

# LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN CURIEUSE AND CÔTE D'OR, SEYCHELLES 2011



# Local Development Plan

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## Curieuse Island and Côte d'Or

VERSION 1

## **Caveat**

The current document is a work in progress. Many people contributed to its production by way of field trips, and through providing diverse information or other input. Most importantly, the local communities and stakeholders gave extensive input through open community meetings as well as more specific planning sessions. The document provides a solid foundation on which to base further planning and implementation, as it captures the needs and aspirations of the local community. The document is not perfect and can be expected to evolve as circumstances change and more parties become involved, and make further changes to it. That is why it is labelled “Version 1”.

## **Acknowledgements**

**Many people have contributed to the development of this document. They include the following stakeholders:**

Curieuse NPA staff  
Côte d'Or beach operators  
Dive centre owners and staff  
Hotel staff in Côte d'Or  
The Chairman of Praslin Fishers' Association

**Also Authorities, Institutions and NGOs contributed input to this plan. They include the following;**

Seychelles National Park Authority  
Seychelles Fishing Authority  
Curieuse MPA Manager  
The Green Islands Foundation

**The following team members from EcoAfrica and partners have worked on the development of this plan:**

Ms Michelle Etienne (the Green Islands Foundation), Ms Frida Lanshammar (EcoAfrica), Ms Irene Bau (Student at the Maritime Training Centre, MTC), Ms Pema Cherry (Student at MTC), Ms Naomie Joseph (Student at MTC)

The work of conducting stakeholder consultations and writing this plan has been funded as part of the DLIST project ([www.dlist-asclme.org](http://www.dlist-asclme.org)), which is part of the regional Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem (ASCLME) Project ([www.asclme.org](http://www.asclme.org)). Funding was provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

## **Vision for the Curieuse Island and Côte d'Or community**

The Vision for Curieuse Island and Côte d'Or was developed during a series of stakeholder consultations on Curieuse Island and the beaches around Côte d'Or as well as on Praslin and Mahé. A number of individual stakeholder interviews have been undertaken, and also meetings with NGOs, government institutions and parastatal organisations. The vision presents the collective views of the people who live and work in this area, as to where they want to see this area and themselves one day in the future. The Vision therefore functions as a guiding light on the road into the future, with the Local Development Plan for Curieuse and Côte d'Or serving as the road map:

***“We want a community that flourishes culturally, socially and economically. There should be more law enforcement to deal with the problems of drugs and theft. We want the community to be more actively involved in development processes and there should always be proper EIAs carried out to avoid costly mistakes. Any further hotel construction in the area must be done in close consultation with the community and in balance with the environment. There should be less corruption in all sectors of society.***

***We want an active youth centre, more sports facilities and cultural activities as well as a clean and nice looking beach front with a good road, street lights, a more developed sewage treatment system, a well equipped fish market/landing site, and well maintained public toilets. The community should be more engaged in the tourism industry through local handicrafts, local restaurants, shops owned by people from the region etc. The MPA should have better facilities such as mooring buoys, demarcation buoys and well trained staff.”***

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## **Acronyms**

ASCLME	Agulhas and Somali Currents Large Marine Ecosystem
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DLIST	Distance Learning and Information Sharing Tool
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FBOA	Fishing Boat Owners' Association
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LED	Local Economic Development
MEDA	Marine Environment Diagnostic Analyses
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MPRC	Multipurpose Resource Centre
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PDF	Praslin Development Fund
PFA	Praslin Fishers' Association
PMU	Project Management Unit
PUC	Public Utilities Corporation
ReCoMap	Regional Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Coastal Zones of the Indian Ocean Countries
SA	Situational Analysis
SAA	Seychelles Agriculture Agency
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SCMRT-MPA	Seychelles Centre for Marine Research and Technology – Marine Park Authority <sup>1</sup>
SDF	Spatial Development Framework
SEnPA	Small Enterprise Promotion Agency
SFA	Seychelles Fishing Authority
SNPA	Seychelles National Parks Authority
TDA	Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WIO – LaB	A Project addressing land-based activities in the Western Indian Ocean

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<sup>1</sup> This is now referred to as the Seychelles National Parks Authority

## **1. Executive Summary**

Curieuse Island and the nearby Côte d'Or beach was chosen as the demonstration site for the DLIST ASCLME project for Seychelles, based on the demonstration site criteria for the project, which considers proximity to biodiversity hotspot, communities' dependency on marine and coastal resources for daily livelihoods, high probability of replication and buy-in from other stakeholders etc. Curieuse is a popular tourist destination and most people in the surrounding areas sustain their families on activities related to coastal tourism. Fishing is also an important livelihood in the region, even if Curieuse Island itself is a no-take Marine Protected Area (MPA).

Curieuse is the fifth largest island in the Seychelles (2.86 km<sup>2</sup>) and it belongs to the “inner group” of islands in the Seychelles, located just off the north western coast of Praslin. Curieuse is, aside from Praslin, the only other island where the famous Coco-de-mer grows naturally. Curieuse also boasts many different species of mangrove. Today Curieuse is home to an exciting giant land tortoise rearing project. The island is also an important nesting site for hawksbill turtles. Since there are as many as 14 MPAs in the Seychelles it was considered very important to select the DLIST demonstration site in a protected area to draw as many lessons learned as possible also on issues related to marine conservation and community involvement, for replication in or around other MPAs in the Seychelles.

There are problems with not so well planned hotel developments in the area, along the north western coast of Praslin. Curieuse Island itself remains uninhabited, with the exception of the MPA staff and one local family working with SNPA. Beach encroaching is becoming more common along Côte d'Or and clear cutting of vegetation on the side of Praslin that faces Curieuse Island has caused major problems with sedimentation during rainy season. Climate change is also impacting the reefs and there seems to be a problem with some illegal fishing in the no-take MPA. All these factors contribute to an ever increasing pressure on the coastal and marine resources and the beaches, which are being degraded and eroded. There is therefore an urgent need for action to ensure a more sustainable resource use and better planning of any future hotel development in the area to prevent ongoing degradation. The community members living in Côte d'Or are also worried that many young people from the area are failing their education and end up living like beach boys – making their day to day livelihoods on drug trade and harassing tourists. This kind of activity gives the area a bad reputation and it becomes a problem also for the local population.

The consultants visited this site to meet with people who make a living around Curieuse Island; by either being involved in tourism activities, fishing or simply being a stakeholder because they live in this area. The purpose was to collect the views of all the stakeholders concerned with any activities in the area to identify problems, weaknesses and opportunities for sustainable development. Consultations were also undertaken to try and find out what the people perceive as solutions to the problems and issues related to marine and coastal resource use and future development, and to create a vision for the future.

### **1.1. Aim of the Development Plan**

The Development Plan for Curieuse and Côte d'Or aims to foster and maintain a higher quality of life on and near the Côte d'Or beach and the Curieuse Marine National Park and other marine areas by unlocking local economic development opportunities; a good plan may typically call for improved communication, better planning, construction of infrastructure and services, the creation of links between the MPA management and the local community and the creation of sustainable business opportunities based on the strengths and potential of the areas, and general employment that is linked to opportunities in the area.

### **1.2. The Development Plan in a nutshell**

- a. The Development Plan is considered an important instrument that can guide development in the area, leading to an improved quality of life for all stakeholders.
- b. It was developed as a result of extensive engagement with local traders/operators and community members as well as consultations with relevant authorities and other key role players.
- c. Community input was collected through individual interviews. It is seen as crucial to ensure that local interests were safeguarded to instil a sense of ownership of the plan and vision by the community.
- d. Key informers representing Seychelles National Parks Authority, the Marine Park staff on Curieuse, the Seychelles Fishing Authority, the Green Islands Foundation, the Praslin Fishers' Association, hotel managers and dive centre owners/managers in Côte d'Or also contributed to the formulation of this plan through key informers' interviews and meetings.
- e. Most importantly, the Plan pursues a collectively constructed Vision, and can be considered a road map to this end:

*“We want a community that flourishes culturally, socially and economically. There should be more law enforcement to deal with the problems of drugs and theft. We want the community to be more actively involved in development processes and there should always be proper EIAs carried out to avoid costly mistakes. Any further hotel construction in the area must be done in close consultation with the community and in balance with the environment. There should be less corruption in all sectors of society. We want an active youth centre, more sports facilities and cultural activities as well as a clean and nice looking beach front with a good road, street lights, a more developed sewage treatment system, a well equipped fish market/landing site, and well maintained public toilets. The community should be more engaged in the tourism industry through local handicrafts, local restaurants, shops owned by people from the region etc. The MPA should have better facilities such as mooring buoys, demarcation buoys and well trained staff.”*

- f. There are five sections to the Development Plan. The first section provides an *Introduction* with essential background, the purpose of the plan and a basic description of the area covered by the plan.

- g. The second section explains the *Methodology* in a fair amount of detail. Consultations were exhaustive and the process fully transparent.
- h. The third section presents the *Outcomes* of the consultative process, socio-economic and other research and desktop work that may impact the development plan.
- i. The fourth section provides a combined *Strategy and Implementation Plan* that is short, direct and suitable for local consumption.
- j. The fifth section presents the *Guidelines* for future development of this area.

### **1.3. Major issues identified through stakeholder consultations**

The stakeholder consultations identified many issues that hinder good and sustainable development in this area. The below list is a summary of the most common and most important issues (grouped together).

1. Drugs are common in the community, particularly among the young generation. This is a big problem that leads to increased criminality and unemployment;
2. There are too many hotels and other development close to the beaches, which increase beach erosion and cut off people's access to the beaches;
3. There is a general problem of lack of law enforcement – which leads to poor EIA processes, lack of police interference in criminal activity and tourism harassment, and lack of enforcement in the MPA;
4. There is a lack of activities and sports facilities for youth in Côte d'Or and this increases the risk of people getting into drugs;
5. Environmental problems such as insufficient sewage and waste water treatment, beach erosion, dirty beaches, global warming, changing in the rainy season, and sedimentation from Raffles Hotel;
6. There is a general lack of trust and lack of communication between the community and the authorities;
7. The infrastructure in Côte d'Or is poor; including bad road, lack of street lights, no public toilets on the beach, the bus service is not sufficient, there is sometimes a lack of water, frequent power cuts, poor hospital services, it is far to the petrol service station etc.;
8. The facilities in the MPA need to be upgraded and there is a need for additional mooring buoys. Also the rangers need to patrol the area more frequently;
9. The fishers lack access to a proper fish landing site with cold storage facilities and a place to sell the fish to the community in a hygienic way;
10. The cost of living is constantly going up, while the salaries remain the same, which makes it very hard for people to make a living;
11. There is not enough land available for the local people if someone wanted to develop a business.

### **1.4. Major opportunities identified through stakeholder consultations**

The community has also identified good opportunities that could be further developed to contribute to people's livelihoods and support a better future life. They are as follows;

1. Tourism is a great opportunity that can bring a lot of job opportunities and income to the community;
2. The Creole Festival is a very good initiative which could be expanded or marketed better to attract even more people;
3. People are generally well educated and speak many languages;
4. The people are friendly and helpful;
5. The marine park and the beautiful environment is a good opportunity as it brings tourists to the area;
6. There are rich marine resources that could be further developed to give more revenue to people;
7. Cooling, storing and processing facilities would give more revenue for the fishers;
8. People could be more encouraged to do small businesses such as local handicrafts, a small take-away restaurant with local food etc.;
9. Farming could also be developed further to bring income to people;
10. A day-care centre would be great for the community.

### **1.5. Main areas of interventions as described in the Implementation Plan**

These identified issues are targeted by nine areas of intervention, also taking the listed opportunities into consideration. The interventions are linked to the listed issues they are intended to target in the Strategy and Implementation Plan (section five of this document). Some areas of intervention cover more than one issue, and some issues cut across several areas of intervention.

1. Infrastructure upgrade project, including improved road, street lights, upgrades sewerage treatment, construction of public toilets on the beach, etc.;
2. A Multipurpose Resource Centre (MPRC), which can include an IT centre, a youth centre, a space for community handicraft development and training activities, a small shop for community products, a day care centre, a solar drying area for fruit and other natural products etc.;
3. A fish landing site and processing centre, which should include cold storage facilities and a hygienic processing and selling area for marine products;
4. A community farming project, to encourage more farming activities. Initially it is proposed that fruit farming, processing (drying), and packaging is encouraged;
5. Set-up of a community security group to support the tourism police and National Police Force with security problems around Côte d'Or;
6. MPA upgrading and outreach project, which should focus on upgrading the facilities on the island, to install additional mooring buoys, to conduct training with the island

rangers, to initiate a more active community and school environmental education programme, to introduce a salary incentive for rangers to catch poachers etc.;

7. Access to land and improved land-use planning, to improve development and business opportunities for the community members;
8. Eco-/Community tourism development, to increase community involvement in tourism activities and to increase the revenue spread to the local community;
9. Involvement of Private Sector for financial support to development project and community support through Corporate Social Responsibility programmes.



**Figure 1: Coco-de-mer nuts displayed on Curieuse Island**

## 2. Introduction

### 2.1. Background of the Project

The Agulhas and Somali Currents Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLME) is a regional project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It is a regional programme that embraces a Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) approach to the management of the marine resources and the coastal areas flanked by the Agulhas and Somali Current LMEs. The ASCLME Project is currently in its planning phase for five years, and it supports nine African nations, including Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania, who share the resources of these two marine ecosystems located within the Western Indian Ocean (WIO).

One of the objectives of the ASCLME Project is to acquire sufficient baseline data to support an ecosystem-based approach to the management of the ASCLME. Towards this overall objective, the ASCLME Project is adopting a DLIST (Distance Learning and Information Sharing Tool) as one of its approaches to develop effective communications between and among stakeholders and decision makers within the region. This tool focuses on the creation of effective and sustainable mechanisms that allow for continuing opportunity for the local communities and decision makers to engage in effective two way communication over time, and thus help ensure a continuing two way flow of information between community level stakeholders and decision-makers.

The DLIST intervention is two-fold with a web-based platform ([www.dlist-asclme.org](http://www.dlist-asclme.org)) offering online distance learning courses, a discussion forum, a document and photo library etc. To encourage stakeholders without access to internet to take an active part in the planning phase of the project, DLIST works with demonstration site communities in all of the participating countries, except Somalia. As part of the DLIST demonstration site intervention, field visits have been conducted for direct, face-to-face interaction with local communities, as well as with government and non-government authorities. The planning process follows a Local Economic Development (LED) planning approach. Curieuse Island was selected as the DLIST demonstration site for Seychelles.

According to the World Bank “the purpose of local economic development (LED) is to build up the economic capacity of a local area to improve its economic future and quality of life for all. It is a process by which public, business and non-government sector partners work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment”.

The information collected during the planning activities is used for two parallel purposes; to inform the development of a Strategic Action Programme for the implementation phase of the ASCLME Project, and to develop a free standing Development Plan with the purpose to build up the economic capacity of a local area in such a way that its economic future can be improved, with a positive impact on the quality of life for all inhabitants.

The Development Plan has from the very beginning had a focus on coastal and marine resource management, and it tries to optimize existing economic opportunities for future development and improvement of the way the resources are used on the public beach. The Development Plan aims to foster and maintain a higher quality of life by unlocking local economic development opportunities. A good Local Economic Development (LED) Plan may typically call for improved livelihood options by rectifying weaknesses and optimizing opportunities existing in the area, that have been identified by the community during the LED planning process. The LED Plan may also inform certain private sector initiatives. Further, a good LED Plan can also assist in unlocking donor-funded interventions. Without a LED Plan, development at the local level runs the risk of ending up consisting mostly of *ad hoc* interventions, or projects that have been planned *for* the community *by* people situated far away from their day-to-day realities, rather than well planned interventions as identified by the community themselves.

Making a LED Plan requires a collective vision formulated by the local community. The vision defines a point somewhere in the future to which the community aspires to. The vision is the guiding light for the development of

Sustainable development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs. It is generally accepted that a balance between Economic, Environmental and Social dimensions have to be achieved in the pursuit of sustainability. UNESCO adds a fourth pillar, namely Culture.

strategies that are rooted in a situational analysis of the economic potential that exists locally. Ground level realities and the specificities of the area have to be taken into account to ensure that plans and expectations are realistic. The LED Plan harnesses the input from the local community, government, regional authorities, and other role players into a set of strategies and guidelines aimed at creating a suitable climate for sound, equitable development and economic growth. The current Local Development Plan for Curieuse and Côte d'Or embraces local values, and strikes a clear balance between socio-cultural, environmental and economic issues of the public beach area.

## 2.2. Purpose

The overall purpose of the development planning initiative, through the DLIST ASCLME Project, was to design a strategy that would unlock economic growth potential in Curieuse and Côte d'Or, more specifically:

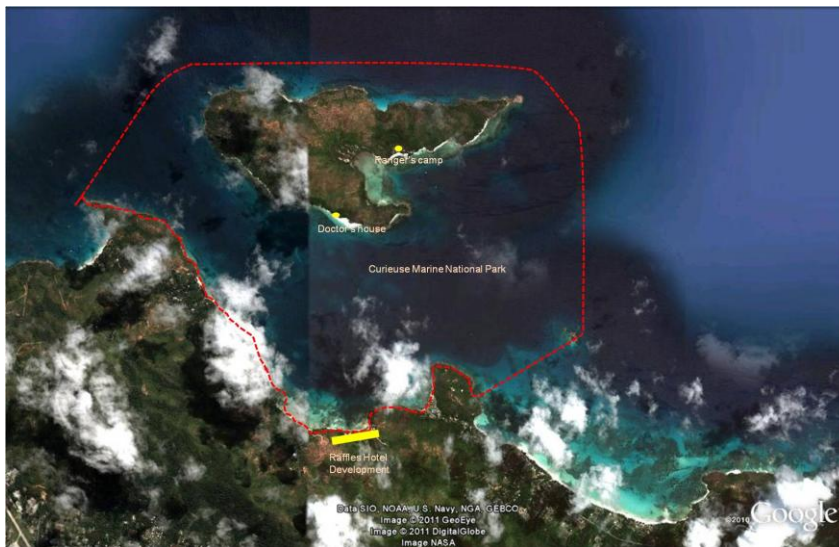
- i. To produce a Situational Analysis (SA) of existing and potential opportunities, potential obstacles, socio-economic profile of the studied population, as well as other necessary information that have a potential for resource conservation and socio-economic development. The SA will provide the rational basis for the Local Development Plan.



- ii. To develop a Local Development Plan in a participatory manner involving all stakeholders; that is, local and other beneficiaries as well as entities that can contribute to the implementation of the Plan.
- iii. To produce an implementation plan for proposed interventions that have been identified during the process.

### **2.3. Curieuse Island and Côte d'Or Beach**

Curieuse Island and the nearby Côte d'Or beach were selected as the demonstration site for the DLIST ASCLME Project in Seychelles. Curieuse Island is located just off the north coast of the second biggest island in Seychelles, Praslin Island (see Map 1). Curieuse falls in the Baie St Anne District, which covers the northern half of Praslin Island. Praslin Island has an estimated population of around 6,500 people. There is one family living permanently on Curieuse Island, and the Seychelles National Park Authority (SNPA) has a number of staff members that are based at the rangers' station on the island. Curieuse Island and its surrounding waters obtained marine park status in 1979. The island is only 1 mile from Praslin Island and is small enough to be explored in a day, while at the same time ecologically and biologically very important. The island's ecosystem comprises of mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs, thick coastal forests, rough terrain, rocky outcrops and dry scrubland where endemic species of plants evolved for arid conditions predominate. Curieuse and Praslin are the only two islands where the famous cocode-mer grows naturally. This tropical system plays crucial ecological and economic roles in the maintenance and successful management of this marine park,



**Map 1: Showing the outline of the Curieuse Marine Park, the rangers' base on the island, the old doctor's house and also the large hotel development by Raffles Hotel on Praslin Island. The Côte d'Or beach is seen in the bottom right corner.**

which is managed by the Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA).

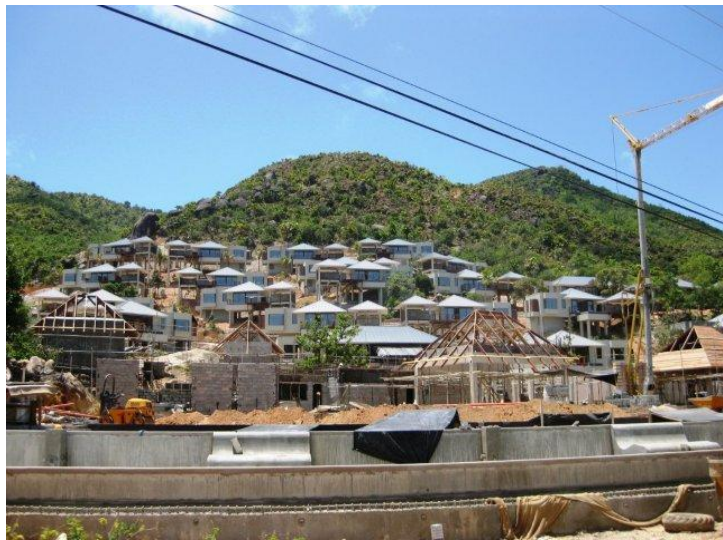
The close proximity to Praslin makes the island ideal for day trips for both local and foreign visitors of all age groups and natural interests. The local communities living near Curieuse earn their main income either through fishing or tourism activities. The tourism activities include taking clients on boat excursions to Curieuse and other smaller islands in the area for BBQ lunches and snorkelling on the reefs (see Figure 2). There are also two dive centres



**Figure 2: Barbeque lunch set-up on Curieuse Island**

operating in the marine park and they have recruited some local staff employed. The professional yacht companies also employ some people from the local community, but a majority of the community members involved in tourism operate so called “boat taxi” services to and from the islands and run their businesses with very little investments. There are some professional fishers operating in the area (outside the MPA borders), and many people fish only for local consumption. Fishing as well as the tourism industry is very much dependant on the beautiful, clean, and healthy marine and coastal environment that has made this area a famous destination in the first place.

The main beach area, Côte d’Or, is very developed in terms of large hotel constructions along the beach and there are also some private housing developments on the slopes facing Curieuse Island. Recently, the construction of a new hotel (the Raffles development) resulted in soil and sediment run-off, which has had a negative impact on the marine and coastal environment (see Figure 3). People complained a lot about this construction site and claim that when it rains the sea become completely red with soil from the slopes of Praslin. It will however be very difficult to estimate the damage caused by this sedimentation as no regular monitoring has been taking place before and after the construction of the hotel.



**Figure 3: The construction site for the new Raffles Hotel**

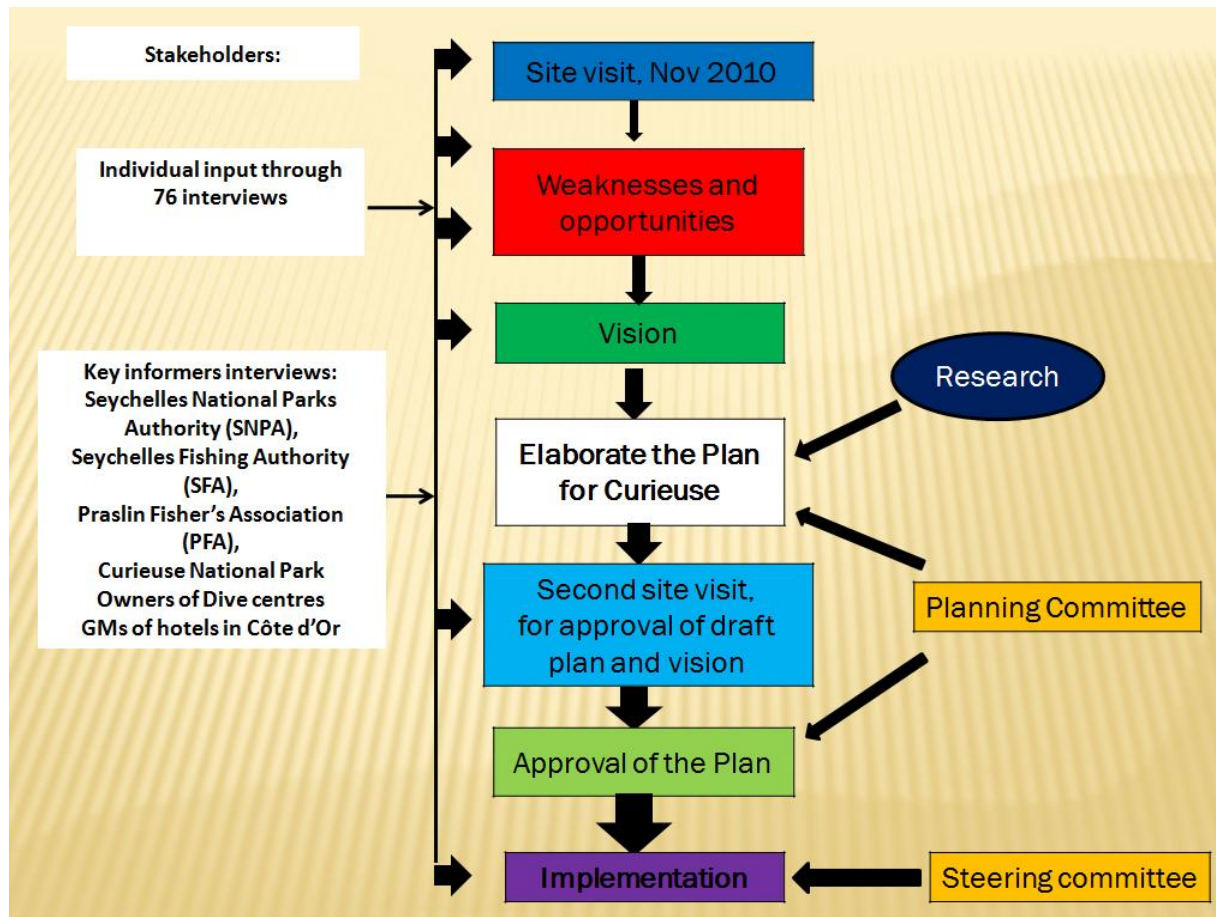
There are many stakeholders with an interest in the Curieuse Marine Park, the Côte d’Or beach and how the natural resources are managed. These stakeholders include among others;

- i. Fishers – the Praslin Fishers’ Association
- ii. Fish traders on the beach in Côte d’Or
- iii. Dive operators (there are two on Côte d’Or Beach – Octopus and White Tips)
- iv. Hoteliers
- v. Residents in the community
- vi. Curio and souvenir traders
- vii. Taxi boat operators
- viii. Tour operators

- ix. Yacht companies
- x. District youth groups
- xi. Green Islands Foundation
- xii. Global Vision International (an NGO that has an MoU with the marine park)
- xiii. Seychelles Fishing Authority
- xiv. District Administration
- xv. Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA)
- xvi. Praslin Development Fund (PDF)

### 3. Methodology

Broad-based consultations, discussions and interviews were conducted by the DLIST team during a site visit in November 2010. This section outlines and explains the adaptive methods and approaches used during the project duration. Figure 4 presents the Local Economic Development (LED) planning methodology adapted for the progress of the Local Development Plan for Curieuse and Côte d'Or in the form of a flowchart.



**Figure 4: LED planning methodology flow chart for Curieuse and Côte d'Or**

#### 3.1. Individual Interviews

Socio-economic research was conducted with people on the Côte d'Or beach, in the district, and out on Curieuse Island (see Figure 5). The questionnaire that was used is found in

Appendix I attached to this report. The purpose was to collect important socio-economic information about the people living and working in the area, to collect information about programs and projects that have been active in the area, as well as gathering individual opinions on the weaknesses, opportunities and the future vision.

A set of special questions for fishers were asked to get more specific input on the fishing related activities and the state of the marine resources. This questionnaire is found in Appendix 2.

A total of 76 individual interviews were conducted by the DLIST team with the support from three field assistants from the Maritime Training Centre in Mahé.



**Figure 5: MTC students conducting interviews in Côte d'Or**

### **3.2. Key informer interviews**

A number of meetings were also arranged with key informers in the area during the site visit. The discussions followed the outline of the key informers' questionnaire attached in Appendix 3. The following people/authorities have given input to the planning process;

- i. **Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA)** – Mr Denis Matatiken (SNPA CEO and the ASCLME Focal Point, Tel: +248 2723417, Email: [d.matatiken@env.gov.sc](mailto:d.matatiken@env.gov.sc) or [boga@seychelles.et](mailto:boga@seychelles.et)), Ms Christelle Betsy (ASCLME Capacity Building and Training Coordinator, Tel: +248 2716710 , Email: [c.betsy@scmrt-mpa.sc](mailto:c.betsy@scmrt-mpa.sc)), and Mr Rodney Quatre (Research Manager at SNPA Tel: +248 2762104, Email: [r.quatre@scmrt-mpa.sc](mailto:r.quatre@scmrt-mpa.sc)).
- ii. **Curieuse Marine National Park** – Mr Gary Ernesta (MPA Manager)
- iii. **Seychelles Fishing Authority** – Mr Vincent Lucas (Email: [vlucas@sfa.sc](mailto:vlucas@sfa.sc))
- iv. **White Tip Divers in Côte d'Or** – Mr Arnaud Vanacore (Owner, Email: [whitetipdivers@seychelles.net](mailto:whitetipdivers@seychelles.net))
- v. **Praslin Fishers' Association** – Mr Darrel Green (Chairperson of the Association, Tel: +248-2512228)
- vi. **Berjaya Resort in Côte d'Or** – Mr Churchill Gill (Manager, Email: [churchill.gill@berjayaseychelles.com](mailto:churchill.gill@berjayaseychelles.com))

## 4. Outcomes

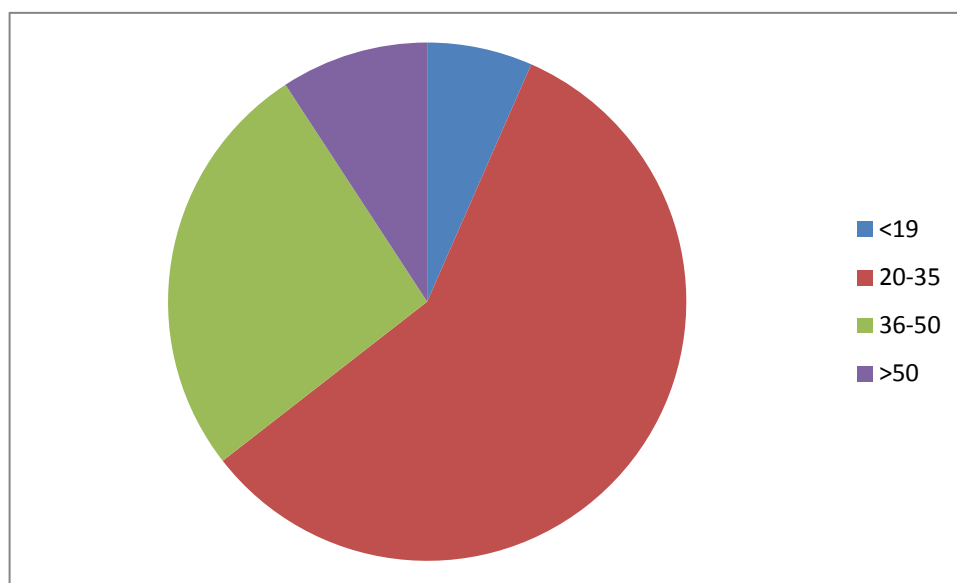
All consultations that have been undertaken have yielded results. The below section will start by presenting the results from the individual interviews, then the fishers interviews and finally the key informers' interviews/ meetings.

### 4.1. Outcomes from the individual interviews

Interviews followed an open format style; while there were questions, they were designed to encourage participants to speak freely and add whatever information they felt may be relevant to the socio-economic profile of the community or the development of a plan for the future development of the area. The purpose was not to arrive at a detailed analysis of all aspects of the community but to obtain reliable broad trends and to find out what aspects could be addressed by the plan, based on the 76 individual interviews conducted. The interview (see Appendix 1) investigated age and gender, education level, number of dependants in the households, existing economic livelihood activities and income sufficiency among the local inhabitants. The analysis also examines the current development stakeholders in the area. Of the 76 interviews that were conducted, 49 were male and 27 were female.

#### 4.1.1. Age composition

More than 50% of the interviewed people were between 20-35 years old, as can be seen in Figure 6. Overall, the people in this community are “young” with less than 10% in being over 50 years old. The average time that people have lived in the area was just over 21 years, which, when compared with the age, shows that this is an area that people move to for work and other reasons.

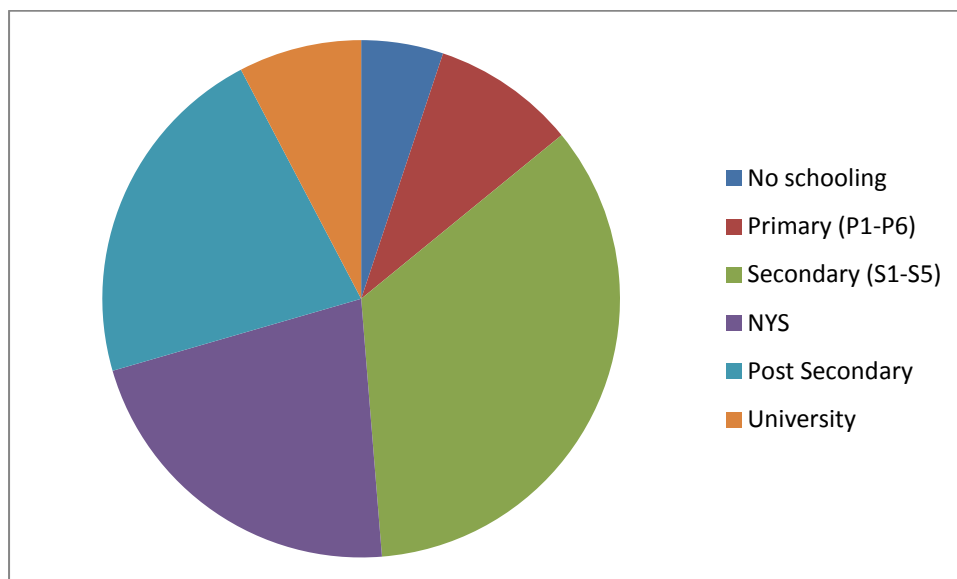


**Figure 6: Age composition of the interviewed community members**

#### 4.1.2. Education level

The interviewed people on the beach in Côte d'Or and on Curieuse have overall relatively high education level, with just over 50% of the interviewees having some post secondary education (Polytechnic, National Youth Service (NYS) or even University training) and only

5% having stated they have no formal education at all. National Youth Service (NYS) was a two-year residential programme at the end of the ninth year of school, aiming to develop 'the whole person' through community living and sharing<sup>2</sup>. Figure 7 below shows an overview of the education level stated by the interviewed community members.



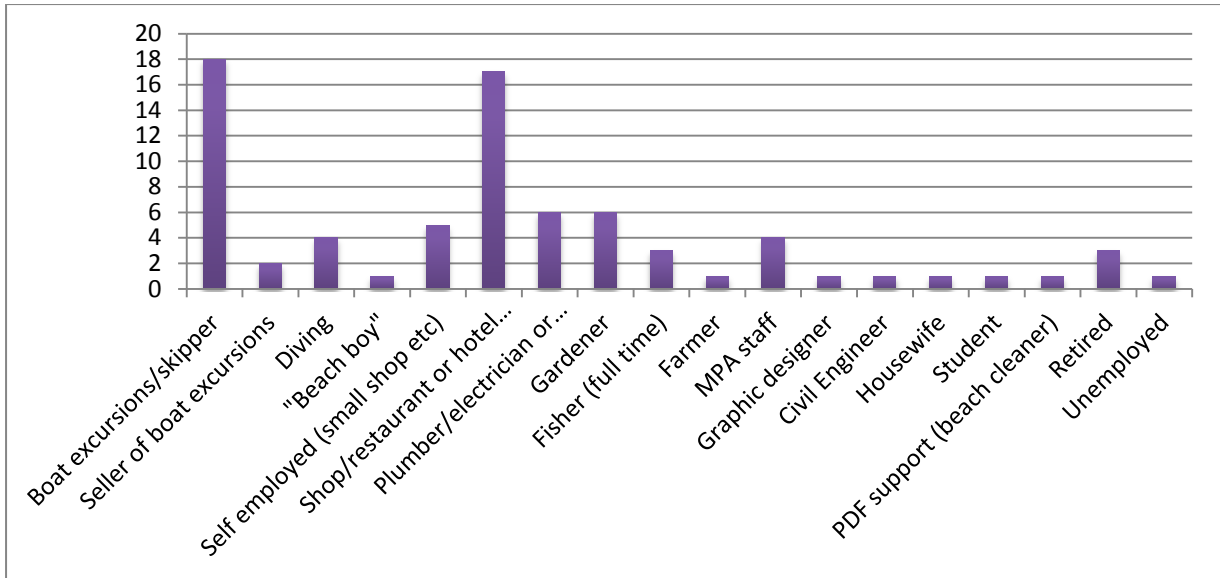
**Figure 7: Education level among the interviewed community members**

#### **4.1.3. Livelihoods activities**

The average time the interviewees had been at the current job was just over 7 years. The most common livelihoods activity by people in this area is to be involved in marine related tourism, in terms of arranging or selling boat excursions (or working as a skipper) or working with diving. The second most common livelihoods activity is also linked to tourism in the area, with a total of 18 people of the 76 interviewees working in a shop, restaurant or hotel. One person has indicated that his/her only source of income is by being hired by the Praslin Development Fund (PDF) as a beach cleaner. Figure 8 shows an overview of the primary livelihoods activities listed by the interviewees for this study.

People were also asked about their alternative livelihoods activities. Most interviewees, 53 of 76 (69.7%), state that they have no secondary source of income. Seven people responded that they fish on their days off or if they have no other work, and seven people stated they can support themselves by skipping or being involved in boat excursions, in their time off or if their primary livelihood should fail. A few other individuals have small side businesses such as selling fruits or coconuts, doing some minor farming or animal rearing.

<sup>2</sup> Purvis M-T, 2004, National Institute of Education, Ministry of Education and Youth, Republic of Seychelles. SMDJ Seychelles Medical and Dental Journal, Special Issue, Vol 7, No 1, November 2004

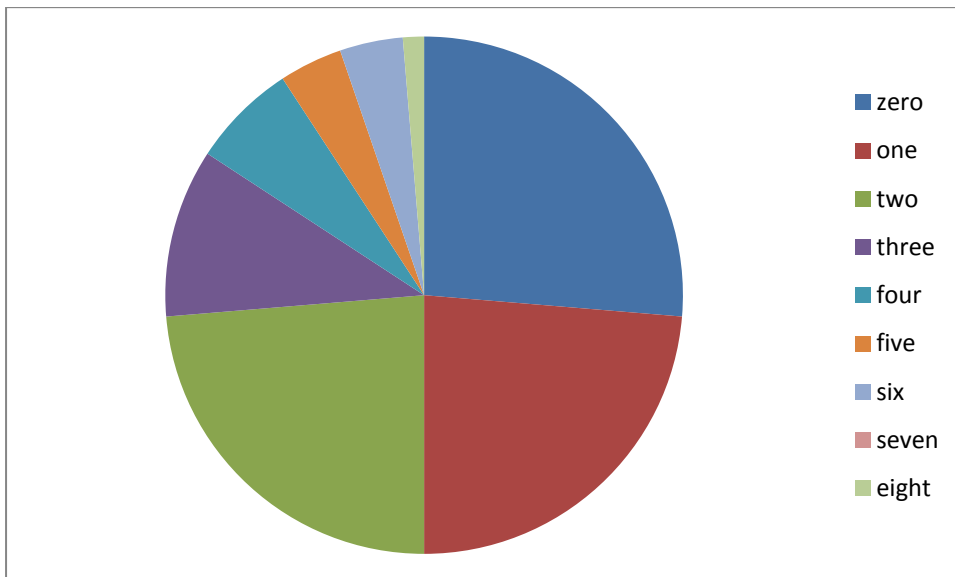


**Figure 8: Primary livelihoods activities undertaken by the interviewed community members**

People were also asked about how often they eat fish or seafood. Most people eat fish 7 days a week – with an average of fish as the main food 89.4% of the time, a figure which shows how important the fish and the marine products is to this community.

**4.1.4. Number of dependants**

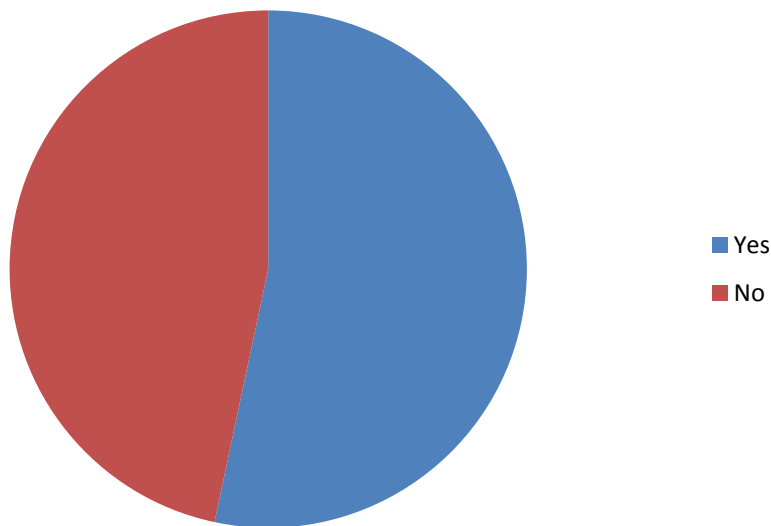
The community in Côte d’Or and Curieuse Island have relatively few dependants compared with most of the other DLIST demonstration site communities. Figure 9 shows that just over 50% of all interviewees have only one or zero dependants (meaning unemployed spouse, children or other person dependant on financial support from the interviewee).



**Figure 9: Number of dependants among the interviewed community members**

#### 4.1.5. Income sufficiency

When asked about income sufficiency, 53% of the respondents say that the income they make from their livelihoods activity is sufficient to make a living (Figure 10). This is very unusual if compared with all the other DLIST demonstration sites, where a majority of the community members feel that their income is not sufficient. Those who claim that their income is not enough often state that the cost of living is going up more than the salaries, and that they have bank loans etc to pay.



**Figure 10: Income sufficiency among the interviewed community members in Côte d'Or**

#### 4.1.6. Weaknesses, opportunities and input for the vision

A number of weaknesses and problems have been listed in the individual interviews. They include the following:

1. Drugs are common in the community, particularly among the young generation. This is a big problem that leads to increased criminality and unemployment;
2. There are too many hotels and other development close to the beaches, which increase beach erosion and cut off people's access to the beaches;
3. There is a general problem of corruption – which leads to poor EIA processes, lack of police interference in criminal activity and lack of enforcement in the MPA, and many other problems;
4. There is a lack of activities and sports facilities for youth in Côte d'Or and this increases the risk of people getting into drugs;
5. The crime rate is increasing and tourists are being harassed on the beach, which makes the area less popular for tourists;



**Figure 11: Dirty water running into the sea, in front of Curieuse**



6. There is a general problem with lack of law enforcement – thefts and drugs as well as poaching in the MPA;
7. There is a problem with insufficient sewage and waste water treatment which leads to pollution of the mangroves and the beaches;
8. There is more and more solid waste and dirt on the beach;
9. Information is not treated confidential – if someone reports a problem it often comes back to them in terms of some kind of revenge;
10. There is a lack of communication and consultation from the authorities to the local community;
11. Many people complained that they have to go very far to buy fuel, which makes it expensive;
12. The road through Côte d'Or should be renovated with street lights installed;
13. The bus service should be expanded to facilitate transport to other areas;
14. There are no public toilets on the beaches and not enough rubbish bins;
15. There are some elements of political oppression by people who are outspoken opposition supporters;
16. The village sometimes suffers from lack of water and power-cuts;
17. The hospital often runs out of medicines and people have to wait very long to get help;
18. There is a lack of good communication within families in the community and people don't respect the traditions any longer;
19. There are too few mooring buoys in the MPA<sup>3</sup> and the rangers don't patrol the area enough. Other facilities in the MPA such as the visitors' centre and the buildings should be upgraded since tourists pay so much to go there;
20. The cost of living is going up all the time, but the salaries remain the same, which makes it very hard for people to make a living;
21. There is not enough land available for the local people if someone wanted to develop a business;
22. There are environmental problems such as beach erosion, global warming, changing in the rainy season, and sedimentation from Raffles Hotel etc.



**Figure 12: Beach erosion is becoming a more common problem**

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<sup>3</sup> It should be noted that there have been mooring buoys installed inside the MPA before, but there has often been a problem that some people vandalise the buoys, or they have been damaged during the monsoons. It is a difficult and ongoing issue to ensure that mooring and demarcation buoys are in place and the marine park need to involve the community in the process to reduce the risk of having them destroyed or removed on purpose.

The interviewees were also asked to give input on what they see as the main opportunities in the area that could be developed further to support economic development. The following list shows the mentioned opportunities;

1. Tourism is a great opportunity that can bring a lot of income to the community;
2. The Creole Festival is a very good initiative which could be expanded or marketed better to attract even more people;
3. People are generally well educated and speak many languages;
4. The people are friendly and helpful;
5. There are many jobs available, mainly thanks to the tourism industry;
6. The marine park and the beautiful environment is a good opportunity as it brings tourist to the area;
7. There are rich marine resources that could be further developed to give more revenue to people;
8. Cooling, storing and processing facilities would give more revenue for the fishers;
9. People could be more encouraged to do small businesses such as local handicrafts, a small take-away restaurant with local food etc.;
10. Farming could also be developed further to bring income to people;
11. A day-care centre would be great for the community.



**Figure 13: The rich marine resources is seen as a good opportunity**

The interviewees were also asked to give input to the future vision for the area. The following points were mentioned and have been used to formulate the draft vision that is presented in the introduction and below.

1. There should be no more construction or hotel development in this area<sup>4</sup>. If possible, the Raffles Hotel should be removed;
2. The area should stay the same as it is now – no more development;
3. More work opportunities for people, including self employment;
4. There should be no drugs, harassment or begging on the beach. We need more beach police;
5. The people in the community should be better educated;
6. Better communication between Government and community (particularly before any new development). Also better collaboration within the community is needed;

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<sup>4</sup> One respondent however mentioned that he would like to see more hotel development as increased tourism brings more employment opportunities. But most of the interviewees mentioned that they don't want to see any more hotel development.

7. More shops to be owned by local people;
8. Prices for food should be lower and overall cost of living should be reduced;
9. Government should invest more in the youth – to create clubs, sport facilities and encourage other activities;
10. The electricity and water supply should be improved;
11. There should be better monitoring of nesting sea turtles;
12. A community housing development project is needed;
13. The mangrove area should be cleaned;
14. The wildlife clubs in the schools should be more active;
15. The MPA facilities and human resources should be improved, including installation of more mooring buoys;
16. A take-away restaurant with local food and a child day-care centre is needed;
17. More activities for the community is needed, particularly for the youth;
18. There should be less pollution;
19. Community beach cleaning activities should be organised;
20. The infrastructure should be upgraded. This includes the road, street lights, more dustbins, public toilets, benches on the beach, better sewage treatment, a market area, sports and leisure facilities etc.;
21. A fish market is needed with cold storage and processing facilities;
22. More community involvement in tourism, eco-tourism should be promoted;
23. The business administration requirements need to be simplified for local entrepreneurs.
24. Someone also mentioned that he would like the coral reefs to look like they did before the big El Niño in 1998.



**Figure 14: Small businesses related to tourism can be further developed to support livelihoods**

Based on the above listed points the following draft vision was established. This vision must be presented to the community to be approved by them, before it can be presented as the final version.

*“We want a community that flourishes culturally, socially and economically. There should be more law enforcement to deal with the problems of drugs and theft. We want the community to be more actively involved in development processes and there should always be proper EIAs carried out to avoid costly mistakes. Any further hotel construction in the area must be done in close consultation with the community and in balance with the environment. There should be less corruption in all sectors of society. We want an active youth centre, more sports facilities and cultural activities as well as a clean and nice looking beach front with a*

*good road, street lights, a more developed sewage treatment system, a well equipped fish market/landing site, and well maintained public toilets. The community should be more engaged in the tourism industry through local handicrafts, local restaurants, shops owned by people from the region etc. The MPA should have better facilities such as mooring buoys, demarcation buoys and well trained staff.”*

#### **4.1.7. Programmes or projects active in the area and opinion about the MPA**

Very few of the interviewed people know about any NGOs or programmes/projects that have been active in the area. A majority of the interviewed people think that the marine park is good and that it should remain more or less the same as it is today, with some improved facilities and services and a partial opening of controlled fishing for the near-by communities during the south-east monsoon. All people, except those who never go the beach or on a boat regularly see dolphins, whales and turtles as well as whale sharks, even if many people have mentioned that whales, whale sharks and to some extent dolphins are getting less common. Almost everyone would be interesting in receiving more environmental education and it is recommended that the MPA introduce educational island trips for people from the surrounding communities for this purpose. Such trip would make people feel more engaged in the marine park and more positive to the conservation activities.

Most people say that there are threats to the environment. Some that were often mentioned were climate change, sedimentation, poaching in the MPA, anchor damages on the reef, sea temperature increase, pollution, and intense coastal development. Most people also say that they can see changes in the environment such as less fish, less rain and less vegetation near the beach. People identify that these changes have led to higher fish prices, problems with water, health problems related to hotter climate, and other issues.

#### **4.2. Outcome from the Fishers' interviews**

A number of the interviews that were conducted were done with fishers. They were then asked an additional set of questions specifically related to fishing and the marine environment (as seen in Appendix 2). Most of the interviewees responded that they fish mainly in the pelagic zone and that the most common species include tuna, trevally, dorado, and in some instances marlin and sailfish (game fishing). Red snapper was also noted as a commonly targeted fish, even if it is a demersal species. Also octopus fishing is relatively common in the area. For the game fishing the most common method is hook and line on a rod, while octopus fishing is mainly done through snorkeling.



**Figure 15: Artisanal fishers landing their catch near Côte d'Or, Praslin**

The interviewed fishers mention that they could earn more money from their catch if they had access to facilities where they could do some processing and cleaning of the catch before selling. Another way that has been mentioned in the interviews is to target high value species and to put in more restrictions on the trawling in the areas, which is seen as an activity that reduces the catch for the artisanal fishers as well as the game fishers. It is clear that lack of cold storage facilities is an issue for the artisanal fishers, but not really for the people that are engaged in game fishing or more commercial fishing.

All interviewed fishers report that the amount of fish in the sea is less today compared to what it was 5 and 10 years ago. They give different reasons for the reduction, such as climate change, the use of unsustainable gear (small mesh size for nets etc) and bigger and more fishing boats in recent years. Some also blame the large trawling (tuna vessels) for the overall reduction of fish. Therefore, many of the interviewed people would be for more restrictions in terms of quota for the large fishing vessels and more resources for enforcement of these restrictions as well as better enforcement of the marine conservation areas, which all of the interviewed fishers are very much pro marine conservation efforts.

### **4.3. Outcomes from the key informers interviews**

A number of key informers' interviews were conducted to collect input for this plan. The below section gives an overview of the results from these interviews.

#### **4.3.1. Seychelles National Park Authority (SNPA)**

An initial introductory meeting with the new CEO of the Seychelles National Park Authority (SNPA) and the National Focal Point for the ASCLME Project, Mr Denis Matatiken, the Capacity Building and Training Coordinator Ms Christelle Betsy, the Research Manager at SNPA Mr Rodney Quatre, the Data and Information Coordinator, Ms Michelle Etienne and the DLIST Project Manager, Ms Frida Lanshammar was held at the SNPA office on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The main purpose of this meeting was for the SNPA representatives to give an introduction to the organisation, for the entire team to go through the planned activities for the site visit, to finalise and print the questionnaires and to introduce the three students from the Maritime Training Centre (MTC) in Mahe that would take part in the field trip.

Seychelles National Park Authority (SNPA) is a parastatal organisation which falls under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Environment and Transport (MHAET). The SNPA office has the head office on Mahe Island, where around 2/3 of the total staff of 100 employees are based. The other 1/3 of the staffs are mainly based on Praslin and La Digue Islands. SNPA is headed by the CEO and has three sub-sections; a forestry unit (timber products), National Parks Unit and the Research Units which encompasses both the terrestrial and the marine aspects. There is also a HR and accounts unit. SNPA has a Board of Directors which is chaired by Dr Rolph Payet<sup>5</sup>, who is also the special advisor to the President and vice Chancellor of the University

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<sup>5</sup> A new chair has been nominated, Mr. Flavien Joubert from the Environment Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Environment, Transport and Energy.

of Seychelles. The Board has representatives from the Fishing Authority, the Seychelles Tourism Board, the Coast Guards etc.

A second meeting was arranged at the SNPA office on the 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2010 to present the initial findings from the site visit and to discuss the way forward. Particularly issues related to what people had said about the MPA were discussed and how the situation could be improved. The following issues related to the Curieuse MPA were highlighted;

- Poaching in the MPA takes place, stricter enforcement is needed;
- People claim they have no choice but to fish along the shore (inside the current MPA borders) in the season of the south east monsoon – they want an open season;
- The facilities in the visitors' area are insufficient (better reception, neater grill area, better and more toilets, more guide training);
- Equipment for park enforcement should be upgraded (boats, ranger training etc);
- Some operators complain that the MPA fee is too high and some people wonder “where the money goes”, as they see no obvious re-investment in the MPA infrastructure.

Also the opportunities related to the MPA were highlighted as below;

- The community wants to get more involved in the MPA (school trips etc);
- Most community members realise that the MPA is good for them and it attracts many tourists;
- The fishers could increase their revenue by preparing the fish better (access to a clean processing area and cold storage facilities will be needed)<sup>6</sup>;
- The MPA and surrounding areas are rich in resources (corals are recovering, there are many fish in the MPA, tortoises, coco-de-mer etc);
- Many people have high awareness of problems related to environment and the reduced fish stocks;
- The community wants to learn more about environmental and marine issues;
- The community could develop small businesses for alternative livelihoods activities (crafts, local restaurants etc) if they were given some business training, access to land and some financial support.

It was pointed out that the Curieuse MPA is a key stakeholder in the area and the community members really see the conservation efforts as something positive. Some of the proposed interventions in this document are related to how the marine park could be improved and how they could involve the community more in the daily activities in the park to encourage communication and community involvement in the conservation activities.

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<sup>6</sup> This is not really linked to the MPA, as it is a no-take zone, but support to the fishers who fish near the MPA borders could still be important.

#### **4.3.2. Seychelles Fishing Authority**

The first meeting that was arranged, after the return to Mahe, was with a representative from the Seychelles Fishing Authority (SFA), Mr Vincent Lucas. Ms Lanshammar introduced the ASCLME and the DLIST projects, what activities had been undertaken during the field trip and why the SFA is seen as an important stakeholder in this consultation and planning process. She emphasised that the project is still in its planning phase, so this is the time when everyone should be involved as much as possible to give input and influence the planning process.

Mr Lucas gave an introduction to the Seychelles Fishing Authority, explaining that it is a parastatal organisation under the Department of Natural Resources of the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Natural Resources. The authority was put in place to develop the fishing industry in the Seychelles and to increase the revenue from this sector, while at the same time increasing the employment. The authority is also responsible for developing the fisheries sector in a sustainable manner, by carrying out stock assessments, monitoring of fishing efforts and activities and other research that can help inform the setting of sustainable fishing quotas. Other research that falls on the authority relates to how the management efforts are functioning, introduction of new fishing methods and gears, new fishing grounds and species with opportunity for exploration.

The fish catch data in the Seychelles does not cover 100% of the real catch, but is extrapolated from representative fish landing site data. For specific fisheries such as sea cucumber and lobster there is however a log book system for each licensed fisher – where all catch has to be recorded. There are only 25 licences given per year for sea cucumber fishing



**Figure 16: Artisanal fish catch for sale on the beach at Côte d'Or**

and the season is only open from November to July. The SFA are in the process of undertaking a stock assessment study to see if the licensing system is working well and the fishing activity is sustainable. It is important to involve the fishers and other stakeholders in this stock-take study to make sure that everyone will trust and respect the results. There will be a special steering committee put in place to manage this fishery.

There is however an urgent need to put also the artisanal fisheries under better management, for snappers and other valuable species (see Figure 16). And the authority needs to come up with ways of achieving more dynamic stock assessments to adapt to all new fishing methods that are introduced. The goal is that the SFA will co-manage the resources on Praslin with the Praslin Fishers' Association (PFA).

The SFA is also responsible for social responsibility efforts for the fishing community. To do that effectively, it is important to know what the needs of the fishers are in a specific area. The authority has contracted an external consultant to carry out such a needs assessment mission on Praslin Island in the beginning of 2011. It would be relevant to link the outcome of this study with the activities carried out as part of the DLIST mission in relation to Curieuse and the fishing communities near the marine park. The DLIST team are in the process of following-up on the status of this study.

There are many ways that the SFA are trying to support the fishers in Seychelles. For example all import of fishing gears is tax exempted and there is a government subsidy on fuel as well as ice for registered fishers. Mr Lucas expressed a concern that the fishers in Seychelles are not very well organised. SFA has recently applied for a UNDP grant to set up the Praslin Fishers' Association properly as an example that could be replicated in the other islands. There is however an association for fishing boat owners (FBOA) based on Mahé. An idea is to make the PFA part of the existing FBOA.

The SFA want to encourage different value adding activities related to fisheries. People generally prefer reef fish, but SFA are trying to encourage value adding activities/processing to other fish to increase the market. The authority will try to develop a facility for fish processing and rent it out to a private developer to run the business.

There are also ice plants owned by SFA, which are subsidised by the Government. The price of ice for the fishers is only SR 30 per bag instead of the commercial price which would be SR 120. The operation of these ice factories has not been very efficient and the SFA will now look into leasing these also to private sector.

#### **4.3.3. Curieuse Island Marine Park Manager**

An interview was conducted with the Assistant Park Officer of the Curieuse Marine National Park to identify what main issues he sees as problems for the marine park, what the main opportunities are and how he thinks the future could be improved. He pointed out that currently, one of the main problems for the marine park is lack of equipment for enforcement and monitoring, insufficient electricity supply on the island, environmental problems related to the Raffles Hotel development and lack of mooring buoys inside the MPA. Overall, all MPA staff would benefit from more environmental education and it would be good if some of the rangers were specially trained to give environmental education to local community and schools that visit the island.

The main threats to the environment include poaching in the MPA, pollution from hotels and other activities and climate change effects on the marine environment and the beaches through increased coastal erosion.

For the future, he would like to see the MPA being more developed with a proper visitor's centre where environmental education could also be undertaken, improved information and



displays about the island, the MPA and the natural resources, and even curio shops and more recreational facilities out on the island.

#### **4.3.4. Dive centres**

The DLIST team had a meeting with the owner of White tip Divers on Côte d'Or in the afternoon of November 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr Arnaud explained that he has lived in Seychelles since 2006 and been working in the diving industry for more than 4 years. He can clearly see a change in the environment compared to when he first started diving in this area. The number of fish is going down all the time and also the big shells such as helmet and triton shells are becoming rarer.

The marine park has been good for conservation and it has marketed the area as a place that is nice for tourists to visit (see Figure 17). To avoid the problems with deals being struck between boat captains and park rangers, White tip divers buy their park tickets every 2 weeks directly from the manager and this system works well, and this could be encouraged by the MPA management also for other operators. Another problem related to the marine park is that it is difficult for an outsider and business person to report to the MPA manager or the rangers if they see any poaching or illegal activities inside the park. It would sooner or later come back to them by some kind of revenge from the people they have reported, in the form of a sunken boat or something like that. The community is too small and too tight and the person accused will always find out who reported the illegal activity.



**Figure 17: Diving near the Curieuse Marine Park shows that the fish resources are still quite abundant**

When it comes to the general development and the future for the community in Côte d'Or Mr Arnaud identified some fundamental weaknesses. One is that people simply don't earn enough from their jobs, compared to the prices of food in the shops. With the price inflation, the salaries are lagging way behind and people remain poor even if they work full time. He thinks that the government could address this problem by introducing better price control of basic food items. There is also a problem with lack of activities and things for people to do. If an entertainment park could be constructed in or near Côte d'Or it would help to keep the young people away from drugs and other destructive habits. Mr Arnaud also mentioned that there used to be a youth centre in the village, but it is no longer active. The community in Côte d'Or is very rich in terms of culture and this could be encouraged more. It could be an

opportunity for people from the local community to get involved and benefit a bit more from the growing tourism industry if local dance, art and drama were encouraged more.

#### **4.3.5. Praslin Fishers' Association**

The DLIST team went to Baie Ste Anne to meet with the chairman of the newly established Praslin Fishers' Association, Mr Darrel Green. Ms Lanshammar opened the meeting by introducing the ASCLME project and how DLIST fits into the overall project objectives and what the main goals are with the DLIST planning process. He mentioned that poaching is an issue which occurs in the parks, by people fishing illegally and sometimes killing turtles. The new Raffles Hotel development (see Figure 3) was also pointed out as a problem for the marine park and the surrounding area, since it has caused enormous sediment run-off, causing coral reef degradation. It will be impossible to estimate the cost and extent of the damage caused by this sedimentation. Some of this damage could possibly have been prevented if the developers would have been informed of local conditions, such as rainy seasons, and would have considered this during construction.

Mr Green also made another interesting link between the large developments and some of the local problems. Foreign workers that were brought to build the large hotels have different habits compared to the local people. For example their habit of eating Tilapia from all rivers and streams has made this fresh water fish very rare – which in turn had caused the mosquito populations to explode. The population of the large land crabs have also been reduced considerably, which could partly have been caused by people catching them for food. These things should be taken into consideration when large tourism developments or constructions are planned in the future.

Mr Green explained that it had not been easy to convince people that they should get involved in the fishing association. Many people still don't see that if they all collaborate they become stronger and more influential. At present the Praslin Fishers' Association has 36 registered members, from all over Praslin. Something that is really needed which would improve the situation for the fishers on Praslin are proper fish landing sites. Three sites in different locations on Praslin would be sufficient. They should be equipped with water, cold storage facilities and ice making machines as well as toilets. On a smaller scale each boat owner could be given a solar powered freezer to increase storage capacity. The fishing association should have a pick-up truck for transport of ice to the members to facilitate the business.

Another issue related to the organised fishers is how the licences for sea cucumber are given. The members of the PFA have suggested that of the total number of 25 licences issued by SFA for the whole country, at least 3 should be given to Praslin. These should then be distributed among all those who want to fish, by a lottery. The person who wins the lottery gets to fish and make a lot of money for one year, and then they should return their licences and not take part in the lottery the next year to give others a chance. The sea cucumber fishing really doesn't take too much investment – all you need is a store room, and some scuba tanks. In one year a boat owner could make as much as 100,000 US\$. Even a diver

makes as much as 40,000 Rupees per month. In Seychelles at the moment the biggest income generating activity is drug trade. Shark fins is number two, with a market value of between 140 and 285€/kg and sea cucumbers number three. The income from shark fins could be increased if the government would support individual fishers to trade on the international market rather than through suppliers. Often the local fishers sell their shark fins for only 25€/kg.

A growing problem on Praslin is the issue of drugs (cocaine, heroin and other drugs). The young people see that there is more money to be made by going in to the drug business than any normal job. The Authority should try to eliminate this problem by catching those responsible. The young people are no longer interested in working in the fishing industry. The fishing industry should be modernised to attract young people.

Seychelles get a lot of support from the Japanese government and some of this money could be used to modernise the fishing industry by investing in new fishing vessels and more support for the small scale artisanal fisheries. It is the artisanal fishers that feed the country and all the tourists that come here. There are a lot of grants and support for the long line fishers, but that should not really be needed as they already make a lot of money by the fishing (many are millionaires). All the fish caught by long-liners is exported and gives relatively little revenue to Seychelles.

The people in Praslin would also benefit a lot if there was more value adding activities within the fishing industry. All the well educated and successful Seychellois working in offices in town should be able to buy their fish cleaned, cut and packed fresh in the shop every day. Now everyone has to go to the beach to buy a whole fish and then go home and gut, clean and scale it themselves. With that system in place someone with not enough money could also easily buy ½ fish.

When it comes to the marine park in Curieuse, Mr Green thinks that the local communities living just at the border of the MPA should be somehow exempted from the no-take rule. A system could be put in place where each family was allowed one fish trap inside the park borders, at least during the rough season. If proper controls were put in place, Mr Green also thinks that a system could be introduced where some killing of male green turtles is allowed<sup>7</sup>. His final comment was that the government and the Seychelles Fishing Authority as well as the National Parks Authority should involve the community and the fishers more in their decisions and consult them more for input on projects and activities related to fishing.

#### **4.3.6. Berjaya Resort in Côte d'Or**

A key informers' interview was arranged with Mr Churchill Gill (Manager at the Berjaya Resort in Côte d'Or). He has worked in Côte d'Or for more than 20 years, and started in the Berjaya Resort in 1994. According to Mr Gill the main weaknesses in the area are related to

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<sup>7</sup> It should be pointed out that this is strictly against the law in Seychelles and just a suggestion from Mr Green.

the fact that many people lack knowledge of their own potential and they continue with their “old time” lifestyles and habits. He also acknowledged that there is a problem with drugs in the area and that many people are lazy and just spend their days harassing tourists trying to sell boat excursions even if they don't even have a boat.

Tourism is indeed one of the main opportunities for the area. Mr Gill emphasised that there are many opportunities that are underutilised where locals could get more involved and benefit more from tourism. These include the local boat operators, which could upgrade their tours and packages and that local people could start producing more souvenirs etc. Mr Gill thinks that Côte d'Or should not allow any additional hotel development in the area for now – there is more than enough hotels. Instead the people of the area should be better educated in how to behave with tourists to increase the numbers of visitors that come to this area, in business management activities and in environmental issues. There could possibly be a committee put in place to oversee these training activities.

When asked about the MPA and the activities related to marine conservation, Mr Gill pointed out that the MPA is really beneficial to the area in terms of conserving the resources and being a good marketing tool for the tourism sector. However, it would be good if the MPA would undertake more assessments of their achievements in terms of biological monitoring and make these results known to the local stakeholders. This would maybe increase the respect for the no-take areas. Overall there are problems with many constructions too close to the beach, which contributes to the coastal erosion. Lack of sewage treatment and deforestation is also a problem. And, for long term success of any projects in the area, it is important to really involve the community members in all stages and listen to what they have to say.

#### **4.3.7. Weaknesses, opportunities and input for the vision**

Overall, the key informers have identified many issues, opportunities and given indirect input to the draft vision that has been presented in this report. The weaknesses and issues include the following;

1. Drug abuse problem;
2. Lack of education and training opportunities for the community members;
3. Environmental problems such as beach erosion, sedimentation, pollution and sewage, as well as climate change;
4. Problems with law enforcement in the MPA and related to constructions of new hotels;
5. The MPA needs improved infrastructure, more mooring buoys and more staff training;
6. Low income and price inflation is a big problem;
7. Lack of activities for the community, particularly the youth;

Opportunities for the area are identified as follows;

1. Community could be more involved in tourism through selling souvenirs etc.

2. The MPA has been very good for the area as it protects the resources and functions as a great marketing tool for the area, bringing tourists;
3. Value adding activities and cold storage would be very beneficial to the fishers;
4. Cultural activities could be encouraged as another way to involve community members in tourism and increase their benefits;
5. More environmental education should be undertaken by the MPA to increase people's awareness of the benefits of marine conservation;
6. Upgrading of the infrastructure on the ranger station on the island would be good for tourism to the island and would also improve the law enforcement (better boats, additional mooring buoys etc).

## **5. Strategy and Implementation**

### **5.1. Developing a strategy**

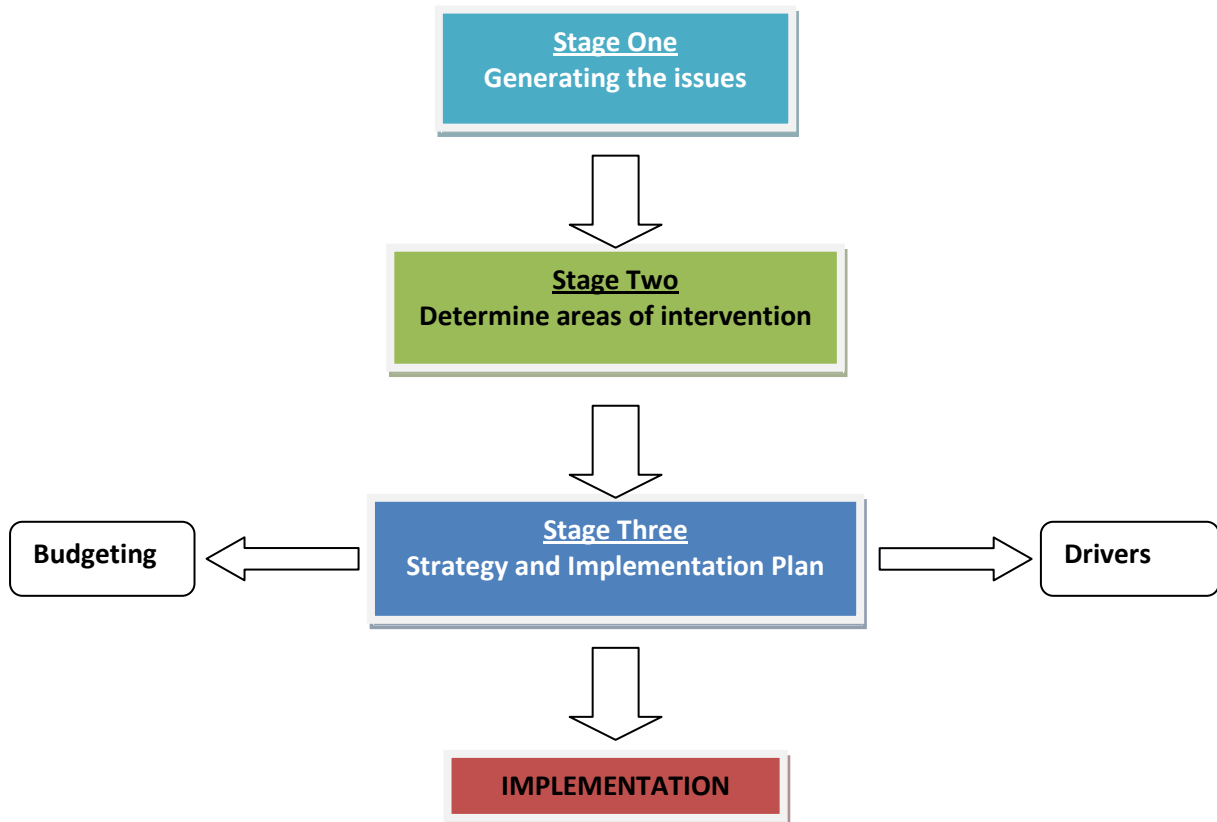
The development of this document followed the established LED Plan methodology, which puts the interest of the community at centre stage. It typically has three stages (as seen in Figure 18):

Stage One: Through socio-economic surveys, public meetings, engagement with different stakeholders and community-based associations, ad hoc discussions with the local inhabitants and assorted parties, and visioning exercises a list of issues were generated (see section 5.2). They are explained in further detail throughout the document. In most cases, participants came up with suggestions, some of them right on the mark and others far flung and sometimes downright unrealistic (at least in the foreseeable future). Nonetheless all suggestions were treated with respect, considering the community is best acquainted with local circumstances. They define the ground level agenda that must then be carried upstream through the Local Development Plan.

Stage Two: The issues are studied and, based on the needs and aspirations of the people and their ideas for solutions, as well as key informers' and experts' input, main areas of intervention are identified that are defined to address the different issues. Sometimes an area of intervention addresses several issues, while one issue can also be addressed by different areas of intervention. The interventions typically would address the question of 'What needs to happen to achieve a satisfactory solution to this/these issues(s)?', or 'What mechanism(s) can be put in place to make things better in the fastest and most economic manner?' There are nine proposed interventions (see section 5.3).

Stage Three: Once the proposed interventions have been identified, the Strategy and Implementation Plan (SIP) can be elaborated. A series of steps are presented for each area of intervention, together with ballpark budgeting and an indication of drivers that should be engaged in the implementation of the Development Plan (see section 5.4). Areas of intervention are also linked to a 1-year, and 5-year timeframe. The SIP needs to be simple,

and put in simple language so that the different components, and how they relate to other components, are easily understood by all.



**Figure 18: Stages in the development of the plan**

## 5.2. List of issues

The issues listed below have been gathered from the community through interviews and from the different key informers. They have been grouped together and they have not listed in any order of priority.

1. Drugs are common in the community, particularly among the young generation. This is a big problem that leads to increased criminality and unemployment;
2. There are too many hotels and other development close to the beaches, which increase beach erosion and cut off people's access to the beaches;
3. There is a general problem of lack of law enforcement – which leads to poor EIA processes, lack of police interference in criminal activity and tourism harassment, and lack of enforcement in the MPA;
4. There is a lack of activities and sports facilities for youth in Côte d'Or and this increases the risk of people getting into drugs;
5. Environmental problems such as insufficient sewage and waste water treatment, beach erosion, dirty beaches, global warming, changing in the rainy season, and sedimentation from Raffles Hotel;

6. There is a general lack of trust and lack of communication between the community and the authorities;
7. The infrastructure in Côte d'Or is poor; including bad road, lack of street lights, no public toilets on the beach, the bus service is not sufficient, there is sometimes a lack of water, frequent power cuts, poor hospital services, it is far to the petrol service station etc.;
8. The facilities in the MPA need to be upgraded and there is a need for additional mooring buoys are needed. Also the rangers need to patrol the area more frequently;
9. The fishers lack access to a proper fish landing site with cold storage facilities and a place to sell the fish to the community in a hygienic way;
10. The cost of living is constantly going up, while the salaries remain the same, which makes it very hard for people to make a living;
11. There is not enough land available for the local people if someone wanted to develop a business.

### **5.3. Proposed interventions**

The above mentioned issues have been used to develop the following proposed interventions. In this plan there are nine different interventions proposed. Some of them address one of the above mentioned issues, while some of them are cross cutting and address a number of issues at the same time. The proposed interventions are linked to 1 year or 5 years timeframes in terms of how long implementation is expected to take, but it should be noted that these timeframes are just estimations based on relative ease for implementation as well as urgency.

#### **1. Infrastructure upgrade project**

The community in Côte d'Or have identified a number of issues related to lack of adequate infrastructure that hinders good development of the area. The infrastructure that needs to be upgraded to encourage further economic growth in the area include upgrade of the road, instalment of street lights along the main traffic road as well as the small road along the beach (for increased security). Other infrastructure development that is much needed is related to environmental and hygienic issues, such as the need to upgrade the sewage treatment in the area, the construction of public toilets along the beach, and an upgrade of the fresh water supply system.

#### **2. A Multipurpose Resource Centre (MPRC)**

A MPRC for the community in Côte d'Or would provide a “one stop shop” for many issues that have been identified by the community. The centre should include a youth centre, which should be open for evening activities such as pool, community training rooms, a community IT centre, a child day-care centre, and it could be a suitable place for developing a community handicraft group. It would be good if many authorities were involved in the development of the MPRC to really make the most of it. The training rooms could for example be used by the MPA for community awareness activities related to marine resources.

3. A fish landing site centre

The fishing community in Côte d'Or don't have access to any facilities in terms of cooling, storage, processing (filleting, cleaning etc.), and they would benefit greatly from the value adding that could be achieved to their product if they had. Fishing is a central activity to the community in Côte d'Or and it contributes to food security, even if a large part of the fishing grounds are closed off by the MPA. Small scale fishing outside the borders of the MPA should be encouraged, and with value adding activities made possible by the proposed facility, it would certainly bring a lot of benefit to all the inhabitants of Côte d'Or.

4. A community farming project

A number of community members have mentioned that farming is an activity that could be developed further in this area. Access to land is however an issue that must be solved. In the meanwhile, farming of fruit trees can be encouraged and a fruit processing (solar drying) could be included in the MPRC to encourage value adding activities. Solar dried mango packed in a nice way would have a good market among tourists that visit the area for example.

5. Set-up of a community security group

Increased criminal activity and drug abuse along the beach in Côte d'Or has been identified as a major problem. If the members of the local community would be encouraged to form a security group or committee, to work with the local police and the tourist police this could contribute to making the area safer. To avoid that community members feel it would be a risk to take part, the committee should have many members.

6. MPA upgrading and outreach project

The tourists that visit the Curieuse Marine Park pay a relatively high entrance fee and they would feel that they get more value for money if the infrastructure on the island was upgraded. This could include upgrading of toilet facilities, the barbecue area as well as installing additional mooring buoys. Ranger training activities should also be included as part of the upgrade project. The rangers that are stationed on the island need training in how to work as guides, how to provide service to visitors as well as more training and awareness on marine ecology, the importance of no-take MPAs for fisheries management and also training in monitoring of fish stocks and compliance. To make the MPA more popular in the area and to increase awareness about the importance of marine conservation, the MPA staff should also be encouraged to engage in environmental education activities for the local communities and local schools.

7. Access to land and improved land-use planning

Most community members don't own land, or very small areas, and it is not possible for them to buy land as prices are too high with the constant expansion of the tourism



industry. Lack of access to land and land ownership issues is a very big obstacle to economic development, and land use planning, zoning and management are critical for the long term development of the area. A Spatial Development Framework (SDF) could assist in steering development in a more sustainable direction for the future<sup>8</sup>.

8. Eco-/Community tourism development

The community has identified tourism as one of the main opportunities for income generation. To increase the involvement of local community members and to increase the revenue for this group, it is however important that eco- and community tourism is more encouraged in the area. Responsible tourism<sup>9,10</sup> development will promote diversification of income generating opportunities for the community members, by offering cultural and nature based/handicraft products to tourists visiting the area.

9. Involvement of Private Sector

The private sector in Côte d'Or is very powerful, and if engaged correctly in community issues, this sector could contribute greatly to community development. This can either be done through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects or through direct income generation by employment of community members. Some of the larger hotels could for example support environmental education trips for school children to the MPA, and support community handicraft initiatives by selling products in the hotel boutiques. Financial support could also be given to activities that will improve the security situation and for giving community/youth lectures about the dangers of drugs etc.

#### **5.4. Implementation Plan**

A plan for implementation of the proposed interventions along with a preliminary budget is outlined in Table 1 below. The draft plan and associated budget will have to be refined and more detailed business plans developed for each intervention, before implementation is initiated. To develop business plans, more consultation with stakeholders, government ministries, the private sector and donors will be needed.

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<sup>8</sup> A any development frameworks should follow the existing Environmental Management Plan of Seychelles, <http://www.emps.sc/>

<sup>9</sup> Spenceley A., 2008. Responsible tourism: critical issues for conservation and development. Earthscan.

<sup>10</sup> McCool S. F. & Moisey N., 2009. Tourism, recreation and sustainability: linking culture and environment. CABI.

**Table 1: The implementation plan**

Key:

1 year	5 years
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**Budget Notes:**

Cost estimates are provided in US dollars. The budget is indicative only, and can only be refined as part of implementation, in consultations with government ministries, the interested private sector, donors and community stakeholders. The symbols below provide an indication of parties that may be involved in specific line items, either in providing funding or services.

*No costs* indicates services that possibly can be provided by government entities or the cost is not a large amount

*Unknown* indicates items that can possibly be funded by donors or depends on the type of project, size of groups etc.

+ indicates possible involvement of consultants or private sector

Areas of intervention	Issues targeted	Steps	Relevant parties	Cost (in US dollars)
1. Infrastructure upgrade project	4,5,7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Involve relevant Authorities to identify the needs and establish available budget</li> <li>2. Upgrade the sewerage system</li> <li>3. Upgrade the road</li> <li>4. Install street lighting</li> <li>5. Construct public toilets on the beach</li> <li>6. Increase bus services</li> </ol>	The Ministry Home Affairs, Environment & Transport, Seychelles Public Transport Utility (SPTA), Public Utilities Corporation (PUC), Praslin Development Fund (PDF)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No costs</li> <li>2. No costs/ Unknown</li> <li>3. No costs/ Unknown</li> <li>4. No costs/ Unknown</li> <li>5. No costs/ Unknown</li> <li>6. No costs</li> </ol>
2. Construction of a youth and community centre, MPRC	1,4,6,10,11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Involve relevant Authorities to identify the needs and establish available budget</li> <li>2. Call for a community meeting to identify exact needs of what should be included in the MPRC</li> <li>3. Develop a detailed proposal including construction</li> </ol>	The Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports, The Ministry Home Affairs, Environment & Transport, The Ministry of Health & Social	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No costs</li> <li>2. 3,000</li> <li>3. Unknown<sup>+</sup></li> <li>4. Unknown<sup>+</sup></li> <li>5. No costs</li> </ol>

		<p>budgets</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Appoint an architect to conceptualise and design the MPRC</li> <li>5. Procure a suitable construction company (to undertake construction in collaboration with community workers)</li> <li>6. Construct the MPRC and start implementing</li> </ol>	<p>Services, The Ministry of Education, Employment &amp; Human Resources, Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA), Public Utilities Corporation (PUC), Small Enterprises Promotion Agency, Praslin Development Fund (PDF)</p>	<p>6. Unknown<sup>+</sup></p>
<p>3. Construction of a fish landing site with fish processing and storing facilities</p>	<p>9,10,11</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Involve relevant Authorities in the development plans</li> <li>2. Arrange a development planning workshop with the fishers and the Authorities to plan details of the fish centre</li> <li>3. Appoint an architect and a construction firm</li> <li>4. Conceptualise and design the fish landing site, storage and processing facilities etc.)</li> <li>5. Construction according to plans</li> </ol>	<p>Seychelles Fishing Authority, Praslin Fishers' Association, The Ministry of Community Development, Youth &amp; Sports, The Ministry Home Affairs, Environment &amp; Transport, Praslin Development Fund (PDF)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No costs</li> <li>2. 3,000</li> <li>3. No costs</li> <li>4. Unknown<sup>+</sup></li> <li>5. Unknown<sup>+</sup></li> </ol>
<p>4. A community farming project and a drying facility</p>	<p>6,10,11</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Involve relevant Authorities in the planning phase</li> <li>2. Arrange a community meeting to conceptualise the idea of a farming initiative</li> <li>3. Hire a consultant to support the planning and implementation</li> <li>4. Construct the drying facility (in or next to the MPRC if possible)</li> <li>5. Select a group of community members to pilot the project</li> <li>6. Provide training on best practices</li> <li>7. Initiate fruit farming and fruit processing initiative (along site with other farming activities if it has been identified as appropriate)</li> </ol>	<p>The Ministry of Community Development, Youth &amp; Sports, The Ministry Home Affairs, Environment &amp; Transport, Small Enterprise Promotion Agency, Seychelles Tourism Board, Praslin Development Fund (PDF)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No costs</li> <li>2. 3,000</li> <li>3. Unknown<sup>+</sup></li> <li>4. 5,000<sup>+</sup></li> <li>5. No costs</li> <li>6. Unknown<sup>+</sup></li> <li>7. No costs/Unknown<sup>+</sup></li> </ol>
<p>5. Set-up of a community security group</p>	<p>1,3,6</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Involve relevant Authorities</li> <li>2. Set up a meeting with the Police (and other Authorities) and community representatives to discuss the way</li> </ol>	<p>Tourism Police Unit, Seychelles Police Force, Ministry of Health &amp; Social</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No costs</li> <li>2. No costs</li> <li>3. No costs</li> </ol>

		<p>forward</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. The community members to create a special committee/ group</li> <li>4. Develop a plan for how the community group could support the security issues in the best way</li> <li>5. Arrange regular (quarterly) meetings to discuss issues related to the security cases. Minutes to be kept by the committee</li> </ol>	Services, Community Associations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Unknown<sup>+</sup></li> <li>5. No costs</li> </ol>
6. MPA upgrading and outreach project	3,4,6,8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. SNPA to take initiative to involve other concerned Authorities, teachers and community</li> <li>2. Develop plans and budgets for the MPA facilities upgrade system</li> <li>3. Develop a community and school Environmental Education programme for educational trips to the island</li> <li>4. Conduct training with MPA staff</li> <li>5. Develop and start implementing a ranger salary incentive for catching poachers</li> <li>6. Initiate school/educational trips to the island</li> </ol>	Seychelles National Park Authority, Curieuse MPA warden and staff, Ministry of Home Affairs, Environment & Transport, Ministry of Education, Employment & Human Resources, local community and school teachers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No costs</li> <li>2. Unknown<sup>+</sup></li> <li>3. Unknown<sup>+</sup></li> <li>4. Unknown<sup>+</sup></li> <li>5. No costs</li> <li>6. Unknown<sup>11</sup></li> </ol>
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Start the island upgrade project (construction, buoy installation etc)</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Unknown<sup>+</sup></li> </ol>
7. Improved access to land and land-use planning	2,3,5,6,11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Negotiate with line Ministries to avail land for community members to serve community needs</li> <li>2. Investigate the details of the existing Land Use Plans for Praslin Island and make the information available to the community</li> </ol>	The Ministry of Land Use & Habitat, Praslin Development Fund (PDF)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No costs</li> <li>2. No costs</li> </ol>
8. Eco-/community tourism development	2,3,4,10,11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Relevant Authorities to meet with the community in Côte d'Or to discuss and brain storm about ecotourism opportunities for the area</li> <li>2. Encourage local community members to become involved in tourism by establishing guesthouses, small</li> </ol>	Seychelles Tourism Board, Ministry of Health & Social Services, Ministry of Education, Employment & Human Resources, The	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No costs</li> <li>2. No costs</li> <li>3. Unknown</li> <li>4. Unknown<sup>+</sup></li> <li>5. Unknown<sup>+</sup></li> </ol>

<sup>11</sup> It can be explored if private sector in Côte d'Or could get involved in sponsoring school/educational trips to the island

		<p>restaurants, cafés etc</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Create areas to be developed for this purpose (could possibly be in the proposed MPRC)</li> <li>4. Train community members in how to provide ecotourism cultural tourism and adventure tourism services</li> <li>5. A brochure and/or website could be developed to market this initiative</li> <li>6. Encourage expansion of the Creole Festival and similar initiatives</li> </ol>	<p>Ecotourism Society of Seychelles (TESS), Praslin Development Fund (PDF)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. No costs</li> </ol>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Involvement of private sector</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,5,6,7,8,9</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Organise a meeting/workshop with private sector stakeholders in Côte d'Or to discuss the proposed interventions in the Local Development Plan (with community representatives)</li> <li>2. Encourage communication between the private sector and community members</li> <li>3. Create opportunities for the private sector to sponsor specific initiatives (environmental education activities as an example)</li> <li>4. Encourage trade with local products at the tourism establishments</li> </ol>	<p>Private Sector representatives in Côte d'Or, community members, SNPA, The Ecotourism Society of Seychelles (TESS)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 5,000</li> <li>2. No costs</li> <li>3. No costs</li> <li>4. No costs</li> </ol>

## **6. Guidelines for Local Economic Development**

The following guidelines aim to foster cooperation between the different parties (community, private sectors, government, donors, etc.) in boosting local economic development. Worldwide, LED and development guidelines are scattered through many documents and initiatives. The following documents are examples:

- Tourism and Local Economic Development (see: <http://www.pptpartnership.org>)
- National Responsible Tourism Guidelines for South Africa (see: [www.icrt.org](http://www.icrt.org))
- Local Economic Development Guidelines (see: [www.owda.org](http://www.owda.org))

For the future development of Côte d'Or and Curieuse Island the following guidelines are proposed. They can, for instance, be used to assess applications for operating businesses or tourism operations in the area, as well as other developments, and to guide government or donor funding.

### **6.1. Training, human resource development and community engagement:**

Any construction work should encourage sourcing a large portion of the workforce from the community at Côte d'Or. It may not be possible to source all staff for all skill levels from this area, but, as much as possible unskilled labour should from this community;

Monitoring systems should be included in applications for developments and operating licences. If a community group is formed to function as the “Steering Committee” for the implementation of this plan, they can also, they can be responsible for monitoring that point a. is followed;

The large tourism establishments in and around Côte d'Or should be encouraged to assist aspiring community members to gain the skills, either by providing scholarships to formal training institutions or through the establishment of in-house training programmes. In terms of supporting the implementation of this Development Plan, the ultimate goal for every establishment is to commit resources to improve knowledge, skills and human resource base at Côte d'Or and Curieuse Island;

### **6.2. Promoting local businesses:**

The hotels and tourism establishments should encourage their guests to visit the community and the official establishments should start sourcing out excursions etc to the beach operators to increase the spread of tourism incomes;

Tourism establishments around Côte d'Or should monitor the proportion of goods and services are sourced from businesses and producers from the community. This may include provision of marine products for the hotel restaurant, supply to hotel boutiques etc. Local

communities or emergent entrepreneurs can also be assisted to develop their products so that it can be more easily used by others and marketed to tourists;

Co-operation with other formal sector businesses should be encouraged to maximise benefits for local community enterprises – for example, a community laundry or tailoring business may only be viable if a group of enterprises commit to source supplies there. Showcase the initiative and be explicit about whether community projects are funded by tourism revenue to the enterprise, donations from tourists or tour operators, or funds from donor aid agencies. Give customers the opportunity to purchase locally produced crafts and curios, set targets to increase the proportion of sales of goods sourced locally. Assist local craft workers to develop new products to meet market demand as evidenced in the enterprise;

### **6.3. Social responsibility:**

There are various government funds and schemes in place to which businesses contribute in terms of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Contributors to CSR may make propositions on how such funding may be spend locally, for instance in ways that may benefit both the developer and the local community. CSR contributions can also be given direct to community groups and organisation, to support initiatives like the ones identified in this plan, such as the MPA outreach and environmental education programme, the community MPRC (or parts of it) etc.;

### **6.4. Government involvement and contributions:**

There are numerous ways in which government can contribute to the community development. Specially allocated target funding can be applied to priorities in the Development Plan. However, government ministries can also mainstream many priorities in the Development Plan into their annual budgets or normal activities aimed at preserving the environment, stimulating economic growth, democratising the economy, and so forth. Ministries are encouraged to study and consider priorities listed in the Local Development Plan.

Community Development Planning is an exciting and positive approach that will require constant innovation through time, as well as to fit circumstances that may not be foreseen from the outset. Therefore the above guidelines should be considered a start that can be 'test driven'. All parties interested in contribution to this development plan should be encouraged to propose new guidelines that may fit their particular circumstances.

### **6.5. How to use the Development Plan and next steps**

#### **a. Placing the Plan in an appropriate legal framework and ensure buy-in from relevant authorities:**

This Development Plan is seen mainly as an advisory document that can guide activities in Côte d'Or and Curieuse Island. The draft plan must be presented to all relevant Ministries and other stakeholders as soon as possible for input and feedback to ensure that it is in line with existing development plans and frameworks. All authorities should be encouraged to adapt the information in this plan as a guide to the

future development activities. Identified Authorities include (but is not limited to); The Ministry of Home Affairs, Environment & Transport, The Ministry of Community Development, Youth & Sports, The Ministry of Health & Social Services, The Ministry of Education, Employment & Human Resources, Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA), Public Utilities Corporation (PUC), Small Enterprises Promotion Agency, Seychelles Public Transport Authority, Seychelles Tourism Board, Seychelles Fishing Authority, Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA), and The Ecotourism Society of Seychelles (TESS), Praslin Development Fund (PDF).

b. Presentation to the community and other stakeholders:

A Development Plan can only be effective if it is widely known. It should first and foremost be made available to the local community, with a summary in Creole, and there should be no delay in its dissemination. The local community stakeholders in the area should have access to copies of the plan, along with relevant authorities as listed above. Possible partners (SNPA, the Green Islands Foundation, other marine related NGOs e.g. Nature Seychelles, PFA etc.) and donor organisation should also receive copies of the final plan.

c. A Steering Committee should be selected to implement the Local Development Plan:

The Steering Committee should steer the implementation of the Plan together with the relevant Authorities. A Steering Committee should have representation from different groups in the community (a fisher, someone from the tourism sector, a women's representative, a village elder, a tour/boat charter operator etc.), selected authorities (SNPA is a key player considering the MPA) as well as private sector investors.

d. Support for implementation:

Technical staff should be allocated to provide support to the implementation of the plan. Private sector support should be welcomed for certain aspects of the plan. A consultant may assist in the drawing up of the Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) for the future implementation. During the drawing up of the LFA every action listed in the report and Strategy and Implementation Plan should be discussed, understood, and incorporated in the LFA table. Consultants can also be involved to develop complete business plans for some of the proposed interventions.

e. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is an essential component of implementation and has to be done by the appointed Steering Committee. The framework for the monitoring and implementation should be drawn-up separately by a consultant, in close collaboration with the Steering Committee members and the community.



## **Appendix 1: Socio-economic interview used in Curieuse and Côte d'Or**

### **A) PERSONAL DETAILS**

1. What is your name? .....
2. How old are you? .....
3. What is your education level? .....
4. How long have you lived here? .....
5. What do you do for a living and for how long have you been doing it?
6. How many people depend on you? .....
7. Is the income you get from your work sufficient? Yes [ ] No [ ]  
If, No. Why? .....
8. What alternative activities do you have? .....
9. How many times per week/month do you and your family eats fish/chicken/meat?

### **B) WEAKNESSES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY**

10. When it comes to the development of your area, or achieving a better life, what are the weaknesses in the community?
11. What are the opportunities in your community?
12. Are there any NGOs/programmes/projects that have been active in your community?
  - a) Yes [ ] No [ ]
  - b) If yes, who are they?
  - c) And what have they done/achieved?
13. How do you want your community to look after 15 years? A vision for the future...

### **C) CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES**

14. Do you think the marine park at Curieuse helps? Yes [ ] No [ ]  
In what way?.....
15. Should there be more conservation areas or should the current one be opened to fishing?.....
16. Which areas do you think tourists like to visit and how many tourists visit this area per year?
17. Where do you think the fish breed?
18. Would you like to know more about the ecology of the systems (environmental education)? Yes [ ] No [ ]
19. Do you ever see dolphins or whales? Yes [ ] No [ ]  
Do people sometimes kill dolphins/whales? Yes [ ] No [ ] I don't now [ ]
20. Do you ever see sea turtles? Yes [ ] No [ ]  
Do people still harvest turtles? Yes [ ] No [ ] I don't now [ ]

### **D) THREATS TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

21. a) Are there threats to the environment? Yes [ ] No [ ]  
b) If yes, which are they?
22. a) Can you see "changes" in the environment? Yes [ ] No [ ]  
b) Which changes can you see? How do these changed affect you?
23. How are these threats/changes caused?

**E) COMMUNICATION AND GOVERNANCE**

24. How does information spread in your community?
25. Who brings the news?
26. Does anyone tell you what is going on in the sea and what is happening to the resources?
27. If you want to complain or report a problem related to the environment, who do you contact?
28. Do you communicate with marine resource managers, government officials and park managers regarding the state of the marine resources or other issues (what?)?  
Yes [  ]      No [  ]
29. Can you influence how the resources/ the MPA are managed? How?

**FINAL QUESTION (main questionnaire)**

30. Is there anything else you want to add, or think the committee should take into account when they make a Plan for the development of this area?

## **Appendix 2: Interview questions for the fishers**

### **F) THE LOCATION**

31. Where do you fish?
32. What types of ecosystem is available in the location you fish?
33. What types of species are available in the location you fish?
34. What are the problems you encounter in the area where you fish?
35. Are there other fishers coming to fish around here? Yes [  ] No [  ]

a) If yes, who are they?

.....

b) How many are they?

.....

c) Where are they from?

.....

36. How many other boats are doing the same type of fishing in the same area?

37. Are there any conflicts? Yes [  ] No [  ]

If yes, which?

.....

### **G) METHOD AND GEAR**

38. What kind of vessel/boat(s) do you use?

39. Do you own the vessel/boat(s)? [  ] Yes [  ] No

How many vessels/boats do you own?

.....

40. Do you work alone or in group? [  ] Alone [  ] in group

If you work in group, how many people are there in your group?

.....

41. What kind of gear and method do you use?

.....

42. Is there a fishers association, cooperative or committee in this area? Yes [  ]

No [  ]

43. If yes, do you or any of the people in your group belong to this? Yes [ ] No [ ]

44. What can help you to get more value for the fish you catch?

**H) CATCH ANALYSIS**

45. What type of organisms do you fish (fish (what type?), sea cucumbers, shells etc)?

Do you discard any organisms that you don't use? Yes [ ] No [ ]

46. Do you sell the fish? Yes [ ] No [ ]

If yes, where?

.....

47. How many kg do you catch and how many kg do you sell per day?

48. How much do you sell your fish for?

49. How do you keep/store your fish?

**I) FISHING STOCK AND LIVELIHOOD**

50. How do you compare the amount of fish you catch today with 5 years ago?

51. And 10 years ago?

52. What is the reason for the change?

53. How do you feel about conservation efforts in this area?

54. How has conservation efforts affected your livelihood?

55. Do you think management of the marine resources is necessary? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Why?.....

56. How can management work?

57. What do you do when you cannot fish (due to bad weather for instance)?

## **Appendix 3: Interview questions for the key informers**

### **A) PERSONAL DETAILS**

1. What is your name? .....
2. Which organisation/authority do you work for?
3. Phone number and email address? .....

### **B) WEAKNESSES & OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY**

4. When it comes to the development of the communities surrounding Curieuse, or achieving a better life for the people working/living there – what are the weaknesses in this area?
5. What are the opportunities for good development in this area?
6. Have your organisation/authority been active in Curieuse/Praslin? In what way?
7. Are there any NGOs/programs/projects that have been active in Curieuse/Praslin?  
Yes [ ] No [ ]  
If yes, who are they?  
And what have they done/achieved?
8. How do you/your organisation want the community to look after 15 years? A vision for the future...

### **C) CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES**

9. Do you and your organisation contribute to the marine park? How?.....
10. Do you think the marine park helps?  
In what way?.....
11. Should the conservation area be expanded or should the current one be opened to fishing and other activities.....
12. Which areas do you think tourists like to visit and how many tourists visit this area per year?

### **D) THREATS TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

13. Are there threats to the environment?  
If yes, which are they?
14. Can you see “changes” in the environment?  
Which changes can you see? .....
15. How do these changed affect the communities in this area?

### **E) COMMUNICATION AND GOVERNANCE**

16. How do you/ your organisation spread information to the community?
17. If people in this area want to complain or report a problem, how can they reach you and your organisation?

### **FINAL QUESTION**

18. Is there anything else you want to add, or think the committee should take into account when they make a Plan for the development of the area?

