

# Young Chagossian-Resettlers' Lifestyle

**WHAT WILL BE MY LIFESTYLE** ...as a young Chagossians having resettled in the Chagos to live and work as part of a small, model, eco-conscious community, while offering global digital services, as a “Digital Nomad” – **business, cultural, sports, and leisure activities**, with balance in personal wellbeing, professional excellence, community involvement, and harmony with nature?

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## DAILY LIFESTYLE

- **Morning routine (6:00–8:30 AM):**
    - Wake up early with sunrise; short mindfulness practice (yoga, meditation, journaling).
    - Light exercise (barefoot beach run, swimming, bodyweight fitness, or stretching).
    - Healthy breakfast with fresh local produce: fruits, herbal teas, coconut water, light grains.
  - **Work & service hours (9:00 AM–1:00 PM; 3:00–6:00 PM):**
    - Deliver digital services: consulting, education, research, telehealth, coaching, design, writing, media production.
    - Hold online meetings with international clients or collaborators.
    - Work individually or from shared co-working spaces with satellite internet.
  - **Midday break (1:00–3:00 PM):**
    - Shared community lunch with local, simple, plant-based meals.
    - Short nap, beach walk, or reading.
  - **Evening (6:30–10:00 PM):**
    - Community dinners, cultural gatherings, skill-sharing circles.
    - Stargazing, quiet reflection, music, light entertainment, or family calls.
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## BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **Types of services offered remotely:**

- Digital marketing, design, and branding.
  - Research support and academic collaboration.
  - Online education, tutoring, or language instruction.
  - Telemedicine or wellness consulting (for qualified professionals).
  - News, journalism, or content creation (blogging, podcasting, video).
  - Remote tech development or environmental data monitoring.
  - **Professional values:**
    - Embrace minimalism: value quality over quantity.
    - Ethical business: fair rates, transparent contracts, social impact focus.
    - Sustainable work habits: limit digital overuse, set clear time boundaries.
  - **Infrastructure needs:**
    - Reliable satellite internet, solar-powered tech hubs, backup batteries.
    - Prefab office spaces with natural ventilation and shade.
    - Regular skills-upgrade workshops (online or visiting experts).
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## CULTURAL & COMMUNITY LIFE

- **Cultural preservation & creation:**
    - Document and revive Chagossian songs, stories, crafts, and rituals.
    - Organize festivals blending local traditions with global artistic exchanges.
    - Offer art, dance, or music workshops for residents and international visitors.
  - **Community leadership:**
    - Mentor younger Chagossians, engage in youth empowerment.
    - Participate in governance circles for local decision-making.
    - Run eco-awareness and conservation campaigns.
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## SPORTS & FITNESS

- **Individual activities:**
    - Trail running, open-water swimming, kayaking, snorkeling, paddleboarding.
    - Yoga, calisthenics, pilates on the beach or in shaded outdoor decks.
    - Surfing or windsurfing in suitable areas.
  - **Group sports:**
    - Beach volleyball, football, or cricket.
    - Weekly community fitness sessions.
    - Friendly competitions to build camaraderie.
  - **Health approach:**
    - Preventive care, natural therapies, and telehealth access.
    - Emphasis on balanced nutrition from local sources.
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## LEISURE & WELLBEING

- **Nature & exploration:**
    - Coral reef monitoring, wildlife observation, permaculture gardening.
    - Photography, documentary projects about local ecosystems.
  - **Creative arts:**
    - Writing, painting, crafting, playing instruments, creating digital art.
  - **Learning & intellectual pursuits:**
    - Participate in local seminars with visiting academics.
    - Self-directed study, online courses, collaborative research projects.
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## VALUES & ATTITUDES

- **Ecological stewardship:**
  - Zero-waste living, composting, regenerative agriculture.
  - Plastic-free initiatives, ocean cleanup, wildlife protection.

- **Technological balance:**
    - Use cutting-edge tools **only** when they serve meaningful goals.
    - Emphasize human connection and nature over mindless screen time.
  - **Community mindset:**
    - Share knowledge generously.
    - Foster respect, inclusion, and cultural pride.
    - Create a model society that proves technology and nature can thrive together.
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### PRACTICAL NEEDS

- Solar power systems, rainwater harvesting, and waste recycling units.
  - Insulated prefab homes with modular expansion.
  - Well-equipped community spaces: tech labs, cultural centers, eco-workshops.
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### VISION STATEMENT FOR CHAGOS RESETTLERS

*"We, the young pioneers of the Chagos, choose a life of purpose, simplicity, and connection — where tradition meets innovation, where nature and technology co-exist, and where we serve as a beacon for a sustainable, conscious, and joyful human future."*

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## CHAGOS COMMUNITY CHARTER

(For resettled Chagossian and international volunteer community in the Chagos - designed to inspire, guide, and unify a small pioneering society aiming to be a **model country** — balancing cultural heritage, ecological stewardship, and cutting-edge technology.)

*"Living in Harmony with Nature, Culture, and the World"*

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## 1. OUR VISION

We, the residents and collaborators of the Chagos, commit to creating a vibrant, just, and sustainable community — a model of human dignity, cultural pride, ecological balance, and responsible innovation. We aspire to be a lighthouse for the world, showing that a small island society can thrive with simplicity, wisdom, and solidarity.

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## 2. CORE VALUES

### **Respect for Nature**

We honor the ocean, land, air, and all living beings. We protect biodiversity and treat the Chagos ecosystem as a sacred trust.

### **Cultural Heritage**

We preserve, celebrate, and share the unique Chagossian traditions, language, arts, music, and history.

### **Innovation with Purpose**

We use modern technology to enhance life, not to dominate it — focusing on renewable energy, digital connection, education, and healthcare.

### **Community and Inclusion**

We live by solidarity, equity, and mutual support, embracing all residents and guests regardless of origin, age, or background.

### **Wellbeing and Simplicity**

We nurture healthy minds and bodies, balancing work, creativity, leisure, and rest.

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## 3. COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITIES

### **A. Environmental Stewardship**

- Maintain zero-waste practices and reduce environmental impact.
- Participate in island conservation, coral restoration, and marine protection.
- Prioritize local, renewable resources in energy, food, and construction.

### **B. Cultural Engagement**

- Pass on ancestral knowledge to younger generations.
- Host cultural events, workshops, and artistic collaborations.

- Share Chagossian identity with respect and pride.

### **C. Contribution and Work**

- Offer time, skills, or knowledge to communal projects.
- Mentor, teach, or assist less experienced residents or visitors.
- Engage in fair and ethical business practices.

### **D. Governance and Decision-Making**

- Participate in regular community circles or assemblies.
  - Uphold transparent, democratic decision processes.
  - Resolve conflicts through dialogue, mediation, and collective wisdom.
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## **4. SHARED SPACES & RESOURCES**

We commit to maintaining and co-managing:

- Community gardens, beaches, and natural sites.
  - Shared digital and educational hubs.
  - Public spaces for sports, fitness, arts, and cultural events.
  - Renewable energy systems, water systems, and communication networks.
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## **5. VISITING SCHOLARS, VOLUNTEERS & STUDENTS**

We welcome international guests who:

- Respect local culture and environment.
  - Share knowledge, skills, or research that benefits the community.
  - Accept our rules of simplicity, ecological care, and cultural sensitivity.
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## **6. TECHNOLOGY ETHICS**

- Prioritize technologies that reduce environmental harm.
- Use digital tools to serve real human needs, not endless consumption.

- Maintain data privacy, transparency, and shared access to community-relevant knowledge.
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## **7. HEALTH & WELLBEING**

- Promote preventive healthcare, mental wellness, and physical activity.
  - Share responsibility for community health (e.g., clean water, nutrition, safety).
  - Provide access to telemedicine and basic healthcare services.
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## **8. EDUCATION & LEARNING**

- Foster lifelong learning, blending traditional wisdom and modern knowledge.
  - Encourage creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving.
  - Support youth leadership and intergenerational knowledge transfer.
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## **9. INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH**

- Build respectful partnerships with global institutions and networks.
  - Share our experiences and learnings as an example of sustainable island life.
  - Act as stewards and voices for small island communities facing global challenges.
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## **10. OUR PLEDGE**

We pledge to:

- **Live lightly on the earth.**
  - **Support each other as a family.**
  - **Cherish our culture, while opening our minds to the world.**
  - **Use technology as a servant, not a master.**
  - **Leave a better world for future generations.**
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*“We are the guardians of Chagos, past and future. We stand together, strong and humble, to create a home that honors our ancestors, serves our people, and inspires the world.”*

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## **GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE: THE CHAGOS COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

A **participatory, inclusive, and flexible governance model**, suited to a small, mixed community of locals, foreign volunteers, scholars, and visitors living as part of a self-organized, eco-conscious society with global links but local soul – a good balance of tradition and innovation, communal leadership, and practical management.

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### **1. COMMUNITY COUNCIL (MAIN BODY)**

A 12-member council elected or selected every 2 years, representing:

- 4 Chagossian residents (with focus on elders, youth, women, and cultural custodians)
- 2 international volunteers or resident professionals (e.g., doctors, engineers, educators)
- 2 young leaders (under age 30)
- 2 environmental/conservation stewards
- 2 rotating seats (for visiting scholars, project partners, or foreign supporters)

#### **Main tasks:**

Make key community decisions

Allocate resources and oversee budgets

Plan long-term development

Represent the community internationally

Uphold the Community Charter

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### **2. WORKING COMMITTEES**

Open to all residents & volunteers; they report to the council.

Examples:



- **Environment & Conservation Committee** → reef monitoring, wildlife protection, waste management
  - **Health & Wellbeing Committee** → clinics, fitness programs, mental health, water safety
  - **Cultural & Heritage Committee** → preserve oral traditions, music, crafts, cultural events
  - **Infrastructure & Technology Committee** → solar power, communication systems, housing
  - **Education & Youth Committee** → local learning, online courses, youth empowerment
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### **3. COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY**

A monthly **Open Assembly** for all residents and temporary guests:

- Discuss issues, voice concerns, suggest initiatives
  - Vote on major decisions (if needed)
  - Celebrate successes, acknowledge contributions
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### **4. MEDIATION & ETHICS CIRCLE**

A trusted group of 3–5 respected elders or peers:

- Handle disputes and conflicts informally
  - Guide community in upholding shared values
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### **5. INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY CIRCLE**

Non-voting advisors (academics, NGOs, partner institutions):

- Provide expert advice on sustainability, governance, culture
  - Help secure grants, partnerships, and advocacy
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# COMMUNITY EMBLEM / MOTTO

## Emblem Concept

A stylized coconut palm and coral atoll, encircling a rising sun and wave, with a satellite signal weaving subtly through the sky.

- **Coconut palm** → resilience, heritage, survival
- **Coral atoll** → island ecology, beauty, fragility
- **Rising sun** → hope, renewal, new beginnings
- **Wave** → movement, life, energy
- **Satellite signal arc** → global connection, innovation, future

Colors:

- Blue-green (ocean, life)
  - Golden yellow (sun, hope)
  - Earth brown (land, roots)
  - White (peace, simplicity)
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## Proposed Motto (English & Creole)

**"Rooted in the past, reaching for the future."**

*(Rasin dan lepace, latet ver lavenir.)*

Alternative options:

- **"Small island, big heart, bright future."** *(Tizan, gran leker, bel lavenir.)*
  - **"In harmony with nature, united as one."** *(Dan larmoni avek lanatir, ini kouma enn sel.)*
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## Summary

Governance:

- Community Council + Open Assembly + Committees + Mediation Circle + International Advisors

Emblem:

- Nature + Renewal + Technology woven in a clear, uplifting symbol

Motto:

- Short, memorable, bridging past and future, honoring culture and hope
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