

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

January 2009

Welcome to the first issue of the Coastal and Marine Management and Education in the Southeastern Caribbean Project (CaMMESEC) bulletin!

CaMMESEC is a collaborative effort between the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) and the Buccoo Reef Trust (BRT) in Tobago that seeks to improve the Southeastern Caribbean's marine environment, through enhanced access to research and education facilities and expertise, and the exchange of sustainable practices for tropical islands. Project initiatives will reach out to managers, researchers and policy makers across the Wider Caribbean through the international network of ICRAN and partners to ensure that the existing expertise and available information for comprehensive management and marine resource monitoring purposes is further developed. CaMMESEC is generously funded by the United Nations Foundation.

2008 Project Highlights

Economic Valuation Method for Coral Reef Ecosystems

The World Resources Institute (WRI) worked with the BRT and other partners in Trinidad and Tobago and St. Lucia to develop an economic valuation method for coral reef ecosystems that can be applied across the region. The method provides detailed estimates of the value of coral reef related fisheries, tourism, and shoreline protection. For details of the project's findings and to download the Tourism and Fisheries Valuation tools, visit www.buccooreef.org/economic.html.

Assessment of Buccoo Reef Marine Park (BRMP) users

One of CaMMESEC's objectives is to provide support to the Buccoo Reef Management Committee (BRMC). During 2008, CaMMESEC conducted two independent assessments - one of the glass bottomed boat reef tour operators that work within the Buccoo Reef Marine Park and one of general public's knowledge and perceptions of MPAs. The results of these assessments will be used by the BRMC to develop a certification programme for reef tour operators and develop awareness information for BRMP users.

Barbados Coral Reef CSI Workshop

In November, the CaMMESEC Project Coordinator attended the Barbados Coral Reef CSI Workshop hosted by the Coastal Zone Management Unit. Participants, who hailed from seven Caribbean countries and covered a range of marine-related disciplines including law enforcement, spent five days learning techniques that could be used to conduct coral reef enforcement and natural resource investigations on a wide variety of anthropogenic events. To learn more about Coral Reef CSI visit www.icran.org/action-csi.html. A Tobago Coral Reef CSI workshop is being planned for June 2009.

Associated projects/activities

BRT hosts symposium to commemorate International Year of the Reef

In June 2008 the Buccoo Reef Trust hosted a half-day symposium titled Counting Costs: Communities, Coral Reefs, Climate Change. This symposium highlighted the Trust's many initiatives, including CaMMESEC, the Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management Project (IWCAM - www.buccooreef.org/iwcam.html), the Tobago

Coastal Ecosystem Mapping Project (www.buccooreef.org/coralcay.html) and the award winning film on regional climate change titled "Islands on the Edge" (www.buccooreef.org/multimedia.html), and provided a forum for participants to discuss mechanisms for addressing the many challenges facing the protection and sustainable use of Tobago's coral reefs.

Also at this meeting, the Minister for Housing, Planning and the Environment, the Hon. Emily Dick-Forde announced the coming on stream of the Green Fund in September, 2008. This highly anticipated funding mechanism would allow community groups and organisations to undertake projects in remediation, reforestation and conservation of the environment.

The Speyside Marine Area Community-based Management Project (SMACMP) officially launched

The SMACMP was launched on December 2nd at the Speyside Community Centre, Tobago. This community-based project aims to build local capacity in marine associated livelihoods and enhance community awareness of the Speyside Marine Area. SMACMP is a partnership between the Speyside community, the Buccoo Reef Trust and Coral Cay Conservation and is funded by the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme. SMACMP activities will be supported by the initiatives planned under CaMMESEC.

Activities for 2009

Training of Trainers Workshop CaMMESEC will be teaming up with UNEP-CEP and the OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods Project (OPAAL) to host the Training of Trainers Workshop from March 22–April 5 in Tobago. The Training of Trainers course is designed to introduce participants to relevant teaching methods, and provide them with skills required to conduct training

programmes in marine protected areas in their own countries. OPAAL will be sponsoring one participant from each of its project locations (Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda); UNEP-CEP will sponsor one participant each from Belize and the Bahamas; and CaMMESEC will be sponsoring one participant from each of the following countries: Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Anguilla, the Netherland Antilles and the French Antilles. A workshop announcement will be posted soon.

Tobago Coral Reef CSI Workshop

June 10-14 will see another installment of the International Coral Reef Initiative's (ICRI) Coral Reef CSI program in the Caribbean region. This 5-day field training workshop, hosted by CaMMESEC, is targeted at coral reef or MPA managers, enforcement officers, field biologists and other interested parties. Persons interested in participating are asked to contact the CaMMESEC project coordinator, Hyacinth Armstrong at h.armstrong@buccooreef.org.

Reef Check EcoAction Training and Monitoring Programs

CaMMESEC will be partnering with Reef Check to introduce local dive operations to the Reef Check EcoAction training program. This program will enhance the courses offered by local operators and them to play an active role in monitoring Tobago's coral reefs. As a follow on from the EcoAction training, CaMMESEC and Reef Check will also work with local agencies to develop a long-term monitoring program for Tobago.

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