SME Mauritius and SUS-ISLAND Collaboration

In September 2019, SME Mauritius and SUS-ISLAND signed a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the financing of micro, small & medium enterprises (MSME’s) certification in Sustainable best practices. This agreement will come into effect soon, thereby encouraging SME’s to adopt best practices and be certified by an approved Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) body.
Workshop Held to Empower Mauritian Handicrafts Sector
How can the handicraft sector in Mauritius be empowered to be vibrant, sustainable and integrated into the tourism value chain? That was the question we reflected upon as the SUS-ISLAND Project team met with different players from the handicraft and locally made products sector.

Signing of MoU with Rodrigues Regional Assembly
A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and the Tourism Authority under the SUS-ISLAND Project to finance the Training of 1000 operators on the fundamentals of tourism and sustainability. This was held on 21 September 2019 in the presence of Anil Kumarsingh Gayan, Minister of Tourism, Serge Clair, Chief Commissioner of Rodrigues and Vincent Degert, the EU Ambassador to the Republic of Mauritius. The training will be conducted by Vatel Hotel and Business School. SUS-ISLAND will be covering 50% of the cost of training each participant.
Training of Taxi Drivers

To promote sustainable tourism innovation along the value chain, SUS-ISLAND launched training of taxi drivers, where the aim is to capacitate them in Sustainable Tourism, Grooming Standards, History and Customer Care. Encouraging and assisting them to develop full-day sustainable tours are also part of the agenda. Organised in collaboration with Vatel Hotel School, the training began in September 2018. A total of 190 taxi drivers have participated in the training to date which were held in Bel Ombre, Le Morne, Flic en Flac and Balaclava. More training sessions will be conducted in other regions until June 2020 with the objective of training all drivers operating in the tourism industry.

SUS-ISLAND supports the sustainable handicraft marketing via Salon du Pret a Partir and Marche Ecologique

Held between 4 - 6 October at SVICC, SUS-ISLAND had 3 stands at Salon du Pret a Partir, where handicraft operators and recycling companies were invited to showcase their products. Also, SUS-ISLAND sponsored 40 handicraft and recycling companies to showcase their products to the participants of the Eco-Market at La Vallee de Ferney on 10th October. The objective is to bridge the sustainable suppliers with the potential buyers, especially the hoteliers and the tour operators. As a part of its visibility initiative, SUS-ISLAND also sponsored 2000 eco-cups with branded logos of EU to the 1000 participants of La Messe du Tourisme.
DMC Mautourco Adopts New Sustainability Strategy

As the first pilot destination management company, Mautourco started its sustainable innovation journey with the SUS-ISLAND team in September 2018. After an interactive and inspiring 4-day workshop with the management team, 6 core sustainability principles were developed and implemented throughout the company’s operations. Now, this strategy is turned into action by the internal sustainability team.

SUS-ISLAND Kicks-Off the Sustainable Hotel Innovation Workshop and Technical Visits

SUS-ISLAND kickstarted its work with the hotels through a workshop, which was attended by 40 Hoteliers and partners, who worked on sustainable tourism innovation ideas and action plans. Following this, SUS-ISLAND conducted technical visits to 5 selected hotels to capacitate on energy- and water savings and handprint improvement measures. The support was well-received and the results are being monitored to test the performance of the recommendations.

Featured Products and Experiences from the Network

Local Products
Young Entrepreneur Sisters Promote authentic Mauritian Culture with their innovative and sustainable Fashion Brand Kotpiale

With products from Kotpiale the tourist finds a piece of the island that is current, cool and fun. What does “Bwar Lagoul” mean? What is the name of the vegetable dangling on that earring? The visitors come home with a unique story to tell, that connects to the authentic and real culture on the island. Read more about the brand’s journey.

Sustainable Products that are Locally Sourced and Locally Made

‘Start meaningful change through simple actions’ is the idea behind the Mauritian brand Strawz. This change can be as small as replacing single use plastic straws with handmade and locally sourced bamboo straws – which is one of the many sustainable products that are a part of their catalogue. The team behind Strawz provide natural alternatives to plastic and their solutions are lightweight, durable and of course biodegradable. Read more about Strawz and how adding value to Mauritius as a sustainable island destination.
Bis Lamer - Creating Awareness About Marine and Environmental Issues

Meet Bis Lamer - a mobile marine education unit that acts as classroom on wheels equipped with laboratory equipment, training displays and other interactive tools that has opened its doors to over 25000 people on the island. Read more on Rogers initiative here.

The Endemic Trees Project from Suncare

SUNCARE, a non-profit organisation launched by the Mauritian hotel group Sun Resorts in 2016, launched the Adopt a Tree initiative. It enables the guests staying at their properties to sponsor an endemic tree that can be planted in the hotels' gardens or on île aux Cerfs and îlot Mangénie, two nature gems of the Mauritian lagoon that are under Sun Resorts' responsibility. Read more about this initiative.
Food waste is a global issue, with approximately 1/3 of all the food that is produced going to waste. The hospitality sector is a major commercial contributor to food waste. For example, an average 5-star hotel buffet throws away up to 50 kgs of edible food during each service period. There is a huge potential to prevent this by redistributing, recycling and recovering the food waste before disposing of it. On the other hand, research shows that a business can save up to €14 or have a greater return for every €1 invested in food loss and waste reduction (WRAP 2017).

**Get inspired**

As food waste prevention becomes a priority, Washington Hilton has developed a set of reduced food waste menus, which utilises low-waste ingredients and emphasise on the complete utilisation of all items. It has the potential to reduce food waste by 50%. Besides, the hotel has also implemented a separation and measurement system which is backed up by the employee engagement exercise on preventing food waste, together with regular bin observations. The excess food is donated and tracked, which accounts for 6-8% of the prepared food. The unavoidable food waste is processed on-site through an eco-waste digester, which amounts to 3,000 pounds per week (Hotelkitchen 2018).
How can we instil a strong sense of environmental awareness to those visiting tropical destinations?

How can we get travellers to be committed to the environment of the countries that they visit?

Food for thought: Palau Island has started asking visitors to sign an ‘eco-pledge’ in their passports and committing to this for the duration of their stay. By having visitors pledge to “tread lightly, act kindly, and explore mindfully,” the Palau government hopes that visitors will develop a deep sense of appreciation for the places they visit and that they are conscious of their actions.

Source: palaupledge.com

Meet your market needs, stakeholder priorities and generate more positive impact on the society, environment, culture and economy through tourism.

By joining SUS-ISLAND Network, you can

- Learn how to make your current tourism offer more sustainable and profitable
- Learn how to develop and refine your products with better positive impacts
- Learn how to better market and communicate your sustainable actions and products
- Learn how you can join the project trainings and good practice showcase events
- Learn how you can apply for our award with your sustainable tourism products or ideas
- Share your best practices

Join Network

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