

SEYCHELLES MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING (MSP) INITIATIVE

MSP Committee Meeting: Steering Committee and Technical Working Groups

From Zoning to Implementation

MSP Workshop #31

Tuesday 31 August 2021

1:00 – 4:00 PM

Location: online Zoom

Minutes

Workshop Objective:

1. Updates on MSP Initiative
2. Launch zoning to implementation workplan items

Present: See Annex III.

MSP Core Team:

Dr. Joanna Smith - Science and Process lead, Seychelles MSP initiative, TNC Canada (V)

Ms. Helena Sims - Project Manager, Seychelles MSP initiative, TNC

Ms. Elke Talma- Project Coordinator- SeyCCAT

Agenda Item Number	Agenda Item	Notes/Comments/Advice	Action_Response (with initials for who provides response)
1.1	Welcome & introductory remarks	Members of the MSP SC and TWG were welcomed to the meeting by the PS for environment who also chaired the meeting.	
1.2	Agenda Review	The agenda was reviewed and adopted without any changes.	See Annex I- Agenda
1.3	Protocols for virtual workshops and zoom	An overview of Zoom meeting protocols was provided to all participants. The core team recorded and documented a show of hands to record attendance.	See Annex II for zoom protocols included in the participant package.
1.4	Roundtable introductions – all members (Name, Affiliation, Sector)	<p>Members present were requested to provide introductions, including their name, affiliation and sector, as also summarised in the attendance list.</p> <p>The MSP core team provided an introduction to new staff to the MSP Core Team. Ms. Elke Talma is the SeyCCAT Projects Coordinator and started on 1st August 2021. She will be overseeing the Oceans5 project and assisting with TNC Scale up Funds Project.</p>	See Annex III
1.5	MSP Decision-making Diagram – review	A review of the MSP decision making diagram was provided to the participants including the recent changes to the organogram as approved by the Executive Committee. The organogram is key to inform members on how decisions are made in the MSP process.	
2.10	High-level Workplan 2021-2022 to complete MSP and Outstanding Issues	The high level workplan for 2021-2022 which had been approved by the Executive Committee was presented to the SC and TWG members.	See Annex II: Workplan included in the participant package.

2.11	Summary of outstanding items	A summary of the outstanding items and dependencies were highlighted. These include (i) the revised nature reserves and conservancy bill (NRC) for a sustainable use category and (ii) the territorial sea/archipelagic baseline.	
2.13	Query: Use of NRC bill and Fisheries Act for zone 2	A query was made regarding the zone 2 areas and the requirement to move them to sustainable use areas under the NRC bill as opposed to moving them to the fisheries act and the requirement to align the fisheries regulations accordingly.	The zone 2 areas would be gazetted using the sustainable use category under the NRC Bill as a marine protected area with the fisheries regulations component being revised and aligned through SWIOFISH3. HS. MMM. JS.
		SC members from the SFA summarised that the understanding was that the fisheries component would be addressed by fisheries regulations and management plans and other components such as biodiversity conservation through NRC bill.	
		MACCE confirmed that the fisheries component areas would be guided by the fisheries regulations and management plans but as the zone 2 areas are gazetted as marine protected areas for medium biodiversity and sustainable use, they would fall under the NRC bill, sustainable use category.	
		Members were reminded of the importance to consider biodiversity conservation and management in zone 2 as well as sustainability of economic activities.	
2.14	Query: MSP Policy	A query was made on the updating of the MSP policy for the transfer of Zone 2 to fisheries regulations and whether this has been completed. Members were also reminded that there will be protected areas under the fisheries Act.	MSP Core Team to follow up. JS., HS.

2.2	Coordination with SeyCCAT on grants and financing, and new staff	The MSP core team is working closely with the SeyCCAT team to track grant funding which is also supporting new capacity to transition to implementation (USD 4.9m in private grants for the next 3 years).	SeyCCAT Grants status update will be provided to the members in another meeting. JS., HS., AP.
		Members were reminded that there should also be additional support for the MSP through the GEF 7 (project formulation ongoing) and ongoing support from other projects including SWIOFISH3 and IKI.	
2.3	MSP Implementation Governance and Implementation Financing	A review of the background to the governance framework decision to an interim option under EPA with a transition to an Authority in 2 years.	See Annex IV: Background information & cabinet decision slide
2.4	Coordination and synergies with other related projects	A summary of activities and coordination with other projects was provided to members. These project include: GoS-UNDP-GEF PA Finance Project – Terminal Evaluation July 2021 SC; SWIOFISH3 Programme SC; SeyCCAT Blue Grants Committee; GEF7 project formulation committee; IKI Nature Seychelles project NWG; Adaptation Fund coral restoration project Regional SC and National WG. The MSP PM is one of the two Seychelles’ representatives on the Regional Technical Working Group for Marine Spatial Planning for the Western Indian Ocean. A regional MSP strategy is being developed.	New project grant summaries will be provided in a next meeting for members who wish to attend.
2.5	Plenary session: questions, comments, discussion, issues	There were no questions raised.	

3.10	Zoning to Implementation: Sector updates 2020-2021 – roundtable from each representative	For each sector representative on Steering Committee and each of the Technical Working Group members, please provide brief update on any new activities, decisions, and projects. -Related to MSP objectives: biodiversity, climate change, blue Economy -Sector issues or concerns of importance to the finalisation of the Marine Spatial Plan	
3.11	Seychelles Parks & Gardens Authority (SPGA)	SPGA- Members were reminded that the Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA) has merged with the Botanical Gardens Foundation (BGF) to form the now Seychelles Parks and Gardens Authority (SPGA). Members were also updated that most national parks now have a management plan. The final management plan for Ile Coco MNP is being finalised and the Silhouette MNP is also planned to be finalised. Members were informed that the other management plans have started implementation and that the SPGA is busy with the merger but will provide further updates in the next meeting.	

<p>3.12</p>	<p>Islands Development Company Ltd. (IDC)</p>	<p>IDC- The representative from IDC queried as to when the MSP is going to start and when would members expect to see action on the ground. IDC advised that there are many challenges that need to be addressed including from an investment perspective and final decisions on the AAT are important moving forward.</p>	<p>For the MSP to be effective, the MSP document needs to be finalised. For finalisation, there needs to be agreement on the AAT for the zones and management considerations for the areas. The steps to make the plan legally enforceable also needs to be determined. Once the plan is gazetted, this is when it becomes legally gazetted. Members were informed that the target for this is June 2022. JS.</p> <p>MACCE advised that it needs the Attorney General's office's (AGO) input on the framework and legislations which, being regulations, will be passed faster than a Bill. DM.</p>
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3.13	Seychelles Fishing Authority	<p>SFA- Representatives from the SFA expressed that there are no significant changes expected with respect to the MSP and the AAT. SFA advised that the legal framework for the demersal fishery co-management plan for the Mahe plateau will launch in October 2021. They are also working on a fishery harvest strategy with SWIOFISH3. SFA mentioned that the Seychelles FAD management plan is to be reviewed (through TNC IKI funded project) and to be sent to IOTC (the current FAD management plan is through to Aug 2021). SFA also updated that the pilot of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) on Industrial Fishing vessels is ongoing and that SFA is currently looking at connectivity issues. Training is planned with assistance from TNC. Members were informed that the plan is that by mid next year all EMS will be installed. Finally, members were informed that the IOTC domestication process is ongoing.</p>	
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<p>3.14</p>	<p>SWIOFISH3 Programme</p>	<p>SWIOFISH3- Representatives from the project stated that the Blue Carbon mangrove assessment for the inner and outer islands contract has been signed. The work is planned to occur this year. They also informed that the harvest strategy policy has started and the inception report is under review. The policy sets out the standards for fisheries management and controls and will feed into management plans. SWIOFISH3 representatives informed that the delays in key areas include development of management plans for some of the Z2 areas and the capacity of SFA for developing and receiving AIS to work with the existing VMS system. They advised that they are still procuring satellite subscription services and that the plan of SFA is for full development for VMS, AIS and satellite imagery by end of 2021. SWIOFISH3 is also supporting the launch of the Mahe plateau in Oct 2021. Members were informed that there are stock assessments for some key demersal and semi-pelagic species covered under the management plan. SWIOFISH3 is also supporting the 2nd annual FiTI report- drafting is now ongoing. The Programme is also working with SFA to undertake an independent stock assessment of Sea cucumbers on the Mahe plateau and in the Amirantes. Members were informed that the survey design is now being developed and a comparative assessment using data from the Amirantes of 2004 is to be used – as stakeholders expressed interest to include the Amirantes.</p>	
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		<p>The National tuna fisheries development and management plan drafting is ongoing.</p> <p>With respect to the Fisheries act work – delays due to the Covid -19 pandemic has led to a need for a revised timeline and a draft is to be available by the end of October 2021. The engagement of the consultant with key stakeholders is planned for September and October of 2021.</p>	
3.15	Island Conservation Society (ICS)	<p>ICS- representatives from the ICS updated members that they have assisted and participated in data collection for the seagrass mapping project. ICS is developing activities in GEF7 to strengthen the management plan of Aride Special Reserve (SR). ICS also updated that the survey work on trevallies on Alphonse and red footed boobies are ongoing.</p>	

<p>3.16</p>	<p>Seychelles Islands Foundation</p>	<p>SIF- Representatives from SIF informed members that external funding has been secured to develop a climate change vulnerability index for the Aldabra SR and that the document is expected by the end of 2021. SIF is analysing the data for Aldabra Reef Monitoring Programme. SIF also informed members that funding is being secured via SeyCCAT to trial the use of remote sensing to develop the population distribution of dugongs in Aldabra. SIF is also involved in the Blue carbon project data collection and will be a management plan pilot site through the O5 funded project- includes the Aldabra extension area.</p> <p>Members were also informed that a Regional MSP via South Africa is being developed and the SIF is to provide input (includes the Mozambique Channel).</p> <p>SIF expressed that they have similar concerns to the IDC regarding enforcement. SIF has noted an increase in Illegal entries around Aldabra and in the Seychelles. SIF informed that the Seychelles Coast Guard has been notified and that this needs to be considered in Control Monitoring and Surveillance (CMS) and enforcement.</p>	<p>A summary of the Regional MSP Strategy Technical Working Group through the Nairobi convention was provided to the members. The Seychelles regional MSP TWG members are the DG of MACCE and the MSP PM. A regional- WioSym workshop will be carried out this week. MMM., HS.</p> <p>The draft MSP Strategy to be circulated to participants. MMM</p>
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3.17	Save our Seas Foundation- D'Arros Research Centre	<p>SOSF- Representatives informed members that they are primarily focused on research (& education) around D'Arros and St Joseph Atolls – including research on mantas, Blue Whales. SOSF informed that there is increasing local capacity and that they have partnered with UniSey to develop an internship program. SOF is also collaborating with other initiatives e.g. remote sensing of seagrass and working with SeyCCAT on the O5 project to pilot management plans around D'Arros Z1 and St Joseph Z2. SOSF advised that they are liaising with health and Ministry for education so as to revive the applications to the kids camps which will be opening shortly.</p> <p>Finally, SOSF expressed concerns regarding proposing a management boundary and an authority for the management of the St Joseph Atoll (Z2) and if this can be addressed or alternatively, be made part of the D'Arros Z1.</p>	Check ET response
3.18	Blue Safari	<p>Blue Safari- Representatives informed that they continue to work closely with ICS on the spatial ecology and monitoring of catch & release of Giant Trevally, catch and release improvements and to expand research activities to milkfish and mantas. Blue Safaris are moving to Farquhar in the next season (semi-permanent presence) and will work with the IDC to monitor IUU activities. Representatives also confirmed that they are waiting for the finalisation of the AAT to sustainably manage these areas.</p>	

3.19	Marine Conservation Society of Seychelles (MCSS)	MCSS- Representatives from the MCSS advised that coral rehabilitation in the Ste Anne MNP is ongoing and funded through the under Coral Adaptation Fund project. MCSS is also developing updated habitat maps. MCSS informed that the Ridge to Reef GEF6 Project is piloting the temporal PA (TPA) projects in the South Mahe for turtle rookeries and that these TPAs are also one of Pilot sites in O5 for management plans.	
3.20	Private Sector- Tourism	Tourism- Representatives from the tourism sector reminded members that most organisations remain on survival mode. They proposed that now that the MSP is moving to implementation, that the Government looks to local capacity and assets for implementation-engage the private sector.	
3.21	University of Seychelles (UniSey)	UniSey- Representatives from the University informed that they are engaged with the seagrass mapping project with PEW, SeyCCAT and the University of Oxford, Blue Whale research (hydrophones at Denis), biodiversity assessments around Fregate island with Green Islands Foundation (GIF) and biodiversity assessments around North and Denis Island, including a Blue Whale project.	

3.22	Industrial Tuna Fisheries	<p>OPAGAC- Representatives from the Industrial Tuna Fisheries sector (OPAGAC) informed members that their fleet remains under constraints due to the Covid-19 pandemic and there have not been many changes to their operations. Progress regarding activities under the FAD watch project has now moved to a higher level of implementation and there are discussions with COT, OPAGAC and other partners. They advised that the implementation phase of the FAD watch has resumed using the Thalos implementing software for monitoring. The data will be sent to ICS for recovery of the FADs. Other projects include by-catch mitigation using different tools, monitoring and mitigation to improve fish sorting so bycatch can be released faster. With respect to the IOTC regulations compliance – implementation is planned by Dec 2021 as there have been some comments from other countries – 3 countries objected the IOTC regulations (RE Yellow fin).</p>	
3.23	Protected Areas Finance Project	<p>PA Finance- The project team updated informed that the ToR for the costing analysis for the implementation of the 30% marine protection areas has been updated. The PA finance project is now undergoing terminal evaluation after which the management responses will be addressed before the project closes.</p>	
3.24	Ridge to Reef Project (R2R)	<p>R2R- The project team of the Ridge to Reef project confirmed that Component 1 focuses on marine with TPAs support and SPGA management plan support. The project is also supporting the Min of Environment with legal support to MACCE for regulations under the NRC Bill.</p>	

3.25	Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment (MACCE)	<p>MACCE advised that the MPA strategic management framework (Swiofish3 and SeyCCAT) was completed in May 2021 but that new comments have been received and being addressed before final endorsement. MACCE is preparing a ToR (funded through swiofish3) for the development of management plans for the Z2 areas and the target is to launch in Q4 of 2021. MACCE also confirmed that the contract for the Blue Carbon assessment of mangroves in the inner and outer islands has been finalised and stated that the field work is planned for Q4 2021. Finally with respect to the MSP implementation governance Framework – MACCE is now working on the legal work to support this option including the administrative component. MACCE is also checking if the EPA can be used as the legal statute to publish the MSP.</p>	
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3.26	PetroSeychelles	<p>PetroSeychelles provided their input provided by email. They also informed members that there is still the proposal for regional seismic surveys on the table linking East Africa to Seychelles and Madagascar to the Seychelles. This will help in understanding the crustal development between Seychelles and East Africa and the extent of the Continental crust of Madagascar. The work is important to help us understand the formation of the Amirantes and the formation of the deep trench. Petroseychelles added that as we discussed earlier, they are also trying to squeeze in a Seismic line from Aldabra north west to the EEZ boundary to assist Seychelles in the claim for an extended continental shelf beyond the EEZ in the area. However, the AAT for zone 1 still needs to be finalised.</p> <p>Petroseychelles also confirmed that they are in final negotiations with an oil company for an petroleum Agreement in the Junon Bank Area which should be signed before the end of the year.</p>	
4.10	<p>Moving to implementation of the Marine Protection Areas: Allowable Activities and Management Considerations – review and discussion; identify issues for Zone 1 & Zone 2 – including sustainability criteria</p>	Review of Zoning design 5.4 and allowable activities for Z1, 2 and 3.	See participant package.

		<p>A TWG meeting will be held to finalise Z1 and Z2. The MSP Core team The team confirmed that written comments have been received from ICS, PetroSeychelles and the MSP core team welcomes others and requested for written comments in next 2 weeks particularly on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Any changes to the AAT and conditions? ii) Any new activities that are not included in the AAT? iii) Any new definitions needed? iv) Any areas that may need a separate AAT? 	<p>Members welcome to send if further written comments within 5 business days of the meeting.</p>
4.11	Floating structures	<p>SOSF expressed that they are largely in agreement with the AAT. They have a particular interest of considering to include floating structures as conditional in maritime structure (currently not AA under tourism) as they have a floating dock as opposed to a fixed dock the latter of which would be more environmentally destructive. SOSF also requested for ongoing scientific research to be allowable.</p>	<p>Floating structures are already conditional under wharfs, marinas and jetties. JS.</p>
4.12	Subsistence fishing	<p>MCSS requested clarity on the definition of subsistence fishing. How would this be considered on islands that have resorts in a zone 1? E.g. Bird island.</p>	<p>Core team to revert. J.S., H.S.</p>
		<p>IDC reminded members that this has been discussed in the past and that subsistence referred to anyone living on the island at the time is included in subsistence but the fish can only be consumed on the island.</p>	<p>Core team to finalise definition of subsistence fishing. JS., HS.</p>
		<p>Members reminded that there is an FAO definition of subsistence fishing which is line with the MSP definition. Propose to change the term as this does not align with the proposal as per the discussions in the MSP initiative.</p>	

		<p>SFA confirmed that the contradiction is the selling of the fish to the tourists in the resorts and that this would imply trading. SFA advised there would need to be a revision of the definition accordingly.</p>	
		<p>Representatives from the Tourism sector queried whether this would also exclude the charter operators feeding their guests any fish caught off a boat in a Z1.</p>	
		<p>There was no agreement to change the subsistence fishing activity to recreational fishery as this has its own definition. It was proposed to check National Parks Regulations and ensure an alignment.</p>	
		<p>Members were reminded that this this complication pertaining to subsistence fishing in a z1 currently applies to Bird island Z1 specifically and that there may be a need to have this AAT changed only for Bird island as opposed to changing the definition.</p>	
4.2	Moving to implementation of the Marine Protection Areas: Management Plans – by area, co-management, issues, challenges	<p>This agenda item was moved for the next meeting.</p>	
5.1	Zone 3 – Multiple Use Allowable Activities – discussion of approach to integrate existing regulations and policy	<p>This agenda item was moved for the next meeting.</p>	
6.1	Wrap-up, Next Steps, Next Meeting	<p>During the wrap up, members were reminded to send in comments for the MSP core team to compile for discussions in the next meeting:</p> <p>Any changes to the AAT & conditions? Any new activities that are not included in the AAT. Any new definitions needed? Any Z1 or Z2 areas needing separate AAT?</p>	<p>Members were provided a 5 business day’s timeframe for sending comments.</p>

6.2	Closing remarks	The DG for MACCE thanked all the members for their engagement and participation.	
7	Adjourn	There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1610 hrs	

Minutes submitted by: Helena Sims on 14 September 2021

Annex I: Agenda

SEYCHELLES MARINE SPATIAL PLAN (MSP) INITIATIVE

MSP Committee Meeting: Steering Committee and Technical Working Groups

From Zoning to Implementation

MSP Workshop #31

Tuesday 31 August 2021

1:00 – 4:00 PM

Location: online Zoom virtual meeting

Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

3. Updates on MSP Initiative
4. Launch zoning to implementation workplan items

#	Time	Topic
	12:50	Zoom Link Open
1	1:00	Meeting Opening – Dr. Joanna Smith and Ms. Helena Sims <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Welcome and introductory remarks – Minister Flavien Joubert (MACCE) ii. Agenda review iii. Protocols for virtual workshops and zoom iv. Roundtable introductions – all members (Name, Affiliation, Sector) v. MSP Decision-making Diagram – review
2	1:20	MSP Updates – Dr. Joanna Smith and Ms. Helena Sims <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. High-level Workplan 2021-2022 to complete MSP and Outstanding Issues ii. Coordination with SeyCCAT on grants and financing, and new staff iii. MSP Implementation Governance and Implementation Financing iv. Coordination and synergies with other related projects v. Plenary session: questions, comments, discussion, issues
3	1:45	Zoning to Implementation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Sector updates 2020-2021 – roundtable from each representative
4	2:15	Moving to implementation of the Marine Protection Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowable Activities and Management Considerations – review and discussion; identify issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Zone 1

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Zone 2 – including sustainability criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management Plans – by area, co-management, issues, challenges
5	3:15	Zone 3 – Multiple Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowable Activities – discussion of approach to integrate existing regulations and policy
6	3:50	Wrap-up, Next Steps, Next Meeting
	4:00	Adjourn

Annex II: Documents provided for the meeting

SEYMSP_Workplan_2021-2022_20210422
 SEYMSP_WS31_Agenda_31Aug2021_FINAL
 SEYMSP_ZoneStats_Map_545_v2_20210831
 SMSP_Zoom_Protocols_v1_31Aug2021
 SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Milestone3_Map5.4_Codes_20191114
 SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Milestone3_Map5.4_GenMgmt_20191114
 SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Milestone3_Map5.4_Zone1_20191114
 SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Milestone3_Map5.4_Zone2_20191114
 SEYMSP_Milestone3_Marine_Protection_Areas_17April2020
 SEYMSP_Milestone3_NomFile_PartA_FINAL_20191209

Annex III: Attendance list

Name	Designation	Organisation	Committee
Allen Cedras	CEO	SPGA	Steering Committee Member
Amit Wasserberg	Managing Director	Silhouette Cruises	Steering Committee Member & TWG Tourism
Chris Mason-Parker	CEO	MCSS	Steering Committee & TWG Marine Ecology
Corianna Julie	Science Officer	SIF	TWG Terrestrial Ecology
Cynthia Adrienne	GIS Unit	Ministry for Lands and Housing	Steering Committee Member
Daig Romain	Project Manager	GoS-UNDP-GEF PA Finance Project	Steering Committee & TWG Financing and Implementation
Danielle Jupiter	Environment & Social Safeguards Specialist	SWIOFISH3	TWG Fisheries
Denis Matatiken	PS	MACCE	Executive & Steering Committee Member
Eleanor Brighton	Ecology & sustainability Manager	Blue Safaris	TWG Marine Ecology
Elke Talma	Projects Coordinator	SeyCCAT	MSP Core Team
Elsa Pool		SIF	Guest
Frauke Fleischer-Dogley	CEO	SIF	Steering Committee Member
Gilberte Gendron	Independent Consultant	Independent Consultant	TWG Marine Ecology

Glenny Savy	CEO	IDC	Steering Committee Member
Helena Sims	MSP Project Manager	TNC	MSP Core Team
Henriette Grimmel	Programme Director of D'arros Research Section	SOSF-DRC	TWG Marine Ecology
Isadora Moniz	Project Coordinator	OPAGAC	Rep for Miguel Herrera
James Lea	CEO	SOSF-DRC	TWG Marine Ecology
Jan Robinson	Project Manager	SWIOFISH3	Steering Committee & TWG Fisheries
Joachim Valmont	CEO	SMSA	Executive & Steering Committee Member & TWG Maritime Security
Joanna Prosper	Project Manager	GoS-UNDP-GEF Ridge to Reef Project	Steering Committee & TWG Marine Ecology
Joanna Smith	SMSP Science and Process Lead	MSP	MSP Core Team
John Nevill	Independent Consultant	Independent consultant	TWG Fisheries
Johnny Louys	MCS Manager	SFA (CMS)	TWG Fisheries
Laurent Moser		SOSF-DRC	Guest
Louis Desnousse	Tourism Department	Ministry of Tourism & foreign affairs	TWG Tourism
Marie-May Jeremie-Muzungaile	DG for Biodiversity Conservation	MACCE	Steering Committee Member
Miguel Herrera		ITF	TWG Fisheries
Norman Weber	CEO	ICS	Steering Committee Member & TWG Financing and Implementation
Pierre-Andre Adam	Head of Science & Projects	ICS	Steering Committee Member & TWG Marine Ecology
Rodney Govinden	Manager Science and Fisheries Research Section	SFA	TWG Fisheries
Sandrine Griffiths		SOSF-DRC	Guest
Sharif Antoine	Economist	SFA	TWG Fisheries (Nominated)
Stuart Laing		UniSey/BERI	TWG Marine Ecology
Vincent Lucas		SFA	Steering Committee & TWG Fisheries

Annex IV: Background information governance options for implementation as presented in meeting

- Implementation discussions began 2014. Government commitment to finance implementation of the MSP
- Workshops with 80+ stakeholders and a consultancy to develop options for MSP governance structure in 2018.
- Cabinet presented with the options and preferred option from the consultations in July 2018.
- Cabinet asked for timeline and detailed budget, not to exceed 10M SCR. Structure and Budget approved by Cabinet in Nov 2018 with proviso of wage scales reviewed by DPA
- MSP zoning design for 30% marine protections gazetted in March 2020
- Seychelles Ocean Authority Bill drafted, and public review undertaken May 2020.
- Global covid-19 pandemic and national election Oct 2020. Ministerial restructuring and entity review.
- Private funder expressed interest to support SOA/Governance Authority. Hired consultant to examine other options considering socio-economic circumstances
- Presentations to Ministers and discussions about options

- Ministers supported interim option 2 - EPA amended to have cross-sectoral coordination
- MSP stakeholder consultations with EC, SC, and TWG members April and June.
- MSP Executive Committee decision to present two options to Cabinet on 22 June 2021
- Presented to Cabinet and decision taken for Interim Option 2 with EPA amendment