

## BELIZE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN PLAN

---

### 50th Core Team Meeting

Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

Duration of meeting: 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Location: Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute Conference Room & via Zoom

---

### Minutes

#### Meeting Objectives:

1. To provide an update on Science and Technical Activities
2. To provide an update on Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Activities
3. Other Matters

#### Present:

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

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

Delwin Guevara – MSP GIS Mapping & Spatial Analysis, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

Janiel Chan – MSP GIS Technician, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

Kelsie Garbutt – MSP Communications & Personal Relations Officer, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

Serena Reyes – MSP Project Assistant, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

Adriel Castaneda – Fisheries Officer, Belize Fisheries Department

Nidia Chacon – Stakeholder Engagement Specialist, The Nature Conservancy

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

Abel Valdivia - Lead Marine Conservation Scientist- Oceans Team, World Wildlife Fund

Alana Godoy- Belize Blue Bonds Director, The Nature Conservancy

Belizario Carballo-Technical Officer, Blue Bonds Finance & Permanence Unit

Carlie Gillett- Blue Economy Officer, Blue Economy Unit

#### Minutes :

| Agenda Item Number                           | Notes/Comments/Advice  | 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 9:15 am.   |                 |
| 1.2  | <p>The agenda was presented, the meeting objectives were reviewed and accepted. CT members were asked if anyone had any additional items would like to address during other matters section of the meeting.</p> <p>Objective were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To provide an update on Science and Technical Activities</li> <li>2. To provide an update on Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Activities</li> <li>3. Other Matters</li> </ol>  |                 |
| <b>Update: September-December 2025</b>       |  |                 |
| 2.1  | <p><i>Key Activities</i></p> <p>Key activities in September included the third MSP Marxan Workshop held from September 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. In October, ground truthing activities were carried out between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, BSOP celebrated its 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on October 19<sup>th</sup>, and the RBB consultations took place from October 23<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>. In November, the 11<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting was conducted on the 7<sup>th</sup>. RBB Validation Sessions were postponed, however, the RBB community consultations continued from November 1<sup>st</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. The Steering committee and Core Team zoning framework validation session was held on December 11<sup>th</sup>.</p>             |                 |
| 2.2  | <p><i>Q4 Outlook: January-March 2026</i></p> <p>Planned activities for the January to March 2026 period include the continuation of sector-specific meetings, the commencement of the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) over a six-month period, and the start of the Climate Risk Assessment (CRA) over a four-month period.</p> <p>A key activity taking place during this quarter is the MSP Future Planning Workshop, scheduled for February 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Sector-specific meetings will include engagement with the Belize Fisheries Department, while meeting with BEU remains pending.</p> <p>Future Planning Workshop objectives include:<br/>Finalize the analysis of existing conditions, including validation of existing spatial layers and the compatibility matrix.</p> |                 |

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | <p>Developing future scenarios, including governance and climate change considerations.</p> <p>Conducting future planning exercises to create future use zones and address spatial conflicts.</p>   |  |
| <b>Science &amp; Technical Updates</b> |   |  |
| 3.1                                    | <p><i>Ground Truthing &amp; Benthic Habitat Mapping</i></p> <p>Multiple coordination meetings and briefing sessions were held with the National Coral Reef Monitoring Network (NCRMN).</p> <p>Ground truthing was conducted between September 28<sup>th</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, across multiple reef locations including Lighthouse Reef Atoll, Glover’s Reef Atoll, Turneffe Atoll, South Water Caye, and the Central Region.</p> <p>A validation session was held with Ocean Ledger on October 17<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Submission of the first draft report took place on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, followed by final datasets being received on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025.</p> |  |
| 3.2                                    | <p><i>Community Planning Sessions</i></p> <p>Round 1 community working sessions were conducted from August 22<sup>nd</sup>-September 12<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Eighteen communities were represented, engaging 206 stakeholders. A total of 23 working sessions were held, producing 177 spatial sketches.</p>  |  |
| 3.3                                    | <p><i>Coral Protection Considerations</i></p> <p>Inputs were gathered through desktop reviews, community consultations, Marxan analysis, and expert consultations.</p> <p>Recommendations were informed by WWF, TNC, HRI, CRMN, and community working sessions.</p>   |  |
| 3.4                                    | <p><i>Draft Zones &amp; Protection Proposals</i></p> <p>Draft full protection zones were presented for Northern, Central, and Southern Belize.</p> <p>Proposed approaches include expansion of existing MPAs, exploration of new MPAs, and increased protection within existing zones.</p>  |  |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | <p>A Glover’s Deep-Sea proposal was presented, outlining general use and full protection zones.</p> <p>A Sapodilla Caye Marine Reserve proposal was also discussed.</p>  |  |
| <b>Communications &amp; Stakeholder Engagement</b> |  |  |
| 4.1  | <p>Milestone 4 materials are being finalized, including factsheets, story, story maps, posters, and stickers.</p> <p>All engagement activities were completed except the media mixer and explainer videos.</p> <p>Public outreach activities included participation in TIDE Festival and the Coastal Awareness Fair &amp; Night Market.</p> <p>Educational Outreach achieved the target of 20 school visits, including visits to San Pedro High School, Ambergris Caye Elementary School, and Ocean Academy High School.</p>   |  |
| 4.2  | <p><i>Upcoming Outreach Activities</i></p> <p>Little Stewards In Action- February 23d 2026 (Dangriga)</p> <p>Reef Week- March 7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (Belize City)</p>   |  |
| 4.3  | <p><i>Media Advertising &amp; Broadcasting</i></p> <p>BSOP ads scheduled to run on LOVE FM from February 13<sup>th</sup>-March 5<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>One new audio ad and two video ads were produced.</p> <p>Three radio interviews were submitted.</p>  |  |
| <b>Other Matters</b>                               |  |  |
|  | <p>Graphic Design, Videography, and Website Consultancy terms of references are under revision.</p> <p>Translator Consultancy is currently at the third deliverable, with 16 documents translated. The final deliverable will include an additional 16 translated documents.</p> <p>The Cumulative Effects Assessment is under review Contractor General, with completion targeted for late January to mid-February.</p> <p>The Climate Risk Assessment deadline was extended, with one application received.</p> <p>Updates were provided on facilitators and designer firm for the Future Planning Workshop.</p> |  |
| <b>Closing of Meeting</b>                          |  |  |

| 3.1    | Next Core Team meeting date, 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2026.<br><br>MSP Process Lead ended the meeting at 11:30 am.   |            |             |
|--------|---|------------|-------------|
| Item # | Next Steps/Action Items   | Status     | Date        |
| 1      | Complete data consolidation to produce one final database with all inputs for the MSP process, to support the February workshop and future planning.  | In-Process | 23/Feb/2026 |
| 2      | Finalize and share the MSP dashboard with updated numbers and make it publicly accessible via the website after finalization.   | In-Process |             |
| 3      | Distribute printed fact sheets and materials to relevant stakeholders (e.g., tourism pamphlets to hotels/tour operators, fisheries booklets to fishers) by February.                              | Pending    | 27/Feb/2026 |
| 4      | Develop a new audio ad for La Ruta Maya (Milestone 6 focus) and coordinate its airing during the event starting February 13.  |            |             |
| 5      | Finalize and post the Terms of Reference for the graphic design/videography/website update consultancy by next week; proceed with evaluation and aim to start the consultancy by end of February. | Completed  | 9/Feb/2026  |
| 6      | Continue review of translated documents with subgroup and complete translation deliverables by end of January/early next month.   | In-Process |             |
| 7      | Review and, if needed, provide feedback on the MPA Design Criteria and Zoning Framework Consultancy reports and proceedings. Feedback by, Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2026                    | Completed  | 30/Jan/2026 |
| 8      | Make decision on science lead/technical officer role and proceed with recruitment/onboarding as soon as possible.   | Pending    |             |
| 9      | Continue efforts to secure additional applicants for the <a href="#">Climate Risk Assessment Consultancy</a> .  |            |             |
| 10     | Finalize and advertise terms of reference for the facilitator of the future planning workshop.  | Completed  | 5/Feb/2026  |

**Minutes submitted by:**

Serena Reyes, MSP Project Assistant

**Minutes reviewed by:**

Janel McNab, MSP Coordinator

**Approved**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

Annex 1: Meeting Agenda



## 50th BSOP Core Team Meeting

### Agenda

|                   |   |   |                       |
|-------------------|---|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Date</b>       | Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026  |   |                       |
| <b>Time</b>       | 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (BZE local time)   |   |                       |
| <b>Format</b>     | Hybrid: CZMAI Conference Room & Zoom<br><a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84489244379?pwd=zsevvwayz1bUDEgRsO50QUexeerBpb.1">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84489244379?pwd=zsevvwayz1bUDEgRsO50QUexeerBpb.1</a> |   |                       |
| <b>Recorded</b>   | Yes   |   |                       |
| <b>Format</b>     | Presentation and discussions  |   |                       |
| <b>Objectives</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Updates on Science &amp; Technical</li> <li>2. Updates on Communications &amp; Stakeholder Engagement</li> <li>3. Other Matters</li> </ol>                        |   |                       |
| <b>AGENDA</b>     |   |   |                       |
| <b>#</b>          | <b>Time</b>   | <b>Topic</b>                            | <b>Presenter(s)</b>   |
| 1                 | 9:00 – 9:10   | Welcome & Meeting Called to Order       | S. Rosado             |
| 2                 | 9:10 – 9:40   | Update Sept-Dec 2025                    | S. Rosado             |
| 3                 | 9:40 – 10:10  | Q4 Jan- Mar 2026 Outlook                | MSP Unit              |
| 4                 | 10:10 – 10:20   | Break – 10 mins                         |                       |
| 5                 | 10:20 – 10:40   | Science & Technical                     | D. Guevara & J. Chan  |
| 6                 | 10:40 – 11:00   | Communications & Stakeholder Engagement | K. Garbutt & S. Reyes |
| 7                 | 11:00 – 11:15   | Other Matters                           | All                   |