

SEYCHELLES MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING INITIATIVE

WORKSHOP # 3

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER OF SEYCHELLES

VICTORIA MAHE SEYCHELLES

AUGUST 21ST & 22ND 2014

WORKSHOP REPORT

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Acronyms

ASCLME	Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems.
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DSTs	Decision Support Tool(s)
EBSA	Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FAD	Fish Aggregating Devices
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FPSO	Floating Production, Storage and Offloading
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GoS	Government of Seychelles
GVI	Global Vision International
IDC	Islands Development Company
IOC-UNESCO	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission - United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IUU fishing	Illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing
LMMAs	Locally Managed Marine Area(s)
MEE	Ministry of Environment and Energy
MFTI	Ministry of Finance, Trade & Investment
MLUH	Ministry of Land-Use and Housing
MNR	Ministry of Natural Resources
MPAs	Marine Protected Area(s)
MSP	Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
NBSAP	Seychelles National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
OBIS	Ocean Biogeographic Information System
OTEC	Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion
PA	Protected Areas
PPP	Public - Private Partnerships
SC	Steering Committee
SeyCCAT	Seychelles Conservation & Climate Adaptation Trust
SEYMEMP	Seychelles Marine Ecosystem Management Project
SEYMMAP	Seychelles Marine Multi-use Adaptation Project (SEYMMAP)
SFA	Seychelles Fishing Authority
SMART	Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant, Time Bound
SMSA	Seychelles Maritime and Safety Administration
SNPA	Seychelles National Parks Authority
SOS	Save Our seas
SPA	Seychelles Port Authority
SSDS	Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNDP- PCU	United Nations Development Programme - Programme Coordinating Unit
WIOMER	Western Indian Ocean Marine Eco region

Introduction and Background

The Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Initiative is a public process focused on planning for, and management of, the sustainable and long-term use and health of the Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), a marine area covering 1,374,000 km² and 115 islands. The MSP Initiative is a government-led process, with planning and facilitation managed by a partnership between The Nature Conservancy, the Government of Seychelles, and the United Nations Development Programme - Global Environment Facility Programme Coordinating Unit. Funding for the Initiative is being provided by UNDP-GEF grants to the Government of Seychelles, and an Oceans 5 grant to The Nature Conservancy.

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) provides a participatory and transparent way to focus on sustainable uses for the Seychelles marine environment and minimise spatial conflicts between uses. The Seychelles MSP Initiative takes an integrated, multi-sector approach and will balance ecological, social, cultural and economic objectives. The participatory nature of MSP encourages communities and private sector partners to provide advice, information and input to the Seychelles Initiative.

Article 38 of the Constitution of Seychelles provides the authority for planning and the guiding principles, vision and goals of the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) help provide the framework for the MSP Initiative. The Initiative will develop an integrated, multi-use marine zoning and climate change adaptation plan to optimise the sustainable use and effective management of the Seychelles marine environment while ensuring and improving the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of its people. This marine plan will serve as the basis for guiding the strategies and decisions of the Seychelles Conservation & Climate Adaptation Trust (SeyCCAT) that was established by the Government of Seychelles for a Debt-for-Climate-Change-Adaptation swap. Phase I of the MSP Initiative (February 2014 – June 2015) will produce a suite of design options, tools and management strategies as a basis for further development and implementation of the national multi-use plan.

The Seychelles MSP Initiative was launched at a workshop on 4-5 February 2014 in Victoria. The key objectives of that workshop were to introduce the MSP Initiative being facilitated by The Nature Conservancy, and identify the key components that will support the Seychelles Blue Economy. The second workshop was held in May 14th and 15th 2014, the objectives of which were to develop a common understanding of Seychelles MSP Initiative; to draft SMART objectives and to discuss data layers and identify gaps for current conditions.

The purpose of the 3rd workshop is to provide an update to the Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning process; to better understand current conditions and trends within the marine space (uses and activities); to present and review the draft zoning proposal (incl. existing zones); and to present and review spatial data layers (uses and activities) being used to inform the zones.

All presentations and documents presented at the workshop have been uploaded to the MSP website, www.seychellesmarinespatialplanning.com.

Workshop 3 Summary

Day 1: Thursday 21st August 2014

Welcome and Opening

Mr. Didier Dogley, Special Adviser to the Minister of Environment and Energy, gave a warm welcome to the workshop.

Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Initiative Update

Mr. Dogley provided an update on the Marine Spatial Planning Initiative results achieved to date, and alignment with other initiatives in the Seychelles.

Julie Robinson (TNC) provided an update on the planning process including how advice from workshops 1 and 2 were being incorporated into the process. Ms. Robinson also summarised the work of the Technical Working Group and Steering Committee since workshop 2.

After the MSP process update, participants were asked to provide information to the process on any ongoing or synergising initiatives in the country, activities from their sector since the last workshop, and share any concern arising out of the MSP process. Roundtable conversation is summarised by sector or theme:

Fisheries

- A Fisheries Management Plan for Demersal Fishery on the Mahe Plateau is currently being undertaken by SFA. Consultants are in the process of undertaking risk and stock assessments to determine which species will be included in demersal fishery management plan and rank them for selection of species for the stock assessment which will be done in early November.
- A workshop will be held between 13th and 27th September 2014 to discuss the Management Plan. It is expected that the draft Management Plan will be submitted to Cabinet in February 2015.
- Meetings have been held with the MSP team on coordinating efforts for Education & Awareness for both initiatives and how both efforts integrate with each other. A Media Plan is currently being designed on how to engage stakeholders and develop and impart key messages for desired outcomes, which will be finalised next week. UNDP-GEF is funding the Fisheries Management Plan, which includes the Communications component.
- The Fisheries Policy and Fisheries Strategy are currently being reviewed and the revised documents will cater for the next 10 years.
- A legal framework is being developed for the mandatory use of by catch by fishermen, as required by IOTC, to which Seychelles is a party.
- The added value of fisheries is also being considered through the commissioning of processing plants at Providence shortly.
- Considerations for loss of fishing grounds for fishermen will need to be taken into account with oil exploration and the designation of 15% of the EEZ as Protected Areas.
- The Fisheries Bill is in the process of being submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval.
- 2700 metric tons of catch per year by artisanal fishermen using methods approved by relevant authorities was sustainable and not contributing to fisheries depletion in our seas.
- 99% of IUU cases in Seychelles waters are reported by local vessels and that no local vessels are involved in such activities. It was queried whether restricting areas from artisanal fishermen

through the zoning scheme, would inadvertently raise the opportunity for more IUU activity from foreign vessels.

Biodiversity and Conservation

- Current UNDP GEF funded initiatives include: 1) The Protected Areas Project, with the prioritization of Protected Areas output, which will be completed by mid-September 2014; 2) The Outer Islands project managed by UNDP PCU and implemented by ICS focusing on biodiversity on outer islands for the next 4 years. Funding is available to follow up on the 1st iteration of the MS; 3) The new PA finance project is currently being designed. It will be coordinated by UNDP and will contribute towards the long-term financing of PAs.
- It was queried whether ferrite sprinkling was being considered as a viable strategy to curb global warming.

Tourism

- It was suggested to include maritime security as lack of security is a threat to the tourism sector.
- It was suggested that activities such as diving etc. from cruise ships could be considered less consumptive from an environmental point of view.

Maritime Security

- It was suggested that experts in the field of security should have an input in the MSP process in order to properly plan for keeping the zones secure once implemented.

Seychelles Draft Zoning Proposal

Dr. Joanna Smith (TNC Canada) presented the draft Zoning Proposal, which described the process for the development of the proposal through the various workshops, Technical Working Groups (TWG) and Steering Committee (SC) meetings. Dr. Smith described the zoning process, introduced the zone types and objectives, and reviewed the targeted uses. Participants were informed that they are providing input on the proposal and were requested to send any additional comments by email to Iris after the meeting adjourned.

Clarifying Questions

Are underwater submarine hotels being taken into account in this process? They could be considered as a future potential use for tourism development. They would have to follow the national legislative and regulatory requirements in place for development, and would probably be considered in the tourism zone.

Will planning be done outside the EEZ? The MSP initiative is for the Seychelles EEZ only, as the High Seas are regulated by the IMO guidelines and other regulations.

Planning Tools: Compatibility Matrix

Joanna Smith presented the draft Compatibility Matrix explaining that it was a tool for planning and zoning. She further emphasized the input required from the different sectors for the draft matrix,

explaining how the matrix was connected to the other planning tools and documents being developed during the process, for example, spatial analyses, the Master List of Uses, and the Zoning scheme.

Clarifying Questions

Does the Initiative include terrestrial factors? Planning is being done from the high water mark to the Seychelles EEZ boundary, and is equally important to consider up land effects e.g. effects from hotels. Infrastructure on land (e.g., ports) will be taken into consideration in the Plan. There is a Technical Working Group for terrestrial ecology.

What is the time scale for the plan? The MSP Plan would be for the next 20 years as agreed by GoS, with a suggested plan review every 5 years.

Will overlapping uses be considered in one particular zone? In principle this is possible but that more discussions are required between parties where conflicts exist. For each zone, compatible uses will be identified.

Planning Tools: Decision-support Tools

Rick Tingey made a short presentation on Decision Support Tools used to develop spatial zones and explained the process of gathering and assembling information/data to then develop a zoning map.

Clarifying questions

What types of data are required for cultural heritage for MSP purposes? Primarily ship wrecks related to the Seychelles cultural/marine heritage.

Planning Tools: Master List of Definitions

Julie Robinson introduced the Master List of Uses and Activities, explaining the purpose of the document - provide a comprehensive list of uses and activities and their associated descriptions for the Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone as it relates to marine spatial planning. It was pointed out that the Fisheries definitions are being reviewed by SFA.

Group work: Master List

Four groups reviewed the Master List, suggesting changes, providing description of uses that can be represented spatially, providing relative intensity and influence distance (impact on other uses) and providing information where it was missing from the definitions.

Comments from each of the 4 groups will be incorporated into the document to improve the definitions.

General comments

- Align the definitions in the master list with the compatibility matrix.
- Intensity is more important in determining impacts rather than number of people in one particular area at a given time for tourism.
- Remove the exhaustive list under the definition of "recreation".

- The issue of beach access by the local population could be seen as a cultural issue hence allowing it to be defined as “recreation”.
- “Culture” needs to be further defined.
- Are polymetallic nodules were being considered in deep-sea mining?

Group Work: Zoning Review

Five groups were formed to review the draft Zoning proposal presented in the morning session. The groups were divided based on the proposed zones.

The group work focused on the following questions: 1. What are we zoning for? What are the primary and secondary objectives? 2. What is missing? What else matters? 3. How do national policies and regulations fit into this zone? What are some of the considerations? 4. What might happen here in the future?

Notes from all break-out groups will be compiled by the MSP team prior to circulation to participants.

General comments

Zone A

- “Securing livelihoods important for fishermen” should be included in the objective of this zone.

Zone B

- High value tourism activities should be included in this zone.
- Any use that alters the function of the ecosystem in ways that are not fully understood should not be allowed in this zone. This includes biotechnology.
- More enforcement will be required in this zone.
- Tourism can have different impacts dependent on activities undertaken.
- Marine aquaculture may be incompatible with biodiversity.

Zone C

- Will dry-docking be considered in this zone?
- Change the name of this zone to “Industrial and Public Utilities Zone”.

Zone D

- Change the title of this Zone to “Oil and Gas, Minerals and Aggregates, which are non-renewables.
- No refining of oil was being proposed in Seychelles. The country would be exporting crude oil thus eliminating the risks involved with refineries.
- A participant asked how oil exploration could be considered to be compatible with fisheries replenishment areas. Julie Robinson explained that since floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) units are being considered, these could act as fish aggregating devices (FADs). Since there would be an exclusion zone around any FPSO, this area could be seen as a defacto fish replenishment area. It was explained that the impacts of seismic activity on fisheries and

other activities occur during the prospecting phase, which has already been undertaken, rather than during oil exploration.

- Could Zones C and D be integrated together with the proposed renaming of Zone C? Joanna Smith explained that whilst infrastructure and/or uses in Zone C tend to be fixed in permanent or predictable locations, this was not the case for Zone D.

Zone E

- It was agreed that there was a very fine line between activities undertaken as recreation and as tourism and that the definition of these words is key in determining which activities fall under which category/use.

Wrap Up Day 1

Julie Robinson gave a brief summary of the main points brought up during the day's discussion:

- By limiting local fishers, we may be inviting more IUU activities
- Maritime security needs to be considered across all zones.
- With regards to overlapping uses - there can be multiple uses for a single area. Where conflicts exist, there will need to be further discussion.
- Intensity is more important in determining impacts rather than numbers of people
- Definitions in master list do not match the compatibility matrix
- Good descriptions are required for the uses and activities so that we are clear about what we are talking about for compatibilities.
- Further discussions/clarifications required for cultural definition
- Consider definitions in existing legislation and policies
- How best to aggregate uses into a meaningful yet not overly complex matrix?

Day 2: Friday 22nd August 2014

Group Work

Planning tools: Compatibility Matrix

The session on Day 2 started with group work to review and revise the Compatibility Matrix to identify spatial and/or temporal conflicts using compatibility matrix coding. Notes from each of the groups were compiled and will be revised by the MSP team prior to circulation to participants.

Participatory Mapping

Rick Tingey made a short presentation on data layers and GeoPDFs. This was followed by group work where participants were able to start mapping out and identify high priority/high value areas as well as high conflict areas and overlapping uses. As a result of the exercise, and considering all other available data, a first draft of the MSP design will be prepared this fall.

Roundtable Wrap Up & Key Messages

At the end of the workshop, participants provided their feedback on the 2 days' workshop, which is detailed below.

MSP process

- It was pointed out that the process undertaken for the MSP is more important than the final product itself. This was evident during this workshop. It is hoped that GoS gives due respect to the outputs of the process i.e. the stakeholders' views and inputs.
- Participants requested to be kept updated on the results of the process as was being done so far.
- It was felt that there was the need for longer timelines for the process as well as the need to keep a holistic vision throughout the whole exercise.
- It was felt that the MSP exercise is challenging but worthwhile and will prove to be useful in the long-term.
- It was pointed out that zoning is always problematic where many interests and conflicts exist and media reporting needs to be done cautiously.
- It was highlighted that this exercise may interfere with existing policies such as the Open Sea Policy, which will need to be addressed in light of restrictions that will be imposed as a result of the MSP design and eventual Plan.

Running of workshop

- Most participants preferred Day 2, as it was more participatory and practical.
- It was felt that this was one of the best-attended workshops.
- More time should have been allocated to the participatory exercise(s) during the workshop.
- Participants felt that it would have been more productive to have interaction with the different sectors rather than staying in their respective sectors/groups.

Documents/Tools

- The finalisation of the key terms/definitions as well as the uses/activities is a matter of priority, particularly in order to complete the Compatibility Matrix.

- The justifications and definitions in the documents need more clarity.
- It was generally felt that the GeoPDF tool was a very useful tool and a crucial way of getting peoples' input in the process. Participants felt that they learnt a lot from the participatory mapping exercise. It was also felt that this could be replicated to other areas to facilitate work being undertaken.

Stakeholder Engagement/Collaboration

- More one-on-one engagement with key stakeholders after this workshop was recommended particularly with representatives of the Seychelles Chamber of Commerce, where conflicting interests may arise as well as consultations with the media and the tourism sector as well as with other sectors not present at the workshop such as petroleum and maritime safety.
- The fact that the fisheries sector was well represented was welcomed.
- It was noted that there has been a change in stakeholder engagement and collaboration in the MSP process, an indication that the MSP team is taking into account stakeholders' comments from previous meetings. This has resulted in a greater stakeholder engagement, particularly public-private sector partnerships.
- It was pointed out that there is the need to improve collaboration between PA and MSP initiatives in order to avoid duplication of efforts.
- There is the need to strengthen participation in the TWGs.
- An invitation to attend MSP workshops should be extended to the Blue Economy Steering Committee members.

Next Steps

1. The Compatibility Matrix, Master List of Definitions and Zoning Document will be revised and circulated in September or October.
2. The first draft of a zoning design will be prepared this fall and presented to the Technical Working Group for input.
3. Dates for the second Technical Working Group and Steering Committee meetings will be determined and invitations sent out.
4. The 4th MSP workshop will be held in January 2015.
5. Presentations and workshop documents will be uploaded to the MSP Initiative's website.

Annex 1 Agenda for the Workshop

MSP Stakeholder Engagement

Workshop 3

21 - 22 August 2014

International Conference Centre of Seychelles

Meeting Objectives:

1. To provide an update to the Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning process
2. To better understand current conditions and trends within the marine space (uses and activities)
3. To present and review the draft zoning proposal (incl. existing zones)
4. To present and review spatial data layers (uses and activities) being used to inform the zones

Day 1: Thursday 21st August 2014

#	Time	Topic
1	8:30 – 8:45	Welcome and Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Introductions• Agenda review
2	8:45 - 9:15	Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Initiative Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updates on MSP process• Roundtable for updates and information
3	9:15 – 10:15	Seychelles Draft Zoning Proposal (Presentation) Zoning Process and draft Zones
	10:15 – 10:30	Tea Break
4	10:30 – 11:00	Planning Tools: Compatibility Matrix (Presentation)
5	11:00 – 12:00	Planning Tools: Master List of Uses and Activities (Break out groups and Plenary Discussion)
	12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
6	1:00 – 2:30	Zoning: Review and Revise (Break out groups) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Names and Objectives• Targeted Uses, Compatible Uses, Future Uses, Considerations
	2:30 – 2:45	Tea Break
7	2:45 – 3:45	Planning Tools - Compatibility Matrix (Break out groups)
8	3:45 – 4:15	Planning Tools: Compatibility Matrix (Plenary discussion)
9	4:15 – 4:30	Wrap up Day 1

Day 2: Friday 22nd August 2014

#	Time	Topic
1	8:30 – 8:45	Welcome Day 2
2	8:45 – 9:30	Planning Tools: Compatibility Matrix Input
3	9:30 – 10:00	Participatory Mapping (Presentation)
	10:00 – 10:15	Coffee/Tea break
4	10:15 – 12:15	Participatory Mapping (Break out groups & Plenary)
5	12:15 – 12:30	Wrap up Day 2 and Workshop Next Steps
	12.30	Lunch

Annex 2 List of Participants

Ministry of Natural Resources

Mr. Roger Desnousse - Personal Assistant to the Minister

Ministry of Land Use and Housing

Ms. Cynthia Adrienne – Ag. Director Center for GIS

PCU-UNDP

Mr. Andrew Grieserjohns - Programmes Coordinator

Ms. Helena Sims - Project Manager for Protected Areas

Mrs. Joanna Prosper - Project Manager for Outer Islands

Mr. Lindsay Chong-Seng – Project Manager for Biosecurity

Ms. Betty Seraphine – Project Manager for Mainstreaming Biodiversity

Ministry of Environment and Energy

Mr. Didier Dogley - Special Advisor to the Minister

Mr. Alain Decomarmond - Director General Climate Affairs

Miss Elyn Albert - GIS Section

Dr. P. Murugaiyan - Environmental Engineering Section

Mr. Marcel Belmont - Senior Meteorological Technician

Mrs. Begum Nageon

Mr. Olivier Bodere

Seychelles Island Foundation

Dr. Frauke Fleicher-Dogley - Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Rowana Walton - Communications Officer

Seychelles Fishing Authority

Dr. Jude Bijoux – Chief Fisheries Scientist

Mr. Calvin Gerry – Senior Oceanographer

Ministry of Tourism

Mr. Louis Desnousse – Senior Coordinator Standards and Regulations

Seychelles Energy Commission

Mr. Mamy Razanajatovo

Seychelles National Parks Authority

Mr. Denis Matatiken – Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Rodney Quatre

Mr. James Mougat

Seychelles Ports Authority

Mr. Ned Wirtz

Seychelles Maritime Safety Authority

Mr. Richard Ernesta - Director

Island Conservation Society

Mr. Ahab Downer - Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Alice Mascarenhas - Outer Islands Project Coordinator

Mr. Pierre Andre Adam

Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles

Dr. Joanna Bluemel – Senior Scientific Researcher

Green Island Foundation

Mr. Arjan de Groene - General Manager

Fishing Boat Owners Association

Mr. Keith Andre – Chairperson

Mr. Jean-Claude Hoareau

Mr. Beatty Hoareau

Plant Conservation Action Group

Katy Beaver

Consultant/ Shark Fishing Association

Mr. John Nevill

Seychelles Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Dolor Ernesta – Vice Chairperson

Turtle Action Group Seychelles

Dr. Jeanne Mortimer

Global Vision International Seychelles

Mr. Chris Mason Parker

Terrestrial Restoration Action Society of Seychelles

Ms. Vicky Barbe

Praslin Fishermen's Association

Mr. Darrell Green - Chairperson

Consultant

Mr. Jonathan Pinchart

The Nature Conservancy

Ms. Julie Robinson, Marine Specialist

Ms. Joanna Smith, Marine Spatial Planning Science Manager

Mr. Rick Tingey, GIS Consultant

Mr. George Maina – TNC Kenya

Mrs. Iris Carolus, Local MSP Coordinator

Support Staff

Mrs. Sabrina Renaud, Administrative Assistant
