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DISCIPLINES:	Geomatics Engineering (Surveying; GIS)
KEYWORDS:	Surveying, GIS, sea level rise modelling



RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Climate change is the change in the average weather over an extensive time period. One result of Climate change can be a rise in sea levels that can be caused from the melting of the ice caps and/or thermal expansion of seas and oceans due to rising temperatures. Sea level rise due to climate change has been predicted by many entities including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) among others. At risk are many coastal communities worldwide, and to know the danger posed by predicted sea level rise to these communities is to arm them with information that can contribute to the development of appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Grande Riviere, located in the North of Trinidad, is a coastal community where the local economy depends mainly on tourism and agriculture. Environmentally and economically, the annual nesting of the leatherback turtles and presence of the native Pawi provide attractions for tourists that add to the income of the community. Any significant rise in sea level could have adverse impacts on the community's social and economic wellbeing.

Amit, as part of the ICURA project entitled Managing Adaptation to Environmental Change in Coastal Communities: Canada and the Caribbean and in fulfilment of his academic obligation to produce a senior research report, used GIS and surveying techniques to create a sea level rise model of Grande Riviere based on the predictions of IPCC and other research entities. Her work was supervised by Drs. Michael Sutherland and David Neale.

BIOGRAPHY:

Amit Seeram is a final-year student in the B.Sc. Geomatics Programme in the Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus. He plans to graduate in May 2010. He has applied to read for a M.Sc. in Geoinformatics at the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine campus, commencing in September 2010.

Amit has summer internship experiences that include being a surveying assistant at the Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management (UWI) in 2009, Bouygues Batiment, a private company in Trinidad & Tobago (T&T) in 2008 and at the Ministry of Works and Transport Division, Chaguanas also in T&T in 2007.

Amit reports that his involvement with the ICURA Project entitled Managing Adaptation to Environmental Change in Coastal Communities: Canada and the Caribbean has given him a greater appreciation of GIS and Geomatics and their contributions to solving the world's social, economic and environmental problems.