SEYCHELLES FISHERIES AUTHORITY

SEYCHELLES CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION TRUST
SeyCCAT

Development of Seychelles' Sea Cucumber Stock Enhancement Programme (Project)

About the project

The Seychelles Fisheries Authority (SFA), is leading a project to investigate whether stock enhancement can help restore sea cucumber populations on the Mahe Plateau. This research is being conducted by the Aquaculture Department. Stock enhancement is a method where sea cucumbers are bred artificially in a hatchery an then juveniles are released into the wild to rebuild natural stocks.

The potential benefits of this initiative could help increase future catches, supporting both the industry and stakeholders financially dependent on it. Releasing juveniles into shallow waters also means safer conditions for divers. Additionally, sea cucumbers play a vital ecological role by cleaning the seabed and recycling nutrients, which supports overall ocean health.

Project at a glance

Total Grant
SCR 2million

Donor
SeyCCAT Blue Grants Fund (BGF) Cycle 8 – Stage 2

Project Start Date
March 2025

Project End Date
March 2027

Objective:

To establish a mechanism that will restore and sustain commercially important sea cucumber populations, thereby contributing to the long-term viability of the sea cucumber fishery in Seychelles and enhancing the social and ecosystem services these species provide.

Key achievements and results to date

Spawning of Sandfish
Successful spawning of sandfish was achieved using the thermal shock method, involving two males and one female. A total of 6.5 million eggs were collected.

Production of Juveniles
Due to facility capacity limitations, 814,800 eggs were retained for culture. This resulted in the production of approximately 1,000 juveniles, reaching an average size of 2 cm.

Broodstock Collection of Local Sandfish
Identification and confirmation of a local sandfish population near project facilities, enabling timely broodstock collection.

Encouragement from Stakeholders
Successful delivery of two stakeholder workshops with positive feedback received from industry divers and general stakeholders.

Procurement of Equipment
Successfully procured equipment for the setting up of the sea cucumber laboratory.