

### 5) The “Moutya” Dance

**Origin:** The *moutya* originates from our African ancestors.

**Instruments Used:**

*Moutya* drums are the only instruments traditionally used in the *moutya* dance. *Moutya* is accompanied by three drums, ‘denote’, ‘vannen’ and ‘bas’, ranging from the low pitched to the high pitched, each with its specific purpose. Drums are traditionally made from the wood of the ‘Var’ tree or ‘bwa zozo’ which are pliable, and the round frames are then covered with goat hide. The drums are heated on a bonfire of dry wood and dried leaves until the desired sound is obtained. The drummers will then start drumming in a rhythmic manner. The *moutya* drum is played by hitting the surface with the heel and fingers of the hand alternatively. Drummers traditionally tied a handkerchief around their wrists to protect them against the hard edges of the drum and also as a protective pad while beating the drum. *Moutya* drums are mostly played by men.

**Description:**

The *moutya* is a nocturnal dance, traditionally performed outside in open spaces around a bonfire. The dance begins with the heating of the drums over a bonfire. As the drums are warmed, the male members of the crowd call out various ‘themes’, usually social commentaries, to which the female dancers respond with high pitched voices. In unison, they repeat the refrain, with variations on the main theme. The song starts on a low tone and eventually reached its climax with a higher tone. The songs, which are traditionally composed on the spot, were originally used as a means of emancipation by slaves at a time of oppression. Through double meanings, they expressed their sufferings, retold everyday occurrences and gossip. Nowadays although *moutya* songs are being composed; not necessarily on the spot, known and popular *moutya* songs are commonly sang during *moutya* sessions.

With the beating of the rhythm from three drums; “denote” “vannen” and “bas”, the men and women begin to dance on a moderate tempo of movement involving the gyrating of the hips and the shuffling of feet on dusty ground. The dancers trample their feet on the ground, sing, and move

## National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Seychelles: The Seychellois Creole Community

their bodies to the rhythm of the drums. When dancing 'moutya', the waist and upper parts of the dancers' bodies hardly move. The dance is traditionally performed barefoot. The dancers come close but do not touch each other. Occasionally the men would extend their hands as if to touch the women who always move back, still rolling their hips provocatively. With the effects of alcohol, mostly traditional brews, both the lyrics and the dance itself becomes more heated and erotic.

**Status:** There has been a revival in recent years. It is still being practiced at social gatherings, national and cultural events. It is mostly performed spontaneously within the community, at the end of the month, after payday.

DRAFT

National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Seychelles: The Seychellois Creole Community

**MOUTYA PRATITIONERS IN SEYCHELLES**

	NAME OF INDIVIDUALS	GENDER MALE (M)/ FEMALE (F)	D.O.B /AGE	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER	GROUP	MOUTYA ELEMENTS			
							DRUM MAKER	DRUMMER	SINGER	DANCER
1.	Jeff Bibi	M	39	La Digue	2536693	BWA VER	x	x	x	
2.	Andreix Rosalie	M	55	La Digue		BWA VER		x	x	
3.	Jourdan Tirant	M	39	La Digue		BWA VER		x		
4.	Tony Franchette	M	44	La Digue		BWA VER		x		
5.	Thomas Adrienne	M	42	La Digue		BWA VER	x			
6.	Sarry Pascal	F	38	La Digue		BWA VER		x		
7.	Jude Bibi	M	40	La Digue		BWA VER		x		
8.	Rozania Bibi	F	51	La Digue		BWA VER				x
9.	Elvis Seraphine	M			2769698	FEK ARIVE		x		
10.	Christopher Rose	M				FEK ARIVE		x		
11.	Andre Dine	M				FEK ARIVE		x		
12.	Berna Dufresne	M				FEK ARIVE		x		
13.	June Jean	F				FEK ARIVE		x		
14.	Sandra Vielle	F				FEK ARIVE				x
15.	Maya Japha	F				FEK ARIVE				x
16.	Carol Albert	F				FEK ARIVE				x
17.	Medline Larue	F				FEK ARIVE				x
18.	Norville Ernesta	M	70	Mont Buxton	2579586	KANMOUFLAZ		x	x	
19.	Jimmy David	M		Perseveran ce	2724573	KANMOUFLAZ		x		

National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Seychelles: The Seychellois Creole Community

20.	Ericson Ernesta	M		Mont Buxton		KANMOUFLAZ		x		
21.	Travis Ernesta	M		Mont Buxton		KANMOUFLAZ		x		
22.	Daniel Freminot	M		Petite Paris	583602	KANMOUFLAZ		x		
23.	Nildon Jules	M				KANMOUFLAZ		x		
24.	Sidna Sally	F		Mont Buxton		KANMOUFLAZ				x
25.	Nisha Savy	F		Mont Buxton		KANMOUFLAZ				x
26.	Tessy Accouche	F		Point Larue		KANMOUFLAZ				x
27.	Jenina Josephine	F		Beau Vallon		KANMOUFLAZ				x
28.	Francis Zialor	M		La Pointe (Grand Anse Praslin)	2510250	LATANIER		x		
29.	Marc Dubel	M	53			LATANIER		x		
30.	Ralph Rosette	M	48	Baie Anne Praslin	2504811	LATANIER		x		
31.	Henrie Marie	M	77	Cot D'or		LATANIER		x		
32.	Allen Lesperance	M			2514052	LATANIER		x		
33.	Bettina Chrisostome	F	28	Grand Anse Praslin		LATANIER				x
34.	Beguitta Jeanne	F	39	Cote D'or Praslin		LATANIER				x
35.	Sarel Leon	F	24	Grand Anse Praslin		LATANIER				x

National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Seychelles: The Seychellois Creole Community

36.	Janice Jeannevol	F	16	Grand Anse Praslin		LATANIER				X
37.	Judette Esther (triyang)	F	35	Grand Anse	2776632	LATANIER			X	
38.	Berno Cedras	M	42	Beau Vallon	2570797	L'ECHO	x			
39.	Channel Kilindo	M		BEAU VALLON	2508525	L'ECHO/VWAZEN	x			
40.	Lester Augustin	M		JJULIETTE @NACSEYCHELLES		L'ECHO		x		
41.	Jean Claude Polite	M				L'ECHO		x		
42.	Joenise Juliette	F			2722277/ 4295200	L'ECHO				x
43.	Ronda Labrosse	F				L'ECHO				x
44.	Stephanie Augustin	F				L'ECHO				x
45.	Vanessa Juliette	F				L'ECHO				x
46.	Jenna Isidore	F				L'ECHO				x
47.	Manuel Knowles	M				MANGLIER	x			
48.	Christian Philoe	M	49	Baie St Anne, Praslin	2562823	MANGLIER		x		
49.	Terry Cedras	M	35	Consolation	2519099	MANGLIER		x		
50.	Terrence Payet	M	36			MANGLIER		x		
51.	Steven Joubert	M			2722679	MANGLIER		x		
52.	Jerry Jeanne	M				MANGLIER		x		

National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Seychelles: The Seychellois Creole Community

53.	Philip Leon	M	61	Baie st Anne		MANGLIER		x		
54.	Flavien Esparon	M	49	Baie Lazare	2729326	MANGLIER		x		
55.	Jerry Jeanne	M				MANGLIER		x	x	
56.	Marius Franchette	M		La Digue	2722329	MASEZARIN		x		
57.	Eddie Jean	M	25	La Digue		MASEZARIN		x		
58.	Henry Ladouce	M				MASEZARIN		x		
59.	Wilby Franchette (triyang)	M				MASEZARIN		x		
60.	Corentino Bibi (lasinyal)	M				MASEZARIN		x		
61.	Molly Ladouce	F		La Digue	2591241	MASEZARIN			x	x
62.	Stephane Ernesta	F		La Digue	4234451	MASEZARIN			x	x
63.	Doris Jean Batis	F				MASEZARIN			x	x
64.	Louise Ladouce	F				MASEZARIN			x	x
65.	Amanda Jean	F				MASEZARIN			x	x
66.	Marie Aselle Ladouce	F				MASEZARIN			x	x
67.	Marie Ladouce	F				MASEZARIN			x	x
68.	Bernard Havelock	M		Baie Lazare		TANMI				
69.	Najoie Philoe	F	40	Belonie		TANMI				x
70.	Venna Fanny	F	46	Belonie	2716825	TANMI				x
71.	Jemina Jouneau	F	37	Anse Poule Bleu		TANMI				x
72.	Dalidette Jolicoeur	F	34	Maldivie		TANMI				x
73.	Shira Anacoura	F	27	Belonie		TANMI				x
74.	Colvin Barra	M	33	La Gogue		TANMI				x
75.	Kersha Dupres	F	28	Les Mamelles		TANMI				x

National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Seychelles: The Seychellois Creole Community

76.	Petrina Valentin	F	31	Le Niolle		TANMI				x
77.	Joseph Sinon	M	53	Perseverance	2712398	TANMI		x	x	x
78.	Felix Etienne	M				VWAZIN		x	x	x
79.	Darrel Havelock	M				VWAZIN		x	x	x
80.	Richard Hoareau	M				VWAZIN		x		
81.	Margaret Vielle	F				VWAZIN				x
82.	Dorothy Moumou	F				VWAZIN				x
83.	Maxime Toussaint	M		Anse Boileau	2629835	MAZENGA		x	x	x
84.	Andre Rachelle	M		Anse Boileau		MAZENGA		x	x	x
85.	Damien Hoareau	M		Anse Boileau		MAZENGA		x		
86.	Bryan Elizabeth	M		Anse Boileau		MAZENGA		x		
87.	Nelson Albert	M		Anse Boileau		MAZENGA			x	x
88.	Ashley Toussaint	M		Anse Boileau		MAZENGA			x	x
89.	Jahdel Gabriel	M		Anse Boileau		MAZENGA			x	x
	<b>RECORDING ARTISTS</b>									
90.	Sandra Esparon	F								

National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Seychelles: The Seychellois Creole Community

91.	Joseph Sinon	M								
92.	Joseph Louis	M								
93.	Raymond Libanotis	M								
94.	Winsley Cedras	M								
95.	Jean-Marc Volcy	M								
96.	David Andre	M								
97.	Daniel Freminot	M								
98.	Phillip Thomas	M								
99.	Saturn Band									
100.	Keven Valentin	M								
101.	Brian Matombe	M								
102.	Jany de Letourdie	F								
103.	Antoinette Dodin	F								

DRAFT