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SFA

"Excellence in Sustainable Fisheries Management and Sector Development"

Celebrating 42nd Anniversary

31st August 2026

Another year of progress, innovation, and shared success.

DAN NOU KAZYE

The Seychelles Fisheries Authority Newsletter

Message from the CEO Celebrating 42 years of the Seychelles Fisheries Authority

As we celebrate the 42nd anniversary of the Seychelles Fisheries Authority, we celebrate not only the history of our organisation, but also the people, partnerships and achievements that continue to shape our journey.

The past year has been one of change, growth and important milestones for SFA. We welcomed a new national administration and a new Minister responsible for Fisheries, bringing renewed perspectives and opportunities to strengthen our work and our contribution to Seychelles

One of the highlights of the year was the signing of the new four-year Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement with the European Union, strengthening our cooperation and providing important support for the continued development of Seychelles' fisheries sector. We have also continued to advance our work in fisheries research and management, monitoring and surveillance, aquaculture, infrastructure development and support to our fishing communities.

Another particularly proud moment was the launch of the SFA Market Award, a first of its kind for the Authority. This initiative gives us an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the people and businesses that play an important role in our fisheries sector, while encouraging good practices and excellence within the industry.

Over the past year, we have also continued to invest in our facilities and services, strengthen our engagement with stakeholders and communities, and create opportunities to showcase the important work being carried out across SFA. These achievements reflect our continued efforts to make the Authority more responsive, innovative and connected to the people we serve.

But while we can look back with pride at these accomplishments, our greatest achievement remains our people. Behind every project, every research activity, every inspection, every service delivered and every milestone reached are SFA staff who give their time, knowledge and commitment to the organisation.

I would like to sincerely thank all SFA staff for your hard work and dedication throughout the past year. I also extend my appreciation to our fishers, industry partners, government colleagues, international partners and all our stakeholders for your continued cooperation and support.

As we mark 42 years, let us celebrate how far we have come, while remaining focused on the work ahead. Our ocean is one of Seychelles' greatest treasures, and together we have a responsibility to ensure that it continues to support our people, our economy and future generations.

Happy 42nd Anniversary to the Seychelles Fisheries Authority. May we continue to grow, innovate and work together with pride and purpose for the future of Seychelles' fisheries.

SPORT, TEAMWORK & LOTS OF FUN!

SFA marked its 42nd anniversary with a fun-filled Staff Sports Day held on Friday 28th August 2026 at the Beach Soccer Arena at Roche Caiman.

The event brought SFA staff together for a day of sports, friendly competition and team building, providing an opportunity for colleagues from different departments to step away from their usual work environment and connect in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

Staff were divided into four teams – Zekler, Korn, Espadron and Bourzwa – which competed throughout the day in a variety of activities. The programme included football, volleyball and a series of friendly team-building games designed to test teamwork, communication, coordination and a little bit of competitive spirit.

Points were awarded across the different activities, with teams battling it out until the final results were announced. Bourzwa emerged as the overall winner, followed by Korn in second place, Zekler in third and Espadron in fourth.

Individual awards were also presented to recognise staff who stood out during the day.

The Most Active Staff award went to Naddy Malabage and Cyrence Athanase, while the Best Organised Team award was also presented to Bourzwa.

Beyond the competition, the Sports Day was about strengthening relationships among colleagues and promoting a positive and healthy workplace. SFA recognises that staff wellbeing plays an important role in creating a motivated, productive and supportive workforce. Through activities such as Sports Day, the Authority continues to encourage staff to stay active, adopt healthy lifestyle habits and make time for physical activity and social interaction.

More than just a competition, the event was a reminder that teamwork, camaraderie and wellbeing are important ingredients in building a strong SFA family.

As SFA celebrates 42 years of contributing to the sustainable development of Seychelles' fisheries sector, the Sports Day provided a fitting opportunity to celebrate not only the Authority's achievements, but also the people behind them.

Photo collage - Sports Day

Fisheries Stakeholders Complete ISO 22000 Training

A five-day training on ISO 22000:2018 Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) was held from 3 to 7 August 2026, bringing together 15 stakeholders from across the fisheries sector.

The training brought together participants from SFA, local fish processing companies, the Seychelles Maritime Academy, and the Fish Inspection and Quality Control Unit, providing an opportunity to strengthen knowledge and skills in food safety management.

The programme covered three key areas. Participants began with ISO 22000:2018 FSMS Requirements on 3 August, followed by FSMS Implementation training from 4 to 5 August. The training concluded with an FSMS Auditor Course from 6 to 7 August.

ISO 22000 is an internationally recognised standard for Food Safety Management Systems, providing a framework for organisations across the food supply chain to identify, control and prevent food safety hazards. The training therefore contributes to strengthening food safety practices within Seychelles' fisheries sector.

The training was delivered by BSI Group. All participants received a Certificate of Participation upon completion, while those who successfully passed the examination were awarded a Certificate of Achievement. Both certificates are internationally recognised and demonstrate the participants' commitment to food safety management and professional development.

Importantly, the training also represents the achievement of a target established under the Tuna Management System, which is currently being implemented. This marks another step towards strengthening food safety management and supporting effective management of Seychelles' tuna fisheries.

SFA Moves Towards Renewable Energy with Solar PV Installation

SFA is taking another step towards a more sustainable future with the installation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system at its Providence Port facility.

The project, implemented by Energy Solutions Seychelles (ESS), has a total cost of SCR 1.566 million, funded through a combination of European Union (EU) and SFA funding. Installation began towards the end of July 2026 and is expected to be completed and commissioned by mid-September 2026. The system comprises 128 solar panels and is expected to significantly reduce the facility's reliance on electricity from the national grid, lower electricity costs and contribute to reducing SFA's carbon footprint.

The installation follows a successful solar project at SFA's Aquaculture Department, making the Port Management and Facilities Department the second SFA department to adopt solar energy.

SFA is also exploring the possibility of installing solar PV systems at other facilities, including the Main Office in Victoria and the new SFA building. These initiatives are currently under assessment and will depend on technical and financial feasibility.

The project forms part of SFA's broader commitment to progressively introduce renewable-energy solutions and promote more sustainable operations across its facilities.

SFA Staff Take Part in HPV Vaccination Session

The Health and Safety Section, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, organised an HPV vaccination session for SFA staff, with more than 30 employees participating. The initiative forms part of the Ministry of Health's efforts to raise awareness and support the prevention of HPV-related cancers, particularly cervical cancer in women.

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus that can cause several types of cancer. HPV vaccination helps protect against the types of HPV that are most commonly associated with cervical cancer and other HPV-related cancers.

Vaccination is an important preventive measure and is most effective when combined with regular health screening. The session provided SFA staff with an opportunity to access vaccination while also promoting greater awareness of the importance of prevention and early protection. SFA continues to support initiatives that promote the health, safety and well-being of its employees, recognising that a healthy workforce contributes to a stronger organisation.

Strengthening Fisheries Transparency Through Industry Engagement

Members of the Fisheries Transparency Initiative (FiTI) National Multi-Stakeholder Group (NMSG), which includes SFA representative, recently visited SEAWARD, a key private-sector service provider supporting Seychelles' industrial fisheries sector.

The visit gave Members a first-hand look at SEAWARD's day-to-day operations and the people and processes that support the fisheries industry. It also provided an opportunity to connect discussions around fisheries transparency with the realities faced by industry operators.

The engagement highlighted the important role of the private sector in building a transparent and sustainable fisheries sector. By bringing together government, civil society and industry perspectives, the FiTI NMSG aims to encourage more informed discussions and strengthen stakeholder participation in fisheries governance.

FiTI Chair and Secretary of State for Fisheries and Blue Economy, Mr Alain de Comarmond, stressed that transparency is strengthened when stakeholders understand not only the information available, but also the realities behind it. Direct engagement with industry, he noted, helps ensure that transparency remains grounded in the experiences, responsibilities and challenges of those working within the sector.

The FiTI NMSG thanked SEAWARD and its team for their openness and willingness to share their knowledge and experience during the visit.

Sea Cucumber Fishery Records Decline in Catch and Fishing Effort

The Seychelles sea cucumber fishery recorded a decline in both catch and fishing effort during the 2024/2025 fishing season, according to the latest assessment by SFA's Fisheries Research Department. The eight-month season ran from 1 October 2024 to 30 June 2025.

A total of 173,873 sea cucumbers were harvested during the season, representing a 25.4% decrease compared to the 233,285 recorded in 2023/2024. Flower Teatfish remained the dominant species, with 141,627 individuals harvested, although this was a 29.1% decline from the previous season. Prickly Redfish catches increased slightly by 1.9%, while Golden Sandfish recorded a small decrease.

Fishing activity also decreased, with 121 fishing trips recorded, compared to 133 in the previous season. Total dive time fell by 14.2%, from 1.19 million to 1.02 million dive minutes, while total diver days declined by 20.3% to 5,354.

The assessment also found a continued decline in Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE), an important indicator used to monitor fishery performance. Overall CPUE stood at 39 pieces per diver day, with Flower Teatfish accounting for the highest rate at 30 pieces per diver day. CPUE measured in pieces per dive minute also continued its downward trend.

Quota utilisation remained relatively low during the season, with 60% of the Flower Teatfish quota, 56% of the Prickly Redfish quota and only 4% of the Golden Sandfish quota being utilised. Overall quota utilisation averaged 45%, the lowest recorded over the past five seasons.

The findings highlight the importance of continued monitoring and effective management of the fishery. The decline in catch and CPUE, together with reduced fishing effort and under-utilisation of quotas, may indicate changes in resource availability and potential pressure on some stocks, particularly Flower Teatfish. The report recommends further investigation into the factors influencing these trends, including stock availability, environmental conditions and operational or economic factors affecting fishing activity.

The first Mangrove Snapper stocked in cages in Seychelles

The aquaculture department has managed to stock the first batch of juvenile Mangrove Snapper raised in Seychelles in a cage. An experimental cage was set up at the facility in Providence. The cage was constructed by the SFA team and the mesh is made of polyethylene.

Polyethylene has several advantages over the standard nylon netting that is commonly used for cage construction. It is rigid and keeps its shape well in a current ensuring good water flow through the cage.

It is a very tough material, and an additional predator net is not needed as is the case when using nylon netting. This material is also very slick and therefore much easier to clean than is the case with nylon netting.

The mangrove snappers have adapted well to the cages and are feeding aggressively. The fish have been in the cage for a month, and no mortalities have been recorded.

Another two cages are being constructed and these will be stocked before the end of August. More juvenile production is planned for October this year. The plan is to have 8 cages with continuous production of various species for experimental purposes.

The fish are fed twice per day with a formulated feed that ensures the nutritional requirements of the fish are met.

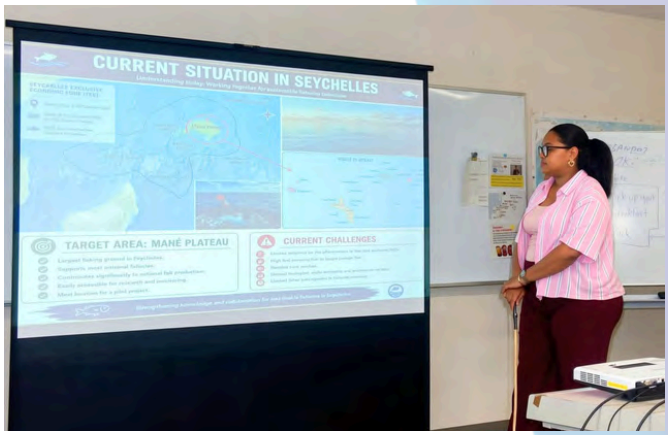
Automatic feeders have been deployed that can be programmed to feed a specific amount of feed at the right time. These help to reduce the man hours needed to manage the cages.

Representing Seychelles at the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Programme

SFA was represented recently by Ms Nelly Chang-Time at the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Programme (KCCP), from the 10th June until the 1st August. She described the experience as valuable and memorable, providing an opportunity to strengthen knowledge and skills in sustainable fisheries management.

The seven-week programme, held in Okinawa, Japan, and the Solomon Islands, brought together participants from Small Island Developing States to exchange knowledge, gain practical experience and explore approaches to sustainable fisheries management.

One of the highlights was the hands-on construction and deployment of a low-cost anchored Fish Aggregating Device (FAD). Participants also visited fisheries cooperatives, seafood processing facilities and coastal communities, gaining insight into how science, innovation and strong stakeholder collaboration can support sustainable fisheries.



The programme also provided an opportunity to exchange experiences with participants from other island nations. This strengthened appreciation for the fisheries management systems already in place in Seychelles, while also inspiring new ideas and approaches that could contribute to the sector's future development.

The experience not only enhanced professional knowledge and skills but also reinforced a strong commitment to sustainable fisheries. The knowledge gained will be shared with colleagues and applied to support the continued sustainable development of Seychelles' fisheries sector.

A sincere appreciation is extended to JICA, the Government of Japan, the Ambassador of Japan to Seychelles, and SFA for supporting this valuable opportunity and fostering continued collaboration towards a sustainable future for our marine resources.

Minister Cosgrow engages with Anse Etoile fishers on channel access concerns

The Minister for Fisheries, Agriculture and Blue Economy, Mr. Wallace Cosgrow, met with members of the Anse Etoile fishing community to discuss their longstanding concerns regarding a blocked channel leading from the Perseverance bridge to the local fish market.

For some time, fishers have highlighted the difficulties they face when navigating the main channel, particularly during low tide. The accumulation of silt and sand has made it impossible for vessels to access the docking area, often forcing fishers to wait half a day or more before they can sail in or out.

The meeting was attended by representatives of SFA, including Deputy CEO Mr. Aubrey Lesperance, Head of Projects and EU Collaboration Ms. Nan Constant, and Project Manager Mr. Nel Richard. Prior to the ministerial meeting, the issue had been raised with SFA. However, the project to clear the entire channel could not be materialized due to significant financial implications that had not been budgeted.

During discussions, the fishers were informed of these financial constraints. Nevertheless, it was agreed that targeted dredging work would be undertaken in the most critical areas of the channel. This approach would ease navigation difficulties while reducing overall costs, offering a practical solution to support the community's immediate needs.

Sea Sunday Celebrated by Fisher Communities

On Sunday, 2nd August 2026, fishing communities from Glacis, Anse Etoile, La Retraite, Bel Ombre and Beau Vallon came together to mark the annual Sea Sunday activities, a cherished tradition honouring seafarers, fishers and maritime workers and their contribution to Seychelles' fishing industry.

The day began with a church service at Ste Antoine Church in Anse Etoile, led by Parish Priest Father Lonnie Adrian, who highlighted the important role of seafarers in supporting island communities. Fishers also made special donations to the church as a gesture of gratitude and faith.

Following the service, Father Lonnie blessed fishing vessels at Anse Etoile and La Retraite. The celebrations continued in the afternoon with a lively tambola, bringing families and community members together. This year marked the first time Sea Sunday activities were held in La Retraite, following their previous hosting in Bel Ombre.

29th ICCP Meeting – Advancing Co-Management of the Mahé Plateau Fishery

The 29th meeting of the Implementation Committee for the Co-Management Plan (ICCP) of the Mahé Plateau demersal trap and line fishery was convened on Thursday, 6 August 2026, at the Seychelles Trading Company, Latanier Road, Victoria.

The session was held in a hybrid format, enabling both in-person and remote participation, with contributions made in all three official languages of Seychelles.

The Committee reviewed progress since the 28th ICCP meeting of June 2025 and addressed several priority areas:

- Compliance with Fisheries Regulations
- Review of Phase I of the Co-Management Plan
- Implementation of the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan
- Legal provisions for the protection of rays and guitarfish
- Proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure
- Arrangements for honorarium payments to eligible primary stakeholders

Mr. Roy Clarisse, Principal Secretary for Fisheries and Chairperson of the ICCP, welcomed members, observers, and Secretariat representatives.

He reaffirmed the Committee's responsibility to oversee the implementation of the Co-Management Plan, stressing the importance of active participation, shared responsibility, and timely follow-up by all stakeholders.

Mr. Clarisse highlighted the new administration's full support for the Co-Management Plan and its collaborative approach to fisheries management, encouraging members to use the meeting as an opportunity to clarify outstanding matters and advance work towards the sustainable management of the Mahé Plateau trap and line fishery.

The Secretariat presented a comprehensive Working Document covering:

- Communication and awareness initiatives
- Stakeholder liaison and participation
- Urgent communication arrangements
- Research priorities
- Follow-up on matters raised at the 28th ICCP meeting

A day in the life of... Manager of Corporate Services - Meggy Tirant

In this month's edition, we meet Mrs. Meggy Tirant, who shares her daily experience as the Manager of Corporate Services.

What time do you usually arrive at work?

I usually arrive at 7:30 a.m. to organise myself and prepare for the day ahead.

What is the first thing you do upon arriving?

I start by checking my emails, calendar and any urgent correspondence or requests. I then review my planned activities and prioritise tasks based on urgency and deadlines, particularly matters requiring the attention of senior management or oversight bodies.

Are your daily tasks the same every day?

No, my days vary considerably. Some days focus on preparing reports, while others involve committee meetings, coordinating official visits, consultations with departments or meeting external stakeholders. The role requires flexibility and the ability to manage several responsibilities simultaneously.

What time does your workday usually end?

My official workday ends at 3:30 p.m., although this can vary depending on deadlines, meetings, events and urgent assignments. At times, the role also requires work during evenings or weekends.

What are your core responsibilities?

As Manager of Corporate Services at SFA, my core responsibilities include:

- Develop and monitor frameworks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of SFA's corporate services.
- Support the preparation and monitoring of the Strategic Plan, Statement of Corporate Intent, Annual Business Plan and performance indicators.
- Coordinate corporate governance and regulatory compliance across departments.
- Liaise with regulatory bodies and coordinate responses to complaints.
- Serve as SFA's Information Officer and process Access to Information requests.
- Coordinate SFA's risk-management framework, strategies and mitigation measures.
- Support departmental audits and promote risk-management awareness and oversee business continuity and emergency-management planning

What part of your job requires the most attention?

Coordinating information requires the most attention, as many assignments involve input from different departments. I must follow up, verify information, identify gaps and ensure that documents are accurate and consistent before submission.

What challenges do you face during a typical day?

One of the main challenges is balancing competing priorities and deadlines. Since the role is cross-functional, timely information from different departments is essential. Unexpected requests and changing priorities also require me to remain organised, communicate effectively and adapt quickly.

How to Participate in the SFA Internal Bidding Process

Step 1: Review the Bidding Notice
When an internal bidding exercise is announced, staff will receive:

- A list of available items for bidding (Images of items will be on Microsoft forms bidding form)
- The bidding opening and closing dates
- Terms and conditions of Internal bidding.
- A link to the Microsoft Forms bidding platform.
- Carefully review the information provided before deciding to place a bid.

Step 2: Access the Microsoft Form (SFA staff only)
Click on the Microsoft Forms link provided in the bidding notice/email. The form can be accessed using a computer, tablet, or smartphone connected to the internet.

Step 3: Inspect the Item(s)
Staff members are strongly encouraged to inspect the item(s) during the designated viewing dates and times specified in the bidding notice. Viewing the item(s) allows bidders to assess their condition before submitting a bid. All assets are sold "as is, where is," and no warranty or guarantee is provided regarding their condition.

It is the responsibility of each bidder to satisfy themselves as to the condition and suitability of the item(s) before placing a bid.

Step 4: Enter Your Details
Complete the required personal information (link to internal bidding will use you official SFA email address), including:
1.Department/Section.
2.Bidding amount SCR:
3.Items for bid (select one item per bidding form)

Please note:

- Bid amounts must be entered in Seychelles Rupees (SCR).
- Each bid should reflect the maximum amount you are willing to pay.
- Once submitted, bids cannot be amended after the closing date.
- Ensure that all information entered is accurate, as this will be used to identify successful bidders.

Step 5: Select the Item (select one item per bidding form)
Choose the asset you wish to bid for from the list provided.
Please ensure you select the correct item before proceeding.

Step 6: Review Your Submission
Before submitting, verify that:
✔️ Your personal details are correct;
✔️ The selected item is accurate; and
✔️ The bid amount entered is correct.

Step 7: Submit Your Bid
Click the "Submit" button to complete your bid.
You may receive a confirmation message indicating that your response has been successfully recorded.

Note: If a staff is interested in multiple items. They may submit another bidding form for a new item with the amount they intend to bid.

After the bidding period closes:
All bids will be reviewed by the relevant committee. The highest compliant bid for each item will normally be considered successful.
Successful bidders will be contacted and advised on payment and collection arrangements. All bidding information will be treated confidentially until the evaluation process is completed.

Important Reminders
Submit your bid before the stated closing date and time. Late submissions will not be considered. Ensure that all information provided is accurate. Bidding is conducted in accordance with SFA's disposal procedures to ensure fairness, transparency, and accountability.

Health Education - Fruit Combining: Making the Most of Your Fruits

Fruits are an important part of a healthy diet, providing essential vitamins, fibre and natural sugars. While fruits can be enjoyed on their own, thoughtful combinations can also create delicious and nutritious smoothies, juices and meals.

Simple Fruit Combining Tips

When combining fruits, consider their flavour, sugar content and how they complement one another. Some combinations highlighted in the fruit-combining guide include berries with leafy greens, citrus fruits with tropical fruits, apples with berries, and bananas with nut butters.

For smoothies, try combinations such as strawberry and spinach, orange and mango, watermelon and berries, pineapple and spinach, or mango and lime. For refreshing juices, popular combinations include pineapple and mango, watermelon and lime, apple and pear, and pomegranate with orange.

Adding Fruits to Your Meals

Fruit can easily be incorporated into everyday meals. Add bananas or berries to oatmeal, enjoy citrus fruits as a side, or include mango and pineapple in salads or salsas. Fresh fruit, smoothies, yoghurt with berries and fruit with nut butter can also make convenient and nutritious snack options.

Some fruit pairings are also highlighted for their nutritional and digestive benefits. Papaya and pineapple, for example, contain enzymes associated with protein digestion, while apples and pears provide soluble fibre. Watermelon and mint offer a refreshing combination, while kiwi and berries provide fibre alongside naturally occurring enzymes.

A Balanced Approach

The guide encourages readers to be mindful of how different fruits are combined and to choose combinations that suit their tastes and dietary needs. However, individual digestion and tolerance can vary, so there is no need to follow rigid fruit-combining rules.

Whether enjoyed fresh, blended into a smoothie, squeezed into a juice or added to a meal, fruit is a delicious way to add variety and valuable nutrients to your diet.

HR Corner - HR policy initiatives

Through the HR department, the organization puts forward various initiatives to create an appealing and comfortable workplace environment, and provide resources and programs that help balance professional and personal life.

These include the coordination of activities that promote the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing as well as the management of entitlements for employees.

The HR policy details initiatives which include:

- Long service award
- Newborn token
- Birthday benefit
- Flexi-time
- Sympathetic leave
- Funeral entitlements

The department agreements with suppliers and service providers where staff can benefit from select discounts and special rates.

Our current partners:

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Staff can contact the HR department for further information on the benefits and required procedures.

Test Your Skills

Contact the PR Team to book a slot in the SFA newsletter for any internal communication and awareness, including:

- Department events and trainings
- Processes and procedures
- Upcoming committee and club events etc...

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