

Supporting management effectiveness and improve socio-economic resilience in the Cousin Island Special Reserve, Republic of Seychelles

Type of priority area

Privately protected area

Conservancy

Key Biodiversity Area

Primary objective

Management Effectiveness

Livelihoods

Target groups

Local Communities

Youth

Private Sector

Main activity focus

Enforcement

Livelihoods/ Alternative economic activities

Eco-tourism



Duration

01.01.2021 – 30.06.2021



Type of grant & budget

Rapid Response Grant | 49,972.91€



Location

Seychelles, Southern Africa



Protected & Conserved Areas

Cousin Island Special Reserve



WDP ID

555643555



BIOPAMA RRS Link

<http://rris.biopama.org/country/sc>

Project Lead

Nature Seychelles

Description of the project

The project aims to assist rectifying the shortfall in financing due to the collapse of the tourism industry in the Seychelles as a result of COVID-19. It will do this primarily by funding the salaries of 8 Wardens, 1 Island Coordinator and 1 Science Officer to ensure that they can remain stationed on the island and continue to carry out a variety of conservation activities including monitoring, marine & terrestrial patrols, census activities as well as eco-tourism activities such as guided tours of the reserve. As the conditions improve, the project also aims to see the re-establishment of the Conservation Boot Camp, a course managed by Nature Seychelles on Cousin Island which gives participants experience with in-the-field conservation activities. The Cousin Island Special Reserve contributes to many livelihoods of the locals based on the nearby Praslin Island in two ways – firstly by increasing the number of tourist visitors to Praslin, and secondly by allowing local tour operators to ferry visitors to Cousin Island, a service that they charge for.





The BIOPAMA AC Objective(s) Addressed

Enhance the management and governance of priority protected areas by addressing existing limitations.



Priority Need Addressed

Additional financing facing the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic.



The change the project implementation will bring for the protected areas

The project is key in providing relief and give Cousin Island Special Reserve precious time to explore alternative financing models to diversify its resilience, such as a proposal with Huawei via IUCN to enable it to establish virtual tourism solutions. Without the project, the pressures of the pandemic would be much greater - realistically leading to either a reduction of staff on the island or a closure. Either of the two would lead to a reduction in management effectiveness of the privately managed reserve, and open it up to poaching such as that which has been seen on nearby islands - primarily seabirds and hawksbill turtles, both of which nest on Cousin Island. In the past there have also been instances of fishing within the protected marine area surrounding Cousin Island, of both fish and sea cucumbers which are prized for their commercial value in the export market.

This project is financed by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States through the BIOPAMA Programme. The contents of this material are the sole responsibility of Nature Seychelles and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the EU nor of the OACPS.

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The project Supporting management effectiveness and improve socio-economic resilience in the Cousin Island Special Reserve, Republic of Seychelles is financed by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States through the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme.

BIOPAMA assists the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to address their priorities for improved management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources. BIOPAMA provides a variety of tools, services and funding to conservation actors in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The BIOPAMA grant-making facility is managed by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and supports projects on the ground to strengthen the management and governance of protected and conserved areas, with a total budget of 21 million Euros.