

SEYCHELLES MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING (MSP) INITIATIVE

MSP Public Workshop

MSP Workshop #26

Saturday 19 July 2019

10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: Care House, Victoria, Mahe

Minutes

Meeting Objectives:

1. Overview of the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan including data, maps and outputs.
2. Presentation of the zoning design, followed by questions and discussions
3. Overview of implementation in 2021, followed by questions and discussions.

Present:

The workshop was attended by representatives from the private sector, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and civil society. See Annex III for full list of attendees.

MSP Core Team:

Joanna Smith - Science and Process lead, Seychelles MSP initiative, TNC Canada

Helena Sims - Project Manager, Seychelles MSP initiative, TNC

Rick Tingey- GIS Consultant

Minutes;

| Agenda Item Number | Agenda Item | Notes/Comments/Advice | Action_Response (with initials for who provides response) |
|--------------------|--|---|--|
| 1.1 | Welcome | A short welcome was delivered by the MSP Core Team and an overview of the participant packet content was provided. | Annex 1 for documents provided. |
| 1.2 | Agenda Review | The agenda was reviewed and adopted. | Annex 2 for agenda. |
| 1.3 | Opening | Opening Remarks were made by the Principle Secretary for Environment who welcomed contributions from the members of the public to the MSP process. | |
| 1.4 | Round-table of introductions | There was a round table of introductions of attendees of the meeting. | |
| 2 | Overview of the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan including data, maps and outputs. | <p>An overview of the MSP was provided to participants including points on the;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History of marine planning in Seychelles - Definition of MSP - Benefits of MSP - Seychelles Debt conversion and MSP - MSP initiative governance - MSP milestones 2014-2020 - Opportunities, threats, pressures and stresses - Objectives of the MSP - Transparent decision making framework - MSP guiding principles - Spatial data in planning units - MSP data catalogue - MSP zoning framework - Milestone 1 and 2 - MSP planning to implementation - Expected outcomes by 2025 | |
| | | A query was made as to whether TNC facilitate implementation of the plan. | TNC facilitates the planning and assists GoS in the transition to implementation phase. J.S. |
| 3 | Presentation of the zoning design, followed by questions and discussions | <p>An overview was provided on the zoning design including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Milestone 2 gazetted areas - Zoning design V5.1 & 5.2 - Biodiversity representation in Z1 and Z2 | |
| 3.1 | Deep water areas | It was expressed that the zoning design V5.1 is preferred as it is more spread out with more replication | |

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| | | Other representatives expressed no particular preference between V5.1 and V5.2. | |
| | | A query was made as to which is the main habitat feature missing in the design? | The deep water trench is currently not represented as it would need to be picked up manually. JS. |
| | | It was queried as to whether there has been any discussions with respect to the Coelacanth project and habitats around Astove. | A request was made of the contacts for the Coelacanth project. NS. |
| | | A comment was made the from the Nekton deep water expedition it was found that Astove has the highest biodiversity and Seychelles is currently awaiting results from the expedition. | |
| | | It was pointed out that the canyons north of the Mascarene plateau is another area of interest for future expeditions. | |
| | | The core team was informed that the guyots are easily overfished, as biodiversity tend to have high association with these features. | |
| 3.2 | Shallow water areas- Amirantes | An overview of the proposed zoning design in shallow water areas in the Amirantes was provided. | |
| | | A request was made to view the thermal stress layer. | There was a review of the analysis of the climate change risk layer and the methodology. RT. |
| | | It was elaborated that the Russians carried out a lot of analysis in the Seychelles ocean in the 90s but that very little has been published. Similarly, research was carried out in the 80s by UNESCO looking at temperature anomalies. | The data is in the Ukraine (Far East Research Institute). Nekton is trying to access the data and also through the Joint Management Area exercise. AD. |
| | | A proposal was made that if geomorphology is leading to upwelling and hence low thermal stress, that this condition is hence more permanent and may be best to consider for zone 1. | |
| | | It was proposed that there should be no recommendation/high consideration for the sea cucumber fishery as the stock has crashed and that the fishery is also highly subsidised by the GoS. | |

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| 3.3 | Shallow water areas- Bird and Denis island | An overview of the proposed zoning design in shallow water areas around Bird and Denis island was provided. | |
| | | It was highlighted that it is important to include the drop-off in the Z1 around Bird Island and that there should be more of the drop-off in the Z1 as there is reportedly very high biodiversity around the drop-off but little research this. | |
| | | A proposal was made to describe the rationale for the marine biodiversity and to align the objective with the zoning framework. | |
| 3.4 | Inner islands | An overview of the proposals for Z1 in the inner islands group was provided. A request was made to participants for proposals for other suggestions for Z1 and Z2 areas in the inner islands. | |
| | | It was pointed out that the area around Grand Police has been highlighted in the past as high biodiversity and also in the report to justify the rejection of the proposed development in the area. | |
| | | It was pointed out that Recife island has been proposed in the past to extend as a Z2 but the area is important for the octopus fishery (La Digue). The core team was advised to refer to the Recife Island management plan. | |
| | | There was a discussion on temporal/seasonal protected areas, legislation and the potential to consider these in the MSP. | |
| | | The MSP core team was advised that the entity managing Cousin Special Reserve has been considering the <i>Siganus</i> aggregation around Cousin island and the potential to increase the boundary of the reserve to protect the spawning sites. | |
| | | It was pointed out that there are a lot of studies of aggregation areas by Dr. Jude Bijoux and Nature Seychelles. It was considered that it is important to protect these areas especially as the reserve almost lost a grouper species as the spawning site was overfished. | |
| 4 | Allowable activities | An overview of the allowable activities tables was provided. | |

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| 5 | Overview of implementation in 2021, followed by questions and discussions | An overview was provided on implementation of the MSP including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of vessels in a Z1 - RCOC in Seychelles - Registration of vessels (Z2), logbooks, on board observers, EMS, AIS | |
| 6 | Closing remarks | The meeting was closed by the PS for Environment who thanked all for attending and for their input. Revisions will be made based on input provided and the next meetings are scheduled for June 2019. | |
| Meeting adjourned at hrs 1230hrs | | | |

Minutes submitted by: Helena Sims on 7 August 2019

Annex I: Documents provided for the meeting

SEYMSP_Draft_Zoning_Design_V51_6June2019
SEYMSP_Draft_Zoning_Design_V52_6June2019
Zoning_Design_V52_Amirantes_Group_ShallowGeomor_16July2019
Zoning_Design_V52_Bird_Island_Geomorphology_19July2019
Zoning_Design_V52_BirdDenis_Bathymetry_18July2019
Zoning_Design_V52_BirdDenis_Geomorphology_18July2019
SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Milestone3_Map5.2_Codes_20190716
SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Milestone3_Map5.2_Zone1_20190716
SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Milestone3_Map5.2_Zone2_20190716
SEYMSP_Data_Layers_Maps_Zoning_Design_V50_20190716
SEYMSP_PublicWorkshop_Advert_July2019
SEYMSP_ZoneStats_Map_51_52_20190716
Zoning_Design_V52_Amirantes_Group_Bathymetry_16July2019

Annex II: Agenda



Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan PUBLIC WORKSHOP INVITATION

The Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC) with the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan Initiative (SMSP) invites all members of the public to workshops to review and discuss outputs.

Why do you care about the ocean?
What areas do you think should be protected for biodiversity?
What are your ideas for sustainable marine activities in Seychelles?

Mahé

*Date: Saturday 20 July 2019
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM
Location: Care House, Victoria, Mahé*

Praslin & La Digue

*Date: Saturday 27 July 2019
Time: 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM
Location: Seychelles Pension Fund Complex, Grand Anse, Praslin*

WORKSHOP AGENDA

1. Welcome from MEECC and SMSP
2. Overview of the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan including data, maps and outputs.
3. Presentation of the zoning design, followed by questions and discussions
4. Overview of implementation in 2021, followed by questions and discussions.

Refreshments will be provided.

We look forward to hearing your views – All Welcome!

For more information, please contact:
Ms. Helena Sims (SMSP Project Manager)
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Annex III: Signed attendance