



COUSINE ISLAND
SEYCHELLES



April 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

Turtle season has ended! There is a 21 day period that must be observed since the last turtle was known to come onto the beach before we can declare that hawksbill turtle season has come to an end. The last exploratory crawl was on the 1st of April and the last nest was laid in the beginning of March bringing our total for the season to 177 hawksbill turtle nests, 25 more nests than last season. There are still 12 nests waiting for hatchlings to emerge which will only end early June. This was an exceptionally long season considering the first turtle to come ashore was at the end of August 2020 and the last of the hatchlings should emerge at the beginning of June 2021.

Violet Snail (*Janthina janthina*)

This despondent species starts its life out as a male and later changes into a female. They wander the warm tropical and temperate seas by floating upside down at the surface using a “raft” which they build by creating air bubbles with their foot and then coating them with a mucous that hardens. The sad thing about the violet snails’ life is that if it loses hold of the “raft” it will sink to the bottom of the ocean and die. Also, they have no means of propulsion therefore they are dependent on the currents to feed. Their preferred prey is blue bottles and by-the-wind sailors.