



Annabelle preparing to go for a dive

by A. Edmond

Living in a modern society, Seychellois are not truly aware of what it means to live on one of those islands or even get to experience one of our greatest treasures, even for short while. After working on Desroches for two years, one lucky conservation biologist, Annabelle Cupidon, not only found herself doing a job that she loves but also living in the untouched Farquhar Atoll.

Farquhar Atoll, which comprises of ten islands, is the most southerly atoll in the Seychelles chain of islands lying just over 700km to the southwest of the main island Mahé. The atoll is the largest atoll of Seychelles,

covering an area of about 17,800 hectares. The two main islands are Ile du Nord and Ile du Sud, making up 97% of the landmass which are then separated by three small islands known as the Manahas. Three other islands lie in close proximity to each other on the northern rim of the atoll; Déposés, Ile du Milieu and Lapins. Banc du Sables is the most easterly island, and Goëlettes is the most southerly island. An eleventh island, Banc Fantala, appeared in 2016 following Cyclone Fantala.

Annabelle describes Farquhar as one of the most pristine places she has ever visited and is currently working as the Assistant Conservation Officer there "Working at Desroches was a very interesting experienc-

ing and a big leap in my career. Back then I didn't know much about the outer islands. When you learn about all the marine pollution and the impacts human have on biodiversity, wildlife and nature, it's easy to forget that places like the outer islands still exist," said Annabelle. The uninhabited islands of Farquhar and surrounding waters form an important bird area and the large ear-shaped lagoon provides easy access to the countless flats, channels and surf zones which make Farquhar such a diverse fishery; it is one of the few Seychelles destinations where you will have the chance to target bump head parrot fish on the flats. Farquhar also provides exceptional offshore fly-fishing. Milkfish, sailfish, barracuda,

wahoo, yellowfin tuna, dogtooth tuna and a host of others prowl the blue water just off the flats.

Given the vast difference between the two, working and living on the outer islands is very different from the inner islands. According to Annabelle, on the inner islands people have all the little luxuries of life as they can easily go to the cinema, restaurant and even get to do some

shopping but such activities cannot be done on outer islands. Despite losing out on those little joys of life in terms of comfort, whilst living on the outer islands, Annabelle says you will gain much more satisfaction from seeing a lot of wildlife in a pristine environment, she explained "getting to see all the birds flying to get their food and all the fish when you snorkel is a beautiful sight to

see, it is quite hard to see turtles on the inner islands but here you can actually swim with them and see quite a lot of females coming up to lay their eggs and it is a very spectacular event; there's a lot of wildlife to see and a lot to discover here which is what really motivated me to work on Farquhar. If you're an adventurer, then the outer islands are definitely the place for you to work."

## Environment

# Life on the outer islands

Farquhar, one of the pristine islands of Seychelles, is not well known to most Seychellois. TODAY spoke to Annabelle Cupidon, the Assistant Conservation Officer on Farquhar, who said she had no idea such immaculate places like the outer islands still existed.



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Annabelle undergoing coral reef survey



Removing fad



### Central Bank of Seychelles

#### Request for Proposal (RFP) For The Development and Implementation of a Credit Information System

In line with its Procurement Policy, the Central Bank of Seychelles (CBS) is inviting Credit Information Solutions providers (Vendors) to bid for the *Development and Implementation of a Credit Information System* as per the details provided in the RFP issued.

The selected Vendor will need to provide a technical solution for the development of a Credit Information System, in line with industry and international best practices, the market needs of Seychelles and standards and to support its implementation.

Interested Vendors are requested to download a copy of the RFP document as per link below:

<https://www.cbs.sc/Downloads/publications/procurement/RFP%20for%20the%20Development%20and%20Implementation%20of%20a%20Credit%20Information%20System.pdf>

Closing Dates	
Submission of Intent to Bid	Tuesday April 27, 2021
Submission of full response to the RFP	3.00 p.m. Seychelles time on Tuesday May 25, 2021

For any clarification, please contact Jonathan Valentin (Mr.) on (+248) 4282160, or alternatively James Jean (Mr.) on (+248) 4282150, Monday to Friday from 8am to 4pm.