

SMSP INITIATIVE

Debt Swap. Milestone 2 is 5% in Zone 1 – High Biodiversity Protection and 2.5% in Zone 2 – Medium Biodiversity Protection and Sustainable Uses. The deadline for approval is 31 December 2018. Once approved by Cabinet this will bring marine protection to 22.5% of Seychelles’ waters, or 330,000 sq. km. The 30% protection goal will be completed by 31 December 2020. Implementation begins 1 January 2021.

Decision-Making. The governance and stakeholder engagement framework was revised during the inception of Phase 2. Five new Technical Working Groups replaced the Socio-economic TWG and new members nominated and approved.

Legal Designations. The National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act (NPNCA) will be used again to sign Milestone 2 areas into law. The areas will be gazetted in the official registry by February 2019. Designations will be reviewed as new legislation becomes available for biodiversity protection and sustainable use categories.

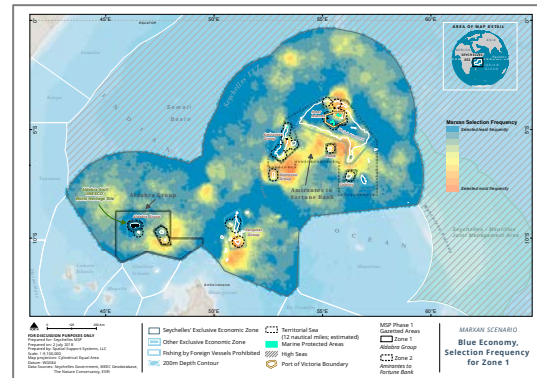
SMSP Policy. A draft Policy was produced in 2018. Three stakeholder workshops provided input and the draft will undergo international peer-review. Stakeholder consultations and finalisation will take place in 2019



Phase 1 MSP Policy Workshop

MARINE SPATIAL PLAN

Atlas. A total of 45 maps are being designed to support zoning proposals, stakeholder engagement and increase knowledge and information sharing. Maps include maritime boundaries, species, activities and Marxan modelling outputs.



Marxan with Zones – MSP Blue Economy Scenario

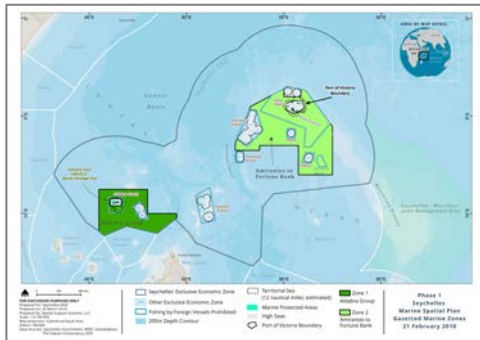
Communications. An SMSP information pack, quarterly updates, website, newspapers, TV, and other media keep the public and stakeholders informed.

Data Collection and Analysis. Fishing data are updated to 2017. Decision-support tools check that protection zones meet the 30% biodiversity goal, minimise overlap with marine activities and incorporate stakeholder feedback. There are more than 100 layers in the spatial data catalogue. Data gaps include ecosystem services, climate change, and tourism data.

Engagement. From February to October 2018, 14 stakeholder meetings, 4 public workshops and 26 consultations were held. Workshops included input and review from stakeholders, priority areas for Milestone 2, developing allowable activity tables and reviewing the zoning designs.

Integration and Collaboration.

The SMSP integrates with many marine projects in Seychelles including SWIOFish3 for implementation of Zone 2 areas. MSP coordinates and provides input also to SeyCCAT Blue Grants program, BIOFin, Outer Islands Project, Mariculture Master Plan, scientific studies and other projects.



Phase 1 Marine Zoning Design, gazetted

Plans and Regulations. Allowable activities tables and area-based management considerations support the development of ecosystem-based management plans for the marine zones. Plans and regulations will be developed in 2019-2020 to integrate with existing and new management plans. The marine spatial plan will include zoning design, methodology and frameworks. The proposal is to have plan review every five years.

Sectors. More than 11 marine sectors are engaged in the MSP: artisanal, semi- and industrial fisheries, conservation, ports and infrastructure, energy, financing, maritime security, non-renewable resources, tourism, recreation, and civil society.

Socio-economic Impact. A high-level analysis of the potential impact of MSP on industrial tuna fisheries is underway and due by December 2018. Future assessments will include other sectors including domestic semi-industrial longline, artisanal fisheries and tourism.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Capacity Building. The SMSP, is building capacity in country including developing decision-making processes for multi-stakeholder engagement. A capacity needs and gap assessment will be a component of the implementation plan development.

Financing. SMSP, SeyCCAT and GoS-UNDP-GEF PA Finance Project are developing three financing options for implementation of protection areas. A report is due February 2019.

Governance Arrangements. With agreement from Cabinet in July 2018, the concept of an independent authority is being explored for implementation in 2021. A full framework and costing is being examined by a consultancy and is due in December 2018.

Monitoring and Enforcement. Implementation plans are being discussed including costs, capacity and infrastructure for monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS). Regulations and mandates for enforcement of marine activities in Seychelles' waters are being examined as well as frameworks, capacity and infrastructure for information sharing in Seychelles and regional coordination for Western Indian Ocean.



Artisanal fisherman, Mahé. Photo: Jason Houston

