

RPIU UPDATE

Climate Change Activities in the Region

Changing Climate: A Week of Activities

VISIT OF CANADIAN CLIMATE CHANGE EXPERT 25th October to 1st November

The Coastal Zone Management Unit of the Government of Barbados and the RPIU hosted a visit of Dr. Jim Bruce from October 25 – November 1, 1998. Dr. Bruce is the former chair of the Canadian Climate Program Board and former Co-chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group III. During his stay, Dr. Bruce participated in discussions between CPACC and the representatives from the three University of the West Indies campuses on development of a M.Sc. course in climate change, regional climate models and the establishment of a climate change centre for SIDS in the Caribbean. He also gave a public lecture on “The Weather and the Oceans – Are They Changing?” In his presentation he covered the science of climate change, impacts areas, greenhouse gas sources and response options open to SIDS through adaptation and mitigation measures. He also gave an overview of the status of the International Agreements and negotiations dealing with climate change. Dr. Bruce



L to R: Dr. Leonard Nurse, Director, CZMU and Dr. Jim Bruce, Former Chair IPCC Working Group III

also participated in a workshop to sensitize media personnel to climate change issues and in the two-day regional consultation on the CDM. □

REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM (CDM) October 29 - 30, 1998

In collaboration with UNEP, UNDP and CARICOM, the RPIU organized a regional consultation on the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in Barbados from October 29 – 30, 1998, just previous to the COP 4 for the UNFCCC in Buenos Aires. The consultation was expected to

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CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME IN GIS

Twelve students enrolled in the first module of a one year Certificate Programme in GIS. The Programme commenced in Barbados at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) of the UWI, Cave Hill Campus, the home of the RPIU. The module, “Introduction to Geographic Information Systems”, was conducted by overall programme coordinator, **Dr. Jacob Opadeyi** and **Ms. Shahiba Ali**, both from the Centre for Geospatial Studies, Engineering institute, UWI, St Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago.

The course is an extension of the programme which started in 1997 at the Centre for Geospatial Studies. The execution of the course in Barbados rep-

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contribute towards advancing regional understanding of the CDM, specifying small country issues and problems and most importantly, identifying issues to be presented and further discussed at COP 4. Several papers covering issues such as institutions and governance of CDM, baselines and additionalities and links of the CDM with other financial mechanisms were presented by in-



Participants at the Clean Development Mechanism Workshop

ternational experts and discussed with participants. The outcome was a communique which would inform the discussions of our regional representatives at the COP 4 meeting taking place in Argentina from November 2 – 13, 1998. In the communique major emphasis is given to the objective of ensuring equity in the operation of the CDM through the creation of a substantial financial flow to SIDS for adaptation measures in accordance with Article 12.8 of the Kyoto protocol. □

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resents a collaboration between from the Centre for Geospatial Studies and the Engineering institute, CERMES and CPACC RPIU.

CPACC has supported the programme by contributing significantly to the development of a Geospatial Laboratory. In return, the RPIU will have full access to the laboratory and two places will be made available each year to CPACC sponsored participants. In



Participants in the GIS Certificate Course with one of the facilitators, Ms. Shahiba Ali standing

the first year, the two participants are Angelique Brathwaithe of the Coastal Zone Management Unit and Rawleston Moore of the Environment Division, both in Barbados.

For additional information on the GIS Certificate contact CERMES at tel. (246) 417 4316, email uwenergy@sunbeach.net □

RPIU MISSION TO THE BAHAMAS 10th to 14th August 1998

Floyd Homer, Leslie Walling and Ian King conducted a CPACC mission to The Bahamas. The mission was to address Components 2, 3, and 5. The Mission took the opportunity to assess institutional capabilities, identify equipment needs, needs for technical and or logistic support, and institutional and inter-organizational linkages.

Individuals met during the Mission included: **Mrs. Eleanor Philips**, Fisheries Division; **Mr. Philip Weech**, Water and Sewerage Authority and lead for NFP; **Ms. Lorca Bowe**, BEST Commission; **Mr. Colin Higgs**, the Undersecretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, **Ambassador Lynn Holowesko**, Chairperson of The Bahamas Environment and Sustainable Development (BEST)

Commission; **Mr. Dwayne Curtis**, Acting Chief Public Analyst, Analysts Lab, in the Environmental Health Department; **Mr. Wenzel Nichols**, Divers Haven; **Mr. Dave Eads**, Dive South Ocean on New Providence; **Dr. Thomas Bailey**, Director, Caribbean Marine Research Center National Undersea Research Programme, Lee Stocking Island; **Michael Breynan**, Director of the Fisheries Division; and **Mr. Edison Deleveaux**, Fisheries Division.

In the course of the mission preliminary decision were made with re-



L to R: Colin Higgs, Edison Deleveaux Eleanor Philips, Philip Weech (partly hidden), Ian King, Floyd Homer, Leslie Walling, Thomas Bailey and Michael Breynan

gard to the selection of coral reef monitoring sites, logistic support and institutional mechanism for implementation. Final arrangements for implementation will be approved by the Government of The Bahamas. □

RPIU MISSION TO ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES 15th to 17th September 1998

A team comprising the Floyd Homer, Leslie Walling and Ian King visited St. Vincent to address implementation issues for Components 2 and 3. **Dr. Reynold Murray**, the Environmental Services Coordinator and lead person for the St. Vincent and the Grenadines NFP coordinated and participated in the meetings.

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**MONITORING STATION
INSTALLED IN GUYANA
8th October 1998**

Under Component 1 of the CPACC programme, two sea level and climate monitoring stations were installed at Parika and Rosignol in Guyana. With the repair of a malfunctioning system in the Demerara River the Guyana stations are well positioned to



*Monitoring Station at
Rosignol Stelling,
Berbice Guyana*

monitor sea level and climate parameters at the mouth of three of the largest rivers in the country, Essequibo, Berbice and Demerara. With the Guyana installation, CPACC now has a system of eighteen functioning stations dispersed throughout the region and with the installation of the gauge in St. Vincent in November, will bring to completion this phase of Component 1. The Guyana National Implementation Coordinating Unit organized a well publicized ceremony at which there was a symbolic handing over of the two stations to the Government (represented by the **Honourable R. D. Persaud**, Minister of Agriculture), by **Mr. Wylie**, Director of the OAS mission in Guyana. In a short address to the audience present, the Minister emphasized the importance of climate change and particularly sea-level rise to Guyana, a country where ninety percent of its population and economic activity is concentrated on a coastal strip that is several metres below sea level, and pledged the government's unstinting support for CPACC. □

**WORKSHOP ON ACCESS
TO ENVIRONMENTAL
INFORMATION IN THE
CARIBBEAN BASIN
WASHINGTON, DC
22nd to 24th October 1998**

(Summary from a report by Alan Duncan)

Ian King joined about twenty information management specialists, biodiversity conservationists, scientists and software developers gathered in Washington DC to exchange information, expertise and experiences in disseminating and accessing environmental information in the Caribbean Basin. The meeting was organized jointly by the Center for Marine Conservation (CMC) and the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History.

There were presentations from the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network, the Museum of Natural History, the US, and Smithsonian Man and the Biosphere Programs, the Smithsonian Institution Libraries, Environmental Systems and Services of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the (CMC).

The integration of bibliographic information with spatial data, using the Internet as a vehicle for information dissemination was aptly demonstrated. Whilst examples were taken mainly from insect taxonomy and plant ecology, the basic principles equally apply to marine resource conservation not only in the Caribbean Basin, but worldwide.

The overall goal of the workshop was to devise a plan for the development of complementary and collaborative actions to improve access to environmental information in the Caribbean Basin. A draft of recommendations were prepared and are to be finalised. □

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Persons met during the mission included: **Mr. Bentley Browne**, Deputy Director Planning of the Central Planning Department; **Mr. Carl Browne**, Permanent



Dr. Reynold Murray

Secretary, Minister of Health and the Environment; **Mr. Colin Campbell**, Planning Officer & Head GIS Unit; **Dr Sinclair Thomas**, Minister of Health and the Environment; **Mr. Philmore Isaacs**, Chief Agricultural Officer; **Mr. Brian Johnson**, Director of Forestry (ag.) and Head of the Seismic Unit (ag.); **Mr. Fitzroy Providence**, Forestry Officer

The main outcomes of the mission included:

- Reviewing the operation and activities of the key organisations in order to determine the requirements and potential for the effective and efficient implementation of CPACC activities.

Reviewing the development of GIS in St. Vincent and the capacity institutions involved, and identifying areas for further collaboration including the implementation of metadata tools. □

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CPACC RPIU STAFF

Project Manager

Ulric O'D Trotz (PhD)

Deputy Project Manager/ Human Resources Specialist

Floyd Homer (PhD)

Coastal Zone Management Specialist

Leslie J Walling

Information Systems

Coordinator/GIS Specialist

Ian C King

Accounts Technician

Pat Sealey

Secretary

Bernice V Walcott

Office Assistant/Driver

Keith Rouse

CPACC COMPONENTS

Regional Components

- 1 Design and Establishment of Sea Level/Climate Monitoring Network
- 2 Establishment of Databases and Information Systems
- 3 Inventory of Coastal Resources and Uses
- 4 Formulation of a Policy framework for Integrated Coastal and Marine Management.

Pilot Components

- 5 Coral Reef Monitoring for Climate Change
- 6 Coastal Vulnerability and Risk Assessment
- 7 Economic Valuation of Coastal Resources
- 8 Formulation of Economic/Regulatory Proposals
- 9 Enabling the preparation of National Communication in Response to Commitments to the UNFCCC

RPIU MISSION TO GUYANA 18th to 22nd August 1998

Floyd Homer and Ian King visited Guyana to address implementation of Components 2 and 3. The Hydrometeorological Service, the NFP in Guyana, coordinated the meetings. Specifically, the Director, **Mr. Dilip Jaigopaul**, the Climate Change and Ozone Projects Coordinator, **Mr. Sheik Khan** and **Mr. Zainool Rahaman** were involved in many of the meetings.

Other persons met during the mission included: **Mr. Navin Chandarpal**, Advisor to the President; **Mr. Per Bertilsson**, Executive Director, Environmental Protection Authority (EPA); **Mr. Bal Parsaud**, Administrative Director, EPA; **Mr. George Howard**, Chief Sea and River Defences (SRD); **Mr. Mahadeo Persaud**, Asst. Chief SRD; **Mr. Basdeo Rupnauth**, Technical Specialist, SRD; **Mr. Dave Sharman**, Consultant, Public Lands & Regularisation of Tenure Project, **Mr. Vijay Datadin**, GIS Specialist, Iwokrama Project; **Mr. David Husbands**, GIS Specialist, NRMP; **Mr. Ben J. H. ter Welle**, Team Leader, NRMP, **Mr. Naseem Nasir**, GIS Specialist, Centre for the Study of Biological Diversity, University of Guyana; **Ms. Sharon Wickham**, EPA; **MS. Sharijah Razack**, EPA; **Mr. Doorga Persaud**, Head Guyana Natural Resources Agency; **Mr. David Cassells**, Director General, Iwokrama Project; **Mr. Ruben Charles**, Chief Fisheries Officer; **Mr. Godfrey Marshall**, Senior Assistant Commissioner of Forests, Forest Resource Management Division.

The major outcomes included:

- Review activities, projects and information sources rel-

evant to the CPACC project with representatives from various government agencies;

- Follow up meetings with government agencies for more detailed reviewed of relevant activities and to specify areas of common interest and possible collaboration, including GIS development, databases and metadata;
- Review CPACC progress and issues with NFP, including pilot project areas and critical areas for effective implementation.

STAFF PROFILE KEITH ROUSE Office Assistant/Driver



Keith Rouse joined the RPIU in November 1997. He brings with him a wealth of professional experience gained during his postings with such notable organizations as the Australian High Commission, the Canadian High Commission, the CDB, FAO, UNDP, UNDCP, UNWFP, and UNICEF.

His warm interpersonal skills and wide network of professional contacts facilitates the smooth transmission of communications and has helped to expedite many of the tasks critical to the establishment and operation of the RPIU.

In his spare time Mr. Rouse plays basketball and is involved in health and fitness activities. His personal philosophy is captured in the adage, "live one day at a time".