



Phase 1 MSP Marine Areas

**Presented in preparation of:
Draft Phase 1 Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan**

This document contains information from the
Phase 1 MSP nomination package for:
Aldabra Group and Amirantes to Fortune Bank

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NOTES

Map areas were legally designated on 21 Feb 2018 in Seychelles.

Information presented in this document is for informational and discussion purposes only.

Information presented here is from the nomination package submitted November 2017, with corrections to typos in the descriptions as per the coordinates in the legal designations.

Management plans for the new marine protected areas will be prepared in Phase 2.

Revisions to the Phase 1 zoning design may occur in Phase 2.

Subject to change upon review and revision.

Subject to government approval.

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SECTION 1: HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Background Information

Seychelles biodiversity hotspot and conventions

Marine and coastal biodiversity has been fundamental to the socio-economic development of the Seychelles since human colonization in the late 18th century (GoS, 2014). To date, tourism and fisheries remain the two main pillars of the economy. As far back as 1969, the Government of Seychelles recognises through the Tourism policy of 1969 that *'the attractions that tourists will seek, and above all to protect the natural beauty of these islands, which from all points of view, including tourism, is probably our greatest asset'*.

Seychelles conservation measures date back to the 1770's

With a high level of endemism at 50-85% for different animal groups and 45% for plants, (GoS, 2011) it is unsurprising that the Seychelles has a long history of conservation measures and management initiatives dating back to the late 1770s with the decrees of De Malavois and initiatives to establish reserves for giant tortoises in the late 1780s. However, area based legislation was only developed in the 1960s, including the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Ordinance of 1969 (Annex I). These were put into context through a Government white paper by Mr. John Procter in 1971 entitled 'Conservation Policy in the Seychelles.' This paper accompanied the development of the Seychelles Tourism Policy (1969) and the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Ordinance of 1969 and the Town and Country Planning Ordinance of 1970.

Unsurprisingly, environmental concerns are firmly entrenched in the Seychelles' Constitution (1993), where article 38 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"*.

Seychelles was the second country to sign the CBD in June 1992 and became a party that same year. One of the Aichi targets of the CBD is that by the year 2020, at least 10% of coastal and marine areas are effectively conserved (Strategic Goal C, target 11). Although Seychelles was one of the first countries in East Africa and the WIO to establish a network of MPAS in the 1960s, the total area of MPAs in Seychelles remains less than 1% of the EEZ. Additionally, the selection criteria in that period of time was based primarily on aesthetic and hence tourism utility, not biodiversity values and with limited stakeholder consultation.

Seychelles committed to protect 30% of its marine EEZ in 2010

In the year 2010, the Seychelles' President made a commitment to declare over 50% of Seychelles' terrestrial surface area and 30% of the marine area under biodiversity conservation as a pledge conditional to raise funds for conservation and climate change adaptation (GoS, 2013; NISA, 2011; Statehouse, 2017). This would exceed the 10% target which is set by the Convention on Biodiversity for the National Marine Territory.

The Seychelles Debt for Nature Swap Agreement signed 2016

From the commitment made in 2010, the MSP initiative is now a necessary output of the award winning government-led Debt-for-Climate-Change-Adaptation swap, the negotiation of which was finalised in February 2016. The debt swap is a significant, globally recognised innovation that now holds the Seychelles government accountable to delivering - over the next 3-5 years - a marine spatial plan that will result in approximately 400,000 square kilometres of improved marine resource management. The milestones of the MSP are conditional in the debt swap loan agreement (Annex II). The first milestone (grace period) is the

identification of 15% of the Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for protection and management by December 2017.

The Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust operational Nov 2016

The MSP is linked to the newly formed Seychelles Conservation and Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) which became operational late 2016. The trust will help fund the implementation of the MSP. The financial model has since attracted other interest, such that SeyCCAT will be managing an additional US\$3M of the World Bank supported Sovereign Blue Bond (through the SWIOFish 3 project). Combining Debt-Swap and Blue Bond proceeds, SeyCCAT will be able to disperse \$0.75M p/a, starting 2018.

Integration with other projects, initiatives and agendas

The Seychelles MSP Initiative is aligned and integrates with national legislation, acts, policies and initiatives, as well as voluntary international obligations and commitments. The MSP supports the Government commitment to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of the Seychelles Blue Economy agenda. The MSP integrates with numerous Seychelles projects and initiatives including the Mahe Plateau Demersal Fisheries Co-Management Plan, Port Master Plan, a GoS-UNDP-GEF Outer Islands Project and Protected Areas Financing project, BioFin Project, SAPPHE and WIO-LAB, the Mariculture Masterplan, Seychelles Upstream Petroleum Policy, and the Blue Economy Roadmap. In Phase 2, the MSP will integrate with additional projects in nearshore waters such as Ecosystem-based Adaptation for climate change, coral reef restoration, and mangrove restoration.

The MSP Process 2014 to date

The MSP process started in February 2014 and 30 official meetings and workshops have been held with more than 100 stakeholders for information, input, discussion, and review, design and management considerations for proposed new areas for marine biodiversity protection. The Government of Seychelles (GoS) is leading the MSP initiative, with planning, science, and facilitation managed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in partnership with GOS-UNDP-GEF Programme Coordinating Unit (PCU), the latter of which are the main funding organisations.

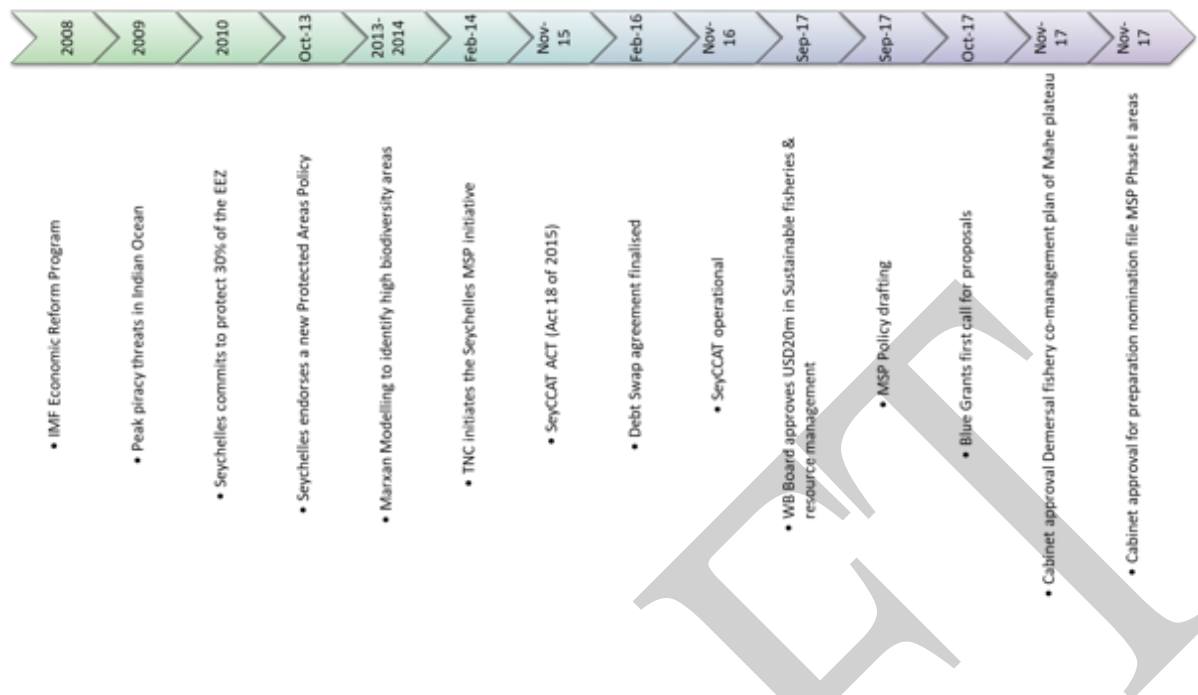
MSP zones developed through stakeholder consultations March 2015

In March 2015, three zone types were proposed through stakeholder input, to simplify the planning objectives of the MSP Initiative in Phase 1 which is, to identify 15% of the EEZ for protection and management (5% in Zone 1 and 10% of the EEZ in Zone 2 by December 2017). See Annex III for description of the zones 1, 2 and 3.

The MSP Initiative has been divided into two phases from 2014-2020. Phase 1 is from 2014-2017 and involves the development of planning tools to initiate the process (e.g., spatial data catalogue and zoning framework) and the development of the decision-making process. Phase 1 outputs include proposals to allocate approximately 200,000 square kilometres (half of the 30% goal) for new zones for marine biodiversity protection and sustainable uses in deep water, outside the Territorial Sea. The Territorial Sea is *interim Zone 2* for all of the waters of Seychelles except the waters surrounding Aldabra Atoll and Assumption Atoll, which are Zone 1. Aldabra Atoll is already a protected area and further discussion is needed for Assumption Atoll on whether it is a Zone 1 area.

In Phase 1, the MSP zones are coarse scale large areas offshore. The zoning design may be refined in Phase 2 and new areas will also be added to reach the full 30% target.

Summary timeline of key milestones leading to nomination of Phase 1 areas



History of Aldabra Group

Although the outer islands consist of over half the number of islands in the Seychelles and more than 90% of the total reef area of the country, only two marine protected areas are fully gazetted to date in the outer island group. These consist of Aldabra Special Reserve in the nominated zone 1 area and the African Banks Protected Area in the nominated zone 2 area. There also exist two nature reserves - Boudeuse and Etoile - in the outer island group.

The Aldabra Group includes the Aldabra Special Reserve (1981) and World Heritage site (1982). Aldabra special reserve is the most isolated and the largest protected area of Seychelles, and the second largest raised coral atoll in the world by dry land area (Management plan). In 2015, the cabinet of ministers approved for the extension of the boundary of the Aldabra Special Reserve to the 3km depth contour line and the legal procedures for gazetting is still ongoing to date, 2017. This extension would increase the size of the reserve from 346 to 2, 559 km² (SIF, 2016). Since 2001 Aldabra was recognized as an important and endemic bird area by Birdlife International and recognised as an Endemic Bird Area (Birdlife International, 2017). It is additionally listed as a Ramsar wetland of international importance in February 2010 (Ramsar, 2014). Aldabra is listed as an area of avoidance owing to sensitivity on navigational charts. This is primarily to deter oil tankers from coming within 30nm of the Atoll (SIF, 2016).

Restoration and eradication work is underway on Aldabra Atoll including the successful eradication of goats (*Capra hircus*) in 2012 after a 5-year intensive eradication programme, eradication of Madagascar fodies (*Foudia madagascariensis*), red whiskered bulbul (*Pycnonotus jocosus*) and Sisal (*Agave sisalana*). The former two species are also being eradicated on Assumption Island. These efforts are being made to protect the native species of the islands and restore terrestrial ecosystem resilience.

The Aldabra Group includes the island of Assumption. In 2015, discussions began with India to lease the island of Assumption for island development, which is linked to the launching of a new coastal radar system in Seychelles in February of 2016. The coastal radar system includes six radar stations on five islands; Mahe, Alphonse, Farquhar, Astove and Assumption (two radar stations).

History of Amirantes to Fortune Bank

The Seychelles archipelago is a recognized biodiversity hotspot and hosts 1,690 km² of coral reefs spread out within its 1.3 million km² of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and Territorial Sea. Out of this, 40 km² are found within the inner islands around Mahé (Jennings *et al.* 2000; Spalding *et al.* 2001; Bijoux *et al.* 2008), and the Mahe Plateau. These granitic islands are found on the northern part of the archipelago which forms the northern arc of the Mascarene Ridge. Seychelles is unique as it is the only oceanic islands of the world of continental origin (GoS, 2014).

The Mahe plateau is the centre of Seychelles' artisanal and semi-industrial fisheries (GoS, 2012). However, there is a requirement for increased capacity to manage these resources and for research into the productivity of the area to allow for sustainable fisheries. For the management of pelagic stocks, Seychelles collaborates with the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission. There is a great need to address by-catch issues in semi-industrial and industrial fisheries as well as Fisheries Aggregation Device (FAD) management. The foreign fishing vessels are restricted from fishing in shallow water areas as per Regulation 5 of the Fisheries Act (1987; Cap 82). Seychelles has also banned the use of spear guns and bottom trawling under the Fisheries Act. Other key steps taken by the Seychelles include complete legal protection of all marine mammals in 1979 and all marine turtles in 1994. Seychelles was one of the first countries to develop and begin the implementation of a National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks. The African Banks and surrounding reefs were designated under the Protected Areas Act in 1987.

Although the artisanal fishery has maintained a relatively stable catch over the last 25 years, (4-5,000 MT/yr) there has been an increase in effort and change in fishing techniques over this period of time in other fisheries. The pelagic longline fishery started in 1995 with a steady increase in the number of vessels from 7 to 28 to date with total catch increasing from 270mt in 2010-2013 to almost 1,000mt in 2016 (Chassot, 2017). The Seychelles also lies in the heart of the Indian Ocean tuna fishing grounds and has been the regional hub for Industrial fishing (Purse Seine and Longline) since the mid-1980s, with foreign fishing fleets from the EU, Korea, China, Mauritius, and Taiwan. Seychelles also hosts one of the most productive tuna canneries in the world – the Indian Ocean Tuna (IOT) Ltd. Cannery (Chassot, 2017; GoS, 2014).

Pressures on the fishery sector are now reaching unsustainable levels. Through the assistance of a World Bank Project, USD \$25M is available for sustainable fisheries and marine resource conservation. Seychelles can refocus its demersal fishery development around a sustainable Blue Economy. The project focuses on the Mahe plateau area and the Seychelles demersal fishery co-management plan, the first phase of which was approved by the cabinet of Ministers in Nov 2017. The intention is to support implementation of the Zone 2 areas of the MSP.

The outer islands, including Coetivy and the islands in the Amirantes, are managed by the Islands Development Company (IDC) which partners with the Island Conservation Society to undertake conservation work on some islands. Hotel operations in these remote outer islands also support research, conservation and rehabilitation work. The privately owned island of D'Arros located in the Amirantes Group has also set up a foundation to assist with conservation initiatives on the island.

Coetivy Prawn Farm 1989-2009

In 1989, the Island Development Company (IDC) and the Seychelles Marketing Board (SMB) established a prawn farm on Coetivy to produce black tiger prawns. The location was used because it is the closest coral island to Mahe, which was large enough (Muylder *et al.*, 1996). The non-native giant black tiger prawn (*Penaeus monodon*) was the main species reared (FAO 2000-2007). The island had its own hatchery (Muylder *et al.*, 1996). The only chemicals used on Coetivy were inorganic fertilizers. They were applied at the beginning of the growth cycle to boost plankton growth in the ponds. The elongated shape of the island made it possible to pump seawater from one side of the island and discharge it on the other side. However,

there were no settling tanks on the island. The effluent water was drained straight back into the ocean on the eastern side of the island by gravity (Muylder *et al.*, 1996). This water was heavily loaded with organic matter, mostly from uneaten feed and faeces produced by the shrimps (Muylder *et al.*, 1996). With the large volume of water discharged per day, the lagoons on the eastern side of the island were affected. The prawn farm ceased operation in 2009. A minimum security prison facility was then opened in 2010 holding some 75 inmates. The prison has now closed and the island's facilities serve a drug rehabilitation programme. The marine environment is in need of restoration efforts and sound management to ensure rehabilitation of the reef and marine ecosystems.

SECTION 2: PHASE 1 ZONING DESIGN

Objectives and goals

The Government of Seychelles has set a target for 30% marine protection, with half of this in “no take” areas to protect marine biodiversity resources. Also, in response to climate change threats (e.g., warmer ocean temperatures, sea level rise) and uncertainty surrounding the effects that these events will have on the marine ecosystem, the government has adopted the precautionary principle and is making management decisions that are conservative for the water surrounding Seychelles. This approach is supported by the scientific community, including recent studies that show the importance of large, effectively managed marine reserves to support climate change resilience of the oceans to increasing threats including ocean acidification, decreased productivity and oxygen availability and cumulative effects from human activities (Roberts *et al.* 2017). The 30% goal is both by area and by representation for species and habitats, and because of the large size of Seychelles' EEZ, the waters were stratified by planning units in deep water (> 200 m) and shallow water (\leq 200 m).

The objective for new marine protections in deep water will be different than in shallow waters because the biodiversity is different, the sensitivity to human disturbance is different, and the status and condition is different. In shallow waters, for example, protections for coral reefs not only contribute to the long-term health of these ecosystems and support fishing and tourism activities, it also supports coastal protection functions such as during high winds and tides. In deep water, there are many benthic features that only occur at these depths including seamounts, mountains, guyots, canyons and plains. Pelagic ecosystems typically function at much larger scales than shallow and nearshore ecosystems, and marine organisms may travel hundreds or thousands of kilometers to forage and during migrations. The zoning design was developed using all best available data, is incorporating information on surface currents, archipelagic ecosystems, fish life history, and gradients of biodiversity to propose areas for pelagic marine reserves that avoid high priority areas for socio-economic activity yet are close enough to source populations that they can be seeded by currents and replenished (e.g., Andrello *et al.* 2016).

Developing the Zoning Design

The development of a marine spatial plan is iterative, and the plans are living documents. The Seychelles zoning design involved multiple steps including gathering and analysing data and information, developing planning tools, identifying high priority areas for stakeholders, developing draft outputs for discussion and feedback, review with stakeholders, incorporating feedback. From 2014-2017, the MSP has had 30 stakeholder meetings and workshops, more than 60 one-to-one consultations with stakeholders and Ministries, and received input and feedback on the methodology during public presentations and scientific conferences. The Executive Committee, Steering Committee and Technical Working Groups have representation from all the marine sectors in Seychelles, and all told more than 100 stakeholders have been invited to participate throughout Seychelles and foreign partners to Seychelles. Announcements for

workshops are on the MSP website, newspaper and media since 2014, and individual invitations are sent to encourage participation.

The first zoning design was presented to stakeholders in early 2015, and has since gone through five iterations as a result of stakeholder input, participatory mapping and scientific analyses (e.g., Marxan with Zones). The zoning designs incorporated information from the 2015 GOS-UNDP-GEF project for identifying potential new marine protected areas using Marxan. More than 100 spatial data layers are being used to inform proposed marine protected areas including high priority areas identified by fisheries, petroleum, tourism, recreation, renewable energy, ports, marine conservation, and infrastructure. With the information at that time, we identified the top 15 and 30% of areas for biodiversity using the irreplaceability values from the Marxan, in discussion with local experts. The GOS-UNDP-GEF data set included more than 100 biodiversity features through expert workshops and scientific reviews.

In 2015-2016, new spatial analyses were completed to identify high priority areas for biodiversity protection using Marxan with Zones because the MSP Zoning Framework had been revised to three zones, to improve the methodology of zoning to meet the 30% marine protection target by 2020. Some biodiversity features were over-represented in the Marxan work from 2011-2015 and we were also looking for possible solution sets closer to the 30% goal. Additionally, it was decided to focus on benthic habitat features as the basis for selecting biodiversity priority areas, and determine representation post-hoc using spatial decision-support tools.

The new Zoning Framework developed in Apr 2015 was: Zone 1 High marine biodiversity protection (15%), Zone 2 Medium marine biodiversity protection and sustainable uses (15%), and Zone 3 Multiple Use (70%). The MSP Initiative used Marxan with Zones software and the three zone categories to identify the high priority areas for biodiversity using three scenarios: biodiversity bias, Blue Economy bias, and economic bias.

The ecological criteria for identifying marine protected areas in a network are well established in the scientific literature and include size, spacing, shape, replication, representation, unique features, breeding habitat, foraging habitat and combining the ecological with economic, social, and cultural criteria. Socio-cultural criteria include participation by stakeholders and transparency in decision making. Economic criteria include evaluating the benefits and costs of creating new marine protected areas.

Two marine protected areas were identified using an iterative process. The Seychelles MSP Initiative has been involved with stakeholders, local experts, and others since 2014 for the identification of new marine protected areas for this first milestone of 15% of the EEZ, and stakeholder advice has been summarised (Annex VI).

Decisions for completing Phase 1

Several process decisions were made in Phase 1 to reach the first milestone, and agreement for these decisions was taken at the Executive Committee and Steering Committee levels with input from the Technical Working Groups.

- The Territorial Sea waters are some of the most well used waters within Seychelles, and have the most complexity with respect to identifying new marine protected areas and allowable uses. In August 2015, it was agreed that except for Aldabra and Assumption, the Territorial Sea waters would not be discussed in Phase 1, and would be Interim Zone 2.

- Interim Zone 2 is the term given to those areas that are within the Territorial Sea waters (12 nautical miles) that will be discussed in Phase 2. By 2020, the Interim Zone 2 areas will have 15% in Zone 1 High Biodiversity and 15% in Zone 2 Medium Biodiversity-Sustainable Use.
- Existing agreements will be in place through 2020 so as to phase in increased marine protection and sustainable uses. There are several existing agreements in Seychelles and these are taken in to account in the zoning design.
- The Seychelles Marine Spatial plan will contain complete information about the process for identifying marine protected areas for 30% of the EEZ, and the implementation of these areas and improved management for the entire EEZ and Territorial Sea, including management plans for climate change adaptation.

Description of Aldabra Group

Aldabra Group has been designated under the National Park and Nature Conservancy Act as a Marine National Park. This area is in the MSP Zoning Framework Category: Zone 1 - High biodiversity protection. The area is 74,400 square kilometers and encompasses 5.4 percent of Seychelles' waters.

General Location

This proposed marine protected area is located in the western portion of Seychelles' archipelago, approximately 1,000 km from Mahe, and includes the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Aldabra Atoll and pelagic waters surrounding Aldabra, Assumption, Cosmoledo and Astove. In Phase 1, the area includes the 17 islands and islets of Aldabra Atoll and Assumption Atoll, the lagoon waters and territorial sea surrounding these waters. It does not include the expanded boundary of Aldabra Atoll (Seychelles Island Foundation), and does not include the waters surrounding the 17 islets of Cosmoledo Atoll or Astove Atoll as they are Interim Zone 2 and will be categorised in Phase 2. Coordinates are presented in Annex IV.

Objective of protected status

The objective of this new marine protected area is to expand the area and increase the level of protection for the deep, marine waters and seabed surrounding the Aldabra Group, conserving unique biodiversity features in these waters of the Seychelles archipelago, improving management for large marine predators and highly migratory species, and protecting the seabed from any alteration.

Area Description and Rationale for Designation

This area contains one of the most internationally recognised biodiversity hotspots in the Indian Ocean, Aldabra Atoll. Aldabra is an outstanding example of biological evolution and is the only habitat where a number of animals of Outstanding Universal Value survive. Marine species inside and outside the existing marine protected area include demersal and pelagic fish, whale sharks (*Rhincodon typus*), sea turtles, sharks, rays, cetaceans and seabirds. Aldabra is world's second largest raised coral atoll, atolls that have been uplifted and are composed of significant deposits of limestone (Annex V, Table 4). In Seychelles the raised atolls include Aldabra, Cosmoledo and Astove, all of which have significant lagoons. Aldabra Atoll has the second largest breeding colony for frigatebirds in the world (both great and lesser frigatebirds; *Fregata minor* and *F. ariel*) and is the only oceanic colony for caspian terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*). Extensive mangroves in the lagoons of Aldabra Atoll provide important nesting and foraging habitats for seabirds, as well as nursery grounds for reef fish and up to six species of sharks. Aldabra Atoll is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site because of the high rates of terrestrial endemism and a rich, marine ecosystem including a fringing reef system and coral habitats, their intactness and sheer abundance and size of species was rarely paralleled in similar ecosystems (UNESCO 1982). A small population of Dugong (*Dugong*

dugong) are found near Aldabra, the most endangered animal in Western Indian Ocean. The pelagic waters are breeding habitat for humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*).

The rationale for increasing and expanding protection here is because of the global importance for many species that are pelagic and travel many hundreds of kilometers to forage from the nesting sites on Aldabra Atoll or the other islands in this archipelago group. This area has been identified by BirdLife International and Nature Seychelles as an Important Bird Area (2015), and is regionally identified as significant by the Western Indian Ocean Marine Ecoregional analysis (WWF 2015). There are globally significant populations of endangered green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and critically endangered hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). The deep water habitats include “Giraud” and “Tchernia” seamounts as well as canyons, slope, hills and plains.

Restricting the number of allowable activities in this area is being done to remove disturbances to ecosystem function and address threats from climate change, chronic pollution from shipping and potential for oil spills or leaks if there were to be oil development. Aldabra is listed as an "Area to be Avoided" on navigational charts due to the risk of grounding on Aldabra Atoll; this is primarily to deter oil tankers from coming within 30 nm of the Atoll (SIF, 2016). Additional reasons for increasing the protections to the highest level – the equivalent of IUCN 1b, no take – are that the area is far from Mahe and difficult to enforce with traditional security and surveillance methods. If the allowable activities in this area are restricted to vessel passage and non-extractive tourism activities, then patrols and at-sea surveillance and monitoring may be supplemented by other technologies that can identify when vessels are fishing (e.g., by vessel speed and vessel track) or doing other activities not allowed, and thus determinations made quickly on whether enforcement is needed.

Existing Protections and Zones

Aldabra Atoll is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1982) and the wetlands are a RAMSAR site (2010). Aldabra Atoll is designated in Seychelles as a “Special Reserve” (NPNC Act 1981; IUCN 1b). The waters are designated as an Indian Ocean Whale Sanctuary (GOS 1979) and protected by several statutes: Protection of Marine Mammals (SFA 1987); Wild Animals (Turtle) Protection Regulations (DOE 1994); Wild Animals (Whale Shark) Protection Regulations (DOE 2003). The nesting seabirds, giant tortoises and sea turtles, are protected by the Seychelles Wild Animals and Birds Protection Act of 1961 through the Wild Birds Protection Regulations of 1966, Wild Animals (Giant Tortoises) protection regulations of 1974 and Wild Animals (turtles) protection regulation of 1994 respectively. This area contains two fishing zones in the Seychelles Fisheries Act: Fishing by Foreign Vessels prohibited zone #8 (Cosmoledo and Astove; 5,344 km²; Fisheries Act Reg 5, 2012) and #9 (Aldabra and Assumption; 6,934 km²)(Fisheries Act Reg 5, 2012). Combined, these two zones are approximately 0.9 percent of the expanded area.

Marine Biodiversity Analyses

Habitat

The Aldabra Group contains 10 deep water seafloor features, with most of the area occurring in waters deeper than 200 m (Annex V, Table 1). This area contains 67% of the deep water habitat types and contains several seamounts (Annex V, Figure 1). The area contains nearly a quarter of the shallow water habitat features, with the primary feature being the platform reef surrounding Aldabra, the raised coral feature that makes this a famous place. The raised platform reef is a unique feature for this area of Seychelles and the entire 30% goal is captured.

Species

Aldabra is an internationally significant location for seabirds including one of the world’s largest colonies for great and lesser frigatebirds, with at least a quarter of the waters identified as frigatebird foraging habitat

(Annex 3, Table 5). The waters surrounding Cosmoledo are important foraging habitat for the *Sula* species that nest on the island. Cosmoledo is the most important unprotected breeding site for seabirds in Seychelles and holds the nations largest colonies for red-footed and masked boobies, as well as remaining pairs of brown boobies (Skerrett and Disley 2011). Aldabra is recognised as an IBA by Birdlife International (BirdLife International 2017). The Abbotts Booby (*Papasula abbotti*) is a listed IUCN Endangered Species that used to occur on Aldabra Atoll and is now regionally extinct. This proposed area protects nesting and foraging habitats should this species recolonise the Indian Ocean from the Pacific. This is the only location in Seychelles for the Dugong (*Dugong dugon*), so the full 30% protection goal is met in this area. Ten species of sharks have been recorded at Aldabra Atoll (Stevens 1984). The blacktip reef shark (*Carcharhinus melanopterus*) and lemon shark (*Negaprion acutidens*) were the most common species in the 1980s and silver tip shark (*Carcharhinus albimarginatus*) was the most common outside the reef. Shark data were not available for the GOS-UNDP-GEF Marxan analysis, however the National Geographic Pristine Seas expedition in 2015 noted that the highest number of shark species were found at Aldabra Atoll. The pelagic waters contain numerous marine species including breeding habitats for humpback and blue whale, as well as foraging habitat for 10 other cetaceans (Annex V, Table 5). About 11 percent of the area overlaps with a BirdLife Marine Important Bird Area, and almost 50% of the area was identified for regional significance by experts (WIOMER 2012).

Current Uses

Seychelles Island Foundation has a permanent, year round presence on Aldabra, conducting monitoring and scientific research. A radar station is on Astove and Assumption, and there is a proposal for a permanent military base or presence on Astove. There are year-round residents on Assumption Island, and tourism activities on Cosmoledo. Industrial purse seine and longline fisheries by foreign vessels for tuna use the surrounding waters and there is a limited amount of fishing by semi-industrial longline. The mean total catch by purse seine has been 1,011 MT per year (SFA 2003-2012), representing about 1.5% of the total catch by purse seine in the EEZ (Annex V, Table 7). The atolls provide shelter for semi-industrial fishing vessels in bad weather and there have virtually been no occurrences in this area for this fishery. Subsistence harvesting occurs on Aldabra for permanent residents, which is managed by the Seychelles Island Foundation. International commercial shipping crosses this zone, sometimes very close to Aldabra Atoll. Marine charters for eco-tourism, diving, and deep sea fishing occur but are not common, due to the distance from Mahe and high price for excursions (Annex V, Table 6). Cruise ships visit Aldabra Atoll and guests go ashore to experience the island's unique fauna and flora. Tourists may only visit as part of a day trip and must have permission. Scuba diving occurs in the waters surrounding Aldabra and drift diving through the channels of the atoll's lagoon is an important attraction of the area for experienced SCUBA divers. Illegal fishing from domestic and foreign fishing vessels occurs in this area, as well as ongoing threats of piracy. Illegal fishing activity is a threat to the sustainable harvest of marine species, contributes to bycatch of non-target organisms and is being seen as a threat to national security in recent years. Improving marine protection in this area is important for addressing the illegal fishing and protecting the area from piracy.

Social and cultural values

Aldabra is an iconic location in Seychelles, and children learn about this archipelago group from an early age. Accessibility is very difficult but there is great interest in this area due to the numerous and unique terrestrial species. A UNESCO World Heritage site is a source of inspiration for young people and this status helps to motivate people to learn more about the location and appreciate nature. The status also inspires people from around the world to appreciate the importance of Aldabra, and to support financially the efforts to maintain and manage the ecosystem.

Current scientific research and facilities

A permanent research facility is on Aldabra Atoll and there is a radar station on Astove and two on Assumption. Recently completed or ongoing scientific work on Aldabra include mapping and ecological modelling of the lagoon, ecological studies of the Giant tortoise population, turtle monitoring and tagging using satellite transmitters, coral and reef fish monitoring programmes, and at-sea foraging habitats of seabirds using telemetry. The National Geographic Pristine Seas Expedition spent one week studying the marine waters surrounding Aldabra, Assumption, Cosmoledo and Astove. This research contributed to the available knowledge about shark distribution and abundance as well as reef fish communities. Island Conservation Seychelles has eradicated rats from Cosmoledo Island and it is important to prevent re-introductions with strict protocols for vessels in this area.

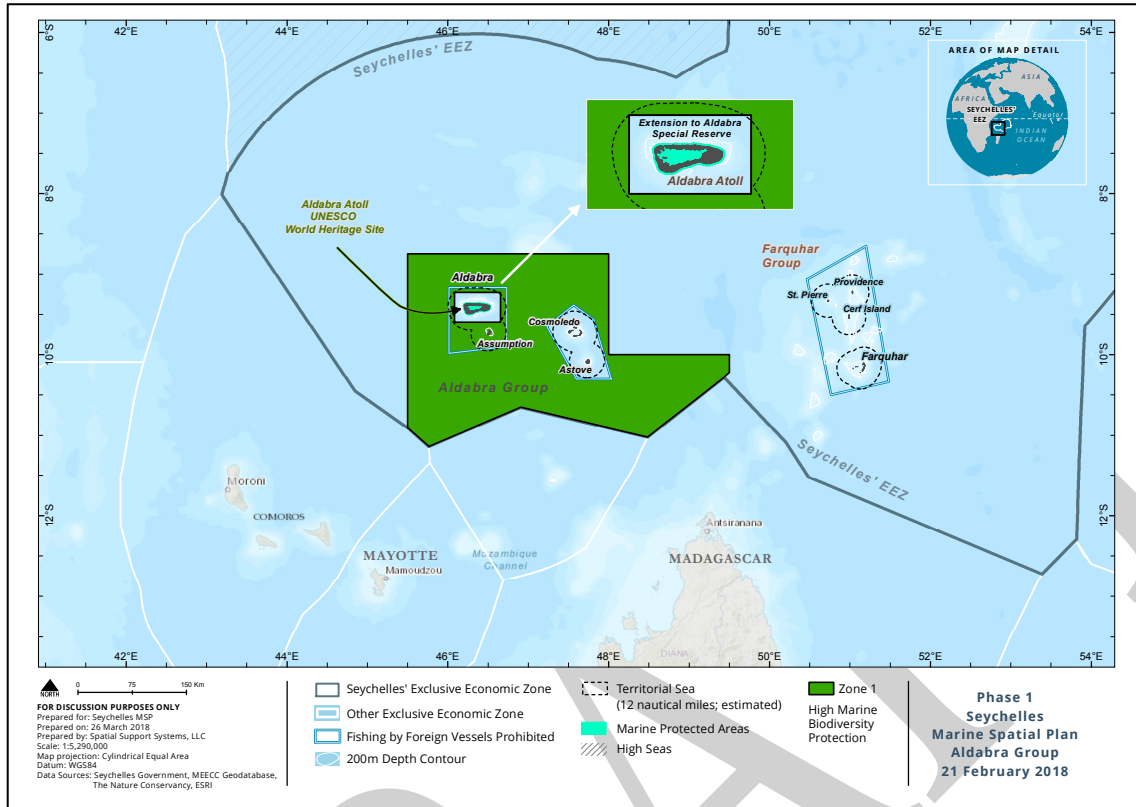
Allowable Activities and Management Considerations

Allowable activities for this marine protected area have been identified using the stakeholder consultation process of the MSP Initiative. All marine uses and activities will comply with general management considerations and area-specific management considerations for Aldabra Group (Section 4). The allowable activities table contains 53 marine activities and a great deal of discussion was needed to arrive at the restrictions and conditions for each activity (Section 5). Generally speaking, there are no extractive fisheries (except subsistence fishing) and other economic activities are either prohibited or restricted with multiple conditions. The general consensus was that equity was important for allowable activities so if one extractive activity was not allowed, this would apply to all extractive activities, no matter how large or small.

Map of Aldabra Group

Zone 1 – High Biodiversity Protection

Legal Designation in Phase 1: Marine National Park (NPNCA)



Descriptions Amirantes to Fortune Bank

Amirantes to Fortune Bank was designated under the National Park and Nature Conservancy Act, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This area is in the MSP Zoning Framework Category: Zone 2 - Medium Biodiversity Protection & Sustainable Use. The size of the area is 136,169 square kilometers, encompassing 10.8 percent of Seychelles' waters.

General Location

This area includes the waters surrounding atolls in the Amirantes, Coëtivy Island and Fortune Bank. It includes the following islets/islands: Boudeuse, Coetivy, Desnoufs, Etoile, Marie-Louise, Platte, Sand Cay. This area does not include St Joseph, Desroches, and Remire Atolls, or Darros and Poivre Islands in the Amirantes. The area does not include Bird or Denis Islands, the Inner Islands of Mahe Plateau, and any waters or islands inside the Port of Victoria Boundary. All Territorial Sea waters in this Zone are Interim Zone 2. This area does not include any of the marine or terrestrial protected areas associated with the aforementioned exclusions. Coordinates are presented in Annex IV.

Objective of protected status

The purpose of this zone is to expand marine protection for marine biodiversity, benthic habitats and the important upwelling ecosystem that occurs in these waters of Seychelles, and to improve sustainable management of compatible uses of coral reef and bank habitats found outside of the Inner Islands and off the Plateau.

Area Description and Rationale for Designation

This area includes some of the Amirantes Group and African Banks, the Mahe Plateau drop-off areas and shelf habitats, Platte and Coetivy Islands, Constance and Fortune Bank. It contains numerous benthic habitat features that are representative of this area in the Seychelles archipelago such as seamounts, guyots, canyons, plains, mountains, and slope. The area contains ecologically productive and diverse drop-off habitat along the Mahe Plateau that provide nutrients to adjacent pelagic and demersal habitats, and contains significant pelagic features and convergent zones offshore that support tuna and other pelagic predator populations because of surface currents and nutrient replenishment. This area includes some relatively shallow habitat features surrounding Coëtivy, Platte, Fortune Bank and Constance Bank, as well as areas of low gravity on the Plateau with potential oil seeps. Eleven different shallow water habitat types occur in this area, as well as "Fred" seamount. Species associations with marine habitats include demersal fish, invertebrates, cetaceans, turtles, sharks, rays, and at least nine seabird species. The 200 m drop-off and upwelling areas are used by pelagic marine life (whales, sharks, seabirds, pelagic fishes). Thirteen species of whales use these waters including blue whale breeding habitat. This area has been identified by BirdLife International and Nature Seychelles as an Important Bird Area (2015), and is regionally identified as significant by the Western Indian Ocean Marine Ecoregional analysis (WWF 2015).

Existing Protections and Zones

African Banks Protected Area (MLUH 1987); Etoile Nature Reserve (DOE 1966); Boudeuse Island Nature Reserve (DOE 1966). Fishing by Foreign Vessels prohibited zone 1 (Mahe and Seychelles Bank: 64,340 km²); zone #2 (Platte: 2,402 km²), #3 (Coetivy Island: 2,998 km²); #4 (Fortune Bank: 2,448 km²); and #5 (Amirantes: 17,396 km²) (Fisheries Act Reg 5, 2012). Combined, these existing fishing prohibited zones are 6.6 percent of the EEZ, meaning that only 4.2 percent of this area is not affected by these fisheries regulations.

Marine Biodiversity Analyses

Habitat

The Amirantes to Fortune Bank contains 14 deep water seafloor features, 93% of the habitat features featured in the biodiversity database (Annex 3, Table 1). This area is very rich in habitat and species diversity, which is why this area also has high economic value for fisheries and tourism and the proposal is for medium biodiversity protection and sustainable uses. This marine protected areas was proposed in this location because it includes plateau, shelf, slope and deep water habitat types, and is very dynamic owing to an extensive network of surface currents moving in this area and the dropoff from the Plateau. During the SE monsoon in particular, clockwise and counter clockwise gyres bring nutrient rich waters from the shelf habitats of Mahe Plateau, African Banks and Amirantes.

Species

This area contains 32, or 84%, of the species biodiversity featured in the spatial database. This is an important area for several seabird species, as well as for seagrasses and sea turtles (Annex V, Table 5). The Amirantes to Fortune Bank are well known for their fisheries values, including sea cucumber, however the MSP spatial database does not contain these distribution and abundance layers. This area was repeatedly selected by the spatial planning tools (Marxan, Marxan with Zones) to meet the 30% goal by area and representation and contains several “hotspots” where the area was selected 100% of the time by the spatial planning tool.

Current uses

This area is very important for artisanal, semi-industrial and industrial fishing activities for tuna, billfish, demersals and other fishes. The area is very important for sport fishing charters and recreational fishing for big game fish in deep waters and along the drop-off. Commercial ships and use this area to enter the Port of Victoria and to transit through Seychelles to other ports, with high traffic routes in both north/south and east/west directions. The Amirantes Group is very important for tourism and charters in Seychelles. A medium security prison is located on Coëtivy Island and maximum-security prison on Marie-Louise (closing 2018). The entire Mahe Plateau is an Area of Interest for PetroSeychelles, and a licensed block is active on the west Mahe Plateau (JOGMEC). The Amirantes are also an area of interest for PetroSeychelles however through discussions over the last 12 months, they have indicated that Mahe, Farquhar and north of Aldabra are more important. Seismic surveys and test wells are among some of the petroleum exploration activity in this area, and there is recent interest on the plateau and two potential applications for licensed blocks. High priority areas for artisanal fishing overlap 32% of this area, and for semi-industrial the overlap is 13% (Annex V, Table 6). For the industrial tuna purse seine fishery, this area has supported mean total catch of approximately 5,740 MT per year, or about 8.6% of the total catch in Seychelles EEZ (Annex V, Table 7). Possible future activities in this zone include Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC), using the exchange of cold deep water and warm surface waters for energy production. This, and other possible future activities are included in the Allowable Activities Tables.

Social and cultural values

This area has high social and cultural value because it is close to Mahe and supports many marine sectors in the Blue Economy – commercial fishing, sport fishing, recreation, and tourism.

Current scientific research and facilities

Scientific research is conducted by Island Conservation Seychelles and on some of the private islands. There are limited research facilities in this area at present however this is a lot of interest by stakeholders for marine conservation for monitoring.

Allowable Activities and Management Considerations

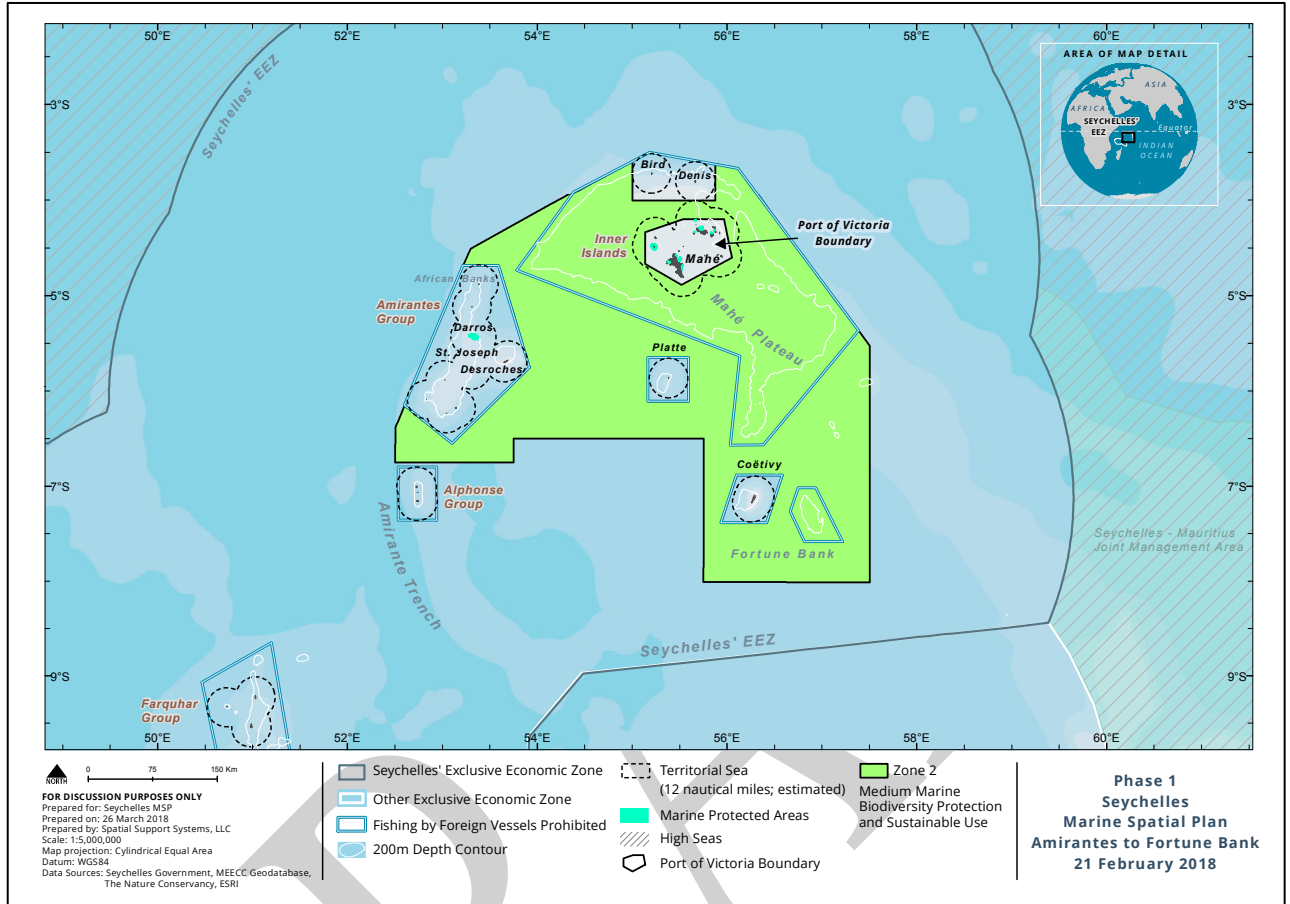
Allowable activities for this marine protected area have been identified using the stakeholder consultation process of the MSP Initiative. All marine uses and activities will comply with general management considerations and area-specific management considerations for Amirantes to Fortune Bank (Section 4). The allowable activities table contains 53 marine activities and a great deal of discussion was needed to arrive at the restrictions and conditions for each activity (Section 5). Generally speaking, the intent is for all uses to be sustainable and they must be compatible with a medium biodiversity protection objective for the species and habitats that occur in this area. Agreement was reached to allow for existing uses up to 2020, while developing management plans and methodology to improve sustainability.

DRAFT

Map of Amirantes to Fortune Bank

Zone 2 – Medium biodiversity protection & sustainable use zone

Legal Designation in Phase 1: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NPNCA)



SECTION 3: MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

General Management Considerations

Applies to activities and uses within the boundary of the Seychelles MSP (EEZ and Territorial Sea waters)

1. All activities are conducted in accordance with all applicable national and international laws, regulations, treaties, and agreements, including:
 - a. Navigational laws and right-of-way must be observed in all Seychelles' waters.
 - b. Seychelles-flagged fishing vessels that are operated by foreign states must comply with all Seychelles laws, regulations and policies and, at a minimum, subject to same management considerations as vessels operated by Seychelles nationals
 - c. Fisheries must comply with Demersal Fisheries Management Plan for the Mahe Plateau.
 - d. Vessels operating under the EU-Seychelles Fisheries Partnership Agreement must comply with Seychelles Fisheries Act, including Foreign Fisheries Prohibited Areas (Reg. 5)
 - e. Regulations and resolutions adopted by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).
 - f. UN FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing, UN FAO Code of Conduct National Plan of Actions in Seychelles, and UN FAO Guidelines for Small-scale Fisheries.
 - g. Petroleum exploration, development and production is authorised by the government of Seychelles and administered by the Mining Act.
 - h. Tourism activities must comply with licenses issued by regulatory authority.
 - i. All marine mammals are protected under the Fisheries Act.
 - j. Marine turtles and whale sharks are protected by Wild Animals and Birds Protection Act
 - k. Seabed mining in the high seas is governed by the International Seabed Authority (ISA).
 - l. Protected Areas Legislation applies to all existing marine and terrestrial protected areas.
 - m. All Seychelles waters are within the ICRW Indian Ocean Whale Sanctuary.
 - n. All prohibitions under the Fisheries Act, including spear fishing and demersal trawl.
 - o. Petroleum activities will comply with Petroleum Upstream Policy (when completed).
 - p. Shipping and transportation is governed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).
 - q. Access to zones for emergencies or navigation is not restricted.
2. All Territorial Sea waters are *Interim Zone 2* in Phase 1 with the exception of marine protected areas of the Aldabra Atoll and UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Assumption Atoll.
3. Climate change adaptation measures will be developed in Phase 2 (2018-2020), integrating existing projects, scientific studies, and socio-economic research including ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) projects and restoration projects in Seychelles.
4. All allowable activities must be compatible with the objective(s) for the area and zone category.
5. All allowable activities must comply with Phase 1 Area-based management considerations.
6. All allowable activities must comply with all existing and future management plans.
7. Management considerations are developed using a participatory process, and the final decision for an allowable activity is the government of Seychelles.
8. Ecosystem-based management plans are needed by 2020 for all activities and/or zones including implementation, monitoring, enforcement, budgets and priority strategies.
9. Activities that are not identified in the table must contact the appropriate management authority and/or MSP Initiative for direction and inclusion.
10. All fishing must avoid fishing fish spawning aggregations such as rabbitfish and grouper, and nursery areas (e.g., of sharks).
11. Semi-industrial longline vessels voluntarily avoid fishing in depths less than 200 m, and needs to be added to regulations and management plans.
12. The "Seychelles Mariculture Master Plan (MMP)" integrates with the MSP in Phase 2.
13. Phase 1 Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan is subject to revision in Phase 2, and upon implementation.

Aldabra Group Area-based Management Considerations

Exclusions are Cosmoledo and Astove Atolls and all Territorial Sea waters; zoning for these areas will be developed in Phase 2. As per discussions with stakeholders and recommendations from the Executive Committee, all current activities that involve extraction, seabed alteration and/or disturbance are allowed until 2020, or when they expire, whichever is soonest. All restrictions, conditions, area-based considerations and management plans come into effect no later than 2021. This phased approach to implementation is necessary to determine governance arrangements, management plans, and implementation financing.

1. All allowable activities must comply with the Aldabra Atoll Management Plan (2016; Seychelles Island Foundation)
2. Seychelles-flagged fishing vessels agreements and licenses in effect until 2020.
3. The EU-Seychelles Fishing Partnership Agreement in effect until 2020 (expiry of current agreement)
4. Seychelles foreign-vessel longline agreements are in effect until expiry (no later than 2020).
5. All existing marine charter reservations and agreements in effect until 2020.
6. Using Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) or other floating objects for the purposes of attracting fish, will be phased out in this area. All FADs and artificially created floating objects will be removed by 2020.
7. All commercial tourism activities in this area are working towards increased sustainability and improved management, and can demonstrate their long-term commitment to economic and ecological sustainability by 2020.
8. The size of cruise ships allowed in this area may need to be reviewed and a passenger limit developed consistent with management of this area for high biodiversity objectives.
9. Fish feeding, chumming or otherwise attracting fish, sharks or marine animals is only allowed for research purposes; all other purposes not allowed.
10. Floating structures may be allowable in this area in the future if they are deemed to result in less environmental damage than terrestrial construction and operation. All construction must avoid sensitive, unique or IUCN listed species or habitats, and in accordance with strict environmental standards that do not harm UNESCO World Heritage status of Aldabra Atoll.

Amirantes to Fortune Bank Area-based Management Considerations

Exclusions are Inner Islands, Port Fee Boundary, Bird Island, Denis Island, Amirantes; all Territorial Sea waters are Interim Zone 2; zoning for these areas developed in Phase 2

1. The EU-Seychelles Fishing Partnership Agreement is in effect until expiry in 2020.
2. Seychelles foreign-vessel longline agreements are in effect until expiry.
3. All petroleum exploration licenses are in effect until expiry, with understanding that active licenses in this zone may develop into commercial exploration permits, which are valid for 35 years. Before the petroleum development and production phase is approved, a decision-making process must be adopted that is public and involves stakeholders.
4. All existing marine charter reservations and agreements are in effect until 2020.
5. All commercial and recreational fishing vessels must comply with Seychelles Fishing Authority regulations.
6. All commercial tuna fishing vessels must comply with Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Regulations and Resolutions.
7. Seychelles-flagged fishing vessels will comply with an approach for improving sustainability of this fishery, 2018-2020. This approach will provide continued access to the area, and to any funding that will support fisheries improvements and develop ecosystem-based fisheries management plans. The approach will be developed in Phase 2, in consultation with stakeholders.
8. Using Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) or other floating objects for the purposes of attracting fish, will be phased out in this area. All FADs and artificially created floating objects will be removed by 2020.
9. All allowable fishing vessels in this area must be working to, or have achieved, a high standard of sustainability by 2020, for example, Marine Stewardship Council Certification (MSC), Fisheries Improvement Plans (FIP).
10. Monitoring and research are needed to determine the evidence for sustainability in free school and FAD tuna fishing.
11. All commercial tourism activities in this area are working towards increased sustainability and improved management, and can demonstrate their long-term commitment to economic and ecological sustainability by 2020.
12. Temporal closures may be present in this area to protect whale shark aggregations and other seasonal animal life history behaviours.

SECTION 4: ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES TABLE

Developing allowable activities tables

The allowable activities table was developed using extensive stakeholder consultation and engagement, including more than 90 different meetings with more than 11 sectors from 2014-2017 (Annex VI). The planning tools used to initiate the tables were a compatibility matrix and master list for uses and activities. Together with spatial information on the marine sectors and access to existing management plans, regulations, legislation and policy, the planning tools and stakeholder consultations resulted in allowable activities that integrate and address the objective of a proposed marine protection area with compatible uses. Additional factors that were considered included the potential socio-economic impact of restricting or prohibiting uses and the uncertainty in the effects of climate change impacts on marine biota and the ecosystem in the future.

Phase 1 Restrictions and conditions codes

The following restrictions and conditions apply to activities within the boundary of all new marine protected areas proposed by the MSP process. The allowable activities were developed from 2014-2017 in consultation with marine sectors and stakeholders to ensure that activities and uses are compatible with the objectives for the new marine protected areas, and developed in accordance with the MSP Guiding Principles. The list of restrictions and conditions apply to the new marine protected areas proposed in Phase 1, and may change for areas proposed in Phase 2, in consultation with stakeholders, and in the final marine spatial plan. Activities will also be elaborated in Phase 2, for example artisanal fishing with multiple gear types and/or techniques.

#	Restriction or Condition
1	Activity complies with approved management plans including environment impact assessment, where applicable.
2	To serve staff, facilities or infrastructure that manages the zone, including enforcement. Need quotas and monitoring. Only for island population. Not hotels or commercial activities.
3	Development proposals require a transparent and participatory process with all stakeholders.
4	Permanent mooring buoys recommended where practical; anchor in designated areas.
5	Restrictions may apply to avoid or minimise disturbance on key species and ecological functions.
6	Government approved permit required for research and monitoring activities.
7	Restrictions or prohibitions on gear or technique may apply. Catch and release may be required, depending on species targeted. Some techniques may be prohibited, such as popping.
8	All ships must have necessary functioning acoustic equipment and adequate trained operators to detect the presence of cetaceans to avoid and minimise detrimental effects at all times during operation in accordance with strict, international published scientific guidelines for minimising disturbance to cetaceans (e.g. JNCC).
9	Where licensed blocks already exist and only for scientific surveys (e.g., data collection and bathymetry, not extraction).
10	Exploration and development phases must adhere to strict standards for the sector incl. health, safety and environment
11	Jet skis are prohibited.
12	In accordance with bag limits, catch limits, rod limits and other gear or catch restrictions found in regulations, policies, management plans, or international conventions and agreements.
13	Fishing by foreign vessel prohibited (Fisheries Act, Reg. 5)
14	To retrieve or pick up FADs, only. No setting or deployment of FADs, and not other operations.
15	In accordance with SPDF.
16	The number of activities offered by marine charters may be limited, depending on the area's objectives.

Phase 1 Allowable Activities Table

Allowable activities apply to the Phase 1 designated areas. See Restrictions and Conditions above for the number codes. A – Allowable; C = conditional; X = restricted or prohibited.

Sector	Marine Activity	Aldabra Group Zone 1	Amirantes – Fortune Bank Zone 2
Fisheries	<i>Artisanal Fishing (Phase 2: table for each gear type)</i>	X	C ^{1,5}
	<i>Big game fishing</i>	X	C ^{1,5,12}
	<i>Demersal Trawl Fishing</i>	X	X
	<i>Fly Fishing, blue water</i>	X	C ^{1,5,12}
	<i>Fly Fishing, lagoon</i>	X	C ^{1,5,12}
	<i>Industrial Purse Seine (free school)</i>	X	C ¹³
	<i>Industrial Purse Seine (floating objects, FADs)</i>	X	X
	<i>Industrial Purse Seine Supply Vessel</i>	C ¹⁴	C ¹⁴
	<i>Industrial Pelagic Longline</i>	X	C ¹³
	<i>Aquaculture Development Zone (ADZ)</i>	X	C ^{1,5}
	<i>Aquaculture Inshore Zone</i>	X	C ^{1,5}
	<i>Aquaculture Land-Based Zone</i>	X	C ^{1,5}
	<i>Aquaculture Offshore Zone</i>	X	C ^{1,5}
	<i>Recreational Fishing</i>	X	C ^{1,5}
	<i>Semi-industrial Longline</i>	X	C ^{1,5}
	<i>Spear Fishing</i>	X	X
	<i>Sport Fishing</i>	X	C ^{1,5,7,12}
<i>Subsistence Fishing</i>	C ^{1,2,5}	C ^{1,2,5}	
Infrastructure & Maritime Security	<i>Ballast and Bilge Dumping</i>	X	
	<i>Commercial shipping</i>	C ^{5,8}	C ^{5,8}
	<i>Desalination</i>	X	C ^{1,3,5}
	<i>Disposal and Dumping</i>	X	X
	<i>Dredging</i>	C ^{1,2,3,5}	C ^{1,2,3,5}
	<i>Ferries and Transportation</i>	C ^{2,5}	C ^{1,5}
	<i>Fisheries Patrols and Surveillance (Coast Guard)</i>	A ¹⁵	A ¹⁵
	<i>Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC)</i>	X	X
	<i>Ports, Marinas, Wharves, Jetties</i>	C ^{1,2,3,5}	C ^{1,2,3,5}
	<i>Reclamation</i>	X	X
	<i>Renewable Energy, tidal</i>	X	C ^{1,2,3,5}
	<i>Renewable Energy, wind (offshore)</i>	X	C ^{1,2,3,5}
	<i>Renewable Energy, wave</i>	X	C ^{1,2,3,5}
	<i>Renewable Energy, solar (marine)</i>	X	X
<i>Underwater Cables</i>	C ¹	C ¹	
Non-renewable Resources & Bioprospecting	<i>Bioprospecting Development</i>	X	C ^{1,3,5}
	<i>Deep-sea Mining</i>	X	X
	<i>Methane Gas Exploration, Development, Production</i>	X	X
	<i>Petroleum Exploration Geophysical Surveys</i>	X	C ^{1,3,8}
	<i>Petroleum Exploration Drilling</i>	X	C ^{1,3,5}
	<i>Petroleum Development, Production</i>	X	C ^{1,3,5}
	<i>Petroleum Shipping, during Extraction</i>	X	C ^{1,3,5}
<i>Sand Mining</i>	X	X	
Tourism & Recreation	<i>Anchorage and Mooring Buoys</i>	C ^{1,2,4,5}	C ^{1,2,4,5}
	<i>Cruise ships</i>	C ^{1,3,4,11}	C ^{1,3}
	<i>Floating structure, residential, commercial, non-profit</i>	X	C ^{1,3,4,5}
	<i>Marine charters, licensed hire craft</i>	C ^{1,5,11,16}	C ^{1,2,5,16}
	<i>Recreational Motorised Activities</i>	C ^{1,5,11,16}	C ^{1,2,5,16}
	<i>Recreational Non-Motorised Activities</i>	C ^{1,2,5}	C ^{1,2,5}
	<i>Tourism Accommodation, marine</i>	C ^{1,3,5}	C ^{1,3,5}
<i>Tourism Accommodation, terrestrial</i>	X	C ^{1,3,5}	
Research	<i>Bioprospecting Research</i>	C ^{5,6}	C ^{5,6}
	<i>Scientific Geophysical Surveys</i>	C ^{1,3,5,6,8}	C ^{1,3,5,6,8}
	<i>Scientific Research and Monitoring</i>	C ^{5,6}	C ^{5,6}
	<i>Hydrographic Surveys</i>	C ^{5,6}	C ^{5,6}

SECTION 5: REFERENCES

The reference list contains some of the sources used to develop the zoning design and new marine protected areas. A complete reference list will be available with the draft Phase 1 Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan.

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SECTION 6: ANNEXES

Annex I: Seychelles' history of protected area legislation

Year	Legislation
1961	Wild Animals and Birds Protection Ordinance
1965	Shells Ordinance
1966	Wild Birds Protection (Nature Reserves) Regulations
1967	Protected Areas Act
1969	The National Parks and Nature Conservancy Ordinance
1971	The National Parks and Nature Conservancy (Procedure for designation of Areas) Regulations
1971	Shells Act
1973	The National Parks (Saint Anne Marine) (Designation) Order
1975	National Parks (Saint Anne Marine) Regulations
1975	The National Parks and Nature Conservancy (Special Reserve Aride Island) (Designation) Order
1979	National Parks (Morne Seychellois) (Designation) Order
	National Parks (Baie Ternay Marine) (Designation) Order
	National Parks (Curieuse marine) (Designation) Order
	National Parks (Port Launay Marine) (Designation) Order
1979	National Parks (Praslin) (Designation) Order
1979	National Parks (Aride Island Special Reserve) Regulations
1979	National Parks (Cousin Island Special Reserve) Regulations
1979	SIF Founded
1981	National Parks (Port Launay Marine) Regulations
1981	National Parks (Special Reserve Aldabra) (Designation) Order.
1981	National Parks (Aldabra Special Reserve) Regulations
1981	The Conservation of Marine Shells Act Repealed the 1971 Act
1984	Seychelles Fishing Authority (Establishment) Act
1987	National Parks (Silhouette Marine) (Designation) Order
1987	Protected Areas (African Banks and surrounding Reefs) Order
1987	Protected Areas (Ile Cocos, Ile la Fouche and Ilot Platte and surrounding areas) Order
1991	National Parks (La Digue Veuve Special Reserve) (Designation) Order
1991	National Parks (La Digue Veuve Special Reserve) Regulations
1991	National Parks (Curieuse Marine National Park) Regulations
1992	Transfer of Statutory Functions (Seychelles national environment Commission) Order.
1997	National Parks (Ile Cocos, Ile la Fouche, Ilot Platte Marine) (Designation) Order
2009	National Parks (Moyenne National Park) (designation) Order
2010	National Parks (Silhouette Terrestrial) (designation) Order.
2013	Seychelles' Protected Areas Policy.

Annex II: Debt swap and MSP timeline and milestones

STEP	ORIGINAL MILESTONE DUE DATE	RESULT OF FAILURE/DELAY	FALLBACK MILESTONE #1 DUE DATE	FALLBACK MILESTONE #2 DUE DATE	CONSERVATION PAYMENT / RISKS
Step 1: 15% of EEZ in MPA Status (5% high biodiversity; 10% medium biodiversity)	December 31, 2016 ¹	12 month grace period ² , after which the failure must be remedied (fallback milestone #1); if not, after another 6 months (fallback milestone #2), TNC and SeyCCAT can insist that GoS make a Conservation Payment ³ (US\$ 5.8M at this stage)	December 31, 2017	June 30, 2018	GoS FINANCIAL RISK (DEPENDING ON DATE OF PROCESS) > UP TO US\$ 11.4M. NATIONAL MSP PROCESS DESTABILISED AND DISENGAGED STAKEHOLDERS.
Step 2: MSP signed into law and in full force and effect	February 25, 2017	12 month grace period, after which the failure must be remedied (fallback milestone #1); if not, after another 6 months (fallback milestone #2), TNC and SeyCCAT can insist that GoS make a Conservation Payment (US\$ 5.8M at this stage).	February 25, 2018	August 25, 2018	
Anniversaries: High ranking GoS official delivers conservation report ⁴ to TNC	February 25, 2017 (and on each anniversary thereafter)	TNC and SeyCCAT must notify GoS of failure to deliver report within 20 days of due date; if report not then delivered, TNC and SeyCCAT can insist that GoS make a Conservation Payment (up to US\$ 11.4M, depending on the anniversary date).			NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL REPUTATIONAL RISK TO GoS, TNC, SeyCCAT.
Step 3: Additional 7.5% of EEZ in MPA Status (5% high biodiversity; 2.5% medium biodiversity)	December 31, 2018	12 month grace period, after which the failure must be remedied (fallback milestone #1); if not, after another 6 months (fallback milestone #2), TNC and SeyCCAT can insist that GoS make a Conservation Payment (US\$ 8.5M at this stage).	December 31, 2019	June 30, 2020	
Step 4: Additional 7.5% of EEZ in MPA Status (5% high biodiversity; 2.5% medium biodiversity)	December 31, 2020	12 month grace period, after which the failure must be remedied (fallback milestone #1); if not, after another 6 months (fallback milestone #2), TNC and SeyCCAT can insist that GoS make a Conservation Payment (US\$ 9.9M at this stage).	December 31, 2021	June 30, 2022	

¹ Oddly, this date by which 15% of EEZ must be in MPA status precedes the February 25, 2017 date by which the MPA must be signed into law.

² The 12-month grace period results from the fact that the original Dec. 31, 2016 date is referred to as the “Milestone Date.” If the target (step) has not been achieved by the Milestone Date, there is a “Fallback Milestone Date” 12 months later, by which the failure must be remedied. And then, only if (A) the failure has not been remedied by the Fallback Milestone Date, and (B) the parties don’t then agree to a new set of milestone dates within six months of the Fallback Milestone Date, can TNC and SeyCCAT insist that GoS make a Conservation Payment. This same approach and grace period applies to the steps required by December 31, 2018 and 2020.

³ This is payment to SeyCCAT of an amount equal to the amount GoS would otherwise have had to pay its previous bilateral creditors but for the debt buyback transaction. Section 8 of the New Facilities Agreement details how the amount is calculated and how it is to be held and applied by SeyCCAT.

⁴ This Conservation Report is required to include (i) confirmation that the government remains committed to achieving the conservation outcomes in the MSP; (ii) confirmation as to whether those conservation outcomes have been achieved to date; and (iii) a summary of any deficiencies in achieving those outcomes and steps being taken to remedy those deficiencies.

Annex III. Seychelles MSP Zone Categories

Table 1. Seychelles MSP zoning framework with zone categories, name, objectives and description, version 4.0. These areas are identified using local knowledge, experts, and scientific information.

Zone Category	Zone Name	Spatial Objectives	Zone Description
Zone 1	High Biodiversity Protection Zone	To allocate 15% of the EEZ and Territorial Sea for high marine conservation and biodiversity goals, for representative habitats and species.	High biodiversity protection zones conserve and protect the top priority areas for marine and coastal biodiversity in Seychelles. These zones are designated for habitats and species that may be rare, endangered, unique or with narrow distribution ranges. This zone includes breeding or spawning areas, key foraging habitat, fragile or sensitive species and habitats, and internationally significant areas. When combined, these zones provide habitats and species with long-term protection, and are sufficiently large to ensure ecological resilience and climate change adaptation. This zone category is not suitable for extraction or sea bed alteration.
Zone 2	Medium Biodiversity Protection and Sustainable Use Zone	To allocate 15% of the EEZ and Territorial Waters for medium marine conservation and biodiversity goals, for representative habitats and species. Sustainable uses are compatible with the biodiversity objectives in these areas.	Medium biodiversity protection and sustainable use zones are proposed to conserve areas that are suitable for medium levels of biodiversity protection and are also compatible with some sustainable uses. These zones include habitats and species that have some tolerance to disturbance and human activities. These zones also include regionally and nationally significant areas. This zone category is suitable for some level of extraction and sea bed alteration, with appropriate management and direction, depending on the objective of each designated area.
Zone 3	Multiple Use Zone	To allocate 70% of the EEZ and Territorial Waters to maximise uses and activities in Seychelles, with development aligned with long-term sustainability of the natural resources.	Areas are identified for multiple uses and economic activity. These include high value and/or high priority areas for the marine sectors that use Seychelles waters for economic, social and cultural benefits.

Annex IV: Coordinates for protected areas

Aldabra Group Marine National Park

Comprising an area around the Aldabra Group, with the boundary as follows -

Starting at the southwest corner at the boundary of the EEZ, at coordinates (38S, 554642.81, 8794475.77), move in a northerly direction up to (38S, 554994.86, 9032750.44), then easterly over to (38S, 830110.08, 9031471.35), then southerly to coordinates (38S, 828928.74, 8893091.15), then easterly to (39S, 335588.96, 8894213.74), then south to (39S, 335702.87, 8869602.02), then southwesterly to (39S, 328431.15, 8862842.06), then southwesterly to (39S, 225219.20, 8780563.75), then west-northwesterly to (38S, 709055.59, 8822044.50), then southwesterly to (38S, 583807.45, 8768462.93), then northwesterly back to the point of commencement (38S, 554642.81, 8794475.77).

This area excludes;

1. *Aldabra Special Reserve and the proposed extension of Aldabra Special Reserve*

Comprising an area around Aldabra Atoll that with the boundary as follows –

Starting from southwest corner at coordinates (38S, 618873.19, 8939000.39), then northerly to (38S, 618999.96, 8980000.05), then easterly to (38S, 681998.89, 8979758.49), then south to (38S, 681804.94, 8938749.48), then westerly back to the point of commencement (38S, 618873.19, 8939000.39), and including the lagoon herein.

2. *Cosmoledo and Astove Islands.*

Comprising an area around Cosmoledo and Astove Islands with the boundary as follows –

From Point 11 (38S, 784775.23, 8860262.34) to Point 12 (38S, 745079.90, 8932483.40) to Point 13 (38S, 781899.29, 8961737.17) to Point 14 (38S, 809212.81, 8941233.95) to Point 15 (39S, 175032.61, 8859912.95) and back to Point 11, the point of commencement.

Area name: Amirantes (Marine) to Fortune Bank (Marine) Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Comprising an area from the Amirantes Group to Fortune bank with the boundary as follows -

Starting at the southwest corner and moving in a clockwise direction from coordinates (39S, 665781.69, 9253632.51), move in a northerly direction to coordinates (39S, 666464.25, 9294411.63), then north-northeasterly to (39S, 677044.77, 9319949.22), then southeasterly to (39S, 732213.28, 9275511.10), then northeasterly to coordinate (39S, 823067.46, 9363606.47), then in a north-northwesterly direction to point (39S, 787713.90, 9481807.57), then westerly to (39S, 745902.64, 9481950.96), then northeasterly to (39S, 754795.46, 9502203.08), then east-northeast to (40S, 278033.48, 9602429.63), then southerly to (40S, 278139.13, 9556467.47), then easterly to (40S, 374766.41, 9556650.56), then northerly to coordinates (40S, 374807.17, 9599419.68), then east-southeasterly to (40S, 401717.97, 9594669.08), then southeasterly to (40S, 555379.80, 9389615.40), then southerly to (40S, 555136.15, 9115221.95), then westerly to (40S, 361982.62, 9115217.81), then northerly to (40S, 361783.73, 9281353.13), then westerly to (39S, 804166.72, 9280697.02), then southerly to (39S, 804013.39, 9253029.60), then westerly back to point of commencement (39S, 665781.69, 9253632.51).

This area excludes;

1. *Inner Islands, Port of Victoria*

Seychelles Ports Authority (Extension of Port Victoria)(Declaration) Order, 2012.

Comprising the waters surrounding the Inner Islands and Port of Victoria, in UTM Zone 40, with the boundary as follows -

From southern point, at coordinates (335519.24, 9460050.57), then northwesterly to (292934.33, 9483907.25), then northerly to (292840.07, 9520772.40), then east-northeasterly to (337214.53, 9535612.97), then easterly to coordinates (385316.68, 9535689.85), southerly to (394622.35, 9491480.72) and then southeasterly to the point of commencement (335519.25, 9460050.57)

2. *Bird and Denis Islands*

Comprising an area around Bird and Denis Islands, in UTM Zone 40, with the boundary as follows -

Starting at the southwest corner and moving in a clockwise direction from coordinates (278139.13, 9556467.47), move in a northerly direction to point (278033.48, 9602429.63), then in a northeasterly direction to (298195.18, 9612943.93), then in an east-southeasterly direction to point (374807.17, 9599419.68), then in a southerly direction to (374766.41, 9556650.56), then in a westerly direction back to the point of commencement (278139.13, 9556467.47).

3. *Platte*

Comprising an area around Platte Island, in UTM Zone 40, with the boundary as follows -

From Point 20 (40S, 297111.06, 9324843.23) to Point 21 (296946.11, 9375165.08) to Point 22 (344213.45, 9375296.69) to Point 23 (344339.96, 9324985.29) and back to Point 20, the point of commencement.

4. *Coetivy*

Comprising an area around Coetivy Island, in UTM Zone 40, with the boundary as follows-

From Point 24 (382277.62, 9183733.80) to Point 25 (400565.63, 9239054.61) to Point 26 (453967.08, 9239128.15) to Point 27. (435623.09, 9183832.51) and back to Point 24, the point of commencement.

5. *Amirantes Group and African Banks*

Comprising an area around the Amirantes Islands, in UTM Zone 39, with the boundary as follow:-

From Point 4 (732213.28, 9275511.10) to Point 3 (677044.77, 9319949.22) to Point 7 (745902.64, 9481950.96) to Point 6 (787713.90, 9481807.57) to Point 5 (823067.46, 9363606.47) and back to Point 4, the point of commencement.

Annex V: Data summary tables

Table 1. The percentage area and percentage towards 30% goal of 15 deep water habitat conservation features within the draft marine protection zone areas in Phase 1. These features occur in greater than 200 m depth. Biodiversity conservation features are from GOS-UNDP-GEF report, Klaus 2015. Percentages will add up to more than 100 because of overlapping features.

HABITAT CONSERVATION FEATURE	Percent of overall 30 percent goal found in Aldabra Group	Percent of Aldabra Group covered by this feature	Percent of overall 30 percent goal found in Amirantes to Fortune Bank	Percent of Amirantes to Fortune Bank covered by this feature
Abyss (>6,000 m)	20.4	81.7	17.8	39.0
Abyssal hills (300-1,000m)	15.9	30.2	16.3	16.8
Abyssal mountains (>1,000 m)	18.7	12.6	32.4	11.9
Abyssal plains (<300m)	33.3	38.9	16.1	10.3
Canyon	5.6	0.8	61.1	5.0
Continental slope	16.1	7.6	106.9	27.5
Guyot	0	0	222.4	4.9
Plateau	7.5	2.8	74.3	15.4
Ridge	13.6	2.8	27.4	3.1
Rift Valley	0	0	0	0
Seamount	21.5	4.7	33.5	4.0
Slope	55.0	5.6	45.0	2.5
Spreading ridge	0	0	6.9	0.3
Terrace	0	0	251.5	0.6
Trench	0	0	23.7	0.4
Count of features	10		14	
Percent of total deep features	67%		93%	

Table 2. The percentage area and percentage towards 30% goal of shallow water habitat conservation features within the draft marine protection zone areas in Phase 1. These features occur in less than 200 m depth. Biodiversity conservation features are from GOS-UNDP-GEF report, Klaus 2015. Percentages will add up to more than 100 because of overlapping features.

HABITAT CONSERVATION FEATURE	Percent of overall 30 percent goal found in Aldabra Group	Percent of Aldabra Group covered by this feature	Percent of overall 30 percent goal found in Amirantes to Fortune Bank	Percent of Amirantes to Fortune Bank covered by this feature
Beach	72.9	0	0	0
Coral reef	43.2	0.4	0	0
Submerged flat reef	0	0	188.0	2.1
Wetlands and mangroves	264.9	0	0	0
High relief Atoll, raised lagoon	249.3	0.3	0	0
High relief Atoll, raised rim, shallow	155.2	0.1	0	0
High relief Atoll, sea level lagoon	0	0	0	0
High relief Atoll, sea level rim	0	0	0	0
High relief Atoll, submerged lagoon	0	0	0	0
High relief Atoll, submerged rim	0	0	0	0
High relief Bank, barrier complex	0	0	0	0
High relief Bank, drowned bank	0	0	290.8	0.9
High relief Bank, lagoon	0	0	0	0
High relief Bank, patch reef complex	0	0	0	0
High relief Bank, platform reef, atoll like lagoon	0	0	0	0
High relief Bank, platform reef, atoll-like rim	0	0	0	0
High relief Bank, platform reef, infilled rim	0	0	0	0
High relief Bank, platform reef, raised rim	296.8	0	0	0
High relief Bank, platform reef, rock rim	0	0	0	0
High relief Bank, platform reef, sand rim	0	0	0	0
High relief Island, fringing reef	0	0	0	0
High relief Island, granitic subtidal	0	0	0	0
High relief Island, subtidal	0	0	0	0
High relief shelf	23.8	0.3	140.0	1.1
High relief Shelf, barrier complex	0	0	326.4	5.1
High relief Shelf, patch reef complex	0	0	218.0	4.0
High relief Shelf, platform reef sand cay	0	0	0	0
Medium relief Shelf, bank lagoon	0	0	0	0
Medium relief Shelf, lagoon	0	0	274.1	13.7
Count of features	7		6	
Percent of total shallow features	24%		21%	

Table 3 . Descriptions of the classes included in Level 1 and Level 2 of the integrated habitat classification scheme. Sources include (a): Harris, P.T., Macmillan-Lawler, M., Rupp, J., Baker, E.K., 2014. Geomorphology of the oceans. Marine Geology 352, 4-24; (b): This report (Klaus 2015)

Level 1	Level 2	Description
Abyss ^(a)		The abyss is " <i>the area of seafloor located at depths below the foot of the continental slope and above the depth of the hadal zone</i> " (defined as deeper than 6000 m). The abyss feature layer was created by clipping a layer representing the ocean with the shelf, slope and hadal layers. The abyssal layer is classified into three categories based on roughness:
	Abyssal plains ^(a)	<300m relief
	Abyssal hills ^(a)	300–1000 m relief
	Abyssal mountains ^(a)	>1000 m relief
	Trench ^(a)	Trenches are "a long narrow, characteristically very deep and asymmetrical depression of the sea floor, with relatively steep sides" (IHO,2008). Trenches are generally distinguished from troughs by their "V" shape in cross section.
	Rise ^(a)	Rises otherwise known as continental rises, are features that abut the continental margins. These are characterised by a smooth sloping seabed as indicated by evenly spaced slope parallel contours. They were mapped using a global map of sediment thickness and were restricted to areas where sediment thickness was >300 m.
	Spreading ridges ^(a)	Mid-ocean spreading ridges are " <i>the linked major mid-oceanic mountain systems of global extent</i> " (IHO, 2008). Spreading ridges are distinguished from other ridges in Harris et al. (2014).
	Ridge ^(a)	In Harris et al., (2014) ridges are confined to " <i>an isolated (or group of) elongated narrow elevation(s) of varying complexity having steep sides, often separating basin features</i> " (IHO, 2008). These were manually added by hand where necessary and were confined to features greater than 1000m in relief (i.e. "ridges" overlapped with other categories, especially plateaus, the abyssal mountains classification layer) and overlap parts of the mid-ocean ridges.
	Seamount ^(a)	Seamounts are " <i>a discrete (or group of) large isolated elevation(s), greater than 1000 m in relief above the sea floor, characteristically of conical form</i> " (IHO, 2008). Seamounts are scattered throughout the Seychelles EEZ region. Both seamounts and guyots extend across an enormous depth range, and studies in the region have shown that they support a wealth of marine life and a high degree of endemism (Rogers et al. 2009).
	Guyot ^(a)	Guyots are " <i>an isolated (or group of) seamount (s) having a comparatively smooth flat top. Also called tablemount(s)</i> " (IHO, 2008). Guyots are similar in importance to seamounts. The main difference is that they have a flat top. These tend to occur as the result of crustal subsidence as the oceanic plate carries an island into deeper or lower oceanic crust areas.
	Rift valley ^(a)	Rift valleys are confined to the central axis of mid-ocean spreading ridges; they are elongated, local depressions flanked generally on both sides by ridges (Macdonald, 2001). They were mapped by hand based on 100 m contours. Rift valleys cover the largest fraction of abyssal zone in the Arctic Ocean. The greatest area of rift valleys occurs in the Indian Ocean where they cover 165,220 km .
	Canyon ^(a)	Submarine canyons are defined as "steep-walled, sinuous valleys with V-shaped cross sections, axes sloping outwards as continuously 2963 m, respective mean depths). Canyons are common throughout the EEZ. Canyons are extremely important structures as they can influence local oceanography, directing the flow currents and, create localised upwelling (Harris 2011). Canyons may also act as a conduit to transport sediments and nutrients from the continental shelf to the deep sea. As a result of these functions, canyons are often associated with commercially important pelagic and demersal fish species. Canyons have also been associated with species of conservation importance such as the coelacanth, <i>Latimeria chalumnae</i> (Nulens et al. 2011) elsewhere in the WIO region.
Slope ^(a)		The continental slope is " <i>the deepening sea floor out from the shelf edge to the upper limit of the continental rise, or the point where there is a general decrease in steepness</i> " (IHO, 2008). Harris et al. (2014) manually digitised the foot of the slope at a nominal spatial scale of 1:500,000 in ArcGIS based on 100 m contours and 3D viewing. ArcGIS was used to highlight zones of abrupt changes in seabed gradient (contour spacing) which suggests the foot of slope. Otherwise the first significant decrease in gradient encountered in a seaward direction from the shelf break was selected as the foot of slope. Note the foot of slope locations is based only on bathymetric data and interpretation is not intended to define the foot of slope under Article 76 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, particularly in areas of geomorphologically complex, continent–ocean transition.

Level 1	Level 2	Description
	Plateau ^(a)	Plateaus are “flat or nearly flat elevations of considerable areal extent, dropping off abruptly on one or more sides” (IHO, 2008). In Harris et al. (2014) plateaus were digitised by hand based on 100 m contours.
Shelf^(a,b)		The continental shelf is defined by IHO (2008) as “a zone adjacent to a continent (or around an island) and extending from the low water line to a depth at which there is usually a marked increase of slope towards oceanic depths”. The low-water mark is the 0 m depth contour. The continental shelf is classified by vertical relief to highlight zones of abrupt changes in seabed gradient (contour) yielded three classes: Low-relief shelf, Medium-relief shelf, and High-relief shelf.
	Shelf - low relief ^(a)	<10m elevation
	Shelf - medium relief ^(a,b)	10–50 m elevation
	Shelf - high relief ^(a,b)	>50 m elevation
	Shelf valleys ^(a)	Shelf valleys at high latitudes incised by glacial erosion during the Pleistocene ice ages form elongated troughs, typically trending
	Terrace ^(a)	Terraces on continental slopes are “an isolated (or group of) relatively flat horizontal or gently inclined surface(s), sometimes long and narrow, which is (are) bounded by a steeper ascending slope on one side and by a steeper descending slope on the opposite side” (IHO, 2008).
Land^(a,b)	Land ^(a,b)	Terrestrial areas were identified from the Landsat image dataset prepared for this project.

Table 4. Descriptions of the seafloor habitat types on the shelf, used in the analysese to identify top priority areas for protection. Sources include Baker (1963), Hamylton et al (2010), and Klaus (2015).

Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Description
Shelf	Atoll	Atoll (sea-level) rim	Sea level atolls are those without significant areas of raised or elevated limestone. In Seychelles waters these include: Farquhar, Providence and Alphonse and Bijoutier/St Francois.
		Atoll (sea-level) lagoon	
		Atoll (sea-level) land on reef	
		Atoll (raised) rim	Raised atolls are those that have been uplifted and have land areas that are composed of significant deposits of limestone. In Seychelles the raised atolls include Aldabra, Cosmoledo and Astove all of which have significant lagoons.
		Atoll (raised) lagoon	
		Atoll (raised) land on reef	
		Atoll (submerged) rim	Submerged atolls are those where the annular shape of the atoll is still distinct, but submerged beneath sea level. There is only one example of this in Seychelles, namely Desroches.
		Atoll (submerged) lagoon	
		Atoll (submerged) land on reef	
	Bank	Bank - barrier complex	These are the shallow reefal and rocky structures around the edge of the Amirantes.
		Bank - lagoon	The Bank lagoon refers to the deeper open water area within the Amirantes.
		Bank - platform reef (sand cay) rim	Sand cay platform reefs are the Type 1 platform reefs as defined in Hamylton et al. 2012, and include Sand cay, Etoile, African Banks and Remire.
		Bank - platform reef (sand cay) land on reef	
		Bank - platform reef (rock base) rim	Rock base platform reefs are the Type 2 platform reefs as defined in Hamylton et al. 2012, and include Marie-Louise, Desnoeuufs and Boudeuse. These rocky island have narrow peripheral reefs that are sat on the margins of extensive shallow rock platforms.
		Bank - platform reef (rock base) land on reef	
		Bank - platform reef (infilled) rim	Infilled platform reefs are the Type 3 platform reef as defined in Hamylton et al. 2012, and include Darros and Poivre. Infilling of the platform surface has allowed the development of subaerial islands that exceed 2km ² .
		Bank - platform reef (infilled) land on reef	
		Bank - platform reef (atoll-like) rim	Atoll-like platform reef are those on the bank with an atoll-like appearance (St Josephs)
		Bank - platform reef (atoll-like) lagoon	
		Bank - platform reef (atoll-like) land on reef	
		Bank - platform reef (raised) rim	Raised platform reefs include St Pierre and Assumption
		Bank - platform reef (raised) land on reef	
		Bank - drowned bank	Drowned banks are the submerged structures within water depths <30 m.
		Bank - patch reef complex	The shallow submerged structures within the Amirantes.
	Continental	Shelf - barrier complex	The shallow structures encircling the Mahe Plateau
		Shelf - lagoon	The deeper open water areas within the Mahe Plateau
		Shelf - patch reef complex	The shallow structures within the Mahe Plateau
		Shelf - platform reef (sand cay) rim	The platform reef around the sand cay islands to the north of the Mahe Plateau
		Shelf - platform reef (sand cay) land on reef	The land on the platform reef to the north of the Mahe Plateau
		Island - subtidal	The granitic rock structures around the islands Mahe Plateau
		Island - fringing reef	The carbonate fringing reefs around the islands on the Mahe Plateau
	Island - land	The granitic islands	

Table 5. The percentage area and percentage towards 30% goal of species conservation features within the draft marine protection zone areas. Biodiversity conservation features are from GOS-UNDP-GEF report, Klaus 2015. Percentages will add up to more than 100 because of overlapping features.

GROUP	SPECIES CONSERVATION FEATURE	Percent of overall 30 percent goal found in Aldabra Group	Percent of Aldabra Group covered by this feature	Percent of overall 30 percent goal found in Amirantes to Fortune Bank	Percent of Amirantes to Fortune Bank covered by this feature
BIRDS	Black-naped Tern	21.0	0.5	7.8	0.1
	Brown Booby	57.9	40.0	77.2	29.1
	Brown Noddy	60.6	18.8	101.7	17.2
	Fairy Tern	54.1	23.5	84.6	20.1
	Frigatebird foraging areas	10.4	25.6	18.1	24.3
	Lesser Noddy	0	0	117.7	12.7
	Masked Booby	85.1	65.3	67.8	28.4
	Red-footed Booby	59.3	81.0	83.2	62.1
	Roseate Tern	0	0	8.5	0.1
	DUGONG	Dugong	333.3	0.3	0
FISH	Grouper spawning distribution	0	N/A	0	N/A
	Rabbitfish spawning distribution	0	N/A	0	N/A
CETACEANS	Blue whale	73.3	97.0	0	0
	Blue whale, breeding area	23.4	99.2	19.7	45.7
	Brydes whale	18.5	96.8	28.6	81.6
	Dwarf sperm whale	18.6	96.8	35.2	100.0
	False killer whale	19.1	96.8	31.6	87.6
	Fin whale	18.7	96.8	35.3	100.0
	Humpback whale	26.8	96.8	43.5	85.9
	Humpback whale, breeding area	212.8	19.4	45.7	2.3
	Orca	72.1	69.0	56.8	29.7
	Pygmy sperm whale	37.0	96.8	61.8	88.4
	Risso's dolphin	9.8	13.1	131.0	95.3
	Sei whale	128.9	49.8	0	0
	Short-finned pilot whale	18.6	96.8	35.2	100.0
	Sperm whale	18.8	96.8	26.9	76.0
	Sperm whale historical	0	0	18.4	0.4
	PLANTS	Seagrass	2.1	0.2	218.6
Seagrass high density		2.6	0	134.4	0.5
Seagrass low density		2.0	0.1	230.0	6.6
Seagrass med density		2.3	0.1	220.1	2.9
TURTLES	Green sea turtle, foraging (ad)	0	N/A	208.3	N/A
	Green sea turtle, foraging (juv)	9.2	N/A	175.6	N/A
	Green sea turtle, nesting	146.8	N/A	0.2	N/A
	Hawksbill turtle, foraging (ad)	5.8	N/A	226.2	N/A
	Hawksbill turtle, foraging (juv)	8.2	N/A	207.0	N/A
	Hawksbill turtle, nesting	77.9	N/A	0.5	N/A
	Sea turtle, nesting beaches	94.8	N/A	0	N/A
	Count of features	32		32	
	Percent of total shallow features	84%		84%	

Table 6. The percentage area of stakeholder preferences within the draft marine protection zone areas. Biodiversity conservation features are from GOS-UNDP-GEF report, Klaus 2015. Percentages will add up to more than 100 because of overlapping features.

STAKEHOLDER PREFERENCE LAYERS	Percent of Aldabra Group covered	Percent of Amirantes to Fortune Bank covered
Artisanal Fishing, locations greater than zero (SFA 2008, 2010-2012)	0	32.6
Fishing by Foreign Vessels prohibited (SFA 2009; Reg. 5)	12.6	46.2
Industrial Tuna LongLine, top 30 percent avg annual CPUE (SFA 2003-2012)	4.2	0
Industrial Tuna PurseSeine, top 30 percent avg annual CPUE (SFA 2003-2012)	4.2	22.9
Semi-industrial Fishing, VMS greater than zero (2008, 2010-2012)	0	13.0
Infrastructure and utilities, including shipping (SEYMSP)	4.2	7.4
Non-renewable resources (PetroSeychelles) (SEYMSP)	15.0	38.1
Tourism and Recreation 16 km from the dropoff (SEYMSP)	0	51.1
BirdLife Marine Important Bird Areas (BirdLife International, Nature Seychelles 2014)	10.9	32.5
Western Indian Ocean Marine EcoRegions (WIOMER) Ecoregional Priority Areas (2012)	47.4	47.4

Table 7. The mean total catch from industrial tuna purse seine (SFA 2003-2012), and percent overlap with the proposed marine protected areas.

TUNA PURSE SEINE (2003-2012)	EEZ	Aldabra Group	Amirantes to Fortune Bank
Mean total catch per year (MT)	66,514	1,011	5,740
Percent of mean total catch for EEZ in the proposed MPA		1.5%	8.6 %
Mean total catch yellowfin tuna (MT)	38,173	590	3,541
Percent of mean YFT catch in the proposed MPA		1.6%	9.3%

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Annex VI: Stakeholder Engagement 2014-2017

Table 1. Summary of stakeholder workshops and consultations, 2014-2017.

#	Month	Meeting Date	Meeting
1	Feb 2014	4-5 Feb 2014	Stakeholder Workshop #1
2	May 2014	14-15 May 2014	Stakeholder Workshop #2
3	Jul 2014	9 Jul 2014	Technical Working Group Meeting #1
4	Aug 2014	5 Aug 2014	Steering Committee Meeting #1
5		19 Aug 2014	Stakeholder Workshop #3
6	Oct 2014	20-29 Oct 2014	One-to-one consultations
7		22-23 Oct 2014	Technical Working Group Meeting #2
8	Dec 2014	15 Dec 2014	Steering Committee Meeting #2
9	Jan 2015	13 Jan 2015	Steering Committee Meeting #3
10		12-14 Jan 2015	One-to-one consultations
11	Mar 2015	9-27 Mar 2015	One-to-one consultations
12		12 Mar 2015	Technical Working Group Meeting #3
13		25 Mar 2015	Steering Committee Meeting #4
14		26 Mar 2015	Technical Working Group Meeting #4
15	Apr 2015	16 Apr 2015	Technical Working Group Meeting #5
16		22 Apr 2015	Stakeholder Workshop #4
17		23-24 Apr 2015	One-to-one consultations
18		30 Apr 2015	Steering Committee Meeting #5
19	May 2015	7 May 2015	Cabinet of Ministers
20	Jun 2015	9 Jun 2015	Stakeholder Workshop #5
21		11 Jun 2015	Technical Working Group Meeting #6
22		16 Jun 2015	Steering Committee Meeting #6
23		17 Jun 2015	One-to-one consultations
24	Jul 2015	28 Jul 2015	One-to-one consultations
25	Sep 2015	14-23 Sep 2015	One-to-one consultations
26	Mar 2016	7-23 Mar 2016	Steering Committee Meeting #7
27	Oct 2016	21 Oct 2016	Executive Committee Meeting #1
28		24 Oct 2016	Steering Committee Meeting #8
29		24 Oct 2016	One-to-one consultations
30	Mar 2017	21 Mar 2017	Executive Committee Meeting #2
31		23 Mar 2017	Steering Committee Meeting #9
32		27 Mar 2017	One-to-one consultations
33		31 Mar 2017	Executive Committee Meeting #3
34	Apr 2017	3 Apr 2017	National Assembly – Islands Select Committee
35	May 2017	15 May 2017	Executive Committee Meeting #4
36		15 May 2017	One-to-one consultations
37		16 May 2017	Technical Working Group Meeting #7
38		19 May 2017	Stakeholder Workshop #6
39		25 May 2017	Stakeholder Workshop #7
40		30 May 2017	Executive Committee Meeting #5
41	Sep 2017	28 Sep 2017	Executive Committee Meeting #6
42	Oct 2017	3 Oct 2017	Steering Committee Meeting #10
43		4 Oct 2017	Cabinet of Ministers
44		6 Oct 2017	Stakeholder Workshop #8
45		13 Oct 2017	Executive Committee Meeting #7
46		14 Oct 2017	Stakeholder Workshop #9
47		Sep-Oct 2017	One-to-one consultations
48	Nov 2017	3 Nov 2017	Cabinet of Ministers

Table 2. Dates, meeting objectives and sectors consulted 2014-2017.

#	Date(s)	Meeting	Meeting Objectives or Marine Sector consultations
1	4-5 Feb 2014	Stakeholder Workshop #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch MSP Initiative • Define overall ecological, socio-economic and cultural objectives • Vision exercise for future of Seychelles EEZ • Introduce MSP and MPA networks
2	14-15 May 2014	Stakeholder Workshop #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common understanding of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Initiative • Characterise and analyse current conditions – socioeconomic and ecological • Determine planning features and discuss potential targets for desired future conditions. • Governance framework presented for discussion • Identify available spatial data • Introduce concepts of marine zoning
3	9 Jul 2014	Technical Working Group Meeting #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception meeting of Technical Working Groups • Review Terms of Reference • Present and discuss draft zoning framework and steps
4	5 Aug 2014	Steering Committee Meeting #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common understanding of MSP and debt swap • Terms of Reference • Discuss and revise Seychelles Draft Zoning Framework
5	19 Aug 2014	Stakeholder Workshop #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on MSP process • Current conditions and trends • Review draft zoning framework • Spatial data catalogue layers • Compatibility matrix • Master List of Uses and Activities • Participatory mapping to identify high priority areas for stakeholder uses and activities
6	20-29 Oct 2014	One-to-one consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PetroSeychelles • Seychelles Fishing Authority • Ministry of Tourism • MEECC • Terrestrial Science • EU Fisheries • Seychelles Island Foundation • UNDP
7	22-23 Oct 2014	Technical Working Group Meeting #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on MSP process • Review draft methodology for zoning design • Participatory mapping and GeoPDF • Compatibility matrix • Master List of Uses and Activities
8	15 Dec 2014	Steering Committee Meeting #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating GOS-UNDP-GEF scenarios to MSP • MSP timelines • Zoning Design input
9	13 Jan 2015	Steering Committee Meeting #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review preliminary Zoning Design version 0.1 • Discuss zoning design methodology • Review outputs from UNDP PA Validation work
10	12-14 Jan 2015	One-to-one consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seychelles Fishing Authority
11	9-27 Mar 2015	One-to-one consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Conservation Stewardship Society • MEECC • SMSA, SPA, Coast Guard • Wildlife Conservation Society • Nature Seychelles • Marine Charters • Mahe Demersal Fisheries Management Plan • Seychelles National Park Authority • PA project

#	Date(s)	Meeting	Meeting Objectives or Marine Sector consultations
12	12 Mar 2015	Technical Working Group Meeting #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a decision tree for spatial conflicts
13	25 Mar 2015	Steering Committee Meeting #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Fisheries Replenishment Area • Review Zoning Design scenarios • Discuss draft Table of Contents for Marine Plan • Develop management considerations for zones
14	26 Mar 2015	Technical Working Group Meeting #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision tree for spatial conflicts
15	16 Apr 2015	Technical Working Group Meeting #5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenarios and zoning framework • Review Zoning Design version 1.0
16	22 Apr 2015	Stakeholder Workshop #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSP process update • Spatial data layers • Master List of Uses and Activities • Stakeholder preferences for zoning. • Zoning Design version 1.1 • Draft Rationale Tables • Draft Activities Tables
17	23-24 Apr 2015	One-to-one consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BioFIN and PA project financing • Seychelles Fishing Authority
18	30 Apr 2015	Steering Committee Meeting #5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSP process update • Spatial data layers • Master List of Uses and Activities • Stakeholder preferences for zoning. • Zoning Design version 1.1 • Draft Rationale Tables • Draft Activities Tables • Review presentation to Cabinet
19	7 May 2015	Cabinet of Ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the Draft MSP • Present summary of stakeholder input to date • Endorsement of MSP process and outputs to date
20	9 Jun 2015	Stakeholder Workshop #5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSP process update • Zoning Design version 2.0 • Preliminary Allowable Activities Tables • Updates to Master List of Definitions
21	11 Jun 2015	Technical Working Group Meeting #6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise Allowable Activities tables for Zoning Design 2.0
22	16 Jun 2015	Steering Committee Meeting #6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss timelines to complete Phase 1 • MSP updates and items for revision
23	17 Jun 2015	One-to-one consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Island Development Corporation • Marine Charter Operators • PetroSeychelles
24	28 Jul 2015	One-to-one consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PetroSeychelles
25	14-23 Sep 2015	One-to-one consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Bank and SWIOFish3 • MEECC • GOS-UNDP-GEF • BioFIN • Island Conservation Society • Seychelles Fishing Authority • Fishing Boat Owners Association (FBOA) • Marine Charters • MSP Working Group
26	7-23 Mar 2016	Steering Committee Meeting #7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seychelles Island Foundation • Min Tourism • PetroSeychelles • Seychelles Fishing Authority • Seychelles National Park Authority • Fishing Boat Owners Association (FBOA)

#	Date(s)	Meeting	Meeting Objectives or Marine Sector consultations
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Charters • Technical Working Group: marine ecology • Technical Working Group: terrestrial ecology • Technical Working Group: socio-economic sectors • UNDP-GEF • Blue Economy • Island Development Corporation
27	21 Oct 2016	Executive Committee Meeting #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception meeting for new Executive Committee • MSP process review • Timeline, outputs and schedule for public workshops
28	24 Oct 2016	Steering Committee Meeting #8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review updated TOR and confirm new members • Updates on MSP process • MSP Atlas • Marxan with Zones: scenarios and outputs • Zoning Design
29	24 Oct 2016	One-to-one consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mariculture Master Plan – public consultation • SWIOFish3 • Fishing Boat Owners Association (FBOA) • PA Finance • PetroSeychelles • Seychelles Island Foundation
30	21 Mar 2017	Executive Committee Meeting #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Committee members • Zoning Design version 3.1 • Integration with other marine processes in Seychelles
31	23 Mar 2017	Steering Committee Meeting #9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on MSP process and timeline • Zoning Design version 3.0 • Allowable Activities Tables • Master List of Uses and Activities
32	27 Mar 2017	One-to-one consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seychelles Fishing Authority • PCU PA Finance • SMSA, Seychelles Port Authority, Seychelles Coast Guard • SWIOFish3 • Blue Economy • MCSS • PetroSeychelles
33	31 Mar 2017	Executive Committee Meeting #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning Design version 3.0 comments from stakeholders • Steering Committee new members
34	3 Apr 2017	National Assembly – Islands Select Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on MSP process and outputs • Review spatial data catalogue • Presentation of Zoning Design and Allowable Activities tables
35	15 May 2017	Executive Committee Meeting #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning Design map version 3.1 • Allowable Activities table • Stakeholder meetings and workshop schedule
36	15 May 2017	One-to-one consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Charters • Seychelles Fishing Authority • Minister of Fisheries • Blue Economy and SWIOFish3 • PetroSeychelles • Industrial Tuna Fisheries
37	16 May 2017	Technical Working Group Meeting #7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning Design versions 3.0 and 3.1 • Discuss feedback and discuss options for revisions • Allowable Activities Table • Management Considerations
38	19 May 2017	Stakeholder Workshop #6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public workshop on Mahe • Zoning Design version 3.0 and 3.1 • Allowable Activities Tables • Stakeholder input and review
39	25 May 2017	Stakeholder Workshop #7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public workshop on Praslin • Zoning Design version 3.0 and 3.1 • Allowable Activities Tables • Stakeholder input and review

#	Date(s)	Meeting	Meeting Objectives or Marine Sector consultations
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public workshop on La Digue (26 May; rescheduled)
40	30 May 2017	Executive Committee Meeting #5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder comments and input Zoning Design map 3.1 revisions Marine Spatial Plan document MSP Policy consultancy
41	28 Sep 2017	Executive Committee Meeting #6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timeline and steps to complete Phase 1 and 15% MSP Policy consultancy Zoning Design map version 3.0 Allowable Activities tables
42	3 Oct 2017	Steering Committee Meeting #10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on MSP process and timeline Zoning Design version 3.1 Allowable Activities Tables Master List of Definitions MSP Policy MSP Implementation Plan
43	4 Oct 2017	Cabinet of Ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of MSP update and SeyCCAT call for proposals Presentation of Zoning Design Phase 1 Timeline for completion of Phase 1
44	6 Oct 2017	Stakeholder Workshop #8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public workshop on Mahe Zoning Design version 3.1 Support for completing Phase 1
45	13 Oct 2017	Executive Committee Meeting #7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timeline and steps to complete Phase 1 Zoning Design version 3.1 revisions MSP policy Debrief from public workshops
46	14 Oct 2017	Stakeholder Workshop #9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public workshop on Praslin (with La Digue) Zoning Design map version 3.1 Support for completing Phase 1
47	26 Sep – 13 Oct 2017	One-to-one consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PetroSeychelles Minister of Fisheries Marine Charters Seychelles Fishing Authority Blue Economy and SWIOFish3 Boundary Delimitation Committee Industrial Tuna Fisheries Maritime Security Centre
48	3 Nov 2017	Cabinet of Ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of Cabinet Memo to request approval to begin preparation of nomination package for Phase 1 areas