

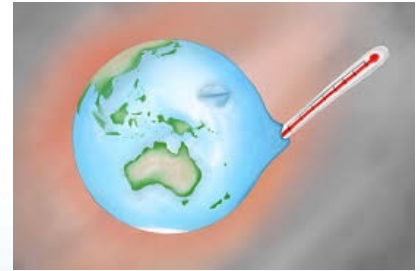
## CLIMATE CHANGE AND WOMEN



**Presented by President of SI Anaparima Club - Ahhalia Ramdas**  
**Prepared by Susan Roopnarinesingh PAC Chair, National Association of**  
**Trinidad & Tobago**

**Women inspiring action,  
transforming lives** 

Soroptimist Clubs in Trinidad and Tobago have been playing an indispensable role in raising awareness of current environmental problems and concerns. We aim to educate, empower and enable women and girls to make decisions which will impact their lives in a positive way as well as benefit the environment for our present generation and the ones to come.



We are acutely aware of the issues such as annual flooding and the excessive use of plastics facing our twin island nation. As such, we continue to promote sustainable development in an effort to preserve and save our natural resources, monitor levels of pollution and educate our citizens. Today I am pleased to highlight work done by five of our Clubs in Trinidad and Tobago.

## SI PORT OF SPAIN- UPCYCLING AND RECYCLING PLASTICS WORKSHOP



**Women inspiring action,  
transforming lives** 

### SDG 13- Climate Action

SI Port of Spain hosted a workshop to raise awareness about the negative effects of single use plastics and ways to upcycle and recycle these items. The workshop was led by Kalifa Des Vignes, a student of Bishop's Centenary College and here Patricia Adams is showing her design. It was remarkable to partner with a young woman with such a desire to preserve the environment.

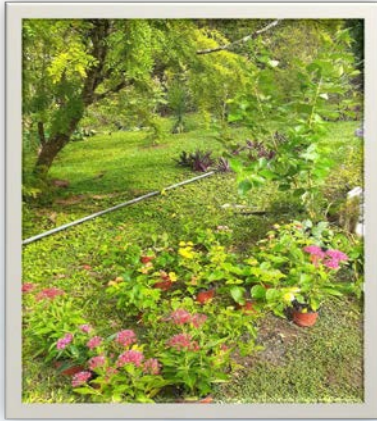


Participants learnt how to make various designs of plant pots from plastic bottles of varying sizes and then planted a variety of seedlings including pimento, okra, eggplant, sorrel and cactus in these recycled plastic containers. The seedlings which were planted in beautifully designed pots were given to the participants to start or add to their home gardens.





Additionally, five garbage bags of plastic bottles were collected and dropped off at an I-Care bin as part of the recycling aspect of the project. There are more plans underway to encourage recycling at the Club headquarters. These repurposed pots can be kept for use again and are ideal for person with limited space at home and wishing to create a home garden.



## SDG 13- Climate Action

Borne out of a desire to curb biodiversity loss, concerns about the bee population, healthy ecosystems and viable food sources, SI Anaparima created a Pollinator Garden working in partnership with the Point-a-Pierre Wildfowl Trust. The Wild Fowl Trust is an existing inland freshwater wetland habitat founded in 1966. It was an ideal location to carry out this project as many species of insects, birds and animals have established their home in that area.



The aim was to increase pollination activity within the Trust by planting pollinator-attracting plants for butterflies, hummingbirds, bees etc. Plants such as lantanas, cupheas, pentas, ixoras, blue eyes, white wax apple and cherry trees were planted. In addition to inviting members from other clubs, secondary students were also invited in order to secure the interest of the younger generation. Site visits have since been made post planting to ensure the plants are thriving and that there will be a marked increase in pollinators in that area.



Signage was put up to bring awareness about our contribution and members have visited post planting to ensure all is well with the plants and that they are prospering.





## SI COUVA- THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL



Women inspiring action,  
transforming lives

### SDG 13- Climate Action

A live Virtual Panel Discussion for World Environment Day 2022 was aired on 1st June, 2022 at 7:00 pm by our newest Club in Trinidad, SI Couva. For the duration of one hour and forty-five minutes, questions were directed to the six panel members for their expert advice on how each person can do their part locally to conserve the environment. About sixty persons took part in the panel discussion.



The panel discussion focused on climate change, biodiversity and energy and waste management. To encourage viewer participation, two poll questions were asked and well received. The panel discussion was chosen as a means of educating viewers on the ways in which they can “Live sustainably in Harmony with Nature”. The tagline was ‘Think Global, Act Local’.



The goal was to enable women and girls and even men with the tools necessary to conserve our Earth's resources. It was imperative to bring to viewers the actions they can take on a local level, in their homes and places of work to contribute to the larger global effort. Furthermore, it was also important to educate viewers on the governmental policies that are in place or being put into place.

## SI ESPERANCE-LEAVE NO TRASH BEHIND



**Women inspiring action,  
transforming lives** 

### SDG 13- Climate Action

On the 5<sup>th</sup> June in celebration of World Environment Day, SI Esperance members, focused on creating a greater awareness of everyone's individual responsibility to properly dispose of trash in our universal fight against climate change.





Numerous signs were strategically placed in Palmiste Park in the south of Trinidad in an effort to get the public to properly dispose of their garbage/trash when using the park.



The intention was to educate the public about the importance that the proper disposal of waste plays in tackling climate change. The Club also contacted local agencies, such as The Environmental Management Authority for guidance on national policy and public education.



## SDG-12-Responsible Consumption and Production

In celebration of World Environment Day 2022, the theme of which was “Only One Earth” with the focus on “Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature” the Club organised a pop-up thrift shop selling never worn or pre-loved clothing, shoes and accessories at the storefront of the JTA supermarket in the busy C3 Mall in the south of Trinidad.



The aim was to sensitize the public on the harmful impact of the clothing industry and fast-fashion industry and promote buying second-hand items in an effort to reduce, reuse and recycle. Items for sale were donated by club members, their families and friends and sold at bargain prices. Literature was shared on the benefits of thrift-shopping, as well as displays with posters and a slide show highlighting statistics and facts about the harmful impact of the fashion industry on the earth.





Furthermore, the Club promoted the use of reusable shopping bags which were given out free of charge as a bonus when patrons spent a certain amount of money. The event was a huge success since many persons who bought items were first time thrift shoppers and those persons who did not purchase items were educated on ways to live sustainably with nature.



## CONCLUSION

It is the goal of all our Clubs to continue the work started and to plan more projects and activities using innovative sustainable methods to create change and reach a wider audience. I leave you with this quote from Jane Godall, English primatologist and anthropologist. “You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make.” Thank you.