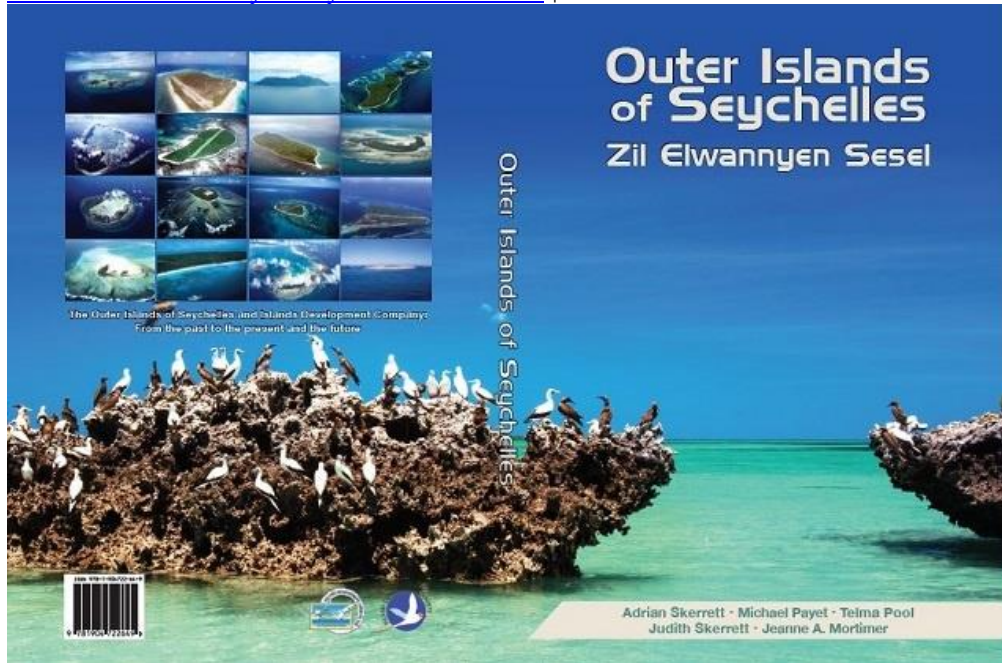


Outer Islands of Seychelles' gets new print run due to popular demand

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The second edition of "Outer Islands of Seychelles" has several new additions gathered by the original team and by new writers. (IDC)

([Seychelles News Agency](#)) - The **Islands Development Company** (IDC) of Seychelles has published a second edition of the book '**Outer Islands of Seychelles**' by Adrian Skerrett to because of high demand, said an official of the company.

“The first edition of the book was very popular and has been almost completely sold out, while there has been a continuous demand for the publication. Hence, we decided to print a second edition with new additions,” said Michael Payet, the Public Relations and Communications Manager of IDC.

The book will be available for sale in the coming weeks at around \$33 (SCR450).

According to Payet, IDC decided to publish the book eight years ago as “there is a lack of resources on the outer islands of Seychelles.”

“Therefore, IDC took the decision to publish a book about the outer islands, highlighting the history, events, conservation, activities and stories from people from the islands,” he said.



Outer Islands of Seychelles

The Evolution of the Outer Islands

Chapter One

The Evolution of the Outer Islands

Adrian Skerrett

PANGAEA



Two hundred million years ago, there was no Indian Ocean. All the world's continents as we know them today were combined as one landmass, Pangaea. This supercontinent split between Laurasia to the north and Gondwanaland to the south. The two supercontinents were separated by the Tethys Sea, the western wing of the Tethys Ocean. The rocks that were to become the granitic islands lay between what would become India, Madagascar and Africa. The volcanic rocks that were to become the basement for the outer islands lay within the Earth's mantle.

GONDWANALAND



One hundred and 60 million years ago, Gondwanaland split between East Gondwana and West Gondwana, a series of volcanoes forming in the rift. The weight of basaltic lava from the volcanoes depressed and widened the rift still further. Madagascar split from India at around 88 million years ago and granite Seychelles split from India about 64 million years ago because of two powerful volcanic eruptions from the Marion and Reunion hotspots, respectively. The 800 kilometre long arch-shaped Amirante Ridge and Amirante Trench evolved during the tumultuous period between these two events.

The Aldabra Group formed much later, perhaps around 20 million years ago.

PITON DE LA FOURNAISE



Piton des Neiges and Piton de la Fournaise formed in the last five million years, creating the island we see today. Piton des Neiges is extinct but Piton de la Fournaise (skuzress) remains one of the most active volcanoes on Earth. It is also one of the world's tallest volcanoes, rising 6,000 metres from the ocean floor. This marks the location of a hotspot (a fixed point fed by molten rock from deep within the Earth) over which continental plates has migrated. This hotspot has played a huge role in the geological history of the western Indian Ocean, erupting with a varying intensity for at least 66 million years. Massive volcanic activity early in this period led to the formation of the Deccan Traps in India, a vast belt of basaltic rock that separated the granitic islands of Seychelles from India. As the plate above the stationary hotspot moved northeast, the Maldives formed 55-60 million years ago, the Chagos Ridge 48 million years ago, the Mascarene Plateau 40 million years ago, and Mauritius 18-25 million years ago. The Deccan Traps eruption and birth of Seychelles coincided roughly with the extinction of the dinosaurs and there is considerable speculation that the two events were related.

ICE AGE INDIAN OCEAN



Two million years ago, the earth began an era during which there were at least five major ice ages. Polar caps extended towards the tropics and held so much water trapped as ice that the sea level dropped by 120 metres or more. 26,000 years ago, saw the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM). Ice sheets were at their greatest extent. Seychelles had a massively greater land area due to a dramatic fall in sea level. All the granitics plus Bed and Denis were a single island around 32,000 square kilometres in extent. To the southeast of this granitic landmass was Saya de Malha Bank, often considered an extension of the Seychelles microcontinent, covering an area of more than 40,000 square kilometres. It comprised two islands, North (or Ritchie) Bank and South Bank. South Bank was almost three times bigger than the Great Chagos Bank, commonly considered the largest atoll structure of the world. Beyond this, Nazareth Bank covered around 11,000 square kilometres. During the LGM, most of the Amirantes from African Banks to Boudouze formed a single island, separated by narrow channels from Daoudieh, Alphonse and Lady Darnley-Pender (now a shoal just 19 metres below the surface). To the south, there were several islands in the Farouhar Group exposed above sea level that have now submerged. These and the islands of the Aldabra Group were high steep sided cliff islands, each group having a greater landmass than the entire Seychelles archipelago of today.



The new edition highlights the history, the evolution, events and other stories of the islands. (IDC)
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The second edition -- launched as part of the company's 38th anniversary last week -- has several new additions gathered by the original team and by new writers Michael Payet, Jeanne Mortimer and Judith Skerrett.

The new items include interviews done by Payet, one from Jeanne Mortimer on her life as Madam Torti (turtle lady), new chapters from Skerrett about the cyclones, piracy and interviews with Glenny Savy about tales from the islands.

There are also new stories on the conservation of the islands and the team of writers has in this edition highlighted the past livelihoods and stories of people like former and actual workers of the islands.

Skerrett said that the writers' contributions have added value to the book "as a reference book and it is something that I think will be valuable not only in homes across Seychelles but in schools, too."

He said there are more photographs, more scientific and conservation articles showing the Island Development Company's work to protect the islands and the scaring visits of Somali pirates.

"The proceeds of the book will go towards helping the work of the Island conservation society in the outer islands," says Skerrett.