

**S.I 64 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](http://www.meecc.gov.sc) or [sgerry@env.gov.sc](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.

**SCHEDULE**  
**COORDINATES**

**Ile aux Goelettes-Farquar Atoll Special Reserve**

<b>Id</b>	<b>Xcoord</b>	<b>Ycoord</b>
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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
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34	514348.929	8870022.114
35	514356.074	8870023.19

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38	514396.6465	8870030.767
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40	514406.6224	8870031.217
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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
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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**

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