

REPORT FOR WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2006 ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

To commemorate World Environment Day 2006, the United Nations Environment Programme chose **Deserts and Desertification** as theme and **'Don't Desert Drylands!'** as the slogan, which stresses on the importance of protecting drylands - an ecosystem, which is home to one-third of the world's people.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY • 5 June 2006
DESERTS AND DESERTIFICATION



DON'T DESERT DRYLANDS!

The Ministry of Environment and National Development Unit organised a series of activities to celebrate World Environment Day 2006. These ranged from tree planting and embellishment campaigns around the island to a national exhibition and awareness-raising on sustainable consumption at the Grand Baie International Conference Centre from 5th – 8th June.

MONDAY 5TH JUNE 2006

➤ **Opening Ceremony for the Exhibition on Sustainable Consumption**

- *Venue:* Grand Baie International Conference Centre
- *Date of exhibition:* 5 – 8 June 2006



The Exhibition and Awareness-raising workshops on Sustainable Consumption were among the key events for World Environment Day. The timing of these activities on sustainable consumption and World Environment Day's theme was found to be appropriate as each complemented the other and

one of the primary issues on the international agenda is the need to reach sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

Overall, 29 organisations from public, parastatal and private sectors and NGOs, participated in the exhibition under the following thematic areas: Promoting sustainable consumption, Sustainable use of natural resources, Services for environmental quality and Recycling of wastes.

The Ministry of Environment and National Development Unit distributed trees to all visitors and pamphlets on sustainable consumption. Two 'maquettes' on the lifecycles of paper and plastic, a rain harvester and UNEP posters on sustainable consumption were also presented and explained to visitors.



Maquette on lifecycle of paper and plastic

☞ Workshop on the International and National Perspectives of Sustainable Consumption

- *Venue:* Grand Baie International Conference Centre

Some 100 people from public and private sectors, parastatal bodies and advertising sector participated in the first workshop on sustainable consumption. The aim of the workshop was to sensitise participants on Sustainable Consumption - from the political process to actions on the ground. Mr. S. Seebaluck, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment & NDU moderated the session and Miss. I. Marras, Programme Officer from UNEP and Dr. T. Ramjeawon, adviser from the Ministry of Environment & NDU facilitated the workshop. The explanatory sessions were followed by an open discussion for the formulation of a roadmap on sustainable consumption.

➤ **Launching of the “Plant an Million Trees” campaign at Gandhi Square Rivière du Rempart**

- *Venue:* Adoption of Gandhi Square by Universal College of Rivière du Rempart

The Minister of Environment & NDU officially launched the “Plant a Million Tree” campaign at Gandhi Square – Rivière du Rempart in the presence of Honourable M. Gowressoo, MPs Dr. Hookhoom and Mr. Boodhoo and teachers and students of the Universal College.

Asoka trees were planted and the Students of Universal College adopted the Gandhi Square. They have also taken the commitment to maintain and embellish the site.



Planting of Asoka Tree by Honourable A. K. Bachoo and Honourable M. Gowressoo

➤ **Launching of Embellishment Work at Northern Entrance Road in front of PAD & Co (Riche Terre)**

- *Venue:* Northern Entrance Road in front of PAD & Co, Riche Terre

The Minister launched embellishment works at the Northern Entrance Road in front of PAD & Co, Riche Terre in the presence of members of the Private Sector. The latter were encouraged to adopt, maintain and embellish road reserves along the Motorway.

➤ **National Tree Planting Campaign**

In line with this year’s World Environment Day theme and as a step to make Mauritius greener and more sustainable, the Ministry of Environment & NDU distributed 12,600 plants to Primary & Secondary Schools, Community, Women and Youth Centres, orphanages and charitable

institutions, Citizens Advise Bureau, Mauritius Police Force, Government Fire Services and Local Authorities.

All primary and secondary schools were requested to plant the trees given to them on 5th June and the message of the Minister of Environment addressed to the students was read on that occasion.

Stakeholder	Total number of plants
125 Community Centres	1250
24 Orphanages and charitable institutions	240
35 Citizens Advice Bureau	70
Women Centres	120
Youth Centres	1500 Decorative plants (LEU)
350 Primary and Secondary Schools	1750
118 Private secondary school	590
Mauritius Police Force	900
Government Fire Services	130
Municipality of Vacoas - Phoenix	2000
Ministry of Health & Quality of Life	900
Municipality of Q. Bornes	1000
Black River District Council	500
Municipality of Beau Bassin / Rose Hill	700
Municipality of Port Louis	450
Pamplemousses Rivière du Rempart District Council	500
Total no. of plants	12,600

TUESDAY 6TH JUNE 2006

➤ **Workshop on “Youth, Sustainable Consumption & Lifestyles and the Role of Education”**

- *Venue:* Grand Baie International Conference Centre

Some 150 secondary schools students and 150 deputy head teachers and deputy rectors were invited to attend the above workshop. The workshop was chaired by Mrs. D. Lan Ng, Acting Director of the Department of Environment and facilitated by Dr. T. Ramjeawon from the Ministry of Environment & NDU, Ms. I. Marras from UNEP, Ms. G. Gujadhur from Mahatma Gandhi Secondary School, Flacq and Mrs. M. Dhunookchand from the Ministry of Education and Human Resources. Explanatory sessions were followed by discussions for the formulation of a roadmap on sustainable consumption. The aim of this workshop was to sensitise youth and teachers on Sustainable Consumption and on how they can contribute to its achievement.

WEDNESDAY 7TH JUNE 2006

➤ **Presentation of Technical Papers**

- *Venue:* Grand Baie International Conference Centre

Mr. S. Mooloo, Acting Deputy Director of the Department of Environment chaired the technical session. This was facilitated by seven resource persons from the: Ministry of Environment and National Development Unit, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Public Utilities, Water Resources Unit, Wastewater Management Authority, Mauritius Research Council and Kilowatts Solutions Ltd. Some 170 representatives from the public and private sectors and parastatal bodies attended the workshop.

THURSDAY 8TH JUNE 2006

➤ **Workshop for Women and NGOs**

- *Venue:* Grand Baie International Conference Centre

350 women and 50 NGOs attended the workshop, which was chaired by Mrs. S. Meeheelaul, Acting Divisional Environment Officer. Resource persons invited to address these targeted groups included: Mrs. J. Naugah from the Ministry of Environment & NDU, Mrs. P. Bapoo-Dundoo of UNDP-GEF: Small Grants Programme, Mr. P. Chellapermal of CEDREFI and Mr. J. Chellum of ACIM.



The aim of this workshop was to sensitise women and NGO on Sustainable Consumption and the crucial role they have to play to achieve it.

ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Several institutions organised activities during the World Environment Day week and among these were:

- **Manillal Doctor State Secondary School of Lallmatie**

A tree planting ceremony was organised in the presence of Honourable Ministers of Environment & NDU and Education & Human Resources. The school also informed of its intention to organise other environmental initiatives in line with the Ministry's vision to promote environmental stewardship.



- **Livestock Feed Ltd**

Livestock Feed Ltd organised several activities to celebrate "la Journée Internationale de l'Environnement", namely: distribution of 650 plants to the inhabitants of Pailles and to its employees, dustbins were placed on Claude Delaitre Road and clean up campaigns in the vicinity of the factory.

- **Indian Ocean Centre for Human Values**

This institution organised a seminar on human values for parents and children and the Ministry of Environment & NDU sensitised the latter on environmental issues.

OUTCOMES

Exhibition on Sustainable Consumption:

About 1,500 persons visited the exhibition and were mainly from primary and secondary schools. Visitors were given a very good insight of what sustainable consumption is. Primary school children also benefited from the workshop in the sense that several stands in the exhibition covered topics in history, geography and science.

Awards were also given for best stands and these are as follows:

- 1st Prize: AREU
- 2nd Prize: National Federation of Young Farmers
- 3rd Prize: Atics Ltd

Awareness raising workshops for target groups on Sustainable Consumption:

- The link between the concept of sustainable consumption and other development initiatives were highlighted and concerns were raised as to the cost of implementing Sustainable Consumption Strategies.
- Participants agreed that waste minimisation at source is very important as part of a sustainable consumption strategy and advertising agencies could participate to influence lifestyles.
- The importance of decentralisation and transmitting the message down to Local Authority level was underscored
- Youth expressed interest to broaden their outreach and to participate in international forums and debates and also expressed the wish to have a more activity-based curriculum to learn about environmental issues and recommended that maximum use be made of the media to access information
- Women were reminded of their important role, since they are responsible for 80% of household purchase and they expressed strong wish to be given opportunities to disseminate information to the general public on sustainable consumption. The need for continuous technical and financial support and human resources development in the area of sustainable consumption was raised

The Roadmap on Sustainable Consumption:

- A basic condition for Sustainable Consumption is to achieve general awareness of the concept and to be perceived as a relevant priority to all stakeholders.
- To effectively promote sustainable consumption, it is important to have a long-term, forward-looking vision of sustainable lifestyles.
- Visible implementation of Sustainable Consumption activities at an early stage as possible is important to demonstrate the concept (Sustainable procurement; waste recycling; eco-labels in the energy sector, activity-based curriculum)
- Develop National Action Plans on Sustainable Consumption through multi-stakeholder dialogue forums (e.g. the National Network for Sustainable Development, and the working group on

sustainable consumption and production to implement the Mauritius Strategy). Sustainable Consumption need to be built from the national level.

- Include Sustainable Consumption in National Statistics and develop an indicator for well being
- Easy Access to knowledge (Internet, etc.)
- Develop policy frameworks that promote the adoption of SC by a mix of policies (Regulatory, Economic & Voluntary)