



GEF-Satoyama Subgrantee Highlights Report

Organization Name:

GIF

Country:

Seychelles

Reporting Quarter:

FY18 Q4 (April to June 2018)

Person submitting Report:

Mariliana Leotta

<Highlight 1>: **National Meeting for fishers**

On the 8th of May GIF invited fishers' representative to a National Meeting held at Indian Ocean Tuna (IOT) Conference Room.

Findings of the 12-month survey on 20 globally threatened species were shared with the fishers to get agreement on threatened species management measures to be proposed to Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) for formulation under the 2014 Fisheries Act.

There will be another national meeting later in the year where these measures will be further visited and refined before a co-management plan is presented and endorsed by SFA.

The press was present during the first part of the meeting and the following days 2 articles have been published.

<Highlight 2>: **Newspaper articles on National Meeting for Fishers**

On the 9th of May an article has been published on "Nation" with the title: "GIF seeks to reduce artisanal fishing impact on threatened species"

On the 10th of May an article has been published on "Today" with the title: "Being fair to fish and fishermen"

<Highlight 3>: **Earthwatch presentation**

On the 27th of April 2018, GIF gave a presentation to the Earthwatch team about his work on the Threatened Species Project. A group of young environmentalist from Seychelles and Indian Ocean region was on Praslin to participate in a training programme run by Earthwatch where Frank Volcere, GIF project assistant, shared his experience of working with fishers and communities to achieve the aim of the Threatened Species Project

<Highlight 4>:

Biodiversity Day and International Year of the Reef

On the 22nd of may 2018 the world commemorated the "International Biodiversity Day". GIF joined other conservation organisations to celebrate the day through an exhibition held in Victoria. The year 2018 has also been declared "Year of The Reef" to strengthen globally awareness about the value of, and threats to, coral reefs and associated ecosystems. GIF showcased the work done to monitor and protect coral reef species through the Threatened Species Project and the Coral Reef Monitoring Project.

[Photos](#)



Wilna Accouche, GIF General Manager, introducing the Threatened Species Project at the National Meeting for Fishers
©GIF/Mariliana Leotta



GEF staff and fishers at the National Meeting for Fishers ©GIF

NATIONAL NEWS

GIF seeks to reduce artisanal fishing impact on threatened species



GIF general manager Wilna Accouche making her presentation

The Green Islands Foundation yesterday brought together a group of fishers to discuss and explore measures that can be adopted to reduce the impact of their artisanal fishing activities on globally threatened fish species.

The meeting that brought together over a dozen fishers was held at the Indian Ocean Tuna (IOT) conference room. It was part of a project entitled 'The development of co-management plan designed by fishers to minimise the impact of Seychelles artisanal fishery on threatened species' which started in July 2016, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Conservation International Japan under the GEF-Satoyama initiative.

The GEF-Satoyama project aims to achieve societies in harmony with nature, with sustainable primary production sector based on traditional and modern wisdom, and making significant contributions to global targets for conservation of biological diversity.

Wilna Accouche, the general manager of Green Islands Foundation, led the meeting during which there were different presentations, while John Nevill, consultant and fisheries expert, gave an overview of the GEF-Satoyama project.

Information collected during an intensive survey

of the artisanal catch in 2017 at seven key strategic landing sites and points of sales in Mahé were shared with the fishers to get agreement on threatened species management measures which will be proposed to the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) for formulation under the 2014 Fisheries Act.

This bottom-up approach to fisheries management is new to Seychelles and GIF hopes that through successful implementation of this project, fishermen will be able to show that fisher-led management of threatened species fish stocks can be done.

The project fits in the country's blue economy strategy to reduce pressure on fish stocks and promote sustainable management of artisanal fishing. It will eventually result in improved site-level conservation status of various threatened species and contribute to a more diverse, resilient and productive marine ecosystem on the Mahé plateau.

This project is conducted by Green Islands Foundation in partnership with Environment Seychelles, Roche Caiman Fishermen Association, Bel Ombre Fishermen Association, Fishermen Boat Owners Association, Seychelles Fishing Authority and fishermen around Mahe.

An overview of the GEF Satoyama project can be found on <http://gef-satoyama.net/subgrantprojects/>



Sustainable fisheries Being fair to fish and fishermen

The Green Islands Foundation is pushing for more fishermen-led management of threatened species fish stocks. As they discuss with artisanal fishermen on a strategy, a number of their own concerns to survive in the fishing industry might get overlooked.

by S. Marivel

Information collected during an intensive survey of the artisanal catch in 2017 at seven key strategic landing sites and points of sales in Mahé was shared by fisheries expert for GIF John Nevill with artisanal fishermen this week Tuesday at the IOT conference room to get an agreement on threatened species management measures. Of the list of endangered species - anywhere from mildly endangered to seriously endangered and even close to extinction globally - these include various types of sharks (reken, zelron, ledan deor, kabo roz), teleosts (vyey krab and babonn), and ray fish (dyab, lare dore, lare sousouri, vyonlon, and lare banann to name a few). GIF is consulting with artisanal

fishermen to explain the importance of not overfishing endangered species and/or waiting until the fish are full grown before fishing them so they can get the chance to reproduce before being fished - giving opportunity for them to sustain their specie. "It is good to conserve and care for the environment but at the same time the amount of artisanal boats fishing in the waters is increasing," notes Richard Bossy, chairperson of the Fishermen and Boat Owners' Association for Praslin. He explains to TODAY that it is becoming increasingly difficult to survive in the fishing industry, especially when the amount of fishermen is increasing, but the amount of efforts to restrict fishing is also increasing. "Fuel concessions will be cut for

us because the Seychelles Fishing Authority will become autonomous from government and will have to find and manage their own funds. Yet, larger vessels and purse seiners continue to get items duty free," he claims. This can be anything from food onboard to fuel. "This affects our livelihoods," he deplores. While the media was not able to stay for the entire meeting due to "frank" discussions which "may give rise to sensitive information that Green Islands Foundation would not want captured by the media" as stated in their press release, some artisanal fishermen expressed their appreciation for the efforts to include them as part of the equation of sustainable fisheries. "We are the ones out there in the

water, so it is good that they consult us too," one fisherman who attended the meeting told this newspaper. "The aim is to really understand the situation on the ground and co-design a management plan that will be managed by the fishermen themselves," General Manager of GIF Wilna Accouche tells TODAY. While there are no laws enforcing the protection of all endangered marine life with regards to fishing activity, the Fisheries Act of 2014 does make some provisions for a management plan. "This is the avenue we are using to get endorsement of the plan," adds Ms. Accouche. The sustainable fisheries plan cooked up by the GIF together with the artisanal fishermen will be sent to the Seychelles Fishing Authority for formulation under the 2014



The artisanal fishermen met with GIF researchers at the IOT Conference room on Tuesday

Fisheries Act. This bottom-up approach to fisheries management is new to Seychelles in a management style that is usually government-led and government-oriented. The project fits in the country's Blue Economy strategy to reduce fishing pressure and promote sustainable management of artisanal fisheries. It will eventually result in improved site-level conservation status of various threatened species and contribute to a more diverse, resilient and productive marine ecosystem on the Mahé plateau.

This project is conducted by Green Islands Foundation in partnership with Environment Seychelles, Roche Caïman Fishermen Association, Bel Ombre Fishermen Association, Fishermen Boat Owners Association, Seychelles Fishing Authority and fishermen around Mahé. The consultations are part of a larger project which started in July 2016 funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Conservation International Japan under the GEF-Satoyama initiative.

Article on Seychelles Today ©GIF/Mariliana Leotta



Frank Volcere, GIF Project Assistant, presenting the Threatened Species Project to the Earthwatch team at Praslin ©GIF



Mariliana Leotta, GIF Project Manager, and Frank Volcere, GIF Project Assistant, at the event “Biodiversity Day and International Year of the Reef” ©GIF