

~ SEYCHELLES DEBT FOR ADAPTATION SWAP ~
SEYCHELLES MARINE MULTI-USE ADAPTATION PROJECT

WORKSHOP REPORT

February 4 – 5, 2014

Workshop Purpose

To launch a year-long project to plan and design a marine spatial plan that will incorporate multiple-use zoning for the Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone that is sustainably financed by a National Debt for Climate Adaptation Swap.

Key Workshop Objective

To introduce the Seychelles Marine Multi-use Adaptation Project (SeyMMAAP) being implemented by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), familiarize participants with the project's planning and design process, and determine project vision and objectives in support of the Seychelles Blue Economy.

Day 1: Project launch and overview of Seychelles Marine Multi-use Adaptation Project

Day 2: Define overall ecological, socioeconomic and cultural objectives

Results:

Day 1:

While TNC facilitated the workshop, we were fortunate to have the Ministry of Environment & Energy (MEE) provide the coordinating role and all logistical support for both days. Minister Rolph Payet gave a warm welcome to the team and it was quite evident that the Ministry fully supports the process. There was confusion early on as the original workshop invitation that was sent via the MEE spoke of an MPA process. However, based on further discussions with the GoS, it was clear that a multi-objective, multi-use MSP project was required and the TNC team revised the workshop agenda and objectives accordingly. This change was explained on Day 1 but there still remains some confusion about the MSP project and how it aligns with other projects such as:

- UNDP-GEF Project *"Strengthening Seychelles' protected area system through NGO management modalities"* (UNDP-PA project)
- UNDP-GEF Project *"Expansion and Strengthening of the Protected Area Subsystem of the Outer Islands of the Seychelles and its Integration into the broader land and seascape"* (UNDP-OI Project)

Presentations:

- Debt for Adaptation Swap – Rob Weary, TNC
- MCCA design (Belize Example) – Julie Robinson, TNC
- Update on UNDP-GEF PA Project – Rebecca Klaus, UNDP-GEF PA Project consultant
- Fisheries Management in the Seychelles – Jan Robinson, Seychelles Fishing Authority
- Petroleum Exploration in the Seychelles – Eddie Belle, PetroSeychelles

Vision mapping:

Nathalie led the visioning exercise which resulted in seven broad topics or sectors highlighted as important in the Seychellois EEZ. These are in no particular order:

- Tourism
- Fisheries
- Biodiversity
- Cultural Heritage
- Renewable Energy
- Petroleum, Mineral & Aggregate Extraction
- Marine Transportation

All participants were asked to write down what elements of these sectors were most important and what characteristics they wanted to see within these sectors in the future. The results from this exercise were then prioritized on Day 2 (Table 1).

Day 2:

There was considerable discussion at the start of the second day with many concerns and clarifying points being raised about the MSP project and the process and future implementation. Many issues were raised about how this project relates to the UNDP PA Project and how the SeyMMAP will work with the UNDP OI Project. A few pertinent points include:

- There is little clarity on how civil society groups will be involved in this process and more clarity was requested on how they would benefit.
- Participants felt that there was not sufficient representation from the fisheries and tourism sectors.
- Governance of the SeyMMAP process was brought up multiple times during discussion, in particular as it relates to stakeholder engagement
- Implementation needs to be discussed from the very beginning and we should set aside some time to do this during the SeyMMAP process
- A Charter will lay down the roles and responsibilities. This is a priority and should be developed as soon as possible.

After the discussion, breakout groups were formed:

Group 1: Fisheries

Group 2: Tourism, Renewable Energy, Petroleum & Marine Transportation

Group 3: Biodiversity Conservation & Cultural Heritage

Each group was facilitated a little differently as they went through the prioritization exercise but all ended up with a list of the most important goals or general objectives for the participants. We were hoping to come up with SMART objectives by the end of the session but were unable to accomplish this in the time allowed. Table 1 shows the results of the prioritization exercise.

Table1: Results of Prioritization of visioning exercise conducted in three breakout groups

Fisheries	
Effective sustainable EAF fisheries management through management planning, enforcement & compliance	High
Set targets at maximum economic yield instead of MSY	High
Review of the capitalisation of the sector- capacity, economic efficiency and subsidies whilst ensuring equity across the fleets and ensuring local fleets are not disadvantaged	High
Food nutrition and security for the Seychelles Nation	High
Capacity building and professionalization within the local fishing sector- including improved organisational and operational capacity (e.g. associations)	High
Promote maritime safety and security (e.g. against piracy)	High
Increase and improve public awareness and education on fisheries role and issues	High
Eliminate IUU fishing	High
Socio-economic impact assessment of small scale and semi industrial fisheries	High
Assessment of the implications of conservation and management on socio-economics of the industrial fishery sector	High
Fishermen part of the decision making / governance processes	High
Meet international standards of best practise for sustainable fisheries (e.g. FAO fisheries standards) to open new markets	High
Promote sustainable mariculture and diversification in resources and markets	Medium
Continue efforts on by-catch reduction minimising fisheries impacts on endangered or threatened species (e.g. as in FAD management plan)	Medium (Avg. across fisheries)
Tourism	
Achieve full integration and implementation of the Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategies through improved coordination and support	High
Double the revenue per visitor for conservation activities based on average over the last five years	High
Create more financial incentives for private business to adopt Sustainable Tourism related norms	High
Improve and update policies, regulations, and laws pertaining to marine tourism and other maritime traffic in order to reduce the negative environmental impacts including those of self-sail and private boats	High
Improve the regulations and increase the transparency (as concerns the distribution of funds) of funds collected and disbursed as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility tax	Medium
Facilitate and promote the implementation of environmentally sound Public Private Partnerships (PPP) as regards PA management and conservation	Medium
Increase access and accessibility to outer islands through the expansion of inter-island marine and airplane transportation and related infrastructures	Low
Increase the capacity of tourism related transport / development of infrastructure to allow for sustainable development of this sector	Low
Biodiversity Conservation	
Ensure sustainable use and ecological integrity through the establishment of effective partnerships, effective conservation and management of the seascape	High
Ensure ecological representation through identification/mapping, management and sustainable use (species, habitats, processes/function) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • representation of certain % in protected areas • restoration and rehabilitation as appropriate 	High
Promote public awareness of the value of ecosystems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valuation as a management tool and mainstreaming into decision making 	High
Establishment of a functional platform for the implementation of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBSAP • (consortium/partnerships/networking/collaboration including corporate/private) • Information management and effective dissemination • Provides a platform for engagement in the design SeyMMAP • Needs to have decision-making ability 	High
All financing needs for marine biodiversity conservation in the NBSAP are met.	High

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen national dialogue to achieve greater transparency in allocation of national project funding Establishment of diverse sustainable financing mechanisms 	
Cultural Heritage	
Preserve and protect cultural assets and national heritage/maritime heritage	High
Preserve access and use of areas for traditional activities/uses	High
Petroleum	
Review necessary legislation/policies relating to petroleum exploration including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to increase funding for environmental protection / conservation Create relevant environmental legislation a mitigation framework 	High
Marine Transportation	
Intensification and standardization of biosecurity measures relating to inter-island and inter EEZ transportation (boat and plane)	High
Renewable Energy	
Increase the adoption of renewable energy (increase incentives and availability and capacity)	Medium

Next Steps:

1. Develop a governance structure in consultation with UNDP & MEE
2. Develop a detailed workplan and consolidate the SeyMMAP, UNDP-PA and UNDP-OI Projects.

Important notes/post-workshop evaluation:

- **General comment:** Because of the significant and unanticipated change in TNC's scope of work from an MPA network design to an MSP process, the workshop agenda and objectives were not clearly defined or presented, as intimated from the workshop participants. It is very important that we have a very clear and detailed plan going forward and are well prepared for the next workshop
- **Alignment and coordination with relevant initiatives/projects:** it is essential that the MSP project align with the various UNDP-GEP and other relevant projects. The TNC and UNDP teams are now working on drafting a consolidated workplan and it is very important that we define clear roles and responsibilities
- **Outreach and sensitization:** the MSP project is very new so outreach and sensitization about it is key – the GoS, specifically the MEE – have been disseminating press releases and doing a number of TV interviews
 - TNC (Nathalie) had a number of follow-up meetings with key stakeholders the week after the workshop (week of Feb. 10), specifically the Seychelles Port Authority (SPA) and Seychelles Maritime Safety Administration (SMSA), the Ministry of Tourism and the Seychelles Tourism Board (STB), the GIS Centre of the Ministry of Land Use and Housing (MLUH), Jan Robinson from the Seychelles Fishing Authority and the Seychelles Hospitality and Tourism Association (SHTA)
 - We need to draft a project brief and consider additional outreach materials to share with stakeholders, etc. and to use as a calling card

- While the workshop attendance was high, not all the major stakeholders involved in an EEZ-wide MSP process were present, and some sectors (e.g. tourism) were poorly represented. It is very important that we continue engagement
- Fisheries and the fishing community is of course a major sector within the MSP process and we need to identify a means to reach out to the fishing community (especially artisanal, small-scale commercial) for sensitization and for their input into the MSP. Workshops will not be sufficient – we will need to go to them.
- **Local co-ordination**: as we do not have a permanent presence in the Seychelles and are a new entity, it is important to have local co-ordination. Originally this was to have been done through a local NGO, but because of the internal politics and dynamics within the environmental NGO community in the Seychelles this is not going to be an effective or productive solution, so we are pursuing the option of local coordination being led by the GoS which is viewed as a more neutral and obvious choice , possibly an individual within the MEE.