



CURIEUSE, SEYCHELLES  
**MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENT REPORT**  
FEBRUARY 2015





## OBJECTIVES

- Upgrade facilities at the GVI Curieuse Research base to accommodate increased volunteer numbers
- Implement energy efficient initiatives

## SUMMARY

GVI Seychelles has been developing two of the old leper buildings on Curieuse Island to create extra dorms allowing us to increase the capacity to 18 volunteers. Our aim is to implement as many energy efficient initiatives in the process as possible.





## REPORT

Here on Curieuse Island, we live the simple life. Naturally sourced water resources, solar panels for our small electrical needs, garden patch for herbs and vegetables, communal bunk bed dorms for accommodation, open-air dining facilities, pet creatures (Curieuse Creatures) sharing our living space and cards, books, movies and good conversation fulfil our entertain-ment needs! Alongside this, we live on an uninhabited island in the beautiful tropical paradise of the Seychelles whereby our base is located right on the beach and our neighbours are the friendly local Giant Tortoises! The camp's buildings are all of historical importance as our base is located within the remains of the old leper colony that once existed on Curieuse Island as far back as 1833. We live, work, sleep and party out of this stunning location and with the help of all our volunteers and staff, undertake some amazingly important and worthwhile re-search all in the name of conservation.

With the project moving from strength to strength every year and with increases in volunteers numbers continuing to help us develop our programme of work, GVI Curieuse now find itself in a position whereby we can expand our humble abode to allow more volunteers and staff to have the chance to experience living and working out in this unique environment. Since the beginning of the year, staff and volunteers on the Curieuse base have been working very hard to expand and upgrade the existing facilities, and the work continues apace to this day.

Our first challenges have been focused around upgrades around camp, including a re-vamp of the electrics around camp and connecting up those parts of camp that previously did not have power. Our resident 'handy-man' Scot, Alan, has been working very hard and has now re-wired all of the connection around camp and has powered up the Science Room and the Kit Room also. There has also been some new additions to the Science Room, with posters full of information about: all our surveys and their objective; our previous Charitable Trust events; the history of GVI in the Seychelles and in general; and also more information regarding our project partners, Seychelles National Park Authority (SNPA)). The Science Room now looks very sciencey!

Our next focus has been the water supply to camp, and we have recently acquired two new water tanks that can be used for rainwater collection and also for water storage for those times when water is running low. These have been put in place and will be connected up over the coming weeks. We will also be installing a rain water collection system and tank next to the existing volunteer toilets to provide a water source for flushing so as to reduce the number of 'bucket runs' to the sea.



We are also just starting construction of two new showers for volunteers and also two new toilets. The extra water capacity will certainly help with maintaining a good supply of water to all these facilities. A few upgrades over the past 6 months in the kitchen have included a brand new (and larger) fridge and oven, along with new storage units and recycling/rubbish storage areas. We have also dug a new waste water soak away that is much larger than the previous and also less prone to clogging, overflowing and stinking up camp!

We now come to the major improvements that have occurred in recent months. As already mentioned, our camp is made up of the old buildings of the leper colony, and while some of these have been renovated for use as part of our camp, there are still many unused leper buildings in the area. Over the past 3 months, local builders have been renovating two of the buildings and making them safe and secure for new occupants. These new buildings will become the dorms for volunteers as we look to expand capacity on the Curieuse Island project. The builders have finished their work on the buildings, and staff have built the roof on one of them already. The second building is going to have a roof built over the coming months while the first building is finished. The next step for the first building is: the construction and installation of windows and doors; rat proofing the whole building; painting; putting in the bunk beds (newly constructed by a local carpenter); and a final clear out around the outside of the building. The same will be done with the second building later on.

Soon enough then, we will have two new dorms to hold a maximum of 18 volunteers, new staff quarters (in the old Shark Shack dorm), new volunteer showers, new toilets, and more convenient facilities around camp. Curieuse base camp is undergoing an amazing expansion and upgrade process that will not only allow for increased volunteer numbers but greater development of our science programme and a new community aspect also. A lot of hard work has undergone in the past few months and we all want to say a BIG thank you to all our volunteers and staff for the excellent work they have done in helping improve and expand the Curieuse camp!



## ABOUT GVI

We're a family-run organisation with an amazing culture and an awesome team of people across the world who are passionate experts in their chosen field and will make your experience a truly unforgettable one (in a good way).

Our award-winning projects receive over 2000 participants every year, and we're proud to say that the vast majority of them describe their experience with us as 'life changing'. Our approval rate from over 20 000 participants since 1997 is over 95%.

A key component of the success of our community development and conservation projects is the participants who join our programs. Opportunities include high impact volunteering from one week and up, internships for those looking for career development opportunities, Challenges that allow a one week adventure all for a good cause and a range of programs for school groups and younger volunteers.

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