



SEYCHELLES MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING (MSP) INITIATIVE

MSP Steering Committee

Meeting 3
Wednesday 14th January 2015
1:30 PM-4:00 PM
SFA Training Room

Minutes

Members Present:

Mr. Didier Dogley MEE - Chairperson
Mr. Alain Decommarmond - MEE & Chairperson National Climate Change Committee
Mr. John Nevill - Chair Marine Ecology TWG
Dr. Joanna Bluemel - Vice-Chair Marine Ecology TWG
Ms. Bernice Elizabeth - Dept. of Tourism
Mr. Patrick Samson - Representative of Petroleum Sector - Socio-Economic TWG
Mr. Paul Hodoul - Representative of Tourism Sector - Socio-Economic TWG
Mr. Justin Prosper - MSP Data Manager, MEE
Miss Gilbert Gendron on behalf of Mr. Rodney Quatre – Seychelles National Parks Authority
Mr. Jan Robinson on behalf of Dr. Jude Bijoux - Ministry of Natural Resources & Seychelles Fishing Authority
Mrs. Virginie Lagarde and Mr. Jean Claude Hoareau FBOA on behalf of Mr. Keith Andre - Representative of Fisheries Sector - Socio – Economic TWG

In attendance:

Mrs. Iris Carolus – MSP Coordinator/SC Secretary
Mr. Andrew GrieserJohns – Programme Coordinator/Chief Technical Adviser GOS-UNDP-GEF Project Coordinating Unit
Ms. Helena Sims - UNDP GEF Protected Areas Project Manager
Mrs. Joanna Prosper - UNDP GEF Outer Island Project Manager
Dr. Joanna Smith- MSP Science Manager Global Marine TeamTNC Canada
Dr. Rebecca Klaus – Consultant UNDP GEF Protected Areas Project

Absent with apologies:

Mr. Denis Matatiken - Seychelles National Parks Authority
Dr. Frauke Dogley - Chairperson of Terrestrial TWG
Ms. Amanda Padayachy - Ministry of Finance, Trade & Investment
Ms. Cynthia Adrienne - Ministry of Land Use & Habitat
Dr. Jeanne Mortimer - Vice Chair Terrestrial TWG



The objectives of the meeting were as follows:

1. To review and discuss a preliminary zoning design options for Seychelles EEZ (Zones A, C, D, E)
2. To review the UNDP PA Validation work in the context of Seychelles EEZ zoning (Zone B)
3. To provide direction to the MSP Technical Team on questions related to the zoning design

Agenda Item	Follow Up/Action
<p>1. Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The Chairperson, Mr. Dogley welcomed the members and introduced Mr. Justin Prosper, the MSP data manager within MEE, as the new Steering Committee member.</p>	
<p>2. Agenda Review</p> <p>The Chairperson reviewed the Agenda, which was adopted by agreeing to postpone item 4: "Using the UNDP PA work to inform the design options for Zone B" to a later meeting.</p>	
<p>3. Adoption Of Minutes From Steering Committee # 2</p> <p>The minutes from Steering Committee meeting # 2 were adopted with the following corrections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrew GrieserJohns was present at the meeting. • Item 5.1: Rephrase 1st bullet point as follows: "It was also felt that TNC should ensure coordination between the MSP initiative and the Blue Economy concept. • Item 5.9: Rephrase 1st sentence as follows: Members were of the opinion that the coverage of the recent Blue Economy conference focused primarily on fisheries and tourism with no mention of sustainability. • Item 6.1: Third paragraph: correct typo to letter "and" 	Iris
<p>4. Timeline and Workplan</p> <p>4.1. Dr. Joanna Smith, TNC made a presentation on the MSP timeline and work plan until July 2015. She informed the meeting that given the tight schedule ahead, pre-meeting packages will be made available to participants 1 week prior to meetings.</p> <p>4.2. Concerns were raised on the timeline proposed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was felt that the timeline was too short given that the TWG was still waiting for its agenda on how it will assist in moving the work forward as had been requested in previous meetings. Furthermore, it was felt that because of this, the objectives of engaging stakeholders was not being met. Currently membership on the TWG is according to sectors members represent and they are not going out beyond that to reach out to stakeholders. This issue will be further discussed with MSP 	MSP team



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<p>team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was also felt that there is the need to ensure that extensive consultation is undertaken with all stakeholders prior to the presentation of the Plan to Cabinet. The key is to ensure all stakeholders are involved in the process and that perhaps a plan of action on the way forward should be agreed upon. • It was also proposed to set out the exact dates of the meetings now due to tight timeline to work within. This will be communicated to the SC members as soon as the timeline has been synced with the Outer Island Project and Fisheries Management Plan timelines. • The meeting was informed that FBOA have already started consultations with their stakeholders on the MSP but it was felt that this was lacking for industrial fishery representatives, i.e. European Union (EU) and the Asian fishers. An EU meeting will be held in in Brussels in February 2015 with the MSP featuring on the agenda. The Chair said that he was aware of the on going discussions and concerns, and had been contacted by various parties especially regarding Seychelles honouring its commitments under the EU agreements. However, he felt that there is the need to have at least a draft map before reaching out to the industry. • It was also suggested that whatever area is demarcated for industrial fishing should be doubled to cater for the gear types being used e.g. drifting gears. 	<p>MSP team</p> <p>GIS</p>
<p>5. Update on the MSP process</p> <p>5.1. Dr. Joanna Smith presented the “advice log” addressing comments from SC #2.</p> <p>5.1. SFA/ FBOA joint submission on the MSP Zoning proposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members were informed of the submission, which, will be addressed, by the Chair and relevant members of the TWG. The Chair hailed this as an excellent initiative, which should be promoted. He recommended that other sectors wishing to do so could submit their concerns in writing so that this can be put on record. He suggested that interested parties could seek assistance from SFA should they need assistance in drafting the document. • It was felt that the SFA proposal needs to be discussed and approved by the SC in light of the Seychelles obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Therefore, the document should be made available to members prior to any decision being taken. Concerns were raised over the fisheries replenishment areas. The document will be circulated 	<p>Iris/All members</p>



to all members giving them 2 weeks to provide their comments.

5.3. Dr. Joanna Smith gave an update on the Zoning Process, generally following the UNESCO steps for zoning. She informed the meeting that draft management considerations will be presented along with the draft zoning design to provide for successful implementation.

6. Preliminary zoning design options for Zones A, C, D and E

6.1. Dr. Joanna Smith presented the draft stakeholder preferences for C, D and E, and integrated preferences for A, C, D, E. This was followed by discussions on how to make decisions for prioritising objectives (zone type) for a particular location and the recommended or compatible uses within a zone. The purpose of the presentation was to provide initial "lines on a map", (Zone design 0.0) for SC members to react to, in order to provide the MSP team with directions on the way forward and create the first zoning map. She stressed that it was important for members to keep their minds open about a possible zoning design including the number of zones they want as we go along the process.

The SC members were asked if they were comfortable with the data that was being used to inform the zone types, and if TNC had represented the uses well for these four zones. SC members agreed that representation was good and there were no serious concerns about the layers used (see notes below for specific comments).

6.2. Zone A: Food Security and Fisheries

- It would be useful to see where purse seiners and longliners are fishing through the provision of a density map as this is where conflicts will arise. It was proposed to use aggregate data instead of median to draw out the difference and to show effort; show a gradient. Discussions must be held as to how best to display data relevant to purse seiners. Where is the most intense fishing occurring?
- It was pointed out that conflicts that will arise with Fisheries will be within Zone C. The demersal non-mobile resources will be impacted.
- There is the need to include data from mini Mahes as they are not included in the VMS data. Information can be obtained from the SFA survey. [note: mini-Mahe are represented by a 40km buffer around the inner islands as per info from SFA in August and October 2014]
- Potential conflicts may also arise between fishing vessels and shipping vessels but this is regulated by the Laws of the Sea and navigation rules that already exist.
- It was queried when the biodiversity layer will be looked at as this will have an impact on where fishing vessels go e.g. sea mounts.

Jo/GIS/Jan SFA



- Regulations on local semi industrial fleet fishing on the plateau will be made under the new demersal FMP.
- In answering how Zone A could be refined, it was pointed out the biodiversity layer is needed before this can be done. A better representation of the location where the most intense fishing occurs in the zone is needed e.g. the important areas for fishermen and the most targeted zones.
- Piracy has led to a dramatic shift in density of fishing on and around the Mahe plateau and north of Coetivy.
- John Nevill requested to see the raw VMS data to be able to make a decision. He was informed by SFA that the raw data had been given to Dr. Klaus for processing and that he will be given the processed data once received by SFA.
- The semi industrial and artisanal map presented looks similar to the VMS data that SFA has, but this needs to be confirmed by having a closer look at the purseiner and long liner data. [Note: the VMS data were prepared by SFA and provided to the MSP Initiative in 2014. The Marxan analysis for the semi-industrial and artisanal fisheries were reviewed by SFA in October 2014 and accepted with minor revisions, which were addressed by TNC in Nov/Dec 2014]
- The Chair informed the meeting that the proposal by SFA/FBOA to change the name of this zone will be addressed in April. The SFA/FBOA proposal is to name the zone "Fisheries and Mariculture Zone"

6.3. Zone C Industrial and Public Utilities Zone

- The coordinates of the location of the internet fibre optic cable linking Seychelles to Tanzania needs to be demarcated as it might impact on future development in the area. PetroSeychelles obtained the information from the internet providers.
- It was noted that the legal boundaries of port include Protected Areas.
- It was queried how the areas for potential renewable energy are being mapped? It was pointed out that the focus under the Blue Economy concept was island based.

It was clarified that areas were included according to the participatory mapping exercises undertaken in previous stakeholder workshops and TWG meetings.

For Aldabra, the areas will need to be close to land. Aldabra is too far from transportation to be viable for renewable energy.

Discussion about concerns that tidal energy development inside the UNESCO site.

Justin to liaise with Patrick to obtain the coordinates



Members were informed that areas identified are only potential areas for future development at the moment. The normal process for approval of such development would need to be followed.

- It was discussed whether this zone should be kept as a specific zone in itself or whether it should be recognised as an activity deemed to be compatible within other zones. There were arguments for both options. It was pointed out that shipping and fishing already existed in this zone and that this area should not exist as a zone in itself. However, the area is also thought to be incompatible with biodiversity and it was recommended to keep that zone as is.
- There has been concern expressed in the past by SIF over the proximity of shipping lanes to Aldabra. The Chair advised that any changes to the shipping routes would have to be negotiated with the International Maritime Organisation.
- It was pointed out that the reason for the areas to be avoided on the Mahe Plateau on the Admiralty Maps No. 721 was because they were unchartered waters.

6.4. Zone D: Non Renewable Resources Zone

- PetroSeychelles will upgrade the maps by inserting the seismic lines, which is where the areas of interest are for 2014 and 2015 as well as include the areas for newly approved applications around Farquhar and Aldabra. Other data sets are available, which could be added to the existing map.
- It was confirmed that low gravity areas suggested deposits in those areas. It was pointed out that a lot of artisanal fishery activity occurred in the area southeast of Mahe.
- The meeting was informed that the restricted area for no licensing for concessions and petroleum extraction around the inner islands was actually proposed by PetroSeychelles and no development would occur for now.

This restricted area on the map needs to be clipped accordingly.

- In response to a query, the Chair informed participants that the government has a no reclamation/sand mining policy for the west coast of Mahe.
- There is the need to include all reclaimed areas, including proposed ones on the east coast of Mahe on the map.

Patrick

GIS

GIS



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6.5. Zone E: Tourism and Recreation

- It was suggested to include information on yacht hire (approx. 200 boats), which are primarily around the Inner Islands of the central archipelago and mini cruises, which travel between the outer islands.
- It must be noted that a cruise tourism policy for mini-cruises, similar to the yacht's policy, is being developed.
- A GIS layer on dive sites is available (from Rebecca's package) and needs to be integrated into the zoning design.
- One member asked whether there was the need to have a zone with tourism as a priority when these activities are allowed in all areas, including biodiversity and fisheries zones, except where these activities are regulated by legal or management requirements.
- The Chair pointed out that members need to have critical eye in defining the zones and the uses and as there are always arguments for and against. The zones define priority activities for each of the zones. It was also felt that at this point it is premature to decide, as the map is currently a picture of uses with no scoring done yet.
- Potential conflicts between tourism and sports fishing could be addressed under the respective management plans. Conflicts between commercial fishing and sport fishing include hazards to navigation. The meeting was informed that the SSFC was working on a management plan for sports fishery, which needs to be integrated within the MSP process. Sport fishing may want exclusive use in some areas.
- What is the economic value associated with uses? Can this be represented?

MSP team

GIS

Jo/GIS

6.6. Way forward

- The port area is currently a multi-use area. One of the challenges is on how best to zone the Mahe Plateau given the multiple activities taking place in the area. All were asked to think about this.
- PDF screen shots of the Zone design 0.0 will be sent to members, who were reminded that it was important for this to stay within SC membership and the members' respective organisations. These must not be circulated to third parties before the final work is completed and approved; the process must be respected. Members were urged to provide feedback and comments on the draft design within 10 days of receipt of the document, which will be circulated.
- Draft Recommended Uses Tables for each zone will be populated with assistance of the TWGs.

Jo/MSP team/all SC members

Jo/Iris



<p>7.0 Any Other Business</p> <p>7.1. TWG members are still waiting agenda for TWG agenda and timeline to be able to proceed with their work.</p> <p>7.2. Responding to a query, the Chair explained that the June deadline for the MSP was primarily because one has to initially set targets which can be later readjusted. He explained that the MSP is not a stand-alone initiative but that it is one of the 3 products of the debt swap with June set as a deadline.</p> <p>7.3. The NGO, Island Conservation Society requested a seat on the Steering Committee. It was pointed out that being an NGO this would open up the door for other NGOs to equally seek membership on the SC. It was decided that a smaller group was needed to take decisions and that ICS was already a member of the Marine Ecology TWG, which, was represented on the SC. Members unanimously declined the request.</p>	<p>MSP team</p>
<p>8.0 Wrap-up and Schedule for Next Meeting – Feb 2015</p> <p>The date for next meeting will be according to the timeline proposed. The next joint SC/TWG meeting will be held at the end of February, pending the final PA validation workshop, which needs to be held beforehand.</p> <p>There being no future discussions, the meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.</p>	

Minutes adopted and approved:



Mr Wills Agricole
Principal Secretary Energy and Climate Change
Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change
Chairman of the Steering Committee

Date: 06/04/15



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