

Environmental education and preserving traditions

Welcome to another edition of the Youth Visioning newsletter. As we head towards the last third of the year we still have some exciting projects to be introduced.

In **New Zealand**, Lyndsey Talagi and the Christchurch Vagahau Niue Youth are implementing their Traditional Treasures project aimed at the local Niuean Community. Their activities aim to preserve their traditional Niuean language especially in young people by offering free lessons.

In the **Maldives** the coastal environment and the reclaimed land are constantly threatened by erosion. The local NGO Vidhuvaru led by Silma Mohamed are initiating an awareness campaign to sensitize the community of Naifuru island about this critical situation. One of the main activities is to hold community meetings to find solutions to the existing problems and to acquire

and strategically plant 1000 trees to prevent erosion.

In **Tonga**, Vanessa Tui'one and the Tonga National Youth Congress are undertaking a series of activities to increase self-esteem and cultural pride amongst Tongan youth through intergenerational activities based on the preservation of the art of canoe carving. These activities will be held during the first National Canoe Festival, which is taking place 1-13 October 2007.

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



Above: Youth teams carving canoes at the Tongan National Canoe Festival
(Photo courtesy of Vanessa Tui'one)

FEATURED PROJECTS

This Issue
(Sep-Oct '07)

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Managing the nursery, cleaning up the beach and stream.
(Photos courtesy of Davidson Dubois)

Davidson Dubois led a project to encourage young people in **Haiti** to get involved in environmental conservation. The project started in November 2006 in the village of Arcahaie with the preparation of the land and a feasibility study for planting trees in the area. By January 2007, a variety of plants had germinated and were ready for packaging into seedling bags to be distributed.

Throughout the project they were able to overcome challenges such as unfenced farm animals and the local population freely picking or damaging their plants through educating the population. In the end, with assistance from the community and

environmental organizations such as CREPEL¹, FoProBiM² and EnviroSynergy, the following activities (**January 2006 - June 2007**) were successfully implemented:

- Environmental awareness raising classes for 300 youth;
- A plant nursery and training in caring for the seedlings;
- A tree planting operation to prevent erosion;
- A clean-up campaign of Luly village including the ravines, stream and coastal area;

For more information visit the project page, [Environmental Awareness Raising](#)



YOUTH SAID IT!

“The inhabitants, especially those of Luly were very happy as they had not seen tree planting in thirty five years. This is why the people from various places of the village of Arcahaie came for the distribution of the plantlets. Furthermore we have planted 100 fruit trees including pomelos (Chinese grapefruit), mangoes, oranges and lemons. And by doing so, the slopes were spared from soil erosion and the marine life which used to be threatened by this was saved. And when the trees will be high enough, they will beautify Luly.”

-Davidson Dubois

¹ Centre de Recherche pour l'Éducation de la Protection de l'Environnement de Luly (CREPEL)/ Centre for Research and Education on the Protection of the Environment of Luly (CREPEL)

² Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM)/ Foundation for the Protection of Marine Biodiversity (FoProBiM).



Ari Ramilimanitra and the Mpanazava eto Madagasikara Youth Group are sensitising school children about environmental issues by involving them in beautifying the school landscape and increasing their awareness of the ecological value of their surroundings.

The activities of this project (**February 2007 - October 2007**) includes:

- Changing the attitudes/behaviours with regard to the environment by making the students take pride in beautifying their school.
- Holding a film session to sensitise the participants to improve and to take part in taking care of the environment;
- Organising a ‘beautiful gardens’ competition on the school grounds and a cleanup of the classrooms and school;
- Arranging an educational visit to the zoo and the Tsimbazaza botanical gardens.

For more information visit the project page, [Environmental education for school children](#)

YOUTH SAID IT!

“In total there were 110 school children for the cleanup and in addition their parents and the *Mpanazava* (girls' scout) gave us a hand.

The school children were very enthusiastic about drawing and we, *Mpanazava*, were equally pleased because through the drawings, we saw that the children had been very attentive during the film and that the messages we had tried to transmit were absorbed. In fact, their drawings reflected this.”

- *Ari Ramilimanitra*

Preserving the Marshallese handicrafts exhibition, Marshall Islands

Many young people in the **Republic of the Marshall Islands** do not know about the traditional handicrafts that are produced in the atolls in their own country. As a result, **Terry Mote and the Alele Youth Group** are gathering handicrafts from these different regions and designing an exhibition at the Alele Museum where they will be displayed for the next six years. The aim is to re-awaken, preserve and share the knowledge (especially the practical skills) and origins of these local handicrafts for not only visitors, but in the local community as well.

The activities of this project (**October 2006 - June 2007**) includes:

- Collaborating with 24 youth councils, government and non governmental organisations, communities and elders on the importance of local handicrafts;
- Purchasing materials for a new exhibition case to display the handicrafts inside the Museum;
- Interviewing elders involved in local handicrafts, broadcasting these interviews on radio and providing copies of these interviews to schools;
- Organising a competition for visitors to the Museum to identify the best handicrafts on display and reward the creator with prizes;
- Organise a series of guided tours of the Museum for children over a three month period.



YOUTH SAID IT!

‘Alele’ is a traditional Marshallese soft-sided plaited bag, made from pandanus leaf, which used to hold one’s family’s most valuable possessions in Marshallese custom. The eldest woman of the family keeps the basket and it is passed on to the next eldest female down the line. Alele Museum, Library and Archives was named after this alele basket, which is a symbol of our valuables and knowledge in the Marshall Islands.

- Terry Mote

For more information visit the project page, [Preserving the Marshallese handicrafts exhibition](#)