

**PROGRESS REPORT
YOUTH VISIONING FOR ISLAND LIVING**

**SUPPORTING YOUTH IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES FOLLOWING
THE REVIEW OF THE SIDS PROGRAMME
OF ACTION, MAURITIUS 2005**



Photo courtesy of Davidson Dubois, Haiti



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Youth Visioning
for Island Living

**Prepared by Youth Visioning Committee Coasts & Small Islands Platform, UNESCO
For the Lighthouse Foundation September 2007**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES.....	2
PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.....	3
Projects completed.....	3
Projects in progress.....	7
Project funds spent and committed to date	8
Website.....	9
Newsletter	9
Networks.....	9
CLOSING COMMENTS	10
ANNEX I - CHARTS	11
ANNEX II – PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS	13
Projects completed.....	13
Projects in progress.....	15
ANNEX IV – FUNDS SPENT AND COMMITTED TO DATE.....	16

INTRODUCTION

For the early part of 2007, the Youth Visioning for Island Living initiative sought to consolidate its activities with the view of completing all projects by the end of the year. This involved a thorough review of a small number of project proposals that were received at the end of 2006. The goal was to commit as much of the project funds as possible so that valuable time could be spent on project evaluation and management rather than the more time consuming project review and development. The result is that the initiative can confirm that a final total of thirty-six projects will be implemented – eight from the AIMS (Atlantic, Indian, Mediterranean and South China Sea) region, twelve from the Caribbean and sixteen from the Pacific.

Since the beginning of this year, nine projects have been completed and ten new ones were introduced into the initiative. At the time of writing sixteen projects are concurrently operating and it is expected that all projects will be completed by March 2008, the deadline for UNESCO expenditures for the 2006-07 biennium.

During this period of reporting, the initiative has encountered problems of late submissions of project deliverables (final report, photos, videos etc.) and the progress of projects stalling as a result of youth leaders either moving to another island or seemingly disappearing without notice. On the other hand, there are some quality examples of projects that performed capacity building exercises and/or reached a wide audience.

Concerning HIV/AIDS themed projects:

- All nine schools in the Makunduchi constituency in Zanzibar were sensitized;
- 85 Youth leaders from different regions of Mauritius attended a 3-day residential workshop and committed to undertaking awareness activities on returning to their communities;
- An ambitious awareness project using volunteers and radio in Papua New Guinea aims to sensitize as many of the 14,000 school-going youth in the Western Highlands Province as possible;

In response to the environment and island culture:

- Free environmental awareness classes were offered to 300 students in Haiti and the community actively got involved in cleaning up the village and a tree planting exercise to prevent erosion in susceptible areas;
- Similar projects in the Maldives, Vanuatu and Niue also plan to get the whole community(s) to cleanup their villages and coastlines through environmental awareness campaigns;
- On a national scale, a project in Tonga is attempting to revive the traditional art of canoe carving amongst the youth during its first National Canoe Festival.

This report has been prepared for the Lighthouse Foundation as a deliverable for the contract entitled 'Youth Visioning for Island Living: Supporting youth in the implementation of sustainable development activities following the review of the SIDS Programme of Action, Mauritius 2005' and signed on 22 September 2005. The report concentrates on the progress made in the implementation of youth-led projects in small islands and territories in the Caribbean, Pacific and AIMS (Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and the South China Seas) regions within the framework of Youth Visioning for Island Living for the period January to September 2007.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The year 2007 began with a rush of activities to formalise contracts with those projects that were approved at the end of 2006. The result was that projects in Madagascar, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and San Andres received their funding and were able to initiate their planned activities. However, four projects already approved in the Pacific (2 Niue, Cook Islands, Tuvalu) required more patience as the project leaders were still in the process of finalizing their activities and budget.

During this period, there were several tentative proposals under consideration. However, a combination of slow to nil communication or projects that did not meet Youth Visioning's criteria led to a decision to search for new projects again. In March, new youth organizations and individuals found on the internet were contacted and invited to make proposals. These 'call-for-interest' activities usually result in some degree of success, however a problem that is often faced is that potential project leaders will show initial high levels of enthusiasm but there will be no follow-up proposals from them. There are of course exceptions.

After the announcement in March, Elaine Howard, then President of the Tongan National Youth Congress immediately responded with a well-defined proposal. Her organization was preparing to implement a canoe festival with the goal to increase self-esteem and cultural pride amongst Tongan youth through intergenerational skill sharing and the celebration of the art of canoe carving. Funding for the project has been approved and the festival is currently taking place.

Again, we must stress the advantages of having an on-the-ground representative to network and oversee projects in the field. For instance, Norman Wai of Papua New Guinea first met Lindsey Higgs, former Youth Visioning representative, at the First Pacific Youth Festival, Tahiti July 2006. It was not until six-months later that he contacted us with a project proposal on HIV and AIDS. In the meantime he had been busy establishing and registering his group, Foundation for Young People.

“The Motivational factor to the formation of this organization is when I (Norman Wai) attended the First Pacific Youth Festival last year in July in Tahiti – French Polynesia. Later in September 2006 I also attended the First National Youth Summit in Port Moresby, our nation's capital city. After attending these events, I decided to help all youth in the province. I called several youths who are willingly helping out in the formation of this organization.”

Laura Berdejo, Youth Visioning's Pacific focal point, has also been very active in promoting and seeking new projects in the various workshops and conferences that she attends in the region. The ability to meet potential project leaders in person cannot be understated. She has also tirelessly contacted Spanish speaking islands and National Commissions in the Caribbean.

Youth Visioning has now consolidated its portfolio of projects and is now concentrating on following-up on the last surge of projects that will be completed towards the end of this year.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

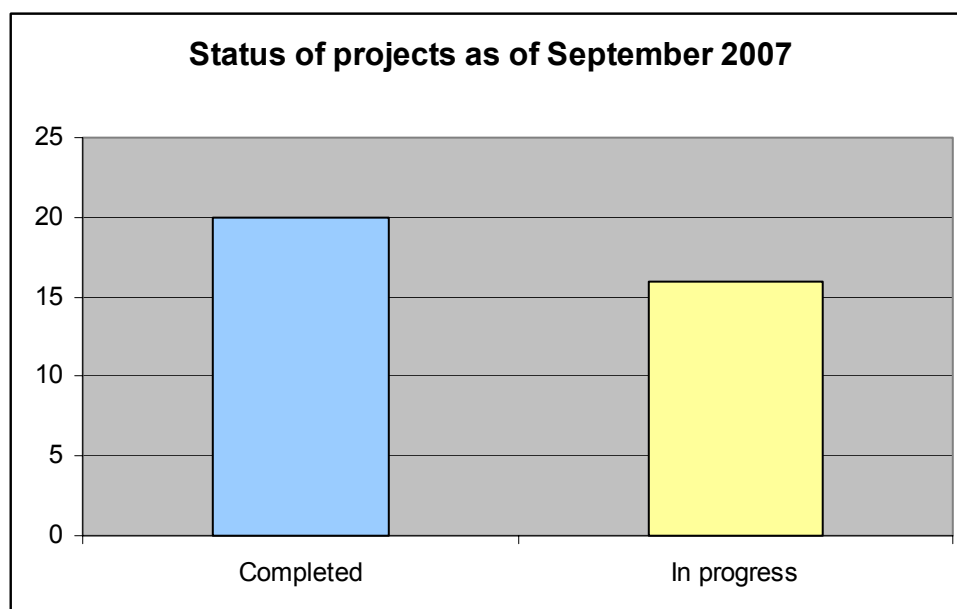


Chart 1

As seen from the chart above, Youth Visioning will have implemented thirty-six projects by the end of the initiative. Twenty of these have been completed and sixteen are in progress. For a breakdown of the projects by region (Chart 2 & 3) and by themes (Chart 4), see the charts in **annex I**. For more details regarding each project, please go to **annex II**.

Projects completed

During the period January to September, the nine projects below were completed resulting in a total of twenty completed projects to date. The remaining sixteen projects are expected to be completed by March 2008, the deadline for UNESCO expenditures for the 2006-07 biennium (**annex II, Chart 5**).

In terms of continuity, some of the projects that were completed during this period have proven successful:

In St. Kitts and Nevis, the Camp Sanguine project led by Claricia Langley is hoping to be a bi-annual event. The Ambassadors of Cayon High (past students) implemented a camp for current students that provided training sessions in career development, volunteering, HIV and AIDS and life-skills development.

In Dominica, Jahisiah Benoit has reiterated the success of the Kwéyòl Exchange Program with Seychelles, *“You will be pleased to know that the documents obtained in my travels are now being utilized to develop our draft national curriculum upon the request of the Chief Cultural Officer along with several publications similar to those that I saw in Seychelles”*. No doubt, his experience attained will improve his ongoing Palé Kwéyòl project that he leads, which is in its second year in reviving the Creole culture and language.

Ebonie Fifita who completed her On the Spot Millennium Development Goals Radio Show project last year is also still active in her community, *“We actually haven’t done any more on the radio since last year and the studio burning down , but have approached the local station about working part time there and presenting our shows live on a regular basis, as they are short of announcers and shows on their station and we thought this would be a great opportunity, also there is a possibility that Tongan National Youth Congress (TNYC) will have a youth Radio Station.”*

The TNYC who as mentioned are implementing the National Canoe Festival, have been put in touch with Ebonie Fifita as there is a radio element in their activities and an opportunity for collaboration.

Project completed January-September 2007

AIMS region	Project title	Theme
Seychelles	Helping to create more employment through local investment	Money in my pocket
Mauritius	HIV and AIDS Awareness Workshop	Love and life on islands
Zanzibar	HIV and AIDS awareness in schools	Love and life on islands
Caribbean region		
Dominica	Kwéyòl Exchange Program, Dominica-Seychelles	Love and life on islands
Haiti	Environmental education through tree-planting and clean-up competitions	My Island Home
San Andres	Training and role playing games to educate on land tenure issues	My Island Home
St. Kitts and Nevis	Camp Sanguine: Decision Making (Choices)	Love and life on islands
Pacific region		
Samoa	Teaching and promoting the fire-knife dance	Love and life on islands
Samoa	Training and developing young people to be actively involved in their communities	Love and life on islands

HIV and AIDS themed projects in Mauritius and Zanzibar



Mauritius: Led by Qadir Mahamoodally and the Savanne Regional Youth Council, a 3-day residential workshop was organized for 85 youth from around Mauritius. Activities included group discussions (top-left), role-play exercises (top-right) and post workshop actions to further sensitise communities.



Zanzibar: Led by the JUKEWJIMA organization a group of youth implemented a variety of activities in all nine schools of the constituency. It created awareness in HIV and AIDS for over 500 students and involved film sessions and group discussions (bottom-left) as well as song competitions (bottom-right).

Haiti: Environmental awareness raising project led by Davidson Dubois

Below: Youth care for plants that will be transferred to areas susceptible to erosion.



Below: Some of the seedlings are planted by the sea shore.



Above: Some of the 300 pupils that attended the environmental awareness classes



Above: Many volunteers from the community participated in cleaning up the village

Projects in progress

There are currently sixteen projects that are in progress.

Projects by Region

AIMS	2
Caribbean	4
Pacific	10
Total	16

Projects by theme

Life & Love on Islands	7
Money in my Pocket	2
My Island Home	7
Total	16

Throughout the initiative, *Life and Love on Islands* continues to be the most popular theme but recently, more projects based on *My Island Home* have been received. These projects tackle environmental issues such as recycling (Cook Islands), waste management (Vanuatu), coastal vegetation to prevent erosion (Maldives) and environmental awareness-raising and clean-ups (Madagascar and Niue). (see **annex I, Chart 4**)

As mentioned earlier, the active on-the-ground networking and promotional activities have contributed to the Pacific region having the most number of projects. In fact, six of the ten new projects commenced in this period are from the Pacific. At the same time, only two projects each emerged from the Caribbean and the AIMS (Atlantic, Indian, Mediterranean and South China Sea).

New projects

AIMS region	Project title	Theme
Madagascar	Environmental education for school children	My Island Home
Maldives	Tackling coastal erosion	My Island Home
Caribbean		
Jamaica	Photovoice: My Island through My Eyes	Love and life on islands
Grenada	HIV/AIDS Project Management Capacity Building for Youth Groups	Love and life on islands
Pacific		
Cook Islands	Recycling stations for schools	My Island Home
Niue	Traditional Treasures: Preserving and reviving the Niuean language	Love and life on islands
Niue	Village Beautification of Avatele, Oneonepata	My Island Home
Papua New Guinea	Let's fight HIV/AIDS together	Love and life on islands
Solomon Islands	Empowerment workshop and Training on career development skills	Money in my pocket
Tonga	Tonga National Canoe Festival	Love and life on islands



Tonga National Canoe Festival led by Vanessa Tui'one. These pictures show the first stages of the canoes being carved by youth teams during the festival.



Madagascar: Ari Ramilimanitra is leading a project to teach school children about how their actions impact the environment through implementing activities to clean-up their school.



The above picture highlights the current problems facing the island of Naifaru, **Maldives**. Silma Mohamed is leading a project to educate the community about their impact on the coastal environment and implementing activities to prevent erosion.

Project funds spent and committed to date

Project funds spent and committed to date are detailed in **annex IV**.

To date US \$101,990 has been spent on 36 projects at an average of US \$2,833 per project.

NETWORKING AND AWARENESS

Website

The website is regularly updated with new items posted almost every week. It is often cited as the most dependable source for the latest news and information in any correspondence with potential partners. Most recently, interest from Jamaica and Sri Lanka (project declined as it could not be implemented by end of 2007) were received by learning about the initiative through this manner.

Newsletter

The bi-monthly newsletter continues to inform the youth and our network of partners about the latest news. It is posted on our website but also distributed through email and forwarded to countless other recipients.

“I found out about Youth Visioning initially through Ms. Leisa Perch of the UNDP who forwarded a newsletter to me; later I had conversation with Jamion Knight who led an initiative on Antigua.” Clifton Nedd, one of the project leaders for the project in Grenada.

Networks

As already mentioned, Laura Berdejo based at UNESCO Apia office has been extremely active in promoting the initiative and securing new proposals:

- At the Pacific Future Environment Leaders Forum (2-4 April) a meeting introducing Youth Visioning was held. The presentation was well received with promises of future proposals but it had already made an immediate impact on one participant, Fred Pateson, from the Solomon Islands. He is now leading a project to implement careers training and development workshops in Honiara. The goal is to develop skills in young people so that they can acquire a job and develop their career interests.
- Youth Visioning was presented at the World Heritage Committee Meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand 23 June – 1 July 2007.
- The Youth Portal for Latin American and the Caribbean (<http://www.youthlac.org/>) has agreed to post Youth Visioning related items.

CLOSING COMMENTS

The activities of Youth Visioning over the last nine months have been focused on consolidating the current portfolio of projects. The initiative has reached the point where it can no longer accept any new proposals for this year. Nevertheless, with the active promotion of the initiative, it continues to find new partners willing to assist in spreading the word. In this reporting period, some new challenges were encountered:

- The project leaders were finding it difficult to adhere to their deadlines for their final deliverables and payment. This was a consequence of a number of factors from the project leaders, for instance moving abroad or just being overly optimistic on their workplan. As a result, the duration of any new projects have been extended by 1-2 months to take into account unexpected circumstances.
- There remains the problem of project leaders unexpectedly 'disappearing' for long periods of time. This has hindered the contract creation process and/or timely delivery of progress reports and other deliverables. In some instances, the project leaders themselves have even disappeared to give birth with no warning!
- The establishment of contracts were unusually slow, partly due to slow communication and partly due to the lengthy process of finalising workplans and budgets with inexperienced youth.

On the other hand, there are several positive outcomes:

- For almost all of the project leaders, the Youth Visioning initiative is the first opportunity they have had to learn about sustainable island development and plan and implement a project.
- In Haiti, Davidson Dubois successfully wrote a lengthy progress report for the first time.
- Promoting partnerships and collaboration within and between islands. For instance, for each project, contact and collaboration is established between organizations, associations and ministries working on the same issues. To give an example, the environmental awareness and coastal revegetation project in the Maldives required cooperation between the Vidhuvaru Club, Environmental Club of Madrasathul Ifthithaah, the Island Development Committee and the Ministry of Environment. As an example of collaboration between islands, the Creole cultural exchange between Dominica and Seychelles is noteworthy.
- Despite the small amount of funding that is available for each project, a significant level of impact is achieved by reaching out to a wider audience through the communication component integrated in the project cycle.

The sentiments expressed by UNESCO's Youth Section, the youth and other partners are very encouraging and all are intrigued about the future of this initiative. Therefore, the Coasts & Small Islands (CSI) platform is tentatively beginning to think about a new framework to extend Youth Visioning for Island Living beyond 2007.

The support of the Lighthouse Foundation has and continues to be crucial to the success of Youth Visioning.

'We thank you for your commitment to this initiative and look forward to keeping you informed of the ongoing project implementation phase'.

The Youth Visioning Committee.

ANNEX I - Charts

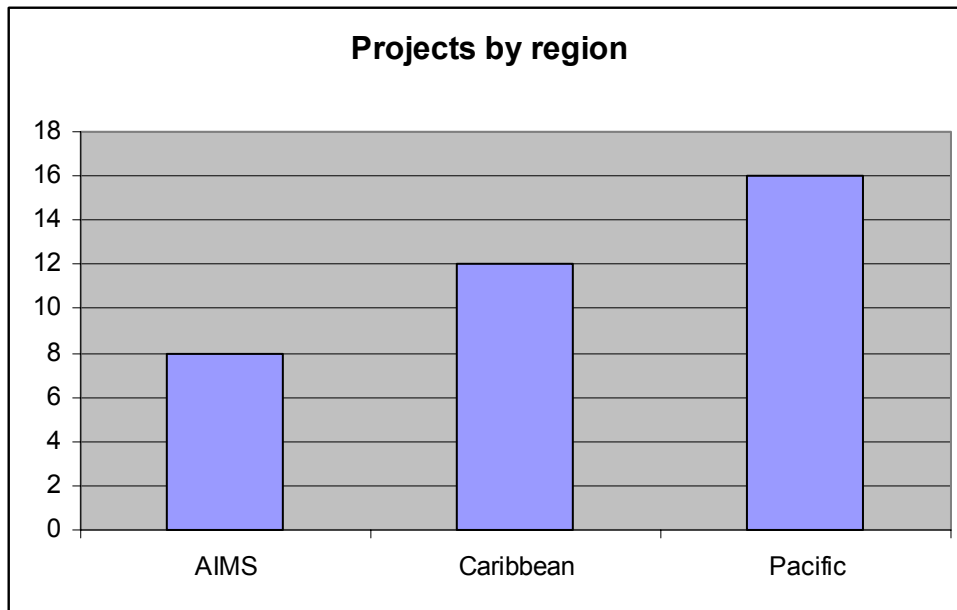


Chart 2

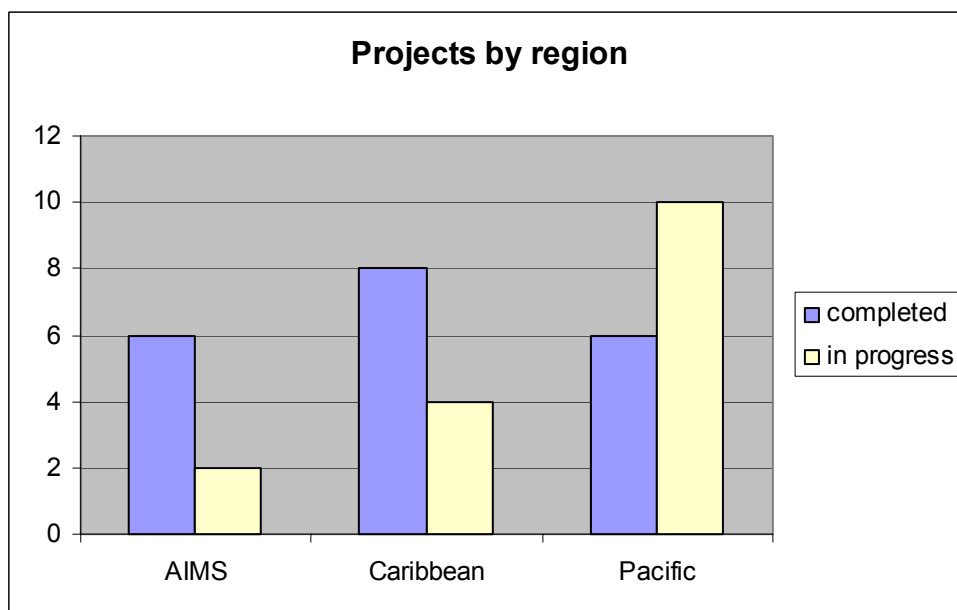


Chart 3

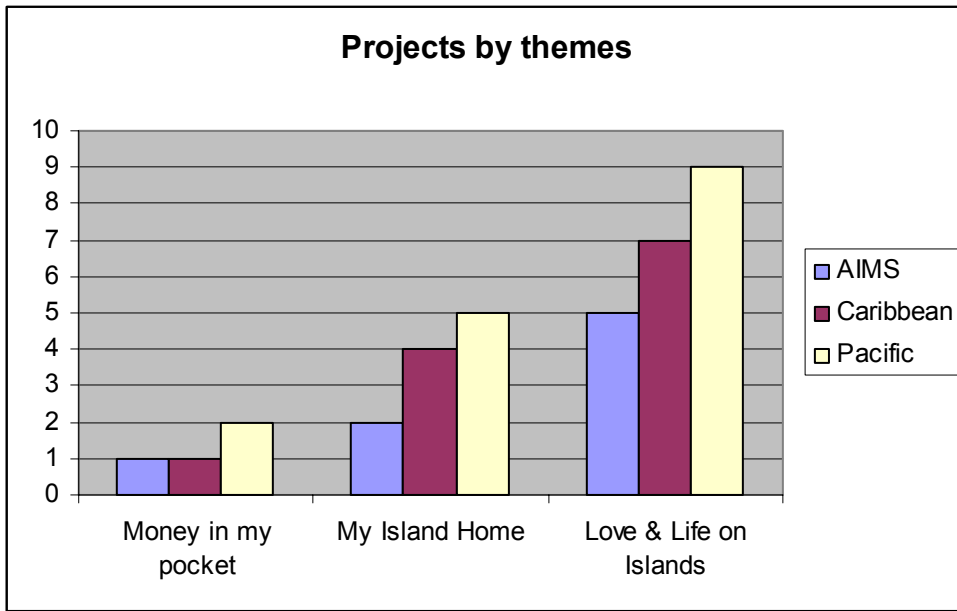


Chart 4

Expected numbers of completed projects

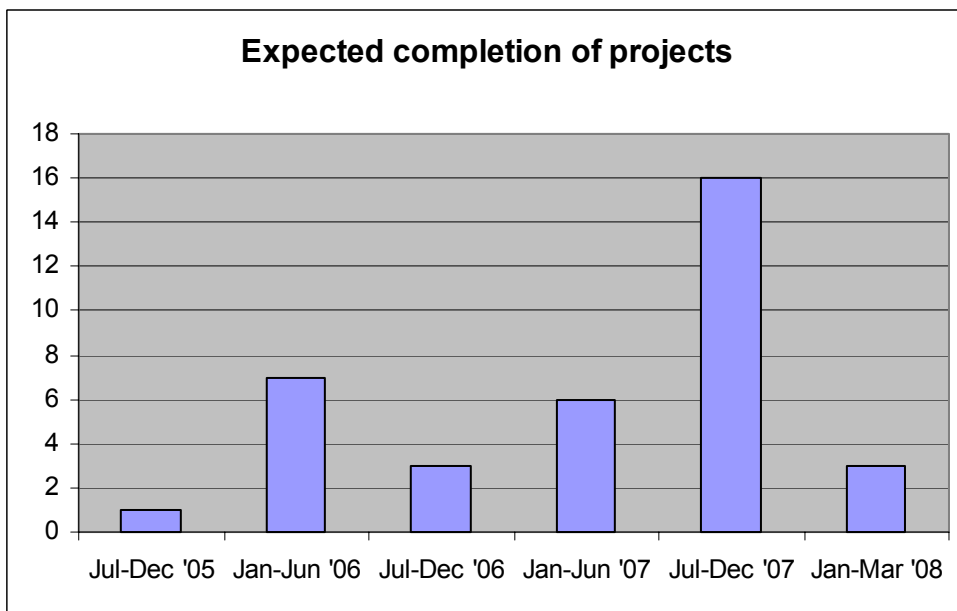


Chart 5

ANNEX II – Project Descriptions

Projects completed

Island	Project	Time Frame	Long-term Sustainability	\$ US
AIMS region				
Cape Verde	Raising awareness of HIV/AIDS through sport	August 2005 – February 2006	Partners plan to repeat activities in 2006 on their own	1,900
Mauritius	Integrating disabled youth into society	October 2005 – March 2006	Further activities being planned	1,600
Mauritius	HIV/AIDS awareness workshop leading to youth follow-up action	November 2006 – July 2007	Post workshop activities implemented and planned	4,000
Seychelles	Helping to create more youth employment through increased local investment	March 2006 – February 2007	Further activities being planned	2,000
Singapore	Intergenerational celebration of Chinese New Year	February 2005- May 2005	Further activities being planned	900
Zanzibar	HIV/AIDS awareness in schools	November 2006 – July 2007	Hope to extend program to other districts	4,000
CARIBBEAN				
Antigua & Barbuda	Creation of a website with information for aspiring young entrepreneurs	September 2005 – March 2006	Local support being sought to continue activities	2,500
Dominica	Clean-up and waste management campaign in one village	July 2005 – January 2006	Further activities being planned	2,250
Dominica	Promotion of the Creole language through classes and cultural activities	August 2005 – February 2006	Local support has been secured to continue activities	2,000
Dominica-Seychelles	Island exchange to share information on celebrating and teaching Creole language and customs	August 2006 – January 2007	Draft national curriculum to be based documents collected on exchange	3,500
Haiti	Environmental education through tree-planting and clean-up competitions	July 2006 – June 2007	Planning more tree-plantings and clean-ups around the village	3,200
Jamaica	Construction of a playground with environmental interpretive stations	September 2005 – February 2006	Youth leader left island, project was completed by NGO	2,500
San Andres	Training and role playing games to educate on land tenure issues	June 2006 – June 2007	Aims to spread the game and its environmental/social awareness island-wide	3,300
St. Kitts and Nevis	Organization of a youth camp for underprivileged students with a	May 2006 – January 2007	Camp to take place on a bi-annual basis	3,500

	commitment to volunteer projects			
PACIFIC				
Fiji	Establishment of Youth Parliament Alumni and commitment to 3 youth campaigns	September 2005 – February 2006	Future projects have been identified and committed to by Alumni group	1,900
Federated States of Micronesia	Promotion of national pride and unity through a poster competition	March – September 2006	Further activities being planned	2,300
Samoa	Teaching the performing art of the fire-knife dance	September 2006 – January 2007	Further activities being planned	3,140
Samoa	Young people helping the needy and elderly – clean-ups and clothing and food donation	July 2006 – January 2007	Further activities being planned	2,000
Solomon Islands	Education through drama about HIV/AIDS, drugs, alcohol	March – September 2006	Aim to build a permanent centre for the group to perform, recruit new members, tour other provinces	3,300
Tonga	Series of radio programs on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	March – September 2006	Interest from private sponsors to continue radio shows on different themes	2,000

Projects in progress

Island	Project	Time Frame	\$ US
AIMS region			
Madagascar	Environmental education and planning in a village	February - October 2007	3,000
Maldives	Environmental awareness: Prevent erosion & green coastal vegetation	September – December 2007	3,000
CARIBBEAN			
Grenada	HIV/AIDS Project Management Capacity Building for Youth Groups	September 2007 – March 2008	4,000
Jamaica	Photovoice: My Island through My Eyes	September – December 2007	3,000
St Lucia	HIV/AIDS awareness through a panel discussion and jingle competition	June 2006 – December 2007	4,000
St. Vincent and Grenadines	Recording local traditions from elders to pass on to the next generations	December 2006 – October 2007	3,000
PACIFIC			
Marshall Islands	Inter-generational exchange to preserve local handicraft and skills	October 2006 – June 2007	3,000
Niue	Environmental awareness raising and cleanup campaign	September – December 2007	1,800
Niue	Preserving the Niuean language	April – September 2007	2,600
Cook Islands	Implement recycling system in schools	March 2007 – March 2008	3,000
Papua New Guinea	Fish farming to sell fish in local markets to create sustainable income	November 2006 – June 2007	3,000
Papua New Guinea	Let's fight HIV/AIDS together	July – November 2007	4,000
Solomon Islands	Career development and training	June 2007 – March 2008	3,100
Tonga	National Canoe Festival	June – October 2007	3,000
Tuvalu	Educate young people how to establish sustainable home gardening for income	December 2006 – November 2007	3,000
Vanuatu	Environmental education and construction of village rubbish pits	November 2006 – June 2007	3,200

ANNEX IV – Funds spent and committed to date

Country	Project	Funding	HIV/AIDS
Funds spent		(USD)	
Mauritius	Integration of disabled youth	1600	
Singapore	Intergenerational activities	900	
Cape Verde	Young People against HIV/AIDS	1900	
Seychelles	Youth employment	2000	
Mauritius	HIV/AIDS awareness		4000
Zanzibar	HIV/AIDS awareness for school youth		4000
Haiti	Tree planting, clean-ups	3200	
San Andres	Role Playing Game	3300	
Dominica/Seychelles	Creole Festival Exchange	3500	
St Kitts	Youth camp/training	3500	
Dominica 1	Clean-up in Gutter Village	2250	
Antigua & Barbuda	Youth employment	2500	
Dominica 2	Parle Creole	2000	
Jamaica	Environmental education	2500	
Fiji	Training youth leaders	1900	
Federated States of Micronesia	Unity and national pride	2300	
Solomon Islands	Awareness raising through drama	3300	
Tonga (Apia)	Radio show on MDGs	2000	
Samoa	Youth volunteering	2000	
Samoa	Fire-knife dance workshops	3140	
Subtotal		\$43,790	\$8,000
Funds committed (projects in progress)			
Madagascar	Environmental Education	3000	
Maldives	Prevent erosion & green coastal vegetation	3000	
St Lucia	HIV/AIDS awareness		4000
Grenada	HIV/AIDS		4000
St. Vincent & Grenadines	Folkways Bequia	3000	
Jamaica	Photovoice	3500	
Marshall Islands	Preserving Handicrafts	3000	
Papua New Guinea	Fish farm	3000	
Tuvalu	Home Gardening	3000	
Vanuatu	Environmental education + clean-up	3200	
Papua New Guinea	HIV/AIDS Awareness		4000
Niue	Preserving the Niuean language	2600	
Niue	Beautify Avatele Oneonepata Village	1800	
Cook Islands	Recycling in schools	3000	
Tonga	Canoe Festival	3000	
Solomon Islands	Career Development	3100	
Subtotal		\$38,200	\$12,000
TOTAL		\$81,990	\$20,00

COMBINED TOTAL \$US 101,990