



The Rising Tide at CLME

the latest news and information from the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project

E BULLETIN N 4

“We share our marine resources: we care today so we keep sharing them tomorrow”

The CLME Regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis ready for distribution

The TDA is a widely-used tool within GEF International Waters Projects to provide a scientifically objective assessment of the causes of the main problems affecting transboundary and shared ecosystems. According to the recent draft version of the Regional TDA, delivered by the TDA/SAP consultant, Peter Whalley, the Wider Caribbean Region contains over 12,000 species reported by the Census of Marine Life; about 118 marine invasive species are recorded and is home to over 185 species of water birds. Almost 25 million tourists travelled to the Caribbean during the year 2000 and more than US\$ 500 million was the value in 2006 of the total fisheries landings from the WCR. The annual value of ecosystem services provided by Caribbean coral reefs has been estimated at between US\$3.1 billion and US\$4.6 billion, with degradation by 2015 potentially costing between US\$350 million and US\$870 million per year.

This 140 pages document is supported by three CLME fisheries TDAs: the reef, pelagic and continental shelf fisheries ecosystems and a regional governance analysis will serve as the science basis for the development of an agreed program of interventions in the WCR including fisheries management reforms, conservation measures and pollution control in the region (SAP). This TDA contains the most updated information on the CLME and has been already circulated for feedback among the CLME National Focal Points, partnerships and stakeholders. After including comments/suggestions received a final version will be published by the CLME PCU. See more on TDA at

<http://www.clmeproject.org/documents/projectdocuments/fishery-ecosystems-tdas/draft-regional-transboundary-diagnostic-analysis>

The challenge of governance in the Pedro Cays, Jamaica

Planning, gathering baseline data and designing management plans for conservation on the offshore Pedro Cays in Jamaica is only a part of the challenge for the pilot project: *Management and Conservation of Reef Biodiversity and Reef Fisheries* from the Caribbean Large marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project. Jamaican project partners, The Nature Conservancy, met in April with Professor Robin Mahon from the Governance Working Group for the assessment with the Pilot Project partners from the UNEP CAR/RCU of governance within the project.

Previous reports on environmental governance in Jamaica have identified over 48 policies and legislation under which environmental enforcement management falls in the island state. The initial discussions raised many worthwhile questions that could not be readily addressed but whose answers will assist in the more efficient implementation of not only the CLME Pilot Project, but also the longer term interventions being designed for management of the offshore cays and their fish sanctuary, threatened species and other components. Similar discussions and follow up will be held at the Seaflower Marine Protected Area in Columbia and the Montecristi National Park in the Dominican Republic later in 2011.



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The Queen Conch case in the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve, a co-management strategy towards inclusion of ecosystem principles

In the Caribbean the names queen conch, pink conch, pala conch, giant conch sound familiar, bringing to our minds the image of the largest conch within *Strombidae* family, loved for its meat, shell and pearls. Scientifically named as *Strombus gigas*, this marine invertebrate has been exploited beyond the species' capabilities to persist. As a result its international trade has been controlled since 1992 by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Currently only few and remote fishing Banks like Serrana (Colombia), Pedro (Jamaica) and Rosalind (Honduras) maintain conch densities higher than the desired threshold needed to support fishing.

Studies on genetic connectivity demonstrate the existence of three local populations within the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve, patterns that have been confirmed with additional works on conch larval dispersal. This result is apparently a consequence of an adaptive management based on the best possible scientific knowledge together with a broad array of stakeholder's participation.

This strategy has been validated by national and international experts and is a good example of the ecosystem based management for Colombia and the Wider Caribbean. At the same time, government agencies will work with the communities to find alternative income opportunities to overcome crisis times when fishing restrictions will be needed for conch recovery and stock enhancement actions. Follow the project at <http://seaflowerconch.com/>

New publication from CLME partners

A recent publication of the paper book by Amsterdam University Press "*Towards Marine Ecosystem Based Management in the Wider Caribbean*" has been released. This document has been edited by the CLME PAG members: Lucia Fanning, Director of the Marine Affairs Programm at the Dalhousie University in Canada, Robin Mahon, Director of the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at the University of the West Indies in Barbados and the STAG member Patrick McConney, Senior Lecturer in Marine Resource Management Planning at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) in Barbados.

According to the review this volume brings together the collective knowledge and experience of scholars and practitioners within the wider Caribbean to assemble a road map towards marine ecosystem based management for the region. The research provides a comparative example and guide for stakeholders and policy makers in each of the world's sixty four large marine ecosystems, and is also a training tool for graduate students. The book can be found already at the main bookstores or contact Paul Carls at p.carls@aup.nl.



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Senior Caribbean journalists working for a better coverage on watershed and marine issues

The *Association of Caribbean Media Workers* (ACM) has conducted an intensive and successful journalist's workshop in Trinidad and Tobago thanks to the partnership of the GEF funded projects, IWCAM and the CLME. More than 20 participants coming from the Small Island Independent States were senior journalists actively involved in different media: radio, newspapers, television.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Minister of Housing and Environment from Trinidad and Tobago, the Honorable Dr. Roodal Moonilal. The journalists were introduced on the initiatives/activities of both projects and then visited a demo site in Tobago, the Courland watershed and the Bucco Reef Marine Park. The last day of the workshop a brainstorming exercise for the elaboration of the guidelines for journalists on watershed and marine resources. This expected publication will be ready in August this year. Meanwhile a group on marine resources has been created in facebook. See http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/home.php?sk=group_133303603411349&ap=1

The CLME Project Coordination Unit

Ivan Soto, senior Project Officer of the CLME, has been named as Officer in Charge of the Project Coordination Unit until a new Regional Project Coordinator is appointed. Mr. Soto's background at the CLME project and his expertise in fisheries management and sustainable aquaculture development in Latin America and Asia will ensure the continuity of the CLME project implementation.

Maria Elvira Talero our Stakeholder and Participation Expert is leaving the project on July the 5th going back to her home city in Bogotá, Colombia. She has been leading the implementation of the CLME communications and Participation strategies.

The new CLME webpage

The design of a more friendly layout and easy access web site for the CLME project contents is right now being conducted by AXESNET, a Colombian provider winner of the best internet prize 2010 through the webpage of Ecopetrol (The largest Colombian petroleum company). Under the coordination of the CLME PCU this new product is expected to be released by August this year. Thus, the CLME webpage users will have access to a dynamic display of information including photos, news, interactive maps and social networks, as a complement to the main CLME documents. So, we will have the CLME in a click!



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