

The Ecotourism Society of Seychelles



*For the Community & by the Community
The Process...*

“Turning Possibilities into Realities”

2011 “WINNING FOR SEYCHELLES”

Combating Climate Change and Man-Made Disasters at the Local Level

The Anse Royale Coastal Protection Project The Promise Fulfilled



Promise only what you can deliver, then deliver more that you promise.

Source: Unknown



Motivation Building Measures

The fruit of hope: Endurance

Lesson on Coastal Erosion

When the project was first conceived almost four years ago, erosion of that particular stretch of the Anse Royale Beach was still at its infancy whereby the need for only Wooden Piling (as it is the ReCoMaP case now in Anse Boileau) would have sufficed to mitigate the then situation. At that time the green line itself was relatively still intact, whereby this Soft Engineering procedure would have helped with the rehabilitation efforts.

However since erosion of the coastline waits for no one, by the time the necessary funds were identified and disbursed by ReCoMaP, most of the hundred year old trees (takamaka, coconuts, bois-rose, bois-blanc etc.) along 100 plus metres of the green line had been washed away whereby additional funds had to be found to finance an additional Rock Beaching component.

And by the time that TESS was allocated SR450,000 by the Government of Seychelles for such works, erosion had already dug many metres deeper inland, whereby still more funds had to be garnered. ReCoMaP then recognised that need, and an additional EU10,000 was allocated and Visible Action started on site started on the 16th of April 2011.

The 18 months old contract TESS signed with ReCoMaP had to be extended by an additional five months for satisfactory completion.

The Tender Process

The United Concrete Products Seychelles (UCPS) was awarded the contract, a mission which was undertaken diligently, resulting in a remarkable improvement of the coastline in question, whereby its long term durability is now ensured, of course subject to a continuous monitoring process over the months and years ahead.

The rehabilitation of the affected parts of the 14,500 square metres park itself will be replanted with original vegetations resistant to tidal surges, salt sprays and strong wind once the South East Monsoon is over i.e. mid October 2011. The Local Community, TESS Members, wildlife clubs and one and all concerned will soon be called upon to assist in turning this **precious green beach front property into a Landmark for all.**

Vote of thanks

Today TESS, partners, and associates wish to express their sincere thanks to the European Union (EU), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the Regional Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Coastal Zones of the Indian Ocean Countries (ReCoMaP) for the provision of EU83,966 to the project and the related support without which this noble endeavour would not have materialised.

Secondly we convey our appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Seychelles for its counterpart contribution of SR450,000 to cover the additional unbudgeted Rock Beaching component whereby enhancing further Public Sector/Civil Society partnership for the benefit of all. Our special thanks are for Ambassador Barry Faure, Secretary of State and Chairman of the Seychelles Tourism Board (STB) for his intervention on our behalf in making this contribution a reality.

Thirdly, we wish to give due recognition to UCPS, United Concrete Products Seychelles for the professional work performed on site, in ensuring a job well done...which will surely serve as a “best practice” for other districts in Seychelles to follow suit.

We also thank Mr Nimhan Senaratne, the Project Engineer of the Ministry of Environment for his valuable contribution in ensuring the success of this mission, and to all others who have assisted TESS (no matter how small) during the process.

Every action has an equal and opposite reaction

(Newton's Laws of Physics)

Future Plans for the Anse Royale Coastline

The NEXT Promise

Now that TESS has successfully managed to spearhead and complete the rehabilitation 250metres of the Anse Royale coastline, there is still the need for us as a Nation to address the remaining southern affected portion, of this same affected coastline, namely, around the Roman Catholic Church, (in itself a National Monument) and the small stretch of the beach North of the Allibaye shop.

Indeed the Roman Catholic Church which was built in 1934 out of sand, coral and having a granite spier (with rocks cemented over one another) is now in danger of getting more affected, by “possible” domino effects of the already rehabilitated Beach Park coastline.

While this unique house of worship survived the Indonesian tsunami of 26th December 2004, which killed 250,000 people in the Indian Ocean Region, she remains in continuous jeopardy since the excessive enlargement of the pass, whereby there is now the need for us to enhance its durability and in so doing complete the total rehabilitation of the Anse Royale coastline.

Unfortunately, the late Mrs Therese d’Offay who was on the adjacent beach watching this tragic natural phenomenon did not live to tell the tale. And today we pay tribute to her. A marble plaque in her honour is to be found in the church herself.

Coastal Erosion is a dynamic process that waits for no one, yes, the more we wait to mitigate the damages the more costly it becomes. Rest assure that TESS will continue to spare no effort in this direction in further enhancing our social, moral and spiritual values through continuous **tangible action** in this direction for the benefit of our children.

Indeed as a result of climate change, the sea level will continue to rise and with additional continuous man-made disasters resulting from various development projects, and the like, regardless of our good intentions, our coastline will surely continue to be affected e.g. North East Point, Au Cap and Anse La Mouche are perfect examples requiring our immediate undivided attention, both as individuals and as a Nation as a whole. The assistance of Japan in this direction is most welcome, and our sincere thanks and appreciation for such generosity are in order. But first and foremost we must hold ourselves responsible for such man-made disasters, and to prevent them from happening again.

Today through the ReCoMaP projects, Anse Boileau, and now Anse Royale have led the way in showcasing, that with much commitment and conviction, Civil Society has again visibly shown that a difference can be made in the protection and enhancement of our affected coastline and our unique environment as a whole, for the benefit of all. And we call on all of the other districts to contribute the maximum possible towards the protection and enhancement of their respective coastline before it's **too late.**

As called for by the PP33 Document, (pilot projects) TESS will soon be setting up the appropriate mechanism for all those who may wish to contribute in protecting our beloved St Joseph Church (this universal symbol of hard work, fathers and carpenters) and its surroundings to do so, for we simply cannot afford to engage ourselves through another long tedious and costly process...for time is surely not on our side. Thus let us endeavour to complete this project before the 2012 South East Monsoon.

And we take this opportunity to also call on the Government of Republic of Seychelles to consider setting up the appropriate funding mechanism at the earliest convenience, to provide Civil Society Organisations with “Matching Funds” to facilitate such processes in avoiding lengthy administrative procedures in the future.

Rest assured that TESS will continue to spare no effort in building more awareness and understanding about the plight of Coastal Erosion. And once again we call on one and all concerned (both Local and International) to assist us further in our continuous quest to mitigate such disasters, be it natural or man-made... “All’s well that ends well”

We thank you all. May God bless us all.

**Marc MRM Marengo
Ambassador
Secretary General of TESS**



Rock Beaching



Timber Pilling

