



## UPDATE - December 2017

1. Seychelles is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) in the Western Indian Ocean. Population size is 91,000 people with an Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.37 million square kilometers. Existing marine protected areas cover 0.04% of the EEZ and foreign fishing prohibited areas cover 8.5% of the EEZ.
2. The Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) Initiative is a necessary output of the award winning, government-led Debt-for-Climate-Change-Adaptation Swap in which the Government committed to expanding marine biodiversity protection to 30% of the EEZ and Territorial Sea by 2020.
3. The primary objectives of the MSP are to increase marine protections to 30% by 2020, address climate change adaptation, and support the Blue Economy and sustainable resource use in Seychelles. The planning area is the Exclusive Economic Zone and Territorial Sea water, to the high tide mark. By 2020, approx 400,000 sq km will be in new marine protected areas, and the remaining waters zoned for multiple objectives.
4. The Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC) is the lead agency for the MSP, facilitated by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). There are more than 10 government ministries and agencies and 100 stakeholders involved in the planning. Seychelles, TNC and partners provide funding for the MSP.
5. The MSP process uses an evidence-based decision-making framework that includes two committees (Executive and Steering), three technical working groups, public stakeholder workshops, and sector consultations. To date, 24 committee meetings, 9 public workshops, and 60 consultations have been held to develop the marine spatial plan.
6. The Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) was created from the debt swap, and is an independent public-private trust mandated to support the implementation of the MSP and other marine conservation and climate adaptation activities in Seychelles. Seychelles is the first country to have implementation funding in place before it has completed its marine spatial plan.
7. On completion, the Seychelles MSP zones will be regulatory and include management plans. The MSP is a living document and will be revised about every 5 years. The MSP is following global best practices and will include a schedule for revisions, and propose indicators to monitor and evaluate implementation success.
8. The MSP Initiative is divided into two phases. Phase 1 is from 2014-2017, and Phase 2 is 2018-2020. Phase 1 includes new marine zones for 15% of the EEZ, approx. 200,000 sq. km., half of the 30% goal. The new zones are primarily in deep water (>200m depth). The zoning design includes Allowable Activity Tables, Management Considerations, and zoning maps. Other outputs in Phase 1 include an MSP Atlas and spatial database.
9. Phase 2 will identify the remaining 200,000 sq. km for marine protection and sustainable use zones in both deep and shallow waters, plus multiple use zones. Phase 2 will address climate change adaptation objectives, and include an implementation plan. Phase 2 may include revisions of zones identified in Phase 1.
10. The status of the MSP in November 2017:
  - Nomination package submitted to Attorney Generals Office for two new marine protected areas (210,569 sq. km). Gazetting process to be finalised by Feb 2018.
  - Phase 1 Marine spatial plan is being written including background, zoning design, allowable activities, and decision-support tools. First draft by Dec 2017
  - Draft MSP Policy under development. Final draft by Dec 2017.
  - Implementation and governance arrangements under development. First draft Dec 2017.

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