

Territory to Territory Partnership between Government of Montserrat and Falkland Islands Government SAERI

Marine Spatial Planning Group

24 August 2016 from 09:00-10:40

Notes of Meeting

Present:

Sargent George Ryan – Marine Unit of the Montserrat Police Force
Mr Sheldon Carty – President of the Fishers and Boaters Association
Mr Stephen Mendes – Environmental Officer
Mr Alwyn Ponteen – Chief Fisheries and Ocean Governance Officer
Ms Tara Pelembe – Deputy Director, SAERI
Dr Amélie Augé – Marine Scientist, SAERI
Ms Amanda Gregory – Overseas Territories Officer, JNCC

Actions:

1. TP to circulate the link to SAERI and their annual report
2. TP to circulate the link to the Falkland Island Marine Spatial Plan and Dr Augé's slides
3. The Marine Spatial Planning Group agreed to complete the MSP questionnaire by 12 September to send to Mr Ponteen for collation
4. Mr Ponteen to send completed MSP questionnaire responses to SAERI and JNCC
5. AP to agree additional stakeholders on the MSP Group to include, GIS/Data, Port Authority, Physical Planning Unit, Communications and Works and the Permanent Secretary or designated representative
6. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 20 September 2016, 09:30 – 11:00 (Montserrat time)
7. AG to collate list of emails
8. AG to circulate the notes of the meeting in the first week of September

1. Introductions

Round table introductions took place.

Mr Ponteen advised that this group will be the soon to be Ministerial signed off Ocean Governance Committee. Those present have been identified as key stakeholders by Minister Hogan.

2. Background

Mrs Pelembe advised that this project is a Territory to Territory partnership between the Falkland Islands Government Institute (SAERI) and the Government of Montserrat (GoM) to transfer knowledge and skills from the South Atlantic to Montserrat. This project will focus on information management and marine spatial planning.

This project follows on from a similar project undertaken in the Falkland Islands and aims to support Montserrat in developing their information management systems, data handling and identify the appropriate systems. The Falkland Islands have a very similar resource base and constraints as Montserrat

Tara advised that the overall project would be looking at **an integrated data management system** for all environmental data and use the data to formulate **the framework for a marine spatial plan**. This phase of the project is to identify and understand the current and future marine user requirements and work towards a workshop to be held from 14-18 November at the Montserrat Cultural Centre. Funding is in place for the next two years to develop a framework for Montserrat. This project will build upon existing frameworks and utilise existing and on-going projects to build the evidence base for the needs for Montserrat. This project will be focusing on a small component of the work that the Ocean Governance Committee will undertake and will feed into their work area.

3. Presentation

Dr Augé developed the Falkland Islands Marine Spatial Plan. She presented the concept and process of marine spatial planning. She presented the Australian example, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park which she developed explaining the process behind the mapping of the data and zoning in the marine area, and the process undertaken by the Falkland Islands.

Marine spatial planning is defined as, “**A stakeholder-driven science process to develop a strategic plan for managing and protecting the marine environment that addresses the multiple and cumulative uses of the sea and achieves ecological, economic and social objectives**”.

The benefits of MSP include, *saving money* by identifying issues and preventing them happening over time, protecting important resources and sites and responding more quickly to incidents; *reducing risks* to important economic activities such as fisheries and tourism; *resolving or avoiding conflicts* between users and *providing a platform* for coordinated stakeholder engagement and scientific research. In short the MSP; plans for the future, minimises the risks, identifies opportunities and realises the vision.

Action 1: TP to circulate the link to SAERI and their annual report

Action 2: TP to circulate the link to the Falkland Island Marine Spatial Plan and Dr Augé’s slides

4. Discussion

Mr Ponteen circulated the MSP questionnaire. Mrs Pelembe advised that this is a set of increasingly detailed questions regarding what Montserrat currently has in place, data available and what would ideally be in place in the future. All agreed to provide complete the MSP questionnaire by 12 September.

Action 3: The Marine Spatial Planning Group agreed to complete the MSP questionnaire by 12 September to send to Mr Ponteen for collation

Action 4: Mr Ponteen to send completed MSP questionnaire responses to SAERI and JNCC

- Mr Ponteen advised that there are many users of the marine environment; fishers, divers, shipping and cargo, tourism / cruise ships, oil tankers, geothermal industry, etc. Data is incomplete, missing or may be unavailable. There is some NGO data which is currently not accessible. Conflicts already exist with some fishers complaining of trap lines being cut and with undesignated shipping lanes. Ships drop anchor anywhere, often on the reefs and have to be asked to move to enable access to the port.
- Mr Carty advised that the Fisheries and Boaters Association is newly in place. 30 of the approximately 110 fishers (part time, full time occasional and recreational fishers have registered).
- Mr Mendes stated that a research policy application process is in place with permits required for activities within the Montserrat 3nm zone. Data from research is requested with reports generally received. This information is delivered to the GIS unit and held there. However, this is not always compatible or readily available for the GIS unit to undertake analysis. The Ministry for the Environment does use the information once available from the GIS unit.
- GPS units need to be recalibrated for Montserrat – this is undertaken by the GIS unit.
- Mr Ryan stated that safety as sea is paramount. His work focuses on safety of boaters, with regard to radio, mobiles, life jackets food and water. He would like to see coastal areas with defined safe areas for swimmers from jet skis and small boats.

5. November Workshop

The group identified the follow areas as needing to be discussed further of followed up on prior to the November workshop (14-18 November 2016).

Key areas for discussion:

- Legal and Policy
 - Major stakeholders with legal profile to come together to review policies and identify conflicts
 - Review the legislation with view to potentially change where conflicts are identified; for example, port authority, customs and police policy. Nb much of the existing legislation is in place for Plymouth – this means that if the law was followed to the

letter fishers would not be able to use Little Bay and Carrs Bay where the new Port Authority is stationed.

- EIA – there is a need to consider the importance of land based EIAs and the impact of developments upon the marine environment. EIAs are currently seen as a deterrent to development rather than something to enhance.

- International laws: The UK government has signed up to laws on behalf of Montserrat. The group would like a full list of all those which have been signed up to and information on what Montserrat need to address in relation to the International agreements.

- **Stakeholders** are a key component to the process as multiple-sector users, in terms of data providers and decision makers. Have all the relevant stakeholders been identified? Addition key stakeholders for this part of the project were identified as Mrs Lavern Ryan, GIS manager, Mr George Green, Port Authority, Mr Derek Lee and Jerome Meade, Physical Planning. All felt that the Permanent Secretary or designate from the Planning and Development Unit should be on the MSP Group.

As not all the identified stakeholders could attend the meeting it was agreed to arrange the **next meeting at 9:30am on Tuesday, 20 September 2016.**

Action 5: AP to agree additional stakeholders on the MSP Group to include, GIS/Data, Port Authority, Physical Planning Unit, Communication and works and the Permanent Secretary or designated representative

Action 6: Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 20 September 2016, 09:30 – 11:00 (Montserrat time)

Issues to be aware of:

- Three nautical mile (3nm) extension: A formal request to extend Montserrat waters from 3nm to 12nm was made by the Government of Montserrat to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in late July.
- Montserrat / Antigua and Barbuda territorial water issue: There are ongoing territorial boundary issues which the FCO is aware of. The FCO will be working on behalf of the Government of Montserrat in the future. The timing for these discussions is currently not known.

Next steps:

- See actions above.

Mrs Pelembe and Dr Augé thanked all those for attending the meeting today and look forward to taking the project forward and working together to deliver tangible benefits for Montserrat. If anyone in the group has any questions, please contact Tara or Amélie.