
MSP Steering Committee – Extraordinary Meeting

Meeting #18

Date: Wednesday 23 October 2019

Time: 10:00 AM - Noon

Location: Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Espace Building, Victoria, Mahe

Minutes

Meeting Objectives:

1. To review and discuss MSP Zoning Design version 5.40
2. To discuss next steps for gazetting and implementation

Attendance:

Mr. Alain de Comarmond – Co-Chair PS for Environment, MEECC
Mr. Daig Romain- PCU GoS-UNDP-GEF Protected Areas Finance Project
Ms. Elke Talma- PCU Programme Coordinator
Ms. Francesca Adrienne- Blue Economy Department
Dr. Frauke Fleischer-Dogley – Seychelles Islands Foundation
Dr. Jan Robinson- SWIOFISH3 Programme
Ms. Kelly Hoareau- UniSey
Mr. Patrick Samson- PetroSeychelles
Mr. Peter Purvis- Industrial Tuna Fisheries (Purse Seine) Representative
Mr Selby Remy- Seychelles National Parks Authority
Mr. Vincent Lucas – Seychelles Fishing Authority
Ms. Aurelie Duhec – Database manager for ICS

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
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
Dr. David Rowat –MCSS

Ms. Veronica Uzice- representative SFA
 Mr. Sindu Parekh- The Hire Craft Association of Seychelles
 Ms. Bernice Senaratne- Dept. of Tourism
 Mr. Andy Rylance – GoS-UNDP-GEF PA Finance Project
 Mr. Aubrey Lesperance - Seychelles Fishing Authority (Mariculture)
 Mr. Justin Prosper – MSP Data Custodian, MEECC
 Ms. Cynthia Adrienne- MHILT
 Ms. Sophie Morgan – MEECC
 Mrs. Rachel Bristol – Observer
 Mrs. Marie-May Muzungaile– DG Biodiversity Conservation and Management, MEECC
 Ms. Vania Robert- SeyCCAT Admin Executive
 Dr. Jeanne Mortimer – ICS
 Ms. Michelle Murray- ICS CEO
 Ms. Angelique Pouponneau- SEYCCAT CEO
 Mr. Pierre-Andre Adam – ICS

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
2.1	Review areas needing more discussion in Zoning Design 5.40	Assumption; -A summary of the MSP Process was provided -objectives for proposed zone category were presented.	Summary of presentation in an annex III.
	MSP Process	The MSP co-chair re-iterated that at the MSP SC level an agreement should be reached for a recommendation to be made to the EC.	
		It was stressed that the arguments for and against the proposed changes need to be captured clearly.	Summary of rationale will be presented in this meeting. JS.
2.2	MSP Process-concerns	MEECC advised that moving forward, it would be advised that any area that is officially gazetted, are not changed.	Summary of concerns in Annex IV.
		The MSP SC was reminded that the gazetting process as per the NPNCA was followed by the MSP for the milestone 1 and that this included a public review period and the area was proposed as a Z1 then.	
		It was discussed that the opportunity for public review was higher than in the past as the nomination file was also available online.	
		The SC was reminded that the area was mapped and gazetted and presented in the SC#10 and included in the nomination process.	

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		A concern was raised that there are other SC members not present to express their concerns.	
		The SC was reminded that the design process is such that it is dynamic and with review of areas as per the implementation plan (2021+); TWG fisheries & Marine Ecology & Finance & implementation.	
		SC members expressed the opinion that the changing of gazetted boundaries is ok but not the changing of objectives (zones) within the planning process unless there is a strong rationale for changes to be made.	
		SC members question the amount of information provided to justify the changing from a Z1 to a Z2 and were of the opinion that there was not enough information.	Information was provided in SC16 and TWG to request for a change to Z2 which was then proposed to EC to consider the change and bring proposed boundary to the next round of consultations. AD.
	Recommendation from the SC	There was a high level of agreement on keeping Assomption as a zone 1. The objectives of the proposal from the stakeholders were reviewed and all but one is allowable in the area as per the allowable activities table.	
2.3	Objectives of activities	<p>It was pointed out that the majority of the proposed activities for the area are allowable in the AAT for a zone 1 except for sports fishing which is in the IDC development plan connected to the hotel accommodation (small scale of 5 bungalows).</p> <p>In addition, one of the main concerns is the coast guard facility. MEECC has discussed with coast guards and activities are allowable as per the zone 1 as the facility will not be very large, small scale (jetty; similar or smaller than the one at the national base in Seychelles).</p> <p>SMSA and cruise ship transit and allowable in Z1.</p>	See Annex V for summary of activities
		It was pointed out that only one charter operator goes to Assomption and that they are mobile and can access other locations.	
		SC members advised that the cruise ships going to Assomption would be the same as those going to Aldabra.	
		The SC members felt that the SC meeting #17 has discussed the activities for Assomption and compatibility in a Zone 1 (majority are allowable) and followed due diligence and process.	

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		<p>A query was raised regarding whether there is any requirement to have an exclusion area around a coast guard base and the compatibility if tourism activities around a base?</p> <p>Technical level –It was pointed out that assuming that the tourism model on the island would follow the IDC outer islands model –primarily diving and fishing. However, there are no fly fishing grounds at Assomption, nor bottom fishing. The only possibility would be big game fishing which would be marketable. This would raise an equity issue and the viability of sport fishing in that area – target species pelagic (tuna).</p>	<p>Facilities for coast guard boats but not exclusion areas. AD.</p>
3.1	Preparing nomination file and gazetting steps	<p>The SC was advised that the cabinet memo has been developed and submitted to MEECC. The memo and a request will be submitted within the day for a cabinet seating to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. approve the finalization of Milestone 3 areas to meet the debt swap deadline; 2. intervene in expediting the completion and enactment of the Nature Reserves and Conservancy Bill 2019; and 3. Approve MEECC to prepare the Nomination File to designate, and re-designate, areas using the National Parks and Nature Conservancy Act (1969). 	
3.2	Outstanding Issues	<p>The Outstanding issues was presented to the SC and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Legislation for a “sustainable use area” category with the objective for conservation and sustainable uses. -Official coordinates for the Territorial Sea boundaries to finalise Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan by Dec 2020. -Governance for the implementation of the MSP (e.g., a new Ocean Authority). -Agreement on the level of protection for waters surrounding Assumption Island. -Agreement from the industrial tuna fishing representatives for preferred option for deep water areas to meet the final 1.6% in marine protections for Zone 1. <p>A query was raised pertaining to the revised Nature Reserves and Conservancy bill and whether stakeholders will have the opportunity to see the changes that have been made.</p>	<p>The last comments are being compiled to present to Cabinet to consider before the gazetting. Planned for 30th October. AD</p>

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			If changes are requested to be made there will be an opportunity to review these including during the public review process. AD.
		MSP SC members expressed concerns on the use of the Bill for the MSP as there is no link in the Act to the MSP and the MSP review process.	
		MSP SC members from PetroSeychelles expressed that they are not in favour of gazettement zone 2 areas under the revised Nature Reserves and Conservancy Bill.	A one to one meeting was held with MEECC and PetroSeychelles to discuss concerns pertaining to the legislation. AD.
		There was a query on why a separate MSP Bill was not developed.	From the onset of the MSP one of the guiding principles which were developed through stakeholder consultations was the use of synergies and existing legislation. AD.
4.0	AOB & next steps	The next steps for the MSP include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparing nomination file and gazettement steps 2. Legislation for MSP Zones 3. MSP management plans 4. Implementation of MSP – monitoring and evaluation 	

Minutes submitted by: Helena Sims on 23 October 2019

Annex I: Meeting Agenda

SEYCHELLES MARINE SPATIAL PLAN (MSP) INITIATIVE

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Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

3. To review and discuss MSP Zoning Design version 5.40
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#	Time	Topic
	09:30	Arrival and Registration
1	10:00	Meeting Opening – Steering Committee co-Chair MEECC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Agenda review • Review Minutes and Action Items from SC #17
2	10:10	MSP Zoning Design Milestone 3 – Dr. Joanna Smith and Ms. Helena Sims <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Review areas needing more discussion in Zoning Design 5.40 ii. Review Allowable Activity tables
3	11:15	Next steps and implementation of MSP – MSP core team and MEECC <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Legislation for MSP Zones ii. Preparing nomination file and gazetting steps iii. MSP management plans iv. Implementation of MSP – monitoring and evaluation
4	11:55	Any Other Business (AOB) and next steps
	12:00	Adjourn.

Annex II: List of documents provided for the MSP SC18 meeting.

- 1-SEYMSP_SC18_Agenda_23Oct2019_draft
- 2-SEYMSP_SC17_Minutes_17Oct2019
- 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

Annex III: MSP Process concerns presented to the SC for discussions

- a. Concerns: perception and risks
 - Assumption was gazetted in Milestone 1, with Aldabra Group deep waters.
 - Already gazetted, precedent for re-opening discussion of an area;
 - Areas being revised after they are gazetted

- Credibility of MSP may be questioned if change zone designation after a request is brought by stakeholders
- b. Concerns raised re: equity and objectives
 - Conservation:
 - a. Green sea turtles on beaches; need to control lights from human activities
 - Socio-economic:
 - b. These waters not discussed in Milestone 1 and 2, told they were for later date
 - c. Stakeholders that proposed the areas are not present at SC and TWG meetings

Annex IV: Comments on Process from SC18

- When something designated, need to stick to the designation [MEECC]
- This area was mapped and gazetted in Phase 1
- MSP duly followed the gazetting and nomination process [TWG-terrestrial ecology; TWG-Blue Economy]
- Nomination process was clear that Assumption was included [TWG-Fisheries][TWG-marine ecology-for all]
- Opportunity for public input during review period
- Design of process is such that review of the areas can be reviewed as per the implementation plan [TWG-Fish]
- Stakeholders are not here to explain their concerns [TWG-TE]. Response: stakeholders were invited but not available – charters, IDC, SMSA
- The SC reviewed the proposal for Zone 2 and the activities proposed. SC made determination most activities are allowable for Zone 1
- SC has done due diligence to discuss process and reviewed points [TWG-TE]
- Information to review the proposal was provided in SC16; more information was not provided by stakeholders [MEECC]
- Need a strong rationale for changing a Zone category
- Changing boundaries is ok within a Zone category.
- EC approval for MSP core team to evaluate Assumption as Zone 2.
- Stakeholder considerations [TWG-ME]

Annex V: Comments on objectives from SC#18

- Allowable Activities allows 99% of the activities proposed for the areas Zone 1 [MEECC]
- Coast Guard plans are in line with AAT Zone 1; smaller scale than original proposal [MEECC]
- Sport fishing IDC Development Plan connected to terrestrial; activities as on other IDC islands; subsistence allowable [MEECC]
- The current objectives for the area fit in Zone 1 [MEECC, TWG-Finance]
- Other options for liveaboard tourism at Cosmoledo and Astove
- Assumption is OK for other activities such as diving
- Not equitable to include tuna fishing in this one area ...when not allowed for other stakeholders