
MSP Steering Committee

Meeting #10

Tuesday 03 October 2017

0900 -1230 hrs.

Location: STC Conference Room

Minutes

Meeting Objectives:

1. To present updates on completing Phase 1 of Seychelles MSP
2. To discuss and determine areas of agreement on the draft MSP Phase 1 Seychelles zoning design

Attendance:

Mr. Alain de Comarmond – Co-Chair PS Environment, MEECC
Dr. Frauke Fleischer-Dogley – Chairperson, Terrestrial Ecology TWG, SIF
Dr. Jeanne Mortimer – Vice Chair, Terrestrial Ecology TWG, ICS
Dr. David Rowat – Chairperson, Marine Ecology TWG, MCSS
Mr. Pierre-Andre Adam - Vice-Chair, Marine Ecology TWG, ICS
Mr. Justin Prosper – MSP Data Custodian, MEECC
Mr. Vincent Lucas – Seychelles Fishing Authority
Mrs. Veronica Uzice rep. Mr. Aubrey Lesperance - Seychelles Fishing Authority (Mariculture)
Mr. Peter Purvis- Industrial Tuna Fisheries (Purse Seine)
Ms. Veronique Nibourette rep. Captain Joachim Valmont – SMSA
Mr. Andrew Grieser-Johns - Programme Coordinator/Chief Technical Adviser Project Coordinating Unit
Mrs. Joanna Prosper – GoS-UNDP-GEF Outer Island Project Manager
Dr. Jan Robinson – SWIOFISH3
Mr. Andy Rylance – GoS-UNDP-GEF PA Finance Project
Mr. Martin Callow- CEO SeyCCAT
Ms. Vania Robert- SeyCCAT/MSP Executive Admin Assistant
Mr. John Nevill – Consultant (MSP Policy)
Dr. Joanna Smith, MSP Science Manager, TNC Canada
Ms. Helena Sims, MSP Project Manager, TNC Africa

Absent:

Mr. Wills Agricole, PS Energy & Climate change MSP SC Co-Chair
Mr. Daig Romain- PCU GoS-UNDP-GEF PA Finance Project- MSP SC Observer
Ms. Fadette Khan, Ministry of Finance, Trade and Blue Economy- MSP SC Member
Mr. Patrick Samson, PetroSeychelles, MSP Member Representing & Co-Chair Socio-economic TWG
Mr. Keith Andre, FBOA- MSP SC Member & Co-Chair Socio-economic TWG
Ms. Virginie Lagarde, FBOA- MSP SC alternate member representing Fisheries Sector
Mr. Glenny Savy, IDC- MSP Member, representing tourism
Mr. Denis Matatiken, Special Advisor to Minister
Ms. Bernice Elizabeth, Dept. of Tourism- MSP SC member representing tourism sector

Mr. Flavien Joubert, SNPA- MSP SC Member representing tourism and marine ecology sector
 Mr. Paul Hodoul, Tourism- MSP SC member & Co-Chair Socio-economic TWG
 Mr. Cynthia Adrienne, MLUH- MSP Member, representing coastal development
 Ms. Dominique Benzaken, MFTBE- Invited as potential new SC alternate member/observer (Blue Economy)

Minutes

Agenda Item #	Agenda Item	Comment/Advice	Action_Response (with initials)
1.1	Agenda Review	The agenda was reviewed and adopted.	
1.2	Confirm Steering Committee member list	The SC was updated on the changes of members and representation on the MSP SC. These include; -Industrial Fisheries representation – Mr. Peter Purvis representing the Industrial Tuna Purse Seine Fishery Sector (Seychelles Flagged Vessels). -Change of SFA presentation from Ms. Elisa Socrate to Mr. Vincent Lucas. -Mr. Martin Callow, CEO SeyCCAT as an observer. Others present for the meeting SC10 included; -Ms. Vania Robert new SeyCCAT/MSP Executive Admin Assistant. -Mr. John Nevill, consultant working on the MSP Policy.	
1.3	Approval of Steering Committee #9 minutes	The minutes of SC meeting #9 was reviewed and adopted without changes.	.
1.4	Roundtable of updates	There was a round-table of updates from MSP SC members and observers present. These are summarised below.	
1.4	Roundtable of updates	GoS-UNDP-GEF PA Finance Project -Management Plan training carried out in Q2. -Baie Ternay & Port Launay Management Plans to be drafted. -Business plan workshop for existing partners carried out (collaboration with OI Project). - SNPA cabinet papers drafted for adoption of SNPA strategic plan. - Systematic trail signage developed for existing PA.	
1.4	Roundtable of updates	Industrial Tuna Purse Seine Fisheries Seychelles Flagged fleet; The new SC member thanked all for approved representation. Position of the Seychelles Flagged Purse Seine fleet was advised. See summary in annex II –	Meetings with the ITF Purse Seine Seychelles Flag have been carried out in May and Sept 2017.

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			Statement was submitted by OPAGAC in June/July 2017 and has now been adopted by the other fleets. MSP has provided a response to this input in the meeting on 28 September 2017. J.S., A.D.
1.4	Roundtable of updates	GIS Unit MEECC; Data sharing with TNC is ongoing.	
1.4	Roundtable of updates	SIF; Aldabra management plan approved by cabinet including the extension of boundary of Aldabra Special Reserve. The files are now with MLUH for registration before gazetting by this month Oct 2017.	
1.4	Roundtable of updates	SWIOFISH3; Project approved by the World Bank Board. The project should start by end of month.	
1.4	Roundtable of updates	GoS-UNDP-GEF Outer Islands Project; - Capacity building on tracking of seabirds, subsistence fishing and spawning aggregation. - Finalised monitoring protocols for seabirds and others. - ICS to collect baseline data in Poivre. - Conservation management plans of the 4 islands to be developed.	
1.4	Roundtable of updates	SeyCCAT; -Introduction of Ms. Vania Robert as SeyCCAT/MSP Executive Assistant. -Blue Grants Fund to be launched in Oct 2017. -SeyCCAT to manage Blue Bond proceeds. -SeyCCAT looking at other options to grow SeyCCAT assets e.g. working with PA Finance.	
1.4	Roundtable of updates	MEECC;	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updates on the UN Ocean conference in New York in June 2017 and the Seychelles commitments that were made include the MSP for the Seychelles EEZ, Protection and management of 30% of the Seychelles EEZ, Plastics ban, Blue Bonds financing. - Follow up conference will be held in Malta in the next week (October 2017). The Seychelles delegation will be led by the President of the Republic. 	
2.1	MSP Process Updates	<p>MSP SC members were provided with updates on the MSP with emphasis on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MSP milestones tied in the debt swap agreement. -Phase I milestone 1; 15% of areas identified for improved management and protection and approved by cabinet by Dec 2017. -Milestone 2 – Phase I areas signed into law by Feb 2018. -Data received from SFA for semi-industrial and artisanal VMS data is up to year 2016. - MSP does not have purse seine data from 2016 to date. MSP core team in process of creating a formal request for the data. - New map layers for the MSP atlas have been developed which display ocean currents for each monsoon. - New request of MSP Atlas copies for MSP SC members to go out again. 	H.S.
2.1	MSP Process Updates	<p>MSP policy; An MSP Policy is being drafted by Mr. John Nevill and an overview of the MSP Policy and an action plan is being developed.</p>	Workshop to review the MSP Policy will be held the 11 th October 2017.
2.2	Integration with other marine projects	The MSP SC was informed by the SWIOFISH3 representative that updates will be provided at a later stage on the MSP Implementation and governance arrangements (SWIOFISH3) consultancy.	
2.3	Input received during the MSP Public meetings and consultations in May	The MSP SC was reminded that the zoning design 3.0 and 3.1 were presented to stakeholders in May 2017 and there was very good support for the Aldabra Group Zone 1. Many comments and concerns regarding shipping around Aldabra were received. There were also unanimous comments regarding no petroleum activities in this area. There was additional support for no extraction and disturbance.	

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		<p>For Zone 2 areas 4 & 6 there was support to improve sustainability and capitalise on existing efforts to improve management and monitoring in these areas. New comments received from workshops in May 2017 included a proposal for noise free areas in the design and concerns around surveillance and monitoring. In general, there was good support for other areas in the zoning design other than 13, 4 and 6, but not to be finalised in phase I of the MSP.</p>	
2.4	Marine Plan Document	An outline of the Marine Plan document presented to MSP SC.	
		Coffee break	
3.1	MSP Outputs	<p>A summary of input received from the previous meetings in May 2017 was provided to the MSP SC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of presentation in Annex III 	<p>Recent seismic surveys have been carried out on North Drop off but this area is not a licenced block and may be in conflict of Z1 areas (Denis and Bird). D.R. MSP team to verify with PetroSeychelles for updates. J.S. Stock assessment on sea cucumber has been carried out in last few months and shows depletion of species of sea cucumber. Management of sea cucumbers will be initiated and measures will be in effect in coming season (quota and restrict number of vessels/licence). Management plan of demersal fishery waiting for approval from Cabinet. V.L.</p>

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3.1	Area 13	It was pointed out that the research station in Aldabra is manned all year round but tourism is seasonal. Also islands should reflect Cosmoledo and Astove (labels).	R.T.
3.1	Area 13	The MSP SC was advised that for sensitive zones, entry and exit reports would help with monitoring.	
3.1	Area 13	The SC was advised that the military base is still being negotiated for Assumption and that there are permanent residents on Assumption.	
3.1	Area 13	The MSP Core team was reminded that the Regional National Centre for Maritime Security on Mahe can be considered for CMS.	
3.1	Area 4 & 6	Further advice included that there is a Prison on Coetivy and this can be considered for CMS.	
3.1	Area 4 & 6	The SC was advised that tourism developments are planned for Platte Island.	
3.2	Allowable Act table 4.1	It was pointed out that some gears are not reflected for the (artisanal) fishery activity including tangle nets, hand-gathering, hand held harpoons for octopus and rays, demersal longline, dropline, drag (short anchored longline), sea cucumber fishery etc.	MSP core team to update gear types with input from SFA. Conditions C1 and C5 would apply to all and management conditions may also apply.
3.2		It was agreed by the SC that a separate table with artisanal fishing gear types can be developed and artisanal fishing can be kept as one line in the allowable activities table with conditions C1 and C5 for Zone 2.	J.S.
3.2	Z1	A point was made that for the geophysical survey activity, conditions C5 and C8, have not been agreed officially by GoS and PetroSeychelles. There are no official guidelines adopted by the Seychelles. In the past JNCC guidelines have been proposed but they have not been officially adopted. It was proposed that there should be regulations that covers this mitigation.	The MSP to name what guidelines will be adopted. J.S.
3.2	Z1	It was advised that the reference of specific guidelines should be done when there is mention of best practice for fisheries and any others going forward to which mentioned best guideline will be used for the Seychelles MSP.	J.S.
3.2	Z1	With respect to condition C11- Jet ski for research and scientific purpose. The MSP was advised that jet skis	This can be an option in future.

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		are not allowed in the new Management plan for Aldabra.	J.S.
3.2	Z1	It was highlighted that in the Seychelles all vessels should meet criteria by SMSA to meet standards for research vessels and hence there is no need to specify jet ski. J.R.	There was agreement that C11 should be revised to reflect that jet skis are prohibited. J.S.
3.2	Z2	A correction was made for conditions pertaining to the activity: Bioprospecting to read C1,3,5	J.S.
3.2	New activities-floating structures	It was pointed out that floating restaurants/accommodation are being proposed (Tourism) recently through Seychelles Investment Bureau (SIB).	Floating structure for accommodation or service industry added to table under tourism and recreation. Conditions: X in Z1 and C1,3,4,5 in Z2. J.S.
3.2	New Activities	Proposals and new developments come in through SIB which can be contacted for information on new developments/proposals to Seychelles.	H.S.
3.2	New Activities	Many countries use these structures in high sensitive areas to control/prevent development on land in these areas and hence consideration in Z1 may be important.	Government would not likely approve these in Protected/Sensitive areas. A.D.
3.2	New Activities-Methane exploration	Methane exploration/development is a potential to be developed.	
3.2		Methane should be listed separately as liquid methane on seafloor. Also for ferromanganese nodules.	Change definition of deep-sea mining to reflect this J.S.
3.2.	Management considerations Pg. 3. Part 3.	Pg. 3. Part 3. Number 8. Reference of criteria for ecosystem based approach for management plans needs to be made explicit e.g., EAF guidelines	J.S.
3.2	Part 3.1.H.	Part 3. 1. H. It was advised that this condition is not applicable for the territorial sea and EEZ as it only applies to international waters.	MSP Core to review
3.2	Part 3. 10	Part 3. 10. Propose to keep this point until management plans refer specifically to spawning aggregations.	
3.2	Part 3. 10	Part 3. 10. It was advised that not all species have spawning aggregations and depends how you would	SFA to assist with info on which species it

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		manage this fishery. The current wording is a catch all and cannot be implemented. Needs to be more specific. And reference if addressed in a management plan this would become applicable.	would apply to and known aggregation areas.
3.2	Nursery Areas	It was pointed out that the targeting of nursery areas is not addressed.	Add nursery habitats to 10. Also create list of these species in Phase 2 of the MSP.
3.2	Part 3. 11	Part 3. 11. No vessels voluntarily avoiding depths less than 200m. needs to be addressed in regulations/management plans.	
3.2	Part 3. 11	Part 3. 11. Propose to move the activity to the conditions list.	MSP core to discuss with FBOA. For area 4 and 6 and can have this as a target for by 2020. J.S.
3.2	Z1 Area 13. 5.	Point 5. Add until 2020, with an approach to improved sustainability by 2020.	J.S.
3.2	Z1 Area 13. 5.	There is no current agreement on cruise lines with the government. Cruise liners go through a local agency. The government can provide guidelines to the cruise liners but with ample time for the changes to apply.	MSP Core team to consult with Ministry of tourism and Maritime Transport. J.S., H.S.
3.2		Good to consider the Port extension plan for the MSP.	Can discuss with Ministry for tourism. MSP Phase II.
3.2	Z1 Area 13. 5.	Need to also consider the large private yachts and would hence need to provide feedback to agents for these too.	
3.2	Z1 Area 13.6.	Add 'in consultation with the sector and authority'.	J.S.
3.2		Consider alignment to SDG 14 and CBD for these management considerations.	J.S., H.S.
		Members can send in comments by 16 th October 2017.	
3.3.	Masterlist of definitions	Will be sent as an appendix with the marine plan.	MSP core team to send to MSP SC. H.S. Members can send comments if needed to the MSP core team by 16 October 2017

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4	Next steps	-MSP Update Cabinet presentation on 4 Oct. 2017 - MSP workshops next weeks (Mahe, Praslin, La Digue). - SC members to send comments by Oct 16 th 2017 - MSP zoning design will be online for public review in next few weeks for 10 days. - Next MSP SC meeting end of Nov 2017	MSP SC to be notified when maps are online. H.S.
	Closing	Closing by PS de comarmond.	
	Meeting adjourned at 1230am.		

Summary of action items:

- Request of number of MSP Atlas copies to MSP SC. H.S.
- Reference of specific best practice guidelines in allowable activities table and management considerations
- Table 4.1 with tracked changes to be sent to MSP SC for review and comments.
- MSP zoning 3.1 and 3.2 to send to MSP SC

Annex I: Meeting Agenda

MSP Steering Committee

Meeting #10

Tuesday 3 October 2017

0900-1200 hrs.

Location: STC Conference Room

DRAFT Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

3. To present updates on completing Phase 1 of Seychelles MSP
4. To discuss and determine areas of agreement on the draft MSP Phase 1 Seychelles zoning design

#	Time	Topic
1	9:00	Opening – PS Wills Agricole and Ms. Helena Sims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda review • Approval of Steering Committee #9 minutes • Confirm Steering Committee member list update and welcome new members • Roundtable updates from members and observers
2	9: 15	MSP Process Updates – Dr. Joanna Smith and Ms. Helena Sims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSP Process Update: timeline and outputs for completing Phase 1 • Integration with other marine projects in Seychelles – SeyCCAT, Blue Bonds, SWIOFish3, PA Finance, PA Outer Islands • Input received during MSP public meetings and consultations in May • Marine Spatial Plan document – SC review process and timeline • MSP Policy and Legislation – update on consultancy • MSP Implementation Plan – update on consultancy
	10:00	Coffee Break
3	10:15	MSP Outputs – Dr. Joanna Smith and Ms. Helena Sims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSP Draft Zoning Design version 3.1 • Draft Allowable Activities Table and Management Considerations • Draft Master list of definitions
	12:15	Wrap up and next steps – PS Wills Agricole
	12:30	Adjourn

Annex II: Advice from the Purse Seine Industrial Tuna Fishery representative (Seychelles Flagged Vessels)

The Industrial Tuna Fisheries (Purse Seine) representatives would like to thank the MSP Core Team for affording them a representation on the Steering Committee. While we understand that the objective of today's meeting is to discuss Phase 1 of the Seychelles MSP, and specifically version 3.1, as this is our first attendance at such a meeting, we would like to share our views and concerns with the Committee regarding the MSP. These views have already been shared with the MSP Core Team in email correspondence and during the two meetings which have been organized on 29th May and 28th September, however, for the purpose of the Steering Committee, we wish to state the following:

Having reviewed the catches for the period 2012-2016, to assess the effect of the MSP areas proposed through versions MSP 2.2, MSP3.0 and MSP3.1 the first concern is regarding the selection of the Marine Protected Areas according to biodiversity. The fleet considers that the MSP selection process should be a balance between conservation and socio-economic objectives. The fleet does not understand the rationale for the new areas proposed in MSP 3.0 & MSP 3.1. We consider that the previous areas, MSP 2.2, are more representative of biodiversity than the new ones and wonder why the changes have been made. While we agree with one of the reasons provided, that SFA has management plans in some of the areas and therefore MPA are not needed there, we wonder why this should undermine the activities of one of the most regulated fisheries in the world. We believe that the IOTC is already responsible for the management of the stocks that our fleet is catching and the measures that are adopted by IOTC are incorporated into regulations adopted by EU and associated flags (Spain, Seychelles, France, and Mauritius). An example is the rebuilding plan that the IOTC has adopted for the yellowfin tuna, and the measures that each CPC has taken to ensure that catch limits and other measures are fully complied with by the fleets concerned. For this reason, we are in favor that the areas should remain as in MSP2.2 and specific conditions be set to allow certain types of activities within some of those areas, as it has been the case for non-fishing activities.

Secondly, regarding activities allowed within the MPAs, we do not understand why no fishing activities are allowed at all while many other activities are allowed in both types of areas (high and medium biodiversity). Although our proposal is subject to change, we have proposed the following:

- **High biodiversity areas:** Purse seine fishing is allowed provided that:
 - There is management of the stocks in question at the regional, flag state, and coastal state level, and the fleet has a record for compliance with those measures;
 - There is 100% observer coverage (human or electronic)
 - The target stocks are certified and/or the fishery is in transition to MSC, i.e. implementing a Fishery Improvement Project (with progress recorded in FisheryProgress.org)
 - Actions are put in place to mitigate the effects of the Fishery on the ecosystem, i.e. impacts of FADs (through a FAD recovery program)
- **Medium biodiversity areas:** Purse seine fishing is allowed provided that:
 - There is management of the stocks in question at the regional, flag state, and coastal state level and the fleet has a record for compliance with those measures.

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- There is 100% observer coverage (human or electronic)
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Thirdly, we are concerned by the increase in the impact of the MPA on the fleet for each MSP version. The change in area definition and denomination introduced through MSP3.0 & MSP3.1 it is likely to more than double the impact of the high diversity areas on the activities and catches of our purse seine fleet. Overall, 15% of the catches of our fleet fall within high (H) and medium (M) diversity areas (A). In version 2.2, 4% of the catch falls within high biodiversity areas and 11% in medium biodiversity areas, and the opposite (11% and 4%) for versions MSP30 & 31. We have shared our data with the MSP Core Team which we trust will be taking into consideration in this process.

Finally, we wish to reiterate that we do not understand the rationale for selection of high biodiversity areas. If the aim is to protect biodiversity, we are of the opinion that MPAs do little to protect highly migratory species, which are the target of our fleet. We find that it would be more reasonable to protect coastal areas, where biodiversity is much higher (e.g. coral reefs, breeding areas, higher impact from coastal activities, etc.).

We continue to discuss and work on this matter within the fleet look forward to continuing to contribute to the MSP process. Thank you.

Annex III: Summary of advice received (Presentation by Dr. Joanna Smith).

Input from Petroleum Sector:

- Government is committed to oil exploration throughout EEZ and presents challenges with mandate for MSP to identify new marine protection areas
- JOGMEC is the only active license block
- Seismic activity should be allowed Zone 2
- Seismic surveys may be allowed in Zone 1 but not in highly sensitive areas; where licenses already exist, subject to high conditions (scientific surveys, no extraction)
- Petroleum shipping vs. oil tanker shipping – why different in Activities Table?
- North drop off is important for licensed blocks.

Input from Fisheries:

- Demersal management plan for Mahe Plateau will be finalised very soon – building towards sustainability
- Amirantes are important for sea cucumber harvest. High value fishery, low number vessels. Discuss in Phase 2
- Industrial purse seine is undertaking steps to increase sustainability as well as compliance with IOTC Resolution 17/01 for yellowfin reduction

Input from Mariculture:

- Process is ongoing and ADZ are not finalised
- Government is committed to mariculture development
- Mariculture in Zone 1 (conditional).

Input from Biodiversity Conservation

- Align the Aldabra Zone (#10) with the Aldabra Expansion.

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- North drop off has very high overlap with sperm whales and black fish and suggested Zone 1
 - Petroleum not compatible with Zone 1, esp. Aldabra Atoll
 - Denis has applied for sustainable use zone in surrounding waters
 - Amirantes have high biodiversity in central atolls
 - Protection in pelagic waters for sustaining ecological resilience of these ecosystems
 - FADs have likely changed the dynamics of pelagic ecosystems including behavior of tuna schools

Annex IV: List of documents provided for the MSP SC9 Meeting

- Agenda
- MSP SC 9 minutes
- MSP Committee members list (02 Oct 2017)
- MSP Allowable Activities Table V4.1
- Seychelles MSP Zoning Design V3.1

Annex V: Signed attendance form MSP SC9 Meeting