Turtles Are Being Threatened

We live in La Digue, Seychelles, which has beautiful tropical beaches and lots of lovely flowers. But La Digue is being affected by climate change with unpredictable consequences. Climate change has affected the traditional ways of living on islands; the coast line and sea levels.

In Seychelles there are two main turtles that live here, the Green Turtle and the Hawksbill Turtle. The effects of climate change have caused the turtles lots of problems and they must adapt to the changes. Turtles have the unique ability to return to the same place decades later to repeat their ancient nesting ritual. The turtles over the beach: they were born there and return many years later to reproduce. When the seas levels rise it changes the beaches, which are the turtles’ home. If the turtle returns to its original nesting beach to筑巢 has changed or disappeared, it will turn around and go back to the ocean to try and find a new breeding to lay its eggs. Which means that turtle and its babies will not return to La Digue anymore.

All the species of turtles in Seychelles have become much hotter and this has had an impact on the sea turtle egg. The temperatures of the eggs in the nest determine sex of the turtles. The cooler eggs become a male and the warmer eggs become female. So with hotter nests more females will hatch, therefore causing a threat to the future reproduction of turtles.

Coral reefs are an important food source for sea turtles. With rising temperatures, coral reefs are suffering from bleaching that kills off much of the reefs. Sea turtles use seagrass currents to travel and find their food. Warming ocean temperatures change the currents and therefore the turtles have to travel much further to fi nd their food. So the turtle has to travel much further to fi nd its food.

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Erosion in La Digue, Seychelles

For quite a while our island has had erosion problems and this is a result of climate change. Erosion is the process where by natural forces like water wash away sand and soil, uproot trees and break rock walls. The impact of erosion is evident on our island especially along the coast and the problem has become worse with rising sea levels. Here in La Digue there are many examples of erosion.

We went to visit Mr. Ahmond, who is 67 years old and has been living here his whole life. Mr. Ahmond lives beside the coast and told us his land used to go out much further but over the years the sea has washed away the sand and soil, he. Mr. Ahmond had to build a sea wall to stop the erosion and protect his belongings. Mr. Ahmond told us this was a very important part of the food chain, and is a very important part of Seychelles.

Kyung-Wha Park and Isham Constance

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Erosion:… to protect their land and homes.

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Portraits of Resilience is part of the Many Strong Voices Programme. It illustrates in a personal way how climate change means to young people in the Arctic and small Island Developing States and helps communities create their own visual archives of the changes they are experiencing. Learn more at www.manystrongvoices.org