

Island Conservation Society

Arیده: A safe haven for nature lovers

If you get the opportunity to wake up for a month in a bird sanctuary like Aride Island Special Reserve, I believe you would consider yourself lucky. But what if you get to live your life long dream of waking up and working side by side with conservationists on such a unique island?

Contributed by Priya Didon,
Intern, ICS

I did get that chance to complete a month as an intern with the Island Conservation Society on this Northernmost granitic island of Seychelles, situated 9 km north of Praslin and 45 km Northeast of Mahé.

As part of the BSc Environmental Science course offered at the University of Seychelles, students such as myself are required to apply for internships in environment-related fields where we get the opportunity to put into practice all that we have learnt in theory over the past year.

ICS is well known for its conservation efforts to conserve and protect marine and terrestrial species found across inner and outer islands. Aware of its positive reviews, I applied for an internship.

It was a month whereby I was in awe of the daily conservation work stringently taken by the conservationists. I quickly found my place in the team to conduct daily data collection, land patrols and species observation. Importance is therefore placed not only on the terrestrial side of conservation but on the island's marine life as well, to ensure that the healthy population of birds is maintained through efforts placed on the maintenance and protection of their food

source.

Commonly known for its rich and diverse population of seabirds seen swarming over the sea surrounding the island- Aride Island Special Reserve is an extraordinary sight to behold.

A boat trip around the island led to the spotting of over five hundred Greater and Lesser Frigate birds roosting on Aride being counted and recorded as part of the monthly monitoring. Being able to see these massive birds up close as compared to when they are spotted high up in the sky left me in awe and it definitely was one of those moments where I was mesmerized by the captivating beauty of the island.

I was assigned the responsibility of doing weather monitoring for a week. This included assessing the sea conditions, visibility, wind, wave direction, rainfall as well as the water level of the well that is used to supply water to the staff apart from rain water harvesting. An interesting fact about Aride is that the island does not have a freshwater source, therefore groundwater is extracted from the well.

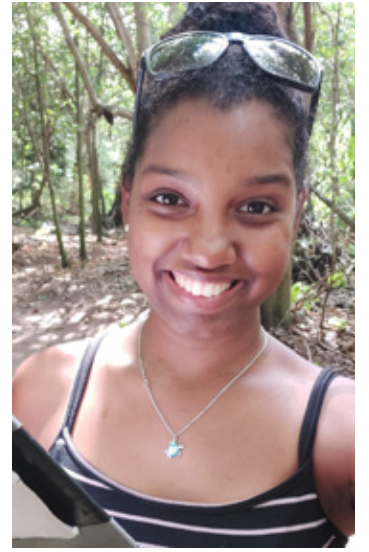
I also learnt how to go about the weekly and daily monitoring of sea birds such as Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, Tropical Shearwaters, Fairy Terns, White-tailed Tropicbirds and Brown Noddies, as well as, land birds such as the Seychelles Magpie Robin in which we

recorded two new chicks who have now fledged from their nests. I was able to observe and participate in the ringing of one of those hatchlings and I must say the experience is out of this world, having to hold such a small and fragile little bird, taking blood samples from such tiny veins all the while being extremely mindful so as to not harm or injure the bird. Removing and taking the chick back to its nest was a little bit of a challenge as the parents became very protective and aggressive, attacking anyone who tried to get close to the nest.

The monitoring of the birds provides data for the amount of nests recorded, the amount of chicks that reach the fledged stage as well

as the amount that fails. Out of all the sea birds I have monitored, the most challenging of all is monitoring Brown Noddies due to the fact that their chicks start roaming around from nest to nest as soon as they are able. They are always on the move and this is most often confusing because Brown Noddies nest close to each other. The movements of the chicks are not the only challenge though, every week I faced the possibility of getting pecked and bitten by the protective parents.

The flights of birds in the early morning sky as they leave for their daily hunts is a spectacular sight and again, as dusk draws near, the residents of the island are blessed



Priya Didon


with this bewildering delight.

The rich smell of guano is forever engraved in my senses as well as the unique calls of the species of bird found on the island. The sound of waves crashing and birds chirping is so very soothing, resembling greatly to a lullaby that could easily put you to sleep. The calm is indescribable.

Aride has an active nightlife as the island is possessed by creatures of nature, oblivious to the human interference of the staff on the island. Clear star-filled skies, occasional shooting stars, the stretch of sand along the shores reveals Bioluminescent Phytoplankton as they wash with the waves, accompanied by the calls of shearwaters, ghost crabs, and hermit crabs.

My stay with the team leads me to congratulate ICS Aride team for a job well done! The team works day and night in effort to ensure the protection of the island's biodiversity from poachers, invasive species threats and predation from invasive birds such as the barn owl.





Reminder for registration as a Non-Seychellois Immovable Property Owner

All Non-Seychellois who owns an Immovable Property in Seychelles who have not registered with the Registrar General are advised to do so at the earliest.

Definition:
Immovable property includes commercial property, condominium unit, Immovable property used for residential purposes, industrial property, land, lease, multi-purposes building and villa,


Registration application should be submitted to the Registrar General by the **31st October 2021 as per the official gazette 458 of 2021.**

A non-Seychellois who fails to submit an application to register with the Registrar General will be liable to pay the Registrar General the following fine :


(a) SCR 50,000 in the case of commercial property, industrial property, multi-purpose buildings or villa
(b) SCR 10,000 in the case of immovable property not specified above in (a)

The application form is available in hard copy at the Registrar-General's office, Independence House, Victoria, Mahé, and also in digital form on the SRC website www.src.gov.sc and www.egov.sc.
The completed form can be submitted in hard copy or email to propertytax@registry.gov.sc

Non-Seychellois are advised to respect the due date for registration to avoid penalties.



Contact: 4293737
Website: www.src.gov.sc
Email: propertytax@src.gov.sc



Registrar General
Contact: 4280900
Email: propertytax@registry.gov.sc



The Anti-Corruption Commission of Seychelles (ACCS) was established under the Anti-Corruption Act 2016, giving it the authority to investigate, detect, and prevent corrupt practices. It is a self-governing, neutral, and independent body that is not subject to the direction or control of any person or authority.

ACCS is inviting applications from suitably qualified persons to fill the post of:

IT ASSISTANT

To handle all IT-related technical and communications issues and the digitization of our operational system by working closely with the IT team of ACCS to ensure smooth daily IT operations. Respond to IT system-related issues locally and remotely. Investigate problem areas, provide timely solutions, and have a basic knowledge of information systems, cyber security, and cloud databases. The IT assistant should be able to research the latest technology available to improve business processes, ensure the security and privacy of the systems, and respond to queries in a timely manner.

Qualifications & Skills requirements:

- CompTIA A+ Certification, Diploma in IT, or relevant Entry-level IT qualifications or equivalent experience
- Must be highly motivated and energetic
- Possess good communication skills
- Ability to compile and write reports
- Quality and detail-oriented, committed to professional and ethical standards
- Must be a team player
- Ability to install hardware and software systems
- Must be able to maintain and repair equipment
- Troubleshooting a variety of computer issues
- Ability to set up computer security measures
- Configuring computer networks
- Ability to learn/adapt to new technologies
- Familiar with Microsoft windows server 2019, Cisco smart switch, WIFI networks, Microsoft Windows OS, VPN, Remote Access, IT hardware & software problem-solving
- Must know the basics of information and cyber security
- Knowledge in Cloud databases

All Applications should be addressed to:

HR & ADMIN MANAGER
ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION
EMAIL: hram@accsey.com
KB Emporium (3rd Floor), Avenue de Diolinda, Providence Industrial Estate
PO Box 1456
Mahe
TEL: 4326061

Closing date: 24 September 2021