



COUSINE ISLAND  
SEYCHELLES



# January Newsletter

## 2021

*Where nature thrives and man is a silent observer.*

4° 20 MINS 55.73 SOUTH / 53° 38 MINS 53.24 EAST



## *A Conservation Sanctuary*

# Balance & Harmony

The nesting turtles for the 2020-2021 season seem to be slowing down, however, we have recorded 19 more nests than the previous season to date. The total number of hawksbill turtle nests is sitting at 134. This season has also seen quite a few first timers laying on Cousine Island, a total of 24 females were tagged for the first time so far. Although, the nesting females may be slowing down, the nests are starting to hatch, and the hatchlings are emerging. To date a total of 27 nests have emerged and we have released 3418 hatchlings into the ocean! Later this month, the conservation team will be starting the north-west seabird census. Stay tuned for next month's newsletter, as we will be reporting the seabird population numbers.

## Blue-eyed hermit crab (*Calcinus laevimanus*)

The blue-eyed hermit crab (*Calcinus laevimanus*) roams the intertidal and reef flats, platforms and coral rubble in the tropical and sub-tropical western Indo-Pacific. This is an aggressive species that will fight over empty shells and other resources. The left claw is larger than the right one (hence why it is also known as the left-handed hermit crab) and it is presumed that the size and brightness of the white patch on the left claw acts as a status symbol in competitive interactions.



