

The Seagrass Mapping Project (*Desroches Island*)

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Seagrass meadow is a unique ecosystem surrounding many coastal areas across the planet. Unfortunately, seagrasses remain mostly unknown by the general public and are often mistakenly confused with algae washed up on the beach. In fact, the seagrass is the only marine flowering plant and plays a critical role in the health of our oceans and even for the entire planet. They are considered as ecosystem engineers as they provide habitat, food and shelter for numerous marine creatures such as turtles, dugongs and many species of fish and invertebrates. Furthermore, they not only reduce wave energy and coastal erosion but also produce oxygen and store carbon. Functions that are essential in the Anthropocene where the planet is threatened by climate change.

Sadly, the survival of this fragile ecosystem is jeopardized by anthropogenic activities like runoffs, development of coastal areas and destructive fishing practices. Hence, it is of vital importance to protect seagrasses.



A research project seeking to map seagrass meadows and estimate their capacity of storing carbon in the soil took place in Seychelles and was funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts and led by the University of Oxford.

As the coastal waters around Desroches Island are full of seagrass meadows, part of the project was carried out there. The Desroches ICS team collaborated with 2 researchers from Oxford to map, as much as possible, the seafloors of the Atoll and collect samples to assess the amount of carbon in the soils. Divers and snorkelers used underwater cameras and GPS to investigate the bottom cover in shallow waters and camera drop was used in deeper waters. The team also collected and extruded cores that were sent to UniSey and Oxford for further analysis. This project aims to raise awareness amongst populations and encourage countries to protect this disregarded ecosystem as part of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement.

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7 DAY LOCAL FORECAST

Today

Humidity: 78%
Wind: N 15 mph
UV: 7 (High)
Sunrise: 06:19 am
Sunset: 06:39 pm

26 / 25 °C
Feels Like: 28 °C

Low 2:27am (0.57m)
High 8:32am (1.55m)
Low 2:49pm (0.51m)
High 9:02pm (1.51m)



Showers late

Moon Watch

- Last qtr Tuesday 25 January
- New moon Tuesday 1 February
- First qtr Tuesday 8 February
- Full moon Wednesday 16 February

Monday



27 / 25 °C
Light rain

Humidity: 78%
Wind: N 15 mph
UV: 10 (Very high)
Sunrise: 06:20 am
Sunset: 06:40 pm

Tuesday



27 / 24 °C
Mostly cloudy

Humidity: 77%
Wind: NNW 11 mph
UV: 10 (Very high)
Sunrise: 06:20 am
Sunset: 06:40 pm

Wednesday



27 / 24 °C
Showers early

Humidity: 80%
Wind: NW 13 mph
UV: 10 (Very high)
Sunrise: 06:20 am
Sunset: 06:40 pm

Thursday



27 / 25 °C
Isolated Thunderstorms

Humidity: 82%
Wind: NW 17 mph
UV: 3 (Moderate)
Sunrise: 06:21 am
Sunset: 06:40 pm

Friday



28 / 26 °C
Showers late

Humidity: 82%
Wind: NW 20 mph
UV: 7 (High)
Sunrise: 06:21 am
Sunset: 06:40 pm

Saturday



28 / 28 °C
Light showers

Humidity: 81%
Wind: NW 19 mph
UV: 3 (Moderate)
Sunrise: 06:21 am
Sunset: 06:40 pm