

## 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 3** began in March 2019 for the remaining 4% target of marine protection areas. More than 50 workshops, consultations and meetings were held between March 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 a 28-day public review period followed as per the Act (NPNCA).

On 26 March 2020, **MILESTONE 3** areas were gazetted by MEECC and the 30% milestone for the debt conversion was met (see map on page 2). Due to the covid-19 pandemic, the planned ceremonies were postponed. A small signing ceremony took place at State House; the MSP Project Manager provided the opening remarks on behalf of TNC and the MSP core team.

## MARINE SPATIAL PLAN

The stakeholder discussions for **Zone 3 – Multiple Use** areas and management plans for Zone 1 and 2 are postponed due to the covid-19 pandemic; notice will be provided on when meetings will resume.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**NDC.** SeyCCAT, Pew Science and TNC are assisting MEECC with **Nationally Determined Contributions** in support of Seychelles' climate strategy. The SMSP is assisting with data for seagrass, mangroves and coral reefs. The first workshop was held in March 2020.

## BLUE ECONOMY

**Sustainable fishing.** Six vessels have installed video equipment & begun protocols for data review for an **E-Monitoring pilot** with Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA) and TNC's tuna team. A stakeholder workshop, co-hosted by the Ministry of Fisheries & Agriculture, SFA, MEECC and TNC, to discuss **FAD management and E-Monitoring** has been postponed due to the pandemic.

## SCIENCE

The MSP core team contributed spatial information and priority locations for a **Nekton 2020 Seamount** expedition. The expedition has been postponed.

An evaluation of **ecosystem goods and services** for coral reefs, mangroves and coastal areas has begun with MEECC, SWIOFISH3 & TNC Mapping Ocean Wealth team. A data gap analysis with local experts will be launched in Jul-Aug 2020.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The MSP Project Manager completed the **GCCA+ Climate Change Communication** course (online).

SEYCCAT is funding a strategic commission to the MSP for a consultancy for **public relations and communications**; the commission is postponed due to covid-19 pandemic.

**Media coverage** for Milestone 3 can be found on the SMSP website.

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

**Governance Arrangements.** The first draft of the Establishment Bill to provide the enabling legislative framework for an independent Ocean Authority was circulated in May. Comments have been compiled for further refinement and finalization by the Attorney General's Office.

**Policy.** A draft MSP Policy has undergone international peer-review. Stakeholders will be consulted for any revisions before finalisation and presentation to Cabinet.

**Regulations.** The Outer Islands Project will commence drafting of the regulations for the Zone 2 areas. A ToR was advertised and a consultant has been selected. The work will be completed in the next quarter.

**Management framework.** Work is planned to commence to develop strategic management frameworks for the Zone 1 and 2 areas.

## COORDINATION WITH OTHER NATIONAL PROJECTS

### Steering Committees:

- GoS-UNDP-GEF Outer Islands Project
- GoS-UNDP-GEF PA Finance Project
- SeyCCAT Blue Grants Committee member
- GEF6 inception and GEF7 project formulation
- SWIOFISH3 Programme

GOS-GEF-UNDP Project, '**A ridge to reef approach** for the integrated management of marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystems in the Seychelles (R2R project)' inception meeting (GEF6). (Feb 2020)

National working group member for new Nature Seychelles project on **locally empowered areas of protection (LEAP)**, an LMMA project.

