

*Milestone 3 was completed in March 2020 for Zones 1 and Zone 2 marine protection areas. Completion of the MSP is underway for implementation to begin in 2021*

**MSP Policy.** The draft policy was sent for international peer-review in Feb 2020. Stakeholder consultations were held in Aug 2020 to discuss revisions. The MSP Policy was finalised and endorsed by Cabinet on 23 Sept 2020 and is now published on the MSP website. This is the first MSP policy for Seychelles and only the second for the Western Indian Ocean – South Africa has an MSP Policy.

**Stakeholder Consultations** for Zone 3 Multiple Use areas were postponed in 2020 due to the covid-19 pandemic and the timeline for Zone 3 is currently approximately 9 months behind schedule; notice will be provided in Q1 on when meetings will resume for Allowable Activities and Management Considerations and alignment with existing policies and regulations.

**Regulations.** The GoS-UNDP-GEF Outer Islands Project commenced drafting of the regulations for the Zone 2 areas in 2020. A stakeholder workshop to discuss the drafts was held in October 2020. The finalisation of the work is delayed and will be completed in 2021.

**MSP Stakeholder Committees.** Following the elections in 2020 and the subsequent **change in Government**, the MSP committee lists are being updated and the MSP Project Manager is providing MSP briefings/updates to new members. The Ministry for Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE) is the lead for the MSP process, with the MSP Executive Committee co-Chair being the Ministry of Fisheries & Blue Economy, as per the MSP Governance Framework.

**Completion Plan.** The MSP core team is working on the timelines for completion of the Marine Spatial Plan document in 2021, including the remaining outputs as well as the steps to completion.

**Marine Spatial Plan document.** The MSP core team is working on the draft chapters of the Marine Spatial Plan based on the outline of the document reviewed by stakeholders and approved by the Executive Committee. The content of the MSP document comes from the materials and outputs developed during the process from 2014 to present, and will undergo

review and revisions with stakeholders. The MSP document includes an Introduction, Context, Process Design, Stakeholder Engagement, Zoning, Implementation, and Adapting the MSP over time. Multiple Annexes will be included in the MSP document including maps, planning tools, area descriptions and data summaries.

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

**From Zoning To Implementation.** The MSP core team continues to compile a draft workplan for guidance to government on implementation. TNC, SeyCCAT and Government of Seychelles (GoS) have ongoing outreach for technical and financial support for the transition, and identifying key action items and steps. Delays in implementation are expected due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**Governance Arrangements.** The first draft of the Establishment Bill to provide the enabling legislative framework for an independent Ocean Authority was circulated in May 2020. Comments have been compiled for further refinement and finalization by the Attorney General's Office. The discussions for the implementation authority are still in progress.

**Management Plan Framework.** A consultancy is being led by MACCE and funded by SWIOFISH3 (Z2) and by a private donation to SeyCCAT (Z1). The consultant contacted stakeholders in Q3 2020 and began drafting the framework in Q4. The draft will be reviewed and discussed by stakeholders and the MSP core team, and the final document is due to MACCE by Q2 2021.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

SeyCCAT, Pew Science and TNC are continuing to assist MACCE with **Nationally Determined Contributions** (NDC) in support of Seychelles' climate change strategy. The MSP is assisting with data for seagrass, mangroves and coral reefs. The first workshop was held in March 2020.

## BLUE ECONOMY

**Sustainable Fishing.** Six Industrial Fishing 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 responsible for Fisheries, Seychelles Fishing authority, Minister responsible for Environment and TNC, to discuss **FAD**

**management and E-Monitoring** has been postponed due to the pandemic.

## SCIENCE

**NEKTON Science.** The MSP core team contributed spatial information and priority locations for a Nekton 2020 Seamount expedition; it was postponed due to the pandemic. The MSP presented to the **NEKTON Science Symposium** in Oct 2020 for the process and implementation steps.

**Ecosystem Goods and Services.** MACCE, SWIOFISH3 & TNC Mapping Ocean Wealth team are analysing ecosystem services in relation to the protected area system. The inception workshop #1 was held in September 2020 and workshop #2 will be held in February 2021. The work is funded by the SWIOFISH3 Programme. The MSP PM is providing logistical, operational and communications support in Seychelles for the consultancy. Due to the pandemic, the international scientists are engaging with stakeholders with virtual workshops and video calls.

## COMMUNICATIONS

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.

The MSP core team assisted the **Commonwealth Secretariat** with a Blue Charter Case Study for Seychelles to be published in February 2021.

**Media coverage** can be found on the MSP website News page: [www.seymsp.com](http://www.seymsp.com)

## INFORMATION SHARING & GLOBAL MSP COMMUNITY

The MSP PM nominated as one of the two Seychelles representatives on the *Regional Technical Working Group for Marine Spatial Planning* for the Western Indian Ocean. A regional MSP strategy is being developed.

The MSP Process and Science lead is on a MSP global expert group to update the *IOC-UNESCO MSP Step-by-Step Guide*. Seychelles MSP will be featured as one of the examples of multi-objective planning for a Small Island Developing State.

## COORDINATION WITH OTHER NATIONAL PROJECTS

### Committees and Working Groups

- GoS-UNDP-GEF PA Finance Project SC
- SWIOFISH3 Programme SC
- SeyCCAT Blue Grants Committee
- GEF6 inception
- GEF7 project formulation committee
- IKI Nature Seychelles project NWG
- WIO Regional MSP TWG
- Adaptation Fund coral restoration project (regional SC and National WG)

