

PROJECT PROFILE

Nature Protection Trust  
of Seychelles



# Silhouette Island, Seychelles

## Project Summary

Silhouette Island is the third largest of the granitic Seychelles islands. It has a land area of 4,930 acres and a maximum altitude of 2,461 feet, making it one of the most important biodiversity hotspots in the Indian Ocean. Silhouette, due to its steep mountainous nature, is the island least suitable for development, and has therefore retained much of its natural flora and fauna. The presence of the largest roost of the Critically Endangered Seychelles Sheath-tailed Bat makes the island an AZE site. This species has declined dramatically since the 1800s for unknown reasons; so conservation of Silhouette is essential for the survival of the species.



Reintroduction of endangered Seychelles bird species should also be possible in the future.

## Current Need

Habitat restoration is currently being carried out on a small scale, but more funding is needed. Additional funds will allow us to restore more habitat for the sheath-tailed bat.

A major priority is the establishment of a fully equipped, dedicated research station. Expanded research facilities will help encourage more participation from scientists and conservation volunteers.

## Target Species

The Silhouette Conservation Project aims to conserve all native plants and animals on the island. Important research is being carried out on the ecology and roost requirements of the Seychelles Sheath-tailed Bat, one of the rarest mammals in the world. This species occurs nowhere else. The bat population is being studied so their most essential habitat, including roost sites, can be protected.

Two Critically Endangered Seychelles terrapins, *Pelusios subniger parietalis* and *P. castanoides intergularis*, are the subject of a captive breeding and reintroduction program. These giant tortoises, thought to be extinct since 1840, were rediscovered in 1996.

## Contact Information

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