



Seychelles' Environmental Education Newsletter

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

Dear Readers

It's a pleasure to release our fourth edition of *Enviro News*, the newsletter which updates you on the latest environmental education news in our country.

If you haven't had the chance to visit the Small Islands Voice website, read some latest development on the project. Horticultural show and Population Day were the two main theme days celebrated lately and read all about them in this issue.



Minister Faure
visiting the exhibition
(of MoEY) at
the Horticultural Show.

Also published in this issue are some of the activities happening at school level, as well as news from wildlife clubs.

I have tried to summaries some preoccupying and interesting environmental issues raised by our youth during the

2013 Youth Aspiration Forum.

We are once again encouraging our school children to participate in the UNEP International Painting Competition. This is your chance to win an international prize.

APERGE Project is a regional environmental education piloting project which will involve nine local schools, read about what the project is all about it on page four. Enjoy your reading and send us your articles or poems so that we can share them with other readers in our next issue.

Miss Larue

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Small Islands Voice Update

Small Island Voice (SIV) internet forum continues to be an interesting interaction between school children from small islands states.

Recently, students from Praslin secondary school posted their essay which showed concerned for the increase in littering in their school compound. Apart from analysing the causes of the problem, they also suggested ways in which they could help to improve the situation at school level. These suggestions focused mainly on recycling the thrown away materials during their art and design lessons. That means putting good use to the unwanted materials thrown away 'instead of wasting money to buy new supplies'. We hope that the school will try to work on an action

plan to fight against this problem which is also affecting many other educational institutions, especially in a high consumerise country like Seychelles.

Anse Royale Secondary on their side has responded to the article on the use of asbestos posted by Cook Islands.

Mrs Gillian Gammers from UNESCO who was on a visit in the country recently and who is also working on the SIV project visited the active SIV group from Anse Royale Secondary school.



Mrs Gammers
meeting the SIV
group

Thought of the Month

What is needed, with fresh water, is fresh thinking. We need to learn how to value water....Fresh thinking also means finding practical, appropriate solutions to assure reliable and equitable supply of water.

Mr. Kofi A. Annon
UN Secretary General

Write to:

Enviro News

Environmental Education
Unit, ECA/PE Section,
Ministry of Education and
Youth, Mont Fleuri

Schools celebrate environmental theme days

Horticultural Show is one of the most popular events in June. As it

has always been the case in the past, a number of primary and secondary schools participated in the wheelbarrow and school garden competitions. For

primary category, whereby students have to create a garden in a wheelbarrow, the School for the Exceptional Child won the first prize, followed by Anse Royale and Bel Eau in the second and third place. The Secondary category, called the School Garden, Mont Fleuri Sec-



Primary students parading with their wheelbarrows

dary came out first, Pointe Larue grabbed the second prize and Plaisance won the third prize. It is now a tradition for primary school children to parade their wheelbarrow at the opening ceremony.

The Environmental Education Unit in the Ministry of Education and Youth took the initiative of setting up an exhibition which permitted members of the public to learn about what schools are doing to green their premises. It was also the chance to show the public how schools can use their school grounds to promote learning. Leaflets produced by the same unit

were distributed to visitors. It was an exhibition which was very much appreciated, especially by school children and teachers, as well as parents.

To celebrate **World Population Day** on the 11th of July a variety of educational activities under the local theme '*Beyond numbers: people achievements and challenges*'. An essay competition and exhibition were organised to commemorate this special day.



School Garden for Secondary schools

News from the schools

A large group of students coming from three secondary schools, Anse Royale, Plaisance and Anse Boileau went on a nature trail to Morne Blanc. The activity, which was organised by the National Sports Council provided the participants with the opportunity to learn about our endemic species and the history of Mission. It was also an opportunity for students coming from different schools, with the same interest, to get to know each other and make friends.

A group of Plaisance Primary students, comprising of members from Pupils Wel-

fare Committee and those from Students Association visited Vallee-de-Mai and Praslin Ocean Farm. It was a chance to learn about the rare natural species of the island, especially the Coco-de-Mer and the black parrot.

Students from Anse Etoile school ended their second term with an environmental variety show which included presentations of poems, plays and songs using different environmental themes.

Staff, parents and students of Beau Vallon

Secondary school joined forces to clean up their school premises. A similar activity also took place at La Rosiere school. Such activities allow the community to contribute towards the improvement of their school environment which is an important factor in promoting effective learning. Activities include painting of buildings and cleaning the school compound.

Members of the wildlife club of Anse Royale Secondary school went on a nature trail to 'When she comes', a mountain in the North of Mahe, Glacis area.

Plaisance Secondary PTA members, their friends and relatives participated in a general clean up at the Youth Residential Treatment Centre on Praslin. Participants painted the dormitories of the institutions.



Learning about the history of Mission

Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles Activities

2003 is the United Nation International Year of Freshwater (IYFW), and Wildlife clubs of Seychelles has been appointed by UNESCO as the Youth Focal Point in Seychelles. As the Focal Point, WCS has initiated the **Stream Team**, a project to engage clubs in monitoring the health of local streams and rivers following which they will adopt these

WCS members at Roche Caiman conducting a survey in the freshwater marsh.



streams and rivers and continue to care for them. Pilot projects have been set up using three clubs who will be involved in activities to study and monitor rivers and streams in their localities.

The project would bring together Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles, a leading grassroots organisation, to work on streams and rivers close to their school or homes. Seychelles has over 140 streams and rivers so every club

would have easy access to one to carry out the project activities. It would increase young people's knowledge of

rivers and streams in their locality and mobilise action for conservation, help them identify problems and take actions to solve them, whilst improving capacity for club leaders to undertake successful programmes and activities. This would be done in collaboration with other leading local organisations.



Youth Environmental Aspirations

In the past years, the government has invested heavily in environmental education and today the society is starting to reap the benefits of such investment. Education has always been seen as potentially one of the most powerful instrument for bringing about new ways of thinking and values necessary for stewarding a sustainable world. With the government, especially Ministry of Education and Youth, and Ministry of Environment, working closely with local and international organizations and even the private sectors, young people have been intensively targeted so as to create knowledge, skills and values needed for both present and future generations to bring about sustainable changes.

Today, our young generation is more alert and concerned of the dangers affecting our planet and are conscious on the need to safeguard our natural resources. During the Aspiration 2013, for 59 days, youth around Seychelles voiced out loudly their appreciations regarding the government's position in safeguarding our limited, yet precious resources. They have welcomed the authorities initiatives in placing 50% of our country as legally protected areas and seriously expressed their hope to see the realization and implementation of the Environment Man-

agement Plan of Seychelles.

They have also praised parastatal, government and non-government organisations for their similar effort and devotion towards safeguarding our islands' biodiversity.

During the Aspiration 2013, the young people have even shown an understanding of the complexity of our global society, their ability to think critically and to analyse the causes of environmental degradation and the necessity for sustainable development when they urged



Reaching out for the youth: EE Unit in Mont Fleuri exhibition at a regional youth gathering, P. Lamy

the authorities to carry an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for all major development infrastructures and allowing members of the public the opportunity to make comments on such development. Such consciousness at an early age is very important, for this generation will be tomorrow's decision makers. Let us hope that their competence and knowledge shown during the Aspiration 2013 will in future guide them to make sound environmentally decisions so that our society can evolve in

harmony with nature.

The young people's aspiration for 2013 is clear, they wish to maintain Seychelles position as a world leader in environmental protection and request that even stricter measures are applied to ensure proper waste disposal and the removal of all forms of pollution.

They have urged authorities to implement severe punitive sanctions against those who continue to destroy our natural habitats and species which share our planet. They also recommend that sensitisation efforts be further intensified and more activities are organised for their benefits.

It must be acknowledged that a great part of the attained environmental consciousness that was displayed during the Aspiration 2013 is the outcome of environmental sensitisation, awareness and education achieved within the formal and informal education system.

By providing the chance for the youth to voice their views and opinions on the future of our environment, the government is responding to Chapter 25 of Agenda 21, which focused on the role of children's and youth's access to sustainable development decision. Agenda 21 is the centerpiece of the Rio agreements (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development-The Earth Summit), a major action programme setting out what nations should do to achieve sustainable development in the twenty-first century.

UNEP International Painting Competition

The UNEP International Painting Competition on the Environment is held every year from September to December for children between the ages of 6 and 15 worldwide. Each year, more than 10,000 paintings are submitted by children from over 80 countries. Over 300 paintings are selected for prizes.

The winning paintings are used to develop posters, annual calendars, a picture booklet and for exhibitions.

Last year several primary school children from Seychelles partici-

pated in the competition. Kaline Jeannevol from La Digue school was a 4th Prize winner.

UNEP has launched this year's competition. As usual, the theme for the competition is 'Save the Earth'. Drawing paper size must be 297 x 420 millimeters (approximately 11.7 x 16.5 inches).

Artists must include the following information in English on the back of each painting: full name; date of birth; name of school and class; address of school. Style of painting is free: use crayons, coloured pencils, water colors, etc. Do not include

any word, phrases or sentences on the painting.

Painting that have been shown elsewhere or accepted for another competition should not be submitted to this competition. Paintings that portray a particular individual, an organisation or a brand name will not be accepted.

All paintings must reach the Environmental Education Unit, ECA/PE Section, Ministry of Education and Youth, Mont Fleuri, by Friday 12th December 2003.

Latest Results

Horticultural Show

Primary Category

1st School for the Exceptional Child

2nd Anse Royale

3rd Bel Eau

Secondary Category

1st Mont Fleuri

2nd Pointe Larue

3rd Plaisance

Population Day Essay Competition

Cat 1—Primary

1st Shawn Larue Glacis

2nd Dominique Sabino Plaisance Primary

3rd Dinfa Ally Plaisance Primary

Cat 2 - S1 - S4

1st Alexandra Elizabeth Belonie

2nd Angele Esparon Anse Royale Secondary

3rd Cathrine Savy de St. Maurice Independent

Cat 3 S5 - Post Secondary

1st Michelle Hoareau Polytechnic

2nd Laura Lalande Belonie

3rd Sharon Isaac Polytechnic

UNEP International Painting Competition 2002

Kaline Jeannevol La Digue 4th Prize

Up Coming EE Programme

- **Clean Up the World**, 19th-21st September
- **UNEP Painting Competition 2003**, theme - Save the Earth, deadline 12th December.
- **Eco-School** on going -Prize Giving - December.
- **Bird Festival**, theme - Birds in their Habitats, 29th September to 4th October.
- **Habitat Day** - 4th October.
- **Eco-School Workshop** Headteachers 29th -30th September ECA Regional Coordinators & EE Partners 1st-2nd October
- **SUBIOS: Art, Poem, Stories** Theme: 'Our Friends, the Dolphins and Whales', deadline 3rd October, -Prize Giving October, 18th October.

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WATER IS PRECIOUS

More precious than
gold or silver
More valuable than
Money or diamonds
So rare and so little amount
Two billion are dying for it
Without a drop to drink
A few day's ago
there was enough for us all
Where has it all gone?
As if it just vanished into thin air
Did the Creator reclaim it all?
Who knows!
Now we know that every drop counts
When it is too late.
Nelcia Kilindo
Anse Boilleau Secondary

NOTICE- BOARD

Marine Education Treasure Chest are available for schools. A chest full of resources and planned activities. Contact Miss Larue on 283191 for more information.

APERGE Regional Animateurs received training

APERGE (Appui Regional a la Promotion d'une Education pour la Gestion de l'Environnement) is an environmental education (EE) project for the four COI states: Comores; Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles. The aims of the project are: to develop EE in a coherent manner; to take a global approach towards EE; and to develop responsibility towards the environment.

Two local Regional Coordinators, Miss Vicky Theresine of La Retraite School and Mrs. Mariette Esparon of Anse Royale Secondary School assisted by Miss Jeanette Larue of the Ministry of Education and Youth had so far attended two international workshops to prepare them in piloting the project here in Seychelles. The first workshop took place in Mauritius in April this year, and they had recently returned from Madagascar after a two-week training there.

During the two trainings, they have learnt the different skills and knowledge needed to prepare them in training local teachers who will take part in the piloting programme here. Twenty-one teachers coming from

nine schools (three secondaries and six primaries) are expecting to take part in the project. Training of local teachers is planning to take place in October this year, whereas the pilot project will start in school early next year.

During the two workshops, participants have managed to learn about different environmental concepts, focusing on the different environmental problems affecting our islands, what is environmental education all about, the education systems of the different participating countries, as well as preparing an action plan to improve an environmental problem a particular school is encountering. The first training in Mauritius was more theoretical, whereas the second one in Madagascar was more practical. That involves visits to two schools in Antananarive, where in small groups participants worked on different environmental problems identified.

The content of the project is not supposed to be new to teachers in Seychelles as environmental education is already integrated in the

school curriculum, as well as in the teachers training courses. It will rather reinforce what already exists in our schools. For some of the countries involved, the project will be something new and there will be quite a number of problems to overcome in trying to pilot the project in their respective countries. However, there is willingness and commitment on all people involved to carry out the project, as there is no doubt that it will benefit all participating countries. The project is also seen as a spring board for the development of environmental education in other countries where very little is actually taking place in that field. The project which is sponsored by COI (Commission de l'Ocean Indien), is expected to carry out during a two-year period.

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