

Enviro News

Seychelles' Environmental Education Newsletter

Environmental Education Coordinating Committee? Ministry of Education and Youth ? September 2002

Dear Readers

As promised, this is our new edition of *Enviro News*, two months after our last issue. I am sure that since your return to school this term, many of you are busy in preparing for the upcoming theme days such as Ozone

Week, Clean Up the World and the popular SUBIOS festival. In this issue I will update you with some of the activities and competitions organised to cover these theme days.

You will also read about what has been happening in some schools in regard to environment. I will also give you results of competitions organised for Ozone Week. One secondary school

is involved in an Internet-based forum and if you want to find out which school I am talking about, you just have to read this issue.

I will take this opportunity to thank all schools for their contributions for this issue and I will encourage more schools to send us environmental news to publish in our next issue, in December.

All articles need to reach ECA/PE Unit before the 22nd November 2002.

Thanks
Miss Larue

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Ozone march on Praslin

Marine Treasure Chest for schools to use

The Marine Treasure Chest, a teaching tool developed by Shoals of Capricorn, provides schools with an opportunity to support topics students are covering in the classroom. It gives teachers ideas on how to introduce marine issues in their lessons. For example, the time could be used to collect data for Maths lessons. The data could be analysed and presented at a later date in the

classroom. For language students, you could have discussions, debates, or make and conduct puppet shows with simple messages. It could also be an opportunity for art students to explore various themes, including the role of camouflage and defense in a fun and interactive way. The Chest includes the following items: a variety of marine posters; pictures of marine species; notes and activity guides;

marine reference books; toxic thermometer; zooplankton net; microscope; magnifying glasses; sieves; colouring pencils and crayons, underwater fish guide; basic first aid equipment; world maps; and few others. We are encouraging schools to use the resources. Contact Mrs **Marie May Albert at the Natural History Museum, on Tel. No. 321333** for you to borrow the chest.

Thought of the Month

If human beings were to disappear from the earth, the other species of plants and animals would be largely unaffected; if the other plants and animals were to disappear, however, human beings would disappear as well.

Bruce Wallace

Write to:

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

Schools celebrate environmental theme days

Schools continue to engage actively in a variety of activities to commemorate environmental theme days.

To celebrate **Ozone Week**, a large group of school children coming from the three schools on Praslin and also from La Digue joined together on Saturday the 13th of September for a march. The activity, which started at Praslin Secondary school and ended at the Anglican church was aimed at sensitizing people on the importance of the ozone layer. Over one hundred children turned up for the march with the largest group coming from Grand Anse Praslin Primary school. On the eve of the march, Friday, school children from the two primary schools had a talk about the ozone layer and learnt to sing two ozone songs, which they proudly sang during the march. The kids did colourful banners and noisy instruments so that they could catch the attention of everyone,

and they did it. The organisers were impressed with the enthusiasm of the children and teachers who were present. Even the Head-teacher of Grand Anse School joined the children in the celebration. A poster and poem competition was also organized and winners received their prizes in a ceremony the following Monday (see last page for results).

Clean Up the World Campaign started with a musical show on Saturday the 13th of September. On Friday, the 20th September, even if it was a rainy day, clean up activities were organized in several schools and the community

area. A recycling fair competition for school children were also organised.

To commemorate five years of existence of Landscape Management, the Division in the Ministry of Environment in charge of beautifying Victoria, organised a **Tree Planting Day**.

Children coming

from schools from the Central Region participated in a tree planting activity, on Friday the 27th of September, in Victoria, in the presence of VP Michel, Minister Jumeau and Major of Victoria. Some schools also took this opportunity to plant trees and other decorative and flowering shrubs in their school compounds.



Tree Planting Day Activity

News from the schools

To commemorate Environment Day last term, the Anse Royale Secondary School organised a beautification activity at their school and planted fruit trees at the psychiatric hospital in their district. The environment club of the school did a clean up activity along the stretch of road from Pte. Aux Sel to Fairyland. Students from the school would like to ask people traveling in this area to stop throwing their rubbish along the road there.

Students from the environment club of Bel Eau school attended a talk by coastguard during the holidays to learn about the role of this organisation in protecting our seas and coastal areas. Students also had a trip to the Ste. Anne Marine Park.

Students from the wildlife club of Baie Lazare school went to visit the Port Glau

waterfall. These young nature lovers were fascinated by the wonderful spot which is quite unknown by many school children. They are therefore encouraging children from other schools to visit this beautiful and fascinating site. Children from the same school participated in a beautification project to commemorate Tree Planting Day where they planted a variety of hibiscus trees in their school compound.

Students from Plaisance Secondary went to Copolia nature trail and for many students it was the first time to see the pitcher plants in their natural habitat. Ex-students of the school also participated in the activity.

School children of La Retraite environment club visited the Ste. Anne Marine Park and the Biodiversity Centre at Anse La Mouche. Participants are planning to visit the

center in two years time to see progress there. They also visited the marshes at North East Point to study 'pouldo'. They organised a clean up activity at the old people's home in their district. Pre-school children of the Montessori Children's House organised a beautification activity to embellish State House compound.



Clean-up by Anse Royale Students

Bel Eau Annex school children are back with rich experiences

Two children and a teacher from the Coral Reef Wildlife Club of Bel Eau Annex attended a children environmental conference in UK during the August holiday. Stephanie Andimignon and Dean Jean, and their teacher Miss Christelle Jacques, described their visit as a rich experience where they have learnt a lot from the children and environment experts. Participants visited country parks, marine education centers, historical sites and world heritage sites. They expressed excitement in coming face

to face with squirrels, foxes and other

Europeans species of birds and animals. They also had presentations by experts from Earthkind and Darlston Marine Project based on marine pol-



Tree planting in UK

lution and over fishing. They also had a chance to use special equipment to clean birds affected by oil spillage. Other exciting activities which they participated in were butterfly catching, pond dipping, tree planting, boat trips and mural painting. They were so honoured to meet experts from well-known international environmental organisations, such as Green Peace, WWF and Friends of the Earth.

Participants would like to thank all those who have assisted them to participate in this event.

Environmental Education Coordinating Committee (EECC)

The aim of the Ministry of Education and Youth (MoEY) is to enable members of our society to develop a sense of caring and respect for our environment as a whole, and to develop the knowledge, skills, values, and commitment needed to participate in conservation and sustainable management of a healthy environment.

The broad objectives are:

- *To cultivate a greater awareness of our local island environment;*
- *to nurture a deeper sense of appreciation and value of our environment in its totality;*
- *to develop a deeper understanding of our environment and its associated problems;*
- *to foster concern for local and global environmental problems and a positive atti-*

tude to solving them;

- *to provide opportunities for every person to acquire the skills needed to participate in conservation and management of our environment;*
- *to provide opportunities for every person to actively participate in working towards solutions to environmental problems;*
- *to encourage continued commitment and participation in the solutions to environmental problem.*

In order to effectively achieve the above aims and objectives, the Ministry of Education and Youth (MOEY) works closely with other ministries and organisations. Representatives of those ministries and organisations meet monthly, as members of the

EECC, to discuss issues regarding environmental education. Members of the Committee are :

Mr. Selby Dora Chairperson, Miss Jeanette Larue, Secretary, MOEY; Mrs Mariette Lucas, NIE; Mrs Lena Dasaubin, Education, Information and Communication, Mr. Denis Mata-tiken, Parks and Gardens, Mr. Michel Adam, Landscape Management, Ministry of Environment; Mrs Marie May Albert, Natural History Museum, Ministry of Local Government, Sport and Culture; Miss Cecile Denousse, Ministry of Tourism; Miss Colleen Morel, Nature Seychelles; Mr. Terrence Vel, Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles; Mr. Ian Charlette, Public Utilities Cooperation (PUC); Mr. Ron Young, Solid Waste and Cleaning Agency(SWAC) and Miss Elline Camille, Marine Parks Authorities.

SMB Proper Waste Disposal Competition

SMB is one of the main contributors towards polluting the environment through the packaging of its various locally manufactured products. In line with vision number 13 of the Government, which is "Maintain Seychelles as a world leader in environmentally sustainable development", SMB has taken a decision to be 'proactive' and take measures towards supporting this vision by creating a packaging disposal scheme.

The prime movers in this scheme are SMB, Ministry of Environment, Ministry

of Education and Youth and SWAC.

The scheme is aimed at creating partnership with every Seychellois and augmenting awareness in keeping the environment clean and therefore increasing activity towards proper disposal of SMB waste packaging, in particular their snacks, tetrapaks and PET bottles. The scheme would involve the donation of bins later during the year.

A competition is being launched for all schools to keep their surroundings clean. Bonus mark will be given to

schools which are trying to recycle and reuse SMB waste packaging or other similar projects. The competition would impact upon children and teachers and through them in their households. Inspections in schools would be carried out in the third term and one school would win a prize. At the end of the year, a certificate, a trophy and R3000.00 worth of SMB products will be awarded to the best primary and secondary schools. Please contact ECA/PE Unit for more information.

Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles

Every year the Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles (WCS) organises a rally in Victoria to sensitize people on the importance of conserving our natural environment. This year, the rally was organised on Saturday the 13th of July. Around 200 children attended the event under the theme 'Protected Areas'.

Each school represented a protected area such as Vallee de Mai, Aldabra, Marine Parks and other nature reserves found in the country. A variety of banners were designed with eye-catching slogans urging people to re-

spect these areas. They shouted out conservation slogans and sing environmental theme songs, using noisy instruments to attract people's attention. Some were dressed in colourful clothes representing some of our famous and rarest species.

Another annual activity celebrated recently was the WCS Day. Children coming from different schools on Mahe met at Roche Caiman for a half-day full of exciting activities. They were separated in different groups and participated in activities such as pond-dipping, beach safari, plants identifica-

tion and birdwatching. It was a day when these young nature lovers managed to learn new species of plants, animals and insects.



Latest Results

Ozone Poster

Primary Level

1st Melina Bijoux Plaisance

2nd Marie Michelle Esparon Plaisance

Secondary Level

1st Michel Souris Pointe Larue

2nd Samuel Bamboche Anse Boileau

3rd Atrina Bamboche Anse Boileau

Ozone Poem

Secondary Level

1st Noris Gabriel Pointe Larue

2nd M. Pieere, S. Belize, N. Maya Point-Larue

3rd J.F Julienne Pointe Larue

Recycling Fair

Primary Level

1st Anse Boileau

2nd Baie Lazare

3rd Bel Eau

Secondary Level

1st Plaisance

Special Category

1st School for the Exceptional Child

2nd Rehabilitation Center

Up Coming Competitions

- UNEP Poster competition, deadline end of term.
- SMB Proper Waste Disposal, deadline end of year.
- Eco-School, third term.

SUBIOS

12th – 19th October 2002

- Monday 14th October, 3 p.m., Opening of Exhibition, Ber-jayah Beau Vallon Bay.
- Wednesday 16th October 1 p. m. Special Annual Presentation at International Conference Center for all schools.
- During the week presentations in all secondary schools
- Saturday 19th October 6 p.m.

Planete Seychelles Programme

Watch out for our next environmental TV Programme. You can also win T-Shirts if you participate in the Quiz.

POET'S CORNER

Marshes

Mangroves are scattered in marches
With their evergreen leaves
And tall branches swaying
From side to side.

If we continue to pollute them
There will be a decrease
In fish and mangroves.

We should protect our marshes
Or we will be left
With an unhealthy environment.

Without our beautiful marshes
We will suffer from floods
As they absorb excess water.

We should all join hands
To help in preserving our marshes.
Stop polluting this rich habitat.

Aisha Brutus, D1 Secondary, NIE

Small Islands Voice Youth Forum

Small Islands Voices is an inter-regional initiative to amplify the voice of people on environmental - development issues organised by UNESCO. Young islanders play an important role in this project.

A trial young Internet-based forum has started involving five islands: St. Vincent and Grenadines (Caribbean); Seychelles; Palau and Cook (Pacific). It provides an exciting opportunity for schools in small islands to link with others to exchange their views and knowledge about island living.

The activity will focus on 13-15 year old and they will work on five themes: advantages and disadvantages of living in on islands; life after school ; drug and alcohol use among youth; sports and recreation; and the future for these islands.

Each theme has been allocated to a particular island, and participants will prepare a 500-700 word text on that theme and post it on the forum. Students from the other islands involved in the project will then post responses to that article.

After sending a circular memo to all secondary schools, Anse Royale secondary school promptly responded and was eventually selected to participate in the project. Students and teacher from the school will work on the project as part of their English class activity and work closely with their IT teacher to coordinate the activity on

internet. Students from that school are actually preparing their article on the theme 'Life after school in my island' and will be posted on the internet from 23rd - 27th September. Throughout the year they will also have to respond to other articles sent by the other islands participating in the project.

On 16th September, students from Bequia Community High School (Grenadines), sent their essay about (dis)advantages of living in a small island, stating that they are well known for fishing, boating racing and whale catching. As a very small island everyone knows each other. There is very little development there and most of their economy revenue depends on tourism and fishing. Some disadvantages they stated are unemployment as school leavers usually end up in fishing or tourism industry, and their dependence on imported products. They feel that there should be proper health care and better waste disposal, and more organised police force and coastguards.

Anse Royale students were swift to response. They stated stating that one of their disadvantages is being far away from other countries. It was interesting to see that they wrote, "...we disagree with you when you say that you catch whales...In Seychelles, we are very aware of our environment. We try to protect it as much as we can. Even if we are a tourist destination, the government has made it their duty to watch the impact it can

have on our environment...Turtle meat was a delicacy at some stage in the past. We have never tasted it. The killing of turtles for its meat and shells has been banned. Whatever whales we have in our waters are protected rather than killed. We do not wish to offend you, but we feel that such species should be protected. We should not destroy our natural environment just to keep up traditions."

Regarding their response on the issue of culture the students stated that one advantage of being a Seychellois is living in a real multicultural society, and that "we only hear about the issue of races on television".

It is interesting to see how our young Seychellois are becoming more environmentally - conscious and publicly expressing their concern in saving our natural species. The two students, Tyra Faure and Juliette Elizabeth, who wrote the article on behalf of the school, need our praise for their interesting and well written article.

EECC MEMBERS

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