



QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ASPIRING VOLUNTEERS

Greetings and thank you for your interest in volunteering with Nature Seychelles on Cousin Island Special Reserve, Seychelles. To help us understand who you are and why you are interested in volunteering, please fill out the form below.

But before you do that, we would like to emphasize some important information about volunteering here.

Cousin Island is a beautiful and unique island full of wildlife. There are, however, several things you should consider before applying.

The island is in the tropics. Therefore, this means:

- Heat and intense sunlight
- A climate that is sometimes humid and rainy
- Insect bites, including mosquito bites (Seychelles, however, has no malaria and Cousin has no dengue).
- A rough sea crossing (life jackets are provided on the boat in any weather).
- The working hours are long during turtle season and you will constantly be on your feet.

The island only has basic facilities. Water on the island is not drinkable and is only used for laundry and showers. Water for drinking and cooking is brought in from Praslin Island nearby. Showers are indoors but toilets are outdoor drop toilets. Electricity is generated using solar panels with generators as back-up. In the case of solar panels not charging sufficiently or the generator being out, there is limited electricity available.

Cousin Island is home only to staff, volunteers, and visiting researchers. It does not have a shop. Three supply trips are run to Praslin each week, with each person allocated a shopping day. In order to save fuel, time, and human resources, boats do not run to and from Praslin outside of these times.

Although challenging, these are the realities of remote living. Overall, the volunteer experience is exclusive and rewarding and many of our past volunteers can attest to this.

Please see our website www.cousinland.net for general information on the island and its conservation programs.



Questionnaire:

Please answer the questions below and include them in your application.

Name:

Date of birth:

Nationality:

Languages:

1. Please indicate when you want to come to Cousin and for how long. Please note that under Seychelles immigration law, you can only stay for 90 days.
2. Give a brief description of your motivation for volunteering on Cousin Island. Previously, volunteers participated because they aspired to a conservation career. They wanted to gain some experience, seek a challenge, or try something new.
3. Please indicate your main interests in our work. During your time on the island, you may be asked to perform any of the roles.

Activity	Period
Seabirds census and monitoring	Year round
Seychelles Magpie Robin monitoring	Year round
Aldabra giant tortoise census	July-December
Hawksbill Turtle nesting monitoring	October - March
Turtle nest excavations	December- April
Beach profiling	Year round
Island maintenance (trail clearing, beach cleaning, invasive plant control)	Year round



4. If you have any experience in conservation, remote living, or working in a small team, please describe it. If you do not have any, do not worry.

5. Are you physically fit and able to carry out outdoor fieldwork? This could be in the heat, rain, or in the presence of mosquitos.

6. You may need to share a room (same sex) and will have communal cooking space. Living with other people logically implies sharing tasks and responsibilities with general respectful habits. Is this something you are comfortable with?

7. Do you have any medical issues?

8. We ask volunteers to share their point of view or summarize their stay, if they can, in articles or blogs we can publish online or in the press, as well as share photos and videos for social media. All images and videos are credited and appropriately tagged. Is this something you are willing to do?