



Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment

Press Release: Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan Public Workshop

*Members of the press are invited to give press coverage to a
Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan Public Workshop*

13 April 2022

The Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE) in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) would like to invite esteemed members of the press to a **Public MSP Workshop** regarding the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan on **Wednesday 20th April 2022 at Eden Bleu Hotel from 8:30 a.m. till 3.30 p.m.**

The Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP) initiative is a necessary output of the award winning, government-led Debt-for-Climate-Adaptation Swap in which the Government committed to expanding marine biodiversity protection to 30% of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and Territorial Sea (400,000 square kilometers) and planning for sustainable uses by 2020. The MACCE is the lead agency for the marine plan, facilitated by TNC. The primary objectives of the MSP are to increase marine protections, address climate change adaptation and support the Seychelles Blue Economy. Once completed, this will be the first comprehensive marine spatial plan in the Indian Ocean, and the second largest in the world. The MSP will be implemented with financial support from the Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT), an independent trust legally established under its own Act in 2015 (www.seyccat.org).

The MSP Initiative is governed by an evidence-based, decision-making framework that includes two committees (Executive and Steering), seven technical working groups, public stakeholder workshops, and sector consultations. In March 2020, more than 410,000 km² were legally designated as Marine Protection Areas after more than 250 workshops, meetings and workshops with more than 150 stakeholders. Five 'High Biodiversity Protection' Zones cover 203,235 square km and eight 'Medium Biodiversity Protection and Sustainable Use' Zones cover 217,589 square km. The 13 marine protection areas contain key areas for tuna, seagrass beds, and corals. The protection areas are home to endangered species and economically vital fish stocks and include climate change refugia as well as important foraging areas. The remaining ocean areas are in a 'Multiple Use' Zone category, covering nearly 70% of the Seychelles. For all areas, the SMSP is working with stakeholders to identify allowable activities and management considerations. The SMSP has also contributed to Seychelles' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and developed methodology for climate-change risk mapping for coral reefs.

The completion of the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan for the full EEZ is scheduled for 2022 and then implementation will begin. The Government of Seychelles, TNC, and SeyCCAT have ongoing discussions for a high-level workplan, and financial support needed to transition from zoning to implementation including key action items and steps. And up to USD\$4.9 M has been secured through TNC, Blue Nature Alliance, Oceans5 and Waitt Institute, Waitt Foundation to support this process.

The MSP Initiative would like all interested members of the public to attend a MSP Workshop to receive an overview of the Seychelles MSP Initiative, the SMSP Action Plan from zoning to implementation and a snapshot of presentations on activities supporting the SMSP.

For more information, kindly contact Ms. Helena Sims, MSP Project Manager, via mail helena.sims@tnc.org or consult the website www.seymsp.com.

Thank you for your usual cooperation.

Regards,

