

## SEYCHELLES MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING (MSP) INITIATIVE

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### MSP Steering Committee

Meeting #5  
Thursday 30 April 2015  
1:30 PM – 4:00 PM  
Location: ICCS Room 3

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### Minutes

#### Meeting Objectives:

1. To resolve outstanding issues related to zoning and terminology
2. To provide recommendations for revising zoning design map 1.1
3. To provide recommendations for presentation to Cabinet

#### Members Present:

Wills Agricole- PS Energy & Climate Change (Chair)  
Alain De Comarmond- PS Environment  
Cynthia Adrienne- MLUH  
David Rowat- MCSS  
Jan Robinson- SFA  
Jeanne Mortimer- ICS  
Justin Prosper- MSP Data Manager, MEECC  
Keith Andre- FBOA  
Olivier Bodère- MEECC's office  
Patrick Samson- PetroSeychelles  
Rodney Quatre- SNPA  
Virginie Lagarde- FBOA (alternate)

#### MSP Core Team:

Joanna Smith (JLS)- MSP Science and Process Lead (TNC Canada)  
Helena Sims (HS) - MSP Project Manager (TNC)

#### Observers/Project Partners:

Andrew Grieser Johns- PCU Programme Coordinator/Chief Technical Adviser  
Joanna Prosper- UNDP GEF Outer Island Project Manager

#### Members invited, absent with apologies:

Amanda Padayachy- Ministry of Finance, Trade and Blue Economy  
Bernice Elizabeth- Dept. of Tourism  
Denis Matatiken- SNPA  
Frauke Dogley- SIF  
Glenny Savy / Mr. Ronny Renaud - IDC  
Jude Bijoux- MAF & SFA  
Paul Hodoul- Tourism



- 1) Welcome: Principle Secretary Will Agricole, the Chair of the SC, opened the meeting at 1345hrs.
- Review and adoption of Agenda

Agenda Item	Comment/advice	Action_Response (with initials for who provides response)
2: Review and adoption of Minutes of SC4	4.2; Dr Smith met with SFA staff to discuss the Industrial fisheries. Was advised to put together a packet for the fishery for the CEO of SFA to send out ASAP.	
	5.10; recommended a meeting between the Biodiversity group and the fisheries resources group. This has been summarised in the minutes under point 6.2 page 4. Note: Mr John Nevill has stepped down from the TWG; he will participate as a stakeholder in the MSP. The current chair of the TWG is Dr David Rowat and Mr Chris Mason-Parker is the Vice Chair.	
	7.5; No further updates as meetings with the Debt swap team and the trust are ongoing	
	With no further comments, the minutes of SC 4 was adopted.	
Brief Update on Timelines, Outputs and Advice Log	Cabinet meeting is scheduled for the 6 May 2015. Purpose of the meeting is to update the cabinet on the MSP process. A clear definition of no-take and sustainable use is required.	
Roundtable updates.	Requests have been made from media representatives for more information on the MSP process to increase the transparency of the process.	A communications plan and a media pack are being developed. A list of questions from the Today have also been answered and should be published soon (HS)
	A concern on how closed the meetings are has been raised as media were told to leave in the last stakeholder workshop.	All stakeholders are welcome to attend and the public can observe in the workshops, which are open to anyone wishing to attend. The media were welcome to record the opening address but not record the discussions during the workshop. The reason being that a maximum level of stakeholder participation was expected and some people will be reserved to comment if they are being recorded. It is important that stakeholders can make comments or raise

		concerns with confidentiality respected (JLS and HS)
	The Maritime Boundary portfolio (Mr. Chang-tave) has been moved from MLUH to the Blue Economy section in the Ministry of Finance, Trade and the Blue Economy.	
	Ms. Elyn Albert recently attended a 3 day workshop on MSP (UNESCO).	
	SFA is to receive the draft Management plan for the Mahé plateau tomorrow the 1st May 2015. Concerned that information on the MSP initiative is not reaching some of the key individuals concerned e.g.; Blue economy section	A link with the PS of the Blue Economy section can be made. Individuals from the SC can send minutes to key peers who should be informed. (JLS)
	Questioned when the GeoPDF will be sent out following the last workshop for comments on zones.	They GeoPDF will be sent out early next week as the MSP team were cross referencing the non-disclosure agreement with the existing DSA. Dr Rowat to be sent the GeoPDF first for testing. (JLS)
	Dr Klaus sent layers for the final Marxan iteration last week. Mr. Tingey requested for more details and data for clarification and these were received today. The final report and the Marxan Analysis are being sent and Ms Sims to post a dropbox link for sharing next week.	
	Has prepared a small report on the MSP for the UNEP. Requested clarification on a report that the debt-swap condition is for the protection of seagrass areas for carbon sequestration.	The condition of the debt swap is for the Government of the Seychelles to develop a marine spatial plan for conservation and climate change adaptation goals. Request for Mr. Bodere to send the article. (JLS)
Outstanding Issues & draft zoning design map 1.1 (combined)	No take coverage is currently approximately 8% and sustainable use is 19.37%. There is no current coverage of the trench in the zoning.	
Terminology of zones	Suggest to rename the economic area (Zone 3) as "sustainable use" areas as even no-take areas have an economic benefit.	
	the definition of no-take is very important. Will this area allow for eco-tourism?	Refer to the activities table for Biodiversity and fisheries. The SC/TWG needs to guide and define the no-take term and what uses will be allowed. J.S.
	No-take is not currently defined under the new PA Policy, but sustainable use is. The zoning carried out in the MSP needs to translate with and align to the new PA Act and Policy. The outstanding issue however is that there are no regulations drafted for	

	the Act yet, which would define the uses allowed in each PA category.	
	Zoning areas at this point as no-take may limit information and research if they limit the possibility of seismic surveys being undertaken.	
	How long will these no-take zones be declared for? How often will the plan be reviewed and are these zones permanent?	
	Good to see fishery replenishment removed from biodiversity protection. Simplified 3 zones welcome but terminology needs to be revised. Need to apply the ridge to reef process and activities that are prohibited in a no-take area should not only apply to fisheries related activities but also tourism and development and any use of ecosystem services as a 'take'. Therefore there is a need to look at all human uses in these areas. It is important to define clearly what is sustainable in the sustainable use areas in the new PA Act and include reference points and numbers.	
	Does any member of the SC object to the new 3 zones?	
	Need to consider the management of zones and if they are practical. On biodiversity side there is no objection.	
	No other objections/comments were made from the SC.	
	if biodiversity is mentioned in the first and second zone, there should be mention of biodiversity in the third zone in some way.	
	Proposes zone 1 is a high biodiversity zone, Zone 2 is a medium biodiversity zone and zone 3 is a biodiversity and mixed use zone	Need to advise government as to who is managing what and hence economic use area could preferably be multi-use area based on this argument. (JLS)
Draft Zoning Design Map 1.1	Upon looking at the areas proposed and the zoning, it seems that stakeholder comments and preferences have not been taken into consideration. Particularly with reference to area 2 & 6 which are based largely on eco-tourism with fly fishing. Hence if this area is a no-take zone, will these activities be allowed to continue?	At the time of zoning these areas, it was assumed that catch and release were allowed in the no-take areas, as is the case with many other countries. These activities normally fund the Protected Area. It is now understood that this principle doesn't (or may not) apply in the Seychelles. (JLS)
	It seems that these areas are being designed at multi-use Protected Areas with only the exclusion of Industrial fisheries (as allowing research, tourism etc...).	Clarity for no-take is crucial here (JLS)

	It is important to consider the Seychelles concepts as well as scientific purposes for the Seychelles MSP as if a no-take area allows fly-fishing but excludes other fishermen there will be a very poor buy-in and compliance from stakeholders.	
	If model regulations could be drafted for the new PA Act that defines uses for each category (and no-take) and address the fly-fishing uses in the outer islands, this would greatly assist the MSP process.	
	It is important to note that the fly-fishing areas are seasonal and if only part of these areas are open for tourism (zoning) whilst strictly conserving the other areas, this may be more accepted.	
	This MSP process needs to be more consultative and take more time for stakeholders to respond and accept the proposed zoning. The process is currently moving too fast with short deadlines and more stakeholder input is needed. Particularly the priority areas zoned for no-take should be discussed further. Many of these areas (2, 3, 8, and 9) are very important to the Seychelles fishermen.	There has been a high use of VMS data to ensure that these high biodiversity no-take zones do not overlap with important fishery areas. For example when looking at the VMS data for area 2, there is very low VMS data there. (JLS)
	When will the SC be allowed to go back to the fishermen for feedback on the proposed areas and what is the time frame for this?	Once the GeoPdf are distributed next week, feedback from others can be sought and received preferably within the next few months. (JLS)
	When looking at areas 6 & 7, why have certain large areas been proposed as no-take and others not? It will be very difficult to get a consensus on these large no-take areas and would possibly be preferable to have a management plan style of zoning within these large areas for smaller no-take areas and sustainable use areas defined. It is possible to have zoning within wider, no-take priority areas, through the endorsement of management plans specific to those areas.	The issue being that quantitative area sizes are needed for the MSP to meet the commitments made. (JLS)  Is it not possible to keep this area as a dedicated no-take but which will have further zoning in future through a management plan? (AG-J)
	Agree as these areas will need further planning to be undertaken within them. They should be named for e.g.; high biodiversity areas with further discussion on zoning within.	
	The controversial issues in the proposed no-take zones can simply be summarised as sustenance fishing and fly-fishing. But areas can be zoned and managed for this.	The IDC already puts strict controls on fly-fishing in the outer islands through restrictions on the number of rods allowed etc. (JR)
	Comments on the proposed zoning design need to be received by May 11th 2015	
	the FBOA to call a general meeting to discuss the proposed zoning design	If this is carried out next week before the 7 May so that TNC can be present. (JLS)

		It would be best to have the FBOA meeting before the cabinet meeting. (WA)
Cabinet Presentation 6 May 2015	the SC members to send an e-mail if there are suggestions on any other outstanding issues that need to be addressed and presented to cabinet.	
	Correction should be made in the presentation and cabinet memo to bi-lateral fisheries agreements.	
	proposed to question the ministers on their perception of what a national no-take & sustainable use area should be.	
	Requested a copy of the cabinet presentation.	
Other Business	Requested for the sharing of some literature on no-take areas.	
	An honorarium has been approved for members of the SC and TWG to provide stakeholder support funding, and these will be distributed after each meeting for members who attend.	

Meeting adjourned at 1525hrs  
Next SC to be confirmed.

Minutes submitted by: Helena Sims

edited on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016

## Annex I Agenda:

### Agenda

#### Meeting Objectives:

1. To resolve outstanding issues related to zoning and terminology
2. To provide recommendations for revising zoning design map 1.1
3. To provide recommendations for presentation to Cabinet

Item #	Time	Topic
1	1:30 PM	<b>Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome and Agenda review</li></ul>
2	1:40 PM	<b>MSP Initiative</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adoption of Minutes from Steering Committee #4 (March 2015)</li><li>• Brief Update on Timelines, Outputs and Advice Log</li><li>• Roundtable – Updates from SC members</li></ul>
3	2:00 PM	<b>Outstanding Issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Terminology: Fisheries Replenishment Areas, “No Take” and “Sustainable Use”</li></ul>
4	2:15 PM	<b>Draft Zoning Design Map 1.1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discuss stakeholder advice received on Wed 22 April</li><li>• Recommendations for design revisions</li></ul>
	3:00 PM	Tea and coffee break
5	3:15 PM	<b>Cabinet presentation 6 May</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Present Cabinet memo</li><li>• Draft presentation - recommendations for key messages</li></ul>
6	3:45 PM	<b>Wrap-up and Schedule for Next Meeting</b>
	4: 00 PM	Adjourn