

IBC Vegetation Expert Dr Bruno Senterre Undertakes Research Mission at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

As part of a collaboration that has developed over several years, driven by Dr Gerard Rocamora (Island Biodiversity Conservation Centre of the University of Seychelles, IBC-UniSey) and Dr Sandra Nogué (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, UAB, and Centre de Recerca Ecològica i Aplicacions Forestals, CREAF), one of IBC's core members has been invited to UAB and CREAF in Barcelona.

Dr Bruno Senterre, an expert on the vegetation of Seychelles, is contributing to an exciting study led by Judit Rodrigo Navarro as part of her PhD research on the millennial evolution of Seychelles' vegetation. The team, which also includes IBC Associate Member Richard Baxter of the Indian Ocean Tortoise Alliance, has collected sediment cores containing fossil pollen on Mahé and Praslin, the latter in collaboration with the Seychelles Islands Foundation. The researchers have also begun developing a reference collection of pollen from Seychelles' unique flora in collaboration with the Seychelles National Herbarium.

These remarkable data will make it possible, for the first time, to explore how Seychelles' vegetation and ecosystems have evolved over the millennia and to gain a better understanding of the landscapes that existed before human settlement in the late eighteenth century.

This exchange, supported by Sandra Nogué's European Research Council (ERC) project, will further strengthen this emerging collaboration and may lead to additional studies on the palaeoecology of Seychelles. Beyond its significant contribution to our understanding of evolution and biogeography, both in Seychelles and internationally, the research is also expected to generate tangible short-term benefits in the field of

restoration ecology. For example, it will help refine our understanding of ecosystem dynamics, recent environmental changes, and the keystone role played by certain native species.





