

ADEA Workshop on Education for Sustainable Development



Wolmar, Flic en Flac, Maurice November 26-28, 2012

#### Achievements of the Ministry of Environment & Sustainable Development in the field of Education & Information for SD

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Ministry of Environment & Sustainable Development
Mauritius

## Vision of the Ministry

- The vision of the Ministry of Environment & SD is to achieve environmental sustainability and for us to have a clean and healthy environment.
- In this endeavor, the Ministry of Environment with the collaboration of various stakeholders is doing its best to strengthen environmental education processes so as to improve the quality of life of the people.

## **Environmental Challenges**

- Vulnerability to impacts of climate change
- Preservation of the biodiversity
- Water resource management
- Solid waste management
- Coastal zone management
- Management of Environmentally Sensitive Areas







## Institutional Set up, Environmental Strategies & Policies

•	1988	1 <sup>st</sup> National Environmental Strategies
•	1989	Department of Environment established
•	1991	1st National Environmental Policy
•	1999	Second National Environmental Strategies, National Environment Action Plan and Environment Investment Programme for the decade 2000-2010

- New National Environmental Policy
- 2008 2<sup>nd</sup> National Environmental Strategies updated
  - Maurice Ile Durable Policy & Strategy under development

#### **Environmental Legislations**

- The Environment Protection Act (EPA) was first enacted in 1991 as the main legislation for the protection and management of the environmental assets of Mauritius.
- This was reviewed in 2002 and again amended in 2008 in response to emerging challenges.
- The EPA constitutes:
  - comprehensive enforcement procedures
  - development control mechanisms,
  - promulgation of regulations and standards for all environmental media
  - provides for the setting up of several statutory committees to ensure effective coordination among Enforcing Agencies.

## Environmental Education & Awareness

#### Environmental stewardship

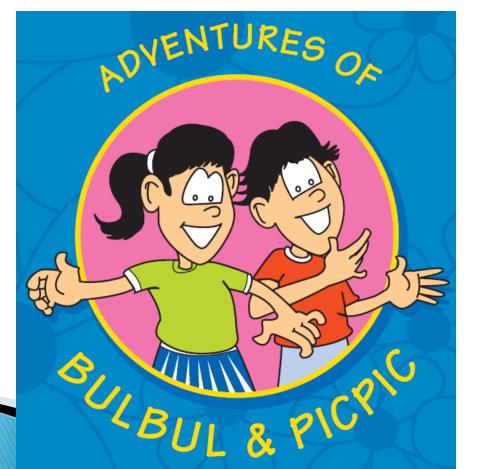
- It is an integral component of the EPA, which stipulates that each and every citizen of Mauritius must preserve and enhance the quality of life by caring responsibly for the natural environment.
- Creation of a full-fledged division, the Information and Education Division within the Department of Environment which addresses all matters pertaining to non-formal environmental education.

## Information & Education Division within the Ministry

- The main duties of the Information and Education Division of the Ministry of Environment consist of:
  - delivery of talks to different target groups
  - development of resource materials in the form of pamphlets, posters, toolkit for teachers, activity books for students
  - setting up of exhibitions
  - development of audio visual like short film and radio spots
  - Organization of major international environmental events
    - (Earth Day, World Environment Day, Clean Up the World)
  - Implementation of the Environment Information System (EIS).

## Main Projects on ESD

Development of "This is the way... " Activity Book for Pre-Primary & Lower Primary level students



A colouring book focusing on different themes of the environment

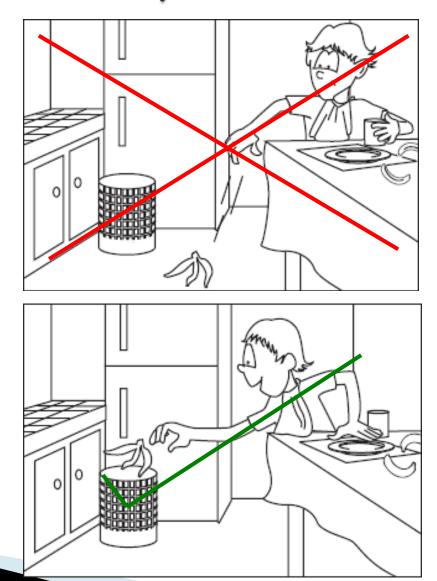
# Development of "This is the way... " Activity Book for Pre-Primary & Lower Primary level students

#### Aim of Activity Book:

1. To develop responsible behaviours and attitudes among young children for environmental protection in a fun-learning way (through: colouring, drawing & creativity)

2. To develop creative thinking in the child using the environment as a medium

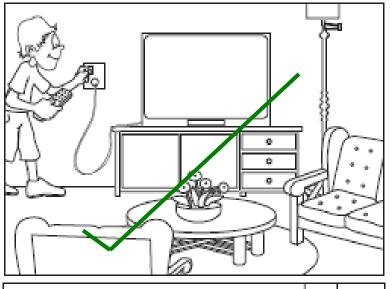
## This is the way I Handle Wastes



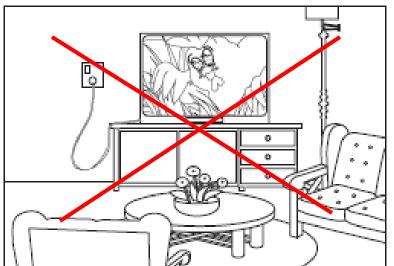


## This is the way I Save Energy





Good Way



**Bad Way** 

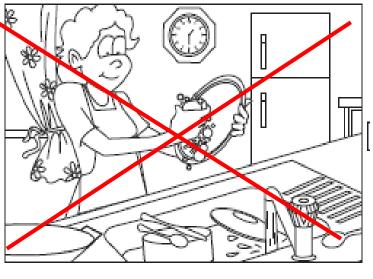


This is the way I leave the TV room

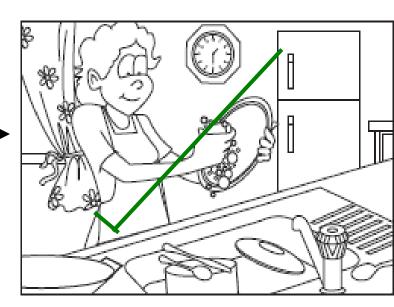


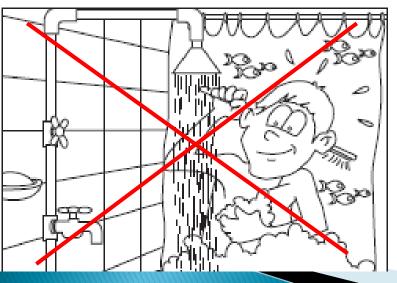
## The Way I Use Water





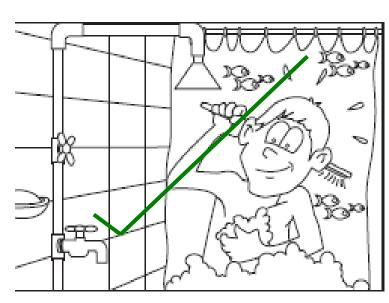
Washing dishes







**Shower** 



# Development of "This is the way... " Activity Book for Pre-Primary & Lower Primary level students

- A training workshop was organized for Preprimary and Lower Primary Teachers
  - To empower them on effective environmental education and information dissemination
  - 2. To explain the concept of Sustainable Consumption in relation to student's day-to-day life

### Main Projects on ESD

- Establishment of Endemic gardens in schools.
- The project concerns the setting up of an endemic garden in all primary and secondary schools over a period of 5 years, starting from 2010.









## Objective of School Endemic Garden Project



- Understand the term 'endemic'.
- Learn in practice about the common endemic plants of Mauritius and this will enable them to identify endemic plants in nature.
- Develop horticultural skills.
- Develop responsible behaviours with regards to caring for plants which are important in biodiversity conservation.
- Explore further and learn about the importance of the endemic plants.



### Resource Materials Developed



#### A Toolkit for Teachers

- A booklet for use by school teachers.
- A guide to explain and support the setting up and maintenance of endemic gardens in primary and secondary schools of Mauritius.
- It is interactive.
  - It allows for teachers along with students to work on specific "Think About It" questions. Spaces have been provided for writing the answers.
  - It provides format for preparing a class log book to record date on which cultural practices have been carried out and record observations on stage of growth and occurrence of pest/disease.
- The Toolkit is in a folder so that it can be updated as activities for the endemic garden progress and as you learn more about endemic plants.

## Resource Materials Developed

#### Brochure

 It describes the different steps to follow when setting up a School Endemic Garden.

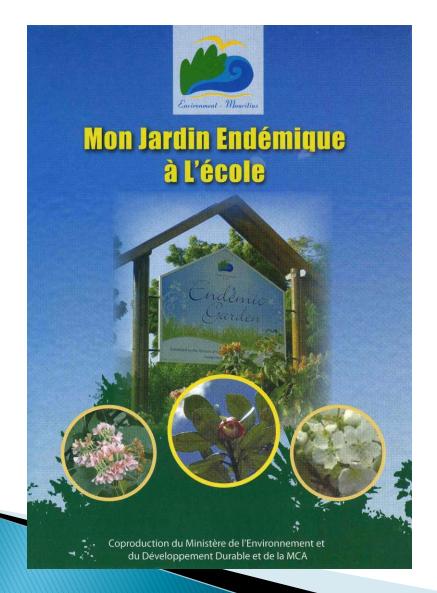
#### Poster

 It shows the names and photos of some 20 common endemic plants

#### Short film of about 10 mins

- The film shows visually the different steps to follow when setting up a School Endemic Garden.
- Example of 2 model schools where endemic garden has already been set up.
  - Comments and feedback from students.

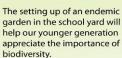
### The School Endemic Garden Project





Our endemic plants and animals are unique to Mauritius. They are our pride. There remains less than 2 percent of native forest on our island.







Initiation of the child in planting activities.

- Presently, there are 311 flowering endemic plant species and 52 plant species are critically endangered.
- We need to conserve our endemic wealth.

#### Photos of some beautiful endemic plants in Mauritius:



Botanical name: Ochna mauritiana Common name: Bouquet bananė



Botanical name: *Trochetia boutoniana* Common name: *Trochetia* 

Ministry of Environment & Sustainable Development



Environment - Mauritius



## Waste Segregation Project in schools

- Students are sensitised on the segregation of waste into different components such as paper, plastic bottles and green wastes.
- The sorted waste (plastic bottles and paper) are collected by recycling companies while the green waste is composted for use in the endemic garden.
- Bins of different colours for sorting the waste have been provided to the schools.

### Waste Segregation Project in schools

- Aim of project
- To inculcate the concept of waste sorting and recycling in our school children
- To educate our school children who will in turn influence their parents to start sorting out their waste and to compost their

biodegradable waste at home

## Resource material developed









## Rain Water Harvesting Project at Community level

- This project has been proposed in the context of the African Women's Decade.
- Especially, to identify women's role in mitigating climate change.

## Rain Water Harvesting Project at Community level

The project has been launched on pilot basis at 3 women centres and will be extended to the other women centres till next year.

#### Aim of the project:

- To sensitise women on the importance of water, minimise use of tap water and how to collect rainwater. Financial benefits in terms of reduction in water bill have also been stressed.
- The training of the trainers concept has been used whereby all the women leaders at the different women centres have been sensitised.

## Rain Water Harvesting Project at Community level



## Medicinal Plant Distribution Campaign with women community

The project was launched last year with the aim

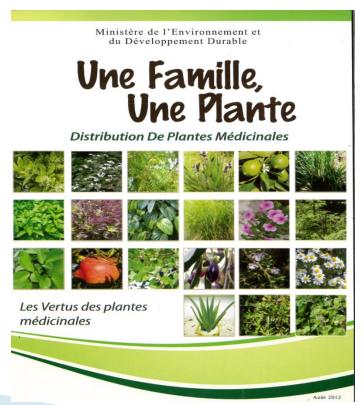
to encourage the women community to rediscover the virtues of our local medicinal plants and the richness of our local biodiversity.

To promote the plantation of medicinal plants at home so that it is easily available for healing

various diseases.

## Medicinal Plant Distribution Campaign with women community

A brochure and a poster on the virtues of medicinal plants have also been produced for distribution.



### Knowledge fair on climate change

A 3 day exhibition and seminar was organised to sensitise students, women community and the general public on climate change adaptation and mitigation activities being undertaken.

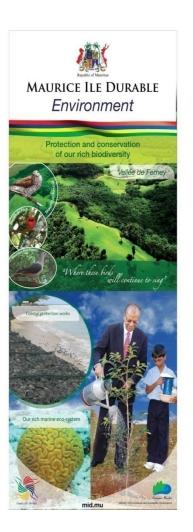


- Initiative launched in 2008.
- A long term vision for the sustainable development of our country which aims at changing the environmental, societal and economic landscape of Mauritius.
- National Maurice Ile Durable Vision which encapsulates five major themes: Energy, Education, Environment, Equity and Employment (the 5Es).

- Our Vision for Education
- 1. Our educational system promotes the sustainable development of skills, knowledge and values through lifelong learning to ensure the holistic development of the citizen.
- 2. Our formal and informal education systems foster responsible, green and civic values in all age groups to achieve a caring society.
- 3. The potential of our human resource is fully tapped to foster social equity along with enhancing economic, political, environmental and cultural well-being.













Preparation of bookmark with environmental tips to promote sustainable lifestyle

## Way Forward

- Need for a National Action plan on Environmental Education with clear cut objectives of the different stakeholders.
- There is a need to strengthen the collaboration and networking among all the stakeholders involved locally in ESD.

## Thank you