

S.I 49 of 2021**NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE CONSERVANCY ACT***(Cap 141)***National Parks and Nature Conservancy (Procedure for Designation of Areas)
Regulations, 1971 (S.I. 110 of 1971)*****Notice of intention to designate the Ile Du Sud
Farquhar Atoll National Park***

WHEREAS Ile Du Sud is being proposed as suitable for a 'National Park' protected area status because it has very high biodiversity values and contains species and habitats worthy of protection as detailed in the following paragraphs and protection of Ile Du Sud will increase protection of low-lying coral islands within the Seychelles protected landscape;

AND WHEREAS Ile Du Sud is formed of impressive active coastal dunes up to 20 m high, with older dunes inland forming a hummocky surface. The vegetation is thick predominated by Coconut *Cocos nucifera* and Casuarina *Casuarinaequisetifolia* woodland with salt-tolerant coastal screen of native species including Vouloutye *Scaevolataccada*, Bwataba *Tournefortiaargentea*, Porse *Cordiasubcordata*, Bwakasan Bordmer *Guettardaspeciosa*, Bwadanmann *Pemphisacidula*, Bwamatlo *Surianamaritima* and Patatran *Ipomoea* spp. The taller introduced Coconut and Casuarina woodland suffers disproportionately from cyclone damage, while the native vegetation is far more resistant to cyclone damage. Some native broadleaved species, Bwablan *Hernandianymphaeifolia* and Mapou *Pisoniagrandis*, grow in the shelter of the dunes, with more Bwablan around the old settlement, where introduced medicinal, agricultural and ornamental plants such as Cotton *Gossypiumhirsutum* and Castor Oil *Ricinuscommunis* are established. The lagoon shore presents a wide ridge of sand with three incursions which flood during spring tides and are known as barachois. Dunes are vegetated with Vouloutye and sparse grasses. The long seaward beach provides nesting habitat for turtles: several hundred Endangered Green Turtles *Cheloniamydas* and low numbers of Critically Endangered Hawksbill Turtles *Eretmochelysimbricata* nest. The colony of Red-footed Boobies *Sula sula* on Ile du Sud is one of the three largest in Seychelles and was estimated at 12,600 breeding pairs in 2018. Numbers of breeding Red-footed Boobies exceed the A4 threshold for a BirdLife International Important Bird & Biodiversity Area (IBA)

(BirdLife Data Zone- IBA criteria: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/ibacritglob>). Great Frigatebirds *Fregata minor* and Lesser Frigatebirds *Fregata ariel* roost among the Red-footed Boobies of Ile du Sud. Ile du Sud has three barachois which flood with saltwater only during spring tides; these barachois provide unique habitat and are a popular breeding site for the Red-footed Boobies. Coconut Crabs *Birgus latro* are present. The tiny Bouton's Skink *Cryptoblepharus boutonii* and the Gold Dust Gecko *Phelsuma laticauda* are present on Ile du Sud;

AND WHEREAS to protect and conserve the unique habitats and biodiversity of Ile du Sud-Farquhar Atoll for the conservation of biodiversity and for the benefit, advantage and enjoyment of present and future generations;

AND WHEREAS as required by regulations 2 and 3 of the National Parks and Nature Conservancy (Procedure for Designation of Areas) Regulations, 1971 (S.I 110 of 1971), read with the Transfer of Statutory Functions (Seychelles National Environment Commission) Order, 1998, (S.I 61 of 1998), the Minister responsible for Environment hereby gives notice of his intention to designate the area described in the Schedule, namely the Ile Du Sud Farquhar Atoll as a National Park;

AND WHEREAS copies of the map showing the area can be inspected free of charge during normal working hours at the following place —

- (i) The Documentation Centre of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change at the Botanical Gardens, Mont Fleuri, Mahe;
- (ii) The Department of Environment, Fond B'Offay, Praslin;

In addition copies of the map showing the areas may be inspected on the following electronic platforms: www.mecc.gov.sc or sgerry@env.gov.sc

NOW THEREFORE any person having an interest in the area described in the Schedule who wishes to make representations regarding the proposed designated area, may do so by forwarding their written representations to the Principal Secretary, Environment Department, Botanical Gardens, Mont Fleuri before the 25th August, 2021.

SCHEDULE
COORDINATES

Ile Du Sud Farquhar Atoll National Park

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436	519387.3157	8876199.55
437	519353.3831	8876110.119

Dated this 13th day of July, 2021.

**FLAVIEN JOUBERT
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,
CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT**
