



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SIF Strengthens Biosecurity and ESIA Compliance Monitoring on Assumption to Safeguard Aldabra

The Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF) was established with the mandate to protect and manage Seychelles' unique World Heritage Sites and natural heritage. Guided by its vision, for natural heritage to be recognised as an irreplaceable and invaluable source of life and inspiration, SIF's mission is to ensure the long-term conservation of Seychelles' globally important ecosystems and the species they support.

In line with this mandate, SIF is committed to safeguarding Aldabra Atoll, one of the most ecologically valuable sites in the world. Aldabra's protection requires careful attention, not only on the atoll itself, but also on neighbouring islands that play a role in its ecological security. For this reason, SIF has been entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing biosecurity, conservation, and environmental monitoring on Assumption. These measures are critical to prevent invasive alien species and other threats from reaching Aldabra.

To deliver on this responsibility, SIF is in the process of setting up a dedicated Biosecurity and Assumption Department. This department will coordinate closely with the Island Development Company (IDC) and the developer, Ocean Breeze Ltd, to ensure that all activities on Assumption are carefully managed. Certain measures are already in place and being implemented to ensure all conditions and recommendations from the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) are being strictly applied and monitored.

SIF has deployed a Senior Environment and Biosecurity Officer on Assumption on 27th August 2025 to oversee the on-site implementation of the EIA recommendations. Regular reporting from the Officer will ensure accountability and compliance. Recruitment is also underway to expand the team dedicated to environmental surveillance, biosecurity, and conservation, with staff based on both Mahé and Assumption.



The Biosecurity Management Plan in place for Assomption is being implemented. Special precautions are being applied to vessels carrying materials to Assomption, as well as to cargo passing through the airport. In line with the EIA requirements and the biosecurity management plan, all items destined for the island are thoroughly inspected as part of the measures in place before being allowed entry. In line with biosecurity protocols, SIF will not permit the import of any international soil or plants to Assomption Island.

These measures are designed to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species or harmful organisms and to minimise risks to the ecosystems of both Assomption and Aldabra. Beyond these precautionary measures, SIF has, in the national interest, entered into a unique arrangement to oversee the management of sustainable tourism on Assomption. This arrangement is intended to ensure that any tourism activity is regulated in line with recognised international standards of best practice. Visitors to the island will be sensitised to its exceptional biodiversity and the importance of safeguarding it, while strict protocols will continue to apply to prevent the introduction of invasive species.

SIF also acknowledges that an unfortunate accident occurred on Assomption recently, resulting in serious injury to an Aldabra giant tortoise. SIF is working closely with IDC to review protocols and reinforce preventative measures. Together, we are committed to ensuring that risks are minimised and that the welfare of the island's biodiversity, including Aldabra giant tortoises, seabird colonies, coconut crabs, and unique coastal vegetation, remains a top priority.

SIF takes this new responsibility and mandate extremely seriously. Environmental protection of Aldabra and Assomption is a high priority and SIF will continue to act with professionalism, transparency, and dedication to ensure this. Every measure taken on Assomption is part of a wider effort to ensure that Aldabra and Seychelles' other unique natural treasures remain safeguarded for present and future generations.

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About the Seychelles Islands Foundation

The Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF) manages and protects Seychelles' UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Aldabra Atoll in the far south of the archipelago and the Vallée de Mai on Praslin Island, as well as the Fond Ferdinand nature reserve. SIF has been a pioneer in nature conservation as the longest running environmental organisation in the Seychelles. Established as a public trust in 1979, SIF has successfully managed both sites for over 40 years, made substantial contributions towards



biodiversity conservation and established international and national links and collaborations, bringing benefits to global and national conservation objectives.

<http://www.sif.sc>