



CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

Leading to the official Launching of **TESS To Be Confirmed.....**

Adding Value to the Eco-Tourism **PROCESS**

Measure No.19 of 25 (In no particular order)

FOR THE COMMUNITY AND BY THE COMMUNITY
"Turning Possibilities into Realities"

Newsletter No. 7 by TESS in accordance with Article 1 section 3 of the Constitution

Wake Up Call.....!



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Introduction

TESS has been somewhat silent since the recent visit of Dr. Spenceley – UNWTO Mission Expert. While a number of “back benchers” have been wondering what has happened since, we have at the same time been nothing else but very active.

a) Draft reports on the Visit of Dr. Spenceley

Our evaluation of the visit was to us an excellent first, which provided a Blue-Print for the way forward. Two draft reports have already been submitted to STB and Chairman of TAREC/Secretary General TESS for our evaluation and contribution and we have already acquiesced. All concerned were also provided with copies – but feedback has been minimal to say the least.

The final report has been submitted to the UNWTO for final approval. Once done and released, copies will be made available to one and all concerned for appropriate action where and when necessary.

Once again I am happy to state that the report is not only most comprehensive but it has also been formulated in such a way that each and every stakeholder will get to know their exact roles and responsibilities in enabling us to move ahead in Unison..... the only way to do so for success sooner than later.

Through that Mission Report we will be better able to avoid “stepping on each others toes”, be it intentional and/ or unintentional, and for whatever the reason(s) maybe - We have a Mission to accomplish as a Nation and for the Community and we can only do it together. But TESS will simply not allow anyone to try and get mileage, be it political, social and/ or personal from its endeavours.

After the release and subsequent evaluation of the Final Report, TESS working in close collaboration with STB will call for a meeting of all parties concerned on the way forward so as to address the various pertinent issues expressed therein.

b) Bimonthly meeting of TAREC

Since TAREC has now been absorbed by TESS and as per its Constitution which you must all have had a look at, there is now no need to call for a bimonthly meeting. It is to be noted that to our dismay TAREC meetings have been poorly attended by key Government stakeholders, and others as of late.

Consequently the board members of TESS will continue to meet regularly when the need arises, here in Victoria – instead having to go all the way to Anse Royale to find a room with half empty seats. Even the Meeting organised for TAREC members to meet with Dr. Spenceley was poorly attended. It surely did not project a good impression that we are fully committed to the PROCESS for Anse Royale.

c) Current activities being undertaken by TESS

TESS is in the process of preparing Press Kits and Registration Forms for our Membership Drive nationally, regionally and internationally which will start in May 2008.

TESS Database is presently being worked at so as the Membership Drive can be as effective and as encompassing as possible.

d) ReCoMaP – Anse Royale Coastal Protection Project

TESS is pleased to announce that ReCoMaP has provisionally selected its concept note for the rehabilitation and protection of the Coastline in front of the Public Beach Park. Five (5)

out of nineteen (19) concept notes have been chosen from Seychelles and TESS is very happy that its first project submitted to an international organization has made it in the 1st five!

A team from ReCoMaP will be in Seychelles from 5th to 7th May 2008 to evaluate/assess the submitted projects and TESS will assist in which ever shape or form possible for the Anse Royale project to come to fruition.

As for the PBP (The Public Beach Park) itself which falls under the Direct Responsibility of the Department of Community Development – TESS would be grateful to be made aware as to when the necessary works will be completed as per the Eco-friendly recommendations made in that respect by TESS/TAREC.

As such while we are anticipating that it will be the case soon – we are at this point in time unable to set a date for the holding of the 1st Lafwar Royale and the official launching of PP33. We will soon be asking the Authorities directly concerned for some clarifications.... But we hope that it will be ready by 27th September, for the World Tourism Day 2008.

e) **Website**

TESS is in the process of developing its own website which should be operational in May/June 2008 at the latest.

f) **Opening of Kot Man-Ya**

The official opening of My Garden will take place as scheduled in August 2008 – date to be confirmed later.

g) **Launching of TESS**

The official launching of TESS will take place in May/ or June 2008.

h) **Publicity**

TESS has had good publicity on the TV programmes, Tranche de Vie and recently in the Magazine People... which have generated much interest and curiosity whereby enticing interested parties to join the Society when it is officially open for membership. The feedback from the General public has been nothing else but positive..... and we will continue to spare no effort in this direction.

i) **Feasibility for IOTO (Indian Ocean Tourism Organization) and IOR-ARC (Indian Ocean Realm Association for Regional Co-operation)**

At the invitation of IOTO and the IOR-ARC, Mrs. Simone de Commarmond and Mr. Marc Marengo will be attending the Arabian Travel Market to finalise the terms of reference and condition for a Feasibility Study on the Tourism Potentials of the Indian Ocean Region.

Mr. Marengo will be heading the study team of five and will be assisted by Mrs. Simone de Commarmond (the Chairman of TESS) plus three other experts from the IOR-ARC countries. The study is being financed through IOTO by the Sultanate of Oman and Iran and will last for an 18 months period.

It will be recalled that Mr. Marc Marengo was previously the Secretary General of IOTO for three (3) years when the Secretariat was based in Victoria when the whole idea of a Feasibility Study for the Indian Ocean Region came into being and he is happy that it is now coming to fruition. Seychelles stands to benefit from it and so will TESS get the International recognition it deserves.

j) UNDP Seminar

TESS participated in the Seminar – Seychelles Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Transport, Fisheries and Trade Sectors. TESS made sure that the Community is featured fully in the various documents formulated. Its participation was primarily in the **BD Mainstreaming Outcome 3: “Tourism Industry addressing Biodiversity Conservation”** segment on Friday 18th April 2008. TESS has a lot of interest in the project activities as it merges the issue of environmental with ecotourism at community level.

k) UNDP Seminar – GEF Small Grants Programme

TESS attended a stakeholder meeting organised by UNDP and the Department of Environment on the 11th February 2008 to discuss on issues of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) for the Seychelles. Main objectives of the meeting were to have an overview of the progress regarding admission to SGP and discuss on the way forward and plan next steps. TESS sees the GEF SGP as a source for possible funding of its planned activities and projects.

l) Seminar – Mangrove for the Future (MFF) – Small Grants Programme Meeting

TESS attended a meeting organized by the MFF Project Focal Point to discuss on the MFF Small Grants Programme. TESS intends to apply for grants under the programme for its coastal and marine-related projects and activities.

m) TESS Headquarters

TESS will soon be identifying an Architect(s) to design its Headquarters – which is to be built in the Les Canelles Two gardens. The attached picture will give an indication of how the front view will look like and positive comments from the community as a whole will be welcomed for further enhancement.



n) Environmental Trust Fund – Call for Proposal

The ETF is calling for proposal for small medium and large projects of up to SR100,000/-.

Such proposals require 50% counterpart funding. In view of the fact that TESS does not as yet have the necessary funds to qualify for such projects, we are hereby requesting the Ministry of Community Development to consider them as a possible source of funding so as to complete the works on the PBP in accordance with the various Eco-friendly recommendations made by TAREC / TESS over the last six months or so.

The work on the park needs to be completed by 27th September 2008 – and here is a good opportunity for the Community Development to make amends should there be no money left in the money in the budget that was allocated for the development of the park.

o) Observations

From the above list of some of the activities that TESS is presently undertaking so as to set up a **STRONG STRUCTURE**, it will be noted that we continue to be very active. But for now we will remain “underground” – do what we have to do in our own way and at our own sweet time - without having to issue press releases which regrettably continue to fall on deaf ears...

On the other hand, since to date the recipients of the Press releases (except two) are not members of TESS as yet, we are under no obligation to issue press releases all together. We will from now onwards communicate only to those who are members already.

To set the example, members of TAREC, the brainchild of TESS will soon be called upon to pay their contribution. The money will be used for the printing and issuance of business cards. It is to be noted that to date all expenses pertaining to the activities of TESS has been born by myself and I will continue to assist as and when possible in the future.... For TESS is “my favourite Baby” and I will ensure that it does grow up fast.

p) Conclusion

Over the past few weeks rumours have been circulating by negative forces both locally and internationally as far as Paris, London, New York, Brussels and other capitals, that TESS is not getting anywhere.

While TESS is not least bothered by such unfounded allegations, we are at the same time concerned that there are some evil elements who would like to see us fail.

To them I have only one thing to say – “Fat Cheese.....!” for the word “FAILURE” does not feature in our vocabulary.

Thus let us all try our best to keep “Politics” (in which ever shape or form) out of this particular Process for remember TESS is **ONLY** an NGO for the Community and by the Community as a whole.

I wish you all Happy Labour Day, and remember that during times of “Scarcity” we have no choice but to work much harder to try and make ends meet. It cannot nor will it ever fall from the sky.....!

I am of the view that all members should make a special effort to attend the Mass to be celebrated in St. Joseph Church at Anse Royale for Labour Day 1st May 2008.

Keep hope alive and well.....

Marc MRM Marengo
Chairman of TAREC