

S.I 50 of 2021**NATIONAL PARKS AND NATURE CONSERVANCY ACT***(Cap 141)***National Parks and Nature Conservancy (Procedure for Designation of Areas) Regulations, 1971 (S.I. 110 of 1971)*****Notice of intention to designate the Ile aux Goëlettes-Farquar Atoll Special Reserve***

WHEREAS Ile aux Goëlettes has very high biodiversity values and contains species and habitats worthy of protection as detailed in the following paragraphs and the protection of Ile aux Goëlettes will increase protection of low-lying coral islands within the Seychelles protected landscape. The Farquhar Foundation, comprising Island Development Company who manage Farquhar Atoll for the Government, Island Conservation Society who are responsible for all conservation programmes at the site, investors and Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, already oversee and part finance conservation management and monitoring on Ile aux Goëlettes and have expressed a commitment to manage Ile aux Goëlettes as a 'Special Reserve'. This area is a very good candidate for expanding the terrestrial protected areas in Seychelles and has received high support from stakeholder consultations;

AND WHEREAS Ile aux Goëlettes is a low island of sand and gravels, partly phosphatised, with no beach-rock and beaches composed of sand on the lagoon side and small cobbles on the seaward side. It presents a distinctive appearance, quite different to that of the other islands, appearing uniformly flat with low ground cover, a shrubby coastal screen of native shrubs *Tournefortiaargentina* and *Surianamaritima*, a single Coconut tree *Cocos nucifera*, and a large, seawater basin on the south coast. Ile aux Goëlettes is the island with the greatest ornithological interest at Farquhar hosting five of the atoll's eight breeding seabird species. The central plain is the site of very large, ground-nesting Sooty Tern *Onychoprionfuscatus* and Brown Noddy *Anousstolidus* colonies. The Sooty Tern colony is among the five largest in Seychelles with an estimated 280,000 breeding pairs in 2017, and the Brown Noddy colony is the largest in Seychelles estimated at 19,000 pairs in 2017. Approximately 67 pairs of Roseate Terns *Sterna dougallii* and c. 140 pairs Black-naped Terns *Sterna sumatrana* also breed along the beaches (these two species move between Ile aux Goëlettes and Bancs de Sable) and Lesser Noddies *Anoustenuirostris* in coastal shrubbery. The

numbers of breeding Black-naped Terns, Brown Noddies and Sooty Terns on Ile aux Goëlettes exceed the A4 threshold for a BirdLife International IBA (BirdLife, 2019). It is important to note that the island is rat and cat free.

AND WHEREAS to protect and conserve the unique and vulnerable biodiversity of Iles aux Goëlettes, especially the vast seabird colonies and seabird breeding habitat that comprises the entire island;

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

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

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

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

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

SCHEDULE
COORDINATES

Ile aux Goelettes-Farquar Atoll Special Reserve

Id	Xcoord	Ycoord
1	514194.5095	8870077.404
2	514197.0908	8870078.355
3	514200.1323	8870079.035
4	514203.5079	8870079.462
5	514209.4184	8870079.906
6	514213.6714	8870080.009
7	514218.3808	8870079.666
8	514223.5518	8870078.878
9	514229.1983	8870077.641
10	514235.2317	8870075.986
11	514241.8104	8870073.876
12	514248.9669	8870071.307
13	514257.6397	8870067.943
14	514260.52	8870066.542
15	514263.9877	8870064.383
16	514277.1794	8870054.781
17	514280.1317	8870052.652
18	514282.6778	8870050.404
19	514285.0558	8870047.798
20	514289.2537	8870042.292
21	514291.366	8870039.85
22	514294.2262	8870037.195
23	514297.6051	8870034.721
24	514301.187	8870032.528
25	514305.2072	8870030.369
26	514309.7248	8870028.212
27	514314.9941	8870025.934
28	514318.201	8870024.711
29	514321.4534	8870023.686
30	514324.759	8870022.855
31	514328.128	8870022.216
32	514335.0959	8870021.508
33	514342.5055	8870021.545
34	514348.929	8870022.114
35	514356.074	8870023.19

36	514381.1207	8870028.408
37	514391.2974	8870030.143
38	514396.6465	8870030.767
39	514401.7264	8870031.123
40	514406.6224	8870031.217
41	514411.3788	8870031.049
42	514427.9381	8870029.676
43	514435.3344	8870028.802
44	514442.1816	8870027.799
45	514448.4979	8870026.663
46	514454.2659	8870025.397
47	514459.4832	8870024.002
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49	514468.522	8870020.661
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54	514503.8172	8870002.028
55	514506.7207	8870001.167
56	514509.9992	8870000.457
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59	514531.1462	8869997
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61	514545.0702	8869991.524
62	514551.2174	8869988.05
63	514561.2034	8869981.659
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65	514582.1917	8869966.801
66	514589.5169	8869960.55
67	514592.276	8869957.809
68	514594.419	8869955.337
69	514600.0198	8869948.934
70	514601.8648	8869946.526
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77	514603.4406	8869926.463

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82	514589.4352	8869914.428
83	514584.0953	8869904.752
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87	514575.1383	8869895.676
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92	514551.8116	8869887.546
93	514547.4704	8869884.772
94	514541.0368	8869880.358
95	514530.4342	8869872.588
96	514525.641	8869868.714
97	514521.1639	8869864.829
98	514516.9878	8869860.92
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104	514497.4888	8869833.051
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110	514482.1897	8869817.55
111	514481.3794	8869816.42
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266	513823.2725	8869724.241
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269	513826.3977	8869769.43
270	513827.2194	8869776.843
271	513828.3637	8869783.392
272	513830.1216	8869790.329
273	513832.5294	8869797.484
274	513835.7383	8869805.305
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276	513842.9135	8869821.362
277	513850.1374	8869841.387
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280	513857.9193	8869862.654
281	513860.0721	8869871.448
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367	514189.3908	8870074.277
368	514191.9722	8870076.042
369	514194.5095	8870077.404

Dated this 13th day of July, 2021.

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