

MAB Workshop Precedes V.I. Reserve Dedication

The Workshop on Biosphere Reserves and Other Protected Areas for Sustainable Development of Small Caribbean Islands was held May 10-12 at Caneel Bay, USVI, and climaxed with dedication of the Virgin Islands International Biosphere Reserve.

Co-sponsored by NPS, Man and the Biosphere, and the Caribbean Conservation Association, the workshop provided an opportunity to familiarize scientists, resource managers, and administrators from the region with the multiple functions of biosphere reserves in baseline monitoring, restoration, experimental research, demonstration, and training.

Agreement was reached to set up a coordinating group to develop detailed recommendations for establishment of a multinational, multisite Lesser Antillean biosphere reserve. Working groups were named to identify and evaluate potential baseline study sites, assess regional trends, designate priority areas of research emphasis, and come up with areas where experimental research, restoration projects, and demonstration activities could most productively be established. Proceedings are being published by NPS.

NPS Director Russell E. Dickenson addressed the May 12 dedication, as did Dr. Bernd von Droste of UNESCO, Parks, Senator Virdin C. Brown of the Virgin Islands, and William P. Gregg, Jr., co-chairman of the U.S. Biosphere Reserve Directorate, Washington, D.C.