




[About us](#) | [Contacts](#) | [Advert rates](#) | [Archive](#) | [Privacy policy](#)

 **Bank safely with Abby, your 24/7 digital personal banker.** [Learn more](#)

To and to apply - Absa Bank (Seychelles) Limited (registered no.810505-1)

DOMESTIC

My one-month internship with ICS on Silhouette Island

| 30 August 2021



As a student currently completing a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences at the University of Seychelles, it is required that I attain work-based experience as part of the University programme.

With my passion for conservation, I joined the Island Conservation Society's (ICS) team on Silhouette Island for a month-long internship from mid-July.

It was the experience of a lifetime! I would not only put into practice what I had learned at the university but I have now acquired new skills. The first week of work was quite exhausting as I had never worked full-time in conservation but as the second week rolled in, the morning routines and daily patrols began to feel like clockwork.

Although the daily monitoring is consistent, like each sunrise is a bold, new experience, such was my experience during the daily monitoring on each day – fresh and adventurous. I quickly became agile in the regular and vigorous hikes across the island. Each hike was a fresh new learning of our amazing endemic plants on Silhouette. I felt more than lucky to see the sheath-tailed bats (*Coleura seychellensis*), a critically endangered species found only on Mahé and Silhouette as their only habitat in the world. They roost in quiet caves that only catch glimpses of sunlight throughout the day. The experience beguiled me to fall in love with conservation even more.

I was struck at how the island community is devoted and willing to protect the environment.

On the journey to Grand Barbe, the hardest trail on the island, which is a 12km walk to the other side of the island, I was in wonderment to meet a couple in their 80s, Abdul Jumaye and Elvire Dubois, residing there. I was amazed that they chose to live in such isolation, secluded in the quiet life, in the company of the wondrous flora and fauna of the surrounding forest. They still live in a wooden A-frame house, a solid remnant of the last ones of the old village that used to exist at Grand Barbe, surrounded by breadfruit trees, typical of Silhouette's history. Of course, being residents of over 30 years, I had just met a treasure of stories. I sat down with them, mesmerised by stories I would never read from any book and anecdotes about how life used to be when the village existed. Of course, they proudly recounted how they can still walk at their age for three good hours to La Passe and how they can still catch fish and octopus for their dinners.

A short and sweet month working alongside the ICS rangers, who were more than ready to teach me all they could, I quickly learned how to collect and enter data and the long-term monitoring techniques that come along with it. After a month-long exposure, I can proudly say that my knowledge of flora and fauna species has deepened.

I had many highlights during this short experience but the honour of assisting in feeding a small baby Blue Pigeon (*Alectroenas pulcherrimus*), that had fallen out of her nest is one I would always remember. We named the distressed Blue Pigeon, Teroline. That was a cherishable moment.

Visit us on Facebook: ICS Seychelles

To learn more about ICS visit www.islandconservationseychelles.com

Follow us on Instagram: ics_seychelles and tweet us @ICS_Seychelles

Contributed by Maryssa Samedi

Intern, ICS



MORE NEWS

Tourism minister praises small establishments | 30.08.2021

PUC extends water restriction hours as dry weather persists By Elsie Pointe
| 30.08.2021

Progress noted in labour market for second quarter of 2021 | 30.08.2021

Caregivers learn more about Alzheimer's disease | 30.08.2021

Teachers' reps bring concerns to executive team in first school-based teacher led forum meeting | 30.08.2021

Art Meet Sheijnada, an acrylic painter interpreting her dreams on canvas | 30.08.2021

SPONSORED LINKS

President's Office
Institute of Early Childhood Development (IECD)
Seychelles Hospital

National Council for Children
DICT website
The National Assembly of Seychelles

Seychelles Tourism Board (STB)

Copyright2021 © All rights reserved. National Information Services Agency
Web design and development by: M3 Communications Group, Inc.