the Climate Change Centre there, while the Coastal and Marine Management class will go to the Grenadines islands. The field trips have become an important part of the learning process in which students have the opportunity to ground their knowledge through practical experience.

## ***Sustainable Grenadines Project is launched***

On 23 November 2004 the Sustainable Grenadines Project was launched in Union Island. The launch was preceded by a project Steering Committee meeting at which the annual workplan for the first year was reviewed and endorsed. Mr. Casper Smith, the Project Manager and a graduate of CERMES, was master of ceremonies at the launch which was attended by stakeholders from throughout the Grenadines. Speeches by Senator Edwin Snagg, Parliamentary Secretary for the Grenadines in the Office of the Prime Minister, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Mr. Dennis Gay, representing the Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Grenada, and Mr. Terrence Ollivierre, MP for the Southern Grenadines indicated a high degree of Government support for the project.



Senator Edwin Snagg unveils the office sign (left) while Mr. Dennis Gay (right) cuts the ribbon to open the office

Mr. Jens Ambsdorf, CEO of The Lighthouse Foundation that is funding the project expressed his enthusiasm for what he referred to as '... a very ambitious but exciting and well conceived project'. Dr. Robin Mahon said that the UWI in general and CERMES in particular were extremely pleased to be able to work with partners from Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines on the

sustainable development of the Grenadines with its rich natural and cultural heritage. For more details on the project visit its web page on the CERMES web site ([www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes](http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes)).

## ***CORECOMP extended to end of 2005***

The Oak Foundation has granted a one-year no-cost extension to the Coastal Resources Co-management Project (CORECOMP) to December 2005. One of the groups that has already benefited from this extension is the Toledo Association for Sustainable Tourism and Empowerment (TASTE) that co-manages the Sapodilla Cayes Marine Reserve (SCMR) in southern Belize.

On 19 January 2005 TASTE-SCMR hosted a one-day workshop for its funding agencies and collaborators to bring them up to date with the NGO's accomplishments and its remaining needs. Among the participants were Dr. Patrick McConney of CERMES, Ms Leslie Harroun of Oak Foundation and Ms Imani Morrison, the new Oak Foundation project officer based in Belize.



The workshop was organised by Mr. Jack Nightingale (above). TASTE-SCMR received useful suggestions and funding commitments from those participating.

## ***Coral restoration and regeneration***

Ms Renata Goodridge of CERMES attended a follow-up Coral Restoration and Regeneration Workshop at Discovery Bay Marine lab, Jamaica from 28 November -

4 December 2004. Mr. David Gill of the Barbados Marine Trust (BMT) and Ms Susan Mahon from Counterpart Caribbean also attended. Daily snorkel and dive trips were made to assess the growth of the corals on 'cookies' and on strings as part of the experiments started in June 2004. With the knowledge gained from these workshops (participation funded by Counterpart Caribbean), the participants are now better equipped to participate in local efforts to restore corals impacted by storms, boats, anchors or other sources of damage.

### **CERMES Policy Perspectives**

CERMES implements interdisciplinary applied research projects on coastal co-management and related topics that emphasise learning-by-doing through partnerships of researchers and other interested parties. We recently put out the first four policy briefs of a new series entitled *CERMES Policy Perspectives*. It is an outreach product that will be used to share policy-oriented lessons learnt from our research initiatives and other experiences.

We anticipate that policy-makers and advisers will use the information in these policy briefs to strengthen the linkages between research outputs and policy in the Caribbean. This connection is often weak in the area of natural resource management and it is essential that it be strengthened, especially for new or emerging issues.

The first *CERMES Policy Perspectives* comprised four parts addressing coastal resource co-management. It will soon be available via the UWI Coastal Management Research Network (COMARE Net) project page on the CERMES web site. Printed copies will be distributed.

### **CARICOMP meeting in Panama**

Dr. Hazel Oxenford of CERMES went to Panama from 18-22 October. She first visited Panama City and then went to the Bocos del Toro islands off the Caribbean coast for a 5-day meeting of the CARICOMP group (Caribbean Coastal Marine Productivity programme). The objective of the meeting was to review the last 10 years of CARICOMP activities and to decide where the group is going with its regional monitoring programme over the next decade. The group will produce a few key publications. These are now in preparation. Monitoring will continue with some changes to existing protocols.

### **Pelagic Fishes Research Programme**

The 29 November – 1 December meeting of the Pelagic Fishes Research Programme (PFRP) took place at the University of Hawaii. Dr. Hazel Oxenford was an invited speaker on "*Flyingfish predators, prey and research methods: experiences from the eastern Caribbean*" under the conference theme 'ecosystem management'. Her research on Caribbean pelagic fisheries continues.

### **Environmental impact assessment**

From 8 -10 December 2004 Ms Renata Goodridge and Ms Kimberly Baldwin went to Rodney Bay, St. Lucia, in order to compile a detailed description of the physical and biological marine environment south of the Pigeon Island Causeway. This was a technical service done in association with Smith Warner International Ltd., who are compiling information for the environmental impact assessment (EIA) needed for the marina planned for this location by 'The Landing' at Rodney Bay.

### **Recent articles by CERMES faculty**

A considerable quantity of applied interdisciplinary coastal research is published in the peer-reviewed journal *Ocean and Coastal Management*. In the 47<sup>th</sup> issue there are two articles by CERMES faculty and an associate. The full citations are:

Pomeroy, R., P. McConney and R. Mahon. 2004.

Comparative analysis of coastal resource co-management in the Caribbean. *Ocean and Coastal Management* 47: 429-447.

Mahon, R. and P. McConney. 2004. Managing the managers: improving the structure and operation of fisheries departments in SIDS. *Ocean and Coastal Management* 47: 529-535.

Many organisations in the Caribbean cannot afford journal subscriptions, but they can get the free on-line abstracts and request copies from authors of articles.

### **Web site update**

Over the past couple of months the CERMES web site has been overhauled and updated by our information technologist, Mr. Winfield Alleyne. Some new pages have been added and the MSc course information now reflects recent changes. If you miss any issues of these CERMES Connections you can still download them from the site [www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes](http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes).

### **Stress relief for the environment**

How many PET and other plastic bottles per month can be discarded by one department comprising 10 staff and about 25 students? The answer is, on average, 85! In our March 2004 issue of the Connections we first told you of our vow to become more environmentally conscious. Since the launch of the "*CERMES in the green*" initiative on 14 April 2004, staff and students have remained committed to this effort. Up to the end of November last year, we managed to recycle 600 plastic bottles! The bottle returns have allowed us to mail 23 used printer ink cartridges to Hewlett Packard for recycling. We are a fairly small department in the University of the West Indies, so just think of how much plastic and other items could be recycled if the entire campus was to join in recycling. Why not do that? Help to reduce the amount of waste going to our landfills.