



Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning Initiative

Proceedings of Stakeholder Consultation Workshop to Review the Draft MSP
Policy

Eden Bleu Hotel
Eden Island
Wednesday 11 October 2017



This summary briefing document is submitted in fulfilment of Deliverable 2 of the short term national consultancy: Drafting of a National Marine Spatial Planning Policy.

A national stakeholder consultation workshop was undertaken on the morning of the 11th October 2017 - at the Eden Bleu Hotel, Eden Island, Mahe, Seychelles – to review the proposed draft marine spatial policy statement and associated action plan.

The meeting was opened by the Principal Secretary for Energy and Climate Change Mr Wills Agricole.

Dr. Joanna Smith, MSP Science and Process Lead (TNC Canada), then made a brief presentation to the workshop on the status of the Marine Spatial Planning Initiative and the purpose of drafting an MSP Policy.

Mr John Nevill (Local Consultant) then presented the work undertaken so far in the preparation of the draft Marine Spatial Plan Policy. The preparation of the draft had required a review of the pertinent existing national legislation and policy and Seychelles' international commitments and a summary of these was presented to the workshop. The full presentation is attached herewith as Annex 1.

The draft Policy statement was presented and explained and attendees were invited to comment or submit subsequent written comments by the 23rd October 2017.

Due to the essential time bound nature of many of the activities of the Marine Spatial Planning Initiative it had also been determined to develop a framework action plan to support the realisation of the MSP and policy statement. This was presented in a modified log frame format with Vision, Mission Statement cascading down to objectives and five related work programmes all set in the context of certain operational principles and guidance.

Each of the 4 work programmes¹ were in turn presented to the workshop. Particular emphasis was placed on work programme 1 and the various legislative and policy options that might be utilised to attain the required designations.

The workshop then broke into groups for stakeholder discussion, elaboration and amendment of the proposed work programmes. Groups then presented their findings to plenary and these are itemised in the attached minutes (Annex 2) prepared by Ms Helena Sims, MSP Project Manager (TNC). Plenary discussed the points raised and recommendations made by the working groups and these were compiled in the updated Policy and Action Plan document (Annex 3). Plenary also strongly favoured the protected area designation option 1, i.e. utilisation of the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act in line with the consultation process of the 2013 Protected Area policy to designate all areas under phase 1. Zone 1 areas to be covered by Special Reserve or National Park classifications as their particular circumstances require and Zone 2 areas likewise covered by National park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as applicable. Fishery management

¹ Objective 3 and related Work Programme: *Governance frameworks are developed to enable effective implementation and management of the MSP* - is being developed under the auspices of a parallel project.

areas designated under these classifications will be transferred under the Fisheries Act 2014 in due course once management area categories have been elaborated under the Act.

Annex 1: Full presentation delivered at the MSP Policy Workshop, 11 Oct 2017.



The Nature Conservancy 



Marine Spatial Planning Policy Workshop

09:00 – 12:30 hrs

Wednesday 11th October 2017

Eden Bleu



The Nature Conservancy 



Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

- 1) To present the MSP Policy Statement and Action Plan to stakeholders for review.

#	Time	Topic
1	9:00	Opening – MEECC and Ms. Helena Sims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda review
2	9: 15	MSP Policy Consultancy Dr. Joanna Smith and Ms Helena Sims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of drafting an MSP Policy (ToR)
3	9:20	MSP Policy – Mr. John Nevill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Situation Analysis
	10:00	COFFEE BREAK
4	10:15	MSP Policy – Mr. John Nevill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementing the policy; legislation and proposals
5	11:15	MSP Policy – Mr. John Nevill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action plan
6	12:15	Wrap up and next steps – MEECC
7	12:30	Adjourn





Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan Policy: Contents

Context

- National legislation and policy,
- International commitments
- Seychelles debt swap and MSP
- Need for MSP In Seychelles

MSP Process

- Administration of process
- Consultation
- Thematic areas for the MSP
- Zone descriptions
- Allowable activities

Description of the Policy

- Vision, Mission, Objectives.
- Spatial extent
- Key Principles and Commitments
- Review process, timeline etc...

Action Plan

- **5 Objectives** (explicit references to MCS and adaptive management of plan)

Implementing MSP Policy

MSP Financing

Legislation and Policy

- Complicated time for legislation/policy in this domain.
- Development Management Cycle
 - TCPA (PPB)
 - EPA 2016, EIA Regs & SAA
- Protected Area Legislation
 - NPNCA (NCB)
 - Fisheries Act 2014
 - EPA 2016 (Coastal zones, Waters classification)
- Policies and Strategic Documents:
 - Protected Area Policy (2013).
 - Blue Economy
 - NDS (incorporating SSDS - assessment done)
 - NBSAP, NPOA sharks reflect International Commitments.



Provisions of the 2016 EPA pertinent to the Marine Environment

Section	Text
15.	<p><u>Regulations for Protection of Water</u> <i>The Minister may by regulations provide for:</i> <i>(a) the preservation of fishing areas, drinking water sources and reservoirs, recreational and other areas where water may need special protection;</i></p>
16.	<p><u>Classification, Reclassification of Water</u> <i>(1) The Minister may classify all waters in Seychelles based on their best usage.</i> <i>(2) The Minister shall, in making classification under subsection (1) have regard to section 5, and take into consideration the following factors:</i> <i>(c) the most beneficial use and value for public water supplies, propagation of fish, recreational purposes, agricultural, industrial and other legitimate uses.</i></p>
28.	<p><u>Declaration of Coastal Zone and its Protection</u> <i>(1) The Minister may, by notice published in the gazette declare one or more Coastal Zones with subsidiary zones therein to cater for:</i> <i>(a) sensitive zones of high cultural, recreational and aesthetic value;</i> <i>(b) no development and climate based zones;</i> <i>(c) zones dedicated to the preservation and rehabilitation/conservation of coastal biodiversity;</i></p>
43.	<p><u>Definition of Development</u> <i>(1) In this Act, "development"</i> <i>(b) Includes: (x) any use of land, sea or building as determined by the Minister.</i></p>

International Commitments

UNCLOS

- **Article 192 General Obligation:** *States have the obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment.*
- **Article 193 Sovereign right of States to exploit their natural resources:** *pursuant to their environmental policies and in accordance with their duty to protect and preserve the marine environment.*
- *Articles 17-24: Innocent passage*
- *Provisions for Territorial Sea and EEZ*



MSP Related Commitments Under UNCLOS

Article 61 Conservation of the living resources	
61(2): The coastal State, with the best scientific evidence available to it, shall ensure through conservation and management that the maintenance of living resources in the EEZ is not endangered by over-exploitation.	The SMSPI can support these commitments by the appropriate protection of critical habitats and the limiting of activities in other usage zones.
61(3): Such measures shall also be designed to maintain or restore populations of harvested species at levels which can produce MSY, as qualified by relevant environmental/economic factors, incl, the economic needs of coastal communities, the requirements of developing States, fishing patterns, interdependence of stocks and international minimum standards.	
61(4): The coastal State shall consider the effects on species associated with or dependent upon harvested species to maintain or restore populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened.	
61(5): Available scientific information, catch and fishing effort statistics, and other data relevant to the conservation of fish stocks shall be contributed and exchanged on a regular basis through competent international organizations, with participation by all States concerned, including States whose nationals are allowed to fish in the exclusive economic zone.	To enable the adaptive management of the MSP and to identify research priorities the SMSPI should establish a comprehensive, standardised database, with stakeholder interface to facilitate information exchange .
Article 62 Utilisation of the Living Resources	
62(1). The coastal State shall promote the objective of optimum utilization of the living resources in the EEZ without prejudice to Article 61.	The SMSPI can support this by protecting critical habitats, limiting of activities in other zones and by requiring enhanced MCS.
62(2): The coastal State shall determine its capacity to harvest the living resources of the EEZ. Where the coastal State does not have the capacity to harvest the entire allowable catch, it shall, through agreements or other arrangements and pursuant to the terms, conditions, laws and regulations referred to in paragraph 4, give other States access to the surplus allowable catch, having particular regard to the provisions of articles 69 & 70, & the developing States mentioned therein.	Seychelles does this through the licensing of foreign industrial fishery vessels to fish in its waters. Monitoring of stocks in such fisheries is done through the auspices of the IOTC. The MSP can advance this by zoning measures to facilitate sustainability of catch.
Article 63 Stocks occurring within EEZs of 2 or more coastal States or within the EEZ and in an area adjacent to it	
63(1): Where the same stock or stocks of associated species occur within the exclusive economic zones of two or more coastal States, these States shall seek, either directly or through appropriate (sub)regional organizations, to agree upon the measures necessary to coordinate and ensure the conservation and development of such stocks.	Seychelles is party to the Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement and seeks to manage such matters primarily through its active membership of the IOTC. The MSP can advance this by appropriate zoning measures to facilitate sustainability of catch.
(2). Where the same stock or stocks of associated species occur both within the EEZ and in an area beyond and adjacent to the zone, the coastal State and the States fishing for such stocks in the adjacent area shall seek, either directly or through appropriate (sub)regional organizations, to agree upon the measures necessary for the conservation of these stocks. .	
Article 64 Highly Migratory Species	
1. The coastal State and other States whose nationals fish in the region for the highly migratory species listed in Annex I shall cooperate directly or through appropriate international organizations with a view to ensuring conservation and promoting the objective of optimum utilization of such species throughout the region, both within and beyond the EEZ. In regions for which no appropriate international organization exists, the coastal State and other States whose nationals harvest these species in the region shall cooperate to establish such an organization and participate in its work.	Tuna and tuna like species are covered by IOTC, Seychelles' EEZ lies within the Indian Ocean Whale Sanctuary. Many of the sharks listed do not receive protection. Seychelles is moving to sign the CMS Sharks MoU. The SMSPI could assist by protecting critical habitats, restricting activities and incorporating the Sharks MoU.
Article 65 Marine Mammals Nothing in this Part restricts the right of a coastal State or the competence of an international organization, as appropriate, to prohibit, limit or regulate the exploitation of marine mammals more strictly than provided for in this Part. States shall cooperate with a view to the conservation of marine mammals and in the case of cetaceans shall in particular work through the appropriate international organizations for their conservation, management and study.	Seychelles' waters form part of the Indian Ocean Whale Sanctuary and all marine mammals are protected by law. Seychelles is also signatory to the CMS Dugong MoU. The SMSPI will maintain these provisions in its zoning.

International Commitments

- SDGs: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: “Transforming Our World”
- SDG 14: “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” is of particular relevance to the MSP.



Table 4: SDG 14 Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development

Pertinent Targets	National Status	
	Current	MSP considerations
Target 14.1: By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution	Most of the emphasis here pertains to terrestrial sources of pollution. Seychelles addresses pollution from ships through its membership of MARPOL. Full compliance will require further improvements in the implementation of Annexes IV, V & VI. Seychelles' interest in oil exploration and future extraction mean pollution risk will likely increase significantly in the future.	Sufficient coastal space must be set aside for the projected future needs of Port development on the 3 main islands. Ideally future oil extraction sites should be as far as possible from areas of high biodiversity, fishery and tourism value. Geophysical surveys can have significant impact upon marine mammals. The MSP could seek to require that best practice guidelines are followed e.g. JNCC 2017
Target 14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans	Approximately 40% of reefs on the Mahé plateau have phase-shifted to algal dominance since the 1998 bleaching. The 2017 bleaching will likely significantly exacerbate this. There is evidence of coastal seagrass degradation. The Mahé plateau is overfished (See Target 14.4) undermining resilience. No strategic or integrated approach to the restoration of habitats has yet been developed.	The MSP process should: i). take into consideration recommendations from national EBA projects, with focus on better protection of coral reef habitats. ii). provide guidance to SeyCCAT on best allocation of funds. iii). mitigate some of the fishing pressure by protecting critical habitats (e.g. SPAGs, nursery habitats, migration corridors etc...).
Target 14.3: Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, incl. through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels	Ocean acidification is a global issue driven by increasing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Seychelles best response to this is to build/rehabilitate resilience into marine ecosystems.	See targets 14.2 and 14.4
Target 14.4: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, IUU fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks to levels that can produce MSY as determined by their biological characteristics	Artisanal catch has declined steadily since 1991 and the Mahé plateau is chronically overfished. The draft demersal fishery plan, shelved since August 2015, falls far short of the necessary measures required to end overfishing and promote rebuilding of stocks: i). It addresses only a few species and the minimum catch sizes proposed are less than the known Lm50. ii). excess fishing effort is not substantively addressed. iii). despite espousing it does not utilise an ecosystem approach to fishing.	The MSP process can mitigate some of the overfishing by protecting critical habitats for commercial and keystone species (e.g. SPAGs, nursery habitats, migration corridors etc...). The MSP alone however will not suffice. Fishing effort needs to be reduced significantly and rapidly, including the removal of fishery subsidies and compensation/transition funding for impacted fishers (Vivid Economics 2015, Wilson 2017). Measures are required to rehabilitate keystone species as part of an ecosystem-based approach to fishery management
14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas based on the best available scientific information	Less than 0.1% of Seychelles' marine area is designated. In both terrestrial and marine scenarios the effective management of the areas is limited.	The MSP will markedly surpass this target and in a representative manner. It is unclear, however, how such areas can be effectively managed to meet their objectives as predicted costs greatly exceed available and projected means.
14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism	Seychelles has led internationally in the development of the Blue Economy concept and is working to integrate it as the overarching principle of the country's sustainable development strategy. The issue of sustainable management of fisheries is being broached and a national aquaculture plan is under development.	The MSP process can support aquaculture measures by appropriate zoning provisions.

International Commitments

CBD – Aichi Biodiversity Targets (assessment done)

CMS provides for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats. Seychelles acceded in 2005 which implies various commitments: (assessment done)

Parties:

- *a) should promote, co-operate in and support research relating to migratory species*
- *b) shall endeavour to provide immediate protection for migratory species included in Appendix I; and*
- *c) shall endeavour to conclude Agreements covering the conservation and management of migratory species included in Appendix II.”*
- Seychelles has signed IOSEA Turtles MoU & Dugong MoU
- In process of signing sharks MoU

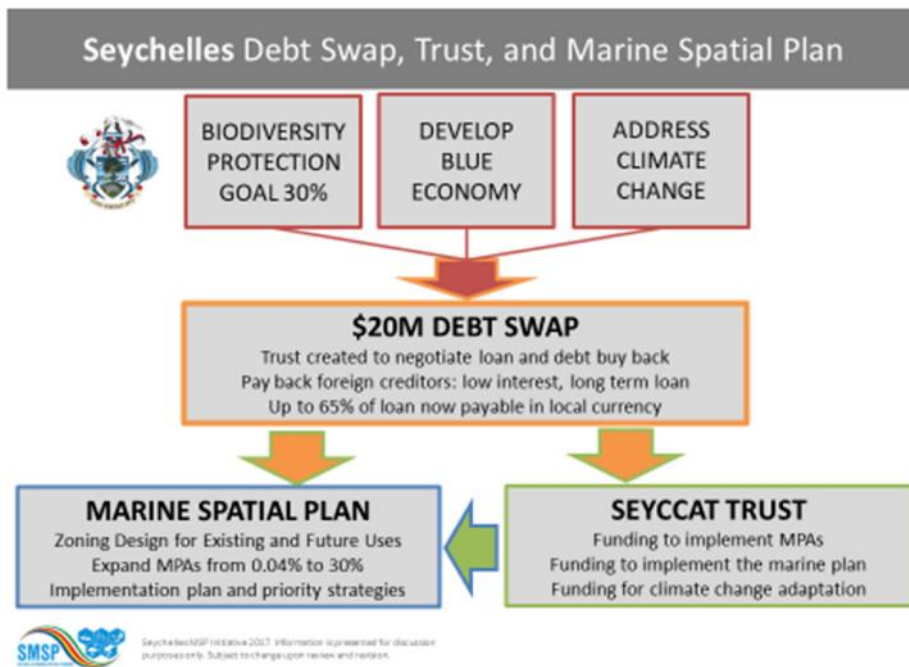
The Indian Ocean Whale Sanctuary was established in 1979 under the auspices of the ICRW banning all types of commercial whaling. The sanctuary encompasses the entire Indian Ocean down to 55° South latitude.



Aichi Biodiversity Targets Pertinent to the SMSPI

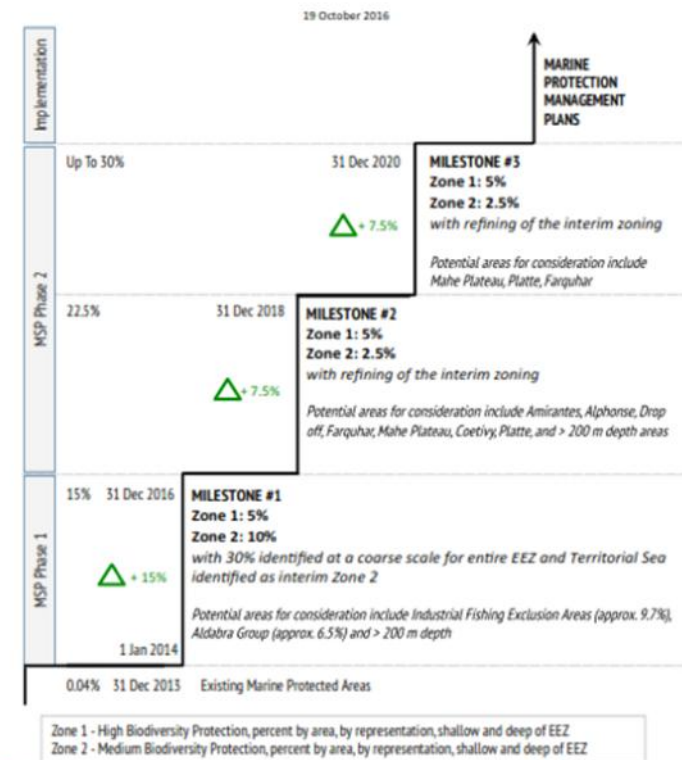
Pertinent Targets	National Status	
	Current	MSP Considerations
Target 2: By 2020 BD values have been integrated into national development and poverty reduction strategies are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	Environmental economics and its mainstreaming into national accounting is still generally lacking in Seychelles.	SMSPI can give greater recognition of BD value incorporating measures to protect key habitats and species.
Target 3: By 2020 incentives, including subsidies, harmful to BD are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, taking into account national socio economic conditions.	The artisanal fishery receives subsidies worth approximately 20% of revenue creating over capacity that exacerbates depleted stock status. The fishery is subsidised by SR 35 Million annually. It has been recommended that subsidies be withdrawn (Vivid Economics 2015).	The SMSPI cannot directly influence incentives, it can however reduce their impact by taking measures to protect critical habitats and keystone species. This however will in general only serve to re-direct effort maintained by subsidies.
Target 4: By 2020 Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.	Mahé Plateau demersal fishery is currently not sustainable and supporting habitats are experiencing ongoing degradation. Limits on gear, effort and access are either absent, insufficient or not enforced. The proposed demersal fishery plan is also inadequate.	The SMSPI can promote sustainable fishing by protecting critical habitats, restricting gear use in certain zones and making provisions to reduce pressure on keystone species.
Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.	Evidence suggests 40% of coral reefs on Mahé plateau have undergone phase shift to algae dominated systems. Further decline is anticipated due to overfishing and water temp oC trends.	The SMSPI coupled with a revised and upgraded demersal fishery plan provide scope to realise this target. SMPSI by protecting key habitats and limiting gear use and activities.
Target 6: By 2020 all fish, invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably applying ecosystem based approaches, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and the impacts of fisheries are within safe ecological limits.	The artisanal fishery on the Mahé plateau currently unsustainable with steady decline in catch since at least 1991. Invertebrate fisheries also provide cause for concern. An ecosystem approach to fisheries is not applied and there is strong evidence showing adverse impacts on threatened species and ecosystems.	The SMSPI can provide significant support to the pursuit of this target through protection of critical habitats and limitations of gear use and activities in some areas but will require strong viable fishery management plans to be put in place and enforced if this target is to be realised.
Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized to maintain integrity & functioning.	The primary anthropogenic factor in this regard is overfishing followed by habitat degradation of certain critical habitats e.g. coastal nursery habitats for various keystone species.	SMSPI can provide significant support to the pursuit of this target through protection of critical habitats and limitations of gear use and activities in some areas.
Target 11: By 2020, at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.	Less than 0.1% Seychelles marine area is currently protected (Klaus 2015) and several of those MPAs were designated for tourism utility as opposed to specific biodiversity or conservation value. Representativeness and viability requires assessment and addressing within a structured network.	The SMSPI offers the scope to realise and significantly surpass this target on paper and hopefully in a fully representative manner. How such areas can be effectively managed to meet their objectives, however, is unclear as predicted costs greatly exceed available and projected means.
Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	Seychelles EEZ lies within the Indian Ocean Whale Sanctuary. All marine mammals and turtles are protected. Significant issues remain e.g. impact of fisheries on threatened sp and CITES compliance.	The SMSPI can contribute to this target by protecting appropriate key areas and habitats. Effective fishery management measures are also required to realise this target.
Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, incl. services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded.	No strategic or integrated approach to the restoration of habitats has yet been developed. Pilot projects on coral farming and propagation are ongoing but the scalability of such initiatives is questionable.	The SMSPI can promote marine ecosystem recovery protecting critical habitats and reducing fishing pressure in managed areas by limiting permissible activities and gear.

Debt (for Nature/Adaptation) Swap

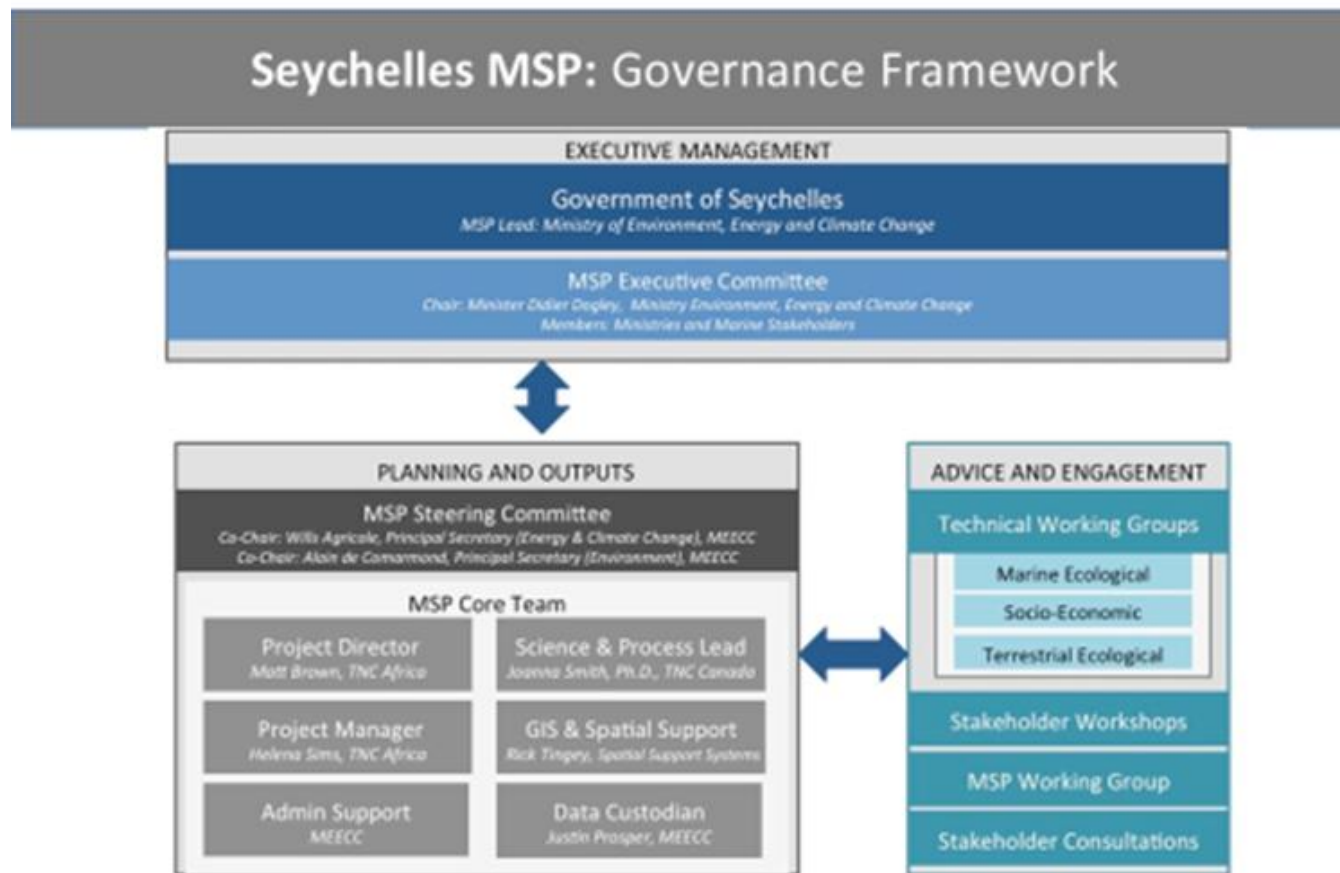


SEYCHELLES MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING (MSP) INITIATIVE

MARINE PROTECTION MILESTONES 2014-2020



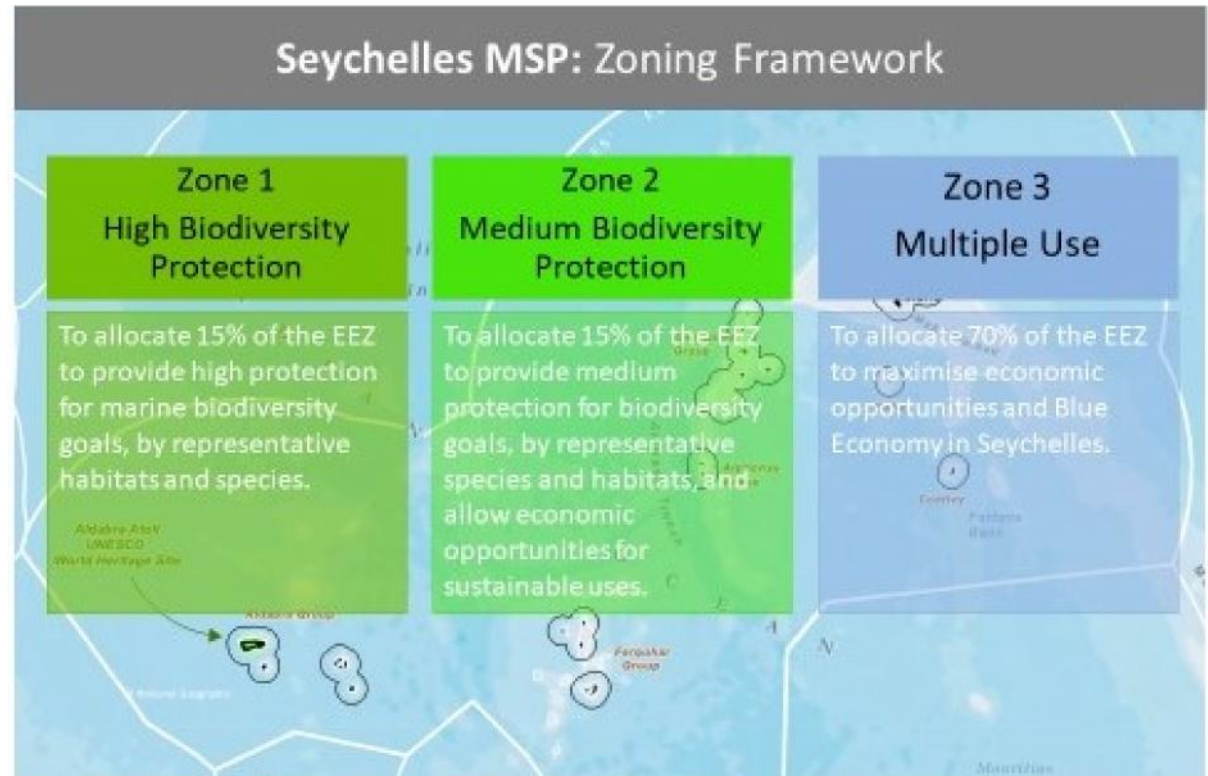
Administration of Process and Consultation



Process and Consultation

- Thematic areas: fisheries, conservation, utilities & infrastructure, non-renewable resources, recreation & tourism
- Zone descriptions
- Allowable activities

Sector	Marine Activity	Zone 1 - Area A3	Zone 2 - Area G-4
Fisheries	Artisanal Fishing Movable	X	C13
	Artisanal Fishing Semi	X	C13
	Artisanal Fishing Trap	X	C13
	Big game fishing	X	C13-19
	Ty fishing, blue water	X	C13-19
	Hy fishing, Ingroup	X	C13-19
	Industrial Purse Seine (free school)	X	C19
	Industrial Purse Seine (freeing, narrow, PAIND)	X	X
	Industrial Purse Seine Supply Vessel	C19	C19
	Industrial Pelagic Lurricane	X	C19
	Aquaculture Development Zone (ADZ)	X	C19
	Aquaculture Prohibit Zone	X	C19
	Aquaculture Enclosed zone	X	C19
	Aquaculture Offshore Zone	X	C19
Infrastructure & Maritime Security	Commercial shipping	C1	C1
	Disposal and Dumping	X	X
	Dredging	C10-25	C10-25
	Ferries and Transportation	C25	C15
	Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC)	X	X
	Ports, Harbours, Wharves, Jetties	C10-25	C10-25
	Reclamation	X	X
	Renewable Energy, wind	X	C10-25
	Renewable Energy, wind (offshore)	X	C10-25
	Renewable Energy, wave	X	C10-25
Renewable Energy, solar (marine)	X	X	
Non-renewable Resources & Bioprospecting	Bioprospecting Development	X	C13
	Deep-sea Mining	X	X
Tourism & Recreation	Petroleum Exploration Geophysical Surveys	X	C13
	Petroleum Exploration Drilling	X	C13
	Petroleum Development, Production	X	C13
	Petroleum Stippling, drilling, Extraction	X	C13
	Sand Mining	X	X
	Amphibious and Marine (14) Boats	C10-25	C10-25
	Boats	C10-25	C10-25
	Marine charters, licensed hire craft	C15-19	C15
	Recreational Marine Activities	C10-25	C10-25
	Recreational Non-Motorised Activities	C12-13	C12-13
Tourism Accommodation, marine	C10-25	C10-25	
Tourism Accommodation, terrestrial	X	C13	
Research	Bioprospecting Research	C10	C10
	Scientific Geophysical Surveys	C10-25	C10-25
	Scientific Research and Monitoring	C10	C10
	Hydrographic Surveys	C10	C10



MSP Policy Doc Format

- Policy Statement
- Vision, Mission, Objectives
- Spatial extent
- Operational Guidance
- Review process, timeline etc...

- Action Plan
 - 5 Objectives

DRAFT Seychelles MSP Policy – version 1.0

For Discussion Purposes Only. Subject to change upon review. Subject to government approval. Not to be cited.

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DRAFT

The Government of Seychelles:

Cognisant that Seychelles' landmass constitutes less than 0.05% of the area of its Territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone that encompass 1.37 Million square kilometres;

Recalling Article 38 of the Seychelles Constitution and reaffirming the importance of the marine environment in providing diverse social, cultural and economic services, and the international importance of the ecology of our marine ecosystems;

Highlighting its national commitments to improve: the management of its marine environment and biodiversity, the integration of marine resource management, and maritime security as set out in, *inter alia*, the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the Seychelles Fishery Policy, the Merchant Shipping Act and as embodied in the national pursuit and development of the Blue Economy;

Reaffirming its resolve to fulfil its international obligations and commitments in the domain of the marine environment as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and its related agreements, and *inter alia* the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Port States Measures Agreement, the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in so much as they pertain to Seychelles and its national circumstances;

Aware that significant additional effort, investment and capacity are required to realise the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment, mitigation of the impacts of climate change and promotion of the Blue Economy;

Recognising the direct linkage between marine uses, activities and ecological health, the importance to plan for the future through equitable stakeholder consultation and application of best international practices for comprehensive, multi-objective planning. Seychelles is utilising the process of marine spatial planning to identify and allocate space for ecological, social, and economic objectives using a public and participatory process;

Understanding that robust governance structures are needed to ensure a transparent, participatory and equitable decision-making process for the protection and development of the ocean;

Noting the fundamental importance of science to develop, guide and adaptively manage Seychelles marine spatial plan and the need to promote scientific capacity and research in Seychelles, *inter alia* in ecology, economics and social science, to address the shortfall in key information on the marine environment and its optimal management;

Reaffirming the importance of equity in the access to and the sharing of benefits from Seychelles' marine resources in order to improve the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of the Seychellois people;

Keenly aware the threat that climate change and its various impacts pose to the marine environment, its productivity and the overall sustainable development of Seychelles;

Policy Statement

Restating that Seychelles' economic, social and environmental well-being are fundamentally linked to the ecological diversity, stability and resilience of the marine environment;

Commits through the development, implementation and periodic review of the Marine Spatial Plan to the conservation and sustainable use¹ of the marine environment, the mitigation of climate change and the promotion of the Blue Economy and to cooperate internationally as appropriate to further those ends.

In this plan the term "marine environment" is defined as:

"Marine Environment" means the area from the high water mark to the limits of the Exclusive Economic Zone of Seychelles".



Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan

Vision

To support a healthy productive marine environment, local communities and the development of the Blue Economy through improved and integrated management for conservation, sustainable use and ecosystem resilience.

Mission

That the Marine Spatial Plan is finalised and under implementation by 2021 with all its constituent components realised in concordance with the debt-swap agreement

Objectives

- 1) Marine Protected Areas, Zone 1 and Zone 2, are designated within the timelines specified for both phases of the MSP Initiative.
- 2) All Zones are under effective management regimes that support their MSP objectives.
- 3) Governance frameworks are developed to enable effective implementation and management of the MSP (*This is an ongoing consultancy under the SWIOFish3 project; to be added to MSP Policy*).
- 4) Monitoring data collection and analysis is optimised, and management-oriented research undertaken to support attainment of MSP objectives and its adaptive management
- 5) Communities and stakeholders are actively engaged in the MSP Initiative.

Duration, Monitoring and Review

The Action Plan is intended to see the MSP initiative through its development and establishment phases 2018-2021 in line with the debt for adaptation swap timeline. Aspects of the Action Plan, namely the designation of Zone 1 and Zone 2 protected/management areas (See Action Plan Objective 1), have strict time bound milestones in order to enable the disbursement of funds from the debt swap agreement. It is critical to the realisation of the MSP that these activities are completed on time. The other aspects are less time critical and can be reviewed in year 4 of the plan in order to seek to optimise their realisation by 2021. Monitoring and review of implementation of area management plans and implementation of the research agenda will be priority aspects of the follow up action plan 2022-2026.

Implementation Mechanisms

The Government Ministry with portfolio responsibility for Environment in partnership with The Nature Conservancy will coordinate and oversee the finalisation of the Seychelles MSP. The governance mechanism for the implementation, monitoring, review and adaptive management of the plan is currently being developed/determined under the auspices of the SWIOFish3 project.



Vision

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- 5) Communities and stakeholders are actively engaged in the MSP Initiative.

Duration, Monitoring and Review

The Action Plan is intended to see the MSP initiative through its development and establishment phases **2018-2021** in line with the debt for adaptation swap timeline. Aspects of the Action Plan, namely the designation of Zone 1 and Zone 2 protected/management areas (See Action Plan Objective 1), have strict time bound milestones in order to enable the disbursement of funds from the debt swap agreement. It is critical to the realisation of the MSP that these activities are completed on time. The other aspects are less time critical and can be reviewed in **year 3** of the plan in order to seek to optimise their realisation by 2021. Monitoring and review of implementation of area management plans and implementation of the research agenda will be priority aspects of the follow up action plan 2022-2026.

Implementation Mechanisms

The Government Ministry with portfolio responsibility for Environment in partnership with The Nature Conservancy will coordinate and oversee the finalisation of the Seychelles MSP. **The governance mechanism for the implementation, monitoring, review and adaptive management of the plan is currently being developed/determined** under the auspices of the SWIOFish3 project.

Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan Operational Guidance

This Action Plan should be read, interpreted, developed and implemented within the context of the following operational guidance:

Integrated: Address the interrelationship among issues and sectors and between nature and development; integration can help create complementary and mutually reinforcing decisions and actions.

Ecosystem-based: Safeguard ecosystem processes, resilience, and connectedness, recognizing that ecosystems are dynamic, changing and sometimes poorly understood (therefore requiring precautionary decision-making).

Public Trust: Marine resources are part of the public domain, not owned exclusively or benefited by any one group; decisions should be made in the interest of the whole community and not any one group or private interest.

Sustainability: Decision making should take into account environmental, economic, social and cultural values in meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Transparency: The processes used to make decisions should be easily understood by the public, allow citizens to see how decisions are made, how resources have been allocated, and how decisions have been reached that affect their lives.

Participatory: Communities, persons, and interests affected by marine resource or activity management should have an opportunity to participate in the formulation of ocean management decisions.

Precautionary: Article 15 of the Rio Declaration on Sustainable Development states that: "In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation".

Adaptive: MSP is a continuing, iterative process that learns and adapts over time.

Coordinated: It is essential that the process incorporates and builds upon other pertinent national initiatives such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Seychelles Climate Strategy, Priorities and nationally Determined Contribution, and the National Development Strategy.

Scale: Data has been used to generate the basis for the spatial plan. The scale and resolution of data used in decision-making must be appropriate to the activity, development or objective under consideration

Objective 1	Marine Protected Areas, Zone 1 and Zone 2, are designated within the timelines specified for both phases of the MSP Initiative.	
Situation analysis	<p>The Seychelles debt swap lays out a strict timeline for the designation of new MPAs, in two phases, which must be met to realise the disbursement of funds. Phase 1 is required to be completed no later than June 2018¹. Phase 2 has two milestones due by December 2018 and December 2020 respectively. Key procedures must be undertaken within timeframe to realise this, namely: identification of all new areas for designation, determination of which legislation to use for each area, implementation of Protected Area Policy protocol for designation of protected areas. The existing legislation of the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act (NPNC) and the Fisheries Act (2014) provides for all the circumstances required under the MSP. The Fisheries Act however, has not yet been used to create fishery management areas, and neither NPNC nor the Fisheries Act have categories of PA been developed under its auspices. In light of the Phase 1 deadlines it is proposed, as an interim measure, that the NPNC be utilised for the designation of all areas. Zone 2-Medium Biodiversity and Sustainable Use Areas could be catered for under the classes of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or National Park that is, Fishery Management Area (AONB) or (National Park). In such instances SFA, for example, could be designated as the Management Authority and the regulations would set out the criteria for the operation of the fishery management area. Management areas could be transferred to appropriate categories under the Fisheries Act when they have been elaborated.</p>	
Category	Description	Indicators
Results	Phase 1	
	1) Zone 1 & 2 areas identified, mapped, endorsed by stakeholders and approved by GoS.	Map of approved areas
	2-3) Appropriate legislation applied for each area and Protected Area Policy followed through to designation by June 2018.	Public notices, media coverage, consultations
	4) At least 15% of EEZ and/or TW designated by June 2018 (Zone 1: 5% & Zone 2: 10%).	Official Gazette
	Phase 2	
	5) Zone 1 & 2 areas identified, mapped, endorsed by stakeholders and approved by GoS.	Map of approved areas
	6-7) Appropriate legislation applied for each area and Protected Area Policy followed through to designation.	Public notices, media coverage, consultations
	8) (An additional) 15% of EEZ and/or TW designated. 8a) 7.5% by December 2018 (Zone 1: 5% & Zone 2: 2.5%) 8b) 7.5% by December 2020 (Zone 1: 5% & Zone 2: 2.5%)	Official Gazette
Activities	Phase 1	
	1) Identify at least 15% of the Exclusive Economic Zone and/or Territorial Sea as areas for new biodiversity protection using the MSP Zoning Framework: Zone 1 and Zone 2.	Draft maps

	2) Identify which legislation to be utilised for each zone area.	Draft regulations
	3) Follow Protected Areas Policy for designation of PAs	Public notices, consultation findings etc.
	4) Designate Phase 1 areas as protected ¹ .	Official Gazette
	Phase 2	
	5) Identify at least 15% of the EEZ and/or Territorial Sea as area for new biodiversity protection and zones for multiple use using the MSP Zoning Framework: Zone 1, 2 and 3 ⁴ .	Draft maps
	6) Identify which legislation to be utilised for each PA	Draft regulations
	7) Follow Protected Areas Policy for designation of PAs	Public notices, consultation findings etc.
	8) Designate Zone 1 and Zone 2 areas as protected.	Official Gazette
Notes	<p>1: The initial target date was December 2017 but through the application of negotiated grace periods was extended to June 2018. 2: (a) In line with paragraph 4 of the policy statement, these areas should also be selected with a view to meeting Seychelles international commitments e.g. protecting threatened biodiversity, key habitats (coral reefs, sea grass beds, nursery habitats & SPAGs) and critical habitats for migratory species. (b) Each area must have its specific MSP objectives defined so that its contribution to the national initiative can be monitored, assessed and adaptively managed. 3: Phase 1 designates the Territorial Sea Interim Zone 2 except for Area 1. Phase 1 designations may be subject to change in the development of Phase 2 in order to meet the 30% goal by area, and 30% goal for representation of species and habitats throughout Seychelles' waters. 4: The Phase 1 Zoning design proposes Area 1 as Zone 3-Multiple Use. In Phase 2, it is recognised that 15% of this area may be Zone 1 and 15% may be Zone 2 as there are various unique habitats around the main granitic islands that require protection for the MSP to realise its Mission. This means that additional protected areas will need to be identified, negotiated and designated during the timeline.</p>	

Objective 1	Marine Protected Areas, Zone 1 and Zone 2, are designated within the timelines specified for both phases of the MSP Initiative.	
Category	Description	Indicators
Results	Phase 1	
	1) Zone 1 & 2 areas identified, mapped, endorsed by stakeholders and approved by GoS.	Map of approved areas
	2-3) Appropriate legislation applied for each area and Protected Area Policy followed through to designation by June 2018.	Public notices, media coverage, consultations
	4) At least 15% of EEZ and/or TW designated by June 2018 (Zone 1: 5% & Zone 2: 10%).	Official Gazette
	Phase 2	
	5) Zone 1 & 2 areas identified, mapped, endorsed by stakeholders and approved by GoS.	Map of approved areas
	6-7) Appropriate legislation applied for each area and Protected Area Policy followed through to designation.	Public notices, media coverage, consultations
	8) (An additional) 15% of EEZ and/or TW designated. 8a) 7.5% by December 2018 (Zone 1: 5% & Zone 2: 2.5%) 8b) 7.5% by December 2020 (Zone 1: 5% & Zone 2: 2.5%)	Official Gazette
Activities	Phase 1	
	1) Identify at least 15% of the Exclusive Economic Zone and/or Territorial Sea as areas for new biodiversity protection using the MSP Zoning Framework: Zone 1 and Zone 2.	Draft maps
	2) Identify which legislation to be utilised for each zone area.	Draft regulations
	3) Follow Protected Areas Policy for designation of PAs	Public notices, consultation findings etc.
	4) Designate Phase 1 areas as protected ³ .	Official Gazette
	Phase 2	
	5) Identify at least 15% of the EEZ and/or Territorial Sea as area for new biodiversity protection and zones for multiple use using the MSP Zoning Framework: Zone 1, 2 and 3 ⁴ .	Draft maps
	6) Identify which legislation to be utilised for each PA	Draft regulations
7) Follow Protected Areas Policy for designation of PAs	Public notices, consultation findings etc.	
8) Designate Zone 1 and Zone 2 areas as protected.	Official Gazette	

Protected Area Policy 2013

The nomination of any site should satisfy the following requirements;

- 1. The site has distinct qualities such as presence of rare and endangered species in such a combination that render it ecologically and or aesthetically important;*
- 2. The site fits the conservation objectives of a particular category provided in the policy and legislation; An assessment of the overall merit of the proposed site (e.g. scientific) and the implication of the designation, including its environment and social impact. The capacity for management and enforcement of the proposed site as a protected area will also be assessed;*
- 3. Once the basic requirements are met, the Government will initiate a screening process. The proponent may be asked to provide further information to support the claim for the area to be declared a PA and the information may be validated by the relevant authority.*

The Government shall ensure that there is a transparent review process to provide a fair hearing and also a public consultation before a final decision is made. The process will be stipulated in the legislation.

Designation Proposal

- Designation of all under NPNCA, as an interim, measure.
- Fishery management areas can be transferred under Fisheries Act when that has been appropriately elaborated.
- Recommend:
 - MEECC develop (ASAP) a rapid/streamlined designation process with the minimum number of requirements to fulfill those 3 points.
 - MEECC draft a schedule/calendar for the combined consultation and designation of all the sites within the specified phase 1 timeline
- Fall Back Options:
 - Special Conservation Zone, Interim Protection.
 - PAA

Interim Protection

- The Government may declare interim protection (through an interim order) simultaneous with nomination and with immediate effect...
- The time period for interim protection can vary and will depend on the discretion of the designated authority.
- To gain interim protection the following steps need to be followed:
 - i) The government may declare, with immediate effect, interim protection for a site that has been officially proposed for PA establishment, until the process for establishment or PA recognition is complete;
 - ii) Provisions developed, indicating that where an area is given interim protection under the legislation, the protection also covers the subsoil, seabed, water bodies and water column and airspace above the land or sea area;
 - iii) An interim order developed to indicate clearly the essential characteristics and features that promoted nomination of the site as a PA, clear boundaries, primary conservation value, proposed PA category, management objectives consistent with the PA categories and penalties that may be triggered by activities in violation of the interim order;



Objective 2	Zones are under effective management regimes that support the MSP objectives.	
Category	Description	Indicators
Results	1) Stakeholder approved standardised Management Plan format(s).	Management plan formats and guidelines.
	2&3) Peer reviewed and finalised management plans.	Management plans publicly available.
Activities	4) All Marine Protected/Management Areas have management plans under implementation.	Implementation reports Site visits etc.
	1-4) Area objectives advanced and overall MSP objectives supported.	Management plan and MSP reviews
	1) Develop standard formats for Protected/Management area management plans ² .	Standard formats.
	2) Develop specific area draft management plans with clear measures to support area and MSP objectives ³ .	Draft management plans
Activities	3) Draft plans reviewed by scientific and PA management peer group.	Panel comments and recommendations.
	4) Implement area management plans ⁴ .	Implementation reports.

Governance

- 3 scenarios being elaborated.
- Portfolios – TCPA (PPB), EPA, BE,

Objective 3	Governance frameworks are developed to enable effective implementation and management of the MSP
	<i>This is an on-going consultancy under the SWIOFish3 project.</i>
	<i>To be added.</i>

Objective 4	Monitoring data collection and analysis is optimised, and management-oriented research undertaken to support attainment of MSP objectives and its adaptive management.	
Category	Description	Indicators
Results	Monitoring	
	1&2) Crosscutting & priority data requirements are identified & used for strategic & targeted data collection.	Monitoring protocols & datasets.
	3) Standardised dataset parameters and formats are utilised.	Dataset guidelines and formats.
	4) Data utilised for management and adaptive management passes independent peer review process.	Approved datasets.
	5) Data is maintained in high utility format.	Dataset formats
	1-5) Adaptive management of MSP and areas therein is enabled.	BD & resource indicators. Revised plans & MSP
	Research	
	6) Strategic, key and crosscutting knowledge and data gaps are identified.	Assessment of knowledge gaps and research recommendations.
	7) National MSP research agenda under implementation.	Reports and scientific publications.
	8) Review panel operational, MSP scientific practices established etc.	Minutes of meetings and recommendations.
Activities	Monitoring	
	1) Identify data requirements to support MSP and crosscutting Area management plan objectives. (X-ref Activity 8).	Assessment of priority strategic & crosscutting data requirements.
	2) Identify data requirements to support priority, area-specific management objectives. (X-ref Activity 8).	Assessment of priority area-specific data requirements.
	3) Establish criteria for MSP datasets to facilitate analysis and utility (X-ref Activity 8).	Dataset guidelines and formats.
	4) Undertake independent peer review of all datasets (X-ref Activity 8).	Dataset reviews.
	5) Maintain data in formats suitable for transfer among tools and programs.	Dataset guidelines and formats.
	Research	
	6) Identify strategic, crosscutting and key gaps in national knowledge and data for MSP management ² .	Knowledge gap analysis
	7) Develop a prioritised management-oriented research agenda.	Approved research agenda.
	8) Establish independent panel of scientific experts to develop and approve MSP scientific practices and review findings (x-ref Activities 1-4)	Panel membership and appointment, minutes of meetings etc.

Objective 5	Communities and stakeholders are actively engaged in the MSP Initiative.	
Situation analysis	The Seychelles MSP initiative has sought to follow best practice in its formulation and development through an iterative process of stakeholder consultation. Maintaining and enhancing stakeholder engagement is however an open-ended process. The ultimate success of the MSP its implementation and adaptive management depends upon effective stakeholder and involvement and ownership of the process.	
Category	Description	Indicators
Results		
	1) Stakeholder listings are regularly updated.	
	2) Stakeholders are actively engaged in the MSP initiative.	
	3) Communities are aware of, informed on and able to contribute to the MSP initiative.	
	4) Students are aware of, informed on and able to contribute to the MSP initiative.	
	1-4) Communities and stakeholders are properly informed on and actively engaged in the MSP Initiative.	
Activities	1) Undertake periodic stakeholder analyses to ensure stakeholder outreach and engagement is optimised.	
	2) Provide regular stakeholder updates on development and implementation of the MSP with focus on upcoming opportunities for participation.	
	3) Develop and maintain a public education and awareness campaign on the need for, desired results from and progress in the Seychelles MSP. Highlighting how private individuals can contribute to the process.	
	4). Develop and maintain a school age education and awareness campaign on the need for, desired results from and progress in the Seychelles MSP. Highlighting how private individuals can contribute to the process.	
Notes		



The Nature Conservancy 



Group Work



The Nature Conservancy 





The Nature Conservancy



Next Steps



The Nature Conservancy





The Nature Conservancy 



Marine Spatial Planning Policy Workshop

09:00 – 12:30 hrs

Wednesday 11th October 2017

Eden Bleu



The Nature Conservancy 



ANNEX 2.

SEYCHELLES MARINE SPATIAL PLAN (MSP) INITIATIVE

MSP Policy Workshop

MSP EC, SC, TWG

Wednesday 11 Oct 2017

0900-1230hrs

Location: Eden Bleu Hotel, Eden Island

Minutes

Meeting Objectives:

- 1) To present the MSP Policy Statement and Action Plan to stakeholders for review.

Present:

Alain De Comarmond- PS Environment, Ministry of Environment, Energy & Climate Change -Executive & Steering Committee member

Anderson Nourrice- Seychelles National Parks Authority- Technical Working Group member

Andy Rylance- GoS-UNDP-GEF PA Finance Project- Steering Committee Observer

Calvin Gerry- Deputy CEO Seychelles Fishing Authority- Executive Committee member

Chris Mason-Parker- Global Vision International - Technical Working Group member

Cynthia Adrienne- Ministry of Habitat, Infrastructure and Land Transport- Steering Committee member

David Rowat- CEO Marine Conservation Society Seychelles- Steering Committee & Technical Working Group member

Dominique Benzaken- Commonwealth Senior Advisor Blue Economy Department (Observer)- Executive & Steering Committee- Observer

Eugenie Khani- Blue Economy Research Institute - Technical Working Group member

Frauke Fleischer-Dogley- CEO, Seychelles Island Foundation- Steering Committee & Technical Working Group member

Glenny Savy- CEO, Islands Development Company- Executive & Steering Committee Member

Isabelle Ravinia- Seychelles National Parks Authority- Technical Working Group member

Jeanne Mortimer- Turtle Action Group Seychelles; ICS- Steering Committee & Technical Working Group member

Joanna Prosper - GoS UNDP GEF Outer Island Project Manager- Steering Committee Observer

Kelly Hoareau- UniSey -Technical Working Group member

Marie-May Jeremie-Muzungaile- DG, Ministry of Environment, Energy & Climate Change- Steering Committee member

Martin Callow- CEO, Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust- Steering Committee Observer

Peter Purvis- Industrial Tuna Fisheries Purse Seine, Seychelles Flagged vessels- Steering Committee member

Pierre-Andre Adam- Science Coordinator, ICS- Steering Committee & Technical Working Group member

Sharon Gerry- Legal officer, Ministry of Environment, Energy & Climate Change

Veronica Uzice- Alternate for Aubrey Lesperance- Seychelles Fishing Authority (Mariculture)- Steering Committee member

Wills Agricole- PS Climate Change and Energy, Ministry of Environment, Energy & Climate Change - Executive & Steering Committee member

Justin Prosper - GIS Unit, Ministry of Environment, Energy & Climate Change -MSP Data Custodian- Steering Committee member

Joanna Smith- MSP Science and Process Lead, TNC Canada- MSP Core Team

John Nevill- MSP Policy Consultant- Technical Working Group

Helena Sims- MSP Project Manager, TNC Africa- MSP Core Team

Iris Carolus- MSP Administrative Assistant, TNC Africa- MSP Core Team

Agenda Item		Notes/Comments/Advice	Action_Response (with initials for who provides response)
1.1	Opening	The workshop was officially opened by the Principle Secretary of Climate Change and Energy.	
1.2	Agenda Review	The agenda (Annex I) was reviewed and adopted.	
1.3		Documents that have been made available to the members (Annex II) were summarised.	
1.4		Roundtable of introduction of participants. See Annex II for signed participant list.	
2.0	MSP Policy Consultancy-purpose	A review of the purpose of the policy drafting was provided to the participants.	
3.0	MSP Policy-Situation Analysis	Brief overview of the Development Management Cycle including TCPA, EPA and EIA Regs and other legislative reviews.	
		Review of the content of the MSP Policy and outline and MSP Policy Draft 1 was carried out.	
		A summary of international commitments including UNCLOS. (Article 61 etc.) and other commitments (SDG14) was provided.	
		The MSP Policy Statement was discussed.	Comments can be sent to the consultant by the 23 October 2017
4.0	Implementing the policy; legislation and proposals Different potential options for implementation were presented.	It was summarised that the two main acts to govern the MSP in the future in the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act (NPNCA) and Fisheries Act but the latter does not have Fishery PA regulations at this time. It was proposed that the NPNCA can be used in the interim. Fisheries management areas can then be transferred under the Fisheries Act when it has been elaborated.	The proposal was well received by members present.
	.	The provisions of the EPA and the marine environment and potential use in fine scale planning in Phase II of the MSP was described.	If EPA can designate areas, would it not be more sensible to use the EPA? Would need to transfer them to new PA act when gazetted. The process would also not meet international best practice (wrt consultations).

4.0		<p>Potential fall back options were also listed in case timelines of the above options proved infeasible:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Use of special conservation zone and interim protection measures under the 2013 PA Policy, or 2). Using the Protected Areas Act to declare a Protected Area by decree and transferring to the new PA act when it is gazetted. 	<p>Members did not favour these options. Concern being legislation enabling the MSP Policy is not gazetted and trying to implement new zones under existing legislation will mean that they will later have to be re-designated and submitted later on as per existing PA.</p>
5.1	MSP Action Plan; Objective 1	A Review of MSP Policy Draft 1 was carried out.	
5.2	MSP Action Plan; Objective 2 J.N.	The Management plans being developed and ongoing e.g. demersal fishery management plan was summarised.	
5.3	MSP Action Plan; Objective 3 J.N.	MSP Governance (Ongoing consultancy under SWIOFISH3). 3 scenarios being developed to describe potential future governance of the MSP; TCPA (PPB), EPA, BE.	
		i). The TCPA has the legal framework with a broad mandate to fulfil the role. However, the concern of a development approach that may be taken to MSP was pointed out. In addition, the TCPA has clause 10 stating that the Minister has the power to overrule the Planning Authority (Hence overrule a decision taken through the EPA).	
		ii). EPA has an environmental authorisation mandate but will require additional legislation to define the role to coordinate the MSP. Here there may be the concern of a conservation approach being taken to the MSP. In addition, the new EPA now has clause to give it precedence to other acts (Direct conflict in terms of MSP).	
		iii). The BE has the mandate but no particular portfolio for the MSP. It is however a more neutral option in terms of the approach that may be taken for the MSP and its portfolio. BE has also an overarching portfolio as it sits under the Vice President's office.	
5.4	MSP Action Plan; Objective 4	Standardisation of data collection and management was discussed.	
5.5	MSP Action Plan; Objective 5	Engagement of stakeholders and general public.	
		<p>Consultations for the NDS have started and a visioning exercise for 2032 with an Environment Specific section. There has been reference to the MSP but only to the area to be managed. It is not clear how much information will be included in the NDS. MSP should review and provide input to the document.</p>	<p>MSP team was invited but had already several meetings planned but will review and input on the NDS. H.S.</p>

		A clarification was provided on the dates in the debt swap loan agreement and that December 2017 is the end of the Grace period. There are also the synergies with the SWIOFISH3 project for finalisation at the end of Dec 2017 and hence it is very important to meet the December 2017 target.	
		A proposal was made that SeyCCAT can assist with seeking legal advice for the MSP Policy.	
	Coffee Break		
	Open discussion on options for designation	Options for designation were summarised again as potential declaration of PA using the following; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NPNCA (Zone 1: Special Reserve/National Park, Zone 2: National Park/Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) 2. EPA 3. Interim PA using PA Policy 2013 	
		Participants pointed out that there are 4 nomination files with the Minister of MEECC for designation of new temporal PA. They have been advised that these areas will not be processed under the existing NPNCA because there is new, revised legislation to be in force. If the MSP is fast-tracked, when other organisations have been waiting for 3 years waiting for new legislation, could this not be put through as a package?	These areas are already included in the MSP as an opportunity layer. H.S. Even if the new legislation was gazetted, it will not be enough time to transition to new categories as regulations for these categories are still in draft. J.N.
		Position of MEECC legal officer; The new bill is with the AG office. Enactment of the law does not rest purely with MEECC and the Bill has been going back and forth with AG. As per the MSP, the most logical option is number 1, use of NPNCA and it can be done in due time provided that all the information is available to initiate the process.	
		Concerns were raised on time frame required to proceed with option 1 and if this has been calculated and considered feasible. The point was raised that in actual fact the consultation for these areas started with the MSP which is a significant amount of time. Although there are other steps of consultation that are required as per the NPNCA, this process is not starting at zero and this should be made clear in the nomination file. In terms of best practice, option 1 seems the best option. Interim protection may complicate matters as it has never been done in the Seychelles.	MEECC to confirm that option 1 is feasible with a timeline developed as well as in consultation with Legislative arm. For Aldabra the registration step is the bottleneck and cadastral at registration office (MLUH).
		Members present were advised that using the NPNCA is feasible but may not hit best practice as PA Policy advises full stakeholder consultation after the nomination is announced.	It was unanimously agreed that option 1 is best option including best practice guideline and PA Policy.

		Members were advised that the MSP team has started working on the specific timeline with legal advice with the Ministry to reach gazetting.	
	Group discussions on objectives.	Group discussions were carried out to address objectives 1, 2, 4 and 5. Summary of group discussions provided in Annex 1 below	
	Meeting adjourned at 1230hrs		

Minutes submitted by: Helena Sims on 11 November 2017

Annex 3.

DRAFT
Seychelles MSP Policy

Version 2.0

November 2017

For Discussion Purposes Only. Subject to change upon review. Subject to government approval.
Not to be cited.

DRAFT Seychelles MSP Policy – version 2.0

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Policy Statement

The Government of Seychelles:

Cognisant that Seychelles' landmass constitutes less than 0.05% of the area of its Territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone that encompass 1.37 Million square kilometres;

Recalling Article 38 of the Seychelles Constitution and reaffirming the importance of the marine environment in providing diverse social, cultural and economic services, and the international importance of the ecology of our marine ecosystems;

Highlighting its national commitments to improve: the management of its marine environment and biodiversity, the integration of marine resource management, and maritime security as set out in, *inter alia*, the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, the Seychelles Fishery Policy, the Merchant Shipping Act and as embodied in the national pursuit and development of the Blue Economy;

Reaffirming its resolve to fulfil its international obligations and commitments in the domain of the marine environment as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and its related agreements, and *inter alia* the Convention on Biological Diversity, the FAO Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries, the Port States Measures Agreement, the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Migratory Species and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in so much as they pertain to Seychelles and its national circumstances;

Aware that significant additional effort, investment and capacity are required to realise the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment, mitigation of the impacts of climate change and promotion of the Blue Economy;

Recognising the direct linkage between marine uses, activities and ecological health, the importance to plan for the future through equitable stakeholder consultation and application of best international practices for comprehensive, multi-objective planning. Seychelles is utilising the process of marine spatial planning to identify and allocate space for ecological, social, and economic objectives using a public and participatory process;

Understanding that robust governance structures are needed to ensure a transparent, participatory and equitable decision-making process for the protection and development of the ocean;

Noting the fundamental importance of science to develop, guide and adaptively manage Seychelles marine spatial plan and the need to promote scientific capacity and research in Seychelles, *inter alia* in ecology, economics and social science, to address the shortfall in key information on the marine environment and its optimal management;

Reaffirming the importance of equity in the access to and the sharing of benefits from Seychelles' marine resources in order to improve the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of the Seychellois people;

Keenly aware the threat that climate change and its various impacts pose to the marine environment, its productivity and the overall sustainable development of Seychelles;

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Restating that Seychelles' economic, social and environmental well-being are fundamentally linked to the ecological diversity, stability and resilience of the marine environment;

Commits through the development, implementation and periodic review of the Marine Spatial Plan to the conservation and sustainable use¹ of the marine environment, the mitigation of climate change and the promotion of the Blue Economy and to cooperate internationally as appropriate to further those ends.

In this plan the term “marine environment” is defined as:

“Marine Environment” means the area from the high water mark to the limits of the Exclusive Economic Zone of Seychelles”.

DRAFT

¹Conservation and sustainable use of Biodiversity as per CBD usage and definitions.

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Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan

Vision

To support a healthy productive marine environment, local communities and the development of the Blue Economy through improved and integrated management for conservation, sustainable use and ecosystem resilience.

Mission

That the Marine Spatial Plan is finalised and under implementation by 2021 with all its constituent components realised in concordance with the debt-swap agreement

Objectives

- 1) Marine Protected Areas, Zone 1 and Zone 2, are designated within the timelines specified for both phases of the MSP Initiative.
- 2) All Zones are under effective management regimes that support their MSP objectives.
- 3) Governance frameworks are developed to enable effective implementation and management of the MSP (*This is an ongoing consultancy under the SWIOFish3 project; to be added to MSP Policy*).
- 4) Monitoring data collection and analysis is optimised, and management-oriented research undertaken to support attainment of MSP objectives and its adaptive management
- 5) Communities and stakeholders are actively engaged in the MSP Initiative.

Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan Operational Guidance

This Action Plan should be read, interpreted, developed and implemented within the context of the following operational guidance:

Integrated: Address the interrelationship among issues and sectors and between nature and development; integration can help create complementary and mutually reinforcing decisions and actions.

Ecosystem-based: Safeguard ecosystem processes, resilience, and connectedness, recognizing that ecosystems are dynamic, changing and sometimes poorly understood (therefore requiring precautionary decision-making).

Public Trust: Marine resources are part of the public domain, not owned exclusively or benefited by any one group; decisions should be made in the interest of the whole community and not any one group or private interest.

Sustainability: Decision making should take into account environmental, economic, social and cultural values in meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

Transparency: The processes used to make decisions should be easily understood by the public, allow citizens to see how decisions are made, how resources have been allocated, and how decisions have been reached that affect their lives.

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Participatory: Communities, persons, and interests affected by marine resource or activity management should have an opportunity to participate in the formulation of ocean management decisions.

Precautionary: Article 15 of the Rio Declaration on Sustainable Development states that: “In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation”.

Adaptive: MSP is a continuing, iterative process that learns and adapts over time.

Coordinated: It is essential that the process incorporates and builds upon other pertinent national initiatives such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Seychelles Climate Strategy, Priorities and nationally Determined Contribution, and the National Development Strategy.

Scale: Data has been used to generate the basis for the spatial plan. The scale and resolution of data used in decision-making must be appropriate to the activity, development or objective under consideration

Duration, Monitoring and Review

The Action Plan is intended to see the MSP initiative through its development and establishment phases 2018-2021 in line with the debt for adaptation swap timeline. Aspects of the Action Plan, namely the designation of Zone 1 and Zone 2 protected/management areas (See Action Plan Objective 1), have strict time bound milestones in order to enable the disbursement of funds from the debt swap agreement. It is critical to the realisation of the MSP that these activities are completed on time. The other aspects are less time critical and can be reviewed in year 4 of the plan in order to seek to optimise their realisation by 2021. Monitoring and review of implementation of area management plans and implementation of the research agenda will be priority aspects of the follow up action plan 2022-2026.

Implementation Mechanisms

The Government Ministry with portfolio responsibility for Environment in partnership with The Nature Conservancy will coordinate and oversee the finalisation of the Seychelles MSP. The governance mechanism for the implementation, monitoring, review and adaptive management of the plan is currently being developed/determined under the auspices of the SWIOFish3 project.

Capacity Building Note: This is a key component that needs to be properly incorporated but cannot be assessed until: a) the Governance structure is determined and b) the management plans are finalised.

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MSP Action Plan

Objective 1	Marine Protected Areas, Zone 1 and Zone 2, are designated within the timelines specified for both phases of the MSP Initiative.	
Situation analysis	<p>The Seychelles debt swap lays out a strict timeline for the designation of new MPAs, in two phases, which must be met to realise the disbursement of funds. Phase 1 is required to be completed no later than June 2018¹. Phase 2 has two milestones due by December 2018 and December 2020 respectively. Key procedures must be undertaken within timeframe to realise this, namely: identification of all new areas for designation, determination of which legislation to use for each area, implementation of Protected Area Policy protocol for designation of protected areas. The existing legislation of the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act (NPNCA) and the Fisheries Act (2014) provides for all the circumstances required under the MSP. The Fisheries Act however, has not yet been used to create fishery management areas, and neither NPNCA nor the Fisheries Act have categories of PA been developed under its auspices. In light of the Phase 1 deadlines it is proposed, as an interim measure, that the NPNCA be utilised for the designation of all areas. Zone 2-Medium Biodiversity and Sustainable Use Areas could be catered for under the classes of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or National Park that is, Fishery Management Area (AONB) or (National Park). In such instances SFA, for example, could be designated as the Management Authority and the regulations would set out the criteria for the operation of the fishery management area. Management areas could be transferred to appropriate categories under the Fisheries Act when they have been elaborated.</p>	
Category	Description	Indicators
Results	Phase 1	
	1) Zone 1 & 2 areas identified, mapped, endorsed by stakeholders and approved by GoS.	Map of approved areas
	2-3) Appropriate legislation and category applied for each area and Protected Area Policy followed through to designation by June 2018.	Public notices, media coverage, consultations
	4) At least 15% of EEZ and/or TW designated by June 2018 (Zone 1: 5% & Zone 2: 10%).	Official Gazette
	Phase 2	
	5) Zone 1 & 2 areas identified, mapped, endorsed by stakeholders and approved by GoS.	Map of approved areas
	6-7) Appropriate legislation and category applied for each area and Protected Area Policy followed through to designation.	Public notices, media coverage, consultations
	8) (An additional) 15% of EEZ and/or TW designated. 8a) 7.5% by December 2018 (Zone 1: 5% & Zone 2: 2.5%) 8b) 7.5% by December 2020 (Zone 1: 5% & Zone 2: 2.5%)	Official Gazette
Activities	Phase 1	
	1) Identify at least 15% of the Exclusive Economic Zone and/or Territorial Sea as areas for new biodiversity	Draft maps

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	protection using the MSP Zoning Framework: Zone 1 and Zone 2.	
	2) Identify which legislation and category to be utilised for each zone area.	Draft regulations
	3) Follow Protected Areas Policy for designation of PAs	Public notices, consultation findings etc.
	4) Designate Phase 1 areas as protected ³ .	Official Gazette
	Phase 2	
	5) Identify at least 15% of the EEZ and/or Territorial Sea as area for new biodiversity protection and zones for multiple use using the MSP Zoning Framework: Zone 1, 2 and 3 ⁴ .	Draft maps
	6) Identify which legislation and category to be utilised for each PA	Draft regulations
	7) Follow Protected Areas Policy for designation of PAs	Public notices, consultation findings etc.
	8) Designate Zone 1 and Zone 2 areas as protected.	Official Gazette
Notes	<p>1: The initial target date was December 2017 but through the application of negotiated grace periods was extended to June 2018.</p> <p>2: (a) In line with paragraph 4 of the policy statement, these areas should also be selected with a view to meeting Seychelles international commitments e.g. protecting threatened biodiversity, key habitats (coral reefs, sea grass beds, nursery habitats & SPAGs) and critical habitats for migratory species. (b) Each area must have its specific MSP objectives defined so that its contribution to the national initiative can be monitored, assessed and adaptively managed.</p> <p>3: Phase 1 designates the Territorial Sea Interim Zone 2 except for Area 1. Phase 1 designations may be subject to change in the development of Phase 2 in order to meet the 30% goal by area, and 30% goal for representation of species and habitats throughout Seychelles' waters.</p> <p>4: The Phase 1 Zoning design proposes Area 1 as Zone 3-Multiple Use. In Phase 2, it is recognised that 15% of this area may be Zone 1 and 15% may be Zone 2 as there are various unique habitats around the main granitic islands that require protection for the MSP to realise its Mission. This means that additional protected areas will need to be identified, negotiated and designated during the timeline.</p>	

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Objective 2	Zones are under effective management regimes that support the MSP objectives.	
Situation analysis	The areas that make up Zone 1 and Zone 2 respectively have been selected for specific reasons that support the overall mission of the MSP. Each area therefore requires a management plan to guide and realise the attainment of its objectives and thus the advancement of the MSP. Zone 3 may likewise be subject to enhanced management measures and/or legislation for specific areas, activities or developments ¹ . Plans must be pragmatic and reflect the reality of what is attainable in often very large and far-flung areas. Likewise areas that face extensive user conflicts, such as large portions of Area 6 will require more detailed management measures and monitoring and evaluation to enable adaptive management. In such cases planning effort should focus first on the few overarching management objectives and then on the more detailed consideration of the many human uses.	
Category	Description	Indicators
Results	1) Stakeholder approved standardised Management Plan format(s) by end of 2018.	Management plan formats and guidelines.
	2&3) Peer reviewed and finalised management plans.	Management plans publicly available.
	4) All Marine Protected/Management Areas have management plans under implementation.	Implementation reports Site visits etc.
	1-4) Area objectives advanced and overall MSP objectives supported.	Management plan and MSP reviews
Activities	1) Develop, as a matter of urgency, standard formats for Protected/Management area management plans ² .	Draft Standard formats.
	2) Develop specific area draft management plans with clear measures to support area and MSP objectives ³ .	Draft management plans
	3) Draft plans reviewed by scientific and PA management peer group.	Panel comments and recommendations.
	4) Implement area management plans ⁴ .	Implementation reports.
Notes	<p>1: For example, the development of a decision matrix to guide authorisation of and conditions for petroleum exploration.</p> <p>2: Different formats may be required for Zone 1 and Zone 2 areas.</p> <p>3: Specific attention should be given to pragmatic measures for MCS – Monitoring, Control and Surveillance. In addition to the area and MSP objectives.</p> <p>4: The monitoring, review and adaptive management of area management plans will be fundamental to the next MSP cycle (2022-2026).</p>	

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Objective 3	Governance frameworks are developed to enable effective implementation and management of the MSP
	This is an on-going consultancy under the SWIOFish3 project.
	To be added.

Objective 4	Monitoring data collection and analysis is optimised, and management-oriented research undertaken to support attainment of MSP objectives and its adaptive management.	
Situation analysis	<p>Structured, strategic data collection and analysis, coupled with targeted research is essential to enable monitoring, review and adaptive management of both specific area management plans and the overarching MSP.</p> <p>Monitoring: Strategic and crosscutting, as well as priority specific, datasets need to be identified and integrated throughout the MSP areas where appropriate. With regard to fishery resources and their management fishery dependent monitoring needs significant upgrading in both quality (species resolution) and quantity (representativeness) (Moreno 2013) and significantly more resources need to be allocated to enable a structured approach to fishery-independent data gathering. Research: The current MSP was developed from a limited available dataset¹, diverse proxies were utilised to generate the maps, for example for biodiversity interest, supplemented often by subjective or anecdotal accounts. It is important therefore that key strategic gaps in current knowledge and information be identified and wherever possible addressed by targeted research. Research should be management-oriented in line with the objectives of the MSP.</p>	
Category	Description	Indicators
Results	Monitoring	
	1&2) Crosscutting and priority data requirements are identified and used for strategic and targeted data collection.	Monitoring protocols and resulting datasets.
	3) Standardised dataset parameters and formats are utilised.	Dataset guidelines & formats ² . Data sharing agreements.
	4) Data utilised for management and adaptive management passes independent peer review process.	Approved datasets.
	5) Data maintained in high utility (transferable) format.	Dataset formats
	1-5) Adaptive management of MSP and areas therein is enabled.	Biodiversity and resource indicators. Revised plans and MSP
	Research	
	6) Strategic, key and crosscutting knowledge and data gaps are identified.	Assessment of knowledge gaps and research recommendations.
	7) National MSP research agenda under implementation.	Reports and scientific publications.

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	8) Review panel operational, MSP scientific practices established etc.	Minutes of meetings and recommendations.
Activities	<i>Monitoring</i>	
	1) Identify data requirements to support MSP and crosscutting Area management plan objectives. (X-ref Activity 8).	Assessment of priority strategic and crosscutting data requirements.
	2) Identify data requirements to support priority, area-specific management objectives. (X-ref Activity 8).	Assessment of priority area-specific data requirements.
	3) Establish criteria for MSP datasets to facilitate analysis and utility (X-ref Activity 8).	Dataset guidelines and formats. Data sharing agreements.
	4) Undertake independent peer review of all datasets (X-ref Activity 8).	Dataset reviews.
	5) Maintain data in formats suitable for transfer among tools and programs.	Dataset guidelines and formats.
	<i>Research</i>	
	6) Identify strategic, crosscutting and key gaps in national knowledge and data for MSP management ³ .	Knowledge gap analysis and assessment.
	7) Develop a prioritised management-oriented research agenda.	Stakeholder approved research agenda.
	8) Establish an independent panel of scientific experts to develop and approve MSP scientific practices, review findings (X-ref Activities 1-4) and to approve model data sharing agreement	Panel membership and appointment, minutes of meetings etc.
Notes	<p>1. Though numerous, diverse and significant studies have been undertaken of the marine environment in Seychelles – structured scientific data regarding ecosystem function, health and productivity are still chronically lacking. This lack of structured data represents a key obstacle to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity.</p> <p>2. Guidelines and formats to be developed by independent scientific panel created by activity 8.</p> <p>3. Development of the research agenda should be undertaken in collaboration with the National Institute for Science, Technology and Innovation (NISTI) and build where pertinent on aspects of the research agendas of the NBSAP, NPOA sharks, BERI, UniSey, etc. NISTI holds the legal mandate for “providing leadership and coordination for research in science, technology and innovation” and related matters as set out in in the 2014 NISTI Act (Act 6 of 2014).</p>	

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Objective 5	Communities and stakeholders are actively engaged in the MSP Initiative.	
Situation analysis	The Seychelles MSP initiative has sought to follow best practice in its formulation and development through an iterative process of stakeholder consultation. Maintaining and enhancing stakeholder engagement is however an open-ended undertaking. The ultimate success of the MSP its implementation and adaptive management depends upon effective stakeholder and involvement and ownership of the process.	
Category	Description	Indicators
Results		
	1) Stakeholder listings updated at least every 2 years.	Maintained stakeholder list.
	2) Stakeholders are actively engaged in the MSP initiative.	Stakeholder participation, provision of data etc...
	3) Communities are aware of, informed on and able to contribute to the MSP initiative.	Input from general public
	4) Students are aware of, informed on and able to contribute to the MSP initiative.	Student involvement in spectrum of MSP activities.
	1-4) Communities and stakeholders are properly informed on and actively engaged in the MSP Initiative.	Stakeholder participation in meetings, activities, research, monitoring & data gathering etc...
Activities	1) Undertake periodic stakeholder analyses to ensure stakeholder outreach and engagement, in dynamic and evolving scenario, is optimised	Stakeholder analysis and biennial reviews
	2) Provide regular stakeholder updates on development and implementation of the MSP with focus on upcoming opportunities for participation.	Correspondence MSP Website Media coverage
	3) Develop and maintain a public education and awareness campaign on the need for, desired results from and progress in the Seychelles MSP. Highlighting how private individuals can contribute to the process.	Media coverage MSP Website Public meetings
	4). Develop and maintain a school age education and awareness campaign on the need for, desired results from and progress in the Seychelles MSP. Highlighting how private individuals can contribute to the process.	Education programme and activities.
Notes		

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Abbreviations

AONB	:	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BERI	:	Blue Economy Research Institute
EEZ	:	Exclusive Economic Zone
GOS	:	Government of Seychelles
MCS	:	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance
MSP	:	Marine Spatial Plan
NBSAP	:	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NISTI	:	National Institute of Science, Technology and Innovation
NPOA	:	National Plan of Action
NPNCA	:	National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act
PA	:	Protected Area
TNC	:	The Nature Conservancy
TS	:	Territorial Sea
UniSey	:	University of Seychelles
X-ref	:	Cross reference

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Annex 4: One to One Consultations

During the development of this policy and action plan document individual consultations were undertaken with:

- The Blue Economy Department – Ms. R. Loustau-lalanne (Principal Secretary).
- The Environment Department – Mr. A. Decomarmond (Principal Secretary).
- Seychelles National Parks Authority – Mr F. Joubert (CEO)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries – Mr. M. Nalletamby (Principal Secretary).
- Seychelles Fishing Authority – Mr. C. Gerry (Deputy CEO)
- Ministry of Habitat, Infrastructure and Land Transport – Mr D. Barbe (Principal Secretary)
- Seychelles Island Foundation – Dr. F Dogley (CEO).