

Plain Language Statement

To: Stakeholders and community members working, studying, managing, and/or using Seychelles' Blue Carbon systems

Project Title: Seychelles Blue Carbon stakeholder questionnaire

Principal Researcher: Dr. Maria Palacios (Deakin University - Australia)

Associate Researchers: Dr Peter Macreadie, Dr Melissa Wartman and Dr Micheli Costa (Deakin University). Dr Ameer Ebrahim (Seychelles' James Michel Foundation).

Date: 3 November 2020



Purpose:

This research aims to document the social, political, ecological and scientific context of Blue Carbon ecosystems in Seychelles, as well as identify the challenges and opportunities that stakeholders foresee. Research is part of the new project '[Roadmap to Blue Carbon opportunities in Seychelles](#)' between Deakin University and the James Michel Foundation, funded by the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT). Data from this \$1,945,000 SCR program will be critical to help put Seychelles at the forefront of international efforts to incorporate coastal carbon within CO₂ mitigation strategies.

Approach:

The online survey consists of a maximum of 30 questions. It should take a maximum of 15 minutes to complete. Participation is voluntary, and consent will be implied through the completion of the online surveys. Participants are under no obligation to answer every question and may withdraw from the study at any time (by closing the survey) without their data being used. Only surveys completed will be included in the study. All responses are non-identifiable, anonymous, and data treated with confidentiality. Data will be monitored and kept permanently online. Access will only be granted to the research team for the preparation of diverse research outputs (report and peer-reviewed publication).

This survey will allow participants the opportunity to share their views, perception and knowledge of Seychelles coastal wetlands. We expect significant benefits to local government and managers, in understanding the context of Blue Carbon ecosystem in Seychelles. We do not foresee any discomfort or risks to the participants.

Result Dissemination:

Participants who are interested in the results and supply their email address will be sent the research findings in the form of a summary and an infographic. Participants who share their email will have their contact details kept separate from their survey results. Survey outputs will be delivered to SeyCCAT as part of the final report of the project '[Roadmap to Blue Carbon opportunities in Seychelles](#)' and be made publicly available by SeyCCAT and the Blue Carbon Lab's website.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the lead scientist Dr Maria Palacios (m.palacios@deakin.edu.au; Project manager & Science communicator, School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University Australia) or Dr Ameer Ebrahim (ameer.ebrahim@uq.net.au; James Michel Foundation - Seychelles).

Complaints

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact: The Human Research Ethics Office, Deakin University, 221 Burwood Highway, Burwood Victoria 3125, Telephone: 9251 7129, research-ethics@deakin.edu.au

Please quote project number [\[SEBE-2020-45\]](#)