

Strengthening biosecurity measures to safeguard Aldabra's unique biodiversity

Type of priority area

Marine Protected Area

Terrestrial Protected Area

Key Biodiversity Area

Primary objective

Management Effectiveness

Target groups

Local Communities

National or Local PA Agency

National Government

Main activity focus

Management Plan

Invasive Alien Species

Capacity Building



Duration

01/12/2020 – 31/05/2021



Type of grant & budget

Short-term grant | EUR 99,999.10



Location

Mahé and Aldabra Atoll, Seychelles, Southern Africa



Protected & Conserved Areas

Aldabra Atoll UNESCO World Heritage site, Aldabra Atoll Special Reserve; Ramsar Site, Wetland of International Importance; BirdLife Important Bird Area; Indian Ocean South East Asia (IOSEA) Site of Importance for Marine Turtles; International Marine Mammal Area



WDPA ID

5004, 555542730



BIOPAMA RRIS Link

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

Project Lead

Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF)

Description of the project:

Activity 1: Establish dedicated biosecurity officer positions in both sites (Mahé, Aldabra) to implement the Aldabra biosecurity plan.

Activity 2: Strengthen quarantine facilities and procedures on Mahé and to Aldabra and biosecure air and sea transportation by modernizing and containerizing all supplies.

Activity 3: Finalize surveillance plans & emergency response protocols including implementation of emergency response plan.

Activity 4: Maintain and increase institutional capacity with training, including adapting local and international best practices.





Diagnostic Tools Used

Quantified management and governance assessment tools (Enhancing our Heritage, World Heritage Outlook), Enhancing Our Heritage. Monitoring and Managing for Success in Natural World Heritage Sites (2007). Final Assessment. Aldabra Atoll. Republic of Seychelles. IUCN, World Heritage Outlook 2017, Aldabra Atoll. Strategic documents at the protected and conserved area, national and regional levels (Aldabra Atoll Management Plan, Aldabra Atoll Biosecurity Plan v2.0, Animal and plant biosecurity act) Seychelles Islands Foundation 2016, Aldabra Atoll Management Plan. Harper, G.A., Cook, L. & SIF 2018. Aldabra Atoll Biosecurity Plan v2.0. Seychelles Islands Foundation, Republic of Seychelles. Government of Seychelles. Animal and plant biosecurity act, 2014.



The BIOPAMA AC Objective(s) Addressed

The BIOPAMA AC objective which is being addressed with this project is "Enhance the management and governance of priority protected areas by addressing existing limitations".



Priority Need Addressed

The priority actions are two-fold:

- 1) establish comprehensive biosecurity and quarantine measures (priority action 1),
- 2) Develop a rapid-response plan for eventual arrivals of invasive species (priority action 2)



The change the project implementation will bring for the protected areas - approx. 200 words

The project enables SIF to further strengthen its biosecurity measures to securing Aldabra's status of being the largest atoll in the world without any alien avian fauna. Maintaining and continuously increasing institutional capacity is a fundamental and never-ending task, as much as implementing biosecurity measures and nature conservation management is an ongoing effort. There is almost always more that can be done, especially to prevent IAS incursions in today's world of globalisation with perpetually increasing IAS numbers and abundance. On a much larger scale, the example of the coronavirus illustrates how easily unwanted organisms are transported and spread, despite extensive containment efforts. Similar problems exist with IAS, being one of the most important drivers of biodiversity loss on islands. The proposed action will support SIF's determination to ensure the greatest possible protection of Aldabra's native flora and fauna as well as to maintain one of the world's least impacted areas by humans, especially in a world where native species and biodiversity hotspots are in severe decline.

Specific change will include all cargo outbound to Aldabra will be fully biosecure packed and no high-risk species travel to Aldabra. This will lay the groundwork for future IAS eradications to take place which will result in outstanding scientific research opportunities to study the significant ecological changes following such an eradication. Biosecurity reports for each transport will be provided. Operational surveillance and response plans will be implemented. Highly trained committed staff on both sites and continuous strengthening of biosecurity knowledge of new recruits will be developed.

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 <Grantee's name > and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the EU nor of the OACPS.

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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.