



**Seychelles Sustainable
Tourism Foundation**

**Annual Report
2017**

Our Vision

Making Seychelles an international best practice example for sustainable tourism through an integrated collaborative approach between public, private sector, academia and NGOs.

Our Main Activities in 2017



Awareness raising events and contributions to two papers on waste management



Partnership between SeyVillas and 3 local NGO projects



International Conference on Sustainable Tourism in SIDS



Support of student research



Sustainable tourism training

Background of the SSTF

The Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Foundation was founded upon initiative of Daniella Payet with the support of Diana Körner and with partners from the public, private and NGO sector. Daniella is a Seychelloise from the island of Praslin with over 40 years' experience and a successful career in the tourism industry. Facing climate change related threats and social ills, Daniella felt like it was the moment to act and mobilize her wide network in Seychelles to work together on joint solutions for the sustainable future of her beloved islands. Diana is a sustainable tourism consultant from Germany based in Seychelles, who is supporting Daniella in setting up the foundation and building partnerships internationally.



The SSTF was registered in April 2017 under the Seychelles Association Act and is a registered benefactor of off-set sponsorships or donation under the corporate social responsibility tax.

Board:

- Chairperson: Daniella Payet
- Vice-Chairperson: Diana Körner
- Treasurer: Lekha Nair
- Secretary: Ina Laporte

With our vision in mind of becoming certified sustainable by a Certification Body that is GSTC Accredited in 5 years' time, we focused our activities in 2017 on building partnerships nationally and internationally, raising awareness about sustainable tourism issues and ways to work together and setting a basis for embarking on the GSTC path.



The Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) manages the global standards for sustainable travel and tourism, and acts as the international accreditation body for sustainable tourism certification
www.gstccouncil.org

Awareness raising events and contribution to two papers on waste management



On the occasion of the World Environment Day, we partnered up with Sustainability for Seychelles (S4S), the Seychelles Hospitality and Tourism Association (SHTA), Hotel Eden Bleu and Paradiso Cinema on Praslin for Green Movie Nights and Panel Discussions on Sustainable Waste Management and Solutions for the Seychelles Tourism Industry.

Both events included:

The screening of an inspiring documentary with case studies from different countries with solutions on how to reinvent our approach to agriculture, energy, democracy and education. Also a new documentary produced by S4S focused on the latest developments regarding Sustainable Waste Management in

Seychelles was screened. Click here to watch the full documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yBtRP3Bel8w>

Followed by a panel discussion with sustainable waste stakeholders to highlight some innovate new technologies in Seychelles and discuss ways for the tourism industry to progress towards more efficient and sustainable waste management

More than 140 people from the public, private and NGO sector attended the event on Mahe, among them the Speaker of the National Assembly Mr. Patrick Pillay, who called for a 10-point plan for sustainable waste management in Seychelles, which we drafted subsequently together with S4S.



We also contributed to the Strategy for Marine Waste: Guide to Action for Africa by the African Waste Network.

Facilitation of a partnership between SeyVillas and 3 local NGO projects

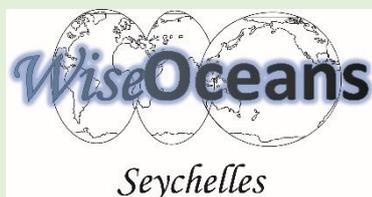
SeyVillas is a specialised tour operator for the Seychelles, based in Germany. SeyVillas has been offering tailor-made holidays to Seychelles since several years and has close ties to the country, with its employees visiting the islands regularly. SeyVillas approached the SSTF, as they felt it was the time to give something back to the destination and engage in sustainable tourism projects that are also of relevance and value to SeyVillas tourists. We got in touch with three local NGOs and managed to initiate the **SeySocial projects**, through which SeyVillas supports the following goals:



To protect and restore the Seychelles' ecosystem through coral implantation and rehabilitation around Cerf Island.



To inform tourists, through the Marine Discovery Experience, about what threatens the Seychelles and to help them understand the benefits of mutual cooperation.



To protect animal welfare, giving them a chance at a new and better life.



SeyVillas committed to monthly financial contributions and clients can donate to Cerf Island Project and Pet Haven Society on Facebook, or book the guided snorkelling tour Discover the Reef, of which all proceeds directly support marine education in Seychelles.

Learn more at: <http://en.seyvillas.com/html/social>

Organisation of international Conference on Sustainable Tourism in SIDS

In cooperation with the University of Seychelles (Department of Tourism and Cultural Heritage) and our partners the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group (TAPAS group), the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) and the Paris Tourism Sorbonne Institute of Research and Higher Education in Tourism (IREST), we proudly hosted the Conference on Sustainable Tourism in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The conference took place on Thursday November 23rd and Friday November 24th, 2017 at UniSeY campus Anse Royale, Mahe and was open to tourism professionals from public and private sector, NGOs involved in tourism, academics and students. Besides tourism stakeholders from Seychelles, the conference convened 30 international delegates from 22 countries, including Antigua, Aruba, Botswana, Comoros, Egypt, France, Germany, Guam, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Micronesia, New Zealand, Reunion, Sao-Tomé and Principe, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, UAE, USA and Vanuatu.

The two-day conference included seven sessions on (1) the evaluation of financial and economic benefits of tourism in protected areas, (2) destination management and the application of standards and certification tools for protected areas, (3) impacts on biodiversity of protected area tourism, (4) tourism concessions and partnerships, (5) community-benefits and socio-economic linkages from protected area tourism, (6) sensitization and awareness: tools and best practices to involve local populations and tourists in sustainable tourism, as well as (7) employment and training in sustainable tourism: tools to reduce poverty in SIDS.



National and international delegates presented their research findings, project results and ideas and discussed them during plenary debates and round tables. These presentations had been selected by the Conference Scientific Committee comprising TAPAS Group members and representatives of the Paris Sorbonne, based on submissions of abstracts

from around the world. We were very satisfied with the high quality of presentations, the professionalism and expertise with which participants engaged.

Click here to see all presentations: <https://www.slideshare.net/TAPASGroup>

Feedback received from participants:

“This meeting was incredibly important as it brought together many people who are not just tucked in an academic ivory tower dispensing theoretical opinion on Ecotourism, but real - world people instead, dealing with challenges and working out solutions to make Tourism work for Protected Areas, Nature and people.”

“I am expressing my appreciation for the full support provided to me to attend, participate and share in the SIDS Sustainable Tourism Event, I have built many new friends and partners and already through email many have responded.”

“It was a great opportunity to discuss different approaches of sustainable tourism. Much has been debated in the conference and the conference has set a platform to start engaging in the matter even more in the future.”

This conference was an initiative contributing to the



Sustainable Tourism
PROGRAMME
Committed to drive the change

Memorandum of Understanding with Vanuatu



Meeting with the Mayor of Victoria Mr. David André who supports our MoU with Vanuatu

As one of the outcomes of our conference, we are currently in the process of working on a Memorandum of Understanding with Vanuatu, a SIDS which faces similar threats and opportunities when it comes to sustainable tourism. The newly created independent body The Sustainable Tourism Vanuatu pursues a very similar vision in terms of GSTC certification for the destination. During our conference we exchanged with Jerry Spooner, Director of The Sustainable Tourism Vanuatu and his colleague Cherise Addinsall from Southern Cross University and realized the great potential of working together, sharing experiences and aligning our activities. The MoU on Developing high quality sustainable Tourism Standards and Approaches for Vanuatu and Seychelles that bring value to both Countries' economy, community and environment will be finalized early 2018.



Support of student research



The demonstration of measurable benefits and Best Practice examples as incentives for accommodations in Seychelles to seek SSTL certification

A student project conducted on behalf of the SSTF by Judith Rybka, master student from the Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development. The aim of this project is to provide different incentives and to demonstrate measurable benefits related to a decrease in consumption and therefore costs, due to more sustainable practices since SSTL certification. The focus is to find best practice examples and motivate establishments to follow these.

Judith is conducting interviews with all SSTL certified hotels in Seychelles for:

- A document for digital publication purposes which sums up measurable benefits
- A script for a documentary on sustainable tourism best practices in Seychelles
- Support for the SHTA Sustainable Tourism Awards

Assessing food waste in hotels

The aim of this project conducted by Rossetta Alcindor from the BSc Environmental Science at UniSeY and mentored by the SSTF is to investigate food waste produced in the hotel industry in Seychelles and identify mechanisms that have the potential to change the way food waste is managed and which will redefine the treatment of food waste within the hotel industry. SSTF helped Rossetta to identify hotel partners and to form a partnership with Betterfly a French company that provides a food waste management software which Rossetta is piloting with her study in Seychelles.



Sustainable tourism training

The SSTF aims to actively support more hotels in Seychelles to green their operations and to obtain SSTL certification. Therefore we offer advice and trainings on sustainable tourism to hotels. We facilitated a sustainable tourism workshop for 16 H Resort staff members from different departments. SSTF gave an overview of the concept of sustainable tourism and its implications for the tourism industry, e.g. in terms of tourists' demand for more sustainable products. The Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label (SSTL) was introduced. The main part of the workshop was dedicated to an interactive session engaging the participants in:

- A. Doing an inventory of what is already being done at H Resort in terms of sustainability and
- B. Developing an action plan for mainstreaming sustainability at H Resort.



Active at countless events and workshops, engaging in discussions, linking tourism stakeholders and supporting local initiatives

As part of our mission to be the platform for sustainable tourism in Seychelles, we actively engage in stakeholder meetings, participate in events, such as the annual Sea Turtle Festival or support youth programmes, such as the Blue Economy Internship Programme.



Memberships

Affiliated member of the UNWTO, a member of the 10YFP Sustainable Tourism Programme and Linking Tourism & Conservation (LT&C)

In order to embed our activities in an international context, seek expertise and exchange experiences with other similar destinations, we applied for UNWTO affiliate membership, became part of the 10YFP Sustainable Tourism programme and joined LT&C. These memberships help us to stay up-to-date with the latest developments in the international tourism scene and further position Seychelles on the map.



Thanks to our partners in 2017:



TAPAS GROUP
Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group



Want to support our cause?

Email us at: office.sstf@gmail.com

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