

## Editorial

The latest issue of *Seychelles Research Journal* has attracted not only local researchers but also scholars from Ghana, Canada, Poland, UK and Mauritius. Seychelles is undoubtedly a place of international interest, not only for our unique environment but also for cultural and other aspects of life in this small island state.

- ✧ In the first article, Dennis Hardy notes that the UN is well behind its target of delivering 17 SDGs by 2030. He argues that the international organization is no longer fit for purpose. This critical stance is tempered in a well-considered rejoinder by Kris Valaydon.
- ✧ On a different topic, Justice Djokoto and others explore ways in which foreign direct investment in small island states can have negative as well positive impacts. Ways have to be found to ensure that inward investment does not ‘crowd out’ domestic opportunities.
- ✧ From Poland, Michael Kemp and Anna Dłużewska describe a study of high-end tourism in Seychelles. Sustainable tourism is a watchword in the industry but this article warns how difficult, if not impossible, it is to achieve.
- ✧ Olga Klymenko has published before in this journal on the subject of Seychelles Creole. This time she focuses on the lexical representation of gender, identifying groups of words specifically related to men and women, and showing where there appear to be asymmetries.
- ✧ Finally, we reproduce *verbatim* a speech delivered by Diana Benoit on the occasion of the 2023 celebration of Gandhi Jayanti, also known as the International Day of Non-Violence. At a time of far-reaching cases of world conflict, her carefully chosen words could not be more timely.

In addition to articles, we include in the journal a section containing ‘Research Notes’. These give readers an idea of research in progress and also an indication of events in preparation. This time, we start by showcasing the work of the Island Biodiversity and Conservation Centre (led by Gérard Rocamora), which enjoys the independent status of an NGO combined with a place within the research nexus of the University of Seychelles. This is followed by an interesting piece by Carlo Ceglia, who explains how his doctoral research was stimulated by a visit to Seychelles to examine the country’s innovative governance and financial measures in relation to the Blue Economy. The third entry, by Ryan Adeline, asks whether Seychelles needs an Indo-Pacific strategy – a question that could hardly be more pertinent. He also gives advance notice of an international symposium on the subject.

Last of all, we have two very different book reviews. Carlo Ceglia spent a busy Christmas reading James Michel’s recent book, *Revisiting the Ocean: Living the Blue Economy*. Ceglia notes that this is a sequel to Michel’s earlier book on the subject, published in 2016, and how the present one can mark changes that have taken place since then.

In contrast, Dennis Hardy has discovered a book by Arthur Koestler, written in the 1940s, when the state of Israel was still in gestation. Given the present situation in Gaza it offers a revealing perspective.

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