

**CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP
FOR LEADERS OF COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBOs)
REPORT**

SATURDAY, 29TH MARCH, 2014, L' HABITATION HOTEL, CERF ISLAND

Sustainability for Seychelles



This workshop was financially supported by the GEF small grants programme and hosted by L'Habitation Hotel on Cerf Island.



Background

As a small island developing state, Seychelles is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. It is critical now that the population of Seychelles becomes more aware and pro-active in terms of how they can both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. One of the key strategies the country can use to achieve this is through education, awareness and training of community members. Seychelles now has some fifteen community based organisations (CBOs) which are engaging citizens in local actions to help improve the environment and community life. These groups include the Bel Ombre Action Team, Port Glaud Environment Club, Les Mamelles Heritage Association, Praslin Environment Group, Cascade Heritage Trust, Plaisance Community Outreach, Lasosyasyon Pour Promouvwar Latrankilite e Respe, the Anse Boileau Guardians, and several community fishermen and farmer's associations. A few CBOs are already engaged in actions to prevent or cope with the impacts of climate change – Sustainability for Seychelles organized this workshop to give them a chance to share their experiences and give other CBO's ideas of how they can help their communities take action to deal with climate change.

Workshop objectives

Sustainability for Seychelles planned this workshop to bring several members of local CBOs together in order to:

- Increase their awareness of Climate change issues and its expected impacts on Seychelles.
- Inspire CBOs to be engaged in an exploration of climate-related issues in their communities.
- Gather information for research about CBO's work and involvement in action towards Climate Change concerns.

** Copies of this report will be made available to all participants via e-mail, and hard copies distributed to those without.*

Workshop Agenda

Timeframe	Activity
9.00	Meet @ Eden Island
9.30	Leave for Cerf Island
10.00 - 10.15	Arrival – Tea Time - Registration of participants
10.15 - 10.30	Opening: Agenda & Icebreaker
10.30 - 11.00	Video: " Climate Change in UK territories", followed by brainstorming on Climate Change causes & impacts
11.00 - 11.20	Climate Change & Disasters, Mrs. Regina Prosper - DRDM
11.20 - 11.40	Climate Change & Agriculture, Mrs. Mermedah Moustache – MNRI
11.40 – 12.00	Climate Change & Seychelles Response, Mrs. Michele Martin – S4S
12.00 - 13.00	Lunch Break
13.00 – 14.00	Group work: Communities & Climate Change
14.00 – 15.00	Presentation of group work - comments
15.00 – 15.45	Field activity: Walk in the coastal erosion area of Cerf Island – Photos - Discussion
15.45 – 16.30	Evaluation – What's next? - Wrap up
16.30	Leave for Mahe

Workshop Participants

The workshop was attended by 29 participants, 19 women and 10 men; mainly from Mahe, but also from Praslin and La Digue. Most participants were members of 10 different existing CBOs and a few were people who would like to form a Community-based organization. The list of participants and their contact details can be found in Annex 1. A team from SBC were also there to cover the event. The workshop was organized and facilitated by Michele Martin and Kelly Garyfalli from S4S.

Brief description of the workshop

The workshop went more or less according to the programme. After Michele gave some background about Sustainability for Seychelles and its mission, she provided an overview of the workshop objectives & agenda. Then, participants watched a film and were invited to list causes and impacts of Climate Change and highlight which apply to Seychelles. What followed were three presentations from local experts on different Climate Change aspects, raising a lot of questions by the participants. During lunch break, discussions

among them were still hot. In the afternoon, the participants were given the task of working in a team to explore the major issues arising in their communities as a result of climate change, any actions already being taken and the potential options to solve these problems. Participants also discussed what the CBOs really need to be strengthened and become more effective in their work. In the end, each group presented their work and received comments and critique. We also spent a little time discussing possible follow up things and evaluate the day. The workshop went overtime, due to discussions, and we didn't have time to walk on the coastline of the island.

WORKSHOP FINDINGS

(1) Video

Participants were asked to watch the video: 'Climate Change in the UK overseas territories', to notice what the causes and impacts of climate change are and comment on what elements of the film were relevant to Seychelles.

The exercise was intended to find out to what extent climate change is observed in Seychellois communities. People said they have noticed changes in weather patterns: rainfall come up often, droughts and heavy rains, more intense storms, flooding etc. - and they felt that Seychelles is already experiencing climate change adverse effects in terms of:

- Biodiversity loss – marine life, other fauna and flora
- Coastal erosion
- Impacts on fishermen livelihood (fish stocks) due to coral reef bleaching
- Impacts on farmers b/c of rainfall changes, new pests
- Sea level rise -> loss of infrastructure
- Agricultural damages - food insecurity
- Health implications from freshwater shortages – sanitation
- Health impacts – dry weather causing asthma in kids in schools

* Several participants noted the term “adaptation”, saying that Seychelles needs to prepare for these impacts. One of them noted that the science of CC is not entirely understood, and human's role in there (and how to separate it from naturally-induced CC). However, he agreed that since changes are being noticed, whatever we do we have to try and reduce whatever role we are playing and also prepare and adapt.

(2) Presentations

First, Regina Prosper from DRDM spoke about Climate Change & Disasters giving an overview of the DRDM role. It was followed by a lively discussion raised by the participants who made suggestions for DRDM to be more effective in preventing from climate-related disasters in the future.

Then, Mermedah Moustache from MNRI spoke about Agriculture and Food security, highlighting the interconnection between climate change and local availability of food. The participants were impressed by the amount of imported food and raised certain interesting ideas to ensure food security for Seychelles.

Last, Michele Martin gave an overview of the Seychelles' response to Climate Change, what the government is trying to achieve and also touched on the gaps and the challenges ahead.

(3) Group work

People were asked to split into groups and brainstorm on the following topics:

- a. *Major issues* that come up in your community as a result of Climate Change.
- b. For each of these issues think of a *concrete action already taken* by your CBO to address Climate Change.
- c. Think of other *potential options* to prepare for Climate Change in your community.
- d. What would u *need* to deal with Climate Change impacts more effectively?

Some of the key points raised in common by the groups were:

A. Major issues	B. Action taken
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- flooding, water storage- pollution from solid waste- animal waste- agricultural chemicals- coastal erosion- landslide- pest infestation- crop damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reduction of albizia trees- Fixing/unblock drainage systems- Encouraging rainwater harvesting in households- Monitoring weather and infrastructure – to observe effects of weather and document patterns- Water storage – increasing water

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - loss of marine species - increasing disease - vulnerable local supplies 	<p>capacity - reservoirs in each district</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public awareness education/sensitization for Climate Change (workshops/meetings/TV spots) - Law enforcement - SEEREP (by DRDM) – good example of action - Replanting coastal mangroves - Use of energy saver bulbs - Solar street lights - Rock armoring retaining walls and pilings construction - Hydroponic farming techniques e.g. Anse la Mouche - Pest control replacing lost species
<p>C. Potential options for action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In housing estates connect rainwater gutters to one main tank • Make available more water storage tanks on island • More education and awareness • Build houses in order to be resilient to climate change (cyclone-friendly) • Promote alternative energy usage • Reduce energy consumption • Recycling compost bottles, water • Proper waste disposal • Green options • Education of younger generation – focus on kids to help them see alternative lifestyle • Maintain rivers, marshes 	<p>D. Needs for CBOs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to take action, not just putting ideas on paper • Involvement of people who are active in the community via CBOs • Government should also involve and consult with the CBOs before making decisions • Involvement of NGOs in decisions like fish market, etc. • Public awareness – TV spots should be free! • Training/education for CBO members • Support from NGOs and other stakeholders – people from different organizations who can help provide and share info.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate-smart agriculture • Enforcement of laws • Include CC programs in school curriculum • Ensure food security increasing local production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support- resources • Equipment and tools – videos and leaflets. • Human resources - more members • Continuous studies and research • Build on indigenous knowledge of elderly combining with science/technology • Inclusion of all age groups
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Each group presented their work in the plenary and fruitful discussions ensued on many of the points, underlining that there is a strong need on behalf of the CBOs to have a voice in plans and activities towards Climate Change.

(4) Conclusions

Overall, the workshop was successful in that different CBO leaders came along and talked about Climate Change concerns. What clearly emerged is that there is an urgency to support a contextual-based response for Seychelles to reduce its particular vulnerabilities and at the same time safeguard its socio-economic development. The rich discussions that arose also revealed that there is a strong desire among the CBOs to raise their voice and get involved in governance of their communities and affirmed that the S4S workshop idea was timely and extremely relevant. The workshop ended on a note of positivity by the CBOs and willingness to collaborate, ensuring the maximum impact and sustainability of the efforts being made.

The feedback was very positive; The thing most people mentioned is that they liked the spirit of togetherness and the involvement of so different participants. They liked the approach of the workshop, having the opportunity to discuss, exchange ideas and share lessons – but they didn't like it was too short. Recommendations were overwhelming, focused on a call for further workshops for CBOs targeting even more people. S4S hopes that this effort contributed to CBOs' empowerment to help themselves and is planning to organize more workshops further to the participants' recommendations.

(5) Feedback from participants

28 participants completed an evaluation form. Their responses were as follows:

<p><u>1. New thing learnt!</u></p> <p>Climate Change impacts in Seychelles (5) How to prepare for Climate Change (2) How climate CC affects food security (3) Deeper insight in Climate Change (2) How CBOs work-agenda-challenges (4) CBOs exist and are active (4) How to prepare my community for CC (2) Climate Change concerns everyone (2) CC education is important (1) DRDM role – planning (1) L' Habitation hotel is eco-friendly (1) N/A (1)</p>	<p><u>2. What did you like?</u></p> <p>Lively, enthusiastic, interactive discussions (6) Range of participants (5) Location (3) Well-organized (2) Group work/points raised (4) Very informative (6) Good opportunity to network/meet new people (4) Sharing ideas/experiences (3) Pleasant, friendly atmosphere (2) Presentations (2)</p>
<p><u>3. What didn't you like?</u></p> <p>Nothing (14) Limited time to discuss issues (5) Working groups (1) Too long (1) Lack of media involvement for the whole session (1) Not enough time for field activity (3) Last moment calls for the meetings (1) N/A (2)</p>	<p><u>4. What could we have done better?</u></p> <p>Invite people in responsible positions (1) Punctuality (2) Start earlier or expand to have more time for discussion (7) Nothing (8) Role-play (1) More time for presentations (2) More time for networking (2) Refer to household activities to deal with Climate Change (1) Better media involvement (1) N/A (3)</p>
<p><u>5. Suggestions for follow up</u></p> <p>Follow up workshops of this kind (8) Workshop to help La Digue form a CBO (1) Involve DAs and government representatives (2)</p>	<p>Provide participants with a report (2) Follow up CBO meetings/networking (9) More time for discussions (3) N/A (3)</p>

(6) Workshop photos



Participants introduce themselves



Watching the Climate Change film



Presentation: Climate Change & Disasters



Presentation: Agriculture & Food Security



The workshop was held at L'habitation hotel in Cerf Island



Participants brainstorming ideas for action



Group Work



Presentation of group work

(7) Workshop on TV news!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30s8TCy6-Vw&feature=youtu.be>

Annex : List of participants

NAME	ORGANIZATION	TEL.	E-MAIL
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