Seychelles Islands Foundation

Donation Catalogue

The Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF) is a non-profit charitable organisation which was established as a public trust in 1979 to **manage, protect, research** and **promote sustainable ecotour-ism** in Seychelles' two UNESCO World Heritage sites, **Aldabra Atoll** and the **Vallée de Mai**. Additionally, as of 2020, SIF is also managing Fond Ferdinand, a nature reserve comprising large areas of intact coco de mer palm forest.

To successfully operate and protect two World Heritage sites and Fond Ferdiand which are more than 1000 km apart and each with their specific set of challenges, SIF relies on income generated primarily by entrance fees and sales from the Vallée de Mai. This is supplemented by project funding, grants and donations. Aldabra does provide some direct income through visitor impact fees but the remote location of the atoll and the nature of tourism to Aldabra limits this source of revenue.

If you would like to make a financial donation to SIF your support could purchase some of the vital equipment required for our work. Please note that wherever possible the donation will be used to purchase the requested item, however SIF may need to purchase other equipment in case needs change. Visit our website for details on how to donate.

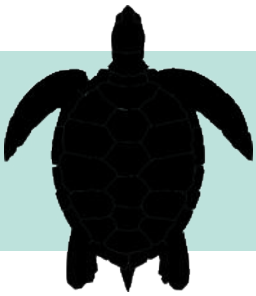
SIF seychelles islands foundation

aldabra atoll

fond ferdinand

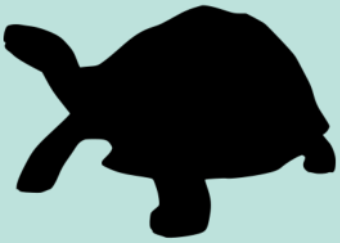
vallée de mai

Help equip our rangers for tortoise and turtle monitoring...



Hawksbill and **green turtles** migrate incredible distances to breed and forage on Aldabra's beaches and within the atoll's lagoon. The atoll home the second largest population of green turtles in the Western Indian Ocean.

Aldabra is home to over 100 000 **Aldabra giant tortoises**, the largest population of giant tortoises in the world. Once part of a large group of species that dominated many islands, Aldabra's tortoises are one of only two remaining lineages, the other being the Galapagos giant tortoise. Excessive hunting in the past and their restriction to one atoll has led them to be classed as "vulnerable to extinction" by the IUCN.



Long-term monitoring aims to detect any turtle and tortoise population changes in order to improve management and conservation of the species. **Calipers, waterproof notebooks and scales** are the tools research staff use to get biometric and gender information out in the field.

Donate $140 for a 20kg Pesola scale

Donate $10 for a waterproof notebook

Donate $170 for a pair of 60cm calipers

Usually one pair of **boots** (if not more!) is used-up on the island every 6 months. The coral limestone is so harsh that even thick boots cannot withstand the piercing edges. **Booties** are vital protection for monitoring in the lagoon and mangroves.

Donate $120 for a pair of boots

Donate $85 for a pair of booties

In order to facilitate the processing of field data, the research team uses a **digital data entry device**. The collection of raw data in the field is then directly digitised and saved in an application. This enables the team to save time, prevent data loss and avoid human error.

Donate $350 for a Garmin GPS

Donate $300 for a digital data entry device

Many specific zones around the atoll are chosen to monitor demographic changes. **Global Positioning System** devices are therefore necessary to navigate within these territories.

Donate $350 for a laser rangefinder

Our methodology to estimate giant tortoise population density entails the use of a **laser rangefinder**. This enables us to count the number of tortoises within transects a lot more accurately. Several rangefinders are needed to enable multiple teams to conduct monitoring at the same time.

Donate to the Aldabra bird monitoring programme

Seabirds, shorebirds and landbirds are all monitored on Aldabra.

- The biggest monitoring event is the annual census of the breeding populations of **frigatebirds**.
- **Tropicbirds** are monitored to determine rates of breeding success and potential causes of nest failure.
- **Shorebird** monitoring along Settlement Beach is done once a month.
- **Landbird** point counts are carried out around the whole atoll and nesting success of selected land bird species is monitored over the breeding season.

With a smartphone, **directional microphone** and specialised app, it would be possible to record bird calls to assist rangers training for landbird monitoring.

Donate $110 for a microphone

Rugged waterproof **binoculars** are essential for bird monitoring. Despite careful use and storage, binoculars naturally experience wear and tear over time and occasionally need replacing.

Donate $250 for binoculars

A **Pesola spring balance** is used to accurately weigh birds.

Donate $70 for a spring balance

A **spotting scope** is used for monthly monitoring of shorebirds, a second scope would allow monitoring to occur concurrently at different parts of the atoll.

Donate $400 for a spotting scope

Help SIF take flight with drone technology to monitor wildlife

Surveying wildlife on Aldabra generally takes place on foot and by boat. Drone technology will provide a whole new dimension. Using drones SIF will be able to monitor and track highly mobile and vulnerable species such as the **dugong** to understand their distribution, habitat preferences, behaviour and population within Aldabra's lagoon. Drones provide a wide scope to study other animals such as **seabirds, turtles, sharks and rays**.

The **DJI Mavic 3 Pro** is a high quality consumer level multi-rotor drone with remote control and screen, on-board camera shooting high quality images and videos.

Donate $2200 for a DJI Mavic 3 Pro

Drone monitoring will require **essential accessories** to capture and store data, You can donate $485 for the purchase of all the below equipment or you can choose to contribute for individual items as per below list.

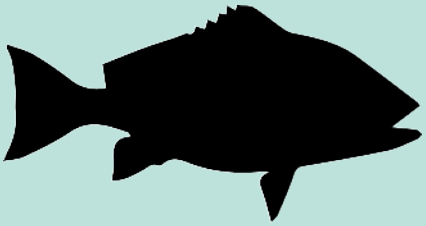
Donate $50 for micro SD cards

Donate $150 for spare batteries

Donate $30 for spare propellers

Donate $80 for a drone carrying case

Donate equipment for the Aldabra marine monitoring programme



Aldabra is renowned for its **marine life** and for being surrounded by one of the few **relatively pristine seas** in the world. To protect and preserve this natural treasure SIF prides itself in collecting high quality, regionally comparable and readily available data. Monitoring methods include diving surveys, baited remote underwater videos (BRUVs), catch recording and temperature tidal loggers.

BRUVs record on camera the abundance of species of fish on different monitoring sites. A good **underwater camera** is essential for this monitoring.

Donate $350 for a GoPro Hero 12

Marine monitoring is done by a team of divers each year and **diving equipment** needs to be periodically replaced.

Donate $100 for a wetsuit

Donate $80 for fins and

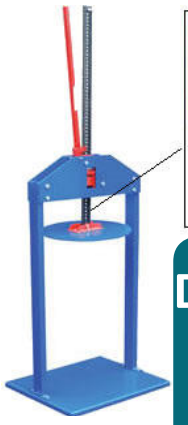
Donate $200 for a dive computer

Temperature tidal loggers give great insight into temperature changes around the atoll and are helpful for assessing coral reef health. Four additional tidal loggers are needed.

Donate $760 for a tidal logger

Donate for the station's waste management system

One of the major challenges faced by the team on Aldabra is that of **waste management**. Our primary strategy is to produce as little waste as possible, by buying supplies in bulk, but even so, some waste generation in unavoidable. **Plastic and metal** are sent back to Mahé and recycled where possible. All our carbon-neutral waste, such as **paper and cardboard**, is burned on-site using burning barrels.



Donate $1,500 for a ratchet waste compactor

Plastic and metal waste is packed and sealed into empty diesel barrels which are then loaded onto the supply boat on her return journey. A **manual ratchet waste compactor** would enable us to compact this waste far more effectively, reducing the number of barrels used, thus saving fuel and time.

Burning paper and cardboard in barrels is relatively inefficient, and the low burning temperature releases a large amount of particulate matter as smoke. An **incinerator** would allow us to burn our carbon-neutral waste far hotter and more efficiently, reducing particulate emissions and also enabling us to burn larger batches less frequently.

Donate $10,000 for a DeMontfort type incinerator

Donate to leave a legacy...

The harsh conditions and remote locations of Aldabra's field camps, even relative to the station on Picard, make **maintenance** of these vital outposts extremely difficult and expensive.

Donate $5000 for the annual maintenance of one field camp

During certain periods of the year the seas around Aldabra are very rough and the SIF boats cannot venture far from Aldabra's shores or make the crossing to Assomption island. A **larger vessel** would allow for rapid response during emergencies and provide an all year lifeline for staff on the atoll.

Donate $350,000 for the purchase of a rapid response vessel

SIF strives to support the **further education** of staff, whether it be by providing time off work, funding degree courses or introducing staff to external funding opportunities. Your support could fund tertiary education for early career conservationists.

Donate $45 000 for a BSc scholarship at the University of Seychelles

Donate $85 000 for an overseas MSc

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