



Seychelles' Environmental Education Newsletter

Environmental Education Coordinating Committee • Ministry of Education and Youth • April 2003

Dear Readers

Welcome to our second edition of *Enviro News* for 2003. This edition will inform you on what has been happening lately, especially on activities to commemorate water and climate day, which were celebrated in March. You will also have an update on Small Islands Voice Forum which four of our secondary schools are participating in. I have also tried to explain the restructuring of the Ministry of Environment so that schools wishing to

have assistance regarding a particular issue will know who to contact, telephone numbers are also included.

You will also be able to read about two new interesting environmental education programmes which have been initiated for school children. While



La Retraite students visiting Veuve Reserve.

MPA is inviting school children to explore and learn about what is going under the sea, NSC is encouraging them to know more about forests. Both programmes can benefit your class or club, so why not give it a try?

To conclude I wish to thank all schools which have sent articles and photographs for publication. I will also take this opportunity to call on all schools to send us news or poems for our next edition.

Happy Reading!

Miss Larue

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Small Islands Voice Update

Three more schools have joined the global internet-based discussion forum, Young Islanders Forum. The schools, Belonie, Praslin and La Digue Secondary have joined the second phase of the forum, which is part of the Small Islands Voice project, coordinated by the Ministry of Environment.

At the end of last year, one recommendation made by small islands participating in the forum, including Seychelles, is to

increase the number of participating schools. In Seychelles, there was a need to invite the other islands apart from Mahe in the forum. Praslin Secondary and La Digue are ready to take up the challenge this year. Belonie school also accepted to give it a try.

The second phase of the forum will run from February to May 2003 and the focus will be on proactive discussions of the issues raised during the trial phase, which ran from September to December 2002.

Issues to be discussed are Island heritage, Island traditions, sports and recreation, social concerns, education, environmental, health, tourism, the economy, infrastructure and communications. The three schools join Anse Royale Secondary that was the starting-up school for the forum. Please view project website, www.smallislandsvoice.org for more details on the forum and other project details.

Thought of the Month

'Harmony with the land is like harmony with a friend; we cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his leftThe land is one organism.'
Aldo Leopold

Write to:
Enviro News
ECA/PE Unit
Ministry of Education and Youth
Mont Fleuri

Schools celebrate environmental theme days

On the 23rd of March, schools celebrated **World Day for Water**. This year's theme was 'Water for Future'. The following day, on the 23rd of March, people around the globe celebrated **World Meteorological Day** and the theme for 2003 was 'Our Future Climate'. As water and climate are interdependent the two days were celebrated together.

The main activity organised was a quiz competition for secondary schools, including private ones. Out of the twelve secondary schools, nine schools turned up for the competition. After elimination rounds, Anse Royale, Pointe Larue, Plaisance and Independent made it to the semi finals. Anse Royale defeated Plaisance and Pointe Larue eliminated Independent. In the end,



Vijay Construction and SACOS.

A variety of other activities were organised at school levels. Several schools visited PUC water treatment stations and the newly installed desalination plant. Other schools visited the Met Office in order to better understand how weather data are collected and the equipment used to do so. Exhibitions were organised in other schools, like Plaisance Secondary and Anse

Pointe Larue was the winner and Sarjay Ravindran of Anse Royale was the top scorer. Participants won interesting prizes sponsored mainly by PUC, Met Office, Development Bank of Seychelles,

Etoile. From the exhibition organised at their school, Anse Etoile students were able to learn about some traditional containers used in the past to collect and store water in, and which many do not exist today.

Three competitions were also organised at Anse Etoile school to commemorate World Day for Water, these were quiz, public speaking and posters. Students and staff

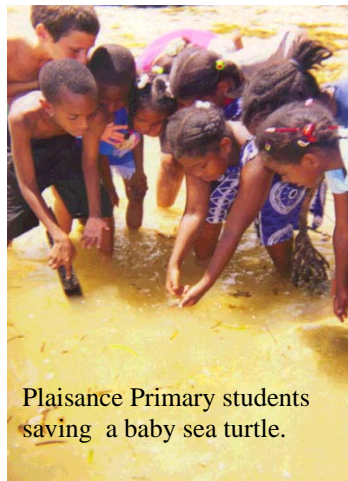


Anse Etoile students viewing the exhibition at their school.

News from the schools

Members of Hawksbill Wildlife Club and the U First club, of La Retraite Primary school went for a visit to La Digue. With the help of environment staff on the island these young nature enthusiasts learned about the Veuve Reserve and its role in the protection of the beautiful endemic bird, the paradise flycatcher, known as Veuve in creole. The participants were so lucky to spot several of the birds in the reserve and a few nests too.

Students from Plaisance Primary school, mainly those from Casuarina Wildlife club went on a nature trail to La Reserve. Assisted by a ranger from the Ministry of Environment, participants learnt about some endemic species of our granitic islands, especially palms. They completed the trail with a beach safari at Anse Aux



Plaisance Primary students saving a baby sea turtle.

trip to Aride island special reserve. Our fu-

ture teachers were able to familiarize themselves with the biodiversity of the island. This did not only assist them in learning what live and grow in that special reserve, but also know what kind of activity could be planned when they will in future take their students there. A group of adventurous parents, teachers and students of Plaisance Secondary school went on a nature trail to Mare Aux Cochons. Apart from learning some endemic palms and trees, participants were amazed to see the rich marshy ecosystem in the reserve. Have your school organised an environmental activity lately? Please contact Miss Larue at ECA/PE Unit and let us know what was organised, its main aims and how you benefited from it. We will publish it in our next edition of Enviro News.

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Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles Activities

Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles (WCS) has recently elected its new Executive Committee for 2003. The post of Chairperson has been retained by Mr. Nirmal Jivan Shah. The other members are: Miss Colleen Morel (Vice-Chairperson), Mr. Terence Vel (Coordinator/Treasurer), Miss Gina Andimignon (Secretary), Mr. Allen Labonte and Mrs Sylvia Esther (ordinary members representing Mahe and Praslin). Five other members were elected to represent different regions: Mrs Marie France Marengo (Central); Miss Vicky Theresine (North), Ms Florida Rene (South East); Ms Therese Leon (West); and Miss Maria Germain (Inner Islands).

Mr. Vel stated that 2002 was a successful year for WCS. Various activities and small projects have been implemented, as well as training for its leaders.

Mr. Vel explained that with the support of a small grant from British High Commission, clubs management has improved. The grant was also used to assist a full time coordinator which made it possible for better implementation of the WCS Strategic Plan 2002-2006.

Many of the activities organized last year were focused on protected areas, including the annual rally. Under the grant a variety of resources were bought to support club activities. These include binoculars, art kits, cameras, telescope, videos on environ-

ment topics, insect study kit, a marsh survey activity kit, waste management kit, environmental books, check lists etc. A resource kit is also available on Praslin for the clubs in the region to use. Another organisation which supported WCS was SADC. It provided funding for Leaders Manuals and the printing of WCS magazine.

A variety of other activities such as river projects, leaders trainings, rally, variety show, wildlife festival, and regional gatherings have been planned for this year.



Restructuring of the Ministry of Environment

The Ministry of Environment (MoE), has recently announced the restructuring of its ministry. It now has four divisions: Policy Planning Services (PPS); under the Director General (DG) Mr. R. Payet; Nature and Conservation (N&S) in charged by DG D. Dogley; Pollution Control and Environmental Impact (PCEI) headed by DG J. Florentine; and Landscape Management (LM) by DG R. Brioche.

SWAC will now fall under PCEI. The other changes is the merging of Seychelles Centre for Marine Research and Technology (SCMRT) and the Marine Parks Authority (MPA), based at Capternay, with its new Managing Director, Mrs. M. Stravens, who was previously occupying the post of MD for SWAC.

Issues concerning climate, meteorology, coastal and wetland management, environmental laws and conventions, and environmental planning and development falls under PPS.

LM will now take care of all landscape development issues in the country, that includes beautifications of all districts.

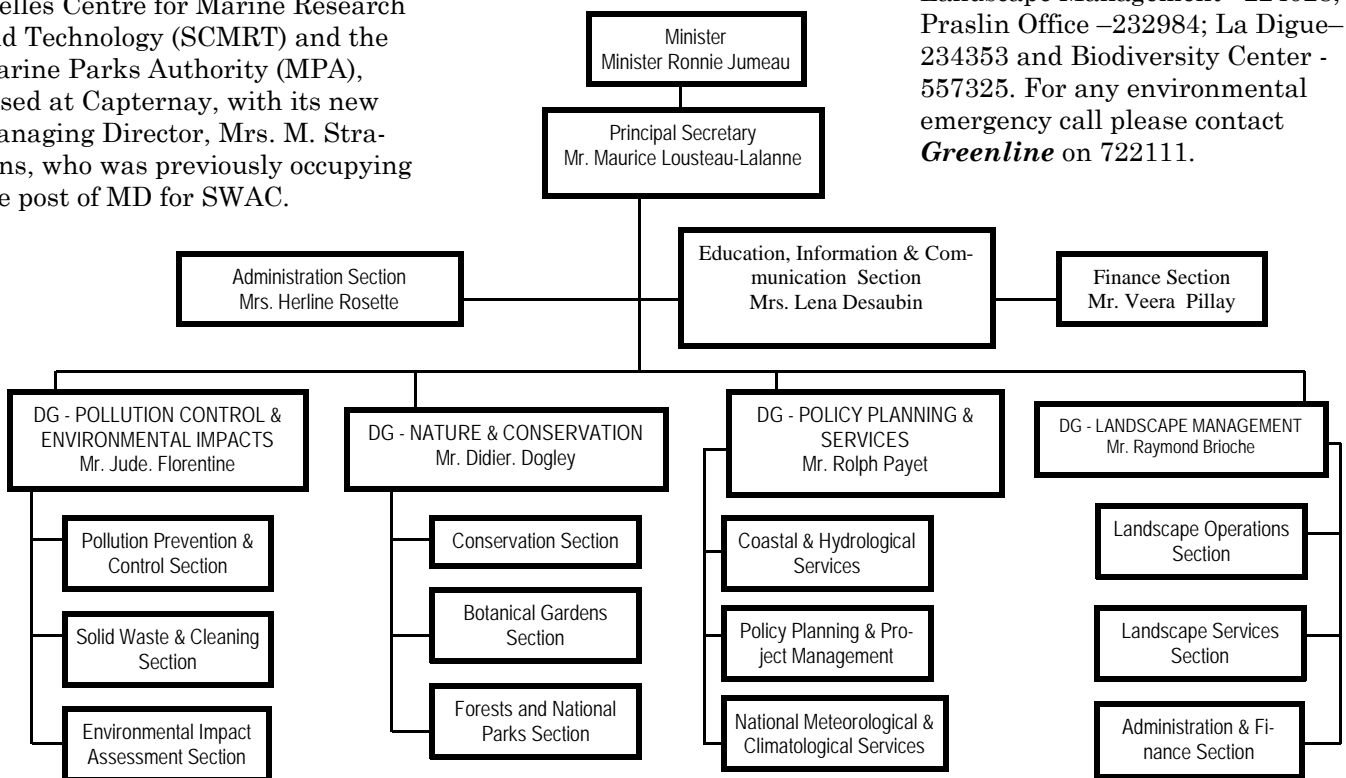
N&C will manage all national parks, forests, the Botanical Gardens and Biodiversity Centre.

Issues concerning waste manage-

ment, pollution, environment impact assessments will now be dealt with by the PCEI Division.

The other three sections: Education, Information and Communications (EIC); Finance; and Administration each with its own director will fall directly under the leadership of PS M. Losteau Lalanne.

Here are some important contact numbers: MoE Head Office - 224644; SWAC-225114; Marine Parks Authority; 378096; Met Office- 384066; SCMRT- 378675; Landscape Management- 224028; Praslin Office -232984; La Digue- 234353 and Biodiversity Center - 557325. For any environmental emergency call please contact **Greenline** on 722111.



MPA embarks on new Marine Education Programme

In an attempt to further promote and develop marine environment education in Seychelles, the Marine Parks Authority (MPA) is this year emphasizing on education awareness among youths.

MPA is embarking on a new educational programme with the following objectives: introduce youths to the functions of the MPA with the hope of bringing changes in attitudes towards the coastal environment in which they live and increase awareness, understanding, knowledge and develop a better appreciation of our marine parks.

In order to achieve the above men-

tioned objectives, the MPA has designed a one-day sensitization visit to Port Launay/Baie-Ternay Marine National Parks for schools from Mahe and Curieuse National Park for Praslin and La Digue schools. For those on Mahe, the programme will include a presentation about our marine national parks and our marine environment followed by snorkeling and educational games at Port-Launay. For Praslin and La Digue schools, the visit will also include a presentation about MPA, a guided tour to the island's nature trail, followed by educational activities at the newly established Doc-

tor's House, Education and Information Center.

For both visits, participants will have to book at least one week in advance and make their own provision for transport. For Praslin and La Digue participants, MPA will provide boat transfer, from Praslin to Curieuse and back, at a cost of R10.00 per student (for fuel). Because of limitation of seats on the boat, the Curieuse visit should not exceed 20 pupils.

To book for your visit, please contact Miss Larue on 283191 or Miss Camille on 378096 or 225114.

Latest Results

Water and Meteorological Quiz

- Winners Pointe Larue Secondary
- Runners Up Anse Royale Secondary

Wetlands Poster Competitions

Primary

- 1st Dominique Sedwick Plaisance
- 2nd Damien Quatre Bel Ombre
- 3rd Kyra Guy Anse Etoile

Secondary

- 1st Jonathan Azemia Anse Royale
- 2nd Stephanie Adrienne Beau Vallon
- 3rd Melisa Fock Tave Beau Vallon

Wetlands Puzzle/Quiz Competition

- 1st Judy Sinon
- 2nd Sheena Mangroo Beau Vallon Prim.
- 3rd Christelle Talma Pointe Larue Sec.

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 Ministry of Environment.

Up Coming EE Programme

- **Art Competition:** 'Conserving our Reefs'
-Deadline-end of May 2003
- **SMB Proper Waste Disposal** competition - on going.
-Prize Giving - June.
- **Sea Turtles March** - Victoria - 4th June
- **Horticultural Show** - 17th - 19th June - ICCS
- **Tree Planting Day** - 27th September
- **Eco-School** on going
-Prize Giving - December.
- **SUBIOS:** Art, Poem, Stories
Theme: 'Our Friends, the Dolphins and Whales'

POET'S CORNER THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN (based on water)

Here

Bubble baths, showers
 Flush system too
 Hot or cold water
 In their bathrooms

There

Watch the skies in vain
 Anxiously for that rain
 The woods are the toilets
 Getting smelling day by day

Here

Dish washers, washing machines
 Sprinklers for the lawns
 As well as garden hoses
 For the cars and their roses

There

The fields are like paper
 Their wells are dry
 Adults and kids with containers
 Awaiting the water bowers

Here

Clean clothes, polished shoes
 Expensive private schools too
 Kids are brainy and healthy
 Adults are happy and wealthy

There

No water means no food
 No clean clothes, no good health
 No education, in fact no life
 How did the Creator forget one side?
Malshini Senaratne - Anse Boileau Seco-

NSC Nature Walks for Children

The Sports For All Unit (SFAU) in the National Sports Council (NCS) introduced nature walks in 2000. The activity which is organised in weekends, had continuously attracted people of all ages. Nature walks are not only good physical exercises, but also shows the public that sports can be practised and performed in harmony with our environment.

It permits people to enjoy the beautiful fauna and flora of the country whilst at the same time take walking as a means for keeping fit.

These nature walks which take place mainly in nature reserves provide people with a good opportunity to learn about our native plants and animals.

The activity is usually lead by nature guides which allows participants to also ask questions on the different species they meet along the trail. Educational activities are also organised for children during those trails.

This year SFAU has divided the activity into two categories, the adult and children category. The activity for children usually takes place once a month on Saturdays, whereas for the adults on Sundays.

Transport is provided(free of charge) for children wishing to take part in the activity. Children will have to bring food and plenty of water. They are also advised to wear comfortable walking shoes. We are encouraging different ECA Clubs in schools to take part in this year's programme. This could provide members of your club to learn about new nature trails and benefit from activities planned. Instead of club leaders having to go through all the processes of organizing transport and guide, they just have to join the group. It is also a chance for children to meet and make friends with those coming from other schools. If you wish to participate, please contact Mr. Remi on telephone number 323908. In the column that follows is the programme planned for this year:

Month	Date	Trails	Duration
April	26th	La Misere/ Cascade	3 hrs
May	24th	Praslin	Weekend
June	28th	La Reserve	2 hrs
July	26th	Morne Blanc	3 hrs
August	30th	Belombre/ Cap Ternay	5 hrs
September	27th	Petit Boileau	5 hrs
October	25th	Glacis Dantin	2hrs
November	29th	La Digue	Weekend
December	7th	Ile Therese	Whole day

EECC MEMBERS

Ministry of Education and Youth
 Ministry of Environment
 Ministry of Tourism and Land Transport
 Ministry of Local Government, Sports and Culture
 SWAC
 Nature Seychelles
 Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles
 Public Utilities Cooperation
 Marine Parks Authority