



COUSINE ISLAND  
SEYCHELLES



# July 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

This month the conservation team is preparing for the SE seabird census which will result in an estimate of Cousine Islands' seabird population size during the monsoon months. The species observed in this census are Lesser noddy (*Anous tenuirostris*), Brown noddy (*Anous stolidus*), Fairy tern (*Gygis alba*) and White-tailed tropic bird (*Phaethon lepturus*). The 30ha island is divided into a grid of 48 plots where the conservation team defines a circle with a 10m radius and counts the individuals and/or nests of each species encompassed in that area. This number is then extrapolated to gives us an estimate of the population size of Cousine Island.

## Noni Tree (*Morinda citrifolia*)

The Noni tree, also known as the Indian Mulberry, is widely distributed on tropical islands such as Cousine. Most of the tree was and still is used in some cultures. The fruit is used in smoothies and salads, the bark and roots for dyes, the leaves in curry dishes and even the seeds are edible once roasted. The most interesting characteristic about this tree is its fruit, when it's ripe it has a very pungent odour almost like vomit. On Cousine the Noni tree is also known as the tortoise fruit tree because our resident giant tortoises love munching on the leaves and eating the fruit despite its pungent aroma.

