

AGENDA

**The next meeting of the EMPS Steering Committee will be held
on Wednesday 2nd July 2008 at 9.00 am,
Conference Room, PPS Division,
English River**

1. Approval of the Minutes held on the 7th May 2008
2. Matters Arising
3. A. O. B

***The Next meeting is scheduled for the
2nd July at 9.00 am.
Conference Room,
PPS Division,
English River***

Minutes of the EMPS steering Committee meeting No. 60 held on the 7th May 2008 at 9.00 am, Conference Room, PPS Division, English River.

Present:

1. Mr. Wills Agricole	Chairman
2. Mrs. Begum de Lestang	Secretary & Coordinator
3. Mr. Daniel Confait	UNDP
4. Mr. Joel Nageon	SCMRT-MPA
5. Mr. Joseph Faure	MENRT
6. Mr. Michel Vielle	DRDM
7. Mr. Selvan Pillay	MENRT
8. Mr. Jan Rijpma	UNDP
9. Ms. Rebecca Loustau-lalanne	UNDP
10. Ms. Audrey Zelia	UNDP
11. Mr. Brad Auer	UNDP
12. Mr. Danny Poiret	MOHSD
13. Mrs. Renee Troian	SHTA
14. Dr. Frauke Fleischer-Dogley	SIF
15. Ms. Sheila Leon	STB
16. Dr. P. Murugaiyan	MENRT
17. Mr. Guilly Moustache	MND
18. Mr. David Rowat	MCSS
19. Mrs. Mermedah Moustache	MENRT (AGR)
20. Mr. Denis Matatiken	MENRT
21. Ms. Elisa Socrate	SFA
22. Mr. Jude Bijoux	ReCoMaP

Absent:

1. Mr. Selby Dora	ME
2. Mrs. Jeanette D'Offay	MFA
3. Mr. Terence Stravens	IDC
4. Mr. Vivian Radegonde	SBS
5. Mr. Patrick Andre	Land Transport
6. Ms. Marie- Nella Nancy	MOF
7. Mr. Nirmal Shah	LUNGOS
8. Mr. Jimmy Valentin	NPTS
9. Ms. Jane Victor	MHSD
10. Mrs. Kerstin Henri	Nature Seychelles
11. Mr. John Nevill	GIF
12. Ms. Veronique Bonnelame	MND
13. Mr. Lindsay Chong-Seng	PCA
14. Mr. Riaz Aumeeruddy	ICS
15. Mr. Michel Bistoquet	NHRDC
16. Mr. Daniel Frichot	MCDYSC
17. Lt. Cl. Michael Rosette	SCG

The Chairman Mr. D. Dogley sent his apologies for not being able to chair the meeting and he was replaced by Mr. W. Agricole DG PPS.
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	Mr. Brad Auer, The programme Coordinator for the GEF UNDP project introduced himself and gave a brief description of his work	
1.0	<u>National Projects</u>	
1.1	Mainstreaming Biodiversity An inception workshop was held on the 17-18 th April '08. The report was circulated for comments.	PCU
1.2	Biosecurity project The inception workshop took place on the 21 st -22 nd April. The workshop report will be circulated for comments. The Chairman inquired about the turnout of participants. Mr. J. Rijpma explained that the turn out was poor even though seventy participants had been invited. Certain EMPS members queried why committee members had not been invited. The Secretary further stressed on the fact that the EMPS SC has been the driving force behind this project since its inception. She believed that it was not correct at this stage to leave the SC out as it is still steering the projects The Chairman and the Secretary then explained the procedures that should be followed for circulation of all invitations, documents and reports. All communications should be channeled through the CCU.	PCU PS (E)
1.3	SLM Project The Inception Workshop for SLM was held on the 1 st & 2 nd of April 2008. Subsequently, an Inception Workshop Report was prepared which has been circulated to participants & relevant stakeholders on the 12 th of April. The Inception Report is being prepared and the first draft will be circulated for comments. The Inception Report will include an updated Work plan and revised Log frame. The proposed date for the next SLM Steering Committee meeting is the 26 th of May.'08.	PCU
1.4	Biodiversity RAF Allocation The Chairman informed members that the PS (E) has set up a tentative date to hold a workshop on the follow up of the first NDI workshop. The date planned is the 4 th June '08.	PS(E)
1.5	SGP (Small Grant Programme). An interview was held on the 19 th April. Three candidates were interviewed. The outcome of the interviews will be forwarded to UNOPS for consideration.	PCU/UNDP
1.6	Second National Communication (Climate change Project).	

<p>1.7</p> <p>1.8</p>	<p>The interview in respect of the ‘Education and Awareness’ consultancy has been carried out. Four applications were received and three were short-listed. One applicant dropped out before the interview. “Sustainability for Seychelles” an NGO was selected among the remaining two. The organisation has been requested to submit its work plan and service fees for consideration.</p> <p>The advert in respect of the Health Chapter to be incorporated in the SNC Document has been advertised over 3 weeks during April 2008, but no application has been received.</p> <p>*This was followed by a long discussion on the recruitment of local consultants which will be detailed at the end of the minutes, since this problem cropped up on several occasions and for various projects.</p> <p>Mangrove for the future (MFF)</p> <p>Prof Olof Linden will work on a draft of the National Strategy and workplan for the MFF programmes. A copy will be circulated once completed for your comments.</p> <p>Biosafety Project.</p> <p>Members felt that it is best to have a presentation on the status of the project.</p>	<p>PCU</p> <p>D. Matatiken</p> <p>D. Matatiken</p>
<p>2.0</p> <p>2.1</p> <p>2.2</p>	<p><u>Regional projects</u></p> <p>Regional Coastal Tourism</p> <p>“The status is still the same.”</p> <p>Some members inquired about the status of this project which has remained ‘stationery’ for a long time. Members also wanted to know what was happening to the demo projects and requested that they should be kept informed if the project NFP has been changed due to transfer of staff. They felt that any official information should come from the PS (E). The Chairman promised to liaise with the PS to sort out this issue. The new NFP will then be requested to give a presentation on the project and the project status so as to update members. Dr. F. Dogley who was the former Project Director would not be in a position to give a brief on this issue since she is no longer involved with the project.</p> <p><u>ReCoMaP</u></p> <p>Members were informed that the school contest for the ReCoMaP is still ongoing. The jury panel will be assessing the project on the 9th, 10th and 11th June '08.</p>	<p>Chairman/PS(E)</p> <p>W. Agricole</p>

	<p>As for the CFP, the ICZM officer informed members that persons/organizations whose projects have been accepted have been informed and need to submit their full proposals; those who have not been successful have also been informed and have been encouraged to submit their proposals for the second CFP. Some members inquired how evaluation and points are allocated according to the different objectives and activities. The ICZM officer confirmed that he will request ReCoMaP to give a clearer and detailed explanation on how a proposal is rated.</p> <p>The Secretary informed members that there will be an ICZM training course in Mauritius from the 19th to the 25th May '08. ReCoMaP has liaised directly with various institutions to invite participants for this training. The ReCoMaP ICZM officer was queried by the NFP on the selection procedure. He explained that they have a database of different institutions and candidates have been selected from this database. Some members felt that the COI/EU Technical committee should have been involved in the selection process.</p>	<p>ICZM Officer</p> <p>Secretary</p>
<p>2.3</p>	<p>Regional Cetacean project</p> <p>Two consultants, Philippe MacClenahan and Jean-Pascal Quod, from Synergies Environnement, conducted a one day workshop on May 6th to help formulate a Regional Cetacean network. The project proposal was drafted at the Isle St. Marie Workshop and funded as a sub project under Recomap / COI. The aim of the workshop was to formulate a possible network structure and objectives based on the outputs from the Isle St. Marie meeting. Participants included Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SFA, NGOs and the private sector. During the workshop participants felt that the objective of the Network had not been clearly defined and clarified that from a Seychelles perspective the goal was the continuation of the Indian Ocean Whale Sanctuary after 2012, the end of the current whaling prohibition. The concern was raised that the only recent scientific data on cetaceans in the sanctuary had been collected by Japanese whaling interests and would likely be used to legitimise whaling as a sustainable activity in the region. It was felt that there was not enough time nor resources to refute the data collected but that as the Indian Ocean was the only ocean where whaling was prohibited it was thus a global 'control' area where any fluctuations in cetacean trends would be caused by actions other than exploitive fisheries (such as the effects of climate change or natural changes in food abundance etc) and thus the sanctuary should be retained as a global resource for monitoring generalised anthropogenic impacts. It was also felt that it should be the right of those countries in the Indian Ocean to control activities within it, and not large industrialised nations external to it. The consultants will conduct four more workshops in the other COI countries and will synthesise a report of their activities and conclusions thereafter. Since this project (an is a sub-project) is being funded under the ReComaP project, the NFP and Alternate complained that they should have been informed of this workshop which took place in Seychelles. This was further proof of the lack of communication in the implementation of projects. It had been decided at the OPL meeting that there should be a coordinator</p>	<p>M. Vely</p> <p>NFP</p>

2.4	<p>designated to coordinate all COI/EU funded project so that this type of breakdown in communication did not occur. The Chairman will take up this issue with the PS (E).</p> <p>WIO-LaB Due to the absences of Mr. J. Jacqueline and Mr. F. Joubert, this issue will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	Chairman
2.6	<p>ASCLME (Aguilhas Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystem). Mr. J. Nageon informed members that Mr. R. Renaud has been appointed as the NFP. The next step is the selection of the team Leaders (TLs) for the following working groups, i.e. (1) Training and Capacity building. (2) Data information synthesis and management (3) Cruise coordination. A meeting will be held this week with representatives of DOE to finalize the selection of the TLs and start the process of setting up the working groups. Working groups should be established by the 20/05/08. Meanwhile it was also confirmed that Dr. David Vousden, the Project Director (PD) would be visiting Seychelles on the 27th May to hold discussions with the relevant project representatives. Mr. D. Matatiken informed members that he will be having a meeting on this initiative with the NFP on the 7th May.</p> <p>Certain NGOs complained that they had not been informed and/or been part of the implementation process even though this project had been initiated as far back as 2001. Mr. D. Matatiken proposed that the EMPS SC committee should be called for an extraordinary meeting so as to show the transparency of the project and to decide on the SC and working groups. Certain members proposed that the NFP should give a presentation on the project since it appears to be a complicated project and it is not well known to members. If the project was better understood it would facilitate decisions as to who should be represented on the SC and who could be leading the working groups.</p>	J.Nageon/NFP
2.7	<p>SWIOFP Kenya is responsible for hosting the next SWIOFP meeting. The SWIOFP inception, planning and budgetary meeting will take place in Mombassa, Kenya on 16 – 19 June 2008. All documents have been signed by all member countries. There is an \$18,000,000 budget allocated for the project. Funds will be transferred from World Bank to Kenya where the latter will then carry out the necessary funding allocation to the various member countries. For the first year, there would not be much field work undertaken but the project would concentrate more on data analysis and identifying gaps. Mr. Payet from SFA and other scientists shall be attending the meeting to plan the work activities for next year. Seychelles will be leading the pelagic component for the region.</p>	SFA

3.0	<u>Mater Arising</u>	
3.1	<p>International Year of the planet. The Chairman informed members that there is a tree planting campaign ongoing which is called” My tree, our Seychelles” There is a calendar of activities which has been established which will end by October '08. The next event on the calendar will be on the environmental day, 30th May '08. The proposed activity will be planting coconut trees along the highway at Providence. There were certain discussions on the issue of the types of trees to be planted and their maintenance. Mr. M. Vielle was of the opinion that its necessary to study the impact of planting trees along public roads and the highway since trees blown down by the wind could be a serious cause of accidents. It was noted that coconut trees will be planted along the highway but Mr. Vielle felt that the dwarf varieties of palms should be planted instead of tall coconut trees that are liable to be blown down by high winds</p>	W. Agricole
3.2	<p>Vice Chairmanship The Chairman proposed that the PS (E) should liaise with PS (MFA) or Mrs. J. D'Offay to sort out the decision on the Vice Chairmanship.</p>	Chairman/PS(E)
3.3	<p>Tidal gauge The Denis Island Tide Gauge: The construction of the platform on Denis Island has been completed The Technician from the University of Hawaii Sea Level Center (UHSLC) is expected to come and finalize the installation before the 1st July 2008 once the contract between UNDP and UHSLC is finalized (May, 2008). However, there are some problems with getting the University of Hawaii technicians to come over to fix the tidal gauge in view of a liability clause in the contract. DRDM is sorting out the issue with the University and the AGs Chambers is being consulted.</p>	Meteo
3.4	<p>Early Warning and Disaster Management project (UNDP) Mr. M. Vielle and the Met office will give a presentation at the next meeting on the contingency plan.</p>	DRDM
3.5	<p>International workshop on coastal community resilience. A mock exercise was performed and a second one is scheduled in November '08. IDC will cater for the outer islands. SIF will carry on its own exercise.</p>	Meteo/DRDM
3.6	<p>National Park committee A list of potential members to sit on the committee has been forwarded to the Minister for approval.</p>	D. Matatiken
3.7	<p>Waste Management Initiative <u>Take Away boxes:</u> Mr. D. Poiret inquired about the sanitary conditions of food courts since he considers this to be dangerous as it attracts rodents. The Chairman</p>	Chairman

	proposed that this issue should be discussed at the next meeting.	
4.0	<u>A.O.B</u>	
4.1	Dr. F. Dogley informed members that there was a meeting on ecological gap analysis under the CBD convention. Unfortunately due to unforeseen reasons certain representatives did not make it to Madagascar.	SIF
4.2	<u>Advert for local consultancies DRDM Office</u> The Department of Risk and Disaster Management has placed an advertisement in the NATION to recruit two consultants to prepare (1) an education and awareness strategy plan for public sensitization on risk reduction issues and (2) to develop district emergency response plans. Both consultants are expected to be recruited locally, but in the event that local candidates do not meet the required standards, the consultancies will be advertised internationally. The DL to submit application is the 23 rd May '08. *	DRDM
4.3	Mrs. M. Moustache informed members that CIRAD has recently appointed a new director who was on a three day visit to Seychelles. The purpose of his visit is to promote Seychelles' interest in regional projects. The first stage is to do an inventory on livestock. She also informed the meeting that there will be a presentation on this subject @ 13.30, at the SFA conference room.	NR
4.4	Mr. M. Vielle queried about the MOU which has been sent to cabinet on Invasive species legislation. The Chairman will liaise with Mr. S. Remy to give a briefing on this issue at the next meeting.	Chairman
4.5	ETF Dr. F. Dogley inquired about the new procedures for obtaining funds from ETF. Mr. J. Faure will give a presentation at the next meeting.	Mr. J. Faure
5.0	* Local Consultants for UNDP GEF projects. Certain members felt that when hiring local 'experts' for UNDP consultancies, it was not fair to specify that civil servants should be excluded. They felt that a double standard existed since when other UN agencies (FAO, UNEP, UNIDO, etc) recruit consultants there are no specific requirements that civil servants should not be eligible. However, Ms. R. Lalanne pointed out that this was formerly also the case with UNDP but there had been an abuse of this facility; hence the reason why the UNDP has decided that no civil servants should be eligible from now on	DoE/UNDP

<p>It should be noted that this issue dates from long back and it had been agreed at an EMPS meeting that since there were a limited number of 'experts' in Seychelles, civil servants should also be permitted to apply, provided that they carry out the work outside normal working hours or they apply for official leave. Ms. R. Lalanne will therefore liaise with UNDP to clarify this issue and negotiate (in certain cases) where there are no eligible persons outside government, on how to proceed with the implementation of UNDP projects.</p>	
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The meeting adjourned @ 11.00.

The next meeting is scheduled for the 2nd July 2008, PPS Conference Room, English River.