

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

April 2009

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.

## CaMMESEC hosts regional MPA Training of Trainers workshop



Participants and facilitators after a trip to the Buccoo Reef

CaMMESEC teamed up with UNEP-CEP and the OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods Project (OPAAL) to host the 7<sup>th</sup> Training of Trainers Workshop from March 22–April 3 in Tobago. Participants came from Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, St. Maarten and Trinidad and Tobago, and were exposed to the basic concepts of MPA management through lectures and field exercises. Topics covered characteristics of the Caribbean marine environment and the research/monitoring tools that could be used to assess the state of the environment; techniques and tools associated

with marine protected area planning and management; and effective participatory planning and communication.

Perhaps more valuable than the information imparted during the workshop was the opportunity for participants to learn about and from each other. The networking promoted by the Training of Trainers course has allowed strong relationships to develop at the technical level, which from the CaMMESEC Project Coordinator's point of view, is a wonderful start to promoting regional cooperation at the technical level and it is an avenue that will be pursued and nurtured as far as possible. The first phase of this process will be through the follow up training programmes that each participant will implement in their respective countries.

## ***Reef Check EcoAction Diver and Monitoring Programs***

CaMMESEC will be partnering with Reef Check and the Tobago House of Assembly to introduce local dive operations to the Reef Check Eco Action Diver program. This training program, scheduled for 4-7 May, will allow dive operators to play an active role in monitoring Tobago's coral reefs while enhancing the product that they offer to their clientele. The final day will be used to design a monitoring program for Tobago that will build on the monitoring programs currently being carried

out under the Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) and Tobago Coastal Ecosystem Mapping Projects, both scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009.

### ***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 is being hosted by CaMMESEC at the Rovanel's Resort in Tobago, and is targeted at coral reef or MPA managers, enforcement officers, field biologists and other interested parties. Visit [www.icran.org/action-csi.html](http://www.icran.org/action-csi.html) for more information about Coral Reef Crime Scene Investigation.

### **Trinidad and Tobago contributes to the Status of Coral Reefs 2008 publication**

One of the components of CaMMESEC is to promote the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN). Under the guidance of the CaMMESEC Project Coordinator, Trinidad and Tobago was able to provide information on the status of its coral reefs in the Lesser Antilles Chapter in the Status of Coral Reefs 2008 publication. The information reported was based on the research being done under the Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) project. Trinidad and Tobago's last contribution to this publication was in 2002. A link to the full report can be found at <http://www.gcrmn.org/status2008.aspx>

### **Associated projects/activities**

#### ***Tobago School wins Reef Check Song Contest***

St. Nicholas Private Primary School in Tobago won the International Song Contest! The contest, which was put on by Reef Check to commemorate the International Year of the Reef, required entrants to submit a video rendition of the Year of the Reef song.

Students from the school teamed up with the Buccoo Reef Trust and Coral Cay Conservation to put together the winning piece. Check out their winning video and those of other entrants at [http://reefcheck.org/video/video\\_contest.php](http://reefcheck.org/video/video_contest.php)

### ***Awareness Week and Sea, Sun and Science Experience in Speyside***

"With care and pride, we protect the reefs of Speyside!" This was the focus of a week of awareness activities held in early March that members of the Speyside community participated in. Activities included an art competition, underwater and beach clean ups, lectures, and a family-fun day filled with cricket and football matches, a puppet show and a treasure hunt. Local business and corporate entities sponsored various aspects of the week's activities which was a resounding success.

Building on the success of the Awareness Week, Buccoo Reef Trust introduced eighteen teenagers from the community to the marine sciences during their Easter vacation. In four short days, participants learned about coral reef and wetland ecology, fisheries management, aquaculture, and had fun snorkeling, sea kayaking and enjoying the good ole outdoors.

These initiatives were carried out under the Speyside Marine Area Community-based Management project, also known as the Community of Speyside Marine Environment Improvement Collaboration (COSMEIC).

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For more information contact:  
Hyacinth Armstrong, Project Coordinator  
([h.armstrong@buccooreef.org](mailto:h.armstrong@buccooreef.org))  
Jahson Alemu I, Asst. Project Coordinator  
([j.alemui@buccooreef.org](mailto:j.alemui@buccooreef.org))  
Phone: (868) 635-2000;  
Fax: (868) 639-7333;  
[www.buccooreef.org/icran.html](http://www.buccooreef.org/icran.html)

