



Seychelles' Protected Areas Policy

Ministry of Environment & Energy

October 2013

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1. Executive Summary

Protected Areas in the Seychelles have been established since the 70's for multiple reasons. Mostly, however, they are to protect biodiversity where it is most abundant or vulnerable and/or to protect land and sea scape values. To date, more than 47% of the total land area of the Seychelles is under legal protection. These protected areas currently fall under different pieces of legislation. Some of these protected areas have management plans. However, there is a great need to review and synergize management priorities in the country. This is best achieved through the development of a policy. A policy consists of a set of principles or rules to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes.

Although the country has a strong legal and policy framework for 'environmental management', the only official national policy specific to protected areas is the *Conservation Policy in the Seychelles* (1971) derived from Seychelles Tourism Policy (1969) and the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Ordinance (1969). There is hence a need to develop a Protected Areas Policy for the Seychelles, which is updated and takes into consideration the countries' international obligations. Consequently, this Protected Area policy was developed under the UNDP-GEF Project "Strengthening Seychelles' protected area system through NGO management modalities". The policy seeks to provide a national policy framework for the elaboration of legislation and associated guidelines for the establishment, coordination, guidance and management of PAs in Seychelles.

The vision of this policy is

‘To have a Protected Areas System on land and in the sea that protects and conserves high quality, comprehensive and ecologically representative examples of the Seychelles’ natural diversity and cultural heritage and that provides ample opportunities for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the sustainable use of these resources’

The specific goals and objectives of the policy are to achieve an effective and multi-use protected area system that is representative, comprehensive and balanced, to maintain the highest quality examples of ecosystems within the country by engaging all stakeholders. Thirteen national commitments will be targeted in order to achieve these objectives.

The first commitment listed in the policy is ‘to create new PA categories in accordance to international norms’. Consequently, the policy simplifies the multiple existing PA Categories into five new categories which take into consideration both the local context and at the same time are aligning with International (IUCN) criteria. This new system retains the best of the categories that were codified in law in 1969, but also rationalises and simplifies the categories. The policy further describes procedures to organise the PAs of Seychelles into a Protected Areas System Plan, which is both a national commitment set out in this policy and an International (CBD) commitment.

Other commitments include the developments of a standardised PA management plan and the measurement of management effectiveness for each existing and new protected areas, the adoption of an internationally recognized process for long-term monitoring of the Protected Areas system, the development of a new program to enhance capacity in PA systems with linkages to local and/or international academic and research institutions and the support of new initiatives to find sustainable financing mechanisms for the protected areas system.

The policy summarises best practices for management planning of PAs, for measuring management effectiveness, sustainable financing, capacity development and for stakeholder and public involvement in PAs. It introduces and outlines the concepts of co-management and proposes templates for co-management agreements for PAs in Seychelles.

Lastly, to facilitate the re-formulation and extension of a new PA system, a new nomination process is proposed which includes clear and well-defined entry points and is based on the principle of transparency so that all stakeholders and government agencies will know when, where and how PAs may be established.

This policy document encompasses all marine and terrestrial habitats and ecosystems of the Seychelles’ territory and its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the Ministry responsible for Environment, through the designated agency/ies shall oversee its implementation. Following revision of existing legislation governing Protected Areas, a new Protected Areas legislation will become the principle statute which is complimented by this policy. An objective, independent review and update of this policy will be completed every 10 years.

2. Background

Seychelles is one of the most desirable island destinations. It is well known for its white beaches, crystal blue waters, lush green vegetation and beautiful landscapes. The marine environment also offers spectacular and diverse diving opportunities.

The collective land mass of the islands of Seychelles is 455.3 km² scattered across 1,400,000 km² of sea and out of this 212.39 km² of land area are protected 307 km² of ocean. The Government of Seychelles has thus far, designated 47% of its land territory as nature reserves with several marine protected areas as its contribution to fulfill its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to ensure conservation of the archipelago's biodiversity for the well-being of present and future Seychellois generations and visitors to the islands.

In 2010 the President of the Republic of Seychelles made a commitment to declare over 50% of Seychelles' terrestrial area under biodiversity conservation and efforts have now started to commit over 30% of Seychelles' marine area as protected, half of which will be declared as no-take zones (as a pledge conditional to raising USD 2.5 million/year for a conservation and adaptation fund). This will exceed the CBD Aichi targets (Strategic goal C, target 11), which state that by 2020 at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water and 10% of coastal and marine areas are effectively conserved¹.

Other international agreements of particular value to the establishment of PAs in the Seychelles and which the Seychelles is a party to include:

- i) The UN convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS)
- ii) The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) ¹
- iii) The Ramsar (Wetlands) Convention
- iv) The World Heritage Convention
- v) The Migratory species or Bonn convention
- vi) The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) ²

The entire Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) falls within the Indian Ocean Whale Sanctuary which was established in 1979 under the auspices of the International Whaling Commission. Seychelles played a lead role in the negotiations for and establishment of the sanctuary.

The Seychelles plays a pioneering role in conservation issues globally. The country has a strong legal and policy framework for 'environmental management' guided by the provisions of Article 38 of the Seychelles' Constitution (1993), which declares that

"The State recognises the right of every person to live in and enjoy a clean, healthy and ecologically balanced environment and with a view to ensuring the effective realisation of this right the State undertakes... to ensure a sustainable socio-economic development of Seychelles by a judicious use and management of the resources of Seychelles".

The only official national policy specific to protected areas is the *Conservation Policy in the Seychelles* (1971) derived from Seychelles Tourism Policy (1969) and the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Ordinance (1969). The conservation policy is now outdated and doesn't address specific international obligations of the country. There is hence a need to develop a Protected Areas Policy for the Seychelles.

¹ Convention on Biological Diversity; Aichi Targets: <http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

² International Coral Reef Initiative; <http://www.icriforum.org/>

Protected areas are regulated under different legislation, notably the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act (1969, as amended), the Wild Animals and Birds Protection Act (1961), the Wild Birds Protection (Nature Reserves) Regulations (1966) and the Protected Areas Ordinance (1967). Other Acts supporting the implementation of Protected Areas (PAs), particularly in respect of development controls and species protection, include the Environment Protection Act (1994); the Forestry Reserves Act (1955); and the Fisheries Act (1987). The purposes of the above Acts are explained under the Existing Legal Framework section (page 10). The existing array of laws and regulations that directly and indirectly govern management of biodiversity, the environment and Protected Areas are, for the most part out of date, as well as being incomplete and in some cases contradictory and hence are in great need of revision.

The importance of the Environment in the economic development of the country is further emphasised in the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS 2011-2012) previously called the “Environment Management Plan of Seychelles (EMPS)” which provides the overarching policy framework for sustainable development. It covers 13 thematic areas of which six are of particular relevance to the Protected Areas: (i) Biodiversity and Forestry; (ii) Fisheries and Marine Resources; (iii) Economics of Sustainability; (iv) Land Use, Coastal Zones and Urbanisation; (v) Tourism and Aesthetics; and (vi) Policy, Institutional and Regulatory.

3. Legal Foundations

The Seychelles Constitution (1993) Article 38 declares that:

“the State recognizes the right of every person to live in and enjoy a clean, healthy and ecologically balanced environment and with a view to ensuring the effective realization of this right the State undertakesto ensure a sustainable socio-economic development of Seychelles by a judicious use and management of the resources of the Seychelles”

Article 38 therefore establishes the principle of *environmental rights* which require additional specific legal and regulatory reform for proper implementation. Seychelles has had legislation and environmental policies since the late 1960s which need to be renewed and re-written to reflect the practical issues which frame the contemporary global environmental situation. Further, there is a need to have laws in place which implement the international Treaties which have come into force since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992) – in particular the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) plus other regional and global Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

i) Existing Legal Framework

The only official national policy specific to protected areas in Seychelles up to 2012 was the Government white paper, Conservation Policy in the Seychelles (1971). This white paper accompanied the development of the then Seychelles Tourism Policy (1969) and the coming into force of the 1969 National Parks and Nature Conservancy Ordinance (later known as the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act).

Seychelles has a set of existing laws which directly or indirectly govern the environment and implement the earlier Conservation Policy (1971). Incrementally, during the intervening years there have been a variety of laws passed in addition to the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act (1969), along with a variety of studies, analyses and draft and interim policies.

The main legislations under which Protected Areas in Seychelles are regulated are outlined below:

The *National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act (1969)*: most of the relevant protected areas (National Parks and Special Reserves) have been set up under this Act and its associated regulations. It is the primary protected area legislation in the Seychelles and it regulates the establishment, management, use and development of the categories of protected areas.

The *Protected Areas Act (1967)*: is used primarily for reasons of national and internal security (i.e. to exclude persons/public access from certain areas), but it has however also been utilised to designate a 'protected area' for environmental reasons (S.I. 41 and 42 of 1987).

The *Environment Protection Act (1994)*: provides for the protection, preservation and improvement of the environment and for the control of hazards to human beings, other living creatures, plants and property. The Environment Department administers the Act, and co-ordinates the activities of other agencies concerned with the protection of the environment.

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) (1994): is dealt with under the Environment Protection (Impact Assessment) Regulations. The legislation requires that an EIA study be carried out and that an environmental authorisation is obtained if any person commences, proceeds with, carries out, executes or conducts development.

The *Wild Animals and Birds Protection Act (and associated regulations) (1966)*: enables the protection of a number of keystone species in Seychelles, in particular all native bird species, turtles, whale sharks and Giant Tortoises. It also provides for the establishment and management of Nature Reserves (under its 1996 regulations) for the purpose of protecting land and sea bird species.

The *Forestry Reserves Act (1955)*: sets out provisions for the designation of 'forest reserves' but this category of protected area has to date never been utilised.

The *Fisheries Act (1987)*: promotes the development of a sustainable and responsible fisheries sector. It provides for restrictions on the harvesting of specific sensitive species and regulates marine habitat damage. The act also currently designates four Shell Reserves and three Fishery Reserves where licenses are required to undertake the various fishing activities allowed in such zones. All marine mammals are protected under the Fisheries Act.

The *Town and Country Planning Act (1972)*: provides the basis for land use planning in Seychelles, but also out of date. The Act provides sufficient basis for environmental protection, but is based on a top-down approach to land use planning with little provision for stakeholder involvement and integration of biodiversity conservation objectives into planning efforts.

ii) New Legislative Reforms

A new Protected Areas (PA) legislation will be developed and this will become the principal statute which implements this policy and it will replace /combine some of the above legislations and the statutes listed in Annex A.

The new PA law will be further complimented by the Physical Planning Act and Regulations (replacing the Town and Country Planning Act), a revised Fisheries Act, and a revised Environmental Protection Act. Each of these new laws will have the support of relevant regulations needed for their respective implementation.

The new PA legislation will codify the vision outlined in this policy statement.

Regulations under the new legislation will include:

- A revised set of protected areas categories;
- New management objectives and prescriptions for each category or sub-category of PA;
- A formalized management planning process;
- Methods for measuring management effectiveness;
- A transparent process for PA nomination and designation;
- Stakeholder and public participation in the PA system;
- New methods of PA governance and co-management; and
- A formal review process for this new PA Policy.

The Government of Seychelles will supplement this framework with more detailed regulations where they are needed and which may be amended from time to time in order that there is flexibility and adaptability in the management of individual protected areas, particularly as the circumstances in individual protected areas change through time.

4. Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Seychelles Protected Area policy is to provide a national policy framework for:

- **The elaboration of legislation and associated regulations for the establishment and management of PAs.**
- **The coordination and guidance for the planning, management and assessment of the existing (and future) set of protected areas in accordance to other national policies, international standards and best practices. This includes surveillance, monitoring, research amongst others.**
- **The fulfillment of regional and international commitments relating to the conservation, protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and associated ecosystems *inter alia* the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), climate change (UNFCCC), sustainable land management (UNCCD), migratory species (CMS) and trade in endangered species (CITES).**

For the purposes of this policy and the implementing legislation, the Government of Seychelles adopts the internationally accepted definition of a protected area as follows:

“a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values”.

The CBD Program of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) emphasizes that protected areas should not be seen as isolated entities but as part of a broader conservation spectrum including both: a protected areas system; and a wider ecosystem approach to conservation implemented across the entire landscape and seascape. Thus, CBD ratification commits Seychelles to establish and maintain a:

“comprehensive effectively managed and ecologically representative national system of protected areas”.

The Government of Seychelles is committed to continue to meet the obligations of membership in the CBD and the Program of Work on Protected Areas. This includes the completion of a Protected Areas System which is both comprehensive and representative of the ecosystems of the country. Further it is committed to the full protection of all habitats, terrestrial and marine, that are required for the protection of endemic species as well as threatened or endangered species of flora and fauna – plus the habitat or areas needed for their recovery and/or restoration.

Seychelles will continue its reporting to the international community; participate in the Conference of Parties; and maintain a continuing overall commitment to manage the Seychelles Protected Areas System to meet international standards.

This policy updates and enhances the Seychelles Conservation Policy (1971) and incorporates elements of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (1998) and other policy documents. The new Protected Areas Policy sets out the structure of the protected areas system and a series of related operational systems which will lead to the development of a new Protected Areas System Plan.

5. Vision Statement

The **vision** for the Seychelles Protected Areas (PAs) system may be described as follows:

To have a Protected Areas System on the land and in the sea that protects and conserves high conservation value, comprehensive and ecologically representative examples of the Seychelles’ natural diversity and cultural heritage and that provides ample opportunities for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the sustainable use of these resources.

The new and re-organized Protected Areas System (PAS) will include a range of protective mechanisms that provide a fundamental underpinning to sustainable development within the country

The PAS will encourage all Seychellois and visitors to respect and understand the natural world in a manner which will contribute towards a sustainable economy without reducing the opportunities available to future generations.

The PAS will also provide a focus for the protection and restoration of both terrestrial and marine endemic species and their respective habitats in an effort to restore the representative ecosystems of the archipelago.

6. Goal and Objectives

The principal goal for the Seychelles' PAS is:

To achieve an effectively managed and multi-use protected area system that is representative, comprehensive and balanced to maintain the highest quality examples of ecosystems within the country by engaging all stakeholders.

The specific objectives of the PA Policy are categorised below.

- Create conditions to effectively conserve 50% of national terrestrial areas and effectively conserve and manage 20% of marine area within the EEZ;
- Establish and implement effective mechanisms for private sector, NGOs and community involvement and engagement in the planning and management of protected areas;
- Explore, develop and implement sustainable financing mechanisms to ensure the long term availability of adequate resources for PA management;
- Develop and implement effective capacity development programme to strengthen the management of PAs;
- Effectively conserve and protect the composition, function and evolutionary potential of biodiversity within and outside of the Protected Area Network;
- Provide for the restoration of degraded habitats and ecosystems of historical important biodiversity areas and put into place measures to prevent further degradation;
- Maintain and enhance terrestrial and marine ecosystems to guarantee long term ecosystem services;
- Develop and implement schemes for the sustainable use and sharing of the benefits arising from these activities within the PA network;
- Minimise and mitigate the impacts of climate change by maintaining the integrity and functions of ecosystems;
- Establish and implement educational and awareness programmes and enhance public support for ecosystem protection and sustainable use.
- Develop and implement outreach programmes to change people's behaviour with respect to protection of the environment.

7. Scope

This Policy covers all terrestrial and marine habitats and ecosystems of the Seychelles' territory (coastline to 20 nautical miles) and its Exclusive Economic Zone. This policy will also be applicable in the establishment, management and strengthening of potential transboundary protected areas and natural resource management.

The ecosystem approach will be applied for biodiversity protection at the habitat and ecosystem level, not individual species level. However, where measures protecting particular species have the effect of achieving biodiversity protection at the habitat and ecosystem level, they could be included in the Protected Areas Network.

The Protected Areas Network will protect representative examples of the full range of terrestrial and marine habitats and ecosystems habitats and species of conservation concern, including vulnerable or rare, distinctive, internationally or nationally important examples. The policy updates, re-organizes and

guides the management of the existing and new or expanded protected areas while considering contemporary international standards and best practices in PA management.

8. Responsible Bodies

The Ministry responsible for Environment through the designated agency/ies shall oversee the implementation of the Protected Areas Policy (see sub-section VI of Section 14 on Institutional framework).

Government agencies, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the private sector and local communities responsible for PA management, fisheries, and land use shall be provided with the opportunity to be involved in the implementation of the policy.

9. The Commitments (Policy Statements)

To achieve the objectives of this Policy, the Government shall:

1. Create and use new PA categories in accordance to international norms;
2. Systematically review, re-organize and expand the existing protected areas system using the new PA categories;
3. Implement a system of spatial and temporal conservation-priority zoning for the coastal and marine areas;
4. Develop and publish a formal Protected Areas System Plan within five (5) years of the adoption of this new PA Policy and review and update as and when necessary;
5. Enhance key stakeholder involvement in protected areas planning and management;
6. Use appropriate forms of co-management for existing and new protected area where feasible and practicable;
7. Develop a standardised PA management plan template to facilitate the development of management plans for each existing and new protected areas;
8. Adopt an internationally recognized process for long-term monitoring of the Protected Areas system and measure the management effectiveness of individual protected areas;
9. Establish a national committee on protected areas and conservation – that meets to discuss issues of nation-wide importance and serves as a learning network;
10. Develop new programs to enhance capacity in PA institutional framework with linkages to local and/or international academic and research institutions;
11. Establish a volunteer scheme with special emphasis towards participation in PA management programs aimed at enhancing ownership capacity and public support;
12. Support new initiatives to find sustainable financing mechanisms for the protected areas system. This will include an examination of innovative revenue generation and incentives including public-private partnerships for biodiversity protection;
13. Ensure objective, independent reviews and updates of this Protected Areas Policy every 10 years;
14. Establish the legal framework to confer powers to appoint wardens, subject to training (may include private land owners), to allow for effective enforcement of PAs;

It is fully recognized by the Government of Seychelles (GoS) that this ambitious set of commitments will require considerable time, extra resources and additional staff to fully implement. Nevertheless, GoS also recognizes that the long term economic and ecological benefits of the adoption of this policy far outweigh the costs and make a fundamental contribution to the well-being and sustainable development of the Seychelles archipelago. Therefore every effort will be made to fully achieve these commitments.

Seychelles' Commitment to a New Protected Areas System Plan (PASP)

The existing set of protected areas is relatively complex and comprised of many designations. It is the intent of this new policy to simplify the categories of PAs to the greatest extent possible and to harmonize it with the international (IUCN) categories which are used by CBD and other international institutions. This intention is part of the overall commitment to meet the state obligations under the CBD (and other MEAs).

However, in addition to the existing and new categories of protected areas there is the additional CBD commitment that the PAs be properly organized into a Protected Areas System Plan (PASP). This will list all the PAs and outline their specific conservation purpose and role within the set of Seychelles ecosystems which require conservation management.

The PASP will:

- List all existing Protected Areas and their local (and international) classification;
- Identify gaps and weaknesses in the PA System;
- Suggest potential new PAs;
- Suggest re-classification of existing PAs where deemed desirable;
- Mandate management plans for each protected area; and
- Provide for a detailed temporal and spatial zoning system throughout the EEZ.

It is recognized and acknowledged that the Government of Seychelles will need to further develop its internal capacity to undertake the full and proper development of a PASP. It is further recognized that the work program will be best achieved in a partnership with Seychelles non-governmental, private sector and international organizations and agencies. In essence this requires both some form of steering committee and a stakeholder and public involvement in the preparation of a PASP (with both existing and proposed PAs) as well as individual PA management Plans and their periodic renewal).

This relates to **Commitment 4** whereby it is stated that the Government of Seychelles will develop and publish a formal Protected Areas System Plan within five (5) years of the adoption of this new PA Policy and review and update it as and when necessary.

10. Seychelles Protected Areas Categories

As stated under **Commitment 1 & 2**, *the Government of Seychelles is committed to create new PA categories in accordance to international norms and to systematically review, re-organize and expand the existing protected areas system using the new PA categories.*

This new system retains the best of the areas and designations which were first codified in law in 1969 (and added to incrementally since then) plus it introduces new and rationalizes and simplifies categories. It also harmonizes the Seychelles system with the contemporary internationally adopted definitions which have been established by IUCN – the World Conservation Union and adopted by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The categories in this policy do not imply a hierarchy in terms of quality, importance or naturalness. They should be chosen in order to maximize opportunities for conservation and also to address threats to conservation. The categories should also be independent of who owns, controls or has responsibility for management. The protected areas can be designated as temporary or permanent and marine or terrestrial and this is generic for all the categories described below. A PA can either be upgraded or downgraded to a different category following designation, when timely PA reviews are carried out, should the PA not meet the criteria of its initial category. A comprehensive assessment of the existing and potential new PAs is required prior to the formal designation and use of these categories. In order to assign a category, the primary objective should apply to at least three quarters of the PA. For areas with multiple objectives and values, it is advised that the '75 percent rule' is applied based on the 2008 IUCN-WCPA guidelines³.

A total of five new categories are proposed and the criteria for designation are described below.

i) Strict Nature Reserve (IUCN Ia)

This category is a modification of the existing category in the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act (1969). It can be defined as:

An area set aside for the strict protection of biodiversity and/or geological or landform features, where human visitation, use and impacts are strictly controlled and limited to ensure the protection of the area. All other interests and activities are subordinated to this end. Such reserve may serve for scientific research and long term monitoring.

Primary Objective:

To conserve nationally, regionally or globally outstanding ecosystems, species (occurrences or aggregations) and/or geodiversity features: these attributes will have been formed mostly or entirely by non-human forces and will be degraded or destroyed when subjected to all but very light human impact.

Other Objectives:

- To preserve ecosystems, species and geodiversity features in a state as undisturbed by recent human activity as possible;
- To secure examples of the natural environment for scientific studies, environmental monitoring and education, including baseline areas from which all avoidable access is excluded;
- To minimize disturbance through careful planning and implementation of research and other approved activities;
- To conserve cultural and spiritual values associated with nature.

³ Lausche, B., (2011) *Guidelines for Protected Areas Legislation*. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. Xxvi + 370 pp.

Designation Criteria:

To be designated a Strict Nature Reserve, the areas must;

- Have an endemic or endangered species in ecologically significant densities or be capable of returning them to such densities through natural processes or time limited interventions;
- Have ecosystems largely intact with intact ecological processes, or processes capable of being restored with low management intervention.
- Be free of significant direct intervention by humans that would compromise the specified conservation objectives for the area, which usually implies limiting access by people and excluding settlement other than those for purposes linked to the management and protection of the PA;
- No need for substantial and on-going intervention to achieve its conservation objectives;
- Be suitable as a baseline monitoring site;
- Be managed for relatively low visitation by humans;
- Determine the carrying capacity for each PAs and include in the Management Plans, should visitation to the area be deemed necessary.
- Be capable of being managed to ensure minimal disturbance (especially relevant to marine environments).
- Genetic Diversity: High level of genetic diversity critical as a gene pool
- Be areas of International/National Significance which have the potential of listing on an International System
- Provides areas where ecosystems can be studied in as pristine an environment as possible.

ii) Ecological Reserve (IUCN IV)

This is a new category. The category will be used to re-categorize many of the existing or proposed small protected areas which may make up the majority of the new PA system. Areas that have been established as Nature Reserves which fall outside of the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act (1969) may be re-classified as Ecological Reserves (ER). It can be defined as:

An area set aside for the protection of particular species or habitats, normally subject to regular, active interventions to address the requirements of particular species or to maintain habitats.

Primary Objective

To maintain, conserve and restore flora and fauna species of national, regional and international importance; including resident or migratory fauna; and/or habitats.

Other Objectives

- To protect vegetation patterns or other biological features through sound management approaches;
- To protect fragments of habitats as components of landscape or seascape-scale conservation strategies;
- To develop public education and appreciation of the species and/or habitats concerned;

Designation criteria:

To be designated an Ecological Reserve the areas:

- can vary in size but which can often be relatively small; this is however not a distinguishing feature;
- can be designated as temporary (e.g. nursery areas during breeding season, feeding aggregation areas etc) or permanent conservation areas and management will differ depending on need.
- are where protection may be sufficient to maintain particular habitats and/or species. However, as IUCN category IV protected areas often include *fragments* of an ecosystem and/or rare or threatened habitats;
- may not be self-sustaining and may require regular and active management interventions to ensure the survival of specific habitats and/or to meet the requirements of particular species;
- may protect and/or actively manage particular target species, which will usually be under threat (e.g., one of the last remaining populations) to maintain viable populations of these particular species, which might include for example artificial habitat creation or maintenance (such as artificial reef creation), supplementary feeding or other active management systems;
- may need to be maintained and/or restored; They will often be fragments of ecosystems; and/or natural or semi-natural habitats that are either too small or too profoundly altered to be self-sustaining, e.g., *if natural herbivores are absent they may need to be replaced by livestock or manual cutting; or if hydrology has been altered this may necessitate artificial drainage or irrigation;*
- may secure stepping-stones (places for migratory species to feed and rest) or breeding sites;
- may allow for targeted re-introduction of species which originally formed part of the protected habitat or fragment of ecosystem for restoration and rehabilitation purposes;
- may allow for the introduction of other endemic or endangered species associated with the local ecosystems for rehabilitation/controlled multiplication purposes;
- may provide flexible management strategies and options in buffer zones around, or connectivity conservation corridors between, more strictly protected areas that are more acceptable to local communities and other stakeholders; that maintains species that have become dependent on landscapes where their original habitats have disappeared or been altered.

iii) National Park (IUCN II)

Seychelles presently has several existing terrestrial and marine national Parks plus some in combination. These generally fit the IUCN Category II definition. Most existing Seychelles National Parks have prepared (but have not implemented) Management Plans and one (Morne Seychellois NP) has an internal zoning systems. With the exception of possible minor boundary revisions, creation of buffer zones, the possibility of removing private in-holdings and the inclusion of potential Ecological Reserves, the existing National Parks should be maintained and improved. With minor changes this category is essentially the same category that is defined in the 1969 legislation and includes both Terrestrial and Marine National Parks. It can be defined as:

An area designated for the propagation, protection and preservation of wild life or the preservation of places or objects of aesthetic, geological, prehistoric, historical, archeological or other scientific interest for the benefit, advantage and enjoyment of the general public and includes in the case of a Marine

National Park an area of shore, sea or sea bed together with coral reef and other marine features so set aside;

Primary Objective:

To protect natural biodiversity along with its underlying ecological structure, supporting environmental processes and services, and to promote education and recreation.

Other Objectives:

- To manage the area in order to achieve, in as natural a state as possible, representative examples of physiographic regions, biotic communities, genetic resources and unimpaired natural processes;
- To maintain viable and ecologically functional populations and assemblages of native species at densities sufficient to conserve ecosystem integrity and resilience in the long term;
- To manage visitor use for inspirational, educational, cultural and recreational purposes at a level which will not cause significant biological or ecological degradation to the natural resources;
- To contribute to local economies through, for example, tourism, spill-over effect for fisheries, sustainable forestry and so on.

Designation Criteria:

To be designated a National Park, the area;

- should contain representative examples of key ecosystems , biological and environmental features or scenery including native plant and animal species, habitats and geodiversity sites;
- should be of special spiritual, scientific, educational, recreational or tourist significance and provide for sustainable use of natural resources;
- should be of sufficient size and ecological quality so as to maintain ecological functions and processes that will allow the native species and communities to persist for the long term with minimal management intervention;
- where the composition, structure and function of biodiversity should be to a great degree in a “natural” state or have the potential to be restored to such a state;
- should be surrounded when feasible by land uses that contribute to the achievement of the area’s specified conservation objectives;
- should protect larger-scale ecological processes that will be missed by smaller protected areas or in cultural landscapes;
- should protect compatible ecosystem services;
- should protect particular species and communities that require relatively larger areas of undisturbed habitat;
- which provides a “pool” of such species to help populate sustainably- managed areas surrounding the protected area;
- which will be integrated with surrounding land or water uses to contribute to National conservation plans;
- which can be used to inform and captivate visitors about the need for and potential of conservation programmes;

- which can support compatible economic development, mostly through recreation, sustainable agriculture and tourism that can contribute to local and national economies and in particular to local communities.

iv) Protected landscape/seascape (IUCN V)

This category is a modification of the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) category which is described under the existing National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act (1969). This designation will also significantly strengthen the proposed designations under the Town and Country Planning which is presently under revision and new land-use planning processes, such as in the protection of areas of coastline which need protection as linear features that cannot easily be protected using the NPNC(1969).

It can be defined as:

An area of land, with or without coast and sea as appropriate, where natural elements in isolation or through the interaction of people and nature over time has produced an area of distinct character with significant aesthetic, ecological and/or cultural value, and often with high biological diversity.

Primary Objective:

To protect and sustain important landscapes/seascapes and the associated nature conservation and possibly other values created by interactions with humans.

Other Objectives:

- To maintain a balanced interaction of nature and culture through the protection of landscape and/or seascape and associated traditional management approaches, societies, cultures and spiritual values;
- To contribute to broad-scale conservation by maintaining species associated with cultural landscapes and/or by providing conservation opportunities in developing landscapes;
- To provide opportunities for enjoyment, well-being and socio-economic activity through recreation and tourism;
- To provide a framework to underpin active involvement by the community in the management of valued landscapes or seascapes and the natural and cultural heritage that they contain;
- To encourage the conservation of terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity;

Criteria for designation

This category of protected areas results from biotic, abiotic and human interaction and should have the following *essential* characteristics:

- should have a landscape and/or coastal and island seascape of high and/or distinct scenic quality and/or environmentally sensitive areas.
- should consist of significant associated habitats, and flora and fauna.
- should be valued for the provision of environmental services.
- should provide opportunities for public enjoyment through recreation and tourism.

- may be areas that act as a buffer around a core of one or more strictly protected areas to help to ensure that land and water-use activities do not threaten their integrity;
- may act as linking habitat between several other protected areas.

v) Sustainable Use Area (IUCN VI)

This is a new category. Seychelles has both terrestrial and marine areas that are in relatively natural condition but also accommodate economic uses such as sustainable forestry, medicinal plants, fisheries and aquaculture. Some of these areas will benefit from formal designation within the PA system rather than remaining partially protected or designated within a Land Use Plan alone.

It can be defined as:

An area that contains modified and/or unmodified natural systems, managed to ensure long term protection and maintenance of ecosystems and services, while providing at the same time a sustainable flow of natural products and services compatible with nature conservation.

Primary Objective:

To protect and use natural ecosystems and resources sustainably, where conservation and sustainable use can be mutually beneficial.

Other Objectives:

- To promote sustainable use of natural resources, considering ecological, economic and social dimensions;
- To promote social and economic benefits to local communities where relevant;
- To contribute to developing and/or maintaining a more balanced relationship between humans and the rest of nature;
- To contribute to sustainable and socio-economic development at national level.
- To facilitate scientific research and environmental monitoring, mainly related to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources;
- To incorporate and promote best management practices and Ecosystem Approach where applicable to ensure a more sustainable use of the natural resources;
- To act as models of sustainability so that lessons can be learnt for wider application.
- Valued for the sustainable use of natural resources through application of traditional practices;
- To facilitate recreation and appropriate small-scale tourism.

Designation Criteria:

This category of protected areas, uniquely amongst the categories system, have the sustainable use of natural resources, together and in synergy with other actions more common to the other categories, such as protection. The areas may have the following characteristics;

- should be areas managed with the aims to sustainably manage and use ecosystems and habitats, together with associated cultural values and natural resource management systems;
- may be a combination of areas designated for sustainable use and no-take area;

- The area should meet sustainable harvesting requirements (category is NOT designed to accommodate large-scale industrial harvest);
- Upon submission for designation, a management plan specific to that area should be provided.

11. Nomination Process for inclusion of New Protected Areas.

The Government of Seychelles (GoS) has designated a number of protected areas since the National Park and Nature Conservancy Act was promulgated in 1969. Protected areas were systematically identified using a diverse range of criteria and some areas were added on an *ad hoc* basis. The legal framework needs to be reviewed to include new procedures for nomination and declaration of new protected areas and reclassification of existing protected areas using the new criteria under this policy.

The legislation will establish clear and transparent procedures for the nomination of site(s). Government agencies, NGOs, communities and individuals, will be allowed to nominate potential sites.

The nomination of any site should satisfy at the following requirements;

- i) The site has distinct qualities such as presence of rare and endangered species in such a combination that render it ecologically and or aesthetically important;
- ii) The site fits the conservation objectives of a particular category provided in the policy and legislation; An assessment of the overall merit of the proposed site (e.g. scientific) and the implication of the designation, including its environment and social impact. The capacity for management and enforcement of the proposed site as a protected area will also be assessed;
- iii) Once the basic requirements are met, the Government will initiate a screening process. The proponent may be asked to provide further information to support the claim for the area to be declared a PA and the information may be validated by the relevant authority.

The Government shall ensure that there is a transparent review process to provide a fair hearing and also a public consultation before a final decision is made. The process will be stipulated in the legislation.

12) Powers and procedures for declassification/revocation

Ensuring the long-term conservation of a protected area through legal designation is the fundamental principle which sets formal PAs apart from other land use classifications. Once a site has been established as a PA the legal presumption is for its permanent security and perpetual integrity.

Two main principles for the revocation/declassification of a PA are;

- i) Any PA which has been declared by an Act, can only be revoked or reduced by an Act;
- ii) The power to revoke/declassify the designation of all or part of a PA should be placed at a level at, or equal to that of the authority establishing the area, or at a higher level e.g. At an Assembly level when the Minister authorised the establishment of the PA.

The review and consultation process for revocation and declassification should be as rigorous as that required for establishment, in order to ensure that the decision is taken for reasons of public interest sufficiently compelling to justify overturning the establishment.

For any declassification or revocation of a PA the authority needs to include;

- i) A decision based on sound science and an analysis of the impact of such an action on the PAS, as well as on national biodiversity conservation goals;
- ii) An account of the long-term social and environmental impact of the declassification/revocation on ecosystem services and functions for the local area and the country as a whole;
- iii) Reasons for proposing a reduction or declassification or revocation should be made public in advance of the action, opportunity for public comment should be provided and these comments shall be taken into account in the decision.

In circumstances where the PA is not state owned (Co-managed areas), it may be necessary to negotiate or amend the co-management agreements, if the PA is declassified or, should the PA be revoked, the agreement should be revoked altogether, accordingly (See **co-management agreements**, section 14, IV)

In instances where compelling and overriding national interests require a PA in the formal system to be reduced in size or completely declassified, measures should be taken to help mitigate overall loss to the PA System e.g. restoration measures on other sites as needed or the designation of new or expanded PA replacement areas of equal or greater value for biodiversity and nature conservation. These mitigation measures and 'no net loss' principles are endorsed by the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

13) Special Conservation Zone; Interim Protection

The purpose of interim protection is to safeguard the natural features and wildlife of a site (nominated as a possible PA) until an assessment is made as to whether it should be declared a PA. This is based largely on the precautionary principle and scientific uncertainty. The precautionary principle has been recognised in International law and policy since the 1970s. It is an important aspect of adaptive management and is included in PA legal frameworks for decision making about the management of PAs. Where knowledge is limited and there is lack of certainty regarding the threat of a serious environmental harm, this uncertainty should not be used as an excuse for not taking action to avert that harm⁴. As such, it provides a fundamental policy basis to anticipate, avoid and mitigate threats to the natural environment.

The nomination and consultation process for new PAs may be lengthy, involving additional data collection, impact assessments and changes in the proposed design, category and governance arrangements. Without interim protection, a proposed development may proceed and investments/activities launched that may not be compatible with the proposed purpose of the site. Interim protection will also prevent the irreversible detriment of the area from the personal exploitations of speculators and opportunists.

⁴ Lausche, B., (2011). Guidelines for Protected Areas Legislation. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland. Xxvi + 370 pp.

The Government may declare interim protection (through an interim order) simultaneous with nomination and with immediate effect, indicating that no change in the use of the area would be authorised during the period specified in the interim order. The time period for interim protection can vary and will depend on the discretion of the designated authority. The more complex the studies required before designation, the longer the period of the interim order.

To gain interim protection the following steps need to be followed;

- i) The government may declare, with immediate effect, interim protection for a site that has been officially proposed for PA establishment, until the process for establishment or PA recognition is complete;
- ii) Provisions developed, indicating that where an area is given interim protection under the legislation, the protection also covers the subsoil, seabed, water bodies and water column and airspace above the land or sea area;
- iii) An interim order developed to indicate clearly the essential characteristics and features that promoted nomination of the site as a PA, clear boundaries, primary conservation value, proposed PA category, management objectives consistent with the PA categories and penalties that may be triggered by activities in violation of the interim order;
- iv) When and where required, provide for an exception that indicates that the interim order does not affect the existing practices of current users and owners of the identified area, as long as such practices remain compatible with and do not jeopardise the conservation values of the site being given interim protection;
- v) The authority overseeing the proposed site through the nomination process to coordinate with other relevant sectors, including, in particular, land use planning authorities who may use their legal instruments to reinforce the interim protection order by revising land use maps and records and using zoning and permit controls as appropriate.

As appropriate, the government may use an interim order in an emergency situation for areas that possess significant conservation value requiring urgent protective action in response to a serious unanticipated natural or human threat.

14) Policy Implementation

i) Management Planning

In line with **Commitment 7** states that *the Government of Seychelles will develop a standardised PA management plan to facilitate the development of management plans for each existing and new protected area.*

Therefore the management of each Protected Area should;

- Prepare, implement, monitor and evaluate a management plan.
- These management plans should be reviewed at least every 5 years.

The proposed elements of a PA management Plan are outlined in Annex C.

ii) Measuring Management Effectiveness

As per **Commitment 8**, the Government of Seychelles commits to adopt an internationally recognized process for long-term monitoring of the Protected Areas system and to measure the management effectiveness of individual protected areas.

The success of protected areas as a tool for conservation is based around the assumption that they are managed to protect the values that they contain. To be effective, management should be tailored to the particular demands of the site, given that each protected area has a variety of biological and social characteristics, pressures and uses. Achieving effective management requires adopting appropriate management objectives and governance systems, adequate and appropriate resourcing and the timely implementation of appropriate management strategies and processes. Information on management effectiveness is thus a cornerstone of good management.

Management effectiveness evaluation is defined as:

“The assessment of how well the protected area is being managed – primarily the extent to which it is protecting values and achieving goals and objectives.”

The term management effectiveness reflects three main themes: design issues relating to both individual sites and protected area systems; adequacy and appropriateness of management systems and processes; and delivery of protected area objectives including conservation of values (See Annex D).

Therefore, the Government of Seychelles commits to evaluating management effectiveness on a regular basis and at a minimum will do so prior to each management plan review and update (as per commitment 7). Once the system is fully in place it may also be undertaken on an ongoing basis.

iii) Stakeholder and Public Involvement

As per **Commitment 5**, the Government of Seychelles acknowledges the benefits of Public involvement and will mandate *key stakeholder involvement in all phases of protected areas planning and management*.

Within the international community the practice of involving local communities and other stakeholders in protected area planning and management is fully mandated and in many countries Management Boards and other participatory mechanisms are now legally required. New legislation to designate protected areas will aim to include stakeholder involvement as early in the PA system and individual PA management planning processes as possible and be continued throughout.

iv) Co-Management of Protected Areas & Co-Management Agreements

Under **Commitment 6**, the Government of Seychelles commits to the use of appropriate forms of co-management for each existing and new protected area.

Co-Management for the purposes of this policy may be defined as:

“A partnership in which two or more stakeholders negotiate, agree upon guarantee and implement a shared set of management functions, benefits and responsibilities for a particular protected area.”

The Government of Seychelles recognizes that protected areas are increasingly managed by partnerships of stakeholders including government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. There is awareness to the need for a diversity of institutional arrangements within the Seychelles PA system. These will allow for strengthened management of existing areas and help in the expansion of the system as well as improve connectivity at the landscape and seascape level. Furthermore, it will enhance public support for conservation, increase the flexibility of the system and mediate a new relationship between people and nature.

It is also important to acknowledge that a partnership approach to managing protected areas will need to expand under the current global socio-economic conditions. Seychelles has had to restructure its internal budget in recent years and there are only limited resources for conservation coming exclusively from Government. Sharing the sourcing of financial resources among a variety of entities (public and private) has become of increasing significance especially in an economy which is profoundly dependent on global tourism.

Options for appropriate approaches include the following:

Governed By Government

- A.1 Governed Directly by the National Ministry
- A.2 Governed at the District Level (in future)
- A.3 Government Delegates (MOU) to an NGO

Shared Governance

- B.1 Joint Management Boards
- B.2 Collaborative Management Committees (for specific tasks)
- B.3 Community-Conserved Areas (under customary law)
- B.4 Trans-boundary Management (with other countries)

Private Governance

- C.1 Individual Landowners (or “for-profit” corporations)
- C.2 Non-Profit organizations (NGOs, universities etc.) under freehold or lease.

Any Protected Area that is not state-owned or controlled should also be designated by legislature to give the designation legal status as a formal PA and to ensure recognition by other sectors. In addition, these areas will require a separate negotiated agreement, stating the rights and responsibilities of all parties and recognised by legislature or an equivalent body, as part of formal designation. These agreements should govern most actions, including enforcement powers, the kinds of events that may trigger a change in status, and the processes and consequences involved. In cases where the classification of such PAs is changed, it may be necessary to negotiate an amended agreement, or in completely devastated areas (e.g. due to natural disasters), to revoke the agreement altogether.

The proposed templates for co-management agreements (as per **commitment 6**) and the key components that they may include are described in **the Annex E** section of this policy.

v) National Advisory Committee on Protected Areas

Commitment 9 states that an *Advisory National committee for Protected Areas and Conservation will be established – to discuss issues of nation-wide importance*. Terms of References will be developed for the committee.

A national committee for PAs will be developed which will act as a coordinating body with the responsibility of integrating policy and programme implementation for the PA system which includes marine and terrestrial PAs and sites managed by other bodies. The committee will also have an advisory role, bringing together diverse expertise and user groups to share their knowledge on the condition of existing sites, present and anticipated threats and potential new sites.

vi) Institutional Framework

Revised legislation will ensure that;

- i) Clear designation of powers and responsibilities to PA management bodies will be described;
- ii) Coordination and elaboration mechanisms will be described to accommodate the wide range of institutional interests involved and account for special management challenges, including transboundary issues.

The Ministry of Environment and Energy is the high-policy level body with the overall responsibility for the network of marine and coastal protected areas. The Minister for Environment is responsible for the overall PA system of which the marine and coastal protected areas network and its sites are part.

All authorities and agencies which manage PAs will be regulated by specific legislation governing respective PAs.

The Environment Department will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the legislation specific to protected areas at the national level. The Environment Department will answer directly to the Minister responsible for Environment.

The Seychelles National Parks Authority and all other bodies managing PAs will be responsible to manage and implement respective regulations of respective PAs at site level as per their management plans. These separate entities will enter into an agreement with the Ministry responsible for Environment to manage PAs (See co-management agreements). The agreements will define the specific roles of these organisations. Delegated authorities may be appointed to manage government owned PAs and/or to support the Seychelles National Parks Authority in the management of National Parks.

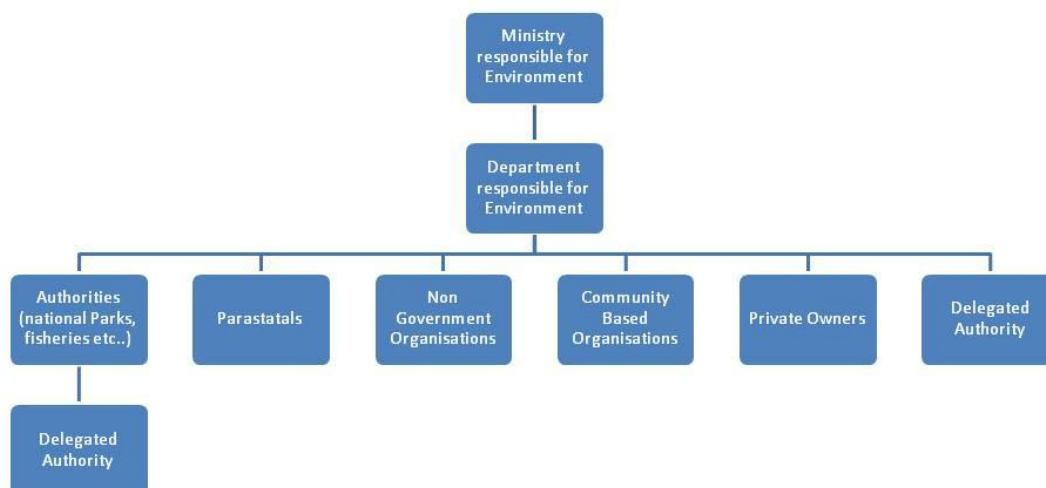


Fig: Organigram representing the overall governance structure for the Seychelles' PA system.

vii) Enforcement & Compliance

Effective regulation and control of activities in PAs depends largely on voluntary compliance, self-regulation and incentives for cooperation. The greater the compliance, the less need for enforcement. Compliance includes to both regulations of PAs and Management plans. All management bodies should manage respective PAs as per their management plans and objectives. In extreme cases where such a body cannot comply with the priorities of the management Plan of a PA, delisting of the PA may occur. Compliance to regulations pertaining to PAs will be encouraged by providing information and opportunities for the general public to appreciate the values of PAs. This will be done through Education and Awareness Programmes and volunteer schemes (**Commitment 11**). Regulations pertaining to PAs will be well publicized and the purposes and values of the laws clearly explained to stakeholders.

Adequate enforcement duties and powers is a prerequisite for an effective PA legislation. All revised legislation will define clearly all authorized officers for purposes of enforcement in PAs including enforcement agencies that support enforcement such as the Seychelles Coast Guard (referenced by their associated legislation). The appointment of special enforcement officers not part of the existing enforcement agency will be made by the Minister responsible for Environment. These officers should have successfully completed training necessary to carry out enforcement powers indentified in the officer's instrument of appointment.

The Minister responsible for Environment may also appoint honorary wardens to serve in the monitoring, surveillance, data management and other administrative roles related to enforcement. A set of criteria required (training and background) will be developed for such appointments. Residents around PAs, retired enforcement officers, volunteers or individual groups associated with community service and/or conservation are suitable candidates. This will enhance local participation and support essential for effective implementation of PAs.

Any new regulations, policies, international commitments with regards to PAs will be integrated in the management plans and policies. Generic powers of enforcement will be described in the revised legislation in the Act whilst specific powers of enforcement will be described under the regulations of each PA.

Private owned PAs.

Where PAs are declared on Private owned areas, the revised legislation will include negotiated arrangements for enforcement and surveillance, which will build on the existing arrangements in place. Provisions will recognize that private surveillance and enforcement mechanisms may be used where mutually agreed. The specific roles and responsibilities will be clearly established by legal agreement as part of the negotiation process. Should these PAs request external assistance, they may contact the relevant enforcement agencies. This could also include assistance with criminal proceedings.

viii) Capacity Development

Commitment 10 states that *the Government of Seychelles is therefore committed to develop new programs to enhance capacity in PA systems with linkages to local and/or international academic and research institutions.*

This can be overseen in partnership with the National Committee for Protected Areas and Conservation and in consultation with the University of Seychelles, which has introduced environment-related degrees and courses at the University.

It is broadly acknowledged within and outside of Government that the capacity to manage and protect the protected areas system in Seychelles requires further development and some of this is underway in parallel with the development of this new PA Policy as part of the GoS/UNDP/GEF project. But the reality exists that capacity development must be a continuous process.

The National Committee may investigate the feasibility over the medium term of *establishing a volunteer scheme with special emphasis towards participation in PA management programs aimed at enhancing ownership capacity and public support as per commitment 11.*

ix) Sustainable Financing

Under **Commitment 12**, *the Government of Seychelles is committed to support new initiatives to find sustainable financing for the protected areas system. This will include an examination of innovative revenue generation and incentives.*

During the time period in which the Government of Seychelles, UNDP and GEF conceived of and have implemented the portfolio of conservation projects which includes this new PA policy, the global and regional economies have been in turmoil. Funding for conservation programs at the national, regional and global scales have been difficult to obtain and utilize. It is therefore appropriate that special efforts be undertaken to find stable and sustainable conservation financing for the management of existing and potential new Protected Areas in the Seychelles.

15) Policy Review Processes

Under **Commitment 13**, *the Government of Seychelles is committed to ensure objective, independent reviews and updates of this Protected Areas Policy every 10 years.* This may involve legislative and regulatory changes if these are deemed necessary. The review is vital to keep in line with our International obligations, and to address our national conservation priorities.

16) General Definitions (of commonly used terms)

These definitions are derived from the IUCN list of definitions⁵, unless referenced otherwise.

Active Management: means that the overall functioning of the ecosystem is being modified by e.g., halting natural succession, providing supplementary food or artificially creating habitats: i.e., management will often include much more than just addressing threats, such as poaching or invasive species, as these activities take place in virtually all protected areas in any category and are therefore not diagnostic. Category IV protected areas will generally be publicly accessible”.

Adaptation. Initiatives and measures to reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems against actual or expected climate change effects. Various types of adaptation exist, e.g. anticipatory and reactive, private and public, and autonomous and planned.

Adaptive management. A systematic process of continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of existing programmes.

Associated Ecosystem Services: Means here those ecosystem services that are related to but do not interfere with the aim of nature conservation. These can include provisioning services such food and water; regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation and disease; supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and cultural services such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other non-material benefits.

Benthic. Connected with, or living near, the sea bottom.

Best practice. Best practice is a superior or innovative method that contributes to the improved performance of an organization, and is usually recognised as best by other peer organizations. It implies accumulating and applying knowledge about what works and what does not work in different situations

⁵ IUCN (2009) http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/en_iucn__glossary_definitions.pdf. Accessed on 24th April, 2013.

and contexts, including learning from experience, in a continuing process of learning, feedback, reflection and analysis (on what works, how and why).

Biodiversity. The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (Convention on Biological Diversity).

Biological corridor. Area of suitable habitat, or habitat undergoing restoration, linking two or more protected areas (or linking important habitat that is not protected) to allow interchange of species, migration, gene exchange, etc.

Biotic (factors). Belonging to, or caused by, the living organisms (as opposed to abiotic), e.g. grazing.

Buffer zone. Areas between core protected areas and the surrounding landscape or seascape which protect the network from potentially damaging external influences and which are essentially transitional areas.

Catchment. The area drained by a river or body of water.

Clearly defined geographical space: Includes land, inland water, marine or coastal areas or a combination of two or more of these. May also include the airspace above or a certain depth of water or the seabed. “Clearly defined” implies a spatially defined area with agreed and demarcated borders. The borders can also be defined by physical features that move over time or by management actions (e.g. no-take zones)

Climate change. Climate change refers to any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity. This usage differs from that in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which defines ‘climate change’ as: —a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods . See also **climate variability**.

Coastal erosion: is the wearing away of land and the removal of beach or dune sediments by wave action, tidal currents, wave currents, or drainage.

Co-management: a partnership in which two or more stakeholders negotiate, agree upon guarantee and implement a shared set of management functions, benefits and responsibilities for a particular protected area

Commercial fishery: A fishery targeting species which are retained and sold for their commercial value.

Connectivity (reefs): Natural links among reefs and neighbouring habitats, especially seagrass beds, mangroves, and back-reef lagoons that provide important fish nurseries and nutrients, and watersheds and adjacent coastal lands, which are sources of freshwater, sediments and pollutants. The mechanisms include ocean currents, terrestrial run-off and water courses, larval dispersal, spawning patterns, and movements of adult fishes and other animals. Connectivity is an important part of dispersal and replenishment of biodiversity on reefs damaged by natural or human-related agents.

Conservation: The protection, care, management and maintenance of ecosystems, habitats, wildlife species and populations, within or outside of their natural environments, in order to safeguard the natural conditions for their long-term permanence.

Corridor: Way to maintain vital ecological or environmental connectivity by maintaining physical linkages between core areas.

Cultural Values: Includes those that do not interfere with the conservation outcome including in particular: Those that contribute to conservation outcomes and those that are themselves under threat.

Dedicated: Implies specific binding commitments to conservation through the long term through: International conventions and agreements, National, provincial and local law, Customary law, Covenants of NGOs, Private trusts and company policies, Certification schemes.

Degraded: Reduction or loss of biological or economic productivity of the land.

Demersal: Occurring or living near or on the bottom of the ocean.

Ecological integrity: Maintaining the diversity and quality of ecosystems and enhancing their capacity to adapt to change and provide for the needs of future generations.

Ecologically representative: refers to the need for protected areas to represent, or sample, the full variety of biodiversity of different biological realms (freshwater, marine and terrestrial through all the eco-regions) and biological scales (ecosystems, species and within-species variation).⁶

Ecosystem: According to the Agreement on Biological Diversity, an ecosystem is understood as a dynamic complex of vegetable, animal and microorganism communities and their nonliving environment that interact as a functional unit. Ecosystems may be small and simple, like an isolated pond, or large and complex, like a specific tropical rainforest or a coral reef in tropical seas.

Ecosystem Approach: the integrated management of land, water and living resources to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in an equitable way.

Endangered: When used in the context of the IUCN Red List, a taxon is classified as 'Endangered' when there is very high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future.

Endemic: Native to, and restricted to, a particular geographical region.

Equity: It seeks people's access to equal opportunities and the development of basic capacities; this means that the barriers hindering economic and political opportunities, as well as the access to education and basic services, should be eliminated, so that the people (women and men of all ages, conditions and positions) may be able to enjoy such opportunities and benefit from them. It means justice; that is, giving each one what is rightfully theirs, recognizing the specific conditions or characteristics of each person or human group (sex, gender, class, religion, age); it is the recognition of diversity, without giving reason to discrimination.

Eradication: The complete removal of all living representatives of a species that is becoming (or is likely to become) invasive in a specified area or country.

⁶ Noss, R (1995); Maintaining Ecological Integrity in Representative Reserve Networks, WWF Canada and WWF US, Toronto and Washington DC.

Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ): A zone under national jurisdiction (up to 200 nautical miles wide) declared in line with the provisions of 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), within which the coastal State has the right to explore and exploit and the responsibility to conserve and manage, the living and non-living resources.

Genetic diversity: Variety of genes or sub-specific genetic varieties.

Geodiversity: The diversity of minerals, rocks (whether solid or drift), fossils, landforms, sediments and soils, together with the natural processes that constitute the topography, landscape and the underlying structure of the Earth.

Habitat: The locality or environment in which an animal lives. **H-- degradation.** A decline in habitat quality for a species, e.g. related to changes in food availability, cover, or climate. **H-- fragmentation.** The process and result of breaking an area of contiguous habitat into distinct patches. **H-- loss.** An area that has become totally unsuitable for a species. **H-- management.** Management activities involving vegetation, soil and other physiographic elements or characteristics in specific areas, with specific conservation, maintenance, improvement or restoration goals. **H—specialist.** A species that tends to show relatively narrow habitat preferences and therefore is susceptible to habitat change.

High conservation value: critical areas that need to be appropriately managed to maintain or enhance their conservation value. They include; areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (endemism, endangered species, refugia); areas that are in, or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems; areas that provide basic ecosystem services in critical situations e.g.; watershed protection & erosion control; areas critical to local communities' traditional identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance); areas fundamental to meeting the basic needs of local communities (subsistence, health)⁷).

Interim Protection: includes the prohibition of actions potentially detrimental to the existing natural state of a property or activities otherwise in conflict with the objectives of interim protection, to remain in effect until the decision on permanent protection has been made for a specific period.

Keystone species: A species that plays a large or critical role in supporting the integrity of its ecological community.

Legal or other effective means: Means that PAs must either be gazette, recognized through an international convention or agreement or managed through some other means.

Long-term: PA should be managed in perpetuity.

⁷ HCV Resource Network (2005-7). The High Conservation Value Resource Network.
<http://www.hcvnetwork.org/site-info/The%20high-conservation-values-folder> Accessed on 30th October 2012 at 1000hrs.

Managed: Assumes some active steps to conserve the natural values for which the PA was established – can include leaving an area untouched if this is the best conservation strategy.

Management plan: a document that sets out the management approach and goals, together with a framework for decision making, to apply in the protected area over a given period of time. Plans may be more or less descriptive, depending on the purpose for which they are to be used and the legal requirements to be met. The process of planning, the management objectives for the plan and the standards to apply will usually be established in legislation or otherwise set down for protected area planners.

Management effectiveness: How well a protected area is being managed – primarily the extent to which it is protecting values and achieving goals and objectives.

Marine Protected Area (MPA): A clearly defined geographical space, recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. MPAs can offer a spectrum of management strategies ranging from full protection, or no-entry areas, to multiple-use areas which prohibit limited activities. No-take MPAs are spatial closures that prohibit all forms of resource extraction, especially fishing. Limited take MPAs include those MPAs with mixed harvest or restricted harvest prohibition areas.⁸

Nature: Always refers to biodiversity at genetic, species and ecosystem levels and may refer to “geodiversity”, landform and broader natural values.

No-take zone: A Marine Protected Area that is completely (or seasonally) free of all extractive or non-extractive human uses that contribute impact⁹

Protected Area: a clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values¹⁰

Public domain (maritime and terrestrial zones): Areas that are public property. They are managed by the state and in general are available for public use. The state determines the particular uses of each of these areas, and may offer concessions or authorizations to private or public organizations for exclusive uses.

Recognised: Implies that protection can include a range of governance types declared by people as well as those identified by the country, but that the sites should be recognized in a formal way.

Rehabilitation (of ecosystems): Re-establishment of part of the productivity, structure, function and processes of the original ecosystem.

⁸ Kelleher, G. (1999). Guidelines for Marine Protected Areas. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, U.K. xxiv + 107pp.

⁹ IUCN (2004). Managing Marine Protected Areas: A toolkit for the Western Indian Ocean. IUCN Eastern African Regional Programme, Nairobi, Kenya, xii + 172pp.

¹⁰ Dudley, N., Stolton, S. (2008). Defining Protected Areas: An international Conference in Almeria, Spain. Gland: IUCN. Available at: http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/almeria_proceedings_final.pdf.

Restoration (*of ecosystems*): All of the key ecological processes and functions are re-established and all of the original biodiversity is re-established.

Sustainability: It refers to the adequate access, use and management of the natural resources, to ensure that the men and women of present and future generations are able to meet their basic needs on an uninterrupted basis. Pattern of behaviour that guarantees for each of the future generations, the option to enjoy, at the very least, the same level of welfare enjoyed by the preceding generation. Emphasis is placed on the intergenerational equity of development.

Sustainable use: The use of an organism, ecosystem or any other renewable resource at a rate within the bounds of its capacity for renewal.

To achieve: Implies some level of effectiveness. Although the IUCN Category will still be defined by management objective, management effectiveness will be progressively recorded and overtime will become an important contributory criterion in the identification and recognition of the PA.

Transboundary Protected Area: An area of land and/or sea that straddles one or more boundaries between states, sub-national units such as provinces or regions, autonomous areas and/or areas beyond the limits of national sovereignty or jurisdiction, whose constituent parts are especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed co-operatively through legal or other effective means.

Watershed: An area of land that feeds water to a river, draining through the landscape into tributaries and main river channels. Also called catchments, drainage basins or river basins.

Wetlands: A transitional area between terrestrial and aquatic systems in which the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Under the Ramsar Convention, wetlands can include tidal mudflats, natural ponds, marshes, potholes, wet meadows, bogs, peatlands, freshwater swamps, mangroves, lakes, rivers and even some coral reefs.

Protected Area System Plan: a comprehensive summary of the activities and strategies needed to ensure a fully representative and functional network of well managed and sustainably financed protected area ¹¹

Zoning: A key management tool for multiple-use protected areas, allowing areas to be set aside for particular activities such as protection of key habitats, research, education fishing and tourism. Zoning helps to eliminate conflict between different users, to improve the quality of activities and to facilitate compliance ¹²

¹¹ Conserve Online (2012). <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/patools/mpelements>) Accessed on 10th September 2012 at 1422hrs.

¹² IUCN (2004). *Managing Marine Protected Areas: A toolkit for the Western Indian Ocean*. IUCN Eastern African Regional Programme, Nairobi, Kenya, xii +172pp.

17) Annexes

Annex A: Current Protected Areas Categories

The following chart outlines the current categories of PAs in the Seychelles and the legislation.

| Category of Protected Area | Number of Protected Areas | Legal Basis |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Forest Reserves | None | Forest Reserves Act 1955 |
| Coastal Reserves | None | Coast Reserves and Foreclosure Leases ordinance |
| Nature Reserves | 10 | Wild Birds Protection Regulations (1961; 2001) |
| Rivers Reserves | All | Crown Land and Rivers Reserves Act (1903) |
| National Parks | 8 | National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act (1969) |
| Special Reserves | 5 | National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act (1969) |
| Strict Natural reserves | none | National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act (1969) |
| Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty | 1 | National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act (1969) |
| Protected Areas | 1 | Protected Areas Ordinance |
| Shell Reserve | 4 | Fisheries Act 1987 |
| Fish Reserves | 3 | Fisheries Regulations |
| Sensitive Areas | 308 in multiple areas | Environment Protection Act (EIA Regs 1996) |
| Botanical Garden | 1 | National Monuments Act 1980 |
| Bird Sanctuary | 1 | None |
| Bird Reserve | 1 | Council of Ministers |

Annex B: Protected Areas in Seychelles (2013)

| Official name | MA | IUCN | Type | Date | Area | Characteristics |
|--|----|------|-----------------|------|---------------------|--|
| Terrestrial Reserves / National Parks | | | | | | |
| Cousin Special Nature Reserve | NC | 1b | Special Reserve | 1980 | 0.27km ² | Breeding colonies of seabirds, endemic land birds, high biodiversity |
| | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|-----|---------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|---|
| Aride Island Special Nature Reserve | ICS | 1b | Special Reserve | 1975 | 0.68km ² | Protection of seabird colony. Largest breeding colonies of sea birds, endemic land birds, confined endemic <i>Gardeni</i> , high biodiversity |
| Aldabra Atoll Special Nature Reserve | SIF | 1b | Special Reserve | 1981 | 152.6km ² | Ecosystem conservation and management. Large undisturbed terrestrial and marine environment with at least 178 species of flowering plants |
| La Digue Special Veuve Reserve | SNPA | 1b | Special Reserve | 1980 | 0.21km ² | Provide breeding and nesting habitats for the Seychelles paradise flycatcher (<i>Terpsiphone corvine</i>) |
| Silhouette Island National Park | SNPA | | Terrestrial National Park | 2010 | 18.6km ² | Exceptional biodiversity with unique species of plant and animal. Remnants of ancient vegetation and ecosystems. |
| Moyenne Island National Park | Private | | Terrestrial National Park | 2009 | 0.09km ² | Conservation of native flora and fauna |
| Morne Seychellois National Park | SNPA | 2 | Terrestrial National Park | 1979 | 31.023km ² | Water catchment, high biodiversity value, IBA, |
| Recif Island National Park | SNPA | | Terrestrial National Park | 2010 | 0.13km ² | Protection of Seabird breeding colonies |
| Valley De Mai | SIF | 4 | National Park | 1983 | 0.19km ² | Seychelles Black Parrot, coco-de-mer, palm forest, water catchment |
| Botanical Garden | NBGF | n/a | Botanical Garden | 1901 | 0.06km ² | Ex-Situ conservation |
| Biodiversity Centre | NBGF | n/a | Centre for Ex-situ conservation | | 0.72km ² | Ex-Situ conservation of endemic flora |
| Praslin National Park (excluding VDM) | SNPA | 2 | National Park | 1979 | 5.3km ² | |
| Beacon, Booby, Boudeuse, Etoile, Ile aux Vache, Les Mamelles, King Ross | DoE | 4 | Nature Reserves | 1966 | 0.1km ² | |
| Total | | | | | 209.97km² | |
| AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY | | | | | | |
| Please refer to the EPA, 2000 (CAP 71) Schedule 2; Regulation 3 (2) | | | | | | |
| MARINE NATIONAL PARK | | | | | | |
| Saint Anne Marine Park | S N P A | 2 | Marine National Park | 1973 | 14km ² | Protects and provide nursery for over 150 species of fish; nesting sites for Hawksbill turtle |
| Aldabra Lagoon and surround radius | S I F | | Special Reserve | 1981 | 281.2km ² | |
| Curieuse Marine National Park | S N | 2 | Marine National | 1979 | 0.03km ² | Wild population of Giant land Tortoise, extensive mangrove system, coco-de-mer, |

| | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|------|---------------------|--|
| | P A | | Park | | | Black Parrot |
| Silhouette island Marine National Park | S N P A | | Marine National Park | 1987 | 10km ² | Almost undisturbed coral reef, high marine biodiversity |
| Port Launay Marine National Park | S N P A | 2 | Marine National Park | 1979 | 0.3km ² | Extensive mangrove systems declared as Ramsar Site of Global importance, water catchment |
| Baie Ternay Marine National Park | S N P A | 2 | Marine National Park | 1979 | 0.3km ² | Healthy coral reef system, high marine biodiversity |
| Total | | | | | | 305.83km² |
| PROTECTED AREA | | | | | | |
| Ile Cocos, Ile La Fouche, Ilot Platte | S N P A | 2 | Protected Marine and Terrestrial | 1997 | 0.01km ² | Now designated as a Marine National Park. |
| African Banks | M N D | n / a | Protected Terrestrial Area | 1987 | 8.20km ² | |
| Total | | | | | | 8.21km² |
| RAMSAR SITES | | | | | | |
| Port Launay | D o E | n / a | Wetland of International Importance | 2007 | 0.27km ² | |
| Mare Aux Cochons | D o E | n / a | Wetland of International Importance | 2010 | 0.03km ² | |
| Aldabra | S I F | n / a | Wetland of International Importance | 2010 | | Included in both marine and terrestrial PA above |
| La Plain Hollandaise | D o E | | Wetland of International Importance | 2010 | 0.05km ² | Proposed |
| Total | | | | | | 0.35km² |
| SHELL RESERVES | | | | | | |
| Anse Faure to Fairy Land | S F A | | Shell reserve (Fisheries Act) | 1987 | 1.08km ² | |
| North East Point to Carana | S F A | | Shell reserve (Fisheries Act) | 1987 | 2.99km ² | |
| La Digue (Anse Severe-Anse Gros Ros) | S F A | | Shell reserve (Fisheries Act) | 1987 | 1.58km ² | |

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------|--|------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Act) | | | |
| Praslin (Point Zangaire – Point Chevalier) | S F A | Shell reserve (Fisheries Act) | 1987 | 1.74km ² | |
| Total | | | | | 7.39km² |

Annex C: PA Categories' Priority Management Matrix

Matrix of protected area management objectives and new proposed Seychelles' PA categories where; 1 means primary objective, 2 means secondary objective, 3 means of minor relevance and – means not applicable.

| Management Objective | Strict Nature Reserve (IUCN Ia) | Ecological Reserve (IUCN IV) | National Park (IUCN II) | Protected land/sea scape (IUCN V) | Sustainable Use Area (IUCN VI) |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Habitat & Species Protection & Management | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Species/genetic diversity | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Environmental services | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Natural/cultural Services | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Habitat restoration | - | 1 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Sustainable Tourism & recreation | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Education | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Sustainable Use | - | 3 | 3 | - | 1 |
| Zoning | - | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Temporal PA | - | 2 | - | - | 2 |

Annex D: International Conventions pertaining to Protected Areas

- 1) The Ramsar Convention (1971)

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance 1971 (Ramsar Convention) seeks to facilitate the conservation and wise use of all wetland areas through national and regional and international cooperation.

The definition of a wetland under this treaty includes marine areas to a depth of 6 metres, applicable to both inshore and offshore waters. State parties are, upon ratification, Required to nominate at least one site for International listing. The Seychelles currently has 3 wetland areas listed under the Ramsar Convention (Port Launay, Mare Aux Cochons, Aldabra).

2) The world Heritage Convention (1972)

The United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization adopted the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention) in 1972. With 185 parties, it is a near universal instrument. The Seychelles has two sites listed under this treaty (the Vallee de Mai and Aldabra).

The main objective of the World Heritage Convention is to identify and conserve the world's cultural and natural heritage. Any cultural or natural site with outstanding scientific, conservation or aesthetic value may thus be designated on the World Heritage List. However, marine and wetland environments are underrepresented on the World Heritage List. As of 2006, only 28 of 144 sites represented coastal or marine environments

3) Un Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III) (1982)

The third version of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea entered into force in 1994. UNCLOS establishes the broad legal framework for protection and governance of the oceans. Perhaps the most universally important feature of UNCLOS is its definition of national jurisdiction and sovereign rights over different areas of the sea. These international definitions are instructive for state parties in the demarcation of their inshore, offshore and other types of waters.

Another important aspect of UNCLOS is marine protection. Part XII (Articles 192 – 237), entitled 'Protection and Preservation of the Marine Environment,' deals with marine conservation. Certain provisions require nations to protect and preserve the marine environment (Article 192), and to prevent pollution from any source (Article 196). While UNCLOS strengthens the ability of nations to establish MPAs, no specific reference is made to protected areas.

4) Convention on Biological Diversity (1992).

The Convention on Biological Diversity came into force in 1993. The three main objectives of the CBD are: the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources. One of the key recommendations under the CBD was for the establishment of national systems of protected areas or areas where special measures are needed to be taken to protect biological diversity.

The subsequent work programme for conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity was set out by the 1995 Conference of the Parties and the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity. The CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) on marine and coastal biodiversity has recognised that marine protected areas should be part of integrated marine coastal zone management frameworks. In addition, the CBD has constituted programs of work on

various thematic and cross-cutting issues, including island biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity, and protected areas. The Seychelles was the second country to sign the CBD in 1992.

5) Agenda 21 (1992)

Agenda 21 is the Program of Action resulting from Rio Declaration and 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development. Chapter 17 spells out requirements for protection of marine living resources and the marine environment, including the establishment of limitations on the use of marine ecosystems through the designation of protected areas and other means.

6) The Barbados Declaration and Programme of Action (1994)

The Barbados Declaration and Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States were produced at the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States in 1994. The Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) contains 14 priority areas plus a number of actions and policies related to environment and development planning. Articles 21-25 highlight the actions required to ensure sustainable development of SIDS coastal and marine resources. In addition, Articles 41-45 highlight the special actions required at a national, regional and international level to protect and conserve biological diversity including marine biodiversity. The Mauritius Strategy under UNESCO is the implementing strategy for the BPoA. Chapter IV on Coastal and Marine Resources encourages the strengthening of representative networks of marine protected areas.

7) The Migratory Species (Bonn Convention)

The Convention on the conservation of Migratory species (CMS or the Bonn Convention) aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range. It is an intergovernmental treaty concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale. The convention was signed in 1979 in Bonn and entered into force in 1983.

8) The international Coral Reef Initiative

The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is a partnership among governments, international organizations, and non-government organizations. It strives to preserve coral reefs and related ecosystems by implementing Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and other relevant international conventions and agreements. The ICRI was announced at the First Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 1994, and at the high level segment of the Inter-sessional Meeting of the U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development in April 1995. The International Coral Reef Initiative emerged out of the recognition that the coral reefs and related ecosystems found in tropical and sub-tropical regions are facing serious degradation, primarily due to anthropogenic stresses.

Annex E: Proposed Elements of a PA Management Plan

PART I CONTEXT OF THE SITE

MAJOR SITE VALUES AND IN WHICH MANAGEMENT AREA THE VALUE IS ADDRESSED

MAJOR THREATS (WHICH SITE VALUES ARE THREATENED, CURRENT OR POTENTIAL THREAT, MAJOR CAUSES OF THREAT, IMPACT OF THREAT, MANAGEMENT AREAS IN WHICH THE TREATS ARE ADDRESSED

Part II– Vision, Management goals

Part III -Management Planning

Action Plan detailing the objectives, results and activities including indicators and time frame
Resource allocation (budget at the level of management activity)

Part IV– Monitoring

Output and Outcome indicators

ANNEX F: Elements of Management Cycle to be used in assessing management effectiveness.

| | Design | | Appropriateness / Adequacy | | Delivery | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| Elements of the Management Cycle | Context | Planning | Inputs | Process | Outputs | Outcomes |
| Focus of Evaluation | Assessments of importance, threats and policy environment | Assessment of PA design and planning | Assessment of the resources required to carry out management | Assessment of the way management is conducted | Assessment of the implementation of management programmes and actions; delivery of products and services | Assessment of the outcomes and the extent to which they achieved objectives |
| Criteria That are assessed | Significance/ values Threats Vulnerability Stakeholders National | Protected area legislation and policy Protected area | Resources available to the agency Resources available to | Suitability of management processes and the extent to which | Results of management actions Services and products | Impacts: effects of management in relation to |

| | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---|---------------------------|---|--|------------|
| | context | system design Protected area design Managemen t Planning | the protected area | established or accepted processes are being implemented | | objectives |
|--|---------|---|---------------------------|---|--|------------|

Assessing context:

What are the values and significance of the area? What are the threats and opportunities? What social, economic and political factors influence management? Who is involved?

Assessing planning:

Is the legal status and tenure of the site clear? How adequate is the protected area system? Does the design of site allow it to function effectively? Does the site have clear management planning?

Assessing inputs:

What resources are needed for effective management? Are sufficient resources being devoted to managing the protected area system/site? How are resources being applied across the various areas of management?

Assessing management processes:

Are the best systems and standards of management being followed? Are agreed policies and procedures in place and being followed? How can the management practices be improved

Assessing outputs:

Has the management plan and work programme been implemented? What are the results/outputs of management?

Assessing outcomes:

Has management resulted in the achievement of the objectives of, and desired outcomes for, the protected area or system?

The diagram below summarises the basic elements to assess the effectiveness of protected area management



Annex G: Co-Management Agreements.

Although there is no standard agreement in use worldwide a contemporary co-management agreement usually specifies the following:

The Agreement's Purpose;

Aims and objectives of NR management in each PA and who does what.

The Parties to the Agreement

Decision making authority

Rules and By-Laws of any special management authority

The relevant geographic area

Specific land and natural resource tenure systems

Zoning and land use controls

Systems of surveillance and enforcement

The benefits and responsibilities of the Parties

Public consultation and participation procedures

Provision of legal, scientific, technical and other advice and information

Agreed procedures for planning as well as environmental and socio-economic impact assessment

Codes of Practice for implementing and monitoring various covenants and policies

The means of protecting the investments made by the parties

- Intellectual property rights and other rights of the Parties

The means of resolving disputes

The duration of the Agreement

Schedules and Procedures for review, reporting, monitoring and evaluation

Confidentiality and other Special Clauses and;

Other elements as agreed

Each agreement must be tailored to the context and scale of the area in question. The general covenants of the Agreement specify the rights and obligations of the Parties with respect to several questions and may indeed be compiled as part of the overall Management Plan for each protected area. The key components normally include:

Annex H: Nomination and Designation of New Protected Areas (Nomination File)

The list below is a template that may be used to nominate a new area for PA status.

1. Name and address of the compiler of the nomination file & *Contact person*:
2. Date of submission
3. Name of the site:
4. Designation of new site or update of existing site:
5. Changes to the site since its designation or earlier update:
6. Map of site:
 - a) A map of the site, with clearly delineated boundaries, is included as:
 - i) a hard copy
 - ii) an electronic format (e.g. a JPEG or ArcView image);
 - iii) a GIS file providing geo-referenced site boundary vectors and attribute tables.
 - b) Describe briefly the type of boundary delineation applied:
7. Geographical coordinates (latitude/longitude, in degrees and minutes):
8. General location:
9. Elevation: (in metres: average and/or maximum & minimum)
10. Area: (in hectares)
11. General overview of the site:

12. Designation Criteria:

13. Justification for the application of each Criterion listed in above:

14. Biogeography:

15. Physical features of the site:

Geology and geomorphology

Water depth, permanence, quality, and level fluctuations with tide

Soil type

Climate

16. General ecological features:

17. Noteworthy flora & fauna:

18. Social and cultural values:

19. Land tenure/ownership:

20. Current land (including water) use:

21. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land (including water) use and development projects:

22. Conservation measures taken:

a) List national and/or international category and legal status of protected areas,

b) If appropriate, list the IUCN protected areas category/ies which apply to the site (tick the box or boxes as appropriate):

Ia ☐ Ib ☐; II ☐; III ☐; IV ☐; V ☐; VI ☐

c) Does an officially approved management plan exist; and is it being implemented?:

d) Describe any other current management practices:

23. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented:

24. Current scientific research/facilities:

25. Current communications, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities related to or benefiting the site:

26. Current recreation and tourism:

27. Jurisdiction:

28. Management authority:

29. Bibliographical references*:

Please submit to:

Telephone: Fax:

e-mail:

Annex I: The full list of participants

Members of the sub-working group:

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