

# Importance of seabirds nesting within Alphonse Group

Contributed by Island Conservation Society



The Island Conservation Society (ICS) is an NGO which has the mandate to conserve, and, monitor the dynamic and vulnerable island ecosystems of six of the Seychelles Inner and Outer Island group. These are namely, Alphonse, Aride, Cosmoledo, Desroches, Farquhar and Silhouette. Each Conservation centre has a small team of dedicated and experienced conservationists that work with the Island Conservation Society's

head office, Island Development Company (IDC) and tourism establishments to achieve their collective conservation goals.

The Alphonse Island group is comprised of three sand cays, each dominated by unique habitats that are ideal for nesting and roosting seabirds. The resource-rich lagoons surrounding each island and the abundant life in the deep oceans provide an abundance of food for seabirds. ICS has been monitoring

the population numbers and breeding success of all nesting seabird species in the Alphonse Group, including red-footed boobies, wedge-tailed shearwaters and black-naped terns since they began working on Alphonse in 2007.

Until 2019, the red-footed boobies roosted in large numbers of up to 20,000 individuals on St. Francois Island throughout the year but had never nested in the Alphonse Group.