

CURIEUSE

ISLAND CONSERVATION



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CURIEUSE ISLAND CONSERVATION

Join one of our flagship research projects to develop hands-on practical fieldwork experience or complete an independent research project as part of your undergraduate or postgraduate dissertation.

The island of Curieuse is mostly uninhabited within a national park, and the GVI research base is right on the beach at Anse St José. GVI is the only research organisation to do work with sicklefin lemon sharks in the Seychelles and the hawksbill sea turtles. Also notable are some of the last remaining healthy mangrove systems within the inner islands (6 of the 7 mangrove species are found on Curieuse), making this island a botanical gem.



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RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

HUB OBJECTIVES INCLUDE

- Collect data on the growth/hatchling and nest success of hawksbill turtles (September - March) for Seychelles National Park Authority (SNPA).
- Conduct capture, release, and recapture studies of sicklefin lemon shark populations to understand their population size, body size, and body growth parameters (September to February) for SNPA.
- Monitor the abundance and diversity of fish species around the island of Curieuse on behalf of SNPA (April-May).



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RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- Conduct an annual giant tortoise census to record key measurements on growth and distribution (conducted April - September) and monitor behaviours exhibited by captive juveniles for SNPA.
- Gain greater knowledge on mangrove abundance and distribution patterns by investing the seedling recruitment, mortality and species distribution across mangroves (bi-annually February and August) on behalf of SNPA.
- Conduct beach profiling studies to monitor changes in beach width, slope and area to contribute to a long-term data monitoring annual changes in erosion and accretion (year-round).



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FLAGSHIP RESEARCH PROJECTS

TURTLE CONSERVATION

Site: Beaches around Curieuse

Research focus: Analyse the growth/hatchling and nest success

Methodology: Survey (record data on nesting turtles and tagging females, monitoring beaches for signs of nesting activity, marking nests when locating them)

Partner: SNPA

MANGROVE DISTRIBUTION AND DIVERSITY

Site: Along the local coastline

Research focus: Investigate seedling recruitment and mortality and determine species distribution

Methodology: Transects

Partner: SNPA



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FLAGSHIP RESEARCH PROJECTS

BEACH PROFILING

Site: Beaches around Curieuse

Research focus: Erosion and accretion
over time

Methodology: Measuring angle of slopes
of beach at various points (using an abney
level reader)

Partner: SNPA



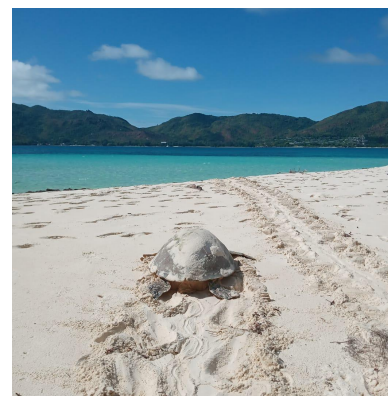
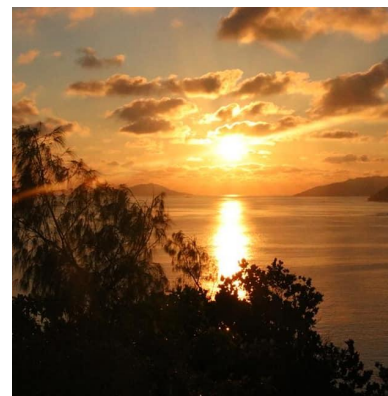
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INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

HUB TOPICS INCLUDE

- Turtles
- Palm endemic species
- Marine species including sharks and other large, shy reef fish
- Lemon sharks
- Mangroves
- Seagrass and sea urchins

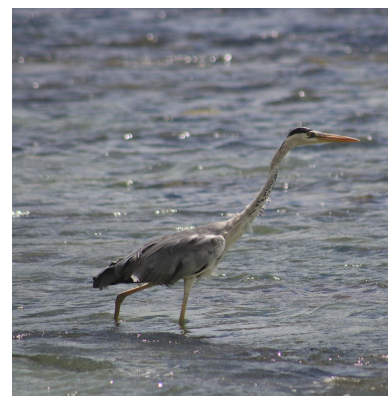


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INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Sea cucumbers
- Gecko distribution on coco de mer
- Environmental awareness
- Beach profiling and erosion control
- Marine plastic pollution



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EXISTING DATASETS

AVAILABLE DATASETS INCLUDE

- Data on turtle growth rate, hatchling success (nest and beach success) from 2011.
- Mangrove distribution and diversity data from 2011 onwards.
- Data on tortoise growth rate and distribution from 2011.
- Fish abundance and diversity data from 2011.
- Beach profiling data (inconsistent) from 2011.
- Dataset on lemon shark growth rate, movement patterns, population estimates from 2016.



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TARGET SPECIES

MARINE SPECIES

- Hawksbill turtle
- Green turtle
- Sicklefin lemon shark
- Predatory and scavenger fish
- Butterfly fish
- Shark (orders Orectolobiformes and Carcharhiniforme)
- Eel (family Muraenidae)
- Stingray (family Dasyatidae)

MANGROVES

- Rhizophora mucronata
- Avicennia marina
- Bruguiera gymnorrhiza
- Xylocarpus granatum
- Xylocarpus moluccensis
- Lumnitzera racemosa

TERRESTRIAL SPECIES

- Aldabra giant tortoises



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