



SeyCCAT



IMPACT REPORT

Empowering Communities,
Protecting Oceans, Inspiring the World

Message from the CEO



Marie-May Jérémie

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

As we mark the 10th anniversary of SeyCCAT,

I am honoured to reflect on a decade of impact, resilience, and innovation. What began as a bold experiment in conservation finance—anchored in the world's first debt swap for ocean conservation and the pioneering Blue Bond—has grown into a trusted national institution and a global model for sustainable ocean financing.

Over the past ten years, SeyCCAT has remained true to its core vision: empowering Seychellois, for Seychelles. We've catalysed over USD 14 million in ocean investments, supported more than 90 transformative projects, and become the fiscal engine behind landmark initiatives like the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSPI)—one of the most ambitious marine conservation initiatives in the world. These milestones were only made possible by our steadfast commitment to transparency, inclusivity, and accountability. Our enduring partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC)—from the foundational debt swap to the co-design of the Marine Spatial Plan—has been instrumental to our growth and global impact.

This report offers more than a retrospective; it is a testament to how SeyCCAT has evolved. From our modest beginnings as a team of two, we are now a multidisciplinary team of ten, driving innovation, engaging communities, and shaping policy. We've become a flexible, learning organisation—responsive to our grantees' needs, driven by evidence, and constantly improving our processes. Our impact now extends beyond Seychelles, as we begin playing a growing role in the region and beyond.

None of this was easy. We faced considerable hurdles—from funding restrictions due to Seychelles' high-income status, to the challenges of sustaining our internal capacity. But these challenges sparked creativity. We diversified our financing mechanisms, built strong partnerships, and ensured our place in national policy dialogues.

Looking ahead, we are focused on securing long-term financial sustainability, retaining the rich capacity we have built, and continuing to deliver on our promise to support the sustainable development of our ocean. We are also strengthening our internal systems through a renewed strategy and a commitment to Environmental, Social and Governance principles.

This 10-Year Impact Report is an invitation—to reflect, to learn, and to build together. Whether you are a grantee, partner, donor, policymaker or someone who is simply interested in following and supporting SeyCCAT's journey, we count on your continued collaboration. Together, we can scale what works, face new challenges with confidence, and write the next chapter of SeyCCAT's legacy.

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

Acknowledgements

As SeyCCAT marks its first decade, we wish to extend our deepest gratitude to the many individuals and institutions whose vision, trust, and commitment have made this journey possible.

We thank the Trustees of the SeyCCAT Board for their unwavering leadership and strategic guidance, the finance committee and blue grants committee, and the Secretariat team—past and present—for their dedication in turning ideas into impact. Your collective effort has ensured that SeyCCAT remains a trusted, transparent, and innovative platform for sustainable conservation finance.

We are especially grateful to our strategic partners whose collaboration has been central to our milestones. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) played a foundational role in brokering the Debt-for-Nature Swap that gave birth to SeyCCAT, and has since remained a valued ally in delivering the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan and advancing our shared conservation goals. Our thanks go to all of our other international partners and donors who have worked with us over the years. Thank you for the confidence and thank you for investing in SeyCCAT. We extend our sincerest gratitude to the Government of Seychelles for being visionary and a constant partner in the efforts of the Trust.

We acknowledge with appreciation the many grantees, community groups, NGOs, research institutions, and private sector actors who have partnered with us through the Blue Grants Fund and our co-financed initiatives. Your innovation, perseverance, and stewardship have brought our mission to life across Seychelles' vast ocean territory.



Executive Summary

As Seychelles marks ten years since the establishment of the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT), this report presents an independent, evidence-based assessment of its impact from 2015 to 2025. Designed to go beyond commemoration, the report analyses how SeyCCAT has mobilised finance, empowered communities, and supported long-term marine conservation, Blue Economy growth, and climate resilience across the nation's 1.35m sq. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

An essential enabler of SeyCCAT's success has been its strategic partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), whose technical expertise, financial support, and global convening power have underpinned many of SeyCCAT's milestones. TNC played a pivotal role in brokering the 2016 Debt-for-Nature Swap that launched SeyCCAT, and has since remained a key collaborator in delivering the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP). This partnership has been instrumental in advancing Seychelles' goal to protect more than 30% of its marine territory, while ensuring the SMSP is rooted in stakeholder engagement and aligned with national development priorities.

Since 2015, SeyCCAT has mobilised over **USD 10 million** through a combination of innovative financing mechanisms – including the 2015 Debt-for-Nature Swap, the 2018 Sovereign Blue Bond, and a portfolio of international donor partnerships. This funding supports two complementary streams:



The Blue Grants Funds (BGF)

SeyCCAT's flagship grant mechanism, capitalised by the Debt Swap and Blue Bond. Since 2016, the BGF has disbursed over **SCR 46 million** to over **90 locally** led projects across five national priority areas: marine protection, fisheries sustainability, coastal restoration, climate resilience, and Blue Economy innovation.



Strategic Co-Financing Initiatives

Larger-scale projects facilitated in partnership with global donors (e.g. TNC, Blue Nature Alliance, Oceans5, The Pew Charitable Trust, Waitt Foundation, IKI). These support national policy delivery and institutional strengthening, with several grants channelled through or aligned with the BGF.

Through this dual-stream model, SeyCCAT has delivered both grassroots innovation and national-scale policy reform, positioning itself as a trusted platform for sustainable ocean finance. Beyond grant-making, SeyCCAT has led or co-led strategic initiatives in **MPA governance, blue carbon policy integration, fisheries co-management, MEL development**, and the **Seychelles Ocean Research Agenda (SORA)**.



Top 10 Key Achievements (2015–2025)

1

Positioning Seychelles as a Global Ocean Leader



Seychelles became the first country in the world to pioneer a blue finance deal, using blended finance and debt restructuring to fund marine conservation. SeyCCAT's innovative approach, which combines global investment with local empowerment, has been internationally recognised and replicated, cementing SeyCCAT's status as a trailblazer in ocean governance and sustainable financing.

2

The Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP)



SeyCCAT played a technical and funding role in the establishment of the SMSP— supporting science, stakeholder consultation, coordination and governance that culminated in the legal gazetting of the 30% of the EEZ as Marine Protected Areas and laying the foundation for the upcoming Nature Reserves and Conservancy Act.

3

More than 30% of Seychelles' EEZ Now Protected



SeyCCAT-supported science and stakeholder engagement helped Seychelles meet its **30% Marine Protected Area (MPA)** target ahead of schedule, protecting **441,456 km²** for conservation and sustainable use.

4

Global Breakthrough in Blue Carbon Science



Seychelles became the first country in the world to complete the nationwide field verified seagrass map—mapping **1,600 km²** of seagrass and estimating **69 million tonnes of CO₂** stored. This has contributed towards Seychelles' achievement of the related NDC (2021) commitment to protect **100%** of seagrass habitats by 2030.



5

Science-to-Policy Leadership



Data and evidence from SeyCCAT-funded and implemented projects directly informed the development of several major national frameworks: The Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) | Mahé Plateau Line and Trap Fishery Co-Management Plan | Management Plans for Marine Protection Areas) | Wetlands Policy revision) | Seychelles' NDC under the Paris Agreement) | Blue Carbon Policy) | The Seychelles Ocean Research Agenda

6

Fisheries Innovation & Digital Transformation

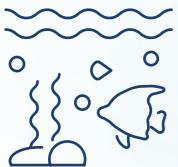


SeyCCAT helped transform fisheries governance:

- Piloted the Praslin voluntary closure, resulting in fish stock recovery and national replication
- 300+ artisanal fishing vessels equipped with digital monitoring tools (**ABALOBI app + CLS THEMIS**) for real-time reporting

7

Supporting Conservation & Restoration



SeyCCAT grants enabled:

- Coral connectivity mapping
- Mangrove replanting and nurseries
- Wetland rehabilitation
- Dugong and seabird monitoring to inform conservation planning
- Improved monitoring of critical ecosystems & species

8

Building Human Capital & Inclusive Leadership



- 230+ Seychellois trained in marine science, fisheries management, and blue entrepreneurship
- 48% of Blue Grants Fund projects led by women, promoting gender equity and youth empowerment in ocean governance

9

Empowering Community Stewardship



- Funded 50+ community-led projects: coral gardening, mangrove restoration
- Outreach reached 4,000+ people via school programs, clean-ups, and Creole-language campaigns
- Citizens now lead initiatives such as community monitoring in **MPAs and voluntary fishing closures**
- Improved access to **conservation finance**.

10

Enabling Blue Business Growth



- Through tailored training, feasibility studies, and seed funding:
- 30+ entrepreneurs and public officers trained in sustainable marine business development
- **MSMEs** launched in seafood processing, reef tourism, mariculture, and circular economy ventures.

Strategic Priorities for the Decade Ahead (2025-2030)

To sustain its impact, seven strategic priorities are proposed for SeyCCAT's next phase of growth:

Secure Long-Term Financial Resilience

Diversify and stabilise income through ecosystem service fees, blended finance models, and new donor partnerships, while addressing structural funding barriers linked to Seychelles' SIDS and high-income classification.

Strengthen Outcome-Based Monitoring and Learning

Embed outcome tracking into MEL, improve feedback loops with national strategies, and follow up on alumni/project trajectories.

Leverage Blue Carbon and Climate Finance

Advance finance-readiness for blue carbon, explore carbon credits/resilience bonds, and strengthen Seychelles' role in global climate-ocean policy.

Position SeyCCAT as a Regional Leader and Learning Hub

Share experience across SIDS, lead on MEL innovations, and enable south-south cooperation in ocean-climate governance.

Deepen Project Design and Grantee Support

Provide technical mentoring, encourage multi-year grants, and refine selection criteria to support high-impact initiatives.

Scale Gender, Youth, and Local Leadership

Expand support for women- and youth-led projects, and encourage gender-transformative and inclusive approaches.

Bridge Innovation and Policy

Create a policy-readiness pipeline, support replication of proven models, and convene uptake dialogues with national institutions.



Vision 2030 Scaling Ocean Impact

As Seychelles enters a new phase of its **Blue Economy journey**, SeyCCAT is poised to evolve into a long-term delivery platform for national and regional marine sustainability. Its work supports the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, and the Kunming-Montreal **Biodiversity Framework**—while offering a globally replicable model for **island-led, community-rooted conservation finance**.

The first decade proves that small, strategic investments—grounded in science and driven by communities—can catalyse systemic change. The next ten years offer a chance to **scale, sustain, and share** that success for the ocean and for future generations.

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Photo credit: Chris Mason Parker

Introduction

As Seychelles marks a decade of progress in building a sustainable Blue Economy, the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) celebrates ten years of bold action, innovation, and impact.

Since its creation in 2015, SeyCCAT has helped redefine what's possible for small island nations striving to protect marine ecosystems while meeting development goals.

Through a powerful combination of community engagement, evidence-based decision-making, and pioneering finance models—such as the debt-for-nature swap and the world's first sovereign Blue Bond—SeyCCAT has mobilised over USD 10 million. These funds have supported both grassroots projects through the Blue Grants Fund and larger strategic partnerships with global organisations working on policy reform, institutional strengthening, and conservation innovation.

This work has placed Seychelles at the forefront of ocean governance, with tangible results: more than 30% of its marine space now protected, blue carbon integrated into national climate strategies, and new co-management frameworks giving local fishers a voice in managing their resources. Yet, as global challenges grow more complex and the need for climate and ocean action becomes more urgent, SeyCCAT also faces rising expectations to deliver measurable impact, increase transparency, and scale its model.

This 10-Year Impact Report looks back at the journey while also pointing the way forward. Grounded in SeyCCAT's Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework, the report applies a structured method to assess outcomes—using real data, stakeholder voices, and independently validated results. It highlights key achievements, critical gaps, and lessons learned across five themes: the sea, the people, the land, the mind, and the system.

More than a reflection, this report is a roadmap for SeyCCAT's evolution as a national platform for sustainable ocean finance. It captures what has been accomplished and provides a clear vision for how Seychelles—and other island nations—can continue to lead global efforts for climate resilience and marine protection.

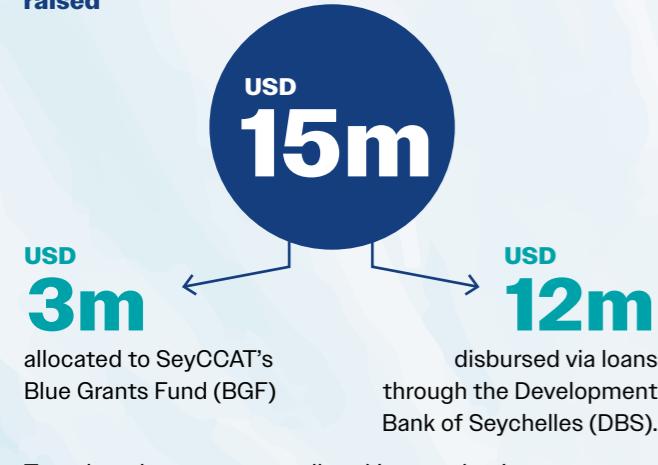
SeyCCAT's Evolution and Model of Innovation

In just ten years, the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) has redefined how marine conservation is financed in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Established in November 2015 through a pioneering Debt-for-Nature Swap, SeyCCAT has grown into a nationally rooted, globally recognized platform for sustainable ocean finance.

From Debt Swap to National Trust

SeyCCAT was created to manage the proceeds of the first-ever ocean-focused Debt-for-Nature Swap, which redirected **USD 21.6 million** of Seychelles' debt repayments into long-term marine conservation.

In 2018, the Sovereign Blue Bond—the world's first—raised



Together, these two groundbreaking mechanisms capitalised the BGF, which has since disbursed over **USD 10 million** to more than **90** locally led projects.

A Financial Model with Global Reach

Beyond these capital instruments, SeyCCAT has mobilised additional funding through strategic collaborations with international donors such as The Nature Conservancy, the Blue Nature Alliance, World Bank, GOS-UNDP-GEF, Pew Charitable Trusts, Oceans5, IKI, and CEPF, Global Fund for Coral Reef (GFCR). These partnerships extend SeyCCAT's reach and flexibility, allowing it to support both grassroots projects and system-wide policy reforms.



A Blueprint for Other Nations

SeyCCAT's innovative model has inspired similar efforts in countries like Belize, Indonesia, Ecuador, and Barbados, and has been **highlighted in forums such as the Commonwealth Blue Charter Dialogues and UNESCO Marine Forums**. By integrating debt management, conservation finance, and national development goals, SeyCCAT offers a working model of how small island nations can lead on global ocean finance.



Transparent, Inclusive, Independent

Governed by a multi-stakeholder Board of Trustees and established through its own Act of Parliament, SeyCCAT enjoys legislative independence and financial autonomy. All funding is ring-fenced for marine conservation, climate adaptation, or other aligned purposes. Project selection is driven by structured calls aligned with Seychelles' national strategies, including the Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) and the Blue Economy Roadmap.

SeyCCAT's approach goes beyond funding—it aims to institutionalize impact through

- Partnerships
- Policy Alignment
- Rigorous Monitoring
- Evaluation
- Learning (MEL) framework

Delivering Impact at Scale SeyCCAT's Portfolio and Partnerships

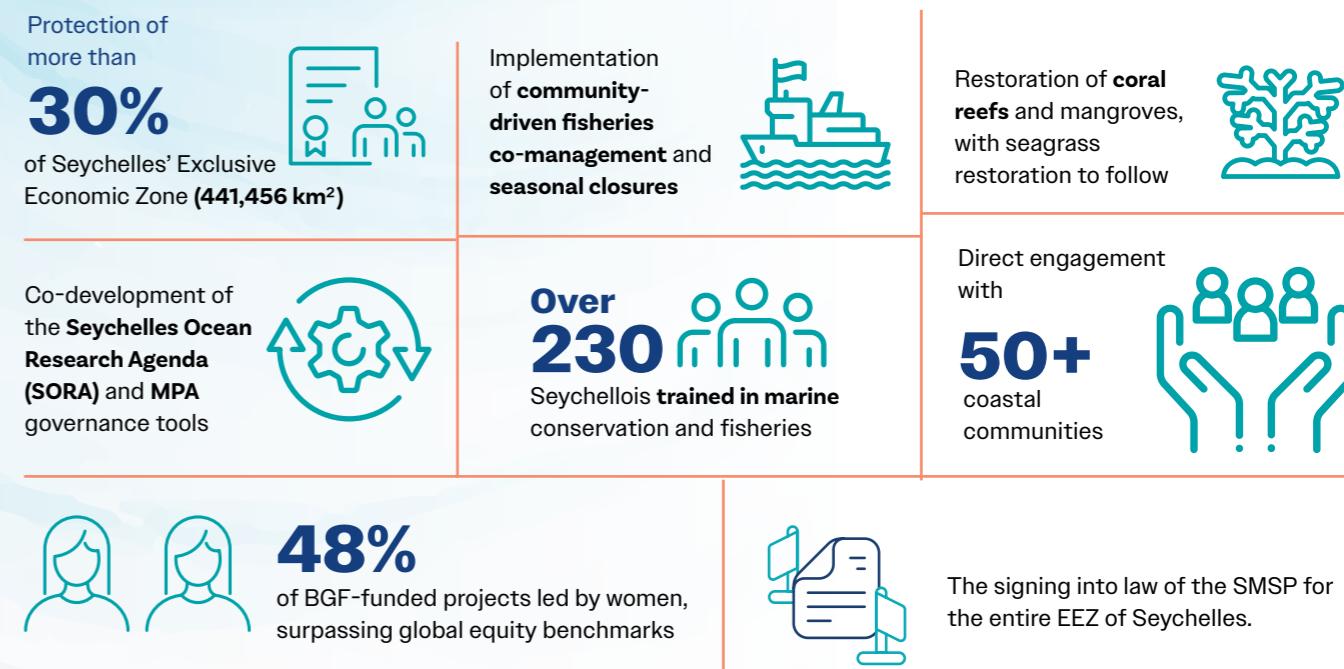
A Decade of Results

Over the past decade, SeyCCAT has grown from a conservation trust fund into a national delivery platform for sustainable ocean finance. Its financial model is built on two complementary streams:

The Blue Grants Fund (BGF) – a locally managed grant mechanism funded by the 2015 Debt-for-Nature Swap and the 2018 Sovereign Blue Bond.

This dual-stream model enables SeyCCAT to deliver high-impact, nationally relevant projects while remaining flexible and responsive to emerging opportunities in global conservation finance.

Since 2016, SeyCCAT has disbursed funding to 87 projects under the Blue Grants Fund, enabling real-world change across marine protection, fisheries, ecosystem restoration, climate resilience, and blue economy innovation.



The Blue Grants Fund (BGF 1-5) Core Portfolio Snapshot



Photo credit: Chris Mason Parker



These partnerships enable SeyCCAT to complement community initiatives with large-scale national reforms and policy interventions. SeyCCAT serves as a trusted intermediary, translating international funding into tangible, locally driven results.

SeyCCAT acts as a coordinator or fund manager, translating international financing into tangible, locally driven results—without drawing on the core endowments. In some cases, such as with the Blue Nature Alliance, these funds are partially channelled through BGF, while others are used for systemic priorities like policy reform, capacity building, and institutional support.

SeyCCAT's Innovative Funding Mechanism

Funding Mechanism	Value (USD)	SeyCCAT Role	Years	Instrument
Debt-for-Nature Swap (Government of Seychelles + Paris Club)	\$4M out of \$21.6M	Trust creation, Repayment of Impact Investors and BGF Grant Management	2016-2036	Blended finance
Sovereign Bond (GEF + World Bank)	\$3M out of \$15M	BGF grant management	2018-2023	Sovereign bond

Strategic Partnerships: Scaling Systems, Not Just Projects

SeyCCAT's model also enables it to complement grant-making with large-scale, donor-funded initiatives.

Funding Mechanism	Value (USD)	SeyCCAT Role	Years	Instrument
TNC	\$3,922,929	Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) development support	2017-2026	Grants Sub-grants
GoS-UNDP-GEF	\$127,000	Operational support	2017 - 2019	Grants
Pew Coastal Wetlands (Blue Carbon)	\$1.57million (approx.)	National coordination and delivery Coastal wetlands coordination	2020-2026	Grants
Blue Nature Alliance (BNA)	\$2.3 million	MPA planning and partial BGF regranting	2021-2024	Grants
Oceans5	\$900,000	Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) development support	2021-2024	Grants
CEPF (EU + GCF via AFD)	Part of \$38M regionally	Grant facilitation and capacity support	2021-2030	Small grants to CSOs

The Debt-for-Nature Swap (**USD 21.6 M**) and Sovereign Blue Bond (**USD 15 M**, of which **USD 3 M** supported grants) are SeyCCAT's foundational capital instruments. They fund the Blue Grants Fund (BGF), SeyCCAT's core mechanism for local grant-making. The other sources listed are strategic partnerships funded by external donors, for which SeyCCAT acts as a coordinator or implementer. Some (e.g., Blue Nature Alliance) partially support the BGF, while others operate in parallel to address national policy and systemic priorities.

4.0

Strategic Alignment and the Path Forward

Building on its mandate to finance marine protection through innovative mechanisms, SeyCCAT is strategically positioned to align investments with Seychelles' long-term goals for sustainable ocean governance and blue economy development.

This strategic alignment is anchored in SeyCCAT's core vision, mission, and goal:



Vision

A future where Seychelles' ocean and islands are stewarded by its people, delivering sustainable benefits for generations to come.



Mission

To strategically invest in ocean stakeholders—catalyzing new knowledge, bold action, and sustainable blue prosperity in Seychelles.



Goal

To competitively award at least USD 750,000 annually in grants supporting stewardship of Seychelles' ocean resources, island ecosystems, and blue economy.

To bring this vision and mission to life, SeyCCAT employs a diversified financial model comprising two complementary funding streams that enable both national focus and global collaboration:

The Blue Grants Fund (BGF): A locally managed grant mechanism funded by the 2015 Debt-for-Nature Swap and the 2018 Sovereign Blue Bond.

Co-Financing & Strategic Partnerships: Donor-supported initiatives delivered in collaboration with global partners, channelled through SeyCCAT.

This dual-stream approach enables SeyCCAT to deliver nationally relevant, high-impact projects while maintaining flexibility to respond to emerging opportunities in global conservation finance.

BGF Financing and Strategic Alignment

The BGF projects are guided by five Strategic Objectives (SOs), designed to ensure each investment achieves both immediate results and contributes to broader marine sustainability and resilience:

Strategic Objective	Definition
SO1 – Marine Protection	Support new and existing marine and coastal protected areas – including, as appropriate, all aspects of consumptive and non-consumptive sustainable use of marine resources.
SO2 – Fisheries Sustainability	Empower the fisheries sector and management agencies with robust science and knowhow to improve governance, sustainability, value and market options as appropriate.
SO3 – Habitat Rehabilitation	Promote the rehabilitation of marine and coastal habitats and ecosystems that have been degraded by local and global impacts.
SO4 – Climate Resilience	Support best practice and/or innovative approaches that reduce risk and build resilience to climate change.
SO5 – Blue Economy Innovation	Trial and nurture business models to secure the sustainable development of the Seychelles Blue Economy.

Cross-cutting themes—including Research and Development, Management and Implementation, Policy and Advocacy, Education, Training and Outreach, and Marine Pollution—are integrated across all SOs. This ensures SeyCCAT's investments are holistic, impactful, and responsive to the complex challenges of marine conservation and sustainable development.

Strategic Partnerships Portfolio (2016–2024)

Beyond the Blue Grants Fund (BGF), SeyCCAT directly manages over \$8 million in strategic partnerships and co-financing initiatives supported by various donors. These investments are crucial for national-scale efforts in policy reform, scientific research, and institutional capacity building. SeyCCAT also plays a central role in two major financial mechanisms:

Debt-for-Nature Swap:

Through the **\$21.6 million** Debt-for-Nature Swap, SeyCCAT receives an annual allocation of **\$200,000** specifically dedicated to the management and funding of the Blue Grants Fund (BGF).

Sovereign Blue Bond:

The **\$15 million** Sovereign Blue Bond also contributes to SeyCCAT's work. Out of the total amount, **\$3 million** was awarded to SeyCCAT to finance the Blue Grants Fund, with the remaining funds managed by the Development Bank of Seychelles (DBS) to capitalize the Blue Investments Funds.

These partnerships are guided by SeyCCAT's legal mandate under the SeyCCAT Act, which enables sustainable financing for protected area management, biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, and sustainable marine resource use. The mandate also empowers SeyCCAT to administer and align diverse funding sources—beyond the BGF—according to stakeholder-driven priorities and charitable, educational, and scientific objectives. This ensures that all investments and co-financed initiatives reinforce SeyCCAT's national mission.

Ready for the Next Decade

As climate finance evolves and Seychelles deepens its Blue Economy commitments, SeyCCAT is poised to expand its role as:

- A national delivery platform for blended finance
- A policy ally, supporting the integration of successful pilots into formal systems
- A regional knowledge hub for small island ocean finance

The Trust will continue to focus on scaling what works, investing in systems, and ensuring that inclusive governance and community voices remain at the heart of its mission.

Over the past decade, SeyCCAT has evolved from a bold idea into a globally respected platform—one that blends finance, science, and community leadership to protect the ocean while empowering the people who depend on it.

As it looks to the future, SeyCCAT is well positioned to lead the next generation of ocean finance—grounded in national priorities, powered by partnerships, and inspired by the communities it serves. The foundation has been laid. The next chapter is about scaling impact, strengthening systems, and sustaining success—at home and across the globe.



Understanding Our Impact: SeyCCAT's Approach to Evaluation

SeyCCAT's impact over the past decade is rooted in its ability to channel funding into a diverse and evolving portfolio of initiatives. This chapter presents the framework used to evaluate outcomes from both the Blue Grants Fund (BGF) and strategic partnerships. These investments reflect SeyCCAT's dual role as both a grant-maker and a national platform for marine and coastal conservation and climate finance delivery.

5.1 Portfolio Overview and Methodology

The portfolio analysis is based on the evaluation framework developed in the Inception Report and approved by SeyCCAT. It applies a structured classification system and a three-tier attribution model—Direct Attribution, Strong Influence, and Contribution—in alignment with SeyCCAT's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system and Theory of Change.

Note: This analysis focuses on projects that are completed or meet inclusion criteria based on the availability of final reports and verifiable outcomes.

Strategic Objective Alignment – Contribution to one or more of SeyCCAT's five Strategic Objectives (SO1-SO5)

Projects are also categorised into **five thematic pillars** that reflect SeyCCAT's commitment to integrated, systems-based impact:



The Sea

MPAs, fisheries, marine habitat conservation



The People

Livelihoods, gender equity, youth empowerment



The Land

Coastal ecosystems, land-based pollution



The Mind

Research, education, awareness, and innovation



The System

Governance, policy, finance, and institutional partnerships

Attribution Level – The degree of SeyCCAT's contribution is assessed using a **three-tier attribution model**, applied consistently across all completed projects.

Direct Attribution refers to cases where SeyCCAT was the primary funder and the results are clearly and directly linked to its support.

Strong Influence applies to projects where SeyCCAT co-financed or enabled change in collaboration with other partners.

Contribution reflects situations where SeyCCAT was one of several actors involved, playing a meaningful but non-exclusive role in achieving broader sector-level or systemic outcomes.



5.2 Impact Indicators by Dimension

The impact analysis is grounded in a set of indicators drawn directly from SeyCCAT's Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system. These indicators are organised under three overarching dimensions: Environmental Sustainability, Economic & Blue Prosperity, and Social & Community Engagement. Each is linked to SeyCCAT's attribution model and thematic pillars, and collectively, they provide the analytical foundation for evaluating project outcomes.

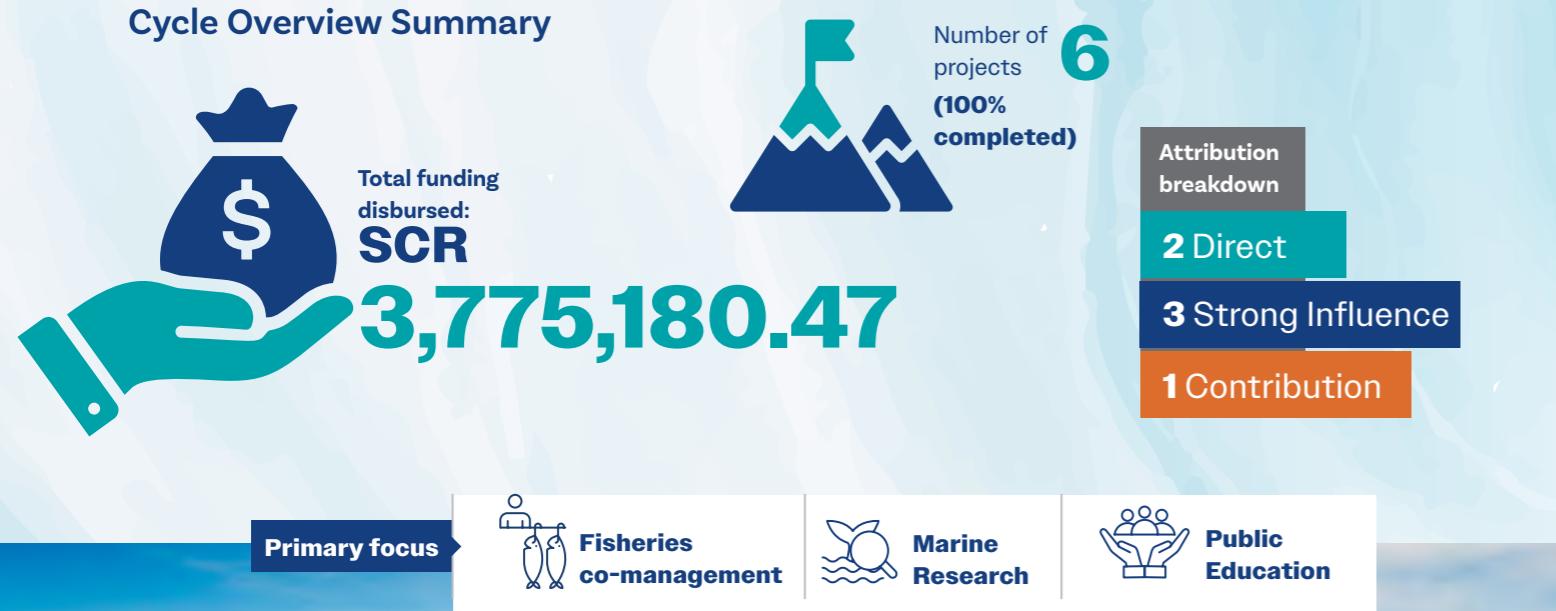
Impact Dimension	Indicator	Measurement Approach	Attribution
Environmental Sustainability	Marine Debris Removal & Habitat Protection	Total tons removed, habitats restored/protected	Direct Attribution
	Biodiversity Resilience & Habitat Restoration	Area/species data, increased ecological resilience	Strong Influence
	Climate Adaptation & Resilience	Integration of research into climate policies	Contribution
	Policy Influence on Marine Conservation & Blue Economy	References in policies, laws, or plans	Contribution
Economic & Blue Prosperity	Revenue Growth from Sustainable Ventures	Documented income increases, business scaling	Direct Attribution
	Private Sector Investment Leveraged	Co-investment figures or partnerships	Strong Influence
	New Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) established in the Blue Economy	Number of MSMEs created	Contribution
	Regulatory Influence on Blue Economy	Use of research in regulatory frameworks	Contribution
Social & Community Engagement	Community-Led Conservation Projects	Projects fully led and implemented by local stakeholders	Direct Attribution
	Public Awareness & Behavioural Change	Survey data, media reach, behaviour shifts	Strong Influence
	Capacity Building in Marine Conservation	Training delivered; application of knowledge	Strong Influence
	Local Knowledge & Participation in Governance	Integration of traditional knowledge in decision-making	Contribution

Project Highlight and Community Voices

6.1 BGF1: Foundation Phase-2017

BGF1 marked the inaugural cycle of SeyCCAT's Blue Grants Fund, launched in 2017.

BGF1 Cycle Overview Summary



The six projects funded under BGF1 were among the first to test how locally led marine initiatives could align with national strategies for sustainable fisheries and conservation.

BGF1 Impact Summary

The Sea, The System



Photo credit: Tobin Jones

Piloting voluntary fisheries zone closure on Praslin Island for the benefit of the marine environment and fisher folks

Praslin Fisheries Association

IMPACT DIMENSION: Environmental Sustainability

INDICATOR: Policy Influence on Marine Conservation & Blue Economy

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – The project piloted a voluntary fisheries closure model, leading to measurable improvements in fish stock resilience and high compliance among local fishers. Experimental fishing surveys recorded a 320% increase in catch per trap set after the first closure, with significant improvements in fish size and weight. The project was referenced in the **Mahé Plateau Fisheries Co-Management Plan**, influencing adaptive fisheries management under Seychelles' national fisheries governance strategy. Findings have contributed to ongoing discussions on voluntary fisheries closures and co-management, aligning with the Policy Influence on **Marine Conservation & Blue Economy** impact indicator.

The Mind, The Sea



Science based restoration of commercially important spiny lobster habitats to help develop a sustainable fishery

Marine Conservation Society Seychelles

IMPACT DIMENSION: Environmental Sustainability

INDICATOR: Biodiversity Resilience & Habitat Restoration

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – The project provided baseline scientific data on lobster recruitment challenges, analyzing 57 zooplankton samples and confirming 2 puerulus (juvenile lobster stages), highlighting limited local recruitment. Findings supported stock management recommendations submitted to the **Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA)** and contributed to ongoing scientific monitoring efforts for lobster fisheries, in line with SeyCCAT's long-term goal of securing sustainable fisheries by 2030.

The Mind, The People, The Sea, The System



Development and Operationalisation of a National Fish Identification Website and Database

John Nevill

IMPACT DIMENSION: Economic & Blue Prosperity

INDICATOR: Policy & Regulatory Influence on Blue Economy Development

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Contribution – The website established a publicly accessible database of **394** fish species, supporting fisheries management and sustainable practices. The platform had over **815** unique visitors in its first **29** days, demonstrating its utility for policymakers, SFA, and conservation stakeholders. The site has also been referenced in scientific publications and utilized in national fisheries assessments. While it serves as an informational resource, it has not yet resulted in regulatory changes, aligning with the Policy & Regulatory Influence on **Blue Economy Development** impact indicator under a contribution-level classification.

The Sea



Spatial ecology and response to catch-and-release of recreationally targeted fish species on St. François and Alphonse Atolls, Alphonse Group, Seychelles Outer Islands: Implications for conservation and management

Alphonse Foundation

IMPACT DIMENSION: Environmental Sustainability

INDICATOR: Climate Adaptation & Resilience in Marine Ecosystems

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Contribution – The project tagged 75 Giant Trevallies (GTs), generating over 1 million telemetry detections, and published findings in peer-reviewed journals. These results informed best-practice guidelines for recreational catch-and-release fisheries and were presented at the World Recreational Fishing Conference, contributing to sustainable fisheries discussions across the Western Indian Ocean region. However, the study has not yet been formally integrated into national climate adaptation strategies, aligning with the Climate Adaptation & Resilience in Marine Ecosystems impact indicator under contribution-level classification.

The Sea



Assessment and Mitigation of Impact of the Artisanal Fishery on Species of Local Concern

Green Island Foundation

IMPACT DIMENSION: Fisheries Sustainability

INDICATOR: Community-Led Conservation Projects Funded by SeyCCAT

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Direct Attribution – SeyCCAT fully funded the collection of **3,978** species-specific catch records across key artisanal landing sites. The dataset was directly incorporated into the **National Biodiversity Strategy & Action Plan (NBSAP)** and the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA), contributing to Seychelles' conservation priorities. The project also initiated one co-management discussion with fishers, which has influenced stakeholder-led conservation planning discussions, aligning with the community-led conservation projects funded by SeyCCAT indicator.

The People, The Sea



Improving the socio-economic knowledge of the Seychelles Artisanal Fishery

Karine Rassool

IMPACT DIMENSION: Social & Community Engagement

INDICATOR: Public Awareness & Behavioral Change

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – The socio-economic survey collected data from 200 fishers across Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue, providing insights into livelihoods, financial stability, and market dependencies. These findings were incorporated into the Seychelles Fisheries Sector Strategic Plan, ensuring that fisher realities were reflected in national policy decisions. Additionally, this was the first comprehensive socio-economic study on the Seychelles artisanal fishery, setting a precedent for ongoing assessments. Findings are expected to inform long-term fisheries livelihood programs under Seychelles' 2030 Blue Economy Strategy, aligning with the Public Awareness & Behavioral Change indicator under a strong influence classification.

Challenges & Limitations

Limited baseline data constrained the ability to quantify ecological change in some projects, particularly those related to biodiversity resilience and climate adaptation.

Fisher resistance and behaviour change barriers emerged in co-management efforts, highlighting the need for early and sustained stakeholder engagement strategies.

Policy integration pathways were weak in several cases, with technical findings not consistently absorbed into national decision-making processes. This suggests a need for clearer institutional follow-through mechanisms.

Monitoring and outcome reporting was uneven, with some projects lacking systematic tracking of long-term behavioural or livelihood outcomes.



Photo credit: Tobin Jones

Story of Change 1

“Let the fish grow”

Thematic Focus

The Sea | Co-Management
Fisheries Governance
Evidence-Based Policy

Project Name

Piloting voluntary fisheries zone closure on Praslin Island for the benefit of the marine environment and fisher folks

*In 2019 and 2020, a group of fishers in Baie Ste Anne, Praslin, teamed up with scientists and the community to try something bold: a voluntary **six-month** break from fishing in a popular area, to let fish populations recover.*

The results were impressive:

 Fish catches more than doubled – from **0.41 kg** to **1.34 kg** per trap after the first closure.

 After the second closure, catches were still nearly **three times higher** than before.

 Fish were bigger and healthier – growing from **14.6 cm** to **21 cm**, and from **57g** to **152g** in weight.

More than **25** local fishers took part, and public support grew from **78%** in 2018 to nearly **97%** in 2022. People really saw the benefits. Even after the project ended, fishers chose to repeat the seasonal closure on their own in 2021—a clear sign that the community believes in it.

This project helped shape national fisheries policy and is now part of Seychelles' bigger plan to manage its ocean sustainably. It even got attention from the President, the Fisheries Minister, and international media like the BBC!

With big signs placed in the area and hundreds of people sharing their views through surveys, this initiative is a model of how local action can lead to national change.



Darell Green
Chairperson of the Praslin Fishers Association

“Let the fish grow.”

With this powerful message, Darell Green, Chairperson of the Praslin Fishers Association, sparked a quiet revolution in Baie Ste Anne. Alarmed by the sight of undersized fish being sold, Darell rallied fellow fishers to voluntarily close parts of their fishing grounds during key breeding seasons. What began as a grassroots effort, without legal enforcement or funding, grew into one of Seychelles' most respected examples of community-led fisheries management. It was built on trust, sacrifice, and a shared vision for sustainability.

Over time, the initiative gained momentum—drawing national attention and influencing fisheries policy. One pivotal moment for Darell was witnessing a buyer refuse to purchase fish caught in the bay during closure, signaling that the community had internalized the message. In 2021, local fishers independently reinstated the seasonal closure, proving that real behavior change had taken root. The project's success demonstrated that when people see results, they become stewards of the solution.

Still, sustaining that success remains a challenge. Darell emphasizes that long-term support is essential for maintaining community-led efforts. While SeyCCAT's initial backing was key, he urges more consistent investment in grassroots initiatives that are already delivering results. His message is clear: community empowerment works—but it needs committed, long-term support to keep making waves.



6.2 BGF2: Expansion Phase (2019–2021)

Building upon the foundations established in BGF1, the second cycle of SeyCCAT's Blue Grants Fund expanded its thematic scope and strategic ambition.

BGF2 Cycle Overview Summary



Number of projects
(100% completed)
7

Attribution breakdown
0 Direct
5 Strong Influence
2 Contribution



Total funding disbursed:
SCR

4,417,546.73

Primary focus

 Marine debris removal

 Biodiversity tracking

 Fisheries valuation

 Blue Economy entrepreneurship

 SeyCCAT strategic Objectives targeted: SO1, SO2, SO5

The following table presents the seven projects funded under BGF2, each assessed for alignment with strategic objectives, impact indicators, and level of attribution. Thematic categorisation reflects the project's primary areas of influence across SeyCCAT's five pillars.



BGF2 Impact Summary

The Land, The Sea



Aldabra Clean Up Project (ACUP): Tackling Ocean plastic pollution through action, education, and research

Seychelles Islands Foundation

IMPACT DIMENSION: Environmental Sustainability

INDICATOR: Marine Debris Removal & Habitat Protection

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – SeyCCAT was a major funder of the project, which successfully removed 25.75 metric tonnes of marine plastic pollution from Aldabra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, clearing 15 turtle nesting beaches. The project, co-financed by multiple international and national partners, also contributed to global awareness on marine debris and informed policy discussions on marine pollution control, demonstrating SeyCCAT's strong influence in enabling large-scale conservation efforts, with findings incorporated into policy discussions on marine pollution control.

The Mind, The Sea



First use of satellite telemetry on small pelagic and abundant seabirds (juvenile Sooty Terns) to define potential Marine Protected Areas

Rachel Bristol

IMPACT DIMENSION: Environmental Sustainability

INDICATOR: Climate Adaptation & Resilience in Marine Ecosystems

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Contribution – The project tracked 14 juvenile Sooty Terns for up to 12 months, identifying important foraging hotspots in the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP). These data contributed to discussions on the expansion of marine protected areas, aligning with national and international conservation priorities (e.g., SDG 14, SSDS Fisheries and Marine Resources Program).

The Mind, The Sea



Assessing the effectiveness of Curieuse Marine National Park in the protection of the critically endangered early life stages of sicklefin lemon sharks (*Negaprion acutidens*)

Global Vision International (GVI) Seychelles

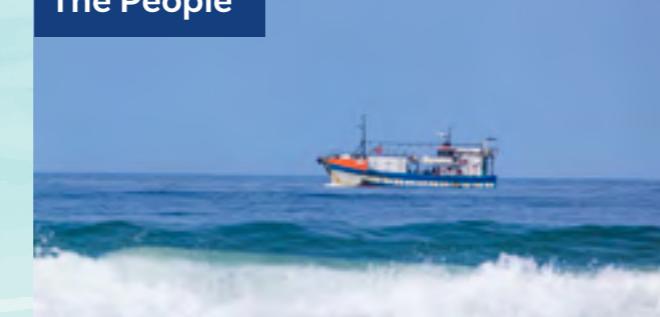
IMPACT DIMENSION: Environmental Sustainability

INDICATOR: Biodiversity Resilience & Habitat Restoration

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – The study tracked 20 neonate sharks, collecting 329,208 detections to assess their habitat use and survival. The findings support ongoing marine protected area (MPA) management decisions, providing critical baseline data for conservation planning.

The People



Blue Economy Entrepreneurs - Creating smart, sustainable, and shared prosperity through entrepreneurship ecosystem assessment and training

Eco-Sol Consulting Pty Ltd

IMPACT DIMENSION: Economic & Blue Prosperity

INDICATOR: New MSMEs Established in the Blue Economy

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Contribution – The project trained 48 participants in entrepreneurship through two structured workshops, engaging 38 stakeholders in Blue Economy business development. It laid the foundation for future MSME growth in Seychelles, though no direct business creation was recorded during the project timeframe.



The Sea



Assessment and Valuation of the Parrotfish Fishery to Support an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

John Nevill

IMPACT DIMENSION: Fisheries Sustainability

INDICATOR: Policy & Regulatory Influence on Blue Economy Development

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – The study collected data from 1.25 metric tons of parrotfish, covering 17 species, generating a fishery valuation model. Findings contributed to fisheries policy discussions, supporting future ecosystem-based fisheries management in Seychelles

The Mind, The Sea



Marine Biodiversity Baseline assessment around Fregate Island, the easternmost Seychelles 'Inner' granitic island

Green Islands Foundation

IMPACT DIMENSION: Environmental Sustainability

INDICATOR: Biodiversity Resilience & Habitat Restoration

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – The project established a marine biodiversity baseline for Fregate Island, using standardized coral and fish survey methodologies. Findings support long-term marine monitoring, contributing to conservation zoning and marine protected area (MPA) planning efforts.

The Sea



Abundance, habitat selection and movements at sea of the Red-footed Booby as informative tools for conservation management within the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan

Islands Conservation Society

IMPACT DIMENSION: Environmental Sustainability

INDICATOR: Policy Influence on Marine Conservation & Blue Economy

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Contribution – The project collected critical data on Red-footed Booby foraging areas, contributing to the Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning (SMSP) process. Findings were integrated into MPA site selection discussions, enhancing seabird conservation strategies in Seychelles.

Challenges & Limitations

- Marine debris processing in ACUP was incomplete due to **logistical constraints** and the absence of local recycling infrastructure.**
- Seabird tracking policy uptake has been slow; integration of findings into MSP.**
- Limited direct economic outcomes were observed from the Blue Economy Entrepreneurs project, indicating a need for extended follow-up and outcome tracking.**



Story of Change 2

Unburying Aldabra: From Plastic Crisis to Global Awareness

Thematic Focus

The Sea | Marine Pollution
Habitat Protection
Education & Advocacy

Project Name: Aldabra Clean-up Project

Led by: Seychelles Islands Foundation

Location: Aldabra Atoll
(UNESCO World Heritage Site)



Marine Plastic Removed



Reduced direct threats to marine biodiversity



Education & Outreach

- Over 4,000 students and citizens engaged
- 50+ outreach events held in Seychelles and internationally
- Project featured in a 24-minute documentary
- Covered by Sky News, raising global awareness



Science & Research

- Produced baseline data on plastic accumulation on Aldabra
- Estimated 514 metric tonnes of plastic still present on the atoll



Policy Impact

- Images of Aldabra's plastic pollution presented at the 2018 G7 Summit by the President of Seychelles
- Helped influence Seychelles' accession to MARPOL Annex V (Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from Ships)

April Burt, Project Co-Lead

Aldabra's beaches were once overwhelmed by plastic waste washing in from far beyond Seychelles—threatening wildlife on one of the world's most treasured natural sites. Leading the Aldabra Clean-Up Project alongside Jeremy Raguain was life-changing. It transformed how I viewed plastic in my own life and showed how individual choices link to a global crisis. The project brought together volunteers, soldiers, and scientists in one of the most remote, logically challenging clean-ups ever attempted. Despite the odds, we removed over **25 tonnes** of debris from vital turtle nesting beaches, sending a powerful message far beyond our shores.

The impact was immense—our story reached classrooms, policymakers, and even world leaders. Scientific research from the project gained global attention, and our images were shared at the G7 Summit. While over 500 tonnes of plastic still remain, we shifted the conversation. Seychelles changed its policies, and SeyCCAT expanded its funding focus to include waste. This project proved something vital: even in the most isolated corners of the planet, determined action can spark awareness, inspire change, and give a voice to places that would otherwise remain unseen.

6.3 BGF3: Scaling Community Engagement and Innovation (2019–2022)

BGF3 marked a significant scaling phase in SeyCCAT's grant-making, with a broadened thematic reach and increased investment in community-led conservation, applied research, and Blue Economy innovation. BGF3 represents a transition toward more integrated and inclusive impact, advancing the Trust's role as both a conservation funder and an enabler of systemic transformation across Seychelles' Blue Economy.



Number of projects **17**
(17 completed at time of assessment)



Attribution breakdown
2 Direct
11 Strong Influence
4 Contribution

Primary focus



Blue Economy entrepreneurship



Coastal resilience



SeyCCAT strategic Objectives targeted: S01, S02, S03, S04, S05



Coral connectivity



Fisheries innovation

BGF3 Impact Summary

The Mind, The People



Nou lanmer ble: Lannen 2020: Tackling Ocean plastic pollution through action, education, and research

Dyllis Pouponneau

IMPACT DIMENSION: Education & Community Engagement

INDICATOR: Public Awareness & Behavioral Change

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – Three documentary episodes were produced and disseminated, covering Seychelles' ocean, conservation, and sustainable practices. The project contributed to public engagement and youth ocean literacy.

The Sea, The System



Pilot and Integration of Tracking, Logbook, and Market Traceability Tools

Fishermen & Boat Owners Association (FBOA)

IMPACT DIMENSION: Fisheries Sustainability

INDICATOR: Policy & Regulatory Influence on Fisheries Management

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – 25 fishers signed data-sharing agreements, vessel tracking units were installed, and digital monitoring tools (ABALOBI and CLS THEMIS) were piloted with strong fisher buy-in, influencing co-management practices.

The Mind, The Sea



Photo credit: Chris Mason Parker

Mapping Coral Population Connectivity and Oceanographic Processes in Seychelles

Seychelles Islands Foundation

IMPACT DIMENSION: Environmental Sustainability

INDICATOR: Biodiversity Resilience & Habitat Restoration

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – The project provided nationally relevant data on coral reef connectivity across Seychelles through genetic and ocean current modelling. Its findings directly informed the design of Marine Protected Areas under the Marine Spatial Plan (MSP), and contributed to policy and restoration planning. While co-financed by international partners (e.g. University of Oxford), SeyCCAT's funding was essential in supporting fieldwork, data analysis, and national dissemination.

The Mind, The People



Photo credit: Chris Mason Parker

Blue Education: Equipping the Youths of Seychelles for the Blue Economy

Nathalie Duval

IMPACT DIMENSION: Education & Community Engagement

INDICATOR: Capacity Building in Marine Conservation

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – 171 educational workbooks were printed and distributed in schools, introducing Blue Economy concepts and supporting integration into the national curriculum. The project contributed to foundational youth education and awareness.

The Mind, The People



Go Now – Online Blue Economy Education

Lisa Bastienne, Shariffa Charlette

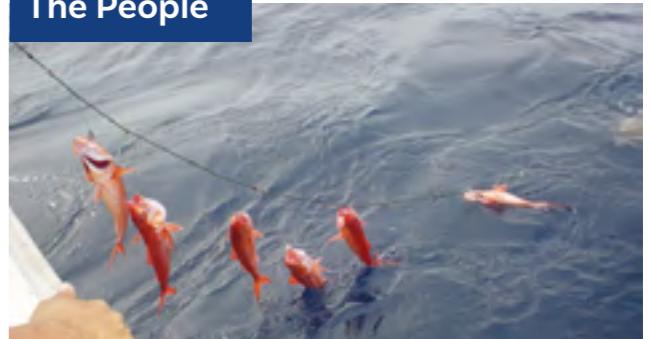
IMPACT DIMENSION: Education & Community Engagement

INDICATOR: Public Awareness & Behavioral Change

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – 35 students completed an online Blue Economy learning course with quizzes and certification. The project innovated in digital learning and supported marine literacy among youth.

The People



Route to Market – Online Platform for Fisheries Sales

Shahid Melanie

IMPACT DIMENSION: Fisheries Sustainability

INDICATOR: Private Sector Investment Leveraged

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Contribution – A digital platform was launched with 74 user submissions connecting fishers to buyers. While initial uptake was promising, limited adoption and scalability constrained direct outcomes.

The Mind, The People



Marine Scholarship Programme

Wise Ocean

IMPACT DIMENSION: Education & Community Engagement

INDICATOR: Capacity Building in Marine Conservation

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Contribution – Strong Influence – Six Seychellois youth completed marine conservation training and secured placements in national organisations. The programme contributed to long-term skills development and workforce entry in the marine sectors.



The Land, The Sea

Reduction of ocean pollution through sea floor clean up.

Marcus Quatre

IMPACT DIMENSION: Environmental Sustainability

INDICATOR: Marine Debris Removal & Habitat Protection

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Direct Attribution – The project removed 1,200 kg of marine debris across four key sites, engaged fishers and students in cleanup events, and established a new NGO (Voice of the Ocean) for continued advocacy and action.



Caiman Mangrove Awareness Project

Allen Boniface

IMPACT DIMENSION: Environmental Sustainability

INDICATOR: Public Awareness & Behavioral Change

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – Educational videos and outreach events promoted mangrove ecosystem conservation, supporting local engagement and intergenerational learning on coastal resilience.



The Land, The Mind System

River Mapping & Mangrove Habitat Monitoring on Praslin

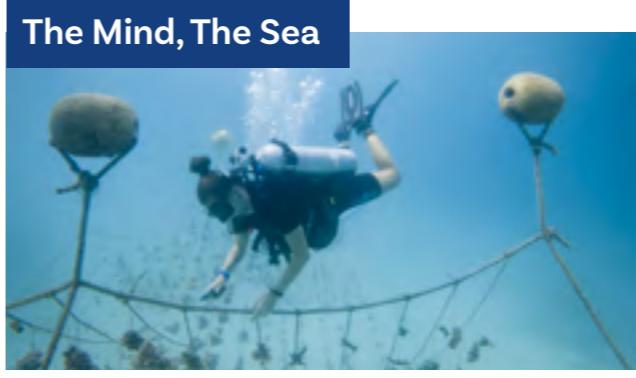
MACCE

IMPACT DIMENSION: Climate Resilience

INDICATOR: Climate Adaptation & Resilience in Marine Ecosystems

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – Ten river monitoring stations were installed, enhancing local capacity for hydrological data collection and informing coastal and flood risk planning on Praslin Island.



The Mind, The Sea

Blue Economy Business Accelerator (TGMI)

TGMI

IMPACT DIMENSION: Blue Economy Growth

INDICATOR: New MSMEs Established in the Blue Economy

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Contribution – The programme provided business training to entrepreneurs, but no confirmed MSME creation was reported. Participant engagement varied, with some individuals pursuing external opportunities.



The People

Seaweed Composting for Sustainable Agriculture

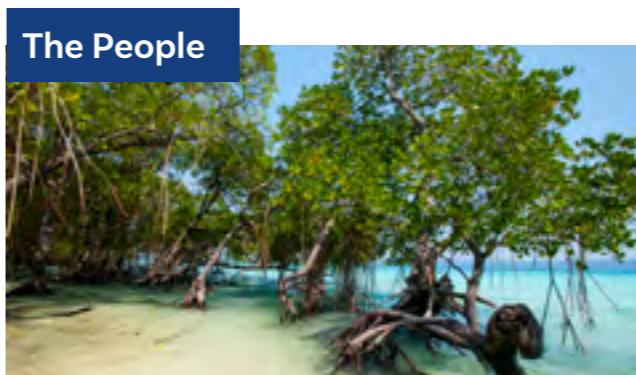
WASO

IMPACT DIMENSION: Environmental Sustainability

INDICATOR: Private Sector Investment Leveraged

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Contribution – The project demonstrated composting of invasive seaweed, leading to a 15% reduction in accumulation at trial sites. While cooperative structure challenges limited scale-up, potential for replication remains.



The People

Citizen's Guide to Climate Change

S4S

IMPACT DIMENSION: Climate Resilience

INDICATOR: Public Awareness & Behavioral Change

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Impact Not Assessed – No final report submitted; outcome data unavailable. Excluded from impact classification."



Fishing livelihoods and Fisheries Management in the Mahe Granitic Island, Seychelles – A Cost Benefit Analysis

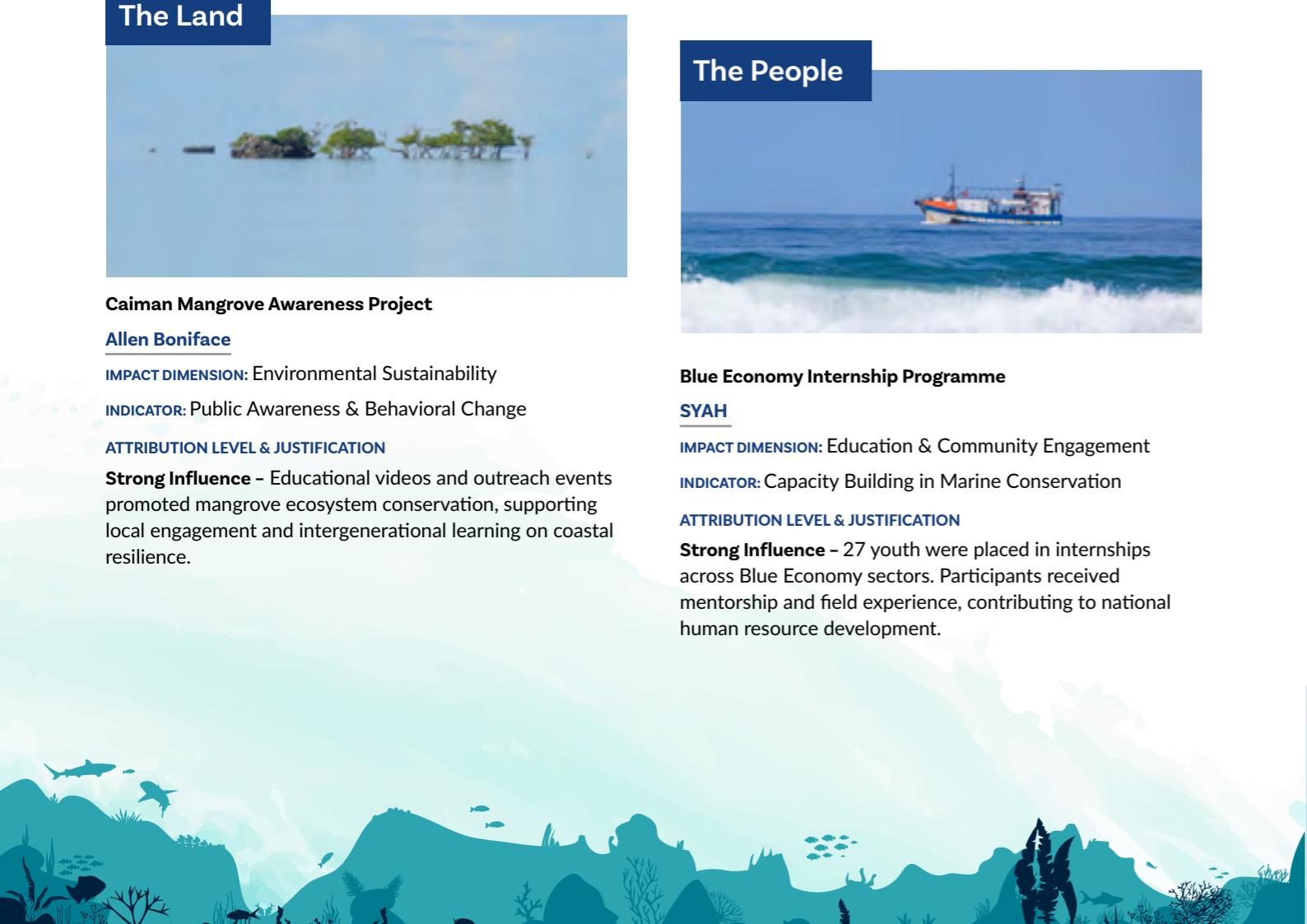
Keith Andre

IMPACT DIMENSION: Fisheries Sustainability

INDICATOR: Economic Value Chain Analysis

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – The project conducted cost-benefit analysis for artisanal fishing livelihoods using value chain assessments, providing a basis for sustainable fisheries management decisions. Outputs informed strategic planning but lacked implementation follow-up.



The Mind, The System



Photo credit: Jeanne Mortimer

Roadmap to Blue Carbon Opportunities in the Seychelles

James Michel Foundation

IMPACT DIMENSION: Climate Resilience

INDICATOR: Blue Carbon Policy Planning

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – This strategic study identified national blue carbon potential and outlined a pathway for Seychelles to develop carbon credit frameworks. Findings informed discussions on ecosystem valuation and climate finance readiness.

The Sea, The People



Video documentary and Promotional videos

Barbara Hoareau

IMPACT DIMENSION: Education & Community Engagement

INDICATOR: Public Awareness & Storytelling on Sustainable Fisheries

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – The project produced three high-quality videos highlighting local sustainable fishing practices, widely disseminated through local media and community events. Impact focused on changing public perception.

The people, The System



Entrepreneurship Development in the Blue Economy Sector

ESA

IMPACT DIMENSION: Blue Economy Growth

INDICATOR: Capacity Building for MSMEs

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Direct Attribution – The project provided business training to 30+ MSMEs and ESA staff, developed toolkits and educational materials, and supported MSME awareness of grant and credit access. SeyCCAT fully funded and guided implementation.

Challenges & Limitations

- Scaling adoption of digital tools in the Blue Economy remains a challenge. The Route to Market platform saw limited user engagement, highlighting the need for stronger stakeholder support and incentives.*
- Policy integration delays affected MSP-related projects. Although data outputs were aligned with SMSP priorities, institutional uptake remains in progress.*
- Education and awareness projects lacked post-project tracking, making it difficult to assess behavioural change or long-term impact without structured follow-up mechanisms.*

BGF3 showcased SeyCCAT's support for diverse, stakeholder-led projects that shaped national policy, education, and ecosystem restoration, while advancing digital tools, partnerships, and youth engagement.

Story of Change 3

Mapping Coral Connectivity Across Seychelles

Thematic Focus

The Sea | Marine Science | Biodiversity | Spatial Planning

Project Name: Mapping Coral Population Connectivity and Oceanographic Processes in Seychelles

Research Overview

- 220 coral samples analyzed
- Genome-wide SNP sequencing used to map coral genetic diversity
- 100 billion virtual coral larvae simulated over a 25-year period
- Combined genetic and oceanographic data to understand reef connectivity



Photo credit: Chris Mason Parker

Key Findings



Why It Matters

- Informs Marine Protected Area (MPA) expansion
- Guides site selection for reef restoration
- Supports sustainable fisheries management
- Provides foundational data for long-term marine conservation strategy



Impact & Partnerships



- SeyCCAT's investment was instrumental in ensuring the project's success and long-term policy relevance
- Co-financed by the University of Oxford and the Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF)
- Enabled advanced genetic sequencing and oceanographic modeling
- Contributes to national coastal resilience and marine biodiversity protection strategies

As told by April Burt, Principal Investigator, Seychelles Islands Foundation

When I took on this project, I wasn't trained in coral genetics – but I had strong mentors, a lot of curiosity, and a willingness to learn. I didn't expect that one day I'd be co-authoring research papers and using genome-wide data to help design marine protection strategies.

This project pushed me far beyond my comfort zone. It combined genetics, ocean modelling, and marine conservation – disciplines that don't often sit in the same room in the Seychelles context. I had to learn how to coordinate international research, analyse data I wasn't initially equipped to interpret, and present results to stakeholders with real decision-making power.

The learning curve was steep, but the support made the difference. Working alongside partners from the University of Oxford, and with SeyCCAT backing the effort, we created something that has long-term value.

The connectivity data isn't just sitting on a server – it's in active use. Stakeholders from the Marine Spatial Planning process have already referenced it, and other researchers are building on it to look at thermal resilience and transboundary conservation links.

There were real setbacks – COVID caused major lab delays, and the costs of high-end sequencing meant we had to be strategic with our sampling. But even in the face of limitations, we saw that influence doesn't always come from perfection. Sometimes it comes from relevance, from asking the right questions at the right time.

Looking back, the biggest outcome for me wasn't just the science. It was the confidence that came with navigating something technically demanding, knowing I wasn't alone – that I was part of a system that believes in building capacity and taking risks to support applied science.



Story of Change 4

Empowering youth through real-world experience in the Blue Economy



Thematic Focus

The Sea | Youth Empowerment | Education & Skills Development | Blue Economy Inclusion

Project Name: Blue Economy Internship Programme

Programme Overview



- 4th edition of the internship programme
- 27 Seychellois youth placed in structured 2-week internships
- 13 host organisations across the Blue Economy sector



Environmental Engagement

- Mangrove education, planting, and snorkelling activity held
- Promoted environmental awareness and team-building



Photo credit: Chris Mason Parker

Skills Development & Outcomes



- 24 interns completed the full programme
- Received certificates and letters of recommendation
- Participated in a training workshop covering:
 - Blue Economy career pathways
 - Health and safety
 - Business development
- Produced over 50 blogs and vlogs shared online
- 6 interns delivered final presentations
- 2 interns pitched business ideas to senior policymakers
- Some interns independently extended placements with host organisations

From the perspective of Kalsey Belle, President of SYAH-Seychelles 2018-2019

When I began leading the Blue Economy Internship Programme, I was struck by how disconnected young people in Seychelles felt from the sector. Many were motivated and capable, but lacked exposure, internships, or opportunities to explore real career paths. As a volunteer-driven initiative under SYAH, we faced many challenges—from securing funding to matching youth with host organisations despite age restrictions. But we pushed forward with purpose, determined to give young Seychellois a way into the Blue Economy.

Over time, the programme gained traction, with more

youth applying and more institutions offering placements. That shift signaled real change—we weren't just running a programme, we were building a bridge between ambition and opportunity. Watching interns return for a second round, eager to try new roles, confirmed that we were making a lasting impact. This work has shown me that persistence leads to progress. My dream is to see the programme evolve into a sustainable, employment-oriented pathway—one that helps young people truly claim their place in the Blue Economy.

Story of Change 5

A Classroom Without Walls: Teaching Conservation Where It Happens



Thematic Focus

The People | Education | Community Stewardship | Wetland Literacy

Project Name: Sustainable Coastal Protection and Management

Project Overview

- Created an outdoor classroom for environmental education
- Location:** Anse Etoile Primary School



Community & School Engagement

- 250+** students engaged
- 15** teachers involved
- Participation from local community members



Key Activities & Outputs

- 2** site visits conducted
- 2** educational workshops held
- 100+** seedlings sourced and planted
- 2** permanent infographic boards installed on-site



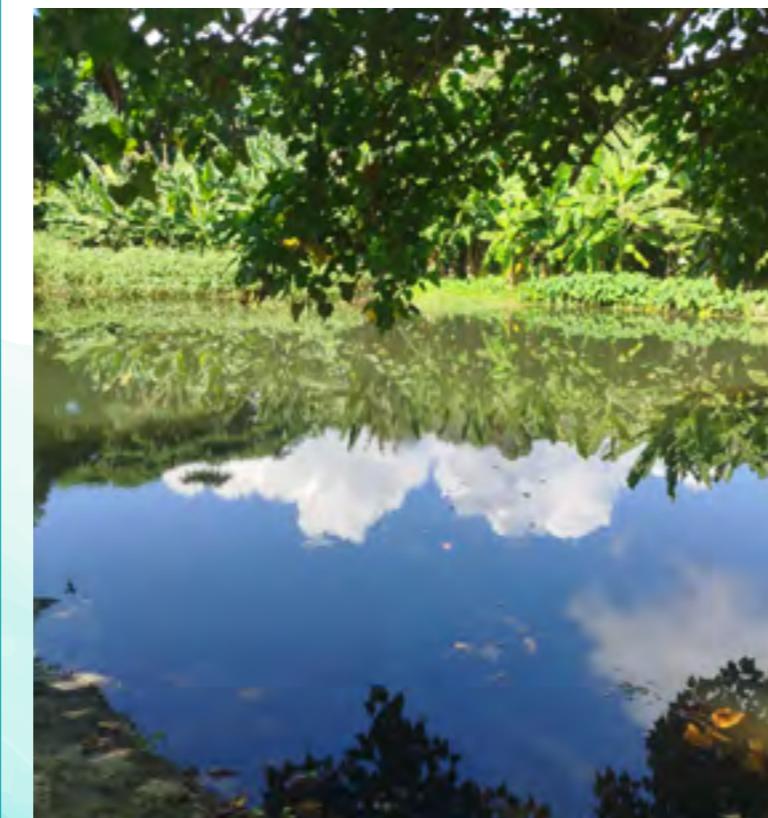
Impact

- Integrated coastal and wetland conservation into school activities
- Increased environmental awareness among students and the community
- Secured local participation for site upkeep



Challenges & Sustainability

- Faced delays due to the **COVID-19 pandemic** and project management issues
- Established a lasting educational resource despite setbacks
- Future sustainability** depends on:
 - Continued teacher **training**
 - Additional **infrastructure** (e.g., boardwalk)
 - Ongoing invasive **species management** (e.g., water lettuce removal)



As told by Mrs. Aline Berlouis, Teacher and Project Manager, Anse Etoile School (BGF#3-SM-N40)

Before this project, teaching wetland topics felt disconnected. There was nowhere nearby to show students a real, functioning wetland. As a science teacher, I found that frustrating — I wanted students to experience ecosystems firsthand, not just through textbooks or images on a screen.

The idea started as a dream: a small outdoor classroom where we could take pupils from Anse Etoile and La Retraite Schools to learn directly in nature. With support from SeyCCAT, that dream became real. We cleaned up the area, removed litter, planted native species, and installed infographic boards with information about wetland biodiversity.

One of the most memorable moments was the first field visit after the work was completed. The children clustered around the board, asking questions about the animals, the plants, the ecosystem. They were excited — and curious — and that's exactly what we hoped for.

Over time, more species began to return to the site. Herons were spotted, and the wetland started to feel alive again. Even tourists walking by would stop to read the infographic

board — asking questions or taking photos. The space became more than a teaching tool. It became a shared community resource — a visible example of how small investments in education can ripple outward into everyday public spaces. There were definitely challenges. Getting formal permission to install the board took time, and the problem of illegal dumping was ongoing. But the project taught me something as a teacher and a first-time project manager: you need a good team around you, and you need to think beyond the classroom.

If we could add one thing, it would be a proper walkway or viewing platform to bring students even closer to the ecosystem safely. And more seating — not just for students, but for community members who now visit the site.

My hope is simple: that what we've built stays respected. That people stop littering. That the wetland continues to grow back. And that future teachers and students keep using this space — not just to learn about wetlands, but to feel connected to them.



Story of Change 6

Advancing Digital Fisheries Monitoring in Seychelles



Thematic Focus

The Sea | Fisheries Sustainability • Digital Governance • Policy Innovation

Project Name: Pilot and Integration of Tracking, Logbook, and Market Traceability Tools



Project Overview



- Established **digital fisheries monitoring** systems
- Integrated the **Seychelles Fisher App (ABALOBI)** with CLS THEMIS software
- Enabled **real-time tracking** and catch reporting
- Linked to the **Seychelles Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC)**

Key Achievements



- 300 vessel tracking units deployed
- Improved fisheries oversight and compliance
- Fisher-driven data collection** demonstrated as a valuable management tool

Fisher Engagement



- Fishers voluntarily signed **data-sharing agreements**
- Positive feedback received on **data visualization tools**
- Increased trust in digital tools and electronic governance

Institutional Progress



- Formal **data-sharing agreement** secured between SFA and CLS
- Electronic monitoring** institutionalized as a governance mechanism
- Created the **foundation for future regulatory changes**

Policy Influence & Next Steps



- Co-management policy** meetings were limited but groundwork was laid
- Future impact depends on SFA scaling up:
 - Full integration of **fisher-collected data**
 - Use in **licensing, stock assessments, and compliance**

Story of Change 7

Seafloor Cleanup & Marine Waste Awareness Project

Thematic Focus

The Sea | Fisheries Sustainability | Digital Governance | Policy Innovation

Project Name: Reduction of ocean pollution through sea floor clean up.

Marcus Quatre



Cleanup Activities



- Seafloor cleanups** completed at four sites: Providence, Perseverance, Glacis, Bel Ombre
- Total waste removed: **1,890 kg**; **690 kg** sent to landfill, **1,200 kg** recycled

Education & Engagement



- 10 **educational talks** held in schools including one session in Tanzania
- 2 **cleanup** activities with Seychelles Maritime Academy students
- 4 **local media** awareness campaigns: Coverage on SBC Radio/TV and K-Radio

Waste Reuse & Partnerships



- Recycling** and reuse initiative launched
- Fishermen involved in **waste repurposing**
- Collaborated with: **Seychelles Marine Park Authority, Seychelles Fishing Authority**

Policy Alignment



- Supported Seychelles' commitments under: **MARPOL** and other international marine pollution conventions

Sustainability & Legacy



- New NGO established: **The Voice of the Ocean**, to continue cleanups and advocacy and ensure long-term impact and community mobilization

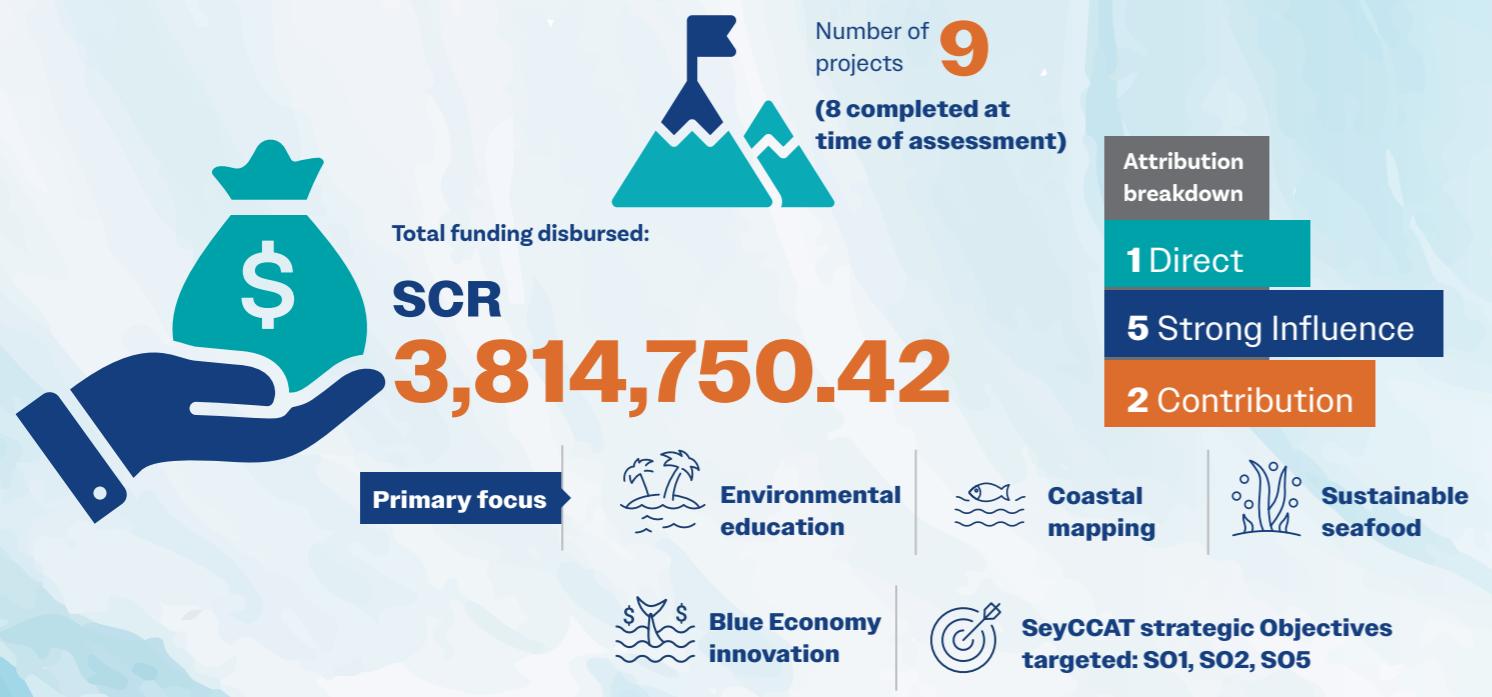
Marcus Quatre, Project Lead

Before this project, pollution was simply part of daily life in my community—ignored, accepted, and cleaned up by someone else. As a diver and skipper for 18 years, I witnessed the damage firsthand: trash tossed overboard, polluted reefs, and no real accountability. So I took action. I planned and led a clean-up initiative across four sites on Mahé, despite COVID-19, harsh weather, and limited resources. We faced resistance from the community, but through persistence—awareness talks, visual comparisons, and small incentives—we slowly began to change mindsets and show the real impact of pollution on our oceans.

Over time, the shift became visible. Fishers began returning waste voluntarily, schools joined in, and media helped amplify our message. This led to the creation of an NGO—The Voice of the Ocean—to continue this work. It's clear now that pollution isn't just an environmental issue—it affects health, livelihoods, and our future. We need stronger collaboration across sectors and earlier education to keep the momentum going. This project taught me that change is possible when you lead with purpose, adapt through challenges, and never give up. The ocean deserves nothing less.

6.4 BGF4: Advancing Environmental Education and Climate Resilience (2021–2024)

Building on the outcomes of BGF1 through BGF3, the fourth cycle of SeyCCAT funding expanded its focus on environmental education, climate resilience, and sustainable resource use. BGF4 supported projects that advanced marine literacy, piloted community-led conservation infrastructure, and explored opportunities for sustainable seafood certification and biodegradable product development. This cycle marked a growing emphasis on accessible education materials, innovative mapping tools for coastal monitoring, and early-stage Blue Economy research. BGF4 offers further evidence of SeyCCAT's evolving role in facilitating multisectoral collaboration, public engagement, and local innovation across marine and coastal conservation efforts.



BGF4 Impact Summary

The Mind, The People



Wildlife books/educational material for schoolchildren

Robert Mondon

IMPACT DIMENSION: Education & Community Engagement

INDICATOR: Public Awareness & Behavioral Change

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – 5000 books on Sooty Terns and local biodiversity were published and distributed to schools, supporting environmental education and awareness.

The Mind, The People, The Sea



A practical approach to educating the younger generation on conservation through books

Marcus Valentin

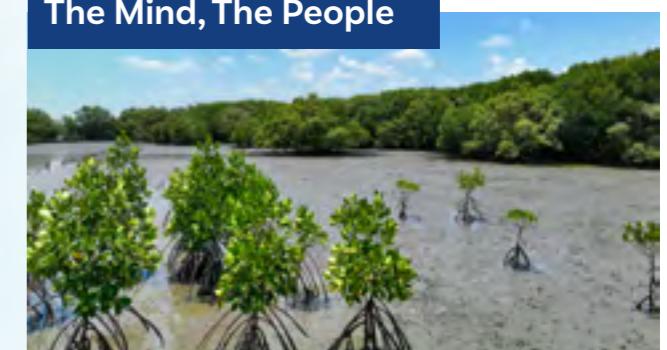
IMPACT DIMENSION: Education & Community Engagement

INDICATOR: Capacity Building in Marine Conservation

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – 12 students participated in the Blue Defenders program, completing snorkeling, diving, and beach clean-up activities, improving ocean literacy and conservation engagement.”

The Mind, The People



Endemic species children book

Laura Valentino

IMPACT DIMENSION: Education & Community Engagement

INDICATOR: Public Awareness & Behavioral Change

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence – 720 books on wetland and marine ecosystems were printed, translated into multiple languages, and distributed in Seychelles schools, enhancing early environmental literacy.

The Land, The Mind, The People



Mangrove Regeneration and Viewing Walkway -project

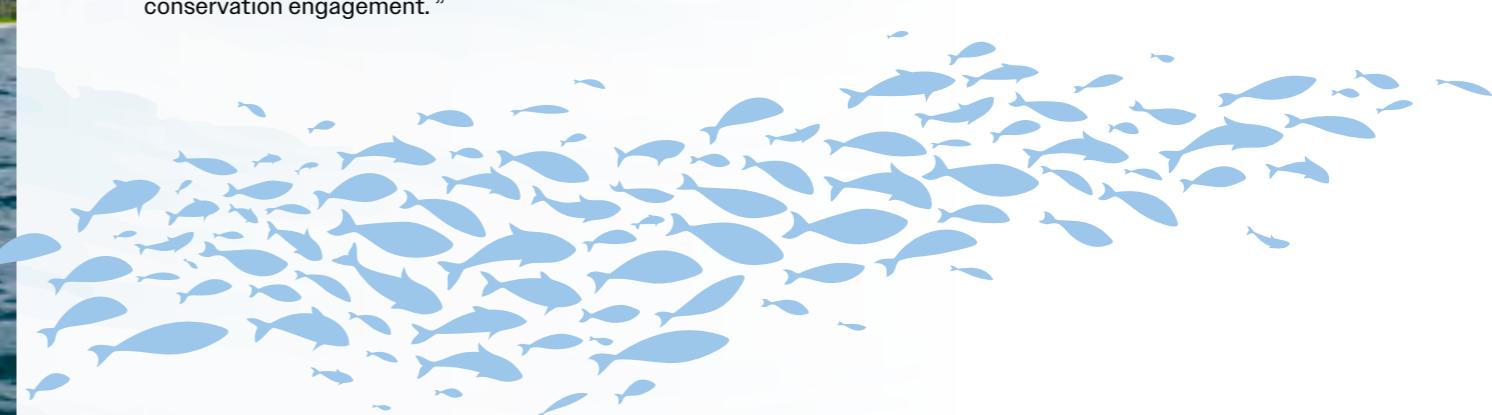
Susan Ansell

IMPACT DIMENSION: Environmental Sustainability

INDICATOR: Biodiversity Resilience & Habitat Restoration

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Direct Attribution – A mangrove boardwalk was constructed, facilitating student and community engagement in wetland conservation efforts and supporting mangrove restoration.



The System



Feasibility study for SEYSSI - Seychelles Sustainable Seafood Initiative

Sheena T alma

IMPACT DIMENSION: Fisheries Sustainability

INDICATOR: Policy & Regulatory Influence on Fisheries Management

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Contribution - A study was completed on implementing a seafood sustainability labeling system, gathering data from 256 stakeholders to guide policy recommendations.

The Mind, The People

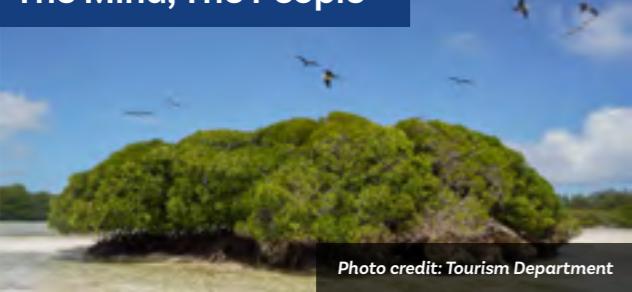


Photo credit: Tourism Department

Communication for Change (Comm4Change - C4C)

Seychelles Islands Foundation

IMPACT DIMENSION: Education & Community Engagement

INDICATOR: Public Awareness & Behavioral Change

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence - Two educational videos on Aldabra's conservation challenges were produced and reached over 92,584 people across multiple platforms, increasing public engagement.

Challenges & Limitations

- *Scaling sea cucumber aquaculture remains challenging due to the complexity of replicating natural spawning conditions in a controlled environment.*
- *Digital education outreach achieved wide reach, but projects lacked mechanisms to assess behavioural change, highlighting the need for structured follow-up and impact evaluation.*

The Mind, The Sea



Feasibility study on the use of algae as a resource for sustainable consumption and development across sectors in Seychelles

Marinette Dine

IMPACT DIMENSION: Blue Economy Growth

INDICATOR: Private Sector Investment Leveraged

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Contribution - Research demonstrated the viability of algae-based biodegradable products and their potential for scaling in Seychelles' sustainable industries.

The System



High-resolution 2D / 3D coastal mapping and monitoring using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle and Structure-from-Motion photogrammetry techniques on the island of Mahé

Jonathan Pinchart

IMPACT DIMENSION: Climate Resilience

INDICATOR: Climate Adaptation & Resilience in Coastal Ecosystems

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence - High-resolution coastal monitoring datasets were produced and shared with stakeholders, informing policy decisions on erosion and climate resilience.

Story of Change 8

Teaching the Ocean by Living It: Youth, Action, and Empowerment

Thematic Focus

The People | Education | Community Engagement | Youth Empowerment

Project Name: A practical approach to educating the younger generation on conservation through books

Marcus Valentin



Participants

- 12 students from La Digue
- Equal participation of boys and girls



Key Activities

- PADI dive training (introductory sessions)
- Free diving and skin diving (as alternatives during COVID-19)
- Snorkeling and marine ecosystem exploration
- Mural painting with ocean conservation messages
- Beach clean-ups at Anse Coco and Anse Reunion



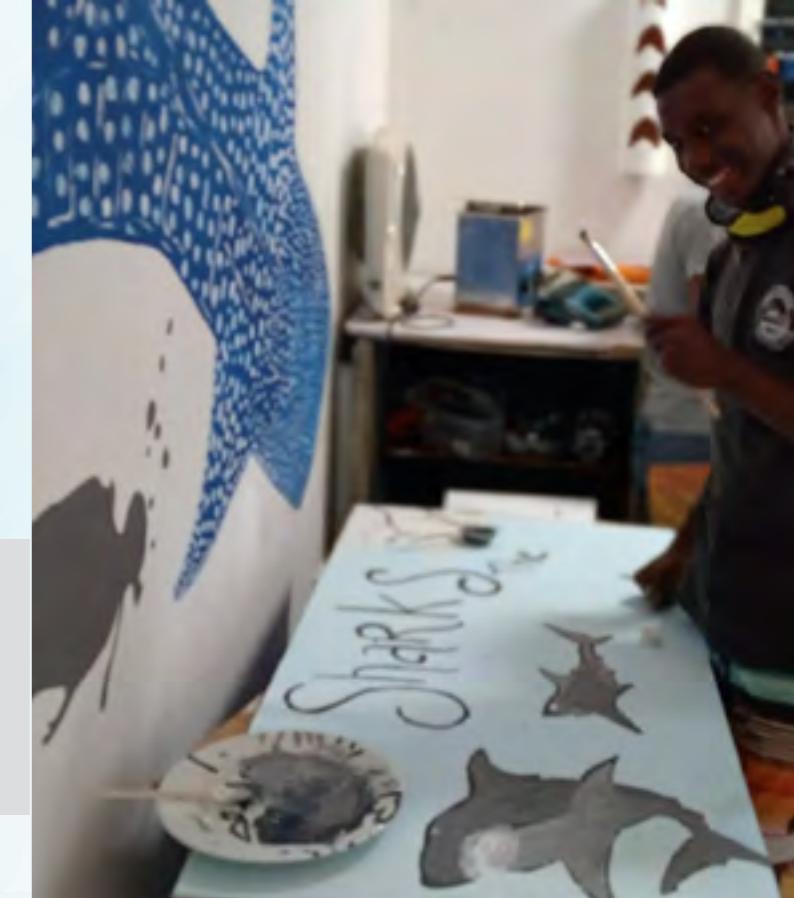
Environmental Education Themes

- Introduction to marine conservation concepts
- Understanding marine waste types
- Hands-on learning about reef health and ocean ecosystems
- Community engagement discussions



Impact

- Increased youth awareness of ocean protection
- First-time experiences in conservation for many students
- Strengthened connection between young people and their coastal environment



As told by Aisha Radwan, Co-Project Lead assisted by Natacha Ardouin, BGF#4-SM-N19 (La Digue)

Before launching this project, my main worry wasn't the ocean itself—it was how little we were teaching our kids about it. In Seychelles, we're surrounded by natural beauty, yet our everyday habits often contradict that reality. Through the Blue Defenders programme on La Digue, we engaged 12 students in hands-on conservation activities like snorkeling, diving, mural painting, and beach clean-ups. For many, it was a series of firsts: their first time underwater, their first time calling out someone for littering, their first real connection between coral and community.

COVID forced us to adapt—canceling pool-based dive training and shifting to free diving—but the students kept going. They painted murals with ocean protection messages and helped clean Anse Coco and Anse Reunion. We faced challenges with consistency and limited support from schools and parents, so next time, we'll create shorter, goal-focused modules. Still, the impact was real. Whether it was a teen refusing plastic bags or standing up for marine life, those moments mattered. At this age, the key is simply showing up—because when we do, they do too.

6.5 BGF5: Integrating Science, Resilience, and Community Engagement (2022–2024)

Building on the outcomes of previous cycles, the fifth round of SeyCCAT funding deepened its emphasis on biodiversity conservation, fisheries sustainability, climate resilience, and knowledge generation to inform national decision-making. Aligned with Strategic Objectives 1, 2, 4, and 5, BGF5 supported projects that advanced marine mammal monitoring, erosion risk modeling, community-level fisheries training, and public engagement through media and research. BGF5 demonstrated increased integration across environmental science, education, and sustainable livelihoods, highlighting SeyCCAT's growing role in facilitating resilience and systemic change across Seychelles' marine and coastal sectors.



BGF5 Impact Summary

The Mind, The Sea



Rapid assessment of biodiversity in shallow water (<40m) habitats of the Alphonse Group

Alphonse Foundation

IMPACT DIMENSION: Marine Biodiversity

INDICATOR: Baseline Data on Fish Biodiversity

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence - A total of 479 fish species were identified, including 10 species newly recorded for Seychelles. The study documented 15 species listed on the IUCN Red List, supporting marine conservation planning and biodiversity protection.

The Mind, The Sea, The System



Assessing the impact of COVID-19 on the management of protected areas and exploring financing mechanisms to strengthen sustainable financing as a key component to resilience building against exogenous shocks.

Kalsey Belle

IMPACT DIMENSION: Environmental Sustainability

INDICATOR: Policy & Governance for Protected Areas

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Contribution - Analyzed financial losses of SCR 27 million in visitor revenue from protected areas, documenting increased poaching risks and staff shortages. Recommended five sustainable financing strategies to improve resilience.

The People, The System



Exploring the contribution of fishing to the social and cultural wellbeing of artisanal fishers in Seychelles

Sustainable Synergies

IMPACT DIMENSION: Fisheries Sustainability

INDICATOR: Social & Cultural Value of Fisheries

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Contribution - Engaged 50+ artisanal fishers, youth, and policymakers in documenting social and cultural links to fishing. The study highlighted key policy gaps and provided recommendations for integrating cultural values into fisheries management.

The Mind, The People, The Sea



Production of a high-quality documentary to safeguard, promote & educate more the fishers and the public to the local sustainable fishing knowledge.

Frankie Rignace

IMPACT DIMENSION: Education & Community Engagement

INDICATOR: Public Awareness & Behavioral Change

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence - The documentary was broadcasted on SBC, reaching over 50,000 viewers, distributed in all schools, and integrated into fisheries education programs, enhancing national awareness of sustainable fishing practices.

The People, The Sea



"Peson An Mouvman"

Citizens Engagement Platform Seychelles (CEPS)

IMPACT DIMENSION: Blue Economy Growth

INDICATOR: Capacity Building for Fishers

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence - 21 fishers and 5 Maritime School students received training in project writing, advocacy, and marketing. Three fisheries associations were restructured, and one participant successfully secured a SCR 50,000 grant for business expansion.

The Mind

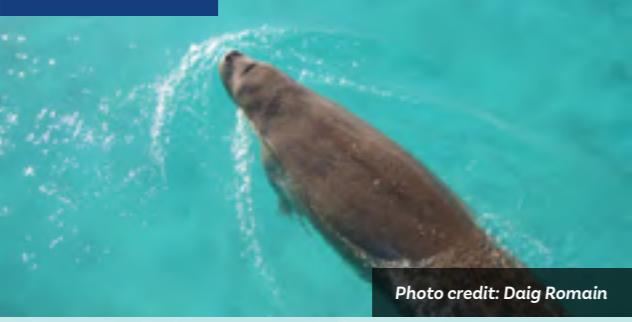


Photo credit: Daig Romain

The last dugongs in the Seychelles: baseline population assessment of Dugong dugon at Aldabra Atoll

Seychelles Island Foundation

IMPACT DIMENSION: Marine Biodiversity

INDICATOR: Dugong Population Monitoring

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence - The first aerial survey at Aldabra identified 23 dugongs, including 5 calves. The project contributed data to the UNEP Dugong Status Report and trained 5 Aldabra staff in UAV-based marine mammal monitoring.

The Sea



Strengthening coastal resilience against climate change induced coastal degradation through the application of science-based planning processes and the design of sustainable protection measures with the involvement of key economic partners.

Inspire for tomorrow Consultancy

IMPACT DIMENSION: Climate Resilience

INDICATOR: Coastal Adaptation & Risk Reduction

ATTRIBUTION LEVEL & JUSTIFICATION

Strong Influence - Coastal modeling and feasibility studies covered 3 priority sites. Over SCR 823,000 in co-financing was secured, with two hotels committing to implementing recommended erosion mitigation measures.

Challenges & Limitations

Despite notable outcomes, BGF5 also revealed several cross-cutting challenges that highlight areas for future programme strengthening

- Coastal protection feasibility studies were completed, but implementation depends on long-term funding and private sector commitment.*
- Artisanal fishers' social and cultural values were underrepresented in policy discussions, despite being identified as key to inclusive fisheries management.*
- Dugong population density at Aldabra was lower than expected, limiting the ability to conduct advanced statistical analysis on population health and trends.*

Story of Change 9

Safeguarding Traditional Knowledge through Film

Project Title: Production of a high quality documentary to safeguard, promote & educate more the fishers and the public to the local sustainable fishing knowledge.

Frankie Rignace

Watch the film

Reach & Visibility

- Social media awareness campaign reached **40,000+** people on Facebook and Instagram
- The documentary was viewed over **7,000** times on YouTube—locally and internationally
- Translated into French by the French Embassy to support promotion at events like **La Francophonie 2024**
- 2 public screenings** held with high turnout
- 1 private screening** attended by multiple Ministers and the **President of Seychelles, Wavel Ramkalawan**, along with the **First Lady**



Results & Engagement

- Distributed to all schools in Seychelles
- 150+** students participated in educational sessions and interactive debates with professional fishers
- Widely praised by stakeholders, including **Seychelles Ministers and NGOs**



Impact

- Strengthened public and youth awareness of sustainable fishing practices
- Highlighted both **traditional** and **modern techniques** in fisheries
- Helped shape **national dialogue around sustainable** marine resource management
- Encouraged positive engagement** from national decision-makers
- Promoted **rebuilding of fish stocks** through sustainable gear and practices



Sustainability & Recommendations



- The documentary is a long-term **educational resource**
- Main recommendation: **promote sustainable fishing** to rebuild local fish stocks
- Plans underway for new productions in **collaboration with national ministries**
- Project supports **evidence-based decision-making** in fisheries governance

As told by Frankie Rignace, Project Lead, "Fishermen, the Heart of a Nation", a Documentary on Sustainable

Fishermen, The Heart of a Nation - Full movie 2024

This project gave us something we never had before—a lasting record of how traditional Seychellois fishers lived and worked. As someone involved in fisheries media for years, it was the first time I could document sustainable fishing practices in a professional, story-driven format that honoured both past and present. The fishers, though initially shy, opened up once they understood the goal: to preserve their knowledge for future generations. Their stories brought to life the rhythms of the sea, the gear they used, and the unwritten rules they followed long before formal regulations existed.

What moved me most was the response from young people. After screenings in schools, students and teachers alike said they had never realized the depth of this cultural heritage. The documentary helped spark conversations about identity, pride, and the future of local fisheries. It became more than just a film—it became a tool for education and reflection, bringing generations together and reminding us that preserving our traditions is as vital as protecting our ocean.



Story of Change 10

Rethinking Coastal Protection in Seychelles

Thematic Focus

The Land | Climate Resilience • Coastal Protection • Public-Private Collaboration

Project Name: Strengthening coastal resilience against climate change induced coastal degradation through the application of science-based planning processes and the design of sustainable protection measures with the involvement of key economic partners.

Inspire for Tomorrow Consultancy



The project successfully conducted topography-bathymetry surveys, digital shoreline regression analysis, and rapid benthic assessments at three high-risk coastal sites (Petit Barbarons, Anse Louis, and La Passe, Silhouette), providing essential data for climate adaptation planning. Nine meetings were held with key stakeholders, including hotel management and government agencies, to assess and discuss the findings. Coastal modeling results showed severe erosion risks at all three sites, with Anse Louis and Petit Barbarons most vulnerable to sea level rise.

These findings led to the development of three feasibility studies proposing nature-based coastal protection solutions. However, implementation was delayed due to management changes at Hilton Labriz and Avani Barbarons hotels, with Avani opting to engage a marine engineering firm from Abu Dhabi for further action. The project aligns with Seychelles' national climate adaptation strategy and informs future private sector-led coastal protection investments. While SeyCCAT's funding enabled critical research and stakeholder engagement, co-financing from hotels and government agencies was essential for data collection and future implementation, making "Strong Influence" the most appropriate classification.

As told by Didier Dogley, Project Lead, Inspire for Tomorrow Consultancy

Coastal erosion is not new – but our response to it needed to change.

For decades, Seychelles has relied on rock armouring to fight coastal degradation. But we're an island nation that markets itself on beautiful beaches – and we were scarring them with stone. I wanted this project to prove that a more sustainable, science-based approach was possible.

We identified three priority sites: Petit Barbarons, Anse Louis, and La Passe on Silhouette. Our technical team conducted topographic surveys, shoreline regression modelling, and benthic habitat assessments. But what made this different wasn't just the science – it was the fact that the private sector came in with us.

Each hotel – Avani, Maia Resort, and Hilton Labriz – contributed financially to the coastal modelling studies. That co-financing was essential. Without their US\$7,000 contributions, the modelling wouldn't have happened. It wasn't just a matter of money – it showed that hotels were ready to be part of the solution.

The modelling confirmed what many suspected: the erosion risk was severe, and worsening with sea level rise. Our final product was a set of feasibility studies for nature-based protection at each site. One hotel has already taken steps to implement. Another opted to bring in an engineering firm. Either way, the concept of using ecological knowledge instead of concrete blocks had entered the conversation – and that's a win.

We faced delays, especially due to COVID and rough sea conditions, but the work got done. And now the Department of Environment has a replicable model. Something they can use instead of defaulting to grey infrastructure.

To me, that's real impact. It's not just about delivering reports – it's about changing the baseline for what's possible.

6.6 Strategic Partnerships Portfolio (2016–2024)

Key Partnership Streams

Estimated Value
\$21.6M
(debt swap)

Focus
Debt conversion

Estimated Value
\$1,5M
Focus
Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) implementation support

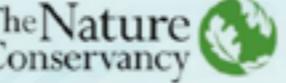
Estimated Value
\$922,909
(debt swap)

Focus
Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) implementation support

Attribution Level: Strong Influence

The Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP) is a government-led initiative co-designed with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to zone the country's entire Exclusive Economic Zone (1.35 million km²) for sustainable use, while committing to the ambitious goal of protecting 30% of its marine waters as MPAs as well as addressing climate change adaptation and advancing the Blue Economy agenda..

SeyCCAT plays a foundational role in delivering the MSP: the entire initiative was made possible through a USD 21.6 million debt-for-nature swap in 2016, brokered by TNC, which funded the creation of SeyCCAT and provides the long-term financing that underpins the SMSP through its Blue Grants Fund. Through an MoU with Government, TNC has facilitated the development of a Marine Spatial Plan funding for which was provided through grants to SeyCCAT. In addition to managing the endowment and grant-making, SeyCCAT coordinates funding for developing the MSP and for its implementation, including support for community engagement, technical assistance, and MEL activities aligned with the MSP framework.

 The Nature Conservancy	 SUF	 SMSP	 SeyCCAT
<p>Estimated Value \$21.6M (debt swap)</p> <p>Focus Debt conversion</p>	<p>Estimated Value \$1,5M Focus Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) implementation support</p>	<p>Estimated Value \$922,909 (debt swap)</p> <p>Focus Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) implementation support</p>	<p>Legal designation of 441,456 km² (More than 30% by 2025 of Seychelles' EEZ) as MPAs, spanning both no-take and sustainable-use zones</p> <p>Broad stakeholder engagement, with over multiple entities participating in zoning decisions facilitated by SeyCCAT-funded consultancies and outreach</p>
<p>Drafting and rollout of the Nature Reserves and Conservancy Act (2022), with implementation regulations in progress</p>	<p>Science-based planning, including deep-sea habitat mapping, economic valuation, and integration of biodiversity and fisheries data</p>	<p>Signing the MSP into law</p>	
<p>Seychelles has an MSP policy. First in country and a first for WIO</p>	<p>Geospatial database with over 100 spatial data layers housed at the MACCE.</p>		



Key achievements under this partnership include:

- Legal designation of 441,456km² of Seychelles EEZ as MPAs by 2025, spanning both no-take and sustainable-use zones
- Drafting and rollout of the Nature Reserves and Conservancy Act (2022), with implementation regulations in progress
- Broad stakeholder engagement, with multiple entities participating in zoning decisions facilitated by SeyCCAT-funded consultancies and outreach
- Science-based planning, including deep-sea habitat mapping, economic valuation, and integration of biodiversity and fisheries data
- Adaptive management planning, supported by SeyCCAT and TNC, with zone-specific strategies under development and expected MSP gazetteer in 2025
- Signing the MSP into law



Documented Impacts:

Through this partnership, Seychelles has transitioned from marine protection of less than 1% (0.04% of its EEZ in 2014) to becoming a global leader in marine protections and marine spatial planning. Species such as turtles, sharks, and groupers now benefit from large, protected habitats, while fishers and tourism operators gain clarity on access and long-term sustainability. SeyCCAT's coordination role—funding technical expertise, facilitating stakeholder processes, and managing grant allocations—has been essential in translating the SMSP from paper to practice. Today, the SMSP and the Seychelles debt swap is recognised internationally as a benchmark in ocean conservation finance, with the SeyCCAT-TNC model inspiring similar efforts in Belize, Barbados, and Fiji.



Estimated Value

\$2.3M

Focus

MPA governance, management planning, SORA Development



Attribution Level: Strong Influence

The Blue Nature Alliance (BNA), a global collaborative of philanthropic and government donors, has partnered with Seychelles to ensure the long-term effectiveness of the country's marine protected area (MPA) network. Having reached the milestone of protecting 30% of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), Seychelles now faces the critical task of turning this protected seascape into a fully functional and sustainably financed system. The Alliance's focus is twofold: closing the MPA financing gap and strengthening institutional governance.

SeyCCAT plays a key role as the national delivery partner for BNA, receiving and managing funds, coordinating technical assistance, and aligning BNA's support with broader Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) implementation. BNA's collaboration with SeyCCAT builds on the Trust's financial governance systems, enabling efficient management of grants, procurement of consultants, and co-financing synergies across MSP donors.

Key achievements include:

- Establishment of a dedicated MPA Authority and Management Unit within MACCE, supported by BNA funds for staffing and coordination
- Standardization and rollout of MPA management plan templates, with all 13 new MPAs now having plans completed or in draft
- Investment in capacity building, with rangers, wardens, and NGO partners trained in monitoring, patrol operations, and ecological surveys
- Development of a national M&E framework for MPAs, tracking ecological and compliance indicators across the network
- Exploration of sustainable financing models, including trust fund expansion, user fees, and blue carbon credits, led in part by SeyCCAT in its financing coordination role



Documented Impacts:

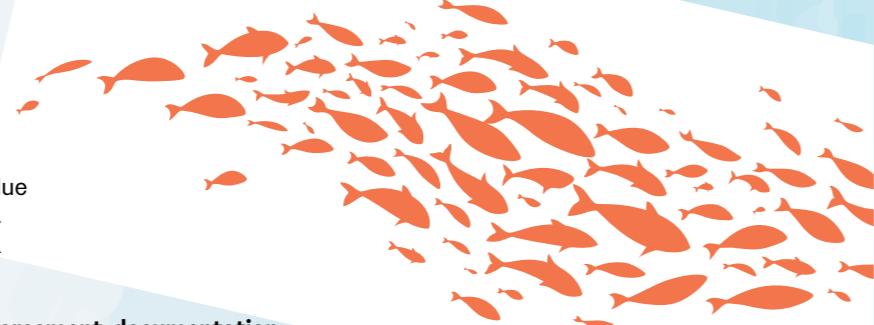
BNA's strategic support, delivered in partnership with SeyCCAT, has turned Seychelles' vast MPA network from a bold designation into an operational system. Patrols and compliance mechanisms are now active in areas where none previously existed. Early ecological monitoring indicates positive trends in coral and fish recovery, especially in no-take zones. Institutional capacity has been visibly strengthened—with clear MPA oversight structures, trained personnel, and improved inter-agency coordination. The success of this governance model, with SeyCCAT at the centre of fund management and technical delivery, positions Seychelles as a leading case study in durable, scalable MPA implementation globally.



(MSP implementation support)

Estimated Value
\$900K

Focus
MEL, MPA enforcement, documentation



Attribution Level: Strong Influence

Oceans5, a global philanthropic coalition supporting marine conservation, provided Seychelles with targeted funding to accelerate implementation of the Marine Spatial Plan (MSP). The project, titled “Enabling Seychelles’ Marine Spatial Plan”, focused on converting Seychelles’ 30% marine protection commitment from policy into practice. Working through SeyCCAT as the national implementing partner, the initiative supported legal, technical, and institutional components required to operationalise the newly designated marine protected areas (MPAs) and improve fisheries governance.

SeyCCAT served as the grant recipient and lead coordinator, managing disbursement, contracting, reporting, and alignment with other MSP implementation funding (e.g. from BNA, TNC, Waitt). SeyCCAT played a central role in organising technical consultancies, convening stakeholder consultations, and ensuring that deliverables fed into the broader MSP governance and MEL systems.

Key achievements include:

- Development and testing of a national MPA management plan template, applied across four pilot sites and scaled up for all 13 MPAs
- Policy acceleration, including the drafting of enforcement regulations under the 2022 Nature Reserves and Conservancy Act and issuance of a commencement notice for the MSP
- Establishment of an Ambient Environmental Quality (AEQ) monitoring programme, including baseline data collection and site-level ecological indicators
- Support to the Mahé Plateau co-management plan,
- including fisheries data transparency and stakeholder engagement
- Enabling Seychelles to achieve full compliance with the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) in 2023
- Extensive community outreach and behaviour change, including reinforced support for seasonal closures in areas like Baie St. Anne, Praslin



Documented Impacts:

With SeyCCAT’s leadership, the Oceans5 initiative moved Seychelles beyond “30% protection on paper” toward more than 30% effectively managed. MPA management plans are now in place, enforcement frameworks have legal backing, and AEQ monitoring enables adaptive responses to ecological stressors. Local fishers have shown increased buy-in, and cross-agency workflows—coordinated by SeyCCAT—have enhanced implementation efficiency and transparency. Internationally, Seychelles is now cited as a leader in MSP execution, due in part to the strategic role SeyCCAT played in delivering Oceans5-funded outcomes. The initiative demonstrates how philanthropic partnerships can reinforce national delivery systems, with SeyCCAT at the centre of this transformation.



Estimated Value
\$1.37M

Focus
Seagrass mapping, blue carbon, NDC, climate change, nature-based solutions

Attribution Level: Strong Influence

The Pew-funded Coastal Wetlands and Climate Change Project continued to support Seychelles reputation as a global leader in ocean-climate action. Implemented between 2021 and 2023, the initiative supported the full mapping of seagrass habitats and quantification of their carbon storage—providing the scientific foundation for Seychelles’ landmark commitment to protect 100% of its seagrass ecosystems by 2030.

SeyCCAT coordinated national implementation, overseeing project management, stakeholder engagement, and supported the Government of Seychelles’ climate policy. Working in partnership with the University of Oxford, University of Seychelles, Island Conservation Society (ICS), and government ministries, SeyCCAT ensured that project outputs contributed to the updated NDC submitted in July 2021.

Key achievements include:

- First national seagrass map and carbon inventory, completed with ground-truthing and lab analysis
- Policy inclusion of blue carbon language in Seychelles’ 2021 NDC, and international recognition at COP26
- Community outreach campaigns, including the introduction of Creole names for seagrass and its 5 lifeforms
- Production of practical tools (ID guides, long-term monitoring protocols) and reports to explore the financial feasibility of blue carbon with a focus on seagrass for the country.



Documented Impacts:

With SeyCCAT’s leadership, Seychelles became the first nation to validate and publish a full EEZ seagrass map. This informed its NDC revision, inspired global replication, and catalysed local understanding of blue carbon ecosystems value. Government staff and students gained new technical skill. SeyCCAT’s coordination helped align this project with broader national priorities, positioning Seychelles as a reference point in marine-climate integration and opening new avenues for carbon financing and ocean resilience.

Estimated Value
\$2-3M (est.)

Focus
Fisheries reform, harvest strategy, EM tools

Attribution Level: Strong Influence

Funded by Germany's International Climate Initiative (IKI), Strengthening the Blue Economy of the Western Indian Ocean through Integration of Ecosystem Services and Effective Biodiversity Conservation Project is led by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in partnership with CSIRO. The initiative strengthens sustainable fisheries management in Seychelles by developing science-based harvest strategies for artisanal fisheries using the FishPath tool. It directly supports the national transition to data-driven fisheries governance.

SeyCCAT plays a key facilitation role in the local delivery of the project. In collaboration with the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA), the Blue Economy Department, and other stakeholders, SeyCCAT ensures the project's activities align with the Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) and Seychelles' national fisheries policies. The initiative is strategically coordinated alongside SeyCCAT's other fisheries-related grants and supported workstreams, maximising synergy with Blue Bond-funded reforms.

Key achievements include:

- Completion of pilot stock assessments and harvest control rules for lobster and spanner crab fisheries
- Capacity building for SFA through SeyCCAT-led coordination of training workshops and monitoring protocols
- EM is now mandated in the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act (2025), installed on all Seychelles industrial purse seiners with 100% data review by SFA, supported by capacity building to manage footage and plans to expand EM to longline fisheries.
- Transition of EM to longline. Support for the development of a national dFAD management plan
- Integration of FishPath outputs into MSP zones and the Fisheries Sector Plan
- Reinforcement of transparency and science-based management through SeyCCAT-supported cross-project coordination



Documented Impacts:

Through SeyCCAT's coordination and integration across the fisheries portfolio, this project is translating technical solutions into policy reforms and behavioural change. SFA is now piloting new monitoring protocols, and communities are participating more actively in management decisions. Early signs of stock recovery suggest the approach is working. By aligning FishPath with SeyCCAT's MEL system and strategic priorities, the project strengthens national capacity and links local fisheries reform with broader blue economy and climate resilience goals.

Estimated Value

SeyCCAT will receive
USD 286,000,

with a further USD 3.6 million supporting implementation in Seychelles through other partners.

Focus
NGO capacity building and ecosystem-based adaptation

Attribution Level: Strong Influence

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) supports conservation and climate adaptation through civil society engagement in global biodiversity hotspots. In Seychelles, CEPF's focus is on empowering local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to deliver community-based conservation and enhance ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change.

SeyCCAT works as part of CEPF's Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the hotspot, coordinated by IUCN-NL, alongside regional partners in Madagascar, Mauritius, and Comoros. Through SeyCCAT's leadership, the country was fully incorporated into CEPF's regional strategy for the first time, unlocking dedicated funding streams and building local conservation capacity.

SeyCCAT oversees the local grant cycle, facilitates proposal development, ensures alignment with national priorities, and provides support in monitoring and reporting. In late 2024, for example, SeyCCAT coordinated the allocation of USD 150,000 in small grants (each ≤ \$50,000) to three Seychellois organisations: the Island Conservation Society (ICS), the Citizens Engagement Platform Seychelles (CEPS), and the Plant Conservation Action group (PCA).

Key achievements include:

- Launch of community-led restoration and research activities, including wetland rehabilitation and native plant propagation
- Strengthening of local civil society capacity in project management, data collection, and science-policy translation
- Development of synergies between CEPF and SeyCCAT's Blue Grants Fund, ensuring complementarity in marine monitoring and biodiversity conservation efforts
- Engagement of communities in climate adaptation initiatives, enhancing public understanding and ownership of local ecosystems



Documented Impacts:

CEPF-funded activities, delivered under SeyCCAT's coordination, have already contributed valuable data and conservation actions to national strategies. NGO-led surveys identified critical habitats and climate-vulnerable areas now feeding into MSP refinement and NDC implementation. The injection of over USD 150,000 into small-scale conservation has revitalised wetland areas, supported endemic plant recovery, and empowered NGOs to play a greater role in environmental governance. Most significantly, the CEPF initiative has expanded Seychelles' network of active environmental CSOs, leaving a legacy of local capacity and collaboration. SeyCCAT's leadership in aligning CEPF funding with national priorities ensures that these grassroots efforts contribute meaningfully to long-term, community-driven conservation in Seychelles.

Story of Change 11

Language, Science, and Climate Action: A Story of Seagrass and Sovereignty

Thematic Focus

The System | Policy Influence | Climate Strategy | Blue Carbon

Project Name: Coastal Wetlands and Climate Change: Supporting Seychelles' NDC and Blue Carbon Policy Integration

Lead Partner:



Key Results (To Date):

- Completed national mapping of seagrass habitats in Seychelles, covering approximately **1,599 km² (160,000 ha)**, and estimated to sequester **69 million tonnes of CO₂e**. Seychelles became the first country globally to complete a full field-validated seagrass carbon inventory across its EEZ.
- Produced the country's first estimate of carbon storage from coastal wetlands (**730,000 tonnes CO₂e/year**)
- Contributed to the revision of the **Seychelles Wetlands Policy (2023)**
- Inputs to be integrated into the 2025 update of Seychelles' **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)**
- National **Seagrass Identification Guide** developed (awaiting final endorsement)
- Training delivered to over **20 staff** from **MACCE, SFA**, and other agencies on seagrass monitoring protocols



Rooted in Language, Anchored in Science: A Coastal Wetlands Journey

As told by Annike Faure, Project Manager, Coastal Wetlands and Climate Change Project

When I joined the Coastal Wetlands and Climate Change Project in 2020, I knew seagrass was important, but I didn't realize how deeply this journey would impact our culture and climate policy. Our mission was to support the Government of Seychelles in recognizing seagrass as a vital blue carbon ecosystem in its climate commitments. One of our most powerful moments was giving seagrass species names in Seychellois Creole — a simple act that created pride, ownership, and connection. Hearing children say "gomon zerb levantay" and knowing they see this habitat as part of their world was incredibly moving.

With support from SeyCCAT, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and partners like the University of Oxford, we mapped seagrass meadows and proved their importance for carbon storage. We trained over 20 government staff, held public events, and brought seagrass into classrooms and national conversations. It wasn't always easy — there were delays and policy hurdles — but strong partnerships helped us push through. This project changed more than data on a page; it changed how we speak about, understand, and protect our coasts — in our own language and with renewed purpose.

7.0

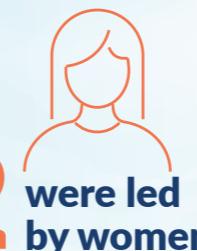
Making Waves Together: Gender Balance in Marine Conservation Funding

This chapter presents a gender-focused analysis of SeyCCAT's Blue Grants Fund (BGF) portfolio from 2016 to 2024, drawing on verified data from all 87 funded projects, regardless of status.

The analysis that follows offers a view of how inclusivity is embedded within the BGF's design and implementation, and identifies opportunities to further advance gender-responsive impact in future cycles.

7.1 Leadership Representation: A Balanced Portfolio

Out of **87** BGF-funded projects, **42** were led by women
Representing **48%** of all funded initiatives.

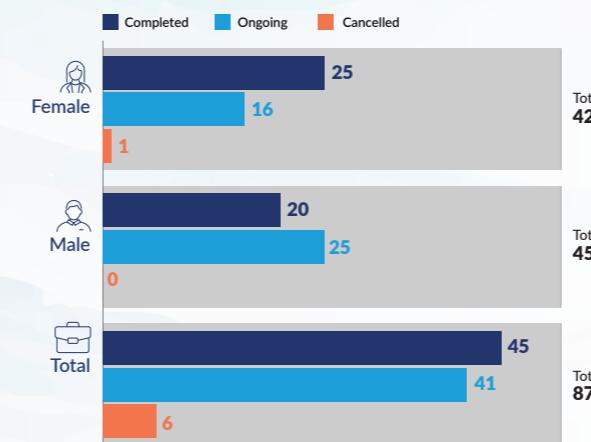


This is a **notable achievement** in the context of global **conservation finance**, where female leadership typically falls well below **30%**

Impact:

SeyCCAT's inclusive, open-access funding model has enabled women to emerge as leaders in science, education, fisheries, governance, and innovation — particularly through NGOs and individual-led proposals. This reflects not only the readiness of women to lead, but also the fund's accessibility and responsiveness to diverse applicants.

7.2 Female-Led Projects by Status



The majority of female-led projects (25 out of 42) have already been completed, meaning they have run their full course, submitted final reports, and contributed tangible outputs to Seychelles' national conservation and development agenda

Impact:

These figures confirm that female-led projects are not only equitably funded — they are also successfully delivered. Their high completion rate demonstrates SeyCCAT's effectiveness in enabling strong implementation by women across multiple marine and climate sectors.

7.3 Thematic and Strategic Contributions

Verified project-level data shows that women are leading high-impact initiatives across all five of SeyCCAT's Strategic Objectives, with strong representation in marine protected areas, sustainable fisheries, and Blue Economy innovation. These female-led projects span critical sectors—from fisheries co-management and wetland rehabilitation to spatial planning and Blue Economy training—and often contribute directly to policy development and institutional strengthening, including efforts such as seafood certification feasibility, MSP data collection, BEIP, and environmental education.

7.4 Grant Funding by Gender

An analysis of grant size reveals that out of SCR 46 million in total disbursed:



Female-led projects received **42%** of total funding



Male-led projects received **58%** of total funding

To strengthen equity in both participation and scale, future BGF cycles should consider:

- Supporting female applicants to scale up through proposal mentoring and technical coaching
- Encouraging co-led consortium models that combine technical and community expertise
- Tracking grant size and sector data disaggregated by gender in MEL processes

7.5 Gaps and Opportunities for Gender-Responsive Impact

Despite strong gender parity in leadership, gaps remain:

- Few projects are explicitly gender-focused, aiming to transform gender norms or empower women through marine programming
- Sex-disaggregated data is inconsistently reported in MEL documents
- There is no formal MEL indicator tracking gender responsiveness or transformative outcomes across the portfolio

SeyCCAT has enabled women to lead nearly half of all BGF-funded projects, with strong delivery rates and meaningful contributions across all Strategic Objectives. This is not just inclusion—it is impact. The BGF model shows that when funding mechanisms are designed to be accessible and inclusive, women lead—and succeed.

As SeyCCAT continues to evolve its MEL system, the next decade offers a powerful opportunity to systematically capture, strengthen, and scale the gendered dimensions of marine and climate impact—further positioning Seychelles as a global model of equity in conservation finance.

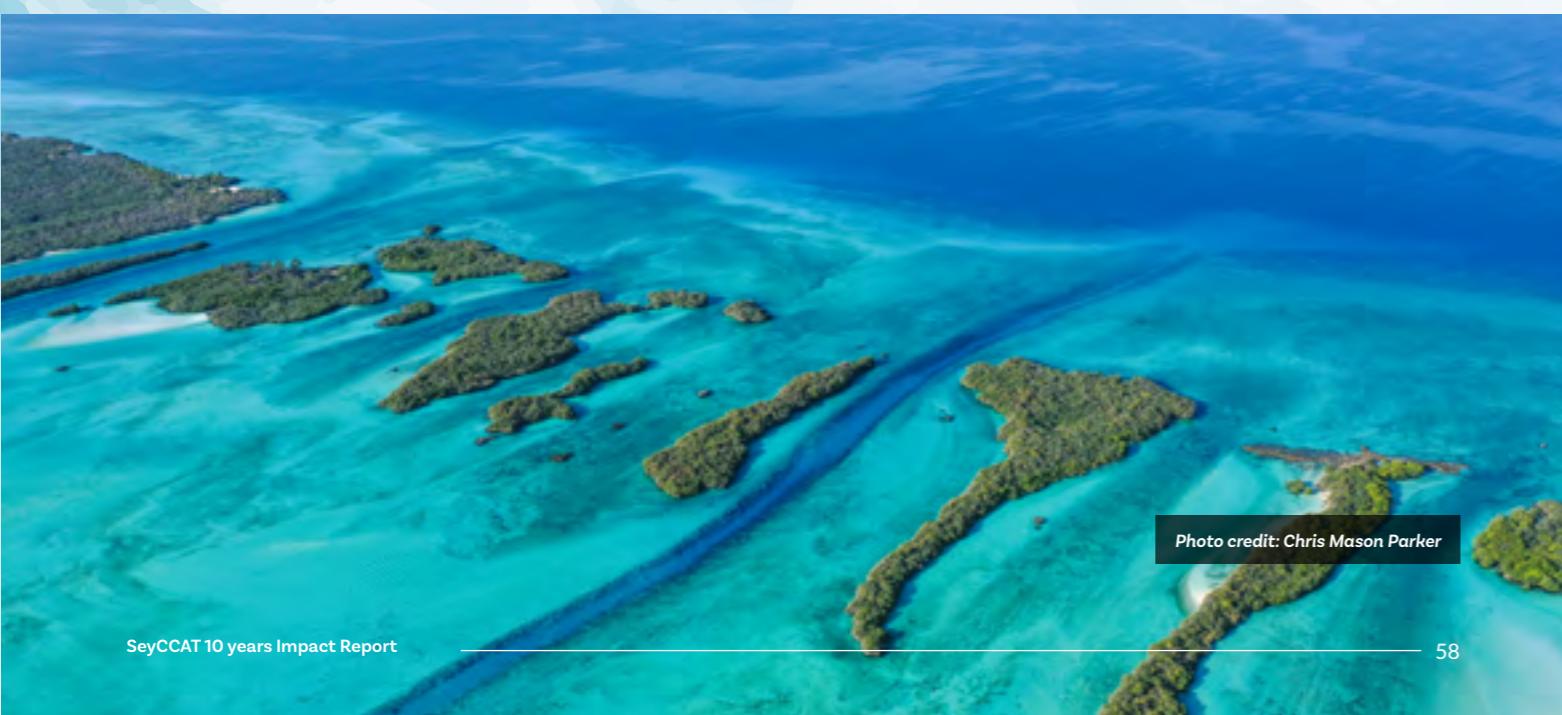


Photo credit: Chris Mason Parker

8.0

A Decade of Progress: People, Ocean, and Opportunity

After ten years of operation, the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) has catalyzed tangible progress in ocean conservation, sustainable blue growth, and community empowerment. By 2025, SeyCCAT's investments—spanning environmental sustainability, economic/blue prosperity, and social/community engagement—have converged to drive systemic change.

This chapter synthesizes evidence across these dimensions to answer the core question: So, what is SeyCCAT's real impact? The answer is organized by SeyCCAT's six thematic impact areas, to clarify SeyCCAT's role in each. The table below provides an overview of key outcomes in each theme and SeyCCAT's level of influence.



8.1 Capacity Building

Empowering People for Ocean Stewardship

Key Achievements (2015–2025)



DIRECT OUTCOMES

Marine conservation internships launched careers for young professionals

Hands-on training provided via placements in national parks, research institutions, and marine businesses

6 youth completed intensive conservation training and secured national placements

30+ local businesses and staff trained through the Blue Economy Entrepreneurs project

Lasting Impact

Created a national network of "blue champions"—trained individuals and empowered organizations

Strengthened local ownership of research, policy, and conservation actions

SeyCCAT's role ranged from direct implementation to strong influence across sectors



8.2 Marine Biodiversity

Safeguarding Ecosystems and Species

Seychelles' marine biodiversity has seen significant protection and study over the past ten years, thanks in large part to SeyCCAT's funding of research and conservation action.

Headline Achievement

32.65%

of Seychelles' Exclusive Economic Zone designated as **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)**

441,456 km² set aside for conservation and sustainable use

SeyCCAT played a strong influence role through funding, research, and stakeholder engagement

Supported data collection and public input for the **Marine Spatial Plan** that underpinned this milestone

On-the-Ground Conservation

25+
metric tons of marine debris removed

Major cleanup

on Aldabra Atoll (UNESCO World Heritage Site)

Cleared 15 turtle nesting beaches

Reduced threats to marine life

Mobilized 12 volunteers + 30 Seychelles Defence personnel

Advancing Marine Science

First aerial dugong survey in Seychelles

Confirmed 23 dugongs (incl. 5 calves) at Aldabra

Trained staff in drone-based monitoring

Red-footed booby tagging

Foraging maps integrated into offshore MPA design

Comprehensive marine biodiversity survey at Frégate Island

Documented coral and fish communities

Juvenile lemon shark tracking in nursery areas

Data used to improve marine park management

LASTING LEGACY

Seychelles is now a global leader in marine conservation

SeyCCAT served as a catalyst and enabler, funding critical research and forging strong partnerships

Marine biodiversity is better protected, better understood, and better managed thanks to SeyCCAT's contributions

Institutional & Policy Impact

Supported creation of **MPA Management Unit** (with Blue Nature Alliance)

Co-developed the **Seychelles Ocean Research Agenda**

Strengthened local capacity for long-term biodiversity monitoring

Promoted **science-based marine policy** with global recognition



8.3 Sustainable Fisheries

Transforming Fisheries Management and Livelihoods

SeyCCAT's impact on fisheries has been transformative, helping shift Seychelles from open-access and data-poor fisheries toward science-based, co-managed, and sustainable fisheries. The Trust's influence is seen in both policy and practice.



National-Level Policy Influence

- Contributed critical data to the development of the **Mahé Plateau Demersal Fisheries Co-Management Plan**
- Funded ecosystem studies** and economic valuations that justified quotas and new regulations
- Result:** Seychelles adopted its **first major co-managed fisheries regime**

Attribution **Strong Influence** – SeyCCAT funded research that shaped national policy

Community-Level Empowerment

- Funded the **Praslin Voluntary Fisheries Closure** pilot (seasonal reef fish closure during spawning)
 - Result:** Fish stocks recovered (notably rabbitfish/ Kordonnyen)
 - Fishers independently repeated the closure in later years
- Model scaled up into the national **GEF-7 Sustainable Fisheries project**

Attribution **Direct** for pilot funding, **Strong Influence** for national replication

Technology & Modernization

- 300+ artisanal vessels equipped with:
 - ABALOBI** mobile app (for catch reporting)
 - Satellite vessel trackers** (real-time monitoring)
- Improved data availability, compliance, and transparency

Attribution **Direct** – SeyCCAT funded the pilots and rollout in partnership with SFA

Capacity Building & Livelihood Support

Funded training workshops for fishers and youth

Strengthened fishers' ability to co-manage resources and engage in governance

KEY RESULTS

978 artisanal catch records compiled into a community-generated database

Fishers now directly involved in **decision-making** and **co-management**

Fisheries governance now includes:
Science-based policy | Digital monitoring
Grassroots leadership

Topics:
Advocacy
Project writing
Marketing

Outcome:
Revitalized
3 fisher associations

 One participant received a **SCR 50,000** grant to grow a sustainable fishing business

LASTING IMPACT

Shift from **open-access** to managed fisheries

Illegal and **unreported fishing** reduced

Fishers empowered as **conservation partners**

SeyCCAT's influence is embedded in tools, practices, and institutions for **long-term sustainability**

In short, SeyCCAT helped move the dial from overfishing towards stewardship, aligning fishers' economic needs with long-term conservation through a combination of grassroots projects and policy-oriented initiatives.



8.4 Climate Resilience

Building Adaptation and Blue Carbon Leadership

Seychelles, as a small island state, is on the frontline of climate change. SeyCCAT's impact over the past decade has significantly bolstered the country's ability to understand, mitigate, and adapt to climate impacts – especially via ocean-based solutions (blue carbon, ecosystem adaptation).

Groundbreaking Blue Carbon Achievements

First country



in the world to complete a nationwide, field-validated **seagrass carbon inventory**

Estimated

70 million tonnes of **CO₂e** sequestered in Seychelles' seagrass



Led to Seychelles' pledge to protect

 **100%** of seagrass habitats by 2030

~1,600 km² of seagrass meadows mapped



Informed Seychelles' 2021 NDC update under the **Paris Agreement**

Contributed to the revision of the **national Wetlands Policy**

Attribution

Strong Influence – SeyCCAT was a project convener and funder

Nature-Based Climate Adaptation Projects

Coastal risk assessments and modeling completed for **3 high-risk erosion sites**

Feasibility studies designed for **nature-based solutions** (e.g., reef barriers, vegetation buffers)

Secured **SCR 823,000** in private sector co-financing (Hilton and Avani hotels)

Attribution

Strong Influence – enabled through seed funding and technical expertise

Community-Based Ecosystem Adaptation

- Mangrove restoration & nursery led by local youth: **Boardwalks built, seedlings planted, growth monitored**
- Wetland rehabilitation** projects supported

Coral reef resilience studies:

 Identified **heat-tolerant** genotypes

 Mapped coral connectivity

Attribution

Contribution – Contribution – SeyCCAT enabled these as part of broader efforts

Policy & Systems Integration

- Climate now embedded in the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan: Includes **blue carbon zones** and climate refugia
- New climate working groups established with SeyCCAT participation
- Improved **national M&E** for **climate impact tracking** (with Oceans5 support)

Attribution

Strong Influence – shaping systems for long-term climate planning

LASTING IMPACT

Boosted Seychelles' international leadership in ocean-based climate solutions

Strengthened marine-based mitigation and adaptation capacity

Modeled how small island nations can adapt to climate change using nature-based strategies

SeyCCAT remains a key enabler of scalable, science-backed climate resilience projects

In sum, SeyCCAT's decade of work has increased Seychelles' resilience to climate change by harnessing the power of its marine ecosystems and science. The country's international profile in climate action (for instance, championing ocean-based solutions in climate conferences) has been boosted by SeyCCAT-backed accomplishments like the seagrass carbon inventory. While climate resilience is a broad outcome with many contributors, SeyCCAT's strong influence and contributions are evident in the concrete integration of blue carbon into policy and the pilot projects that model how Seychelles can adapt to rising seas and warming oceans.





8.5 Blue Economy Growth

Catalyzing Sustainable Economic Opportunities

A core part of SeyCCAT's mission is not just conserving nature but also promoting a prosperous Blue Economy – one that balances economic growth with ocean health. Over the past ten years, SeyCCAT has played a key role in unlocking finance and knowledge for Seychelles' Blue Economy, leading to new businesses, jobs, and investment in sustainable marine sectors.

National-Level Financing Impact

Up to USD
10 million

mobilized for the
Blue Economy

Landmark
Debt-for-Nature
Swap (2015)

Sovereign
Blue Bond (2018)

Attribution Direct - SeyCCAT was the main channel for deploying capital

Support to Blue MSMEs

Blue Grants Fund

incubated micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)

Provided **feasibility studies, business planning, and seed funding**

Attribution Direct - tangible business support with demonstration value

Leveraging Investment through Co-Financing

- SeyCCAT's funding attracted private and donor co-investment
- Examples:** Hotel partnerships in coastal protection, NGO and university support for Aldabra clean-up, coral research
- Blended finance model (**grants + philanthropy + debt**) recognized globally
- Supported creation of the **Blue Investment Fund** for blue business loans

Attribution Contribution/Strong Influence - catalyzed systems for long-term finance

SeyCCAT facilitates access to grants and loans that **drive blue initiatives nationwide**.



Examples:
Aquaculture farms | Ecotourism
Seafood processing | Coral reef ventures

Enabling Environment & Policy Influence

Funded research that:

- Identified policy gaps in **aquaculture licensing**
- Evaluated economic value of **reef fisheries**
- Informed the Seychelles Blue Economy Strategic Roadmaps

Contributed to more **investment-friendly regulations** and sustainable development plans

Attribution

Strong Influence - helped shape national frameworks for marine economic growth

Sustainable Growth Model

Prioritized projects with both environmental and economic impact

- Sustainable mariculture
- Circular economy (e.g., turning ocean waste into products)

Helped de-risk innovation in ocean sectors through "proof of concept" projects

Reinforced the view of blue investment as viable and scalable

LONG-TERM IMPACT

Seychelles' **Blue Economy** is now more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient

Real momentum in:
Enterprise creation | Capital flows
Governance systems for sustainable marine development

SeyCCAT's role spans **Direct Attribution** (training and funding) and **Strong Influence** (policy, systems, visibility)

In summary, SeyCCAT's real impact on the economy is seen in the momentum of a nascent Blue Economy – new enterprises seeded, more capital (both local and international) flowing into sustainable use of marine resources, and a governance environment progressively shaped to support ocean-friendly business innovation. The attribution spans Direct (financial support and training to MSMEs) and Strong Influence/Contribution (informing policies, attracting co-investors, and serving as a model for others). Seychelles' Blue Economy today is more vibrant and forward-looking because SeyCCAT linked the health of the ocean with the prosperity of the nation.





8.6 Community Engagement

Fostering Stewardship and Shared Responsibility

At the heart of all these impacts lies the engagement of Seychellois communities – from fishers and students to NGOs and island residents. SeyCCAT's real impact is perhaps most poignantly seen in how it has nurtured a culture of marine stewardship across society. Over 10 years, the Trust has funded and facilitated numerous community-led projects that empower people to take action for their environment and heritage.

Empowering Local Communities

Dozens of community-led projects funded over

10 years

Over

\$150,000

in small grants channeled to grassroots NGOs

Coral gardening by dive fishers
Sea turtle monitoring by island residents
Wetland restoration by village associations

Co-financed with Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
Projects included Mangrove replanting, Coastal nurseries, Beach clean-ups on remote islands

Attribution

Direct – many projects would not have launched without SeyCCAT support



Raising Public Awareness

Nationwide education campaigns and events

Outreach integrated into schools, media, and communities

Topics like **Blue Economy, climate change**, and overfishing are now mainstream discussions

Aldabra Clean-Up Project:

- Engaged **4,000+** students and citizens
- 50+** outreach events across Seychelles and internationally
- Featured on **Sky News** and national platforms

Localized outreach materials:

- Creole-language** posters and radio spots
- Community-led **storytelling**

SeyCCAT's role in community engagement is often a blend of Direct and Strong Influence. It directly funds the work and brings people together, but the community must carry the torch – and increasingly, they are. The Trust's emphasis on stories of change in its communications (profiling community champions and lessons learned) has further validated local efforts and inspired others. Today, Seychelles boasts an active network of “blue” volunteers, citizen scientists, and eco-entrepreneurs that simply did not exist a decade ago at this scale. This network is one of SeyCCAT's enduring legacies: a human and social capital outcome that ensures the impact of projects endures in attitudes and informal institutions. In sum, Seychelles' community ownership of marine conservation is at an all-time high, and SeyCCAT has been a key architect of that social transformation – from funding grassroots action to influencing how national programs include community stakeholders.

8.7 Cross-Cutting Lessons, Opportunities, and Recommendations

After ten years of operation, the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) has accumulated a wealth of experience in financing and supporting sustainable ocean development. The diagram below captures the key cross-cutting lessons learned over the past decade—highlighting what worked, what challenges emerged, and where opportunities lie for the future. These insights are structured around six thematic areas and are intended to guide strategic planning, enhance impact, and inform replication in other island contexts.

THEME

Strategic Investments for Systemic Change

INSIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

After ten years of integrated impact, several cross-cutting lessons emerge from SeyCCAT's experience. First, it's clear that small, strategic investments can catalyze outsized change when they are well-targeted. SeyCCAT's grants were relatively modest (often under SCR 1 million each), yet by focusing on leverage points – policy-relevant research, community leadership, pilot projects – they triggered changes at the system level. For example, a single pilot in Praslin influenced national fisheries policy, and a one-off mapping study transformed climate policy. This underscores the lesson that impact is not only about scale of funding, but about strategic focus and timing.

RECOMMENDATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

Going forward, SeyCCAT should continue to identify such high-impact niches, while also ensuring follow-through so that pilot successes are scaled up by government or other partners. One of the challenges noted was the “project-to-policy” gap in some cases.

THEME

Deepening Inclusion and Community Engagement

INSIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

An opportunity ahead lies in expanding inclusion even further. While SeyCCAT has done well on gender and youth inclusion, groups such as outer island communities and the private sector could be engaged more deeply. Bringing more private sector players into conservation (as co-financers or project leads) could unlock new resources and innovation. The success with hotel co-financing on coastal projects is a template to replicate in other areas (e.g. dive operators sponsoring reef restorations). Similarly, continuing to emphasize gender and youth leadership will remain crucial – the next generation of Seychellois will carry forward the work, so initiatives like the Blue Internship program should be scaled up and possibly integrated into formal national service or scholarship schemes.

RECOMMENDATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

Expand reach to underrepresented groups, especially private sector and outer island communities. Replicate successful co-financing approaches in other sectors. Institutionalize youth programs like the Blue Internship into national education or civic programs. Maintain focus on gender equity and youth leadership.

THEME

Partnerships and Inclusive Governance

INSIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

A second lesson is the power of partnerships and inclusive governance. SeyCCAT's model – a public-private trust working with government, NGOs, communities, and international donors – proved effective in uniting stakeholders toward common goals. By design, SeyCCAT's Board and processes are inclusive, and this helped build broad buy-in for initiatives. The impact report finds that where projects aligned closely with national strategies (e.g., the MSP, or school curricula), they had greater longevity. Conversely, some standalone projects had trouble getting uptake until they were plugged into a larger framework.

RECOMMENDATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

The recommendation here is to institutionalize successful pilots: for instance, formalize community voluntary closures into fisheries regulations, adopt project tools like the ABALOBI app into national systems, and create permanent channels for the project alumni (trained youth, etc.) to continue contributing. SeyCCAT can play a facilitative role in these transitions, acting as a bridge between grassroots innovation and government implementation.

THEME

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

INSIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Another cross-cutting insight is the importance of Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) in driving impact. SeyCCAT applied a rigorous MEL framework (as evidenced by this report's analysis by themes and attribution), which has helped it learn and adapt. One identified gap was the need for more outcome-level indicators and post-project follow up to truly track long-term impact. For example, knowing how many people were trained is good, but knowing how many of them applied that training in their careers or communities is even better.

RECOMMENDATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

As a recommendation, SeyCCAT should invest in light-touch, long-term follow-up for completed projects – perhaps creating an alumni network or periodic survey of past grantees to see how outcomes are evolving. This will feed back into improving project design, another priority identified for the next phase.

**THEME****Financial Innovation and Sustainability****INSIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS**

Financially, SeyCCAT's impact demonstrates the viability of blended ocean finance. With its endowment from the debt swap and Blue Bond nearly fully committed to projects, SeyCCAT is now looking at new funding streams.

RECOMMENDATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

A recommendation is to explore innovative financing like blue carbon credits (building on the seagrass carbon data to potentially generate offsets revenue) or payment for ecosystem services (such as having tourism operators contribute to a conservation fund). SeyCCAT's track record would give confidence to such mechanisms. Additionally, continuing to cultivate donor partnerships can bring in targeted funds for gaps (for instance, if marine plastic pollution is rising again, perhaps seek a partnership specifically to tackle waste management – as hinted by shifts in funding priorities).

**THEME****Integrated Impact Across Conservation, Economy, and Communities****INSIGHTS & ACHIEVEMENTS**

Finally, one overarching lesson is that conservation, economy, and community wellbeing are inseparable in an island context. SeyCCAT's integrated approach across environmental, economic, and social indicators was validated: the most successful projects delivered co-benefits in all three realms. Mangrove restoration protects biodiversity, shields communities from storms, and can even provide tourism income from boardwalk visitors – a triple win.

RECOMMENDATIONS & OPPORTUNITIES

Such cross-cutting benefits should be emphasized in future project selection and design. Conversely, any initiative that only ticks one box (e.g. only economic gain but no conservation value, or vice versa) may not be as resilient or supported by stakeholders.

*Photo credit: Chris Mason Parker*

In conclusion, SeyCCAT's real impact after a decade is a Seychelles that is more resilient, more knowledgeable, and more united in its pursuit of sustainable ocean development. The Trust has functioned as a mechanism to direct funding and attention to where they can make the most difference, acting with direct action when needed and as an influencer when strategic.

The marine ecosystems are better protected, the blue economy is growing on a sustainable path, and communities are at the center of stewardship. Looking ahead, the next ten years are an opportunity to scale, sustain, and share this success. By doubling down on what works – capacity building, science-driven policy, community engagement – and addressing the identified challenges, SeyCCAT can ensure that its impact is not just maintained but amplified.

In doing so, it will continue to serve as a model for other island nations, showing that innovative finance coupled with local empowerment is a winning formula for conservation and development. Seychelles' journey with SeyCCAT so far demonstrates that even a small island can lead big changes on the global stage when it invests in its people and nature together. The foundation has been laid; the task now is to build on it, for the ocean and for future generations.

The Next Wave Lessons Learned and the Road Ahead

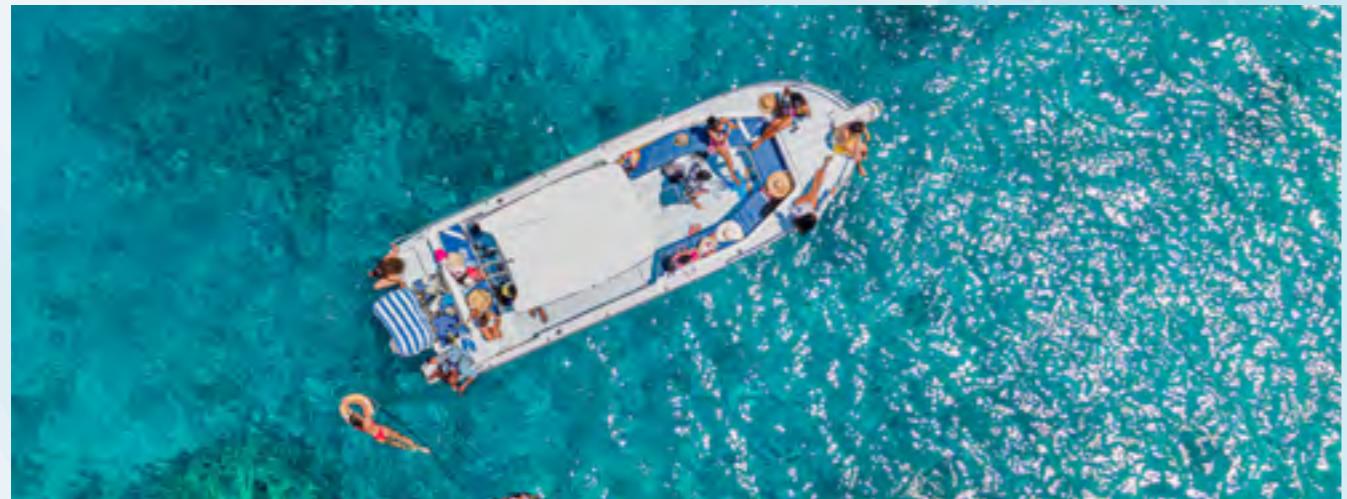
Over its first decade, the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) has established itself as more than a funder of high-impact projects—it has become a learning institution and national platform for marine conservation, sustainable development, and climate innovation. With over 87 projects funded, more than USD 50 million mobilised, and a growing ecosystem of partners, SeyCCAT has navigated complex operational and institutional landscapes to deliver tangible results.

As it steps into its second decade, SeyCCAT is focused on building on this foundation to deepen impact, scale-up what works, and strengthen systems for long-term resilience. The table below brings together key lessons from the past and the strategic directions that will guide SeyCCAT's journey from 2025 to 2030.

SeyCCAT's Lessons and Strategic Priorities (2015-2030)

Focus Area	What We Learned (2015-2025)	What We'll Do Next (2025-2030)
 Project Design & Support	Many first-time or grassroots grantees struggled with ambitious scopes and unclear plans.	Introduce technical mentoring and design clinics for grantees. Encourage phased or multi-year funding for scalable initiatives. Refine eligibility criteria to reward strategic alignment and sustainability.
 Monitoring & Evaluation (MEL)	MEL improved, but too many projects still report outputs, not outcomes. Behavioural shifts and policy influence remain under-tracked.	Embed outcome-based indicators across grant types. Create feedback loops between project learning and national strategies (e.g., MSP, NDCs). Launch light-touch post-project follow-up tools (e.g., alumni tracking).
 Co-Financing & Partnerships	Co-financing brought value, but weak partner roles sometimes caused delays or gaps.	Formalise partnerships via MOUs, delivery timelines, and shared MEL plans. Strengthen delivery oversight in multi-stakeholder projects.
 Adaptive Management	COVID-19 exposed project vulnerabilities and the need for contingency planning.	Include adaptive clauses in all grant agreements. Promote flexible delivery and digital alternatives where appropriate.
 Community Trust & Ownership	Locally-led projects had the strongest long-term impact, but not all invested sufficiently in relationship-building.	Prioritise community engagement from the outset. Support local champions and context-appropriate approaches.
 Project-to-Policy Pathways	Many successful pilots lacked pathways for scaling or policy integration.	Establish a “policy-ready pipeline” to identify and support scalable projects. Facilitate dialogues with public institutions. Provide catalytic funding for replication and institutionalisation.
 Equity & Inclusion	Gender and youth inclusion improved, but deeper representation and transformative models are still needed.	Fund more projects led by youth, women, and marginalised groups. Incentivise gender-transformative approaches. Build long-term career pathways from youth programmes.
 Climate & Blue Carbon Leadership	SeyCCAT has led in blue carbon science, but broader climate finance engagement is needed.	Support finance readiness (e.g., ecosystem monitoring, legal frameworks). Explore new financial instruments such as carbon credits or resilience bonds. Strengthen regional collaboration on adaptation.
 Innovation & Systems Change	Innovations risk becoming one-off successes without systems to scale.	Flag high-potential projects early. Provide catalytic support to scale proven models. Integrate innovations into national policy frameworks.

Focus Area	What We Learned (2015–2025)	What We'll Do Next (2025–2030)
 Learning Culture	MEL systems matured, but long-term learning mechanisms need strengthening.	Recognise high-performing grantees. Promote shared learning. Create feedback systems to continuously improve project design.
 Regional Leadership	SeyCCAT's dual role as a funder and policy influencer offers a unique value proposition.	Strengthen its position as a national blended finance platform. Expand South-South learning with other SIDS. Lead MEL systems for regional resilience.
 Financial Resilience	Core endowments are nearly fully deployed—new sustainable financing models are needed.	Diversify income sources through blue carbon markets, ecosystem service fees, and private co-financing. Build alliances with new donors. Reinforce investment governance to preserve capital.



Looking Ahead

SeyCCAT's next decade is not simply about repeating past successes – it's about evolving to meet new challenges with greater ambition, smarter systems, and deeper partnerships. The foundation has been firmly laid: an innovative financing mechanism, a trusted and inclusive governance model, and a decade of real, measurable impact across Seychelles' marine, economic, and social landscapes.

The path forward is about anchoring what works – ensuring that successful pilots become permanent practices, that locally led solutions are institutionalised, and that impact is no longer isolated but integrated into the national fabric. By refining project design, deepening community trust, scaling outcome-based monitoring, and enabling long-term pathways for youth, women, and underrepresented groups, SeyCCAT can transform short-term results into sustained national progress.

At the same time, SeyCCAT is poised to become an even stronger player in the global ocean finance and climate resilience space. Its leadership in blue carbon science, ecosystem-based adaptation, and blended finance uniquely positions the Trust to help shape regional and international agendas – particularly among Small Island Developing States (SIDS) seeking replicable models of inclusive, locally-driven impact.

Financial resilience will be a cornerstone of this next phase. As endowments are fully deployed, new mechanisms – from blue carbon credits to co-financing models with the private sector – must be explored and institutionalised to ensure that the momentum built over ten years is not only sustained, but scaled.

Finally, SeyCCAT's role as both a catalyst and connector will be more important than ever. By fostering learning, linking grassroots innovation with policy, and amplifying community voices in national decision-making, the Trust will continue to serve as a vital bridge – between people and policy, conservation and development, local leadership and global solutions.

In the decade ahead, the opportunity is not just to fund change – it's to shape the systems that make change last. Seychelles, through SeyCCAT, has already shown the world what's possible when a small island chooses bold ideas, strategic finance, and empowered communities. The challenge now is to go further, reach deeper, and ensure that every investment made contributes to a more resilient, more equitable, and more sustainable ocean future – for Seychelles and beyond.

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Note: This reference list includes all materials consulted in the preparation of this report, including those used for background research, internal benchmarking, and contextual framing. Not all sources are cited directly in the text, but all contributed to the evidence base that informed the findings, analysis, and strategic reflections presented throughout the report.

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