
MSP Steering Committee #24, with Technical Working Group #17

MSP Steering Committee #25

Date: Tuesday, 22nd November 2022

Time: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: Savoy Hotel, Conference Room, Beau Vallon

Minutes

Meeting Objectives:

- 1) To finalise Allowable Activities Tables Zone 1, Zone 2 and Zone 3
- 2) To discuss Management Unit boundary maps and considerations for co-management
- 3) To discuss the Marine Spatial Plan document outline and make any minor revisions
- 4) SC recommendations to Executive Committee on Allowable Activities and Management Units

Attendance:

Alain de Comarmond- Independent consultant & DFF, Marine Ecology TWG
Ameer Ebrahim- Consultant & ICS- Fisheries TWG
Amia Jovanovic-Desir- Tourism Department, Tourism TWG
Annabelle Constance – SIF, Marine Ecology TWG
Ashley Dias- Ag Dg, MACCE, Steering Committee & terrestrial ecology TWG
Bernice Senaratne- Dept. of Tourism, Steering Committee, Tourism TWG
Chrissant Barbe, BE, Steering Committee
Cynthia Adrienne- MLH, Steering Committee
Daniel Rabonovich - Senior Coordinator GVI Seychelles, Marine Ecology TWG
Denis Matatiken- Co-Chair PS Environment, MACCE , Steering Committee Co-Chair*
Didier Dogley – Consultant – Terrestrial Ecology TWG
James Lea – SOSF-DRC, Marine Ecology TWG
Jan Robinson – SWIOFISH3, Steering Committee, Fisheries TWG
Jean-Luc Mondon- PetroSeychelles, Energy & Infrastructure TWG
Joanna Prosper, PCU (Ridge to Reef Project) – Steering Committee & Marine Ecology TWG
Jude Bijoux – Observer, consultant C2O team
Karine Berlouis, intern BE, Observer
Liam Weber- SeyCCAT – Marine Ecology TWG
Lindsay Chong-Seng- PCA, Steering Committee & Terrestrial Ecology TWG
Marie-Antoinette Micoock - Dept. of Tourism, Tourism TWG
Marie-May Jeremie – CEO SeyCCAT, Steering Committee, Finance TWG
Murray Duncan, UniSey, Marine Ecology TWG
Nathalie Dufrene, SPGA, Marine Ecology TWG
Patrick Samson – Petroseychelles, Steering Committee and Energy & Infrastructure TWG
Sylvanna Antha - UniSey, SC Member
Vania Robert- SeyCCAT, Finance TWG
Veronica Alphonse-Uzice – SFA, Fisheries TWG
Vincent Lucas- SFA, Steering Committee, Fisheries TWG

MSP Core Team

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

Helena Sims- Project Manager, Seychelles MSP initiative, TNC

Elke Talma- SeyCCAT Project coordinator

Minutes;

Agenda Item #	Agenda Item	Comment/Advice	Action_Response (with initials)
1.0	Welcome	The Acting DG for Environment welcomed all the participants to the meeting.	
1.1	Agenda Review	The agenda of the meeting was reviewed and adopted without any changes.	Annex I
1.2	Participant Packet	The participant packet was reviewed.	Annex II
1.3	Introductions	There was a round of introductions of meeting participants.	Ref- attendance list.
2.0	Allowable Activities Tables & Management Units	Allowable Activities Tables & Management Units was the first area of focus for the meeting.	
2.100	Summary of SC #23, with TWG #16, Thu 17 Nov 2022	A summary of areas of agreement from the SC23/TWG16 of 17th November 2022 was provided to the SC/TWG members	
2.200	Agreement on outstanding items and follow up items from SC and TWG members	There were plenary discussions on the proposed changes as summarised below.	
2.210	Definition of essential services	There was a query on definition of 'essential services' in C19	MACCE to provide a definition of essential services. AD.
2.220	Supply vessel in Zone 1	There was a query on whether supply vessels that access the Z1 areas will only be Seychelles flagged or all vessels, as per licence conditions. The SC was reminded that currently supply vessels are considered as a fishing vessel. There was discussion as to whether these conditions should also be reflected in the respective license agreements.	Text was revised "for supply to retrieve or collect FADs" JS.
2.221		SC members proposed an option where other entities having access to funds to pick up the FADs.	Members agreed that it is the responsibility of Contracting Parties of Countries (CPC)/operators/companies fishers/vessel owners to manage, retrieve and/or remove the FADs they own or deploy. Other specifics (procedures) can be defined in management plans.
2.230	Update C10	The SMSP team confirmed that the supply vessels accessing Z1 to retrieve FADs could also	Update C10. JS.

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		be addressed in the codes for Industrial Purse Seine (supply vessel). Supply vessels are referenced in code 1, 5, 13 and 14. Code 10 might need to be updated to “all activates to abide by laws & regulations”	
2.240	Communications on conditions	Members discussed that boat owners are to be made aware of these conditions, their responsibility to pick up FADs and that their licence agreements should be updated if needed.	It was agreed that this would be the responsibility of the respective Ministry/Authority. MFBE, SFA.
2.250	Supply vessels and licensing agreements	The SC requested for SFA to advise if supply vessel have separate license agreement. SFA advised that it is in the same agreement. For foreign fleets it is under the fishing partnership agreement but SFA would need to check licensing agreement and confirm.	SFA
2.251	C14 edit	There was a proposal from the SC for C14 to be edited to add ‘in accordance with licence agreement and FPA’ and area management plan/FAD management plan.	No objections. JS., HS
2.252	Expertise to remove FADs	Concerns were raised on the required expertise to remove grounded FADs safely and the added biosecurity risk if they go on shore.	These may be addressed in the FAD management plan. SFA., MFBE.
2.253		There was a proposal to have observers on board when FADs are being recovered and through EMS.	SFA confirmed that EMS is also installed on supply vessels. VL
2.254		The capacity of NGOs such as ICS to collect FADs and the responsibility of companies/vessel owners to collect FADs using their own resources was discussed. It was agreed that there needs to be an agreement on SOPs to collect the FADs including the risks associated with collecting a FAD.	Members agree to include reference to FAD management plan in code 14.
2.255		Members also proposed that the management plans currently being prepared can describe these issues in detail; Tuna Management plan (includes FAD fishery), Z2 area management plans so SMSP can be a macro level with more details included in the management plan.	
2.256		Members were reminded that the ITF group are aware of the proposal for supply vessel to collect FADs.	
2.257		SC members flagged the issue of accountability of every FAD and questioned if it is considered in Tuna & FAD Management plan; there are 325 FADs active per vessel.	

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2.260	Summary of discussion	<p>Wording for C14- no deployment of FADs.</p> <p>All other guidance reflected in C1- as per area management plan and Tuna/FAD management plans.</p> <p>Purpose of C14 related to supply vessels in zone 1.</p>	<p>Agreement. SFA has an important role of coordinating FAD management.</p> <p>Need alignment with Z2 management plan development and Tuna/FAD management plan.</p> <p>Add all comments added to general management considerations (All areas-bullet 22). JS. HS.</p>
2.270	Coral farming for restoration is defined as aquaculture and in Zone 1 is an X	There was a deliberation on the definition of aquaculture as per the revised fisheries act and that this would include coral restoration which is ongoing in pre-MSP MPAs but which is currently an X in Zone 1. The committee discussed the potential to have aquaculture for coral farming conditional to allow for restoration. The committee noted the importance of alignment with the aquaculture policy.	
2.271		<p>The committee discussed change in wording to aquaculture restoration vs farming).</p> <p>Restoration vs Farming.</p>	Agreement to change to Aquaculture farming for restoration in AAT. JS.
2.272		<p>SFA raised queried about the potential of sea cucumber ranching in protected areas.</p> <p>It was mentioned that the aquaculture policy makes mention of allowing ranching in protected areas</p>	There was no agreement as this would be for a commercial purpose. The intent of allowing aquaculture in Z1 would be for restoration only not commercial.
2.273		Members expressed the importance for all activities to be in line with the primary objective of the MPA; as per the regulations of the area such that aquaculture for biodiversity restoration may become allowable on Z1.	
2.274		Reference was made to the coral policy and strategic action plan 2022.	
2.275		<p>The SC proposed that restoration is moved to a research activity in the AAT as opposed to a fishery activity.</p> <p>The SC felt that the intent and the impact of the activity would need to be considered.</p>	SC was reminded that a licence would still be required from SFA. VU
2.276		In consideration of derogation vs impact some members felt that it would be better to leave aquaculture for restoration as an X in Zone 1.	

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2.277		A proposed was made that all conditions for scientific research and monitoring would need to be used for aquaculture restoration to remove the commercial component.	
2.278		The SMSP team summarised that there is high support that as per definition of aquaculture in the fisheries legislation, aquaculture should remain an X for aquaculture in Z1, with guidance in management considerations.	Members queried on how this would guide an activity for an area that would need restoration following a bleaching event. JL. One objection- more discussion needed.
2.279		Members questioned about land-based aquaculture and if the then restoration would be allowable on the reef?	Need definition for restoration (activities). This is still aquaculture as per the definition. SFA
2.280		Some members queried whether this is a redundant/moot point due to distance of the Z1 areas from main islands and whether it would be feasible for restoration in outer islands.	Needs to be considered for the SMSP but the plan should be revised and when needed too. JS.
2.281		There was a recommendation and agreement to introduce a new activity -biodiversity restoration under research section of AAT and use all the codes for research for this activity and keep aquaculture as an X for Zone 1.	C-1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11,19,20
2.290	General management considerations – pg. 10 list of fisheries	SC members pointed out that the pg. 10 of the fisheries list in the general management considerations for artisanal fishery doesn't mention traps.	SMSP to check and add traps for gear types for all zones.
2.300	Geophysical surveys	Code 4 to be added (permanent mooring where practical)	
2.301		PetroSeychelles expressed the need to consider the 5km exclusion zone for all islands and that for scientific research (e.g., Aldabra) may need land-based surveys – drilling holes (not part of SMSP). Hence there might be geophysical surveys within the 5km boundary. Petroleum surveys will be outside 5km Boundary. PetroSeychelles also confirmed that although they are not expecting petroleum activity in zone 1, PetroSey may have geological interest in zone 1	SMSP to check maps. RT.
2.310	Patrols and surveillance- C15	It was pointed out that this is part of national security and there was a proposal to remove it from the AAT table.	
2.320	Tourism section	The areas of agreement from SC/TWG 17th Nov 2022 on definitions pertaining to tourism was	

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		<p>presented to the SC members. These included definitions for passenger ship, watercraft.</p> <p>A query was raised from the SMSP core team to the SC/TWG on whether a separate line is needed for privately owned superyachts/mega yachts in the AAT it whether this is it covered under motorised activity/watercraft. If it is the latter, then a chartered mega yacht becomes a hire craft</p>	
2.321		There was agreement to add C-19 to both hire craft and motorised activity Z1 and to include C-20 into hire craft in Z1.	JS., HS.
2.322		<p>There was agreement that for Z2 hire craft and passenger ships to add C11 and to add C16 for Z2 passenger ships and that all three should have the same codes but add C3 for passenger ships.</p> <p>For Z2 hire craft, watercraft, and passenger ship: C1,3,4,5,11,16,19,20</p>	JS., HS.
3.00	Allowable Activities Tables - Zone 3	There was an overview of the two main areas in zone 3 and these are essentially the deep-water areas and the inner island – Port Access Fee Boundary.	
3.1	Plenary and summary of comments from SC and TWG members	There were group discussions to discuss the allowable activities tables including zone 3.	
3.11	Pre-MSP Areas in Zone 3	There was a query on pre-MSP MPA areas within Zone 3 Inner islands.	These will be addressed during the re-categorisation process for alignment with the NRC Act planned for 2023 led by MACCE. HS.
3.21	Group 1	<p>Comments for group one on proposed changes to the AAT for zone 3 include:</p> <p>Fisheries Aquaculture: C3,6,10,15 added for inner and deep water Aquaculture coral farming: +C3,5,6 Artisanal fishing: +C5,7 Fly, fishing, blue water: +C5,6,7,12 Fly Fishing, lagoon: +C5,6,7,12</p> <p>Non renewable and Prospecting Bioprospecting development: +C3,6,7,12 Deep-sea mining: +C3,6,7,12 Petroleum Geophysical surveys, exploration: +C3,6,15</p>	JS., HS.

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		Petroleum exploration, drilling: +C3,6,8,15 Petroleum development, production, extraction: +C3,6,8,15 Sand Mining: +C3,6,7,12 Research Bioprospecting Research: +C3,5,6,7,12 Scientific Geophysical Surveys, Research: +C3,5,6,8,10,15 Scientific Research and Monitoring: +C3,5,6,8,10,15 Hydrographic Surveys: +C3,5,6,8,10,15	
3.22	Group 2 Nathalie Dufrene	Group 2 agreed with the proposed changes from Group 1. Add C-12 for deep water related activities and all fisheries related activities Add C-13 to longline deep water The group had a query on bunkering at sea and why it is an X For all renewable energy need to add C-3	JS., HS Bunkering at sea is not allowable in fisheries act. SMSP team to check revised fisheries act. JS. HS
3.23	Group 3	Group 3 proposed to add a new code for dive sites for inner islands: C-21- Consideration for dive sites in terms of spatial conflicts and managing for multiple values including eco-tourism. Add C21 for fisheries from recreational to subsistence fishing in AAT Z3. Purse Seine deep water: +C17 & C18 Recreational fishing: +C5,7,12 Semi-industrial longline: +C7 Sport fishing: + C7,12 Maritime infrastructure Ballast and Bilge dumping and Bunkering at sea: +C5 Tourism & Recreation Anchorages and Mooring Buoys: + C4, 5 Floating structures: +C5 Hire craft: +C5,7,11,12,16 Motorised Activities (Watercraft, Ship): +C5,7,11,12,16 Tourism Accommodation, marine: +C4,5	JS., HS

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		<p>Tourism Accommodation, terrestrial: +C5</p> <p>There was a query from the group on definitions for tourism terrestrial and why it is included in the AAT as above HWM.</p> <p>A query was also made regarding superyachts and where they would be on AAT. Proposal if the vessel has more than 12 passengers, it is a passenger ship – add C11 (inner islands) and if it is less than 12, it is motorised activity</p>	<p>Related to the EPA and requirement for an EIA which considers marine impacts. H.S.</p>
3.24	Group 4	<p>Members from group 4 proposed the following edits:</p> <p>Fisheries section</p> <p>Aquaculture: remove C2. Add C7 Artisanal fishing: C5,7,12,15,17</p> <p>Proposal of a new code: New code – C22 no unauthorised deployment of FADs (reference to anchored fads). Approval from SFA, SMSA required.</p> <p>For all industrial fisheries: C1,3,5,7,12,13,17,18,22</p> <p>Add new code C22 to artisanal</p> <p>Flyfishing blue water and lagoon: C15, 22</p> <p>Recreational fishing C5,7,12,13,22</p> <p>Semi-industrial fishing (all): C 3,5,7,12,13,17, 22</p> <p>Subsistence fishing: C7,22</p>	JS., HS
4.0	Considerations for co-management arrangements	The discussions on co-management were held in plenary.	
4.10		It was discussed that the co-management agreements may depend on each location and partners /entities in those areas and that the process for developing the co-management structure may require expertise from elsewhere to develop templates, legalities and roles of the co-managers that will be legally required enforce a management plan/area	

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4.11		It was recommended that clarity is provided on what would be the requirement(s) to become/qualify as a co-manager and the process to apply to become one.	MACCE, GOS.
4.12		There would need to be awareness of zoning/sub-zoning in an area and how users will access this information and become aware	
4.13		SOSF expressed that they would be happy to be included in the co-management of D'Arros to Poivre Z1, Amirantes South Z1 as these are existing research areas for SOSF-DRC and they would like to be able to continue the research in these areas.	
4.14		Queries were raised as to enforcement – reporting requirements to SCG and/or powers of arrest and whether there would be delegation of enforcement mandates.	MACCE, GoS to clarify.
4.15		SC/TWG members sought guidance on who is developing the co-management process and what is the timeline?	<p>This is being led by MACCE. The PS for environment clarified that there are currently 2 co-management modalities in Seychelles – fisheries co-management and the first MPA co-management project; LEAP project. MACCE can seek a consultant can assist to look at best practice, legal advice on co-management. DM.</p> <p>The SMSP team is still looking up the IUCN co-management guidelines to inform the decisions on co-management together with GoS. JS.</p> <p>There was a reminder that the NRC act requires management plans and co-management agreements. HS.</p>
4.16		Members recommended that considerations of financing are applied when developing the co-management agreements/modalities.	MACCE, GoS.
5.0	Marine Spatial Plan document	<p>The Marine Spatial Plan outline was presented to the SC/TWG</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marine spatial planning in Seychelles 2. Seychelles MSP Initiative 3. Zoning Design 	

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		4. Implementation of the SMSP 5. Monitoring and Evaluation 6. Glossary and Abbreviations 7. References 8. Annexes	
5.10	Review document outline and discuss minor revisions, if needed	Members sought clarity on the proposed timeline for review of the plan	SMSP confirmed that this is still being discussed and that 5 vs 10 years have been proposed. JS.
5.11		Members questioned whether a summary of the meetings will be included in an Annex.	SMSP confirmed that there will be a summary of stakeholder comments in an annex.
5.12		Members proposed adding a section on lessons learned. Either a new chapter or at the end of each chapter.	JS., HS.
5.13		Members proposed cross referencing objectives in the MSP policy such as E&A to ensure the plan captures the relevant policy directives.	JS., HS.
6.0	Wrap up and next steps	<p>The SC/TWG members were advised that the next SMSP meetings in this Nov round of consultations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EC #30 on 25 November @ MFBE 9-11 AM • MACCE & SMSP debrief, next steps Fri 25 Nov 3-4 PM <p>Zone 2 Management Plans and Fisheries Act</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFA Fisheries Act Workshop 23-24 November • Fisheries Landings Q&A - Zone 2 Management Plans @ Mahe. MACCE, SWIOFish3 and C2O consultants 24 and 25th Nov • Public Information Clinic - Zone 2 Management Plans @ Care House Monday 28 Nov <p>Other outstanding items for the year include: Drafting 2023 Workplan Marine Spatial Plan document Date for completing MSP and sign into law</p>	
6.1	AOB	There was a query on when the SMSP will be signed into law.	SMSP needs the date from GoS for the debt swap loan agreement. JS.
Meeting adjourned at 1530hrs.			

Minutes prepared by Helena Sims, with assistance from Elke Talma, and submitted on 12 January 2023.

Annex I: Meeting Agenda

SEYCHELLES MARINE SPATIAL PLAN (MSP) INITIATIVE

MSP Steering Committee #24, with Technical Working Group #17 MSP Steering Committee #25

Date: Tuesday, 22nd November 2022

Time: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Location: Savoy Hotel, Conference Room, Beau Vallon

DRAFT Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

1. To finalise Allowable Activities Tables Zone 1, Zone 2 and Zone 3
2. To discuss Management Unit boundary maps and considerations for co-management
3. To discuss the Marine Spatial Plan document outline and make any minor revisions
4. SC recommendations to Executive Committee on Allowable Activities and Management Units

#	Time	Topic
	8:30	<i>Arrival and Registration</i>
1	9:00	Meeting Opening – Steering Committee co-Chair MACCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Agenda review for SC#24 and TWG#17
2	9:10	Allowable Activities Tables & Management Units - Dr. Joanna Smith and Ms. Helena Sims <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Summary of SC #23, with TWG #16, Thu 17 Nov 2022 – Dr. Joanna Smith, Ms. Helena Sims ii. Agreement on outstanding items and follow up items from SC and TWG members
	10:00	COFFEE BREAK
3	10:15	Allowable Activities Tables - Zone 3 - Dr. Joanna Smith and Ms. Helena Sims <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Break out groups to discuss considerations for AAT Z3 ii. Plenary and summary of comments from SC and TWG members
4	11:15	Co-management - Dr. Joanna Smith and Ms. Helena Sims <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Break out groups to discuss considerations for co-management arrangements ii. Plenary and summary of comments from SC and TWG members
	12:00	LUNCH PROVIDED
5	1:00	Marine Spatial Plan document – Dr. Joanna Smith and Ms Helena Sims <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Review document outline and discuss minor revisions, if needed
6	2:15	Wrap up SC and TWG. Next Steps.

7	2:30	<p>Steering Committee #25 - PS Environment (MACCE), Dr. Joanna Smith and Helena Sims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Agenda Review ii. SC member recommendations to the Executive Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowable Activity Tables zone 1 and zone 2 and zone 3 • Management unit boundaries iii. Recommendations from SC for EC for Marine Spatial Plan document outline
8	3:30	<p>Adjourn with coffee/tea</p>

Annex II: List of documents provided for the meeting provided in dropbox folder:

SEYMSP_SC24_TWIG17_SC25_Agenda_22Nov2022_FINAL
SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Completion_Codes_20221122
SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Completion_GenMgmt_20221122
SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Completion_Zone1_20221122
SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Completion_Zone2_20221122
SEYMSP_ActivitiesTable_Completion_Zone3_20221122
SEYMSP_MarinePlan_Outline_v3_20190711
SEYMSP_MasterList_Definitions_AllowableActivities_20221122
St_Joseph_Atoll_Draft_Management_Unit_with_COORDS_verJuly2022_9Nov2022
Assumption_Management_Unit_Boundaries_15Nov2022
Remire_to_African_Banks_OPTION_1_Management_Unit_Boundaries_15Nov2022