



GEF-Satoyama Subgrantee Highlights Report

Organization Name:	EPCO
Country:	Mauritius
Reporting Quarter:	FY17 Q2
Person submitting Report:	DEJA Estelle

<Highlight 1>: Mangrove clean-up by local women

The clean-up started on the 29th November, 2016. Eight ladies from Residences La Chaux were selected to conduct the activity over a 4 days' period, starting from 8 am to 12 pm. They were provided with gloves for security purposes and plastic bags for wastes collection. The clean-up occurred in a determined location of the CMA' s mangrove areas and around the coastal area of Residences La Chaux. In total, eighty one bags of wastes were collected. The activity was managed by the Community Outreach Facilitator, a local woman from the community.



Pictures illustrating the clean-up by local women in Residences La Chaux, Mauritius @EPCO / Sandy MONROSE.

<Highlight 2>: Community-based event

The community-based event was held on the 6th November, 2016 at the Football Stadium of Residences La Chaux. It was designed, planned, and implemented in constant collaboration with community members through various prior consultation strategies with local residents including women and youth. The advertisement strategy included the creation of catchy posters in crowded location, leaflets and facebook pages. The event started at 10 am and provided many activities for local children including races, sport competitions, face paintings and many games set up by community members. An effort was made to make the event attractive to the local community. The participation of local talents, including 6 music groups for the concert, 4 dancing groups, 2 DJ, thirteen stands for selling no-alcoholic drinks, foods and artisanal products as well as a raffle were entertaining processes which had significantly contributed to the success of the event. Many donations were offered by various stakeholders including 60 medals offered by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, 43 prizes from nearby hotels, shops, restaurants and others local companies, many discounts for setting up facilities and the collaboration of 4 associations or NGOs. Finally, the concert was interrupted for about 30 minutes at 7 pm, to conduct a slide-show presentation by the Project Manager in order to provide information regarding the project and made 3 speeches from the President of Residences La Chaux, and two representatives of community groups. Considering the quote from Getz (1997) stating that, 'The best events have colour, excitement, local flavour, ambience, uniqueness and community support', the number of people who attended the event (approximately 500 after a visual estimation) and the positive local feedbacks, the event can be seen as a successful step in influencing local community perceptions and attitudes towards the project. The main recommendation was to stage the event on a regular basis, each year at the same location.



Pictures illustrating many activities conducted during the one-day community-based event in Residences La Chaux, Mauritius @EPCO/Kira CLINGEN (intern).

<Highlight 3>: **Awareness Panels created by local community members**

Nine anti-dumping awareness panels were created by local community members. Twenty wood pallets were donated to the Project by Ground to Air and Cargo, two companies affiliated to the Airport of Mauritius. Using these pallets, local residents, including fishers created the panels. Many local children were, then, gathered to do hand-printing on each panel's post. The slogans on each panels were decided by local community members after a brainstorming session and two artists from Residences La Chaux provided their help to make the writing and painting. The aim of these panels, which will be set up along the coastal area of the barachois, is to avoid illegal dumping in the barachois and increase awareness of local people towards a better and healthier environment.



Pictures illustrating fishers creating the anti-dumping awareness panels, in Residences La Chaux, Mauritius @EPCO/Estelle DEJA.



Pictures of the hand-printing's activity by local children, in Residences La Chaux, Mauritius @EPCO/Mathieu ROIGNANT (intern).



Pictures of the completed awareness panels, in Residences La Chaux, Mauritius @EPCO/Sally NOEL (intern).

<Highlight 4> **Strawberry guava stems collection by local fishermen**

On the 25th October, 2016, nine fishers from the Residence La Chaux went to the Black River Gorges National Park, in Petrin, South of Mauritius. The activity was conducted, on a voluntary basis, between 7 am and 3:30 pm. It consisted in cutting and collecting *Strawberry guava* stems that will be mainly used for the creation of crab's cages. Approval was obtained from the National Park and Conservation Services of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Food Security. After cutting the invasive *Strawberry Guava*, the remaining stumps were coated with an herbicide (tryclon) to prevent their re-growth. Proper safety measures, including gloves, were taken in order to minimize the risk to workers taking part in the harvest. This activity lasted from 7am to 3:30 pm and a total of approximately 700 stems of the invasive China guava was harvested at the end of the day.



Pictures illustrating the harvest of the invasive *Strawberry guava* species by local fishers, in Black River Georges National Park, Mauritius @EPCO/Estelle DEJA



Picture illustrating 3 local residents cutting *Strawberry guava* stems for the creation of crab's cages, in Residences La Chaux, Mauritius @EPCO/Sandy MONROSE.

<Highlight 5>: Renovation of the Barachois wall by local fishermen

The renovation of the barachois wall, by selected local residents, mainly fishers, started on the 1st November, 2016. The first phase of the renovation consisted in collecting rocks on both sides of the wall in order to restore the existing wall. Each participants, who were provided with secured equipments including boots and gloves, conducted the activity over a 9 days' period in both November and December. Using one of the fishers' pirogue for the daily transport, they worked between 6 am and 12 pm. A total of 84 man/days was conducted in the Q2 period and about 1/3 of the wall length was completed.



Pictures illustrating the renovation of the existing wall by local residents, in the barachois of Residences La Chaux, Mauritius @EPCO/Estelle DEJA.

<Highlight 6>: **Barachois clean-up event**

The clean-up event of the barachois was held on 22nd October, 2016, with the collaboration of the Ocean study Department of the University Of Mauritius. Indeed, eighty students from the University participated to the event, from 11 am to 3 pm, with the help of approximately 30 local residents. The event took place all along the coatsla area of the barachois. Posters and leaflets were distributed among the local community. One hundred bags and 120 gloves were donated by the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Disaster and Beach Management. The garbage truck, which was provided by the District Council of Grand Port, was entirely filled at the end of the event day, totaling approximately 2 tones of wastes.



Pictures illustrating the clean-up event in collaboration with the University of Mauritius @EPCO/Kira CLINGEN (intern).

<Highlight 7>: **Household surveys**

Household surveys were conducted during a period of 6 months (from July to December, 2016), on weekdays between 9 and 4 pm. The project Manager, the Community Outreach Facilitator as well as two interns of EPCO carried out the questionnaire-based interviews. A total of 76 household surveys were completed totalizing 12.5% of the total household of Residences La Chaux. Indeed, after a detailed count by the Community Outreach Facilitator and with the help of local residents, it has been determined that Residences La Chaux community currently have 352 houses and 631 households. The report is now in writing and will be provided in Q3.

<Highlight 8>: **Consultation strategies with community members**

Regular and constant consultation strategies were carried out in Q2 between September and December, 2016. Focus group interviews with local women and with local residents including fishers as well as key informants interviews with local associations and others representatives of the community were crucial to design, plan and implement activities. As a result, all community members are invited to participate in the project and be part of the decision-making processes.



Pictures illustrating focus-group interviews with local fishers and local women, in Residences La Chaux, Mauritius @EPCO/Sandy MONROSE.