



COUSINE ISLAND
SEYCHELLES



August 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

August is a somewhat exciting month for Cousine Island. It is when the conservation team prepares for the upcoming turtle season, from renewing the sand in the hatchery to repainting beach markers and so much more. The hawksbill turtle season on Cousine Island can start as early as the end of August and end as late as the beginning of April.

This month, the conservation team also completed a total count of the Giant tortoise population of Cousine island, in order to keep track of the population. A total of 72 were found! The giant tortoises play an important role in seed dispersal and increasing food availability for the Seychelles magpie-robin. Apart from regular censuses, providing water weekly, recording any breeding attempts and checking their general health, no dedicated monitoring projects are currently taking place on the Island and the tortoises really take care of themselves.

Grey damselfish (*Chrysiptera glauca*)

The Grey damselfish below is a young adult seeing as it displays electric blue lines on its head. These lines are remnants of a juvenile's colour pattern. Juveniles are normally a vivid blue, becoming dull bluish grey or, on rare occasions, white with growth. This species can be found in the tropics of the Indian Ocean, including the Seychelles, in tidal pools that have slight wave action. The male fiercely guards the nest he builds under coral debris and ventilates the eggs.

