



LAGON BLEU

Newsletter December 2013
and January 2014

Maurice Ile Durable: [Action Plan for Grand Port](#)

On Wednesday 4 December, the Lagon Bleu team attended the 'Launching Ceremony of Maurice Ile Durable Action Plan for Grand Port' by Mr. Rajkeswur Purryag, the president of Mauritius. We were happy that the politicians emphasized the fact that 80% of the coral is not healthy within the marine park. They also highlighted the necessity of increasing the awareness of local communities towards environmental challenge, such as pollution and water usage.

The Maurice Ile Durable action plan strives to develop a Mauritius Ile Durable program, a strategy and a program with actions and projects.

After the global energy crisis in 2007, the government of Mauritius became aware of the value of promoting renewable energy and sustainable development in order to build capital and preserve the well-being for the current generation, but also for future generations. The Maurice Ile Durable concept is a long term vision for making Mauritius a sustainable island. Its strategy includes five development areas, namely Environment, Education, Energy, Equity and Employment.

Lagoon Monitoring

December has been a much quieter month on the lagoon monitoring side, with fewer chances to get on the boat due to the festive season and inclement weather. On one trip into the lagoon to monitor three of our sites we experienced visibility of less than 4 metres and strong currents that meant we were unable to do our work that day. When a cyclone is on its way, the water can tell you more than the sky!

The illegal fish monitoring continues, but in December we haven't seen anything while on patrol except for a few spear fisherman that we have reported. The coast guard have increased their presence on the water recently, and on 1 December 2013, one spear fisherman was caught and his equipment and catch was confiscated by the NCG who responded within five minutes of receiving the call and were backed up by police on the beach. One spear fisherman has however been seen by residents almost daily this month near the construction site along the beach from Chantauvent.



This Undulated Moray Eel, *Gymnothorax undulates* was seen between Club Nautique and Chantauvent while doing some diving along the coast. They can be up to 1.5m long and are often hiding under rocks and coral. They feed nocturnally on fish, octopus and crustaceans and can take a fancy to divers who swim too close to them, they are however not naturally aggressive and will only bite when provoked. There are several other types of eels that can be found in the lagoon, including the Geometric Moray Eel, Leopard Eel & White Mouth Moray Eel.

Fish found in the Blue Bay Marine Park and lagoon

The Mauritian Anemone fish – *Amphiprion chrysogaster*

Found in the Blue Bay Marine Park, lagoons and outer reefs the Mauritian anemone fish is found only in Mauritius and possibly Rodrigues. Also known as the Mauritian clownfish, they start their life as males and turn into females as they mature. The males anemone fish are known to guard and aerate the eggs that are laid in nests. Often found in brackish waters, the Mauritian anemone fish is associated with the different species of anemone.



The Picasso Triggerfish - *Rhinecanthus aculeatus*

These fish can be found living in sub-tidal shallow reefs and sandy areas throughout the world's tropical waters. They have a wide ranging diet, feeding on fish, algae, corals, eggs and marine invertebrates such as molluscs, crustaceans and sea urchins, using their powerful beaks to break open their shells or break off protective spines. They also use these to vigorously defend their territories, even biting passing swimmers who happen to venture too close! They are common in the North of Mauritius around the island of Ile aux Gabriel but can also be found throughout most of the waters surrounding the island.



Past event: Mangrove cleanup

On Sunday the 12th of January, the mangrove cleanup took place in front of the London Way Supermarket in Mahebourg. It was a great success: our goal was to collect more than 500 kilograms of rubbish out of the mangrove area. Together with you, we removed 177 kilograms of glass, 105 kilograms of plastic, 1 kilogram of carton and 302 kilograms of rubbish in the category other. This means we made it happen to collect a total of 585 kilograms! We sorted the rubbish out by categories to make the recycling easier after collecting the rubbish.



The aim of the mangrove cleanup is to restore the health of the Point d'Esny wetland. The wetland is an important part of the lagoon and it is also important for fish, birds and amphibians. It ensures the reproduction of fish and invertebrates and it supports endemic amphibians and fish species that populate our lagoon.



Special thanks goes to the Pointe Jerome Sailing Club who helped us with collecting a lot of rubbish. We are also very grateful to Mission Verte for emptying the bin after the cleanup.



We thank you very much for your participation and hard work! Let's make a new challenge for the coming mangrove cleanup. Further information about this cleaning day will be provided via Facebook. Spread the word and bring your friends and family with you the next time!

December 2013: Activity Overview

4th of December: Members of the Lagon Bleu team attended to the 'Launching Ceremony of Maurice Île Durable Action plan for Grand Port' by Mr. Rajkeswur Purryag (GCSK, GOSK), President of the Republic of Mauritius.

9th of December: Seventh lecture 'Mauritius Marine Guide'

16th of December: Eighth lecture 'Mauritius Marine Guide'

18th of December: Members of the Lagon Bleu team attended to a meeting on 'Maurice Ile Durable Action Plan for Grand Port'

23th of December: Ninth lecture 'Mauritius Marine Guide'

30th of December: Tenth lecture 'Mauritius Marine Guide'

January 2014: Activity Overview

6th of January: Eleventh lecture 'Mauritius Marine Guide'

13th of January: Twelfth lecture 'Mauritius Marine Guide'

20th of January: Thirteenth lecture 'Mauritius Marine Guide'

Stay in Touch

Like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/lagonbleuMU>

Read our newsletters:

<http://www.ecosud.mu/lagonbleu/news-eng.htm#News>

For support, please donate to:

NAME: ECO-SUD

Acc Number: 000040033457

Bank: Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd, Mahebourg, Republic of Mauritius

Acc Currency: MUR

IBAN: MU25MCBL090400000033457000MUR

Registration number NGO: 6118

CSR Registration number: N/1153

You also can send a email to ecosud@intnet.mu or send directly a cheque to:

ECOSUD

Casa do Sol, 40 Rue des Bonites,

Blue Bay, Republic of Mauritius

