

Association pour le Développement Durable (ADD)

ADD/CF/MEHR&TESR Sandwatch Programme at France Boyer de la Giroday SSS (FBG)

Brief on the visit to Blue Bay public beach

1. Date: Friday 15 March 2019

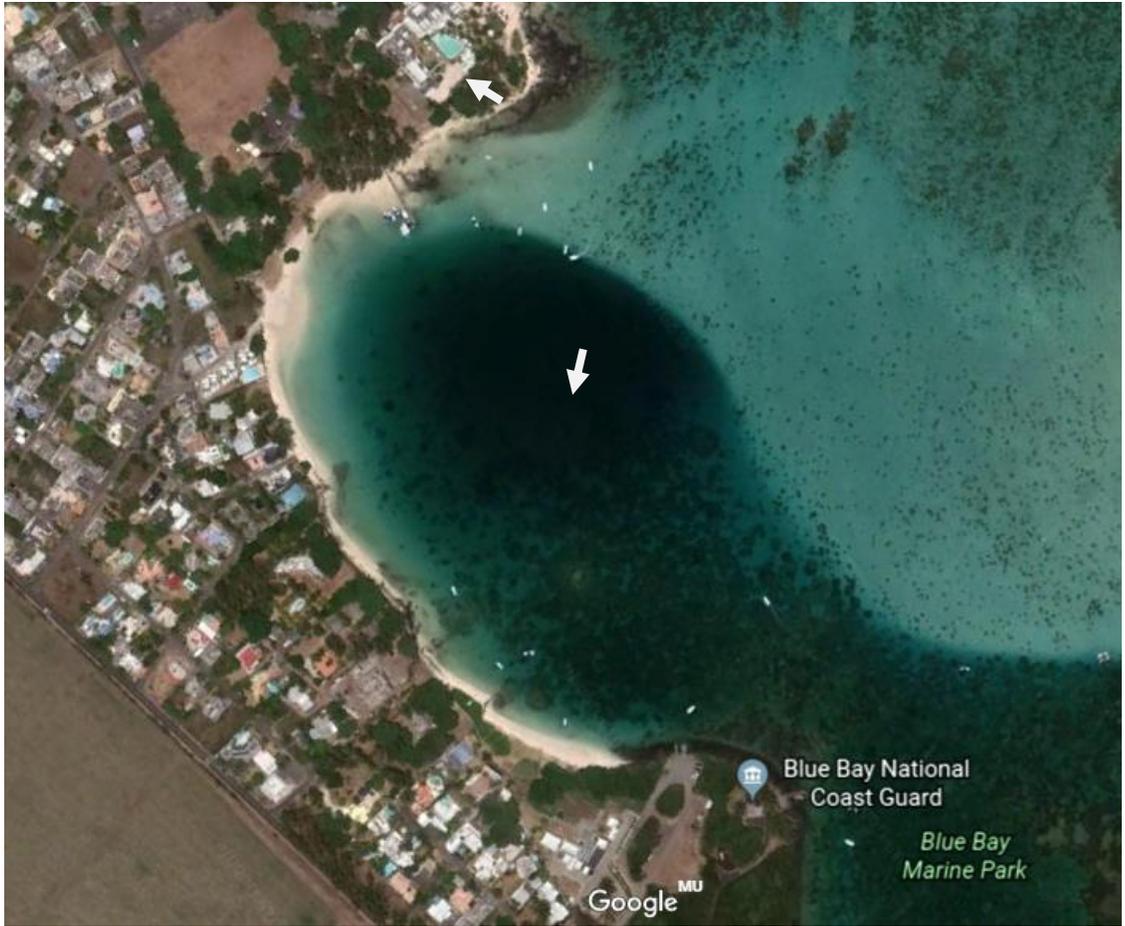
2. Objective

The purpose of the visit was to make a reconnaissance of the beach, following a decision to shift sandwatch activity from La Cambuse to a nearby beach, to identify 3/4 reference objects as starting points where detailed observation would be made along transect lines. These would be discussed with **France Boyer de la Giroday SSS (FBG)** educators and students during the upcoming 1st field exercise.

3. Choice of Blue Bay

Several suggestions were made including Point D'Esny, Blue Bay and nearby beaches. The South East region was first analyzed from the Google map to identify the most appropriate site. Blue Bay was reckoned as the most suitable beach for the following reasons:

- i) It is located next to La Cambuse
- ii) Blue Bay Marine Park has been designated in 2008 a RAMSAR Site - a wetland of international importance based on species and ecological diversity it sustains.
- iii) It is quite safe with regular police patrol
- iv) It is easily accessible with good roads from the school to the beach
- v) The lagoon is in the form of a bay with an ideal length of the shoreline for monitoring
- vi) It is widely used by the large residence population, ensuring thus collaboration and ownership, as well as local and foreign tourists as one of the most popular beach destination in the south
- vii) It is a good site to study erosion.



The length of the shoreline to be monitored is about 650 m

4. Identification of reference objects

Four reference objects were identified. The beach width from a fixed point to the High Water Mark (HWM) was measured, an exercise which would be repeated with students

4.1. Reference Object A

This is a kiosk located on the left of the public beach when facing the sea. The reference point is the corner of the step to the right



Length of fixed point to the end of grass on the beach =19.70m
Beach width from fixed point (the extreme end of the wall) to HWM=25.90m

4.2 Reference Object B

The fixed object is a vertical wall situated at the entrance of a public road located about 300 m from object A.



Beach width from fixed point (the extreme end of the wall) to HWM = 4.40m

4.3 Reference Object C

The third fixed object is a vertical wall situated almost to the end of the bay at the entrance of a pathway.



Length of fixed point to the end of vegetation on the beach = 26.90m
Beach width from fixed point (the extreme end of the wall) to HWM = 32.20 m

4.4 Reference Object D

A fourth reference point was taken on the public beach at the foot of a badamier tree. Erosion is quite marked nearby. It is expected that this would worsen after successive extreme weather and ocean events. The length of the vertical scarp to the foot of the tree was measured to quantify temporal changes in the future.



Length of fixed point to vertical scarp = 7.10m

Beach width from fixed point (the extreme end of the wall) to HWM = 10.80m

5. Erosion

Several sites are undergoing severe coastal erosion. It has been noted by regular sea goers that the vegetation line is moving landwards, dangerously at some sites, threatening pathways, vertical walls and landmark trees.



House to be used as reference in future study



Round wall is likely to be soon impacted



Occurred 2 wks ago and the risk site demarcated



Pathway threatened by erosion

6. Historical aspect

Mr. Ravee Balchand (5259 5292) has been working on the beach for almost 30 years since his childhood. He would be prepared to provide photos of the beach taken long ago. He recollected that about 20 years ago, there was a public swimming pool by the sea demarcated by vertical wall. It was gradually destroyed

by heavy seas. Part of the vertical wall could still be seen. He has noted that erosion is accelerating particularly in recent years. The latest event occurred about 2 weeks ago. A ‘raz de marée’ washed away tons of sand, creating vertical scarps of almost 2 m at certain places. The authorities were informed and risk areas with warning signs have been demarcated.



Remnants of the public swimming pool