

Marine Introduced Species Project Seychelles 2004-2006

The IUCN Global Marine Program in close collaboration with the Seychelles Centre for Marine Research and Technology (SCMRT-MPA) and the Seychelles Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources initiated a project in 2004 in the Seychelles to address the emerging threat of marine introduced species. This project is generously funded by the Total Foundation.



A pilot survey was undertaken in April 2004 to prepare for a larger scale assessment. A training and capacity building workshop was held in February, 2005 to provide training for 12 individuals from the Seychelles on port survey and laboratory methods for detecting and sorting marine introduced species.



From April 30-May 22, 2005 a complete baseline survey was undertaken for introduced and native species in the Port of Victoria and Sainte Anne Marine Park. Marine animals and plants were collected and sent to international taxonomic experts for identification. Out of a total of 330 species, 3 were found to be non-native and introduced to the Port of Victoria.



Left: Sampling locations around Port Victoria, Mahe Island. (1) Interisland Ferry Terminal; (2) Tuna Wharf; (3) Fishing Port; (4) Marine Charter basin; (5) Commercial Slipway; (6) New Port Wharf; (7) Coastguard; (8) Lighthouse Reef.

From the 8th to the 18th August 2006 a campaign took place to raise awareness about the threat of marine introduced species in the Seychelles and to present the results of the baseline survey. Activities during this campaign included: stakeholder management workshops; presentations to organisations, the public and students; radio talk show and radio quizzes; an exhibition; and a video.



Introduced species of the Seychelles (left to right): the sponge *Mycale* cf. *cecilia*, the amphipods *Stenothoe valida* and *Erichthonius braziliensis* and the aquaculture fish *Oreochromis mossambicus* (Tilapia).

