

IIED/UNEP-WCMC Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Policy and Planning Initiative

Seychelles Country Workshop Report

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1. Executive Summary

A workshop on mainstreaming biodiversity in the Seychelles was held on 24 March 2016. The IIED diagnostic tools to map the development landscape and identify entry points and to draft an initial biodiversity mainstreaming plan were used to facilitate discussion

The stakeholder recognized that the Seychelles has a large number of sectoral and overarching national plans, and there is frequently little alignment of planning processes, little clarity over which plans are being implemented and no agency responsible for coordination of planning. Accordingly, the majority of national plans do not include biodiversity targets nor are aligned to the NBSAP. The National Development Plan is complete but not adopted and accordingly the groups identified a number of mainstreaming entry points and actions.

The draft Blue Economy Road Map (BERM) developed by the Commonwealth in collaboration with the Department for the Blue Economy creates a mainstreaming opportunity with high profile and relevance. Other plans under development include the Tourism Strategic Action Plan (TSAP), National Education Strategic Action Plan (NESAP), and expected mid-term reviews of the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) Seychelles Strategic Land Use and Development Plan (SSLUDP) that also represent or offers possible entry points.

Two critical steps were identified, the need to appoint an implementation unit for the NBSAP to ensure mainstreaming and coordination and the need for a national Planning Coordination Unit to guide plan development, alignment and implementation.

2. Introduction

The Seychelles has an existing legal and institutional framework for the mainstreaming of biodiversity, legislation includes the Environmental Protection Act (1994) Environmental Impact Regulations (1996) and the Town and country Planning Act (1972), however, effectiveness of the legal framework relies on interpretation and enforcement.

The first attempt to develop national level planning incorporating biodiversity was in the development of the National Environmental plan 1990 – 2000, followed by Environmental Management Plan for Seychelles (EMPS) 2000- 10. This incorporated biodiversity as one of 10 target or thematic areas. This was superseded by the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) 2012-20, which attempts to mainstream biodiversity in to other sectors, although biodiversity is a minor component in the overall plan.

International mechanisms for mainstreaming gained traction under GEF4. This focused on a mainstreaming biodiversity programme, which split into Biodiversity and Biosecurity mainstreaming projects, which commenced in 2008-09. The Biodiversity mainstreaming project had four focal areas 1) national development planning (cross-sectoral), 2) fisheries, 3) tourism, and 4) agriculture (agriculture eventually was included in the GEF4

Sustainable Land Management project). Water Resources have not so far included mainstreaming, with the exception of Ecosystem based Adaptation. A current project Ecosystem based Adaptation in the Seychelles which aims to improve water security and reduce flood risk includes components of forest rehabilitation with native species, wetland rehabilitation and reef rehabilitation. The project requires the use of native vegetation, but does not have biodiversity objectives.

The Seychelles National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2015 - 2010 (NBSAP) replaced the preceding NBSAP published in 1997. The current NBSAP was produced through an extended consultation process with stakeholders. The document is structured with 31 “projects” aligned to Aichi targets. The “BIOFIN Methodology” is being used to mainstream the NBSAP into the financial sector. The NBSAP identifies the need for an Implementation Unit (IU) as being “fundamental to the overall success of NBSAP implementation” and further aims to engage stakeholders through a National Biodiversity Partnership Forum (NBPF), although neither structures are operational.

The NBSAP also acknowledges and documents the relevance and progress of mainstreaming biodiversity into the Tourism Sector and the importance of the Fisheries Sector where progress in mainstreaming has been slow. The NBSAP does not have specific mainstreaming projects, and hence does not have targets *per se*.

3. Method / approach to the country diagnostics

The approach chosen was to organize a multi-stakeholder workshop using the diagnostic tools developed by IIED and also WCMC. This method is common in the Seychelles, many of the stakeholders have a good knowledge of relevant issues such as planning processes and it was felt that a single diagnostic exercise would be easier to fit into busy schedules than more protracted processes.

The approach was effective, with enough participants to form two or three break-out groups for the diagnostic exercises, facilitated by a consultant and CBD focal point. There were no limitations or weaknesses in the method *per se*. The relatively large number of plans and policies in the Seychelles and the knowledge of these required was a potential challenge however, the experience and knowledge of the groups and provision of copies of key plans ensured this was not limiting.

The meeting was convened on the 24th March. This was supported by the Government of Seychelles and the Principal Secretary for Environment did the honor by officially opening the workshop. A copy of his speech is in Annex 1. A copy of the Agenda for the meeting is in Annex 2. A total of 23 participants were in attendance (See Annex 3).

4. Results of the diagnostic exercise

Development planning landscape

Initial Scoping Exercise

An initial exercise was undertaken to identify policies, plans and strategic documents, potentially relevant to the NBSAP. This was useful in informing thinking for the diagnostic exercises. The opening exercise indicated there are a large number of plans and there is not a central coordination agency, so it appears that many sectoral plans work quite independently. It would be good to assess and determine what linkages exist between the various strategies and sectoral plans. The complete list is included in Annex 3.

1. Development-biodiversity links.

The exercise identified a number of sectors with degrees of dependence on biodiversity, including tourism, fisheries, agriculture, water, health, mining or oil exploration, construction, education, energy and environment, however linkages are much stronger with some of these sectors than others.

Tourism in the Seychelles, is typically high end and focused on beach, spa and water based activities, nature tourism tends to be integral to the overall experience, although biodiversity is rarely the primary focus of a tourist itinerary. It is a sector strongly linked to biodiversity and has been a driver for the rehabilitation of island ecosystems, and coral ecosystems. Tourism revenue supports or at least contributes to site management and protected area financing at a number of locations and benefits extend to livelihoods for those working directly on biodiversity sites (e.g. rangers) and associated livelihoods (such as boat operators). Identified vulnerabilities included coastal degradation through poorly planned development, erosion and degradation of reefs. Other vulnerabilities include impacts from invasive species, and development of Key Biodiversity Areas in uplands. Implications of biodiversity loss include moving the tourism market away from a high end product to a more generic larger volume tropical island product, and in turn increasing environmental pressure. In principle biodiversity enhancement would benefit the sector. Tourism is well understood and the availability of data was thought to be good.

Fisheries, was also identified as a key biodiversity linked sector, although perhaps less well understood than the tourism sectors. After tourism, fisheries are the second largest source of GDP and a large number of livelihoods are dependent on the sector, ranging from those associated with commercial fisheries to artisanal and game fisheries. Clearly biodiversity, specifically healthy commercial stocks and marine ecosystems are fundamental to the sector. Vulnerabilities identified for the sector include “over fishing” and marine invasive species, and broadly there is evidence of a decline in some commercial stocks. Simplistically loss of biodiversity will ultimately impact on licensed fisheries and artisanal fisheries, however the sector is diverse, and many issues ranging from over exploitation of pelagic species, shark exploitation, and bycatch warrant consideration.

The environmental sector, specifically ecosystem services (carbon sequestration, water abstraction, erosion control, flood risk management etc), was also identified as a sector linked to biodiversity. This sector, or sub sector is vulnerable to changes in biodiversity, the precise impact of biodiversity may not be easily measured. A loss of catchment forest, degradation of rivers and wetlands will have negative impacts on ecosystem services, as loss of reefs will have an impact on coastal protection, but it is more difficult to distinguish the

impacts of biodiversity loss on ecosystem service. Observational evidence does suggest that native dominated ecosystems rich in biodiversity are probably more resilient to environmental pressure. Vulnerabilities identified include poorly controlled developments, invasive species pollution and limited policy mechanisms to protect ecosystem services. A number of projects are underway to improve ecosystems service provision, including ecological restoration of wetlands and forest.

Other sectors with potential links included, agriculture, health energy and education. Agriculture is mostly small scale “market gardening” and whilst clearly linked to ecosystem services – water soil conservation, etc. Direct links to biodiversity are harder to define. The health sector, also has some links, but perhaps more strongly linked with ecosystems service provision, water, sanitation, fresh local food, an exercise environment etc. Construction, may also have some linkages, particularly high end developments linked to nature based tourism. Interestingly the forestry sector was not identified as a biodiversity sectors, possibly because it is currently small scale.

2. Development policy and planning processes relevant to biodiversity.

The Seychelles has several high level development strategies. “Strategy 2017” (2017 - 2017) remains the official strategic document for national development. The National Development Strategy NDS (completed in 2015), was reported to be awaiting official endoresment. The Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy SSDS (2012 – 2020) is not integrated in to the NDS. Finally, an emerging plan is the “Blue Economy Roadmap” BERM, which has achieved a high profile publically and politically, is being developed without linkages to the other plans.

The NDS recognizes environment as one of three governance pillars, but environment is under represented and biodiversity is only described with a brief set of actions that are not very clearly aligned to the NBSAP. Similarly biodiversity is under represented in other over arching strategic documents, including the BERM. Without a planning coordination body, weaknesses in the planning processes cited include a lack of integration of stakeholders in the plan development processes (i.e. lack of participatory process), there also is a reported limited accessibility to the plans, for example there is not a centralized resource, or information relating to which plans are officially adopted, superseded or repealed.

To a large extent these issues are a facet of differing ministerial responsibilities between overarching plans and sectoral plans, which impedes integration, thus the implementation of many plans is undertaken in silos, whilst insufficiently empowered or proactive governance structures are a further impediment on effective implementation (for example the SSDS is not well integrated and the committee is inactive).

The group identified the need for a unit responsible for planning, policy and coordination, responsibilities could include implementation of guidelines to ensure all important sectors are represented in polices and plans, communication over plan implementation, a “one stop shop” for information and monitoring and evaluation of plan implementation.

The NBSAP has incorporated national development planning objectives, however NBSAP objectives are not included in the NDS. Similarly, links are not being made with the NBSAP and the BERM, nor between the NDS and BERM.

Special planning is a separate process, the Seychelles Spatial Plan (SSP), which has given rise to a series of special plans for islands and districts, presented in map form and which much of the information available on line. The spatial planning has tried to

incorporate environmental plans and priorities. To a certain extent development planning has been influenced by the public protest at a development proposal and associated EIA at Cap Ternay, resulting in a moratorium on large scale tourism developments. Whilst not directly related, Marine Spatial planning and the expansion of MPAs, linked to a “debt swap” also is an indication that spatial planning is placing biodiversity more centrally than some other processes.

Biodiversity targeting is not effectively included in the NDS, or other overarching plans. The NDS is orientated to valorization of natural capital, for example “enlarging land coastal and marine protected areas” and “promoting land conservation and drainage”. But does not have specific on how values may be derived or specific quantitative targets. Similarly the BERM, at the current draft stage is aspirational, but does not include a coherent or comprehensive set of blue targets.

Finally it was noted that accountability of biodiversity management / investment was low, for example investments in biodiversity are not particularly well reported, few bodies promote accountability, for example environmental NGOs do not undertake very much policy work or monitor delivery of environmental plans.

3. Development debate concerning biodiversity.

A number of stakeholder groups were identified who hold biodiversity values, mostly financial values. The tourism sectors features strongly, with hotels supporting conservation including high end private islands incorporating biodiversity in unique products and marketing, other hotels adopting the Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label (SSTL), Green Globe and sponsoring conservation projects. Destination Management Companies (DMCs), tour operators, charter boats and similar services attach financial values to biodiversity through the provision tours, guiding and transport to visit high biodiversity sites such as Aride Island and Vallee de Mai. Similarly, boat charter operators are involved in catch and release and tagging projects.

The NGO / CSO sectors also attached economic and non-economic values to biodiversity. There are at least NGOs working on biodiversity conservation, research, monitoring and capacity building, business models are built around biodiversity and they are largely reliant on funding through grants and/or nature tourism. One parastatal (Seychelles Island Foundation SIF) has a similar operation and funding structure.

The fisheries sector is also economically depended on biodiversity, including industrial, artisanal and recreational. This is evidenced through licensing, quotas, exclusions etc. The agricultural sector was also cited although, values are perhaps more limited, mostly related to genetic diversity of crops and breeds.

Progressive policy space was identified, the Blue Economy Road Map (BERM) created policy space because its currently being developed, similarly a number of large projects create space, including GEF6 (with country allocations for Biodiversity and carbon sequestration), SWIOFish, SEYCCAT and Marine Spatial Planning. The Seychelles Sustainable Development Platform should also be a key mechanism for integration of biodiversity interests, but requires reactivation.

The same processes often represent “challenging policy space”, for example challenges to policy space includes the BERM, because it currently does not include linked to the NBSAP, the planning authority and weaknesses in land management planning. However, the overarching constrains to mainstreaming relate to the large number of institutional responsibilities and the large number of uncoordinated plans and policies. The collapse of

SSDS implementation and limited capacity to implement the NBSAP results in many processes are not mainstreaming or including activities harmful to biodiversity.

The public and media opinion on biodiversity appears to be generally positive, there is a reasonable understanding of biodiversity amongst the wider population (perhaps through inclusion in school curricular) and positive reporting of biodiversity in local media, there are various regular news paper columns and frequent coverage of biodiversity stories etc.

However there is little environmental activism, most of the environmental NGOs have small memberships and limited supporter bases and do not undertake advocacy activities, campaigns and potentially controversial projects are rarely challenged. The group highlighted recent social responses, most notably protest at a proposed development of a hotel at Cap Ternay, with a public response and lobbying resulting in a withdrawal of development plans (and a moratorium on large hotel developments), restricted access to the outer islands and the pollution of water resources at La Misere during a major private development. However, none of these were strictly biodiversity issues, and perhaps represents public concerns over access to natural resources, equability and transparency.

4. Development implementation and financing affecting biodiversity.

Sectors that fail to incorporate biodiversity include Health, Transport, Mining, Ministry of Community Development and significantly Ministry of Finance, which have led or are leading a number of plans or projects which have not or are not incorporating biodiversity.

The group estimated that about 2% of the national public budget is expended on biodiversity. As far as the group could ascertain, spending is mostly at a national level, with few sub-national mechanisms. The situation is complicated, with considerable project funding for biodiversity, being through the Government of Seychelles (GEF). These are administered the Programme coordination Unit (PCU) which is a dedicated project management body, whilst the department of environment is relatively small with a focus on policy rather than implementation. Other expenditure may not go through central sources, for example, SIF, a parastatal, raises and expends own funds. Its worth noting further expenditure on biodiversity is made outside of Government. A number of funds are routed directly through civil organizations and some funds raised from nature tourism are expended on biodiversity management. There is no mechanism to track biodiversity expenditure and no specific budget code.

Government revenue directly dependent on biodiversity includes some forestry revenue, fisheries revenue (licenses etc), some nature tourism revenue, SNPA and SIF (n.b.SNPA funds are managed centrally, SIF managed independently), grant funding. There are limited fiscal incentives, NGOs, some of which manage nature tourism sites benefit from little or no taxation, and a number of exemptions are available for environmental projects. Businesses contribute to Corporate Responsibility Tax (CRT) and this can be directed to biodiversity initiatives. However, there is no monitoring and its difficult to measure investment or impact.

The landscape of investors in biodiversity has shifted, historically (pre 2000s) the Birdlife International Partnership, private individuals and smaller donors were primary investors often through NGOs, but this shifted in the 2000s with increasing GEF funding directed through the GOS, some EU funds and Adaptation Fund. Private investment also increased, with several Private islands undertaking rehabilitation projects and these investments continue.

Planned or expected investment that is likely to negatively impact biodiversity include petroleum exploration, fisheries expansion, coastal land reclamation, and perhaps an emerging threat is upland development with foreign investors acquiring extensive holdings in the uplands of Mahe.

5. The stakeholders supporting or blocking effective biodiversity-development links, and their capacities.

The champions of biodiversity are NGOs (Nature Seychelles, Green Island Foundation GIF, Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles (MCSS), Island Conservation Society (ICS) etc, Parastatals (SIF) and some private enterprises.

Antagonists include some private landowners and developers aiming to maximize return in investments and who are unwilling to mitigate biodiversity impacts. Ministries can act as an antagonists for example MLUH due to limited capacity to resolve conflicts over land use. The Ministry of Finance does not build other sectoral objectives in to plans.

Effective bridges are few, some bodies are variable and others under perform. The PCU has some impact in stimulating dialogue through project implementation and is already implementing parts of the BSAP through the project portfolio, MEECC has a role but does not have the capacity to form stronger cross sectoral links. Similarly the planning authority seems to be struggling to mitigate impacts of development on biodiversity. Bodies failing to perform a bridging role are Citizens Engagement Platform Seychelles (CEPS), the Blue Economy Research Institute (BERI) particularly pertaining to the BERM, and NGOs are variable, and over all could take a greater bridging role.

A capacity and or resource gap exists in the coordination and mainstreaming of the NBSAP. MEECC does not have the required capacity and the NBSAP acknowledges this reality and suggest establishing an Implementation Unit, contracted private sector is necessary. Other bodies listed above (NGOS, Parastatals) may have the potential to be mainstreaming champions but do not have capacity or the mandate to undertake this type of work. Precisely who could and should take forwards mainstreaming remains a pivotal question.

The mainstreaming target

Refer to Part 2 of the Diagnostic Tool

In order to identify entry points, participants formed in to two groups and categorised the initial list in to plans and policies. Initially they sifted the list to identify key plans and strategies and allocated by sector

- Overarching National Plans
- Tourism
- Fisheries
- Agriculture education
- Environment
- Construction
- Education

Under these headings selection criteria were used to assess potential entry points. Plans were identified because they were under development or due for mid-term review, and hence tractable. Plans with high profile and impact featured and two steps on a critical path identified. The short list was

1. A proposal is developed for a **Planning Unit** that sits separate to individual Ministries and coordinates between policies, strategies and plans is a critical step for mainstreaming.
2. **The NBSAP**: whilst appears counter intuitive the NBSAP represents a “critical path” priority. There needs to be capacity for implementation of the NBSAP to facilitate main streaming.
3. **Blue Economy Road Map (BERM)**: is currently under development, it has a high level of political support, strong branding and high local and international profile. It therefore scores highly profile, future relevance and tractability.
4. **Tourism Strategic Action Plan**: the existing Tourism Master Plan (2012-20) is reasonably balanced and has a section on “Mainstreaming Environment”, however annexed environmental projects are not a representative portfolio of NBSAP priorities. The Master plan is this is being up updated with the Action Plan providing an opportunity to Mainstream, the NBSAP objectives.
5. **National Education Strategic Plan**: the planning process is starting providing an entry point, thus tractable and could be an easy win
6. **Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy SSDS**: has been inactive and the steering committee has not been meeting, however the mid-term review is due creating an entry point
7. **Seychelles Strategic Land Use and Development Plan (SSLUDP)**: is in draft form and should be open to consultation and review, in principle this is an intervention with major development and biodiversity outcomes.

3. The anticipated outcomes/outputs

1. **Proposal for a Planning Coordination Unit:** a paper is submitted to cabinet outlining the function and structure of a planning unit to coordinate and monitor the development and implementation of national plans and policies
2. **The NBSAP Implementation Unit:** options are reviewed for the coordination of NBSAP implementation, be that directly by MEECC or by the tendering of the role to an external coordination unit
3. **Blue Economy Road Map (BERM):** is revised the final draft to include clear linkages and shared objectives with the NBSAP
4. **Tourism Strategic Action Plan (TSAP):** an ambition for mainstreaming described in the “parent” Tourism Master plan needs to translate in to clear biodiversity objectives aligned to those of the BSAP in the TSAP.
5. **National Education Strategic Plan:** should be aligned with NBSAP objectives
6. **Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy SSDS:** the mid-term review is completed and implementation refreshed to include NBSAP objectives
7. **Seychelles Strategic Land Use and Development Plan (SSLUDP):** the consultation and review process ensures inclusion of key biodiversity areas and other priority biodiversity sites in spatial plans.

4. The mainstreaming plan

The analysis by participants identified five direct mainstreaming entry points that target ongoing plan development or plan revisions. Mainstreaming will remain a challenge with the large number of national plans, many of which are developed independently with varying levels of synergy. An independent Planning Unit is essential to ensure coordination between plans, strategies and policies, and hence provide a “pull” for mainstreaming. In order to achieve independence and impartiality such a body would need to sit outside of any one ministry and options for a quasi independent unit should be considered. An implementation unit for the NBSAP is more urgent to provide the “push” for mainstreaming.

Entry Point	Actions	Deliverable	Time Line	Lead
Proposal for a Planning Coordination Unit	Research and draft a paper to the Minister outlining the need and structure of a planning coordination unit	Draft paper	July 2016	Focal Point / Consultant
The NBSAP IU	Draft a position paper outlining costed options for the coordination of the NBSAP MEECC to agree on a preferred option	Coordination plan TOR for staff or external consultant	July – August 2016	Focal Point / Consultant Marie May Jeramie
Blue Economy Road Map (BERM)	Engage with PS for BE and BERM identify stage and consultation process	Revised BERM	Immediate	Focal Point
Tourism Strategic Action Plan	Contact PS of Tourism and establish plan development timeframe Mainstream NBSAP objectives	Revised STAP	June-August	Focal Point / MEECC
National Education Strategic Plan	Contact PS of Education and establish plan development timeframe Mainstream NBSAP objectives	Revised NESP	May /July	Focal Point / MEECC
Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy SSDS:	Meet with PS Environment Identify process for mid-term review	Renewed Implementation of SSDS		Focal Point / Decomarm ond
Seychelles Strategic Land Use and Development Plan (SSLUDP)	Contact Mr Biscornet / Ms Lowe and establish plan development timeframe Mainstream NBSAP objectives	SSLUD – including KBA and other priority sites etc	May /August	Focal Point / MEECC

Opening remarks by the PS

Participants, colleagues, Good morning...

It gives me great pleasure to address you for the opening of the workshop entitled "Mainstreaming Biodiversity in to Development Processes in the Seychelles"

Mainstreaming and Integrating...one of two most widely used words during the last two decades, and mainstreaming biodiversity has been one of the most commonly used in biodiversity conservation issues. The CBD definition in its simplest sense states "Integrating biodiversity into sectoral plans and policies using a variety of methods and approaches"

Further to this, Article 6b of the Convention asks of us to "Integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programs and policies."

In addition, the Aichi Target 2 requests that "By 2020...biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes..."

This year's theme on International Day of Biodiversity on the 22nd May is essentially, "Mainstreaming Biodiversity, sustaining people and their Livelihood" and furthermore the subject will be one of the main focus at the CBD COP 13 in Cancun Mexico in December this year with the theme "Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors"

So there is no doubt about the importance of the principle, but the main challenge is to ensure that all sectors of society understands its need and importance.

The importance of biodiversity to mankind is considered to be immense. As the BD reiterates, "Biodiversity is the foundation for life and for the essential services provided by ecosystems. It underpins peoples' livelihoods and sustainable development in all areas of activity, including economic sectors such as fisheries tourism, agriculture among others. By halting biodiversity loss, we are investing in people, their lives and their well-being".

I have seen from the agenda that you will be discussing and going over some of the key documents, policies and plans but please allow me for a few minutes to go over some of the main achievements and ongoing activities.

Here in Seychelles we have made great strides in that direction and will continue the effort, perhaps the most obvious action has been to protect close to 50% of our land territory and planning for 30% of our EEZ through our Marine Spatial Planning Exercise in which from day one biodiversity-related issues and activities is already well integrated or mainstreamed in the works which is as you know is still ongoing.

Our efforts to consolidate our environmental management needs and plans started way back in the 1990s off course with our first EMPS, followed by the second one ending in 2010 and now the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy 2012-2020, covering 10 thematic areas, with its vision "being mindful of the need to conserve the integrity of the Seychelles natural environment and heritage for present and future generations"

In 1998, we developed the first Seychelles National Biodiversity Strategic plan, or NBSAP and last year we launched the second generation plan or the NBSAP 2.0. The plan was developed as part of our international commitment under the Convention of Biological

Diversity, it takes into consideration of the Aichi targets as well as the sustainable development goals.

In reference to our environmental laws and regulations, since last year we have been undertaking an extensive exercise to modernise and revise them which in most cases directly or indirectly has to do with mainstreaming of biodiversity-related issues in them.

With the financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility, we have made further progress to mainstream biodiversity across fisheries, tourism, Agriculture and also in the national Development process (i.e. in land use) through the last project entitled same "Mainstreaming Biodiversity Management into Production Sector Activities". Some of the initiatives are still on-going for example in the tourism sector, there has been a proliferation of biodiversity related initiative such as the involvement of hotels in species conservation, habitat restoration and also in the management of key ecosystems. In addition carrying capacity studies are being done to ascertain the sustainable level possible for tourism development and in these exercises biodiversity is always taken into account

Dear participants as you know we presently pursuing the development of our Blue Economy and I happy to inform you that within the road map biodiversity conservation and protection has been mainstreamed very well into all the activities.

On the terrestrial part, the country recently completed a strategic plan for land usage for next 25 years and again most of the key decisions and plans have evolved around the key biodiversity areas or how to mainstream future developmental needs in those areas. Same has been considered during the review of the TCPA and drafting of the draft landuse plans.

In reference to financing, there is much progress being made to mainstream biodiversity in the finance sector. The Seychelles is one of 30 countries currently benefiting from the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), a global partnership that helps government's cost, plan and pay for action on biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use. The aim of this initiative will help to build a stronger business case and to better plan for the implementation of the NBSAP. At its Global Workshop next month Seychelles is one of the few countries amongst the 30 or so participating that has been asked to present and share its experiences in biodiversity conservation and also the financing of it.

Dear participants to conclude, it is good to note and always remember that mainstreaming biodiversity is not only ensuring it is properly incorporated in plans, other documents and processes but it is a thinking or ethic that should be instilled in all policy or decision-makers each and every day and when taking every action. So let's spread the word and continue to educate our partners and stakeholders, with this workshop is my hope that your knowledge and capacity will be further strengthened on the subject.

Finally, on behalf of the government, I wish to thank the Darwin initiative for the financial support and the International Institute for Environment and Development and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre for the development of the toolkit as well as coordinating this project, and of course Mr Denis Matatiken and his team for putting this very important workshop together.

And it's with these final words that I have the pleasure to officially declare open this meeting and wish you all a fruitful deliberation.

Thank you

Annex 1 Participation

	Participant	Organisation
1	MT Purvis	CEPS (Community Engagement Platform For Seychelles)
2	Angele Daley	Ministry of Land Use and Housing
3	Linnetta Estico	Seychelles Agricultural Agency
4	Helena Sims	The Nature Conservancy (MSP)
5	Mark Jean Baptiste	Seychelles Island Foundation
6	Elke Talma	Programme Coordination Unit (PCU)
7	Annika Faure	PCU
8	Betty Seraphine	PCU
9	Andrew Grieser-Johns	PCU
10	Stephanie Hollanda	Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA)
11	Selby Remy	Mangroves for the Future (MFF)
12	Niel Lalande-Rene	Seychelles Investment Bureau (SIB)
13	Maxime Valentine	SIB
14	Denis Matatiken	Department of Environment (DOE)
15	Philomena Hollanda	Tourism Department
16	John Quilendo	DOE (Forestry)
17	Mermedah Moustache	Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture
18	Roland Acindor	UNDP

19	Arjan de Groene	Green Island Foundation
20	Eugenie Souris	BERI / UniSey
21	Herve Barois	Consultant
22	Marie May Jeremie	DOE
23	James Millett	Facilitator
24	Theodore Margerite	Energy and Climate Change Department

Annex 2: Meeting Agenda

Mainstreaming Biodiversity in to Development Processes in the Seychelles Thursday 24th March - SFA TRAINING ROOM

- 8:45 a.m. Registration
- 9.00 a.m. Opening remarks (PS)
- 9.10 a.m. Purpose of Meeting (James and Denis)
- 9:15 a.m. An introduction to the NBSAP (Marie May / Annike Faure)
- 9.20 a.m. Status of mainstreaming biodiversity in the Seychelles (Andrew Grieser Johns)
- 9.30 a.m. Group Exercise: brainstorm on the key development policies, strategies and plans that are being implemented and are relevant to mainstreaming biodiversity (facilitated by James)
- 10.15 a.m. Break / morning tea
- 10.45 a.m. Group work based on structured discussions facilitated by James / Denis
- Identify the key links between development sectors and biodiversity:
 - Which development planning and policy processes incorporate biodiversity
- 11.15 a.m. Report back from group work
- 11.30 a.m. Group work based on structured discussions facilitated by James / Denis
- The development debate – identifying policy space for biodiversity
 - Development implementation and financing
 - Analysis of stakeholders and capacities
- 12.00 a.m. Report back from group work
- 12.15 Lunch
- 1.00 p.m. Prioritizing development sectors for mainstreaming biodiversity (James and Denis)
- 2.00 p.m. Agreeing focal development sectors for mainstreaming (James)
- 2.30 p.m. Break
- 3.00 p.m. Towards a mainstreaming plan –
Identify key actions to mainstream biodiversity
How to implement the main streaming plan – who – what - when
- 3.45 p.m. Wrap up and thanks by Denis
- 4.00 p.m. Finish

Annex 3 List of Plans and Policies (*this needs some checking*)

National and Sectoral Plans

National Development Strategy NDS (completed but not adopted)
Seychelles Strategic Land Use and Development Plan (SSDUP)
Strategy 2017 official development plan
Blue Economy Road Map (BERM) draft
Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS)
Seychelles Water Development Plan 2008-2030
PUC Water master plan
SNAIP / National Food & Nutrition Security Policy
Mahe plateau Demersal Fisheries Master Plan
Mariculture Master Plan
Tourism Master Plan
Tourism Strategic Action Plan
Solid Waste Management Plan
Victoria master plan
Mid-term development strategy for Education
Sustainable Forestry Management Plan

Donor and External Investment Plans

UNDP CPD 2017 – 2020
European Development Fund National Indicative Programme 2014-20
CEPF ecosystem Profiles

Legislation:

Environment Protection Act
PPA
NAP / SLM (CCCCD)
River Act + State
Fisheries act
Pesticide control Act 2017

Policies

Biosecurity Policy
PA Policy
NPOA Sharks
PPP Policy
Wetlands policy
National Parks + Nature Conservancy Act

TCPA
INDC – CC
Waste Management Policy
BD Policy (draft)
PA policy
PPP policy
SEO