

A scenic view of a rocky coastline with turquoise water and palm trees. The image is framed by a blue border with a wavy top edge. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rectangular area.

A REVIEW: STATUS OF THE SEYCHELLES NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Presented:
Marie-May Jeremie
in Ethiopia (Feb 2012)

2011/03/05

Presentation Summary

A large tortoise is the central focus of the image, positioned in a natural, outdoor environment with grass, dirt, and some foliage. The tortoise is facing towards the right side of the frame. Overlaid on the image are several text elements: a title box at the top, a bulleted list item on the left, and five numbered points distributed across the tortoise's shell and the surrounding area.

- 1. Introduction and background

2. The first NBSAP (set up, implementation)

3. Successes and Obstacles of the NBSAP

4. Updating the Seychelles NBSAP

5. The Way Forward

1. INTRODUCTION

Short background of Seychelles:

- 115 natural islands located in Western Indian Ocean
- Total Land Mass of 455kmsq and an EEZ of around 1,374,000kmsq
- 7200 spp of animals, plants and fungi recorded on its isles
- high level of endemism (50-88% in Animals; 45% in plants)
- Current human population of only 88,311 individuals (51% men; 49% women)
- Population concentrated on coastal strip of three main isl. (Mahe, Praslin & La Digue)
- The Seychelles Economy is dependent on Tourism and Fisheries (Tourism GDP 2010- 46.1%)
- Seychelles Protected area system consists of 21 formal protected areas (national parks, special reserves, reserves, etc...) covering a total of 51,597 hectares (48.9% of the total land mass)

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2. The First NBSAP

- The Republic of Seychelles received a GEF enabling activities grant to develop its NBSAP in 1997.
- The NBSAP was preceded by and based upon a biodiversity assessment compiled from available information.
- An iterative and participatory process of stakeholder consultation was utilised to formulate the NBSAP (use of experts for data collection, task force to oversee progress, etc ...)
- Submitted to CBD secretariat in 1998, with its implementation only starting late 2000



- **The 1997 NBSAP Vision states:**

“The Republic of Seychelles recognises the right of every person to live and enjoy an ecologically sound natural environment and undertakes to take necessary measures to maintain essential ecological services and life support systems, to promote the protection, preservation and in certain cases the improvement of its indigenous biological diversity, and to judiciously use and manage species and ecosystems so as to ensure a sustainable socio-economic development of the country”

- The NBSAP established 11 major goals (with related policy objectives) closely aligned to the active articles of the CBD and geared to bridge the gaps identified in the assessment:
 1. Support general measures for conservation and sustainable use (supports CBD Article 6).
 2. Strengthen identification and monitoring of biodiversity (supports CBD Article 7).
 3. Increase in-situ conservation of biodiversity (supports CBD Article 8).
 4. Promote ex-situ conservation (supports CBD Article 9).
 5. Introduce ways and means for sustainable use of biodiversity (supports CBD Article 10).
 6. Introduce incentive measures for biodiversity conservation (supports CBD Article 11).
 7. Improve appropriate biodiversity related research and training (supports CBD Article 12).
 8. Augment public education and awareness of all facets of biodiversity (supports Article 13).
 9. Minimise adverse impacts on Biodiversity (supports CBD Article 14).
 10. Ensure access to and judicious control of genetic resources (supports CBD Article 15).
 11. Evaluate and use appropriate technology (supports CBD Article 16).

3. Successes and Obstacles of the NBSAP

SUCCESS

- The NBSAP unified the biodiversity stakeholder community (during its development and implementation)
- Created widespread awareness of the local community
- Gave rise to a number of new conservation NGOs (which have now become steady, full time operating bodies that assist the Government in Biodiversity conservation and research)
- Allowed for the identification of key national priorities for action.
- Served as sound tool for leverage of new and additional funds for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Seychelles (GEF projects, etc...)

OBSTACLES

- Shortcomings were most evident in the administration and coordination of the NBSAP (The intended coordinating unit was never set)
- NBSAP became subsumed by the Environmental Management Plan of Seychelles (EMPS) 2000-2010 (a problem because the EMPS had biodiversity as one of the 10 thematic areas thus digressed from core objectives)
- Did not have periodic reviews to assess efficiency





4. Updating the Seychelles NBSAP

- An outdated document
- Wanted a new document in line with the CBD's strategic plan 2011-2020
- Submitted a request for Biodiversity EA project to GEF in 2011, approval received (funds not yet disbursed)
- Locally work has begun to kick start the updating process



5.The Way Forward

- The Seychelles roadmap(as per UNDP-GEF BD-EA project)

3 MAIN COMPONENTS

- 1) Stocktaking and national target setting-
 - By end of 2012, a multi-sectoral/multi-stakeholder working group is established and it completes the stock-taking exercise.
 - By 2012, national targets in response to the global Aichi Targets are developed



- 2) NBSAP update-

- By early 2014, the Seychelles' NBSAP is fully updated, it is in line with the guidance in the CBD Strategic Plan (2011-2020) and has been submitted to the CBD COP

- 3) National frameworks for NBSAP implementation, CDB reporting and exchange mechanisms

- By 2013, complete the updating and improvement of national clearinghouse mechanisms
- By 2014, complete plan for implementing the NBSAP, including capacity, technology and finance needs assessment

An aerial photograph of a tropical island resort. The island is surrounded by clear, turquoise water. In the center, there is a large, developed area with many buildings, a marina filled with sailboats, and a sandy beach. The surrounding landscape is lush with green vegetation and trees. In the background, there are more islands and a mountain range under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

THANK YOU, MERCI!!!

QUESTIONS????????

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