



## Improving climate adaptation and environmental governance through local people and Co-Management in Seychelles

**General Information**      Review and update of the Seychelles Wetlands Policy for Seychelles

**Contract type:**              Short term national consultancy

### Background

Nature Seychelles is implementing an EU-funded project under the “Strengthening CSOs and supporting their actions aiming at promoting Climate Actions, Good Governance, Gender Equality and Women, Girls and Youth Empowerment in Seychelles” regional programme.

In Seychelles, this project aims to improve climate adaptation and environmental governance through local community, private sector and civil society participation in conservation and restoration actions, and inclusive, democratic decision-making through the co-management of wetlands. It seeks to bridge the gaps in management and knowledge, promoting the value of wetland ecosystems through participatory and inclusive planning processes. 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.

The outcomes of the project are:

1. Effective management of mangroves and wetlands, including the Port Launay- Port Glaud RAMSAR wetland site
2. Local knowledge and understanding of mangroves/ wetlands increased
3. Co-Management promoted at national level through Wetland Co-Management committee
4. Review and update of wetland management plans and policies

Nature Seychelles has established a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment to facilitate cooperation for the implementation of the project.

### Context

Wetlands are critical habitats worldwide and perhaps even more important to the Seychelles as small islands that are vulnerable to climate change. Wetlands provide our nation with vital

ecosystem services: the overwhelming majority of our water comes from natural wetlands sources; coastal wetlands absorb storm waters from both land and sea and will provide important buffers to sea level rise; coastal wetlands serve as nurseries for fish species that are important to commercial and artisanal fisheries and in-shore reefs make a key part of the Seychelles tourism product.

Moreover, the biodiversity in and around wetlands is special, for example in the riverine forests within National Parks, and new species to science are still being discovered in our rivers and wetlands.

Yet, wetlands are under pressure from pollution, coastal squeeze, and poorly planned development, illustrated by the fact that coastal wetlands are now considered the most threatened habitat in the Seychelles.

It is therefore important to ensure that policies recognise economic development while preserving ecological integrity. The recently outdated Seychelles Wetlands Policy (2019 – 2022) acknowledges that wetlands are essential for sustainable development and that wise use is paramount. It included an action plan, that provided the framework for policy implementation, capturing existing programs, set ambitious targets, and encouraged the involvement and leadership of civil society to manage local resources of national importance. Recent changes in international commitments, local legislation and policy, as well as local institutional responsibilities necessitate an update to Seychelles' Wetlands Policy.

## **Objective**

The objective of the consultancy is to review and update the Seychelles Wetlands Policy for the Seychelles.

## **Activities / Scope of Work**

The consultant (s) will undertake the following tasks:

- I. Development of methodology with guidance from the Steering Committee, in collaboration with wetland stakeholders.**
  - (i) Conduct an inception meeting with the Steering Committee to agree on the approach and methodology for the review and update of the Seychelles Wetlands policy.
  - (ii) Conduct a desk review of
    - a. All relevant international conventions and commitments, national policies, strategies, regulations, and current initiatives related to wetlands in Seychelles to identify key knowledge gaps for effective management and challenges to the implementation of wetland policies and projects.
    - b. All relevant stakeholders at local, national and regional levels for consultations.

## II. Review and update of the Seychelles Wetlands Policy

- (i) Conduct a multi-stakeholder consultative review of 2019-2022 wetland policy.
  - a. Gather documentation and information on the uses and threats to wetlands, define wetland management goals, principles, and objectives, and outline policy implementation strategies and guidelines. Also, identify institutional responsibilities, supporting legal frameworks and legislative requirements, as well as capacity-building needs and resource requirements
  - b. Document/minute the consultation process
  - c. Prepare and present the findings of the consultative review [a]
- (ii) Submit the annotated table of contents to the Steering Committee for approval.
- (iii) Produce the first draft of the revised policy
- (iv) Conduct stakeholder consultations on the first draft of the revised policy
- (v) Produce the updated draft of the revised policy incorporating the comments and contributions of the stakeholders.
- (vi) Submit updated draft policy and conduct a validation workshop with all relevant stakeholders.
- (vii) Produce the final version of the revised policy incorporating all the comments and recommendations received in the validation workshop to be sent to MACCE for endorsement.

### Specific outputs expected and timeframe

The indicative timeframe of the consultancy **should not exceed 9 months**.

No	Deliverable / Task	Timeframe from date of agreement (weeks)	Total time (weeks)
I (i)	Inception Report	2	2
(ii)	Literature review	4	6
(ii)	Stakeholder mapping	4	6
II (i)	Multi-stakeholder review	12	18
(i)	Multi-stakeholder review findings	2	18
(ii)	Table of contents	2	18
(iii)	First draft	12	30
(iv)	Stakeholder consultation process	2	32
(v)	Updated draft and comments	2	34
(vi)	Validation workshop	1	35
(vii)	Final document report	1	36

## Reporting and Supervision Arrangements

The consultant (s) will report to the Steering Committee with supervision by the LEAP project.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change, and Environment (MACCE) will be the owner of the assignment output as well as any and data (maps, minutes and documents etc) produced under this consultancy.

## Qualifications, experiences and skills

- Master's degree in Environmental Science, Law, Public Policy or related field.
- 5 years of experience in drafting legal documents in similar environmental areas.
- Experience in international environmental law and regulations, and the application in strategic and/or practical situations.
- Strong knowledge and understanding of wetlands ecosystems.
- Demonstrated experience in working with government and international institutions on policy and programmatic work in one or more of the fields mentioned above.
- Demonstrated experience working on policy and programmatic areas with national, local and civil society organizations.
- Experience in conducting consultations and leading and facilitating multi-stakeholder meetings at national, regional and local levels processes is required.
- Excellent writing skills and strong oral communication skills, with the capacity to clearly and succinctly communicate to different audiences.

### All proposals should be sent to:

Centre for Environment & Education, Roche Caiman P.O Box 1310, Mahe, Seychelles

Tel: 2519090 Email: [corinne@natureseychelles.org](mailto:corinne@natureseychelles.org) / [admin@natureseychelles.org](mailto:admin@natureseychelles.org)

**Deadline for submission:** Friday 13th September, 2024