



Association pour le  
Développement Durable®

## **Sandwatch implementation at La Gaulette State Secondary School**

**Brief report on the Closing Ceremony -**

**13 July 2018**



**July 2018**

## **Sandwatch implementation at La Gaulette State Secondary School**

### **Brief report on the Closing ceremony**

#### **1. Introduction**

The implementation of the UNESCO Sandwatch Programme, in collaboration of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research (MOEHRTESR) and La Gaulette SSS with support from Currimjee Foundation (CF), started in January 2018 and terminated in July 2018. Initially, 15 students of class 10 participated in the first training at the school and the first field exercise at La Preneuse Public Beach. Seven students were then selected to continue the implementation in field exercises to monitor water quality, map beach profiles and identify plants and animals on the beach and in classroom sessions to analyse collected data and prepare reports. Five Educators were involved in the process.

The closing ceremony was held on 13 July 2018 at the school.

#### **2. Participants**

All participating students and educators attended the ceremony. Mr. D. Munohur, representative of MOEHRTESR, Dr. I. Bhungun and Mr. P. Fleur, representatives of Currimjee Foundation and Messrs S.N. Sok Appadu, R. Nookadee, S. Chacowry, Dr. B. Pathack, Mr. S. and Mrs O. Ragoonaden of Association pour le Développement Durable (ADD) were among the honoured invitees.

The programme of the event is given in Annex I.

#### **3. Opening**

In his welcome speech, Mr. M. Kim Currun, Rector of La Gaulette SSS expressed his appreciation that the school has been selected to implement the sandwatch programme. At the beginning, there was some doubt whether the school could respond effectively to the new challenge. However, as the programme evolved, the objectives became clearer and the students and educators became more dedicated and involved. The sandwatch programme has provided different types of learning opportunities and exposure to real life activities with the environment under professional guidance. The programme has boosted the confidence of the students. He expressed his thanks to ADD for this initiative and CF for its support and hoped that the sandwatch programme could be replicated next year.

His speech is given in Annex II

Mr. Sok Appadu, President of ADD, first highlighted that the main objectives of ADD are to implement environment related projects and sensitize mostly students and youth in the protection of natural resources. It has implemented, among others, a coastal environmental project at Poudre D'Or to protect Monument St. Geran against erosion, planted about 100 000 mangrove propagules/seedlings in various regions, mainly along the western coast, around Mauritius and conducted sensitization campaigns in several primary and secondary schools and social centres. ADD is pleased to have associated itself with MOEHRTESR and CF to implement the sandwatch programme at La Gaulette SSS and contribute in raising awareness of the participants in the protection and conservation of marine resources. He thanked all stakeholders for their support and assistance.

An outline of his speech is given in Annex III



Figure 1 Mr. M. Kim Currun



Figure 2 Mr. S.N. Sok Appadu

Mrs Munohur pointed out that La Gaulette SSS was selected for two main reasons: its proximity to the coast and its active Eco-Club. She then underlined that the coastal region is very vulnerable to climate change and in particular the associated sea level rise. She made an appeal to students to take advantage of knowledge that they had acquired through Sandwatch, to sensitise others and contribute to save coastal resources. She emphasized that together with every simple and single action, we could save the planet. She finally congratulated the Rector and staff as well as all the participants for the successful implementation of the Sandwatch programme and thanked all stakeholders especially ADD for this laudable initiative and achievement and Currimjee Foundation for its support.

The speech of Mrs Munohur is given in Annex IV.



Figure 3 Mrs Munohur

Lastly, Dr. Bhugun highlighted that the social and environmental focus of Currimjee Foundation is on long term actions in the fields of education, sports, health, environment and poverty alleviation to local communities. CF is pleased to have contributed in the promotion of critical thinking among the younger generation and monitoring of coastal environment resources, which are vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise. He concluded by congratulating the Rector and staff as well as all the participants for the successful completion of the Sandwatch programme and expressed his gratitude to all stakeholders especially ADD and MOEHRTESR.



Figure 4 Dr. Bhugun

The outline of his speech is given in Annex V.

#### **4. An introduction to sandwatch**

Mr. Ragoonaden, Vice President of ADD and responsible to implement this activity, gave a brief introduction to sandwatch to remind the audience of the different activities associated with programme. The implementation started on 29 January 2018 when ADD met the Rector and Educators to prepare a plan. Four field exercises and three classroom sessions had been organized to enable students to collect data on environmental characteristics of La Preneuse beach, beach profiles along four transect lines and water quality as well as on the function of the UNESCO Database for data entry. He thanked the students and educators for their dedication to the programme.

#### **5. Presentations by Students**

The 7 students who participated actively in all the activities made presentations on the following topics:

1. General Description of La Preneuse Beach
2. Erosion
3. Beach profiling
4. Human activities
5. Water Quality
6. Plants and animals
7. Weather



Figure V. Presentations by students

## 6. Award of Certificates

Certificates of Achievements were awarded by the honoured invitees to the 7 students who completed the programme and Certificates of Participation to 8 students who participated in some initial activities.



Figure VI. Award of Certificate of Achievement by Mr. Fleur

## 7. Closing

Mr. Kim Currun thanked all participants and invited them for some refreshment.

**ASSOCIATION POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE (ADD)**

**in collaboration with Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research (MOEHRTESR) and Currimjee Foundation (CF)**

ADD/CF/UNESCO Sandwatch Programme -

Presentation of achievements and Award of Certificates

(La Gaulette SSS, Friday 13 July 2018 at 10h30)

Programme

<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>By</b>
10h30 – 10h40	Welcome	Rector, La Gaulette SSS
	Address	ADD, President
	Address	Representative, Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and scientific Research
	Address	Representative, Currimjee Foundation
10h40 – 10h45	Introduction to ADD/CF/UNESCO's Sandwatchprogramme	S.Ragoonaden, Vice-President ADD
10h45 - 11h05	<p align="center"><b>Presentation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. General Description of La Preneuse Beach</li> <li>ii. Erosion</li> <li>iii. Beach Composition</li> <li>iv. Human activities</li> <li>v. Water Qualities</li> <li>vi. Plants and animals</li> <li>vii. Weather</li> </ul>	Participating students
11h05 – 11h20	Award of certificates to participants	Invitees
11h20	Vote of thanks	Mr. M. Kim Currun
Up to 12h00	Refreshment	

**Speech of Mr. Kim Currun**

Dr Bhugun, Currimjee Foundation  
Mr Fleur, Manager Currimjee Foundation  
Mr SokAppadu, President ADD,  
Mr Ragoonaden, Vice President and other members present today,  
Mrs Munohur, MOEHRTER  
Staff and students of La Gaulette SSS.

It is indeed a pleasure and privilege for me to welcome you to this award ceremony.

We have been working together for so long that we form part of a family and I must say that the School will always feel proud to welcome you at any time.

When the choice of La Gaulette SSS was made to carry out the Sand Watch Programme, there was a lot of speculation that the project would come to a standstill, if not worse. We have proved the contrary thanks to the dedication and efforts of one and all. For this we deserve a round of applause.

It must be remembered that last year the school was awarded a Silver Award In the Eco-School project and had the potential to emerge successfully in the new challenge it faced.

In fact Sand Watch created more and different types of learning opportunities to our young learners. Learning is not confined to the classroom situation. Students are exposed to real life activities and interaction with the environment under professional guidance have been transformed into active learners. For this reason we are grateful to the Association pour le Developpement Durable .

The commitment of the Currimjee Foundation, their belief in the ability in our students has been a real source of motivation. All through their presence have been felt and through the project, I dare say, one of the goals of social responsibility has been achieved. I sincerely hope that this project could be extended for the benefit of all students.

A word of thanks is not enough to value this contribution.

The certification of achievement issued to deserving students is not the end of the road. It is rather a beginning. It is also a commitment that our students will be, in the near future, on this side of the table and be sharing their experience. For, after all is said and done, this is what remains. Do you students have any fears now?...Certainly no.

Lets us keep alive this spirit. Bravo .

Thank You

Outline of the Speech of Mr. S.N.SokAppadu

Honoured Guests, Teaching and non Teaching Staff of La Gaulette SSS and dear students .

It has been a pleasure to ADD in implementing the Sandwatch programme at La Gaulette SSS.

It has been an enriching experience to work in close collaboration with the MOEHRTESR, La Gaulette SSS and the CF to be able to complete such environment activity.

All stakeholders, in the project, put in their maximum effort to make it a success.

ADD will like to highlight the zeal and patience with which Mr, S. Ragoonaden ,the Vice Chairman of ADD, during the implementation .The Students were highly interested and so the staff of La Gaulette SSS.

ADD hopes there will be future opportunities to have the MOEHR, The CF and students from other regions to work together again.



**Speech of Mrs Mohunrun**

Mr SokAppadu, President ADD  
MrRagoonaden Sachooda, Vice President ADD  
Dr Bhugun and Mr Fleur from Currimjee Foundation  
Mr Kim Currun, Rector La Gaulette SSS  
Distinguished Guests  
Participants

Greetings from the Ag. Director of Zone 4, Mrs Beeharry Panray.

It is a great pleasure to be among you today to celebrate the outcome of initiatives taken at La Gaulette SSS since the 1<sup>st</sup> term in the context of the Sandwatch programme.

As you are all aware, the Sandwatch programme which was initiated by UNESCO in 1999 aims at sensitizing students of primary and secondary schools of the urgency of monitoring their coastal environments. Under the guidance of their teachers, threats have to be identified and solutions proposed to address these threats. Sandwatch thus links classroom activities to real-life issues relating to climate change, sustainable development, cultural diversity and science.

La Gaulette SSS was chosen for the implementation of the Sandwatch project for two reasons. Firstly because of its coastal location and secondly because it has an active Eco Club. The programme has been implemented with the support of experts from the ADD, the Association pour le Developpement Durable.

Dear students, as you know climate change is having a disastrous effect on our Planet Earth. Thousands of people are losing their lives and their homes throughout the world and our island is no exception. According to the United Nations Development Programme, our island is vulnerable to “considerable economic loss, humanitarian stresses and environmental degradation as climate change impact”. The sea level is expected to rise up to 59 centimetres by 2100.

Dear students, now that you are equipped with tools which may save our beautiful environment, it is your duty to further your education so that you may help others to understand the importance and value of our natural resources.

Many scientists believe that we are beyond “saving our planet” after the environmental devastation we have put the Earth through this far. Every single and simple action counts so let us work together to save our planet.

Mangroves, for example, are well known for their environmental benefits as they are an ideal natural habitat for fish and other birds in Mauritius. So you may sensitize the community on their importance. It is worth mentioning here that in 2014 the inhabitants of the village of Grand Sable planted 20,000 mangroves which serve as a natural coastal defence to protect from rising water and flood. The plantation of mangroves may also result in improvements in local fishing hence saving the livelihood of fishermen.

I would now like to conclude by congratulating the Rector and staff as well as all the participants for the successful implementation of the Sandwatch programme at La Gaulette SSS. Our gratitude also goes to all stakeholders especially the ADD for this laudable initiative and achievement.

Long live our beloved island. Thank you.

**Outline of the speech of Dr. Bhugun**

- Currimjee Foundation (CF) was created in 2009 with the aim to manage the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects of the Group.
- CF focuses on long term actions in the fields of education, sports, health, environment and poverty alleviation. The philosophy CF lies in its commitment to the local communities.
- Mauritius is a small island, with beautiful sandy beaches and surrounded by a large sea, making us as vulnerable and concerned about climate change and sea level rise, as any low lying islands.
- Collaborated with the NGO 'Association pour le Développement Durable' and the ministry of education to implement the UNESCO's Sandwatch Programme at La Gaulette SSS.
- Initiative promotes critical thinking among the younger generation and allow them to monitor specific parameters of the coastal environment relating to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.
- Hard work and dedication of the teachers and students of La Gaulette SSS is commendable. This valorizes the philosophy of the school which is 'learning by doing'.