



10<sup>TH</sup>  
SCIENTIFIC  
SYMPOSIUM

# Special Session: Engagement of WIOMSA members with the South African Indian Ocean Rim Academic Group (SA IORAG)

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# Seychelles



- ▶ 115 islands
- ▶ 94,200 people (2016) between the Federated States of Micronesia and Antigua and Barbuda.
- ▶ EEZ 1.4 million km<sup>2</sup>



# University of Seychelles - UniSey

- ▶ Founded in **2009** (8 years old)
- ▶ Bachelor in Environmental Science (**BSc**)
- ▶ Third year Specialization courses:
  - Marine Sciences and Fisheries
  - Climate Change Resilience,
  - Integrated Coastal Management,
  - Tropical Biodiversity.

The first cohort was graduated in 2015

Two graduates have achieved their Master.



# *James Michel* Blue Economy Research Institute - BERI

- ▶ In **March 2015**, UniSey creates the **Blue Economy Research Institute (BERI)**:  
an active research and knowledge network



# *James Michel* Blue Economy Research Institute - BERI

Director: **Kelly Hoareau**

Head of Research: **Dr. Ashton J. Berry**

Staff: 8 Researchers

Lecturers or Senior Lecturers

(Sept. 2017)



# James Michel Blue Economy Research Institute - BERI

## ► **Umbrella organisation**

Island Biodiversity & Conservation Centre  
University Centre for Environmental  
Education

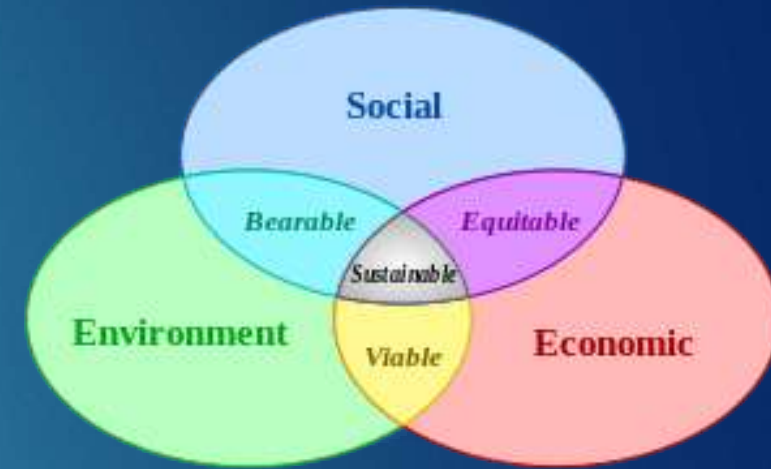
## ► An **advisory board**: guide and support the interests and activities of the BERI



# From Green to Blue

**Blue Economy** applies the concepts of **Green Economy**.

**Blue Economy** in Seychelles is centered on ocean and coastal activities: a *sustainable ocean-based economy*



# *From Green to Blue*

**To use Coastal and Ocean Resources in a more sustainable and innovative way:**

- ▶ **Food security:** Fisheries, Aquaculture and Agriculture research focus.
- ▶ **Social/governance**
- ▶ **Coastal ecosystem resilience:** Anthropogenic and Environmental impacts in a context of Global Change





# BERI's role

- ▶ To ensure that the strategic direction of research conducted in Seychelles aligns with the countries needs and
- ▶ with international best-practice, ensuring relevant and good science,
- ▶ to assist with informed decision making and management strategies.
- ▶ UN OCEANS conference (June 2017, USA):  
BERI's Voluntary Commitment: **Strengthening the Blue Economy by Supporting Research Capacity Development in Seychelles - starting with Ocean Acidification and the GOA-ON initiative (#16126)**
- ▶ Chapter on Ocean Governance (Prof Dennis Hardy, Vice Chancellor of the University of Seychelles) for an IORA Guide on Blue Economy.



# BERI's Research interests

- ▶ Carbon capture and storage/**Blue Carbon**,
- ▶ Carbon fluxes, **Ocean Acidification (OA)** and Greenhouse gases budgets, Environmental Monitoring,
- ▶ **Coastal mapping**, occupation of soils, water quality,
- ▶ **Trophic interactions**,
- ▶ **Ecosystem Interconnectivity**,
- ▶ **Coastal Resilience and Vulnerability**,
- ▶ **Ecosystem-based Adaption**.



# BERI and the IORA

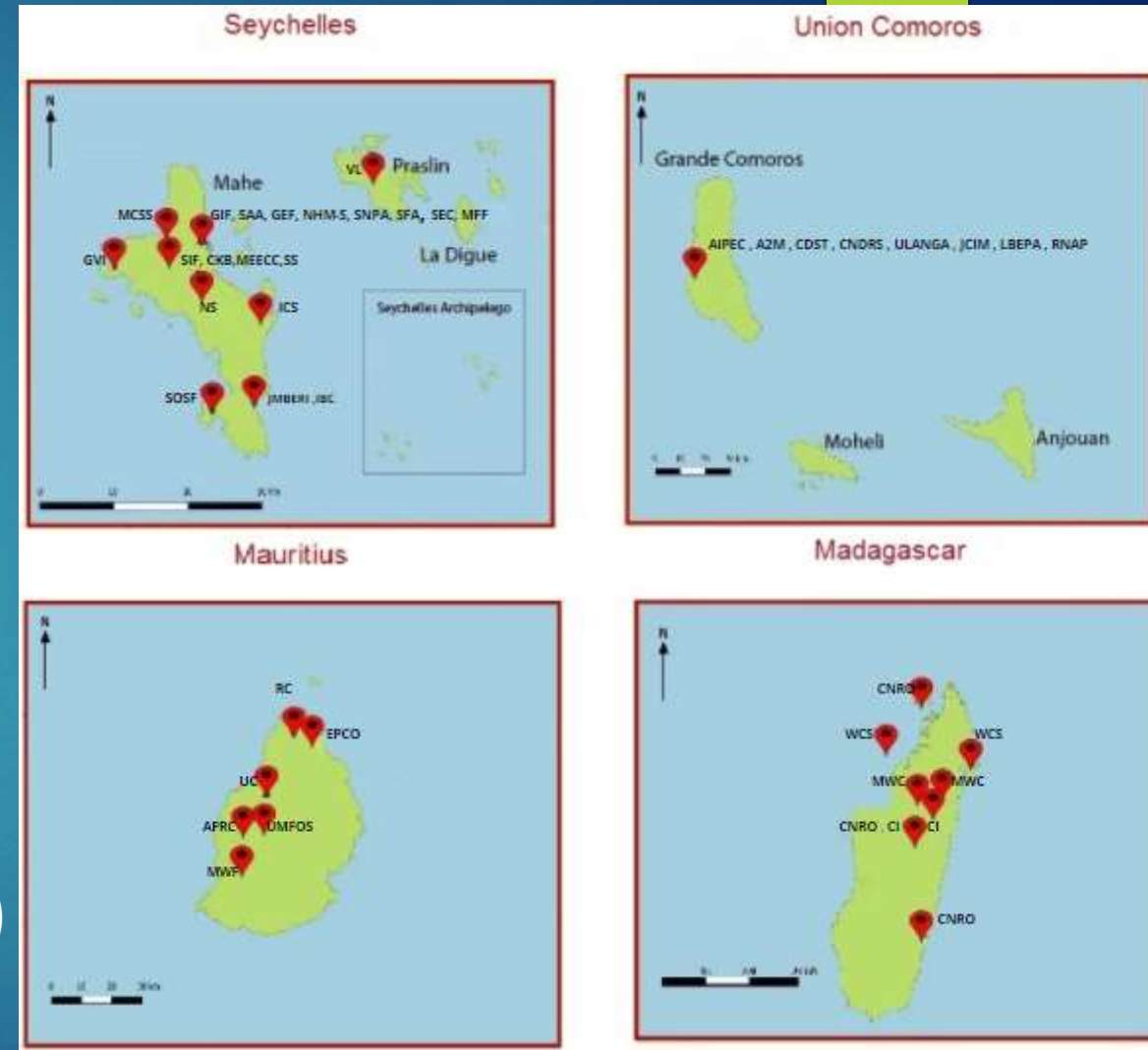
- ▶ 2-year co-funded project (2015)
- ▶ Managed by 2 former students of UniSey's BSc
- ▶ Development of **a managed network of environmental organizations** in island states in the WIO:
  - ▶ Seychelles,
  - ▶ Mauritius,
  - ▶ Comoros,
  - ▶ Madagascar.

# BERI and the IORA WIONet

- ▶ Data collected from questionnaires,
- ▶ On-site briefing sessions, electronic surveys,
- ▶ Inform on strategy, infrastructure and capacity,

Deliverables:

- ▶ List of institutions with particular interests in:
  - ▶ Environmental research (Terrestrial, marine)
  - ▶ Eco-tourism, Socio and Env economics,
  - ▶ Restoration, Green energy...



*Eugenie Khani, Uvika Bristol*



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## WIONet

### A Managed Network of Environmental Research in the Western Indian Ocean

The purpose of the project is to facilitate collaboration amongst organizations within the region, particularly as a start between Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles.

This project was initiated to address the need for strategic and targeted research in order to overcome the challenges faced by Indian Ocean countries concerning the sustainable use, development and maintenance of a healthy resilient, social and ecological system especially in the face of climate change and other regional environmental challenges.

Through the developed network, researchers can jointly seek and apply for research grants, and gain regional and international recognition through collaborative projects. Joint research will enable greater access to funding and capacity building, and help to avoid duplication.



#### Project Coordinators



Mrs Eugenie Khani



Ms Uvicka Bristol

#### Regional Collaborators

##### Seychelles



##### Union Comoros



# ASANTE SANA

