



of various human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives that are usually defined through a governance process.

Purpose of Marine Spatial Planning

MSP is a tool that provides guidance and means for decision-makers be it, Government, Private sector or Community, responsible for particular sectors, activities or concerns to make informed decisions for sustainable use, good resource management, governance and development.

MSP is in line with fulfilling Sustainable Development Goal no. 14 **“Life below water” target 14.7 c “Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want”-**

<https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-14-life-below-water/targets>.



Marine Spatial Planning Steps

MSP is developed through a series of steps as follows:

1. **Identifying MSP need** - The MSP process begins by identifying and defining the need (s) based on situations at hand for maritime spatial plan. The needs identified help in shaping the vision, goal and objectives, management actions and verifiable indicators of the plan and play an important role in effective stakeholder involvement. In the SWIO countries this step is majorly spearheaded by governments (National or Local government).
2. **Establishing MSP Authority** - The MSP plan has to be established. It is a multi agency MSP authority. The authority



ensures that the process stays on track through conducting monitoring and evaluation of the process.

3. **Obtaining Financial support** - The development of MSP requires adequate financial resources for research, planning and implementation. Although, MSP is majorly a government led process, it is important to identify alternative financing from government and development partners.
4. **Stakeholder Engagement** - Engaging key stakeholders (all individuals, groups or organizations that are in one way or another affected, involved or interested in MSP) in the development of MSP is essential so as to reflect as many expectations, opportunities or conflicts occurring in the MSP area.
5. **Analyzing existing/Potential uses** - This step answers a key question: Where are we now? It maps out important biological and ecological areas, current human activities, possible conflicts and compatibilities among existing human uses and the environment.
6. **Analysing future conditions and scenarios** - This step analyses existing conditions within the marine area in order to gain understanding of the existing distribution of important ecological and economic areas in the marine environment and the nature and scope of its human uses. This step answers a key question: Where do we want to be?
7. **Developing the MSP plan** - An MSP identifies state specific management actions that will produce the desired future through clear management actions that determine the location and timing of human activities.
8. **Implementing the Plan** - This step involves converting MSP plans into action or operating programs. Designated institutions are involved in the implementation. This process is a critical step as it is the action phase and continues throughout the existence of MSP programs. Effective implementation is essential to the success of any MSP program.
9. **Evaluating the Plan** - This involves designing a performance monitoring system should be designed to measure indicators of performance (success or failure) of Marine Spatial Management actions and the overall Marine Plan.

Introduction

The South West Indian Ocean (SWIO) marine waters spans from the Coastal Nations and Island states of Tanzania, Kenya, Mozambique, Somalia, South Africa, Comoros, Somalia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, The Re-Union, Yemen and Maldives.

The region is rich in biotic and abiotic resources. The biotic resources include various ecosystems, habitats and marine species. Important marine ecosystems and habitats include coral reef, mangroves, sea grass meadows, unfragmented fringing reefs among others. The marine species in the region include fisheries resources like Tuna and Tuna like species, marine mammals, sea turtles among others.

The region is also rich in abiotic resources such as oil and gas, mineral sand among others. For instance, there have been discoveries of natural gas in Tanzania, with extensive exploration of oil and gas also underway in Madagascar, Comoros, Kenya and Somali.

These resources (biotic and abiotic) are exploited for both commercial and domestic purposes which account to the economic growth of the SWIO states and also support the livelihoods of millions of people living in the region.

There are many actors in the SWIO region utilizing and depending on marine resources. The marine ecosystem utilised by these actors is fragile and highly susceptible to any forms of disturbance and pollution. This means without proper planning, the ecosystem will be gravely affected. Therefore, marine area planning is important if resources have to be utilised and managed in a sustainable way.

What Is Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)?

MSP is a process of examining and allocating the spatial distribution



10. **Adapting the process** - This process is dependent on the findings/ results of the evaluation of the MSP plan in order to revise and modify the MSP goals and objectives and management actions if they are not moving towards the desired outcome.

Benefits of MSP

MSP may have significant economic, social, and environmental benefits including:

Environmental/Ecological Benefits:

- Promotes Sustainable use and management of the natural resources both biotic and abiotic
- Protection of sensitive , critically threatened marine ecosystems
- Promotes conservation of nature and biodiversity through allocation of space for conservation.

Economic Benefits

- Identification of compatible and complimentary uses within the same area for development
- MSP can be used to inform policies laws, procedures and processes on marine and fisheries.
- Promotion of efficient use of resources and space.

Social Benefits

- Participation opportunities for community and citizens to provide scrutiny and oversight to the plan.
- Identification of social impacts and mitigation of the same
- Identification, protection and preservation of cultural, spiritual and religious values related to ocean use.

Limitations of MSP

Some of MSP limitations include

- The process is time consuming
- The process requires a lot of human and financial resources
- In adequate stakeholder participation in the process

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MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING INFORMATON SHEET

