

Presentation

Name given to the action/programme. : Sun Coral Nursery

Description of the action/programme. : Attached

Period and year of launch, duration. Feb 2021

Dimension of the operation: local, national, European, global. : National and regional level of Indian Ocean

Internal and/or external target audience. : Internal all our staffs, guests , stakeholders, governments, school, NGO, international conferences

Innovative aspects and major assets of the campaign. Ability to grow coral 25 time faster than the normal rate

Objectives pursued.

02. Conception

What are the key ideas behind this programme? Restore the marine ecosystem that has been

Sun Coral Nursery at Long Beach Hotel is developing the first micro fragmenting land-based coral farm on the Island of Mauritius in collaboration with University of Mauritius and Dr David Vaughan from Plan a Million Coral Foundation, Florida, USA.

The three main elements of the project as a business case are:

- **Coral reef restoration** – Actively restoring coral reef, eco-tourism conservation
- **Science** – The technique is guided by research and collaboration.
- **Education** - we are engaging and empowering the community.

Who is responsible for its implementation? Ali Abdool, the Group Sustainability Specialist

If partnerships outside the company are involved in this action/programme, in what way(s)? Yes, we have partner with Plan a Million Coal Foundation USA and the University of Mauritius, who are expert in the field

03. Communication & Implementation

How is the communication for internal users, customers, partners of the company; We have incorporate the programme as par of the SUNCARE Programme. All the guest are aware, its also going to be incorporate in our annual report, website, facebook, social media , influencer and many more

implemented? 50% have been implemented

What are the resources set up to ensure management and monitoring? A dedicated area for the land base nursery, financial resources, man power

How are employees, customers, partners involved in the implementation? All the employees at the hotel, we have currently 8 partners as we are looking forward to make this nursery a National Nursery of the Region. It will produce and supply coral for the whole island.

04. Evaluation

Which tools evaluate the performance of this programme? The University used the growth rate of the coral. We also monitor on the number of reviews and interest we have on the project. International conferences, webinar, workshop, team building activity to volunteer on the project. All these are being use as an kPI to monitor the progress of the programme

To what extent is this action/programme part of your communication strategy? 100% in our communication strategy. SUNCARE isn't just an initiative, an obligation, or a box that we check. It is a philosophy, a way of doing things that is embedded at every level of our Group. As an organization that embraces ethics, transparency, and accountability, we have chosen to register SUNCARE as a Non-Profit Organization that operate independently

SUNCARE focuses on four big projects that take into account our Profit, the Planet and its People: SUN Children Cancer Trust, our local community-based projects, marine conservation, and our endemic trees project—all of which are aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

How are the KPIs measured and what are their results or trends? We are looking forward to open by December, the KPI of our sister hotel at La Pirogue has been great. The installation of a fixed rope nursery has been completed with nine "tables" placed in the lagoon, containing some 1,000 coral fragments from four different species. Observations suggest that the corals are doing well, with a low mortality rate and with some species already showing signs of growth. In the long run, the project will lead to the creation of a protected marine park.

Are the set objectives being achieved/on track? Yes, as you can see on the video

Are additional steps being considered? We are looking forward to present the project with the Mauritius Research Council to have some funding and support on the project and declare it as national coral nursery.

Why do you think your project deserves

This is a very unique project in the whole region. We have move from our traditional sustainability implementation at the hotel such solar, energy, water and waste. We are engaged in trying to find solution on a national level to the benefit of the destination and preserving our lagoon for the future generation. We do not work in isolation instead we find solution for the whole ecosystem engaging all our stakeholders.

Over an above this the coral nursery, we have found out that that one of the reason causing coral death is the use of pesticide. Inorder to address the issue sun has partner with University of Mauritius Prof Facknath on Smart Climate Agriculture programme, to sensitise planters to use less pesticide. Sun is the leading hotel partner on the project and the inauguration is plan at Long Beach. What makes our project unique, and a major differentiator is the fact that we find solution within the ecosystem. There is a direct relationship between level of pesticide and healthy corals.

It might be a simple project but is a game changer for the region

The journey to a thousand mile start with the first step and this project is for us the first step for our beautiful island to be a place where we can all feel proud of.

Sustainability is our future – we are here to embark you on our Innovative project

Sustainability and Climate Change has been currently endorsed by every organisation

Sun is also strongly committed to sustainability and recently amended its strategy to align with our parent company.

Over the years our strategy has evolved from a CSR- **Corporate Social Responsibility** to a CSV- **Creating Share Values** to our guest, employees and stakeholders.

While aligning our strategy to the SDGs we notice that all our activities were land based - such as water recycling, solar panels and adopt a tree, and did not have anything to address SDGs 17 “life below water”.

We understand that embarking on a coral restoration programme is not economically feasible. Nevertheless, we did not give up and our determination allowed us to innovate whereby SUN set up the first private and public coral restoration programme and hence we started on this beautiful journey.

Coral Reefs.

As far as I remember, back in Primary school we were told our island is protected by Coral Reefs and that was it. But what are they? Animal, Vegetable or Mineral?

Actually, according to several journals it's a very complex relationship among all three.

Coral reefs are the rainforest of the sea. They are the building block. Reefs are the cities of the sea that generate 30 billion US dollars. They provide food, protection of shoreline, jobs and even medicines.

As Humans start building more cities, we are adding stress on the corals and become one of its greatest threats. Overfishing, pollution, global warming, invasive species take a huge toll and in some places the reefs have been entirely destroyed.

We are from the tourism industry and the reefs are too precious for us not to act now as the consequences will be devastating and everlasting. Our industry and our survival depends on these creatures. Just imagine the reefs have been destroyed and the lagoon has become like Gris Gris ... no lagoon, no tourism and no living

We all live Wakasho and this has a negative marketing impact on Mauritius with a decline in number of guest with our competitors islands. Our coastal line is fragile more reason why we need to act now

In the quest to act quickly, we searched for the best in the industry who have come up with innovative solutions similar to our problems while supporting large scale restoration. Hence we partnered with Plant a Million Coral and the UOM.

Sun has embarked on the coral restoration programme since 2018 with the La Pirogue Marine Research Centre. It was a sea based coral nursery and the technology used was among one of the best, highly recommended by our Partners, The programme was a great success wherein we employed a full time marine biologist.

The two key learnings of this programme was

1. We never knew what a coral could do when it is given a chance to thrive

2. The more stress we take out of them the better they can hang on and the faster they can grow

This Programme has been a success thanks to the media and the support from Ciel. Let me introduce you to Mr Nadeem who is the chairman of Mauritius Oceanographic institute, Senior Lecture at University of Mauritius and President of EcoMode Society

The innovation is a microfragmenting technique where we can grow corals up to 25 to 40 times faster. The technique was discovered by Dr David Vaughan in Florida. He is a leading scientist in the field and his work has been recognised all over the world

The MicroFragmentation technique consists **of breaking the corals into smaller pieces of 1 to 5 polyps, using a specialised band-saw**. This stimulates the coral tissue to grow allowing them to grow into clones.

Compared to La Pirogue this would be a Land Based Coral Nursery and first in the region

Long Beach

Long Beach has been the perfect environment for the programme and we have been gifted in term of space and the eco system.

We are a family. During this difficult time with the support of all the staff “Nous Marye Pike” and initiate this project without any capex. Covid has brought great behaviour change. I still remember to my greatest surprise it became a snowball effect with the participation of everyone.

We want the center at long beach to be scientific, community base and an educational hub. Not limited just for Long Beach but for the whole region.

With this technique we try to create a large scale coral restauration program. For this to become a success we need to collaborate with all our stake holders – NGO’s, Government, UOM, Customer, Local Community We are engaging and empowering the community starting with educating the young generation.

Guests at the hotel will have the opportunity to adopt a coral and gain an adaptation certification

Press – ESG benefit – talk about sara

Finance.

Our passion forced us to research, study, lobby, brain storm on the various avenues where we can gain funds for the projects. Filling an application form of MRC consist of 25 pages have been quite an experience.

SUNCARE is our inhouse guest voluntary contribution programme, launched in 2019. For 9 months we collected 1.2 million even though hotels were not at full capacity. We are confident with the new rebranding, more sustainable experiences wherein we may raise more funds.

We are looking forward to open the marine center in December

Long Term Objectives

We are ambitious to set up an east coast biodiversity hub connecting Long Beach Coral Nursery Center and IAC Mangrove Conservation programme and be known as the national Coral nursery of the region supplying coral to everyone.

We are looking forward to restore the biodiversity, we are aiming to cover 1.3 km over 5 years

we shall give our guest the opportunity to participate on the various conservation programme where they can offset their stay in Mauritius. It would also be a programme for company participate.

Conclusion:

We are optimistic and ambitious for what we fighting for .

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We invite you to see a short video

Thank you