Semaine internationale des zones humides Ramsar
Ateliers - Séminaire technique - Animations
20 - 25 mai 2024
Ile de La Réunion - France
Bienvenue - Welcome
Saint - Paul
Étang Saint - Paul
À l’école des projets
Les Aires éducatives en France

Création : 2012 (Marquises)
L’Aire Terrestre Éducative (ATE)
À la découverte du « Trésor Caché »

- Conseil pour la Terre
- Demande d’aide au Directeur de la Réserve
  - Écriteure du scénario
    - Repérages
    - Répétitions
    - Tournage
  - Montage
  - Diffusion
Personnage A : Alors vas-tu le hurlement sinon il va
être trop longtemps sinon on sera en retard à
l'école.

Personnage B : Oh une graine ! Allons la prendre et
la montrer à la classe.
Conclusion

Connaissances :
- Flore
- Faune
- Cycle de l’eau
- Équilibre Homme / Nature
- Patrimoine
- Les menaces sur l’Étang

Comportements :
- Aimer se retrouver dans la Nature
- Respecter la Nature
- Consommer moins d’énergie et d’eau
- Trier mes déchets
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“MOBILIZATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN WETLANDS RESTORATION OPERATIONS”

Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE)

Presented by: Jean-Claude Labrosse
Ramsar National Focal Point
Seychelles
Ramsar sites of Seychelles

Aldabra coastal Wetlands - World Heritage Site - 43,000 ha

Port Launay coastal wetlands

Mare Aux Cochons high altitude wetlands
**Introduction – General overview and vulnerability of Seychelles**

- The coastline of the Seychelles granitic islands are of two basic types: granitic coastlines where waves break directly onto granite rocks and steeply sloping inselbergs and; coralline coastlines backed by coastal plains and fronted by fringing coral reefs (of either old or recent construction).

- On the coralline coastlines, the fringing reef crests break waves sufficiently to enable settlement and development on the coastal plains. Between the reef crest and shoreline, sheltered lagoons may be present, backed by fine sand beaches.

- A large part of the coastal areas consist of rocky beaches and mud flats, and the rest consists of stabilized beaches.
The Roles and contributions of Civil Societies and the local Communities in Environmental activities

- Encourage and promote community participation in environmental activities from grassroot to elite level throughout the country.
- Support Government projects and programs through a collaborative approach to promote sustainable environmental management.
- Encourage/promote community participation in the decision-making process in environmental matters through an advocacy platform.
- Provide technical and financial support to Government and the Community through various sources.
Structural setting enabling civil Societies and Community participation

Public Education and Community Outreach – (PECO–MACCE)

- Promote nationwide environmental education and awareness through programs and projects.
- Organise Theme Days
- Support Schools and other institutions in promoting environmental education.
- Capacity building activities – Eco–warriors – Empower local Communities
Seychelles Parks & Gardens Authority (SPGA)

A parastatal organisation which manages Seychelles’ designated marine and terrestrial national parks and gardens.
Mission - Ensuring that the protected areas and gardens of Seychelles are managed for the benefit of all.

Research and Monitoring
Curieuse Island: Managed by SPGA, home to eight wetlands.
- Conducted a baseline wetland assessment
- Annual monitoring system to be implemented.

Mare Aux Cochons Wetland: Located in Morne Seychellois National Park. A rare high-ground freshwater wetland, designated a Ramsar site on 02/02/2010.
- Future baseline assessment planned for Mare Aux Cochons.
Seychelles Parks & Gardens Authority (SPGA)

Community Engagement:

- Organized mangrove planting activities with schools and organizations.
- Conducted invasive species removal (e.g., fern, cocoplum, coconut trees, casuarina trees).
- Clean-up activities.

Education and Awareness:

- Installed information boards.
- Shared information on social media.
Local Environmental NGOs

- **Capacity Build through training leaders/trainers**
  - Source of funding for community projects

- **Implement rehabilitation/restoration projects**
  - Provide technical support for case studies/research

- **Support Government Projects/programs**
  - Advocacy of national policies and regulations
Nature Seychelles

- A pioneer in conservation and management actions.
- A champion in restoration of mangroves and other associated ecosystems
- Custodian of a Sanctuary that now attracts waders and migrant birds as well as harbouring native aquatic biodiversity.
- A site for education and awareness raising on mangroves
Ramsar ecological **surveys** and training

**Co-management committee established** to participate in wetland conservation activities

**LEAP Junior Club** mangrove education & awareness

**Donated environmental centre to school** to encourage exploration of mangroves
Eco-Schools

- Established since 1993 through pilot project
- Influenced by two Policies
  - Education for a new Society
  - The Environment Management Plan - 2019
- Compulsory program in all State schools (Private Schools encourage to join)
- Cultivating and culture of sustainable environment practices
Wildlife Clubs

- Founded in 1994 by *Nature Seychelles* with support from *BirdLife International* to engage children and youth in conservation actions.

- Currently active in most schools with over 600+ members.

- Objective – To increase young people’s knowledge of Seychelles’ biodiversity and mobilize actions for conservation.

- Very active in wetlands restoration activities.
Community-Based Organisations – CBOs

- Has been in existence since 1990s focusing on Community-based programs and projects
- Very influential in the local communities providing a platform to participate in the decision-making process.
- Generating greater interest among individuals and groups in the Districts
- Safeguarding traditional and cultural values of the Communities
Public–Private Partnership

- Support Government Programs/projects
- Adoption of Wetlands through MoUs
- Support/host Theme Days events
- Promote sustainable use of wetlands and support Communities
- Promote Eco-Tourism

“Petit Barbarons Coastal Wetlands has been adopted by the Absa Bank (Seychelles) Limited through a Memorandum Of Understanding with the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment signed on the 5th August 2023.”

Ministry of Agriculture
Climate Change
and Environment
The Strategic Approach

- Training of leaders
- Promote Collaboration and partnership agreements
- Organise outdoor activities with various groups
- Focus on a door-to-door approach
- Incentivised partnership/recognition of contributions of partners.
- Policies and regulations
Achievements

- Increased commitments from Private Businesses – (signing of MoUs)
- Increased support in wetlands restoration activities
- Greater Community engagement and ownership – (being part of the decision-making process)
- Improve awareness among local communities
Achievements – Conti…

- Wider mobilization in schools including post-secondary institutions
- Programs embedded in Schools Curriculum
- Brought awareness to a greater scale, (Media, Policy-makers, Legislative)
- Contributing to achieve NDC targets

- Committed to protecting its Blue Carbon Ecosystems, i.e. at least 50% of its seagrass and mangrove ecosystems by 2025 and 100% by 2030.
Achievements – Private partnership

- Increase in the number of NGOs/CBOs
- Increase funding for restoration projects/programs through Donor Funding
- Greater capacity building - (Community empowerment)
- Restored connectivity between ecosystems, (more than 550,000 Sqm. restored, more than 10,000 mangroves planted)
4. Achievements - Restored associated ecosystem

- Providing stability for our coastal areas - restored degraded coral reefs - Started in 2010
- 25,000 nursery grown coral colonies were transplanted on a 5,000m² of degraded reefs with a very high survival rate.
- Farmed 40,000 from 34 species
- New scientific techniques produced 5,000 heat resilient coral per year.
Challenges

- Impacts of Climate Change
- Pressure from Development, (Urban expansion, industries, agriculture, tourism)
- Need to improve coordination between Government entities
- Need more support for capacity building
- Resistance to change by few local communities
Mobilization of volunteers for clean-up works on Aldabra - (SIF, Foreign volunteers, Universities)
Opportunities exist in:

- Improve national and regional networking on wetlands restoration practices
- Strengthen national policies through a collaborative approach involving all stakeholders
- Access to Donor funding through local NGOs/CBOs
- Improve the country’s resilience through capacity building at Civil Society and Community level.
Opportunities – conti..

- The expansion of NGOs/CBOs that are focusing on Climate Change mitigation and adaptation approaches
- Involvement of private sectors in the implementation and financing of restoration activities.
- Availability and increase of Donor Funding
Way forward

- Strengthen institutional frameworks
- Improve incentives/recognitions to voluntary individuals/groups
- Improve ridge-to-reef approach in restoration activities
- Promote and strengthen stakeholders’ involvement
THANK YOU
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Communities and Restoration

Dalton Gibbs – City of Cape Town
Environmental Management Department

Making progress possible. Together.
Dalton Gibbs

- City of Cape Town – Biodiversity Management Branch
The South African Context

- South Africa has 11 official languages
- Diverse cultures
- Large social wealth gap
- Third most biodiverse country on earth
Western Cape Province

- The Western Cape is a winter rainfall area
- About 90,000 km sq (about the size of Portugal)
- The supports 20% of Africa’s flora (9000 species)
- Supports 3% of the plant species on earth
Cape Town

- The most biodiverse city in the world (IUCN 2015).
- 2500 km sq.
- 3200 Plant species
- 60 Mammals
- 610 Birds
- 21 Amphibians
- 52 Reptiles

Extremely high levels of endemism
Cape Town

- The highest rates of plant extinction for its size in the world.
- 3.6 million people
- Water scarce
Restoration is a long term endeavour and will far outlive those involved in it!

- This multi generational thinking is often contrary to Western short term thinking.
- Restoration work with communities thus has to be sold as long term natural heritage investment.
- The concept of “A living legacy”.
Set Expectations with Communities!

- Re-vegetation
- Rehabilitation
- Restoration
Restoration

- Establishing a fully functional intact ecosystem with all its indigenous components
Restoration

- We need to know and explain to communities what the final product looks like.
Where is the Restoration going to take place?
Do we have...

- Legislative protection for the site?
- The necessary expertise to sustain the effort?
- A secure long term budget?
- Safety & security – the necessary Law Enforcement & Security if needed?
- What invasive species do we need to remove?
What species do we need to introduce?
• What ecological processes do we need to sustain the species?
• Will these impact local communities?
Example prescribed ecological fires
• Example annual draw downs
Communities
Communities?

- Who is your community?
• Anyone who wants to become involved!
Partnerships

- Where multiple partners are involved define roles & responsibilities – good fences make good neighbours....
- Consider a Project Scope Document if necessary
Liability?

- Are there possible safety issues for volunteers?
- Do you need a formal agreement (Memorandum of Agreement) between people and/or organisations who may be assisting?
Designate a clear Restoration Project Manager

- A suitable staff member in your organisation with a clear mandate and understanding of the Restoration Project
- Someone with good communication skills…
The Champions!

• Establish and nurture champions in communities you are working with.
Set Milestones

- As part of setting expectations, set conservative milestones when certain species could be re-introduced.
Institutionalise and Celebrate the Restoration Project

- Use annual events, like Heritage Day or Spring Day, to annually celebrate and remind communities of the Project.
Social Media
Case Studies
Zeekoevlei Draw Down
27 April – Freedom Day
Water Hyacinth Eradication
Toad Tunnels – Western Leopard Toad

- University – research
- City Roads Department
- Residents Association
- Local Environmental Group
Use every opportunity to re-enforce partnerships
Erica verticillata & Serruria foeniculaceae
Community hack group
Thank You
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Ile de La Réunion - France
The International Ramsar Wetlands Technical Seminar - Reunion Island, France (May 22-24, 2024)

Jacinta Laisson

Email:jalaissone@gmail.com
The Mobilization of Civil Society and Local Community in Mangrove Restoration

Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities” (WIOSAP)
Localization

Mupo Nacopo (localidade Simuco)

Geba

Mussuril 1: 677339.00 m E8345680.00 m S

Google Earth
BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

➢ TOTAL AREA OF MANGROVE - 932 ha

➢ 2000- FLOOD

➢ MORE THAN HALF OF THE MANGROVE WAS SUBMERGED IN FRESHWATER FOR 45 DAYS

➢ MORE THAN 382 ha OF MANGROVE WERE LOST

➢ 2010 BEGINNING OF THE RESTORATION OF THE MANGROVE
MOBILIZATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND LOCAL COMUNITY

1. MANGROVE RESTORATION PLANNING

1.1. Project Design
(support the information collection team in the field)

1.2. Contact of Partners and Interested Parties:

1. Contact the competent institutions on District: looking at the delimitation of the area, gather sensitivities, subsidies and advice, availability of potential areas for mangrove restoration. Deepen knowledge about degraded areas and their causes.

2. Present at the level of the Province - in the institutions with competence to decide on the development of any project within the territory.
Civil Society and Local Community Consultation Meeting

1. To present the project;

2. Design activities related to the restoration process;

3. Doing awareness for adherence and collaboration in all subsequent stages,

4. Consultation of history to obtain local knowledge and traditional uses for mangrove.
## SOME STRATEGIES DEVELOPED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Leadership (authorities and structures)</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>➢ Mobilize local communities (meetings, training, mangrove restoration activities, etc.);</td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ Conflict management on mangrove uses;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Monitoring;</td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ Decision-making: offender, authorize new mangrove restoration areas, and others.)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Natural Resource Management Commite</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>➢ To coordinate with local leadership in mobilizing communities and civil society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Planning activities, schedule activities and communicates to local leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ Implementation of activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Awareness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Monitoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ Inspection of the mangrove forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Identify and establish partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Publicize and report achievements</td>
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</table>
Civil society has the responsibility to advocacy;

Raise awareness among local communities about the importance of mangrove and restoration

To establish partnerships

Monitoring
RESULTS

More than 1000 members of the local community participate in different mangrove restoration activities, of which more than 80% are women.
Trained:

➢ 90 primary teachers to integrate mangrove issues into local schools;
➢ 198 community members in environmental legislation;
➢ 78 community members trained in basic mangrove restoration techniques.
THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION/MERCI