

Coastal and Marine Management and Education in the South Eastern Caribbean (CaMMESEC) Bulletin

July/August 2009

CaMMESEC is here to provide support to and a forum for our counterparts in the SE Caribbean. As our network grows so does the information that we have to share with our readers. For this issue we received contributions from the Sustainable Grenadines Project on the movement to make the Grenadines a World Heritage Site and on the Sandy Island Oyster Bed MPA in Carriacou, Grenada. We also received a contribution from the MarViva Foundation which works in the Tropical Eastern Pacific of Central America. CaMMESEC thanks these colleagues for their contributions and welcomes all our readers to be a part of the CaMMESEC family by providing information on your various activities for inclusion in future issues.

Training of Trainers Follow Up

Participants of the 2009 CaMPAM Training of Trainers workshop are required to conduct training programmes in their home countries. Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines received funding from CaMMESEC to carry out their respective training exercises.

St. Maarten and St. Vincent and the Grenadines will each be carrying out Reef Check trainings in September for their staff and stakeholders in an effort to build in-house coral reef monitoring capacity. St. Lucia's training, also scheduled for September, will focus on training teachers to increase student involvement in MPA management. Anguilla has started its training exercise which is geared towards training volunteers in sea turtle education and conservation for Anguilla's beaches, including Dog Island Marine Park. To learn more about Anguilla's progress visit <http://www.anguillalife.com/news/stories/local/12339.php>. Belize, Grenada, Antigua and Tobago are still developing their training programmes.

The Bahamas completed its training exercise in early July. This training aimed to sensitise and empower stakeholders of the South Berry Islands Marine Reserve (SBIMR) towards the development of a management plan for the area. The workshop was funded by GCFI.

Our Reefs: Caribbean Connections

The travelling exhibit, *Our Reefs: Caribbean Connections*, is being hosted by the CaMMESEC project in Tobago for a few weeks (late August – early September). This exhibit, which is a complete revision of a traveling exhibit that was developed by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, is designed to raise awareness, understanding and stewardship of coral reefs among all peoples of the wider Caribbean. Specific topics which highlight issues relating to common environmental challenges and diverse local attempts within the Caribbean to conserve, sustainably utilize, or restore reefs and related ecosystems include:

- Caribbean currents and their effects on coral reefs
- Corals and climate change: is it getting to warm?
- Land effects on the reef
- Vulnerable coastlines
- The impact of tourism : Paradise for Sale
- Declining fisheries
- Marine reserves
- Experiments in reef repair
- Caribbean reefs: The future:- Everyone shares the responsibility

CaMMESEC took the opportunity to host *Our Reefs: Caribbean Connections* in an effort to raise the level of public awareness about the importance of coral reefs and in particular, the

Buccoo Reef Marine Park, Tobago. The exhibit will be showcased in high visibility areas including the local mall and ports. Special thanks go to Tropical Shipping and the Raymond Foundation for helping bring the exhibit to Trinidad and Tobago.



Travelling exhibit on display at local mall

Our reefs: Caribbean Connections was designed specifically for the Caribbean so visit www.ourreefs.org to learn more about this wonderful exhibit and how you can host it in your own country.

CaMMESEC partners with CaMPAM at GCFI

CaMMESEC is pleased to partner with CaMPAM again. This time CaMMESEC will be providing financial support to the *Success Stories in Marine Resource Management and Conservation in the Wider Caribbean – Applying an Ecosystem-based Approach and Facing the Climate Change Challenge* session at the 62nd GCFI Conference in Cumana, Venezuela. This half-day session, hosted by CaMPAM, will comprise scientific presentations and discussions on issues which highlight marine conservation efforts that are making a difference in the Caribbean region, particularly those practices based on an ecosystem-based approach and that have adapted management to address climate change. The goal of the session is to allow scientists, conservation practitioners and policy-makers from the Wider Caribbean (including the south Atlantic and Gulf of

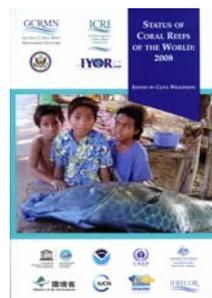
Mexico) to share and reflect upon success stories in marine conservation and identify best practices and lessons learned.

Reefs at Risk Revisited

The World Resources Institute (WRI) and the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) are leading a world-class collaboration in a global, map-based analysis of threats to the world's coral reefs, called *Reefs at Risk Revisited*. This project is an update to the 1998 analysis, *Reefs at Risk – a Map-Based Indicator of Threats to the World's Coral Reefs*, and smaller regional assessments including *Reefs at Risk in the Caribbean*.

Reefs at Risk Revisited, which was launched in July 2008 and envisioned to last two years, will assemble the best available information on coral reef condition, threats to coral reefs and factors that influence coral reef health. The analyses implemented will be at twenty times the level of detail done for the 1998 study. The local and regional threats highlighted in previous Reefs at Risk publications (coastal development, land-based sources of pollution, marine-based threats, overexploitation) will be included along with climate-related threats (coral bleaching and ocean acidification). Visit www.reefsatrisk.wri.org for more information on this project.

Call for Case Studies



One of the roles of the CaMMESEC project is to support and facilitate the inclusion of representations from the South Eastern Caribbean countries in the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN). The GCRMN, through a coordinated

global network, provides manuals, equipment, databases, training, problem solving, and helps with finding funds for reef monitoring – all in an effort to improve management and conservation of coral reefs.

The GCRMN is preparing to produce another publication titled *Effective Catchment Management and Coral Reef Conservation: Best Practice Case Studies*. This publication will explain the problems and possible solutions to catchment damage to downstream coastal ecosystems through case studies. CaMMESEC would like the South Eastern Caribbean to be represented in this publication. As such, contributions are being sought that provide the following:

- What was the problem?
- What was done?
- How successful has it been?
- Lessons learned and recommendations;
- References
- Author(s) Contact information

Submissions may include one or two figures and must be written in plain language i.e. no scientific jargon.

Please forward submissions to Hyacinth Armstrong at h.armstrong@buccooreef.org no later than Friday 18 September, 2009.

MPA Profile

The South Eastern Caribbean has several marine protected areas that are in various stages of implementation. Several are very well known and others are hardly known at all; some have been around for years and others are now starting. CaMMESEC would like to begin profiling some of the region's MPA's in an effort to educate our regional counterparts of each other's existence and *raison d'être*. With this knowledge sharing CaMMESEC through our readership hopes to be able to provide additional support and expertise to our regional MPAs.

Sandy Island/Oyster Bed MPA (SIOB-MPA)

The Sandy Island/Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area (SIOB MPA) comprises an area of 787 hectares on the southwest coast of Carriacou, Grenada. This is one of five MPAs

proposed for this eight-mile-long island. The area protects an extensive reef system, important mangroves and seagrass beds.

A co-management arrangement is being designed between the key stakeholders and Government for the management of Grenada's newest MPA. Priority management goals of the park are as follows: i) to conserve the coastal and marine ecosystems, ii) to engage all stakeholders/communities in the management of the park; iii) to ensure the reputability of SIOB MPA as an MPA on a national and international scale; iv) to increase socio-economic benefits to the community of Carriacou and the wider Caribbean while preserving the cultural value of the SIOB MPA; and v) to increase awareness about the resources of the SIOB MPA



SIOB MPA boundaries and zoning plans

Some of the main manageable threats facing the park are coastal development, unregulated use of the area's resources and overfishing. In order to address these threats a zoning plan, management plan and mooring feasibility study have been developed for the area by all stakeholders in conjunction with the Sustainable Grenadines Project, the Caribbean Regional Environmental Program (CREP) and The Nature Conservancy.

The Grenadines as a World Heritage Site

Like many multi-island nations, the Grenadines (Bequia, Canouan, Mayreau, Mustique,

Tobago Cays, Union Island, Palm Island) and their head maiden, St. Vincent possess a multitude of seascapes, marine habitats and biodiversity, terrestrial and natural heritage, geological features, and unique cultural heritage. The very distinct set of features that define this area have the potential to make a strong case for a World Heritage Site designation. The Sustainable Grenadines Project (SusGren), (a trans-boundary project supported by both the Governments of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada and administered through the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies, University of the West Indies, Barbados), has made the first steps in pursuing the possibility of establishing the Grenadines as a World Heritage Site (WHS). Thus far, preliminary meetings were held in Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines in September 2008, along with a workshop in March 2009 to assess stakeholder buy-in and to identify the attributes of the Grenadines which make it of outstanding universal value. Moving forward, an internet discussion group and two Working Groups were formed to carry the process forward and solicit government support for the initiative.

The project is currently in its second phase. The project goal is the biodiversity conservation and integrated sustainable development of the area for the social and economic well being of the people who live in the Grenadines. This is achieved through participatory co-management. The project carries out various core activities, which include training and planning workshops, capacity building through group development, attachments and exchanges and awarding of mini-projects to local NGOs and CBOs.

MarViva campaigning for Protected Marine Areas

The MarViva Foundation, together with civil society organizations in Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia, is launching a rallying cry for

the oceans through its campaign "Protected marine areas ... *Where marine life begins*". 75% of fisheries in the tropical eastern pacific region where MarViva works have either collapsed or are on the verge of doing so. There are also an estimated 3,500 million people that depend on the ocean as a source of food, with this figure estimated to double in 20 years.

Since its launch in March this year, this campaign has focused on creating citizens' awareness of the benefits provided by the sea and of the importance of creating, protecting and consolidating MPAs as they are a source of work and well-being in many communities.

The MarViva Foundation has taken the "Protected marine areas ... *Where marine life begins*" campaign message to different sectors of its constituency, for example, in shopping malls where musicians, artists and TV personalities have joined the cause and conveyed this important message to the Costa Rican population.

For further information on our campaign visit www.areasmarinaprotegidas.com and become part of this important initiative.

Share your information

Regional partners please feel free to submit any activities, events, workshops or information that you would like to share with readers. Send information to the email addresses below.

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