



GEF-Satoyama Subgrantee Highlights Report

Organization Name:	EPCO
Country:	Mauritius
Reporting Quarter:	FY17 Q3 (January to March 2017)
Person submitting Report:	Estelle DEJA

<Highlight 1>: Awareness panels installation.

The nine awareness panels were put in place by the local residents including children at the beginning of January, 2017. The last one will be given to the University of Mauritius under the request of the university students who helped us with the clean-up in the Q2 period. Nine specific locations for the panels have been determined by the local people through a community meeting. All the panels were placed along the main road and coastal area of Residences La Chaux adjacent to the barachois, mainly in dumping ground areas.



Pictures illustrating the installation of the awareness panels by local residents in Residences La Chaux, Mauritius @EPCO/Estelle DEJA.

<Highlight 2>: Completed Barachois project's panel.

The first informative panel, regarding The Barachois Project, have been designed by a local designer after compilation of all the existing pictures that have made since the beginning of the project. As a professional, the designer choose himself the pictures of the panel according to the quality and content of each. All residents who were present at the community meeting approved the panel. The location of the panel was selected by the local residents and will be placed in a crowded location on the main coastal road in front of the Barachois.



THE BARACHOIS PROJECT

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Global Environment Facility (GEF)- Satoyama Project / Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) - Smartfish Project

ENSAM NU REDON NU BARASWA LAVI



Mainstreaming the Contribution of coastal wetlands biodiversity for Sustainable Economic & Livelihood Development at Residences La Chaux Barachois', Mahébourg.

A Pilot project for upgrading 'Barachois' in Mauritius.

A Community-Based Project implemented by:
Environmental Protection & Conservation Organisation (EPCO)



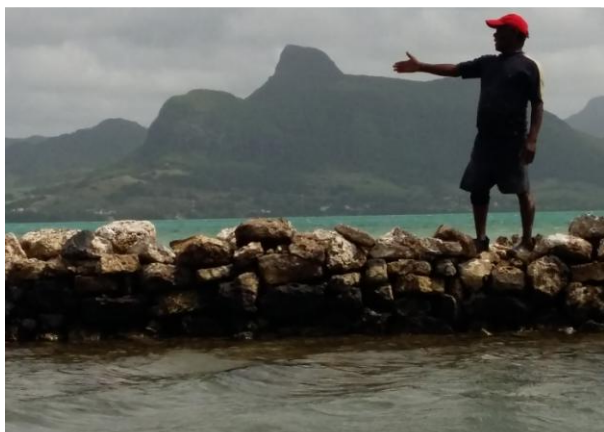
- Barachois rehabilitation • Mariculture of native species • Mangrove Restoration & Conservation
- Environmental Sensitization & education • Eco-tourism • Recreation

Approved by Government of Mauritius

Picture of the completed Project's panel @EPCO/ Jerome DESIRE (Local graphic designer).

<Highlight 3>: Barachois wall renovation.

The renovation of the barachois wall was conducted during two periods of 36 man/days in January and 15 man/days in February. Each participants mostly worked, early in the morning, over 5 hours in a row. A boat was purchased by the project and was renovated on a voluntary basis by three fishers. The boat is used as a tool for transporting rocks as well as concrete. Indeed, a thin coat of concrete will be placed at the upper surface of the wall in order to consolidate the wall. However, the renovation of the boat is not completed and will be finished as soon as the barachois wall will be entirely renovated. Participants were provided with gloves and boot for security purposes.



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

<Highlight 4>: Invasive Strawberry Guava collection in Black River Georges National Park (Petrin, Mauritius).

A second harvest of China guava was taken from Black River Gorges National Park in Petrin. The project manager brought local residents, all of whom volunteered their time, to collect approximately 700 stems of the invasive Strawberry guava. After cutting, the stems were coated with the 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. Over two days, the project manager left at 7:30 AM to pick up residents from Residences la Chaux, and the expedition arrived at the park at 9 AM. Stems were cut throughout the day, and all stems were secured in the house in the center of Residences la Chaux by 3:30 PM. Fishermen were allowed to take up to 5 stems of Strawberry guava for their labor.



Pictures illustrating the cutting and collection of the Strawberry Guava stems in Black River Georges National Park, Petrin, Mauritius@EPCO/Estelle DEJA.

<Highlight 5>: Collaborating with volunteers from Kenya.

Under the request from the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the barachois project team welcomed 13 women from Kenya, who are delegates of the Duke of Edinburgh International award as well as two managers from Kenya and 5 Mauritian in charge of the program. They helped us, on a voluntary basis, over a period of four days (January 18, 19, 21 and 22, 2017) in many activities. Indeed, they helped the local fishers' team to renovate the barachois wall by collecting rocks. They also participated to the clean-up of the small island linking the two parts of the barachois wall as well as the clean-up of the adjacent mangrove forest (Zone 2). Finally, they also help removing the invasive herbs surrounding the store house of the Barachois Project.



Pictures illustrating the voluntary-based activities conducted by women from Kenya @EPCO/Sandy MONROSE.



<Highlight 6>: Hydrological restoration of the mangrove forest.

The hydrological restoration of the mangrove forest (Zone 2) started on February 14, 2017. The objective was to create waterways between each ponds in order to improve the natural circulation of water in the mangrove forest. The four separation wall between the different pond were renovated, the water circulation was enhanced and the water quality is now improved. Gloves and boots were given to the participants for security purposes as well as water bottles for refreshment. Two bridges made of pallet and Strawberry guava wood were created as an example. A total of 38 man/days were conducted. However, the walls will still have to be consolidated and some bridge will have to be created allowing safer access to visitors.

Pictures illustrating the hydrological restoration of the mangrove forest by local residents, Residences La Chaux, Mauritius @EPCO/Estelle DEJA.



<Highlight 7>: Starting construction of Strawberry guava's cages for mariculture of crabs (*Scylla Serrata*).

After the collection of the invasive strawberry guava stems in Petrin, the local residents started the construction of the crab culture's cages. The work consisted in bark removing (picture 1), measuring, cutting (picture 2), halving and assembling the wood stems (picture 3 & 4) in order to create the cage structure. The stems were assembled and tight using a plastic rope made from plastic bottles (picture 5). Indeed, a tool was designed using guidance via internet for transforming the plastic bottle in a plastic rope which will help to tight the cages (picture 6). Once the stems were properly gathered using the plastic rope, the rope was then heated using a heat gun (picture 7). Indeed, the heating process increases strength of the rope and stick it to the wood in order to prevent crab for being able to cut it. Moreover, all nodes were located outside of the cages. As a result, this innovative cage structure can be interesting if effective as it is based on two crucial environmental concepts: recycling plastic and IAS removing which are significant issues in Mauritius. Until now, three cages of four compartments (L 30 cm / I 30 cm / H 30 cm) were created.



Pictures illustrating the creation of Strawberry guava cages for crab culture tight with plastic from plastic bottles @EPCO/Estelle DEJA.



<Highlight 8>: Observational walk with local fishers

An observational walk was conducted in the Mangrove forest (zone 2) on January 24, 2017. Few fishers with the project manager visited the mangrove forest and the coastal area of the barachois to determine the zones that can be potentially used for crab culture. The low tide was essential for the visit in order to be able to measure the water depth and consequently, establish the required minimum length of each cages depending on each determined location. Two zones within the barachois and four zones within the mangrove forest were selected. The criteria used as indicators for location adequacy were soil type, water depth, mangrove area coverage and accessibility.



Pictures illustrating the observational walk with local fishers to determine location for crab culture in the mangrove area, Mauritius @ EPCO / Sandy MONROSE.

<Highlight 9>: Continuous and regular meetings with community members including women and constant networking with stakeholders.

Two meetings with fishers were conducted in January to speak about the planning of activities for the Q3 Period. A community meeting was conducted on the 9th February 2017 at the Welfare Centre of Residences La Chaux. Thirty eight community members participated to the meeting. The scope of the project was explained and a poster was created explaining the indirect and direct benefits of the project to the community as well as the planned activities. Opinion and advices provided in the meeting were significant to plan the schedule.

Various meetings were conducted with stakeholders including the Albion Fisheries Research Centre (AFRC), the MCB Forward foundation, the University of Mauritius, governmental agencies and local experts for mariculture.

<Highlight 10>: Workshop with local community members for assessment of resilience indicators.

The workshop for assessment of Indicators of resilience in Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS) was conducted over four sessions. Indeed, the first session, hold on February 24, from 11 am to 5:30 pm, included the introduction, a discussion about diversity and resilience in the community as well as the scoring of the 20 indicators. The second session, hold on March 6, from 6 pm to 22:30 pm, consisted in the analysis of scoring, review of the assessment and a discussion was initiated to identify key topics to discuss. The third session, hold on March 29, from 3 to 5 pm allowed to identify the key topics for action plan . The last session, hold on March 30, from 6 to 9 pm consisted in the discussion of potential action plans regarding each topic. At the end of the workshop, a form to fill was given to each participants in order to give an overall evaluation of the workshop. A total of 16 community members participated to the workshop, mainly representatives. The facilitator and the notes takers were students from the University of Mauritius and local women, selected by the representatives, were responsible of food preparation and services over the two first sessions. The workshop indicated a low resilience of the local community in SEPLS.



Pictures illustrating the workshop evaluating resilience indicators by community representatives, as well as scoring and radar diagram data, Residences la Chau, Mauritius @EPCO/Estelle DEJA.



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