

Transdisciplinary Case Study 2021 “Sustainable Land Use in Seychelles”

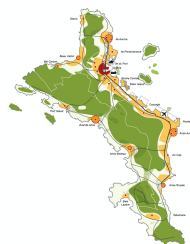
Objectives

The tdCS is a problem-oriented and research-based teaching activity. Students learn how to plan and implement research work. Objectives include: structure ill-defined problems; derive research questions; design research plans; apply qualitative and quantitative methods; collect, analyse and report data/results; work in interdisciplinary and inter-cultural teams; organise transdisciplinary collaboration between research and people from outside academia.

In addition to these learning objectives, the tdCS also aims to produce valuable results for the local community. Intensive collaboration with local partners from the public and the private sectors, as well as civil society is key. Joint problem framing before the study starts, mid-term validation through local planning experts, and joint field work with students from the local university are further characteristics.

Study Area and Topic

The Seychelles, located in the southern part of the Indian ocean, is a small state of 450km² land mass spread over some 115 islands within a sea area of 1.4 million km². The archipelago shares most of the other Small Island Developing States' (SIDS) challenges like size; isolation from global markets; limited resources and small domestic markets. Furthermore, they are exposed and highly vulnerable to effects of climate change; they increasingly face side effects typical of rapidly developing societies; and they have limited capacities for long-term planning and infrastructure management.



Between 2012 and 2015 ARUP, a multinational consultant, developed the Strategy Plan Seychelles 2040. The Seychelles Planning Authority (SPA) is currently working on the implementation of the strategy plan. Current main activity is land use planning. SPA is major partner of the case study. Together we defined Sustainable Land Use as umbrella theme. Topics to look at may include transport infrastructure, tourism, conservation, housing, agriculture, etc.

Lecturers

- Dr. Pius Krütli
- Prof. Dr. Michael Stauffacher
- Danny Nef (Phd student)

Partners

- University of Seychelles
- Seychelles Planning Authority

Dates

- Starts on 24 February 2021 and meets every Wednesday 8–10h (online) and 16–19h (classroom)
- 2 block days in Zurich (16–17 April 2021)
- 3 block weeks in the Seychelles (28 June – 16 July 2021)

More Information

<http://www.tdlab.usys.ethz.ch/casestudy>

Contact

- Pius Krütli, E-mail: pius.kruetli@usys.ethz.ch