

## MARINE SPATIAL PLAN

*The Ministry for Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE) is the lead for the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP) process, with the Ministry for Fisheries & Blue Economy (MFBE) as the SMSP Executive Committee Co-Chair.*

**Implementation Governance.** An interim option for implementation was approved by Cabinet on 11 Aug 2021 to use the Environmental Protection Act (EPA), under MACCE. An amendment to the EPA will ensure inter-Ministerial and cross-sectoral communication and coordination as per the Guiding Principles identified in 2018-2019 for the Seychelles Ocean Authority. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for a consultancy has been developed and advertised. An operational framework will be developed by Mar 2022.

**Regulations.** The Nature Reserves and Conservancy (NRC) Bill was published in the official gazette on 29 Nov 2021 and is awaiting approval by the National Assembly. Under the NRC Bill, 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 once the NRC Bill is passed

**Briefings.** The SMSP team will meet with tourism dive sector reps in Feb to brief them on the SMSP and zoning design. Briefings in the last quarter included the African Union, the Blue Economy department, Local Youth Conference of Seychelles, and Seychelles Conservations and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) inductions.

**Consultations.** Stakeholder consultations in Aug-Dec 2021 focused on the Implementation Governance options and Allowable Activities Table: Zone 1. Virtual workshops will continue until further notice, in line with Covid-19 guidelines.

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

**Communications.** A consultancy to support the SMSP team began in Jan 2022 and will include updating the SMSP materials, public outreach and other communications.

**Student Projects and Mentoring.** The SMSP team has assisted undergraduate and graduate students with SMSP information and answered surveys, questionnaires, interviews and requests for information including from the University of Seychelles, University of Colorado Boulder, Oxford University, and Concordia University.

## FROM ZONING TO IMPLEMENTATION

*The SMSP marine protection zones were legally gazetted in March 2020 and there are multiple steps to move from zoning to a legally enforceable Plan. The aim is for the Marine Spatial Plan to be completed and implementation begin in 2022. The Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) plays an important role in this phase of the SMSP including to administer grants and coordinate activities with MACCE, SMSP and other projects related to the SMSP outputs. As per the Seychelles debt conversion agreement, SeyCCAT supports sustainable financing for implementation of the SMSP.*

**Funding and Sustainable Financing.** More than US\$4.7M in grants secured from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Blue Nature Alliance (BNA), Oceans5 (O5), Waitt Foundation and other funders for the next three years. A consultancy to explore additional funding for implementation will begin in early 2022.

**Capacity Building.** In-country capacity was added to SeyCCAT to support the SMSP. A new position was created for a **SeyCCAT Projects Coordinator** and Ms. Elke Talma started in Aug 2021. This position is supporting preparations for SMSP implementation and managing consultancies including pilot management plan templates for marine protection zones.

**Management Plan Framework.** The management plan framework for marine protected areas in Seychelles - completed in Feb 2021 - will be endorsed by MACCE and inform development of management plans.

**Management Plans.** Management plans will be needed for all SMSP zone areas. Draft management plans have already been developed for four SMSP zone areas in the GoS-UNDP-GEF Outer Islands Project. For other zones, several approaches will be used including developing management plan templates and testing them as pilots over a 2-3 year period.

**Management Plan Templates.** A consultancy started in Jan 2022 to develop and pilot management plan templates for D'Arros Atoll Marine National Park (MNP)(Zone 1), and St Joseph (within Amirantes to Fortune Bank Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)(Zone 2) and Denis Island (AONB)(Zone 2). This consultancy includes other protections led by other entities: Aldabra Special Reserve (Seychelles Island Foundation, SIF) and Temporal Protected Areas (Marine Conservation Society Seychelles, MCSS). Another consultancy will be developed in 2022 for three Zone 2 areas, and the SMSP will assess the management plan needs for any remaining zone areas. All SMSP management plans will be developed with stakeholder participation and review.

**Review of SeyCCAT Act.** The SeyCCAT Act will be amended in 2022 to allow proceeds from the Seychelles debt conversion to be used to support staff positions at SeyCCAT and finance SMSP activities including the long-term management of the marine protection area network. This planned activity stems from lessons learned over the past five years. A consultant has been recruited and work commenced in Jan 2022.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**COP26 Glasgow.** Seychelles' updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) were presented at the COP26 and the Seychelles MSP featured in several panels.

**Climate Change Risk Mapping.** The SMSP team is aiming to develop a draft report by Jun 2022.

## BLUE ECONOMY

**Sustainable Fishing.** The SMSP team continues to work with the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA), the MFBE, and TNC Indo-Pacific tuna team on sustainable fisheries. Funding and program support for an Electronic Monitoring System (EMS) pilot on Industrial Fisheries vessels is ongoing.

**FishPath.** Meetings were held with the FishPath team (SFA, TNC & CSIRO) to prioritise harvest strategies and priority

fisheries to pilot the FishPath tool. The Seychelles **Spanner Crab** fishery was prioritised to pilot the FishPath Tool and a virtual public kick off meeting was held in Oct 2021. Activities planned include implementation of interim management measures, stock assessments, stakeholder engagement and trainings.

## SCIENCE and RESEARCH

**Mapping Ecosystem Goods and Services.** TNC's Mapping Ocean Wealth team has completed the final report to evaluate ecosystem services in relation to the Seychelles' protected area system. The project modelled eight ecosystem services. The maps and final report can be found on Mapping Ocean Wealth in Seychelles Hub

## COORDINATION and INFORMATION SHARING

**National Coordination.** The SMSP PM sits on multiple Steering Committees (SC) and Working Groups (WG) to assist with synergies, coordination, and information sharing for the SMSP including:

- *Adaptation Fund coral restoration project*
- *GEF7 project formulation committee*
- *IKI Nature Seychelles project National WG*
- *SWIOFISH3 Programme SC*
- *Regional technical WG for MSP*
- *SeyCCAT Blue Grants Committee*

**Regional MSP.** The SMSP PM is one of the two Seychelles' representatives on the *Regional Technical Working Group for Marine Spatial Planning* for the Western Indian Ocean, where a regional MSP strategy is being developed. The SMSP PM and SeyCCAT Projects Coordinator provided input in the regional WIO Symphony tool, a collaboration between the Nairobi Convention and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) for measuring cumulative environmental impact in the Western Indian Ocean.

**Global MSP.** SMSP team has shared lessons learned with the global MSP community including in Belize, Kenya, Eastern Caribbean, Canada, Peru, and Maldives.



## COMMUNICATIONS

### Publications.

- Seychelles MSP is featured in the new MSPglobal International Guide on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning published in Oct 2021, and on the MSPglobal website.
- Western Indian Ocean Marine Protected Areas Outlook: UNEP / Nairobi Convention and WIOMSA.

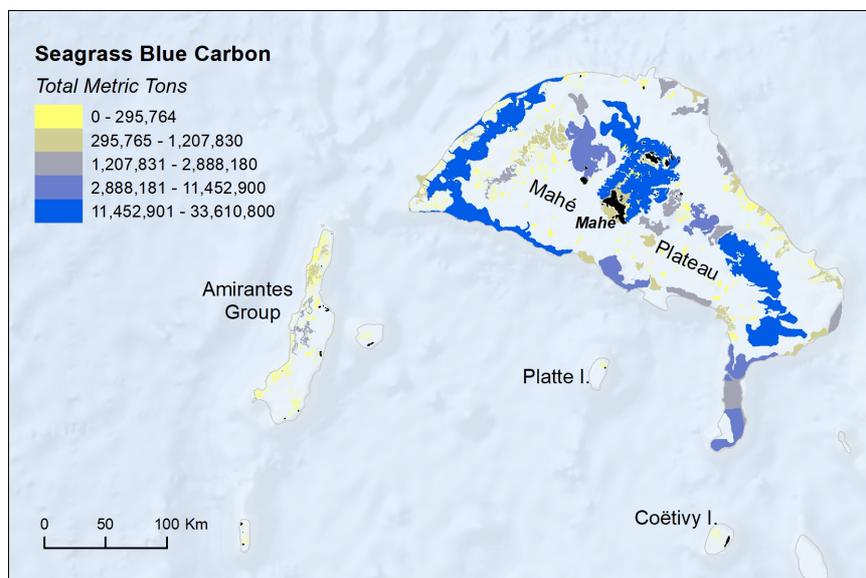
### Conferences and Workshops.

- Seychelles MSP Atlas presentation to Blue Economy Symposium in Canada. Nov 2021
- IORA Earth Observation for Indian Ocean Blue Economy virtual platform. Nov 2021
- SeyCCAT Workshop: Defining the implementation strategy for the wetland NDC commitments. Presentation on MSP and link to NDCs. Nov 2021
- High-level Panel on Sustainable Ocean Plans. Workshop presentation on lessons learned featuring: Belize, Canada, Seychelles. Dec 2021
- **Seychelles Environmental Youth Leadership Programme (EYLP).** Knowledge and Skills

session – Panel on sustainable ocean. Dec 2021

### Media Coverage.

- **Seychelles Pavilion Expo** Thematic District Pavilions Tier 1 Aldabra Island Dubai World Expo Oct 2021 – Mar 2022 features the Seychelles MSP
- 22 Sept 2021. Implementation of Seychelles' Marine Protected Areas to begin in 2022. Seychelles News Agency.
- 14 Oct 2021. Africa's Seychelles Blue Bond Economy Inspires Belize. Forbes.com
- 19 Oct 2021. A Green Lifeline for Countries in Debt. The Guardian
- 11 Nov 2021. Blue Bonds for Ocean Conservation in Belize. Belize.com
- Nov 2021. Influence Watch. Blue Bonds
- 10 Dec 2021. Blue Bonds for Conservation. ZuBlu Tips & Articles
- 22 Dec 2021. Seychelles: Blue Ocean Solutions for Climate Resilience and Accelerated Development. AllAfrica



**Seagrass Blue Carbon** map featured in the 'Evaluation of Ecosystem Goods and Services for Seychelles' Existing and Proposed Protected Area System'<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Nature Conservancy (TNC). 2022. Evaluation of Ecosystem Goods and Services for Seychelles' Existing and Proposed Protected Area System'. An unpublished report to Government of Seychelles – Ministry Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE) and SWIOFish3 programme from The Nature Conservancy.