

Concept Note

MSP and Information Management Workshop

Enhancing the Sustainability and Suitability of MSP Data for Information Management and Ocean

Governance in the WIO Region

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 28 Nov – 01 Dec 2022

A. Background

In many African countries, coastal and marine ecosystems support livelihoods for many coastal communities, provide food security and immense opportunities for sustainable blue economy from tourism, shipping, fishing, mining among others. These are however facing increasing pressures from their unsustainable use, increasing human activities causing pollution, degradation of critical habitats which are further compounded by climate change.

As human activities increase in the ocean space, the need for integrated management of coastal and marine resources through ecosystem and area-based management approaches has become more critical and urgent. In this regard, Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) as a globally recognized interdisciplinary instrument for the management of the distribution of human activities in space and time in and around seas and oceans, to achieve ecological, economic and societal objectives and outcomes is a critical enabler of sustainable blue economy and the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources. There are a number of enabling African Union and global policies and initiatives, including the African Union's Agenda 2063; the 2014 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy (2050 AIMS); the 2014 Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS); the 2015 UN Agenda 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs); and the 2016 African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter). They are elaborated in a more detailed manner in **Annex 1**.

While there are many regional and international efforts to foster MSP practices, legal frameworks are often missing, and the implementation of ecosystem-based and climate-smart approaches remains elusive. Ultimately, contrasting national political agendas result in disparate and ineffective MSP practices.

B. Developments in Support of MSP in the Western Indian Ocean Region

The countries in the WIO region have progressively extended economic exploitation of their marine and coastal resources especially for fisheries, mining, geo-engineering and exploitation of genetic resources, exacting pressure on these fragile marine resources. Through MSP, thoughtful cross-sectorial strategic and operative plans in the WIO may spur blue growth while maintaining endangered ecosystems and habitats and ensuring that consequent environmental impacts are minimized. The ten Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region have appreciated the need for marine spatial planning (MSP) as a tool to promote integrated management of coastal and marine resources as highlighted below:

a) Conference of Parties Decisions

Several decisions of the Conferences of Parties (COPs) have made commitments for MSP:

Decision CP.9/10: Marine spatial planning for the blue and ocean economy

2. *To also urge* the Contracting Parties, within the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to cooperate with existing regional institutions on ocean governance and the conservation of marine biodiversity in adjacent areas beyond national jurisdiction, to build and develop area-based management tools, such as marine spatial planning, to promote blue economy pathways in the Western Indian Ocean region;
3. *To request* the secretariat, in collaboration with partners, to develop capacity-building programmes

on marine spatial planning as a tool for sustainable economic growth;

Decision CP.10/8. Area-based Planning Tools for Sustainable Blue Economy

1. To request the secretariat to finalise the preparation of a regional marine spatial planning strategy for adoption at the eleventh meeting of the Contracting Parties.
2. To urge Contracting Parties to mainstream marine spatial planning and the ecosystems-based approach into national development planning processes, including the sustainable blue economy

b) Regional Marine Spatial Planning Framework and Technical Working Group

Pursuant to the above decisions, the Nairobi Convention countries with support of partners have developed a **Regional Marine Spatial Planning Framework** to support the region to address transboundary and cross-sectoral marine management challenges through MSP as an approach to promote a healthy social-ecological system for the coasts and seas of the WIO. This is being led by the **Marine Spatial Planning Technical Working Group (MSP-TWG)** whose membership is drawn from Contracting Parties. The framework aims to harmonize policy and legislative structures towards an ecosystem-based approach to ocean management which can then drive local MSP initiatives at a national scale.

c) MSP Approaches by Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties

Countries in the WIO region have developed and adopted MSP approaches for different purposes and are currently at different stages of implementation. For example, Seychelles and South Africa have adopted MSP processes and are nearly finished developing spatial management plans; whereas, Kenya and Tanzania have undertaken governance reviews and initiated mapping activities to facilitate adoption of MSP. The details can be found in **Annex 2**.

d) WIO Symphony Tool

WIO Symphony is a practical tool for environmental assessment in support of ecosystem-based MSP. It is the product of a 4-year cooperation with contributions from over 50 members from Nairobi Convention member states and international partners based on more than 60 maps (1x1 km) of selected regional-specific ecosystem components and pressures from human activity, parameterized using openly available data sources. Coupled with a WIO-specific sensitivity matrix developed by a regional expert panel, the tool indicates how vulnerable the considered ecosystems are to different pressures across the WIO. Most importantly, it allows for analysis of cumulative impacts and the expected environmental outcomes of different planning options and management scenarios. From late 2022, the WIO Symphony tool will be hosted by the Nairobi Convention and available to all member states.

C. MSP Data, Information Management and Ocean Governance Nexus

The development of MSP requires data and information to enable planners and managers to make informed decisions. As all MSP cover very large areas, data and information from various sources and significant computational power are needed to transparently and effectively integrate environmental considerations into the marine planning process. MSP being a transdisciplinary process however presents challenges of sharing and integration of data from disparate fields.

In this regard, ongoing MSP processes at the regional and national level could be supported by the **Regional Information Management Strategy (IMS)** for the WIO currently under development pursuant to decision 10.5/3 that requested the Secretariat to strengthen national data centres, through capacity development on information and knowledge management, and in collaboration with partners, to develop a regional information management strategy (IMS) and mechanisms to address common challenges and take informed decision-making for ocean governance. The IMS process is being led by a Multistakeholder Working Group (MSWG) composed of nominees of Contracting Parties and non-state actors.

The IMS is intended to provide a framework for continuous access to comprehensive data and information (including MSP data) and that increasingly disparate and diverse sets of data and information available in the region are analyzed, collected, consolidated, and linked in a common information base accessible to Contracting Parties, partners, and other stakeholders.

Thus, there is a clear nexus between MSP, IMS and Ocean Governance-*it is vital that MSP datasets and information are managed in a coordinated manner to maximise the integrity of the data available, complying with relevant legislations to enable decisions that are sustainable and evidence based to support integrated ocean governance.*

There are numerous initiatives related to the development of regional databases and knowledge sharing platforms in the WIO, that will be able to support MSP activities in the region and could potentially inform the IMS process. Some of these initiatives include:

- **Nairobi Convention Clearing House Mechanism:** In 2018, the Nairobi Convention identified datasets available in WIO region that could be included in the Nairobi Convention's Clearing House Mechanism (CHM). Some of the products available include an interactive dashboard for MPAs in the WIO. Other maps include the global distribution of saltmarshes, distribution of locally managed marine areas, Port index, undersea cables, seagrass species richness, global distribution of coral reefs, among others.
- **MASPAWIO:** MASPAWIO (coordinated by CORDIO) provides access to marine spatial datasets, providing layers useful for marine spatial planning, management, and research, from multiple primary and secondary sources, and contributing compiled information into other regional and global repositories
- **ODINAFRICA:** The Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA) brings together about 40 marine related institutions from twenty-five countries in Africa to address the challenges faced in accessing data and information for coastal management

Objectives of the Workshop

The aim of the workshop is to promote shared learning on MSP implementation at the national and regional level for sustainable management of the coastal and marine resources in the WIO region and its contribution to information management. The workshop will highlight the datasets needed for implementation of MSP at national and local scales. In this regard, this workshop will bring together the MSP TWG and IMS MSWG to discuss possible frameworks that can deliver a data management process for management of data and information used for MSP and possible technology architectures.

Expected Outcomes

- ✓ Participants will appreciate MSP as a tool for addressing the challenges and opportunities in the protection and management of the WIO Large Marine Ecosystems
- ✓ Participants will gain a better understanding of the process of developing Marine Spatial Plans including the data required.
- ✓ Best practices and lesson learnt on Marine Spatial Planning shared in the region
- ✓ Participants will be informed of SWOT Analysis and Information Needs Assessment for the WIO
- ✓ The MSP TWG and IMS MSWG will discuss the nexus between MSP data and the Information Management Strategy and provide possible options of platforms for collation and analysis to support MSP development and other data and information needs of countries.

Workshop Programme

Day 1- Marine Spatial Planning

1. Opening Session
2. Purpose of the workshop
3. MSP at the regional level – the Regional MSP Framework
4. Status of MSP at the national level including MSP regulation/act/policy
5. Case studies – MSP at the national level – demo on Tanzania, Seychelles, South Africa
6. Case studies – MSP at the local level – Kilifi, Kenya
7. Tools to support MSP – WIOSymphony

Day 2- Information Management Strategy

1. Presentation of Outline of the Information Management Strategy
2. SWOT Analysis and Needs Assessment for an Information Management Strategy
3. Data for MSP – visualization by ESRI: Interactive data portal by CEDARE

Day 3- MSP Data, Information Management and Ocean Governance Nexus

1. MSP Data and Information Management and Ocean Governance Nexus
2. Options for Integrating MSP data into IMS and Ocean Governance
3. The 2023 Marine Regions Forum

Annex 1: African Union Strategies and initiatives

- Agenda 2063 adopted in May 2013 as a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years (Agenda 2063, which recognised that: ‘Africa’s Blue economy, ... shall be a major contributor to continental transformation and growth, advancing knowledge on marine and aquatic biotechnology, the growth of an Africa-wide shipping industry, the development of sea, river and lake transport and fishing; and exploitation and beneficiation of deep sea mineral and other resources.’)
- The 2050 Africa’s Integrated Marine Strategic Plan of Action-(2050 AIM Strategy) adopted by the African Union Assembly at its session in January 2014 which outlines the actions that should be implemented to foster increased wealth creation from Africa’s oceans and seas by developing a sustainable blue economy. The Strategy recognises that marine/maritime spatial planning will aid in balancing frequently competing sector-based interests, so that: (a) marine space and resources are used efficiently and sustainably, (b) decisions can be taken based on sound data and in-depth knowledge of the sea and inland water ways, and (c) investors have greater legal certainty, encouraging Africa’s blue economic development.
- The 2019 Africa Blue Economy Strategy to guide the development of an inclusive and sustainable blue economy that becomes a significant contributor to continental transformation and growth, through advancing knowledge on marine and aquatic biotechnology, environmental sustainability, the growth of an Africa-wide shipping industry, the development of sea, river and lake transport, the management of fishing activities on these aquatic spaces, and the exploitation and beneficiation of deep sea mineral and other resources.
- Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) provides guidance to transition of African fisheries to productivity, sustainability and profitability with options for enhanced regional collaborative management of shared resources. The PFRS enables African 2 Africa Blue Economy Strategy governments to develop appropriate fisheries-exploitation arrangements and aquaculture development, two key BE sectors, with accompanied fiscal reforms that should result in the sustainable generation of benefits at the community level as well as creating wealth throughout the value chain.
- SDG14 - Being part of the Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG14) on Life below Water, African coastal States have endorsed the achievement of a series of targets by 2030 from which most of them relate to a better exploitation of the sea, preservation of the environment and prevention of pollutions and other harmful changes resulting from human activities. All African States are furthermore working towards the accomplishment of the SDG6 dedicated to clean water and sanitation in direct linkage with the Continental dimension of the BE. Lomé Charter - The Charter refers to the security and safety of the BE. It aims at preventing and curbing national and transnational crime, especially terrorism, piracy and armed robbery against ships, as well as all forms of trafficking at sea. It also aims at protecting environment in general and particularly maritime environment in coastal and island states, as well as strengthening cooperation in the field. The Charter commits signatories to creating national, regional and continental institutions to promote maritime security and safety

Annex 2- MSP Approaches by Nairobi Convention Contracting Parties

- **Comoros:** A National Plan for Integrated Coastal Management was finalised in 2010 under the EU-funded ReCoMap project. The SAPPHIRE project will support development of policy/legislation to guide the management of the Comorian coastal zone for sustainable exploitation of the resources. No formal MSP process has yet begun.
- **France:** Following the adoption of the EU Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning (2014/89/EU), where all coastal European Union Member States are required to prepare cross-sectoral maritime spatial plans by 2021, France is currently developing its national MSP. The [Ocean Metiss](#) project on Réunion Island project contributes to the expected development of Integrated Maritime Spatial Planning.
- **Kenya:** A multi-sectoral interagency working group has been constituted under the State Department for Fisheries, Aquaculture and The Blue Economy to give oversight to the Marine Spatial Planning process. The MSP process is driven by blue economy development with the new proposed investments planned in shipping, aquaculture, expansion of tourism and fishing, expansion of port and shipping activities. A flagship programme on MSP is being developed in Kenya and the programme incorporates planning of oceans and coastal - terrestrial areas through the Kenya Marine Fisheries and Socioeconomic Development Project (KEMFSED) and the IKI funded project on MSP through TNC.
- **Madagascar:** Discussions on MSP have been initiated at the national level. The discussions are jointly coordinated by the Directorate of Coordination, Planning and Development of the Maritime Territory (DCPVTM) and Department of Ocean Governance (DGO) with the sectors. The government is supporting technical, legal and institutional study of the establishment of MSP.
- **Mauritius:** The government has been advancing Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in key maritime sectors such as port infrastructure, shipping, tourism, seafood, fisheries, aquaculture and marine renewable energy to strengthen its economic diversification. Mauritius has set up an MSP Coordinating Committee, bringing together all the relevant stakeholders to support the development of a holistic plan. It has also established three technical working groups focusing on new economic activities (aquaculture sites, marina development and tourism and recreational activities), Sustainable Development Goal 14 to achieve Target 14.5, and mainstreaming biodiversity within the framework of Ocean Observatory.
- **Mozambique:** The Ministry of the Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MiMAIP) is doing a reform in the country's legal and policy framework. The MSP is governed by the Regulation establishing the Legal Regime for the Use of the National Maritime Space (RJUEM), and according to it the MSP content will have: (1) Geospatial representation of the order that establishes the spatial and temporal distribution of existing and potential values, uses and activities, (2) Implementation rules associated with geospatial representation that identify restrictions of public utility, safeguarding and protection regimes for natural and cultural resources and good practices to be observed in the use and management of the national maritime space. The Government approved the Decree for creating the Blue Economy Development Fund (ProAzul). Supported by the World Bank, through the PROBLUE line, ProAzul is undertaking an assessment on the situation and perspectives of the sectors that integrate the blue economy.

- **Seychelles:** The MSP process started in 2015 with an aspirational target of declaring 30% of its Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) as marine protected areas (MPA). The stimulus for MSP came from concern about the interactions and conflicts between fishing, tourism, marine transport, and security while developing its “blue economy” to support a sustainable and diversified economy. The first target of designating 15% of the EEZ and MPAs is on track for implementation in 2020.

- **Somalia:** The representatives of different sectors have participated in capacity development workshops to promote MSP as a tool for integrated planning and development at both national and sub-national level within Somalia.

- **South Africa:** The Marine Spatial Planning Bill was approved by the National Assembly and the National Council of Provinces in December 2018. Implementation of the national framework for Marine Spatial Planning will facilitate the development, implementation, and monitoring of marine spatial plans. Application of the MSP process will obtain economic, social, ecological and governance benefits that will contribute to achieving sustainable development and facilitate the attainment of South Africa’s national development objectives. The MSP will promote a culture of good ocean governance through integration among different objectives and economic sectors and manage competing demands on South Africa’s Ocean space. The process will also enable the co-existence of compatible activities and enhance co-ordination with terrestrial and coastal planning. Under Operation PHAKISA, the Republic of South Africa is fast tracking MSP development and implementation as evidenced by the recently declared 22 MPAs.