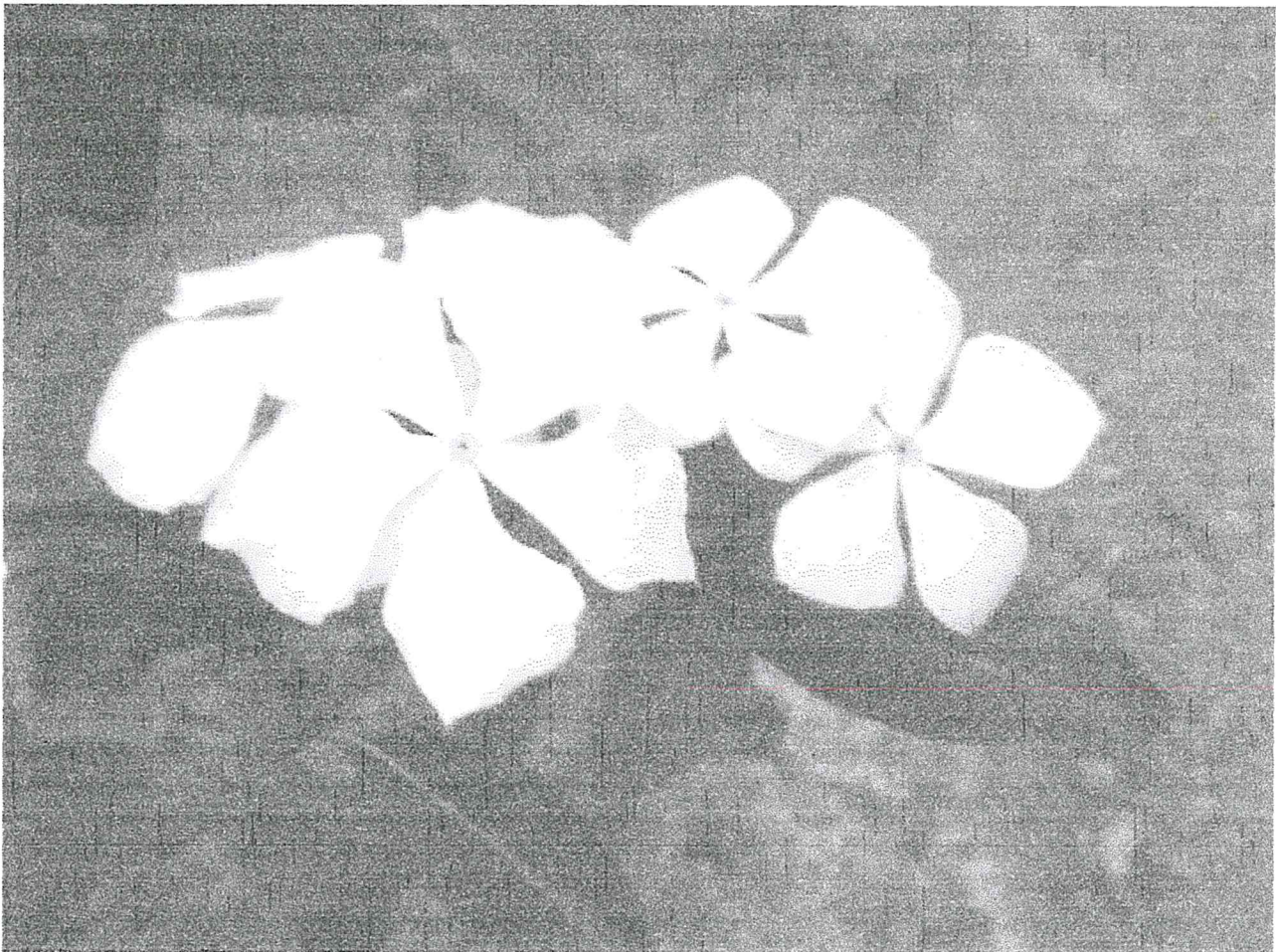


FINAL REPORT: PHASE ONE

Development of ecofloristic zones on Mauritius Island for recreation and ecotourism.



WHITE PERIWINKLE. SAPONAIRE.

PROJECT INVESTIGATOR KHEMRAJ SOOKNAH.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

The concept of creating Ecofloristic Zones originates from guidelines set by the FAO

For the conservation of natural resources and its inventory. The Candos hill is a marvelous site for both natures based recreational activities and sporting activities.

Through this project, we intend to demonstrate that ecofloristic zones help in both the physical and holistic characteristics of human kind. Several partners from different organisations and work environments can share one common goal in life that is to ensure the sustainable uses of our nature.

Within the scope of this project, every person who makes use of the site has been catered for. However, those who practice illegal dumping and destruction of the environment will be severely sanctioned.

**The Mauritius Research Council has provided us the opportunity to develop this project. We hope to put the proposed activities in action and to present you the visible changes within a year. By the year 2001 a new landmark will be added to Mauritius Island and the Indian Ocean which will be known as
THE CANDOS HILL NATURE RECREATION CENTRES.**

Many have helped in working out the details of this project. Some have even provided their valuable and precious time in advising us. We express our sincere thanks to all of you.

This project has provided a valuable platform for team building and development of biotechnological awareness. We acknowledge the valuable input of the following institutions and individuals.

**2) The Mauritius Research Council. 2) The University of Mauritius , 3) Forestry Services, 4) Mauritius Institute of Education, 5) Ministry of Environment, 6) Special Mobile Force
Dr A Soodoo, K. Heeramun , Commanding Officer Mr Servansing ,Dr Rughooputh , Dr Pathak ,
Dinesh Oodit , Hand Paupiah ,
Dr P. Chintamun , and the project team.**

<p>The project team comprised of : Khemraj Sooknah , Joseph Geuho , Praveen Goorah , Subash Beeknoo , Shalini Ramloll, Vikash Keetaruth, Bassant Putty , Jaya Hoogah, Arvind Goorahoo. Avinash Bacchoa,,</p>

***Narendra Sharma Ramchurn , Executive Chairman Mauritian Wildlife Club.
November 1999***

Development of ecofloristic zones on Mauritius Island for recreation and ecotourism.

1:0 INTRODUCTION.

The Mauritius Research Council approved and provided funding to the Mauritian Wildlife Club for the Phase One of the following project.

Development of ecofloristic zones on Mauritius Island for recreation and ecotourism.

Within the scope of the project, a hand held GPS and a Digital Camera were purchased.

This equipment has provided excellent facilities for both fieldwork and data recording.

A digital cataloging of plants, flowers and habitats has been established for this study.

. The phase one of the project started as from May 1999 and is ongoing. During the past six months the following progress has been attained but certain difficulties were also encountered.

1:1 Lesson Learnt Through Phase One.

- 1) The project has enabled us to survey various sites. The site at Candos Hill must be given priority for the project to be implemented.
- 2) The project was redefined as follows.

The Creation Of Ecofloristic Zones For The Candos Hill Nature Recreation Centre .

- 3) The site provides opportunities for both recreational and nature based activities.
- 4) Several educational projects may be undertaken,

- 5) Several NGOs and schools are willing to become partners in implementing the project.
- 6) The environmental stress to the site may be reduced through public awareness and educational programmes.
- 7) The changes to the site will become a major attraction to the public and concepts of ecotourism must be introduced.
- 8) There is a possibility for vandals. The issue must be discussed with various parties concerned.
- 9) The local authorities must be requested to participate in the project.
- 10) The Dodo maze will be a major attraction and a unique feature within the Indian Ocean.
- 11) This project is a long term one.

2:0 PROGRESS:

: PHASE 1 OBJECTIVES.

The objectives to be attained at the end of Phase 1 of the proposed project are as follows. Progress and difficulties have been highlighted.

- 1) To identify and catalogue the species and sites relevant for the project.

This objective has been achieved. Refer to diskettes of the project for species.

As regards to the site, it was concluded that the Candos Hill site is undergoing much pressure and must be priority for the project. All efforts and resources must be put in saving this unique site.

- 2) To set up a data base for the project,

Some difficulties are being encountered, as our current PC is not best suited for the exercise.

With the availability of the Digital Camera. It is proposed to create a data bank with photographs and illustrations. Such an approach will reduce duplication of work in the future.

Designs for the database is being worked out.

3) To develop horticultural and landscaping practices.

This exercise started t by August 1999. Training is being undertaken for the use of softwares and specialised books are being awaited.

Several designs have been worked out. The plant colour wheel and schemes have been utilised in the selection of the flowering species for the site.

4) To compile data related to biotic and abiotic factors influencing the microhabitats.

The effect of the drought is being monitored.

A biological and physical inventory of the site has been undertaken.

5) To develop simple scientific methodologies which are easily put into practice.

The design of the project has been worked on a series of simple practices, which will promote landscaping, creation of habitats and the setting up of the dodo maze.

6) To ensure sustainable use of land inclusive of marginal land

This study is in line with the sites selected and is ongoing.

7) To undertake intensive literature search,

The library of MSIRI , Forestry Services and some specialised books are being utilised for the project.

8) To prepare guidelines for the development of the proposed project,

The project report outlines the changes and practices.

9) To compile a list of all plants species to be utilised for the project.

A list of plants is included in the designs and a diskette illustrating many of the flowering plants has been included.

10) To identify the various sources and suppliers whereby the plants,

Materials and other products to be utilised for the project.

The nurseries of forestry services have been contacted. This exercise is being undertaken in consultation with staff of the forestry services.

The nurseries of the forestry services will be able to supply most plants. Some nursery practices will be undertakem by us during the implementation of the project.

11) To co-ordinate with resource persons and undertake follow up on

Suggestions.

Contacts have been established with the Conservator of Forests, Local authorities, Department of Environment, Dr A Gurib of the University of Mauritius and Mr Joseph Geugho of MSIRI.

12) To survey grassroots and sauce-cultural practices.
Refer To the section 2 and 2 of the report of the project.

3:0 CONSTRAINTS.

The major constraint that is currently being encountered is concerned with the non-availability of a PC having a large memory to store data and digital photographs of species and sites.

With the availability of an additional computer and hard disks. the data base can be properly established.

4:0 TRAINING.

Training was provided to several project assistants in the fields of data search. setting up of softwares and PC Operations .

The uses of GPS on sites and Digital Camera were demonstrated.

5:0 the prevailing drought on our island has been a major problem to the environment. If this drought will continue, several seedlings will need protection and care.