

## **ICS and SCG team up to combat poaching | 25 March 2021**

Following the resurgence in poaching events in 2020, the Island Conservation Society (ICS) held meetings with the Seychelles Coast Guard (SCG) last November to discuss on the possibility to collectively counter poaching in the Aride Island Special Reserve.

Following the discussions, SCG agreed to assist ICS with its Anti-Poaching Programme so as to prevent and deter illegal taking of wildlife, such as seabirds.

SCG began patrolling the marine protected area surrounding the Special Reserve since December 2020 up to date while ICS continues to patrol the land, observe and report poaching activity in the terrestrial and marine parts of the Special Reserve to SCG.

The overall objective of this MoU is to establish stronger cooperation between both parties on the above but specifically in the area of protection of biodiversity, biodiversity law enforcement and compliance with domestic legislation, based on the core principle of promoting the protection and preservation of species that are significant to Seychelles' diverse biodiversity and are protected by law in special reserves.

The signing of the MoU will take place tomorrow at the SCG headquarters, Perseverance.

This MoU shall remain in place for an initial period of two years from the date of the signing. The initial period may be further extended by agreement and signed addendum by the Parties, and such addendum shall form an integral part of this memorandum.

During the two-year period, ICS will carry out daily patrols during any 24-hour period of the terrestrial area of the Special Reserve as well as observe the presence and activity of vessels and persons in the designated marine area of the Special Reserve and report to the SCG all such activities.

SCG will provide regular marine patrols of the designated marine area of the Special Reserve and will respond as appropriate to ICS reports of the activity of vessels and persons in the designated marine area and intercept poachers in possession of wildlife protected by laws governing special reserves.

**Joint ICS/SCG press release**