

## MILESTONES

*The MSP began in 2014 and has three Milestones, each for a percentage target for new marine protections in Seychelles waters. Implementation begins in 2021*

**MILESTONE 2** was gazetted on 12 April 2019 by Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC) for 26% in new marine protection areas - 350,915 square kilometres.

**MILESTONE 3** began in March 2019 for the remaining 4% target of marine protection areas. More than 50 workshops, consultations and meetings were held in March-April, July and October to propose and discuss new marine protection areas. With support from stakeholders, the MEECC and the MSP core team presented to the Cabinet of Ministers in October 2019 for approval to nominate 13 areas for protection status. The request was approved and a nomination file was submitted to MEECC in December 2019. The notice of intent to gazette the areas was published in January 2020 and 28-day public review period will follow as per the Act (NPNCA).

## MARINE SPATIAL PLAN

The Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan has three zone categories including **Zone 3 - Multiple Use** areas. Discussions for management of Zone 3 will take place in 2020 including addressing **climate change adaptation** and supporting the **Blue Economy Roadmap** throughout all Seychelles' waters.

Allowable activities, management considerations, and other aspects for management of the MSP zones are underway, to completed Dec 2020.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**NDC.** MEECC, SeyCCAT, PEW and TNC are advancing work on **Nationally Determined Contributions** in support of Seychelles' climate strategy. The SMSP is assisting with data for seagrass, mangroves and coral reefs.

## BLUE ECONOMY

**Sustainable fishing.** 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.

A **FAD and E-monitoring workshop** co-hosted by Ministry Fisheries and Agriculture, Seychelles Fishing Authority, and The Nature Conservancy will be held in March of 2020 with representatives from the Industrial fisheries sector to discuss draft criteria for sustainable fishing for the implementation of the MSP.

The MSP core team has provided input to the **Blue Economy Action Plan** to ensure synergies with the marine plan.

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

**Financing.** A SMSP, SeyCCAT and GoS-UNDP-GEF PA Finance Project developed three scenarios for implementation of protection areas including costing and sources of financing. Three stakeholder workshops were held and a final report submitted to MEECC.

**Governance Arrangements.** The research for the concept of an independent ocean authority is underway including financial requirements and capacity needs. In Oct 2019 the cabinet of ministers approved for the development of a full framework for the Authority to proceed towards operationalization.

**Policy.** A draft MSP Policy is necessary for implementation of the MSP and is undergoing international peer-review. Stakeholders will be consulted for any revisions before finalisation and presentation to Cabinet.

## COORDINATION, INTEGRATION AND MEDIA

### Ongoing coordination with other national projects

- BioFIN Steering Committee
- GoS-UNDP-GEF Outer Islands Project Steering Committee
- GoS-UNDP-GEF PA Finance Project Steering Committee
- National working group member for new Nature Seychelles project on locally empowered areas of protection (LEAP), an LMMA project.
- GEF6 workshops and GEF7 project formulation steering committee
- SeyCCAT Grants Committee member
- SWIOFISH3 Programme Steering Committee

### Conferences and workshops with partners and MSP community

- Blue Charter Commonwealth MSP Action Group (5-7<sup>th</sup> Nov)
- Workshop for revision of Seychelles' Fisheries Act (6-7 Nov)
- Somalia Spatial Planning tools workshop – Nairobi Convention and SwAM Ocean hosted by Government of Seychelles (12-14<sup>th</sup> Nov)
- From Ocean to Human Health Seychelles Hosted Conference (12-13 Nov)
- 4<sup>th</sup> IOC and MARE MSPglobal forum in Riga, Latvia (19-21 Nov)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Working Session of the IOC-UNESCO MSPglobal expert group (22-23 Nov)
- High-level validation workshop Seychelles Blue Economy Action Plan (26 Nov)
- Strategies for Large Scale Coral Reef Restoration for Coastal Resilience in the Seychelles (World Bank, the University of Seychelles, MCSS and Wise Oceans Seychelles) (11 Dec)
- Workshop to Produce the Sixth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Africa)- MEECC, UNDP-GEF (12 Dec)

### New projects being developed with input from the MSP Core Team

- MEECC, PEW, SeyCCAT and TNC Blue Carbon Project
- TNC tuna fisheries project for FAD and E-monitoring
- Nekton 2020 Seamount expedition

### Media coverage and publications Oct-Dec 2019

4 Oct. BBC News. *Seychelles: The island nation with a novel way to tackle climate change.* [Click here](#)

10 Oct. EuroMoney. *Conservation finance: Seychelles' troubled waters.* [Click here](#)

23 Oct. UNDP Ecosystems and Biodiversity News. *Financing ocean protection: Strengthening the financing of Seychelles Protected Area network.* [Click here](#)

25 Oct. Seafood Source. *Seychelles upping MPAs – moving towards closed access fishery.* [Click here](#)

4 Dec. Women in Marine Science; MSP PM & SeyCCAT CEO featured [Click here](#)

