



S4S e-news #6

July - October, 2013

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New Projects

Greening the Prisons

S4S has partnered with several other NGOs to help the prison go green and become more sustainable. This project is being funded by a grant from LUNGOS to the Environment and Natural Resources Commission, and will help develop the skills of inmates through training and rehab sessions focusing on carpentry (using pallets), rainwater plumbing, sustainable agriculture, arts & crafts and habitat restoration.

The funding will go towards buying new equipment and for funding trainers.

Partnership with Four Seasons Hotel

S4S and Four Seasons hotel have just been awarded a grant to work together to help the hotel become more green and sustainable.

The project will focus on wetland restoration, education and awareness, and sustainable waste management.

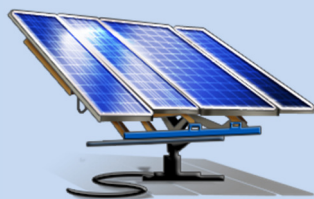
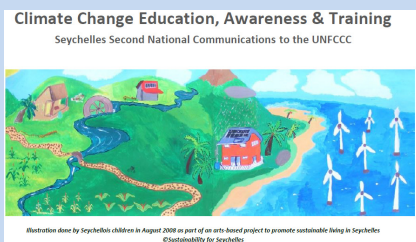


Completed Projects

- Bel Ombre Good Governance Project
- Ephelia Hotel Biodiversity
- Island Teachers Guide on Water
- UNISEY Environmental Laws and Citizenship

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Tip Corner



Waste Task Force

Thanks to our grant from the GEF small grants program, S4S has set up a civil society waste task force to look at how non-state actors can play a more active role in sustainable waste management. The first step has been to gather more information about civil society views and practices. Two reports are now available: one is a study of [The Status of Waste Management in the Seychelles](#), and the other is a study of resident's views and practices vis a vis waste and sustainable living in general named [3 R's Survey](#). Both reports are available on the website. Please contact us if you are interested in joining the waste task force.



Climate Change Education

Thanks to another grant from the EU climate change support program we are able to offer workshops to post-secondary schools, do community outreach, and other activities to increase awareness of the risks of climate change and actions we can all take. Please [contact us](#) if you work at a post-secondary school and want us to come and do a workshop. We have also printed more copies of our [climate change citizen's guide](#) which is available upon request to schools, offices, churches and other interested groups.

Renewable Energy Education

S4S has just signed a contract with the UNDP /PCU office to develop a national campaign on renewable energy education targeting decision-makers, the private sector and residents. The project involves conducting some baseline research on current knowledge and practices, and developing the education campaign in collaboration with key stakeholders, including the growing number of renewable energy equipment suppliers in Seychelles.



Sample wall made from bottles by SIT students

To date S4S have sold over 500 rainwater tanks and helped low income families become more self-sufficient and sustainable

Ongoing Projects

Improving Civil Society Participation in Sustainable Waste Management

Since first S4S received a grant from GEF/SGP about a year ago, S4S has implemented a series of activities to engage civil society in sustainable waste management. One key component of the project is to empower community members to participate more actively in sustainable development decision-making, including about issues related to waste management. Our strategy is to help communities organise community based organisations (CBOs) and to work with these CBOs to create an action plan and implement their activities. So far we are working with groups from Bel Ombre, Port Glauud, Praslin, La Digue and Grand Anse Mahe, and we are expanding our network to also help existing groups in Roche Caiman, Plaisance, Les Mamelles and St. Louis.

The project also involves waste education, and demonstration projects on composting, crushed glass and e-waste. Through the project we are also able to support waste related initiatives by partner organisations – we sponsored the Eko-Ver competition on waste and creativity at the Natural History Museum as well as the Visual Arts school project on waste and fashion.

Glass Project

Our crushed glass project was displayed at the National Expo. We did a workshop earlier this year at SIT with masons and artists to show how crushed glass can be used in cement work, and the crushed glass project was highlighted at this year's expo.

The latest news: SLTA has plans to try using the cullet for road surfacing, and we are compiling a handbook on how to use crushed glass in masonry work. Ideas and input are welcome!

Rainwater Harvesting

Thanks to a small grant from LUNGOS, S4S is able to continue to offer workshops on rainwater harvesting and sell blue barrels to the public for an affordable price. Many thanks to Takamaka Bay and Seybrew for donating the blue barrels for our project! We currently have a few barrels in stock and they are flying out the door fast. Our target is to sell the barrels to low income families.



Thanks to a grant from Barclays, S4S is working on a documentary highlighting sustainable living practices in Seychelles.

Contact us if you would like us to feature your home!



Port Glaud

A new MFF proposal has been submitted for funding consideration: its focus is on empowering the local community to become more involved in protection of the mangrove, as well as to improve livelihoods. One of the proposed activities is to build a boardwalk on the community side of the road. Keep an eye out for it.

Barbarons Hotel - Biodiversity

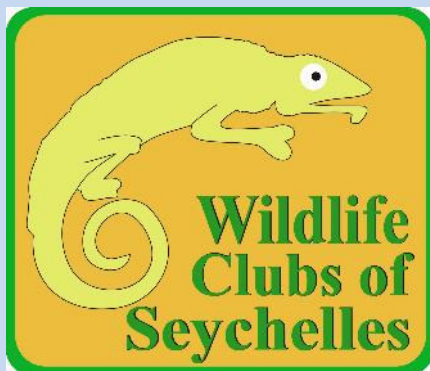
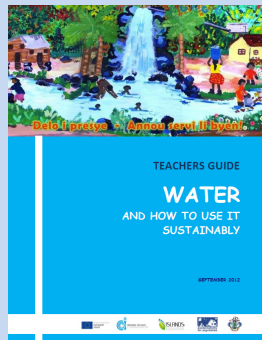
The Barbarons project is aimed at helping the hotel become more involved in biodiversity conservation. To date, S4S has helped the hotel conduct a site assessment of the wetland, do a survey on community members' perceptions of the wetland, and organise a stakeholder workshop to develop an action plan to protect the wetland. The next steps are to build an extension to the existing boardwalk, connecting it to a trail along the edge of the wetland and adjacent farmland.

Completed Projects

Bel Ombre Good Governance Project

The Bel Ombre Project aimed to help the community become more involved in sustainable development decision-making. This project, funded by the EU, is now closed but lives on thanks to S4S's efforts.

Bel Ombre now has its very own community based organisation (CBO) called the Bel Ombre Action Team (BOAT), headed up by Marie-May Bastienne. BOAT has an active presence in the district and recently cleaned up one of its heritage sites near Danzil. S4S will continue to support their efforts with help from our GEF small grant project.



Ephelia Hotel - Improving Biodiversity Management

Through this project, S4S helped Ephelia to develop environmental education and awareness materials for their staff and clients, and develop closer ties with the local community and other stakeholders concerned with protection of local biodiversity and habitats. The project received rave reviews from the UNDP/GEF office and is regularly featured in site visits for visiting consultants as a successful example of partnership between the private sector, local community, government and NGOs.

A mangrove management plan was produced under the project but this remains to be formally launched. S4S has applied to MFF for funding to support implementation of the plan.

Islands Teachers Guide on Water

Earlier this year S4S collaborated with the Ministry of Education to produce a teacher's guide on water, funded by the COI Islands project.

[Contact us](#) for a digital copy or visit our [website for a copy](#). Get a hardcopy, some 200 copies were printed and distributed to schools.

UNISEY Environmental Laws and Citizenship

S4S helped Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles develop and deliver a module on environmental laws and citizenship at the UniSey school of business management. The initiative was funded by the GEF biodiversity project. The course referred to a new booklet published by WCS on environmental laws and citizenship – for a copy please contact wildlifeclubsofseychelles@gmail.com. The course was offered to wildlife club leaders and other teachers as well as some environmental officers from MEE, and can be offered again upon request from other groups.

See our Facebook site for
upcoming events!

November TBA
S4S AGM

2nd November
Rain Water Harvesting Workshop
- Roche Caiman Community

5th December
International Volunteer Day

14th December
Bike Rally



Local Hero Highlight

ELECTRONIC WASTE: Have you considered selling or giving away your old computer or phone next time you upgrade to the latest model?

Another option is to **donate your electronic waste** for export and recycling.

Samlo & Sons (251-6918)
Leevac Trading (251-2587)



Events

La Digue CBO Networking Trip

Environmental CBO (Community-Based Organisations) leaders made history on August 3rd with the first CBO (Community-based Organisation) networking event in Seychelles - designed to help leaders get to know one another and also convince Diguois to start up their own group with support from S4S and the GEF small grants programme.



Tip Corner

Water: fix your leaky taps, this could save 400L a month

Waste: take reusable or used bags next time you go shopping instead of taking new bags

Energy: use motion sensor lights to save power

Environment: mulch your garden with leaves & grass clippings to stop water evaporating

Climate Change: walk more, use your car less, it is healthier

Communities: volunteer some of your time to make a difference to your local community

See our [Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Tips or Seychelles](#) leaflet on our website for more contact details of local companies who help combat waste



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