

MILESTONES

The Cabinet of Ministers approved preparation of the nomination file for **MILESTONE 2** on 21 November 2018. The file was submitted on 30 November 2018 and the *Notice of Intention* to gazette was published on 29 January 2019. The proposal is to re-designate 350,915 square kilometres in new marine zones, 26% of EEZ. The draft allowable activities, management considerations, and other aspects of the management plans are still underway. Public comment period is open until 8 March 2019 – please see the SMSP website for a copy of the *Notice of Intention* and details of the MSP Milestone 2 Nomination File.

The inception workshops for **MILESTONE 3** will begin in March 2019. The final milestone will complete the 30% marine protection goal and complete the marine spatial plan including addressing climate change adaptation and supporting objectives of the Blue Economy Roadmap throughout all Seychelles' waters by 2020.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Implementation of the completed marine spatial plan begins in 2021

Financing. SMSP, SeyCCAT and GoS-UNDP-GEF PA Finance Project are developing three financing options for implementation of protection areas. A workshop is being held in February to discuss the draft report with the MSP stakeholder group.

Governance Arrangements. The research for the concept of an independent ocean authority is underway including financial requirements and capacity needs. A full framework and costing are being evaluated by government and due in early 2019.

Policy. An MSP draft Policy will undergo international peer-review in 2019, with additional stakeholder consultations before finalisation and presentation to Cabinet.

MARINE SPATIAL PLAN

Biodiversity & Sustainable Uses.

With Seychelles Fishing Authority and The Nature Conservancy's Indo-Pacific Tuna team, a pilot Electronic-Monitoring (EM) project is underway with the industrial longline and purse seine tuna fleet. Six vessels will install video equipment and protocols for data review are being developed.



*Electronic monitoring on tuna vessels.
Photos: Jason Houston and Kydd Pollock*

Lessons Learned. Seychelles is sharing information about the debt swap, MSP governance and zoning frameworks, and other aspects of the MSP process with other nations to assist with initiating MSP.

NEKTON. The SMSP is pleased to be working with Nekton Deep Ocean Expedition and SeyCCAT to provide maps of high priority sites for scientific discovery up to 2,000 m depth. The Nekton Mission begins in March 2019!

Socio-economic Impact. A high-level analysis of the potential impact of the MSP protection zones on industrial tuna fisheries will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and should be available by April 2019.

Zoning Design. Proposals for new marine protection and sustainable use areas are based on spatial data and models, local knowledge, best available science, and extensive stakeholder input. Milestone 3 zoning design will build upon engagement in previous milestones and include nearshore and shallow waters in Inner and Outer Island groups.