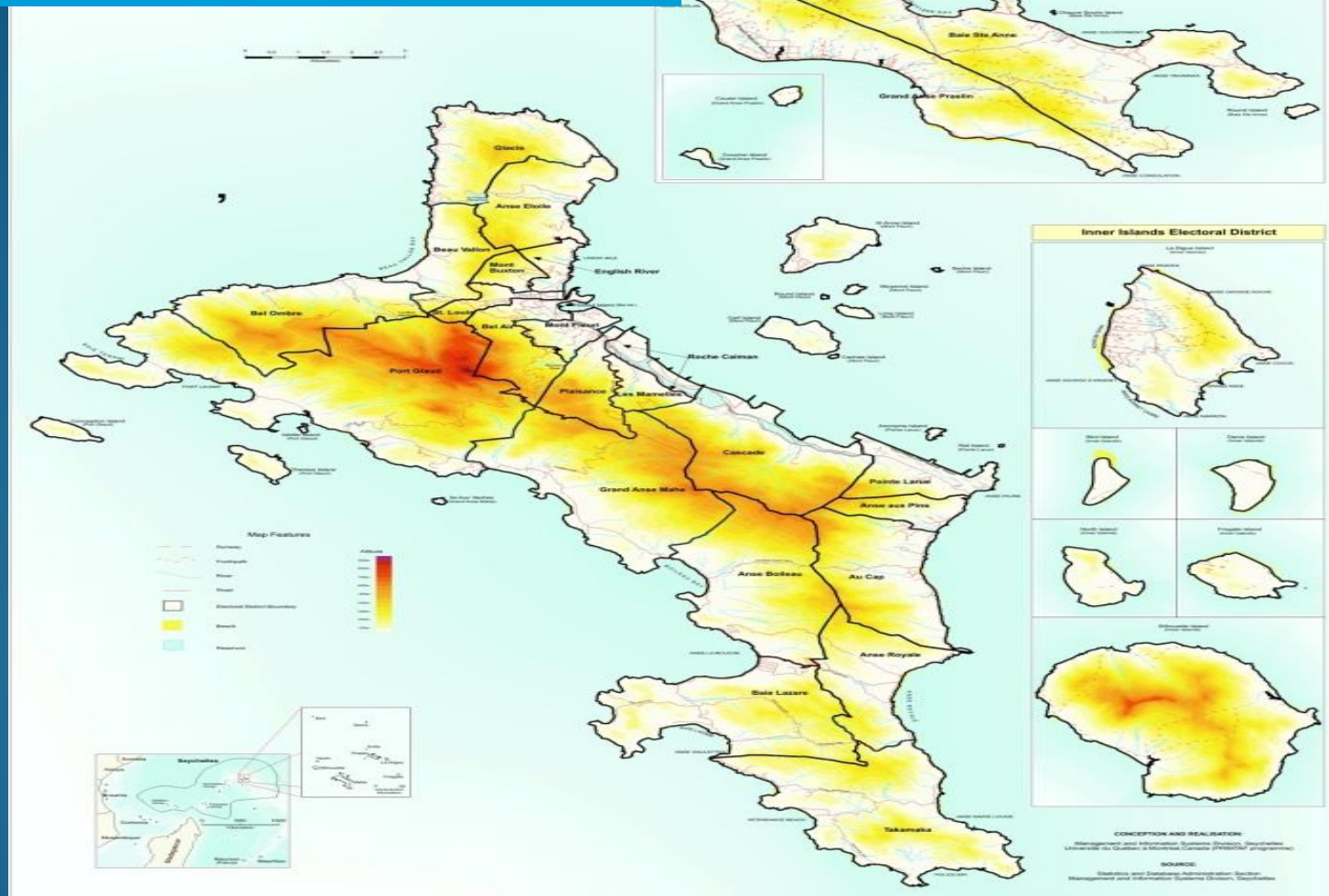


# Seychelles Country Presentation on Biodiversity and Health in Maputo Mozambique

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## Introduction

- Seychelles islands are archipelago of an islands nation in the western Indian Ocean north of Madagascar.
- Classified as an upper middle income small island developing state (SIDS), Seychelles has a population of 87,440 (NSB census 2011). Seychelles is endowed with 115 islands, (1.4 million km<sup>2</sup>) of exclusive economic zone (EEZ), a 455 km<sup>2</sup> landmass and approximately a stretch of 491 km. coastline.

## **Socio-economic Situation**

- Seychelles has made significant socio economic progress ranking amongst the top 60 Human Development achievers globally.
- Second highest ranked African country on the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Human Development Index 1
- Tourism, off-shore trading, fisheries and petroleum shipping are the major income earners.

# As a SIDS, Seychelles faces constraint such as;

- remoteness to major financial centers and markets
- diseconomies of scale leading to high transactional costs,
- limited land resources,
- environmental fragility and climate change impacts and high dependence imported foreign human resources.

# Present state

- No formal mechanism is in place to coordinate directly health and environment issues (there are however a number of inter-sectoral committee and boards established) e.g. Pesticide board, bio-security steering committee.

(Ad-hoc collaboration, Disease outbreak management, Environment management).

- No specific research agenda i.e. existing mechanisms which only covers priority areas e.g. fresh and marine water biodiversity, air, soil, disease vector surveillance.
- No current budget allocated for inter- sectoral programs implementation which impedes the development of such programs. Funds available only for national emergency or disasters and not for research and capacity building purposes(DRDM).

# Seychelles SANA findings

- Key Environment risk factors to human health and ecosystem integrity:
  - *Sea level rise,*
  - *erosion,*
  - *floods*
  - *effects of Tsunami*
  - *landslide*
  - *flooding*
  - *Forest fires*
  - *disease vector proliferation*
  - *Soil degradation and*
  - *simple waste*

# Top Ten priority Needs

1. Strengthening collaboration between Department of Environment and Department of Public Health to coordinate the environmental risk factors to human health and eco-system integrity
2. Strengthening health sector response to climate change
3. Strengthening and formalizing intersectoral coordination mechanism for health and environment
4. Prioritization of the management of environment risk factors on national development agenda
5. Establishment of systematic assessment of Health/Environment impacts



# National priorities and needs (2)

6. Establishing a formal alliance that enables joint implementation of International Health Regulation and Infectious Disease Surveillance and Response
7. Development and implementation of Joint strategies for both health and environment impact assessment
8. Strengthening capacities of public health and environment related institutions (PHD, DOE, NGOs, Boards and the private sector)
9. Advocating for the establishment of a National Research agenda, repository and website which includes health and environment issues
10. Enhancing Partnership for better resource mobilisation and allocation



# Examples of issues currently being jointly addressed

- Sanitation
- Water quality
- Pollution
- Occupational risks (policy, standard, M&E)



# Conclusion and Way Forward

Health and Biodiversity is a new concept which would require clear protocols that would enable effective collaboration between relevant ministries (e.g.NBSAP)