

REPORT ON

**YOUTH VISIONING**  
**FOR ISLAND LIVING**

PHASES 1 AND 2

JANUARY 2004 – JANUARY 2005



Report Prepared for the Lighthouse Foundation  
by the UNESCO Coastal Regions and Small Islands (CSI) platform

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| AIMS      | Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea region                      |
| NGO       | Non-governmental organization   |
| OECS-ESDU | Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Environment and Sustainable Development Unit |
| SIDS      | Small Island Developing State   |
| UN        | United Nations  |
| UNESCO    | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization                      |
| UNICEF    | United Nations Children's Fund  |
| YVIL      | Youth Visioning for Island Living   |







## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As small island developing States and territories prepared for the review of their Programme of Action in the run-up to the international meeting held in Mauritius in January 2005, it became increasingly apparent that youth had to be involved in the process. Addressing this need, Youth Visioning for Island Living (YVIL) began as a process whereby young people could articulate how they want their islands to develop in the future and then take action to make their vision become reality. Three phases make up YVIL, which runs from January 2004 to December 2006: a preparatory phase, a meeting for youth representatives in Mauritius parallel to the main governmental meeting, and a follow-up phase when youth undertake project implementation.

The idea of YVIL was proposed by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in Mauritius, and facilitated and supported by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) through its cross cutting project, Small Islands Voice, and in association with the Bureau of Strategic Planning Youth Section. Many other partners have and are playing a key role in YVIL.

This current report has been prepared for the Lighthouse Foundation, one of the important strategic partners in YVIL, as a deliverable for the contract entitled 'Youth Visioning for Island living. Fostering the youth perspective for the Barbados +10 conference' and signed in Paris on 29 March 2004. The report concentrates for the most part on Phase 1, the preparatory activities, and Phase 2, the meeting in Mauritius. At the time of writing, Phase 3, the follow-up phase, is only just beginning, however, some important action has already been taken and this is also discussed.

Involving partners in the process has been critical to the success of YVIL. Early on it quickly became apparent that a framework was required. Such a structure came out of the Small Islands Voice Youth Internet Forum, an active internet discussion for school youth aged 11–18

years, and running since September 2002. Three main themes emerged: 'Life and love in islands' – island lifestyles and cultures; 'My island home' – safeguarding island environments; 'Money in my pocket' – economic and employment opportunities.

This thematic framework was tested at Youth Focus Bahamas, a parallel youth event to the inter-regional preparatory meeting held in The Bahamas in January 2004. Following this a specially-dedicated website was established to provide easily accessible information about YVIL, to share activities, and to further discuss the issues. Widespread publicity, regional preparatory meetings and an inter-regional art competition served to widen the reach of Youth Visioning. National preparatory activities were also undertaken in the individual countries, ranging from radio and television programmes to essay and poetry competitions.

From 7–12 January 2005, 94 young people from 37 small island states and territories met in Mauritius for an intensive session of discussions. Emerging from their deliberations was a three-page declaration, backed up by a list of country commitments for follow-up action. These were presented to the main governmental meeting on 12 January 2005, as well as at the closing ceremony for YVIL, which was attended by United Nations Secretary General, Mr Kofi Annan and Mrs Annan, as well as UNESCO Director General, Mr Koichiro Matsuura.

As YVIL enters its third and final phase, an action plan has been prepared and project proposals are being received from participating countries. Already one follow-up activity has been funded and UNESCO is working with its partners to assist and support the youth in their follow-up projects.

The first two phases of YVIL have been successful in fulfilling most of their stated objectives and there appears to be real potential for creative, effective projects and activities to take place during the third phase.





# BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION



## BACKGROUND

As small island developing States (SIDS) and small islands with different affiliations began to prepare for the review of their Programme of Action during the two-year period 2003–2004, it became increasingly apparent that the review process had to encompass the entire spectrum of island society, from the very young to the very old, and from organized to unorganized groups. While other organizations led the way in the consultations among governments and civil society, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in Mauritius, the host SIDS country for the review meeting, posed the question to a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) representative in July 2003 ‘How are youth to be involved in this process?’

This was the catalyst for UNESCO, through its cross cutting project, Small Islands Voice, and in association with their Bureau of Strategic Planning Youth Section, to start a process that has become known as Youth Visioning for Island Living.

A project document was prepared during the second half of 2003 and circulated among national, regional and inter-regional organizations. The document basically outlined three phases: a preparatory phase, a meeting for youth representatives in Mauritius parallel to the main governmental meeting, and a follow-up phase during which youth would undertake project implementation. The follow-up has been seen by all partners as the most important phase, and will provide an indication of the success of the overall activity.

## INTRODUCTION

In all SIDS, youth make up a significant section of the population, however their collective voice and role in decision-making is only just beginning to

emerge. One of the first problems that arises is to define the group – in the Pacific region, an upper age limit of 40 years is sometimes used to define youth, while in the Caribbean and AIMS (Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea) regions, lower age limits are used.

After consultation with partners, it was decided to use the ages 13–23 years for Youth Visioning for Island Living (YVIL). The rationale was that this group had the vision, the foresight and energy to effect change. However, for the purposes of Phase 2, the youth meeting in Mauritius, it was decided to focus on the 18–23 years group, since these individuals would be sufficiently mature to travel alone.

The initial dates for the main governmental meeting in Mauritius were set as 30 August to 3 September 2004, and it was planned to have the YVIL meeting run in parallel. However, in May 2004, at the request of the Government of Mauritius, the main governmental meeting was postponed to 10–14 January 2005. After consultation with partners, it was decided to postpone the YVIL event also. The postponement, while providing more time for preparation, in effect meant that preparatory activities stopped altogether in many islands during the period June to September 2004. In addition, the rescheduling of the meeting to early January 2005 meant that travel arrangements were especially difficult and expensive due to the proximity to the Christmas/New Year holiday period.

This current report has been prepared for the Lighthouse Foundation, one of the important strategic partners in YVIL, as a deliverable for the contract entitled ‘Youth Visioning for Island living: Fostering the youth perspective for the Barbados +10 conference’ and signed in Paris on 29 March 2004. The report concentrates for the most part on Phase 1, the preparatory activities, and Phase 2, the YVIL meeting in Mauritius. At the time of writing, Phase 3, the follow-up phase, is only just beginning, however, some important action has already been taken and this is discussed here also.

# 2 PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES

### IDENTIFICATION OF PARTNERS

Starting in November 2003, a project outline was sent to national, regional and inter-regional organizations, governmental and non-governmental, as well as numerous contacts around the world. The document was continually revised as comments and suggestions were received. Annex 1 contains a later version of this outline dated 19 January 2004. Without exception, all the comments received were favourable.

As the preparatory phase evolved, some of the expressions of support became concrete, and major partners emerged. These major partners are listed in Table 1. This list represents only those who played a major role in the preparatory activities and YVIL event in Mauritius. There were, in addition to these, numerous partners in each SIDS who coordinated national activities.

Throughout 2004 and into 2005 every effort has been made to keep these and other partners updated and informed about all YVIL activities.

### SELECTION OF THEMES FOR YOUTH VISIONING FOR ISLAND LIVING

Whilst the overall goal of YVIL was to have youth in small islands play an active role in the sustainable development of their countries, there was a need to provide a more structured framework for YVIL.

Since September 2002, UNESCO's Small Islands Voice initiative had been running an un-moderated internet forum for youth. (This forum is available at [www.sivyouth.org](http://www.sivyouth.org) with username *view* and password *only*, this username and password allows viewing of the forum only. Students who take part in the forum have another username/password, which allows them to respond directly). This forum allowed school students (mainly secondary school students) to post articles about life in small islands and then to respond to each other's articles; the

forum is live and un-moderated. At the end of 2003, there were about 35 schools in 11 islands spread across the three regions taking part in this forum. A network of active and enthusiastic partners, mainly teachers, in the participating islands has ensured the success of this forum, which has endured for three years now, despite the continuing problems of limited and expensive internet access in most small islands.

The forum was assessed in 2003 and it was apparent that there were clear patterns emerging and several favourite issues among the students. Island traditions, cultures and lifestyles was a favourite topic among the students – the Nine Mornings tradition in St Vincent and the Grenadines, the similarities between Creole in St Lucia and Seychelles, the issue of respect for elders in Palau – these were the sort of issues the students chose to discuss. They were also very vocal about environmental issues such as the continuation of whaling in St Vincent and the Grenadines and the fact that a community in Fiji had been drinking water from a heavily polluted river. The prospect that faced them in obtaining a suitable job when they finished their schooling was another serious concern. After an analysis of this dialogue three clear themes emerged:

- *Life and love in islands* – island lifestyles and cultures
- *My island home* – safeguarding island environments
- *Money in my pocket* – economic and employment opportunities

These became the themes for YVIL.

Early in 2004, a new phase was started in the Small Islands Voice Youth Forum. Three islands were requested to provide youth-written lead articles on the three themes: The Bahamas wrote on Life and love in islands, the Maldives wrote on My island home, and Fiji wrote on Money in my pocket. The dialogue and discussions continued throughout 2004, and can be seen on the forum under the Phase 3 button ([www.sivyouth.org](http://www.sivyouth.org) with username *view* and password *only*).

Table 1. Major Partners in Youth Visioning for Island Living: Phases 1 and 2

*Intergovernmental partners*

## UNESCO:

- Coasts and Small Islands Platform
- Small Islands Voice cross cutting project
- Bureau of Strategic Planning Youth Section
- Pacific Regional Office – UNESCO Apia
- Caribbean Regional Office – UNESCO Kingston
- Indian Ocean Regional Office – UNESCO Dar es Salaam

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Pacific Office, Fiji

United Nations Development Programme, Mauritius

UN Headquarters Department of Public Relations

*Regional governmental partners*

Caribbean Community

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States – Environment and Sustainable Development Unit

Indian Ocean Commission

Secretariat for the Pacific Community

*Non-governmental regional partners*

Lighthouse Foundation

Taking IT Global

Caribbean Conservation Association

Centre for Documentation, Research and Training in the South West Indian Ocean

Pacific Concerns Resource Centre

Pacific Youth Environment Network

*National partners*

Australia, RMIT University, Melbourne

Mauritius Government

- Ministry of Education and Scientific Research

- Ministry of Youth and Sports

- Ministry of Social Security

- Government Information Service

- Mauritius College of the Air

Seychelles, Ministry of Environment

St Vincent and the Grenadines, Ministry of Education

Trinidad and Tobago, Ministry of Education

UNESCO National Commission for The Bahamas

UNESCO National Commission for Mauritius

UNESCO National Commission for St Lucia

### TESTING THE YOUTH VISIONING CONCEPT – YOUTH FOCUS BAHAMAS

The Bahamas Government hosted the inter-regional preparatory meeting for the review of the Programme of Action for SIDS, which was held in New Providence Island in The Bahamas from 26–30 January, 2004. This meeting was planned and executed in collaboration with the United Nations in preparation for the major meeting on SIDS, which at that time was scheduled to be held in Mauritius from 30 August to 3 September 2004. The Bahamian Ministry of Education in collaboration with UNESCO sponsored, as a side event to the inter-regional preparatory meeting, Youth Focus Bahamas, under the theme 'Youth Visioning for Island Living'. This event was held at Super Club Breezes, Cable Beach, on January 28–29, 2004. Youth Focus Bahamas became a model for the international YVIL event.

This meeting provided an opportunity for young people from throughout The Bahamas to convene in New Providence to discuss issues relevant to them, as well as to identify possible solutions and recommendations, which they felt could be implemented by themselves and/or their country leaders for the further development and growth of society.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Provide participants with an opportunity to discuss and identify those issues that most concern youth within the framework of three main themes:
  - \* Island lifestyles and cultures – *'Life and love in islands'*
  - \* Safeguarding island environments – *'My island home'*
  - \* Economic and employment opportunities – *'Money in my pocket'*
- Enable participants to prepare recommendations to address the issues identified;
- Establish a mechanism for networking among youth throughout The Bahamas;
- Improve relationships and enhance understanding between youth and various sectors of Bahamian society;

- Engender in young people an appreciation of the important role they play in the decision-making process.

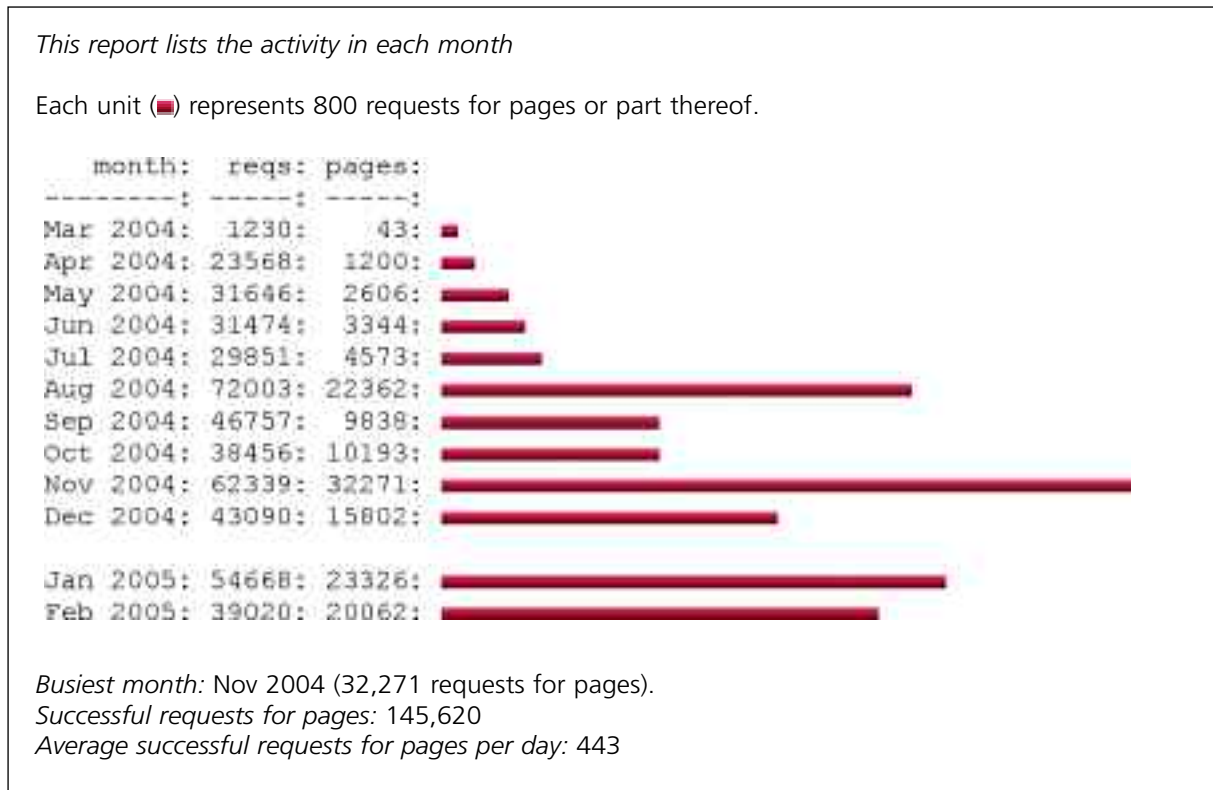
Thirty-five young people met in New Providence from 27–30 January 2004. They came from New Providence and the Family Islands and were selected on the basis of several criteria including age, leadership qualities, knowledge of sustainable development issues and desire to make a positive difference. For two intense days the young people participated in panel discussions, worked in small and large groups to develop their ideas, and then joined together to prepare a resolution, which they presented to the main United Nations meeting on 30 January 2004. The programme for the consultation, the list of participants and resource persons, and key messages from prominent Bahamian leaders are available in a Manifesto booklet, available on the website, and the resolution itself is included in Annex 2.

The Youth Focus Bahamas event, while successful in many ways, proved to be a learning ground for YVIL. Among the lessons learnt were the following:

- The three themes selected provided a good framework for discussions on sustainable development and while there was some overlap between the themes, this was not a major problem;
- The time available for Youth Focus Bahamas was much too short, the youth had only two full days to discuss the issues;
- The programme for the meeting was very intense with several very informative panel discussions, which while useful, reduced the discussion time available for the youth;
- The youth left Youth Focus Bahamas without a clear idea of what the next steps should be;
- There were no commitments or action plan attached to the resolution;
- National organizations did not have the time or resources to coordinate youth follow-up action.



**TABLE 2 SUMMARY OF WEBSITE STATISTICS 26 MARCH 2004 TO 17 FEBRUARY 2005**



Mainly as a result of the above limitations, follow-up action on the resolution has been slow to take place. The youth resolution was considered by Cabinet in the weeks following the meeting, but the youth did not have the opportunity to present their resolution to Cabinet themselves.

**ESTABLISHING A DEDICATED WEBSITE**

A dedicated website for YVIL was established in April 2004 ([www.islandyouth.org](http://www.islandyouth.org)) by the internationally recognized youth non-governmental organization (NGO) Taking IT Global ([www.takingITglobal.org](http://www.takingITglobal.org)). This website had the following objectives, to:

- provide information about YVIL
- document and promote national and local activities
- promote inter and intra island dialogue and discussion

The website is hosted on the Taking IT Global site and had six main menus:

- About – provides information about YVIL
- Discussion – discussion themes on the three themes plus a fourth one on general island issues
- Event – details about the event in Mauritius
- Resources – background material and links relating to the three themes
- National Activities – links to national contacts and activities in the participating islands
- Home – home page

The website also features youth profiles and island profiles on a changing basis. The website is multilingual; English, French and Spanish language versions are available.

The website was promoted through the Taking IT Global site, through regular announcements sent out to a large mailing list, and through word of mouth. Table 2 illustrates the website statistics and more information is avail-

able in Annex 3. Based on the number of requests for pages, there was a steady growth of people accessing the website over the period March to July 2004, with a noticeable jump in requests in August. The August peak may be related to the widespread publicity given to the YVIL art competition, which was announced that month. Over the remainder of the year, requests continued to increase with a noticeable peak in November 2004.

While the website was successful in providing information about the YVIL event and in documenting local and national activities, it did not fully achieve the third objective to widen discussion about the three themes. The website discussions were centred around the three main themes and a fourth one: 'General island issues'. Table 3 summarizes the use of the discussion forum between 6 June and 12 December 2004.

Discussion was slow to start on these forums, and it was only after arranging conference calls with a small group of committed island youth contacts that the discussions started. Thereafter,

the discussions were kept alive, for the most part, by a few core contributors. Many avenues were employed to encourage youth to use the discussion forum – through YVIL announcements, personal contacts and meetings, and Small Islands Voice partners. Despite these efforts the results of the website discussions were disappointing.

Despite the fact that the use of the discussion boards on the website was less than expected, a summary of the main issues talked about on the [www.islandyouth.org](http://www.islandyouth.org) website and the [www.sivyouth.org](http://www.sivyouth.org) website was prepared, see Annex 4, and distributed to youth participants in Mauritius prior to the start of the 7–12 January 2005 meeting. Thus in this way the website discussions were used as background information for the discussions in Mauritius.

Among the factors influencing the limited use of the website discussions is undoubtedly the limited access to the internet in many small islands. Generally internet access is limited to the main towns in small islands and even there

**TABLE 3 USE OF THE WEBSITE DISCUSSION FORUMS JUNE TO DECEMBER 2004**

| Discussion theme                | Number of items posted in the thread |  | Number of times items in the thread viewed |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Life and love in islands</b> | 27                                   |  | 1,717                                      |
| Bridging the gap                | 12                                   |  | 643  |
| Sense of island community       | 3                                    |  | 300  |
| Can anybody say condom?         | 11                                   |  | 584  |
| Loving Jamaica                  | 1                                    |  | 190  |
| <b>My island home</b>           | 17                                   |  | 1,180                                      |
| Biosecurity                     | 1                                    |  | 173  |
| Tourism                         | 9                                    |  | 459  |
| Tie me to a tree                | 4                                    |  | 260  |
| Garbage sucks                   | 2                                    |  | 136  |
| Betel nut spit                  | 1                                    |  | 152  |
| <b>Money in my pocket</b>       | 9                                    |  | 619  |
| <b>General island issues</b>    | 5                                    |  | 202  |
| Global warming                  | 5                                    |  | 202  |

it suffers from high costs and slow connections. For instance, a glance at some of the other discussion threads on the TakingITGlobal site shows most of the respondents are from industrialized countries such as in North America, Europe and Australia, where internet access is generally much better than in small islands. The need to log on to the TakingITGlobal website may also have been a deterrent, especially in islands where internet connections are slow.

Within the context of the Small Islands Voice cross cutting project, it has been found that internet discussion forums work well only under certain specific conditions. For instance the Small Islands Voice Youth Forum, an un-moderated forum, works well because of a dedicated network of teachers and other partners in the islands, who encourage the students to use the forum and also sometimes incorporate the forum into their classroom teaching work. On the other hand, the Small Islands Voice Global Forum ([www.sivglobal.org](http://www.sivglobal.org)), a moderated forum, which targets the general public in small islands, also receives good response, because, besides being housed on an internet site, it is sent out by email to more than 20,000 addresses once every two weeks.

As Youth Visioning moves into Phase 3, it is proposed to refocus the website more towards project activities and to update these on an ongoing basis. Electronic discussion groups will also be established to assist islands with networking during Phase 3 of YVIL.

### **GETTING THE WORD OUT**

Whilst the website was seen as one of the main mechanisms for getting the word out about YVIL, other mechanisms were used as well.

Starting a six-month countdown to the YVIL event in July 2004, monthly announcements were prepared and distributed. The first announcement is shown in the following box.

**YOUTH VISIONING FOR ISLAND LIVING: ANNOUNCEMENT 1, JULY 2004****Island youths countdown to Mauritius**

Tell us what is happening in your island

With only 6 months until the 'Youth Visioning for Island Living' forum takes place in Mauritius, 7–12 January 2005, young people in small islands are becoming involved in various preparations.

Read below about some of the preparatory activities that are planned and have already taken place, and send us an email about what you are doing:

**ALL ISLANDS**

Young people from Puerto Rico, Jamaica and Samoa have started discussion the three themes on the forums at <http://www.islandyouth.org/discuss/forumdisplay.html?forumid=1867> And all island youth are encouraged to add their views

**BAHAMAS** In January 2004, the Youth Focus Bahamas event was held. This was a national youth consultation, the results of which were presented to the inter-regional Small Island Developing States preparatory meeting.

**COOK ISLANDS** A short item on Youth Visioning was shown on TV, and was advertised in the local press in March 2004, in order to identify participants for the Mauritius meeting

**FIJI** A small organizing committee has been set up comprising persons from the Ministry of Finance, Department of Culture, University of the South Pacific, and Live and Learn Environmental Education to organize selection of youth delegates and preparatory activities.

In addition, the Pacific Concerns Resources Centre in Fiji has suggested that a Pacific forum for youth be held prior to the Mauritius meeting

**SEYCHELLES** The Youth Department is organizing discussion forums on the three themes:

- life and love in islands: island lifestyle and cultures on 7 August 2004
- my island home: safeguarding island environment on 4 September 2004
- money in my pocket: economic and employment on 2 October 2004

**ST KITTS & NEVIS** An essay competition is being held during May–June on the theme 'Evaluate the environmental challenges and implications for the sustainable future of

Small Island Developing States (SIDS)'. Winners will be selected to participate in the Youth Visioning for Island Living event in Mauritius in January 2005.

**ST LUCIA** A Youth Visioning organizing committee has been established comprising the UNESCO National Commission, Ministry of Planning, Red Cross, and the Caribbean Youth Environment Network. This committee, together with UNESCO and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, are organizing a regional youth meeting entitled 'Youth Dialogue on Sustainable Development' in October/November 2004, to which youth from 15 English-speaking Caribbean islands will be invited.

**ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES**

Numerous activities include:

- 12 August 2004: a national conference will be held on the theme 'Youth Visioning for Island Living – Towards Mauritius in 2005' (an initiative of the Ministry of Education and Youth Affairs)
- 17 June 2004: A Town Hall meeting was held in Bequia to publicize the work of 'Youth in the Visioning Process for Island Living'
- May–June 2004: A Poetry Competition was held to highlight the involvement of youths
- 22–23 May 2004: A National Fisherman's Day Essay Competition and Beach Clean up campaign
- 7 May 2004: Public awareness seminar sponsored by JEMS Environmental Management Services that aimed to sensitize and educate members of community youth organizations on matters pertaining to the environment. Specific topics dealt with were biodiversity, ozone depletion and climate change.

**ISLAND YOUTH ART COMPETITION** An inter-regional art competition (for ages 9–23) will be held from mid-August to end October, with judging in November. Some of the winning entries will be displayed in Mauritius (an initiative involving UNESCO and the Department of Public Information at UN Headquarters) **OFFICIAL LAUNCH TO COME IN AUGUST!**

Please let us know of additional Youth Visioning activities happening in your islands.

See [www.islandyouth.org](http://www.islandyouth.org) for more details on the above activities

This announcement and five further ones were sent out to an extensive list of island contacts in the three regions.

As is always the case with communications in small islands, word of mouth is very important, so partners also played an important role in communicating with youth organizations and groups in SIDS.

A specific poster for Youth Visioning was also designed, printed and distributed.

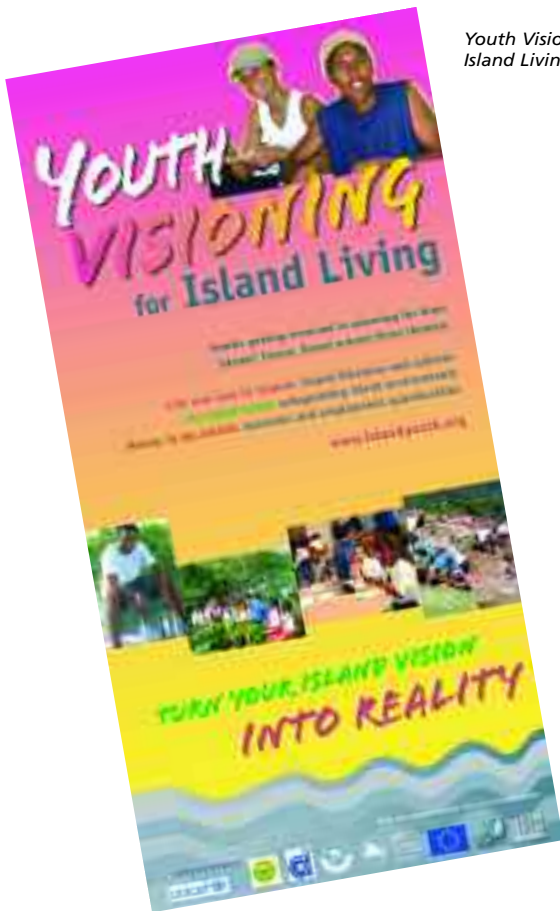
groups to get involved in YVIL. A special website was set up to provide information, entry forms and background to the four themes:

- Life and love in islands
- My island home
- Money in my pocket
- My island in ten years time

The art competition was promoted through YVIL announcements, circulation to a wide mailing list, the YVIL website, and the UN Cyber School Bus. The art competition generated a lot of interest among youth and the media, e.g. ABC Radio Australia in Melbourne followed up on the art competition for their current affairs programme called Pacific Beat.

Three hundred entries were received from 13 countries; most of the entries came from the two younger age groups – the youth in school. Countries submitting entries were: Dominican Republic, Fiji, Hawaii, Indonesia, Mauritius, Micronesia, Palau, Saipan, St Lucia, Seychelles, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos Islands. The standard of art in the entries was very high.

The entries were assessed by a team of seven judges in October 2004. The best entries in each category were then prepared for display and shipped to Mauritius where they were displayed at the conference centre in Domaine les Pailles during the main governmental meeting from 10–14 January 2005. All the entries, including the winners are displayed on a special website.



*Youth Visioning for Island Living Poster*

**YOUTH VISIONING FOR ISLAND LIVING ART CONTEST**

With the assistance of the United Nations Cyber School Bus, an online education component of the UN's Department of Public Information's Outreach Division, an island youth art competition was launched in August 2004. The competition was open to school and non-school youth and there were three age categories: 9–13 years, 14–17 years and 18–23 years. This also allowed younger age



*Winning entries on display in Mauritius, January 2005*

The art contest was successful, especially in widening the exposure of island youth to YVIL and for bringing Youth Visioning to a younger age group.

### REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETINGS

In April 2004, two key partners, the UNESCO National Commission for St Lucia and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (OECS-ESDU), proposed holding a sub-regional Caribbean youth meeting to prepare for YVIL for the nine OECS countries. After some discussion, it was decided to widen the scope of this meeting to include additional Caribbean countries. The meeting was initially scheduled for July, but with the postponement of the main governmental meeting, the Caribbean preparatory meeting was held from 25–27 October 2004 in Castries, St Lucia.

Twenty-nine youth participants from 14 countries (Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands) participated in the two-day meeting. A full report on the meeting is available on the web.

Resource people came from OECS-ESDU, UNESCO, Caribbean Youth Environment Network, Government of St Lucia, Ministry of Education Trinidad and Tobago, St Lucia Red Cross and the Caribbean Community. The goals of the meeting were to:

- collaborate at a regional level to create awareness among youth on the small island developing States Programme of Action
- facilitate preparations by Caribbean youth for the 'Youth Visioning for Island Living' event to be held in Mauritius alongside the main governmental meeting in January 2005

The programme for the meeting is contained in Annex 5. The two-day meeting focused on the three main themes, specifically the issues themselves and activities and projects that would address some of these issues. Like with Youth Focus Bahamas, this preparatory meeting was a testing ground for the larger YVIL meeting in Mauritius.

The youth participants were well prepared and discussions on the main themes were informative and productive. However, in discussing activities and projects that youth could undertake to address some of these issues, it became apparent that some further direction was needed. Overnight the resource persons worked to develop a project template that would provide a framework for youth participants to use for their follow-up projects and activities. In addition, the programme was modified to provide more in-depth



*Above: Discussion session during the Caribbean Preparatory Meeting, St Lucia, October 2004*



*Left: Youth participants in St Lucia, October 2004*

discussion on the project proposal template, see Annex 6. This project template became the one used in the YVIL meeting in Mauritius.

The Caribbean meeting, besides preparing the youth for YVIL, also provided some valuable lessons for the larger event, especially in providing a framework for the youth to develop their projects and follow-up activities.

Key partners in the Pacific, the Pacific Concerns Resources Centre and the Secretariat for the Pacific Community proposed holding a regional preparatory meeting for Pacific youth in Fiji at the beginning of November 2004. To this end a Pacific representative attended the Caribbean meeting in St Lucia to learn from their experiences. However, the Pacific meeting was not held because the expected funding was not received, and the proximity to the Christmas holidays and the YVIL event in Mauritius meant that some youth would have had to travel to two meetings within two months.

No plans were proposed to hold a preparatory meeting in the AIMS region. This region is a relatively new grouping, and islands here do not yet have the history of working together as exists in the other two regions.

### **NATIONAL PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES**

During the course of 2004, SIDS undertook in-country preparatory activities and selected their youth representatives for the YVIL event in Mauritius. Coordination and selection was done by in-country organizations such as Youth Councils, government ministries responsible for youth, NGOs, and sometimes UNESCO National Commissions were also involved.

Criteria were established for the selection of youth to participate in the YVIL event: participants should:

- be sufficiently mature to travel alone and no older than 23 years,
- be actively involved in ongoing and/or proposed youth projects and activities
- have good communicative and motivational skills

Where particular SIDS sent more than one youth representative to the YVIL event, they were asked to take into account gender balance and wherever possible to include youth from outer islands.

In some islands specific committees were established for YVIL. For example, in Fiji, a committee was put together comprising the UNESCO National Commission, the Ministries of Education, Culture, and Finance, the University of the South Pacific, and Live and Learn, an environmental NGO, in order to involve youth in preparations for YVIL and to select two representatives. In another region, the Caribbean, St Lucia adopted a similar approach with a committee comprising the Ministry of Development, The UNESCO National Commission, the Caribbean Youth Environment Network and the St Lucia Red Cross. However, not all countries adopted this combined approach, and sometimes one youth organization took the coordinating role.

An attempt was made throughout the process to try and involve as many partners as possible in the preparatory activities and not to have YVIL perceived as an activity and event operated and supported solely by UNESCO.

Preparatory activities varied from island to island and the following is just a selection of some of the activities. In St Kitts and Nevis an essay competition was launched by the Small Islands Voice National Coordinating Committee, who also undertook the YVIL coordination. The title of the essay competition was 'Evaluate the environmental challenges and implications for the sustainable future of small island developing States (SIDS)'. The winning essays are both available on the [www.islandyouth.org](http://www.islandyouth.org) website and were also put on the Small Islands Voice Youth internet Forum. Winning participants were announced in August 2004, and they, together with other participants, took part in a televised award ceremony and a verbal presentation of the winning essays, including a question and answer segment. This was an attempt by St Kitts and Nevis to ensure the YVIL activities were in the public domain. As the two selected participants prepared for the Mauritius event, they were helped by a national youth committee that had been specially set up for YVIL.

A poetry competition was organized by the Small Islands Voice Coordinating Committee in St Vincent and the Grenadines. The winning entries were announced and read at a town hall meeting, thereby involving a wide cross section of island youth and their communities. This activity was combined with national youth consultations and youth awareness seminars.

In Seychelles, three youth consultations, organized by the Youth Department, were held, one in August, one in September and one in October 2004, each focusing on one of the three YVIL themes. This allowed the Seychelles representatives to the YVIL event in Mauritius a chance to gather a wide cross section of views from youth in their country. In another part of the AIMS region, Sao Tome and Principe, a youth consultation and radio talk-back programme was organized with the help of UNICEF.

In Cook Islands in the Pacific, another approach was adopted by the Taporoporoanga Ipukarea Society, an NGO and Small Islands Voice Coordinator, together with the Youth Department. In an effort to make the selection process as wide and open as possible, a short item on YVIL was broadcast on television, following this an advertisement was placed in the local newspaper, Cook Islands News. Based on the responses, participants were selected, after which a series of consultations were held so that the selected youth representatives could represent the wider youth community.

The above represents just a selection of preparatory activities at the national level. However, not all islands conducted such extensive preparations.

From the beginning of 2004, islands were told that they had to seek travel support for their youth participants to Mauritius themselves. UNESCO guaranteed to provide accommodation, meals and local support in Mauritius for two youth delegates per island. However, funding travel costs proved to be a major problem. Individual requests to regional organizations for funding, by countries such as Cook Islands, met with no success. And in the end very few countries were able to cover the

international travel for their youth delegates.

In the Pacific, regional partners, namely the Secretariat for the Pacific Community and UNICEF, provided some support for international travel. And the Indian Ocean Commission, with funds from the European Union, were able to assist some Indian Ocean countries with international travel. However, in the Caribbean, potential funding sources did not materialize due to funds being diverted for post-hurricane reconstruction after the extremely active 2004 hurricane season in the Caribbean. As a result, UNESCO had to support, to a large extent the international travel for the Caribbean youth participants.



# Bequia Community High School

SANDWATCH & SMALL ISLAND VOICES YOUTH CLUB

Youth Visioning For Island Living

# POETRY CONTEST

Help Wanted

By Denika Compton, Bequia Community High School, Form 3, 4th prize winner

Come on everyone, help me clean this island  
It is vitally important and it's part of the solution  
They destroy the environment by polluting  
And so following is deforestation  
And not forgetting soil erosion

The people are becoming careless  
Acting as though the environment is worthless  
Don't sit there and let the face of the nation fall  
It's to be enjoyed by all

The public service needs to do more  
In order for the environment to remain pure  
It will soon affect all of us  
That's why we should help, it's a must

The environment is being destroyed by violence  
Alcohol is being abused by adolescents  
The face of the environment has been devastated  
It needs to be reconciliated

The environment needs a lot of protection  
And don't forget that word preservation  
Just take it into consideration  
And put it in your mind in a very conspicuous position

Don't leave the environment over to contamination  
You just have to use your concentration  
This environment belongs to you and I  
Let's keep it shining till we die



# 3 YOUTH MEETING IN MAURITIUS

### IN-COUNTRY COORDINATION

In April 2004, an in-country committee led by the Mauritius National Commission for UNESCO was established to coordinate arrangements for the YVIL event. This committee comprised representatives from the following organizations:

- Ministry of Education and Scientific Research
- Ministry of Social Security
- Ministry of Tourism
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Communications
- Police Force
- National Computer Board
- Centre for Documentation, Research and Training in the South West Indian Ocean (an NGO)

The committee was chaired by the Secretary-General for the National Commission for UNESCO in Mauritius, Mr H. Dansinghani, who reported directly to the Minister of Education and Scientific Research. The committee met monthly and more frequently as the January 2005 event approached. Mr Dansinghani also kept in regular contact via telephone with YVIL coordinators in Paris, who met with the committee in August 2004 during a visit to Mauritius

The committee also selected their country's youth participants. Since Mauritius was the host country, twenty youth were selected to participate in the YVIL event. They came from schools, youth organizations and some under-privileged groups – thereby providing a cross section of youth.

The Senior Citizen Recreation Centre at Pointe aux Sables was selected as the venue for the YVIL event. All the youth could be housed here and there were also meeting/workshop facilities. The complex was located in pleasant surroundings close to the beach. It was also a secure location with the police providing 24-hour surveillance. In



*Youth Visioning venue at Pointe aux Sables*



*The Cyberbus provided internet connections for the youth during their stay at Pointe aux Sables*

addition, the location was central, being about a ten minute drive from the capital, Port Louis, and also a ten minute drive (in a different direction) from the main Conference centre at Domaine les Pailles.

UNESCO teams visited this venue, as well as other possible sites, in February and August 2004. Pointe aux Sables was selected as being the most appropriate and the most reasonable from a cost perspective, providing basic, rather than luxurious, accommodation.

### EVENT PROGRAMME AND OUTCOME OF THE DISCUSSIONS

The programme for the YVIL event is included in Annex 7. Key segments of the programme were recorded by Mauritius College of the Air and it is planned to edit this into a 30-minute documentary of the event. Whilst the programme ran from 7–12 January 2005, participants began arriving in Mauritius on 4 January and some did not depart until 18 January due to difficult travel schedules. Field trips, shopping trips and visits to places of interest were arranged during the pre- and post-meeting days. Additionally, participants prepared and dismantled their displays.

Ninety-four youth participants (43 from the AIMS region, 36 from the Caribbean and 17 from the Pacific) participated in the YVIL event (see Annex 8 for a list of participants). They came from 31 SIDS and six islands with other affiliations.

The meeting was officially opened by Hon. Ravi Raj Yerrigadoo, Minister of Youth and Sports in Mauritius, a very young politician, who spent an hour after the official ceremony talking individually with the youth participants and visiting their country displays.

After an introductory workshop, the meeting focused on the three main themes. Starting with Life and love in islands, there was a panel discussion led by youth participants from each of

the three regions. Participants then were divided into small groups where they discussed and prioritized the issues relating to that theme after which they reported back to plenary. Then they returned to their small groups to discuss future youth-led activities relating to the priority issues. They used the project template (see Annex 6) to prepare in detail, one or more project proposal. These were then presented to the plenary group.

The main issues emerging from the discussions on Life and love in islands were:

- Substance abuse: drugs, alcohol
- HIV/AIDS education
- Culture: inclusion of culture in educational curriculum, influences of western culture and mass media, linkages with tourism, festival of the arts
- Family structure, dysfunctional families, inter-generational exchange
- Youth involvement in policy making and governance
- Unemployment
- Environmental depletion, balancing environment and development
- Trade issues, balance between foreign investors and locals
- Differences between rural and city youth
- Island pride

Potential projects developed in group sessions focused on the following:

- HIV/AIDS education and awareness (3 group proposals)
- Reducing drug abuse among youth (1 proposal)
- Reintegration of 'drop-outs' into society
- Preserving culture and island pride (2 proposals)
- Strong families, strong societies
- Promoting intergenerational exchanges
- Empowering youth to participate in key decision-making bodies

A similar pattern was adopted on the following days with the themes: My island home and Money in my pocket.



*Hon. Ravi Raj Yerrigadoo, Minister of Youth and Sports talking with youth representatives from Cuba in front of their display*

Three youth-led drafting committees were established to start working on the final resolution. Obviously there was some overlap between the three themes, but this had been expected.

The main issues covered in the discussions on My island home were:

- Environmental pollution – land, air and water
- Solid and liquid waste disposal, recycling
- Water management and water scarcity
- Coastal zone degradation
- Soil and beach erosion
- Deforestation
- Biodiversity loss and invasive species
- Natural disasters and sea level rise
- Lack of human resources and expertise
- Little environmental law enforcement
- Exploitation of natural resources by foreigners
- Overpopulation, population growth and urbanization
- Environmental education and awareness, and environmental respect

Potential projects developed in the group sessions focused on the following:

- Raise awareness about wise practices for waste disposal (3 project proposals)
- Heightening environmental awareness and especially among youth and the private sector (4 project proposals)
- Reforestation and replanting after a disaster (2 project proposals)
- Beach preservation

Finally, the main issues emerging from the group work on Money in my pocket were:

- Lack of job opportunities and resulting youth unemployment, brain drain
- Educational deficiencies: training for youth, teachers sometimes not paid, need for more local teachers, lack of training in starting own business, structure of the education system,

lack of experience for youth, literacy rates, high cost of tertiary level education

- Discrimination
- Gender issues
- Exploitation of youth
- Schemes to share ideas and skills between islands
- Need for career guidance and apprenticeships
- Difficulty of obtaining loans for local investors and young entrepreneurs, successful young entrepreneurs not helping other youth
- High taxation and low standard of living
- Trade issues
- Foreign investment
- Prostitution, money laundering
- Foreign workers



*Above: Small group session underway*



*Left: Participants from The Bahamas discuss their follow-up activities*

With this theme, some groups had insufficient time to develop project proposals. The potential projects developed were as follows:

- Creating a database about school dropouts, and mobilizing partners to establish an orientation centre for young dropouts (2 project proposals)
- How to earn living project (HELP) – raising the level of awareness about youth unemployment
- Advocacy to ease the squeeze on university fees
- Establishing an investment information centre for youth

The make-up of the small groups was re-arranged each day so as to provide as much interaction as possible. Every group was inter-regional and gender balanced. A group of resource people played a very important role in providing advice to the small groups where necessary. The resource people came from UNESCO headquarters and field offices, UNICEF, Ministries of Education in Mauritius, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago, Ministry of Environment in Seychelles, Taking IT Global, and RMIT University Melbourne.

After the discussions on the three themes were completed, participants met together in country groups to decide on their follow-up project(s).

During the afternoon and evening of 11th January, the drafting groups prepared and combined their ideas for the Youth Declaration; this was discussed in detail by all participants. Later that night, a final declaration was completed and endorsed by the youth (see Annex 9, and a French version is available on the website).

On 12th January 2005, a small group of youth went to the main conference centre at Domaine les Pailles to present their declaration to the main governmental meeting and then to take part in a press conference. The rest of the



*Above: Mr Kofi Annan and Mr Koichiro Matsuura at the Youth Visioning Closing Ceremony*



*Left: Cultural presentation by Comoros youth*

youth prepared for the closing ceremony and their presentation to the UN Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan.

The meeting climaxed with a closing ceremony that was attended by Mr Kofi Annan and his wife, Nane, and the Secretary-General of UNESCO, Mr Koichiro Matsuura. A three-person youth team made a presentation, after which Mr Annan and

Mr Matsuura answered questions posed by the youth. Then each country delegation, dressed in their national costume, presented their commitments for follow-up action.

The workshop programme was very intense, and a field trip day when participants visited places of interest provided a welcome diversion for the youth. In addition, regional cultural evenings when youth shared aspects of their national culture (dance, song, poetry, drama) were popular and entertaining.

There was widespread coverage of the YVIL event in the Mauritian newspapers, see Annex 10. There was also coverage in national media in SIDS (see Annex 10).

### EVALUATION OF THE YOUTH VISIONING FOR ISLAND LIVING EVENT

After the meeting, an evaluation form was sent to the participants (see Annex 11). The participants rated the meeting programme, living accommodation and local transportation satisfactory to good. They also gave many useful ideas for improving such meetings in the future as well as commenting on the benefits for them personally of attending the meeting.

The meeting was very successful and the youth participants felt they had benefited immensely, as can be seen from the following evaluation form extracts in answer to the question: What were the three main benefits of this meeting for you personally and for your work with youth in the future?

#### **From Geraldine Ong, Singapore:**

*'Firstly, from the meeting, I learnt the value of interaction between the different communities of the world although there was a language barrier at the forum due to people speaking French as well. However, this was overcome through gestures like a smile or even food at the dinner table whereby a common language was shared in the simple passing of plates from one person to another. Of course, it was all about the interaction and I learnt that there was more to interaction than spoken language. This lesson was brought home in the sense that I can now try to conduct youth activities involving the visually handicapped and the hearing impaired without major barriers in the understanding of language.*

*Secondly, I learnt a lot from the issues discussed at the forum as well as how to draft a declaration and implement good projects. I can transmit this know-how to the youths in my country so they can be more involved in the government in youth-initiated campaigns and activities as everyone deserves a right to be educated.*

*Thirdly, I became more aware of the differences between people from the other side of the globe (i.e. the Caribbean) as compared to the*

*lifestyles of the people from the South China Sea (my part of the globe where I reside). I was able to learn more about their various cultures and become good friends with a few people there to whom I still keep in contact with. This would enable me to promote cultural exchanges between people of that region and our region so as to broaden young people's knowledge about the world'.*

#### **From Jamion Knight, Antigua and Barbuda:**

*'It allowed to me get new ideas on projects that I would like to start. For example I plan to start several projects in the coming months in relation to youth employment and small business opportunities. I got some amount of inspiration from this conference.*

*I developed a better appreciation for the cultures of other people. Having seen all the cultural presentations from the different regions, I have come to realize that the people of SIDS share a common heritage, a common dream and a common culture.*

*After being exposed to all the projects being undertaken in the various countries and seeing their cultural and other presentations, I developed a deeper love for my country, for youth work. The momentum I garnered from Mauritius is spectacular, and this momentum will be reflected in the quality and type of projects I plan to implement under the auspices of the UNESCO and my UNESCO National Commission'.*

#### **From Kennedy Pemberton, St Kitts and Nevis:**

*'First and foremost the main benefit for me was being able to meet like-minded young individuals who were not afraid to express their opinions on the issues confronting SIDS, particularly issues which are highly politically sensitive. It was an opportunity that re-energized me as a young person working for positive change against seemingly overwhelming odds. To hear other young individuals passionately tackle the issues affecting*



them helped to remind me of why I decided to break my silence on issues that often belittle young persons.

Secondly, this conference somewhat opened my perception of the United Nations and its affiliates. Over the years, I began to develop the mentality that the United Nations in particular was a waste of time when it came to dealing with issues affecting the developing world. I often hold the opinion that the UN in particular generally makes it appear as though youth issues are of such great importance, but it lags behind severely on the follow through support and action, which turns a 'talk shop' into a change agent. This has not been my first time representing my country at a United Nations engagement, and though I still hold fast to my perception of the UN I am willing to at least give them the chance to follow through will some long overdue action.

Finally, given that I consider myself to be a tourism oriented young person, I must say that the opportunity to meet and interact with young persons from around the globe was extremely enticing. I love to travel and meet new people, but more importantly I have an appreciation for forging new friendships, particularly with individuals within my region. I strongly believe that human resources is the most powerful asset any nation can possess, and as often said by my past economics lecturer, the Caribbean (and all SIDS) has the human intellectual capacity to hold its own any where in the world.'

**From Lynsey Talagi, Niue (presently studying in New Zealand):**

*'Realizing that youth can really make a difference – I can make a difference. Adults will sit up and listen to what we have to say. Learning how to make project proposals and how to mobilize youth. I feel empowered to do something for not only Niuean youth but for youth in general. Basically learning from all the discussions and side events we attended. What I learnt I can pass on to others.*

*The lifelong friends I made whom I'm missing terribly and always will. It was great to be able to*

*share experiences and learn from each other as well as learning about their cultures. The atmosphere at the meeting was truly amazing. The dancing, singing, and free times were just awesome. They will also be contact people for the future.*

*Meeting the different organizations involved in the youth meeting as well as the other meetings.*

*Overall it was a great opportunity and a privilege and once in a lifetime experience as we are connected as youth of SIDS'.*

As mentioned previously, success of YVIL cannot be evaluated until Phase 3 is complete.

While the general consensus of all involved was that the YVIL event was a great success, there were two areas in particular that were disappointing. The first area concerned translation. Although the information circulated about Youth Visioning event had indicated that the main working language would be English, there were approximately 15 participants who spoke little to no English. This had been anticipated to some extent, and while formal translation services in Mauritius were extremely expensive, arrangements had been made to have 'whispering' translators from the University. However, these arrangements fell through at the last moment and the Mauritian bilingual participants were asked to substitute. While they performed well, this obviously impeded their full participation in the small group sessions.

The second limitation relates to interaction between the youth and the delegates at the main governmental meeting and the NGO Forum. Every possible attempt was made to facilitate such interaction, e.g. having youth delegates attend the official opening of the main governmental meeting at Domaine les Pailles, participate in the HIV/AIDS concert at the Community Vilaj, and attend the evening reception at Government House. While the three venues were no more than a few miles from each other, the tremendous traffic congestion during that week, meant that in effect the three venues were completely separate. Furthermore the high security around the main conference centre at Domaine les Pailles impeded easy access for the youth.





NATIONAL YOUTH  
VISIONING ACTIVITIES



At the time of writing, February 2005, YVIL is entering the third and most important phase – the youth-led follow-up projects and activities in the participating small island developing States and other small islands.

### **ACTION PLAN FOR PHASE 3 OF YOUTH VISIONING FOR ISLAND LIVING**

One of the first activities on returning from Mauritius was to work with key partners to draw up an action plan for Phase 3. This document, which is regularly being amended, is included in Annex 12.

The action plan covers a two-year time period, January 2005 to December 2006. This may be a little ambitious, since implementation is often a

slow process in small islands. However, based on the fact that youth are the focus, and that they are a very mobile sector, the time frame of two years appears most reasonable at the present time.

On returning home, youth were asked to share the outcomes of the Mauritius event with their counterparts at home, to use the media to spread the word about YVIL (Annex 13 shows a press release (27 January 2005) about YVIL from the participants of the Turks and Caicos Islands), and to discuss and plan their follow-up activities. Youth have been requested to use the project template to prepare their proposals and to send them to UNESCO by the end of March 2005. Currently these proposals are beginning to arrive.

One project proposal was received from Youth Challenge, a youth organization in Singapore, a couple of days after the meeting finished. This proposal, see following box, asked for support to promote inter-generational exchange between youth groups and elderly people living

#### **PROMOTING INTER-GENERATIONAL EXCHANGE IN SINGAPORE**

**Project conducted by:** 'Youth Challenge,' a non-profit charitable organization affiliated to the National Council of Social Services. Under its 'Home Alone' programme, volunteers provide weekly companionship, food and medical needs to the lonely elderly destitute.

**Objectives:**

- To bring some light and warmth into the lives of the lonely elderly during the Chinese New Year festivities, as many of them have been neglected and abandoned by society, having done so much for the society previously
- To enable student volunteers involved to enrich themselves spiritually and mentally from this experience
- To teach student volunteers the value of learning beyond the classroom walls as well as learning from the heart
- To inculcate organization, leadership, rational and critical thinking coupled with compassion in the carrying out of and planning of the event
- To bridge the stark generation gap by promoting interaction between the young of today and our elders

**Stakeholders:** student volunteers who will learn from this experience, the elderly who will be brought joy, and the 'bystanders' who will learn about these elderly and then start to do something for them as well when they see the inadequacy of their living conditions.

**Activities:**

- Planning, implementing and following-up for an inter-generational celebration of the Chinese New Year (February 2005), involving young people and about 80 elderly persons living alone, and including a feast and cultural event
- Prepare a report, accompanied by digital photos, featuring the event
- Investigate and report on ways of making the activity an annual event, possibly with local support
- Survey 20 of the young people involved in the event to assess (a) how they benefited personally from the activity and (b) which elements they will take from the activity to enrich their future lives

**Timeframe:** January to June 2005

**Financial support provided by UNESCO:** US\$ 900

alone during the Chinese New Year celebration in Singapore.

Partly to provide an incentive to youth in other countries, and also because of the soundness of the proposal in terms of Youth Visioning goals, support has already been given to this proposal.

The nature and the scope of the proposals received, will to a large extent determine future activities. Consultations are ongoing with partners who have pledged to consider the incoming proposals in the context of their ongoing youth programmes. One of the proposed mechanisms to ensure that Phase 3 is a success is to set up a Youth Fund to help fund at least some of the proposals.

Another major part of the action plan involves some reorganization of the website, so that it focuses on project activities. Added to this will be the establishment of electronic group networking.

The project areas committed to in Mauritius fall in a number of different areas; see box below. It is already being noticed that some areas of focus are changing as the youth return home and discuss the meeting outcomes with their counterparts – this is as expected.

### FINAL COMMENTS

Throughout the Youth Visioning process it is the third phase that has been emphasized as being most important. A key factor differentiating Youth Visioning from many other youth forums is the focus on the implementation of projects and activities that youth design and implement themselves.

With regards to the challenge that lies ahead, it is noteworthy that the Mauritius Declaration from the main international meeting makes reference to the important role youth play in the sustainable development of SIDS and the need to encourage their efforts (Paragraph 15) as well as recognizing the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on women and youth in SIDS and committing to addressing this issue. The Mauritius Strategy further emphasizes action by SIDS, with the necessary support of the international community, to involve youth in visioning sustainable island living.

### AREAS FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION COMMITTED TO IN MAURITIUS

#### Love and life in islands (17 projects)

Culture (7)  
HIV/AIDS (4)  
Substance abuse (3)  
Teenage pregnancy (1)  
Youth organization (1)  
Governance (1)

#### My island home: (15 projects)

Waste management (4)  
Beach protection (4)  
Environmental education (6)  
Reforestation (1)

#### Money in my pocket (11 projects)

Youth employment (5)  
Education (4)  
Career guidance (2)

The first two phases of YVIL have been successful in fulfilling most of their stated objectives. The youth are excited about their projects and their plans for change. There appears to be real potential for creative, effective projects and activities to take place through Youth Visioning for Island Living. We must remain committed to these young people who have expressed such a fervent desire to enact positive change in their respective islands.



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## ANNEX I

# YOUTH VISIONING FOR ISLAND LIVING OUTLINE (JANUARY 2004)

**‘WE MUST BE THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD’ GHANDI**

### INTRODUCTION

Representing a significant part of the population of small islands, young islanders with their enthusiasm, passion and drive, need to be fully involved in the review of the programme of action for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and its future follow-up. This outline describes a visioning process whereby young people<sup>1</sup> can articulate how they want their islands to develop in the future and how they plan to help make this happen. The visioning will centre around three broad themes<sup>2</sup> :

- *Life and love in islands* – island lifestyles and cultures
- *My island home* – safeguarding island environments
- *Money in my pocket* – economic and employment opportunities

Three stages are envisaged: firstly, there will be preparatory activities among island youth, e.g. local meetings and discussions, media promotion of the visioning activity, web-based discussions about the themes. Secondly, youth representatives from island countries will meet in Mauritius just prior to and during the high level United Nations (UN) SIDS meeting, 30 August to 3 September 2004, to discuss concerns, share information about activities, and shape their vision for presentation at the main meeting. Thirdly, after the UN meeting, island youth will pri-

<sup>1</sup> 13–23 years

<sup>2</sup> These themes are proposed on the basis of internet discussions between young islanders conducted in 2002–3 within the framework of Small Islands Voice ([www.smallislandsvoice.org](http://www.smallislandsvoice.org))

oritize actions at a local and national level, and begin implementation.

This initiative – while proposed by the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research in Mauritius, and being facilitated initially by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) – requires the full involvement and support of national, regional and inter-regional organizations and donors for its success. During the interregional preparatory meeting for the review of the SIDS programme of action, to be held in The Bahamas 26–30 January 2004, a youth visioning for island living consultation will take place among Bahamian youth. This will be a testing ground and provide valuable insight for the larger activity.

### OBJECTIVES

- Create awareness and encourage participation by youth in shaping and advancing the SIDS programme of action
- Facilitate the preparation of youth proposals for sustainable island living to be presented to the Mauritius meeting and carried forward and implemented by the youth after the meeting
- Encourage young islanders to work together especially in an inter-regional mode

### ACTIVITIES

#### Organizational activities (Nov 2003 onwards)

- a) Publicize the youth visioning initiative and obtain expressions of interest and support from organizational and co-funding partners
- b) Convene a coordinating committee (or sub-committee) in Mauritius to oversee the opera-

- tional aspects of the youth participation in the UN meeting and to provide substantive input
- c) Establish and regularly update an interactive, multi-lingual website to facilitate the preparatory activities, the youth meeting in Mauritius, and the follow-up implementation

#### **Stage 1: Preparatory activities (Jan–Jul 2004)**

- a) Inform island youth about the initiative through: (1) local, national and regional youth organizations and projects; local media networks; national ministries responsible for youth; contacts proposed by organizational and co-funding partners; National Commissions for UNESCO; Small Islands Voice partners and others; as well as (2) wide-scale promotion of the website
- b) Islands identify youth coordinators to initiate, plan and undertake the preparatory activities – these will involve local meetings and media promotion, as well as inter-regional web-based discussions and chat rooms
- c) Identify youth representatives to go to Mauritius; selection criteria will include involvement in ongoing and/or proposed youth projects and activities, communicative and motivational skills, and perseverance (detailed criteria to follow)
- d) Secure funding for travel to and accommodation in Mauritius

#### **Stage 2: Youth participation at the UN meeting in Mauritius (Aug–Sep 2004)**

Youth participants<sup>3</sup> meet in Mauritius to focus on the three themes: 'Life and love in islands', 'My island home', and 'Money in my pocket' and for each to (1) discuss their concerns, (2) to share information about ongoing and planned activities and (3) to shape their vision, backed up by specific proposals, for future implementation. The

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<sup>3</sup> Profile of youth participants to the Mauritius meeting: sufficiently mature to travel alone; lively and articulate; capable of implementing the outcome of the Mauritius youth meeting locally; no need for experience at international conferences or a string of qualifications; representatives of 'often-neglected' groups welcome

outcome will be presented to the main UN meeting. At the same time there will be opportunities to share experiences, promote cultural understanding, and participate in debates and side-events

#### **Stage 3: Prioritization and implementation of youth visioning proposals (Sep 2004 onwards)**

- a) Youth representatives to the Mauritius meeting share their experiences and the outcome of the meeting with youth back home
- b) Hold consultations to prioritize activities for local implementation
- c) Seek and obtain funding for implementation where necessary
- d) Regularly communicate with other islands on implementation



ANNEX 2

**RESOLUTIONS FROM ‘YOUTH FOCUS BAHAMAS’  
HELD AT SUPER CLUB BREEZES, 28–29 JANUARY, 2004**

*Recalling* the United Nations Agenda 21 adopted at the Earth Summit in 1992, which established a framework for sustainable development among the world’s nations

*Taking into account* the Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States adopted at the Barbados Summit meeting in 1994

*Noting* the National Assessment report for The Bahamas prepared in 2004 for the review of the Small Island Developing States Programme of Action

*Recalling* the Culture, Communication and Intercultural Dialogue from the Youth Manifesto of the 21st Century presented to the Canadian Parliament 10 April 2000

*Highlighting* the potential of youth and that they are the focus of sustainable development

*Noting* that we, the young people of The Bahamas, met for ‘Youth Focus Bahamas’ to establish our own vision for the future, and to present our findings to the Inter-regional preparatory meeting for the Review of the Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States

*Understanding* that ‘Youth Focus Bahamas’ is a model for an inter-regional initiative called ‘Youth visioning for island living’ to be held in Mauritius in 2004

*Expressing* appreciation to the Government of The Bahamas and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for this valuable opportunity

***We, the youth of The Bahamas,***

*Call upon* the government to provide a Ministry of Youth that will focus solely on our needs

*Recognizing* that culture and lifestyle identify us as Bahamians and keep us unified, and that people on each island of The Bahamas practice and display different kinds of lifestyles

*Taking into account* that our culture is gradually being lost, especially among young people, due to the strong influence of foreign media continually accessed using new technology

*Emphasizing* that we need to preserve our culture to help us to be self-sufficient and less dependent on others

***We, the youth of The Bahamas,***

*Call upon* the Government to formulate a plan that will institute an Annual Heritage Festival that will rotate through each island, to promote Bahamian cultural aspects of storytelling, Rake n’ Scrape, native dancing, bush medicine, use of natural resources for crafts and Junkanoo

*Recommend* Bahamian texts be more fully utilized in schools to enhance knowledge of Bahamian folklore, promote native dance and arts and crafts

*Request* special mandatory programmes for troubled teens that will involve parents, students, and guidance counsellors. Programmes are to focus on prevention and intervention, with emphasis on social and health problems including but not limited to HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections and childhood prostitution

*Encourage* enforcement of existing legislation pertaining to persons who are found to be pregnant under the age of 16 and investigate all situations so that offenders may be formally charged and prosecuted.

*Establish* properly equipped island clinics, ambulatory services, fire engines and emergency medical air services.

*Provide* technical and vocational subjects for students with learning disabilities in each island.

*Contribute* to sustainable development by upgrading and enhancing recreational parks, promoting agricultural programmes and encouraging aquaculture

*Recognizing* that the Government of The Bahamas needs to plan for our future needs and those of our children

*Taking into account* that our economic and social structure, as it is, needs to be changed, and solutions sought

*Emphasizing* that The Bahamas is a developing nation with a stable economy heavily dependent upon tourism and offshore banking

***We, the youth of The Bahamas,***

*Call upon* the government and all Bahamians to promote and diversify our secondary industries such as farming, fishing, aquaculture, to assist in better economic stability and self-sufficiency

*Recommend* that farming, fishing and aquaculture be incorporated into the school curriculum from primary to tertiary level, especially in the Family Islands

*Promote* and encourage intra-island trading to reduce import expenditure and allow domestic producers to profit

*Highlight* the importance of purchasing Bahamian-made goods by educating our wholesalers, hotel managers, tourists and all Bahamians

*Support* the creation of local franchises, products and business opportunities via the internet

*Call upon* the government to increase work and leisure opportunities on the Family Islands to avert the 'brain drain' crisis

*Request* the establishment of nature parks, tours and trails on the Family Islands to promote further job creation

*Ask* for venues and opportunities to showcase the talent of Bahamian youth

*Request* our government to lower the teacher – student ratio

*Recognizing* The Bahamas has valuable natural resources including oceans, coastal environments, pinelands and incredible bio-diversity

*Taking into account* that many changes have taken place in our environment since Agenda 21 was adopted in 1992

*Emphasizing* our important human resources

***We, the youth of The Bahamas,***

*Call upon* the government to initiate and embrace an eco-tourism plan and policy for residents and visitors so as to encourage them to adopt environmentally friendly practices.

*Promote* and implement an environmental education plan that instils environmental principles as an integral way of life in all age groups from the very young to the very old

*Request*, as a matter of priority, an assessment of The Bahamian environment be conducted in order to determine areas for preservation and conserva-

tion of natural habitats for marine and terrestrial flora and fauna

*Emphasize* that existing laws be fully enforced, through an objective environmental court system that ensures the right of the community to a clean, safe, aesthetically-pleasing environment

*Secure* the health of our nation, by ensuring the safe and environmentally-friendly disposal of solid and liquid waste, thereby instilling within every member of society the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle

*Affirming* the rights and needs of Bahamians, we the youth implore our leaders to secure our option to purchase land, including beachfront property, at affordable prices, and to secure our access to coastal areas for posterity.

*Recognizing* the importance of the built environment, we urge our government to identify buildings of historical significance for preservation; and understanding the problems of vagrancy and illicit activities encouraged by derelict properties, we urge the adoption of criteria to establish a plan of demolition.

***We, the youth of The Bahamas, are convinced that we are catalysts of change and we invite your participation to assist with the execution of these resolutions***

***We thank you***

### ANNEX 3 WEBSITE STATISTICS

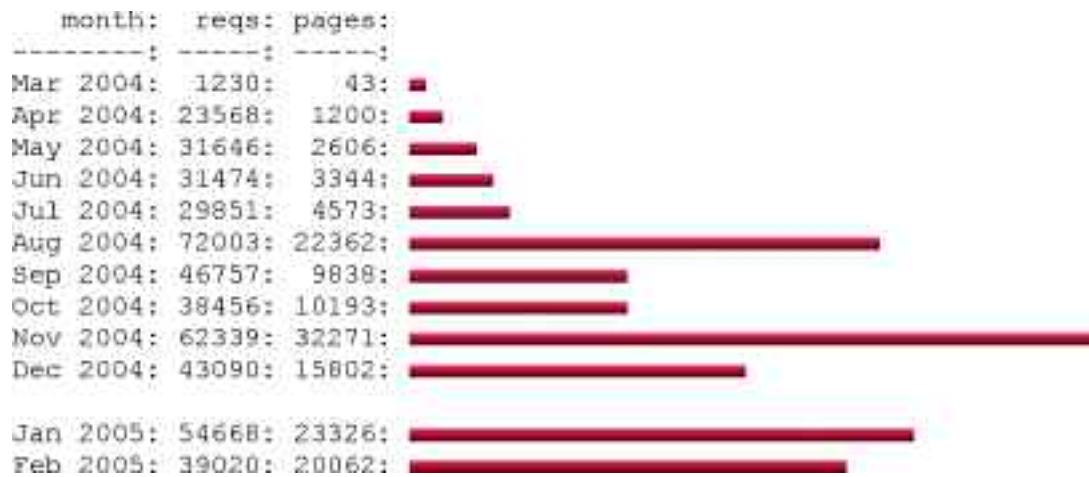
Statistics (updated daily) can be viewed at:

<http://www.islandyouth.org/stats/stats.html#Top>

Analysed requests from Fri-26-Mar-2004 12:09 to Thu-17-Feb-2005 12:46 (328.03 days).

*This report lists the activity in each month*

Each unit (■) represents 800 requests for pages or part thereof.

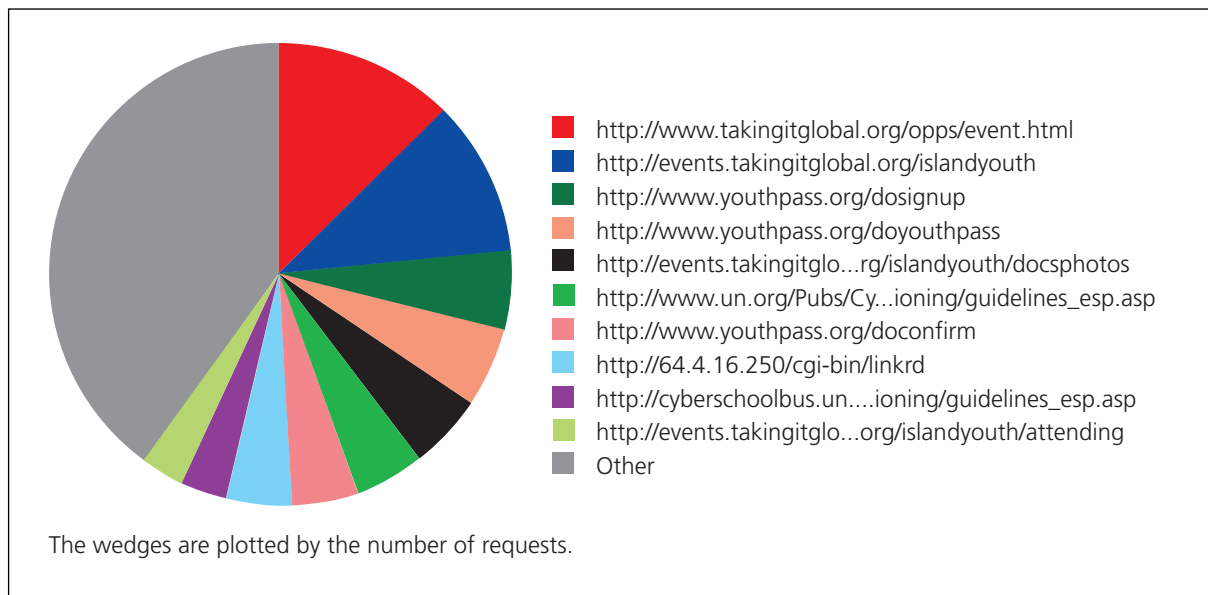


*Busiest month: Nov 2004 (32,271 requests for pages).*

*Successful requests for pages: 145,620*

*Average successful requests for pages per day: 443*

This report lists the referrers (where people followed links from, or pages which included this site's images).



Listing referring URLs with at least 20 requests, sorted by the number of requests.

To summarize: People mostly went to/came from on our website:

- 1) TIG's Events pages where Island Youth was mentioned
- 2) the front page of Island Youth
- 3) UN Cyberschoolbus youth visioning guidelines in Spanish
- 4) The documents and photos page on the website
- 5) The projects page listing The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)
- 6) A Samoan homepage that must have listed IY
- 7) 'Who attended page?' on our website
- 8) TIG page that lists all the projects
- 9) UN Cyberschoolbus youth visioning guidelines in English
- 10) 'Description of the event' on our webpage
- 11) Google
- 12) Fiji project page on our webpage
- 13) Bahamas project page on our webpage
- 14) Blog facility on our webpage

Number of requests: page

8117: <http://www.takingitglobal.org/opps/event.html>

6009: <http://events.takingitglobal.org/islandyouth>

3462: <http://www.youthpass.org/doyouthpass>

3417: <http://www.youthpass.org/dosignup>

2939: <http://www.youthpass.org/doconfirm>

2763: [http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/youthvisioning/guidelines\\_esp.asp](http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/youthvisioning/guidelines_esp.asp)

2652: <http://events.takingitglobal.org/islandyouth/docsphotos>

1906: [http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/cyberschoolbus/youthvisioning/guidelines\\_esp.asp](http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/cyberschoolbus/youthvisioning/guidelines_esp.asp)

- 1904: <http://projects.islandyouth.org/wsisyouth>
- 1846: <http://www.samoa.co.uk/whatsnew.html>
- 1806: <http://events.takingitglobal.org/islandyouth/attending>
- 818: [http://www.cyberschoolbus.un.org/youthvisioning/guidelines\\_unesco\\_fr.asp](http://www.cyberschoolbus.un.org/youthvisioning/guidelines_unesco_fr.asp)
- 767: <http://projects.islandyouth.org/projectview.html>
- 724: <http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/youthvisioning/guidelines.asp>
- 618: [http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/youthvisioning/guidelines\\_esp.asp](http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/youthvisioning/guidelines_esp.asp)
- 581: <http://events.takingitglobal.org/islandyouth/desc>
- 579: <http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/dynamic/cfapps/news/news2.cfm>
- 579: <http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/dynamic/cfapps/news/news2.cfm?ArticlesID=540>
- 574: <http://www.takingitglobal.org/opps/event.html?eventid=4960&tag=evt.lat>
- 538: [http://www.cyberschoolbus.un.org/youthvisioning/guidelines\\_unesco.asp](http://www.cyberschoolbus.un.org/youthvisioning/guidelines_unesco.asp)
- 407: <http://www.google.com/search>
- 397: <http://projects.islandyouth.org/iy-fiji>
- 388: <http://takingitglobal.org/opps/event.html>
- 384: <http://projects.islandyouth.org/IY-bahamas>
- 376: <http://events.takingitglobal.org/islandyouth/blog>
- 313: <http://projects.islandyouth.org/home/projectlist.html>
- 303: <http://www.unesco.org/youth/Events.htm>

## ANNEX 4

### ISLAND VISIONING HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2004 INTERNET DISCUSSIONS

#### LIFE AND LOVE IN ISLANDS

**Topics discussed on the Small Islands Voice youth internet forum at [www.sivyouth.org](http://www.sivyouth.org) with username *view* and password *only* and on the Island Youth forum at [www.islandyouth.org](http://www.islandyouth.org)**

*'Keeping the past in our future will really help us to never forget how different we are from the world outside.'*

Student from Mindzenty High School, Palau  
[www.sivyouth.org](http://www.sivyouth.org) April 2004

*Love of homeland:* There is a deep love of homeland amongst islanders, even when islands are going through hard economic times.

*Racial harmony:* Many islands are multicultural where different races can keep their own traditions and cultures and live in harmony.

*Cultural heritage:* This makes islanders unique and gives them a sense of identity. It also helps attract tourists to the islands. Many items were discussed including traditions, festivals, regattas, sports, language, national symbols such as flowers, and attitudes towards women. Issues raised included:

- More emphasis needs to be placed on preserving local culture. Local culture is not sufficiently emphasized in the school system.
- Strong influence of American pop culture is adversely affecting island culture, and some young islanders are replacing their culture with that of the USA.
- Some islands have adopted western values but still manage to maintain their own culture and traditions e.g. Fiji, a multicultural nation.

- Influx of foreign people and exposure to cultures from other islands may serve some good.
- Some cultural practices may meet disapproval from other countries, e.g. catching whales in Bequia in St Vincent and the Grenadines is a part of their island heritage.

*Natural heritage:* This is also important to islanders, both land and underwater heritage. Young people in Bequia in St Vincent and the Grenadines asked for help in lobbying against a foreigner who was taking over beachfront land in their island and a foreign company who wished to purchase one of their cays that are acclaimed as one of the best diving and snorkelling areas in the world.

*Land ownership:* Land, especially beachfront land, is being sold to foreigners and youth are concerned that there may not be enough affordable land for them to build a home when they return from studies and work abroad. However, in some islands, e.g. Palau, there are very strict laws regarding land ownership that keep all land in the hands of native born islanders.

*Foreign workers:* There was much discussion of issues relating to foreign workers in small islands; some of the points raised included:

- Foreign workers often receive lower pay than locals, only get lower class jobs, and send much of their money home to their families.
- Foreign youth living in small islands are minority groups and often have problems with getting jobs and scholarships.
- Foreigners are there to help and islanders are getting more open minded.
- Influx of foreigners sometimes takes job opportunities away from locals and stifles local entrepreneurship.

- Foreign workers may not be the problem – rather it is the island's leaders.

*Education:* This was seen as one of the most important aspects of life in small islands. Young people often have to go abroad for college and university degrees and improved access to tertiary education is needed. Sometimes they may not be able to find jobs when they return home, especially in highly specialized fields. There may not be enough qualified islanders for certain professions e.g. teachers. Slow learners often get discouraged and drop out of school because it is 'too hard'. There need to be other types of courses and schools offering training in technical and vocational skills.

*Lack of out-of-school activities for youth:* No or very limited sport facilities for youth.

*Crime* is a problem that is creeping into some small islands and help is needed on how to deal with it. Many islands are small with everyone knowing each other, but even so crime is creeping in. There is a need to have compulsory secondary education for all so as to reduce use of drugs and alcohol, incidence of crime, school-drop outs. Also youth who stay in school have a responsibility to talk to the youth who drop out of school, to try and 'knock some sense in their heads'. Family problems, single parents and teenage pregnancy (children raising children) also lead to problems of youth and crime.

*Sexual habits:* Abstinence from sex before marriage is proposed as a better policy for youth than handing out condoms. However, other birth control methods, besides abstinence, should be taught in schools.

*Respect for women:* Women are like flowers in some islands, e.g. Cuba, in contrast, 'Some women in our island get treated as garbage', Bequia, St Vincent & the Grenadines.

*Peace:* peace is seen as the world's main necessity.

*'We want peace to breathe the pure and clean air, to fly freely as far as we can: to the infinite.'*

Oscar Merino, Cuba [www.sivoyouth.org](http://www.sivoyouth.org)

November 2004

## MY ISLAND HOME

**Topics discussed on the Small Islands Voice youth internet forum at [www.sivoyouth.org](http://www.sivoyouth.org) with username *view* and password *only* and on the Island Youth forum at [www.islandyouth.org](http://www.islandyouth.org)**

*Environmental protection* was seen as being very important, many youth also want to see improved infrastructure in their islands, however, it was also recognized that poor development practices adversely affect the environment.

*Climate change:* Low lying nations are especially vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise, even though they contribute minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions.

*Education* and increased awareness is vital to care for the environment. Environment has to be every-one's business.

*Hurricanes* and the damage they cause were discussed; also the importance of civil defence organizations to evacuate people where necessary and assist with rebuilding afterwards.

*Waste disposal* is seen as a major problem.

*'Why do people litter? That's what the children of the Bequia Community High School and other young people like ourselves want to know. Well we did an observation and found out that people litter because they do not care about their country and the other people in it. We did interviews and asked people why they litter and they bravely told us that "the garbage bin is located too far from where they are sitting or standing" even though the bin is a few inches apart from them.'*



*In our country people think that Bequia is a self cleaning country, they dirty it and the country cleans itself, how ignorant! Do you have the same problem? Well if you do our suggestion to you is to get together with your peers or the members of your Sandwich group and plan to go and talk to your community and tell them that you are the new generation and that you have had enough of their littering and you cannot take it anymore!*

*We hope that you will take our advice because young people have loud and tasteful voices!*  
Kamala Kydd and Gordon Leonard, Bequia  
[www.siyouth.org](http://www.siyouth.org) November 2004

Waste disposal and pollution on beaches was seen as another important issue, tied in with limited beach access for locals because of tourism development and a feeling that 'beaches are only for tourists' in some islands.

A need for biodiversity conservation is recognized, although cultural heritage has to be taken into account e.g. with traditional whaling practices in some islands. Also conservation laws are not properly implemented.

Biosecurity is an important issue for islands, imported pests and diseases can have devastating effects on the environment, economy and human health e.g. foot and mouth disease, painted apple moth.

*Youth can play a significant role in caring for the environment:* by getting the community to listen, taking part in public meetings, demonstrating by example, adopting and caring for beaches and other areas, replanting trees (it should be everyone's duty to grow a tree), clean-up campaigns, and many other ways. They have been successful, e.g. by getting a garbage dump closed in The Bahamas. But on the whole, youth felt they could not do it alone, they needed the help of the community.

*Some islands face specific problems,* e.g. betel nut spit is unsightly and unclean (Palau).

*Visions for the future:* many youth saw the need for better infrastructure (roads, hotels, airports), more entertainment facilities and modernization in general. However, there was an understanding that new constructions often bring benefits – jobs, increased tourism, benefit to the local communities – however, there were also negative issues such as interference with wildlife and waterways.

*'Yesterday? ... It was a long time ago  
Tomorrow? ... we are not allowed to know  
Only today is definitive'*

Ernesto Fidel Ardisana, Cuba  
[www.sivyouth.org](http://www.sivyouth.org) June 2004

## **MONEY IN MY POCKET**

**Topics discussed on the Small Islands Voice youth internet forum at [www.sivyouth.org](http://www.sivyouth.org) with username *view* and password *only* and on the Island Youth forum at [www.islandyouth.org](http://www.islandyouth.org)**

*General economic issues:* Despite current financial problems, people in many small islands felt they should be thankful when they compare themselves to other countries; and the question was raised 'Does more money give people a happy life?'

*Tourism:* islands are often viewed as synonymous with tourism, and there needs to be more of a balance between tourism and island culture, so that economic growth is balanced with the needs of local communities.

*Jobs in tourism* are often more attractive to young people than fishing or agriculture. However, many islands have experienced downturns in tourism since the events of 2001 when the World Trade Centre was bombed.

*Employment:* On this subject there were a variety of views, e.g. in some countries qualified youth may not be able to get appropriate jobs when

they return home after tertiary education abroad, while in others there are economic opportunities for young entrepreneurs in areas like audiovisual technology, entertainment, media. Sometimes too, when youth take positive action, like selling fruit and vegetables along the roadside, they are chased away by police.

*Qualified youth returning home:* many youth felt there were just not sufficient job opportunities or opportunities for economic advancement at home, so while they would like to return home after graduation, they could not. This resulted in their island losing out of qualified young people.

*Mechanization* in industries such as sugar is resulting in whole families losing their livelihoods.

*Social concerns:* Many islands felt that the whole package – insufficient, unemployment, increased crime, drugs, lack of entertainment and things for youth to do constructively, labelling of youth as a problem group – were all part of a bigger problem, and it was not possible to isolate just one aspect.

*Ways to turn things around:* with declining economic growth, youth need more encouragement from government and community to help turn things around. There is also a need to use local resources more to stop importing expensive goods, e.g. to use local wood to build furniture, solar power for energy, recycled glass for park benches and decorative tiles.

**ANNEX 5**

**PROGRAMME FOR CARIBBEAN PREPARATORY MEETING**  
**25–27 OCTOBER 2004**

**YOUTH DIALOGUE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
**Villa Santa Maria, Castries, Saint Lucia**  
**Monday 25 – Wednesday 27 October 2004**

**25 OCTOBER 2004**

- Participants arrive
- 04:00 – 05:00 Registration
- 05:00 – 06:00 **Opening Ceremony**
- Chairperson – *Paule Turmel-John*  
National Anthem of Saint Lucia  
Prayers – *Participant*  
Welcome Remarks – *Paule Turmel-John, Secretary General, Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO*  
Remarks – *Dr Gillian Cambers*  
Remarks – *Representative, OECS*  
Address – *Mr Henry Mangal, PS Department of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports*  
Vote of thanks – *St Lucian Youth*
- 07:00 – Social Event – Icebreaker

**26 OCTOBER 2004**

- Facilitator – *Mr David Popo, OECS*  
Rapporteur – *Ms Marva Edward, Saint Lucia Red Cross Society*
- Introductory Session**
- 08:30 – 08:45 Welcome remarks and presentation of objectives of workshop – *Mr David Popo, OECS*
- 08:45 – 09:00 Overview of the process for the reviews of the Small Island Developing States Programme of Action – *OECS*
- 09:00 – 09:15 Overview of Small Islands Voice – *Dr Gillian Cambers*  
09:15 – 09:30 Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005–2014) – *Saint Lucia National Commission for UNESCO*
- 09:30 – 09:45 Bahamas review of Youth Visioning – *Dr Gillian Cambers*

**Technical Session 1: Priority issues for youth**

- 9:45 – 10:45 Sharing information about ongoing activities: each country has 5 minutes to briefly describe some of the ongoing activities and projects in their country
- 10:45 – 11:00 Break
- 11:00 – 12:15 Panel discussion on priority issues, identified in Caribbean Reports to Mauritius – British Virgin Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia
- 12:15 – 01:00 Introduction to the three main themes – *Dr Gillian Cambers*  
*Life and love in islands* – island lifestyles and culture  
*My island home* – safeguarding island environments  
*Money in my pocket* – economic and employment opportunities
- 01:00 – 02:00 Lunch
- 02:00 – 05:00 Working group sessions: Identification and prioritization of main issues within the three themes and identification of activities and projects to address the issues within each theme
- 05:00 – Social Event

**27 OCTOBER 2004**

**Technical Session 2: Activities and projects addressing youth issues**

- 08:30 – 09:30 Working Group Presentations
- 09:30 – 10:30 Introduction of Proposal Template –  
*OECS*
- 10:30 – 10:45 Break
- 10:45 – 11:45 The Road to Mauritius –  
*Mr Andy Paul, ASP Co-ordinator, Trinidad*
- 11:45 – 12:30 Showing of Small Islands Voice video
- 12:30 – 01:30 Lunch
- 01:30 – 02:00 Developing a regional approach and workshop conclusions –  
*Mr David Popo, OECS*
- 02:00 Closing
- 03:00 Participants depart

**ANNEX 6  
PROJECT PROPOSAL TEMPLATE**

**PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM (BLANK)**

|                       |                            |  |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|
| <b>Title</b>          |                            |  |
| <b>Origin</b>         |                            |  |
| <b>Beneficiaries</b>  |                            |  |
| <b>Partners</b>       | <b>Lead organization</b>   |  |
|                       | <b>Youth organizations</b> |  |
|                       | <b>Other organizations</b> |  |
| <b>Duration</b>       |                            |  |
| <b>Budget</b>         |                            |  |
| <b>Theme</b>          |                            |  |
| <b>Priority issue</b> |                            |  |
| <b>Goal</b>           |                            |  |
| <b>Objective(s)</b>   |                            |  |
| <b>Activities</b>     |                            |  |
| <b>Action needed</b>  |                            |  |

**PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM (WITH EXPLANATIONS)**

|                       |   |   |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| <b>Title</b>          | <i>Title of project</i>   |   |
| <b>Origin</b>         | <i>Organization proposing the project</i>   |   |
| <b>Beneficiaries</b>  | <i>Name the groups who will benefit from the project</i>  |   |
| <b>Partners</b>       | <b>Lead organization</b>  | <i>Which organization will take the lead in implementation of the project</i> |
|                       | <b>Youth organizations</b>  | <i>Which youth organizations(s) will be involved in implementation</i>        |
|                       | <b>Other organizations</b>  | <i>Which other organization(s) will be involved in implementation</i>         |
| <b>Duration</b>       | <i>Time period for implementation; also indicate timeframe for any proposed phases</i>  |   |
| <b>Budget</b>         | <i>If already determined or estimated, indicate here (noting currency) and anticipated funding sources if known. If budget not yet determined, then indicate this here</i>  |   |
| <b>Theme</b>          | <i>Indicate which theme project addresses:</i><br><i>Life and love in islands – island lifestyles and culture</i><br><i>My island home – safeguarding island environments</i><br><b>Money in my pocket – economic and employment opportunities</b>                          |   |
| <b>Priority issue</b> | <i>Indicate which thematic priority issue the project will address</i>  |   |
| <b>Goal</b>           | <i>Indicate the wider, long term objective that the project contributes to; this could be a positive re-statement of the priority issue, recognizing that the project may not fully solve the problem, but will contribute positively and significantly to its solution</i> |   |
| <b>Objective(s)</b>   | <i>List the immediate aims that will be achieved at the end of the project. If these are met then the project would have contributed positively and significantly to the goal in a measurable way</i>   |   |
| <b>Activities</b>     | <i>Indicate the different actions that will result in the objectives being met</i>  |   |
| <b>Action needed</b>  | <i>Indicate the types of activities that would need to be carried out if this project is to be implemented as planned. These activities may need to be carried out before or during project implementation</i>  |   |

**PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM (WITH COMPLETED EXAMPLE)**

|                       |  |  |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| <b>Title</b>          | Restoring Grand Bay  |  |
| <b>Origin</b>         | Tamarind Tree Youth Group, Grand Bay, Blue Island  |  |
| <b>Beneficiaries</b>  | Residents of Grand Bay and the people who visit there  |  |
| <b>Partners</b>       | <b>Lead organization</b>   | Tamarind Tree Youth Group  |
|                       | <b>Youth organizations</b>   | Tamarind Tree Youth Group, Tamarind Tree High School, St Patrick's Primary School, Girl Guide group, Scout troupe, St Patrick's Church Bible group |
|                       | <b>Other organizations</b>   | Grand Bay Village Council  |
| <b>Duration</b>       | The project will take 12 months  |  |
| <b>Budget</b>         | US\$1,500; no funding sources have been identified (the Village Council has no funds for this project); the above named youth organizations have agreed to provide their time for free   |  |
| <b>Theme</b>          | <i>My island home</i>  |  |
| <b>Priority issue</b> | Solid waste disposal and beautification  |  |
| <b>Goal</b>           | The goal is to re-awaken a sense of pride in their surroundings among the residents of Grand Bay Village   |  |
| <b>Objective(s)</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Raise the level of awareness among villagers about the dumping of waste and littering</li> <li>2. Involve residents in cleaning up around their houses and in public places</li> <li>3. Have Grand Bay enter the 'Best kept Village' competition</li> </ol>  |  |
| <b>Activities</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create a photo mural showing the illegal dumping and dirty places in our village and display it in the community centre</li> <li>- Hold several village meetings in the community centre to display the mural, discuss the problem, and review actions and progress</li> <li>- Create fliers each month giving people information on where to take their waste and including 'before' and 'after' photos</li> <li>- Purchase 55 gal oil drums, paint them and place them in public places</li> <li>- Enter Grand Bay in the 2006 'Best Kept Village' competition</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>Action needed</b>  | We need to fully discuss the proposal with the Village Council and the Solid Waste Management Authority; and to get written commitments from the other youth organizations that they will take part.   |  |

## ANNEX 7

PROGRAMME FOR YOUTH VISIONING FOR ISLAND LIVING  
7–13 JANUARY 2005**THURSDAY 6 JANUARY 2005: ARRIVALS**

Participants arrive  
Excursion to Port Louis

1700–1800 **Opening of Civil Society Forum, Community Vila, Freeport**

**FRIDAY 7 JANUARY 2005: ARRIVALS, BRIEFINGS, WORKSHOP AND OPENING CEREMONY**

Participants arrive  
Setting up of island exhibits and displays  
Excursion to Port Louis

**1330–1430 Briefing session for resource persons and chairpersons**

**1430–1500 Briefing session for panellists**

**1500–1730 Workshop: Introduction to Youth Visioning**

Chairperson – *Ms Maria Helena Henriques-Mueller, UNESCO Youth Section*

- Introduction to the Youth Visioning process –  
*Ms Claire Green, UNESCO Coasts and Small Islands*
- Expected outcomes from Youth Visioning –  
*Ms Gillian Cambers, UNESCO Small Islands Voice*
- Project proposal template –  
*Mr Alain De Comarmond, Ministry of the Environment, Seychelles*
- Drafting of official resolutions for the United Nations –  
*Mr Hans Thulstrup, UNESCO Apia, Science Sector*

**1800–1900 Opening ceremony**

Master of Ceremonies – *Mr Ricaud Auckbur*

- Welcome address – *Mr Ricaud Auckbur, Administrator, Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, Mauritius*
- Address – *Mr Dirk Troost, Chief, Coastal Regions and Small Islands platform, UNESCO*
- Main address – *Hon. Ravi Raj Yerrigadoo, Minister of Youth and Sports, Mauritius*

Refreshments



**SATURDAY 8 JANUARY 2005: LIFE AND LOVE IN ISLANDS**

The theme *Life and love in islands* includes topics such as:

- Social changes e.g. changes in family structure, youth 'dropping out of the system', changes in entertainment, improved technology, increased travel abroad, use of banned substances, HIV/AIDS
- Traditions and customs e.g. in music, language, song, dance, food
- Unique aspects of island culture, do we need to preserve culture?
- Sharing culture with other islands
- Cultural links with tourism, trade and education

Chairperson – *Mr Hans Thulstrup, UNESCO Apia, Science Sector*

- 0900–1030**     ***Life and love in islands: Discussing the issues***
- 0900–0940     Panel presentation on *Life and love in islands*  
Panellists – *Mr Jahisiah Benoit, Dominica; Ms Janelle Iechad, Palau; Mr Yoosef Sidjee, Maldives; Ms Peggy Dunlop, UNESCO Apia, Social Science Sector*
- 0940–1030     Discussion
- 1030–1045     Coffee break
- 1045–1300**     ***Life and love in islands: Identifying the priority issues where youth can make a difference***
- 1045–1230     Small group sessions:  
Each member of the group will have 5 minutes to describe youth-led activities relating to the Life and love in islands theme in their country  
The group will then discuss and prioritize five main issues relating to this theme
- 1230–1300     Plenary session: Presentation of small groups' prioritized issues
- 1300–1400     Lunch
- 1400–1415**     ***Life and love in islands: Electing a drafting group to prepare a declaration on the theme Life and love in my island***
- 1415–1730**     ***Life and love in islands: Identifying activities to address priority issues***
- 1415–1600     Small group sessions:  
Using the list of priority issues and the project proposal template identify a maximum of five youth-led activities to address these issues
- 1600–1615     Tea break
- 1615–1730     Plenary session: Presentation of small groups' activities
- 1730–1800**     **Wrap-up session**
- Drafting group report on progress
- Drafting group complete declaration on the theme Life and love in islands and circulate draft among participants
- 1930–2130**     **Social event featuring 'Culture in the AIMS region'**

**SUNDAY 9 JANUARY 2005: MY ISLAND HOME**

The theme *My island home* includes topics such as:

- Changes in the natural environment
- Positive and negative impacts of development on the natural environment
- Ways to conserve the natural environment and use resources wisely: case studies, success stories and failures
- Tourism and the natural environment – changing attitudes
- Education and the natural environment

Chairperson – *Ms Donna Hoerder, UNICEF, Fiji*

**0900–0915 Presentation of draft declaration on *Life and love in islands*****0915–1030 *My island home: Discussing the issues***

0915–1000 Panel presentation on *My island home*  
Panellists – *Ms Theomar Holder, Barbados; Mr Filipo Iupati, Tokelau; Ms Sabrina Marie, Seychelles; Mr Ram Seenauth, Department of Environment, Mauritius*

1000–1030 Discussion

1030–1045 Coffee break

**1045–1300 *My island home: Identifying the priority issues where youth can make a difference***

1045–1230 Small group sessions:  
Each member of the group will have 5 minutes to describe youth-led activities relating to the *My island home* theme in their country. The group will then discuss and prioritize five main issues relating to this theme

1230–1300 Plenary session: Presentation of small groups' prioritized issues

1300–1400 Lunch

**1400–1415 *My island home: Electing a drafting group to prepare declaration on the theme My island home*****1415–1730 *My island home: Identifying activities to address priority issues***

1415–1600 Small group sessions:  
Using the list of priority issues and the project proposal template identify a maximum of five youth-led activities to address these issues

1600–1615 Tea break

1615–1730 Plenary session: Presentation of small groups' activities

**1730–1800 Wrap-up session**

Drafting group report on progress

Drafting group complete declaration on the theme *My island home*

**1930–2130 Participation in a concert at the Community Vilaj, Freeport, celebrating the launch of an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign in the Indian Ocean**

**MONDAY 10 JANUARY 2005: FIELD EXCURSION**

**0900–1100**      **Opening of the Main International Meeting to Review the Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States at Domaine Les Pailles**

Attendance by one youth representative from each country

**0900–1700**      **Field excursion to Pamplemousse Gardens, Blue Penny Museum, Cyber City, Textile Museum**

**1930–2130**      **Social event featuring ‘Culture in the Caribbean and Pacific regions’**

**TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2005: MONEY IN MY POCKET**

The theme *Money in my pocket* includes topics such as:

- How to diversify and expand job opportunities for school leavers
- Salaries and hourly rates of payment
- Range of jobs available, now and in five and ten years
- Skills and training needed
- Education – primary, secondary, tertiary, vocational, formal, informal
- How to prepare island school leavers for the world of work
- Brain drain (qualified people relocating overseas)
- Securing high level positions
- Gender issues

Chairperson – *Ms Peggy Dunlop, UNESCO Apia*

**0845–0900**      **Election of drafting group for *Money in my pocket*  
Election of persons to present the Youth Declaration at the Main International Meeting**

**0900–1015**      ***Money in my pocket: Discussing the issue***

0900–0930      Panel presentation on *Money in my pocket*  
Panellists – *Ms Robyn Hinds, Turks and Caicos Islands;*  
*Mr Fabrice Ronnie Kevin Rengasamy, Mauritius;*  
*Ms Fuarosa Tongi, New Zealand*

0930–1015      Discussion

1015–1030      Coffee break

**1030–1300**      ***Money in my pocket: Identifying the priority issues where youth can make a difference and identifying project activities***

1030–1215      Small group sessions to discuss issues and identify at least one project activity

1215–1300      Plenary session: Presentation of small groups’ prioritized issues and project activities

1300–1400      Lunch

**1400–1600**      **Presentation of draft declaration by drafting group, followed by discussion**

1600–1615      Tea break

- 1615–1700 Discussion on follow-up actions**  
All participants meet in three regional groups to discuss and decide on country follow-up activities/projects
- 1700–1900 Preparation of revised declaration**  
Drafting group prepare second draft of declaration
- 1900–2000 Dinner
- 2000–2200 Presentation of revised declaration by drafting group, followed by discussion**
- 2200–2300 Finalization of youth declaration**

**WEDNESDAY 12 JANUARY 2005: PRESENTATION OF DECLARATION TO MAIN UN MEETING, CLOSING CEREMONY AND NATIONAL COMMITMENTS**

- 0845–1100 Preparations for closing ceremony**  
Chairperson – *Ms Gillian Cambers, UNESCO Small Islands Voice*  
  
Election of presenters for the closing ceremony and preparation of speeches  
Preparation of questions to put to the UN Secretary-General  
Finalization of country commitments for follow-up activities
- 1100–1300 Presentation of Youth Declaration to Main International Meeting at Domaine les Pailles**  
  
Presenters – *Ms Wendy Barnet Rivas, Cuba; Mr Wayne Sade, Solomon Islands; Ms Serene Woon, Singapore*
- 1315–1345 Press conference at Domaine les Pailles**
- 1600–1730 Closing ceremony of Youth Visioning at Community Vilaj**  
  
Master of Ceremonies – *Mr Ricaud Auckbur, Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, Mauritius*  
  
1600–1610 Results of Youth Visioning – *Mr Fabrice Ronnie Kevin Rengasamy, Mauritius; Mr Lyston Skerritt, Montserrat; Ms Fuarosa Tongi, New Zealand*  
1610–1615 Address – *Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations*  
1615–1620 Questions from the audience to Mr Kofi Annan and Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Secretary General UNESCO  
1620–1730 Youth participants present their country flags and national commitments for follow-up action
- 1800 Dinner at Community Vilaj
- 1930–2100 Cultural event at Community Vilaj**

**THURSDAY 13 JANUARY 2005: DEPARTURES AND INFORMAL FOLLOW-UP**

Participants begin to depart

**0900–1200 Workshop on follow-up activities**

Chairperson – *Ms Maria Helena Henriques-Mueller, UNESCO Youth Section*

- How to prepare a project proposal – *Ms Lindsey Higgs, Taking IT Global*
- Mobilizing youth back home – *Mr Herman Belmar, Bequia Community High School, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Mr Andy-Paul, Mayaro Primary School, Trinidad and Tobago*
- Defining the next steps on return home – group sessions

1200–1300 Lunch

**1300–1700 Excursion to Port Louis****1800–2100 Garden party at State House for the delegates attending the SIDS conference. hosted by the President of Mauritius****FRIDAY 14 JANUARY 2005: DEPARTURES AND INFORMAL FOLLOW-UP**

Participants continue to depart

**0900–1100 Workshop on Sandwatch Project and Small Islands Voice**

- Sandwatch project in the Caribbean – *Mr Andy Paul*
- Small Islands Voice and Sandwatch activities in St Vincent and the Grenadines – *Mr Herman Belmar*

1100–1200 Lunch

**1300–1700 Excursion to Rose Hill**

**ANNEX 8****LIST OF PARTICIPANTS TO THE YOUTH VISIONING FOR ISLAND LIVING EVENT, 7–13 JANUARY 2005****AIMS REGION**

Cape Verde: Lourenco Andrade  
 Cape Verde: Elisabeth Gomes Fernandes  
 Comoros: Karina Moilime  
 Comoros: Sitti Ibrahim Issulah  
 Comoros: Said Ahmed Said  
 Comoros: Ali Ibrahim  
 Comoros: Ayad Dijala Mohamed  
 Madagascar: Harivelo Gihana Bezaka  
 Madagascar: Ravo Andrianirina  
 Madagascar:  
     Faliarivoala Njara Girardo Andrianasolo  
 Madagascar: Sahondra Eva Randimbiarison  
 Madagascar: Vololonarilalaina Ramilimanitra  
 Maldives: Yoosuf Sidjee  
 Mauritius: Cedrick Sirop  
 Mauritius: Kentish Gooroochurn  
 Mauritius: Houmesh Avala-Gurriah  
 Mauritius: Savinta Devi Puchoo  
 Mauritius: Prakashinee Seechurn  
 Mauritius: Joelle Cesar  
 Mauritius: Bhunjun Hurrysunny Kumar  
 Mauritius: Mahamoodally Qadir  
 Mauritius: Ronny Rengasamy  
 Mauritius: Mohammed Ibne Mahmaud  
 Mauritius: Neelawtee Beenund  
 Mauritius: Aakil Jeeawoody  
 Mauritius: Hydeer Hossen Ogeer  
 Mauritius: Desire Vincent Edouard  
 Mauritius: Nundishsing Prayag (Sachin)  
 Mauritius: Soorjebally Rahal  
 Reunion: Dominique Defondaumiere  
 Rodrigues: Arlette St Pierre  
 Sao Tome & Principe: Joel Afonso  
 Seychelles: Sabrina Marie  
 Seychelles: Thyra Faure  
 Seychelles: Juliette Elizabeth  
 Seychelles: Carol Jean  
 Seychelles: Julius Neri

Singapore: Serene Woon  
 Singapore: Geraldine Ong  
 Zanzibar: Mchanga Ame Salahe  
 Zanzibar: Mohamed Said Salum

**CARIBBEAN REGION**

Antigua & Barbuda: Jamion Knight  
 Antigua & Barbuda: Shennelle Brown  
 Bahamas: Akeiro Lloyd  
 Bahamas: Linda Hammerton  
 Bahamas: Valdino Higgs  
 Barbados: Theomar Holder  
 Barbados: Akim Griffith  
 British Virgin Islands: Philip Fahie  
 British Virgin Islands: Shamora Lettsome  
 Cuba: Wendy Barnet Rivas  
 Cuba: Marfrey Cruz Medina  
 Dominica: Jahisiah Benoit  
 Dominica: Careta Valmond  
 Dominica: Marvo Didier  
 Dominican Republic: Yomayra Martino  
 Dominican Republic: Karlos Bonilla Tavaréz  
 Grenada: Ziggy Alexis  
 Grenada: Kindra Maturine  
 Haiti: Jean Davidson Dubois  
 Haiti: Christelle Youance  
 Jamaica: Yanique Powell  
 Montserrat: Lyston Skerritt  
 Montserrat: Tomieka Shiell  
 St Kitts & Nevis: Fadil Imo  
 St Kitts & Nevis: Kennedy Pemberton  
 St Lucia: Chad Fletcher  
 St Lucia: Melissa Inbaptiste  
 St Lucia: Larry Andrew  
 St Vincent & Grenadines: Nekesha Gordon  
 Trinidad & Tobago: Javan Arneaud  
 Trinidad & Tobago: Roshni Balkaran  
 Trinidad & Tobago: Todd Denoon  
 Trinidad & Tobago: Kember Jaramogi

Turks & Caicos: Robyn Hinds  
Turks & Caicos: Latavia Ingham  
Turks & Caicos: Emeial Shepherd

**PACIFIC REGION**

Cook Islands: Nancy Kareroa  
Cook Islands: Melinda Pierre  
Federated States of Micronesia:  
    Constantine Yowbalaw  
Fiji: Catherine Nisha  
Kiribati: Michelle Salanoa Teiebo  
Marshall Islands: Walter Riketa  
New Zealand: Lynsey Talagi  
New Zealand: Fuarosa Tongi  
Niue: Mellissa Talagi  
Niue: Alex Paka  
Palau: Janelle Iechad  
Palau: Irving Dwight  
Solomon Islands: Wayne Sade  
Solomon Islands: Amendaz Mijandra Pituvaka  
Solomon Islands: Janet Oge  
Tokelau: Filipo Iupati  
Vanuatu: Sabeth Mawa

## ANNEX 9

## YOUTH DECLARATION AND COUNTRY COMMITMENTS

12 JANUARY 2005

***We, the ninety-four youth of thirty-one Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and six other small island nations with other affiliations, meeting at Pointe aux Sables, Mauritius, 7–12 January 2005:***

*Call upon* the delegations at the Meeting for the Review of the Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States, to recognize and take into account in your deliberations and national plans of action, the concerns and specific needs of youth living in small islands as noted below;

*Recalling* the United Nations Agenda 21 adopted at the Earth Summit in 1992, which established the framework for sustainable development among the world's nations;

*Taking into account* the Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States adopted at the Barbados Conference in 1994;

*Recognizing* that as the leaders of future generations, we have specific rights, obligations and responsibilities, and that it is our duty to present to the global community our concerns and proposals for achieving and maintaining sustainable development for young people living in small island nations;

*Understanding* that as small island nations are part of the global community, we therefore have a responsibility to conserve their biodiversity, culture, historic, and economic value for the needs of both present and future generations;

*Noting* the importance of preserving small island cultural identity and acknowledging the need for co-existence between traditional and western/modern

culture, the youth of small islands have a vital contribution to make as they have the experience of living both in traditional and modern settings;

*Acknowledging* that the health and well-being of youth is of critical importance to the long term sustainability of small island communities;

*Emphasizing* the importance of coastal and marine environments to small islands, small island youth see the need to conserve these resources for survival and economic viability;

*Realizing* that equipping youth with skills and knowledge of environmental protection and conservation enables them to make a difference for the sustainable management of small island natural resources for present and future generations;

*Taking into account* that improper waste management leads to pollution, poor sanitation, loss of biodiversity as well as a decrease in the quality of life and the aesthetic value of small islands, thereby causing a decline in tourism, revenue and economic viability;

*Highlighting* that the large-scale, unsustainable use of forest resources leads to a loss of biodiversity thus upsetting the balance of survival of the local people and limiting the livelihood opportunities for small island youth;

*Recognizing* that encouraging and supporting youth to live and work in their small island nation is of critical importance for the building of the sustainable small island nations;

*Noting* that flexible and diverse pathways for youth should be based on developing the means



for youth to have access to appropriate and diverse educational opportunities, both academic and vocational, in national, regional and inter-regional contexts;

*Taking into account* the limitations of small island resources and the social impact of unemployment, securing viable job opportunities for youth is of prime importance;

*Recalling* that natural disasters as well as modern security issues pose a particular threat to the sustainable development and viability of small island nations and their youth;

***We, the youth of Small Island Developing States and other small island nations call upon our governments, private sector, and civil society to assist us in:***

*Building* partnerships with youth to support the preservation of culture with and for future generations;

*Involving* youth in decision making concerning the social, cultural and physical environment, and in the development of policies and enforcement of laws in order to ensure good governance;

*Educating* youth on issues such as HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, and healthy lifestyles thereby strengthening family, school and community relations and contributing to stronger morals and values;

*Contributing* to the development and implementation of policies to effectively manage marine and coastal resources;

*Developing* reforestation initiatives and enforcing regulations to conserve and enhance biodiversity for sustainable development of small island nations;

*Implementing* public awareness campaigns related to people's everyday lives to encourage changes in behaviour, engaging small island youth as environmental advocates;

*Securing* viable job opportunities for youth by developing youth leadership and advocacy as well as strengthening networking between sectors, thereby reducing the social impact of unemployment;

*Enabling* access for youth to appropriate training and education opportunities in both technical and academic studies, thereby providing openings to get involved in viable economic sectors;

*Establishing* and implementing internship policies and programmes at the secondary and tertiary levels which qualify as official job experience;

*Securing* easily accessible financing for potential entrepreneurs as they are the engine for economic growth;

*Providing* youth with the skills and knowledge necessary to plan for and respond to the dangers posed to their societies by both natural disasters and modern security threats.

***We, the ninety-six youth of thirty-one Small Island Developing States and six other small island nations with other affiliations, thank you.***

**COUNTRY COMMITMENTS FOR FOLLOW-UP WORK MADE BY YOUTH DELEGATES  
AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF YOUTH VISIONING FOR ISLAND LIVING  
MAURITIUS, 12 JANUARY 2005**

1. *Antigua and Barbuda*: Environmental education on recycling
2. *Bahamas*: 'Youth outreach' – Youth-led social education programme to deal with HIV/AIDS awareness at secondary school level
3. *Barbados*: Development of youth-led micro-enterprises and improvement of documentation
4. *British Virgin Islands*: Promotion of healthy lifestyles and habits to heighten local culture among youths
5. *Cape Verde Islands*: Generating employment opportunities for secondary school leavers, and mitigating the effects of sand mining/ Creer des emplois pour ceux qui quittent l'école et réduire les effets de l'extraction de sable
6. *Comores*: Improving the structure of the education system / Améliorer le système d'éducation
7. *Cook Islands*: Intergenerational cultural dialogue and documentation
8. *Cuba*: Strengthening environmental education and related documentation centres
9. *Dominica*: Promotion of local Creole language in schools and communities, and waste management
10. *Dominican Republic*: Promoting local culture as a means of enhancing youth identities
11. *Federated States of Micronesia*: Regional wide Reorganization, Revitalization and Re-networking of State Youth Congress
12. *Fiji Islands*: HIV prevention and awareness
13. *Grenada*: Youth-community re-forestation programme following Hurricane Ivan
14. *Haiti*: Mobilizing public support for environmental conservation/ Mobiliser le peuple pour la conservations de l'environnement
15. *Jamaica*: Youth-led environmental education for schools from basic to secondary levels
16. *Kiribati*: To educate and plan proper waste and sanitation practices
17. *Madagascar*: Environmental education for all people / Education environnementale pour tout le monde
18. *Maldives*: Improving career guidance at the secondary level in order to facilitate youth employment in the agriculture, tourism and fishery sectors
19. *Marshall Islands*: Preventing youth drug abuse, and youth education
20. *Mauritius*: Helping create more youth employment
21. *Montserrat*: Promotion of local culinary culture, and beach preservation
22. *New Zealand*: Raising the level of awareness among women and youth about the hazards of gambling in family life
23. *Niue*: Cultural education for Niueans in New Zealand
24. *Palau*: Development of a solid waste management plan, coral reef education
25. *Rodrigues*: Strategies to reduce teenage pregnancy
26. *Seychelles*: Helping create more youth employment through local investment
27. *Sao Tome and Principe*: Improving the education system / Améliorer le système d'éducation
28. *Singapore*: Addressing the generational drift in culture and communication resulting from the rapid modernization of Singapore
29. *Solomon Islands*: Ensuring youth have a voice in planning and development, and in decision making
30. *St Kitts and Nevis*: A mandatory internship programme to promote youth employment prospects
31. *St Lucia*: Heighten awareness through youth for youth about environmental issues and HIV-AIDS

32. *St Vincent and the Grenadines*: Creating community awareness and encouraging involvement in beach protection
33. *Tokelau*: Establishing learning centres, targeting youth not in the scholarship programme, for vocational training including information technology
34. *Trinidad and Tobago*: Enhancing career guidance and job placement for youth, and beach enhancement
35. *Turks and Caicos Islands*: Enhancing AIDS awareness amongst youth
36. *Vanuatu*: Awareness about substance abuse
37. *Zanzibar*: Improving the educational system

ANNEX 10

NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF YOUTH VISIONING FOR ISLAND LIVING, 7-13 JANUARY 2005



# Kofi Annan : "Vous avez la voix et le pouvoir"

Centre de nouvelles  
Dix-Sept, 12 janvier

La présence du secrétaire général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies (ONU), Kofi Annan, à la dernière session du Youth Visioning for Island Living (YVIL) a suscité un enthousiasme inattendu chez les jeunes. Les 27 petits États insulaires ont salué sa présence dans un discours d'ouverture au Centre de nouvelles. Kofi Annan a encouragé les jeunes à utiliser leur voix et leur pouvoir pour améliorer leur vie.



Kofi Annan, accompagné de son épouse, salués les invités au Prospect Exhibition Centre.

## VISITE À MER-ROUGE Kofi Annan comble le "Community Vilaj"



Kofi Annan (à gauche) avec son épouse, Kofi et Annan, au YVIL.

Le secrétaire général de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, Kofi Annan, a été reçu par les membres du YVIL à Mer-Rouge. Il a été salué par les participants pour sa présence et son engagement envers les jeunes. Kofi Annan a encouragé les jeunes à utiliser leur voix et leur pouvoir pour améliorer leur vie. Il a également souligné l'importance de la coopération internationale et de la solidarité entre les nations.

Il est accompagné d'autres membres de son équipe, salués les invités au Prospect Exhibition Centre. Kofi Annan a déclaré que les jeunes ont la voix et le pouvoir pour changer leur destin. Il a encouragé les jeunes à travailler ensemble pour résoudre les problèmes de leur pays. Il a également souligné l'importance de la coopération internationale et de la solidarité entre les nations.

Les participants au YVIL ont été encouragés à utiliser leur voix et leur pouvoir pour améliorer leur vie. Ils ont également souligné l'importance de la coopération internationale et de la solidarité entre les nations. Kofi Annan a encouragé les jeunes à travailler ensemble pour résoudre les problèmes de leur pays.

## YOUSUF SIDJEEI "Le cauchemar est fini. Mon pays se relèvera"



Yousuf Sidjjei, un jeune homme originaire de Mer-Rouge, a exprimé son espoir de voir son pays se relever après avoir subi de nombreuses années de difficultés. Il a déclaré que le cauchemar est fini et que son pays se relèvera. Il a encouragé les autres jeunes à travailler ensemble pour améliorer leur vie. Il a également souligné l'importance de la coopération internationale et de la solidarité entre les nations.

Yousuf Sidjjei a déclaré que le cauchemar est fini et que son pays se relèvera. Il a encouragé les autres jeunes à travailler ensemble pour améliorer leur vie. Il a également souligné l'importance de la coopération internationale et de la solidarité entre les nations. Kofi Annan a encouragé les jeunes à utiliser leur voix et leur pouvoir pour améliorer leur vie.

### QUESTIONS

## Wendy Barnet Diras, représentante de Cuba au Youth Visioning for Island Living

Fabrice Gagnaire  
Paris, France, 2007

Parler dans le système et de la...  
de Cuba.

La République de Cuba est un pays...  
de Cuba.



Wendy Barnet Diras est représentante...  
de Cuba.

Elle représente Cuba pour...  
de Cuba.

Elle a travaillé pendant plusieurs...  
de Cuba.

Elle a travaillé pendant plusieurs...  
de Cuba.

Elle a travaillé pendant plusieurs...  
de Cuba.

## La culture discutée au Youth Visioning for Island Living

Le Mondial News Service  
Paris, France, 2007

Le thème de la culture...  
de Cuba.

Le thème de la culture...  
de Cuba.

Le thème de la culture...  
de Cuba.

Le thème de la culture...  
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Le thème de la culture...  
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de Cuba.

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de Cuba.

Le thème de la culture...  
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Le thème de la culture...  
de Cuba.

## Forum des Jeunes des SIDA à Ple-aux-Sables

Le forum des jeunes...  
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Le forum des jeunes...  
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Le forum des jeunes...  
de Cuba.

### BOULEVARDES

## Yoosuf Sidjee raconte son expérience traumatisante

Fabrice Gagnaire  
Paris, France, 2007

Yoosuf Sidjee raconte son...  
de Cuba.

Yoosuf Sidjee raconte son...  
de Cuba.

Yoosuf Sidjee raconte son...  
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Yoosuf Sidjee raconte son...  
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Yoosuf Sidjee raconte son...  
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Yoosuf Sidjee raconte son...  
de Cuba.

# Fin de la conférence "Youth Visioning for Island Living"

Les jeunes de 130 îles ont participé à la conférence Youth Visioning for Island Living qui s'est tenue du 7 au 12 février au Centre Culturel International de la Pointe aux Saïbles, en présence de l'Union Inter-îles, des représentants de l'Assemblée législative, des ministères de l'Éducation, de la Santé, de la Culture, de la Jeunesse et des Sports, de la Police, de la Gendarmerie, de la Sécurité Publique et des Côtes et Forêts, ainsi que des représentants des collectivités locales de l'île de La Réunion.

**L**a conférence Youth Visioning for Island Living a été organisée par l'Union Inter-îles, en partenariat avec le Centre Culturel International de la Pointe aux Saïbles. Elle a réuni plus de 130 jeunes de 130 îles différentes, ainsi que des représentants des ministères de l'Éducation, de la Santé, de la Culture, de la Jeunesse et des Sports, de la Police, de la Gendarmerie, de la Sécurité Publique et des Côtes et Forêts, ainsi que des représentants des collectivités locales de l'île de La Réunion. L'objectif de cette conférence était de permettre aux jeunes de discuter et de partager leurs idées sur le développement de leur île et de leur communauté. Les jeunes ont travaillé en petits groupes pour discuter de divers sujets tels que l'éducation, la santé, la culture, la jeunesse et les sports, la police, la gendarmerie, la sécurité publique et les côtes et forêts.



Les jeunes de différentes îles participent à la conférence Youth Visioning for Island Living.



**«RÉUNION»**  
**ÉTUDES ET CULTURE**  
Philippe Bouchard, le directeur de l'Union Inter-îles, a été l'invité principal de la conférence Youth Visioning for Island Living. Il a encouragé les jeunes à poursuivre leurs études et à participer activement à la vie de leur communauté. Il a également souligné l'importance de la culture et de la jeunesse dans le développement de l'île de La Réunion. Les jeunes ont également discuté de la nécessité de renforcer la sécurité publique et de protéger les côtes et forêts.



## Les jeunes délégués du Youth Visioning for Island Living présentent leur résolution



Les jeunes délégués du Youth Visioning for Island Living ont présenté leurs résolutions à l'Assemblée législative de la Réunion. Les résolutions concernent divers domaines tels que l'éducation, la santé, la culture, la jeunesse et les sports, la police, la gendarmerie, la sécurité publique et les côtes et forêts. Les jeunes ont également discuté de la nécessité de renforcer la sécurité publique et de protéger les côtes et forêts.

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## SPECIAL PACNEWS REPORT

United Nations Meeting of Small Islands Developing States (SIDS): "Small Islands - Big States" Port Louis, Mauritius (10-14 January 2005) PACNEWS coverage is made possible with UNESCO funding.

### Young people have their say at the Mauritius meeting

13 JANUARY 2005 PORT LOUIS (Pacnews) – Young Pacific Islanders have joined their international colleagues in putting together a declaration on what their needs are for the future.

Pacific Youth joined their peers from other SIDS nations in calling on their governments to involve them in the decision making process.

This is an area, according to their declaration that lacks in many island nations.

They have strongly urged more education awareness programmes on issues such as HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and healthy lifestyles thereby strengthening family, school and community relations.

The youth declaration also called on governments to secure job opportunities for young people.

"We want to be able to have access to training and education opportunities in both technical and academic studies."

A number of young people interviewed said young people needed to utilise their time and be involved in viable economic sectors.

In light of the destruction caused by tsunamis in South East Asia in recent weeks, youth from SIDS are also urging their leaders to provide them with the skills and knowledge necessary to plan for and respond to the dangers posed to their societies by both natural disasters and modern day security threats.

Ninety-six young people including almost twenty from the Pacific attended the youth forum, which ran parallel to the international meeting of small island states.

The Pacific was represented by young people from Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Marshall Islands, Tokelau, Kiribati, Niue, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, New Zealand and Palau.

The forum was organised by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)...PNS (ENDS)



## ANNEX 11

## YOUTH VISIONING FOR ISLAND LIVING EVALUATION FORM

1. What were the three main benefits of this meeting for you personally and for your work with youth in the future (please provide as much detail as possible)?
2. Provide suggestions as to how meetings such as the Youth Visioning for Island Living event can be improved in the future.
3. How did you find the programme for the meeting?

Was the content of the programme:

**good**

**satisfactory**

**less than satisfactory**

Were the arrangements for translation:

**good**

**satisfactory**

**less than satisfactory**

Were the resource people:

**good**

**satisfactory**

**less than satisfactory**

Were the arrangements for working groups:

**good**

**satisfactory**

**less than satisfactory**

Were the meeting facilities (conference room, equipment, space for working groups):

**good**

**satisfactory**

**less than satisfactory**

How would you rate the field trip on Monday 10 January 2005?

**good**

**satisfactory**

**less than satisfactory**

Was the interaction with related events such as the Civil Society Forum, the Community Vilaj (at Freeport) and the Main International Meeting at Domaine les Pailles:

**good**

**satisfactory**

**less than satisfactory**

Any additional comments on the programme:

4. How were the living arrangements at Pointe aux Sables?

Was the accommodation:

**good**

**satisfactory**

**less than satisfactory**

Was the food:

**good**

**satisfactory**

**less than satisfactory**

Were the room sharing arrangements:

**good**

**satisfactory**

**less than satisfactory**

Additional comments on the living arrangements:

5. How were the arrangements for local transport while you were in Mauritius?

Were the arrangements for getting to and from the airport:

**good**

**satisfactory**

**less than satisfactory**

Were the arrangements for shopping and sight-seeing trips before and after the meeting:

**good**

**satisfactory**

**less than satisfactory**

Additional comments on local transport:

## ANNEX 12

ACTION PLAN FOR PHASE 3 OF YOUTH VISIONING FOR  
ISLAND LIVING, JANUARY 2005 – DECEMBER 2006**JANUARY 2005**

- Evaluation forms (despatched via email 21.01.05)
- Programme, list of participants, final declaration and commitments (to go out by email 24/25.01.05)
- Certificates of participation (to go out by mail by end of January)

**FEBRUARY – MARCH 2005**

- Contact all regional and inter-regional partners (via email, telephone, visits); supply information package with declaration + commitments, programme, list of participants
- Request project outlines (using the project template) from all 37 countries represented at Youth Visioning
- Request support (financial and organizational) to help youth implement their projects and for creation of a Youth Fund
- Design criteria, guidelines and application form for Youth Fund
- Discuss with partners the possibility of having awards for the most sound projects (to act as an incentive once the initial interest has decreased)
- Establish national and regional contact points to assist the youth
- Email discussion group established for youth participants to exchange (informally) information on follow up; and for organizers to share information with the youth on follow-up arrangements; this will continue throughout the 2 years
- YV website updated with outcomes of the January meeting and participants' photos and bio data
- Prepare text and photographs for a publication on the Youth Visioning event in Mauritius
- Collaborate with Mauritius College of the Air concerning scripting and editing for a 26 minute video of the Youth Visioning event

**APRIL TO JUNE 2005**

- Launch the Youth Fund and open it for applications from the youth
- Publication on Youth Visioning event published and distributed
- Establish a system of half yearly reporting by the youth on progress in project implementation
- Hold Pacific regional meeting (proposed by UNDP, Samoa); arrange for two participants from the AIMS region and two from the Caribbean region to attend to promote inter-regionality
- Regularly update the website, and encourage publicity in national media

**JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2005**

- Monitor project implementation
- Monitor applications to the Youth Fund
- Regularly update the website, and encourage publicity in national media
- Duplicate and distribute the DVD on the Youth Visioning event

**OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2005**

- Monitor project implementation
- Monitor applications to the Youth Fund
- Launch the awards concept
- Regularly update the website, and encourage publicity in national media
- Hold AIMS regional meeting; arrange for two participants from the Pacific region and two from the Caribbean region to attend to promote inter-regionality

**JANUARY TO JUNE 2006**

- Monitor project implementation and request project progress reports
- Monitor applications to the Youth Fund
- Regularly update the website, and encourage publicity in national, regional and inter-regional media
- Hold Caribbean regional meeting; arrange for two participants from the Pacific region and two from the AIMS region to attend to promote inter-regionality

**JULY TO DECEMBER 2006**

- Circulate project evaluation forms and request final documentation
- Decide on which projects will receive awards, discuss project continuation beyond 2006
- Regularly update the website, and encourage publicity in national, regional and inter-regional media

**JANUARY 2006 TO JUNE 2007**

- Announcement and giving of awards – perhaps piggybacked at other regional/inter-regional meetings
- External assessment of the Youth Visioning activity, especially the follow-up

## ANNEX 13

### PRESS RELEASE FROM THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

#### **YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM 25 JANUARY 2005**

*'Boasting as much tropical paradise as Maui or Martinique and, better still, Mauritius nestled up alongside Africa, is the most, beautiful, best kept secret island in the Indian Ocean.'*

Dean of the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Program and Turks and Caicos Ambassador to CARICOM Robyn Hinds, Latavia Ingham and Emeail Shepherd recently returned from the beautiful tropical paradise Mauritius, where they attended the Youth Visioning for Island Living meeting in conjunction with the United Nations International Meeting on Sustainable Development for Small Island Developing States January 7–12 and January 10–14 2005 respectively.

Youth Visioning is a three year initiative taken on by UNESCO in 2002, which seeks to:

- Involve youth in sustainable development
- Give youth a clear voice in the review of the Programme of Action culminating in the Mauritius meeting January 2005
- Help youth implement follow-up sustainable development activities after the Mauritius Meeting
- Promote interregional exchange among youth.

There are three stages of Youth Visioning:

1. January – December 2004: Preparatory activities among island youth.
2. January 2005 Youth Visioning meeting Mauritius, during which youth representatives will discuss their concerns, share information about activities, and shape their vision. Then present their vision backed up by an action plan to the International Meeting.

3. February 2005–December 2006: island youth will prioritize actions at a local and national level, and begin implementation of projects.

Some ninety four youth from the Caribbean, Atlantic, Indian, Mediterranean and Pacific Oceans were in attendance, eager to give their views and contributions to Sustainable Development plans and initiatives. The delegates' age ranged from 18–23 years for travelling purposes but for follow up activities in various countries the age will range from 13 and up.

There was an opening ceremony on Friday 7 January, 2005, where the Minister of Youth of Mauritius spoke to the Delegates and urged them to deliberate keenly and charged them to work hard and remember the youth in their country as they are representing them also. Mr Dirk Troost of UNESCO also spoke at the ceremony where he spoke from his heart and said 'any talks of sustainable development that does not include young people are not serious.'

On the remaining days, workshops were held based on the three themes Life and love in my island, My island home, and Money in my pocket, which represent the Social, Physical and Economic aspects of Sustainable Development. These workshops featured panellists from each region presenting their views on the topics, and answering questions from the audience which created much interaction for the group sessions. Drafting groups for each day were selected and documented all groups' findings which were included in the Resolution that was presented to the Main meeting on Wednesday 12th January 2005. Representatives from the Caribbean, AIMS and Pacific Region made up the contingent that presented this most prestigious accomplishment which all delegates were very proud of.

At the closing ceremony United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan spoke to the delegates and expressed how elated he was that Youth Visioning was a success, he urged us to continue on with passion and drive seen in Mauritius in our very own islands, and work diligently in promoting and implementing projects that will give youth a strong voice and presence in Sustainable Development policies and initiatives.

Each delegation then took to the stage with their country's flag stating and pledging to implement their various projects on their return home. The Delegation of the Turks and Caicos Islands led by Ms Hinds pledged to 'Enhancing HIV/AIDS education among the youth of their country and Designing and Implementing a Beautiful by Nature club for the youth of the Caribbean.'

Interested stakeholders and the community are invited to contact Ms Hinds on 243-0394 wishing to invest, sponsor or work along with the group in their initiatives.