

CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (SADC-REEP)

The United Nations General Assembly has decreed the period 2005 to 2014, the UN decade for Education and Sustainable development (UN DESD). In this regard, the Southern African Development Community- Regional Environmental Education Programme (SADC-REEP) whose objective is to promote environmental education processes in the Southern African Regions, has supported the proposal to conduct a consultative meeting with organizations in Mauritius involved in imparting environmental education.

In this context, a 2-day consultative meeting was held on 6 and 7 September 2005. The following organizations participated in the workshop:

Public Sector:

- Ministry of Education & HR
- Ministry of Youth and Sports
- Ministry of Social Security
- Ministry of Public Infrastructure Land Transport & Shipping (Road Safety)
- Ministry of Agro Industry and Fisheries (NPCS &
- Ministry of Health Quality of Life
- Ministry of Women's Right and Child Development
- Environment Unit (Rodrigues Regional Assembly)
- Secretary for Foreign Affairs (Attn Mr Muhamudally)
- Ministry of Environment & NDU

Private Sector:

- Air Mauritius
- CEB

Non Governmental Organizations & Community Based Organizations:

- Mauritius Marine Conservation Society (MMCS)
- Satya Sai Education (Education for Human Values) (SSEHV)
- Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS)
- Mauritian Wildlife Clubs
- Service Sans Frontiere
- Friends of Environment
- Cedrefi
- Mauritius Council for Development of Environmental Studies and Conservation (MAUDESCO)
- Mauritian Wildlife Foundation

Outcome of the Workshop:

The Consultative meeting was very fruitful where all the stakeholders shared their experiences, their challenges and constraints. Many requested the support of the Ministry of Environment & NDU so that they can implement projects at their level. For example, Friends of the Environment had initiated compost making project in schools through the National Environment Funds of this Ministry. However, the type of compost bin used in this project did not create the expected impact. This time, our Ministry have launched the Compost Making Project in schools through the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs who uses a different type of bin: the rotary compost bin. The National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs is already successful in backyard composting since 2003.

A Steering Committee has also been set up to ensure the implementation and follow-up of the Compost Making Project in primary and secondary schools in Mauritius and Rodrigues. This Committee is made up of the Ministry of Environment & NDU, Ministry of Education & HR, Mauritius Institute of Education, National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs and Friends of the Environment.

This Committee is also harmonizing and creating a new pamphlet on compost making that will be widely distributed to the population.