



CURIEUSE, SEYCHELLES
MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENT REPORT
FEBRUARY 2017

8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



13 CLIMATE
ACTION





OBJECTIVES

- To help provide and, where possible, increase sustainable revenue to the local community and environmental projects
- Increase environmental awareness amongst volunteers joining the Curieuse program

SUMMARY

In July 2015 the GVI staff and volunteers assisted local organisation TRASS in potting 1060 endemic Seychelles tree seedlings in preparation for reforesting some bare areas of hillside on Praslin Island. The first of several events over the coming months resulted in the first 64 trees being planted. This has supported a local environmental project and further raised awareness amongst our volunteers of one of the most pressing local environmental issues.





REPORT

GVI Curieuse has a long-standing relationship with the Terrestrial Restoration Action Society of Seychelles (TRASS). It is a local voluntary organisation based on the neighbouring island of Praslin. Its main aim is to rehabilitate areas of degraded mountainside, by nurturing endemic and native tree species until they are ready to be planted, and then during the rainy season plant the maturing saplings.

In July 2015 the GVI staff and volunteers attended a potting event at the newly constructed plant nursery at Fond B'Offay just down the road from the Vallee de Mai UNESCO World Heritage Site. The task for the day was to take recently germinated seedlings of a variety of local tree species and transplant them into larger containers in which they could continue their early growth in a controlled environment. The aim was to pot as many as possible and our grand total for the day for 1060!

Since then the seedlings have been growing in the nursery lovingly looked after by the local TRASS volunteers, and they are all now at a stage where they are ready to be planted on the hillside. The potting of the seedlings was the easy part. As they grow and get larger they obviously become rather bulky and heavy, and the planting sites are all near the tops of the mountains where there are no roads! However with the rainy season being well underway there is no time to lose to follow up and finish the job, and the planting season is now in full swing.

The site chosen for the first batch of saplings was La Hauteur mountaintop close to the town of Baie St. Anne. On the 28th of January a team of 12 GVI staff and volunteers joined local TRASS volunteers to begin the long hike up the mountain. This was no mean feat, as the day was hot and crates of saplings are not exactly light, but everyone made it to the planting site with their precious cargo. Then came the task of digging holes in the hard packed soil and carefully placing the seedlings in before covering them with soil. Once on the mountaintop it took about two hours to plant out the day's consignment, at which point everyone could take a very well earned rest before heading back down the hill to return to Curieuse.

A total of 64 saplings were planted on this first session, but of course there are plenty more where they came from, so there are several more planting sessions planned, and with a busy camp of volunteers we should be able to increase the total quickly and keep going until all 1060 are in the ground and beginning to provide all the benefits that vegetation provides, as well as making progress towards turning the islands of the Seychelles all green again.



ABOUT GVI

We're a family-run organisation with an amazing culture and an awesome team of people across the world who are passionate experts in their chosen field and will make your experience a truly unforgettable one (in a good way).

Our award-winning projects receive over 2000 participants every year, and we're proud to say that the vast majority of them describe their experience with us as 'life changing'. Our approval rate from over 20 000 participants since 1997 is over 95%.

A key component of the success of our community development and conservation projects is the participants who join our programs. Opportunities include high impact volunteering from one week and up, internships for those looking for career development opportunities, Challenges that allow a one week adventure all for a good cause and a range of programs for school groups and younger volunteers.

CONTACT

www.gvi.co.uk

www.gviusa.com

www.gviaustralia.com.au

01727 250 250 // 1 888 653 6028

info@gviworld.com