



Aldabra Clean Up Project

Sponsorship Opportunities



**'One of the world's greatest surviving natural treasures'
(Sir David Attenborough)**

Eliminating ocean plastic on Aldabra
Sharing knowledge and research
Promoting positive steps to reduce plastic use

Who are we?

The Seychelles Island Foundation (SIF) is a non-profit charitable organization that manages and protects Seychelles' two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Aldabra Atoll (Aldabra) and the Vallée de Mai. Trustees include Sir Tim Smit, founder of The Eden Project and Dr Lindsay Turnbull, Biological Sciences Fellow at The Queen's College, University of Oxford. SIF maintains a small research team on Aldabra, the only people who live (temporarily) on the atoll.

Six young conservationists from Oxford University: We are graduate students in biological and materials sciences. April Burt is our Project Leader: before coming to Oxford, she managed the research team on Aldabra and specialises in marine and terrestrial habitat monitoring and conservation. She is currently studying for her DPhil on connectivity in island ecosystems, which includes addressing the problem of coral bleaching on Seychelles.

Six young Seychellois conservationists from the main island complete the clean-up team on Aldabra. These volunteers were chosen using a national video competition. They were invited to the Statehouse to meet SIF's patron, the President of the Seychelles, who fully supports this project.

Media Partners and Corporate Sponsors will share our story, the catastrophic effects of plastic pollution and the immediate and effective action individuals can take to reduce the amount of single use plastic used in the UK and globally.

Schools, community groups and individual supporters can follow our activities and communicate with us on Aldabra as well as taking personal, individual pledges and actions that we will share through our social media channels and media partners.



What is special about Aldabra?

Aldabra is the world's second-largest coral atoll (150 square miles including lagoon) and isolated from the nearest landmass (Africa) by hundreds of miles.

Aldabra is almost pristine, or at least it was forty years ago. A ring of islands surrounds a central turquoise lagoon, the tidal heartbeat of the atoll, with millions of tonnes of water rushing in and out, twice every day. Aldabra's geographical isolation, rough terrain and scarcity of fresh water have deterred large human populations from settling, which means until now the atoll has been protected from people's lifestyles and behaviours. Aldabra's is a rich and diverse ecosystem in which evolutionary processes are active due to minimal human interference. It is part of a global biodiversity hotspot, home to:

- The world's largest population of giant tortoises, the longest-lived died at the age of 250! These tortoises are now eating flip-flops
- A pristine marine life: the presence of sharks indicates a healthy ecosystem: there are at least 10 species around Aldabra where they are protected and can grow to maturity
- The Aldabra rail, the last flightless bird in the Indian Ocean region, along with thousands of rare and endangered seabirds – as many as 90% of these birds have plastic in their stomachs
- The largest population of nesting green turtles in the Western Indian Ocean plus a healthy population of endangered Hawksbill turtles
- An incredible variety of other species, some of which can only be found on Aldabra

Why must we act?

Only a small number of people have ever been to Aldabra, even fewer have spent more than a few hours there, yet the oceans carry thousands of tonnes of humanity's detritus to these beautiful shores, a visceral example of our destructive impact on this planet.

Aldabra belongs to us all, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, brought into our homes over the decades by generations of naturalists, most notably David Attenborough.

It is not too late to protect Aldabra, to retain it as a beacon for future generations and to use this project to explain and promote the urgent need for people across the world to demand change in the use of plastics.

Uninhabited as the atoll is, those of us who have been lucky enough to spend some time there must bring its plight to public attention and ask people to help create a solution for the future. **Please join us in doing so.**



What will we do?

We will charter a cargo vessel to Aldabra in March 2019 and stay for between three and five weeks, gathering as much plastic and marine debris as possible- from flip-flops to toothbrushes, fishing nets to water bottles – all to be taken back to Mahé, Seychelles' largest island, for proper processing.

Whilst undertaking the clean-up, we will endeavour to analyse the waste to identify where the plastic has come from and quantify just how much this place is impacted by humanity. We will keep a blog to regularly share our findings on our Twitter and Instagram pages, culminating in an academic report.

Both in the lead up to and following the March expedition, we will reach out to primary and secondary schools to engage and inspire young people to learn about Aldabra, minimise their use of plastic and support this project.

We will hold a variety of events across Oxford, both within the University and the city, to spread the word amongst different communities, and, with the help of our social media reach, encourage all to take action and cut down on their use of plastic.

What will it cost?

The project will cost £150,000

- £80,000 to charter a cargo boat to collect and transport the waste 1,000 km from Aldabra to the main Seychelles, and
- £40,000 to get us to Aldabra: return flights to the Seychelles, a chartered plane to Assumption Island, and finally a boat to Aldabra.
- Once on the atoll, we will be living frugally, committing all our energy to clearing as much of the plastic and fishing debris as possible.
- **We have already secured just over £100,000** and look forward to raising the remaining £50,000, to ensure we are able to commit to undertaking the project in March 2019. **The countdown is on!**



Sponsorship Opportunities

Gold Sponsor £50,000	Silver Sponsor £20,000	Bronze Sponsor £10,000
A film produced by the team for your organisation		
A personalised report from Aldabra for your chosen audience (staff, customers, pupils, family)	A personalised report from Aldabra for your chosen audience (staff, customers, pupils, family)	
Name included in primary position on website, blog, in all publications, clothing and promotional materials	Name included on secondary position on website, blog, in all publications, clothing and promotional materials	Name included in tertiary on website, on our blog, in all publications, clothing and promotional materials
Invitation for up to ten people to attend post project report and reception at The Queen's College, Oxford	Invitation for up to eight people to attend post project report and reception at The Queen's College, Oxford	Invitation for up to four people to attend post project report and reception at The Queen's College, Oxford
An agreed schedule of your pledges/actions on plastic included in our social media messaging**	An agreed schedule of your pledges/actions on plastic included in our social media messaging**	An agreed schedule of your pledges/actions on plastic included in our social media messaging**

**Subject to approval and on rota

We welcome support at all levels and will be pleased to discuss how we might best work with you. Please get in touch to find out more

Our sponsors and supporters



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CHARITABLE TRUST



CABLE & WIRELESS



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