

MARINE SPATIAL PLAN

The Ministry for Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE) is the lead for the MSP process, with MSP Executive Committee Co-Chair Ministry for Fisheries & Blue Economy (MFBE).

Marine Spatial Plan. Drafting of the Marine Spatial Plan document is underway and will include stakeholder and public review in 2021-2022.

Zoning Design. Discussions for the Allowable Activities, Management Considerations, and other documentation to finalise all three zone categories will resume in late August 2021 and continue in to 2022. Consultations will be virtual workshops until further notice.

Briefings. MSP committee lists are being updated and new members briefed with changes since Oct 2020. Briefings include with Minister for Finance and Minister for Environment Jan 2021, and high-level Ministerial meetings in March & June 2021 with Ministers for Environment, Tourism, Finance, Transport and Fisheries & Blue Economy. A Cabinet Briefing Note was prepared for MACCE and re-submitted in June 2021 to brief and update the President and Cabinet of Ministers on progress to date, finalisation, and outstanding issues. A briefing is also requested for the National Assembly's Islands Select Committee.

Consultations. Executive Committee (EC) meetings were held in April & June 2021 to approve workplan updates and discuss implementation governance options. A stakeholder workshop was held in July 2021 to elaborate on governance options and provide recommendations for the EC.

MSP Implementation Governance. Following discussions with stakeholders and a decision by the Executive Committee, two options were presented to the Cabinet in mid-August 2021 for a second and final decision on MSP implementation governance. Cabinet approved an interim option to use the Environmental Protection Act (EPA), under the MACCE, with amendments

to ensure inter-Ministerial and cross-sectoral communication and coordination as per the Guiding Principles identified in 2018-2019 for the Seychelles Ocean Authority.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Zoning To Implementation.

Government of Seychelles, TNC, and SeyCCAT have ongoing discussions for the high-level workplan, and financial support needed to transition from zoning to implementation including key action items and steps.

Funding and Sustainable Financing.

Up to USD\$4.9 M has been secured through TNC, Blue Nature Alliance, Oceans5 and Waitt Institute, Waitt Foundation to support finalising the MSP and/or prepare implementation.

Management Plan Framework.

MACCE led a consultancy in 2020-2021 for a management plan framework for marine protected areas in Seychelles. With funding from SWIOFish3 and private grant to SeyCCAT, the final document was submitted to MACCE after consultations with stakeholders and public review. MACCE is undergoing steps to endorse the report.

Regulations. The Nature Reserves and Conservancy (NRC) Bill is awaiting approval by the National Assembly. As discussed and documented in the MSP consultations and Milestone nomination files, once a new Bill was approved the Zone 2 gazetted areas will be re-designated under a 'Sustainable Use' category; Zone 1 areas will remain in the (Marine) National Park category. The drafting of regulations will commence through funding secured through a TNC grant.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Led by MACCE and supported by TNC, SeyCCAT, and Pew, the MSP is assisting with data for seagrass, mangroves and coral reefs. Seychelles' updated NDCs were submitted in July 2021 and include a commitment to apply nature-based solutions

comprising mangrove and seagrass protections. See this link to NDCs.

BLUE ECONOMY

Sustainable Fishing. The MSP core team continues to work with the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA), the Ministry for Fisheries and Blue Economy, and TNC Indo-Pacific tuna team on FAD management criteria for Zone 1 and 2 plus an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) pilot on Industrial Fisheries vessels. Meetings were held for a briefing update on EM and lessons learned, prioritization and next steps. Meetings also held with the FishPath team and SFA to prioritise harvest strategies and priority fisheries to pilot the FishPath tool.

Coordination. MSP PM provided a briefing to the new Principal Secretary for Fisheries, Mr. Roy Clarisse on TNC tuna program including TNC-SFA agreement, EM and FAD management activities and IKI Seychelles Component in April 2021.

SCIENCE

NEKTON Oxford Deep Ocean Research. MSP team responded to the "Deeper Reefs" survey in May 2021.

Ecosystem Goods and Services. TNC's Mapping Ocean Wealth team is continuing a consultancy to evaluate ecosystem services in relation to the Seychelles' protected area system. The work is funded by the SWIOFISH3 Programme and led by MACCE, with support from the MSP Core Team. The third and final validation workshop is planned for virtual participation in late September 2021 and a final report in November 2021.

COMMUNICATIONS

MSP Communications. A new consultancy will be supported by grant funding and begin in Q3 of 2021. SeyCCAT will support the MSP core team to administer the grant.

Publications. MSP core team assisted the Commonwealth Secretariat with a Blue Charter Case Study for Seychelles which was published in February 2021.

Local Artist. A small ceremony was held using covid-19 safety guidelines to commemorate the 1-year Anniversary of Seychelles' 30% Marine Protection goal. Mr. James Dupres presented on behalf of his team to each of Minister Flavien Joubert, SeyCCAT, Blue Economy Department and the MSP office a printed canvas. The artwork is featured on the MSP website and a March 2021 news article. Media coverage is found on the website: www.seymsp.com

COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

National Coordination. The MSP PM sits on multiple Steering Committees and Working Groups to assist with synergies, coordination and information sharing. Including: GoS-UNDP-GEF PA Finance Project – Terminal Evaluation July 2021 SC; SWIOFISH3 Programme SC; SeyCCAT Blue Grants Committee; GEF7 project formulation committee; IKI Nature Seychelles project NWG; Adaptation Fund coral restoration project Regional SC and National WG.

Regional MSP. The MSP PM is 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.

Global MSP. Seychelles was featured as a "case study" with the *High-Level Panel for Sustainable Ocean Economy* and will be featured in the new IOC-UNESCO Guidebook for Marine Spatial Planning to be published in Sep 2021. The Seychelles MSP Process and Science Lead is on the High-Level Panel Sustainable Ocean Plan Coalition. The Seychelles MSP is also featured on the updated IOC-UNESCO MSP website.

Information Sharing. The Seychelles MSP was a featured presentation at the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States "Oceans Day" workshop on marine planning and ecosystem services and for a World Bank hosted virtual workshop for Blue Economy in Peru, both in June 2021.

