

Zwazo magazine tackles climate change

The latest issue of Zwazo, Nature Seychelles' (BirdLife Partner) bi-annual conservation magazine is on climate change. It contains accounts of activities being taken locally, in the region and globally to mitigate and adapt to climate change. In its editorial, Nirmal Shah, Nature Seychelles' Chief Executive says not all climate change news is doom and gloom. "The news we hear is often grim. From failed talks, to extreme warming events in our seas, species in danger, floods, droughts and crop failures. But slowly this reality is beginning to be tempered with stories of hope." Zwazo illuminates some of these stories. Many steps are being taken at home and in the region to help species and ecosystems respond to climate change. Some of them have been started by Nature Seychelles. One example is the project to restore damaged corals in selected sites in Seychelles, which is financially supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and will be implemented by Nature Seychelles. Coral mortality in the Indian Ocean has endangered one of richest ecosystems and fisheries that feed millions of people. The project seeks to repair some of the damage. The magazine carries news of research that will add valuable information for predicting climate change impact on species such as hawksbill turtles and seabirds. Local impacts of climate change on hawksbill turtle reproduction will be studied on Cousin Island Special Reserve and mitigation measures put in place. Tracking seabirds in the western Indian Ocean to identify oceanic hotspots used by marine birds, and to investigate the habitat characteristics of these important areas has been ongoing. Data from this research is expected to help identify marine Important Bird Areas and target areas for designation as pelagic Marine Protected Areas. It will also be valuable for predicting how climate change may impact the seabirds of the western Indian Ocean. And an article on how healthy ecosystems are helping the world's most vulnerable adapt to climate change also shows the work of the BirdLife Partnership in this area. As is traditional the magazine carries news of the work of Nature Seychelles. **A free copy of this issue is available for free download at www.natureseychelles.org**