

A sunset over the ocean with three people walking on a beach in the foreground. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The silhouettes of three people are visible in the foreground, walking away from the viewer towards the water. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2020

As we have progressed through the month of November, more and more Hawksbill turtles have visited our beaches. Here some numbers:

- **Number of turtle in November: 113**
- **Number of nest laid in November: 103**
- **Total number of tracks: 282**
- **Total number of nests: 137**
- **Turtle tagged in November: 18**
- **Turtle tagged since beginning of the season: 22**
- **Total turtles with tags encountered: 54**



With north-west monsoon season well underway all of our beaches are experiencing erosion, some more severe than others..



DISASTER STRIKES!!

Anse Victorin was one of the worse hit areas. On the 21st November, the strong waters uncovered and destroyed one of the Hawksbill nest.

Luckily the conservation team have constructed a Turtle Hatchery at Marina beach for the translocation of eggs from heavily eroded beaches to avoid another incident like this from happening again.



Turtle Hatchery

Over the course of a few days the conservation team cleared the vegetation from the chosen site, painted a 'turtle-y' awesome sign and fenced the area.



On the 23rd November, we welcomed our first batch of hatchlings of the season. 127 hatchlings were released from Grand Anse beach. Due to predation by crabs and exposure of the rocky beach, we had to undertake an 'eggscavation'!



Steps for turtle 'eggscavation':

1. Scoop away the sand (using hands!!) to expose the nest.
2. Place the hatchlings safely into a sand filled bucket.
3. Translocate hatchlings to a 'safer' location along the beach
4. Gently turn over the bucket to allow the hatchlings to make their way into the ocean.



So long, Farewell!

This month, the conservation team had to say goodbye to one of our beloved colleagues Jake! Jake has been since the start of 2020 and has now set sail on a new adventure in Malta. We wish him all the best in this future endeavours.



Alongside finishing off the turtle hatchery. We have also been making signs for Grand Anse road (2) and the coral nursery (3).



Grand Anse road and the surrounding areas is home to over five nocturnal species. In order to prevent loss of wildlife during the night, we have decided to close the main road between the hours of 7pm to 6am every evening.



So many millipedes!!! One of the species the closure of the road will protect is the Seychelles Giant Millipede. The image shows them feasting on fallen leaves... yummy! **f sharks**



The image shows the Giant Black Scorpion catching its prey using its giant pincers at night.



Endemic baby Fregate Beetle, a rare sight when they are so small



Whipspider

Coral Nursery

Signage maintenance went on also underwater. With the help of Jonathan, from the Marina Team, we changed the signs that marked the coral colonies for our bleaching survey to make sure we don't lose data and don't misread the signs.

The air left in the tanks was then used to clean our coral nursery form growing algae, our usual maintenance.



Anaëlle won the Eco School prize for Primary School for the year 2020 and she received a voucher to come to Fregate Island for a weekend with her family. What an experience.... The family explored the island from a conservation point of view. They had a busy weekend but between all the activities they also managed to have some relaxing and fun time as our special guests at the resort. Their enthusiasm and interest in wildlife was very inspiring and made their visit unique.



Over the course of the month the island has welcomed many guests, however not all have booked a place in a villa...

The tale of the travelling birds: thanks to the support of Adrian Skerrett we make sure to get the right identification of the bird and we share important information on the migration patterns of those birds.



Garganey spotted outside of Birdlife



Pacific Golden Plover spotted outside the Boathouse



Cattle egrets spotted outside the hydroponic



Grey heron spotted around different ponds on the island

Due to the on-going COVID-19 pandemic masks have become a requirement whilst adapting to the 'new normal'. So far the resort has been using disposable masks, but we believe that this is not a sustainable solution for the long-term because it increases the resorts waste production and is hazardous for wildlife especially when entangled or ingested.

Therefore, we have worked with Erica, our nurse, for her technical support and Edna, our tailor at the resort, to produce homemade masks for all members of staff. These masks can be washed and reused and they were produced using left over fabric.





FREGATE ISLAND PRIVATE
SEYCHELLES

*'Take nothing but pictures.
Leave nothing but footprints.
Kill nothing but time.'*

John Muir