



UPDATE - September 2017

1. 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 (400,000 square kilometres) by 2020.
2. The Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change is the lead agency for the marine plan, facilitated by The Nature Conservancy and TNC Canada. The primary objectives of the MSP are to increase marine protections, address climate change adaptation and support the Blue Economy.
3. The Debt Swap structuring created the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT), an independent public-private trust mandated to support the implementation of the MSP initiative and other marine conservation and climate adaptation activities. Seychelles is the first country to have implementation funding in place before it has completed its marine spatial plan.
4. The MSP Initiative is governed by an evidence-based decision-making framework that includes two committees (Steering and Executive), three technical working groups, public stakeholder workshops, as well as sector consultations. To date, 28 meetings and 60 consultations have been held with more than 100 stakeholders.
5. The MSP Initiative is divided into two phases in order to identify 400,000 sq km as new zones for marine biodiversity protection and sustainable uses, and the remaining waters for multiple uses
6. Phase 1 of the MSP Initiative is on-going from 2014-2017, and Phase 2 is 2018-2020. On completion, the Seychelles MSP will be regulatory and provide management plans for the full 1.37 million sq km EEZ and Territorial Sea.
7. The Phase 1 Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan will include new marine zones for 15 percent 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, General and Area-based Management Considerations, and zoning maps. Other outputs in Phase 1 include an MSP Atlas and spatial database.
8. Phase 2 will identify the remaining 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 a completed implementation plan. Phase 2 may include revisions of zones identified in Phase 1.
9. The Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan is following global best practices and will include a schedule for revisions, and propose indicators to monitor and evaluate implementation success.
10. There are three main components to finalise Phase 1 by December 2017:
 - ⊕ Complete Phase 1 Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan, including a zoning design, draft implementation plan, and decision-support tools.
 - ⊕ Identify policy and legislation that will be used to legislate the plan.
 - ⊕ Finalise the national implementation and governance arrangements of the MSP initiative.