

**SEYCHELLES MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING
INITIATIVE**

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

#1

SFA TRAINING ROOM

VICTORIA MAHE SEYCHELLES

9TH JULY 2014

MEETING REPORT

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Acronyms

EBSA	Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas
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 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 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.

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. The Technical Working Groups consist of representatives of Government, Non-Government Organisations and the Private Sector, representing socio-economic activities, specifically Fisheries, Tourism and Petroleum as well as the biodiversity/ecology - marine and terrestrial thematic areas.

A website has been developed for the MSP Initiative (www.seychellesmarinespatialplanning.com). It hosts all the relevant background documents, reports and presentations developed throughout the process. The aim of the website is to keep all stakeholders updated on progress of the process.

Meeting Summary

Opening and Meeting Information

Welcome remarks by Mr. Flavien Joubert, Director General, Wildlife, Enforcement and Permits Division, Ministry of Energy and Environment

Agenda Review – Iris Carolus

Issues discussed by participants

Some participants pointed out that key representatives from government, i.e. the Ministry of Energy and Environment and SFA were not present for the TWG and this might pose an issue, as the government needs to approve decisions taken. It was felt that their absence shows no commitment to this process. It was feared that this meetings outcomes could be changed at the SC level or at a higher level if government is not happy with the decision taken and that the TWGs work will be in vain.

These organisations hold information, such as VMS map that is not widely available and it is a key tool in this process.

The meeting was informed that the decision has been taken for the ministries to be represented at the steering committee level. It was further added that the TWG is targeting implementers and people on the ground, thus the reason for having these organisations/NGOs on the TWG, as the government's role is to oversee at the SC level, which the TWG work will feed into.

Members were reassured that their concerns would be brought forward to see how the matter would be addressed.

It was queried on how the work of Dr. Rebecca Klaus (PA project) fits in this process.

The meeting was informed that her work and that undertaken at the PA project meeting next week will feed into the MSP process and plan. Today's meeting is focussing on the zoning approach and scheme and focussing specifically on socio economic activities/uses in the afternoon whilst the PA meeting will focus on the marine ecological aspects.

Marine Spatial Planning Initiative - Update

Presentation - Iris Carolus

Questions & Answers

Queries were raised as to whether any consideration has been given on the management and enforcement of the Marine Spatial Plan, particularly as there are already capacity issues to manage certain designated areas. It was proposed that an **implementation plan** for the Marine Spatial Plan should be drawn up at the same time as the plan to ensure adequate implementation modalities are in place for the effective implementation of the plan.

Zoning Process & Zoning Scheme

Presentation – George Waweru Maina

Questions & Answers

Data and information to inform zoning scheme

Presentation – George Waweru Maina

Due to the reasons explained below and also limited time (tight schedule) we could not undertake the exercise on Spatial mapping of locations of current (important) uses, high priority areas, problem areas, conflicts areas (existing/future), areas not used.

However, requests for further information on the location of specific activities were made to the following agencies:

- Sports Fishing Association: location where sports fishing occurs
- PetroSeychelles: proposed areas that have not yet been allocated
- Seychelles Hoteliers and Tourism Association: to meet with the specific groups of users within the tourism industry
- Sustainability for Seychelles: to meet with community-based fishing associations (Praslin, Belombre and Roche Caiman)

There was a general feeling that meaningful spatial mapping of uses and conflict areas by the workshop participants would not be possible without base maps that have on them some basic information to orientate the participants - such as MPA areas, fishing areas, habitat attributes, etc. It was felt meaningful discussions about the spatial mapping of uses could only be held using current zonation depicting actual uses and sensitive areas e.g. MPAs, VMS maps and other data.

It was pointed out to participants that the mapping exercise intends to begin on areas that have

information and then move on to other locations and populate the zones with actual information when it's obtained.

Concern was expressed that fishermen may be reluctant to identify the location of where they fish, which would hinder the mapping process.

The participants highlighted that the main area of conflict between uses is the Mahe plateau, with only few uses beyond that area.

Data accessibility issue was discussed, Mr. Didier promised to intervene and make a follow-up. The PA project currently has data on turtles, sharks, fish spawning areas and reclamation areas. The PA is still awaiting data sets for VMS, dredging/sand mining, which will be shared for the purpose of this process. To this end better collaboration is required with SFA.

The compatibility matrix was introduced as a tool to identify conflicts between uses. Group work undertaken on the "Compatible matrix" & the "Recommended Uses for possible zone types" are found attached to this report.

Recommended uses table for possible zone types

- Participants felt that it was difficult to agree to the proposals, as they did not know the exact conditions.
- It was suggested that the 'Required' classification should be added to the list (Allowed, conditional etc...)

Compatibility Matrix/Activities

Clarification was sought whether the matrix was produced as a result of consultation work. It was clarified that it was done based on a literature review from Seychelles reports and also from workshop # 2.

It was suggested that the matrix should be further categorised into low, medium and high where needed.

- Research was suggested to be a zone name and should be allowed in Blue economy, Not Allowed in Protected zone, Conditional Infrastructure zone and Conditional in Ecosystem services zone.
- Separate the following activities: Petroleum shipping and related shipping
- Add a separate 'tourism' as a separate category to "sustainable tourism"
- **Fisheries:**
 - Sport fishing was suggested to be a new activity
 - Include Fishing - Semi-industrial. There is the need to consult with semi industrial fishermen

(FBOA) as they were not present at the meeting.

- There is the need to refer to SFA definitions for different types of fisheries.
 - Include sea cucumber fishery as an activity
 - Replace Fishing - near shore by Fishing – Artisanal (trap fishing, spear etc.), which also includes some types of demersal fisheries. However, demersal fishery should also feature as a separate activity, as artisanal fishery takes it account other fishery. Conservation measures to address demersal fishery and artisanal fishery are different.
 - Consult SFA regarding marine aquaculture i.e. their Mariculture plans, which have not yet been made public.
 - Billfish should be considered when it comes to by-catch & industrial fishing (Wahoo, Dorado etc...)
 - Split Fishing- recreational into Fishing - recreational and Fishing - sport fishing, as they do not necessarily use the same area
 - There is the need to clarify all the different terminologies with SFA and also keep in mind the areas where the different types of fisheries occur.
- Divide Shipping into International shipping and petroleum shipping as there is a need to separate petroleum extraction and petroleum shipping to take into account the different levels of risks for both activities.

TWG Terms of Reference & Process

Presentation: Terms of Reference - Iris Carolus

Next steps

1. Structuring and organising TWGs:

- Participants in each TWG will be requested to choose their Chairperson and Co-Chair to represent them on the Steering Committee.
- Participants were requested to provide their feedback on the TWG TOR and documents presented at the meeting by July 16th 2014.
- The next TWG meeting is scheduled for September 2014 there might be a need to meet prior to this, so as to have a map ready for the next workshop in August 2014.

2. Follow up with specific organisations to for further data for the mapping exercise

Scheduling and wrap up

- Participants have requested to be able to view the revised Zoning Scheme, with their recommendations, prior to its presentation to the SC.
- SC meeting in July 2014
- Workshop # 3 in August 2014

Annex 1 Agenda for the meeting

Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning Initiative

TWGs Meeting 1 | July 9, 2014

8.30 a.m. – 4 p.m. SFA Training Room

PRIMARY MEETING OBJECTIVES

1. To introduce, discuss and receive participants' advice on the draft conceptual zoning process and zoning for the Seychelles Marine Spatial Planning Initiative
2. To explore refinement of the proposed zoning scheme
3. To review the TWGs process and modify or confirm Terms of Reference

AGENDA

#	Time	Topic
	8:30-9:00	<i>Coffee</i>
1	9:00-9:15	Opening and Meeting Information
		Welcoming and Introductions
		Agenda Review
2	9:15-9:30	Marine Spatial Planning Initiative – Update
		Overview
		Q&A
3	9:30-10:15	Zoning Process & Zoning Scheme
	10:30-10:45	Break
4	10:45-12:15	Zoning Process & Zoning Scheme (cont.)
		Q&A
		Discussion and Advice
	12:15-1:15	Lunch
5	1:15 – 2:15	Zoning Process & Zoning Scheme (cont.)
		Data and information to inform zoning scheme
6	2:30 – 3:15	TWG Terms of Reference & Process
		Presentation: Terms of Reference
		Purpose, Scope, Context, Limitations

7	3:15-3:30	Roles and Responsibilities Consensus seeking process Discussion and Advice Next Steps Structuring and organizing TWGs
8	3:30-3:45	Scheduling and Wrap up Meeting highlights Timelines and Milestones

Annex 2 List of Participants

No. Working Groups

Marine Ecology

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Dr. Joanna K. Bluemel - Senior Scientific Researcher
Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles |
| 2 | Mr. Chris Mason-Parker
Global Vision International |
| 3 | Ms. Jeanne Mortimer
Private Consultant; Turtle Action Group Seychelles ; ICS |
| 4 | Mr. John Nevill
Private Consultant; ASFA (Shark Fishing Association); MRIS |
| 5 | Mr. Pierre-Andre Adam - Science Coordinator |
| 6 | Alice Mascarenhas Outer Islands Project Coordinator
Island Conservation Society |
| 7 | Mr. Arjan de Groene - General Manager
Green Islands Foundation |
| 8 | Abi March – Project Manager
Save Our Seas Foundation |

Terrestrial Ecology Working Group

- | | |
|----|---|
| 9 | Ms. Jeanne Mortimer
Plant Conservation Action Group |
| 10 | Rowana Walton - Communications Officer
Seychelles Islands Foundation |
| 11 | Vanessa Zialor |
| 12 | Herve Barois |

Sustainability for Seychelles

Socio-Economic Working Group

- 13 Mr. Louis Desnousse
Senior Coordinator - Standard and Regulations
Ministry of Tourism & Culture - Tourism Department
- 14 Mr. Paul Allisop
Seychelles Hospitality and Tourism Association
- 15 Mr. Grant Heyer
- 16 Mr. Henry Riggs-Miller - FINS; The Billfish Foundation
Seychelles Sports Fishing Club
- 17 Mr. Clifford Bamboche - Chairman –
ASFA (Shark Fishing Association)
- 18 Mr. Patrick Samson
PetroSeychelles
- 19 Mr. Mamy Razanajatovo
Principal Officer - Seychelles Energy Commission
Miss Kate Carolus _ Executive Director
Seychelles Hospitality and Tourism Association; Sealife Seychelles

Other participants

- 20 Mr. Denis Matatiken – CEO
Seychelles National Parks Authority
- 21 Miss Helena Sims – PCU PA Project