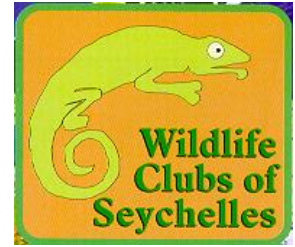


About Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles



Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles (WCS) is a non-government organisation (NGO) for young people. It was formed in 1994, dedicated to promoting conservation action through environmental education and providing support to schools and communities engaged in wildlife conservation.

Today there are about 800 children throughout Seychelles who belong to Wildlife Clubs and who are members of WCS. Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles is run by volunteers. Most of the clubs are based in primary, secondary, and post-secondary schools, and led by teachers and staff, as well as some parents and community volunteers. They meet after school, on weekends and during school holidays. WCS has a volunteer executive committee, elected every two years, that plans and oversees all national events and activities. WCS' headquarters is based at the University of Seychelles Anse Royale campus, in the UniSey Centre for Environmental Education (UCEE).

WCS Mission Statement

'Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles will be a leading, grassroots, self-sustaining environmental organisation, dedicated to creating an environmentally conscious population in Seychelles. We provide opportunities for students and their leaders to learn about their environment, to participate in environmental action, and to be a force for positive change.'

WCS Objectives

- To increase young people's knowledge of Seychelles' biodiversity and mobilise action for conservation.
- Identify and take action to solve environmental problems in Seychelles
- Develop programmes (activities, events and publications) that focus on the natural world.
- Provide resources for school clubs and their leaders.
- Improve capacity for club leaders to undertake successful programmes and activities.

WCS Activities and Projects

National and regional activities: Every year, WCS leaders plan several events to bring WCS members to celebrate wildlife and take action. These include activities such as wildlife festivals, birdwatching events, rallies, picnics, exhibitions, conferences etc.

Wildlife Magazine: WCS puts out an annual children's magazine focusing on different themes. Each issue contains articles written by members, including contributions from children. The magazine is printed with assistance from sponsors, and distributed to clubs for their members.

WCS facilities: Since 2013, WCS signed an MOU with University of Seychelles, who provide us with a space for our headquarters at their Anse Royale campus, and use of the UniSey facilities for events and activities. In return, Environmental Science students use WCS facilities and equipment in their field work and experiments. WCS has some equipment available on loan to our clubs such as water testing kits, field guides and binoculars, and snorkelling equipment.

Leader Training and Support: each year, if funding is available, WCS offers training workshops for our leaders to help them learn more about wildlife, and learn new skills for running clubs, organising field trips, planning for safety, and planning and implementing projects. Leaders meet monthly to exchange ideas and plan events and activities.

Hikes and Island Visits: These are popular among all WCS members as they allow us to learn more about local habitats and wildlife at first hand. WCS organises hikes for leaders to help them become familiar with trails and learn how to lead hikes.

Heritage Gardens: With support from various partners, many of our clubs have planted medicinal gardens and orchards in their school grounds.

School-based Projects: Each club puts together an annual program of activities and projects. Clubs go on hikes, camping trips to other islands, organised school-based environmental competitions and participate in national ones, do tree planting, plant medicinal plants, fruit trees and endemic plants, remove invasive creepers, investigate local river, shore, wetland forest and marine habitats, do clean ups, make murals, write poems, stories and draw pictures, interview community members about environmental issues... – the list is endless! Clubs do their own fund-raising, but always welcome outside funding assistance for materials and field trips.

Partnerships

WCS works in close partnership with several local organisations:

- The Ministry of Education:** Our clubs are based in schools, and many of our activities are undertaken with the support of school management, other teachers, and other clubs in schools, as well as the environmental education coordinating unit in the Ministry of Education.
- The Department of Environment:** Personnel from the Department of Environment have over the years provided input and support to many of our clubs, including helping with projects, leading hikes, and organising tree planting and other events.
- Sponsors:** The President's Office and local businesses like Cable & Wireless Seychelles have sponsored a number of WCS activities since we began.
- Save Our Seas:** WCS has a special working relationship with Save Our Seas, an international organization focused on marine conservation and education.

How you can help:

Join us! New volunteers are always welcome to help organize and run national events, help with outreach to schools and clubs, coordinate projects, assist with fundraising and publicity. You can also volunteer to assist a specific club in your district.

Donate! WCS relies on funding support from our community partners to implement our projects and activities. You can either donate to WCS to support expenses such as printing our magazine, materials and transport for our wildlife festival, leaders workshops, photocopying resources for clubs, or purchasing books and other equipment. Or you can donate directly to a club to help them fund a project or field trip.

Contact us:

Terence Vel (Chairperson) Tel.271-9047 wildlifeclubsofseychelles@gmail.com
Michele Martin (Secretary) tel. 251-9135 mpmartinsey@gmail.com

Mailing address: Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles, PO Box 1435, Victoria, Mahé, Republic of Seychelles