



GEF-Satoyama Subgrantee Highlights Report

Organization Name:	EPCO
Country:	Mauritius
Reporting Quarter:	FY17 Q4 (April to June 2017)
Person submitting Report:	Estelle Deja

<Highlight 1>: **Community meetings.**

Regular and constant consultation strategies were conducted with the local community including women. Three community-based meetings were held at the La Chaux Social Welfare Centre during the Q4 period. These strategies were critical to ensure that local residents are involved in the design and planning phase of the project and are part of the decision-making processes.



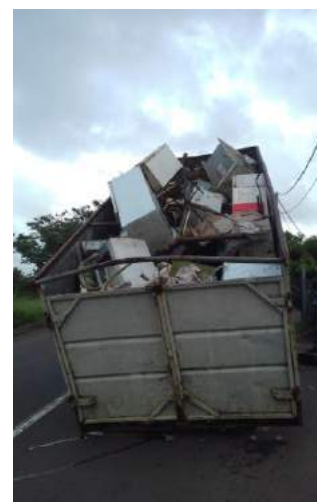
Pictures illustrating three community-based meetings in La Chaux Social Welfare Centre @ EPCO/Sandy MONROSE.

<Highlight 2>: **Floristic survey and conservation plan.**

Two lecturers from the University of Mauritius, Bhooroo Vishwakalyan (Faculty of Agriculture) and Nazurally Nadeem (Faculty of Ocean Studies) conducted a survey in the mangrove forest, on a voluntary basis, in order to identify all plant species, including their respective abundance, importance and endemism. The report, submitted in May 2017, included a Floristic survey, a weed management strategy as well as the reforestation plan.

<Highlight 3>: **Community-based clean-up event.**

A community-based clean-up event was conducted on May 7th 2017. A total of 34 local residents participated in the clean-up of the mangrove forest adjacent to the barachois. A garbage skip, donated by Atics, and two garbage trucks, donated by the Grand Port District Council (GPDC) were entirely filled with solid waste, totalling approximately 8 tonnes. Moreover, a bell donated by the Company of Beau Vallon allowed for removal of most of the waste located in front of the entrance of the mangrove forest, which had previously been a dumping ground for some years.



Pictures illustrating the community-based clean-up event in the project area @ EPCO/Sandy MONROSE.

<Highlight 4>: Invasive Alien Species (IAS) removal by local residents including women.

In May and June 2017, local residents including women, started the removal of identified Invasive Alien Species (IAS). Two targeted IAS were selected to start the removal program, locally named Acacia and Campeche, due to their high percentage cover in the area. The activity consisted of stem-cutting and removing of roots. A total of 79man/half days were conducted. The activity is currently on-going.



Pictures illustrating the Invasive Alien Species removal activity conducted by local residents, Residences La Chaux @EPCO/Estelle DEJA.

<Highlight 5>: **Creation of the tools for Invasive Alien Species (IAS) removal by local residents.**

Two local residents set up a tool, on a voluntary basis, based on a design created by members of the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF) in order to remove IAS on Ile aux Aigrettes. This tool was highly effective in removing the roots of targeted IAS, preventing re-growth.



Creation of the tool for IAS roots removal @ EPCO/Estelle DEJA



Invasive Alien Species removal conducted by local residents @ EPCO/Antoine RIVIERE (Intern).

<Highlight 6>: Access Road Renovation.

Local residents including fishers started to renovate the access road, which used to be a dumping ground for the residents. A total of 15 man/half days were carried out, in May 2017. After having sorted and spread the existing waste rock from construction and demolition, a woman from a surrounding village made an offer to transport mud material to the site, which was then spread laterally to cover the road surface. One third of the road was renovated. This activity will continue in June and July, 2017.



Access road renovation conducted by local fishers @ EPCO/Antoine RIVIERE (intern).

<Highlight 7> Barachois Wall renovation

The renovation of the barachois wall was conducted by selected local residents over a period of seven working days in April 2017. The participants, mainly fishers, worked five hours a day to conduct the activity which consisted in collecting rocks on both sides of the wall in order to restore the existing wall. Each participant was provided with safety equipment including boots and gloves. A total of 32 man/half days was conducted during the Q4 period.



Pictures illustrating the renovation of the barachois wall by local residents, mainly fishers @ EPCO/Estelle DEJA.

<Highlight 8>: **Strawberry Guava cages construction**

Local residents including youth continued to design and create cages for crab culture, made of strawberry guava stems. The cages were specially designed to contain four open compartments (40 cm X 40 cm X 80 cm) that will be dug into the mud so that crabs will be able to burrow into the water bed. This will help to reduce stress during the fattening process. One crab will be kept per compartment to prevent cannibalistic behaviour.



Pictures illustrating the creation of the Strawberry Guava cages for crab culture @ EPCO/Estelle DEJA.

<Highlight 9>: **Bird and plant species identification**

One intern from Reunion Island identified all bird species, including migratory birds, present on the study zone. He is now designing a monitoring program which will start in July 2017. A report will be submitted in Q5.

Another intern, from Bristol, UK started to conduct a more in-depth survey to identify and document existing plant species within the project zone, including information regarding their usage by the local community. This took place between June and July 2017. In a similar manner, documentation was also produced for the native and endemic plants that will be introduced to the zone by February 2018, before the start of the rainy season. In August 2017 he will also go on to start up a monitoring program. A full report will be submitted in Q5.

<Highlight 10>: Clean-up event.

On June 10th 2017 17 staff members from Axa Customer Services, a local company and six students from the University of Mauritius helped our team to conduct a clean-up of the mangrove forest adjacent to the Barachois of Residences La Chau, Mahebourg. A total of 27 participants removed waste from the mangrove and an entire truck, donated by the Grand Port District Council was filled at the end of the day, which ran from 9 am to 1 pm. Approximately 2 tonnes of solid waste was collected.



Pictures illustrating a clean-up event in the mangrove forest of the project area @ EPCO/Pearleen AH KAY MUN (Axa staff member).

<Highlight 11>: Creation of Drone pictures of the project area.

On April 6th 2017, John from Photopirate Ltd came to the study area in order to take pictures and a short video of the project zone. The pictures are considered as baseline data that will help us to identify project achievements over the long term through the visualisation of existing structures and biodiversity, particularly vegetation coverage.



Pictures illustrating the drone used for baseline pictures of the study area @ EPCO/Estelle DEJA.



Drone pictures of the study area @ EPCO / John from photopirate Ltd.

<Highlight 12>: **Panels design.**

The design of the panels of plant and bird species was completed. All the panels need to be created and designed regarding the species present within the project zone.



The bird panels will be located in the project area along a walking trail while plant panels will be located in front of each targeted endemic or native plant species.

Pictures illustrating examples of interpretative panels @ EPCO/Jerome Desire.

<Highlight 13>: **Benches for recreation, created by local residents.**



Nine benches were created, in May 2017, by three local residents for recreational purposes. The benches are made of Strawberry Guavastems, collected by local fishers in the Black River Georges National Park, Petrin.



Pictures illustrating the benches in Strawberry Guavas stems made by local residents for recreational purposes @ EPCO/Jeffrey Mickael Prayag (local residents).