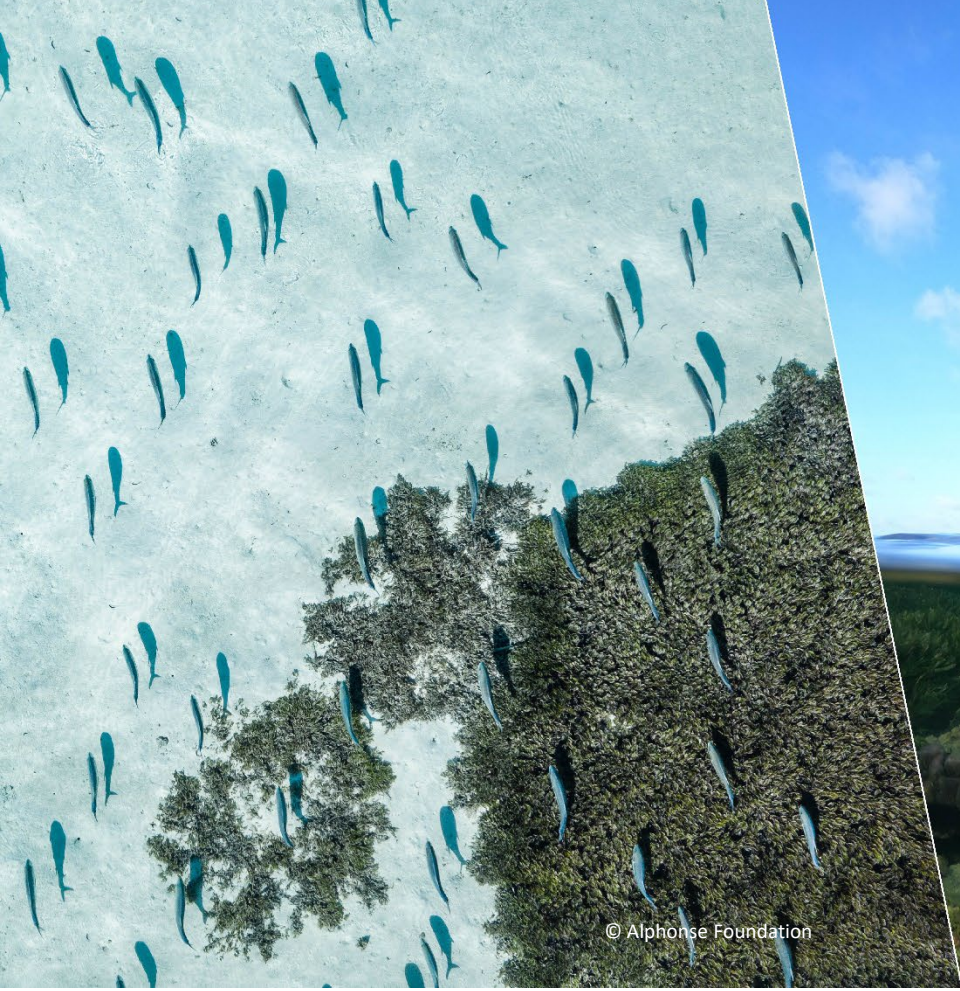


SESSION 8



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SEYCHELLES CONSERVATION
AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION
TRUST
SeyCCAT

Seychelles seagrasses

from 2020 to now?

ANNIKE FAURE, PROJECT MANAGER

05

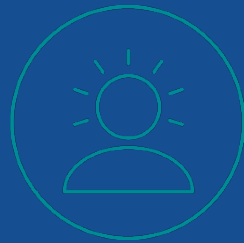
PUBLIC/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT and PARTNERSHIPS



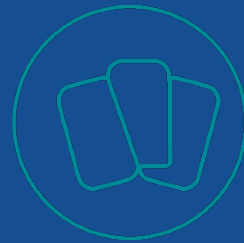
Creole words for Seagrass (Zerb lanmer OR Gomon zerb) and its 5 life forms have been approved (consulted fishermen, public, marine scientists, linguists etc) go into the updated Creole dictionary



Zerb Lanmer SPTC Bus



Coastal Wetlands Awareness sessions



Seagrass ID Cards distributed to project stakeholders and interested tourism establishments

05

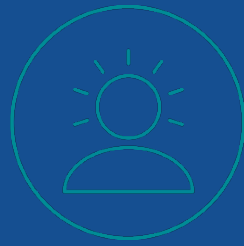
PUBLIC/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT and PARTNERSHIPS



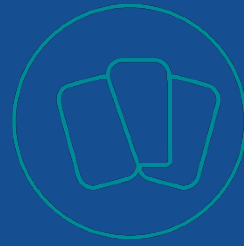
Scientific seagrass guide



Podcast features - Together Far Apart podcast (UN-OHRLLS), Civic Science Media Lab



Webpage features – Project Seagrass, Indian Ocean Commission, PANORAMA Solutions



education and communications strategy to raise awareness on the importance of blue carbon and the seagrass maps and carbon stocks (NGOS, government agencies, parliament and media)

Reconciling the jargon

Is a seagrass meadow a **coastal wetland**, a **blue carbon ecosystem** or a **carbon sink**?



Coastal Wetland

areas where land connects to the sea



Carbon Sink

habitats which contain large stores of carbon accumulated over hundreds to thousands of years



Blue Carbon

Ecosystem

ecosystems which absorb and store blue carbon (carbon captured by the world's ocean and coastal ecosystems)

Formalizing Creole Names For Seagrass



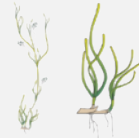
Enhalus acoroides
Gomon zerb gran fey



Thalassodendron ciliatum
Zerb gomon levantay



Syringodium isoetifolium
Gomon zeb sed/ Gomon zerb spageti



Ruppia maritima



Thalassia hemprichii



Oceana serrulata^a



Cymodocea rotundata



Halodule uninervis

Gomon zerb torti



Halophila decipiens



Halophila stipulacea



Halophila ovalis



Halophila minor^b

Gomon zerb pti fey oval/Gomon zerb zorey lapen



Public Engagement





SPTC BUS Advert

ZERB LANMER IN SEYCHELLES NATION Tuesday, 01 March 2022



Zerb Lanmer – Seagrass gets officially recognised in Creole language

Creole (Kreyòl) is the most widely spoken language in Seychelles. The project's goal was to ensure that the name for seagrass was accessible to all citizens. The project was led by the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) in partnership with the National Wetlands Conservation Society (NWCOS) and the National Wetlands Conservation Society (NWCOS).

The project was led by the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) in partnership with the National Wetlands Conservation Society (NWCOS) and the National Wetlands Conservation Society (NWCOS).

Health tips by Dr Naomi adrien

Sleep well by avoiding strenuous exercise 3 hours before bed time. Exercising daily for at least 30 minutes can improve sleep. However, avoid strenuous exercise within 3 hours of sleep. The increased energy levels and body temperature might affect sleeping easy cause difficulty to fall asleep.

Zerb Lanmer – Seagrass gets officially recognised in Creole language

The Ministry of Education has announced that the name for seagrass will be officially recognised in Creole. This is a significant step towards ensuring that the name for seagrass is accessible to all citizens. The project was led by the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) in partnership with the National Wetlands Conservation Society (NWCOS) and the National Wetlands Conservation Society (NWCOS).

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Newspaper Articles

29.3.21: The Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) launches an e-book entitled 'The Voice of Seagrass Meadows'.

The book features all submissions it received from an art and poem competition from November last year (2020).



Web page feature

Formalizing Creole Names for Seagrasses in Seychelles

Annike Faure,¹ Marie-France Watson,² Jeanne A Mortimer³

¹SeyCCAT, Project Manager
²SeyCCAT, Communications
³SeyCCAT, Scientific Advisor

BACKGROUND

- Seagrass is a critically important marine ecosystem in Seychelles.
- 12 species occur.
- Historically no formally accepted names for seagrass in the Seychelles Creole languages and neither English nor Latin names in common use.
- Most Seychellois called both Seagrass and Macroalgae "Gomon".
- "Gomon" loosely translates to: "slimy and plantlike".
- People assign names to what they value.

OBJECTIVES





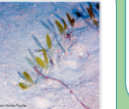
- To create appreciation for "Seagrass and its various life forms" amongst the Seychellois by formalizing their Creole names.
- To identify old Creole names already in use.
- To engage the public in devising new names for un-named seagrass life forms.
- To officially recognize old and new names for seagrass.

METHODS

- Created Emerald Advisory Committee comprising local linguists & scientists who identified five life forms amongst 12 seagrass species. (See RESULTS)
- Conducted public outreach to determine names for the following:
 - Seagrass (in general); and
 - Each of five life forms amongst 12 seagrass species.
- Used social media platforms, webinars, newspapers, TV & radio interviews.
- Specific outreach targeting fishermen through District Administrators.
- Conducted multiple surveys and asked public to vote for favorite names to create short-lists.
 - Across all categories, a total of 876 candidate names were submitted
 - 141 people participated, including 54 fishermen.

RESULTS

Names for Seagrass (in general): * Zerb lammer (=Grass of the sea); * Gomon zerb (=Grass gomon)
Names for each of the five life forms:

 * Gomon gran fey/ Gomon zerb gran fey <i>Enhalus</i> Flat, straplike leaves can be more than 100 cm long. Leaves float on surface at low tide. Easily entangled in boat propellers. Important habitat for Rabbitfish ("kordonnen").	 * Gomon torti/ Gomon zerb torti <i>Thalassia, Cymodocea, Halodule</i> Flat, straplike leaves up to 50 cm long. Favorite food of green turtles.	 # Gomon zerb levantay <i>Thalassodendron</i> Leaves (5-15 cm long) arranged in fanlike clusters, each cluster on a long naked stem measuring 2-90 cm in length. The leaf clusters each comprise 6-20 leaves.	 # Gomon spageti/ Gomon zerb sidi <i>Syringodium</i> Long cylindrical leaves shaped like solid tubes, 3-8 mm in diameter, typically less than 50 cm long. The only seagrass with leaves that are not flat.	 # Zerb lammer papayoni/ Zerb lammer zorey layem <i>Nalophila</i> Small fragile plants characterized by delicate oval-shaped leaves usually less than 3 cm long and arranged in pairs along a runner on the surface of the substrate.
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CONCLUSION

- Final names officially approved by Lokadmi Kioof.
- Names & definitions will be incorporated into the next edition of the official Seychellois-Creole Dictionary.
- Project has created noticeably higher awareness in general public.
- Creole names proving to be useful training tool for native Creole speakers.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Funding for project from Pew Charitable Trusts, coordinated by Seychelles Conservation & Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT).

Emerald Committee membership: Jeanne A Mortimer, Chair; Charles Morel (Seychelles National Fisheries); Jude Bious (Fisheries expert); Amos Ewahlen (Fisheries expert); Pat Mayot (Naturalist & linguist); Annike Faure; Marie-France Watson

SEAGRASSES OF SEYCHELLES

WHAT ARE SEAGRASSES?

- The only true plants found in the sea.
- Evolved from land plants, but not related to true "grasses".
- Flowering plants with veins, leaves, roots. Reproduce under water.

Creole names for seagrass: Zerb lammer / Gomon zerb

"Seaweeds" or "algae" are not plants but are similar to plants.

HOW MANY KINDS OF SEAGRASS?







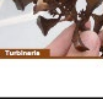

In the world: more than 70 species
In Seychelles: at least 10 species

Many of the 10 species are difficult to tell apart without close examination.


But these ten species can be grouped into 5 life forms that are easy for anyone to identify.

All five life forms now have their own Creole names. (see next page)

WHAT'S NOT SEAGRASS?

Brown Algae	Green/ Red Algae
	
	
	
	

Guide to Identifying Seagrass Species of Seychelles



Author: Jeanne A. Mortimer, Marie-France Watson & Annike Faure

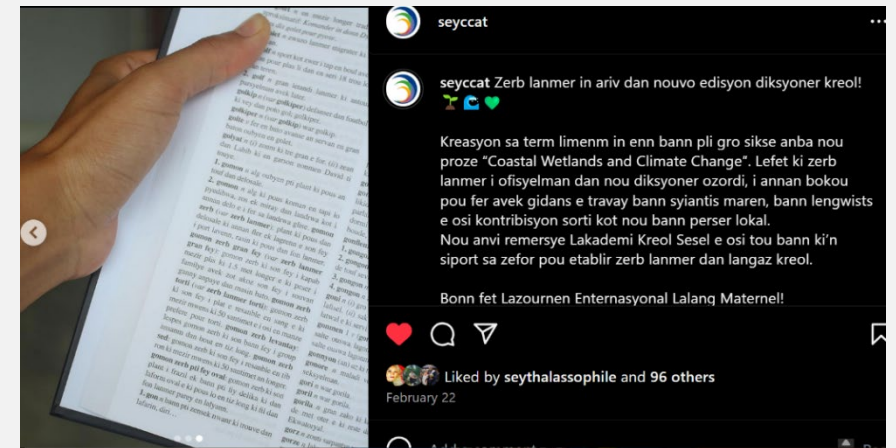
SeyCCAT
Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment
PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Guides and id CARDS



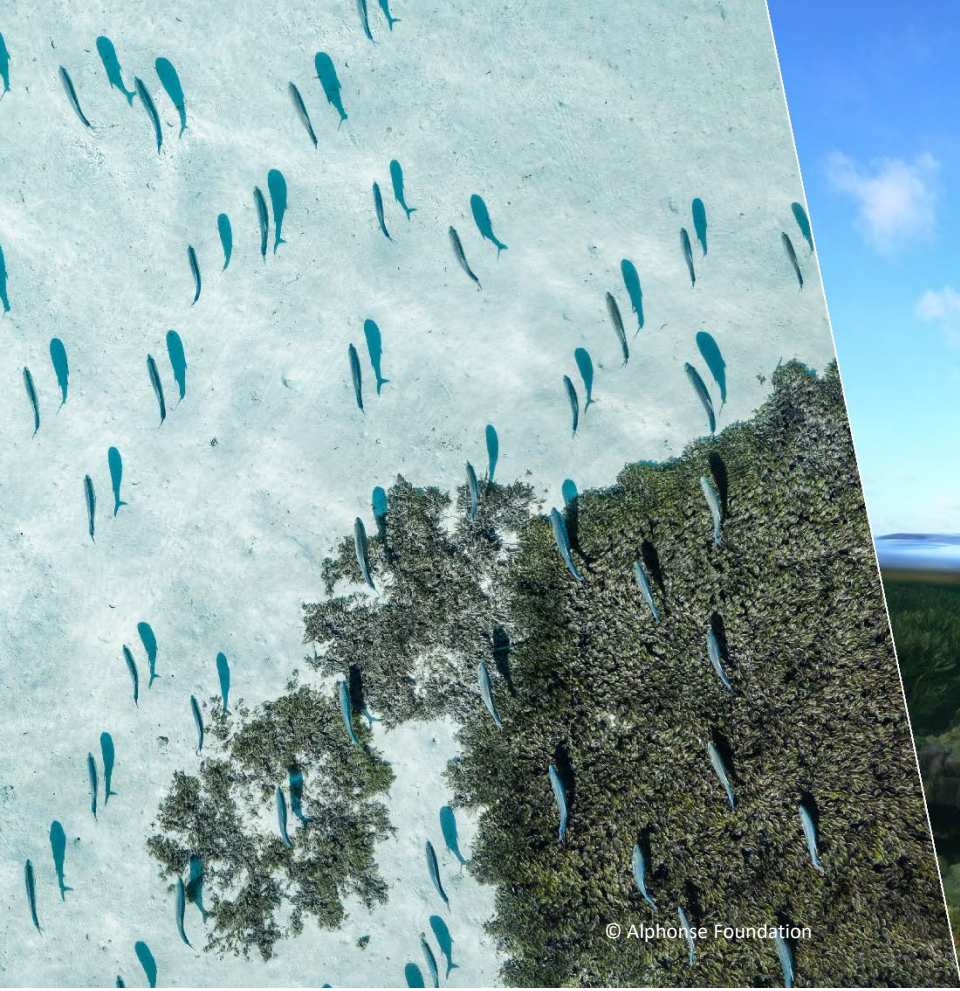
More SEAGRASS AWARENESS events

Social media campaign





Meet dugo!



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Thank you!

Huge thanks - Dr Gwilym Rowlands and Dr Stacy Baez for their support and slides in creating this presentation