
MSP Steering Committee Meeting

Meeting #17

Date: Thursday 17 October 2019

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Location: STC conference room, Victoria, Mahe

Minutes

Meeting Objectives:

1. To review and discuss MSP Zoning Design version 5.40
2. To discuss implementation of MSP

Attendance:

Mr. Alain de Comarmond – Co-Chair PS Environment, MEECC
Ms. Angelique Pouponneau- SEYCCAT CEO
Mr. Daig Romain- PCU GoS-UNDP-GEF PA Finance Project
Ms. Elke Talma- PCU
Ms. Francesca Adrienne- Blue Economy Department
Dr. Jeanne Mortimer – ICS
Ms. Michelle Murray- ICS CEO
Mr. Patrick Samson- PetroSeychelles
Mr. Pierre-Andre Adam - ICS
Mr. Peter Purvis- Industrial Tuna Fisheries (Purse Seine) Representative
Ms. Vania Robert- SeyCCAT Admin Executive
Mr. Vincent Lucas – Seychelles Fishing Authority
Mr Amina Antat (planning and development officer for Aquaculture) rep Mr. Aubrey Lesperance - Seychelles Fishing Authority (Mariculture)
Dr. Frauke Fleischer-Dogley – SIF
Mr. Justin Prosper – MSP Data Custodian, MEECC
Ms. Cynthia Adrienne- MHILT
Ms. Sophie Morgan – MEECC
Ms. Aurelie Duhec – Database manager for ICS
Mrs. Rachel Bristol – Observer
Mrs. Marie-May Muzungaile– DG Biodiversity Conservation and Management, MEECC

MSP Core Team:

Dr. Joanna Smith, MSP Science & Process Lead, TNC Canada
Ms. Helena Sims, MSP Project Manager, TNC Africa

Absent:

Mr. Amit Wasseberg- SHTA
Mr. Wills Agricole, PS Energy & Climate change, MSP SC Co-Chair
Mr. Keith Andre, FBOA
Dr. Jan Robinson – SWIOFISH3

Mr. Glenny Savy, IDC
 Mr. Peter Brinn- GCCA+ Project
 Mr. Denis Matatiken, Special Advisor to Minister, MEECC
 Mr. Brian Charlette- MFTEP
 Ms. Jennifer Jasmine- MFTEP
 Mr. Lindsay Chong-Seng- PCA
 Ms. Ashley Dias- MEECC
 Miss Elissa Socrate rep SFA
 Mrs. Joanna Prosper – GoS-UNDP-GEF Outer Island Project Manager
 Ms. Kelly Hoareau- UniSey
 Dr. David Rowat –MCSS
 Ms. Veronica Uzice- representative SFA
 Mr. Selby Remy, SNPA
 Mr. Sindu Parekh- The Hire Craft Association of Seychelles
 Ms. Bernice Senaratne- Dept. of Tourism
 Mr. Andy Rylance – GoS-UNDP-GEF PA Finance Project

Minutes;

| Agenda Item # | Agenda Item | Comment/Advice | Action_Response (with initials) |
|---------------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 1.1 | Welcome | The Principle Secretary for Environment welcomed all the participants to the meeting. | |
| 1.2 | Agenda Review | The agenda of the meeting was reviewed and adopted without any changes. | Annex I |
| | | The participant packet was reviewed. | Annex II |
| 1.3 | Review Minutes and Action Items from SC #16 | The minutes of SC meeting #16 was reviewed and approved without any changes. | |
| 1.4 | Roundtable updates from SC members | Members provided introductions and updates from their organisation/sector. | |
| | SFA | SFA- The EU fisheries partnership agreement negotiations is ongoing and there have been queries on the allowable activities in Z2. The MSP has not had a significant impact on the negotiations to date. | |
| | ICS | ICS- Alphonse Giant Trevally project is ongoing and red footed boobie project to start, the FAD watch agreement to be signed. Preparation of the nomination files for the 4 areas under the OIP is underway. The nomination files for the OIP areas to be submitted with MSP milestone 3 areas. | |
| | BED | BED- The territorial sea & contiguous zone has been approved by cabinet. Drafting instructions has been sent to AG as well as to update the maritime zones act | |
| | Aquaculture | Aquaculture- new brood stock facility was launched for aquaculture this week. | |
| | SEYCCAT | SeyCCAT – Blue Carbon project with PEW is being finalised & some stakeholders have been engaged. | |

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| | | Support from SWIOFISH3 to include mangroves in the Project. Seychelles has also committed to include a Blue carbon section in the NDC. | |
| | PA Finance | PA Finance Project- The MSP Costing analysis has been finalised and the final report shared. | |
| | PetroSeychelles | PetroSeychelles- An agreement has been signed with a company for seismic linking East Africa to Seychelles. The EIA being completed. Sub-Saharan ltd for 2 new blocks on the plateau and another company for due diligence which may lead to a new agreement. | MSP to update the information layer. JS., RT., HS |
| | MEECC | MEECC- The new Nature Reserves and Conservancy Bill has been circulated and MEECC has received new comments to address to take back to cabinet. | |
| | PCU | PCU- GEF 7 Project concept note being prepared but has been postponed for further consultations. | |
| | OIP | Reminder to ICS and OIP PM for confirmation of coordinates for the OIP areas proposed in the MSP. | |
| 2.1 | Updates on MSP Milestone 3 outputs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MSP atlas being finalised and to be printed by the end of the year. - Research note in the islands journal on the MSP published. - Publication being prepared on the MSP process for peer reviewed publication. - Quarterly one pager MSP update being finalised. | |
| 2.2 | Overview of Zoning Design version 5.40 and summary of stakeholder comments | The revised zoning design 5.40 was presented to the MSP SC members. The design presented does not include the deep water areas (1.6% remaining) which will be presented separately. | |
| 2.3 | Review areas with high agreement | <p>The areas with high agreement were summarised to the EC. These areas have high agreement and should not need any further revisions at this point;</p> <p>Amirantes to Fortune Bank* (Zone 2) Desroches OIP Area (Zone 2) Poivre OIP Area (Zone 2) Alphonse OIP Area (Zone 2) Farquhar Group (Zone 2) Farquhar OIP Area (Zone 2) Cosmoledo and Astove (Zone 2) Aldabra Group (Zone 1)</p> <p>An analysis of the 2003-2012 SFA sea cucumber data was presented to the SC including the annual mean in the Amirantes areas being proposed.</p> | |
| | | <p>Request to add more shallow water details on the maps.</p> <p>MEECC GIS and MSP GIS consultant to work do add these on the maps.</p> | JP, RT |

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| | | <p>It was pointed out that the EEZ boundaries that are still being negotiated will be included with a disclaimer that the boundary may be revised. Eg boundary of South Seychelles EEZ with Madagascar and Tanzania. Propose MSP team to check other MSP processes and what has been used in other countries.</p> | MPS team needs legal advise on the wording for these boundaries. Blue Economy Department to assist. FA. |
| | | There was a discussion on the effects of Climate Change, erosion and the possibility that with changes of base points (due to sea level rise) the contiguous zone and hence EEZ boundary may change (become smaller). | |
| | | Request of update on the process to declare the waters around Aldabra to be declared as a PSSA (IMO). | MSP core team to request an update from SMSA. HS. |
| | | Clarification was brought that the Aldabra lagoon is a SR. | MSP core team to amend the map of Aldabra Group. RT., JS. |
| 2.4 | Review areas with medium to high agreement | <p>The areas with medium to high support was presented. These areas will need further discussions and/or revisions in the next round of meetings. Discussions were held for each of the areas.</p> <p>Bird Island (Zone 1) Denis Island (Zone 2) D'Arros (Zone 1) D'Arros to Poivre (Zone 1) Amirantes South (Zone 1) Assumption Atoll (Zone 2) Deepwater Scenarios for 1.6% (Zone 1): Coco de Mer & Mascarene Ridge N (v5.1), scenario 5.41 Mascarene Ridge N only (v5.2), scenario 5.42 Aldabra Group extension option 1, scenario 5.43 Aldabra Group extension option 2, scenario 5.44</p> | |
| 2.41 | Bird Island (Zone 1) | <p>There was general agreement in the discussions that there is low fishing pressure in this area.</p> | |
| | | There were no objections to proposing the waters around Bird Island as a Zone 1. | |
| 2.42 | Denis Island (Zone 2) | There were no objections to proposing the waters around Denis Island as a Zone 2. | |
| 2.43 | D'Arros (Zone 1) | <p>Concerns were raised on the implementation of the area after designation especially with respect to the shark feeding activities ongoing around D'Arros.</p> | Can include a note in the management considerations specific for this area. JS. |
| | | There were no objections to proposing the waters around D'Arros as a Zone 1. | |
| 2.45 | D'Arros to Poivre (Zone 1) | There were no objections to proposing the area D'Arros to Poivre as a Zone 1. | |

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| 2.46 | Amirantes South (Zone 1) | A query was made on whether the MSP team has spoken to the sea cucumber fishermen on these areas. | Not directly. SFA to share the contact of the representatives. VL |
| | | It was mentioned that sea cucumber fishermen have in the past proposed closed areas and rotation of these areas to SFA. | |
| | | There were no objections to proposing the area Amirantes South as a Zone 1. | |
| 2.47 | Assumption Atoll (Zone 2) | It was pointed out that all the main and important turtle nesting beaches would still be in a Z2 and that an area based management consideration for Assumption should be made for nesting sea turtles in that area. | To include in management consideration. JS. |
| a | MSP Process | Members were reminded of the concerns raised in the last meetings in terms of the decision making process of the MSP if the area was gazetted in milestone 1 and now changing it in the zoning process. | There is a disclaimer in all documents: 'subject to change upon review and reiteration' if new information is provided. JS. |
| | | Once an area is gazetted, Members request for clarity on when the disclaimer is removed or when an area may be changed to manage expectations. | The plan needs to be adaptable throughout the zoning process so that if new information is received a change can be justified and made. AD. The boundary stops moving after milestone 3, until the MSP is reviewed. JS. 5-10 year reviews of the MSP is international best practice. |
| b | Boundary of the Z2 | A proposal was made to change the shape of the outline of Z2 and make it close at the North tip of Assumption or directly West. Rationale: to make the Z2 smaller. | A change can be made for ease of monitoring. JS. |
| | | There was a preference for the proposal for the West Boundary for Z2 for Assumption (if it is not kept as a Z1). | |
| c | Rationale to change the zone | The rationale to change the zone from 1 to 2 was queried. | IDC development plan proposes light tourism. AD. Recommendation to change the zoning from Tourism Sector, IDC, SMSA, Charters. JS., HS. |

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| | | A query was made on whether the proposed uses that were warranting a change in zone could not be addressed in a management plan of a zone 1. | For sustainable uses this may be challenging. JS. |
| | | It was pointed out that it is not relevant to include in the rationale as 'allowing movement to and from Aldabra' as right of passage is allowed for in a Z1 anyway. | |
| | | The content of the Outer Island Development plan (2018-2023) was questioned and a concern why it had not been raised in milestone 1. | The plan was approved after milestone 1. Includes light tourism activities and other activities on the island. AD |
| | | Query on why tourism accommodation terrestrial on the AAT is being proposed to be removed. | The MSP scope is to the HWM. JS. |
| | | Query on which AA in a Z1 would not be compatible with the proposed activities that have been summarised as the rationale for the change. | Sport fishing is not allowable in a Z1. JS. |
| | | It was flagged that risk management for the MSP should be considered as well as how the change will be perceived by the public seeing as the change is not being well being received by the SC which includes members that are well versed on the MSP process. | |
| d | Summary | <p>Objections and concerns were raised for the change based on;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MSP Process 2. AAT and rationale. To support a change, the activities need to be clearly defined – extractive tourism | |
| | | <p>Option 1 – Keep as a Z1 Option 2- North tip boundary change for Z2 Option 3- West tip boundary change for Z2</p> | Discussion to be brought to the TWG and call an extraordinary SC meeting before the EC. |
| | | It was proposed that both options may be presented to the EC & Cabinet with concerns raised throughout the milestones for a final decision | |
| 2.5 | Review deep water proposals for remaining Zone 1 area(s) | <p>The 4 scenarios for deep water areas Z1 to meet the remaining 1.6% target was presented. Scenario 5.41 – Coco de Mer + Mascarene Ridge Scenario 5.42 – Mascarene Ridge Scenario 5.43- Aldabra East (box) Scenario 5.44- Aldabra East (Thin)</p> | |
| | | It was re-iterated that the purse seine fleet are not in favour of the Coco de mer option 5.41 and would prefer the Aldabra options. | |

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| | | PetroSeychelles confirmed that they prefer the Aldabra options as their priority is the Mascarene area. | |
| | | If seismic surveys for research are allowable then PetroSeychelles has no preference for the Aldabra option (5.43 and 5.44) | |
| | | The deep water options to be sent to the Industrial Tuna Fisheries Group for feedback. | JS |
| 2.6 | Other agenda items | All the remaining agenda items to be shared with SC and also addressed in TWG and extraordinary SC meeting; 2.6- Discuss Allowable Activities Tables and Area-based Management Considerations 3.1- Preparing nomination file and gazetting steps 3.2- Legislation for MSP Zones 3.3- MSP management plans 3.4- Implementation of MSP – monitoring and evaluation | JS., HS |
| 4.0 | Any Other Business (AOB) and next steps | The MSP SC extraordinary meeting is scheduled for 23 Oct 10am to noon. | |
| | | The MSP SC were reminded of the following coming meetings; Open public meeting on 24 and 26 October TWG on 22 October | |
| <i>Meeting adjourned at 1238 hrs.</i> | | | |

Minutes submitted by: Helena Sims on 18 October 2019

Annex I: Meeting Agenda

SEYCHELLES MARINE SPATIAL PLAN (MSP) INITIATIVE

MSP Steering Committee

Meeting #17

Date: Thursday 17 October 2019

Time: 8:30 AM - Noon

Location: Savoy Hotel, Beau Vallon, Mahe

Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

1. To review and discuss MSP Zoning Design version 5.40
2. To discuss implementation of MSP

| # | Time | Topic |
|---|-------|--|
| | 08:30 | Arrival and Registration |
| 1 | 09:00 | Meeting Opening – Steering Committee co-Chair MEECC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Agenda review • Review Minutes and Action Items from SC #16 • Roundtable updates from SC members |
| 2 | 09:15 | MSP Zoning Design Milestone 3 – Dr. Joanna Smith and Ms. Helena Sims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Updates on MSP Milestone 3 outputs ii. Overview of Zoning Design version 5.40 and summary of stakeholder comments iii. Review areas with high agreement iv. Review areas with medium to high agreement (revisions and/or more discussion) |
| | 10:15 | Coffee Break |
| 2 | 10:30 | MSP Zoning Design Milestone 3, cont'd <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v. Review deepwater proposals for remaining Zone 1 area(s) vi. Discuss Allowable Activities Tables and Area-based Management Considerations |
| 3 | 11:15 | Next steps and implementation of MSP – MSP core team and MEECC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Preparing nomination file and gazetting steps ii. Legislation for MSP Zones iii. MSP management plans iv. Implementation of MSP – monitoring and evaluation |
| 4 | 11:55 | Any Other Business (AOB) and next steps |
| | 12:00 | Adjourn. Complimentary lunch |

Annex II: List of documents provided for the MSP SC17 meeting.

- 1-SEYMSP_SC17_Agenda_17Oct2019_FINAL
- 2-SEYMSP_SC16_Minutes_30july2019
- 3-SEYMSP_ZoneStats_Map_54_v2_20191009
- 4-SEYMSP_ZoningDesign_Revisions_Map5.4_v2_20191009
- 5-SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Milestone3_Map5.2_GenMgmt_20190716
- 6-SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Milestone3_Map5.2_Codes_20190716
- 7-SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Milestone3_Map5.2_Zone1_20190716
- 8-SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Milestone3_Map5.2_Zone2_20190716
- 9-SEYMSP_Milestone3_v5.40_maps_binder_20191009