

Improving Climate Adaptation and Environmental Governance through Local People and Co-Management in Seychelles

Coordinated by: European Commission, represented by the Delegation to the Republic of Mauritius and and to the Republic of Seychelles

Implementing Partner: Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change & Environment (MACCE)

Implemented by: Nature Seychelles **Duration:** 1 March 2024 – 31 March 2026

THE PROJECT

Seychelles has experienced a significant reduction in mangrove and wetland coverage, largely due to coastal development. Those remaining are inadequately managed due to a lack of capacity, resources, and knowledge. With the increasing importance placed on **mangroves and wetlands** as a **climate adaptation** strategy, significant effort is required to improve institutional capacity and collaboration to effectively coordinate wetland **management and conservation efforts** across Seychelles.

Nature Seychelles will work with **government agencies**, alongside key **civil society** and **private sector stakeholders**, to support **governance** and **conservation** actions that they would be otherwise unable to undertake. Nature Seychelles will establish an alliance between MACCE, the local people and tourism establishments, building capacity to participate in mangrove monitoring and restoration. The **'Wetlands of Hope'** label will be introduced to recognise and promote wetland management efforts by private sector and communities. A strong advocacy effort will underlie all project activities – for the review of key wetland documents, and the development of conservation and management action plans.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES



Improve mangrove research and management for ecosystem resilience in wetland sites in Seychelles



Increase the number of local people with knowledge and capacity required to participate in active conservation and restoration



Increase community participation that promote good governance for the Co-Management of the target site



Strengthen and support national mangrove policy and regulatory frameworks for ecosystem management

Wetlands Engagement Taskforce for 'Wetlands of Hope'

Wetlands play a crucial role in supporting biodiversity and providing essential ecosystem services for both people and the environment.

Biodiversity rich wetlands have been of limited value to people, and were mainly cleared for reclamation projects and agriculture or used as dumping sites. The 'Wetlands of Hope' label aims to reshape this narrative by recognising well-managed wetlands and inspiring communities to come together to protect these vital ecosystems.

What is the Wetlands Engagement Taskforce (WET)?

An action-oriented committee made up of wetland practitioners, the government and the private sector. WET will promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands on Mahe by supporting protection and restoration efforts at local level

What will WET do?

- Develop The Pledge for wetlands
- Develop criteria for the 'Wetlands of Hope' label
- Wetland awareness campaigns
- Support effective management of wetlands
- Support the development of wetland policies and plans

Benefits of WET

- Recognition for wetland conservation work through 'Wetlands of Hope' label and The Pledge
- Collaborative platform for sharing ideas, expertise with government and private sector
- Support for local conservation efforts
- Contribute to strategies that will shape Seychelles' wetlands