

# The Vallée De Mai

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Remnant of the ancient palm forests on Praslin, once known as Ile des Palmes, the Vallée De Mai contains the largest intact forest of the endemic coco de mer palms, *Lodoicea maldivica*, in Seychelles.



For more than a hundred years requests were made to the authorities in Seychelles to take action to preserve the area that became known as the Vallée De Mai. At times misguided but good intentions to "brighten up" the valley with alien plants posed serious threats to the ecosystem. At other times fires were started in adjacent forest areas in an attempt to destroy the palms to ensure a permanent high value of the coco de mer nuts.

In 1948 the Vallée De Mai was acquired by the government in order to protect the water catchment area for the island. Eighteen years later the Vallée De Mai was declared a nature reserve. In 1983 it became a World Heritage Site. Management of this important reserve passed to the Seychelles Islands Foundation in 1989.

Protection and management of the Vallée De Mai is of vital importance to the Foundation not only to fulfil its World Heritage obligations but because the income raised from entrance fees is essential to the day to day running of Aldabra.

Research into the structure and biology of the Vallée De Mai and its unique palm forests is a priority for the Foundation.

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**Your support for the Seychelles Islands Foundation will ensure that the Vallée De Mai will be preserved for future generations.**