



Connections

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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 folks here have been quite busy during the past couple of months. This is a colourful big bumper Crop-Over issue of the CERMES Connections. Read on and enjoy. Remember that you can use your connection to CERMES to send us your news and feedback on the articles. If you misplace your copy of this bulletin, go to the CERMES web site and download another copy. All of our contact information is at the bottom of the page.

Sustainable livelihoods for the Grenadines water taxi operators

On June 26-27 the 'Sustainable Grenadines' joint initiative of CERMES and Counterpart Caribbean launched the Grenadines Water Taxi Project with a transboundary planning workshop in Carriacou.



Members are from two water taxi associations: (a) the Carriacou and Petite Martinique Water Taxi Association and (b) Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association, which includes Union island, Mayreau and Canouan.

They worked together develop their mission and vision. Then they developed four project concepts based on the vision. The projects are for (1) organisational strengthening for associations, (2) boat safety and certification, (3) customer service, (4) environmentally friendly operations. The project partners are now in the process of securing funds allocated for implementation.

Students tour Grenadine Islands

Still in the Grenadines, the CERMES field trip for the biodiversity course in the MSc programme visited the islands for a week to explore the relationships between sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity and civil society initiatives. They visited Bequia, Union Island, Mayreau, the Tobago Cays and Carriacou. The graduate students

reviewed the impacts and benefits of a variety of coastal and marine development activities, and met with people from several NGOs who are active in promoting sustainable development.



Environment careers showcase

As part of this year's Environment Month celebrations, the Ministry of Housing, Lands and the Environment in Barbados organised its very first Environment Careers Showcase on 29 June for all secondary schools, the Barbados Community College and the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic. CERMES was there, represented by Maria Pena and Renata Goodridge.

The response to our display of posters, environmental fact cards and PowerPoint presentations was good. It was pleasing to learn that the majority of schools there had either already formed environmental clubs or were in the process of starting them. Students were being recruited from the first forms and upwards to ensure continuity of the clubs during their school life. We hope that CERMES can increase its effort in educating young people about natural resources and our environment.

Based on the enthusiasm of the school children about a career in an environmental field it is safe to say that in the not too distant future our environment may have many bright new guardians and keen professionals.

Coral reef restoration workshop

From 14 to 17 June the UWI's Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory (DBML) in Jamaica, in association with Counterpart International and Counterpart Caribbean, conducted a coral reef restoration training workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to build a network of

coral restoration practitioners trained and involved in hands on, low technology reef restoration activities and monitoring these activities. Although the workshop was originally intended for participants working on Jamaica's reefs, Renata Goodridge from CERMES and David Gill of the Barbados Marine Trust were able to attend through funding provided by Counterpart Caribbean.



The workshop focused on how to replant corals, specifically the staghorn corals *Acropora cervicornis* and *A. tenuifolia*, in order to restore damaged reefs and to help increase fish populations associated with these corals. A fair bit of the workshop was spent in the sea, collecting coral pieces for experiments that were set up on wire A-frames and also on two-inch diameter cement "cookies". Once these coral fragments have grown, they can then be "pruned" to create additional fragments for "farming", or they can be cemented onto a reef devoid of live corals as part of a restoration initiative.



There were several critical points that our enthusiastic trainer, Dr. Austin Bowden-Kerby, ingrained into those at the workshop. These points included:

1. Planting corals is not a quick-fix solution to coral reef decline because it does not address the root causes of coral reef degradation.
2. Coral planting is only effective as a management tool when combined with other conservation strategies (e.g. no-take marine reserves, use of mooring buoys, etc.).
3. Coral planting is only effective in some areas, and only under certain conditions in these areas.
4. If what killed the corals at a particular site continues to be a problem, then it is useless to replant corals as they will die just like the corals before them.
5. We must not give anyone the impression that it is

okay to destroy coral reefs because they can be easily replanted – this is certainly not true!!

The participants of this workshop are hoping to get back to DBML in December to see how their experiments have fared over the last six months. They wish to take the next step in advancing and sharing their collective knowledge on coral reef restoration.

The browning of CERMES!

CERMES recently hosted the very keen 26th and 32nd St. Gabriel's Brownie packs. They worked on 5-6 June for their conservation badge. The theme for the camp was 'Save Our Reefs'. Good luck to these youngsters.



Caribbean Environment Forum

CERMES was well represented at the recent Caribbean Environment Forum in Trinidad (May 31- June 3). The Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) was the prime organiser of this event. Neetha Selliah and Dr. Hazel Oxenford gave a presentation on the CERMES MSc programme in the parallel session on Climate Change. A CERMES student, Kofi Dalrymple gave an excellent presentation on his research into the "Vulnerability of Vreed-en-hoop and Good Hope, Guyana to accelerated sea level rise". The conference was well attended by environmental scientists and professionals from around the region. It served as a reunion for many CERMES past students now working in professional positions around the Caribbean. Many of the affiliate staff who teach in the MSc programme were also there.

Connecting with Buccoo Reef Trust

CERMES has recently been renewing, strengthening and diversifying its connections with the Buccoo Reef Trust in Tobago. The Trust has a number of exciting programmes and projects that include land and marine area use mapping and planning, remote sensing, use of geographic information systems (GIS), aquaculture,

marine protected area research and development and an innovative outreach initiative for young people.



In a recent visit to the headquarters of the Trust Dr. Patrick McConney discussed opportunities for collaboration. He also visited Speyside, the study site for a SocMon Caribbean assessment done as a MSc research project by UWI graduate

student Kelly Mannette. We hope that Kelly will present her socioeconomic research at the 57th annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute that takes place from 8-12 November in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Two CERMES MSc students, Velda Ferguson and Anne-Marie Ford, are soon to start their internships with the Buccoo Reef Trust. One internship is about making short environmental documentaries to raise awareness on issues and initiatives connected with the marine environment of Tobago. The other internship is about surveying tourism enterprises to assess their level of environmental awareness as suppliers of goods and services to the tourism sector. CERMES looks forward to future close collaboration with the Buccoo Reef Trust.

Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) project update for fisheries officers

Dr. Robin Mahon updated fisheries officers on the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project on 30 June in St. Vincent. It was at the First Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM). The CRFM is a body of CARICOM set up to facilitate the management of fisheries on a sub-regional scale, and eventually perhaps on a regional scale as countries that are not Member States of CARICOM also participate.

SocMon training workshop held in the Turks and Caicos Islands

CERMES conducted a short training workshop on Socioeconomic monitoring guidelines for coastal managers in the Caribbean (SocMon Caribbean) in the Turks and Caicos Islands from 7-9 June. It was done at the request of the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR).

Participants were informed of the other outreach and training opportunities offered by CERMES. Printed copies of SocMon Caribbean guidelines were distributed along with CDs containing the Caribbean guidelines, Southeast Asia guidelines and the GCRMN Socioeconomic Manual for Coral Reef Management. Hard copies of the co-management guidelines from the

Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) were also distributed. The DECR received a CD containing copies of the co-management guidelines and slide show, along with the six case studies of coastal co-management in the Caribbean. For more information All of these products can be downloaded from the CERMES web site (<http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes>).



The participants learnt the answers to the questions:

- What is SocMon Caribbean?
- Why should I do socio-economic monitoring?
- What socio-economic data do I collect?
- How to collect and analyze data?
- How to generate, present and use information?

Especially informative and useful was the case study of Chalk Sound National Park that was generated by the participants themselves as the training progressed.

Workshops with the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society (NCRPS)

Members of the board of directors of the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society (NCRPS) were kept busy on 22 June in workshops on enhancing NGO board effectiveness and on coastal resource co-management. The workshops were funded by the European Union (EU) via the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI) and Counterpart Caribbean, with on-site delivery by CERMES.



These international linkages are aimed at strengthening the capacity of the NCRPS to co-manage the Negril Marine Park (NMP) along with its many stakeholders. These

workshops were the first in a series of project activities that are due to continue to May 2005 in the Negril area.