

Process Framework for Restriction of Access to/use of Natural Resources (Voluntary Resettlement policy)

'The development of a co-management plan, designed by fishers, to minimise the impact of the Seychelles artisanal fishery on threatened species'

Green Islands Foundation

1. The Mahé plateau (approximate area: 39,000km²) supports the Seychelles artisanal fishery, excluding the legally restricted no-take marine protected areas, this area is freely accessible to all Seychellois artisanal fishers. The project will be undertaken on the principal island of Mahé where 90% of artisanal catch is landed.
2. This project will provide a baseline of threatened species occurrence in the artisanal fishery through fisher consultation, literature review and an intensive 12-month survey of artisanal catch. Fisher consultation will be undertaken through a full Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) process involving older and current fishers. National information repositories such as the national archives and fishing Authority documentation centre will be utilised to source historical data and accounts.
3. Information and photos gathered during the inception phase will be used to develop the basic content and format for a species guide and training/educational materials which will be freely available to all project beneficiaries. These outputs will be used to train fishery technical staff and fishers, as appropriate, in the identification of, and gathering data on, threatened species.
4. Through inclusive meetings, discussions and workshops, fishers will be supported through the process of identifying pragmatic measures that they agree to undertake on a voluntary basis to reduce the catch of threatened species. Fishers will be provided with technical information they need to supplement their practical and traditional knowledge of threatened species subject to the artisanal fishery. Fishers will then discuss together to identify pragmatic measures they can undertake to reduce fishing pressure (e.g. catch release, reduced fishing effort on critical habitats, gear modification etc) on threatened species. These measures and controls will be proposed by fishers themselves and only after reaching consensus will they be submitted to Seychelles Fishing Authority for regulation under the 2014 fisheries act. Consequently this project will not be proposing to enforce any involuntary restrictions to natural resources.
5. Based on FPIC principles, these measures will be developed and formalised into an artisanal fishery plan for the management of threatened species on the Mahé Plateau to be regulated as a co-management plan under the 2014 Fisheries Act. Once regulated these measures will be co-managed by both the Seychelles Fishing Authority and the fishermen themselves.

6. FPIC principles, which will be identified, defined and formalized into the project process, will be applied throughout the public awareness and information campaigns as well as the grievance mechanism in place.