

Project Summary	
Project Title:	Coral Communities in the Seychelles: Socio-economic Research Team
Lead Scientist:	Dr. Julian Clifton
Field Dates	April - May 2018 (exact dates to be confirmed) 12 days duration
Location	Praslin Island, Seychelles
Team Type	Early Career Scientists/Environmentalists & Researchers
Geographic restrictions	Indian Ocean Region applicants with links to projects and organisations working in areas including nearshore fisheries management; coastal management, planning and conservation; community-based conservation, environmental education and awareness and resource management.

RESEARCH PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Coastal fishing communities in countries such as the Seychelles are increasingly vulnerable to the combined effects of climate change and unsustainable fishing, with potentially serious consequences for the economic and social well-being of these communities. It is therefore essential that governments and other policy makers understand the factors that increase communities' vulnerability to these impacts, as well as those which contribute towards enhancing their adaptability to changing environmental conditions.

The sustainability of marine resources is of prime importance to the health and wellbeing of coastal communities around the world, with fisheries representing the most significant source of nutrition and income to millions of people. The threats to fish stocks and fisheries worldwide, particularly those associated with coral reefs, are diverse and increasing in significance. These include overfishing, destructive fishing practices, pollution and loss of vital marine habitat such as reefs, seagrasses and mangrove environments. The impacts of climate change are increasingly recognized as adding another dimension to these threats, as they involve unpredictable, severe and prolonged disruptions to marine ecosystems, which are beyond the capacity of communities and individual countries to control. Fishing communities will therefore have to adapt to an increasingly uncertain and insecure environment if they are to survive.

In 2011 we launched an exciting new socio-economic orientated research project that complements the Coral Reef Research Programme that has been operating for the last 11 years. The principal goal of this research programme is to understand the drivers that manifest in vulnerability and those that support resilience and adaptability to changing environmental conditions. This information is essential for governments and other policy makers to assist communities in adjusting to the impacts of climate change, and represents a new field of research in the Seychelles. The research will therefore be directed towards understanding past and present patterns of resource use and adaptation to changing fish stock abundance, in order to understand the potential of fishing communities to adapt to future environmental conditions, together with identifying appropriate policies that will be needed to facilitate this process.

The information collected will be integrated with relevant data from the Coral Reef Research programme to generate a holistic understanding of the Seychelles marine environment. This will in turn enable management policies to be identified which maintain biodiversity whilst also recognizing the needs of local fishing and marine resource-dependent communities.

Every year a small team of volunteers join Dr. Julian Clifton to assist in the research project. As a participant, you will be involved in quantitative and qualitative research methods, enabling you to gain experience in the design, implementation and analysis of data conducted using differing techniques. The initial stages of the project will introduce you to the theoretical background informing the research, using examples from around the world and using the context of the Seychelles to demonstrate the importance of this research. We will then review various research instruments to explore sustainable livelihoods, enabling you to learn the key techniques and methods in this process. Earthwatch participants will perform the majority of the science and data collection of this project, from interviewing members of the community

to data entry and analysis. In addition to carrying out research for the project, the learning programme runs alongside the training and includes a range of skills workshops, lectures and learning activities designed to support career/academic study development. This programme brings together early career conservationists, environmentalists and researchers from within the African and Indian Ocean region looking to hone their data collection and surveying techniques as well as providing a solid introduction into the key elements of project design and look at how your work relates to both local and global contexts.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Introductory lectures to Marine National Parks, threats, challenges, coastal and marine ecology and the Seychelles geographic and political structure.
- An introduction to the two research projects associated with the Coral Communities in the Seychelles Programme, the socioeconomic research team and the coral reef conservation research team, and how they relate to one another.
- An introduction to the research aims, data collection techniques, data management and application of the results for conservation.
- An introduction to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Looking at the global context and implications of the research and how this relates to participants work and studies.
- Training and hands-on experience of research methodology focusing on community data collection.
- Introduction to project design and delivery from how to form a research question to analysing and reporting on data.
- Looking at how research data can contribute to policy change and management.
- Development of key transferable skills to support longer team career progression.

Please be aware that some scheduled items may change or be adapted to suit the needs of the research and the needs of those participating in the programme, therefore please allow for a degree of flexibility with the scheduling.

BENEFITS OF THIS TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Some of the key benefits of this rare training opportunity include:

- Contributing to a highly relevant long-term research project which is central to determining how well coastal and fishing communities can adapt to the inevitable challenges associated with climate change.
- Gaining knowledge and understanding of the research techniques used to undertake community focused research data collection and analysis.
- Being introduced to all key stages of the research design and implementation, learning vital skills in conducting community-based research and data analysis which are central to successful research in the social sciences.
- Creating a peer support network of contacts with professionals working in a variety of job roles from a range of organisations and backgrounds.
- Having the opportunity to seek advice and information both from fellow participants and the Earthwatch scientists regarding career development and progression.
- Develop key transferable skills including collaborative working and enhanced communication in groups and with key community stakeholders.

LOGISTICS & TRAVEL

The research will take place on Praslin Island, Seychelles with visits to other islands and potentially island stop overs. This Fellowship includes funding for: travel, accommodation, food, medical insurance, research training and equipment. Travel and accommodation arrangements will be made for participants by Earthwatch. International participants may need to add an additional day before and after the project, to allow for travel. Participants will be given a full project briefing, which includes the details of the project rendezvous, where they will meet the research staff and project departure.

Project Title: Coral Communities in the Seychelles
Team: Socioeconomic Research and Training Team
Dates: April to May 2018 (exact dates to be confirmed)

SECTION 1: NOMINATOR & NOMINEE DETAILS

Nominator Institution	Nominator Name	Nominator Job Title
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NOMINATOR CONTACT DETAILS:

Work telephone	Mobile telephone
Work email	Alternate email
Address	

NOMINEE CONTACT DETAILS:

Title	First Name	Surname	Name as appears on Passport
Job Title		Organisation	
Work Address (if different from nominating organisation)			
Work email		Alternate email	
Mobile number		Alternate contact number	
Age	Date of Birth (dd/mm/yyyy)		Gender (Male/Female)
Nationality		Country of residence	
Main Language		Level of English (<i>Mother tongue/Fluent/Secondary School standard etc. please also list any English qualifications you have</i>)	
Do you have an in date passport? If yes, when does it expire?			

SECTION 2: REASONS FOR NOMINATION

Please state the reason for your nomination. Why do you feel the nominee is a suitable candidate for the programme? (Minimum 200 words)

Please explain any skills and experience gaps you currently have in your institution? (Minimum 200 words).

How could this training programme benefit the nominee and affiliate institution? (Minimum 200 words)

SECTION 3: BACKGROUND & EDUCATION

Please provide details of the nominated participant's qualifications and current employment / education (Minimum 200 words).

SECTION 4: PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

What are the top 5 skills and/or experience areas that the nominee would like to develop through attending this training? Please list 5 in the boxes provided below. Please think carefully about what would be of value to the nominee, as if successful these skills will be revisited in the programme.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Please describe how these skills or experiences are needed to help support the nominee's future career or studies? Which areas of study or work are of interest to them? The nominee does not need to have definitive answer but it will help us gauge how this training could be helpful. (Minimum 200 words)

Please return the complete form to kmcgavin@earthwatch.org.uk

Deadline: 29th January 2017

Earthwatch Institute (Europe), Mayfield House, 256 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 7DE, UK.

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