



**WILDLIFE ACT FOCUSED CONSERVATION:
SEYCHELLES INFORMATION**

CONSERVING PARADISE

Work in the Seychelles as part of a dedicated conservation and research team on a Private Island paradise. Participants live and work on the exclusive North Island in the Seychelles, considered by many to be the most beautiful Archipelago in the world with its luminous white beaches, granite outcrops and azure oceans.

The project focuses on 3 key aspects:

- Endangered Species monitoring
- Marine Conservation
- Ecosystem Restoration



PROJECT OVERVIEW

When North Island was abandoned as a plantation in the 1970's following the collapse of the coconut industry, many unwanted and intrusive species of flora and fauna remained behind – such as coconuts, casuarina, cows, rats, pigs, Indian Mynah birds, cats, barn owls and an especially invasive weed called lantana. After the alarm bell had been sounded by prominent ecologists, the island's owners undertook the challenge of not only reversing the Island's decline but of taking the long road towards the restoration of the Island to its former glory.

A cornerstone of this bold initiative has been the “Noah's Ark” concept by which tortoises and certain species of birds are gradually being re-introduced to the Island along with such indigenous trees as takamama, badamier and the legendary coco –de-mer palm.

The work on North Island covered a range of conservation orientated projects, spanning both terrestrial and marine aspects. The conservation eco-tourists will get involved in all the activities of the Environmental Department, from fieldwork to data entry.

The current main priorities and activities are Turtle Monitoring and turtle nest monitoring, Giant Aldabra tortoise monitoring, Alien vegetation control, projects related to the re-introduction of Endemic bird species, and Marine Monitoring by snorkeling along Coral reefs. These activities will take up most of the day.

PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

- **Duration: 4 - 8 weeks**
- **Age: 21 – 65 (in good physical condition)**



THE TEAM

Dominique Dina (Environment Manager) Elliot Mokhobo (Environment Supervisor); Angelin Saunders (Environment Groundsman).

Dominique Dina is the newest member of the North Island Environment team and previously worked with the Seychelles' Ministry of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, focussing on turtle monitoring across the beaches of the main island of Mahé.

Angelin Saunders is another long-term North Island family member and has been on the island for over 15 years. For many years Angelin assisted the Environment team in many different conservation activities, from conducting nightly turtle patrols for our elusive Green turtles to assisting with terrapin monitoring in the marshes, while still working for the Maintenance Department. He is affectionately called the “turtle whisperer” as he has an uncanny ability to know when a turtle is on the beach. His passion has become his job (although Ange will never call what he does “work”) when he joined the Environment team full time in 2020.



WHO SHOULD JOIN?

We seek participants with a keen interest in Tropical Island conservation and ecology. Participants on our North Island project need to be quick learners and be prepared to work independently in the field after only a few days' induction.

It is essential that our Eco-tourist participants be physically fit, (being able to hike up to 5 km per day on deep sands and hilly terrain) and have a good sense of observing animals and birds. Eco-tourist participants must be prepared and able to perform physical work in high temperatures (30–35 degrees Celsius), at times with high humidity (up to 80%).

[Please note that the North Island team are unfortunately unable to accept any participants who have severe allergies to bees, wasps, or insect bites.]

NOTE: Since we form part of the Research Team on the Island, our Eco-tourist participants will be expected to adhere to and comply with existing Staff Grooming standards on North Island.

In keeping with their Guidelines, our Eco-tourist participants may not have any visible face, neck or hand tattoos; or facial piercings. Hair should not be dyed with bright, psychedelic or multi colours. Facial hair is permitted if it is short and neatly trimmed.



VIRTUAL INTERVIEW SCREENING

Those applicants who fulfil the above basic requirements for participation, will be required to conduct an online Zoom interview (in English) with a member of our conservation team, to ensure that the applicant is a good fit for the project. (Don't worry! we're very friendly, and the interview is really just to meet you before you meet the team in person on the Island).

Within the 2 days following the interview, applicants will be notified of their approval. We can then email the payment instructions for a deposit payment, to secure the placement.

ENVIRONMENTAL TASKS

- . Monitoring of **Green** (*Chelonia midas*) and **Hawksbill Sea Turtle** (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) populations:
 - Daily patrols are recommended to start at 6am, followed by breakfast, and then continuing the patrols afterward.
 - Hatched turtle nest excavations – shell counts of old nests (when needed)
 - Translocations of nests at risk of being washed away (when needed)
- . Monitoring of the **Aldabra Giant Tortoise** (*Aldabrachelys gigantea*) population:
- . Finding and recording GPS locations of tortoise locations for territory identification and movement patterns across the island (this will include walking through the marshes, in the forest and off the island paths).
- . **Rehabilitation of the endemic vegetation** of North Island.
- . **Vegetation rehabilitation work:** (activities depend on seasons):
 - Coconut seedling removal in rehabilitated areas
 - Cultivating of seedlings in the tree nursery
 - Planting of indigenous trees in rehabilitated areas
 - Alien vegetation removal, focusing on the 3 hills on the island
 - Marsh vegetation clearing (dry season only)
- . **Snorkelling along the coral reefs** of the island in order to compile a photographic ID database of fish occurring on the reefs.
- . Collecting and digitizing the oceanic trash that washes onto the beaches of North Island. This data is entered into an online database managed by The Ocean Conservancy to assess trends in global trash movements around the world's oceans.

- **Monitoring beach movement patterns** on the three beaches of the island by means of photographs and by using Abney levels.
- **Digitalize the field fauna and flora database** of North Island.



WHAT TO EXPECT: CLIMATE & ACCOMMODATION

CLIMATE:

Seychelles is an ideal destination all year-round, as it is always warm and does not reach extremes of heat or cold. The temperature rarely drops below 24°C or rises above 34°C. It is generally cooler when the north-west trade winds blow during the months of November to March. The sea is generally calm and the weather warm and humid, with average winds of 15 – 22 kilometers per hour.

A larger amount of the annual rainfall falls during the months of December to February, compared to other months. This generally occurs in short bursts rather than prolonged rain. It is also fairly cloudy at times during those months.

The months of May to October bring drier, cooler weather, and livelier seas and winds of 19 – 37 kilometers per hour are common.

ACCOMMODATION:

Two participants will live in a shared-accommodation house and will have opportunities to mix with conservation staff after hours, if they so choose. The house consists of 2 bedrooms, 1 lounge and 1 bathroom. The house has air-conditioning in the shared lounge and standing fans in each room. There are mosquito nets provided in the bedrooms within the Eco-tourist house. As a tropical island, there will of course be insects including mosquitoes, cockroaches, spiders, beetles etc. They may occasionally come into the house as well. Eco-tourists need to take responsibility for cleaning the house.



MEALS:

Participants eat together in staff canteen – all meals provided (3 meals a day).

Breakfast usually includes a variety of cereals, eggs (either scrambled, fried or boiled), baked beans, a meat item (sausage or bacon etc.), porridge, and bread and jams, spreads etc.

Lunch and Dinner are buffet style with staples such as fish, rice and lentils provided every day. A second meat option is provided at every meal together with vegetables and various salads. Local and international cuisine is cooked.

The staff shop is open 4 times a week: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, from 6–7pm. Items for sale include ice-cream, juices, wine, beer, cigarettes, various snacks and toiletries. Alcohol is for sale on all days, with a maximum of 4 alcoholic beverages per person per shop day.

There is clean drinking water available on the island and a water cooler with purified water is provided in the Eco-tourist house.

INTERNET ACCESS:

WiFi is available in the Environment Office all the time; the staff use it for work and it is not password protected, so participants are welcome to use it. We merely ask that you do not abuse it by downloading movies, being on Facebook all the time etc.

There is mobile phone coverage on North Island – Cable & Wireless. This is the only Seychelles provider which works on North Island. Your international roaming however may not support Cable & Wireless (depends on individual Cell phone Providers).

LEISURE TIME:

The assigned staff beach on North Island provides the perfect opportunity to go swimming, snorkelling or even a sun-downer after work in the afternoons. The staff beach is not suitable for swimming and snorkelling during the South monsoon period (May/June to November), however the Guest beach (East Beach) can be used for activities during this period after 4pm each day.

Equipment such as surfboards, paddleboards and kayaks are available for use every day after 4pm on East Beach (provided that no Island Guests are utilizing them).

Participants can expect to work 6 days a week, with a rest day on Fridays.

You can choose to spend your rest day on North Island, or you can accumulate your rest days to leave the island 3 days early at the end of your time on the project to visit other islands. This way you can explore the Seychelles while you contribute towards conservation, on a beautiful private island!





IMPORTANT NOTE!

North Island is one of the world's most exclusive 7 star resorts where guests pay a high fee for privacy (upwards of 6000 Euro per night). With this in mind you will not be able to use the guest beaches (West Beach and East Beach) for relaxation purposes and will not be able to make use of the guest facilities on the beaches (sun loungers etc.). You will not be able to use the guest swimming pools or eat in the guest restaurant. Your contribution to the conservation work on the island means that you will be a part of the staff on the island.

You may also not be seen without a staff uniform around the island (the only areas where personal clothes may be worn are at the volunteer house, in the staff village, and at the staff beach).

*PLEASE NOTE!

G-string bikini bottoms are STRICTLY NOT ALLOWED (including on the staff beach). As members of the conservation team on the island, our staff and volunteers should always be appropriately dressed in order to uphold our professional standards. We thank you for your understanding and co-operation in this regard.



STARTING DATES

We accept a maximum of **2 participants** at any given time.

[There are two rooms in the Eco-tourist house, on North Island.]

Participants arrive on North Island on a **MONDAY** and will need to depart 25 days later (on a **FRIDAY**) in order to allow for the time required for participants to receive their COVID PCR departure test results, before flying. The starting dates are as follows:

2022

02 May 2022
30 May 2022
27 June 2022
25 July 2022
22 August 2022
19 September 2022
17 October 2022
14 November 2022
12 December 2022

2023

09 January 2023
06 February 2023
06 March 2023
03 April 2023
01 May 2023
29 May 2023
26 June 2023
24 July 2023
21 August 2023
18 September 2023
16 October 2023
13 November 2023
11 December 2023



WHAT WILL IT COST?

Our rate per person, for 4 weeks, is €2500 EUR.

The participation fee covers your accommodation in the eco-tourist research house for the time that you will spend on North Island and your 3 meals a day in the staff canteen; as well as to contribute to our project running costs and thereby towards the on-going conservation efforts on the island in restoring the biodiversity; and the unique experience of being part of the team, and performing the conservation activities on the island each day.

Your flight costs are separate to this fee.



HOW DO I GET THERE?

ARRIVAL FLIGHTS:

The main island of Mahé, is home to the “Seychelles International Airport”. All travellers need to use the Seychelles Travel Portal, named "SEYCHELLES TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION" (either via the mobile app or the website), to gain entry into the Seychelles. <https://seychelles.govtas.com>

Please note that no travellers will be permitted to travel to Seychelles from a Red-listed country. In order to enter the Seychelles, all travellers must provide a **Negative COVID-19 PCR test (no older than 72 hours prior to departure)** upon arrival at the Seychelles International Airport.

North Island will provide a **proof of accommodation letter** for the duration of the Eco-tourist's stay on North Island. Eco-tourists will need to arrange their own accommodation bookings if overnighing on Mahé Island prior to their Monday arrival. Given the number of COVID-19 cases on Mahé Island, **participants may not spend more than 1 night on Mahé Island prior to their arrival on North Island** – i.e. participants must land in the Seychelles on Sunday or early Monday morning, in time to catch the 09:00 boat to North Island on Monday. (North Island will arrange the boat transfers to and from the main island of Mahé.)



HOW DO I GET TO NORTH ISLAND?

ARRIVAL:

The staff boat which will take you from Mahé Island to North Island, is the North Island staff boat "Elle", which leaves from the Marine Charter Harbour (in Victoria) at 09:00 am on a Monday morning and takes approximately 1 hour to reach the island. This boat is free of charge, and we will make sure your name is placed on the list for the boat.

The only days when participants can **ARRIVE** by boat to the Island are Mondays. Eco-tourists must **depart from North Island on a FRIDAY**, in order to catch the staff boat from North Island back to Mahé Island.

The early boat time means that you **EITHER** need to book a flight that arrives at Seychelles International Airport **very early on the Monday morning**, OR, one that **arrives on the Sunday**, to ensure you are in time for your Monday morning ferry trip to North Island.



OVERNIGHT STAYS ON MAHÉ:

“Hilltop Boutique Hotel”

Address: Serret Road, St Louis, Victoria.

Website: <https://www.booking.com/hotel/sc/hilltop-boutique-victoria.en-gb.html>

If you do NOT want to stay at the above listed option, the PRE-PAID taxi transfers will ONLY COVER ACCOMMODATION THAT IS **WITHIN 10km of the airport in the DIRECTION OF VICTORIA** (where the Inter-Island Quay is located).

Due to the traffic issues on a Monday morning, when we have to collect various participants and get them to the Marine Charter Harbour in time for the staff boat to North Island, we do ask participants to ensure that they **ONLY BOOK ACCOMMODATION THAT IS WITHIN 10km of the airport, in the direction of Victoria** (where the staff boat docks at the “Marine Charter Harbour”).

GETTING FROM MAHÉ ISLAND TO NORTH ISLAND

NOTE: Beau Vallon and De Quincy, although not far from Victoria, adds anywhere from 30 min to an hour extra driving due to the roads and traffic. There is only 1 road to and from Beau Vallon, over a very large mountain - and thus the traffic is terrible. A taxi transfer to these areas is **DOUBLE** the cost of a taxi to Victoria.

If you book accommodation in Beau Vallon, or De Quincy, you will be responsible for covering the cost of the taxi transfers to and from that accommodation. Participants may also not book any accommodation on the Western side of the Island, since as this also always causes a traffic issue.

North Island staff will arrange for a pre-paid taxi driver to transport Wildlife ACT participants from the Airport to the guesthouse when you arrive, and then from the guesthouse to the North Island staff boat the next day (provided the accommodation is within 10km of the airport, and in the surrounds of Victoria).

There is no fee charge for the staff boat between Mahé Island and North Island.

When you arrive on the island, your luggage will be placed into a rat-proof trailer and taken to the Rat Room for inspection. A security officer will inspect your luggage after which you will go to the Eco-tourist House to settle in.



DEPARTURE

Eco-tourists are permitted to travel further around the Seychelles after they have left North Island, if they so wish. If your home country requires you to obtain a **negative COVID-19 PCR test in order to return home**, the COVID-19 PCR tests for return travel are conducted on Mahé Island.

Depending on the time of your weekend flight, you will need to depart North Island on Friday. This is to allow enough time for a PCR test to be conducted. Various prices of tests are available, depending on the length of time you wish to receive your results.

Please be aware that a rapid test (results in less than 6 hours) is 3 times more expensive than the regular (24 hours) test.

NEED TO KNOW - (VISAS, VACCINATIONS, CURRENCY)

VISA REQUIREMENTS:

There are **NO VISA REQUIREMENTS** to enter Seychelles.

The following documents must be shown in order to obtain immigration clearance at the Seychelles International Airport:

1. A passport with more than 6 month's validity
2. Return or onward flight ticket
3. Proof of any overnight accommodation on Mahé Island; including contact details.

We will also provide a **Letter of Invitation from the General Manager of North Island**, stating that you will be joining our project. This is sufficient for entry according to the agreement with the Department of Immigration.

VACCINATIONS:

There are NO compulsory/required vaccinations for travel to the Seychelles, although vaccinations for Typhoid and Hepatitis A, are sometimes recommended for travellers worldwide. It is your choice whether to get these vaccinations. They are not compulsory.

A Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is ONLY required for travellers arriving from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission, or for travellers who have transited through the airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission.

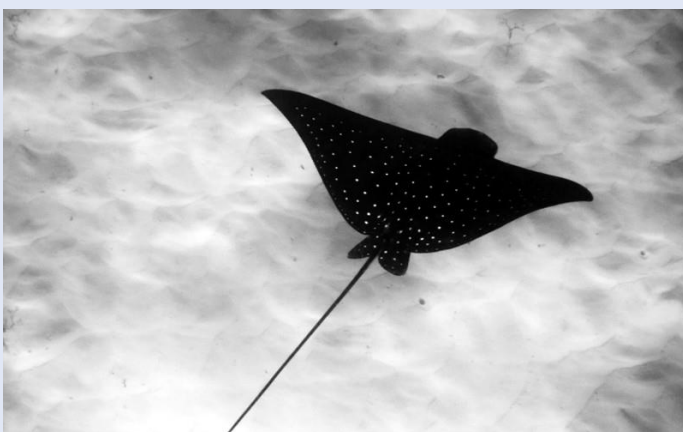
There is NO risk of contracting Malaria in Seychelles, given that the Anopheles mosquito does not exist in the Seychelles. Mosquitoes can be very abundant on the island (depending on time of year) so it is advised to bring plenty of repellent and antihistamine creams or tablets, if you are sensitive to bites.

CURRENCY:

When travelling in the Seychelles you will need Seychelles Rupee, but the island accepts most currencies (USD, EURO, Pounds, Rupees) and credit cards to pay for staff shop accounts. There are Foreign exchange places at the airport if you would like to change money.

COVID-19 & TRAVEL TO THE SEYCHELLES:

Eco-tourists will need to use the **Seychelles Travel Portal** (either via the app or the website) to gain entry into the Seychelles. They will need to provide a **Negative COVID-19 PCR test** (no older than 72 hours prior to departure) and may not travel to Seychelles from a Red-listed country.



North Island **will provide a proof of accommodation letter** for the duration of the Eco-tourist's stay on North Island. Eco-tourists will need to arrange all other accommodation bookings (for example overnighting on Mahé Island prior to their Monday arrival).

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS ON NORTH ISLAND :

All Eco-tourists will be required to adhere to North Island's COVID-19 protocols and will therefore not be allowed to socialise with North Island associates during their first week on the island.

The North Island nurse will perform regular check-ups on all Eco-tourists during their first week on the island and they will need to report any symptoms that may develop during their stay on the island.

COVID-19 PCR TEST FOR DEPARTURE FROM SEYCHELLES :

If your home country requires you to obtain a negative COVID-19 PCR test in order to return home, COVID-19 PCR tests for return travel are conducted on EDEN ISLAND (a small man-made island connected by road to Mahé Island).

Eco-tourists need to allow 24 hours for conducting the PCR test and receiving the results, before your scheduled departure flight.

Eco-tourists can book a test with either "Euro Medical" or "Seychelles Medical" – (both based on Eden Island). Their prices differ depending on the required length of time that the test will take to be completed. "Seychelles Medical" on Eden Island offers a test result within 2–4 hours, at a cost of 350 Euro.

NOTE! North Island has advised that Eco-tourists NOT book with "Seychelles Medical" with the expectation that they will come to perform the test on North Island. This company apparently advertises on its website that it will visit any hotel (including North Island) and that there is no additional cost.

This is in fact not true, according to experience – when asked, the company will not provide its own transport to North Island.

Transport to North Island will have to be arranged by the Eco-tourist: i.e. booking a boat transfer or a helicopter trip to bring the nurse to the island to take the swab (at the personal expense of the Eco-tourist). This is **EXTREMELY** expensive.



WHAT TO BRING (PACKING LIST)

Participants will be issued a **UNIFORM** to wear while working on the island. Branded Golf shirts will be provided, but participants will need to bring their own shorts, in any of the following plain colours: black/beige/white/turquoise (no patterns or pictures). Participants can also bring long pants in these colours. Shorts must be 10–15cm above the knee for women (no very short shorts will be permitted).

The staff uniform is **COMPULSORY** at **ALL TIMES**, unless in the staff village or on the staff beach.

The only clothes you need to bring are for personal use (during off-time and for if you would like to travel to the mainland). Do not bring excessive amounts of clothes, you will not need them.



For your time on North Island, you will need:

- A broad-rimmed hat, beige/khaki in colour.
- Lightweight waterproof jacket.
- Please bring good hiking/walking shoes (loafers are not suitable for hiking in the forest), and flip flops which are easily removed for beach walking.
- Swimwear – **PLEASE NOTE!**

G-string bikini bottoms are **STRICTLY NOT ALLOWED** (including on the staff beach). As members of the conservation team on the island, our staff and volunteers should always be appropriately dressed in order to uphold our professional standards. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this regard.

- Snorkelling gear if you already own some, but we will provide gear for those who do not have
- Sunscreen lotion (SPF 50 or higher) and a lip balm with SPF. Where possible, please use reef-friendly products.
- Sunglasses with UVA protection.
- A large (2 litre or more capacity) water bottle to take with you during the day – it is your responsibility to fill it and keep yourself well hydrated.
- A small rucksack to take with you daily to hold your sunscreen, water bottle, camera, etc.
- Camera and lots of film or a large memory card.
- A flashlight/headlamp with a red light function. We do not use white lights on the beaches at night as it disturbs adult turtles and confuses hatchlings.
- Spare batteries (for your torch/camera etc.) We encourage the use of rechargeable batteries, as opposed to disposable batteries which are not environmentally friendly.
- Plug adaptors/converters.
- Mosquito repellent is available in the Staff Shop, but if you are sensitive to bites, bring a strong brand
- A basic supply of personal first aid items (such as plasters for blisters, painkillers, eye drops, cold capsules, allergy meds, diarrhoea/nausea tablets, etc.).
- Your personal toiletries (shampoo/conditioner/soap/toothpaste etc.).
- Any chronic / long-term medications you may require (enough to last you).
- If you wear glasses or contact lenses, it is advisable to bring spare/back-up options.
- A good book or two, or something to keep you occupied during your relaxing time. Travel-sized board games, cards etc. are also great fun.
- A travel journal, should you wish to record your experience.

- Spending money for the staff shop. Staff shop accounts run on a tab system which is paid prior to departing the island (the island accepts most currencies, USD GBP, EURO etc. and also has credit card facilities).
- All bed linens & bath towels are provided, but please bring your own swimming towel(s)
- Wine, champagne, beer and cider is available to purchase in the staff shop), but if you prefer hard tac then you should bring your own. One 1L bottle per participant.

NOTE: LAUNDRY

The island will wash any uniform items which are provided to you, however, you must wash your own personal clothes. There are washing machines for use and washing powder can be purchased from the Staff Shop. You do not need to bring any detergents with you. You do not need to bring a large supply of personal clothes for the island, since you will be in your staff uniform for most of the day.



CONTACT US:

- Email: info@wildlifeact.com
- Phone: +27 (0) 87 806 3293
- Website: www.wildlifeact.com

Please scan the QR code for more information.

