
ANNUAL REPORT 2021





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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Alain
DE FALBAIRE**

The fact that Eco-Sud was able to respond to two major crises, notably COVID-19 and the MV Wakashio oil spill, shows that in 2021, our mission has never been more critical. Despite the challenges posed by the lockdown and closure of the lagoon, we had a successful year in terms of collaboration and innovation. During this year, it was also a necessity for Eco-Sud to define and put together a strategic framework. This has led to the elaboration of three major areas of action: the rights of nature, the conservation of natural ecosystems, food security and sovereignty through agroecology and the reduction of people's vulnerabilities. This roadmap allows us to establish plans, projects and initiate change.

Throughout 2021, Eco-Sud has been striving to bring its vision to life through the Resilient Organic Community project, inclusive food programs, calls for project proposals and Laboutik Solider. We have worked to maintain ties with the most vulnerable communities in the southeast and to develop their skills during this post-covid period.

In 2021, we are thrilled to have made progress on the issue of biodiversity through our agroecological farm and our initiatives regarding coral reefs.

These projects have enabled us to collaborate with local stakeholders and move forward together. I would like to express a big thank you to all our team members, volunteers, interns and funders who support us and believe in our ability to make a positive impact. Nevertheless, we are aware that there is still a long way to go in terms of respect and rights for nature and ecosystems, and that it is not enough to simply believe in them for things to change.

A WORD FROM THE CEO



Now is the time to make ambitious decisions, not tomorrow, not in 10 years!

Nowadays, no one any longer doubts climate change, no longer doubts the extinction of species, no longer doubts that many planetary limits have been exceeded, no longer doubts that pesticides are killing living beings, our fellow Mauritians, the flora and fauna of our Island, no longer doubts that plastics and micro-plastics are contaminating our soils, our waters and our stomachs in a deadly way... Science has never been so explicit on these subjects and collective awareness has never been so widespread.

We now have the knowledge and the means to do things differently, to demonstrate leadership and to act to preserve biodiversity and life. We no longer have any excuses for inaction. We need a real political will to act and we need it now!

- Act, but how? By genuinely protecting ecologically sensitive areas. Today these ecosystems are under assault by promoters. We can proclaim our ESAs as common spaces to be protected!
- By no longer allowing the plundering of our marine resources through the various fishing agreements signed and by not pursuing the Deep Sea Mining project!

- By banning the importation and use of pesticides on our island, we will curb the incidence of cancers and diseases among our fellow citizens, and promote life in our soil.
- By promoting agroecology and restoring the carbon cycle, we will be able to seriously increase our food security.
- By banning the use and production of single-use plastics, we will seriously address the adverse effects on the life of this product.

Today, decision-makers have the opportunity to do things differently, to become true agents of change and to protect all forms of life on earth. More than ever, we need our leaders to be ambitious and to take their responsibilities seriously!

The current situation is increasingly untenable, as so-called exponential «growth» in a finite world cannot last forever. No one doubts that as well anymore!

Sébastien SAUVAGE

A WORD FROM THE HEAD
OF SCIENTIFIC TEAM

LET'S BRING OUR LAGOONS BACK TO LIFE!

We now have enough evidence to support the importance of coral reefs for both our oceans and on land. Storing and releasing carbon, protecting coastlines from erosion, providing shelter for a wide range of marine species, this ecosystem also serves as a direct and indirect means of subsistence for thousands of people. Their loss would be a disaster for all forms of life.



Dr Shashi
CHUMUN

At Eco-Sud we are proud to be able to contribute to the restoration of this ecosystem on our scale. Since 2017, we have been able to transplant over 6,000 coral fragments through our coral nursery. We grow resilient corals to restore threatened reefs. The techniques and processes we use on our coral farm increase the chances of survival and adaptation of corals in their new location.

Coral reef management is a major concern for our local communities and the restoration of this ecosystem cannot be done without their involvement.

Since 2021, thanks to a partnership with the United Nations development agency, we have been able to scale up and expand our inclusive restoration programme, and we are delighted to be able to bring the reefs back to life. In addition to growing corals, this project also has a strong social component, where participants and stakeholders in the region can share their experiences and learn about the importance of keeping corals alive and helping to revitalise this ecosystem that sustains us all.

Thanks to our funders and communities, we are making progress in the effectiveness and advancement of coral reef restoration. However, these efforts must be extended nationwide. If we are to protect our corals, we must urgently address the major drivers of reef degradation, notably pollution, destructive fishing, and the destruction of ecologically sensitive areas among others.

Dr Shashi CHUMUN

“Thanks to our funders and communities, we are making progress in the effectiveness and advancement of coral reef restoration.”

THE ECO-SUD TEAM



QUINCY DESIRE
Field Technician



VASISHT SEETAPAH
Scientific Coordinator



SEBASTIEN RENEL
ROC farmer



LIONEL ATHION
Volontaire



GERARD MONTY
ROC farmer



IAN DUCASSE
Community & Field Officer



KESHINI BEETUL
Scientific Officer



SARVESH MUNDIL
Scientific Officer



SHAKEEL MOHAMMAD MAHAMDEE
Accountant



MEHREEN NOHUR
Scientific Officer



EUGENIE REMI
Administrative & Support Officer



MATHIEU RAFFRAY
Processes & Management Intern



LEON RAZAFINDRAKOTO
ROC farmer



VINAYAGEN MUNUSAMI
Volunteer & Training Coordinator



BORIS MAYER
Biologist & Researcher



SHASHI CHUMUN
Head of Scientific Team



OLIVER MAINGARD
Training & Farmers Coordinator



RACHÈLE BHOOROO
Communication & Advocacy Coordinator



PHILIPPE LA HAUSSE DE LA LOUVIERE
Head of Finance



JASMINE TOULOUSE OLIVIER
Social Coordinator



JOHAN DE LA HAYE
Volontaire



SANDY MONROSE
ROC Team Leader



SEBASTIEN SAUVAGE
CEO

OUR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORKS

Faced with the ecological emergency and the loss of biodiversity at an alarming rate, it has never been more imperative to organise and equip ourselves in order to achieve a greater impact! The ecocide that followed the shipwreck of the MV Wakashio has also pushed us to act on inequalities to reduce the economic vulnerability of communities, especially those directly affected by the Wakashio's grounding. This broader scope has highlighted the need to include social efforts at the heart of Eco-Sud's strategic framework in addition to its commitment to the protection of biodiversity and natural ecosystems.

Our priority fields of action :

- Marine ecosystems
- Environmentally sensitive areas
- Agriculture respectful of nature
- Food security and sovereignty
- The rights of nature
- Ecological transition
- Inclusive restoration
- Reducing the vulnerabilities of communities in the Southeast

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS



STRATEGIC GOAL 1 :

RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF NATURE IN THE MAURITIAN LEGAL FRAMEWORK



STRATEGIC GOAL 3 :

INCREASING FOOD SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY THROUGH AGROECOLOGY



STRATEGIC GOAL 2 :

INCLUDE LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS



STRATEGIC GOAL 4 :

REDUCE THE VULNERABILITY OF COMMUNITIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE AFFECTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

*Eco-Sud may develop satellite themes if it deems that certain projects are not entirely fulfilling their mission, but are worthy of being invested in because of the current needs of the communities it supports. These satellite themes can be used as stepping stones for the realisation of the Eco-Sud's vision.

OUR COLLABORATORS SHARE THEIR VIEWS

VINAYAGEN

Volunteer and Training Coordinator



« Following my studies in environmental science, I was eager to develop my experience in a professional context and explore marine conservation techniques. I joined Eco-Sud with high expectations and by the end of my internship, I had learned a lot more. I had the chance to engage in conservation alongside local communities. As inclusive conservation is not a topic that is widely covered in lectures, through this internship I was able to understand why it is essential to integrate communities in conservation initiatives and how to work with them. This sharing of knowledge and information between the communities and the scientific unit has been very beneficial to my learning. Towards the end of my internship, I became a training facilitator and had the opportunity to witness the impact of these trainings on the communities and it was very fulfilling.»

In 2021, Vinayagen took up the position of Volunteer and training coordinator at Eco-Sud.

KESHINI

Scientific Officer

Scientific expertise, coupled with community insight and participation in our ecosystem restoration projects, is both an engaging and rewarding experience. Working with stakeholders directly affected by the environmental crisis to achieve a common goal is one of Eco-Sud's greatest strengths. Being a Scientific Officer, I provide technical support to the monitoring programme of our marine ecosystems and carry out the analysis of relevant data among others.

I am delighted to be able to participate and share my knowledge and experience in the fight against climate change and its consequences.



OUR IMPACT

13

TRAINING IN VARIOUS
AREAS FOR RESIDENTS
OF THE SOUTH EAST

01

SOLIDARITY SHOP
IN VILLE NOIRE

+ 10

MEDIA COVERAGE

18

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

+ 3700

CROPS GROWN ON THE
AGRO-ECOLOGICAL FARM

12

VILLAGES IN THE SOUTH EAST
WHERE WE COLLABORATE
WITH COMMUNITIES

20

TONNES OF ORGANIC WASTE
COLLECTED AND COMPOSTED

40

MONITORING SITES FOR
MARINE AND TERRESTRIAL
ECOSYSTEMS

05

TYPES OF MARINE AND
TERRESTRIAL MONITORING
UNDERTAKEN THROUGH
OUR VARIOUS PROJECTS

124

ARTICLES POSTED
ON COMMUNITY AND
SOCIAL NETWORKS

273,735

PERSONS REACHED
ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

836

PERSONS REACHED
THROUGH OUR VARIOUS
PROJECTS

• 238 MEN • 415 WOMEN
• 159 CHILDREN • 14 BABIES
• 10 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

OUR IMPACT SOCIAL AND HUMAN

The restoration of natural ecosystems and community development go hand in hand. People are central to everything we do. This community involvement has intensified following the devastation of the MV Wakashio and we are proud to be able to act and pursue our commitment to supporting communities through our various projects.

SOLIDARITY SHOP (LABOUTIK SOLIDER)

62
FAMILIES

146
ADULTS

(NB 63 MEN & 83 WOMEN)

14
BABIES

(0 - 2 YEARS)

114
CHILDREN
(2 TO 18 YEARS)

09
REGIONS*

*VILLE NOIRE, BEAU VALLON, RESIDENCE LA CHAUX, RIVIERE DES CREOLES,
ST HUBERT, BOIS DES AMOURETTES, POINTE D'ESNY, MAHEBOURG

11 PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

[135 PERSONS]

60
WOMEN

20
MEN

45
TEENAGERS

10
PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES

FOODPACK DISTRIBUTION

[OCT 2020 TO MAY 2021]

587
FAMILIES

1 447
ADULTS

94
BABIES

838
CHILDREN

17 TRAINING SESSIONS UNDER THE ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME

02
AGROECOLOGY

63 ADULTS

01
SME - FLORAL

4 WOMEN

01
JA ITS TIME

11 WOMEN

01
FAREI - KITCHEN GARDENING

8 WOMEN

01
MITD

1 WOMAN

01
LAFERM COCO

22 ADULTS

01
TRAINING OF TRAINERS

5 ADULTS

04
CORAL
RESTORATION

43 ADULTE

01
CAPACITY BUILDING
SOCIAL WORKER

12 WOMEN

01
MARINE GUIDES

36 ADULTS

01
AQUAPONICS

5 WOMEN

01
PRODUCTION D'OEUFS

5 ADULTS

01
LIFE SKILLS
MANAGEMENT

30 FAMILIES

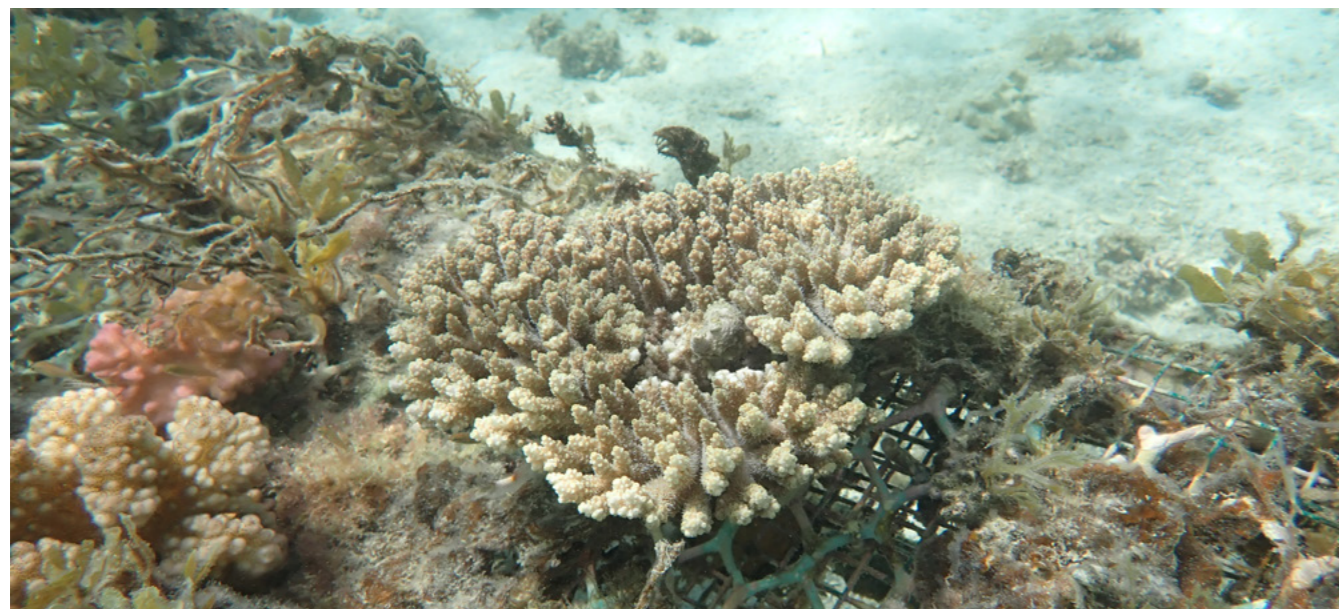
OUR IMPACT BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS



OUR IMPACT ON
BIODIVERSITY AND
ECOSYSTEMS

**6045 CORAL FRAGMENTS
TRANSPLANTED**

Since 2017, we have cultivated 7061 coral fragments until maturity in our coral nursery by in situ asexual propagation. Of these, 4984 fragments have been successfully transplanted. The capacity of the nursery has been doubled since the shipwreck of the MV Wakashio to accommodate more coral fragments.



**12 CORAL SPECIES ARE BEING REHABILITATED
IN OUR NURSERY**

27 sites are monitored following the Wakashio oil spill

Following the shipwreck of the MV Wakashio, Eco-Sud, in collaboration with the local authorities, has been actively engaged in the ecological monitoring of coastal marine habitats and species that may have been impacted by the oil spill. This monitoring is carried out every three months under the Integrated Environment Monitoring Plan across 16 coral reef sites, 4 seagrass sites and 7 mangrove sites.



OUR IMPACT ON
BIODIVERSITY AND
ECOSYSTEMS

3 MONITORING SITES FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS

The migratory bird surveys were conducted in wetlands subject to periodic tidal flooding, namely: Le Morne, Black River and the estuaries of Grand Port. 4 species of migratory birds were identified for monitoring.



2 MONITORING SITES FOR CETACEANS

Cetacean monitoring surveys were carried out on the east coast of Mauritius.

The two marine environments targeted were the main channel of Grand Port of 30 km² and the forereef area of Grand Port of 2.5 km, as well as Rivière Noire.

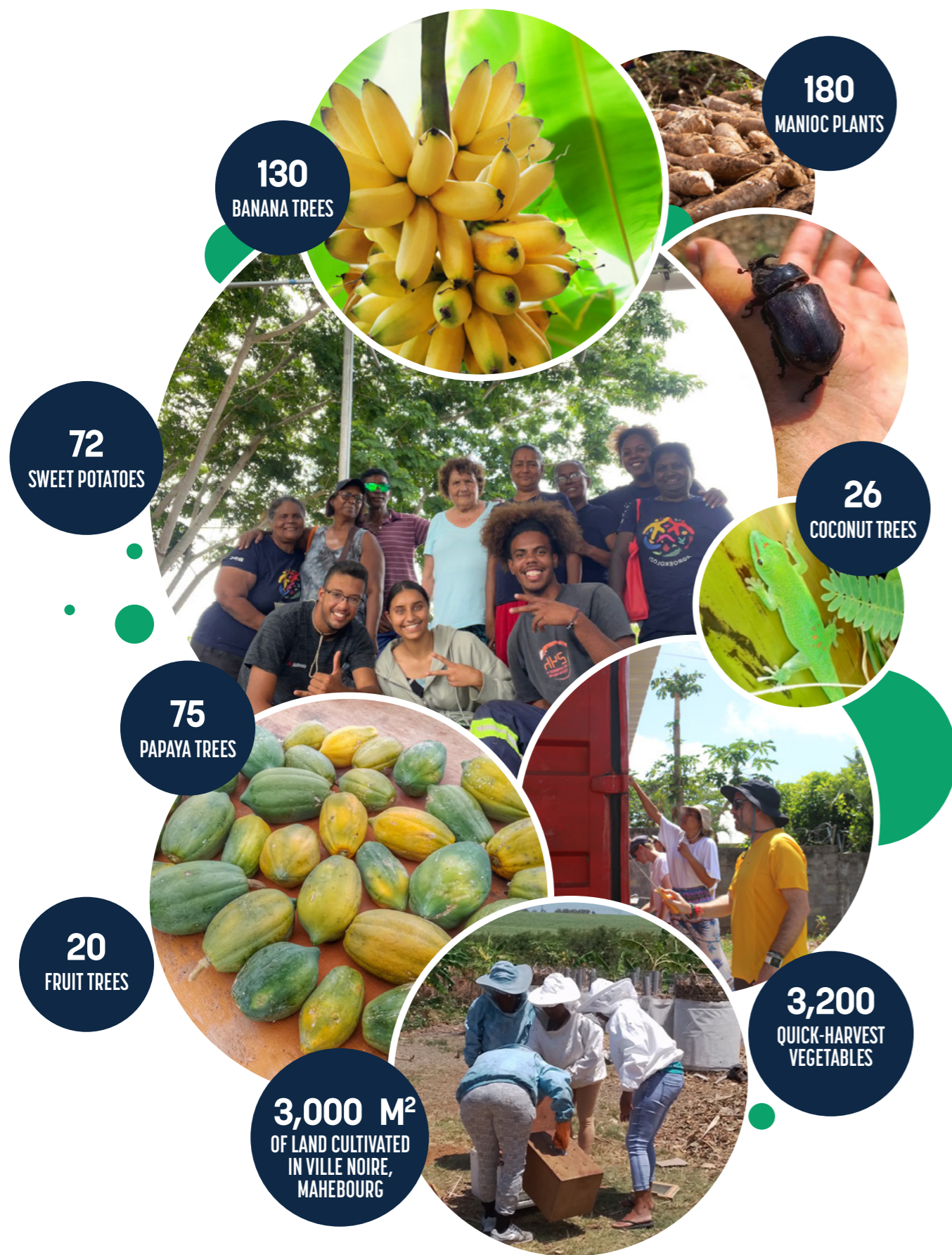


8 SITES FOR MONITORING ECOSYSTEMS

As part of our coral restoration programmes, we have expanded our coral monitoring sites outside the Blue Bay area. During these surveys, our scientific team also studies seagrass beds and mangroves in the areas of Les Salines, Bel Ombre, and Le Morne among others.



3700 CROPS CULTIVATED AT ROC



MITIGATING VULNERABILITIES IN THE SOUTH-EAST REGION

11 PROJECTS

5 INDIVIDUAL

3 NON-PROFITS

2 VENTURES

1 COOPERATIVE

In December 2020, Eco-Sud launched a Call for Projects (CFP) to provide assistance to the inhabitants of the regions affected by the MV Wakashio grounding. The two themes of the Call for Projects are (a) the rehabilitation and preservation of the southeast coast (environment) and (b) building community resilience through sustainable and alternative economic livelihoods (social and economic). As of February 2021, 41 applications for project funding had been submitted, of which 11 projects were selected. The CFP represents the cornerstone for many activists, social workers, entrepreneurs (SMEs), boat owners, and fishermen. New innovative, ecological and social projects were created, specifically targeting the communities concerned. The project leaders were accompanied and strengthened in the conduct, implementation and monitoring of their projects. Cooperation, support and networking have been key levers throughout the process.



PROJECT 01 ZENESS SAN FRONTYER

54 music lessons provided to 20 young people.

PROJECT 02 DOMADORES BOXING CLUB

26 boxing classes were provided to 25 young people.



PROJECT 03 REVEY TWA FAM

68 sessions conducted with 10 women. 70% of the participants secured employment after their training.

PROJECT 04

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN BY THE DPIN (DEVELOPMENT PRACTITIONERS IN NETWORK) ORGANISATION

11 women from 9 villages benefited from 12 training sessions in baking.

The funding also enabled the purchase of kitchen equipment.



PROJECT 05 YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES EMPOWERMENT PLATFORM (YWEP)

10 beneficiaries of the association were able to produce 650 eco-bags. The funding also enabled the association to have access to premises to develop its project.

PROJECT 06

DU GÂTEAU, AN EMPLOYABILITY PROJECT FOCUSED ON PASTRY-MAKING AND RUN BY LE PHARE SUD EST LTD.

10 women and 2 men received training in pastry-making and lifeskills. This training has enabled the participants to earn a wage.





PROJECT 07

BEES WITH STORIES

Eco-Sud's funding has enabled the establishment of the first site in Ferney where 38 beekeeping trainings were provided to 10 women. 77 beehives and 10 starter kits were provided to the beneficiaries. Thanks to this initiative, a study on the viability of beekeeping among vulnerable populations was made possible.

PROJECT 08

PRODUCTION OF VETIVERS BAGS

6 people were trained in the art of sewing and weaving. This call for projects has enabled entrepreneurs to set up their workspace and to deploy an effective communication and marketing strategy.



PROJECT 09

SEAFOOD DISTRIBUTION MAURITIUS BY TURBOT OFFSHORE FISHING COOPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD

Purchase of a vehicle and a boat engine to launch their project for fishing and the provision of fish and seafood in the Mahébourg region.



PROJECT 10

MAMA NATIR

6 clean-up sessions (beaches and lagoons) with 50 volunteers and 80 people sensitized in the villages.

PROJECT 11

BEACH CLEANING AND ENHANCEMENT

At the initiative of a boater, this project aims to clean the beaches and mangroves neglected by the public cleaning services while promoting paid work for the inhabitants.





INCLUSIVE RESTORATION

INCLUSIVE RESTORATION

INCLUSIVE RESTORATION AS A MEANS TO STRENGTHEN THE RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS AS WELL AS THE LIVELIHOODS OF COMMUNITIES.



The importance of coral reefs for the future of local communities can no longer be understated. Our coral reefs affect ecosystems in ways that influence our lives at every level. They provide food and livelihoods for our coastal communities, and contribute millions of rupees to national income through tourism. Unfortunately, coral reefs have never been so threatened by human activities. Overfishing, pollution, the destruction of environmentally sensitive areas and coastal development are the main causes of stress for corals.

Restoring our reefs is an emergency, and at Eco-Sud, we are undertaking this work in collaboration with communities of the South East.

In 2021, our restoration actions have been intensified thanks to the support of the Adaptation Fund and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Eco-Sud is one of the two NGOs designated to undertake, contribute to and support the achievement of specific outputs and activities within the coral restoration project of the Blue Bay Marine Park in Mauritius. As a partner, our goal is to restore 1.6 hectares of coral reef.

LOCAL COMMUNITIES ARE AT THE HEART OF THIS PROJECT

Supporting local communities to protect their natural environment from harmful activities is a major concern for Eco-Sud and our project partners. In the course of this project, we actively work with the communities, not only supporting the restoration, but also by acknowledging their skills and knowledge. We also invest in the capacity-building of our partners so that they can contribute effectively to the project. Following a recruitment process, 43 people from the south-east coast were designated to work with us for the next 5 years. As key actors from their communities, they have received several trainings in order to be able to collaborate with our scientific team.



FOOD SYSTEM





RESILIENT ORGANIC COMMUNITY (ROC)

Our food system is stretched to the limit with a self-sufficiency rate of less than 30%. The climate crisis, harmful agricultural practices and disasters are weakening our food-production capacity. Our food and nutrition security is weak and under threat. Every year, our local production decreases, dropping from 19.94% in 1976 to 3.41% in 2020. The economic impact of the various crises we are experiencing since 2020 are disrupting global supply chains, further threatening the country's food and nutrition security. Moreover, with the purchasing power of Mauritians declining due to high inflation, the

country is struggling to maintain food security for its population. In order to address these threats, promote local production and a transition to sustainable agriculture, Eco-Sud has set up the PROJECT Resilient Organic Community (ROC).

In 2020, the ROC community project, which includes Laboutik Solider (Solidarity Shop) and the agroecological farm, was born in the heart of Ville Noire, Mahebourg. One year later, the ROC centre has become a social movement whose mission is to make sustainable agriculture accessible to all. Through this project, we are moving towards

a more conscientious approach to agriculture, one that works with nature and not against it with fertilisers and pesticides. Together with the communities, we are bringing the land back to life by introducing techniques and plants that are suited to the local context, climate and culture. We are bringing back to our plates those flavours and plants that have long been forgotten, but which are adapted to the Mauritian environment. These locally adapted plants represent an untapped resource for a sustainable food system that can increase food security in Mauritius.



Bringing life back to our soil

At ROC, we manufacture natural organic fertilisers from local materials such as green waste from the Pointe d'Esny area, cow dung and coal. By rejuvenating our soils in an efficient and inexpensive way, and by using locally adapted plants, we can produce healthy and nutritious food.

We believe that this system of farming is the key to sustainable agriculture and can develop a resilient food system.

FOOD SYSTEM

LABOUTIK SOLIDER

On May 28, 2021, after the COVID19 lockdown, we were finally able to open Laboutik Solider by ROC, in collaboration with Caritas of Mahebourg and Mahebourg Espoir. Laboutik Solider by ROC offers support to people in financial difficulty by allowing them to have access to food and hygiene products at minimal cost. It is also a meeting venue, a place for exchange and capacity building with the aim of reconnecting citizens to the land and to the soil while reflecting together on what needs to be done to achieve food security/sovereignty. Beneficiary families are referred to Laboutik Solider with the support of social workers. The selected families were thus able to benefit from the services of the shop, including the supply of foodstuffs, training in agroecology through the ROC farm, and training in lifeskills.



MARYLINE

SOCIAL WORKER FROM MAHEBOURG ESPOIR

“ROC is a project that brings people together, where a whole community works together and shares meaningful moments. This agro-ecological farm and the training offered there have enabled many people to reconnect with the land, and some have even been able to get jobs in agriculture. This project has had a positive impact on the families who have benefited from it. This collaboration allows us to accompany the beneficiaries from where they stand and to journey together. It gives me great joy to see how they are thriving and moving forward after 6 months.”



CORINNE

COORDINATOR OF CARITAS MAHEBOURG

«The ROC project is a first in the region. It addresses several key issues through Laboutik Solider, the agroecology farm and capacity building sessions aimed at the beneficiaries. This project is also proof that participatory collaboration between three different organisations is possible!

We have been involved in this project since the conception of Laboutik Solider, where we have been able to share our knowledge and experiences to better help our communities. Through training, we have also had the opportunity to build the self-esteem of those involved in the project and the result is incredible. The women, who are for the most part the key players in the project, have been able to overcome their weaknesses.”





ADVOCACY

RECOGNITION OF NATURE'S RIGHTS THROUGH LEGAL ACTIONS!

One of Eco-Sud's core missions is to ensure that the rights of nature are recognised within the Mauritian legal framework. Unfortunately today, no one is being held legally responsible for the destruction of our ecosystem and biodiversity!

Eco-Sud is therefore taking legal action to have the rights of nature recognised and respected in order to establish new legal responsibilities against the public authorities who have a duty to protect our environment and the private entities that destroy and pollute.



ESA Wetland of Pointe d'Esny

The legal action

Since February 2019, Eco-Sud has filed a complaint against the Minister of the Environment for, among other things, granting an EIA licence to Pointe d'Esny Lakeside Company Ltd (Lakeside Ltd) without assessing the potential impact that Lakeside Ltd's project could have on nearby ecosystems, including: the Ramsar site (the Point Jerome wetland), the Pointe d'Esny ESA wetlands and the lagoon; and without properly identifying all the wetlands and peatlands present within the proposed project site, as required by local law and the international Ramsar Convention.

This matter is of significance to Eco-Sud for two reasons: the first is that the association is committed to the protection of wetlands. The NGO strongly believes that the EIA permit should not have been given without properly assessing the impact that the proposed venture may have on the flora and fauna of Mauritius; especially when the proposed development is planned to be built near valuable environmental zones where experts have raised concerns about the potential danger that the project may pose to it. It is easier and cheaper to protect nature than to restore it, as in some cases, the impacts are irreversible.

The second reason why this case is important to Eco-Sud is that it wants to know where the Supreme Court of Mauritius stands on the Locus Standi issue. Would it be prepared to take a more liberal approach and extend the Environment Act to properly protect nature? Or is the Environment Act another red herring?

On 6 October 2021, the Environmental Court ruled that the case filed by Eco-Sud was inadmissible because it considered that the association did not have locus standi, without even hearing the association's plea on the matter. The NGO felt aggrieved by this hasty judgment. It therefore appealed to the Court of Cassation on the grounds that the Tribunal violated its constitutional right to a fair trial, that the Tribunal should not have ruled on Eco-Sud's locus standi without even allowing the association to argue the case, and that the Tribunal's finding that the association did not have locus standi was not justified.

THE LOCUS STANDI, A MAJOR OBSTACLE

Locus Standi» (or standing) is a term used in law which refers to the right of a person to bring forward a legal action. The consequence of not being able to prove Locus Standi is the dismissal of the entire case, which means that Eco-Sud no longer has any means of action against the Minister for awarding the EIA permit.

Nowadays, in order to have a Locus Standi to challenge the Minister's decision to grant or refuse an EIA permit, an applicant must demonstrate:

1. That he is aggrieved by the Minister's decision,
2. That he or she is likely to suffer undue hardship, and
3. That he participated in the public consultation process when the EIA report was open to public inspection.

The purpose of such a procedure is to protect the court's time and resources from what it calls «busybodies». A busybody can be defined as a person who initiates legal proceedings without having any valid grounds for their case.

However, if the Locus Standi criterion is too restrictive, it can create situations where unlawful acts go unpunished.

A balance must therefore be struck between a criterion that is too permissive (which may not protect the court against busybodies) and too restrictive (which may not adequately protect the environment).

At the international level, legal mechanisms have been introduced to better protect nature and the legal system to achieve the said balance.

In New Zealand, the Whanganui River has been given the right to be a person. In the Ecuadorian constitution, both humans and nature have rights. None of these rights is superior to the other. Therefore, the state has the supreme

duty to respect and enforce these rights equally.

In Mauritius, however, the Locus Standi criterion has evolved in the opposite direction, as it has become more restrictive in recent years. In 1991, the Locus Standi test allowed any person who could lodge an appeal within 30 days to challenge the Minister's decision to grant or refuse an EIA permit.

In 2012, the scope of the test was considerably narrowed. Whereas in 1991 anyone could lodge an appeal, in 2012 it is the applicants who can prove that they are aggrieved by the Minister's decision and that they are likely to suffer undue hardship.

Furthermore, the 30-day time limit for applicants to lodge an appeal was reduced to 21 days, with the additional requirement to provide more documents than were requested in 1991, such as witness statements and the statement of case.

In 2020, another hurdle was added. In order to lodge an appeal, applicants are also required to have participated in public consultation when the EIA report was open to public concern. The public has only 21 days to submit their comments. Although this last requirement seems trivial, it is a serious obstacle because only evidence produced in public comment is admissible before the Tribunal.

«In Mauritius, the Locus Standi criterion has evolved in the opposite direction, as it has become more restrictive in recent years.»



A sunset over a mangrove forest. The sky is filled with large, orange-tinted clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the water and the silhouettes of the mangrove trees. The water reflects the sky and the trees. The text 'FINANCIAL REPORT' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered on the right side of the image. Two thin white horizontal lines are positioned above and below the text.

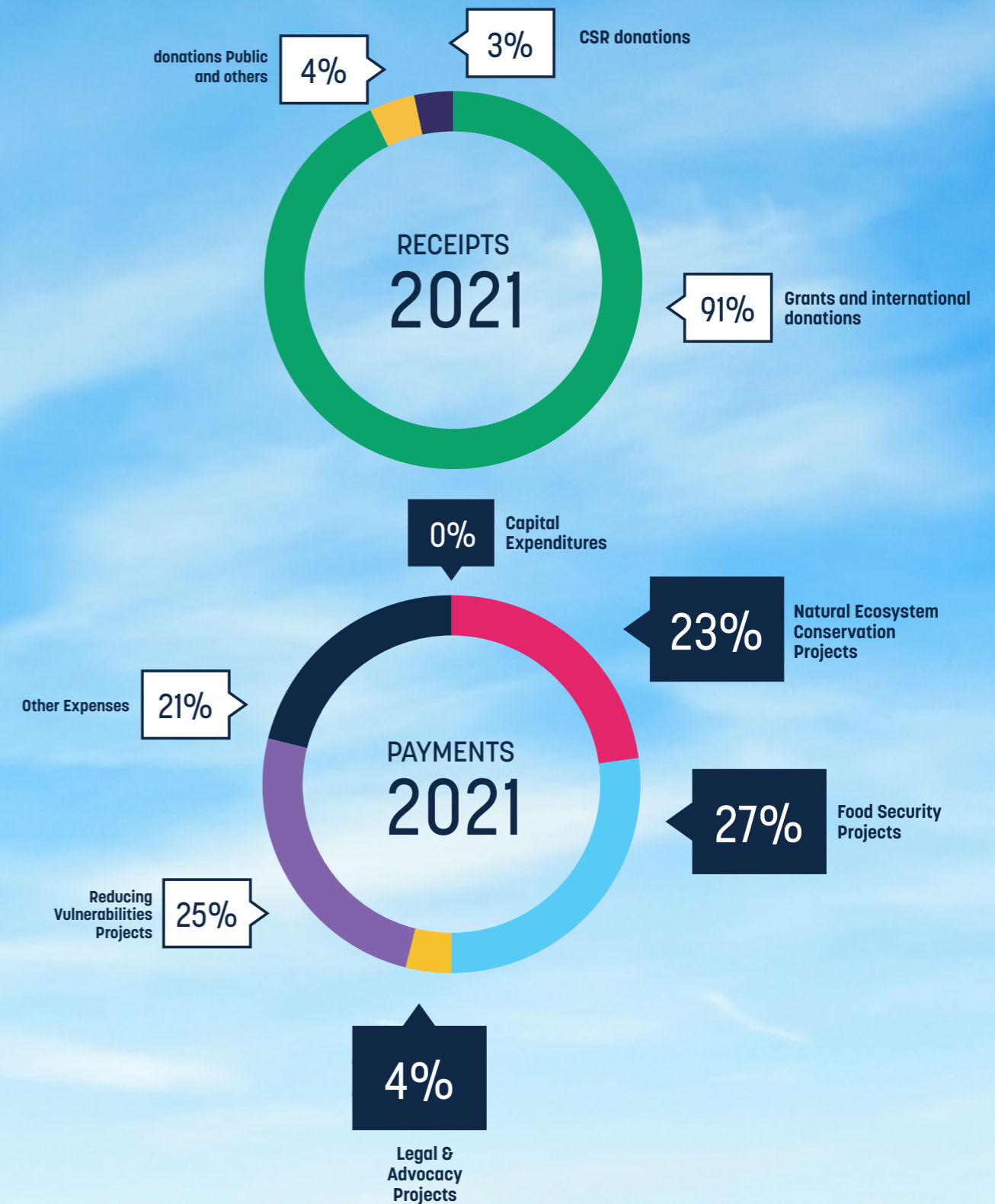
FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2021, following the Wakashio crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, Eco-Sud's activities have significantly intensified through multiple projects serving vulnerable communities in the South-East of the island. Initiatives to reduce vulnerabilities through donations, micro-financing to local entrepreneurs and trainings have been undertaken, in addition to the ongoing distribution of food packs and the medical and psychological units that were set up in 2020.

Following the organisation's renewed commitment to recognise nature as an integral component of human activities, we have, with the participation of local and international donors, funded new projects in inclusive restoration, agroecology and legal challenges. Eco-Sud has enabled the people of Mahébourg and its surroundings to work on replanting corals in the Blue

Bay Marine Park, as well as at the Ville Noire agroecological centre.

Our projects have directly contributed close to Rs 18 million to communities in the region on high-impact ecological and social programs. Eco-Sud has also invested in the legal challenges necessary for the shift towards a Mauritius where the rights of Nature are truly respected.



STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR ACC. PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2021

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| Opening Balance as at 01 January | Rs 34,687,611 | Rs 1,187,421 |
| RECEIPTS | | |
| Public and others donations | Rs 919,627 | |
| *CSR donations | Rs 779,062 | |
| Crowdfunding | Rs 387,710 | |
| Grants and international donations | | |
| UNDP | Rs 10,143,934 | |
| WWF | Rs 5,524,266 | |
| The Ocean Foundation | Rs 4,737,538 | |
| Total Income (A) | Rs 22,492,136 | Rs 40,476,857 |
| PAYMENTS | | |
| Coral Restoration project | Rs 1,531,381 | |
| Lagoon Monitoring project | Rs 470,655 | |
| Natural Ecosystem Conservation Projects | Rs 5,425,347 | Rs 2,303,595 |
| Resilient Organic Community project | Rs 6,147,967 | |
| Food Security Projects | Rs 6,147,967 | Rs 1,102,175 |
| Court Cases | Rs 822,443 | |
| Legal & Advocacy Projects | Rs 822,443 | Rs 310,865 |
| Medical & Psychological Support | Rs 88,679 | |
| Food Pack & Vouchers | Rs 1,097,535 | |
| Open applications for project financing | Rs 2,540,082 | |
| Donations to Boat Owners | Rs 328,620 | |
| Alternative Livelihood Programme | Rs 717,419 | |
| Laboutik Solider | Rs 1,017,559 | |
| Reducing vulnerabilities Projects | Rs 5,789,894 | Rs 900,173 |
| Administrative Expenses | Rs 4,287,757 | |
| Communication & Advert | Rs 659,117 | |
| Other Expenses | Rs 4,946,874 | Rs 1,011,860 |
| Capital Expenditures | Rs 0 | Rs 1,348,000 |
| Total Payments (B) | Rs 23,132,526 | Rs 6,976,667 |
| Foreign exchange gain on year end balances (C) | Rs 986,400 | Rs 0 |
| Closing Balance as at 31 December (A-B+C) | Rs 35,033,621 | Rs 34,687,611 |

BALANCE SHEET FOR ACC. PERIOD ENDED 31

| ASSETS | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Plant and Equipment | Rs 5,120,302 | Rs 2,309,230 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | Rs 35,033,621 | Rs 34,687,612 |
| Total Assets | Rs 40,153,922.65 | Rs 36,996,842.00 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Non-Current Liabilities | Rs 173,293 | Rs 57,209 |
| Current Liabilities | Rs 39,980,630 | Rs 36,939,633 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | Rs 40,153,922.65 | Rs 36,996,842.00 |

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Eco-sud

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