



**Energy drives sustainability.**

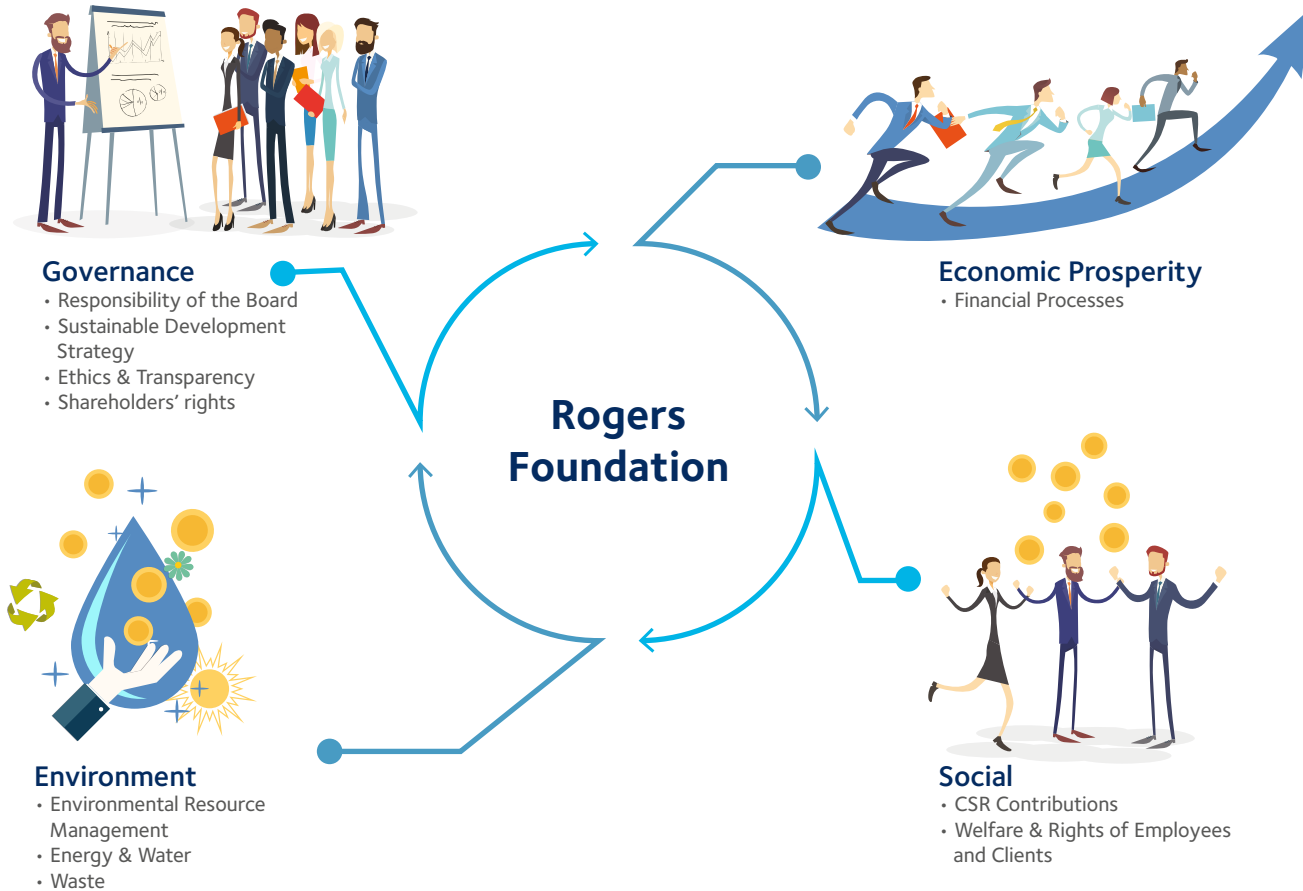


# Corporate Social Responsibility

## Sustainable Development

### Our Strategy

During the year under review, the companies within the Rogers Group have scaled up their social and environmental responsibility efforts through an increased number of projects and programmes. Where the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds derived from the 2% comprehensive income proved insufficient, additional resources were budgeted or alternative means were used to support environmental and social causes. Moreover, Rogers focused its attention on developing and planning sustainable projects that will demonstrate our strategy to do business differently: by walking the talk in order to strike a balance between economy, environment and society.







## Programme for the Protection of the Coastal Areas of Mauritius

The Rogers Group continued its involvement in projects geared towards promoting Awareness, Education and Support in order to reduce the negative human impact on the environment of coastal areas:

### **Mobile Marine Education Unit – Third Year of the ‘Bis Lamer’ Project with Reef Conservation**

The NGO, Reef Conservation remains our main partner in the Protect our Coast strategy with its team of professional marine biologists, project coordinators and educators.

‘Bis Lamer’ is a class on wheels equipped with interactive tools and laboratory equipment. To date, the project has exceeded its target in terms of education about marine and environmental issues, having reached 10,768 students and 4,346 adults. Some 125 schools and 70 public areas such as community centres, shopping malls and beaches were visited. Moreover, 52% of Rogers’ staff have received training courses on marine and lagoon life.

### **Domaine de Bel Ombre Lagoon and Land Survey**

Sustainable development and environmental stewardship come with the responsibility of carefully studying and assessing the ecosystems of a region such as Bel Ombre before moving on with rehabilitation projects. Reef Conservation’s biologists, Diospyros’ ecologists and the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation’s conservationists were contracted to evaluate the land and marine fauna and flora and propose appropriate protective and restorative measures. The main upcoming projects are a lagoon management plan, a biodiversity corridor and an interactive research centre on coastal ecosystems.

### **Community Involvement & Permaculture**

The sustainable development plan for Bel Ombre necessarily contains a significant social component. Consultations were organised with all the stakeholders in the region and environmental consultants specialized in permaculture and community involvement were also contracted to take on board the input of the inhabitants of Bel Ombre. This enriching exercise has allowed to bring out the dreams of the villagers for their region and the idea to recreate a typical Mauritian village to showcase local savoir-faire.

### **National Museum & Porlwi by Light**

Various media are required to effectively spread the message about protecting our coasts among the population. The movie dedicated to the history of our extinct national bird, the dodo benefited from the crowd-pulling effect of Porlwi by Light, which additionally contributed to rekindle visitor interest in our Natural History Museum and the Blue Water exhibition. The Lagoon Dos and Don’ts panels on the museum’s ornate gates were also viewed by hundreds.

### **Protection of Marine Turtles in Mauritius**

The national network for the protection of endangered sea turtles on the Mauritian shores, composed of NGOs, private sector and relevant authorities, has worked tirelessly to educate coastal populations while tightening the enforcement net against poachers. A child education leaflet has already been finalized and released in schools.

### **Beach Clean-Up Series**

Educating beach users about proper litter disposal is part of the necessary efforts to protect the lagoon and its marine life. Youth United for Environment with the support of Rogers, Heritage Resorts and CSBO staff organised a beach clean-up event at Le Batelage, Bel Ombre. This trash collection initiative had an educational aimed and served to support 'Stop Polisyon', a song in Mauritian Kreol launched at Rogers House in April by the Vice President of the Republic. The clip is regularly shown on national TV and can be viewed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/qVbsRdtFD8s>

### **Global Women's Forum**

The Women's Forum Mauritius was a tremendous opportunity for mobilising support for driving a game-changing agenda for the sustainable economic, environmental and social development of the Domaine de Bel Ombre. This region is facing environmental threats such as climate change, which is inextricably linked to coastal and marine resilience. The serious deterioration of our island's coastal ecosystems and the challenges posed by sea-level rise and coastal erosion have prompted us to seek support for our planned projects to set up a biodiversity corridor along Citronniers River's course, create an Interactive Land and Marine Resource Centre and implement a lagoon management plan.

### **Sponsorship of Cité Sainte Catherine in Collaboration with ENL and FAIL Foundation**

Following the completion of the OLEA project, which provided support to 50 impoverished families in the Moka region, a new poverty alleviation programme has been launched at Cité Sainte Catherine, Saint Pierre. Building on the experience acquired from OLEA, Rogers has teamed up with ENL and FAIL Foundation to design and support a 3-year Integrated Community Development Programme involving 250 families within this poverty-stricken region.





## CSR in our Sectors

### Other Initiatives carried out by our Business Units

#### Aviation

The Aviation Sector has supported ongoing efforts for the prevention of coastal and marine pollution in Mauritius and has provided training to its employees on this important issue.

#### Hotels

Heritage Resorts has worked with children supported by the NGO, Caritas in the South: 154 kids received value education sessions combined with an introduction to golf or foot-golf. Outings to Casela and Curious Corner of Chamarel were organised and support was given to a dance academy. Clothes and bed/bath linen were also donated before and after a flooding event in Bel Ombre. Similarly, Veranda Leisure & Hospitality has supported the elderly under the care of the Human Service Trust in the North through the donation of clothing and linen and has provided vulnerable children with an after-school teacher and a football trainer. To improve the environment, the Grand Gaube beach was cleaned up and efforts were made in conjunction with the NGO, PAWS to encourage the sterilization of stray dogs and cats.

#### Logistics

Velogic has improved existing procedures for the management of industrial waste and risks linked to the business sector's activities. The staff were trained in waste sorting by Mission Verte and guided in implementing a comprehensive waste management system. Contributions to the community were also made in the fields of arts, sports and vocational training of disadvantaged youth through the following NGOs: Atelier Mo'zar, Faucon Flacq Sporting Club, Foundation for Excellence in Sports and Educational and Vocational Foundation.

#### Property

Ascencia has continued its support to the seabird translocation project of the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF). The restoration of a lost seabird community on Ile aux Aigrettes is a long-term commitment that aims to ensure the survival of threatened seabird species. The MWF's scientists are improving the knowledge on this challenging reproductive method and on the species visiting our islands.

#### Real Estate and Agribusiness

Compagnie Sucrière de Bel Ombre is a signatory to an agreement for the establishment of a Protected Area Network covering its reserves at Frederica, Case Noyale and Seven Coloured Earth. An additional 2.8 hectares of endemic flora was restored during the period under review; to further educate its staff on the importance of such rehabilitation works, a team building activity was organised wherein invasive 'vanille marron' plants were removed. Moreover, opening these unique, preserved forest grounds for trail running and cycling events is a way to share its value and beauty with the general public. Other initiatives supported were the upgrading of a sheltered activity area at Saint Jacques RCA in Chamarel, an Adolescent Life Skills Education Programme and other projects targeting vulnerable groups.

#### Technology

The efforts at EIS are focused on reducing their resource use by replacing all light bulbs with energy-saving models and going paperless for meetings and newsletters. In addition, they have invested in employee well-being and career development through providing additional study leaves, offering the services of an in-house doctor as well as organising recreational activities.