



Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment

NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2024 | VOL



The Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment is responsible for:

- The constitutional right of every person to live in and enjoy a clean, healthy and ecologically balanced environment
- The provision of a reliable, affordable and safe water and energy supply,
- Promoting local food production
- Build resilience against climate change and disasters

PECO'S ECO-FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS DECORATION COMPETITION INSPIRES CREATIVITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In December 2023, the Public Education and Community Outreach (PECO) once again brought together communities in a celebration of sustainability and creativity through its annual Eco-friendly & DIY Christmas Decoration competition. With an emphasis on environmental consciousness and community involvement, this year's event saw an impressive array of entries across five distinct categories.

The competition featured categories tailored to various aspects of community life, including Schools, Homes, Workplaces, Districts, and a newly introduced category called Objects. The Objects category, a highlight of this year's event, challenged participants to craft Christmas decorations using locally sourced natural or recycled materials. This innovative addition to the competition garnered significant interest and participation, uncovering hidden talents within the community.

In a testament to the ingenuity and dedication of participants, the winners of each category demonstrated exceptional creativity and craftsmanship. In the Schools category, A'Level Studies emerged victorious, showcasing the artistic prowess of students in incorporating sustainability into their festive decorations. Meanwhile, in the Homes category, Ms. Cecile Pamela Payet's entry stood out for its imaginative use of eco-friendly materials, capturing the spirit of the competition.

The introduction of the Objects category provided a platform for individuals like Ms. Cecil Labrosse to shine, as her winning entry exemplified the beauty of handcrafted decorations crafted from locally available resources. Furthermore, the competition extended its reach to government and non-governmental organizations, with the Seychelles Fishing Authority claiming the top spot in the Workplaces category, demonstrating their commitment to environmental stewardship.

At the district level, Port Glaude emerged as the winner, showcasing the collective efforts of the community in embracing sustainable practices and fostering a sense of local pride. The success of Port Glaude reflects the broader impact of initiatives like PECO's Christmas Decoration competition in promoting environmental awareness and community engagement.

Overall, PECO's Eco-friendly & DIY Christmas Decoration competition not only serves as a platform for creative expression but also as a catalyst for positive change within communities. By championing sustainability and encouraging participation from diverse sectors of society, PECO continues to inspire individuals to make a difference in their local environment and beyond. As we look forward to future events, let us continue to celebrate the power of creativity, community, and environmental stewardship in shaping a brighter, more sustainable future for all.



DISTRICT: PORT GLAUD



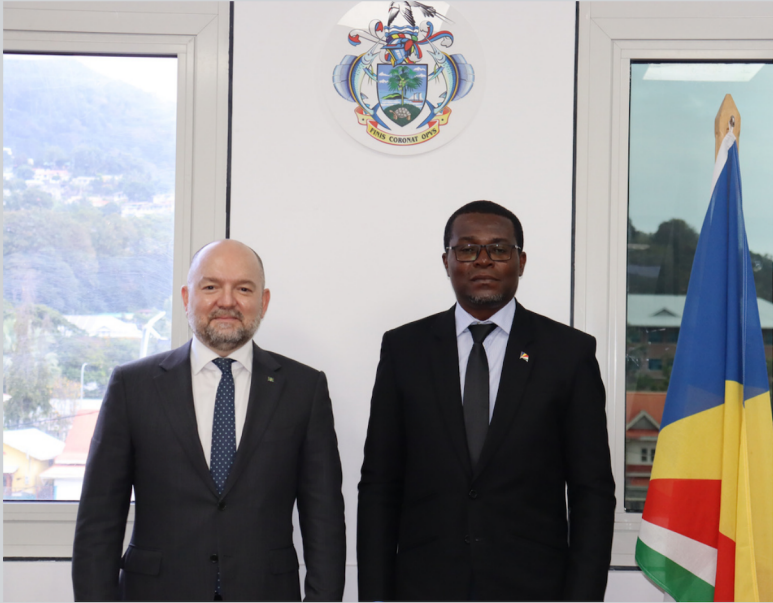
HOME: CECILE PAYET



SCHOOL: A'LEVEL

A COMPILATION OF COURTESY CALL ARTICLES

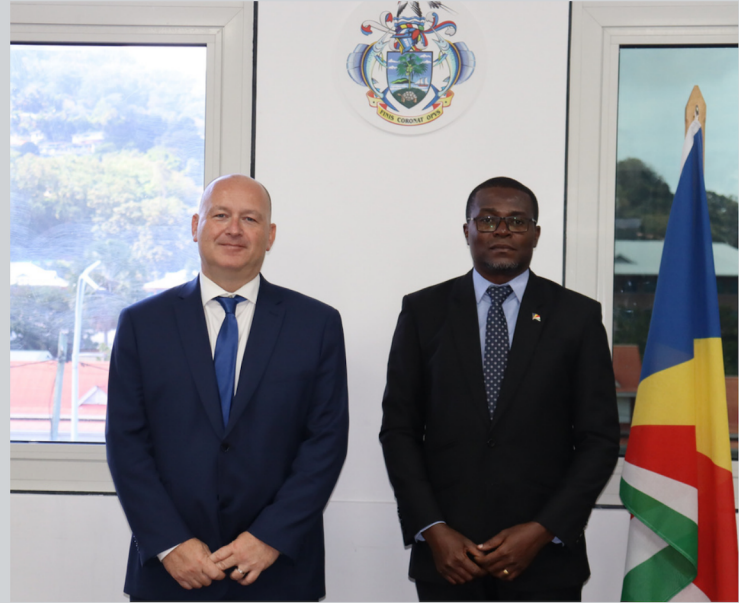
BRAZIL



The meeting between the newly appointed Ambassador-designate of Brazil to Seychelles, Mr. Gustavo Martins Nogueira, and Seychelles' Minister of Agriculture, Flavien Joubert, in September 2023 marked a significant step in bilateral relations. Both parties discussed the need for a bilateral agreement and investment in technical training to enhance the agricultural sector, emphasizing sustainable development and climate resilience.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to exploring concrete measures for implementing discussed initiatives, laying the groundwork for a robust partnership in the agricultural sector. The shared vision of promoting sustainable agricultural development, capacity building, and climate resilience set the stage for promising collaboration.

CZECH REPUBLIC



Ambassador-Designate Miroslav Kosek of the Czech Republic met with Minister Flavien Joubert on October 3rd, emphasizing a shared commitment to bolstering bilateral relations. The discussions focused on potential collaborations in critical areas such as environmental protection and sustainable agriculture, with Ambassador Kosek expressing keen interest in forging a meaningful partnership with Seychelles.

Talks also revolved around the prospect of signing a General Cooperation Agreement (GCA) to solidify cooperation across various sectors of mutual interest, including waste management. Minister Joubert highlighted Seychelles' proactive environmental measures and urged Czech investors to participate in addressing the nation's landfill crisis. The meeting concluded with a determination to explore concrete avenues for collaboration, underscoring the mutual aspiration for sustainable practices and holistic development.

CHINA

H.E. Mme Lin Nan, China's Ambassador-Designate to Seychelles, met Minister Flavien Joubert on March 12, marking the start of promising collaboration in environmental and agricultural initiatives. Discussions focused on accelerating the South-South Low Carbon Pilot Project, revitalizing agricultural cooperation, integrating technical education into training programs, and fostering environmental protection. Both parties affirmed their commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable development, aiming to address pressing challenges and unlock mutual prosperity through dialogue and cooperation.



RWANDA



High Commissioner Fatou Harerimana of Rwanda recently visited Minister Joubert following her accreditation, emphasizing the need to establish a joint working committee to execute the agendas outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the two countries. Minister Joubert echoed the importance of environmental protection and food security, emphasizing the shared climatic conditions and mutual interests between Seychelles and Rwanda. Both delegates agreed on expediting the formation of the joint working committee to implement the MOU's provisions. Minister Joubert highlighted Seychelles' commitment to environmental stewardship, mentioning ongoing initiatives to educate the younger generation about sustainable practices. The meeting ended optimistically, with both parties expressing confidence in the future prospects of bilateral cooperation, showcasing the enduring relationship between Seychelles and Rwanda.

SOUTH AFRICA



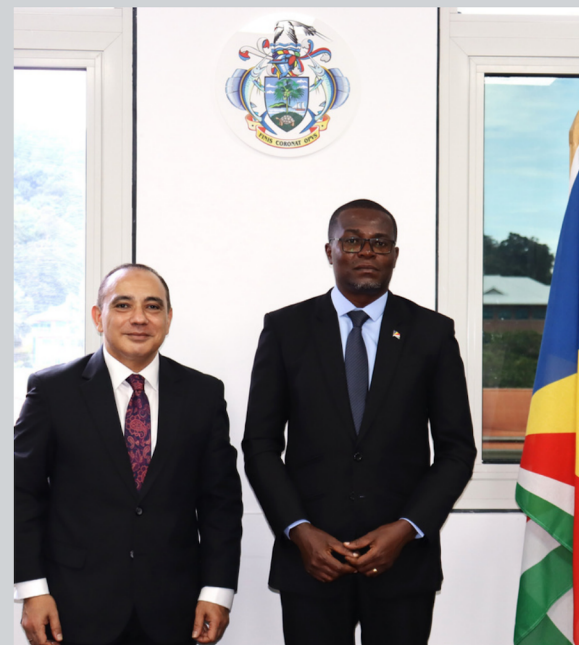
High Commissioner Dr. Hlamalani Manzini of South Africa held a productive meeting with Minister Flavien Joubert on March 5th, accompanied by key officials. Discussions primarily focused on enhancing bilateral ties, particularly in trade and capacity building initiatives. A key agenda item was the finalization of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two countries, emphasizing exchange programs, capacity building, and ensuring food security. Both parties acknowledged challenges in trading routes but expressed commitment to addressing logistical obstacles. Minister Joubert highlighted Seychelles' dedication to biosecurity amidst recent incidents, affirming the government's commitment to preserving the ecosystem's integrity. In conclusion, both parties reaffirmed their commitment to collaboration and pledged to address challenges hindering bilateral trade and cooperation, fostering a mutually beneficial partnership between South Africa and Seychelles.

EGYPT

The recent courtesy visit of H.E. Mr. Wael M. Nasr El-Din M. ATTIYA mid-October 2023, Ambassador-designate of Egypt to Seychelles, to Minister Flavien Joubert marked a significant step in fostering collaboration particularly in agriculture and climate change management.

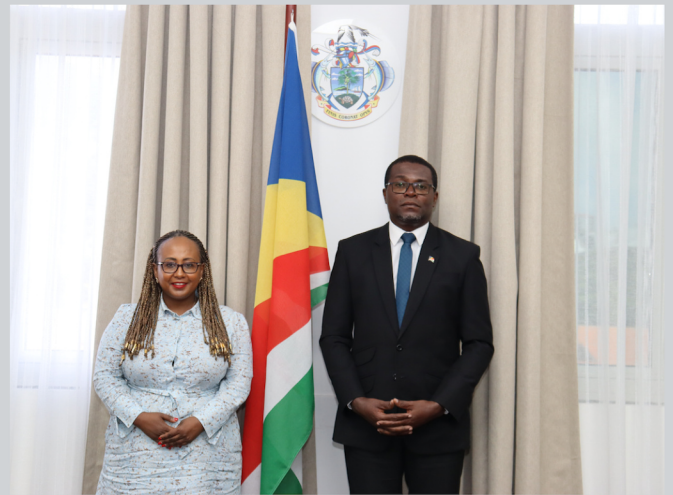
Discussions centered on leveraging Egypt's established institutions, renowned for their agricultural expertise, to support Seychelles in enhancing crop and livestock development. Plans for bilateral exchange programs and the establishment of a financing mechanism similar to Egypt's Agricultural Bank were also discussed to cater to the local farming community's needs. Both parties acknowledged shared challenges posed by climate change and water scarcity, aiming to invest in climate-smart agriculture and share Egypt's expertise in managing limited water resources.

The meeting concluded with a focus on enriching technical capabilities through modern agricultural digital services, signaling a promising move towards a stronger relationship between Egypt and Seychelles in agriculture, climate change, and environmental sustainability.



ETHIOPIA

The newly accredited Ambassador-designate of Ethiopia to Seychelles, H.E. Ms. Etsegenet Bezabih YIMENU, paid a courtesy visit to Minister Flavien Joubert, highlighting Ethiopia's significance in agriculture and expressing eagerness for collaboration. Discussions focused on reintroducing coffee cultivation in Seychelles, diversifying the livestock industry, and overcoming challenges in trade between the two countries. Both parties acknowledged climate change's impact on agriculture and proposed knowledge exchange and training opportunities for Seychellois farmers. H.E. Ms. Etsegenet Bezabih YIMENU extended an invitation for Minister Joubert to visit Ethiopia to explore further collaboration, indicating potential for mutual benefits between the two nations.



SEYCHELLES CHAMPIONS CLIMATE ACTION AT COP28 IN ABU DHABI DUBAI COP28

Last year marked a significant milestone for Seychelles as it took center stage at COP28 in Abu Dhabi Dubai, demonstrating its unwavering commitment to combatting climate change. For the first time in its history, Seychelles secured a pavilion at the prestigious event, serving as a platform to showcase its proactive initiatives alongside its partners.

The Seychelles pavilion buzzed with activity throughout the conference, hosting a diverse array of events and activities aimed at highlighting the nation's actions in addressing climate change. Over 15 events were conducted within the pavilion, bringing together stakeholders from NGOs, private sector entities, Seychellois governmental agencies (MDAs), and international companies engaged in critical projects within Seychelles.

One of the most notable moments occurred when President Wavel Ramkalawan himself graced the pavilion with his presence as Chair of the African Island State Climate Commission. His Excellency President Wavel Ramkalawan, reiterated Seychelles' dedication to leading the commission. He underscored the necessity of reinforcing exchanges to amplify the voices of African Island States at the level of the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities, and Regional Organizations

Throughout the duration of COP28, the Minister of Seychelles, alongside a dedicated technical team, immersed themselves in the conference proceedings. They were active participants in bilateral meetings, panel discussions, and negotiations, ensuring that Seychelles' voice reverberated across the event. Their tireless efforts on the sidelines of the conference further cemented Seychelles' presence and influence on the global stage.

The side events conducted within the Seychelles pavilion provided valuable insights into the nation's innovative approaches to climate action. From showcasing sustainable projects to highlighting collaborative opportunities, these events demonstrated Seychelles' proactive stance in addressing environmental challenges.

In conclusion, Seychelles' presence at COP28 was not just a representation of its dedication to climate action but also a testament to its resolve to be at the forefront of global efforts in combating climate change. As the conference concluded, Seychelles emerged as a shining example of how nations can come together to tackle one of the greatest challenges of our time.



SEYCHELLES AND UNECA COLLABORATE AT COP28 TO FOSTER SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



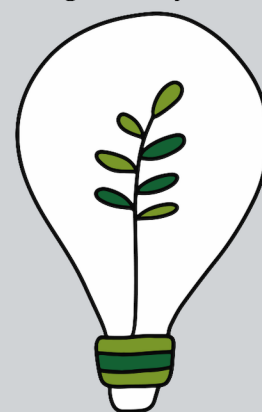
During COP28, Minister Joubert of Seychelles engaged in bilateral discussions with Mr. Claver Gatete of UNECA, focusing on climate financing mechanisms and Seychelles' role in aiding other Small Island States with marine spatial planning to combat climate change, highlighting Seychelles' commitment to lead in climate resilience. Joubert expressed gratitude for UNECA's support, especially in the Blue Economy and Sustainable Development, acknowledging training like the Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit. Gatete commended Seychelles for its leadership in launching the first blue bond and shared strategies for international cooperation in sustainability. Dr. Sanjeev Pugazhendhi highlighted initiatives like pooled procurement for medicines for Small Island Developing States. Minister Joubert emphasized infrastructure development for food security, while Mr. Claver affirmed UNECA's commitment to recalibrate their structure to assist Seychelles further in agricultural infrastructure development.

MINISTER FLAVIEN JOUBERT PARTICIPATED IN THE CLIMATE DISCOURSE AT COP28



Minister Flavien Joubert played a pivotal role representing Seychelles in a panel dialogue at COP28 in Dubai, focusing on achieving a just transition to a net-zero economy. Substituting for President Wavel Ramkalawan, Minister Joubert led discussions on overcoming barriers to investment in climate mitigation and adaptation, especially in emerging markets, bringing together leaders from various sectors.

Drawing from Seychelles' experiences, he highlighted innovative financing mechanisms like debt-for-nature swaps and emphasized the nation's commitment to a net-zero economy. Minister Joubert's contributions inspired bold action and underscored the importance of collective effort and education in addressing climate change. The panel, featuring diverse perspectives, highlighted the interconnectedness of faith, philanthropy, and advocacy sectors in pursuing sustainability, emphasizing the need for collaboration for a sustainable and equitable future globally.



MINISTER JOUBERT MEETS WITH YOUTH NEGOTIATORS



Minister Flavien Joubert took charge of a significant negotiation meeting at COP28, aiming to understand Seychelles' stance within global climate talks. The gathering, attended by a diverse team of negotiators covering key segments like Mitigation, Adaptation, Finance, and more, provided a platform for each to outline the status of discussions in their areas.

Focus was placed on the Global Stocktake and financial matters, stressing the importance of enhancing National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and ensuring equitable support for climate initiatives, particularly in vulnerable regions.

Minister Joubert's leadership highlighted Seychelles' commitment to engaging in climate efforts, emphasizing open dialogue and collaboration to address the unique challenges of small island developing states.

The meeting, attended by various officials including Mr. Tony Imaduwa, Mr. George Uzice, and Ms. Anna Lespoir, demonstrated Seychelles' dedication to shaping global climate discourse and securing a sustainable future, reflecting the nation's significant impact on the global stage.

STRENGTHENING AFRICAN ISLANDS STATES' CLIMATE RESILIENCE: MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE AT COP28



The Ministerial Dialogue held at COP28 in Dubai, organized by Seychelles, Chair of the African Islands States Climate Commission (AISCC), aimed to bolster collaboration among African island nations to address climate resilience.

Minister Flavien Joubert initiated discussions emphasizing direct communication and cooperation to tackle unique challenges faced by these states. Acknowledging the support from partners like 4C Maroc and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Joubert highlighted the shared commitment to climate resilience.

President Wavel Ramkalawan reiterated Seychelles' dedication to leading the AISCC and emphasized the importance of amplifying African island states' voices.

Ms. Gina Bonne presented a progress report and proposed developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for climate collaboration, alongside a communication plan to enhance AISCC's visibility. The dialogue showcased a commitment to strategic planning and collaboration, promising a more sustainable future for African islands in the face of climate change.

THANK YOU

On behalf of the MACCE organization, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all partners who contributed to the success of the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (**COP28**). Your dedication, collaboration, and unwavering support played a pivotal role in making this conference a resounding success. Together, we have taken significant steps towards addressing the urgent challenges posed by climate change and advancing global efforts for a sustainable future. Your commitment to collective action and cooperation has been instrumental in driving progress and fostering meaningful outcomes. We look forward to continuing our partnership as we work towards a more resilient and environmentally sustainable world. Thank you for your invaluable contributions.



WOMEN'S SPECIAL

In celebration of International Women's Day, we are honored to spotlight the remarkable contributions of women within the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change, and Environment. This year, the Ministry has recognized four outstanding women for their dedication and leadership in shaping environmental policies and practices. Through this questionnaire, we aim to delve into their experiences, perspectives, and insights as women working at the forefront of environmental conservation and sustainability efforts. Their stories serve as inspiration and exemplify the vital role women play in driving positive change within their respective fields. Join us in gaining valuable insights into the roles and experiences of these exceptional women within the Ministry.



MISS. VICKY LABLACHE

I began my journey with the Agriculture Department on February 3rd, 1992, marking the initiation of my career within the realm of veterinary services. For seven years, I dedicated myself to serving as a veterinary nurse, immersing myself in the vital work of animal care and welfare. Following this enriching period, I briefly transitioned to a role with Air Seychelles Company, serving as a cabin attendant for a short duration. However, my passion for agricultural pursuits drew me back to the Agriculture Department, where I have remained ever since. As of today, I am proud to have devoted a total of 31 years to this esteemed department, embracing its mission and contributing to its objectives with unwavering dedication.

WHAT INITIALLY SPARKED YOUR INTEREST IN PURSUING A CAREER IN AGRICULTURE, AND HOW HAS YOUR JOURNEY UNFOLDED SINCE THEN?

What initially ignited my interest was the glaring gender disparity within the Agriculture Department at that time, where men predominantly occupied the ranks. Fueled by determination and a commitment to fostering gender balance, I resolved to carve out my career path in agriculture, driven by a desire to effect meaningful change. Throughout my journey, I embraced each opportunity that came my way, seizing them as chances to expand my knowledge and skills. Despite encountering numerous challenges, I remained resolute in my choices, steadfast in my pursuit of a career aligned with my passions.

For me, agriculture isn't merely a job; it's my greatest passion. Along the way, I accumulated a wealth of experience that not only propelled my professional advancement but also enriched me on personal and academic levels. My enduring passion for agriculture, environmental conservation, and biodiversity has truly captured my heart, influencing my steadfast dedication to a career in the agricultural field.

COULD YOU SHARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU'VE FACED AS A WOMAN IN THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY, AND HOW HAVE YOU OVERCOME THEM?

Despite encountering various challenges, including issues with suitable working conditions, gender equality, access to proper resources, and disparities in decision-making processes and resource distribution, I have maintained a resilient and positive mindset. This outlook has been instrumental in overcoming these obstacles. I have learned to proactively formulate and pursue achievable goals, allowing me to navigate through adversity with determination and focus. Through perseverance and strategic planning, I have been able to overcome these challenges and continue to deliver quality services within the Agriculture Department.

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT ARE SOME OF THE KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE TODAY, AND HOW CAN THEY BE FURTHER ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED?

Today, women in the agriculture field have abundant opportunities for growth and advancement. Participation in professional organizations, research and development initiatives, skill-based training, and pursuing educational degrees in agriculture are key avenues for progress. To seize these opportunities, women can take proactive steps such as showing initiative at work, managing projects, volunteering to develop skills, and fostering innovation in their career pathways. By actively engaging and demonstrating their capabilities, women can further enhance their roles and contributions within the agricultural sector.

WOMEN'S SPECIAL

CAN YOU HIGHLIGHT A PARTICULARLY REWARDING OR MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE FROM YOUR CAREER IN AGRICULTURE THAT HAS LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION ON YOU?

The role of women in agriculture has significantly evolved over the years, with women now playing more powerful and prominent roles. Gone are the days when women were confined to traditional domestic responsibilities. Today, women have greater access to technology, enabling them to enhance agricultural efficiency and productivity. Moreover, more women are occupying management positions and actively participating in decision-making processes, a trend that fills us with pride as women.

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HOW DO YOU SEE THE ROLE OF WOMEN EVOLVING IN AGRICULTURE IN THE COMING YEARS, AND WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE TO ENSURE GREATER GENDER EQUALITY AND INCLUSIVITY?

Women in agriculture face a myriad of challenges, including gender-based discrimination, limited access to higher education, training, land ownership, financial resources, and technological advancements. To address these issues, I propose the establishment of a women's association dedicated to raising awareness and advocating for solutions. Additionally, the Department should prioritize educating its employees on refining women's leadership skills. Encouraging open connections with peers and mentors can also provide valuable support and guidance for women in agriculture navigating these challenges.

FINALLY, HOW DO YOU ENVISION THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE, AND WHAT ROLE DO YOU SEE WOMEN PLAYING IN SHAPING THAT FUTURE?

In envisioning the future of the agriculture sector, I foresee the integration of sophisticated GPS technologies to enhance efficiency and productivity. However, our current reality reveals a pressing need to address the diminishing workforce due to drug use. To counter this, farmers must adopt more efficient practices while ensuring a safe and environmentally friendly approach. Women will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in shaping this future, driving resilience, sustainability, and inclusivity to secure food security and preserve our environment. Embracing gender equality will benefit not only women but society as a whole. Additionally, I strongly advocate for a relentless fight against drug abuse to safeguard our workforce and propel agricultural progress.



MS. LINETTA JOUBERT

My name is Linetta Joubert, I am 59 years old and I was born on Praslin. I attended Baie Ste Anne Primary School and moved to Mahe where I completed Form 1 to Form 4 of secondary school at the Regina Mundi Convent. I then joined the Seychelles College where I did my O Level and A Level studies. Thereafter, I studied Horticulture for five years at an institution in Germany and upon my return to Seychelles in 1998, I worked for Indian Ocean Nursery, under Seychelles Marketing Board (SMB) as a horticulturist.

In 1990, I joined the Ministry of Agriculture where over the years, I worked in different sections. At first, I was a Research Officer and was responsible for the Agricultural Documentation and Information Unit. I then became the director for Agricultural Extension Services, where I was responsible for ensuring that representatives of the ministry were visiting all farmers to better understand how they were coping and to assist them with the challenges that they were facing. I attended many courses along the way, including completion of a postgraduate degree in Business Administration with the University of Surrey; this has enabled me to better manage different sections within the ministry responsible for agriculture.

I was later transferred as director for Agricultural Lands to manage all state land that was designated for agricultural development. At the same time, I was also responsible for the Planning Section, for the Agricultural Statistics Unit, Victoria Market activities, the newly launched Agricultural Insurance Scheme as well as the Project Unit.

WOMEN'S SPECIAL

In November 2016, I became the Deputy Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the SAA and also continued working for agricultural lands and planning, before I was appointed as CEO on the 8th March 2018.

With the merging of Department of Agriculture, Seychelles Agricultural Agency and National Biosecurity Agency, in 2021, I then moved to the post of Chief Policy Analyst in the new Agriculture Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change & Environment (MACCE)

As woman who has been in the sector for over 30 years, I cannot say that I have been faced with much, except the challenge of overseeing different sections of the Ministry responsible for Agriculture, as indicate above. The Department of Agriculture is more female dominated with about 60% of its management team being women. So I have had the same opportunities as my male counterparts. At the beginning of my career the main challenge was ensuring I had a good work-life balance, to effectively manage my time and energy to ensure that work did not over shadow my personal and family life.

My most memorable experience was when I was granted the opportunity to be the Chief Executive Officer of the Seychelles Agriculture Agency, and the first woman to be appointed in this position, and the appointment was done on women's day. During my term as the CEO, I could better interact with the principal actors of the sector, especially the farming communities, to have a better understanding of the issues affecting their businesses and collaborate to find appropriate solutions and best way forward.

As stated above, the management of the sector is female dominated, so the women have the same job opportunities as the male. But when it comes to the producers of the sector, and to guarantee local production, we see the reverse where our farming communities are all male dominated, with only about 13% of the farms owned by women. We all know though that behind every successful farmer there is a woman, and these women are in the background silently contributing in the overall management of the farm, be it marketing or human resource management.

We need to come up with new ways to encourage and attract young women to agriculture fields, either as producers or as leaders, specialists or technicians. There should be more inspirational career talks targeting the young girls and women, so as to empower them more. There should be more investment to basic facilities and infrastructure to inspire women into spearheading agri-businesses and agro-processing units.

Women in agriculture understand the challenges faced by the sector and are able to devise solutions so it is important to include them more in discussions.

As an old African proverb says: **"If you educate a man, you educate a person. If you educate a woman, you educate a nation."**



MS. SHIRLEY JOUBERT

1. HOW DO YOU BELIEVE WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES UNIQUELY CONTRIBUTE TO ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES AND SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS?

I strongly believe, women possess the wisdom and passion needed to initiate and execute tasks with precision and effectiveness. Their innate understanding and dedication ensure that endeavors are approached thoughtfully and executed with excellence.

The supportive nature of women is unparalleled, serving as pillars of strength and encouragement in various endeavors. Their unwavering support fosters resilience and perseverance, propelling individuals and teams toward success even in the face of challenges. I also believe Women embody a spirit of determination and courage, fearlessly tackling obstacles and striving towards their goals. Their tenacity and resilience inspire those around them, driving progress and innovation in both personal and professional realms.

WOMEN'S SPECIAL

2. CAN YOU SHARE ANY SPECIFIC CHALLENGES YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED AS A WOMAN WORKING IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT, AND HOW YOU'VE OVERCOME THEM?

As the Senior Coordinator overseeing environmental activities and projects within the Inner Islands, I navigate a dynamic landscape encompassing diverse staff from various departments and communities with differing attitudes and perspectives. This multifaceted environment presents formidable challenges, yet it unites us all under a common purpose: the preservation, conservation, and sustainable management of our environment for present and future generations.

Indeed, life without challenges lacks depth and growth. Each obstacle I've encountered has served as a stepping stone, unlocking my potential and revealing previously untapped abilities. My unwavering passion for my work, coupled with patience and persistence in addressing issues, has been instrumental in my personal and professional development.

Through facing challenges head-on, I've discovered resilience I never knew I possessed. Embracing failure, discouragement, and disappointment as integral parts of the journey has fortified my self-confidence. I've come to understand that setbacks are not roadblocks but opportunities for growth.

Today, I stand tall, knowing that I possess the resilience and adaptability to overcome any obstacle that comes my way. Every challenge I encounter is a testament to my continuous learning and evolution, reinforcing the belief that every experience, whether triumphant or challenging, contributes to my growth and development.

3. IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU SEE GENDER EQUALITY INTERSECTING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND WHAT ROLE DO WOMEN PLAY IN ADVOCATING FOR BOTH?

Both men and women share the responsibility to advocate for causes with unyielding determination, transcending perceived limitations. However, it is the steadfast commitment, discipline, and unwavering dedication of women that often propel initiatives forward towards achieving organizational goals.

With an innate passion and resilience, women consistently demonstrate an unparalleled zeal in driving progress and effecting positive change. Through their unwavering faith in their abilities and a deep devotion to their work, women emerge as formidable champions of advancement and achievement within any organization.

4. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG WOMEN WHO ASPIRE TO PURSUE A CAREER IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE OR ACTIVISM?

In the environmental field, every role presents unique challenges and opportunities for personal growth and development. To thrive in this dynamic arena, individuals must possess a genuine passion for the environment and a sincere interest in pursuing a career in this field.

It's essential for aspiring environmental professionals to understand the intricacies of working with diverse communities and to recognize the importance of preserving and conserving biodiversity. Additionally, grasping the concepts of sustainable development and ecological impact is crucial for making informed decisions and fostering positive change.

Maintaining good discipline and a positive attitude is key, as is being prepared to embrace and overcome challenges with resilience and faith in one's abilities. Effective teamwork is essential for tackling complex environmental issues, and individuals should strive to be motivated, innovative, and creative in their approaches.

Furthermore, a willingness to continuously learn, coupled with an open-minded attitude, is essential for staying abreast of new developments and emerging trends in the field. By embodying these qualities, individuals can navigate the environmental landscape with confidence and make meaningful contributions to the preservation and enhancement of our planet's ecosystems.

5. HOW CAN ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETIES BETTER SUPPORT AND EMPOWER WOMEN TO TAKE LEADERSHIP ROLES IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND POLICY-MAKING?

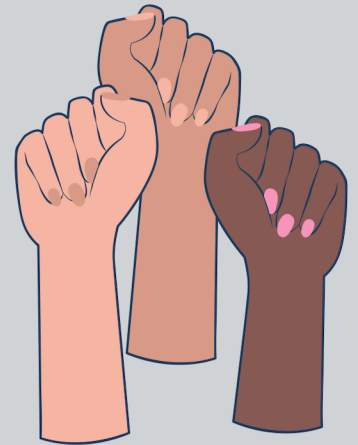
In a world abundant with opportunities, the greatest support society and organizations can offer is encouragement and equitable access to information across all levels. This entails fostering unity, consistently sharing information, and actively involving women in all programs. Creating an environment that encourages women's participation and fosters the sharing of creative ideas enables them to learn, understand, and actively contribute to processes. By nurturing these efforts, women can develop their abilities and emerge as exemplary leaders in environmental conservation and policy-making.

WOMEN'S SPECIAL

6. ARE THERE ANY PROJECTS OR INITIATIVES YOU'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN THAT PARTICULARLY HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES?

Currently, I'm engaged in a project aimed at conducting a survey on ecological impact and sustainable practices within La Digue's tourism establishments. The goal is to gather data aligned with the vision of transforming La Digue into an Eco Island by 2048, ensuring that our efforts are in line with long-term sustainability goals.

Additionally, I proudly serve as a volunteer member of the Praslin committee for people with special needs. In this role, my primary responsibility is to develop and organize environmental programs and activities tailored for individuals with special needs. These initiatives aim to facilitate their participation in and contribution to conservation activities within the community, fostering inclusivity and engagement in environmental stewardship efforts.



1. HOW DO YOU BELIEVE WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES UNIQUELY CONTRIBUTE TO ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES AND SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS?

I strongly believe in women's ability as we bring that unique perspective to initiatives and sustainability efforts within the sector. We further add valuable insights to efforts no matter how small or big the initiatives are. Women often experience environmental issues differently, maybe because one of our primary roles is to give care to others. Then, there is a sense of personal attachments to the work that we do for the environment. We often tend to look at the bigger picture within decision making process or when presenting initiatives.

I further think that women add a holistic understanding of environmental challenges and solutions because we look not only within the subject matter but beyond what is presented to us. For example, some women in other parts of the world may be disproportionately affected by issues such as water scarcity, food insecurity but in a lot of cases those such issues do not prevent them from contributing effortlessly in environmental initiatives and sustainability efforts. Our perspectives on sustainability tend to be more forward-thinking, therefore, emphasizing the need to conserve natural resources and protect our biodiversity for the well-being of our future communities.



MRS. NANETTE LAURE

2. CAN YOU SHARE ANY SPECIFIC CHALLENGES YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED AS A WOMAN WORKING IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT, AND HOW YOU'VE OVERCOME THEM?

As a woman working in the field of environment, I must admit that the challenges are many. Though this may not be so apparent here in Seychelles. In fact, our country can be regarded as one of the leading countries when it comes to empowering women within the environmental sector. However we do face challenges.

As civil servants you may feel that your efforts are overlooked at times. As women we take ownership for the decisions that we make and we do invest energy and efforts in the work that we do as we are great believers in transparency and accountability. However, sometimes all of those efforts may be lost in translation. And we feel that those efforts and personal investments are overlooked. People at large most often do not appreciate the work that we do but on the other hand tend to mainly criticize what we do.

Work-Life Balance: Balancing work responsibilities with family obligations can be challenging. Working in the field of environment sometimes this means no weekends, no public holidays. To be part of this dynamic sector can sometimes impact on our health as well as wellbeing as we want to ensure that we complete that last minute assignment, attend to that meeting though at short notice at times. On the other hand, this means that we do put aside other important aspects of our everyday lives. I have learnt that I need to set boundaries between work and personal commitment.



WOMEN'S SPECIAL

Lack of resources: We do work and make use with what is available in terms of resources. However, lack of resources can impact on delivery. Resources take different form such as technical human capacity. The field is one which is dynamic and we need to enhance our capacity in order to be able to keep up with the changes.

Political and Economic Factors: There are increased vested interests including other economic priorities that hinder environmental protection and conservation efforts. Overcoming political and economic barriers requires strong political will, public awareness and engagement. Therefore, there is always the need to adopt continuous sustainable practices and development policies that prioritize environmental conservation alongside economic growth.

Environmental Justice: With increased in demand, scarcity of land for development we are experiencing environmental degradation not just in Seychelles but in many parts of the world. Addressing environmental justice issues requires equitable access to environmental resources, meaningful participation in decision-making processes, and policies that prioritize the needs to conserve for current and future generation.

3. IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU SEE GENDER EQUALITY INTERSECTING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND WHAT ROLE DO WOMEN PLAY IN ADVOCATING FOR BOTH?

Women play indispensable roles in advancing gender equality within the realms of environmental conservation and sustainable development. They are often at the forefront of community-based conservation efforts, engaging with local communities to address environmental challenges and ensure their perspectives are incorporated into decision-making processes. Through educational outreach programs and workshops, women contribute significantly to raising awareness about environmental issues and empowering youth to pursue careers in the environmental field. Women researchers and policy makers offer valuable insights and leadership in shaping environmental policies and regulations at various levels. Furthermore, women entrepreneurs drive sustainable businesses that promote environmental conservation and economic empowerment. As role models and mentors, women leaders inspire and empower the next generation of environmental advocates, paving the way for continued progress and innovation in the environmental sector.

4. WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUNG WOMEN WHO ASPIRE TO PURSUE A CAREER IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE OR ACTIVISM?

In the realm of environmental science and activism, there lies a vast and fulfilling journey awaiting young women who dare to venture. Embrace boldness and passion, recognizing that while challenges may arise, the rewards of self-satisfaction outweigh monetary gains. Pursue your genuine interests within the environmental sector, whether in climate change, conservation biology, policy, or community activism, and continuously educate yourself through academic pursuits and hands-on experiences. Network with professionals and seek mentorship to guide you along your career path, remembering to prioritize diversity and inclusivity. Stay resilient in the face of setbacks and remain open to lifelong learning and growth, knowing that your contributions have the potential to create positive impacts in environmental conservation and sustainability. Challenge yourself to explore emerging areas within the sector and never underestimate your capabilities, for the environmental field beckons with endless possibilities for those who dare to embrace them.

5. HOW CAN ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETIES BETTER SUPPORT AND EMPOWER WOMEN TO TAKE LEADERSHIP ROLES IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND POLICY-MAKING?

My message is clear: believing in women is paramount to further empowering them. Women possess inherent strength and are characterized by resilience and determination, particularly within the environmental sector. It is essential for organizations and society to recognize and respect the significant contributions women make in this field. Reflecting on the achievements of trailblazers like Danielle de Saint Jorre, the first Seychellois Minister of the Environment, inspires us to believe that we all have the potential to lead if given the opportunity and support. In Seychelles, we see an increasing presence of women in environmental roles, advocating for better policies and practices. By celebrating and acknowledging women's accomplishments in environmental conservation and policy-making, we can inspire future generations of female leaders.

6. ARE THERE ANY PROJECTS OR INITIATIVES YOU'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN THAT PARTICULARLY HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES?

As the Director General of the Ministry, my appointment underscores the recognition of my leadership capabilities and underscores the increasing participation of women in decision-making processes. Throughout my career, I've been actively involved in various environmental initiatives spanning from community education to policy development, with a keen focus on promoting sustainable development goals. My overarching aim is to influence decision-making at local, national, and international levels, driving policy reforms within the environmental sector. Engaging with policymakers and serving on committees allows me to advocate for environmental justice and legislation, with a particular emphasis on environmental policy management and impact assessment. Passion drives my work, ensuring that environmental considerations remain at the forefront of all endeavors.

SEYCHELLES LAUNCHED FIRST MASS STERILIZATION CAMPAIGN

In a collaborative effort between The Be Kind advocate against animal cruelty and the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change, and Environment, a significant initiative was launched to address the issue of stray dogs and cats on the islands of Mahe and Praslin. Spanning from January 11th to 23rd, 2023, this mass sterilization campaign marked a crucial step towards alleviating the challenges posed by stray animal populations.

With the participation of 8 skilled veterinarians from Russia, the program not only targeted overpopulation but also prioritized the overall welfare of these animals, alongside addressing concerns regarding public health and safety. Working hand in hand with Seychelles' Animal Welfare team, the collaborative effort resulted in the successful sterilization of a total of 279 dogs and 199 cats. The team highlighted the mutual benefit derived from sharing knowledge and expertise, emphasizing the collaborative nature of the initiative.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change, and Environment express their gratitude to all involved parties, acknowledging their pivotal roles in the campaign's success. As the campaign concludes, efforts persist in improving the Animal Welfare unit, with a focus on enhancing staff capacity to ensure humane management of stray populations. Further campaigns are anticipated throughout the year, reflecting a steadfast commitment to animal welfare and community wellbeing.





QUEEN BEE REARING

According to FAO, bees are considered to be among the hardest working creature on the planet. With their role as pollinators, carrying pollen from one flower to another, they contribute greatly towards the production of nuts, seeds and fruits of different varieties and enhanced quality, thus contributing to food security and nutrition.

Bee Keeping also known as apiculture, remains an important and popular traditional practice, involves the maintenance of bee colonies in man-made hives. Bees collect nectar from flowers and convert it into honey. There is a high demand for local honey on the local market here in the Seychelles. To ensure there is enough honey for the demand, there is a need to increase the beekeeping activity in the country. This directly relates to increased number of queen bees, which is essential for a bee colony. Amongst its other responsibilities, the queen bee is responsible to lay enough eggs, to produce more workers, to ensure more honey production.



How to ensure there is enough queen bee to enable farmers to create more colonies, or 'rearing of queen bee', were the objective of a series of training being undertaken by the Agriculture Department in collaboration, with two beekeepers, Mr. Neil Barallon and Mr. Charles Loizeau, who have been trained in the IFAD-ICIPE project, in Seychelles which ended recently.

The first session of training was held at the Ex-BBC Grand Anse Office on Friday 15th March, 2024. The session was attended by a group of seven beekeepers and will be followed by other sessions during the course of this year to ensure all interested beekeepers can attend.

The aim of such training is to provide more knowledge and technical ways on how to rear queen bee and increase number of hives per beekeepers, thus increasing the volume of honey being produced locally.

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN CUSTOMS PROCEDURES

With the introduction of the Port Management System by the Port Authority, the Seaport Examination Unit of the Customs Division has deemed it necessary to implement certain changes aimed at facilitating importers, stakeholders, and the Competent Authority collaborating with Customs. The Seychelles Revenue Commission has initiated the pilot phase of this project.

A team of 7 officers from **Biosecurity Services** recently had the opportunity to participate in a 2-hour training session on March 13th conducted by Customs officers. The training focused on familiarizing them with the Gate Pass System, enabling them to access and utilize it effectively. Through this system, Biosecurity Services personnel will be empowered to independently release imported goods that have been cleared by Customs. This transition to digital processes marks a significant milestone for the Agriculture Department, particularly in moving towards a paperless approach to service provision.



Among the notable changes is the shift from manual to digital Gate Pass procedures. Biosecurity Services will now utilize the Asycuda System to manage goods that have been transferred from Customs to Biosecurity and are ready to exit the port.

Biosecurity officers expressed their anticipation that this advancement will enable their services to better meet the needs of their customers. Embracing digital transformation is crucial, as it will streamline processes, reducing the reliance on paperwork and allowing for swift operations through simple viewing and clicking. Participants also emphasized that this move will enhance their unit's competitiveness in a technology-driven environment. Moreover, it will enhance team efficiency while ensuring that services are delivered promptly and accurately to customers, who, in turn, are encouraged to provide correct and detailed information to facilitate smooth service delivery.



FRONTLINE EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM IN SEYCHELLES

The Indian Ocean Commission (COI), in collaboration with its partners, launched its first Frontline Epidemiology Training Program (FETP-Frontline) in Seychelles this year. The program included professionals from both the Agriculture Department and the Ministry of Health, reflecting an inclusion of both Ministries in the spirit of One Health Collaboration. Ten professionals from the Agriculture Department were selected to participate based on strict criteria by the Mauritius Institute.

Present to launch the training were the Principal Secretary for Agriculture Department, Mr. Keven Nancy, stakeholders from the Mauritius Health Institute, and representatives from the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), who were there to facilitate the training program. This marked the first block of training the aim of the general training was to equip the participants with all the necessary skills to prevent, detect, and respond to animal and public health diseases. in a series, leading to the Diploma. The aim of the general training was to equip the participants with all the necessary skills to prevent, detect,



and respond to animal and public health diseases. The FETP provides training around the world to field epidemiologists or "disease detectives," giving them the necessary skills to collect, analyze, and interpret data and contribute to evidence-based decisions. These trained "disease detectives" became more expert in how to better investigate and apply their knowledge to prevent sickness outbreaks. They were also more educated on how to communicate crucial information about health problems in a community, including infectious and non-communicable diseases and environmental hazards. The facilitators expected to return to Seychelles for the continuous phase of the training program soon. The Agriculture Department encouraged more of its officers to partake in the upcoming training as it would be a great opportunity for them to expand their knowledge about animal and human health.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment

The **Ozone Unit** within the **Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment** wishes to remind all importers, that prior to importing any Refrigerant gas and equipment, it is mandatory to complete the import permit form available at the office of the Ozone Unit, located at **Unity House B Block Room 103**. Alternatively, for any inquiries or assistance, please feel free to contact the ozone officers at 2826935 or 2724391.



Ministry of Agriculture
Climate Change
and Environment



FRONTLINE EPIDEMIOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM IN SEYCHELLES

A meeting was held on the 7th of February 2024 at the Val D'Endore community center with a group of 28 farmers from the South region, mostly comprising farmers from Val d'Endore. The main aim of the meeting was to introduce the New Chief of Extension, Mrs. Sandra Sinon, to the farmers of the region and the new team of Extension officers working with the South region farmers. These included the new Senior Officer responsible for the South Region, Mr. Bryan Albert, as well as the two new Extension officers, Mr. Alain Melanie and Mrs. Annabelle Baker, who joined the Extension team.



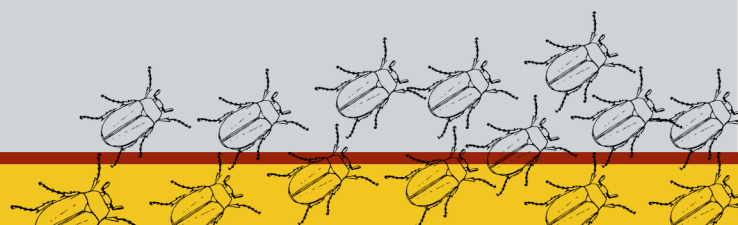
The meeting was also an occasion to thank the farmers for all their efforts to contribute towards the food security of the country through their agricultural production. The farmers shared the constraints they were currently facing to ensure production on their farms. They also contributed positively, offering propositions on how the Department could improve the services being offered to the farming community. The meeting was fruitful, and the farmers expressed their interest in more frequent meetings with our team.

COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSION BETWEEN AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT AND PRIVATE PEST HANDLERS FOR THE STRATEGIC APPROACH TOWARDS THE LEAF BEETLE INCURSION IN THE COUNTRY.

The Agriculture Department recently organized a workshop to address the infestation of the "Golden Apple Leaf Beetle" in the country. Attended by Pest Control companies and Health and Community Development officials, the workshop aimed to collaboratively develop strategies for managing and controlling the pest. Mr. Keven Nancy, PS Agriculture Department, emphasized the crucial role of Private controllers in assisting the Department.



Mr. Roy Govinden provided an update on the beetle's status since its sighting, noting efforts to manage it. Challenges such as spare parts availability for foggers and adverse weather were mentioned. Cultural methods for managing the pest were shared, including burning debris and physical removal. The Department assured that the beetle poses no direct threat to livestock or human health. Further training involving other stakeholders is planned to improve practices. Pest control agents expressed willingness to assist the Department, offering services to the public for controlling the beetle on private properties.





World wetland day Wetlands and Human Being



Seychelles recently commemorated World Wetland Day on February 1st and 2nd with a focus on the theme "Wetlands and Human Wellbeing." The two-day event highlighted the vital role of wetlands in environmental health and human welfare.

The celebration began at the Port Launey Ramsar site, hosted within the Constance Ephia compound, marking its 20th anniversary as a Ramsar site. Esteemed pioneers in wetland conservation were honored, and the Environment team from Constance Ephia presented on the transformation of the wetland from a "dead zone" to a thriving ecosystem. This showcased the impact of restoration efforts and emphasized the wetland's importance in connecting communities with nature.

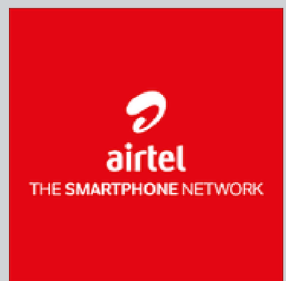


On the second day, a significant milestone was reached with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Airtel Seychelles and the Ministry for Agriculture, Climate Change, and Environment, adopting the Lanmar Soupap Wetland for conservation. This signified a collaborative effort towards safeguarding Seychelles' wetland ecosystems, with key stakeholders in attendance.

The event also provided an educational opportunity for La Digue School students to engage in conservation activities, planting mangrove trees and gaining a deeper understanding of wetland preservation.



The Minister expressed gratitude to Airtel Seychelles and urged other private organizations to join similar initiatives, stressing the importance of collective action in protecting Seychelles' natural heritage. Nature Seychelles recognized the commitment of 11 ministry staff who participated in the Mangrove Conservation Programme training, highlighting the significance of capacity building in environmental stewardship. Distinguished guests including Minister Devika Vidot, CEO David Okello, and Honorable Rocky Uranie graced the ceremony, underscoring the importance of collaboration and dedication in wetland conservation efforts.



OVERSEAS MISSION

INDIA ENERGY WEEK

Seychelles delegates, led by Minister Flavien Joubert, attended the India Energy Week from February 6th to 8th, 2024. The delegation engaged with various companies, particularly those involved in renewable and alternative energy, during the event. Minister Joubert participated in ministerial panel sessions focusing on energy security, future energy markets, and South-South cooperation for inclusive growth. He highlighted Seychelles' challenges in meeting its NDC commitments and combating climate change effects. Additionally, Minister Joubert held bilateral discussions with India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, covering topics like biofuel development, renewable energy in agriculture, emissions management, and technical cooperation. An interview with the Business Standards newspaper of India further addressed India's assistance to Seychelles in the energy sector and the challenges posed by climate change.



ON THE SIDE LINE THE 37TH AU SUMMIT, SEYCHELLES CHAIRS AFRICAN ISLAND STATES HIGH-LEVEL MEETING.

The African Island States High-Level Meeting, chaired by Seychelles during the 37th AU Summit, aimed at enhancing cooperation among African Island States for resilience and prosperity. Held on February 16, the event gathered high-level representatives to assess AISCC's operational status and plan its future endeavors. Two panel discussions, moderated by Minister Flavien Joubert and Mr. Nassim Oulmane of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, focused on advancing the African islands' agenda, preparing for the 4th International SIDS Conference, and accelerating AISCC's operationalization. Minister Joubert underscored Seychelles' commitment to combatting climate change and urged collaboration among African islands on critical issues like the Blue Economy and climate advocacy. Member states and partners pledged support for strengthening AISCC, with emphasis on financing, access mechanisms, and capacity building. The next AISCC meeting is scheduled for October 2024, preceding COP29.



OVERSEAS MISSION

SEYCHELLES PARTICIPATES IN UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA 6)

Seychelles, led by Minister Flavien Joubert, actively engages in the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 6) held in Nairobi, Kenya, from February 26th to March 1st, 2024, demonstrating its strong commitment to global environmental stewardship. With 193 UN member states, businesses, civil society, and stakeholders participating, UNEA 6 addresses pressing environmental challenges under the theme of "effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution," aligning with COP 28's objectives. Seychelles showcases its progress in environmental conservation, supporting key draft resolutions on ocean governance, halting land degradation, and effective waste management. Minister Joubert advocates for increased resources, particularly for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), emphasizing efforts to combat climate change and plastic pollution while promoting sustainable development. The Seychelles delegation, including Principal Secretary Denis Matatiken and Director General Nanette Laure, actively engages in high-level meetings and side events, contributing to meaningful discussions. The preceding Open Committee of permanent representatives paves the way for UNEA 6, drawing attention to critical environmental issues amidst 6000 delegates, including heads of states, ministers, experts, and industry representatives, solidifying UNEA 6 as a pivotal platform for advancing global environmental action.



“SEYCHELLES HAS COMPLETED THE MAPPING OF MANGROVES AND SEAGRASSES IN OUR EEZ AND WORKS ARE UNDERWAY TO QUANTIFY THE AMOUNT OF CARBON IN STORAGE”

During the final day of UNEA6, Minister Joubert commended UNEP for organizing the event effectively and emphasized Seychelles' recent achievements, including deep-sea research and mapping of mangroves and seagrasses in the EEZ. He reiterated Seychelles' commitment to protecting marine resources and achieving NDC goals. Urging member states, Minister Joubert called for swift action on crucial issues such as biodiversity conservation, deforestation, plastic pollution, and chemical waste management. He underscored Seychelles' appreciation for collaborative efforts through UNEA and emphasized the importance of international support. Minister Joubert urged unity in safeguarding the planet and reaffirmed Seychelles' readiness to contribute to a healthier, more resilient world.



WORKSHOPS

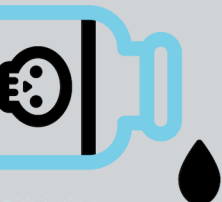
MINISTER FLAVIEN JOUBERT LAUNCHES CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP TO ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN AIS REGION

Minister Flavien Joubert recently inaugurated a consultative workshop for the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and South China Sea (AIS) region, a significant event gathering key stakeholders to chart a sustainable development and environmental preservation course. The workshop's central focus is on introducing and garnering feedback on draft progress indicators and impact measures, crucial tools for assessing ongoing initiatives and shaping future strategies for environmental conservation. Minister Joubert stressed the urgency of action, emphasizing the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the transition towards sustainable energy futures, highlighting Seychelles' strides in renewable energy and energy efficiency. Plans for further renewable energy expansion were announced, showcasing Seychelles' commitment to sustainability. With the workshop fostering collaboration and shared commitment among stakeholders, it serves as a platform for exchanging experiences and insights to advance environmental sustainability in the region, aiming for a resilient and environmentally conscious future.



A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO ADDRESS OIL SPILL EMERGENCIES

Seychelles is updating its National Oil Spill Contingency Plan to align with international standards and improve its readiness for managing environmental disasters like oil spills. Led by international consultant Peter Taylor, the revision aims to establish standardized procedures and roles for stakeholders, enhancing Seychelles' preparedness and response capabilities. Denis Matatiken, principal secretary for environment, stresses the urgency of this update, citing the plan's outdatedness and the risks posed by the busy Indian Ocean. Stakeholders, including experts like Nanette Laure and Captain Luke Fonseka, contribute insights to refine the plan during a recent workshop. Taylor emphasizes the importance of integrating international dimensions into the plan to address evolving risks effectively. Ultimately, Seychelles' commitment to proactive environmental stewardship drives its efforts to safeguard its marine ecosystem and coastal communities from the impacts of oil spills.



WORKSHOPS

"EMPOWERING MACCE SENIOR OFFICIALS: ENHANCING MEDIA RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS"

In a concerted effort to bolster our collective proficiency in media relations and communications, the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change, and Environment (MACCE) recently conducted a mandatory Capacity Building Training Program titled "Media Relations and Communication." Held from January 29th to February 1st at the Grand Savoy Resort and Spa Conference Room, this intensive training was designed for senior officials including Principal Secretaries, CEOs, Deputy CEOs, and Directors. Led by renowned expert Mr. Antoine Onezime, the sessions aimed to equip participants with enhanced communication skills crucial for navigating both media and customer interactions adeptly. Key highlights included the development of strategies for effective media engagement, acquiring finesse in managing customer interactions, and providing a platform for raising concerns to be addressed in subsequent workshops with relevant partners. The training received positive feedback from attendees, underscoring its value in strengthening the communication capabilities of senior officers within the MACCE.



OCEANX EXPEDITION A SUCCESS

In the latest OceanX expedition, conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment, several significant breakthroughs were achieved in deep-sea research exploration in the Seychelles' outer islands.

Led by nineteen Seychellois researchers, the expedition accomplished three major feats. Firstly, they conducted the deepest dive ever recorded, reaching depths of up to 1,000 meters in submersibles. Additionally, a historic dive took place in the Amirantes trench, with a remotely operated vehicle reaching depths of 4,600 meters, marking the deepest dive in Seychelles' history. The third major accomplishment involved the 3D mapping and deep-sea exploration of Aldabra and Assomption islands, contributing to mapping 12,000 square kilometers within the Seychelles' exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Mattie Rodrigue, science program director for OceanX, highlighted these achievements during a visit for local media on board the vessel docked in Port Victoria. The preliminary report was submitted to the government, with the final report scheduled for submission in May. The mission was conducted from January 14 to February 11.

Rodrigue emphasized the mission's aim to develop a comprehensive understanding of the Seychelles ocean ecosystem, assess ocean conditions, and build knowledge among local scientists to promote marine conservation and future climate decisions.

The research encompassed several areas, including Aldabra, Assomption, Poivre, Alphonse, D'Arros, St Joseph, and the Amirantes trench. Rodrigue noted the diversity of deep-sea healthy corals and highlighted the talent of young Seychellois scientists.

During the expedition, all 19 young Seychellois had a chance to do a ROV (remotely operated vehicle) dive, which was also performed across the islands to better understand the benthic and pelagic fauna at these depths.

For the first time in history, they dived to the deepest recorded depth in Seychelles history of 1,500 meters and executed a dedicated megafauna's survey of the region via helicopter.

Researchers live-streamed a deep-sea submersible dive from the mission to the 2024 World Economic Forum in Davos, transporting audiences 300 meters below the surface.

OceanX, in partnership with Seychelles' Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment and other local organizations, supports scientists to explore the ocean and bring it back to the world.

Rodney Quatre, the Director General for Biodiversity and Conservation Management at the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE), expressed appreciation for the collaboration, noting the invaluable insights gained for Seychelles' ocean conservation efforts.

OceanX's mission to explore and connect the world with the ocean aligns with Dalio Philanthropies' broader efforts to support diverse philanthropic interests.



LONG SERVICE AWARD - ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT

Last year, the Environment Department and the Climate Change Department held their annual service award ceremony, a time-honored tradition aimed at acknowledging the dedication and commitment of staff members who have contributed significantly to the Ministry's mission. The event, conducted internally, was graced by the presence of the Minister himself and the two Principal Secretaries, Mr. Denis Matatiken and Mr. Tony Imaduwa.

The highlight of the ceremony was the recognition of staff members who have served the Ministry for a minimum of five years. Among the attendees, thirteen individuals were celebrated for their half-decade commitment to the Ministry's cause. Additionally, four employees were honored for their decade-long service, while five others were commended for their twenty years of dedication. Three individuals were recognized for their remarkable twenty-five years of service, and four employees were acknowledged for their three decades of commitment.

Four employees were recognized for their thirty years of service. This accolade was bestowed upon Ms. Nelda Rosalie, serving as an Administrative Officer; Ms. Virginie Sicobo, fulfilling the role of Office Assistant at the Conservation Section; Mr. Elvis Baccus, dedicated maintenance Contractor; and Ms. Jeannette Larue, the Director for the Public Education and Community Outreach Division.

However, the spotlight shone brightest on Ms. Rita Lesperance, who was awarded for her remarkable thirty years of service. Ms. Lesperance, recently transferred to the office of the Principal Secretary for the Agriculture Department, has exemplified excellence and dedication throughout her tenure, now taking on the role of Senior Private Secretary.

The Ministry extends its heartfelt gratitude to all the staff members who have dedicated their time, energy, and expertise to furthering its mission. Their unwavering commitment and tireless efforts have been instrumental in advancing the goals of the Ministry, and their contributions are deeply appreciated.

As these esteemed individuals embark on the next chapters of their careers, the Ministry wishes them continued success and fulfillment in all their future endeavors. Their legacy of dedication and service will continue to inspire and motivate colleagues for years to come, shaping the Ministry's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship and climate action.



GROUP PHOTO OF AWARDEES

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF ENVIRONMENT SOCIAL COMMITTEE

As the Chairperson of the Environment Social Committee (ESC), I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering efforts and dedication throughout the year. It is the collective commitment of our employees that forms the foundation of our Ministry's success. Through organizing various social activities, we aim to foster team cohesion, boost morale, and enhance overall workplace satisfaction. In the past, we have witnessed many triumphs, and I am truly grateful for the loyalty and dedication shown by each member of our team.

I am certain that those who attended the recent gathering thoroughly enjoyed the evening. It was an unforgettable experience that will be cherished throughout 2024, until our next end-of-year celebration. The night was undoubtedly memorable for all the staff who were able to join us.

On behalf of ESC, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who participated in the DCCE End of Year celebrations, contributing to the joyful atmosphere of the event.



LYDIA ASBA



PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION SECTION PDCS

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: WORKSHOP RECAP ON COMBATTING PESTS AND DISEASES IN SEYCHELLES

Recently, community members and government officials participated in a two-day workshop aimed at combating pests and diseases affecting the local environment in Seychelles. Led by Mr. Bobb Petrousse, a seasoned consultant in plant health with the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change, and Environment (MACCE), the workshop covered theoretical knowledge and practical skills for identifying and managing common pests and diseases. Participants explored prevalent issues and their transmission methods, followed by practical sessions where they observed samples and learned control techniques using readily available materials like garlic and baking soda. Armed with this knowledge, various organizations involved hope to better address invasive species within the community. Mr. Petrousse noted the participants' appreciation for the workshop's content, suggesting a desire for more time due to the extensive information covered. The workshop was conducted under the GOS-GEF-UNDP 'A Ridge to Reef Approach for the Integrated Management of Marine, Coastal and Terrestrial Ecosystems in the Seychelles' project, aiming to foster sustainable environmental management practices in collaboration with MACCE.

SEYCHELLES ADDRESSES GROWING THREAT OF FOREST FIRES ON PRASLIN THROUGH FIREFIGHTING TRAINING

Seychelles' firefighters and key stakeholders are intensifying efforts to combat the escalating threat of forest fires, particularly on Praslin, focusing on capacity-building under the GOS-GEF-UNDP 'A Ridge to Reef Approach for the Integrated Management of Marine, Coastal and Terrestrial Ecosystems in the Seychelles' project. Praslin, home to vital conservation sites like Vallée de Mai and Fond Ferdinand, faces increased vulnerability due to human activities and climate change-induced longer droughts. Training sessions led by the Seychelles Fire and Rescue Services Agency (SFRSA) in collaboration with various organizations aim to address the shortage of trained personnel and implement adaptive responses. Despite challenges such as environmental concerns and limited resources, efforts continue with plans for integrated response training and potential partnerships for capacity building with La Réunion.



PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION SECTION PDCS

TRASS EXPANDS EFFORTS IN AGROFORESTRY WITH OPENING OF NEW NURSERY

The Terrestrial Restoration Action Society Seychelles (TRASS) has expanded its reforestation efforts with the opening of a second nursery dedicated to agroforestry, marking a significant milestone in restoring Praslin's ecosystem. With a capacity to nurture up to 12 thousand plants, including local and rare fruit plants, the nursery aims to address community demands for local delicacies while enhancing national food security. Mr. Marc Jean-Baptiste, Vice-Chairperson of TRASS, emphasized the importance of preserving rare fruit trees and medicinal plants, despite challenges such as vandalism and lack of sustainable education within the community. This initiative builds upon TRASS' work under the Ridge to Reef project, focusing on strengthening the management of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and introducing agroforestry to mitigate soil erosion and enhance water retention. Despite setbacks, TRASS has made significant strides in restoring degraded terrestrial land on Praslin, rehabilitating over 30 hectares of forest and planting over 60,000 seedlings since 2009.



HAPPY EASTER!!!!

As we celebrate this joyous occasion, may the spirit of Easter fill your home with love, happiness, and renewal. Let's cherish this time of new beginnings and growth, reflecting on the beauty of nature that surrounds us.

Just as spring brings forth blossoms and new life, may this season inspire us to nurture and protect our environment for generations to come. Let's embrace sustainability and conservation as we strive to create a brighter, greener future for Seychelles

