

# CERMES Connections

3 June 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

As the second semester nears its end we reflect on the many activities of April and May. We had distinguished visitors, faculty and technical staff attended various workshops as participants and trainers, and students went on field trips. Soon the (relative) quiet of summer will be here on campus. However, our students will be busy all around the Caribbean doing their research so as to complete their degrees. Already we are beginning to deal with the applicants for the next academic year.

## **Field trip to the Grenadines Islands**

Fourteen CERMES students took part in a week long field trip to the Grenadine Islands as part of the MSc course 'Managing coastal and marine resources and biodiversity'. Accompanied by Dr. Robin Mahon and Maria Pena, they visited Bequia, Union Island, Mayreau and Carriacou, as well as the Tobago Cays Marine Park and Sandy Island/Oyster Bed marine protected area. The programme included visits to NGOs, lectures from Grenadines environmentalists and tours of sites that provide insight into issues associated with coastal development on small islands.



The group is seen here exploring the abandoned marina development in Ashton Bay, Union Island.

## **Reef resilience workshop in Mexico**

Dr. Hazel Oxenford of CERMES and Ramon Roach of the Coastal Zone Management Unit were the Barbados participants at a recent Caribbean Reef Resilience Workshop held in Akumal, Mexico from 5-7 April. The

event was implemented by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in partnership with a broad alliance of NGOs and international and national organisations.



The 3-day workshop was attended by participants from MPAs and other natural resource management bodies across the wider Caribbean. They looked at the issue of managing coral reefs to maximise resilience to global threats such as coral bleaching and diminishing fish spawning aggregations. Many ideas were shared and standard monitoring protocols were discussed. The workshop increased networking amongst practitioners facing common problems in reef management, and improved access to a large array of resource materials

## **Workshop on sponge taxonomy**

Renata Goodridge attended a Regional Sponge Taxonomy Workshop, held at Discovery Bay Marine Lab, Jamaica, from 30-31 March.



The focus was on sponge morphology and identification in the lab by examining spicules. There was also one collection dive. There is a lot to learn about sponge identification. Even for an experienced field collector, the training was extremely useful indeed.

## ***Society for Applied Anthropology***

Dr. Patrick McConney attended the meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology in Santa Fe, New Mexico, from 5-10 April. He participated in a panel session on "Strengthening Stakeholder Participation in Fisheries Management", making a presentation on "Stakeholders in Caribbean fisheries and integrated coastal management". He also distributed materials as part of the promotion of the UWI Coastal Management Research Network (COMARE Net)

## ***MPA Workshops in Negril, Jamaica***

A Workshop on MPAs and Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods was held in Negril, Jamaica on 13 April. It was organised by the Caribbean Natural resources Institute (CANARI). Dr. Patrick McConney participated in the workshop and then implemented, on the following day, a Workshop on Socio-economic Monitoring and Fisheries Management Planning for the Negril Marine Park on behalf of the Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society (NCRPS). This is one of the several project activities that form part of CERMES outreach through a partnership with Counterpart Caribbean which is based in Barbados.

## ***Working Group on Biodiversity***

Dr. Hazel Oxenford is now a member of the Barbados government's Working Group on Biodiversity. The terms of reference of this group of experts are:

- To advise on national policy and recommend strategies for the management and conservation of marine and terrestrial biodiversity
- To advise and provide necessary technical input for projects in the area of biodiversity
- To advise on the development of a database on biodiversity
- To review and monitor the status of marine and terrestrial biodiversity in Barbados.

## ***SocMon training held in St. Lucia***

Dr. Patrick McConney and Rhonda Lee assisted UNEP as trainers and coordinators in implementing a Regional Training Workshop on Socio-economic Monitoring for Caribbean Coastal Management (SocMon Caribbean), held in Soufriere, St. Lucia, from 9 – 13 May.



The workshop was attended by 18 participants from the English-speaking Caribbean and Mexico. It included both classroom training and practical field sessions that were invaluable for

communicating the experience of applying many of the techniques. Participants had an opportunity to learn about the Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA) and to interact with the manager and rangers who were our hosts. Fieldwork was also done in the nearby village of Canaries.

UNEP is providing grants for small follow-up studies in participants' home countries, and may sponsor some presentations at the 58th meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) in San Andres Island, Colombia, if participants submit papers that are accepted for oral presentation or poster sessions.

## ***Visiting dignitaries from Bermuda***

On 26 April a party of dignitaries from Bermuda with interests in marine affairs and education paid a visit to CERMES. The guests included the Hon. Terry E. Lister, JP, Minister of Education and Development; Chairman of the Board for Marine and Ports, Ralph Richardson; Michael Stowe, Executive Officer, National Training

Board; and Jerome Robinson, Manager of the Marine and Ports.



Here Senior Lecturer, Dr. Hazel Oxenford is seen greeting the Hon. Terry Lister, Bermuda's Minister of Education and Development.

## ***Climate change in Belize***

Students from CERMES Climate Change specialisation stream had their field trip in Belize thanks to a great deal of cooperation from the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) based there. The group was led by Dr. Leonard Nurse and accompanied by Neetha Selliah, graduate programme coordinator at CERMES. The students obtained firsthand experience of how climate change impacts are monitored and mitigated from policy down to practice in the field. It was a rewarding trip for all involved.

## ***CRFM Working Group Meeting***

CERMES hosted the 'First Meeting of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Ad Hoc Working Group on Methods', at UWI from May 23-27. It was attended by fisheries personnel from several of the CARICOM countries as well as from the US National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Centre in Miami. Its purpose was to explore new approaches to assessment of Caribbean fisheries, especially in manpower and data-limited situations. Over the years CERMES has contributed significantly to the human capital of fisheries authorities in the region.