



Belize Fund For A Sustainable Future



The Nature Conservancy  
Belize



## BELIZE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLAN

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### 33<sup>rd</sup> Core Team Meeting

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Duration of meeting: 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Location: Zoom Virtually

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### Minutes

#### Meeting Objectives:

1. To provide an update on the Ocean Use Survey
2. To provide an update on Milestone 4
3. Any other Matters

#### Present:

**Samir Rosado** – MSP Process Lead, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

**Janel McNab** – MSP Coordinator, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

**Shari Gentle- Banner** - Communications & Public Relations Officer, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

**Juliet Neal** – Conservation Finance & Policy Officer, World Wildlife Fund

**James Foley** – Oceans Manager Belize Program, The Nature Conservancy

**Kate Longley-Wood** - Marine Spatial Planning Science Manager, The Nature Conservancy

**Wendy Casasola** – Conservation Program Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy

**Adriel Castaneda** – Fisheries Officer, The Belize Fisheries Department

**Carlie Gillett** – Blue Economy Officer, Ministry of Blue Economy and Civil Aviation

#### Minutes :

Agenda Item Number	Notes/Comments/Advice	Proposed Action & Response
<b>Welcome &amp; Meeting Called to Order</b>		
1.1	The MSP Process Lead welcomed the Core Team (CT) members and called the meeting to order at 9:06 am.	
1.2	The agenda was presented, the meeting objectives reviewed and accepted. Annex I	
<b>Unit Updates</b>		
2.1	<p>Science and Technical</p> <p>The MSP Process Lead provided an update on Science and Technical activities on behalf of both the Science Lead and the GIS Mapping and Spatial Analyst. They briefed the CT on the ongoing OUS surveys in various areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sittee River Village: March 15, 2024</li> <li>- Hopkins Village: March 14, 2024</li> <li>- Dangriga: March 12-13, 2024</li> <li>- Independence: Meeting with Port of Big Creek</li> <li>- Remaining areas to be surveyed until the end of March: Belize City, Ladyville, and surrounding cayes.</li> </ul> <p>The MSP Process Lead and MSP Coordinator noted that representation from fishers could be either individual or group responses, depending on the number of individuals working together on the same vessel. Specifically for the fisheries sector, there are several categories, with 135 responses from commercial fishers representing 486 participants.</p>	
2.2	<p>Communications</p> <p>The MSP Communications and Public Relations Officer provided an update on the advertisement of the OUS via radio and TV means.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BSOP OUS radio and TV ad on Love FM</li> <li>- 3 weeks period of airtime, 5-25<sup>th</sup> March 2024</li> <li>- BSOP MSP animated video ad on Love FM</li> <li>- 2 weeks period, 26<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024</li> </ul> <p>Upcoming events: Reef Week Informational Fair, March 15<sup>th</sup> in Corozal Town.</p>	
<b>Milestone 4 Updates</b>		
3.1	<p>The MSP Process Lead offered an update on the progress of milestone 4 deliverables:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shapefiles were transferred from the consultant to CZMAI. These files were used to assess areas within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to determine the proportion of medium biodiversity protection zones.</li> <li>- Several aspects require clarification:</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inclusion of land in ocean space calculations</li> <li>- Classification of some zones within MPAs as "other," indicating mixed-use areas for conservation and extractive purposes.</li> <li>- Stakeholder engagement with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is planned to gather information on current and historical data to assess whether biodiversity protection zone requirements are being met, specifically for the Glovers Reef Atoll and Placencia Lagoon.</li> <li>- A delay occurred in completing the draft area proposal, necessitating an extension request until March 20th. The draft will then be shared with the CT for feedback.</li> <li>- A Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting is scheduled for the week of March 25th, covering Coastal and Marine Ecosystems and Fisheries, including Aquaculture. The composition of the TWG will be finalized by the Steering Committee.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Discussion on Process Objectives</b></p>		
<p>4.1</p>	<p>The MSP Process Lead displayed the current goals and specific objectives that have been addressed to be reviewed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Goal 1: Process Governance</u></li> </ul> <p><b>Original Text:</b> Specific Objective 1: By November 2022, initiate the process of developing a Marine Spatial Plan for Belize’s Ocean.</p> <p><b>Recommended Text:</b> Specific Objective 1- Design and execute the process of developing a legally enforceable Marine Spatial Plan for Belize’s Ocean by November 2026.</p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The original text presents a short-term objective that was easily achieved and can be considered a step towards the larger objective of carrying out the entire MSP process. It would be better suited as an activity under the proposed revised objective.</p> <p><b>Original Text:</b> Specific Objective 3 - Following the MSP Process Launch, implement an MSP communications strategy and plan to foster public understanding and support for the MSP process by publicizing its progress and outputs.</p> <p><b>Recommended Text:</b> Specific Objective 3 – Develop and implement a communication strategy and plan to foster public understanding and support throughout the MSP process.</p> <p><b>Justification:</b> The revised objective emphasizes the need to implement the communication strategy for the life of the process. It is implied in the original text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Goal 2 - Marine Conservation Goal</u></li> </ul>	

	<p><b>Original Text:</b> Specific Objective 3 - By November 3rd 2024, sign into law and Gazette Biodiversity Protection Zones covering a total of 25% of Belize’s Ocean. Specific Objective 5 - By November 3rd 2026, sign into law and gazette Biodiversity Protection Zones covering up to a total of 30% of Belize’s Ocean.</p> <p><b>Recommended Text:</b> Specific Objective 3 – By November 3rd 2026, sign into law and Gazette Biodiversity Protection Zones covering up to 30% of Belize’s Ocean space using a phased approach.</p> <p><b>Justification:</b> Specific Objectives 3 &amp; 5 can be consolidated into one since the final objective is to achieve up to 30%. The identification of 25% of Belize’s Ocean Space as Biodiversity Protection Zones is an incremental step towards the 30% and it can be accounted for as an activity under the larger specific objective.</p> <p><b>Original Text:</b> Specific Objective 4 -By November 3rd, 2026, complete, enact and publish legislation(s) to legally enforce the Marine Spatial Plan.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> Statement can be included as an activity under the revised Goal 1 Specific Objective 1.</p>	
<b>Other Matters</b>		
5.1	<p>The MSP Coordinator shared update on the Spatial Planning and Marxan Workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tentative dates of 8th-10th and 13th-14th of May 2024.</li> <li>- The first three (3) days will be focused on the Technical Working Groups (TWGs), the Steering Committee (SC) members, along with other partners and stakeholders. The purpose of the first three days is to initiate participatory spatial planning activities to achieve Milestones 4 and 6 within the scope and goals of the larger BSOP process. The participants of these days will participate in key assessments that will enable spatial planning for the BSOP.</li> <li>- The last two (2) days is on the Marxan training, which is the technical aspect.</li> </ul>	
5.2	<p>The MSP Process Lead presented the draft agenda for the 6th Steering Committee Meeting scheduled for Friday, March 22nd, 2024, at the Belize Biltmore Plaza's Black Orchid Room. The primary objectives of the meeting include discussing and providing updates on the quarter 3 work plan, as well as reviewing activities for quarter 4 of the annual operating work plan. Additionally, there will be updates on the Ocean Use Survey and data, Communications activities, milestone 4 progress, showcasing the workplan, and a report from the Fisheries department regarding the BPZs expansion, refocusing of goals and objectives, and</p>	

	the reconsolidation of the TWGs groups. Other topics to be addressed include the Spatial Planning and Marxan workshop, ongoing projects, and consultancies.		
<b>Closing of Meeting</b>			
6.1	Next Core Team meeting tentative date on Thursday March 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2024.  MSP Process Lead ended the meeting at 11:00 am.		
<b>Action Items</b>			
<i>Item #</i>	<i>Next Steps</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	To share draft proposal for areas for the BPZ	Pending	20/02/2024
2	For CT to provide feedback on draft proposal for areas for the BPZ	Pending	21/03/2024
3	To share document of adjustments of the goals and objectives	Completed	26/03/2024
4	For CT to provide feedback on draft adjustments of the goals and objectives	Pending	5/04/2024

**Minutes submitted by:**

Janel McNab, MSP Coordinator of CZMAI

**Approved**



**Mr. Samir Rosado**  
Marine Spatial Plan Process Lead,  
CZMAI

26 March 2024

**Date**

Annex 1: Meeting Agenda



## 33<sup>rd</sup> BSOP Core Team Meeting

### Agenda

<b>Date</b>	Thursday March 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2024		
<b>Time</b>	9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (BZE local time)		
<b>Format</b>	Zoom: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86734869018?pwd=CWiemg4MFzt8VsBe2N3JGeuMWvAkSb.1">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86734869018?pwd=CWiemg4MFzt8VsBe2N3JGeuMWvAkSb.1</a>		
<b>Recorded</b>	Yes		
<b>Format</b>	Presentation and discussions		
<b>Objectives</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To provide an update on Ocean Use Survey</li> <li>2. To provide and update on Milestone 4</li> <li>3. Other Matters</li> </ol>		
AGENDA			
#	Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
1	9:00 – 9:05	Welcome & Meeting Called to Order	S. Rosado
2	9:05 – 9:10	Update on action items from 32 <sup>nd</sup> Core Team Meeting, February 29 <sup>th</sup> .	S. Rosado
3	9:10 – 9:30	Unit updates	BSOP Unit
4	9:30 – 9:40	Milestone 4 Update	S. Rosado
	9:40 – 9:50	Refocused BSOP Objectives	
5	9:50 – 10:00	Other Matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Marxan Workshop</li> <li>- BSOP Steering Committee meeting Agenda</li> </ul>	ALL
6	10:00 – 10:05	Closing of Meeting	S. Rosado