



Protected Areas Finance

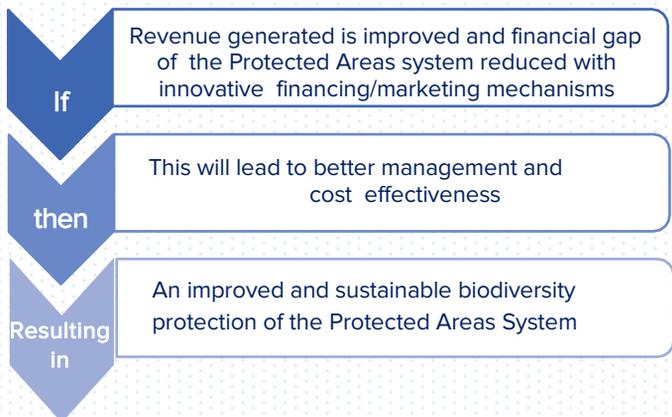
Considered a global hotspot for biodiversity, Seychelles' boulder-strewn, mountainous, granitic inner islands are the oldest mid-oceanic islands on Earth, and home to 97,000 inhabitants. The waters are rich in biodiversity and for more than 200 years its people have relied on the ocean for survival and prosperity. However, years of over-exploitation of fish stocks and increasing impacts of climate change increased the vulnerability of the livelihoods of fishers and of virtually all Seychellois living on the coast.

This realisation prompted the Government of Seychelles to initiate a series of mutually-reinforcing responses to restore the sustainability of the fishery and the health of marine and coastal ecosystems, transitioning the country towards sustainable ocean management – a blue economic future.

In 2012, the Government of Seychelles set a target of bringing 30% of its marine territory under protection by December 2020. However, effectively managing these expanded protected areas requires significant financial resources.

In 2016, the Government of Seychelles, with support from the Global Environment Facility and United Nations Development Programme, initiated a Protected Areas Finance project to directly address this challenge.

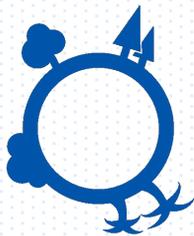
OUR APPROACH



Budget 2020 **USD 606,285**
Total **USD 2,776,900**
Period 2016-2020

QUICK FACTS

Seychelles is among the 30 biodiversity hotspots in the world.



Tourism accounts for over 30% of GDP

Tourism also employs 40% of the work force.

20 Important Bird Areas have been identified In Seychelles



Seychelles is home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Aldabra Atoll and Vallée De Mai) and to three Ramsar wetland sites.



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OBJECTIVE

The objective of the project is to improve the financial sustainability and strategic cohesion of the Seychelles protected area system, addressing financing gaps through the development of new and innovative financing mechanisms, while also dealing with emerging threats and risks to biodiversity in a shifting national economic environment.



IMPLEMENTATION

This project is nationally implemented by GOS-UNDP-GEF Programme Coordination Unit (PCU), a dynamic local management system for ensuring the effective coordination and implementation of UNDP-GEF environment and energy funded projects in Seychelles.



KEY RESULTS

- National Level sustainable financing plan for protected Areas in Seychelles - includes the costs of implementing the financial options to manage 400,000 km² of MPAs as identified under the Marine Spatial Planning process;
- Since 2019, SNPA was granted financial autonomy by the Government of Seychelles, a move the project has supported by outlining its financial future in the SPNA Strategic Plan (2017-2018)
- Management plans for numerous Protected Areas;
- Tourist facilities, furniture, signage, in the Protected Areas.



PARTNERS

- Seychelles National Parks Authority (Government related);
- Seychelles Island Foundation (Government trust);
- Green Island Foundation (Civil Society Organisation);
- Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles (CSO);
- Nature Seychelles (CSO);
- The Nature Conservancy (CSO).

UNDP IN SEYCHELLES

UNDP supports and supplements national efforts aimed at reducing poverty in all its forms, accelerating the transition to sustainable development, and making sure national institutions and communities are able to withstand crises and shocks. We work to make sure the most vulnerable and excluded are not left behind, develop game changing solutions to accelerate sustainable development, and promote low-carbon consumption, and preparedness against climate-related crises and shocks.