



PROJECTION OF OIDC STRATEGIC PLANNING

**Prepared by Mr. V. Pursun,
Administrative Manager - OIIC
Year 2012**

Table of Contents

Number	Page
1. GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE.....	3
2. PIRACY THREAT	5
3. EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ).....	7
4. COCONUT INDUSTRY.....	8
5. MARINE PROTECTED AREA	10
6. BUILDING A GREEN MAURITIUS AT AGALEGA.....	12
7. FOOD SECURITY AT AGALEGA	13
8. CARGADOS CARAJOS (St Brandon)	16
9. AGALEGA AIRSTRIP TO BE UPGRADED.....	18
10. EDUCATION IN AGALEGA	20
11. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	23
12. JETTY.....	25
13. MID Project	26
14. OIDC Projects 2009/2010/2011 (Annex I).....	28

1. GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE

All Government bodies should be very cautious in participating in this above mentioned program and project of the government of Mauritius. Sensitization campaign should be fostered in all fields as far as possible by responsible authorities.



The climate is changing. The earth is warming up, and there is now overwhelming scientific consensus that it is happening, and human-induced. With global warming on the increase and species and their habitats on the decrease, chances for ecosystems to adapt naturally are diminishing. The Outer Islands Development Corporation's duty is to endeavour in protecting the already prevailing ecosystems of Agalega.

Many are agreed that climate change may be one of the greatest threats facing the planet. Recent years show increasing temperatures in various regions, and/or increasing extremities in weather patterns. The Outer Islands Development Corporation is doing its utmost level best to carry a sensitization campaign in Agalega and St-Brandon that the ecosystems of these region be protected.

Research has shown that air pollutants from fossil fuel use make clouds reflect more of the sun's rays back into space. This leads to an effect known as global dimming whereby less heat and energy reaches the earth. At first, it sounds like an ironic savior to climate change problems. However, it is believed that global dimming caused the droughts in Ethiopia in the 1970s and 80s where millions died, because the northern hemisphere oceans were not warm enough to allow rain formation. Global dimming is also hiding the true power of global warming. By cleaning up global dimming-causing pollutants without tackling greenhouse gas emissions, rapid warming has been observed, and various human health and ecological disasters have resulted, as witnessed during the European heat wave in 2003, which saw thousands of people die.

In order to protect the environment to be polluted the Outer Islands Development Corporation has devised a system to decrease the use of fuel and diesel as far as possible in Agalega. The Corporation has started

to run a tractor by bio-fuel. The engine of the tractor has been modified to be run by coconut oil. As a pilot project it is now two years, from when this tractor is running by Coconut Oil with success. The Corporation's goal is to run all the Vehicles of Agalega from bio-fuel in the years to come. Even generators will be modified to run with coconut oil instead of diesel.

In realizing the above government's project, big efforts will be needed and it is very challenging. One man can never realize this project and in doing so a segregation of responsibility with team work is very important.



2. PIRACY THREAT

The hijackings of a Mozambican-registered vessel in December and a Liberian-registered merchant vessel in January struck a raw nerve. They were the region's first incidents, reflecting how pirates had increased their range. The Outer Islands Development Corporation regularly per year shipped million rupees of goods to Agalega with passengers yearly. As pirate activities have been noticed in the sea near Seychelles water, there is a probability that the OI DC's cargo vessel could be hijacked by those pirates whose activities are becoming day by day rampant. It is to be noted that Seychelles is very near to Agalega.



As the SADC coastal area did not fall within the patrol areas of the international anti-pirate forces, the region had to take responsibility for its own maritime security. In this regard when cargo is sent to Agalega via cargo vessels maximum precaution are taken and will have to be taken in the future by the OI DC to protect the vessel as well as the security of its passengers.

Although the phenomenon has for some time been restricted to the Gulf of Aden, in the past few months it has become a concern for Southern Africa as a region.

The Outer Islands Development Corporation is expected to map out ways of developing a regional strategy to evading piracy between Mauritius and Agalega route and waters.

The Maldives and Seychelles have agreed to combat piracy jointly, after two attacks in June off India's Southern coast rang alarm bells for the two nations.

A protocol to combat piracy and other maritime security threats was signed during a meeting between Maldivian President Mohamed Nasheed and Seychellois President James A. Michel.

Although Maldivian territorial waters have not come under direct attack so far by Somali pirates, the two incidents off India's Southern coast have now raised fears over the country becoming a target.

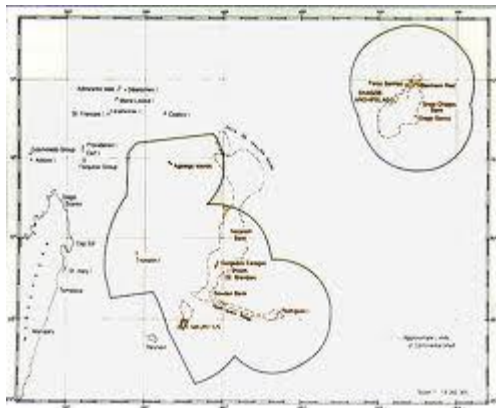
In 2009, the archipelago of Seychelles was affected by piracy attacks taking a toll on the tourism sector. It is to be noted that Seychelles is very near to Agalega and any such threat could prove lethal to Agalega and St-Brandon tourism and the backbone of its economy.

The United Nations too have expressed concerns over the Indian Ocean territory becoming a battleground for piracy attacks. Management of the OI DC should be very alert about this phenomenon. This is a proof of the increase of responsibilities over and above on management of the corporation. Responsibilities should be shared; otherwise we will not be able to attain our goal. In this respect management is proposing the PRB to help the Corporation in creating certain new post where responsibilities will be shared.



3. EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE (EEZ)

Due to Agalega and its inhabitant living in both islands, Mauritius have rights to the seabed of what is called the continental shelf up to 350 nautical miles (648 km) from the coastal baseline from Agalega, beyond the EEZ. The Corporation will do its utmost level best to encourage the inhabitants to live on the islands in order to maintain the safety of our EEZ. In encouraging them to live there in safety, management responsibilities is increasing considerably in terms of development, projects, infrastructure, socio cultural activities and condition of employment (*integrating them in PRB*).



Under the law of the sea, an **exclusive economic zone (EEZ)** is a seazone over which a state has special rights over the exploration and use of marine resources. It stretches from the seaward edge of the state's territorial sea out to 200 nautical miles from its coast. In casual usage, the term may include the territorial sea and even the continental shelf beyond the 200-mile limit.

Generally, a state's EEZ extends to a distance of 200 nautical miles (370 km) out from its coastal baseline. The exception to this rule occurs when EEZs would overlap; that is, state coastal baselines are less than 400 nautical miles (740 km) apart. When an overlap occurs, it is up to the states to delineate the actual maritime boundary. Generally, any point within an overlapping area defaults to the nearest state.

A state's exclusive economic zone starts at the seaward edge of its territorial sea and extends outward to a distance of 200 nautical miles (370,4 km) from the baseline. Thus, the EEZ includes the contiguous zone. States also have rights to the seabed of what is called the continental shelf up to 350 nautical miles (648 km) from the coastal baseline, beyond the EEZ.

The strategic point where Agalega is situated in the Indian Ocean plays a very important and crucial role in the safety of our EEZ. Management's responsibility is to provide such a service to Agalega in order to render the inhabitants happy so that they never desert Agalega and exile in Mauritius. In so doing management culture and behaviors should be very diplomatic and should be considered by the PRB of being a different and specific qualification and criteria.

4. COCONUT INDUSTRY

At Agalega we have million of coconut trees. We have one coconut oil mill. The coconut trees exist perhaps from more than one hundred years and coconut oil mill exist for more that seventy-five years. Perhaps people will be astonished to know that despite the fact that coconut plantation exist from more than one hundred years at Agalega but yet no technology has been developed by the corporation to pluck even one coconut from the tree. Till now all coconut that are used for extracting oil are collected beneath the tree when it is fallen down. Apart from oil no other by-products are explored yet and all the remnants of coconut are thrown away.



Management is looking for new technology to develop in the future a real Coconut industry at Agalega. Management is also looking for new technology how to produce by-products in the years to come. In fact we can produce more that forty-five by-products from coconut at Agalega.

Diseases

Coconuts are susceptible to the phytoplasma disease lethal yellowing. One recently selected cultivar, the Maypan, has been bred for resistance to this disease.

Pests

The coconut palm is damaged by the larvae of many lepidoptera (butterfly and moth) species which feed on it, including Batrachedra spp: *B. arenosella*, *B. atriloqua* (feeds exclusively on *Cocos nucifera*), *B. mathesoni* (feeds exclusively on *Cocos nucifera*), and *B. nuciferae*.

Brontispa longissima (the "coconut leaf beetle") feeds on young leaves and damages seedlings and mature coconut palms. In 2007, the Philippines imposed a quarantine in Metro Manila and 26 provinces to stop the spread of the pest and protect the \$800 million Philippine coconut industry.

The fruit may also be damaged by eriophyid coconut mites (*Eriophyes guerreronis*). This mite infests coconut plantations, and is devastating: it can destroy up to 90% of coconut production. The immature nuts

are infested and desapped by larvae staying in the portion covered by the perianth of the immature nut; the nuts then drop off or survive deformed. Spraying with wettable sulfur 0.4% or with neem-based pesticides can give some relief, but is cumbersome and labour intensive.

In Kerala the main coconut pests are the coconut mite, the rhinoceros beetle, the red palm weevil and the coconut leaf caterpillar. Research on this topic has as of 2009[update] produced no results, and researchers from the Kerala Agricultural University and the Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, Kasaragode are still searching for a cure. The Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kannur under Kerala Agricultural University has developed an innovative extension approach called compact area group approach (CAGA) to combat coconut mites.

Export.

Coconut products remain the Philippines leading agriculture export (US\$ 840 to 900 million a year), comprising 37 products and by-products that are exported to 114 countries. The major exports are crude and refined oil, copra meal, desiccated coconut, activated carbon, and oleo-chemicals. Exports account for 80% of production and 20% are consumed locally.

Perhaps people will be astonished to know that despite the fact that coconut plantation exist from more than one hundred years at Agalega but yet no technology has been developed by the Corporation how to establish a real coconut industrial culture. Since one hundred years no technology exist at Agalega how one coconut tree should be treated, i.e. method of planting, treating, toileting, plucking, scientific surveying, monitoring, replacing ageing trees, applying pesticide, keeping historical registry of each coconut tree etc.

Management intend to **Export** Coconut Products as its leading agriculture export comprising 45 products and by-products that will be exported to SADC countries. Once this industry is developed the corporation will at least generate and save 50% of its annual budget. In the years to come management is planning to create new posts and give responsibility to them to meet our goal. PRB is hereby requested to cooperate and help the corporation in realizing this project.

5. MARINE PROTECTED AREA

As marine resources are protected by local, state, territorial, native, regional, or national authorities, management of the Outer Islands Development corporation has a huge responsibility and a very important role to play in the region of Agalega and St-Brandon in implementing the government policy regarding the above subject.



Marine protected areas, like any protected area, are regions in which human activity has been placed under some restrictions in the interest of conserving the natural environment, its surrounding waters and the occupant ecosystems, and any cultural or historical resources that may require preservation or management. Marine Protected Areas' boundaries will include some area of ocean, even if it is only a small fraction of the total area of the territory.

Natural or historic marine resources are protected by local, state, territorial, native, regional, or national authorities and may differ substantially from nation to nation. This variation includes different limitations on development, fishing practices, fishing seasons and catch limits, moorings, bans on removing or disrupting marine life of any kind.

The Islets of Mauritius and Rodrigues have been classified as Open Reserves (multipurpose with an array of activities allowed, ranging from protection, conservation, research, eco-tourism, education, and public awareness to recreation), or Closed Reserves (strictly for the purpose of conservation and protection of native biodiversity and access is restricted to authorized personnel for the purposes of monitoring, enforcement and restoration of native habitat). The range of activities has been determined through consideration of each individual islet's potential and their current value in terms of its native species biodiversity, cultural importance, naturalness, habitat fragility, and current use and potential for restoration. Zonation of islets include the following categories :

- *Protection Only - Monitoring, protection and enforcement only*
- *Restoration Only - Conservation management only*
- *Limited Public Access 1 - Eco-tourism and scientific research, conservation management*
- *Limited Public Access 2 - Education and public awareness, conservation management*

➤ *Recreation. - Mainly recreation.*

Mauritius has a coast line of 322 km, with 150 km of coral reefs enclosing a lagoonal area of 243 km². It has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 1.9 million km². Fisheries, coral reefs, mangroves, seaweeds, and sea grasses make up the major living resources within the coastal and marine areas while the non-living resources include sand, lagoons for recreation and common salt.

Marine Protected Areas in Mauritius cover an extent of 7 190 hectares, including six fishing reserves and two marine parks. Their establishment and management provide for the long-term protection and conservation of marine biodiversity and the sustainable use of the coastal zone.

However, the marine park management has no control over the activities taking place outside the park boundaries in the adjoining area. These activities may have negative impact in the physical environment and the resources of the park.

This coastal and ocean territory holds an immense potential for development and will play a vital role in the economic development of Mauritius. Management of the OI DC will dispense more energy to comply with the government of Mauritius philosophy in this direction. With the help of the local people, native of Agalega, management will carry a regional sensitization campaign and assign the duty to its particular departmental staff to realize this government policy.



6. BUILDING A GREEN MAURITIUS AT AGALEGA

Management of the Outer Islands Development Corporation is endeavouring hard to carry campaign of Going Green – Maurice Ile Durable. In this respect the Corporation will concentrate in renewable energy at Agalega



Rising energy prices and changes in the global climate have put ecology issues on the strategic planning of corporate executives worldwide. The phenomenon of “**Going Green**” is worldwide now and naturally in Mauritius also there are campaigns of **Going Green – Maurice Ile Durable**: Summer Time, Solar Water Heater, Fluorescent Lamps (Ampoule économique) , Electricity production for sale to

CEB, Waste to Energy, Sale of Hybrid Cars, MCB Green Initiative, reducing dependency on imported fossil fuels and increasing the use of renewable energy via use of biomass, bio-ethanol, biogas – 35%, solar – 15%, wind – 6%, hydro -3%, cogeneration – 3% and waves 3%. Maurice Ile Durable was first announced by the Prime Minister of Mauritius as a long term vision aimed at promoting sustainable development. The project is spearheaded by Professor Joel de Rosnay. OI DC will follow the path and will implement this project at Agalega and St-Brandon.

The “**Green Mauritius**” initiative is central to the government core vision as in every decision or step taken for the future underpins an eco mission, this can be eco-tourism, eco-solutions, eco-energy, investment link to green projects, education promoting green benefits.

If manpower is available, responsibility is shared , miracle can happen at Agalega. Management of the OI DC is again urging to the PRB to help the Corporation in realizing this project.

7. FOOD SECURITY AT AGALEGA

Management of the OI DC has already implemented the above project at Agalega. With the help and collaboration of AREU of the Ministry of Agro Industry the Corporation has initiated the project and intend in the years to come to render Agalega fully self sufficient and self dependant on food production in line with the government policy.



In the 2008/2009 Budget Speech delivered in June 2008, the Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Economic Empowerment, in response to the global rising food prices and shortages which contributed to high food inflation in Mauritius and severely impacted on the purchasing power of local consumers, namely the low income groups, spelt out the following five-pronged strategy in order to foster local production of foodstuffs so as to mitigate, in the short and medium term, the dependency of the country on imported food commodities:

- (i) Mobilize land and aquatic resources, inputs for production, human resources, technology and financial resources in order to optimize food and livestock production locally for domestic consumption;
- (ii) Promote the exportation of food surpluses so as to capture the maximum gains from economies of scale;
- (iii) Partner with countries of the region, such as Madagascar and Mozambique and such other countries where opportunities arise to produce food crops, livestock and marine products for domestic consumption as well as for regional markets;
- (iv) Promote both public and private joint ventures with the support of regional blocks, including India and China;

- (v) Undertake a sensitization campaign to promote healthy eating. In order to support the above measures, Government provided Rs 1 billion for a Food Security Fund and decided to set up a Food Security Fund Committee (FSFC) to administer and manage the fund, as per the Finance and Audit (Food Security Fund) Regulations 2008. The committee comprises of senior-level representatives of both the Public and Private sector as well as a representative of small farmers. As per the above regulation, the FSFC needs to submit to Government a 3 year Strategic and Implementation Plan (2008-2011), in line with programme-based budgeting, indicating the ways and means to increasing food production both locally and within the region.

In this context, the FSFC has set up 11 technical committees with the mandate of providing expert inputs in the various sub sectors of agriculture and make proposals, in line with the measures announced in the Budget speech, on the priority actions on which to focus in order to, on the one hand, boost up local production of food crops, milk and meat and, on the other, tap the opportunities which exist in the region for the production of a number of priority crops.

Between 2008 and 2011, an additional area of 1,237 arpents will be developed in Mauritius of which 918 arpents will be allocated for food crop production and the difference (319 arpents) for meat and milk production. As concerns Rodrigues, some 700 arpents of new lands will be put under food crops, meat and milk production. Hence, the total area of new lands which will be devoted for food production, at national level, amounts to 1,937 arpents. This acreage will be periodically reviewed and updated.

These lands will be occupied by small growers, on the sole condition that they group themselves into clusters. Land preparation and provision for irrigation facilities, setting up of infrastructure for proper handling of the raw/finished produce, and other accompanying measures will be financed by the Food Security Fund (FSF).

At Agalega management has recruited an Agricultural Development Officer to comply with the government policy regarding food security. Five acres of land has already been cultivated with vegetable as a pilot project under the supervision of AREU. Some livestock pilot project is under way at Agalega. AREU is up to now satisfied with the project. Management intends to increase the volume of vegetable production at Agalega in the years to come. It has been proved that potatoes, onion grow very well at Agalega.

If manpower is available, responsibility is shared miracle can happen at Agalega. Management of the OI DC is again urging to the PRB to help the Corporation in realizing this project.

8. CARGADOS CARAJOS (St Brandon)

As St-Brandon islands fall under the jurisdiction of OI DC, Management intends to develop this region of our territory to enhance the tourism industry. No one can actually land on those islands without the permission of the OI DC. The corporation intends to establish a well planned tourism industry in St-Brandon in the near future thus generating funds.



St Brandon's Atoll (Cargados Carajos Shoals) is a group of 30 small islands (total land area of less than 1 square mile), islets, coral ridges and vast sand flats on an extended reef in the Indian

Ocean, situated 268 nautical miles north-east of Mauritius. Many anglers have been comparing *St. Brandon's Atoll* to **"the way the Seychelles used to be"** and we agree. This fishery is virtually untapped and has unbelievable bonefishing.

The fishing grounds are as remote and untouched as you can find these days. The atoll is a 24-hour boat ride from Port-Louis, Mauritius, on a live aboard yacht. The only *"consistent"* human activity on St. Brandon's is from a small population of Creole natives who live on Raphael Island in the North. In addition, fishing season is extremely short (12 weeks per year : early October - mid December and early April - May) due to St. Brandon's location in the Cyclone Belt and effects of the winter monsoon winds.

St. Brandon's is protected by a reef measuring more than 50 km from north to south and 5 km wide, with only two major passes. The fishery itself is extremely diverse, comprised of scattered islands, vast connecting sandbanks and flats of hard white sand, broken coral, and less frequently some Turtle grass flats. In particular, the western side of the atoll's bottom is comprised mostly of sand and pancake flats, making for some spectacular bonefishing.

This 30 island atoll, 370km north-east of Mauritius is like the Maldives, a diving paradise. However it is currently not open to tourists. Fishermen ply the waters and camp on Albatross (in the north) and Coco (in the south), and maintain a base at Raphael (in the central pan), but there is no permanent settlement.

St Brandon's Atoll 2011 - 2012 Rates

(subject to change)

The 2011 - 2012 rates for a 9-night/7-day fishing package at St Brandon's is **€6,700 Euros per angler** based on double occupancy accommodations and 2 anglers per guide each day.

Included in the cost: 9 Nights onboard; Shared accommodation (2 guests per en suite room); All meals aboard the vessels; Fishing Licenses; 7 days guided fishing; Water, Soft drinks & local beers.

Not included in the cost are: International flights; Accommodations on Mauritius; Ground transfers on Mauritius; Tackle & Flies; Gratuities; Wine and Spirits; Travel insurance (This is mandatory as the islands of St Brandon's are remote); use of Satellite Phone; Personal Expenses.

The Corporation intends to charge an entry fees to economic operators per tourist who are making a lucrative business. Tourist visiting St-Brandon are paying huge sum of money to operators but the OI DC is not getting a penny. The corporation is in fact actually claiming a nominal sum but this should be reviewed and reorganized in years to come in order to meet the economies of scale.

If manpower is available, responsibility is shared the Corporation will surely attain its goal. Management of the OI DC is again urging to the PRB to help the Corporation in realizing this project.

9. AGALEGA AIRSTRIP TO BE UPGRADED

The Government has decided to proceed with the renovation of the Agalega airstrip. This project will be carried out in two phases and is expected to cost Rs 250 million.

The first phase of the project includes the resurfacing of the existing runway and construction of a new taxiway and apron. It also includes the provision of adequate fuel storage facilities and basic firefighting facilities.



The second phase of the project involves the construction of a new control tower and administrative offices. The calls for tender will be launched soon. "Construction work is expected to start by December 2011," with the new runway, aircrafts such as ATR 72 will be able to land.

At the moment, only the Dornier aircraft of the National Coast Guard can land during emergencies. The top layer of the runway surface is deteriorating, hence the need for renovation.

The voyage is either by ship on board the Mauritius Pride or by air on the Dornier aircraft which belongs to the Coast Guard department of the Police force.

The passengers gather early in the morning in the big hangar where the two Dornier aircrafts and the helicopters of the coastguards are kept. All passengers and their luggage are weighed and the aircraft take-off weight must not be exceeded. The three pilots (two in the cockpit and one in the navigation booth) are very strict about this. The time of departure depends on weather conditions but it is usually around five o'clock in the morning.

The journey lasts for about three hours and the plane flies at an altitude of ten thousand feet at a speed of about two hundred knots. No snack is served on board so passengers must cater for their own food. They also travel at their own risks and in case of an accident neither the passenger nor his heirs can claim any

damage from the Government or whosoever. An indemnity bond must be signed by each passenger prior to departure, both in Mauritius and in Agalega for the return trip.

Travelling by the Dornier can be a rattling experience. The plane is neither pressurized nor air conditioned. It is cold inside and the engine noise is severely felt. Those who know, protect themselves against the cold and the noise by wearing sweater and applying earplugs respectively.

On a first voyage, passengers should be equipped against these discomforts. But it is really cumbersome to participate in this adventure.

With the new runway, aircrafts such as ATR 72 will be able to land and as a result the above discomfort will disappear forever. Management responsibility is also different compared to other department of Mauritius, at each instance you will have to “*sauter de coq a l'ane*” from one variety of duty to another diversity.

It is to be noted that in Mauritius the affair of airstrip and airplane falls in the purview of the civil aviation where as in Agalega the responsibility is on the OI DC management. If manpower is made available, upgraded responsibility is shared the corporation will surely attain its goal. Management of the OI DC is again urging the PRB to help the Corporation in realizing this project.

10. EDUCATION IN AGALEGA

It is essential that we value education and realize that it can open doors for our young people in Agalega. Management believes that having an education doesn't mean that Agaleans children's life will be easy, but without it their life can definitely be more difficult.



'Education is an important element in management struggle to help our children in Agalega and people rediscover their identity and thereby increase self-respect. Education is their passport to the future.'

Management urge the inhabitants of Agalega to move forward with confidence into the future and not wait for the mood to strike; today is the time to get to work. Their desire and commitment will be rewarded when their children will thanks them later!

Sometimes it takes a little reflection on the negative, to ignite the positive. So for all those who have become complacent, treat this as a *'wake up call'*.

Management regularly reminds the inhabitant of Agalega to take responsibility for their children's learning so that they will be encouraged to take responsibility too.

Our young generation are losing their way and falling victim to drugs, violence, prison, unemployment, premature parenthood and poor education.

It's time to challenge the indifference and ignorance that fuels this, by uniting and working together for a brighter future for our young people. OICD management's duty is to dispel these indifference and ignorance by sensitizing parents and their children about the value of education.

Let's try to reach a new level of progressive thinking by correcting our mistakes. Management believes that we can move mountains if we are united and we can challenge what the future holds. 'Nothing ever comes to one, which is worth having, except as a result of hard work'.

Education is something that no one can ever take away from the child. A good education is something to be proud of, so the inhabitants should encourage their children to make the most out of it.

The child's education should be of paramount importance to and people must demand the best for them and of them.

The inhabitants do have a choice about the kind of parent they can be and the Corporation objective is not to criticize, but to help them to reflect, re-evaluate and re-teach. The Corporation acknowledges the fact that good parents are made, not born.

'By learning they will teach; by teaching they will learn'.

'To accomplish great things we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe'. In this respect the Corporation's vision for the future education of the children of Agalega is very bright. We will request the Ministry of education to re-enforce additional teachers, increase the teaching from form three to higher school certificate level in the years to come. The Corporation's duty will be to construct modern school with all infrastructures to encourage students going to school, construct teachers quarters in order to facilitate their stay in Agalega. Management is endeavoring to form social workers to sensitize the inhabitants to send their children to school and educate the parent about how students should be monitored and followed up.

Recently there was an Officer employed on contract, who was providing assistance to students from Agalega pursuing studies in Mauritius. She was required, among others, to look after accommodation facilities, school admissions for the students; ensure that they are provided with healthy recreational facilities for their proper upbringing and integration in the society; establish links with the Heads of schools to address problems that may impede the education and adaptation of the Agalean students and provide any practical assistance.

The new recruit would be required to, inter alia, maintain permanent contact with all students from Agalega studying in Mauritius; implement schemes for their welfare and studies; monitor the allocation of school materials/stipends to students and their guardians; and work closely with appropriate authorities and organisations for the implementation of activities regarding education, sports, culture and their integration in society.

This post is vacant since 2009 and is being acted by the Public Relations Officer. Time is felt to fill the post to look after the students pursuing their studies in Mauritius - their accommodation, school admission and recreational facilities.

In Mauritius there is no even one ministry or department who is responsible at the same time for so many varieties of responsibility. Each one has only one field to concentrate but for the Management of OI DC they are building a nation. The Corporation is responsible as if the duties of all ministries existed in Mauritius.

If manpower is made available, upgraded responsibility is shared the corporation will surely attain its goal. Management of the OI DC is again urging the PRB to help the Corporation in realizing this project.



11. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community development (CD) is the process of helping a community strengthens itself and develop towards its full potential.



The OI DC objective is “to do all such things as appear requisite and advantageous to enhance the well being of Workers and their family, for a proper integration in the Mauritian society.” OI DC vision is to contribute towards government objectives and to transform Agalega into an intelligent island through Community Development. It also aims to mobilize and develop

local leadership to ensure an effective and meaningful participation of the community in the harmonious development of the Agalean society. OI DC is a service oriented organisation anchored at the grass root level with a history since 1982.

The Outer Islands Development Corporation will soon start social welfare and community development programmes in the years to come, to set up Women’s Association and Senior Citizens Association, pre-primary schools is already established, to provide support to socio cultural organisations, to initiate training programmes for housewives and unemployed women in Home Economics, Dress Making and Sewing, to establish housing estates and provide housing loan as already agreed in the collective agreement, to initiate poverty alleviation programmes through our various schemes. The Agalega Community Social Centre has immensely contributed towards social cohesion, peace, unity and nation-building in Agalega and have acted as social shock absorbers thus preventing social instability and unrest. The Centre cater for the needs of the whole population.

Thus, OI DC plays a critical role in the development aspirations of Agalean. With its network main activities have centered around meeting specific social objectives of the inhabitants through the provision of the following services:

- recreational, educational, cultural and social activities for the elderly, women, youth, children and vulnerable groups all over both islands of Agalega through its Community Development;
- Consolidating and equipping Community Centre/Tsunami centre to house cyclone refugees with a view to making them suitable to accommodate the refugees during cyclonic conditions.

Specific Challenges

Considering the changes operating in the present environment and the need to meet the requirements of the Programme Based Budgeting Framework set by Government, and without over-looking the historic role of the Community development, it is imperative to review, assess and restructure OI DC aim for efficiency gains so that it responds better to the changing aspirations of the population of Agalega and thus optimize the use of resources put at its disposal. The current budgetary situation of OI DC is unsustainable and concrete actions are urgently required to place the Corporation on a sound financial footing.

In realizing the above government's project, big efforts will be needed and it is very challenging. One man can never realize this project and in doing so a segregation of upgrading responsibility with team work is very important. In this respect management is proposing the PRB to help the Corporation in upgrading certain posts where responsibilities will be shared.

12. JETTY

A jetty is any of a variety of structures used in river, dock, and maritime works that are generally carried out



in pairs from river banks, or in continuation of river channels at their outlets into deep water; or out into docks, and outside their entrances; or for forming basins along the sea-coast for ports in tideless seas. The forms and construction of these jetties are as varied as their uses (directing currents or accommodating vessels), for they are formed sometimes of high open timber-work,

sometimes of low solid projections, and occasionally only differ from breakwaters in their object. The term derived from the French word 'jetée', "thrown", and signifies something thrown out. Jetties at the coast that have been raised and extended, help prevent long shore drift, so therefore slowing down beach erosion

Referring to the above there is no proper port or harbour at Agalega. Vessels have to be moored in the open sea i.e. one km distant from the shore. Passengers and cargo are disembarked by barges up to a jetty. Cargo are lifted by cranes from the barge and loaded in tractors up to a warehouse. Given the unconditional sea at Agalega such operation has proved to be hazardous especially when human life is concerned. Secondly the operation is widely expensive as it delays the disembarkation process and as a result the vessel has to stay longer than scheduled which is hired on a daily basis i.e. the Corporation has to disburse one million rupees additional per day as demurrage fee.

Basing on these circumstances OI DC is obliged to set up a mini port at Agalega where ships can berth easily thus reducing the risk of losing human life as well as funds.

Comparing to Mauritius, the management of harbour falls under the aegis of the Mauritius Port Authority (MPA). But as far as Agalega is concerned this issue is under the sole responsibility of the OI DC.

In realizing the above government's project, big efforts will be needed and it is very challenging. One man can never realize this project and in doing so a segregation of responsibility with team work is very important.

13. MID Project

The Corporation, unique in its existence compared to other parastatal bodies plays a very important role in the management and development of Agalega Islands and Saint Brandon group of Islands. It follows closely the implementation of all Government projects on the island.



- **MID Project**

In 2008, the Government of Mauritius decided to make Mauritius a sustainable island 'Maurice Ile Durable', a world model of sustainable development particularly in the context of SIDS (Small Development Islands

State). The Outer Islands Development Corporation formed part in the workshops such as environment, education, employment, energy and equity and made many proposals to the program for Agalega.

One of the main objectives proposed to the program was the use of coconut oil as biofuel at Agalega. Actually all our machines and plants are run by fossil fuel which swallows a big chunk of our budget and is not environmentally friendly. Actually we have one tractor which is running on coconut oil as biofuel in Agalega. Proposal is being made to run more equipments on biofuel there to reduce our fuel consumption drastically.

- **Education Project**

Proposals have also been made to upgrade the education system at Agalega. Actually we have a Junior Secondary School at Agalega where students learn up to Form III and have to complete their further studies in Mauritius. Arrangements are being made so that the students can pursue their studies up to the Higher School Certificate there.

On the energy side, the OI DC is planning to have a solar based energy on the island. A project has been submitted to the UNDP to provide 70 solar power energy to individual households for the production of electricity.

- **Employment**

Unemployment does not exist at Agalega islands. As soon as workers reach the age of 18 are employed on a casual basis at Agalega and are thus continued after 2 to 3 years.

- **Green Employment**

At the Maurice Ile Durable (MID) meeting one of the issues which were discussed was to create green employment. Inhabitants be encouraged to agriculture, to provide facilities to them to plant and be self – sufficient in the long term.

In that context, Food Security Project was introduced in Agalega. An Agricultural Development Officer was recruited and a team of employees who are under his supervision.

- **Global Warming and Climate Change**

The climate is changing. The earth is warming up, and there is now overwhelming scientific consensus that it is happening, and human-induced. With global warming on the increase and species and their habitats on the decrease, chances for ecosystems to adapt naturally are diminishing. Agalega is a tropical island exposed to the ocean where climate change has a direct impact on it.

Many are agreed that climate change may be one of the greatest threats facing the planet. Recent years show increasing temperature in various regions, and/or increasing extremities in weather patterns.

Research has shown that air pollutants from fossil fuel use make clouds reflect more of the sun's rays back into space. This leads to an effect known as global dimming whereby less heat and energy reaches the earth. At first, it sounds like an ironic savior to climate problems. However, it is believed that global dimming caused the droughts in Ethiopia in the 1970s and 80s where millions died, because the northern hemisphere oceans were not warm enough to allow rain formation. Global dimming is also hiding the true power of global warming. By cleaning up global dimming-causing pollutant without tackling greenhouse gas emissions, rapid warming has been observed, and various human health and ecological disasters have resulted, as witnessed during the European heat wave in 2003, which saw thousands of people die.

The Outer Islands Development Corporation (OIDC) is planning to convert all its engines running on diesel to that of coconut oil to be more environmentally friendly and avoid carbon dioxide from exhaust.

- **Sea Level Rise**

Sea level rise and extreme weather events are aggravating beach erosion and are detrimental to tourist related infrastructure.

In this context, the OIDC is planning to construct one refugee centre, a building on height to resist high waves in case a Tsunami arises on the island. This will be an additional one in the South similar to that already constructed by the Corporation in the North.