LAUNCH WORKSHOP FOR THE PROJECT:

"Promoting Integrated and Participatory Ocean
Governance in Guyana and Suriname: the Eastern Gate
to the Caribbean"

REPORT

Regency Hotel, Hadfield Street, Georgetown, Guyana July 27th – 28th, 2017















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Introduction

The EU funded project "Promoting Integrated and Participatory Ocean Governance in Guyana and Suriname: the Eastern Gate to the Caribbean" started in January 2017. The ultimate goal of the project is to significantly enhance governance and protection of marine and coastal resources of Guyana and Suriname. It is intended that this will be achieved through collaborative processes with all ocean stakeholders, improved knowledge of the coastal and marine environment, and enhanced capacity of key stakeholders. The project also hopes to enable substantial progress towards achieving the Aichi targets 4, 6, 10, 11, and 14 under the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD).

This four-year project is funded by the EU and covers the coastal and marine areas of Suriname and Guyana. The project will be implemented through a partnership between WWF Guianas, Guyana's Protected Areas Commission (PAC), Green Heritage Fund Suriname (GHFS), and Nature Conservation Division (NCD) of the Suriname Forest Service (Dienst's Lands Bosbeheer/ Naturbeheer in Suriname).

A Launch Workshop was held from 27-28 July 2017 at the Regency Hotel in Georgetown Guyana. Participants included representatives from Government, State Agencies, Private Sector, Community Members, Non-governmental Organizations, and Academia. The objective of the workshop was to bring together all project stakeholders and to provide an overview of the project, the project area, its objectives and activities, and to discuss the potential role of the different stakeholders with respect to Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

Throughout the workshop, stakeholders were asked to think holistically about what Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) meant to them in the context of their: engagement and involvement in that space; experience and historical knowledge; unique value add to the MSP process; and critical observations in various regards to the project purpose.

This report contains information that was presented to stakeholders, heavily focused on examples, experiences, research, and successful practices. It also summarizes workshop discussions and catalogs the diverse viewpoints of stakeholders. This report serves to provide a record of the event and a tool that provides information from key stakeholders for reflection and analysis in the planning and decision making process going forward with the implementation of the project.

Section 1.0: Workshop Overview

1.1 Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- > Engage stakeholders to provide clarity on the project
- Provide a forum for knowledge sharing on the topic of marine governance and protection
- Explore potential roles of the different stakeholders, and
- Garner and discuss stakeholder inputs into the project.

1.2 Workshop Materials

Several documents were developed to conduct and evaluate the workshop.

- Workshop Agenda: In an effort to create a space within which stakeholders would have maximum time to discuss, share, and provide feedback, the agenda was significantly revised. Specifically, PowerPoint presentations were made more concise, plenary discussion sessions were added to facilitate feedback and questions, small group discussions were designed and included to create space for input, and visual media was used to complement information shared. The workshop agenda is included in *Appendix A*.
- Stakeholder List: A list of all invited workshop Stakeholders is included in Appendix B.
- **Workshop Evaluation:** Participants were asked to evaluate the value and facilitation of the workshop. The evaluation form is included in **Appendix c**.

Section 2.0: Workshop Discussions

This section summarizes the discussions at the "Promoting Integrated and Participatory Ocean Governance in Guyana and Suriname: the Eastern Gate to the Caribbean". The following sections were developed using participant input, discussions, and recorded notes, which can be found in **Appendix D**.

2.1 Key questions from Stakeholders following Presentations

Agenda Item (Presentation)	Specific Question	Response	
MSP Planning in the	From a legislative point of	As a starting Point we need to	

Caribbean: case studies view how do we see the MSP examine the cracks in the moving forward? (Kim, Baldwin, Consultant) system, as to assess what we have and don't have, in order to determine how we will move forward. Part of the process is to review the legislation and the gaps to figure out where we stand. Artisanal fishermen make up **Communication Techniques** 90% of the fishing population will be discussed as to reach when compared to industrial. out to everyone, whether it be With artisanal fishermen being a seminar at a hotel or just a spread out how do we intend simple conversation at a rum to reach them all? How do we shop, because the views of the meet their interest? (Because artisanal fisher men and locals different groups have different are very important as they are wants). This is their livelihood; able to educate us on things if they do not catch fish they happening every day. won't get an income. NB. Members of Industrial Fishing organizations are not here because they don't need to be How will many of the ideas Ideas and plans are not set in presented help us fishermen stone; these were just island in Guyana because we fish in who had similar issues in muddy water and there is no terms of lack of research diving. In addition, we driftnet information and a few and go wherever the tide governance issues that result takes us. in governmental collaborations. Based upon the country in this case Guyana, we will determine what steps are needed to be taken all based on the priorities named by sectors and departments i.e., what they are willing to give and take, as to make stakeholders and other

participatory members happy without tarnishing the primary

		goals of the MSP.
	In the case of an Oil Spill, do we have an Oil Spill Contingency Plan? -	We had started the protocol and are still working on them, but more data is needed on our biological water life & species who can potentially be harmed. Though the oil comp company had an EIA plan, the Government can develop their national Plan and put it forth to the oil company.
	What would be the capacity building of village councils?	We first need to determine what do the different stakeholders need and what can be developed. The PAC through the PA Act will be establishing Site Level Committees that would help in management of each Protected Area. This committee (SLC) can help to lead the implementation of the MSP project and determine capacity needs. Process of formalizing the SLCs will commence by end of August.
Participatory 3D Mapping: Example from the Caribbean Region (Kim, Baldwin, Consultant)	The Grenadines took 2 years to complete the project and Guyana I am assuming will take 4 years? Basically it's hard to compare islands to Guyana in terms of size, like the Pedro Bay of Jamaica.	Data collection took one year in The Grenadines and it can in Guyana, it's about manpower and communication. Note-taker Observation 1: people seemed confused because many compared the size of Guyana to Jamaica instead of the size of the Coastline to that of Pedro Bay.

		Note-taker Observation 2: Some people seemed concerned as to whether Guyana is ready for a MSP Zone.
CBD Gap analysis and Legislative Review (Alicia Elias- Roberts Consultant)	Is there an Act that governs the exploitation of animals? Because someone tried to sell a jaguar cub and it was reported but the division did nothing about it.	Yes. The Wildlife division could not act upon it because they did not have any legal rights to get involved, but new committee had been formed on June 1st, 2017 and they will be more hands on.
	Would be need to mend the EPA ACT to cover MSP or would a legislation be sufficient.	Existing legislation would be sufficient.

2.2 Working Group Session 1: Establishing a Common Understanding of the Marine Environment

The marine environment is a diverse and dynamic space that serves multiple purposes and is utilized by numerous stakeholders. These uses range from personal livelihoods generation, to conservation, to tourism, to large-scale resource extraction. In such a complex environment effective management is critical; and having a shared or common understanding is key to mitigating the challenges that may present whether they are political, environmental, social, economic, or geographical. In this regard, the breakout session was conducted to answer the following questions:

- 1. Who should be involved in this Process?
- 2. What types of uses are happening in marine and coastal areas?
- 3. What types of information do you have that can be useful for MSP?
- 4. What are the various geographic areas to be considered for Guyana?

Nine working groups participated and delivered the following responses:

Specific Question	Responses		
Who should be involved in this process?	1. Fishermen (Industrial & Artisanal)	33. Protected Areas Commission (PAC)	
	2. Shipping Companies3. Fish Processing Plants	34. World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	

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- 4. Coast Guard/ Navy
- 5. Guyana River and Sea Defense
- 6. Local Transport & Harbour
- 7. Anthropology
- 8. Telecommunication Companies
- 9. Ministry of Public Infrastructure
- 10. Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 11. Ministry of Agriculture (Agriculture & Fisheries)
- 12. Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs (MOIPA)
- 13. Ministry of Natural Resources/ Petroleum Commission
- 14. Ministry of Education
- 15. Ministry of Health
- 16. Ministry of Finance
- 17. Ministry of Legal Affairs
- 18. Hydrometeorlogical Service
- 19. Maritime Administration Department (MARAD)
- 20. Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC)
- 21. Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
- 22. Citizens
- 23. Research and Educational Institutions
- 24. Centre for the Study of Biological Diversity (CSBD)
- 25. The University of Guyana (UG)
- 26. Law Enforcement Agencies
- 27. The Department of Environment (DoE)
- 28. Office of Climate Change (OCC)
- 29. Environmental Protection

- 35. European Union (EU)
- 36. Regional Democratic Councils (RDC)
- 37. National Democratic Councils (NDC)
- 38. Guyana National Trust
- 39. Guyana Defense Force (GDF)
- 40. Guyana Tourism Authority
- 41. Civil Defense Commission (CDC)
- 42. CARICOM
- 43. Wildlife Division
- 44. The United Nations
 Organization for
 Education, Science and
 Culture (UNESCO)
- 45. Guyana Marine Turtle Conservation Society (GMTCS)
- 46. Timber Commerce
- 47. The National
 Agriculture Research &
 Extension Institute
 (NAREI)- Mangrove
 Department
- 48. Amerindian Peoples Association (APA)
- 49. Guyana Energy Agency
- 50. The Media
- 51. Custom Anti- Narcotics Unit (CANU)
- 52. Resort Owners
- 53. Farmers
- 54. Policy Makers
- 55. Wildlife Trappers
- 56. Field Officers
- 57. The Guyana
 Association of Trawler
 Owners & Seafood
 Processors (GATO&SP)
- 58. Conservation
 International Guyana

	Agency (EPA) 30. Department of Fisheries 31. WCMC 32. Department of Fisheries	(CI- Guyana) 59. Guyana Oil & Gas Association 60. Community Groups 61. Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA) 62. Guyana Water Incorporate (GWI)- Waste Water Department 63. Non- Governmental Organizations (National
		& International)
What types of uses are happening in marine and coastal areas?	 Fishing (Artisanal & Industri Transportation Tourism Recreation Research Religious Functions/ Activition Oil Exploration Mariculture Submarine Cables (Commund) Protected Areas Conservation Diving Agriculture Housing Hunting (sea turtles) Sand & Shell Mining Bee keeping Infrastructure Development Sea birds & nesting Wildlife trapping Farming Commercial Building 	es nication) (squatting)
What types of information do you have	 Local/ traditional Knowledge Best Practices 	e
that can be useful for	3. Spatial Data	
marine spatial planning?	4. SBPA Data5. Squatting Zone6. Non-netting Zone7. Biodiversity Data8. Marine turtle Date	

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	 9. Transportation Routes 10. Underwater Culture Heritage Data 11. Fishery Department Data (Marine Stock Data) 12. Vessel Lists 13. Coastal Site Maps 14. Tidal Information 15. Hydrographic Data
What are the various geographic areas to be considered for Guyana?	 Shell Beach The river mouth (3 main rivers) Mangrove Areas Within 3-20 fathoms of water EEZ Territorial Sea Continental Shelf High Seas Shorelines Landmass (coastal zone) Martine Boundaries SBPA Coastal Areas Sea Defense Offshore Coastal Boundaries within the Fishing Regions (Regions 1-6) 1: Waini to Pomeroon 2: Pomeroon to Essequibo 3: Essequibo to Mahaica 4: Mahaica to Berbice 5: Berbice to #61

Section 3.0: MSP – Moving Forward

3.1 Working Group Session 2: Harvesting the Diverse views and perspectives of Stakeholders

During the final session of the workshop, emphasis was placed on providing clarity on the project and gathering information from stakeholders during the initial engagement. To accomplish this, the substantive part of the agenda concluded with a final working group session that asked stakeholders to think critically about what had been presented to them and to identify potential challenges, methods of engagement, and gaps as it relates to the topics covered.

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Stakeholders were challenged to think about three core questions pertinent to the implementation of the MSP project:

- What are potential challenges and conflicts?
- What kind of participatory and communication tools should be used in a Marine Spatial Planning Process?
- Besides the areas discussed during the workshop, what additional topic/issues should be considered?

The objective of this exercise was to brainstorm ideas as it relates to the three questions posed by the implementing partners (WWF and PAC). The questions were particularly framed to harvest the unique views and perspectives of stakeholders as it relates to the intended project. It is anticipated that the input from the discussions will be used to further inform the process of the MSP project planning. The following are the responses grouped according to the general headings they full under:

What are potential challenges and conflicts?

Governance Information Stakeholder Management management engagement Political will and • Inadequate Fisheries. tourism • Oil exploration baseline data and enforcement involvement source potential conflict Outdated data collection Fishing ground legislation Validating conflicts Government information Overlapping Weak follow-up approvals policies Sharing Lack of local • Funding and information/lack of Transparency technical other resources Corruption/lack communication capacity/human Geography resources/level the area to map good • Lack of of governance sensitization/aware education and • Political ness adaptability differences/intere Lack of community/stakeho st lder full involvement/gather ing local knowledge Full involvement of government and **NGOs** Prioritizing stakeholders Stakeholders conflicts such as conservation VS extractive

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industries; fisheries vs tourism and locals vs industries Language barriers

What kind of participatory and communication tools should be used in a Marine Spatial Planning Process?

Electronic and Print Media Surveys and Documentation Community and **Institutional Outreach Emails** KAP survey to determine • Community Media knowledge attitude and /social media meetings/national Newsletters practice of coastal consultations Newspaper publications communities towards • Art/drama/music shows Posters Coastal environment Involvement of young children (essays and art Brochures/flyers Workshops Videos Focus groups competition) **Reports** Science fairs **Guest lectures** Maps Tourism education via tourism quide Inclusion of MSP in school curriculum

Besides the areas discussed during the workshop, what additional topics/issues should be considered?

Strategic Planning Environmental impact Governance Involvement of fisheries Pollution from extractive • The way of life department industries and farm economic, social, cultural Communities Pollution **SWOT** analysis along • management • protected areas and enforcement of • Political will Public awareness and related laws Funding Waste water dumping into • engagement Border issues/trans- Considering the oceans boundary issues coastal Effects of mining activities processes • Contingency plan for oil on rivers and marine life and gas Climate change • Alternatives to supplement considerations on restrictions biodiversity Use Because of erosion and of traditional •

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Section 4.0: Conclusion

Throughout the workshop, stakeholders gained a better understanding of the project: "Promoting Integrated and Participatory Ocean Governance in Guyana and Suriname." They were asked to fully commit to the process over the two days and their participation was commendable. Though at times content heavy, it was clear that presenters – at all times – captured the undivided attention of stakeholders; and this could be attributed to a genuine interest and ownership of the topics being covered as the issue of MSP in various ways impacted each individual (and/or agency represented) in a significant way.

An analysis of the workshop agenda and its objectives indicate that the expected outcomes of the activity were accomplished upon review of the workshop evaluation results. Notably, the overall feedback was positive and constructive in its critique.

Based on the overall evolution of the process, especially honing in on the interaction among stakeholders, the specific feedback provided, and the wealth of information gathered over the two days, there are a few common indicators which when analyzed formed the basis of the following conclusions and/or recommendations. These are:

- There is a wealth of knowledge and historical information available among stakeholders.
 Harnessed effectively through ongoing 'meaningful' engagement, will bring the project
 closer to the stakeholders with the most impact on the overall goal. When communities,
 institutions, and other entities feel truly a part of a process, and see their own interests and
 'agendas' considered and incorporated, they are more likely to engage in a constructive way.
- There is high expectation that efforts will be made to continue meaningful engagement with stakeholders. Reflecting on the specific methods identified during the groups discussions, the implementing partners must consider aligning their traditional methods of engagement with those expressed/requested by stakeholders. Consideration must also be made to ensure that engagement methods are appropriate to the specific stakeholder groups.
- Efforts must be placed on convening targeted stakeholder groups focus group discussions to better unpack the specific realities, capacities, challenges, and expectations of each group. This establishes a better understanding of how they can be most effectively engaged.
- There is need for robust communication strategy that includes both interpersonal interactions and targeted IEC. Special emphasis could also be placed on those key influential stakeholders (e.g. government, state agencies, advocacy groups, etc.) to continuously

provide information and address their concerns so as to preempt the possibilities of conflicting agendas and/or messages in the marine environment space.

Responsibility for achieving the results must be equally shared among all stakeholders. These responsibilities must be discussed and agreed to from the inception of project implementation – since it is already designed – and all efforts must be made on the part of the implementing agencies to ensure that the necessary information, tools, and resources are made available for effective and efficient participation of all stakeholders. Conducting thorough stakeholder assessments, and analyzing the unique value-add of each to the success of the project can accomplish understanding this dynamic.

In closing, Mrs. Grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs¹ made some remarks, which bears significant influence on the implementation of the project. She mentioned that at the opening session the PAC's Commissioner said that there is no commitment but as we go through the document a clause of implementation is mentioned which did not receive the input of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She went onto state that caution must be taken when we precede in the implementation of the project. One of the main concerns of the project is the clause that speaks to the designating of the zone as a protected area. However, this designation must be a decision of the government because it involves the coast, the sovereign territory of Guyana.

Mrs. Grant also stressed the point that caution must be taken if we are contemplating the implementation of this project. The possible implications of some of the undertakings of the project must also be assessed. She recommended that in going forward there is more need for meaningful and structural collaboration with all the relevant agencies such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, Department of Fisheries and other agencies to be taken on board before we implement this project.

Guyana does not have any difficulties with the Aichi targets or with actions to safe guard the marine environment. The general objective of the protection of conservation of the marine environment are in the expectations of the SDGs and CBD and the recent Ocean's Convention of which Guyana is a signatory.

What the foreign affairs is concerned with is the designation of our space. She went on to make some recommendations for way forward, which were:

- To review of the implementation
- Interagency to review the document and its information

¹ Conclusion remarks from the Min. of Foreign Affairs taken from workshop report submitted by participant from the Protected Areas Commission (Annex I)

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Appendix A: Workshop Agenda

Agenda 2-day PROJECT LAUNCH WORKSHOP on EU Marine Spatial Planning Project GUYANA

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The workshop will provide clarity on the what, when, where, how and who of the Marine Spatial Planning Project to the wider stakeholder group. Key topics associated with the project will be covered, including what is MSP, where is the subject area and what do we find there, what are examples from the region, and who is doing what. Also we will cover the results that the project has to achieve and do a role-play using an IOC-UNESCO example.

DAY ONE

No. Seq	Agenda Topic	Timeline	DURATION	Who
1	Video Presentation	2:58 mins		
	Opening and Welcome to the Workshop - Setting the stage for the two days	5 mins	09:00-10:10 1 hour, 10 mins	Ashanta Osborne Moses, Workshop Facilitator
3	Opening Remarks by WWF Guianas - An overview of the project and objectives	10 mins		Aiesha Williams, Country Manager, WWF Guianas, Guyana
4	Why Marine Spatial Planning: - Overview Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi targets	10 mins		Odacy Davis, Dpt. Commissioner, Protected Areas Commission
5	Why Marine Spatial Planning: Marine Spatial Planning and Eco-system Based Management Concepts in the global agenda	15 mins		Hanneke Vanlavieren, Oceans Coordinator, WWF Guianas
6	Special Remarks - Protected Areas Commission	7 mins		Denise Fraser, Commissioner, Protected Areas Commission

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8	Special Remarks	10 mins		Ndibi Schwiers, Director, Department of Environment, Ministry Of The Presidency
Video	Presentation	5 mins		
9	Close of Opening Ceremony and Announcement of Morning Break	6 mins		Ashanta Osborne Moses, Workshop Facilitator
10:10 - 10:30	VIDEO AND REFRESHMEN	TS BREAK		
10	Approach of the Project	20 mins	10:30 - 12:30 1 hour, 10 mins	Aiesha Williams and Odacy Davis
11	Video Presentation	10 mins		
12	MSP planning in the Caribbean: case studies	50 mins		Kim Baldwin, Consultant
13	Plenary Discussion: Q&A Segment	20 mins		All
12:30 - 13:30	Video Presentations		L	UNCH
14	Establishing a Common Understanding of the Marine Environments: Break-out Session	50 mins	13:30 - 15:15 1 hour, 45 mins	Ashanta Osborne Moses, Workshop Facilitator
15	Video Presentation	3:43 mins		
	Participatory 3D Mapping: Example from the Caribbean Region	35 mins		Kim Baldwin, Consultant
16	Plenary Discussion: Q&A Segment	15 mins		All

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17	Wrap up of the 1st day	15 mins		Odacy Davis
15:15 - 15:30	Video Presentations	VIDEO AND TEA	AFTERNOON	
DAY T	wo			
18	Video			
	Opening of 2nd day with summary of 1st day and overview of 2nd day	10 mins	09:00-12:00 3 hours	Ashanta Osborne Moses, Workshop Facilitator
12	CBD Gap analysis and Legislative Review	30 mins		Alicia Roberts, Consultant
19	Marine Spatial Planning Exercise	120 mins		Monique Poole, Director, Green Heritage Fund Suriname
20	Feedback on MSP Exercise	20 mins		All
		WORKIN	G BREAK	
	DISTRI		VALUATION FO	RM
12:00 - 13:00	Video Presentations		LU	NCH
	The Sea of Guyana and Suriname	30 mins	1 Hour, 50 minutes	Dr. Marijke N. de Boer
21	Open Dialogue: Harvesting the diverse views and perspectives of Stakeholders	60 mins		Ashanta Osborne Moses, Workshop Facilitator
2 2	Workshop Evaluation	5 mins		All

2 3	Wrap up of the workshop and closing of the workshop - Take Aways and Closing Remarks by PAC	5 mins		Odacy Davis, Dpt. Commissioner, Protected Areas Commission
	- Take Aways and Closing	5 mins		Aiesha Williams, Country Manager, WWF Guianas, Guyana
	Remarks by WWF Thanks and Closing of the	5 mins		Ashanta Osborne Moses, Workshop Facilitator
4.50	Workshop	\#5=0 ANI		
14:50 - 15:00		VIDEO AND	AFTERNOON T	EA

Appendix B: Stakeholder Participant List				

Appendix C: Workshop Evaluation

Wor	ksł	nop	Eval	luation	Form
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Date:	

Please rate the following items on a scale from 1 to 5 by circling the appropriate number: 1=Strongly Disagree (SD); 2 = Disagree (D); 3 = Not Sure (NS); 4 = Agree (A); 5 = Strongly Agree (SA).

Questions	Score	5			Comments	
1. The workshop was well organized	1	2	3	4	5	
2. The agenda was well structured	1	2	3	4	5	
3. The presentations were informative and easy to understand.	1	2	3	4	5	
4. The Presenters spoke clearly	1	2	3	4	5	
5. The Presenters demonstrated comprehensive knowledge of subject matter	1	2	3	4	5	
6. The exercise session on Marine Spatial Planning was useful	1	2	3	4	5	
7. There was enough room for questions, interactions and discussions	1	2	3	4	5	
8. The workshop venue was comfortable and	1	2	3	4	5	

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well-kept						
9. I gained a good understanding of the project and the expected results	1	2	3	4	5	
10. I understand fully my role in the successful execution of this project	1	2	3	4	5	

- 11. What is your overall perception of the usefulness of the Workshop?
- 12. What was the most valuable aspect of the workshop?
- 13. What session (s) did you find most useful/informative and relevant to your role in Marine Spatial Planning?
- 14. What things could have been done differently to improve the workshop?
- 15. After having attended this workshop, how do you see yourself contributing to the EU Marine Spatial Planning Project?
- 16. What additional training, resources, information would you need that would build your capacity?
- 17. Do you have any additional Comments or Suggestions?

List of Annexes

Annex I: Report submitted by PAC personnel presenting concise reflections on the workshop from a technical perspective.

Annex II: List of Videos presented during the course of the two days demonstrating examples of MSP in various contexts.

Annex III (a-g): Copies of Presentations made during Workshop