



PREAMBLE

As a result of millenniums of natural evolution which shaped their outstanding beauty, coral reefs are host to 25% of marine wildlife on the planet. At a time when global warming and human activities have accelerated coral degradation and threaten coral reefs to disappear, the preservation of ocean wonders does depend on individual and collective actions.

The Blue Sentinels platform was inceptioned in 2018 under the Scuba Divers Federation of Seychelles (SDFS) in order to form a network in which the diving community would anchor their commitment to better protect coral reefs and marine species living in Seychelles waters. By acceding to the Blue Sentinels Charter, the partners formally mark their pledge to adopt « responsible diving¹ » rules, to act for coral reef preservation, to share their observations on « under-water » wildlife and to initiate sensitization or training sessions for Seychelles youth.

The Blue Sentinels Charter has been inspired by well-established national and international good practice standards or Charters (SMSA, CMAS, Longitude 181, PADI). Its mission is to contribute to the preservation of marine biodiversity, in all coral reefs², to the benefit of future generations. This Charter is to evolve overtime depending on the pertinence of new recommendations and good practices standards arising at national and international levels.

The Blue Sentinels Charter represents more than a guide to achieve the goals of eco-responsibilization and increased information sharing on the silent world of the sea : it is an action-oriented and monitoring framework dedicated to the preservation of what the ocean offers in terms of livelihood and beauty. It is intended to :

- contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Goal 14 on Ocean Protection
- ensure that diving in Seychelles is a well recognized channel for sustainable tourism.

¹ Responsible for human (diving security rules) ; Responsible for the environment (respecting marine ecosystems)

² No difference is made between coral reefs that enjoy legal protection and those that don't.



BLUE SENTINELS CHARTER SEYCHELLOIS CHARTER FOR RESPONSIBLE DIVING

1. Discourage the selling and purchase of corals or shells as holiday souvenirs, raise awareness on the fragility of marine ecosystems and on endangered species
2. Sensitize on marine biodegradability, place a dustbin aboard, do not authorize plastic bags, plates or glasses, ensure that nothing is disposed at sea
3. Contribute to information gathering on reef life and alert the Blue Economy and Environment Committee
4. Collect waste on reefs when possible and report information in the « waste logbook »
5. Request each staff member to read and adopt the 14 action-rules of the Charter; display the Charter in a visible place; introduce rules 1; 2 ; 11-14 as from « open water » level and remind these rules to all divers
6. Contribute to or conduct an annual sensitization or training project on marine eco-responsibility addressed to the youth (primary or secondary schools ; youth clubs)
7. Contribute technically to the installation of buoys on sites
8. Do not navigate under high speed close to reefs
9. Anchor the boat eco-responsibly by using moorings, by dropping anchor on sand on recommended GPS points or by allowing the boat to drift with skipper on board
10. Do not clean boat hull or the inside of the boat near reef areas
11. Do not feed the marine wildlife fauna
12. Affix the emergency regulators, verify buoyancy, renounce using gloves and long fins, and adopt smooth kicking
13. Observe and contemplate without touching, extract only waste and pictures from the ocean
14. Respect the life-rhythm of the wildlife in its marine univers by not subjecting it to unnecessary stress, by limiting noise and by avoiding sudden moves.

- 2 -

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ADHESION

The Blue Sentinels Charter is addressed to each diver (beginner, confirmed or future diver) for marine ecosystem protection to be at the centre instead of at the margin of each other's practice by the coral reefs.

Any person acceding to the Blue Sentinels Charter commits to :

- promote the Charter and implement its 14 eco-reponsibility action-rules
- present an annual report to the SDFS Blue Economy and Environment Committe on the eco-responsible actions implemented

Formal accession to the Blue Sentinels Charter is a sufficient condition to obtain the Blue Sentinels Status and any contravention to the Charter's action-rules constitutes sufficient motive for this status to be suspended or cancelled.

I, as representative of _____pledge to respect and to uphold the SDFS Blue Sentinels Charter action-rules.

Date : _____

Owner' Name or Manager : _____

Owner's Signature r or Manager : _____

Official Stamp :



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