

Annual Report

2024





Seychelles Conservation and Climate
Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT)
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Cover: Peter Verhoog/ SIF

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Foreword from the CEO



Marie-May Jeremie

Chief Executive Officer,
Seychelles Conservation and
Climate Adaptation Trust
(SeyCCAT)

As we reflect on 2024, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the remarkable progress SeyCCAT has made in advancing marine conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable blue economy development in Seychelles. This year's Annual Impact Report captures not only the breadth of our work but the depth of our commitment to safeguarding our ocean heritage for future generations.

Despite facing significant organizational transitions and the increasing complexity of global funding landscapes, our small but dedicated team rose to the challenge. We navigated staffing changes with resilience, strengthened internal systems, and deepened our partnerships across sectors and borders. The result: over 60 active projects, spanning marine protected areas, sustainable fisheries, coastal rehabilitation, and climate adaptation—each contributing to our vision of blue prosperity.

Our Theory of Change continues to guide us, reminding us that transformative impact is only possible through inclusive collaboration, evidence-based decision-making, and local empowerment. From pioneering coral reef insurance mechanisms to integrating seagrass ecosystems into national climate policy, SeyCCAT has remained at the forefront of innovation and leadership.

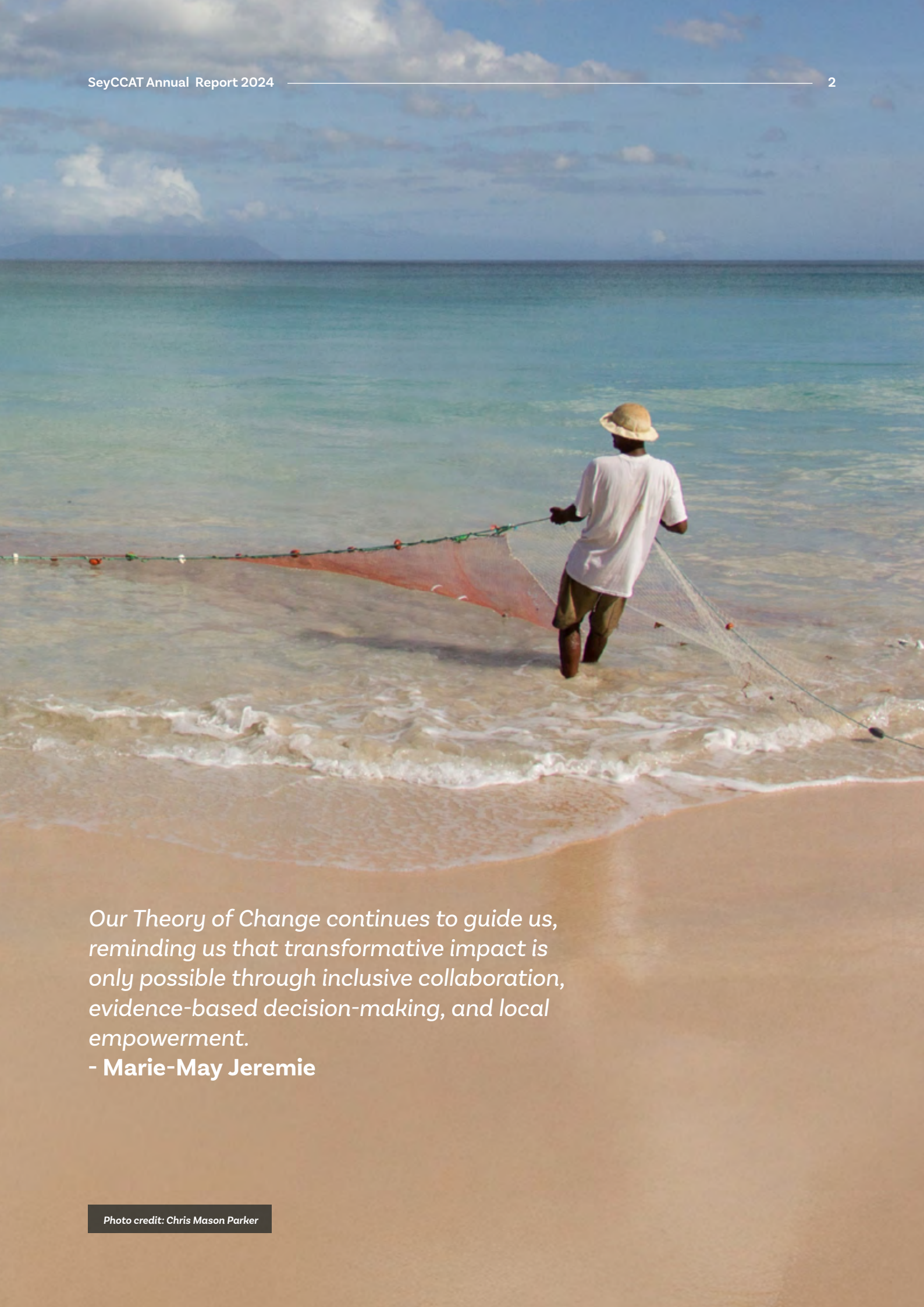
We are especially proud of the strides made in community engagement and capacity building. Whether through youth-led coastal restoration, fisher empowerment initiatives, or public storytelling via our documentary premiere, we have seen firsthand how local voices and actions shape national progress.

Looking ahead to 2025, SeyCCAT is poised to scale its impact. With the launch of the Ocean's Resolve programme, finalization of the Marine Spatial Plan, and new funding partnerships on the horizon, we are entering a pivotal phase of growth and strategic focus. Our commitment to transparency, inclusivity, and sustainability remains unwavering.

To our grantees, partners, donors, and community champions, thank you. Your trust, collaboration, and shared vision make this journey possible. Together, we are proving that small island nations can lead boldly in ocean stewardship and climate action.

Let us continue to build a legacy of resilience, innovation, and hope—anchored in the deep blue heart of Seychelles.

Let us move forward with pride in what we've achieved, and determination for what's next.



Our Theory of Change continues to guide us, reminding us that transformative impact is only possible through inclusive collaboration, evidence-based decision-making, and local empowerment.

- Marie-May Jeremie

The Secretariat



Marie-May Jeremie
Chief Executive Officer



Vania Robert
**Finance and Human
Resource Manager**



Helena Sims
MSP Project Manager



Alain de Comarmond
**Fundraising & Partnership
Manager**



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**Monitoring and Evaluation
Officer**



Adrian Monthy
Projects Coordinator



Daniella Farabeau
**Accounts & Administrative
Officer**



Anna-Louisa Dogley
**Communications and
PR Officer**

Brief Overview of SeyCCAT's Mission and Strategic Objectives

SeyCCAT is an independent, public-private trust fund established in 2015 to advance policies and investment around marine conservation, the blue economy, and climate change. We strategically invest in ocean stakeholders to generate new learning, bold action, and sustainable blue prosperity in Seychelles.

Our mission is to support the stewardship of Seychelles' oceans and islands, ensuring they generate long-term benefits and blue prosperity for the nation across our 1.35 million km² Exclusive Economic Zone.

Current State of Marine Conservation in Seychelles

Seychelles continues to lead global marine conservation efforts, with SeyCCAT playing a crucial role in supporting the implementation of the Marine Spatial Plan and strengthening marine protected area management. The nation's commitment to protecting 30% of its waters by 2030 remains on track, with SeyCCAT's projects providing essential scientific knowledge and community engagement through our diverse project portfolio.

Our Theory of Change

SeyCCAT's work is guided by our Theory of Change, which recognizes that sustainable ocean stewardship requires:

- Capacity building and knowledge transfer to local stakeholders
- Collaborative partnerships between government, NGOs, and local communities
- Innovative financing mechanisms for conservation
- Supporting evidence-based decision making through research and monitoring
- Promoting innovative approaches to marine resource management and blue economy development

Guided by a Theory of Change, SeyCCAT's work in 2024 was centred around achieving transformative impacts under five thematic areas:

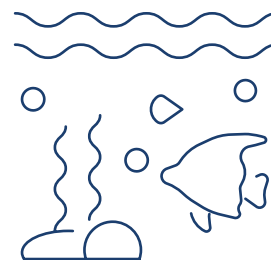
- Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)
- Sustainable Fisheries
- Rehabilitation of Coastal Areas
- Climate Resilience
- Blue Economy Innovation

This report provides a comprehensive narrative and data-driven review of outcomes delivered during the reporting period.



Impact by Thematic Area

Marine Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation



Programme Overview:

SeyCCAT's work in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) is supported by multiple funding streams, including the Blue Grants Fund (BGF), Blue Nature Alliance (BNA), Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Oceans 5, and the Scale-up Fund under the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP). Investments target research, restoration, monitoring, co-management, and improved governance across the MPA network.

Key Activities and Outputs

BGF Projects Active in 2024 Supporting MPAs and Biodiversity Conservation:

In 2024, SeyCCAT supported 21 BGF projects under Strategic Objective 1, clustered under the following focus areas:

- **Scientific Research & Baselines:** Coastal mapping, biodiversity studies, spawning aggregations, dugong populations, and habitat assessments (e.g. UniSey, Alphonse Foundation, SIF, Farquhar Foundation).
- **Monitoring & Infrastructure:** Coral aquaculture facilities, radar surveillance, ocean data buoys, and centralised marine data systems (e.g. Nature Seychelles, IDC, OceanLabs, SPGA).
- **Community Engagement & Education:** Marine storybooks, awareness campaigns, youth content, and ESMP implementation (e.g. MCSS, Richard Assary, Marketing Guru).
- **Governance & Impact Assessment:** Cruise tourism impact studies, marine species interaction research, and sustainable financing assessments (e.g. SSTF, Kalsey Belle).
- **Ecosystem Restoration:** Invasive species control, turtle, and tortoise reproductive assessments (e.g. Desroches Foundation, Alessia Lavigne).

Full project titles and grantee details are available in Appendix A: BGF Projects – Strategic Objective 1.

Oceans 5 Support: Enhancing MPA Co Management and Planning

The Oceans 5 initiative supported the development and improvement of management plans and co-management frameworks for key MPAs, including:

Denis Island

Management plan finalised by Bee Ecological with stakeholder consultations conducted. The plan and summary were submitted and uploaded to the MSP website, and contract deliverables were completed.

D'Arros & St Joseph Atoll

Draft management plans were developed using the updated MPA template. MACCE and Starling provided guidance on enforcement and governance. Finalisation progressed under MCSS leadership.

Aldabra Special Reserve

SIF adapted UNESCO MPA planning tools to progress Aldabra's updated management strategy, supported by Oceans 5.

MACCE

Oversaw legal review processes, co-management frameworks, and business planning components for these MPAs. AE Law was engaged to produce legal manuals and draft agreements for authorised officers.

MCSS

Updated their site-specific management plan and business planning, raising key questions on enforcement and sustainable financing.

Public Engagement

A national case study on Seychelles' marine debt conversion and MPA success was published. The accompanying documentary premiered in Q3 2024, amplifying public understanding of MPA governance and Oceans 5's role.

Blue Nature Alliance (BNA)

- Board approved projects in September 2024 aligned with Strategic Objective 1.
- Support for MPA governance frameworks and sustainable financing tools.
- Ongoing development of Seychelles Ocean Authority.
- Support to effective management of 441,513 km of ocean territory.
- Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF):
- Multi-year Ecosystem-based Adaptation project (2022–2027).
- Support to grantees including ICS, PCA, SIAH, and IOTA.
- Site visits and rat eradication implementation (e.g. Curieuse).
- Regional technical coordination via bi-monthly meetings.

Scale-up Fund (SMSP)

- Finalisation of the Marine Spatial Plan and Allowable Activities Tables (May 2024).
- Support for Denis Island Sustainable Use Management Plan.
- Legal framework preparation for Seychelles Ocean Agency with MACCE.

Outcomes and Impact Achieved

- Management plans finalised or drafted for Denis Island, D'Arros & St Joseph, and Aldabra SR.
- Governance of 5 Sustainable Use MPAs enhanced: Alphonse, Farquhar, Amirantes, Remote MPAs, and Fregate.
- Strengthened management of 4 Marine National Parks: Curieuse, Aldabra, Bird Island, and Baie Ternay.
- Institutional collaboration between SeyCCAT, MACCE, SIF, and MCSS strengthened through joint planning.
- Public engagement expanded through documentary and case study visibility.
- Conservation infrastructure and data systems improved.

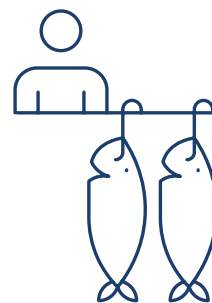
Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Equipment procurement delays continued to affect implementation timelines.
- Coordination and enforcement responsibilities require clearer outlining between MACCE, SFA, and partner institutions.
- Co-management processes remain resource-intensive but offer long-term benefits.
- Sustained funding and knowledge-sharing are essential for future MPA effectiveness.



Photo credit: Dillys Pouponeau

Sustainable Fisheries



Programme Overview:

SeyCCAT's sustainable fisheries work is delivered through a combination of Blue Grants Fund (BGF) projects, the IKI WIO Blue Economy Project, Oceans 5-funded technical work, and the fisheries components of the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP). These efforts collectively aim to strengthen scientific understanding, build fisher capacity, and support evidence-based and inclusive marine resource management in Seychelles.

Key Activities and Outputs

BGF Projects Active in 2024 Supporting Sustainable Fisheries:

In 2024, SeyCCAT supported a number of BGF projects under Strategic Objective 2 that advanced knowledge, governance, and community empowerment in the fisheries sector:

- BGF#5/M/N3 – Frankie Rignace: Produced a high-quality documentary highlighting sustainable artisanal fishing practices.
- BGF#3-L-N17 – Fisherman and Boat Owner Association: Piloted tracking, logbooks, and traceability tools for artisanal fishers.
- BGF#5/M/N23 – CEPS: “Peser An Mouvman” project fostered civic engagement and governance participation among fishers.

IKI WIO Blue Economy Project:

- EM systems were deployed on all industrial purse seine vessels. Expansion to 10 longline vessels is ongoing.
- The project supported the revision of the national Fisheries Bill, which was submitted to the National Assembly and reviewed by the Bills Committee.
- The final draft of Seychelles' drifting Fish Aggregating Device (dFAD) regulations was submitted to the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries.
- A national FAD Management Plan was initiated based on baseline assessments.

- Through the FishPath tool, CSIRO conducted harvest strategy development and stock assessments for spanner crab and lobster fisheries. Field surveys and stakeholder consultations were completed to inform sustainable harvest limits.
- SFA staff received targeted training from CSIRO, including remote bi-monthly sessions in stock assessment and R programming
- The project supported the use of geo-fencing tools for real-time monitoring of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), strengthening enforcement and compliance in no-take zones.

Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP) Fisheries Components:

- Integrated fisheries management into MSP zoning and decision frameworks.
- Conducted multi-stakeholder consultations with artisanal associations, IOTC, and industrial fisheries.
- Supported co-management planning and use-based access zones for artisanal fisheries.
- Contributed to the review of the Wild Animals and Birds Protection Act.
- Developed a legal roadmap for MSP implementation, including enforcement and compliance strategies.

Oceans 5 Contributions:

- Delivered GIS mapping support for fisheries zones and coastal habitats.
- Conducted water quality baseline monitoring to support stock sustainability and habitat protection.

Outcomes and Impacts Achieved

Strengthened Policy and Legal Frameworks:

- Fisheries Bill and dFAD regulations revised and submitted.
- Legal tools and spatial data integration to support MSP and fishery zone enforcement.

Improved Fisheries Science and Data:

- Stock assessments and harvest strategies developed for under-researched fisheries.
- Expanded electronic monitoring and data collection in industrial sectors.

Enhanced Community and Governance Capacity:

- Fishers equipped with traceability tools and training to participate in co-management.
- Civic platforms established to engage communities in fisheries policy development.

Innovative Technology and Tools Deployed:

- Geo-fencing and GIS-supported enforcement pilots introduced.
- Water quality and marine habitat mapping enhanced through Oceans 5 support.

Rehabilitation of Coastal Areas



Programme Overview:

In 2024, SeyCCAT advanced coastal ecosystem restoration through the Blue grants Fund, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) and the Pew Coastal Wetlands and Climate Change Project. These programmes focused on improving the health and resilience of seagrass beds, mangroves, and coastal habitats across Seychelles.

Key Activities and Outputs

Pew Coastal Wetlands and Climate Change Project

This programme focused on strengthening the inclusion of coastal wetlands especially seagrass and mangroves into national climate frameworks and restoration plans:

- Seagrass Mapping and Carbon Assessment Report was finalized and submitted to MACCE.
- Developed Terms of Reference (TORs) for two consultancies:
- Valuation of Seagrass Ecosystem Services, and
- Standardization of national seagrass and mangrove restoration protocols.
- Scientific Seagrass Guide authored by Dr. Jeanne A. Mortimer and Marie-France Watson was finalized, intended for practitioners, educators, and policy developers.
- A physical Creole dictionary update was published to include the local Creole term for seagrass, supporting linguistic inclusion in conservation.
- Policy integration: Coastal wetlands were featured in Seychelles' updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and highlighted at COP11 under the Nairobi Convention.

CEPF Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Projects

Four CEPF-funded projects are currently ongoing, each targeting ecological restoration and climate resilience:

1. Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF)

Project: Understanding Invasive Alien Species Eradication as a Nature-based Solution for Aldabra
Goal: Improve ecosystem health on this World Heritage Site by eradicating invasive species, notably rats, to allow native biodiversity recovery.
Duration: Jan 2024 – Dec 2026

2. Indian Ocean Tortoise Alliance (IOTA)

Project: Black rat eradication on Curieuse Island
Goal: Enable native seabird and tortoise populations to thrive by restoring ecological balance.

Duration: Dec 2023 – Nov 2025

3. Island Biodiversity and Conservation (IBC)

Project: Rehabilitating Ste Anne Marine National Park islands

Goal: Restore native vegetation and reduce erosion on degraded islands using nature-based solutions.

Duration: Apr 2024 – Dec 2026

4. Blue Economy Research Institute (BERI)

Project: Building national marine monitoring and ecosystem management capacity

Goal: Improve scientific data and decision-making for climate-resilient marine ecosystems.

Duration: Jul 2023 – Jun 2026

Blue Grants Fund (BGF) Contributions to Coastal Rehabilitation

- BGF#3-L-N48 – Terrestrial Restoration Action Society

Project: Community-based ecological wetland rehabilitation at Pasquiere, Praslin

Contribution: Restored degraded wetlands through native vegetation planting and community involvement.

- BGF#3-SM-N40 – Anse Etoile School

Project: Sustainable Coastal Protection and Management

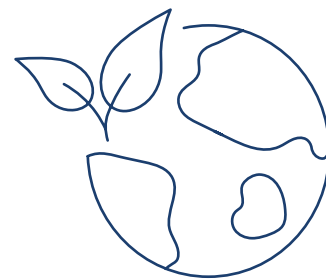
Contribution: Engaged students and teachers in coastal protection practices through awareness-raising, small-scale engineering interventions, and community outreach.

Impact Summary

- Wetland and seagrass ecosystems received stronger policy recognition and technical support through mapping, valuation, and protocol development.
- Invasive species removal and ecosystem restoration were actively implemented in key island habitats.
- National monitoring capacity for climate-resilient planning was strengthened through targeted training and research.
- Community-based approaches (e.g. Pasquiere wetland) demonstrated how local participation enhances restoration sustainability.
- Education and outreach (e.g. Anse Etoile School) helped embed coastal resilience thinking into future generations.

Photo credit: Matthew Morgan

Climate Resilience



Programme Overview:

In 2024, SeyCCAT supported climate resilience through a multi-pronged approach involving the Pew Coastal Wetlands and Climate Change Project, CEPF Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) initiatives, targeted BGF projects, and the climate integration components of the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP).

Key Activities and Outputs

Pew Coastal Wetlands and Climate Change Project:

- Seychelles' participation in Nairobi Convention COP11, contributing to the adoption of a decision text on seagrass protection.
- Commitments highlighted in COP11 Newsletter, raising Seychelles' visibility in global blue carbon dialogues.
- Technical support for reviewing and updating the Seychelles Wetlands Policy and Action Plan, in collaboration with MACCE and Nature Seychelles.
- Establishment of a Blue Carbon Technical Working Group, chaired by the Climate Change Department, to steer national-level coordination on coastal blue carbon initiatives.

CEPF Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Indian Ocean:

- 5-year regional programme supporting CSOs in implementing nature-based adaptation strategies.
- Hosted bi-monthly Regional Implementation Team (RIT) meetings (6 per quarter) to track progress and support grantees.
- Supervision mission preparation for Comoros Islands (planned for October 2024).
- Mid-year work planning and budget review completed.

Blue Grants Fund Projects Supporting Climate Resilience (Strategic Objective 4):

1. BGF#7 – Red Cross Society of Seychelles

Project: Early Action Protocol (EAP) for storm surge and flood response

Focus: Building community resilience through anticipatory action, risk mapping, and improved early warning systems. Co-financed by IFRC.

Status: Ongoing

2. BGF#5/M/N31 – Inspire for Tomorrow Consultancy

Project: Science-based planning and design of sustainable coastal protection measures

Impact: Addressed climate-induced coastal degradation by developing tailored adaptation strategies in collaboration with private hotels.

Status: Completed (2022–2024)

Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP) – Climate Integration Components:

- Incorporated climate resilience considerations into marine spatial zoning and management decisions.
- Supported climate-resilient management plans for Marine Protected Areas.
- Facilitated capacity development in climate adaptation planning for government and NGO partners.

Outcomes and Impact Achieved

- Strengthened national and local preparedness for climate impacts through proactive policy and planning.
- Improved scientific understanding of coastal blue carbon systems and their role in climate mitigation.
- Enabled cross-sector coordination via the Blue Carbon Technical Working Group.
- Reinforced Seychelles' leadership in international climate policy forums (COP11).
- Expanded community-level action and education through BGF pilot projects.



Blue Economy Initiatives



Programme Overview:

SeyCCAT's support for a resilient and inclusive blue economy in 2024 was delivered through targeted Blue Grants Fund (BGF) projects under Strategic Objective 5, the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) Ocean's Resolve programme, and ongoing policy integration through the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP).

Key Activities and Outputs

BGF Projects Supporting Blue Economy in 2024:

1. BGF#5/M/N40 – Mariette Dine

Macroalgal resources in Seychelles – diversity and sustainable uses

Supports research into the economic potential of native seaweed species.

2. BGF#7-M-N24 – Promel Consulting

Ocean Knowledge Education Programme

Builds regional awareness of blue economy principles in Indian Ocean Rim countries.

3. BGF#7-M-N56 – Nicholas Adam

Multitrophic Aquaculture Hatchery Business Plan

Introduces sustainable aquaculture methods that reduce waste and increase efficiency.

4. BGF#7-M-N52 – Harry Mwale

Empowering Seychelles Blue Economy

Entrepreneurs

Provides capacity building, mentorship, and investment readiness support for local entrepreneurs.

5. BGF#7-M-N9 – Darren Low Hong

Sea Salt: Solar Evaporation Stills

Demonstrates sustainable salt harvesting using solar evaporation for income diversification.

Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) – Ocean's Resolve Programme:

- USD 426,743 disbursed for programme preparation and setup.
- Partner consultations on budgets and work plans completed.
- Legal agreements and contracting processes underway.
- Launch of Business & Technology Incubator scheduled for Q4 2024.
- Early-stage design of a coral reef parametric insurance product initiated to protect reef-based livelihoods and tourism.

Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP)

Contributions:

- Developed and approved Allowable Activities Tables across all MSP zones.
- Incorporated sustainability screening criteria to guide blue economy-compatible marine uses.
- Supported alignment of blue economy initiatives with national marine spatial planning and sustainable development targets.

Outcomes and Impact Achieved

- Increased innovation and entrepreneurship: BGF projects provided technical and business support for early-stage ventures in aquaculture, seaweed farming, and artisanal product development.
- Local job creation and diversification: Projects supported value-added industries like solar salt production and marine-based cosmetics, with potential to scale.
- Capacity building and regional visibility: Promel Consulting's IORA-focused initiative promoted Seychelles as a regional thought leader on sustainable blue economy education.
- Enhanced blue economy policy coherence: MSP's zoning and Allowable Activities Tables enabled more predictable and transparent development pathways, encouraging private investment in sustainable ocean sectors.



Photo credit: Tobin Jones

Fundraising and Financial Sustainability



Programme Overview:

SeyCCAT pursued a diversified resource mobilisation strategy in 2024, combining endowment growth, donor relationship management, new programme fundraising, and strategic partnerships. This approach supports long-term financial sustainability and operational stability across conservation and blue economy portfolios.

Key Activities and Outputs

Ongoing Funded Programmes

- Pew Charitable Trusts (Phase II) – Continued support for coastal wetlands and NDC implementation.
- Blue Nature Alliance – Ongoing technical and financial collaboration for MPA governance and implementation.
- Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) – Multi-year EbA portfolio.
- IKI WIO Project – Regional fisheries and climate policy integration.
- Oceans 5 – Targeted support for artisanal fisheries initiatives.
- GoS Blue Bond – Ongoing support for strategic priorities through BGF.
- GEF-7 – In-kind co-financing contributions to SeyCCAT.
- Scale-Up Fund – Contribution toward capacity building and network development.

New Funding Secured in 2024

- Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR): USD 426,743 disbursed for Ocean's Resolve programme implementation.
- OceanX: USD 50,000 post-expedition grant for education and research with UniSey.
- Le Ponant: EUR 5,000 contribution supporting conservation outreach through MCSS.
- Liebherr Group: EUR 5,000 to enhance SeyCCAT's communications infrastructure.

Strategic Resource Mobilisation

- GEF-8 Blue Green Islands Integrated Programme: Interacted with UNDP Seychelles and government on a new global project. SeyCCAT is aiming to

- benefit as an implementing partner in Seychelles.
- Strategic scenarios developed for potential expanded TNC engagement in Seychelles.
- Ongoing proposal engagement the Environment Trust Fund (ETF)

Organisational Strengthening and Positioning

1. Long-Term Financial Sustainability Analysis:

SeyCCAT developed a scenario based financial model to guide strategic decision making. Two operational thresholds minimal and optimal were established to assess funding requirements and ensure programme continuity under varying financial conditions.

2. Strategic Partnerships and Donor Relations:

Multiple one-on-one engagements were conducted throughout 2024 with existing and prospective partners.

3. Climate Finance Positioning:

- SeyCCAT joined the Climate Change Technical Working Group, reinforcing its leadership role in national climate planning.
- Commenced the process for Green Climate Fund (GCF) accreditation, setting the stage for direct access to international climate financing in the future.

Endowment Fund Management

- Management contract signed with PKF Capital Investments (Sey), effective May 2024.
- Board due diligence completed by August 2024.
- Investment mandate in effect, aligned with long-term financial growth.

Financial Management Improvements

- FY23 audit completed and approved in June 2024; Annual Financial Statements shared with all donors and published online.
- Strengthened internal systems for: Donor financial reporting, Cash flow forecasting, Multi-stream budget management & Timely grant disbursements



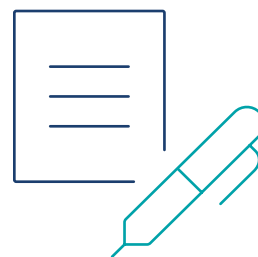
Outcomes and Impact

- Strengthened long-term financial resilience and credibility with partners.
- Successful onboarding of new donors and funding streams.
- Improved donor satisfaction and transparency.
- Enhanced readiness for GCF accreditation and larger-scale finance.
- Operational scenarios defined for managing SeyCCAT's growth with or without new external inflows.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Delays in funding disbursement (e.g., GFCR) impact programme timelines.
- Need for more predictable multi-year commitments from core donors.
- Continued emphasis required on maintaining donor confidence through reporting and visibility.
- Importance of investing in internal systems and staff capacity to manage growth.

Cross-Cutting Themes



Capacity Building and Local Empowerment

SeyCCAT's commitment to building local capacity was demonstrated throughout 2024 through: BGF Programme Capacity Building:

- Training fifteen (15) potential applicants in BGF Cycle 8 proposal writing (April 24 & 26, 2024)
- Providing one-on-one support to grantees throughout implementation cycles
- BGF 7 Reporting Workshop held September 24, 2024, to enhance grantee reporting skills
- Developing MEL frameworks collaboratively with 21 BGF 7 grantees
- Monthly BGF meetings for project oversight and adaptive management

Sectoral Capacity Development:

- Supporting 100 entrepreneurs through various BGF grantee capacity building programs
- Training programmes through UniSey research laboratory for students and professionals
- CEPF project capacity building through Regional Implementation Team exchanges
- Technical support to government agencies through SMSP and policy development
- Costed capacity needs assessment for MSP implementation

Institutional Strengthening

Despite key staffing transitions in 2024, SeyCCAT proactively strengthened its internal capacity, maintained programme continuity, and improved organizational systems.

1. Staff Transitions & Internal Realignment:

The departure of the Project Coordinator (March 2024) and Grants Manager (July 2024) created temporary capacity gaps. However, the team implemented strategic handovers and reassigned responsibilities to sustain momentum across grant cycles and donor reporting.

2. Internal Promotion and Role Expansion:

Ms. Diana Renaud was promoted to Grants and Fundraising Coordinator, expanding her responsibilities to include fundraising strategy, grant portfolio oversight, and capacity-building for grantees.

3. New Staff Recruitment:

The recruitment process for a new Project Coordinator began in Q3 2024

4. Knowledge Transfer and Documentation:

Structured knowledge management efforts were made to ensure smooth staff transitions, including formal handover notes, one-on-one knowledge transfer sessions, and centralized digital file archiving.

5. Staff Capacity Building and Trainings:

SeyCCAT staff participated in various technical and professional development workshops throughout the year.





Partnerships and Collaborations



Photo credit: Statehouse

Key partnerships strengthened and developed in 2024 include:

1. International Strategic Partnerships:

- The Nature Conservancy (TNC): Continued core partnership with quarterly technical reporting
- Blue Nature Alliance: Enhanced collaboration on MPA management, governance, and financing
- Global Fund for Coral Reefs: New transformative partnership for coral conservation and blue economy
- Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund: Regional cooperation through Indian Ocean EbA project
- Pew Charitable Trusts: Strategic partnership for coastal wetlands and climate policy

2. Government Partnerships:

- Government of Seychelles: High-level partnership with Presidential meeting July 9, 2024
- Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE): Core partnership for SMSPP implementation and policy development
- Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries: Sector-specific collaboration on fisheries policy and management
- Seychelles Fishing Authority: Technical partnership for fisheries research and management

3. Regional and International Networks:

- Indian Ocean Commission: Regional cooperation through RECOS project collaboration
- Nairobi Convention: Climate policy development and COP11 participation
- Commonwealth Blue Charter: Policy development and best practice sharing
- Small Island Developing States networks: Climate adaptation and finance cooperation



Engagement and Communication

SeyCCAT enhanced its communication and outreach throughout 2024 through:

4. Digital Communication:

- LinkedIn account reaching 9,341 profiles with 494 total reactions across 9 posts
- 176 new followers gained with mission to Nairobi Convention as most viral content
- Website content updates and project showcase materials
- Social media campaigns supporting project visibility

5. Media Engagement:

- Debt Swap Documentary: Grand premiere July 5, 2024, attended by President and officials
- National Television Broadcasting: Documentary aired July 19 and SBC broadcast August 6
- BGF Project Coverage: Multiple Nation.sc articles and SBC television interviews
- GFCR Programme Coverage: Media coverage of inception workshop and programme launch

6. Stakeholder Engagement:

- Presidential Meeting: High-level engagement with President Ramkalawan July 9, 2024
- Board Meetings: Regular governance oversight with September 5, 2024, BNA project approvals
- Partner Workshops: Multiple training sessions, reporting workshops, and technical meetings
- International Conference Participation: COP meetings representation and regional meeting attendance
- Partners meetings for future collaboration: Meetings with international partners such as Waitt Institute, Blue Nature Alliance, TNC, and local partners such Thai Union, MCB & Cable & Wireless

7. Public Education and Awareness:

- Documentary productions increasing public awareness of marine conservation
- Training workshops open to public and stakeholder communities
- University partnerships for youth engagement and education
- Community-based project implementations with local outreach





Financial Overview

Financial Performance Summary

SeyCCAT experienced a deficit of USD 363,880 in 2024 compared to a surplus of USD 277,498 in 2023, primarily driven by increased operating expenses despite continued strong grant funding support.

For detailed financial information including complete statements of financial position, comprehensive income, cash flows, detailed notes, and full grant disbursement schedules, please refer to the complete audited financial statements available in the link below.

[Click here](#)





Emerging Challenges, Opportunities and Lessons Learned

Challenges

Organizational and Capacity Challenges:

- Staff turnover requiring continuous capacity building and knowledge transfer systems due to project ending and financial constraints
- Increasing complexity of international funding requirements and compliance standards
- Need for enhanced technical expertise in emerging areas like blue carbon and climate finance
- Balancing organizational growth with operational efficiency and impact focus

Financial and Resource Challenges:

- Need for sustained long-term financing for conservation requiring innovative financing mechanisms
- Donor dependency requiring diversification
- Competition for international climate and conservation funding requiring enhanced competitiveness

Organizational Lessons Learned

SeyCCAT continued to build on its strengths and identified important lessons to improve future performance:

- Clear roles, strong internal communication, and staff handovers helped ensure continuity during transitions in key positions.
- Promoting from within and investing in staff training increased internal capacity and confidence.
- Using the MEL framework for regular learning helped improve project implementation and decision-making.
- Active stakeholder engagement and increased visibility improved public understanding and support for SeyCCAT's work.
- Data collected from grantees supported evidence-based planning, tracking progress and adapting where needed.
- Collaborating with partners helped SeyCCAT deliver beyond its internal capacity and align with national priorities.
- Efficient small team, multi skilled staff (write as challenge and positive)



Planned Initiatives and Projects 2025 Outlook

Programme Continuity and Strategic Focus

In 2025, SeyCCAT will continue implementing approved work plans across all active projects while scaling impact through strategic initiatives. Core priorities include:

1. Marine Spatial Plan (MSP):

Finalize the MSP and support the legal transition for full implementation, including institutional arrangements and enforcement mechanisms.

2. Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR):

Begin full-scale implementation of the Ocean's Resolve programme, including:

- Launch of the coral reef parametric insurance pilot
- Operationalization of the Business and Technology Incubator
- Design and initiation of Phase 2 of the GFCR investment programme

3. Pew Coastal Wetlands Partnership:

Advance coastal wetlands valuation, support blue carbon policy integration, and roll out monitoring protocols.

4. CEPF Ecosystem Restoration Projects:

Scale efforts in invasive species eradication, habitat rehabilitation, and local capacity building for EbA approaches.

5. Blue Nature Alliance:

Continue support for MPA governance planning, financing mechanisms, and transition to a permanent Seychelles Ocean Authority.

6. Blue Grants Fund – Cycle 9:

Launch BGF Cycle 9, incorporating lessons learned, streamlined application systems, and enhanced grantee support.

7. OceanX Grant Implementation:

Disburse funds and provide technical support to implementing partners for education, outreach, and marine research.

8. Environmental Trust Fund (ETF):

Finalize design and establish governance structures for the new ETF to expand long-term conservation financing.

Resource Mobilization and Fundraising

To sustain impact and ensure financial resilience, SeyCCAT will scale its resource mobilization efforts:

- **Baseline Fundraising Targets:** Established financial benchmarks for minimal and optimal operational scenarios to guide revenue targets.
- **Fundraising Materials Enhancement:** Refine pitch decks, partner presentations, and communication assets to support active engagement with donors and investors.
- **Internal Fundraising Committee:** Establish an internal committee to drive pipeline development, proposal tracking, and donor engagement.

Acknowledgments

Major Donors and Funding Partners

Core Strategic Partners:

- **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)** – Core funding and technical support for the Marine Spatial Plan and institutional development.
- **Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR)** – Transformative partnership supporting the Ocean's Resolve programme.
- **Blue Nature Alliance** – Multi-year partnership for MPA governance and sustainable financing.
- **Pew Charitable Trusts** – Long-term support for coastal wetlands policy and climate integration.
- **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)** – Regional support for ecosystem-based adaptation and CSO capacity building.
- **Ocean5** – Foundational funding for MSP development (now concluded).

Government Partners:

- **Government of Seychelles:** Continued strong institutional partnership providing policy support and enabling environment for conservation initiatives
- **Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE):** Core strategic partnership for Marine Spatial Plan implementation, policy development, and climate change initiatives
- **Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries:** Sector-specific collaboration supporting fisheries management, blue economy development, and sustainable use planning
- **Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA):** Technical partnership for fisheries research, stock assessments, and management plan development

Implementing Partners and Grantees:

Research and Academic Institutions:

- **University of Seychelles (UniSey):**
- Department of Environmental Sciences
- Blue Economy Research Institute (BERI)

National NGO Partners:

- **Marine Conservation Society Seychelles (MCSS)**
- **Nature Seychelles**
- **Island Conservation Society (ICS)**
- **Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF)**
- **Green Islands Foundation (GIF)**
- **Community-Based Organizations:**
- **Fisherman & Boat Owners Association**
- **Anse Boileau Fisherman Association**
- **Praslin Fishers' Association**
- **Citizens Engagement Platform Seychelles (CEPS)**

Private Sector and Business Partners:

- **PKF Capital Investments (Sey):** Professional endowment fund management partnership ensuring long-term financial sustainability

International Networks and Regional Partners

Regional Cooperation Platforms:

- **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC):** Regional cooperation, knowledge sharing, and collaborative project development through RECOS partnership
- **Nairobi Convention:** International policy development, COP11 participation, and regional marine conservation coordination
- **Commonwealth Blue Charter:** Policy development, best practice sharing, and international cooperation framework
- **Small Island Developing States (SIDS) networks:** Climate adaptation, financing mechanisms, and regional advocacy collaboration

Technical and Scientific Networks:

- **Regional Implementation Team (RIT) - CEPF:** Technical coordination, knowledge sharing, and regional project implementation support
- **SWIOFISH Project:** Fisheries management collaboration, regional cooperation, and technical expertise sharing
- **RECOS Project:** Seagrass research collaboration, regional outreach, and scientific cooperation

Special Recognition:

SeyCCAT acknowledges the exceptional dedication of our staff, board members, and committee volunteers and consultants who ensure the Trust continues to deliver transformative impact despite significant organizational challenges in 2024.

Board and Committee Leadership:

- **SeyCCAT Board of Directors:** Strategic guidance, governance oversight, and policy direction ensuring organizational effectiveness
- **Blue Grants Fund Committee:** Technical review, project selection, and quality assurance supporting excellent project outcomes
- **Finance Committee:** Financial oversight, audit supervision, and fiduciary responsibility ensuring accountability

Community and Stakeholder Champions:

SeyCCAT recognizes the countless community members, local leaders, government officials, researchers, and conservation champions who support our mission through project participation, policy advocacy, and daily commitment to marine stewardship. Their collective efforts make SeyCCAT's impact possible and sustainable

Appendix A

Blue Grants Fund Projects Active in 2024 (Strategic Objective 1 – Marine Protected Areas & Biodiversity Conservation)

This appendix lists the 23 Blue Grants Fund projects that were active in 2024, aligned with Strategic Objective 1: Marine Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation. These projects advanced research, monitoring, governance, restoration, and community engagement across Seychelles' marine ecosystem.

Scientific Research & Baselines

BGF No.	Lead Organisation / Grantee	Project Title	Grant (SCR)	Funder
BGF2/L/N15	Green Islands Foundation	Marine Biodiversity Baseline assessment around Fregate Island	405,000	Blue Bond
BGF5/S/N10	Alphonse Foundation	Biodiversity assessment in shallow water habitats of the Alphonse Group	96,545	Blue bond
BGF5/L/N37	Seychelles Islands Foundation	Baseline dugong assessment at Aldabra Atoll	2,000,000	Debt Swap
BGF7/M/N51	Farquhar Foundation	Spawning aggregations of key fish species for conservation and management	997,950	Blue bond
BGF8/M/50	Nature Seychelles	App for Reserve Management (ARM) – Cousin Island Special Reserve	671,750	BNA
BGF8/M/51	Seychelles Islands Foundation	Securing the Future of Aldabra's Reef Monitoring Programme	600,000	BNA

Monitoring & Infrastructure

BGF No.	Lead Organisation / Grantee	Project Title	Grant (SCR)	Funder
BGF6-L-N16	Nature Seychelles	Land-based coral aquaculture facility for restoration and R&D	1,749,000	Blue Bond
BGF6-L-N33	Islands Development Company (IDC)	Radar monitoring system for remote MPAs	1,978,319	Blue bond
BGF6-L-N20	SPGA	Centralised bio-holistic database for improved MPA management	1,997,800	Debt Swap
BGF7-M-N32	OceanLabs	Ocean Labs Buoy – real-time ocean data monitoring	999,046	Blue Nature Alliance

Community Engagement & Education

BGF No.	Lead Organisation / Grantee	Project Title	Grant (SCR)	Funder
BGF6-M-N24	Richard Assary	Marine Fishes of Our Marine Parks – Interactive children's colouring book	168,000	Blue Bond
BGF6-M-N31	Marketing Guru	Understanding roles of key species in shaping MPA environments	772,154	Blue bond
BGF6-M-N35	Sheryl Vangadasamy	Reduction of ocean pollution through cleanup and youth education	1,000,000	Blue bond
BGF6-M-N39	MCSS	Storybook Journey through Seychelles' Marine Protected Areas	191,412	Debt Swap

Governance & Impact Assessment

BGF No.	Lead Organisation / Grantee	Project Title	Grant (SCR)	Funder
BGF7-L-N35	SSTF	Cruise Tourism Impact Assessment – Inner Islands	1,658,380	Blue Nature Alliance
BGF5/S/N35	Kalsey Belle	COVID-19 impact on MPA financing and resilience mechanisms	96,500	Debt Swap
BGF6-M-N30	John Nevill	Development of biodiversity & fisheries indicators for MSP Zone 2	644,000	Blue bond
BGF6-L-N18	GVI Seychelles	Photogrammetry to support conservation of Marine National Parks	1,998,983	Blue Bond

Governance & Impact Assessment

BGF No.	Lead Organisation / Grantee	Project Title	Grant (SCR)	Funder
BGF6-S-N21	Desroches Foundation	Modernising rat control around seabird colonies	79,178	Debt Swap
BGF6-S-N25	Alessia Lavigne	Fertility & embryo survival rates for threatened turtle and tortoise species	88,800	Debt Swap
BGF7-S-N61	Emma Mederick	Juvenile green turtle mortality study on Desroches Island	100,000	Blue Nature Alliance

Notes





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