Welcome to the world of WildDominique where we aim to protect the integrity of the Nature Isle for our generation and generations to come. With our shared interests, we would like to invite you to explore what we are all about and the projects we have lined up thus far.

About Us

WildDominique is a non-profit organisation (officially registered June 6th, 2018) with a mission to support and promote sound conservation practices in Dominica through environmental education, community engagement, research, species preservation, and policy.

The organisation arouse from the need for a strong environmental education program in Dominica coupled with the effects of Hurricane Maria on our fauna and flora. This decision has also come at a time where we as a people are striving to become a climate resilient country and we believe a conservation organisation like WildDominique will play a vital role in reaching our national goal.

WildDominique will serve as an umbrella conservation organisation working with local, regional, and international groups to provide solutions for environmental issues across the island. To better manage our organisation, we have subdivided it into 3 sections: living young, living wild, and living free.

Living Young

Honouring Dominica as the youngest island in the Caribbean by educating our youth on and fostering a sense of respect for the many resources she has to offer us.

How we plan on achieving this:

- The Dominican Environmental Education Program (DEEP)
    - This will be the first program in Dominica aiming to incorporate environmental education as a class into the school system across the island. This program came about from research done by our founder on the knowledge and attitudes of our school children to wildlife in the Nature Isle (under review for publication). The findings showed a widespread need for environmental education to restore the knowledge of and respect for our environment.
    - **Mission:** It is the mission of DEEP to cultivate quality environmental education programs to be implemented into the school system. These programs will provide hands-on, engaging field experiences, increase local knowledge through multiple field trips, raise awareness of local, regional, and global environmental issues as well as encourage students to create innovative solutions to an issue of choice. The mission of DEEP is to also go beyond the classroom and improve the environmental awareness and practices of all locals including, but not limited to, business personnel, agriculturalists, and educators. It is the aim of DEEP to build sound environmental practices at all ages and education levels to combat the current environmental issues at hand.
- **Projects under DEEP**
    - School Educational Programs

        - Once a week lesson and occasional field trip (possibly during the weekend) such as hikes, beach clean-ups, bird watching, trips to Mountain Chicken facility, Cabrits and Soufriere-Scotts Head Marine Reserve
        - Inter-school environmental competition - week long activities such as creating the best recycled artwork, best innovative project, quiz bowl (testing local, regional, and global environmental knowledge making it fun!), clean-ups, and physical tasks (e.g. relay race)
        - Internships and volunteering experience with environmental groups to improve skills and understanding of the field and to build up their Résumés
        - Encouraging the idea of a set number of required service hours depending on school level (primary, secondary) to increase volunteer interest and capacity
    - Training of teachers/professors to incorporate environmental education into their classes
        - A strong link to health is needed to emphasize that taking care of the environment means taking care of us and is not simply charity work
    - Environmental Awareness Newspaper Column – DEEP Conservations
        - Weekly news edit about local wildlife, environmental events on island and in the region or global issues
    - Annual Poster Session/Science Fair
        - For students of all ages and education levels to encourage innovative ideas and scientific exploration
    - Environmental Tertiary Studies Scholarship
        - This scholarship will be awarded to the student who exhibits the most promise to develop Dominica environmentally and will be given once student has been accepted into an accredited institution
    - Wildlife colouring and activity book as a means to engage preschool and primary school students in environmental education through the arts
    - Introduce the idea of urban gardening and landscape
        - Hanging flower pots and placing potted plants around Roseau especially in the historical district to draw more attention to that area
        - Growing a small urban garden potentially for the environmental club to care for – students can harvest as they please so long as they contribute to the upkeep of the garden
    - Encouraging Citizen Science
        - Increasing the interest of community members to take part in voluntary environmental work

We are looking for funding to purchase school supplies, to pay for transportation for field trips, and to support our weekly newspaper column. We are also looking for sponsorship for the Environmental Tertiary Studies Scholarship, for the Science Fair, and for our wildlife activity book.

Living Wild

Celebrating the Nature Isle of the Caribbean through habitat and species conservation to maintain a healthy Dominica for this generation and those to come.

How we plan on achieving this:

- Eco/Sustainable Tourism with Dominica Tours & WildDominique
    - Partnering with tour companies to

        - explore the hidden gems of Dominica including sites with our flagship species as part of our education program
        - explore sustainable businesses and restaurants that support our local industries and promote our nature resources in a responsible way
        - create a restoration project that will be profitable to them and will support the recovery of our forest post-Hurricane Maria
- Hurricane Maria Forest Plot Assessments
    - From the month of March (6 months after Hurricane Maria affected Dominica) to June, our organisation will be conducting research at 20 sites across the island to look at the state of living trees, the regrowth of the forest, and the volume of deadwood resulting from the hurricane. We will be returning to these sites every year to study the regrowth of the forest and to ensure before data in the event of another storm. This will help assess the true effect of any disaster on the flora of Dominica.
    - This project has been conducted with the assistance of Imperial College London and the Forestry, Wildlife, and Parks Division.
- Iguana Conservation
    - With the finding of the first recorded green iguana (suspected to be a hybrid with our native iguana – the Lesser Antillean Iguana) in Dominica- the last stronghold of our native iguana, we are working tirelessly with the Forestry, Wildlife, and Parks Division to get assistance for surveys and have begun raising awareness on the dangers of having this species through news releases and presentations. Protecting the two large nesting sites of our native Lesser Antillean Iguana is also necessary for this species survival in Dominica.
    - The Lesser Antillean Iguana will serve as a flagship, umbrella species which will serve to protect other native and endemic species along our coast
- Crapaud Conservation
    - With Dominica being the last stronghold for one of the world's largest frogs, WildDominique together with the Zoological Society of London have begun discussing the potential of a protected conservation management area for the species
    - WildDominique is currently conducting an island-wide population count for the Crapaud to compare historical records with current figures in order to monitor conservation success
- #LivingWild
    - This will be our social media campaign to get Dominicans on island and abroad and visitors to become inspired by the natural beauty of the Nature Isle. It is our hope that through this we can partner with agencies like the Discover Dominica Authority to create a photography and film competition.
- Dominica Traveller's Wildlife Guide
    - Creating a comprehensive book on the popular wildlife found in Dominica for the enjoyment and benefit of both locals and tourists
    - This guide could serve as a funding source to be allocated to a project decided on

We are looking for funding to start up a restoration voluntourism activity, for iguana surveys and outreach, for other species-based projects, and to support the creation of the Dominica Traveller's Wildlife Guide.

Living Free

Striving to be a climate resilient country by freeing ourselves from our dependence on Styrofoam, plastic, and other non-biodegradable products, from non-renewable energy, and from our dependence on outside resources through working with communities to realize our potential to be clean, green, and free.

- Beach Cleanup Campaign
    - Every other week starting from mid-February 2018, WildDominique has been rallying people across Dominica in an effort to cleanup our beaches and raise awareness on the amount of pollution along our coasts. We aim to show our fellow citizens firsthand the dangers of litter and the effort it takes to clean it up versus properly disposing of the trash. Currently, WildDominique hosts monthly beach cleanups engaging different local organisations and surrounding communities. These cleanups have resulted in our partnership with SALT/Our Salty Passports and Recycle Rebuild.
- Trash2Art
    - This initiative came about from several beach cleanups that we have already conducted and are continuing to do. Instead of throwing away the trash and having it potentially end up back along the coast, we have teamed up with local artists to create art from garbage. The artwork will then be displayed to the public as a means of raising awareness on the garbage situation at hand. We will also be hosting a workshop to show the public how everyday disposable products can be turned into art or. It is our hope that this art exhibit will also show the dire need for a recycling program on island and a change in policy when it comes to non-biodegradable products in the Nature Isle. Our main partners and host will be Vetivert Art Gallery and local artist SHADI.
- Recycled Art Centre
    - We believe with the proper training, Dominica could take its trash, recycle and refurbish it to be sold on the market which will reduce the amount of garbage in the landfill. It is our aim to recycle trash in Dominica by turning it into art (e.g. jewelry and wall decorations) and everyday household items like baskets, coasters, trays, and clocks. The profit made from these items will provide self-funding for our conservation projects. We also aim to conduct workshops every year to teach adults and children how to recycle used products like toilet paper roles, plastic bottles, newspapers, and glass. An outreach outdoor section will be made to publicly display art pieces created out of trash and accompanying facts that would positively capture the audience's attention.
- Workshops for communities and businesses
    - Educating our local people on simple, everyday things we can do to green up our daily lives and work environments

We are looking for funding to assist with a recycling program in Dominica and for building space to host the Recycled Art Centre. We are also seeking funds for our Beach Cleanup Campaign outreach program. Furthermore, we are interested in working with organisations who sell biodegradable products at a competitive price.

We would like to thank you in advance for being interested in WildDominique and supporting an environmentally friendly Dominica. If you have any questions or comments regarding our non-profit organisation, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

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