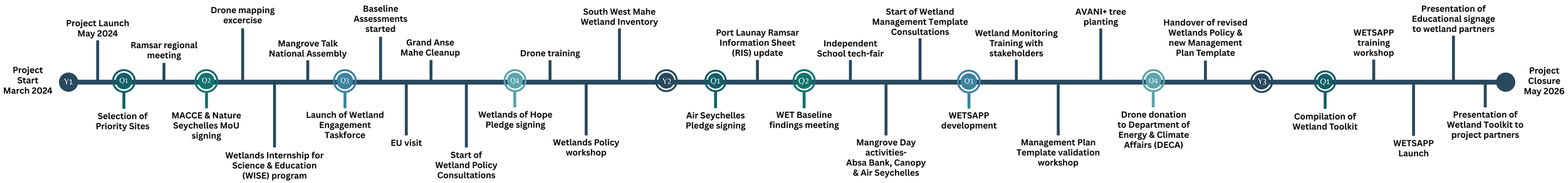
IMPROVING CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE THROUGH LOCAL PEOPLE AND CO-MANAGEMENT IN SEYCHELLES

NATURE SEYCHELLES

LEAP – LOCALLY EMPOWERED AREA PROTECTION

In partnership with Ministry of Agriculture Climate Change and Environment

Funded by the European Union



RESEARCH

The Wetlands of Hope project laid a **stronger scientific foundation** for **wetland conservation** in Seychelles through **comprehensive mapping and ecological assessments across six priority sites**, including the Port Launay Ramsar Site. These assessments produced **habitat maps, ecological reports** and practical recommendations to guide future wetland management.

Through a **collaborative action-planning process**, stakeholders also agreed on **priority monitoring and management actions** for each site. The project significantly boosted national capacity by **training staff** from the Department of Energy and Climate Affairs in **mangrove and wetland monitoring, aerial mapping** and the use of **consumer-grade drones for habitat surveys** and map production.

PARTNERSHIP

The project strengthened **collaboration** by establishing the **Wetlands Engagement Taskforce (WET)**, bringing together **government agencies, wetland partners** and **site managers** to improve coordination and communication on wetland management in Seychelles. Momentum also grew within the private sector, with **eight entities signing the 'Wetlands Pledge'** and committing to support the management of adopted wetland sites.

To encourage and recognise leadership in conservation, the project developed the **'Wetlands of Hope' voluntary label**, promoting good wetland management practices and stronger partnerships between government and site managers.

To modernise monitoring and reporting, the project also developed **WETSAPP (Wetlands Evaluation and Tracking Seychelles Application)** — an innovative mobile tool designed to simplify field data collection, strengthen monitoring and improve reporting efficiency.

LOCAL PEOPLE

Wetlands of Hope launched a **dynamic national awareness campaign** to transform how people view wetlands and mangroves - from overlooked wastelands to vital natural assets that protect biodiversity, coastlines and communities. Through **wetland and beach clean-ups**, **outdoor learning activities** and hands-on **community engagement**, more Seychellois, especially young people, were inspired to connect with and care for wetlands. The **weekly 'Wetlands Wednesdays' social media campaign** became a lively platform for sharing stories about wetland species, ecosystems and conservation action. **Training in wetland and mangrove monitoring** also empowered local stakeholders to play a direct role in protecting the sites under their care.

The **Wetlands Internship for Science and Education (WISE) programme** supported **four female interns**, who contributed directly to ecological assessments, habitat mapping and community outreach while gaining hands-on experience. To extend learning beyond the project, the **'Wetlands Toolkit'** was developed - a **practical educational resource** containing presentations, infographics and worksheets for schools across Seychelles.

POLICY

The Wetlands of Hope project **supported the review and updating of the National Wetlands Policy and Action Plan**. This collaborative process **brought together 70 technical specialists** and **key stakeholders** to assess the outdated policy, identifying gaps and agreeing on necessary updates and priority actions for improved wetland management.

A **standardised wetland management template** was developed, designed **for use by private sector partners and stakeholders**. Wetland partners that have adopted wetland sites received training on how to complete the plan outlining the conservation activities to take place during the management cycle.