

## **1. What is the Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning (MSP Initiative)?**

The Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Initiative is a process focused on planning for and management of the sustainable and long-term use and health of the Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The EEZ encompasses 1,374,000 km<sup>2</sup> of ocean and 115 islands. The MSP Initiative is a Government-led process, with planning and facilitation managed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and TNC Canada in partnership with Government of Seychelles – UNDP GEF Programme Coordinating Unit (PCU). Funding for the Initiative is being provided through a number of grants to Government of Seychelles and an Oceans 5 grant awarded to TNC. The MSP Initiative is an integrated, multi-sector approach to address climate change adaptation, marine protection and support the Blue Economy and other national strategies. The process includes input from all major sectors of the Seychelles including commercial fishing, tourism and marine charters, biodiversity conservation, renewable energy, port authority, maritime safety, and non-renewable resources in order to develop a comprehensive marine plan with stakeholder input.

## **2. Why Marine Spatial Planning for Seychelles?**

Marine spatial planning is a public process of analysing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives, usually specified through a political process (UNESCO 2009). The Seychelles' EEZ is among the top 25 largest in the world and is a global biodiversity hotspot with two UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Biodiversity is one of the country's most important assets and it supports several major economic sectors, including fisheries and tourism. Geological studies indicate that there may be valuable petroleum reservoirs in Seychelles and renewable energy potentials exist near the coast and offshore. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is a practical, transparent and participatory way to plan for the sustainable use of the Seychelles' marine space and to balance demands for development with the need to protect the environment.

## **3. Overall Goal**

Article 38 of the Seychelles Constitution declares that: "The State recognises the right of every person to live in and enjoy a clean, healthy and ecologically balanced environment and with a view to ensuring the effective realisation of this right the State undertakes to ensure a sustainable socio-economic development of Seychelles by a judicious use and management of the resources of Seychelles". This Article and the guiding principles of the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) provide an overall goal for the MSP Initiative: develop and implement an integrated marine plan to optimise the sustainable use and effective management of the Seychelles marine environment while ensuring and improving the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of its people. This multi-use plan will guide the strategies and decisions of the Seychelles Conservation & Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) established as part of the Debt-for-Climate-Change-Adaptation swap.

## **4. Planning Scope and Geographic Scale**

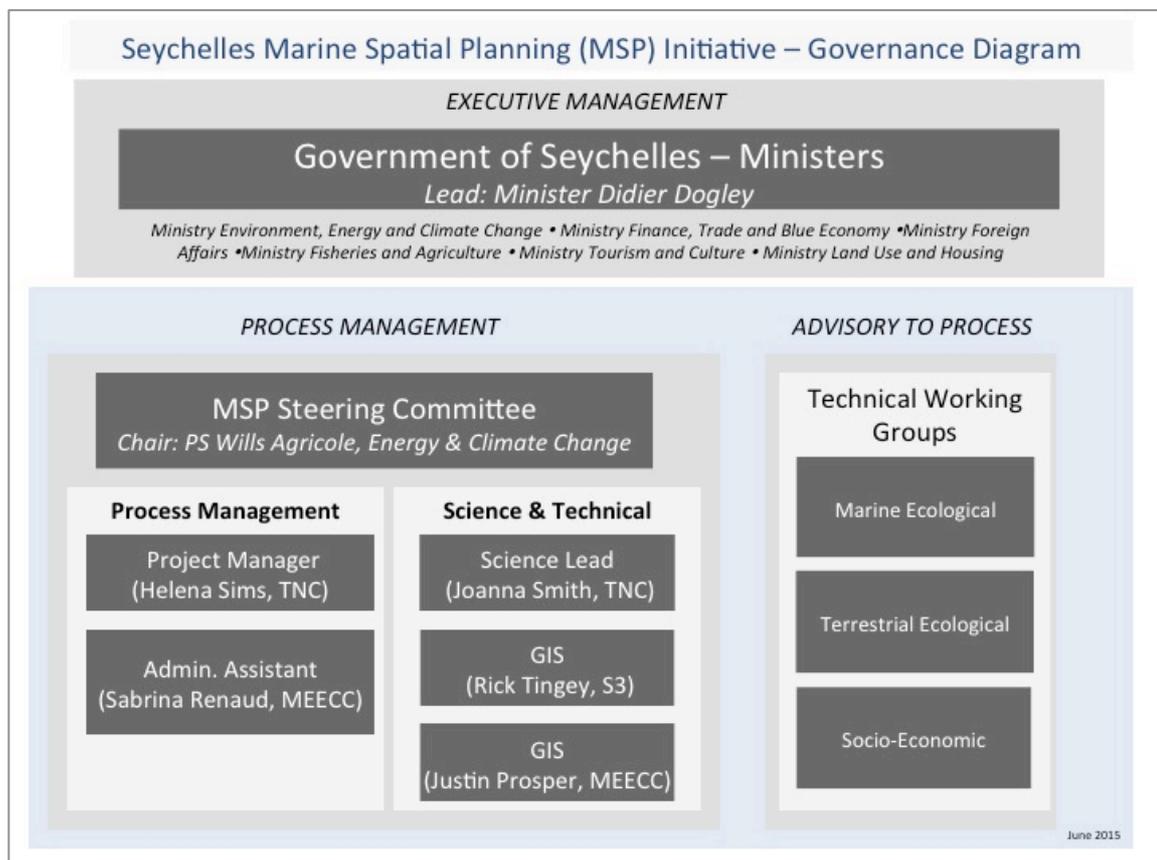
The planning scope covers the entire 1,374,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the EEZ. Planning in Phase 1 is being done at a coarse scale to address broad ecological, economic and social objectives. Planning is focused on the key marine sectors in Seychelles:

- Biodiversity conservation
- Fisheries (domestic, subsistence, and international tuna)

- Marine Infrastructure and Public Utilities
- National Security & Maritime Safety
- Marine Transportation and Shipping
- Non-renewable Resources
- Renewable energy
- Tourism and Recreation (including sport fishing)

## 5. Governance Structure

The governance and process structure of the Seychelles MSP Initiative has a number of components, including an Executive Management, Steering Committee, Technical Working Group and stakeholder consultations (see Governance Diagram, below). For the MSP Initiative, process facilitation, technical, scientific, planning, and administrative support for the MSP is provided by TNC and TNC Canada staff, private consultants, and the MEECC Ministerial Secretariat. The MSP Steering Committee provides recommendations, advice and oversight to the MSP Initiative and reports to the Executive Management. High level decisions for the MSP Initiative are taken by Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC) in consultation with other government ministries: Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Ministry of Land-Use and Housing (MLUH), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the Ministry of Finance, Trade & Investment (MFTI). Three Technical Working Groups provide ecological and socio-economic input and advice on planning outputs and assist with developing planning products for the MSP. Members of the Technical Working Groups include marine and terrestrial ecologists, economists, environmental non-governmental organisations, and private sector representatives for fishing, oil & gas, tourism, ports, renewable energy, and economic development.



## 6. Guiding Principles

The guiding principles of the MSP Initiative lay the foundation of the MSP process and determine the basic or essential qualities of the process and its outputs. The Seychelles MSP Initiative developed 'Guiding Principles' during stakeholder consultations in 2014-2015:

### *Governance:*

- Laws, Regulations, Acts, Legal Agreements, National Policy, Authorised Management Plans
- Strategies, Goals, Action Plans
- Integration; Co-management
- Transparency; Inclusivity; Participation
- Environmental Stewardship; Equity; Sustainable Development

### *Approach and Practicality:*

- Global Best Practices
- Ecosystem-Based Management Approach; Precautionary Principle
- Balance ecological, economic, social, cultural objectives
- Feasible; Practical; Implementable; Financially sustainable; Adaptable; Dynamic
- Relevant Spatial and Temporal Scales

## 7. Methodology for Marine Planning

Marine planning is an iterative process that occurs over a number of years, from identifying the need to plan, approving and implementing the plan, and revising and adapting the plan. MSP can be thought of as a series of inter-linked activities and iterative steps, where stakeholders are an integral component of its success. Plans are developed and then monitored, adapted and revised over time as new information or data become available or improves, new objectives or values emerge that are important to marine users, and with changes in marine uses or activities.

General Steps for Marine Spatial Planning (adapted from UNESCO 2009):

1. Identify need and establish authority
2. Obtain financial support
3. Organise the planning process
4. Organise stakeholder participation
5. Define and analyse existing conditions
6. Define and analyse future conditions
7. Prepare and approve a marine plan
8. Implement and enforce a marine plan
9. Monitor and evaluate performance of a plan
10. Revise and adapt a marine plan.

## 8. The Outputs and Timelines of MSP Initiative

Key outputs for the MSP in Seychelles include the following items in two phases: Phase I and Phase 2. Phase 1 was launched in February 2014 and will conclude in late 2016. Phase 1 lays the foundation of the marine plan by developing a coarse scale zoning design and draft management considerations for the first comprehensive marine spatial plan in Seychelles. Phase 2 will include refining the zoning

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design and management considerations, in particular for the Territorial Sea (12 nautical miles) and completing the implementation plan, monitoring and review plan, and finalising budgets and costs. In accordance with the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) in March 2016, the MSP will prepare a marine plan in Phase 1 that will identify and propose marine protection areas for high and medium biodiversity objectives that comprise 5 and 15 percent of Seychelles' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), respectively. In Phase 2

#### Phase 1: 2014 - 2016

- Spatial data catalogue for economic uses (biodiversity provided by UNDP-GEF PCU);
- Website to communicate the process to stakeholders and the public;
- MSP Atlas for existing zones, biodiversity, and human uses to inform zoning and planning
- Zoning framework and planning tools;
- Stakeholder workshops and consultations;
- Mapping and spatial representation of stakeholder preferences;
- Spatial decision-support tools;
- Draft Activities Tables for zones and areas;
- Coarse-scale zoning design and management considerations;
- Add 5 and 10 percent of EEZ in high and medium biodiversity protection zones, respectively;
- Draft Marine Plan including draft implementation plan, priority strategies and draft budget; and
- Draft Marine Plan approved by Seychelles Cabinet.

#### Phase 2: 2016 – 2020

- Update MSP Atlas and spatial data catalogue
- Stakeholder workshops and consultations;
- Refine zoning design and management considerations;
- Add another 10 and 5 percent of EEZ in high and medium biodiversity protection zones, respectively;
- Final Marine Plan including 30 percent of EEZ in marine protection, implementation plan, monitoring and review plan, priority strategies, integration with other projects, and budget; and
- Final Marine Plan approved by Seychelles Cabinet.

## 9. For More Information

Ms. Helena Sims  
MSP Project Manager  
The Nature Conservancy, Africa Program  
F28 Eden Plaza  
Eden Island, Seychelles  
Email: [helena.sims@tnc.org](mailto:helena.sims@tnc.org)

Dr. Joanna Smith  
MSP Science and Process Lead  
TNC Canada, Marine Spatial Planning Science Manager  
British Columbia, Canada  
Email: [joanna\\_smith@tnc.org](mailto:joanna_smith@tnc.org)

Website: [www.seychellesmarinespatialplanning.com](http://www.seychellesmarinespatialplanning.com)