

Over the same period, the Police de L'Environnement:

- established 2229 contraventions (including littering, indiscriminate dumping, road traffic offences, etc)
- issued 3001 notices to drivers of vehicles emitting black smoke
- attended to and solved 1842 complaints out of 2303.

Moreover, some 41 EIA and 68 PER applications were received and 30 EIA licenses and 41 PER clearances were issued during the same period.

### 13. Training of Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) Officers

With a view to attending to complaints more effectively and rapidly and to bring our services closer to the people, complaints pertaining to an environmental nature can now be registered in CAB offices. In this context, officers attended a training workshop organised by the Ministry of Environment & NDU in September 2005. The objective of the workshop was to train the CAB officers on environmental issues so that they could register complaints at the local level and channel same to the relevant Enforcing Agency for prompt action. Henceforth, they will be actively involved in sensitization and awareness campaigns and other local environmental activities.

This policy of decentralization will also be extended to the Local Authorities and to the Mauritius Police Force.

### 14. Climate Change

The Minister of Environment and NDU attended the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 11) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the first session of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP1) held in Montreal, Canada from 28 November to 9 December 2005. During the meeting, discussions were focused on the outstanding operational details of the Kyoto Protocol where more than 40 significant decisions were taken. The package of agreements is described as the 'Montreal Action Plan' (MAP), which represents a clear road map for future work under the Convention and provides a forum to find innovative solutions. The major decisions taken were:

- The rulebook of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol (called the Marrakesh Accords) was adopted. This historic step set the framework for the implementation of the Protocol. There is now certainty for sustained and effective global carbon market. The three major tools under the protocol namely the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM); the Special Climate Change Fund and the Adaptation Fund have been strengthened.
- The COP also agreed on a process for global action so as to address future commitments for developed countries beyond 2012. A new working group was established and would start its work in May 2006.

- Agreement was reached on a way forward on the Adaptation Fund.
- Developed countries committed themselves to fund the operation of the CDM with over USD 13 million in 2006-2007. The process for methodologies under the CDM was simplified and its Governing Body strengthened.
- Adaptation to the impacts of climate change was also an important focus of the Conference. It adopted a five-year programme on adaptation to climate change impacts. This programme defines concrete steps to identify impacts and measures to adapt to climate change.
- Countries agreed on further steps on promoting the development and transfer of technologies, particularly the Carbon Capture and Storage technology

More information are available at the website: <http://unfccc.int>

### 15. Ozone day

The International Ozone Day 2005 has been marked by the global launching of the website (<http://www.ozzy.unep.org>) on Ozzy Ozone for Children in Mauritius as well as the distribution of 35,000 cartoon booklets on Ozzy Ozone for primary schools' students in Mauritius and Rodrigues. A two-week training programme was organised in September 2005 to sensitise 38 trainers/technicians in the refrigeration sector to adopt the hydrocarbon technology, an environmentally friendly refrigerant. TV and radio spots and film on Ozone were broadcast to sensitise the general public on the issue.

### 16. Western Indian Ocean- Land Based activities (WIO-LaB) Project

The WIO-LaB project funded by UNEP-GEF and the Norwegian Government aims at intensifying the fight against marine pollution by land based activities in Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region. Eight states of the WIO region, including Mauritius, are participating in this project.

To achieve the objectives of the WIO-LaB project, 4 Task Forces have been set up, namely on Municipal Wastewater, Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats, Legal and Technical Review and Assessment and Monitoring of Water, Sediment and Biota Quality.

The National Environment Laboratory (NEL) is the lead institution to implement this project in Mauritius.

A National Working Group (NWG) has been established and is preparing a National Pollution Report, which will help identify the magnitude and sources of pollution to the marine environment in order to devise policies and regulatory framework to respond to these pollution problems. This report will be presented at the forthcoming regional workshop of WIO-LaB project that will be held in Mauritius in February 2006.

Ministry of  
Environment & NDU



### Vision

***For the Republic of Mauritius to reach environmental sustainability and for us to have a clean and healthy environment.***

### Mission

***To enable our Republic to attain the highest level of environmental quality as a means to enhance the quality of life of our citizens, preserve our natural environment and advance our competitiveness. This will be achieved through continued innovation and vibrant partnership with all stakeholders.***

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1<sup>st</sup> ISSUE  
January 2006

# Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & NDU

## Message from the Minister

*It gives me great pleasure to address this message for the first issue of this Newsletter, which focuses on the major projects and initiatives undertaken by the Environment arm of my Ministry since July 2005.*



*We have a clear and an ambitious goal for Mauritius: to enable our Republic to attain the highest level of environmental quality as a means to enhance the quality of life of all Mauritians, preserve our natural environment and advance our competitiveness.*

*We will adopt an environmental philosophy which can be summarized under the following six principles:*

- Focus on visible results – improving the quality of our air, water and land for a cleaner and greener Mauritius.
- Encourage sustainable consumption and production as well as the development of an environment industry.
- Use the best science and data to guide us in our decision-making.
- Continue to increase environmental awareness and build a Mauritian ethic of personal responsibility through education and voluntary initiatives.
- Environmental protection efforts will not be the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Environment & NDU – other government departments, local authorities, local communities, private sector, parastatal bodies, academia, research organizations, non-governmental organisations, media and individuals will all be involved.
- Mauritius will continue to adhere to the international code of conduct through relevant conventions and protocols.

*This newsletter is part of Government's commitment to inform Mauritians about its environmental policies, activities and the state of our environment. Disseminating information to the public is very important in this era of globalisation and this newsletter is a step forward in fulfilling our vision. It will enable people to have a better understanding and appreciation of the multi-faceted nature of the Ministry of Environment & NDU.*

*In fact, we are opening a new chapter on sustainability and improving the quality of life of all citizens across the country which is in line with the core philosophy of this government of "Putting People First".*

***Honourable Anil Kumar Bachoo***

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WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY • 5 June 2006  
DESERTS AND DESERTIFICATION



DON'T DESERT DRYLANDS!

## 1. Amendment to the Environment Protection Act 2002

The Environment Protection Act (EPA) is the main legislative framework that provides for the protection and management of the environmental assets of Mauritius.

Since its proclamation in 2002, it is felt that the EPA needs to be amended so as to make it more responsive to the new and emerging challenges being posed in the new economic and environmental architectures. The EPA 2002 will therefore be amended shortly.

## 2. Review of Air Standards

The current Mauritian standards for air quality date back to 1998. A Technical Review Committee set up within the Ministry of Environment & NDU under the Chair of Dr T. Ramjeawon, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Mauritius and comprising concerned Ministries, authorities and other stakeholders, had submitted its final report in October 2005 for the review of air standards.

The technical report aims to assist the Government in the formulation of appropriate standards and in the design and implementation of policies and management tools to improve air quality.

The Committee has strongly recommended the adoption of an integrated approach towards air pollution control, comprising of prevention, enforcement, monitoring and education.

The Ministry of Environment & NDU, in collaboration with the relevant institutions, will implement the measures recommended in the report in the short, medium and long terms.

## 3. Enhancing the Living Environment

Since July 2005, the Minister of Environment & NDU visited all constituencies around the island and more than 150 environmental projects have been identified.

These include upgrading, landscaping, cleaning and maintenance works to be effected in public places, rivers, schools, charitable institutions and also the creation of green spaces, family corners and children gardens. Some 33 projects have been completed and others are ongoing.

## 4. SIDS – The Mauritius strategy

A National Coordination Committee (NCC) comprising all relevant stakeholders has been set up under the chairmanship of this Ministry to prepare an Action Plan for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

Through this exercise, it is expected that other collaborating Ministries will have an ownership of their respective action plans and participate fully in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

An electronic version of the Mauritius Strategy is available on our website.

## 5. Setting up of a National Cleaner Production Centre

The setting up of a National Cleaner Production Centre (NCPC) in Mauritius is a priority project identified in the National Environmental Strategies under the Industrial Management Programme. Cleaner Production is a concept that calls for a change of attitude in solving environmental problems in Industry. The Ministry of Environment & NDU in collaboration with the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council organised a two-day national workshop on 21 and 22 July 2005. The workshop was attended by about 60 participants from Governmental organizations, parastatal bodies and private firms.

The aim of this workshop was to:

- Develop the action plan for the NCPC through a wider participation of stakeholders, viz ministries, private sector, consultants, research bodies, academia and civil society.
- Develop the appropriate structure of a NCPC to operate.

The Ministry of Environment & NDU arranged for two UNEP experts to facilitate the workshop and share the African regional experience on the establishment of NCPC's and the promotion of sustainable consumption and production.

Following the workshop, the steering committee of the project has held a meeting to discuss the structure and priority actions of the NCPC.

## 6. Workshop on Data and Information Needs for Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM)

The Ministry of Environment & NDU organised a Workshop on "Data and Information Needs for Integrated Coastal Area Management" on 27 and 28 October 2005 at Villas Caroline Beach Hotel, Flic-en-Flac, with the collaboration of the National Oceanographic Data Centre hosted by the Meteorological Services. The workshop was attended by representatives from 24 institutions including private sector, NGOs and the media. Hon. Anil Kumar Bachoo, Minister of Environment & NDU officially opened the workshop. The workshop, amongst others, recommended that the various data and information pertaining to various sectors of the coastal zone and which are presently scattered in different institutions should be compiled and disseminated to facilitate decision making on coastal zone issues.



Participants of the workshop

## 7. Development of National Legal Database

The Ministry of Environment & NDU, in collaboration with the Attorney General's Office and the Central Informatics Bureau, is participating in the development of a National Legal Database. Environmental law information is required for decision making by legal practitioners and government officials. This project will also contribute to public education and environmental awareness.

The Ministry of Environment & NDU is currently finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding with UNEP for the implementation of the project.

## 8. School Compost Project

With a view to foster environmental protection at all levels of the society, the Ministry of Environment & NDU, the Ministry of Education & Human Resources and Mauritius Institute of Education jointly launched a School Compost project at the Shri Rajiv Gandhi Government School, Riche Mare, Central Flacq on 7 September 2005.



Five rotatory type compost bins, designed by Dr R. Mohee of University of Mauritius, were donated to that school. Demonstration on how to compost was conducted by the National Federation of Young Farmers' Club who also conducts regular monitoring exercises.

This project is now being extended to 50 primary and secondary schools both in Mauritius and Rodrigues. On successful implementation of the pilot project, the activities would be extended to all schools.

This exercise is being undertaken within the framework of the curriculum renewal initiated by the Ministry of Education & Human Resources where active learning and hands on activities with a project-oriented approach is being adopted.

## 9. 'Appui Régional à la Promotion d'une Education pour la Gestion de l'Environnement (ARPEGE)' project

Due to the success of the implementation of ARPEGE project in pilot schools in Mauritius, Rodrigues, Comores Island, Madagascar and Seychelles, the European Union has decided to extend its financial support up to September 2006. In Mauritius, this project is being extended to 48 new schools.

To ensure smooth extension of this project to the new schools, awareness raising programmes were held on 28-29 November 2005 and on 2 & 5 December 2005 for the main stakeholders which included educational zone directorate, school inspectors, officers of MIE and officers of Ministry of Environment & NDU.

Training programmes for teachers of the schools are also being conducted. The first training session was held from 6-8 December 2005. The next training session is scheduled for April 2006.

Within this project, organization of the following activities has been envisaged for the year 2006:

- A symposium on Environmental Education
- A national newsletter
- An ARPEGE day
- Launching of a school magazine
- An open day at all pilot schools.

## 10. Setting up of a National Environmental Education Committee

The National Environment Strategies (NES) have recommended the setting up of a National Environmental Education Committee (NEEC) with the key function of steering and coordinating environmental education and awareness raising. In this regard, a first meeting, with all key stakeholders including representatives from the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Mauritius Institute of Education and NGOs was held on 23 November 2005 to discuss key issues to be addressed.

## 11. Clean up Campaigns

In order to encourage public participation in building a cleaner and greener environment, the Ministry of Environment & NDU has organized several clean-up campaigns throughout the island. During these activities, the inhabitants are called upon to fully participate in the cleaning and embellishment of bare lands, road sides and other areas in their locality so that there is an overall improvement in their physical environment.

Clean-up campaigns is a form of active sensitization whereby each and everyone is made conscious of their respective role in the protection of the environment. Since July 2005, clean up campaigns have been organized in various locations including Ville Bague, Camp Marcelin, Mare la Chaux, Mont Ida, Camp de Masque Pavé, Clemencia, Belle Rose, Case Noyale, Sable Noir / Cité Vallijee, Roche Bois, Mare Chicose, Poste de Flacq, Quatre Cocos, Riche Mare, Bon Accueil and Baie du Cap.



## 12. Enforcement & Processing of Environmental Impact Assessment (EA) Applications

The Department of Environment (DoE) receives environmental complaints such as noise, air, odour, waste water and solid wastes pollution. These complaints are attended to as soon as possible to ensure compliance of standards and regulations promulgated under the Environment Protection Act 2002. For the last 6 months, the PPC Division had received 650 complaints out of which 619 were solved and the remaining ones are being processed.

The chart shows the nature of complaints (percentage).

