

How to participate

The Seychelles Plant Gallery – A project for and by the community

Which plant species and how many plant species do we have in Seychelles? Even for such a small country, we still do not know exactly the number of species occurring – probably somewhere between 1400 and 1800 species. In addition, for many species we know very little about where they occur, especially in which localities within islands. Finally, there are many species that have been introduced during the last few decades, as ornamentals or cultivated plants, and which have never been recorded (see p. 14).

In order to improve our knowledge on these aspects, a partnership was developed between PCA and the National Herbarium, as part of the project funded by the GEF Small Grants Programme (see p. 3). Our main objective is to compile knowledge from historical records, and from current oral knowledge and recent scientific research. A database has been created which contains to date about 2000 plant names and 15000 plant records (including 5000 specimens). This allows us to produce distribution maps of plants, species lists per island or district, etc. In addition, we are compiling illustrations of species into a virtual herbarium (or “Plant Gallery”).

With these tools, the Seychelles National Herbarium has developed its capacity to identify plant species (see p. 3, 5). But **local knowledge**, mostly orally transmitted, **is still missing in our database. EVERYONE CAN CONTRIBUTE! Here is how you can help:**

First, if you have a plant for which you would like to know the name; and/or

Second, if you know localities of “uncommon” plants (for example a rarely seen ornamental or medicinal plant, or rare variety of fruit tree or other useful plant).

In both cases, you can contribute to the plant database by sending us an email (nicole2377@hotmail.co.uk or bsenterre@gmail.com), or by visiting us at the Natural History Museum, or by telephoning (4321333, extension 8143). Please provide some general information (see the Information Sheet illustrated, which can be photocopied and filled in like the example) and if possible several photographs of the plant, illustrating its different parts.

You will then become an official contributor and we will provide you in return with additional information about your plant (based on the other records already in the database). The most valuable contributions will be selected for our plant photo gallery and you may also win t-shirts and other prizes, in particular if you take part in the photo competition.

There will also be adverts in the media and a Facebook page dedicated to the project, where there will be more information about the particular groups of plants we are looking for.

Information sheet to accompany contributed photographs and other species records provided by local individuals and groups

Author full name :	Date :			
Plant name (if known, English, French, Creole or Latin) :				
.....				
Locality :				
.....				
Habitat :				
<input type="checkbox"/> road side	<input type="checkbox"/> garden	<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural field	<input type="checkbox"/> tree plantation	
<input type="checkbox"/> forest	<input type="checkbox"/> woodland	<input type="checkbox"/> thicket	<input type="checkbox"/> open habitat	
<input type="checkbox"/> coastal	<input type="checkbox"/> mountain	<input type="checkbox"/> glaxis	<input type="checkbox"/> ravine	<input type="checkbox"/> wetland
Observations : (plant uses, origin of local name, plant total height, any information not visible on the photograph, e.g. “with a strong aromatic smell”, “with milky sap”, etc.)				
.....				
.....				
<input type="checkbox"/> planted	<input type="checkbox"/> natural regeneration from a planted individual	<input type="checkbox"/> naturally occurring		
<input type="checkbox"/> tree	<input type="checkbox"/> shrub	<input type="checkbox"/> herb	<input type="checkbox"/> creeper	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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An example of an information sheet that has been filled in:

Author full name : *Axxxxx Kxxxxxx* **Date** : *zanvye 2012*.....

Plant name (if known, English, French, Creole or Latin) : *Pti kanar*.....

.....

Locality : *Anse à La Mouche, zardin kot Anchor Café*.....

.....

Habitat :

road side garden agricultural field tree plantation

forest woodland thicket open habitat

coastal mountain glacis ravine wetland

Observations : (plant uses, origin of local name, plant total height, any information not visible on the photograph, e.g. "with a strong aromatic smell", "with milky sap", etc.)

.. son fler i blan ek rouz fonse, 10 cm diamet.. ;.. sa plant i en lespe ase rar, ziska prezan nou pann war li dan en lot zarden.....

planted natural regeneration from a planted individual naturally occurring

tree shrub herb creeper other:

Please write your contact details on the back of the form - name, address and telephone number, so that we can get in touch with you.



Photos of the plant submitted with the completed form.