

# The Creole Word For SEAGRASS

Under the SeyCCAT “Coastal Wetlands and Climate Change Project (CWCCP)” we are working to enhance public awareness about seagrass ecosystems in Seychelles.

We want to know what names people are using now for seagrasses in Seychelles, and to eventually get Creole names specific to seagrasses validated and approved by the Creole Institute so they may be officially recognized as part of the language, thereby reinforcing the importance of seagrass to Seychellois culture and society -- as well as its importance to biodiversity and controlling global warming by serving as a blue carbon store.



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So, we are writing to ask what Creole name(s) you or your colleagues use for “seagrass”. If “gomon” is the only Creole name you use for seagrass, that is OK. Please record that fact.

## PART I. SEAGRASS IN GENERAL

These photos depict examples of typical seagrass meadows.

In your experience, what Creole names are used for seagrass plants in general?

Creole name(s)



*Proceed to the second and last page for part II*

## PART II. DISTINCTIVE SPECIES OF SEAGRASS

Some seagrasses have distinctive characteristics making them easy to identify. Do you know if there are Creole names for any of the following species (pictured below):



### A. ENHALUS

Very long leaves measuring up to 2 meters long. Once common along the east coast of Mahe, but now restricted mostly to the Anse Etoile region. On Praslin, they are found in Baie Ste Anne. At low tide, long leaves float at the surface of the sea. Leaves easily entangled in boat propellers.

Creole name(s)



### B. THALASSIA, CYMODOCEA SPP., ETC.

Short flat leaves usually less than 40 cm long. A favorite food of sea turtles.

Creole name(s)



### C. THALASSODENDRON

Short flat straplike leaves grow in clusters at the end of long stems.

Creole name(s)



### D. SYRINGODIUM

Individual leaves cylindrical in shape, similar to spaghetti.

Creole name(s)



### E. HALOPHILA

Small delicate plants with oval shaped leaves that usually grow in pairs.

Creole name(s)