

Action Plan for a Mauritius Single Use Plastic-Free **Proposal by the Ecoignard Village Council, based on** **its Vision and Action Plan for a SUP-Free Ecoignard**

Consultative Workshop on “Plastic-Free Mauritius: Defining the Roadmap”
18 and 19 October 2021
Caudan Arts Centre, Port Louis

Overall objective: Mauritius Single Use Plastic free

Strategy: Effective implementation of a National Action Plan of the Environment Protection (Banning of Plastic Bags and Control of Single Use Plastic Products) Regulations 2020 on the following six planks:

1. Monitoring of the implementation of a NAP
2. Promotion of alternatives to SUP
3. Promotion of clean tap water for drinking
4. Setting standards on litter and management of wastes
5. Integrating the fight against SUP in the education system
6. Adequate communication and sensitization on the NAP

1. Monitoring implementation of National Action Plan Against SUP

Objective: Implementation and monitoring of NAP against SUP

Activities: MoE to involve other Ministries, key institutions and stakeholders to prepare and establish a multidisciplinary team to prepare and monitor the implementation of a National Action Plan against use of SUP and report regularly on progress, constraints and make recommendations for actions forward. **Specific activities include:**

- a. Understand the state of the national use of SUP, eEstablish baseline and set targets for monitoring
- b. Inventory and audit of all SUP followed by categorisation – those that can be recycled, those easy/difficult to replace and then set target for recycle/reduction
- c. Inventory and audit of sustainable alternatives to SUP followed by categorisation – easy/difficult to replace and costs and set target for increase

- d. Audit of use of bins, sorting, disposal of harmful and dangerous wastes, compostable wastes, other wastes such as vehicles and electronic wastes
- e. Enquire the factors compelling people to purchasing bottled water instead of tap water
- f. Work closely with MoF to undertake cost analysis of each category of SUP and alternative and make recommendation for fiscal measures and incentives

2. Promotion of alternatives to SUP

Objective - Promote production of alternatives to SUP and increase use of reusable bags and refillable containers, cardboard containers for takeaway food, plastic straws with paper straws or biodegradable materials, wooden cutlery, glass bottles or biodegradable containers.

Activities include the followings:

1. Identify best practices worldwide on promoting reusable bags and refillable containers and prepare specific and systematic campaign against SUP and in favour of alternatives the promotion of reusable bags and refillable containers
2. Promote production of alternatives to SUP with the collaboration of concerned authorities, including SME Mauritius, Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Finance, private sector and like-minded NGOs with a focus on SME challenges and identify and implement specific corrective measures.

3. Promote access to clean tap water for drinking

Objective: Exert right to access to potable tap water in homes, schools, offices, restaurants and all public places and adopt a sustainable a long-term reusable water carrying bottle.

Activities include MoE engaging with the concerned authorities to implement the following measures

- a. ban use of plastic bottles in all official events
- b. increase penalty for throwing of plastics and plastic bottles in nature
- c. request authorities to ban publicity for products using SUP
- d. engage with Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) and all media to ban covering events using plastic bottles

- e. compel all private and public institutions and enterprises to make provision for safe drinking water for people working in their premises
- f. address the reasons for people not drinking tap water, and initiate a permanent public, transparent survey on perception on tap water

4. Standards on litter and management of wastes, including SUP

Objective: Promote best practice in households against SUP with a focus on sorting wastes on the following categories:

- (i) Plastic waste, including container bottles such as shampoo, oil, etc
- (ii) Glass Bottles
- (iii) Electronic waste
- (iv) Other wastes such as vehicle tyres, used oils and parts, etc
- (v) Harmful and dangerous waste
- (vi) Those which can be used for compost
- (vii) Those that should go to landfill

Activities include:

1. MoE to work with the private sector to replicate and provide existing models for collection bins for (i) and (ii).
2. MoE to seek collaboration with Mauritius Research & Innovation Council, University of Mauritius + other institutions to study, establish and formulate the production of bins for households for (iii), (iv) and (v) and measures for purchase/distribution, collection and disposal.
3. MoE to propose new rules to restrict type of waste under category (vii) where existing bin and system for collection of waste to be maintained. Measures, including rewards, should be established to encourage villages for reduction of this type of waste.
4. MoE to work with Ministry of Local Administration to provide specifically designed bins for (i), (ii) to all villages and towns. Village Councils and Municipalities sensitise households then organise collection of plastic & glass bottles. MoE to prompt promulgation of regulation for concerned producers/distributors for collection of (i) and (ii) from these premises.
5. District Councils & municipalities to provide households compost bins.
6. MoE to work with Ministry of Agriculture and other institutions to acquire adequate training for trainers on sorting of waste and production of compost and gardening.
7. Facilitate negotiation with MoF for part of the funds from consignment and taxes on these bottles to be provided to Village Councils and Municipalities to finance SUP-Free Policy and give a stipend as incentive to members of the volunteers.

5. Integrating the fight against SUP in the education system

Objective: Improve the future generation's behaviour towards SUP

Activities: Work with the Ministry of Education and MRIC so that every educational institution achieve SUP Free status with the following activities:

- a. Provision of regular clean tap water, including cleaning of water tanks at schools
- b. Behaviour change campaigns with educators and officials of Ministry of Environment and of Education
- c. Schools SUP waste impact education programmes
- d. Sorting and separating litter and cleaning campaigns in school
- e. Provision of different types of bins for sorting of wastes to schools

6. Adequate communication and sensitization on the NAP

Objective: All key stakeholders are adequately sensitised and involved in the implementation of Mauritius SUP-Free Policy.

Activities: Reinforce and mandate the Government Information Service or any other governmental institution to specialise in modern communication and sensitisation tools to:

- a. Design a brand and/or logo for all sensitization materials to send a strong and coherent message
- b. Develop sensitization tools such as Website, end of year postcards and posters to be used in other local events.
- c. Prepare SUP-Free Ambassadors
- d. Develop and maintain relation with press/media and other groups
- e. Organise regular films exhibition and sensitization support materials.
- f. Pledge MFDI to sponsor production of local films and on Mauritius SUP-Free Initiative
- g. Initiate competitions (story writing, debates play, film, practice...).
- h. Produce regular bulletins, website updates and events for sensitisation campaign.