



Communities in action

Welcome to another edition of the Youth Visioning newsletter. This issue highlights three projects where communities get together for a common initiative, whether that be for protecting the environment for the future (Maldives), reviving lost traditions (Tonga) or simply focusing on the present (Jamaica).

Elsewhere, in the **Solomon Islands**, Fred Pateson and the Global Youth Nexus group are organising training workshops for youth in the local communities. Through developing practical skills and work ethics, the project aims to empower young people to expand their future employment opportunities.

In **Papua New Guinea**, Norman Wai and the Foundation for Young People are aiming to sensitise 30 schools in the Western Highlands Province on the dangers of HIV/AIDS. The Provincial Aids Council held a workshop for ten youth leaders, training them on the dissemination of pedagogical materials on school visits and radio

broadcasts. Through information sharing it is hoped that as many of the 14,000 youth in the Province can be sensitized.

In **Grenada**, Samuel Antoine, Quasi Andrew and Clifton Nedd of the Youth Empowerment Foundation are undertaking activities aimed at building the capacity of youth groups to enable them to develop and implement HIV/AIDS projects in response to the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS. A four-day training workshop will be organised and follow-up activities will be monitored to gauge the success of the project.

For further information please visit www.youthvisioning.org. We welcome any feedback or questions you may have. You can reach us by emailing m.tran@unesco.org.

Sincerely,
Youth Visioning Committee

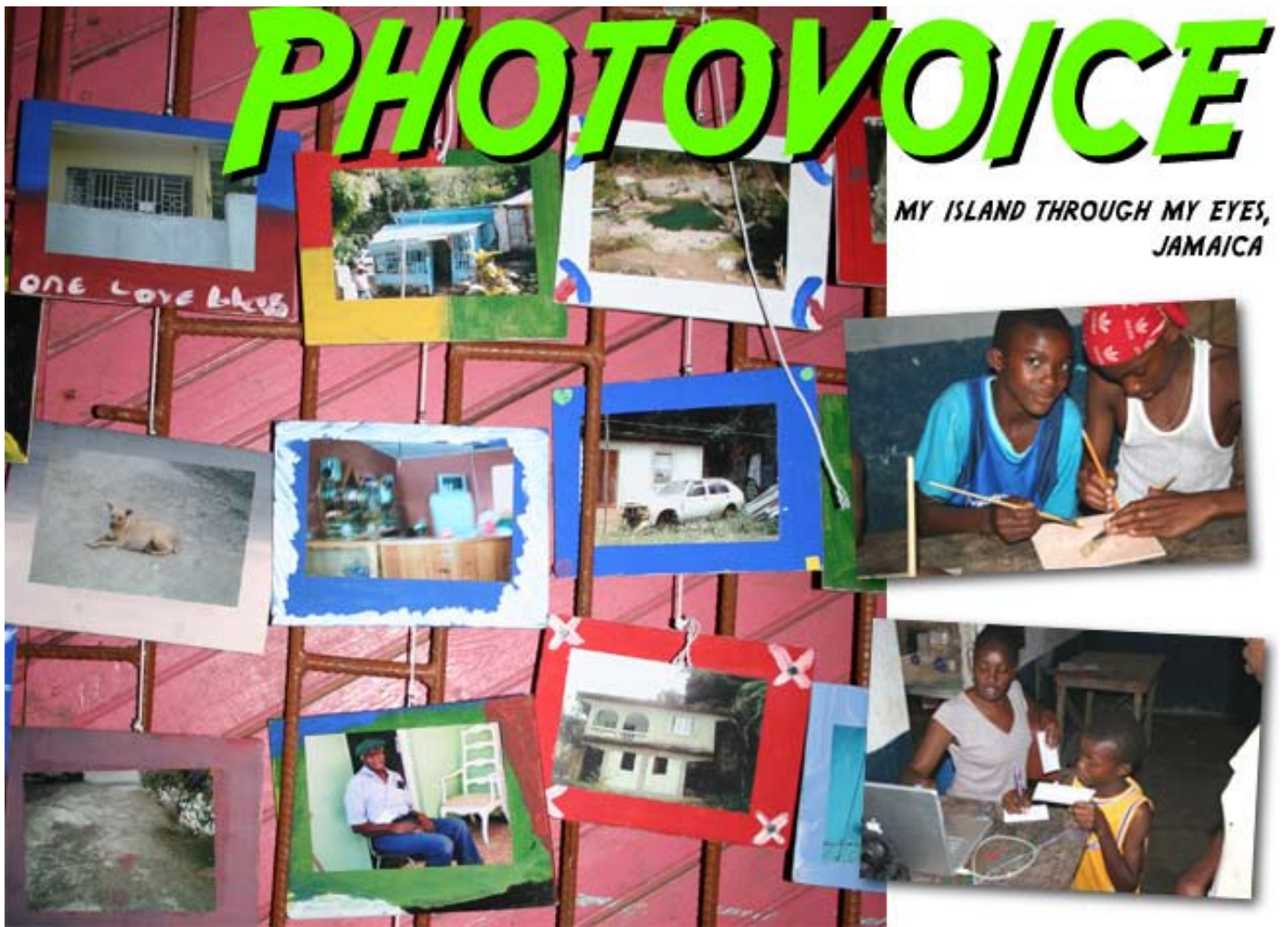


FEATURED PROJECTS This Issue (Jan-Feb '08)

**Hagley Gap,
Photovoice: My Island
Through My Eyes,
Jamaica**

**Vanessa Tui'one,
National Canoe Festival,
Tonga**

**Silma Mohamed,
Tackling Coastal Erosion,
Maldives**



Leslie Spaulding, Andrea Edwards, KeMarley Walker, Kevin Williams and Shamioka are leading a project with the assistance of the **Blue Mountain Project** aimed at creating positive changes in their community of Hagley Gap, Jamaica.

Photos taken by the participants were displayed during the Blue Mountain Project's annual 'Back-2-School Extravaganza' on 21 September 2007. The event attracted over five hundred people who also came for the free distribution of backpacks for children who would be attending school in the upcoming year.

Other activities of this project (September – December 2007) include:

- Youth leaders training and creating a guidebook for other youth participants on basic computing skills;
- Organising a photo exhibition and clean-up campaign centred on the recent event of 'Hurricane Dean';
- Designing posters and planning an AIDS awareness day.

For more information visit the project page, [Photovoice: My Island through My Eyes](#)



YOUTH SAID IT

"The photo project not only taught the youth, it taught me. I learned to use the camera, I got to see that the issues I deal with are just as important to the youth. Overall I would love to do something like this again, to better the minds of our community."

- *Kevin Williams*



TONGA NATIONAL CANOE FESTIVAL

Vanessa Tui'one, Sophie Mackey and the **Tongan National Youth Congress** successfully organised Tonga's first National Canoe Festival. In a range of activities, the project aimed to boost self-esteem and cultural pride amongst participants and in particular, to provide youth with the opportunity to rediscover the lost art of canoe carving. Importantly, this created a dialogue between youth and elders to facilitate the transfer of skills between generations.

The activities of this project (**September 2007 - December 2007**) included:

- Coordinating the opening ceremony, national canoe

parade, official launch of 5 freshly carved canoes along the waterfront;

- Organising carving sessions where five teams of youth from each of the Tongan island groups work together under the tutelage of a master carver to carve a wooden canoe in the traditional style unique to their island
- Organising workshops to teach life skills for carvers such as First Aid and Safety, the historical and cultural significance of the Tongan canoe, environmental considerations, business, leadership and life skills training.

For more information visit the project page, [Tonga National Canoe Festival](#)



YOUTH SAID IT

“During the first week of canoe carving, an old Tongan man stopped to watch the youth with tears in his eyes. This project touches people young and old and I hope it continues in Tonga in the years to come.”

- *Vanessa Tui'one*



Silma Mohamed and the NGO **Vidhuvaru** are implementing a series of activities on the island of Naifaru, Maldives, to help protect and preserve the existing island environment. There are approximately 4000 inhabitants on the island and the main economic activity is fishing.

The activities of this project (**September 2007 - December 2007**) includes:

- Raising awareness amongst inhabitants of Naifaru Island about the critical environmental issues that the island is facing and the need to take action to preserve their island home for future generations;
- Organizing a photo exhibition on the recent negative environmental impacts on the island and identifying solutions on how to tackle the problems;
- Conducting a one day workshop with all stakeholders to address the challenges identified during the exhibition, in particular the problem of erosion and methods to prevent it;
- Under the guidance of experts, in line with environmental laws and regulations, the island land-use plan, acquiring and planting coastal vegetation;
- Evaluating the effectiveness of coastal vegetation on reducing erosion.

For more information visit the project page, [Tackling coastal erosion](#)