

# Blue Safari Seychelles

Sustainability  
Info Sheet



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Seychelles



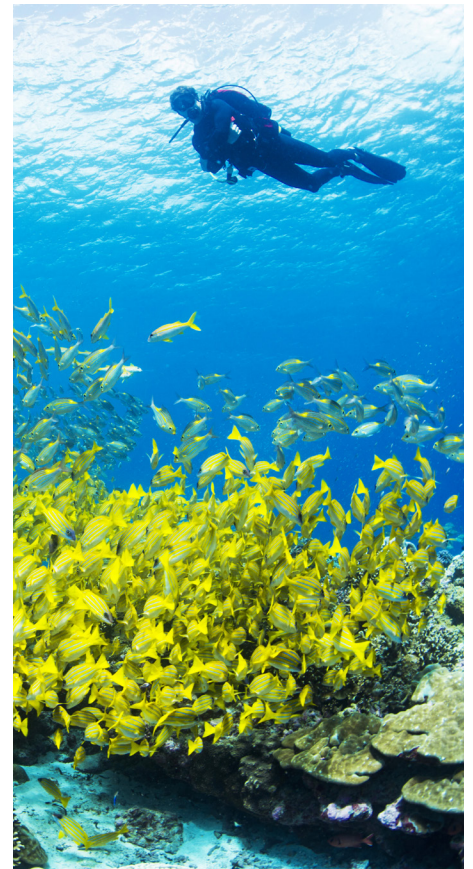
# MARINE ENVIRONMENT

## The Fishery

The outer reaches of Seychelles territorial waters are well-known for the exceptional salt-water fly-fishing. These are some of the most remote and ecologically pristine environments left on earth and so in order to keep them that way Blue Safari has always strived to create the best experience for the avid angler as possible whilst also taking responsibility for the protection of the environment to ensure the fishery remains this way for generations of future anglers, and eliminating disturbance to the marine ecosystem which we have so much to thank for.



- All fish caught with a fly rod 'on fly' are strictly catch and release, guides encourage guests to handle fish with the greatest care to ensure the fish is released in the best possible health
- All anglers and guides follow a fly-fishing Code of Conduct which outlines conservation best-practices, developed in combination with ICS
- The St Francois lagoon 's strict rod limit of 12
- The lagoon habitats are unique, ecologically sensitive shallow water environments and so we only allow fly-fishing. Catching of any 'trophy' species consisting of Giant Trevally (*Caranx ignobilis*), Triggerfish (*Balistoides viridescens*; *Pseudobalistes flavimarginatus*), Bonefish (*Albula* sp.), Indo-Pacific Permit (*Trachinotus blochii*) and Milkfish (*Chanos chanos*) on conventional spinning gear is strictly prohibited anywhere inside the lagoons by Alphonse Fishing Company and IDC; external private boat charters in the area are encouraged to follow the same practices
- Guides only use knot-less, rubberised nets which limits the amount of external damage to the fish, descaling and potential pathogen transfer
- On-going scientific research will have long-lasting implications in best-practice usage of the fishery to safeguard this iconic species. So far findings from the study have indicated that Giant Trevally populations within the lagoon might have preferential habitat types- this has led to spatial and temporal closures of the fishery to give stocks time to recover from any angling pressure
- Catch records of all species caught on fly are recorded
- All guides wear Garmin GPS tracking watches, this looks at angling pressure over certain habitats and species which further aids in the management
- Bluewater fly-fishing only uses barbless hooks and iconic species such as Sailfish and Marlin are strictly catch and release only, with high fecundity, fast-growing species such as Tuna and Wahoo being kept for the kitchen
- The catching of Elasmobranchs (Sharks and Rays) is strictly prohibited, with many shark species facing serious extinction threats we strive to keep the Alphonse Group as key pupping and feeding grounds for them. Any species accidentally caught are released



## Leisure Activities and Diving

- Our nature activities are conducted by expert guides with experience in conservation biology and marine ecology, creating an awareness in guests about these pristine tropical coastal environments and the threats they are facing
- Nature walks and island visits to the Special Reserves of Bijoutier and St Francois (National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act 1969- bill pending) follow designated paths and will not go into areas of ground-nesting seabirds or other known areas of sensitive ecological activity
- All diving and snorkelling activities follow a strict Code of Conduct developed with ICS whereby touching is forbidden and guests must show spatial awareness and avoid breakage and disturbance of highly sensitive coral reef life
- All guests are encouraged to attend evening presentations on the conservation projects we support including the Seychelles Manta Ray Project, local Island Conservation Society (ICS) projects, Alphonse Group Shark Project and Coral Reef Conservation
- Guests are gently reminded to only use 'reef safe' sun cream which is free from chemicals that damage coral reefs, these are also available for purchase in the shop
- All drinks provided to guests on activities are served in reusable YETI flasks or aluminium cans
- All snacks provided to guests are either home made on island or do not come in single-serve packets



# TERRESTRIAL ENVIRONMENT

- The beaches around Alphonse are some of the most important nesting grounds for Green and Hawksbill Turtles in the Western Indian Ocean, hatchlings suffer from light pollution in coastal environments, so all our beach bungalows, paths and restaurant areas have 'turtle friendly' lighting and we maintain a thick vegetation border between the accommodation and the beach to prevent light disturbance
- Guests are encouraged to conduct their own beach cleans as marine debris is a very real problem affecting all remote islands using provided, reusable bags and can join in staff-lead beach cleans once a week
- The Outer Islands of the Seychelles have suffered greatly from introduced invasive species in the past, we work with PESTEVA to actively carry out pest management and have reduced the invasive populations of terrestrial mammals down to manageable numbers with an on-going eradication of certain species



## Hotel

- We strive to eliminate all single-use plastics across our operations as much as possible. We do not provide or sell plastic drinks bottles and guests are provided with aluminium YETI flasks for the duration of their outdoor activities
- We do not provide plastic straws, paper straws are available
- All our clingfilm, hygiene gloves and any other 'disposables' are made from corn starch by VegWare and will break down in commercial composters, landfills and burnt without releasing toxic fumes
- All our in-room amenities are organic, free-from harmful chemicals, not tested on animals and in refillable containers
- All our cleaning products from PACE Seychelles are free from harmful chemicals, they completely biodegrade into natural molecules with no harmful effects on the environment. Moreover, we have installed cleaning product dispensaries around the resort eliminating the use of disposable plastic containers, products come in large containers which are sent back for refilling
- We strive to have as little impact as possible on our unique ecological surroundings, our Cosmoledo eco-camp has been designed in such a way that it can be packed up and removed leaving very little trace of its existence
- All staff are trained by the Ecology and Sustainability Manager in ecological awareness, sustainable practices and the importance of abiding by on-site environmental policies

## Water

- All our drinking and general freshwater on the island comes from desalinated groundwater
- We utilize Rainwater Harvesting (RWH); currently we have completely cut groundwater usage in the laundry which has a holding capacity of 30,000L. Boat and equipment rinsing uses rainwater with a holding capacity of 5,000L at the Fishing Centre
- 40,000L is captured monthly (dependent on rainfall) from our main hotel buildings which is mixed with groundwater in a 35,000L holding tank to irrigate the Farm
- The main swimming pool is filled by rainwater, captured in 15,000L holding tanks
- We are adding 5000L RWH capacity to our one-bedroom beach villas over the next 6 months
- Staff bathrooms are equipped with solar heaters to provide hot water
- Grey and black water is treated on-site in a designated sewage treatment plant, treated greywater is pumped to the Alphonse Farm where it is mixed with rainwater and groundwater to irrigate.

## Waste

- We separate our waste into different categories which is shipped off the islands on a quarterly basis, we send what we can for recycling on Mahé (aluminium cans, PET plastic bottles, glass bottles, waste cooking oil)
- We incinerate burnables in an enclosed incinerator on-site, ash is incorporated into the composting process
- We do not bury any waste on Alphonse
- Food and garden waste is composted- producing around 500kg every 2 weeks
- Regular waste monitoring to review wastage and reduce where possible



## Energy

Alphonse has a solar plant consisting of 2200 panels which contributes on average 81% of our daily energy demands. Since its installation in 2018 we have saved on average 260,000L of diesel from being burnt- an average of 2500L per month, preventing up to 695tonnes of CO2 from being released every year!

- Astove and Farquhar also have solar plants
- Air conditioners are encouraged to be minimum 23°C and turned off when not in use
- Most lighting in staff common areas and public bathrooms are motion detected

## Nutrition

- Our menus champion produce from the on-site farm and surrounding oceans, reducing air miles and ensuring the freshest ingredients
- All fish served are line-caught by BSS staff using sustainable methods. We focus primarily on fast-growing, pelagic species such as Tuna and Wahoo and deeper water species (+60m), thus not impacting the surrounding coral reefs.
- We do not serve any crustaceans, shellfish or octopus/squid for sustainability reasons

# ALPHONSE FARM

Blue Safari Seychelles aims to promote a truly farm-to-fork ethos whereby guests and staff can see exactly where their nutrition comes from. Utilizing the abundant rainfall and never-ending sunshine of the tropics combined with environmentally sensitive agriculture means island-grown produce and fish from the surrounding waters are the champions of every mouthful.

In 2023 the on-site vegetable garden was completely redeveloped and expanded with the goal of doubling the quantities of produce grown to not just supply guests and staff on Alphonse but also supply other Blue Safari lodges in the outer islands.



## OUR GROWTH IN NUMBERS



TONNES ON AVERAGE, OF FRESH PRODUCE PER MONTH.



HECTARES OF FARMING SPACE



TONNES ON AVERAGE, OF CO<sup>2</sup> SAVED ANNUALLY



KM OF DRIP IRRIGATION PIPING



DIFFERENT CULTIVATING ENVIRONMENTS

## Compost

A 360° nutrient cycle is championed whereby most food waste, garden waste, cardboard and coconut coir is turned into a rich compost, adding nutrients back into the soil and significantly reducing usage of industrial fertilisers. Our outdoor 'strip and pile' composting area produces around 500-600kg of compost every two weeks which means all topsoil for the farm is created on-site. We are also experimenting with additional composting techniques such as biochar and 'compost tea'.

## Transformative techniques include:

- Incorporating a scientific approach to crop production; utilising high-tech materials to create specialised growing conditions and experimenting with hybrid varieties that tolerate the island conditions the best
- Creating sustainable growing cycles
- Building a cold-store at the farm with O-zone irrigation to naturally prolong the life of the produce
- Irrigating with recycled treated water from the sewage treatment plant mixed with rainwater and groundwater, minimum 40,000L of rainwater is captured every month
- Maintaining large native trees in the farm to aid in shading and keep bird nesting habitat
- Expansion of crop species and variations- Propagation and experimentation tunnels allow for new varieties of produce, vertical growing techniques mean more produce per m<sup>2</sup>
- Installing a computer-controlled drip irrigation system that dramatically reduces labour whilst also hugely increasing efficiency of water use
- Hiring an expert Horticulturalist to oversee farm management
- Collaborating with Seychelles Biodiversity Centre and other farming initiatives within Seychelles
- Utilising 'companion planting' techniques with natural insecticides such as lemongrass and garlic chive being planted in amongst crops which suffer from insect predation
- Incorporating neem oil as a way of eliminating chemical insecticide usage
- Guests are encouraged to sample the produce straight from the ground during our cooking classes and farm tours



# Honey Bee Pollination

In October 2023 two species of Honey Bee were reintroduced to Alphonse to aid in pollination of the farm in addition to providing local honey. They are flourishing, starting with 5 hives which has since grown to 11 hives across two different locations, the bees play a pivotal role in the success of the Alphonse Farm.

# Honey Bee Pollination

Some interesting Alphonse bee facts include:

- We have two sub-species of Honey Bee, the Malagasy Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera unicolor*) which is endemic to Madagascar and introduced all over Seychelles in the times of early settlers and the Italian Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera linguistica*) which has been introduced on a few islands
- 23kg has been harvested so far since the first hives started producing; once all hives have settled production should be 30-40kg every 4 weeks or so, but this is variable
- The bees love to collect nectar from the coconut flowers which are everywhere being as Alphonse was a historic coconut plantation, this gives the honey a wonderful nutty flavour



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