



National Strategy & Action Plan for Mangroves for the Future Initiative 2013 – 2016



SEYCHELLES

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ASCLME	Angulas Somali Currents and Large Marine Ecosystems
COI	Commission de L'Ocean Indien
CC	Climate Change
CSOs	Civil Society Organization
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibilities
DRDM	Department of Disaster and Risk Management
EBA	Ecosystem Based Adaptation
EMPS	Environmental Management Plan of Seychelles
EPA	Environment Protection Act
EU	European Union
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GNP	Gross National Product
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
LUP	Land Use Plan
MCSS	Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles
MFF	Mangrove for the Future
MPA	Marine Protected Areas
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCB	National Coordinating Body
NCCC	National Climate Change Committee
NGOs	Non Governmental Organisation
NSAP	National Strategy and Action Plan
PAs	Protected Areas
POW	Programme of Work
PUC	Public Utilities Corporation
RSC	Regional Steering Committee
SSDS	Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy
TCPA	Town and Country Planning Act
UNDP	United National Development Programme
WIOMSA	Western Indian Ocean Marine Scientific Association

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1.0 Executive Summary

The Seychelles has developed a 2 year National Strategy and Action Plan (NSAP) to address priority issues regarding ICZM in the framework of the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) initiative. MFF is a unique partner-led programme that promotes investment in coastal ecosystem (including coral reefs, estuaries, lagoons, sandy beaches, sea grasses and wetlands) for sustainable development. It builds on a rich history of coastal management interventions before and after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. The Seychelles is one of the 10 partner countries involved with the implementation of the initiative in the region.

MFF seeks to achieve demonstrable results that influence regional cooperation by supporting national programme, engaging private sector and empowering communities within a framework. The framework consists of 15 Programmes of Works (POW) with cross-cutting themes (e.g. capacity building, climate change and gender equality) which help to generate knowledge and make them available so as to encourage people and institutions to use that knowledge to play a more effective role in the governance of coastal areas. The POWs are implemented through or in partnership with all relevant stakeholders- governments, institutional partners, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations and the private sector- in the countries or throughout the region. The Regional Steering Committee (RSC) oversee the implantation of the initiative in the region whilst the National Coordinating Body (NCB) has the mandate to coordinate the activities nationally.

The Seychelles NCB has 15 male and female representatives from Government, parastatals organisations, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the private sector. This collaborative platform enables all local stakeholders to work together to protect, manage and conserve ecosystem in a sustainable way by adopting good practices of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). The priorities of the country are included in the Seychelles National Actions plans (NSAP).

The NSAP was first developed in 2006, reviewed in 2009 and 2013 and updated in 2014 to include the decisions of the RSC as well as the priority needs of the country. It also takes into consideration riority areas earmarked under the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy 2012-2020 (SSDS), which is a transformation of the previous Environmental Management Plan (EMPS 2000-2010) into a strategy for sustainable development. The NSAP also considers interventions under Phase 3 of the MFF programme, characterise by activities and projects which the country and MFF will support. Therefore, the strategy can be used as a guideline as well as a learning document for ICZM given it provides criteria for assessing proposals for actions made by the different stakeholders. It lays down a set of priority themes with actions to guide the works of the NCB and assist with national implementation and monitoring of ICZM activities within the country

The NCB's will be responsible for assessing the proposals, monitoring their implementation and where possible search for donor funding to assist with the implementation of the NSAP. It should also try to engage the private sector to provide funding as part of the Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) to implement the strategy.

2.0 Introduction

The Seychelles is a tropical archipelago consisting of a group of 115 islands scattered over an Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.3 million km² in the South Western Indian Ocean. It is made up of 41 granitic and 74 coral islands with a total land area of 452 km². The country has a natural coastline of 747 km with 1,690 km of coral reefs and 29 km² of mangroves. Port Launay besides Aldabra contains all the 7 species of mangroves found in the Seychelles. The climate is tropical with average annual rainfall exceeding 1000 mm and average temperature of 26°C.



Figure 1: Map of Seychelles

The Seychelles has a wide range of important coastal ecosystems. Forests, wetlands and streams with mangroves are found at the intersection between land and the marine environment. Mangroves have important functions aside from providing habitats to a diversity of species but also protect shorelines by trapping sediment and also protect against erosive wave actions. Mangrove protects extensive coral reef system that comprises of coral reefs and sea grasses, with algae in certain parts. There are also other habitats in the coastal and also in deep water and this complex network of coastal ecosystems and interactions is critical in maintaining the biodiversity and important ecosystem services.

The Seychelles' Government recognises the importance of such fragile habitats and has set aside large areas for protection. It has committed 51% of the total land area with the aim to preserve important ecosystems, water catchment areas, biodiversity and the services provided by the environment. Government, NGOs and the Private Sector are all responsible for the management of protected areas.

The rapidly growing population, now estimated at 90,000 have doubled in the last forty years. Together with the rapid pace of economic development of the country, the environment is

susceptible to destruction. Unsustainable development and anthropogenic development will threaten the coastal areas which may subsequently have an impact on the economy of the Seychelles.

Seychelles economy is dependent on tourism, fisheries as well as the financial sectors. The tourism sector contributes 25 percent towards the Gross National Product (GNP) with 15% direct employment. The fisheries sector contributes 6000 jobs which represent 17% of total formal employment. Fish consumption is estimated at 65 kg per capita annum which mostly come from artisanal fisheries. Government should adopt sustainable practices to manage the natural resources in the coastal areas.

The Seychelles archipelago is considered to be an entire coastal zone. According to the Nairobi Convention, a coastal zone can be defined as 'geomorphic area where the land meets the sea including the seaward and landward areas made up of biotic and abiotic components coexisting and interacting with each other and with human communities and socio-economic activities. These areas include habitats and ecosystems occupied and used by the people of Seychelles. Because of this important interaction and our dependence of natural resources in the coastal zone, the practice of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) is considered a national priority.

2.1 Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Seychelles

According to the ICZM Protocol under the Nairobi Convention, ICZM is defined as 'a dynamic process of governance that unites science, management and participatory stakeholders' involvement in ensuring sustainable development while mitigating adverse impacts on the coastal and marine ecosystems through the integration of environment and socio-economic activities. It provides a framework to involve and engage stakeholders through a consultative process with the aim use the coastal zones and its resources sustainably while taking into consideration concerns such as climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction. Coastal communities need to plan for and minimize or mitigate the impacts of development and natural hazards. The ICZM concept is being increasingly accepted in the region as an effective framework to address coastal and marine environmental problems and conflicts and management needs.

The Seychelles' Government has played a central role in the development and implementation of ICZM projects mainly through the EMPS which has been now been change to SSDS for the period of 2012 to 2020. The vision of the SSDS is 'to contribute to the nation's economic, social and cultural potential through an innovative, knowledge-led approach, being mindful of the need to conserve the integrity of the Seychelles Natural Environment and heritage for present and future generations. Seychelles needs to develop a knowledge base society with enough capacities to manage its own resources taking into consideration the factors that threaten its natural resources.

3.0 Situation Analysis

There are several factors that threaten the country's natural resources and the prominent ones include a rapidly expanding population, rapid development, overexploitation of natural

resources, uncontrollable spread of alien invasive species and lack of awareness. These factors are posing significant pressures on the coastal and marine environment complemented by the increasing demands for natural resources (e.g. food, fish, water, energy etc), development and waste. Summaries of the current threats are provided below.

3.1 Development

With 51% of land already under legal protection, the demand for coastal land in particular for housing and tourism is on the increase especially in coastal areas. Government needs to develop and gazette land Use Plan (LUP) for the different islands. LUP can be useful to safeguard and protect sensitive areas and also to adapt to climate change (e.g. sea level rise, coastal erosion, tsunami risk, storm surges and flooding). It can help us to prevent disasters by directing us to place infrastructures in safe areas. It will increase our ability to cope with a changing climate and building a community resilience based on analysis of risk assessment and vulnerability.

Effective planning and the adoption of sound management practices are essential as the country undergo rapid economic development. More direct foreign investment in the tourism sector has led to widespread construction of hotels around the country. Government needs to ensure that the tourism developers adopt appropriate measures to minimise impacts and degradation of the environment. A similar trend is being undertaken in the agricultural and fisheries sector to meet local needs and that of the tourism sector. Even if development in these sectors may result in employment, trade, foreign exchange earning etc, pressure in the coastal zone will be significant and hence Government needs to adopt sound management practices.

3.2. Waste and pollution

With the growing population and development, the amount of waste generated (estimated at 48000 t of waste per year) is expected to increase. The impacts of illegal development, misuse of pesticides and fertilisers from agriculture may all contribute to land and coastal water pollution. The increase in ferries and boating activity in the Indian Ocean will also contribute to pollution of the marine environment. Appropriate and effective management strategies to deal with these issues need to be put in place and implemented.

3.3 Reclamation

The scarcity of flat land and also the economic growth of the Seychelles, has led Government to reclaim large coastal areas. In the past, many wetlands were reclaimed to give way to agriculture, housing and other development. The current practice nowadays is for developments and hotel projects to integrate wetlands and promote these habitats. An MFF project conducted by Nature Seychelles shows that wetland can indeed be helpful to reduce flooding. The MFF initiative is now advocating for the legal protection of these areas and to sensitise people about their values.

3.4 Climate Change

The Seychelles is vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change including climate variability and severe weather events. The environmental impacts can be significant as was the case in 1997/98 during the El Nino event, which led to the death of 90% of coral reefs. Long term changes in the rainfall and temperature patterns will affect food production (water availability) and also people health. Climate sensitive diseases such as malaria and other food and water borne diseases are expected to increase as was the case with Chikungunya in 2006. Climate change will also have direct impacts on water availability which is essential for the growth in tourism, manufacturing and the agricultural sector.

These threats will have a significant impact on the environment if not dealt with or tackled in an effective manner. Adaptation and mitigation measures are central for addressing those challenges in the light of inadequate data, limited financial resources and weak technical human & institutional capacity. Government needs a holistic and integrated perspective in order to adopt a sustainable development approach

3.5 Over-exploitation of resources

Given the local demand for fish and other marine species as well as the evolving methods to improve catches, it is important that the relevant Authorities continue to regulate such activities. Government is putting a lot of emphasis on the 'blue economy concept' because of the country's dependence on the ocean.

4.0 Legal, policy & planning instruments relating to Coastal management in the Seychelles

The Seychelles has several laws, policies and planning instruments that help to regulate and control anthropogenic activities in the coastal zone. These instruments are implemented by Ministries, Government, Departments as well as Authorities. Implementation and enforcement are crucial for the management, protection of coastal biological resources.

4.1 Legislative Frameworks

There is no single legislation that deals with ICZM given that the entire country is considered a coastal zone. The two most important legislations are the Environment Protection Act (EPA) 1994 and the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) 1972. The EPA is the main legal framework used for managing the environment and tackling coastal zone management issues such as prevention, control, and abatement of environmental pollution, environmental impact assessment process, and establishment of sensitive areas, coastal zone management and waste management standards. The TCPA on the other hand is one of the most important instruments to physical development and construction. It deals with building regulations and best practices taking into consideration environmental and climate issues. Other Laws of importance are included in Annexe 1.

4.2 Policy Framework

There are a number of policies that help to assist with the management of the coastal resources. The SSDS which replaces the EMPS is considered to be the primary document used for ICZM. It provides the overarching policy framework for sustainable development. Other policies are also shown in Table 1 in Annexe 1.

5.0 MFF Strategies and Implementation framework.

The vision of MFF Initiative is to promote healthy coastal ecosystems through a partnership-based, people focused and policy relevant approach that builds and applies knowledge, empowers communities and other stakeholders, enhances governance, secures livelihoods, and increases resilience to natural hazards and climate change". It contributes to the conservation and restoration of coastal ecosystems as key natural infrastructure which supports human well-being and security. The MFF operates through 15 PoWs, grouped under three main themes (Knowledge, Governance and Empowerment) with Climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction considerations, Gender, and Communications which are cross-cutting issues are integrated throughout the PoWs.

Small and medium grants are provided to countries by the MFF Secretariat for implementation of projects in line with the NSAP and the MFF Programme of work under the guidance of the RSC. The grants are used to support local community action in the restoration and management of coastal ecosystems and their services as a basis for sustainable development. NGOs and CBOs can apply to the small grants whilst Government can only apply to the medium grant using the revised MFF guidelines. The projects are expected to provide direct environmental and livelihood benefits locally, and offer tangible "models" to inspire policy-makers but these first need the endorsement of the NCB for implementation.

There is another category of project which countries with similar concerns can apply for. The large grant is used to fund regional project but also needs the endorsement of the NCB and approval from the RSC. The Seychelles is participating in one regional project coordinated by UNEP entitle Mapping and Enhancing Natural Resource Governance in Small Island Communities. It aims to support natural resource governance on small islands that integrates and builds on the respective strengths of local and community-based management as well as national policy and legal frameworks at different levels. The project is also being implemented in Thailand, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

5.1 Priority areas for the NSAP

Given the complexity of the Seychelles, several areas of importance have been identified. These are based on existing areas that require national support in line with the POWs. Activities should try and take into consideration these priority areas of concerns.

Enhance, Share and Apply Knowledge

1. Improving the Knowledge Base for Coastal Planning, Policy and Management

Adequate scientific information should be made available to all practitioners in practical and relevant form that that can meet coastal planning needs and address critical issues related to

coastal zone management. These include making available knowledge on certain key species such as the key predators in the marine ecosystems as well as the services provided by various terrestrial ecosystems. The University of Seychelles should be used as the formal institution to address the capacity needs given that the institutional framework is already in place. However, that does not rule out that the NGO sectors could also not be involved in conducting specific training. Cooperation with regional organisation shall also be welcome. The Seychelles should also focussed on other areas such as ocean science, PCM, fisheries management, biodiversity conservation, coastal dynamics and others to address knowledge gaps in coastal ecosystem and also assist the country with the development of the blue economy concept. A number of priority areas have been identified in the SSDS.

2. Designing Ecologically and Socio-economically Sound Coastal Ecosystem Rehabilitation

Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded habitats should be based on sound science, techniques and approaches. Sharing of knowledge from MFF countries will be very valuable. For example, the Seychelles has tried mangrove restorations work but with limited success whereas Thailand has succeeded with all their restoration programmes. Such knowledge should be disseminated through workshops. These include Alien Invasive species removal, restoration of coral reefs and sea grasses, mangrove propagation techniques etc.

3. Providing Decision Support for “Reef to Ridge” Approaches to Land and Resource Management.

Few interventions consider downstream coastal ecosystems as a target and the disconnect is exacerbated by weak awareness of the linkages and impacts, or actions required to address them. A Reef to Ridge approach to soil erosion in a coastal monitoring project on Praslin island were implemented last year and the result should be disseminated. Project should also address other upstream-downstream issues for implementation.

4. Applying a Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation approach to accelerate knowledge dissemination.

MLE techniques have been used and applied by NCB members to appraise SGF and LGF projects during the first two initial phase of the MFF initiative. This has provided participants with the knowledge to evaluate and monitor projects. A more comprehensive training in monitoring, learning and evaluating with support of the MFF –S/IUCN and the UNDP should continue and this time should not only target project grantee but also other participants to help build capacity. If the MLE could also be integrated into the curriculum of the University, of Seychelles, it will also help to address some of the capacity needs.

PoWs that Strengthens Empowerment

5. Promoting Civil Society Awareness and Participation in coastal Decision-making

Communities should be empowered to participate in environmental decision-making. It was revealed from the large project that members felt that their contributions are not valued in making decisions. Hence, there should be more public awareness and engagement coastal communities in coastal management to achieve sustainable development taking into consideration various issues such as gender. The MFF should catalyse stakeholder sensitization at community level to foster more support from stakeholder groups.

Interventions and actions of man and women, youth, senior groups and /or other community environment – based groups at district level to be supported. The NCB should support projects put forward that integrate the civil society in the governance of coastal natural resources.

6. Building the Capacity of Professional Coastal Managers for Integrated Coastal Management

Adequate capacity, in terms of institutions, technical skills, human and financial resources are essential to successfully translate theories of ICM into results. The ICM regional course organised by the MFF secretariat in partnership with regional institutions should be localised at the University of Seychelles (PoW 1). The University can run full time and part time course in ICM to help develop the skills of government, civil societies and community groups. The MFF could also facilitate the networking with regional institutions and help promote long term capacity in areas such as project writing and management, ICZM advocacy and practices (policy – makers/technicians), gender awareness, disaster preparedness, monitoring and evaluation, communicating project works. Trainers should be trained and these should then impart their knowledge to their other fellows here.

7. Support to Environmentally Sustainable Livelihoods among Coastal Communities

Integrating ecosystem and livelihood concerns require that many different conditions and dynamics are understood. There is a need to comprehend the root causes of poverty, vulnerability and livelihood insecurity to understand the direct and underlying causes of ecosystem degradation and possible interventions. Conservation actions can only become sustainable if livelihood issues are simultaneously addressed. Similarly, development actions can only be considered sustainable if ecosystem concerns are integrated. Given that human is in the centre of development, their awareness should be raised to ensure that significant attention is given to projects that will enhance the ability of people to improve their quality of lives through the sustainable investment and management of coastal ecosystems and resources as well as to change their behaviour. People need to understand that they are dependent on the coastal zone and natural resources. Target groups such as fisherman on Mahe and Praslin will be given priority to participate and assist with MFF projects.

8. Improving Community Resilience to Natural Disasters and Climate Change

Climate Change is a growing concern and challenge to the successful implementation of the ICZM and sustainable coastal ecosystem management. Populations in coastal areas need to be able to adapt to changes, hence the need to build both community and ecosystem resilience. The value of mangroves and other coastal ecosystems to sequester carbon and, serving as first lines of defence against natural hazards along many coastlines need to be understood and appreciated. People also need to know that these ecosystems can also be vulnerable to climate change (e.g. sea level rise, increasing sea temperatures and potentially more frequent and severe storms) if they are not in good condition. Coastal resilience is considered a priority.

The impacts of climate change can be significant. A rise in sea level will have an impact on the population, agricultural land and infrastructure (e.g. hotels) located in the coastal zone. Similarly, a rise in temperature of the sea will have significant effects on the economy, on living

conditions and livelihood such as damage to coral reefs and impacts on fisheries. The Seychellois people rely heavily on artisanal fisheries for food. Therefore we need to have all information and build local capacity to put in place and implement appropriate strategies to deal with the impacts of climate change. Because of our vulnerability, attention will be given to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction which should be mainstreamed in development.

9. Identifying Sustainable Financing Mechanisms for Coastal Ecosystem Conservation

Funds for Coastal management can be available from many sources, including private sector, fiscal instruments (taxes, subsidies), market based mechanisms (PES, user charges) and international donors (e.g. GEF, EU). The private sector needs to contribute towards the environment with their CSR responsibilities. Innovative sustainable financing such as in protected area management should be sought. Under this ICZM strategy, ways are being sought to involve stakeholders in the management of coastal zones and Private Sectors are being encouraged to participate in the works of the NCB and contribute to the development of ICZM in the Seychelles.

PoW's that Enhance Governance

10. Supporting National Integrated Coastal Management Programmes

There is a large number of sectors involved in coastal zone management. As a result, the institutional arrangements are often difficult and require consolidated efforts to strengthen and support ICM. As much as possible, MFF Seychelles should participate and contribute where possible in local ICM programmes

11. Applying the ecosystem-based approach to coastal land use planning (through PoW 6)

The Seychelles is in the process of validating land use plans developed under a GEF/UNDP funded project. Land use planning department to delineate and map out sensitive coastal areas and invite NCB to participate in the review process. EBA should also be introduced in managing artisanal fisheries.

12. Building National Systems of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas that contribute to a Regional Network

The policy on protected will enable the development of a protected area network. There is also the need to improve on management effectiveness (resilience to climate change, buffer zone management, and sustainable financing mechanisms) and involve stakeholders in the management of the protected areas. The policy should be adopted and implemented.

13. Coastal Resources and Marine Park Areas:

The Seychelles is committed to the protection of coastal resources. Priorities under this PoW has already been highlighted in other PoWs. More emphasis will be placed on effective management of coastal resources and PAS. Management plan should be developed and management effectiveness performed where possible.

14. Promoting Adaptive Coastal Management Programmes that include ongoing Ecological and Socio-economic Assessment and Monitoring

Long-term programmes for monitoring socio-economic and ecosystem indicators are largely

lacking in the region, while the management plans tend to be fixed, with no flexibility to adapt, respond and reorient to the changing conditions. There is a need to improve coastal monitoring given that methodologies are now available for both socio-economic and ecological monitoring, including spatial assessment using satellite imagery. The national MFF initiative will seek to further the recommendations from some of these initial assessments or seek to assist, within the framework of MFF, to complement other such assessments in addressing coastal resources.

15. Encouraging Environmentally Sustainable Business Practices in Coastal Areas

There are several independent initiatives currently on-going in the country e.g. 'The sustainable/eco - labelling programme'. Several of these actions are being implemented on a primarily voluntary basis by the private sector or by partnerships with NGOs. These actions should be supported and, where possible, replicated and made public. The adoption of measures by communities at large, to further environmental sustainability in all the production sectors should be encouraged.

16. Cross-cutting issues within the 15 POWs.

The additional cross-cutting themes integrated throughout the Programme of Work are Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, Gender, Communications and Knowledge Management.

Integrating Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction into MFF Interventions

The needs to mainstream climate change (CC) considerations into MFF works and projects were approved in from RSC. The MFF Climate Proofing Method consists of two components, a "Project component", aimed at mainstreaming climate change considerations into all MFF projects; and a "Strategy component" which aims at mainstreaming climate change into the overall strategy and vision of the initiative, the 15 programme of work and the national strategies/national coordinating bodies. It is expected that all the outputs and activities already established in the above 15 Programmes of Work will be climate-proofed as much as possible as a requirement of the project proposal submissions.

Climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction is already integrated in one thematic area under the SSDS. The priority areas include mainstreaming climate change adaptation in sustainable development, enhanced actions on mitigations measures, financing, technology transfer and capacity building to support mitigation and adaptation.

Gender Considerations

The gender consideration checklist designed by MFF is to assist MFF practitioners in implementing MFFs objectives on gender and development in national level projects. The checklist was designed to improve participation of women and equal benefits of both men and women from ecosystem conservation and this process should be monitored by both the NCB and the MFF Secretariat when screening proposals and monitoring progress.

Communication Strategy for MFF

The visibility of MFF nationally, regionally and globally needs to improve. The MFF Seychelles Office has developed an Education and Communication strategy to improve the visibility of the initiatives. Activities should be encouraged and supported by the NCB and also project grantees.

5.2. Geographical priority areas for consideration

MFF interventions will take place on Praslin and Mahe.

Praslin

Praslin is the second largest island in the archipelago. The island has recently experienced severe and sometimes irreversible impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion. These are apparent at Anse Kerlan and the problem of erosion is aggravating and is resulting in a significant loss of property and land and these are threatening houses and businesses. Therefore there is an urgent need to develop the capacity of the communities to improve the resilience of the Anse Kerlan coastal community and ecosystems from severe coastal erosion.

Praslin and Curieuse have mangrove forests. The mangrove forest on Praslin is slowly degrading and the factors contributing to the degradation is not known. Alternatively, the mangrove forest on Curieuse is not threatened by any settlement. Hence there is an opportunity to compare and involve the communities in mangrove restoration works at both locations. Community participation is crucial so as to build resilience of mangrove forest by replanting mangrove species that are tolerant to high salinities as a barrier to protect the more vulnerable species by using ecosystem-based tools. It is imperative that people know the importance and roles that mangroves play.

Bel Ombre District

Bel Ombre is a district located in the Northern Part of Mahe with an estimated population of 3700 inhabitants. It is also home to several natural sites of national and international significance including the Mare Aux Cochons wetland and Ramsar Site, the popular Anse Major trail, and a portion of Morne Seychellois National Park. It has several important economic activities such as artisanal fisheries, tourism establishments and farms. The community is very active and has recently established two CBOs, a fisherman association and the Bel Ombre Action Team (BOAT), which was officially registered as an association in April 2013 and whose mission is to promote community participation in the sustainable development of Bel Ombre District. Bel Ombre can be used as a demonstrated site under the MFF regional project to demonstrate natural resource governance by the Community.

The NSAP will also consider activities relevant to the blue economy. The Blue economy a new and emerging concept of the importance for the ocean for food security, trade and also for developing new economies such as mining. The concept was proposed by the President of the Seychelles and the global Community have embraced new concept in the development of ocean programmes. Any activities that try to address sustainability of oceans living resources such as fisheries will be considered a priority under the NSAP.

6.0 Overview of Seychelles' 2013-2015 Plan

Goals: Empower the people of Seychelles to work collectively to protect and ensure the sustainable use of healthy ecosystems in the face of natural hazards and climate change

Strategic Objectives	
1	Participate and contribute to the development and review of legislations and policies;
2	Enhance local capacity in coastal management and in the management of coastal resources;
3	Operationalise the NCB to implement the MFF PoWs;
4	Implement projects to enhance knowledge, empower community and governance of natural resources
5	Improve the visibility of the MFF

Action Plan

Goals: Empower the people of Seychelles to work collectively to protect and ensure the sustainable use of a healthy ecosystem in the face of natural hazards and climate change.

Strategic Objectives 1				
Outcomes				
Activities	Expected result	Responsibilities	timeline	Objectively verified Indicators
Participate in the development of a PA Policy	New PA policy to govern PA declaration and also management	Government members	2013	New accepted PA policy by Cabinet of Ministers, printed copies
Update the Nature and Conservancy Act	Updated law that govern protected area management	Government collaboration with all stakeholders	2014	Approved law by Cabinet of Ministers
Contribute in the review of EPA and TCPA	New law to regulate development and coastal management	Government participation with all stakeholders	2014	Approved EPA and TCPA by Parliament
Contribute to the development and review of Land Use plans	Land use plan delineating areas of development and sensitive areas	Government collaboration with all stakeholders-NCB coordinator	2014-2015	Approved and gazetted LUP
Contribute with the development of the fisheries bill and management plan for coastal fisheries	EBA included in coastal fisheries management plan	SFA, NCB members, private Sector	2014-2015	Gazette Laws
Participate in the development of the second NBSAP	Commitment of CBD met Local Plan harmonise with Aichi Targets	Government including all stakeholders	2013-2014	Approved NBSAP Activities under implementation.
Contribute and participate in the development of laws and policies regarding to other coastal management issues	Better management of coastal resources	Government and all stakeholders	2013-2015	Approved policies and Laws

Strategic Objectives 2					
Outcomes					
Operationalise the NCB to implement the MFF PoWs: Improved coordination of NCB with all stakeholders Undated NSAP					
Activities	Expected result	Responsibilities	timeline	Objectively verified Indicators	
Participate in NCB meetings	Better coordination and participation in decision meeting	NCB members	2013-2015	Minutes of meetings	
Participate in RSC and management committee meetings	Contribute in the decision making process of MFF	NCB Chair, NCB coordinator and NCB members	2013-2015	Meeting proceedings, approved decisions.	
Integrate RSC and management Committee meetings into NSAP	To be updated with the RSC decisions	NCB coordinator, NCB members	After every meetings	Updated NSAP	
Participate in local workshops (coastal natural resources management and Disaster related)	To gain better understanding of coastal management components	NCB Chair, NCB Coordinator and NCB members	2013-2015	Workshop attendance, proceeding	
Monitor and review NSAP annually	Identify factors hindering progress of the SNAP	NCB Chair, NCB members	2013, 2014, 2015	Strategies to address constraints	

Strategic Objectives 3				
Enhance local capacity in coastal management and in the management of coastal resources;				
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved capacity in coastal management • Better management of coastal ecosystems • Enhanced skills and knowledge in coastal ICZM and its component. • Change in community's behaviour 			
Activities	Expected result	Responsibilities	timeline	Objectively verified Indicators (OVI)
Participate in regional advanced integrated coastal management professional course	Increased national capacity	MFF-S and NCB members	2013, 2014?	
Participate in regional training course on mangrove restoration and management	Knowledge and application of such knowledge	NCB members	2013, 2014	Attendance at the training, Application of knowledge in projects
Participate in Fisheries Symposium	Enhance understanding on fisheries management	SFA??	2013, 2014?	Application of knowledge in projects
Participate in Scientific writing course	Increased capacity	SFA??	2013	Scientific papers and other publications
Cross sectoral linkages	Education and communication strategy Gender Climate Change and Disaster risk reduction			

Strategic Objectives 4				
Implement projects to enhance knowledge, empower community and governance of natural resources				
Outcomes	New Lessons learnt			
Activities	Expected result	Responsibilities	timeline	Objectively verified Indicators
Adopt guidelines for small, medium and regional projects	Guideline accepted and adopted by members	NCB member	2013	Project application form
Advertise call of proposal in for SGF & MGF in the media	Participation of various stakeholders	NC Coordinator	2013, 2014, 2015	Adverts
Select projects in line with MFF guidelines	New project for implementation	NCB	2013, 2014, 2015	# of approved projects
Submission of projects to MFF secretariat	To ensure that projects are in line with NSAP	NCB	2013, 2014, 2015	
Undertake PCM training	To build knowledge and capacity in project development & management	MFF-S, National Coordinator	2014?	# of participants
Undertake MLE	To monitor projects	NC, NCB member and Project grantee	2013, 2013, 2014	Reports,
Monitor projects	To identify constraints and factors hindering implementation	NCB member, NC	2013, 2014 and 2015	Progress report
Produce report	To raise awareness	NC,	2013, 2014 & 2015	Report

Strategic Objectives 5					
Outcomes					
Improve the visibility of the MFF initiative					
Raise awareness					
Improve governance					
Activities	Expected result	Responsibilities	timeline	Objectively verified Indicators (OVI)	
Submission of articles	To provide update on project progress	NC, NCB members, MFF-S	2013, 2014, 2015	Article in nations and other papers	
Distribution of MFF Newsletters to all partners and to schools	To disseminate information on MFF and lessons learnt	NC, Media	2013	Newsletters, # of newsletter distributed	
Include Seychelles sharing corner on the MFF website	To update on progress in the Seychelles	NC, MFF-S	2013, 2014, 2015	Updated information	
Updates by national coordinator	An update of MFF activities in the Seychelles	NC,	2013, 2014 & 2015		

Measurement of Progress

Progress of implementation of the NSAP will be measured by activities and projects implemented under the plan, guided by the OVI. The OVI will be used to show what activities have been implemented. The National coordinator will also liaise with the SSDS secretariat and the relevant department and Ministries towards the implementation of the policies and regulations.

All progress made under the NSAP will be communicated to the MFF- Secretariat on a monthly basis by the National coordinator. Periodic reviews to be made to include decisions taken by the RSC and also the management committee. The information through the communication strategy should be made known to all NCB members and the public at large.

Critical success factors

The NSAP provides critical success factors to effectively measure the success of the strategy. The CSF' are important areas of activity that should receive constant and adequate attention to the NCB with the mandate to implement this plan. The critical success factors are

- 1. Political support** - the government has an important role to play and it is vital that all stakeholders see the plan as part of the national strategy. The NSAP could be used to leverage funding.
- 2. Ownership by stakeholders** – maintaining a long-term relationship and commitment with the plan is an important part of fostering ownership. Stakeholders should, in the same spirit, recognise their responsibility to engage in the process.
- 3. Effective implementation framework** – a framework which enables the goals and objectives to be implemented effectively is an important component of this plan
- 4. Capacity** – is critical to the implementation and the success of the outcome of SSDS. It is important to develop and retain trained human resources able to implement programmes to a high level of competences.
- 5. Integration into national planning process** – This is critical, and the priority should be integrated into the planning process.
- 6. Periodical Audits** – A specific monitoring and evaluation function will need to be established to ensure effective implementation of the NSAP

Annexe 1: Policy and Legislative Frameworks

Seychelles' Legislative Framework	
Laws	Description
Environment Protection Act of 1994	The regulations make provision to limit development within a protected area (Protected Areas Act and National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act 1999), (Cap 141) or an ecologically sensitive area such as on beaches and inter-tidal zones. The protection of the beach is governed by another Act (Beach Control Act, 1971) and its subsidiary regulations, 1991 (Cap 14).
Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) 1972	TCPA is one of the most important instruments to physical development and construction. It deals with building regulations and best practices taking into consideration environmental and climate issues. The law is currently under review to include land use plans.
Removal of Sand and Gravel Act 1982 (CAP 203). Amended in 1991	This Act controls the removal of sand and gravel from any beach and coastal plateaux and from rivers. Removal of sand and gravel may have adverse impacts on the ecosystem. Other resources such as minerals are governed by the Minerals Act 1991 (Cap 129)
Public Utilities Corporation Act 25/1985	The Act provides for the establishment of a Public Utilities Corporation (PUC). PUC has the mandate to manage water (Public Utilities Corporation (Water Supply) Regulations S/126/1988) as well as the treatment and disposal of sewage (Public Utilities (Sewage) Regulations S/19/1987). These regulations are used to prevent pollution and waste contamination. The act and its subsidiary legislations are presently under review.
Maritime Zone Act, 1991 (Cap 122)	The Act provides for the regulatory framework which specifies the sovereignty of Seychelles within its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), as mandated under the UN Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). It makes provisions for the development of regulations for the preservation and the protection of the marine environment. Other regulations make provisions for the creation of marine parks (National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act 1999, (Cap 141)). The management of the fish resources is governed by the Fisheries Act 1986 and its subsidiary Regulations.
Land Reclamation Act 1991 (Cap 106)	The Act provides the framework for the authorization of land reclamation. Under Schedule 1, Section 5, a person may object to a proposed reclamation on the grounds that the reclamation may affect any property owned. Reasons are that it may infringe on the public rights and/or affect the natural beauty of the coastal area
Fisheries Act	

Policy Framework	
Policies	Description
Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy 2012-2020	The SSDS provides the overarching policy framework for sustainable development. It replaces the previous Environmental Management Plans (EMPS 1990-2000 and EMPS 2000-2010) and incorporates national priorities and a road map to implement priorities for sustainable development. It takes into consideration the country's international obligations.
Strategy 2017: Creating our Nation's wealth together	The Strategy 2017 is a national Policy document developed by the GoS to double the Country's GDP by 2017. Strategy 2017 overrides existing national policies and changes the role of Government from being an implementer to becoming a facilitator of projects and programs. It creates opportunities for Non-governmental organisations, the private sector and members of the community to participate actively in the development of the country.
Seychelles National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 1998 (NBSAP)	The NBSAP identifies the country's vision and action plan for biodiversity conservation which is a requirement of the Convention of Biological Diversity. The NBSAP is presently being reviewed to take into consideration the Aichi Targets.
Seychelles National Wetlands Conservation and Management Policy 2006	The aim of the policy is to protect and conserve wetlands so that wise and sustainable use of their functions and values, including indirect benefits, are secured now and in the future'. The policy needs to be reviewed.
Tourism Strategy (Vision 21)	Vision 21 is important for the development of tourism in Seychelles. It is aim at generating increased benefits to the country whilst simultaneously protecting the land and marine environment and the Seychellois cultural heritage.
Protected Area Policy	This policy is being developed to take into consideration the management and also vision for protected areas in the Seychelles. A draft has been prepared for approval by the Cabinet of Ministers.
Agricultural Development Strategy (2007 – 2011)	This policy addresses the many challenges faced by the agricultural sector and proposes solutions to the many limitations and constraints ranging from crop and livestock development, production aspects, agricultural marketing, agro processing, human resource capacity needs, agricultural information and communication management, agricultural statistics, inputs supplies and investment requirements in the sector.
National Climate strategy 2009	This strategy addresses the priorities for addressing climate change impacts in Seychelles. It consists of
ICZM Protocol	The protocol has been developed under the Nairobi Convention. It provides the frameworks for developing the appropriate implementing mechanism for ICZM in Seychelles. The different stakeholders involve in the implementation of activities under the policies include Government Ministries and Departments, Environmental NGOs, the private Sectors and the community groups.

Annexe 2 – NCB Work plan 2014

No	Item	When	Status
1.	Minutes of four (4) meetings uploaded to Document Management System	Within two weeks of the meeting	
2.	Note on the Annual Review of NSAP to include RSC 10 Decisions, the Phase 3 approach and national priorities	31-Mar-14	
3.	NCB approved revised MGF Proposals	30-Apr-14	
4.	Report of the Resilience Workshop (participation of NCB, Grantees and Partners)	31-May-14 Postponed till further notice by MFF-S on contacts of Seychelles grants	
5.	Report on the national MFF Symposium on grants facilities; benefits, gaps, lessons, way forward with the new Resilience approach	31-May-14 June 03	
6.	Final SGF proposals for contracting	30-Jun-14	
7.	Inception Reports from SGF Projects	31-Jul-14 October - 14	
8.	Documentation of SGF project achievements and lessons for regional sharing		
	7 (a) Document # 1	15-Jul-14	
	7 (b) Document # 2	15 th August	
9.	MLE Report	31-Dec-14	
10.	KMC Product: One published document (title to be shared with MFF-S by 30 April)	15-Jul-14 / September 15	
11.	Report on training to Grantees to use the Project management software	31-Jul-14	
12.	Summarised version of NSAP	15-Aug-14	
13.	Report on training of new NCB Members on MLE procedures	31-Dec-14	
14.	Report on the NCB Retreat	31-Dec-14	
15.	<u>Reports</u> 1 st Progress reports (for the period 1 January – 31 March)	15-Apr-14	
16.	2 nd Progress report (for the period 1 January – 30 June)	15-Jul-14	
17.	3 rd Progress report (for the period 1 January – 30 September)	15-Oct-14	
18.	Final Progress report (for the period 1 January – 31 December)	15-Jan-15	
19.	Monthly Financial Reports	By the 10 th of the following month	



Mangrove for the Future (MFF) is a unique partner-led initiative to promote investment in coastal ecosystem conservation for sustainable development. Co-chaired by IUCN and UNDP, MFF provides a platform for collaboration among the many different agencies, sectors and countries which are addressing challenges to coastal ecosystem and livelihood issues. The goal is to promote an integrated ocean-wide approach to coastal management and to build the resilience of ecosystem-dependent coastal communities.

MFF builds on a history of coastal management interventions before and after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. It initially focused on the countries that were worst affected by the tsunami -- India, Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Thailand. More recently it has expanded to include Bangladesh, Cambodia, Pakistan and Viet Nam.

Mangroves are the flagship of the initiative, but MFF is inclusive of all types of coastal ecosystem, such as coral reefs, estuaries, lagoons, sandy beaches, sea grasses and wetlands.

The MFF grants facility offers small, medium and large grants to support initiatives that provide practical, hands-on demonstrations of effective coastal management in action. Each country manages its own MFF programme through a National Coordinating Body which includes representation from government, NGOs and the private sector.

MFF addresses priorities for long-term sustainable coastal ecosystem management which include, among others: climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction, promotion of ecosystem health, development of sustainable livelihoods, and active engagement of the private sector in developing sustainable business practices. The emphasis is on generating knowledge, empowering local communities and advocating for policy solutions that will support best practice in integrated coastal management.

Moving forward, MFF will increasingly focus on building resilience of ecosystem-dependent coastal communities by promoting nature based solutions and by showcasing the climate change adaptation and mitigation benefits that can be achieved with healthy mangrove forests and other types of coastal vegetation.

MFF is funded by SIDA, NORAD and Danida.

Learn more at: www.mangrovesforthefuture.org

