



SEYCHELLES MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING INITIATIVE

Technical Working Group Meeting # 2

Day 1: Marine and Terrestrial

Day 2: Socio-Economic

22nd October 2014, Seychelles Fishing Authority Training Room

23rd October 2014, Care House

Victoria Mahe Seychelles

Meeting Report

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Acronyms

EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GoS	Government of Seychelles
GVI	Global Vision International
IDC	Islands Development Company
MEE	Ministry of Environment and Energy
MPAs	Marine Protected Area(s)
MSP	Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning
PA	Protected Areas
SC	Steering Committee
SFA	Seychelles Fishing Authority
SMART	Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant, Time Bound
SNPA	Seychelles National Parks Authority
SOSF	Save Our Seas Foundation
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNDP- PCU	United Nations Development Programme - Programme Coordinating Unit

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.

The Seychelles MSP Initiative was launched at a stakeholder 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. People at the workshop identified seven sectors important to the scope of the planning process (in no particular order): biodiversity conservation, cultural heritage, fisheries, marine transportation, petroleum (mineral & aggregate) extraction, renewable energy, and tourism. Focusing on the seven sectors, participants were led through a 10-20 year visioning exercise to describe what they did and did not want to see for these sectors over this time scale. The results of the visioning exercise were refined into general goals by the workshop participants and ranked in order of low, medium, and high priority. A second stakeholder workshop was held on 14-15 May in Victoria the goals 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. A third stakeholder workshop was held on 21-22 August 2014, the aim of which was 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.

In line with the governance structure established for the MSP Initiative, three Technical Working Groups were set up to advise and guide the development of the Plan. These groups consist of representatives of Government, Non-Government Organisations and the Private Sector. The groups represent socio-economic activities - Fisheries, Tourism and Petroleum - as well as biodiversity and ecology for marine and terrestrial thematic areas.

The first Technical Working Group meeting was held on 9 July 2014 and the second meeting on 22-23 October, 2014. The objectives of the October meeting were to provide an update on the Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Initiative; to review and elicit support for methodology to develop draft Zoning Design for Seychelles EEZ; and to provide spatial information about high priority areas and compatibilities or conflicts within the EEZ (i.e. participatory mapping).

A website for the MSP Initiative (www.seychellesmarinespatialplanning.com) contains information for the public and stakeholders to learn about the planning process and outputs. It hosts all the relevant background documents, reports and presentations developed throughout the process. The aim of the website is to keep all stakeholders informed and updated on the process.

Meeting Report

Day 1

Opening Remarks

Mr. Didier Dogley, Special advisor in the Ministry of Environment and Energy, welcomed the participants to the meeting on Day 1 and Dr. Joanna Smith, TNC Canada (The Nature Conservancy), welcomed the participants on Day 2.

Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Initiative Update

Joanna made short presentations giving an update on the following:

- **MSP Process update**

The meeting was informed that the MSP process was going according to plan.

The MSP is currently awaiting the outputs of Protected Areas (PA) project, which will be available by the end of November 2014.

The role of the TWG in this process was emphasized as being the critical thinking body. The next steps of the process will be to use the TWG2 outputs to develop a zoning design validated by the Steering Committee, which will then be validated by stakeholders at Workshop # 4.

- **Technical Update: Zoning document, Master List, Compatibility Matrix**

Participants were reminded that several of the products of the MSP are living documents under constant review. They were requested to provide any additional comments on these documents two weeks after the workshop. The Zoning document (version 2.0) is under revision from the stakeholder workshop #3, and requires to be cross-referenced with the revised compatibility matrix and the master list of definitions.

- **GIS data**

Sets of data were received from SFA recently. The MSP team will be working with PA project and MEE (Justin Prosper) for the other required layers.

Project Alignment

Mr. Didier Dogley discussed the alignments of the MSP Initiative with the PA and Outer Islands projects as well as the Blue Economy strategy.

An update on the Debt Swap negotiations was given. Discussions have been held between the Seychellois and French presidents as well as respective Finance Ministers. Negotiations will be finalized in November with the Paris Club. The TNC Executive team is supporting the initiative with fund raising.

Roundtable of Updates

Members introduced themselves, their affiliation, and provided an update to the MSP process on their various related projects, details of which are given below:

UNDP: Update on the renewed work plan for Rebecca Klaus for the expansion of marine protected areas network under the PA project. She will be focusing on data mapping and a systematic conservation planning process. The contract extension will be until the end of November by which time the work will be completed. A stakeholder validation workshop will be held on the following dates: 12th, 13th, 14th or mid – 20th, 21st or

22nd November with the final results expected at the end of November. The data layers prepared by Dr. Rebecca Klaus will be available on Justin's server, him being the data manager. Participants were reassured that confidential data will be protected as long as this has been registered under the Data Sharing Agreements signed with the parties.

Sustainability for Seychelles: They have received funding from Mangroves for the Future to develop a management plan for mangroves at Port Launay.

Outer Islands project: The inception workshop for the Outer Islands (OI) project was held in September 2014. Discussions have been held on aligning the OI and MSP outputs. A decision needs to be taken on whether the OI project should wait for the completion of the MSP 1st iteration before it proceeds with related work. The implementation phase of the project by Island Conservation Society of Seychelles has just started.

The Seychelles Sports Fishing Club: They are organising the Great Marlin race for November 2014. It is expected that this will help gather data, which will contribute to the MSP, through its satellite tagging.

UNDP: Though the PA project, Green Island Foundation is considering the possibility of declaring North and Denis Islands as protected areas. This will include the marine areas around the islands.

Global Vision International Seychelles: Involved in coral reef monitoring around Mahe.

Seychelles Island Foundation: Are considering extending the marine protected areas around Aldabra. The Aldabra Management Plan is being developed under the PA project.

Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles: Are considering the designation of seasonal PA for migratory species under the PA project.

Seychelles Fishing Authority: Currently drafting the Management Plan for Demersal Fishery. Further consultative meetings and workshops will be held November and December 2014. It is expected that the draft Management Plan will be finalised by January 2015 and submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers in March 2015 for approval. It is hoped that the Plan will be implemented straight away. Ecological risk assessments and stock assessments are being undertaken, the results of which will be shared at the next planned workshops.

Defining Zones Spatially

Joanna Smith presented a PowerPoint summarising the rules or criteria to guide the creation of a zoning design, the zoning design tools TNC will use, and the challenges. She noted that there is the need to include future potential uses in the design and to continue to share possible future uses or scenarios with the MSP process.

Discussions – Day 1

The following issues were discussed or questions raised:

- Best areas v/s priority areas.
- The scale and details of the data layers; clarified that the scale and resolution of the data vary, depending on the source.
- Mapping of future zones offshore; clarified that possible future uses have been shared with MSP process, and are being incorporated into zoning design as best as possible.
- Clarification was sought on whether the MSP will include the joint continental shelf co- managed by Seychelles and Mauritius. Didier Dogley responded that presently this is not the case and it was recommended that the MSP considers this area. The meeting was informed that it is hoped that the Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems (SAPPHIRE project) will be implemented in that area further to being accepted by Mauritius.

Spatial Information for Draft Zoning Design

Joanna Smith presented a GeoPDF showing the data layers that will be used to inform the zoning design and a review of the participatory mapping input from Workshop #3 in August 2014 with the stakeholders. Two possible scenarios on Mahe Plateau were presented to the TWG for discussion: 1) The Port Victoria boundary was highlighted and TWG asked for their reaction if this were proposed as 'Zone C – Infrastructure' with multiple uses and protected areas therein. TWG member responded that such a designation might be possible as this area currently is as an existing zone. It would then have allowable uses within that zone (compatible with existing uses). 2) With the same port boundary, another option would be to designate as 'Zone B – Biodiversity & Fisheries Replenishment' and managed primarily for biodiversity conservation with shipping as a secondary use. TWG provided a recommendation that shipping traffic /lines need to be regulated.

Joanna Smith presented an example from Canada on a decision-making matrix with a spatial reference layer to show one option for creating a decision-making framework relative to zoning for activities and deciding allowable uses, especially for 'Zone B – Biodiversity'.

Joanna Smith presented an example of how the GIS contractor (Rick Tingey) is developing representation of uses from spatial data that the MSP Initiative has from SFA and MEE. The SFA Vessel Monitoring Survey (VMS) data were displayed in the raw format (points) and then after the data processing and Marxan runs (polygons representing a percentage of use by analysis unit). TWG queried whether the VMS included sea cucumber fishery data; clarified that it was the artisanal and semi-industrial boats only with vessel monitoring, and would confirm with SFA.

Participatory Mapping for Biodiversity – Marine and Terrestrial

Break out groups were formed for marine and terrestrial biodiversity. The aim of the exercise was to identify high priority areas as well as compatibilities and conflicts. The groups were guided by a set of questions to consider for the mapping.

Marine & Terrestrial Questions:

- Where are the "best areas for current uses?"
- Foraging habitats for marine birds and cetaceans?
- What are compatible uses that currently occur in this area? What are conflicting uses?
- Where are the "must have" areas?
- What are some attributes that can be used for decision-making?
- Climate change: sea level rise and coastal inundation?

Fisheries Replenishment Questions:

- Where are the "best areas for current uses?"
- Important land-sea linkages?
- Sea level rise considerations?
- Where are the 'must have' areas?
- What are compatible uses that currently occur in this area? What are conflicting uses?
- High priority sites for spawning?
- How to capture seasonality?

4 groups:

Terrestrial biodiversity (GeoPDF driver: Cynthia; members: Herve and James);

Terrestrial- marine interface: (GeoPDF driver: Elyn; members Arjan and Jeanne);

Marine species and habitats: (GeoPDF driver: Joanna Prosper; members: Rodney, Abi and Jo Bluemel);

Fisheries replenishment areas (GeoPDF driver: Helena: members: Rowana, Grant, Chris)

Day 2

Opening Remarks and MSP Update

The same opening remarks and presentations on the MSP Initiative updates on Day 1 were made on Day 2.

Roundtable of Updates

Members introduced themselves, their affiliation, and advised the MSP Initiative of any news or updates from their sector. The TWG members noted several issues and considerations for the MSP process:

- Local and traditional knowledge of fishermen need to be taken into account in the development of the MSP giving due regard to sensitive information provided.
- Maps for sharing with stakeholders will need to be password protected due to the sensitive and confidential nature of data provided to the process.
- Joanna Smith shared that PetroSeychelles was unable to be present at the meeting and a meeting will be held with them on October 24th, 2014 to discuss their high priority areas.
- Artisanal fishery does occur far out to the south of the Mahe Plateau up to the Amirantes, Providence and Farquhar. Schooners are used and fishermen spend at least 10 days at sea. Provide a definition for artisanal fishery and redefine the one for semi-industrial fishery to include the techniques used as well as all the species targeted.
- No data available on industrial fishery. [post meeting note: industrial fishing were provided by SFA to MSP Initiative]
- Refine data according to species and new species being targeted. Expert advice will be sought from SFA to identify gear pattern, where possible.
- Include temporal distribution of fisheries data provided. Data from both the SE and NW monsoons will be taken into account as well as the impact of piracy in 2008/2009.
- Currently there is no legal framework for the MSP process. Decisions are taken at policy level. Government needs to put in institutional, policy, and legal framework for its implementation. Didier clarified that the MSP plan would be signed by Cabinet.
- Concern about whether the process was progressing too quickly clarified that the process was proceeding according to the timelines established by the government. The timelines allow for stakeholder input and review.

Defining Zones Spatially

The process that will be used for developing the zoning design was reviewed and participants were in agreement with it. As in previous meetings, the question of scale was discussed: if we are zoning around the islands or at a larger scale. The question of overlapping uses in conflict, and how to deal with this was also discussed. Didier Dogley informed the TWG that ultimately, decisions about conflicting uses (where they exist)

will be made by Cabinet.

Spatial Information for Draft Zoning Design

Joanna Smith presented the same GeoPDF with data layers as on Day 1, with the two possible scenarios.

Joanna Smith presented the idea that a decision-making matrix for biodiversity similar to the British Columbia example for the Taku, may be developed and participants agreed that it would be useful.

Participatory Mapping for Socio-Economic

Break out groups were formed by Zone or uses (fishing – semi industrial, fishing-industrial, tourism & marine parks, renewable energy). The aim of the exercise was to identify high priority areas as well as compatibilities and conflicts. The groups were guided by a set of questions to consider for the mapping, similar to Day 1.

Socio-Economic Questions:

- Where are the “best areas for current uses?”
- Where are possible “best areas” for future uses?
- What are compatible uses that currently occur in this area? What are conflicting uses?
- Where are the “must have” areas?
- Climate change: sea level rise and coastal inundation?
- Seasonal influences?

All were asked to consider climate change adaptation and, where possible, identify vulnerable habitats.

Day 2 Mapping Groups:

Fisheries: GeoPDF driver: Justin; members: Jude, Cliff, Virginie, Mr. Houreau and ASAF rep

Renewable energy: GeoPDF driver: Elyn; member: Mamy,

Outer Islands/IOTC: GeoPDF driver: Ahab; members: Ronny, Gerard, Didier

MPAS and tourism: GeoPDF driver: Cynthia; members: Rodney, Louis Desnousse, Vanessa

The information received during the mapping exercise will be given to the GIS consultant for input into the data layers for the map.

Annexe 1 – Agenda Day 1

MSP Technical Working Group – Marine and Terrestrial

Meeting #2

22 October 2014

8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Location: SFA Training Room

Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

1. To provide an update on the Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Initiative.
2. To review and elicit support for methodology to develop draft Zoning Design for Seychelles EEZ.
3. To provide spatial information about high priority areas and compatibilities or conflicts within the EEZ.

#	Time	Topic
	8:30 - 9:00	Registration and networking
1	9:00 - 9:10	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Agenda review
2	9:10 - 9:40	Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Process update• Technical Update: Zoning document, Master List, Compatibility Matrix• Technical Working Group - Roundtable of Updates
3	9:40 - 10:00	Defining Zones Spatially <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation: Methodology to develop draft Zoning Design• Discussion and Questions
	10:00 - 10:15	Tea break
4	10:15 - 12:15	Spatial Information for draft Zoning Design <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quick review of GeoPDF tool and creating spatial information• Breakout groups: Participatory mapping and identifying compatibilities or conflicts
	12:15 – 1:00pm	Lunch
5	1:00 – 2:15	Spatial Information for Zoning Design, continued <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakout groups: Participatory mapping and identifying compatibilities or conflicts• Reporting back to group and Questions
6	2:15 – 2:30	Wrap-up, Next steps, and Adjourn

Annexe 2 – Agenda Day 2

MSP Technical Working Group – Socioeconomic Uses

Meeting #2
23 October 2014
8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Location: Care House

Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

1. To provide an update on the Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Initiative.
2. To review and elicit support for methodology to develop draft Zoning Design for Seychelles EEZ.
3. To provide spatial information about high priority areas and compatibilities or conflicts within the EEZ.

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3	9:40 - 10:00	Defining Zones Spatially <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation: Methodology to develop draft Zoning Design• Discussion and Questions
	10:00 - 10:15	Tea break
4	10:15 - 12:15	Spatial Information for draft Zoning Design <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quick review of GeoPDF tool and creating spatial information• Breakout groups: Participatory mapping and identifying compatibilities or conflicts
	12:15 – 1:00pm	Lunch
5	1:00 – 2:15	Spatial Information for Zoning Design, continued <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakout groups: Participatory mapping and identifying compatibilities or conflicts• Reporting back to group and Questions
6	2:15 – 2:30	Wrap-up, Next steps, and Adjourn

Annexe 3 – Participants List Day 1

MSP Technical Working Group – Marine and Terrestrial

22 October 2014

8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

SFA Training Room

Dr. Joanna K. Bluemel - Senior Scientific Researcher
Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles

Mr. Chris Mason-Parker – Country Director
Global Vision International Seychelles

Dr. Jeanne Mortimer
Turtle Action Group Seychelles ; Island Conservation Society of Seychelles

Ms. Abi March - Project Manager
Save Our Seas Foundation

Mr. Grant Heyer - Executive Secretary
Seychelles Sports Fishing Club

Ms. Rowana Walton - Communications Officer
Seychelles Islands Foundation

Dr. Jude Bijoux - Chief Fisheries Scientist
Seychelles Fishing Authority

Ms. Melissa Joseph
Seychelles Fishing Authority

Mr. Rodney Quatre
Seychelles National Parks Authority

Mr. James Mougale
Seychelles National Parks Authority

Mr. Andrew Grieser Johns - Programme Coordinator/Chief Technical Advisor
PCU-UNDP

Ms. Helena Sims - Project Manager for Protected Areas
PCU-UNDP

Mrs. Joanna Prosper - Project Manager for Outer Islands
PCU-UNDP

Ms. Elyn Albert - GIS Technician
Ministry of Environment & Energy

Ms. Cynthia Adrienne - Center for GIS
Ministry of Land Use and Housing

Ms. Alice Mascarenhas - Outer Islands Project Coordinator
Island Conservation Society of Seychelles

Mr. Herve Barois
Sustainability for Seychelles

Mr. Arjan De Groene - General Manager
Green Island Foundation

Mr. Didier Dogley - Special Advisor
Ministry of Environment & Energy

Mrs. Iris Carolus
Marine Spatial Planning Coordinator

Dr. Joanna Smith - Marine Spatial Planning Science Manager
TNC Canada (The Nature Conservancy)

Mrs. Sabrina Renaud - Admin/Support Staff
Ministry of Environment & Energy

Ms. Gina Constance - Admin/Support Staff

Annexe 4 – Participants List Day 2

MSP Technical Working Group – Socio-Economic

23 October 2014
8:30 AM - 2:30 PM
Care House

Mr. Louis Desnousse
Senior Coordinator - Standard and Regulations
Ministry of Tourism & Culture - Tourism Department

Mr. Keith Andre - Chairperson
Fishing Boat Owners Association

Mrs. Virginie Lagarde
Fishing Boat Owners Association

Mr. Jean-Claude Hoareau
Fishing Boat Owners Association

Mr. Claude Nichole
Association of Shark Fishing Association

Dr. Jude Bijoux – Chief Fisheries Scientist
Seychelles Fisheries Authority

Mr. Mamy Razanajatovo
Principal Officer - Seychelles Energy Commission

Ms. Vanessa Zialor
Sustainability for Seychelles

Mr. Rodney Quatre
Seychelles National Park Authority

Mr. Ronny Renaud
Island Development Company

Mr. Gerard Domingue
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission

Mr. Justin Prosper - Director GIS
Ministry of Environment & Energy

Ms. Elyn Albert - GIS Technician
Ministry of Environment & Energy

Ms. Cynthia Adrienne - Center for GIS
Ministry of Land Use and Housing

Mr. Ahab Downer - Chief Executive Officer
Island Conservation Society of Seychelles

Mr. Didier Dogley - Special Advisor
Ministry of Environment & Energy

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