



SEYCHELLES MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING (MSP) INITIATIVE

MSP Steering Committee

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday 5 August 2014

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Care House, Victoria

Members Present:

Mr. Didier Dogley MEE - Chairperson

Mr. Alain Decommarmond - MEE & Chairperson National Climate Change Committee

Ms. Amanda Padayachy - Ministry of Finance, trade & Investment

Ms. Cynthia Adrienne - MLUH

Dr. Jude Bijoux - MNR & SFA

Mr. Denis Matatiken - SNPA

Mr. Rodney Quatre - SNPA

Dr. Frauke Dogley - Chairperson of Terrestrial TWG

Mr. John Nevill - Chair Marine Ecology TWG

Mr. Paul Hodoul - SHTA Representative of Tourism Sector/Socio- Economic TWG

Mr. Keith Andre - FBOA Representative of Fisheries Sector /Socio – Economic TWG

In attendance:

Mrs. Iris Carolus – MSP Coordinator/SC Secretary

Ms. Helena Sims - UNDP GEF Protected Areas Project Manager

Mrs. Joanna Prosper - UNDP GEF Outer Island Project Manager

Ms. Julie Robinson - TNC MSP Lead

Mr. Kenneth Tomkin – Ministry of Tourism

Absent with apologies:

Dr. Joanna Bluemel - Vice-Chair Marine Ecology TWG

Mr. Patrick Samson – PetroSeychelles Representative of Fisheries Sector/ Socio Economic TWG



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The meeting started at 8.40 a.m. with the welcome and introductions by the Chairperson, Mr. Dogley. The Chairperson explained the objectives of the meeting which were to ensure understanding of the Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) process; to discuss the roles and responsibilities of the MSP Steering Committee; and to discuss and elicit support for a Seychelles Draft Zoning Proposal

The Agenda was presented and approved.

Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Initiative - PPT: MSP Overview – Mr. Didier Dogley

The Chairperson presented a brief overview of the MSP Initiative. He focussed on the 3 outputs of the Debt Swap and explained that the MSP is part of the Debt Swap process. He further explained the role of The Nature Conservancy in conducting the Debt swap and in developing the Marine Spatial Plan.

Discussions

One participant pointed out there was currently no legal framework for the implementation of the Marine Spatial Plan. The Chair clarified that an administrative structure is being considered by government, which will probably deal with the “blue economy issues” and would probably have the responsibility to administer the Plan. Such a structure would have to be built into the MSP process and developed during the planning process. The Australian example for the Great Barrier Reef could be adapted to suit the Seychelles purposes.

Several discussions took place on other initiatives currently being undertaken at the national level.

The Chair requested members to provide information on cross cutting initiatives to the MSP team to ensure their integration into the MSP process. He informed the meeting that a list of initiatives being undertaken will be developed to ensure harmonisation and integration with the Marine Spatial Plan and to avoid any conflicts arising.

The SFA representative informed the meeting on work currently being undertaken on the Finfish Demersal Fishery Management Plan for the Mahe Plateau, which is being developed through a co-management process and will be linking with the MSP process. The Plan will be implemented by SFA with key stakeholders. The SFA consultants developing the Plan are working on fisheries definitions, which they will be able to share by next week.

He also inquired on how the MSP process would link in to the National Climate Change Initiative at which point the chair pointed out that, AD, who represents MEE on the SC is also the Chair of the National Climate Change Committee.

The SFA representative also queried on how the MSP process links to the SSDS. The Chair pointed out that the MSP process will



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ensure that all initiatives taking place in the country that impact or contribute to this process are taken into account in the development of the MSP. The SFA representative recommended that carbon sinks should also be incorporated as a potential use in the zoning process.

MSP Steering Committee Process (Terms of Reference)

The Chair presented the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the MSP Steering Committee focusing on the roles and responsibilities of the MSP Steering Committee members. The TOR was accepted by members with revisions. The revised TOR will be circulated to members. Members were requested to provide feedback on the remaining provisions of the document within 7 days from today. Comments should be sent to the MSP Coordinator at carolusiris@yahoo.co.uk

Comments on the TOR

A member enquired as to who was responsible for determining the agenda of Steering Committee meetings. The TNC MSP team leader, JR, clarified that the SC has to decide on this with input from the TWGs.

A member requested that the composition of the TWGs be circulated to the SC members.

A member enquired about synergising representation of ongoing initiatives, in particular the PCU-UNDP Protected Areas and the Outer Islands projects at the MSP meetings. It was agreed that these representatives would be invited to the MSP meetings. Other members may also be co-opted, when deemed necessary.

It was pointed out that the SC does not have legal authority to ensure coordination, collaboration and synergies among the multiple national/large-scale initiatives/projects included within the scope of the MSP Initiative as this lies with the respective ministries. It was agreed that the SC would “strongly” recommend this coordination to the Ministerial Committee to ensure that this happens.

A member highlighted that the representatives of the various Ministries on the SC should share information on initiatives being undertaken by their respective Ministries whilst at the same time ensuring that the MSP is integrated in their respective work.

The meeting agreed that decisions would be taken by consensus. Should there be differing opinions, this would be recorded and sent to Ministerial Committee for a decision to be taken. Where there is only one differing opinion this can be recorded as a reservation.

Seychelles Draft Zoning Proposal – PPT – Ms. Julie Robinson

The following comments/amendments were made to the proposed zones:



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Zone A – no revisions were recommended.

Zone B

The language needs to be modified to reflect the sustainable use issue instead of only conservation: Fishery protection/replenishment will need to be included as part of the primary objective. Suggested language to be included in the primary objective were: representation of biodiversity and fisheries replenishment.

It queried whether tourism fishery, featuring in zone E can overlap with this zone. JR clarified that there can be overlapping uses across multiple zones based on their compatibility

It was recommended to include climate change mitigation as secondary objectives with a strong focus on carbon sink. It is possible that this could also be incorporated as a primary objective.

Potential future uses: change carbon sequestration to carbon sinks.

The Chair pointed out that since climate change adaptation has a link with renewable energy, blue carbon and carbon sinks there is the need to link up zones B and C and consider different classifications. It was proposed that different subcategories under this zone would permit different uses.

The Chair recommended that tourism, as an activity, needs to be integrated into this zone taking into account the compatibility of tourism activities and conservation areas.

Aquaculture, depending on its type and compatibility can be considered as a potential future use.

It was suggested that this zone be further refined taken into consideration the existing PA policy and law, the Fisheries Bill and other current initiatives.

Subsistence fisheries should not be a targeted use but rather a (secondary) potential use.

Zone C

The meeting was informed that the current legal definition for “port” is far more extensive than how it is being represented in the zoning proposal and this needs to be considered in this document. The current legal definition incorporates a large expanse of sea and marine transportation routes. It was proposed that the use of the word should be revised to reflect the legal definition.

It was pointed out that the “no harvesting or extraction” in zone C could lead to a potential conflict as this area covers the east coast of Mahe which is important for artisanal fishery for multiple species with extensive fishing off these areas



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It was suggested that some activities might be allowed seasonally.

It was proposed that on the same basis that some zones can be considered as exclusive, some activities can also be considered as inclusive e.g. artisanal fishing.

Zone D

No comments were made.

Zone E

Include artisanal fishery in this zone.

Members were alerted to an error in the zoning document sent out on page 15, which should read as follows:

Potential future uses for Zone E: TBD (To Be Determined)

General Comments

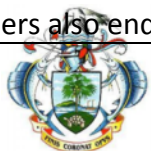
A member suggested that carbon sinks are considered as potential uses and that climate change and pollution should be integrated in the MSP process. The Chair explained that the MSP focuses on uses and activities but that threats such as climate change and pollution will be cross cutting across all sectors or uses. It was further pointed out that the compatibility matrix reflected this and that climate change adaptation would be integrated into the plan.

The meeting was informed that VMS data has been provided to Dr. Rebecca Klaus, the PA consultant, for all fisheries except for small-scale fisheries. However, fisheries density maps dating from 5 years ago are available for this type of fishery. Catch Per Unit Effort spatial data has also been provided.

One member enquired if there will be a specific zone allocated for fishery protection and was informed that this will form part of Zone B.

Another member further enquired about the scale that will be used for the MSP blueprint. JR, the TNC lead, informed the meeting that this will be a large scale for the initial map but that this can be further refined to a much finer scale as the MSP is developed, in particular for the Mahe plateau.

Members also enquired about the status of a zones map and were informed that it was currently in the process of being prepared



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and a first draft will be available for viewing in September.

One member further pointed out that the TWG had requested to view the maps of uses to be able to put the zoning scheme into context and refine it appropriately. The Chair explained that the process for the zoning scheme was as equally important in order to understand how the zones will function. The particular member, acknowledging that this being a “chicken and egg” situation, pointed out that on the other hand one could not really understand how the scheme will function unless it is integrated into a plan.

Enquiries were made whether the Data Sharing Agreement being used was the same as the one being used for the PA project. The PA project Manager confirmed that the DSA was modified to cater for both projects.

She further informed the meeting that the 1st iteration from Marxan from interviews conducted for the PA project will be available by the end of August.

It was queried if there can be overlap of zones and the TNC lead confirmed that this will be possible only when activities within the zones are compatible.

A member reiterated the TWG request that Seychelles international obligations need to be taken into consideration in developing the zoning scheme and the MSP.

Matters Arising

JN informed the meeting that he will be overseas for next workshop.

The Chair of the Terrestrial Ecology TWG sought clarification and guidance on what kind of contribution is expected from members of the Terrestrial TWG, as this was unclear from documents. The PA Project Manager clarified that for the PA project this was mostly on how to input data into the modeling e.g. what proxies to be use.

A member suggested having a representative of the Island Development Company on the Steering Committee, as the MSP includes the outer islands. He also suggested having representatives of IOTC and from the commercial tuna fishery on the TWG.

It was also enquired whether a cost benefit analysis for the MSP had been undertaken. The Chair confirmed that MEE does not currently have the capacity to undertake this study.

Members were informed that they will receive notification of the next meeting by email. There being no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 12.00 hrs.



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