SEYCHELLES MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING (MSP) INITIATIVE

MSP Committee Meeting: Steering Committee and Technical Working Groups

From Zoning to Implementation
MSP Workshop #32
Thursday 23 September 2021
1:00 – 4:00 PM
Location: online Zoom virtual

Minutes

Workshop Objective:

- 1. Sector updates for members not present in last meeting
- 2. Summary of input received from last meeting
- 3. Discuss Allowable Activities tables and zoning to implementation 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- Projects 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 DG for MACCE. The PS for environment would join the meeting later on to Chair.	
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 MSP core team recorded and documented a show of hands to record attendance.	See Annex II for the participant package documents list, which included the SMSP zoom protocols.
1.4	Roundtable introductions – all members (Name, Affiliation, Sector)	Members present who were not in the last meeting were requested to provide introductions, including their name, affiliation and sector, as also summarised in the attendance list. SMSA- advised that they are looking for support to obtain a patrol vessel. The designation of a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) around Aldabra has been put on hold but SMSA will try to re-initiate the discussions. The Aldabra lighthouse is not operational and SMSA is looking to repair the lighthouse. GIF advised that there are no new updates other than what was already mentioned by UniSey in the last meeting. GIF is a partner on	See Annex III
		the Oceans5 project to pilot a management plan around Denis island. GIF is wrapping up a project which included a marine assessment around Fregate to develop benthic maps. The data has been shared with MSP database manager, Justin Prosper and the upcoming report will be shared too.	

2.10		Hunt Deltel- connection challenges prevented the representative from providing an update.	
2.10	Minutes review of MSP Workshop 31 including Action Items	The Minutes of Workshop 31 was reviewed.	
2.11	Action item from workshop 31	MSP core team and MACCE confirmed that the MSP policy has no explicit reference to use of the fisheries act for designation of zone 2 although it is mentioned as one option including the use of the NPNCA/NRC Bill.	
		MSP core team were advised to correct the post title of Ms Elke Talma to read Projects Coordinator.	HS
2.20	Summary of written input/comments before/after Workshop 31 and responses	Comments following the workshop 31 were received from 7 individuals, compiled and presented to members. Additional inputs received are summarised below:	
2.21	Aldabra Group (Z1)	Zone 1 Allowable Activity Table Recommend Aldabra Group has a separate Zone 1 table. SMSP: draft table received.	Areas in or around Aldabra suggest the activities follow Aldabra Management Plan conditions.
2.22	Ferries & transportation (Z1)	Ferries and Transportation: Does this include barges? They bring items too large for planes. SMSP: See new Code #19	smsp identified issue with code #2 confounding essential functions with subsistence. New Code #19 - essential access and infrastructure. Applies to: Dredging (coastal), Ferries and Transportation; Ports, Marinas, Wharves and Jetties.

2.23	Scientific Geographical Surveys (Z1)	Scientific Geophysical Surveys, Research: This activity is allowable with conditions in Zone 1.	SMSP: already in Management Considerations for determination of continental shelf too.
2.24	Hovercraft (Z1)	Add hovercraft to Zone 1 activities - restrict.	SMSP: need discussion from SC & TWG
2.25	Subsistence Fishing (Z1)	Subsistence fishing consistently applied to Zone 1 areas	SMSP: need agreement on subsistence fishing
2.26	St Joseph	Recommend St Joseph - separate Zone 2 table SOSF proposes St Joseph as Zone 1 and provided document with ecological values of St Joseph.	SMSP: draft table needed. SMSP: MACCE and MSP core team are preparing a brief to compile comments already received, discussions and government decisions 2014-2019.
		If St Joseph is not changed to Zone 1, request a management boundary for St Joseph - a separate management unit, with co- management authority Save Our Seas Foundation	SMSP: management boundaries and comanagement in discussion.
2.27	Hovercraft/Jet ski (Z2)	Hovercraft allowable? Suggestion of jet skis prohibited from all Zone 2 as per current Outer Island practice.	SMSP: for discussion by SC and TWG
2.28	Written comments received on Management Considerations from workshop 31	Bait (e.g., chum) is allowable for research purposes. Standard methodologies are applied for science research including tagging, photo ID, visual census, baited remove underwater video (BRUV)	SMSP: both added to Area-based Management Considerations Zone 1.
2.29	Management Considerations	Noting that Assomption does not have yet have management plan (Zone 1).	SMSP: edit from ICS applied

2.30	Management Considerations	Acknowledge importance to continue long-term scientific studies and on-going monitoring of the marine environment at D'Arros Research Station Add D'Arros Research Centre for the ray aggregation studies at D'Arros	SMSP: both added to Area-based Management Considerations D'Arros
2.31	Management Considerations	Cosmoledo (2015-2020) and Astove (2016-2021) have management plans and both need updating (Zone 2).	SMSP: edit from ICS applied
2.32	Additional inputs received: General Management Considerations	Marine areas around Outer Islands should be protected for ecological preservation and high value, low impact eco-tourism. (1) What will define the conditions for commercial fishing and sport fishing? (2) Well-defined, area-specific regulations and conditions are needed. Will this be the case and how accessed by a visiting vessel?	SMSP: Consultations since 2014 have identified multiple values for the marine areas around the Outer Islands and 260+ meetings resulted in the Milestone 3 zoning design. (1) Conditions for fishing are being developed in consultation with MSP stakeholders including MFBE, SFA and other agencies, and still in development including gaps in regulations. (2) Regulations may be zone or area-specific, as applicable.
2.33		When will management plans and regulations be produced and by whom?	SMSP: Funding has been secured for consultants to develop management plan templates and pilots for most Zone 1 and Zone 2 areas. GoS-UNDP-GEF has already drafted 4 management plans for Zone 2 areas. The TORs for this work are in development. Aim is for work to start in 2021 and early 2022. Timelines are being discussed for completion for all 13 marine protection areas. Pilot projects beginning 2021 or early 2022.

2.34	What is the rough timelines for area-specific regulations becoming legally binding?	SMSP: The steps and timelines are being worked out now in the zoning to implementation phase of the MSP.
2.35	What activities require an EIA as per code #1?	SMSP: need info from government on this.
2.36	Will the results of the SFA study on socio-economic value of recreational and sport fishery impact Allowable Activities Zone 2?	SMSP: the SFA study will finish after the Marine Spatial Plan is completed. It will be useful for adaptive management of the MSP over time.
2.37	Comment: Catch and release fishing is important for long-term sustainability of high value ecotourism in the Outer Islands, especially for land-based activities. Comment: Spatial ecology research projects are using expensive acoustic technology and this can be damaged by other uses in the lagoons	
2.38	Where is SCUBA diving in Allowable Activities? Tourism & Recreation: SCUBA is included in which activity? SCUBA diving is important for tourism, research and education. Needs to be managed to minimise environmental impact	SMSP: Shore-based: non-motorized activity and Boat-based: motorized activity. Discuss in Agenda item #3 SCUBA and other activities a subtable of Allowable Activities
2.39	Coral Gardening: Is this Aquaculture or Scientific Research and Monitoring? Restoration efforts are underway in several existing MPAs (Ste Anne, Curieuse, Cousin) that are equivalent to a 'high protection' Zone 1	SMSP: Under the Seychelles Fisheries Act this is classified as "Aquaculture". Do we need to refer explicitly to coral farming in the Allowable Activities Tables?

2.40	Comments in workshop 32 on management considerations	TWG members from Blue Safaris were of the understanding that Cosmoledo and Astove would be Zone 2, but pointed out that in the Management Considerations they are mentioned under the Aldabra Group heading in Zone 1? Members queried on the management plans developed under the GoS-UNDP-GEF Outer Islands Project and what area is covered by these plans.	MSP Core team to check wording in management considerations. JS. HS. A clarification was made on the boundaries as per the MSP milestone 3 areas – Desroches, Poivre, Alphonse, and Farquhar Atoll. The Management Plans are to 2022. Hence there is an opportunity to update the plans and align with the plans that are going to be developed for the other areas. These include, through SWIOFISH3 Z2- Amirantes to Fortune Bank, Comsoledo Astove, and Farquhar and through Oceans5– Denis, D'Arros, St Joseph, Aldabra SR and temporal protected
		A query was made as to the process to define management units for these large Marine protected areas.	This is outstanding and will be developed in the next quarter. HS., JS.
		Members questioned if the management plans will also consider enforcement?	MACCE confirmed that management plans will include considerations for CMS and transferred to regulations. The NRC bill makes management plans legally binding. Authorised enforcement will be defined in the regulations including authorised officers. MMM.
		The MSP core team will liaise with MACCE for guidance on the steps from Man plan – enforcement-regulation steps.	MACCE, JS., HS.

3.1	Allowable Activities and Management Considerations. Review and discussion of draft from Oct 2019. Identify key issues, new activities, and areas for discussion.	
	Zone 1	
	Zone 2 – including sustainability criteria	

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3.11	Zone 1- subsistence	MSP Subsistence Fishing Definition
		(Oct 2019) - DRAFT
		To serve staff at facilities or provide
		essential infrastructure for the
		zone, including enforcement. Need
		quotas and monitoring of any
		species harvesting. Subsistence is
		intended to apply only to island
		residents and non-commercial
		activities, and does not apply to
		hotel guests or other commercial
		activities including paying guests.
		Needs management plans in some
		cases (e.g., SIF 2016)
		Serving to guests at
		resorts, fishing lodges, etc.
		Serving to guests on live
		aboard marine charters
		Zone 1 areas with
		subsistence fishing: Bird
		Island, D'Arros, Aldabra
		Subsistence fishing only
		occurs offshore at D'Arros
		Serving locally-caught fish
		to guests makes more
		sense than imported
		commercially caught fish
		Unreasonable to allow staff
		to fish for subsistence and
		then import fish to serve
		guests
		Fishing for guests follows
		code of conduct and does
		not target reef fish,
		monitored by ICS
		Boat-based tourism and
		charters could fish outside
		Zone 2 areas to serve
		guests
		Downgrade Zone 1 areas
		that use subsistence fishing
		or identify areas within
		Zone 1 where certain levels
		of subsistence fishing is
		permitted
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A query was raised as to how subsistence fishing is considered different from sports and recreational fishing as there may be some overlap. It was proposed that the MSP needs a clear definition to distinguish between the two and potential overlap.	The definition of Subsistence fishing developed for the MSP is also derived from the FAO, UNESCO definition of subsistence which is very minimal extraction to meet minimum requirements for food JS.
It was proposed that a committee is formed with SSFC and SFA to get views on this.	SFA., HS, JS.
Members were reminded of the context that led to the definition of subsistence fishing and that as soon as there is a commercial element to the activity, will need to determine if it fits under subsistence fishing.	
Members expressed that there is a need to understand the scale of the subsistence fishing activity. Some vessels may be in the areas for 2 months or more (Not cruise ships) with 10-12 guests on board and feeding 20 people max. The activity is seasonal; with 2 seasons Oct-Nov & Mar- April hence the impact would be minimal.	
Members expressed concern on the definition of subsistence fishing and consideration of species composition as Z1 would be for the conservation of threatened species. Members queried if restrictions can be included in the management plan or should it be included in the definition? For example, species on the IUCN red list should not be caught in the subsistence fishery.	
Members queried if the subsistence fishing definition apply to Z2 also it is also conditional with the same AAT codes?	

		It was mentioned that subsistence	
		fishing from offshore vessels would	
		be the same rationale for the land-	
		based activity and that the activity	
		on the vessel needs to be defined-	
		tourism vs. functional activities	
		around the areas. Additionally if	
		there are limits defined for the	
		subsistence fishery.	
		Members mention that for	
		example when in operation in	
		Chagos, strict rules are provided	
		from authorities but they are	
		allowed to fish for crew and people	
		on board. They need to keep track	
		of the catch; species, quantity,	
		estimate weight and submit to IOT.	
		Blue safari confirmed that the	
		species and fork length is being	
		tracked for subsistence fishery	
		from the islands they operate from	
		and that it may be good to	
		replicate this in other zones.	
3.12	Q on separate term on the	Members were asked for feedback	
	activity other than	on the potential for using a	
	subsistence fishing. E.g. food	separate term for the activity other	
	economy/sustainability	than subsistence fishing. e.g. food	
	definition	economy/sustainability definition	
		Members expressed that there	
		needs to have a broader	
		consultation and that commercial	
		fishers need to be included in this	
		definition.	
		With respect to individual species	
		and status, members mentioned	
		that this can be addressed in	
		regulations of each site to state	
		whether or not it is open to	
		subsistence fishing (or in the Wild	
		Animals & Birds protection act).	
		Members expressed concern that if	The comments was in
		there are too many site specific	reference specifically for
		regulations, this may be difficult to	zone 1 areas. JN.
		enforce.	
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A query was made as to whether a fishing vessel can catch fish in Z1 for crew if tourism vessels can catch for their clients?	In other countries this is highly regulated with catch limits. Would need to be in the regulations with permits and licences in the zones. JS
Members expressed that they would need to consider the impact of the activity in the outer islands (Farquhar and Aldabra Group-Assomption). It was also pointed out that Bird island has no representative at the meeting but that they fish for hotel consumption so need input from them. It was pointed out that the Fly fishing locations have a higher impact and hence may need different conditions for different areas. It was also mentioned that there is very few activity in Amirantes South e.g. Elegant yachting. It was pointed out that in other countries there is an protection &	If this P&I insurance - or equivalent - is not
indemnity Insurance (P&I) required from large vessels in case there is damage and the insurance covers cost for damage of an area (wreckage/pollution) – most vessel in Seychelles don't have it. It is a third party liability insurance.	mandatory in Seychelles it should be? Tourism is critical to the economy and one spill would lead to massive impact to the economy. If there is not some kind of investigation into this, perhaps we could learn from Mauritius and other countries? SL.
Members were reminded that commercial fishing is incompatible in Zone 1 – regardless of the impact and the mindfulness of messaging for high level of protection. It was queried as to whether it's possible to designate Z2 in a Z1 to service the needs of the users as there is a difference of subsistence fishing and fishing for commercial gain.	Proposal is to downgrade Z1 or define Z2 areas in a Z1 for subsistence fishing JS. The MSP would hence need to then define commercial fishing. JS.

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Members recommended that the list of definitions in terms of commercial definition is revised especially because as soon as catch is sold- offered to guest, it qualifies as commercial (involvement of commercial transaction). Members queried how this would apply to bareboat vessels and clients fishing off the vessel.	The law of Seychelles provides for these Sports fishing and bareboat licences to be enacted — any fishing activity for sport and recreation involving hiring, chartering of a vessel — falls under the sport fishing vessel. JR.
Representatives from the department of tourism agreed that there needs to be allowance for some tourism activities in the outer islands including assumption. They reminded members that the licence for sport fishing has been in the fisheries act since 2015 but has not enacted yet and requested for a time frame for the licence?	
Catch may be currently negligible in outer islands, but need to consider future growth. Consider change in technology and increased pressure in future and growth to these areas over time.	Activities in the outer islands will only increase if Government develops the necessary supporting infrastructure. Although negligible, it is one area that contributes significantly to the national economy and should thus be given consideration. BS.
Members were reminded that the Mahe Plateau plan comes into force on 1st October, including bag limits on sport and recreational fisheries - the regulation does not require SFA to get the sport fishing permits introduced but it should spur them to do so. Because bag limits also concern retention onboard, it will impact on supplies of fish to crew for subsistence or to sell fish to paying guests.	

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		SFA summarised that 1) There needs to be a clear definition for this activity 2) Quantifying the catch will help the process. No evidence of the low catch to date 3) SFA is planning to regulate this activity – sports fishing licences. The MSP core team received	
		confirmation from SIF that written input provided on the AAT was for the Special Reserve and not all Z1 areas.	
3.13	Q any other comments for Z1 and proposed revisions (AAT)	Q any other comments for Z1 and proposed revisions (AAT)	
		There was a query on the conditional status for AAT if it's per area or for all Z1.	For now it applies to all Z1. Changes per area are captured in area based management considerations. Can consider applying a code that applied to only one area. Then can keep one AAT per zone. JS.
3.14	Q any other comments for Z2 and proposed revisions (AAT)	Q any other comments for Z2 and proposed revisions (AAT)	
	and proposed revisions (AAT)	Representatives from SOSF expressed a requirement for a separate AAT for St Joseph.	
		Members highlighted the need to update C17 for zone 2 RE FAD in Zone 2 – FAD management plan is now in force – not under development. C17- VMS & human observers for FAD management required – now	JS., HS.
		need to change to in place. Members further added that for	Check consistency to FAD
		C17 change wording to 'or' instead of all 3 conditions. Fish observer, EMS or VMS.	management plan for C17 and FPAs and check if applies to gear type: longline vs PS. JS., HS.

		Members proposed that for Bioprospecting to add C6 – GoS approved permit for research and monitoring.	MACCE confirmed. Access to Benefit sharing (ABS) legislation will trigger a requirement for a permit (triggers Nagoya protocol). System will capture if permit is for commercial or noncommercial application at the onset. MMM
			MSP core team to follow up difference Bioprospecting research Vs. extraction and C6 is for research & monitoring, not for development. JS., HS.
3.2	Management Plans – by area, co-management, issues, challenges	Members were asked if there are any tourism and recreation activities that need to be addressed specifically with conditions and notes.	
		Members informed that regarding jet ski (not related to tourism) SOSF-DRC have considered a medical response jet ski for the atoll for access in emergencies.	
		Members proposed that the jet-ski prohibition at Cosmoledo and Astove should apply to all areas.	
		Members mentioned that they agree that there should be no jet skis in ecologically sensitivities even in Z2 (e.g. St Joseph).	
		Members were reminded that super yachts use jet skis (outer islands) and that this service is important to them. Super yachts provide a significant income to Seychelles. The impact of jet ski vs. dinghy is also undetermined.	Jet ski more dangerous in Z1 for species feeding on surface e.g. manta and nesting seabirds.

		Members proposed Codes of conduct for swimming with wildlife, freediving, SCUBA diving and can be standard and apply across all MPAs.	MACCE confirmed no endorsed protocols. MMM. Guidance has been drafted in the past on whale shark watching. Not officially approved though was submitted as a memorandum. JN Other codes of conduct exist for snorkelling or diving with Manta Rays
			and are quite similar to
		It was confirmed that a code of conduct for – nesting turtles, swimming turtles and hatchlings is	CoC for whalesharks. HG. MCSS can share. CMP.
		available at MCSS.	
		Representatives from GIF confirmed that they will send	
		separate comments on tourism and	
		recreation to the MSP Core Team.	
4.1	Zone 3 Allowable Activities – discussion of any additional approaches needed for this Zone category to integrate existing regulations and policy that applies to activities in Zone 3	To be discussed in next meeting.	
5	Wrap up and next steps	The MSP core team thanked all participants for attending and for participation. Some agenda items moved to next meeting. Meeting date to be shared soon. Participants can provide written comments within 5 working days of the meeting.	
		DG MACCE thanked everyone for their input and closed the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 1610hrs	

Minutes submitted by: Helena Sims on 12 Oct 2021

Annex I: Agenda

MSP Committee Meeting: Steering Committee and Technical Working Groups

From Zoning to Implementation MSP Workshop #32 Thursday 23 September 2021 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Location: online Zoom virtual meeting. Please see MSP PM for link.

Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

- 4. Sector updates for members not present in last meeting
- 5. Summary of input received from last meeting
- 6. Discuss Allowable Activities tables and zoning to implementation items

#	Time	Topic		
	12:50	Zoom Link Open		
1	1:00	Meeting Opening – Dr. Joanna Smith and Ms. Helena Sims i. Welcome and introductory remarks – MACCE ii. Agenda review iii. Reminder of Protocols for virtual workshops and zoom iv. Roundtable introductions & sector updates – new members (Name, Affiliation, Sector)		
2	1:20	 MSP Updates – Dr. Joanna Smith and Ms. Helena Sims i. Minutes review of MSP Workshop 31 including Action Items ii. Summary of written input/comments before/after Workshop 31 and responses 		
3	1:50	 i. Allowable Activities and Management Considerations. Review and discussion of draft from Oct 2019. Identify key issues, new activities, and areas for discussion. Zone 1 Zone 2 – including sustainability criteria ii. Management Plans – by area, co-management, issues, challenges 		
4	3:00	Develop documentation for Zone 3 – Multiple Use iii. Allowable Activities – discussion of any additional approaches needed for this Zone category to integrate existing regulations and policy that applies to activities in Zone 3		
5	3:45	Wrap-up, Next Steps, Next Meeting		
	4:00	Adjourn		

Annex II: Documents provided for the meeting

SEYMSP_WS32_Agenda_23Sept2021_draft2 SEYMSP_Wkshop31_31Aug2021_minutes

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SEYMSP_WS32_PPT1_20210923_v2
SEYMSP_Honorarium_Policy_v3_21092021
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Zip Folder of AAT:

SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Milestone3_Map5.4_GenMgmt_WS31_20210923 SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Milestone3_Map5.4_Zone_subtable_TourismRec_20210923 SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Milestone3_Map5.4_Zone1_WS31_20210923 SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Milestone3_Map5.4_Zone2_WS31_20210923

SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Milestone3_Map5.4_Codes_WS31_20210923

Zip folder of supporting documents:

SEYMSP_Milestone3_Zoning_Design_Map_v5.45_March2020 SEYMSP_MasterList_Definitions_AllowableActivities_v5.45_20210923 SEYMSP_Milestone3_Zoning_Design_List_v5.45_March2020

Annex III: Attendance list

Name	Designation	Organisation	Committee
Ameer Ebrahim		SFA	Not yet assigned- awaiting official
A '1.1A/		C'II II C '	nomination
Amit Wasserberg	Managing Director	Silhouette Cruises	Steering Committee Member & TWG
Bernice Senaratne	Diverter	Ministry of Tayrians	Tourism
Bernice Senaratne	Director	Ministry of Tourism	Steering Committee Member & TWG Tourism
Chris Mason-	CEO	MCSS	Steering Committee & TWG Marine
Parker			Ecology
Corianna Julie	Science Officer	SIF	TWG Terrestrial Ecology- awaiting
			official nomination
Cynthia Adrienne	GIS Unit	Ministry for Lands	Steering Committee Member
		and Housing	
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
Helena Sims	MSP Project Manager	TNC	MSP Core Team
Henriette Grimmel	Programme Director of	SOSF-DRC	TWG Marine Ecology- not officially
	D'arros Research Section		appointed
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 Smith	SMSP Science and Process	MSP	MSP Core Team
	Lead		
John Nevill	Independent Consultant	Independent	TWG Fisheries
Kolly Hoaroau		consultant BERI/UniSey	SC member
Kelly Hoareau		DLNI/ UIII3ey	3C member

Name	Designation	Organisation	Committee
Louis Desnousse	Tourism Department	Ministry of Tourism & foreign affairs	TWG Tourism
Marie-May	DG for Biodiversity	MACCE	Steering Committee Member
Jeremie-	Conservation		
Muzungaile			
Peter Purvis		Hunt Deltel	SC Member
Sandrine Griffiths		SOSF-DRC	Guest
Stuart Laing		UniSey/BERI	TWG Marine Ecology
Wilna Accouche		GIF	SC member & TWG fisheries

Annex IV: