

**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, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus  
Editors: Maria Pena, Dr. Patrick McConney**



## *Preparing to welcome the new academic year*

We're gearing up for the next academic year and getting ready to welcome the newest set of CERMES students.

CERMES will begin its MSc Programme on 10 September and this year, the much anticipated Water Resources Management

Specialisation Stream will be launched. More on that in future issues.

Our current students are preoccupied with their research and we just know, or should we say, hope, that they are working steadfastly to submit their papers on time!

Other than that, it is quiet within the CERMES building as many of our staff are on well-deserved and long awaited vacations.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and please continue to join us in the new academic year for CERMES news.

## *2007 Barbados reef surveys*

The Barbados 2007 Reef Surveys are in full swing. Every five years, the Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU) contracts out this immense, intense project. The first survey dates back to 1982, but at that time only West coast fringing reefs were surveyed.

In 1987, 43 reefs were monitored along the West and South coasts

of the island, including fringing, patch and bank reef habitats. Permanent monitoring sites were set up on each of the reefs, and land triangulation marks drawn in order to find the same sites back again in the future. In 1992 only a partial set of the West coast reefs were surveyed. However, in 1997 and 2002 the full set of reefs were again



Staked reef site used for monitoring

monitored. This summer, we are once again monitoring the full set of reefs. The UWI Office of Research and CERMES are collaborating on this project. The team led by Professor

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Renata Goodridge (background) and Kim Baldwin (foreground) laying transects for monitoring



One of the reefs surveyed

### ***Fellowship available for MarGov MPhil***

Anyone who registers to do an MPhil at CERMES with emphasis on marine resource governance as part of the MarGov project is eligible to receive a two year fellowship to cover their research and other costs. This opportunity is available to all applicants, not only those from the Caribbean. Check the CERMES web site for more information including UWI registration procedures.

Wayne Hunte (Office of Research) and Professor Hazel Oxenford (CERMES). Renata Goodridge (Senior Marine/Lab Technician, CERMES), along with Kimberly Baldwin (UWI CERMES PhD candidate), David Gill (CERMES graduate)

and Ian Popple (McGill graduate) started monitoring the reefs in late June, and plan to complete monitoring the West Coast reefs by Crop Over. With the way this field team is working, the Reef Surveys will be 'cracked' by mid-

September once the weather permits!



Underwater 'creature feature' – goldentail moray eel- digitally captured during a survey

## *MarGov project making good progress*

Since we introduced the IDRC-funded MarGov project (i.e. Marine Resource Governance in the Eastern Caribbean) to you in May the project has been making good progress.

The inception workshop was held on the UWI Cave Hill Campus 15-16 May with over 20 participants from around the region from inter-governmental, governmental, non-governmental and private sector agencies that covered a broad spectrum of interests in marine resource governance. They

included resource users, managers, technical staff, policy advisers, scientists and others working at local, national, regional and international levels. The workshop report is available from the documents page on the MarGov web pages (visit [www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/margov\\_profile.html](http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/margov_profile.html)).



Small working group at the MarGov inception workshop

Communication was highlighted as a major challenge for projects generally, and especially one such as this that aims to actively engage with policy-making and high-level decisions on marine resource governance. Based on considerable input from workshop participants another recent output document is the communication strategy and plan that can also be downloaded from the project web pages.

A small core group of participants drawn from the key



Kemraj Parsram presenting at the CRFM Scientific Meeting



Directors Maarten Bavinck of MARE and Robin Mahon of CERMES

organisational partners has been formed to assist with monitoring and evaluation, among other things, and the composition of this group is also on the web pages.

The Mar Gov research team has been on the move. The most drastic move has been the departure of communication assistant, Donna Roach, who took up a post with the Environmental Protection Department of Barbados after a short but very productive period with the project. A new communication assistant is being recruited.

Meanwhile, PhD student Kemraj Parsram participated in

the Second Steering Committee Meeting of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project in Cartagena, Columbia, which is intended to focus mainly upon transboundary governance. He also made a presentation on network analysis at the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) Third Annual Scientific Meeting – Plenary Session, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines illustrating the application of this methodology to fisheries science. In addition Kemraj was co-author of a paper on 'Fisheries governance in the eastern Caribbean: network and institutional

perspectives on policy' presented by project manager Patrick McConney at the MARE Conference People and the Sea IV: 'Who Owns the Coast?' held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Director of CERMES and project co-investigator Robin Mahon chaired a panel on governance at the MARE conference. He introduced MarGov to the international working group on "Governance feasibility of marine ecosystem-based management: a comparative analysis" which met at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis in Santa Barbara, California.

Stay tuned for future updates on MarGov.



Conch shells

## *Looking at conch*

Hazel Oxenford has obtained funding from the Ministry of Energy and the Environment to conduct a preliminary assessment of conch

(*Strombus gigas*) on the south coast of Barbados over the summer. This is to partially address the Government's commitment to the

CITES convention as a range state to report on the local conch fishery and status of the stock. This follows up on the research paper done by

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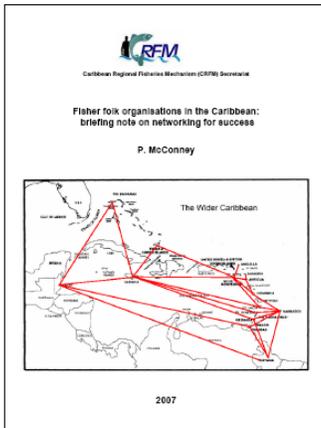
The conch team. From L to R, Colvin Taylor (Barbados Fisheries Division), Hazel Oxenford, Tanya Staskiewicz and Julian Walcott (CERMES)

CERMES student, Damien Catlyn in 2006, describing the conch fishery on the island. She is working with a dive team of CERMES

graduates, Julian Walcott and Tanya Staskiewicz and Fishery personnel, Colvin Taylor. Conch surveys are currently underway

off the SE coast (Sam Lords) with local fishers providing a boat and expertise.

### *Assisting a CRFM fisher folk project*



Fisher folk organisations briefing note prepared by Patrick McConney

A project on Development of Caribbean Network of Fisher Folk Organizations is being implemented by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) from September 2006 to July 2008, through its Secretariat, in financial partnership with the ACP-EU Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation (CTA)

based in the Netherlands. As part of its outreach CERMES, through Patrick McConney, is working with the CRFM to assist the project. One of the first products of this collaboration was a document entitled 'Fisher folk organisations in the Caribbean: briefing note on networking for success' that draws upon the network

concepts being used in the MarGov project. CERMES is also assisting with the production of newsletters and sees this CRFM project as a critical input into fisheries governance. A series of consultations to strengthen or form national fisherfolk groups is currently being undertaken by the CRFM in its Member States.

### *UWI Service Learning Programme launched*



Smiling Grade 6 children working on their story books

A ten member team of five students and five staff members of the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus recently returned from the successful launch of the Service Learning Programme in the North Leeward District of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 18 - 23

June 2007. This Programme is one of the many ways that Cave Hill will be expanding its service to its non-campus territories, and continuing to contribute to Caribbean development through academic excellence and service. It is

offered as part of the co-curricular programme, and successful students completing the programme earn three co-curricular credits. The team was led by CERMES lecturer and Chairperson of the Service Learning Programme

### PhD student feature

As a result of receiving an ESRI Conservation Grant, Kim Baldwin attended the 27<sup>th</sup> annual ESRI GIS International Users Conference 2007 in San Diego, California from June 18 – 22, 2007 along with more than 17,000 attendees from around the world. She presented her PhD research proposal entitled "Development of a Participatory Marine Space-use Information System for the Grenadine Islands" in the Sustainable Development and Humanitarian Affairs Track Session. Her presentation and PGIS research were well received by ESRI and other GIS professionals who have offered her further technical assistance. She has been invited to attend and present further details on the participatory nature of the MarSIS research at the 45<sup>th</sup> annual URISA GIS conference in Washington DC later this month.

Development Committee, Janice Cumberbatch, who explained that in Service Learning academic goals are accomplished through community service. "Our students will be prepared in the classroom to reflect on social conditions in countries that require intervention. Based on this analysis, faculty and students will work in collaboration with affected communities and groups to design projects that will be implemented by the students under faculty supervision in the field. The results of the fieldwork will be evaluated and subsequent interventions will be designed and field trips

undertaken to address various social ills." The pilot project that was implemented in the north leeward communities in St. Vincent focused on literacy and leadership. As part of the week's activities, a workshop was conducted by Dr. Ngoni Chipere of the Department of Education, with twenty primary school teachers during which they were given instruction in state of the art ways of teaching children to read and write. The UWI students, Jason Francis, Shakirah Bourne, Corena Cumberbatch, Gina Aimey-Moss and Isha Emmanuel, conducted literacy tests with one hundred and fifty students from

Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 from two of the primary schools in the district. They also worked with thirty Grade 6 children from six local schools on a special project in which they helped the children write books on the topic "My community in the year 2050." Ms. Cumberbatch notes that "a number of these pupils had recently completed the Common Entrance Examination and some had not performed very well. It was therefore heartening to share their excitement at being able to successfully complete and exhibit their story books to their peers, parents and teachers during the closing ceremony."

## *Farewell Dr. Fanning*

Dr. Lucia Fanning left the CLME Project and CERMES at the end of July after an active and productive 16 months. This period saw a variety of workshops,

reports, presentations and posters at conferences coauthored with CERMES staff members that have focused attention on CERMES as a centre of

excellence for natural resource management. A detailed report on these activities will be provided at the end of the CLME Project in October 2007.