

Mainstreaming Coastal & Marine Issues into National Planning & Budgetary Processes

Policy & Institutional Development Processes in the Seychelles

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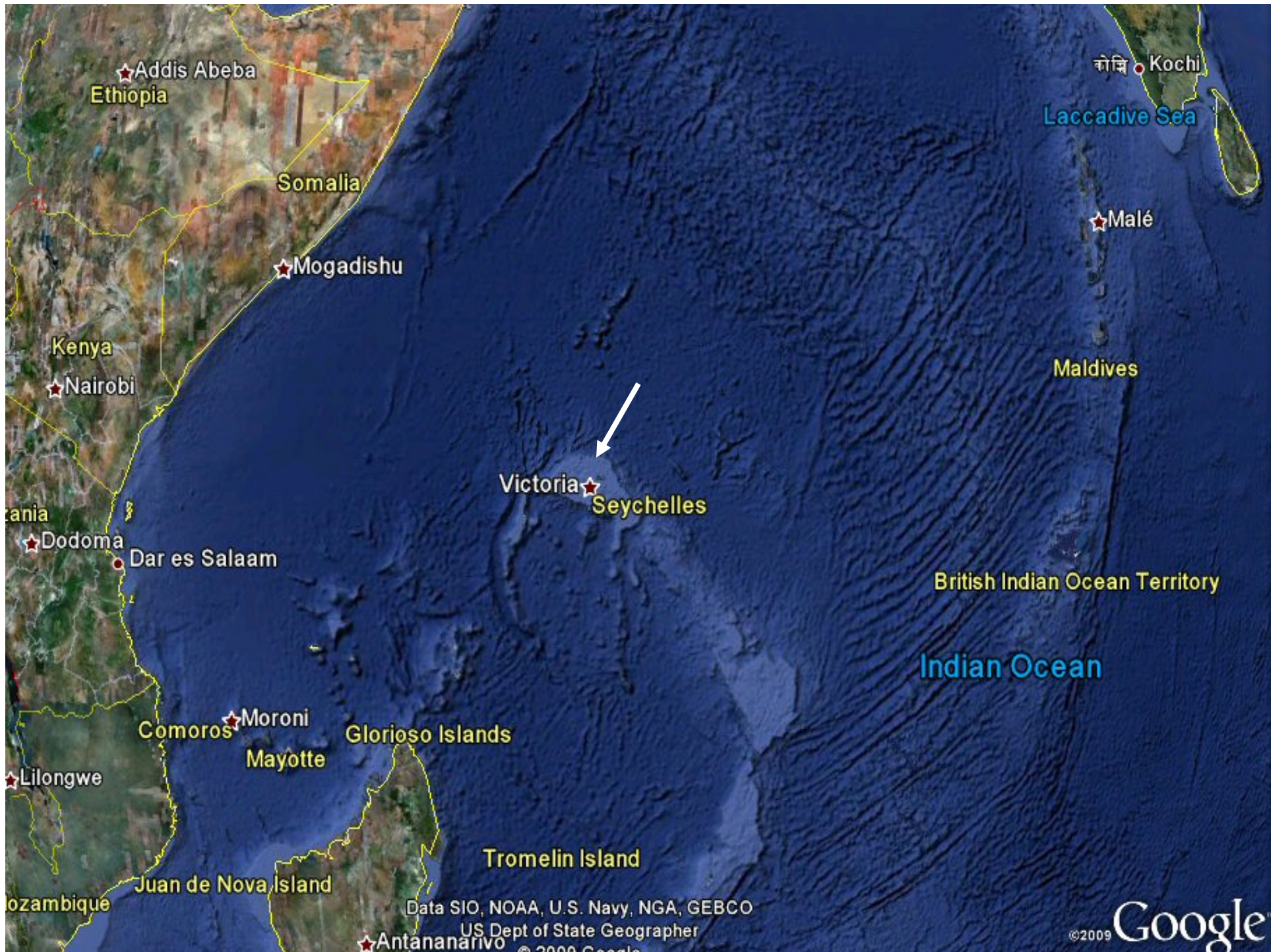
How this presentation is structured

- 1 Country Overview (Brief)
- 2 Integration of marine /coastal issues in National Programmes
- 3 Attempt to answer the three questions;

Q1. What key policy processes were identified for mainstreaming?

Q2. How did institutions organize themselves to ensure effective coordination to achieve mainstreaming?

Q3. What tools were developed to make the case for mainstreaming and how were these tools used to influence policymaking?



Seychelles

Composed of 115 islands in the Western Indian ocean

Three major populated islands

Composed of more ocean than land

EEZ 1.3 million sqkm

Land 453 sqkm

(Whole Country considered as coastal zone)

Population 86,300 (2008 estimate);

Depend 100% on coastal zone.

Seychelles

- Economy depends on natural resources
 - Fisheries
 - Tourism
- More recently financial sector becoming strong pillar of economy.
- **Environment seen as underlying economic base**

Seychelles



Unique Biodiversity



Pitcher Plant; Carnivorous plant

Islands separated from the African continent (Gondwana land) 120 million years ago

Remained in complete isolation.

Plants and animals found nowhere else in the world

Seychelles MPA



Great for diving
and snorkelling

Virgin marine
environment

Terrestrial Biodiversity

*Large collection of endemic
amphibians and reptiles !*



Seychelleptus seychellarum

Largest millipede in
the world

Terrestrial Biodiversity



Coco de mer; World
largest seed

Lodoceia Maldivica

Environment Mainstreaming

What is mainstreaming?

- Integration of the issue into national policies and strategies.

When is environment mainstreamed?

- When policies etc take into account its impact on the environment.

Environment Mainstreaming

E.g. La Digue island is the home of an endemic bird (veuve)

- Do we build an airport there?
- Do we allow a lot of vehicles?

Development policy takes into account the environment of the island



Environment Mainstreaming

This is why tourist go there!



Environment Mainstreaming

How to bring home the fish?



Q1. What key policy processes/issues were identified for the integration of marine/coastal concerns?

Political commitment

- Historically, Seychelles places a great emphasis on environment management.
- First country in SW Indian ocean to declare MPA (1973)
- Past & current President were Minister for Environment (right of passage?)

Protection of environment has therefore always been top of the agenda.

Cross Linkages

- Mainstreaming works when linkages with other sectors are made clear.

E.g. Impact of Land Based Sources e.g. poor solid waste management affects coastal and marine ecosystem which links to production sectors viz fisheries, tourism and human health. Hence the need for effective SW mgmt

Win Win Scenarios

Partnership with the private sector ; Not working against but with them

E.g. Tourism development near major wetland adopts it.

E.g. Hotels built close to turtle nesting sites can help with monitoring

Encouraging developers to use a wetland for tourist attraction rather than reclaim.

International trend

- International trends and best practices makes the case for integration.
- Linkages (directly or indirectly) with international agreements and obligations is a plus.

Education and Awareness



- Environmentally aware population ensures understanding for Env mainstreaming.
- Specialised (EIC) in DOE.

Education and Awareness

- Environmental NGO's are very active and have their own environmental dissemination network.
- Env experts moving into other fields e.g. tourism, fisheries makes it easier to mainstream env issues into other sectors.

Timing

Mainstream when Policies are being developed, reviewed and updated.

-Policy reviews can be outcome of projects, tied to financial mechanisms for further implementation.

Presence of National Framework / Strategy



- Most important is the National Environmental Plan of Seychelles (EMPS).
- National strategy document + action plan for mainstreaming environmental (not only marine or coastal) management in national development over 10 year period.
- All projects developed use EMPS as blue print.

Why an EMPS?

- Country makes it clear what its programmes are and how much to spend (financial planning)
- Mechanism ensures cross sectoral linkages e.g. education & awareness
- Easier to receive funding (donor and local)
- Mixed results in implementation. Some implemented on time.. some takes longer

Institutional mechanism is required

- The EMPS steering committee is the main institutional setup.
- Structure is Independent and composed of many NGO's. DOE chairs.
- EMPS SC has deviated from monitoring to information exchange.

Maintaining leadership of the process is as important as the mechanism itself.

Incentives (implementation)

- Our experience is that people lose interest quickly and without incentives, implementation becomes difficult.
- Incentives (or dis-incentives?) must be considered for future implementation modalities (SC meeting)

Q2. How did institutions organize themselves to ensure effective coordination to achieve mainstreaming?

- Institutions are organised by default as part of the EMPS Steering committee.
- All Ministries represented.
- Coordination of 10 or more sectors is not easy. Strong leadership required.

Q3. What tools were developed to make the case for mainstreaming (evidence/case study/cost-benefit analysis) and how were these tools used to influence policymaking?

- No particular case. Importance of Env on production sectors is evident for all.
- DOE have a strong say in all planning applications and issues environmental authorisations
- Scientific data is used to influence policy makers



Thank You