

MSPglobal Regional Training on Marine Spatial Planning

As part of the SwAM International Training Programme
Planning for a Sustainable Blue Future in the Western Indian Ocean: Institutional Strengthening for Marine Spatial Planning

Zanzibar, Tanzania | 25 - 27 November 2025

Organised by:



Swedish Agency
for Marine and
Water Management



In cooperation with:

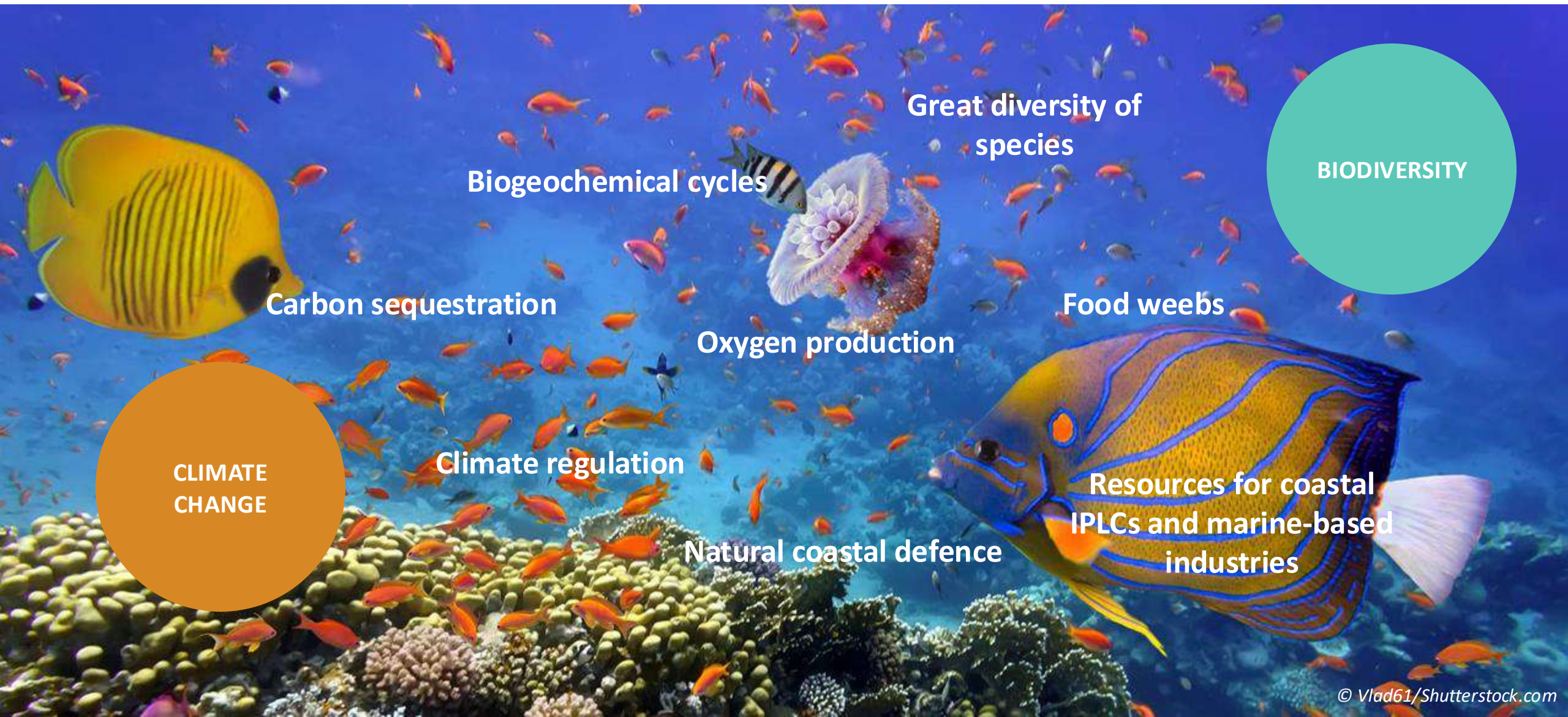


With the support of:



Recommendations for Biodiversity Inclusive and Climate-smart Marine Spatial Planning

The Ocean's Importance



Great diversity of
species

Biogeochemical cycles

Carbon sequestration

Oxygen production

Food weeb

BIODIVERSITY

CLIMATE
CHANGE

Climate regulation

Natural coastal defence

Resources for coastal
IPLCs and marine-based
industries

Facing Climate & Biodiversity Crisis



Societal Impacts

- Declining fisheries and **food security**
- Loss of **coastal protection** and livelihoods
- Reduced **carbon sequestration** capacity
- **Cultural and recreational** impacts on coastal communities
- Growing **social inequities** as vulnerable populations face the highest risks



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Global & Regional Frameworks



UNFCCC

Nationally Determined Contributions

National Adaptation Plans

Paris Agreement

Sustainable Development Goals

Ocean Decade

European Green Deal

2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent

African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan

CBD

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

EU Nature Restoration Law

BIODIVERSITY

CLIMATE CHANGE

Global & Regional Frameworks



Kunming-Montreal

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Target 1: Plan and manage all areas to reduce biodiversity loss

*“Ensure that **all areas are under participatory, integrated, and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning** and/or effective management processes addressing land and sea use change (...), to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero **by 2030** while respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.”*

Target 8: Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience

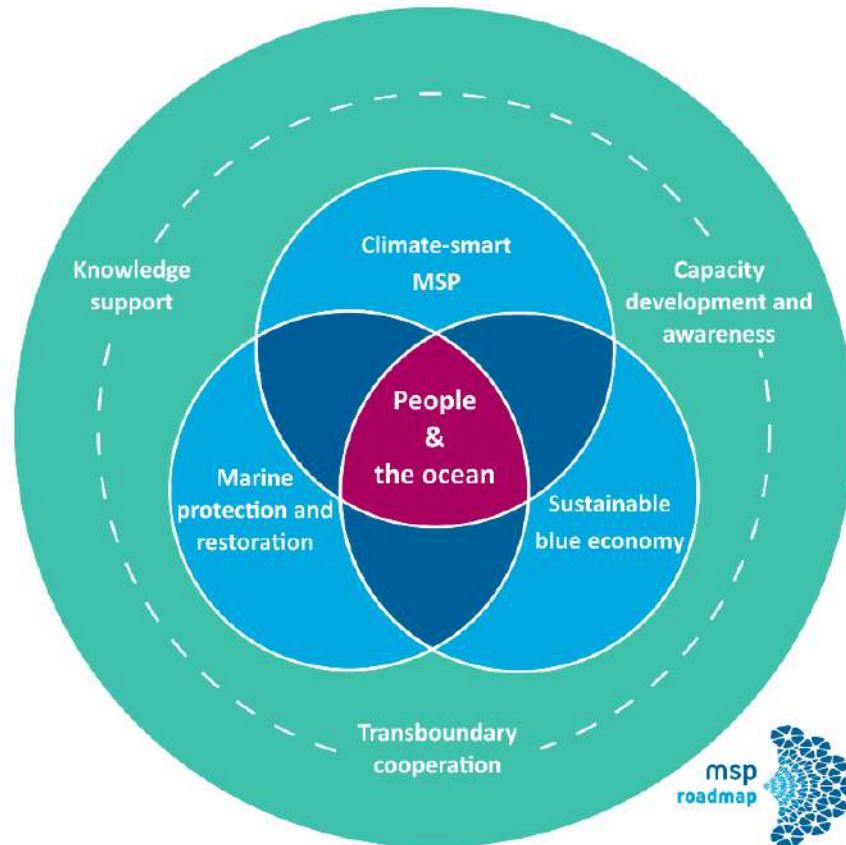
*“**Minimize the impact of climate change** and ocean acidification **on biodiversity** and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including **through nature-based solution and/or ecosystem-based approaches**, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.”*

Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning



*“MSP is a public process of analysing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives that are usually specified through a **political process**” (UNESCO-IOC, 2009)*

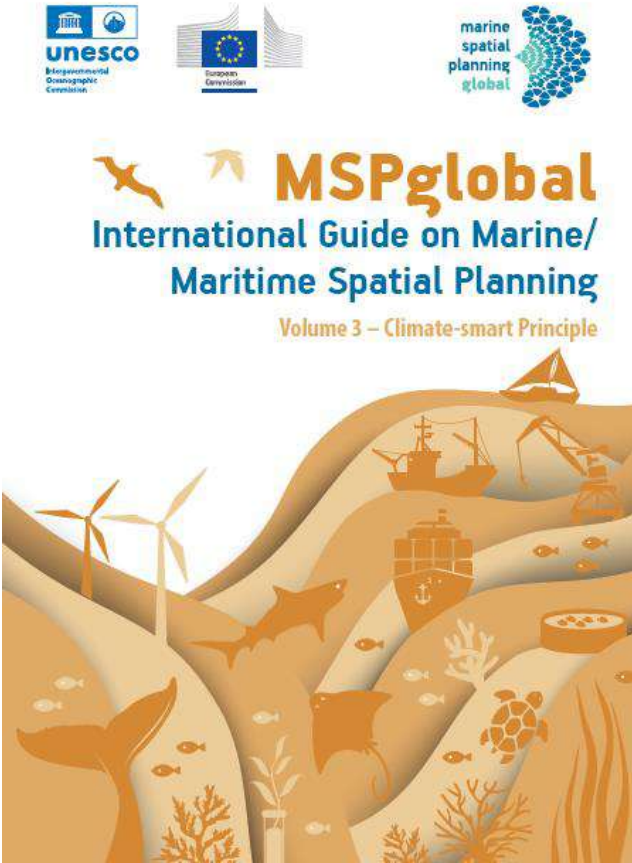
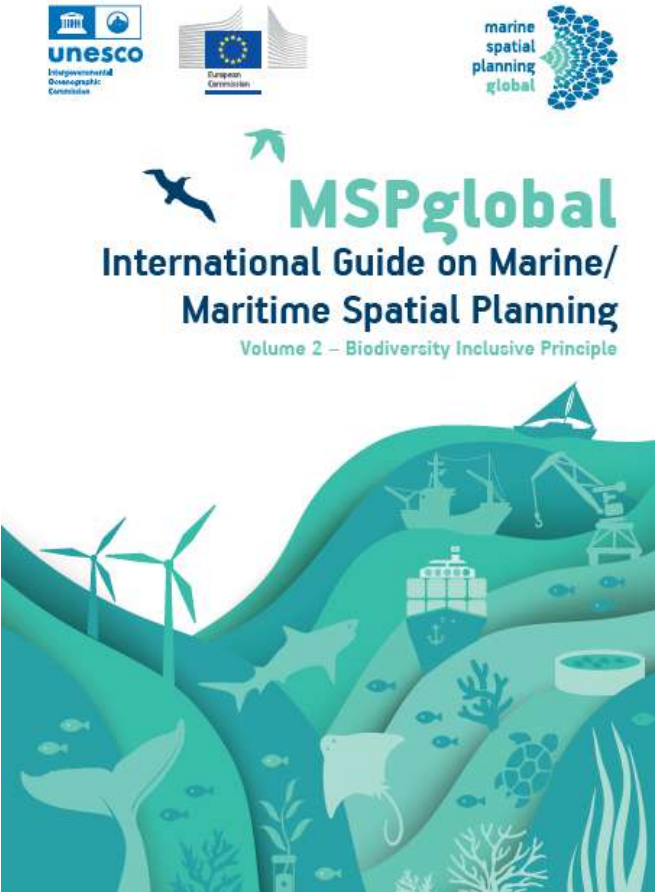
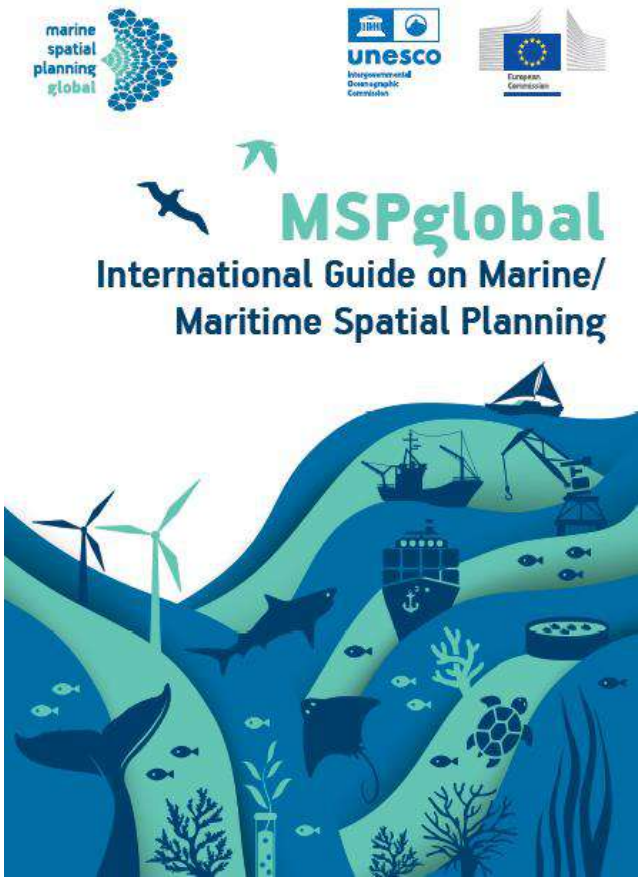
Updated Joint Roadmap to accelerate MSP processes worldwide (2022-2027)



Six priority areas divided into:

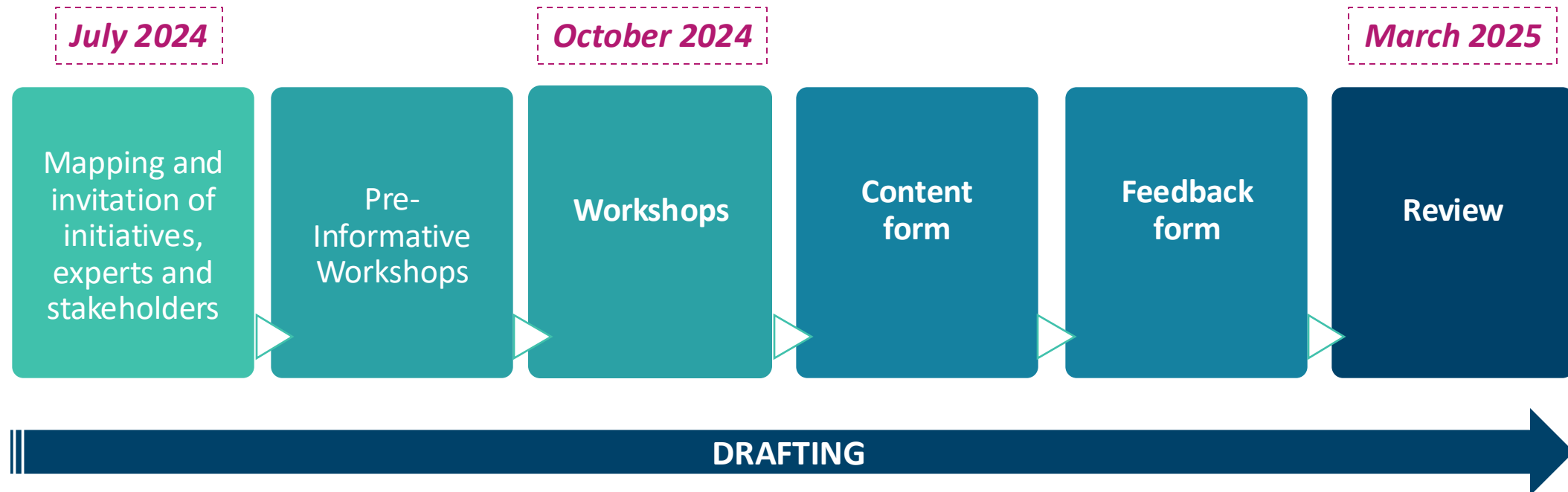
- **Cross-cutting**
 1. Knowledge support
 2. Capacity development and awareness
 3. Transboundary cooperation
- **Thematic**
 4. Climate-smart MSP
 5. Marine protection and restoration
 6. Sustainable blue economy

MSPglobal International Guide



Co-developing recommendations

Co-development of complementary volumes to provide actionable steps for governments, IPLCs, stakeholders, and all relevant parties involved in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of marine spatial plans

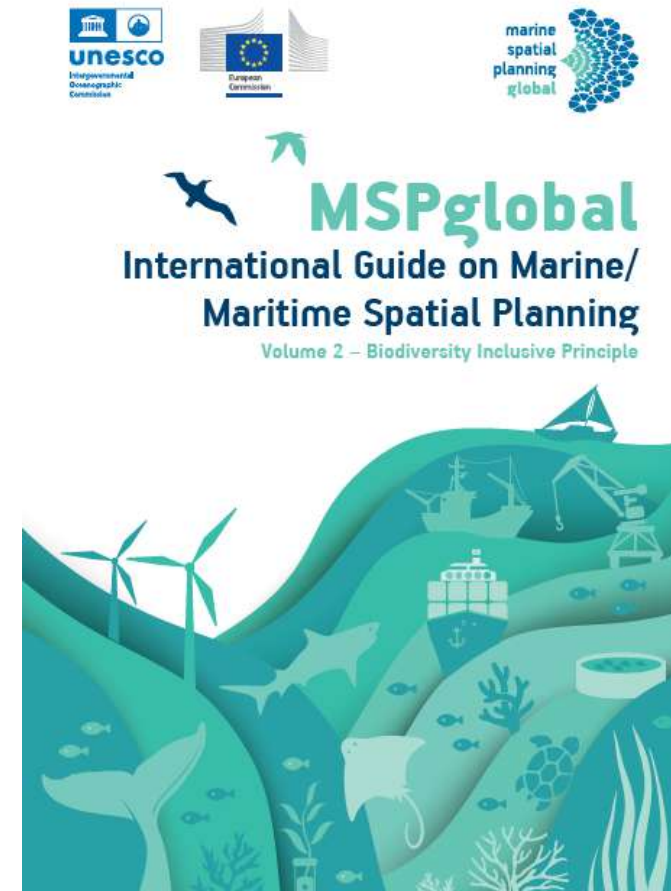


Biodiversity inclusive MSP



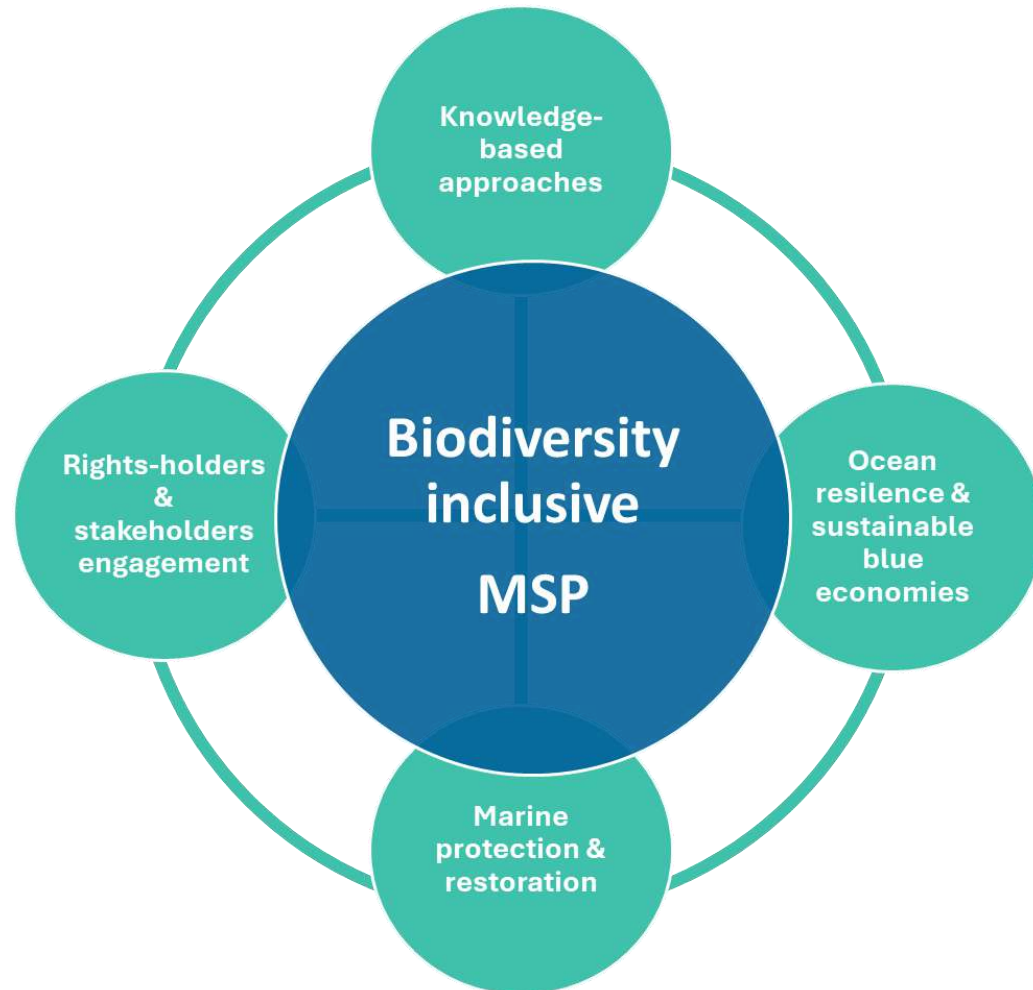
Biodiversity inclusive MSP

- Recognising **biodiversity** as the foundation of sustainable development
- Setting **specific objectives** to achieve nature **positive outcomes**
- Integrating **biodiversity conservation and resilience** as a concern across all maritime activities



Biodiversity inclusive MSP

Key foundational elements



- **Knowledge-based approaches**, providing a deeper understanding of biodiversity, ecosystem elements and function.
- **Ocean resilience and sustainable blue economies** should guide the vision of biodiversity inclusive.
- **Marine protection and restoration efforts**, essential to guarantee biodiversity and ecosystem health in the present and for the future.
- **Engagement of rights-holders and stakeholders**, crucial for the overall success.

Biodiversity inclusive MSP

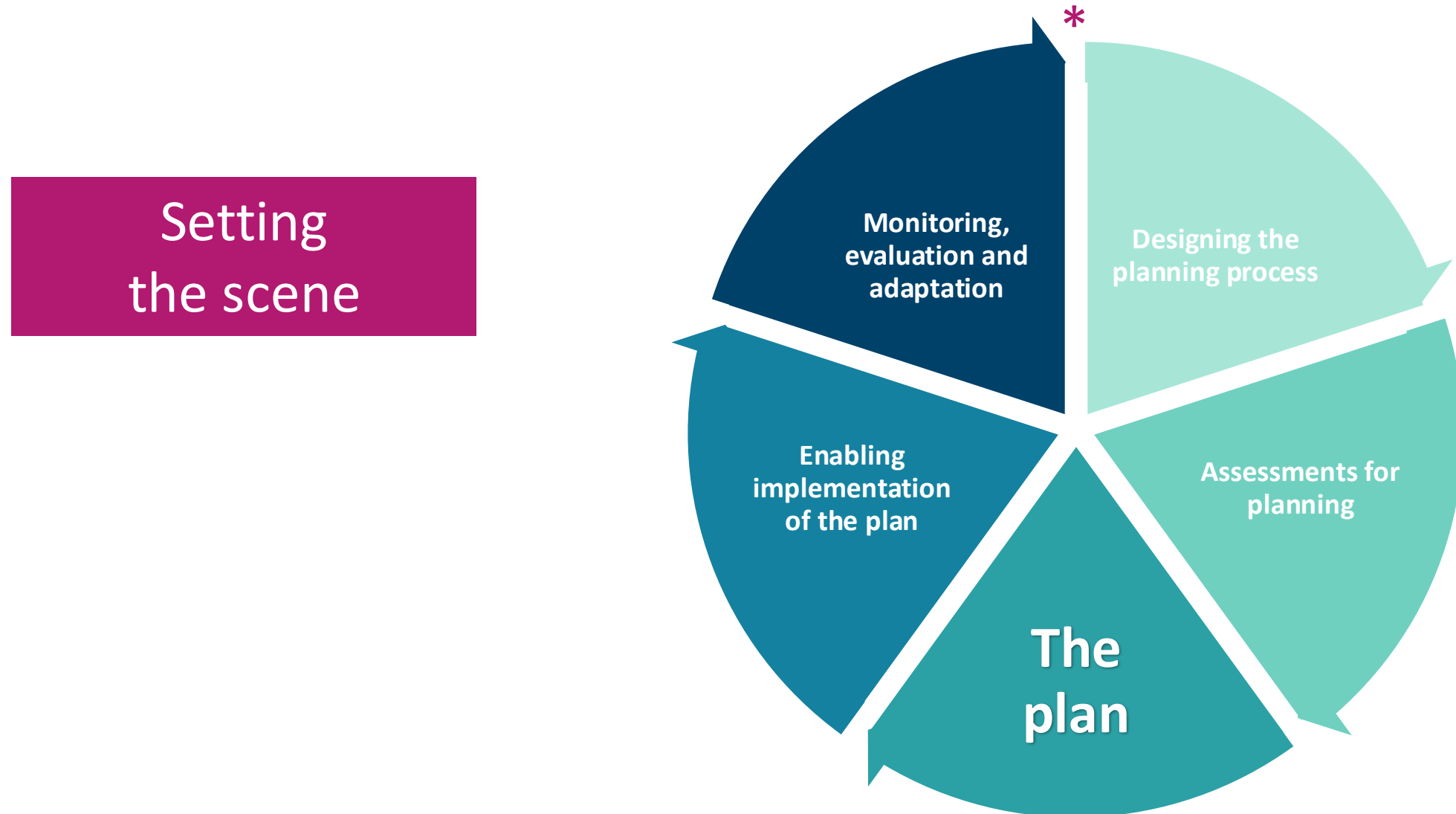
Cross-cutting recommendation



➤ Enhancing biodiversity inclusive MSP through Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- Strengthens stakeholder engagement
- Can assess important ecosystem services and direct and indirect drivers of change
- Structured approach to assess potential environmental effects of different planning options

The MSP process: more than a plan



MSPglobal Recommendations per planning phase

MSPglobal Guide



Setting the scene

- Create an MSP working group.
- Identify existing legal and institutional frameworks to develop MSP.
- Identify stakeholders and rights-holders, their customary systems of governance, and their planning needs.
- Identify sources of funding for MSP.
- Define an institutional framework for MSP.



Designing the planning process

- Establish a technical MSP team and define its work plan.
- Develop a strategy of participation and a communication plan.
- Define the planning boundaries and time frame for implementing the plan.
- Define principles, vision, goals and objectives.



Conducting assessments for planning

- Define the different planning scales.
- Identify existing conditions to map and diagnose environmental, socio-cultural and economic parameters, as well as conflicts and compatibilities.
- Analyse future conditions and trends, define alternative scenarios as well as assess trade-offs to select the preferred scenario.
- Develop a public information system.



Developing the marine spatial plan

- Define management actions and spatial allocation of uses (zones or priority areas).
- Draft the marine spatial plan and related documents.
- Evaluate the draft marine spatial plan.
- Launch a consultation process of the draft marine spatial plan.
- Endorse and approve the marine spatial plan.



Implementing the marine spatial plan

- Establish a regulation to implement the plan.
- Raise awareness and establish regular dialogues with rights-holders and stakeholders to follow up and support implementation.
- Build capacities for competent authorities, rights-holders and stakeholders on the implementation of the plan.
- Comply with the marine spatial plan.
- Enforce the marine spatial plan.



Monitoring, evaluation & adaptation of the process & the plan

- Evaluate the planning process and stakeholder engagement.
- Evaluate the marine spatial plan and its relevance.
- Evaluate the implementation of the marine spatial plan.
- Evaluate the MSP results and define how to report it.
- Review and revise the marine spatial plan.

Biodiversity inclusive principle



Setting the scene

- Looking at previous and existing (planning, legal, governance and institutional) frameworks.
- Establishing cross-sectoral coordination.
- Promoting rights-holders and stakeholders' engagement.
- Leveraging funding and resources.



Designing the planning process

- Including a long-term vision for sustainable blue economy.
- Integrating biodiversity conservation objectives and targets in MSP.



Conducting assessments for planning

- Enhancing data and information collection and sharing.
- Mapping and analysing.
- Determining ecological limits.
- Incorporating climate change considerations.
- Incorporating natural capital considerations.



Developing the marine spatial plan

- Defining important areas for protection and restoration.
- Considering OECMs.
- Integrating nature-based solutions.
- Integrating socio-economic and cultural considerations.
- Planning for the future.



Implementing the marine spatial plan

- Strengthening legal and policy frameworks.
- Building capacity and promoting public awareness.



Monitoring, evaluation & adaptation of the process & the plan

- Enhancing monitoring and evaluation.

- Recommendations
- Suggested actions
- Tools that can help
- Further reading sources
- Case studies

Biodiversity inclusive principle:

- Looking at **previous and existing** (planning, legal, governance and institutional) frameworks
- Establishing **cross-sectoral** coordination
- Promoting **rights-holders** and stakeholders' engagement
- Leveraging **funding** and resources

Setting the scene

Promoting rights-holders and stakeholders' engagement



Recommendation:

- Biodiversity-inclusive MSP ***must be*** co-developed with those who depend on, impact, or hold knowledge about marine ecosystems
- A structured and iterative **stakeholder and rights-holders engagement** process needs to be planned and established in the **early stages** to include formal and informal platforms for dialogue, multi-stakeholder networks, and collaborative mapping tools

Suggested actions:

- **Identify all groups** who might depend, impact or have knowledge of the marine environment
- **Create ongoing dialogue** platforms (forums, advisory groups)
- **Provide resources and capacity** for marginalised groups to engage in the process
- **Procure sufficient resources** to enable long-term partnerships and ongoing engagement

Setting the scene

Promoting rights-holders and stakeholders' engagement

Marine Spatial Planning in Equatorial Guinea

Contributed by Erick Ross Salazar (MigraMar), Christian Barrientos (WCS) and Gaspar Lutero Mangué (INDEFOR)

- The **participatory process** was **central** to the development of a marine spatial plan for the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Equatorial Guinea.
- In the face of limited data, **participatory mapping** was **crucial** to understanding the distribution of endangered, migratory, and commercially important species, as well as fishing zones, economic activities, areas of possible conflict between stakeholders and the presence of other marine users.



© Erick Ross Salazar (*)

Participatory mapping with stakeholders in Equatorial Guinea

Designing the planning process

Biodiversity inclusive principle:

- Including a long-term vision for sustainable blue economy
- Integrating biodiversity conservation objectives and targets in MSP

Designing the planning process

Integrating biodiversity conservation objectives and targets in MSP



Recommendation:

The **integration of explicit objectives** that promote biodiversity conservation in MSP is **essential** to ensure that ecosystem health is prioritised, the **subsistence of IPLCs** is ensured and that economic goals are aligned and compatible:

- To meaningfully guide decision-making, **objectives cannot be generic statements**. They must be clear, relevant and achievable, improving conditions for implementation.

Suggested actions:

- Discuss how MSP can **contribute to achieve existing commitments and targets** and develop clear, coherent and specific conservation objectives
- Analyse the **compatibility of other MSP objectives with biodiversity**, analysing the potential positive and negative outcomes
- Document and communicate the objectives, rationales, **expected outcomes and possible trade-offs**
- Identify **indicators for each objective** to establish the baseline and track progress

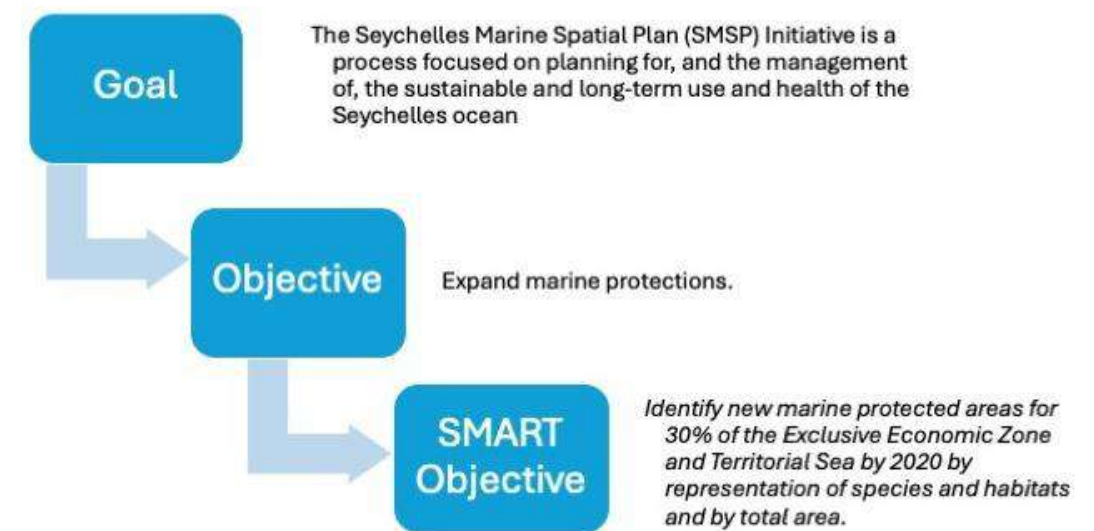
Designing the planning process

Integrating biodiversity conservation objectives and targets in MSP

SMART objectives for the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan Initiative

Contributed by Joanna Smith (TNC), Helena Sims (TNC), Rabia Somers (Marine Spatial Plan Unit Seychelles)

- The Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (SMSP) Initiative is focused on planning for and the management of the **sustainable and long-term use and health** of the Seychelles Ocean.
- The SMSP developed **SMART objectives** for each of the three high-level objectives: (1) expand marine protections, (2) address climate change adaptation, and (3) support the Blue Economy and other national strategies.



Biodiversity inclusive principle

- Enhancing data and information collection and sharing
- Mapping and analysing
- Determining ecological limits
- Incorporating climate change considerations
- Incorporating natural capital considerations

Conducting assessments for planning

Determining ecological limits



Recommendation:

A critical element of biodiversity inclusive MSP is **identifying the capacity and limits of ecosystems** within which human uses and activities can operate without harming ecosystems' health and function:

- Different methodologies can be used to determine the **carrying capacity** for specific human activities at sea, establishing the maximum volume of the activity that is supported by the marine environment in each area without suffering damage

Suggested actions:

- Identify the **specific attributes of ecosystems** and related indicators that are needed to assess the carrying capacity of each activity in different areas
- Assess the **vulnerability of different ecosystems** to human activities
- Consider the **cumulative effects of multiple human activities** occurring in the same area via cumulative impact assessment methodologies

Biodiversity inclusive principle

- Defining important areas for protection and restoration
- Considering OECMs
- Integrating nature-based solutions
- Integrating socio-economic and cultural considerations
- Planning for the future

Developing the plan

Defining important areas for protection and restoration



Recommendation:

Based on all the previous assessments, biodiversity inclusive MSP can **spatially define key areas** suitable for biodiversity protection and restoration measures:

- A **spatial data-driven approach** (such as Systematic Conservation Planning (SCP)) can be applied to integrate information on biodiversity elements, ecological and biophysical conditions, existing and potential threats, risks and socio-economic factors to identify priority, ensure spatial efficiency and reduce conflicts

Suggested actions:

- Establish **clear and replicable criteria** for defining important areas for conservation and restoration.
- Conduct **spatial biodiversity prioritisations** using the most appropriate method/tool.
- Characterise **priority areas** in terms of their importance.
- Analyse **management options** for the identified areas.
- **Present the outcomes** to rights-holders, stakeholders and relevant government agencies and collect feedback.

Biodiversity inclusive principle

- Strengthening legal and policy frameworks
- Building capacity and promoting public awareness

Implementing the plan

Building capacity and promoting public awareness



Recommendation:

For biodiversity inclusive MSP to be effective, government agencies, rights-holders and stakeholders must **clearly understand and accept their roles and responsibilities** in achieving the plan's desired outcomes:

- This **requires improved** communication, training and collaboration between all those involved in the plan's implementation.

Suggested actions:

- **Develop a guideline document** that details different aspects of the biodiversity inclusive plan and the roles of each governmental agency, rights-holder and stakeholder
- Establish/maintain **inter-agency coordination** mechanisms
- Build a **public awareness program** about the value of nature and biodiversity that can contribute to behavioural change

Monitoring, evaluation & adaptation



Biodiversity inclusive principle

- Enhancing monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring, evaluation & adaptation

Enhancing monitoring and evaluation



Recommendation:

Monitoring and evaluation are **key to assessing** the effectiveness of biodiversity inclusive MSP and the success of the different measures:

- Monitoring **should be regular** and, as far as possible, **based on standardised protocols and indicators**. Monitoring results will then be used in periodic evaluations to allow tracking of expected and unexpected outcomes, corrective actions or revision when needed, ensuring the plan remains relevant

Suggested actions:

- Develop a **standardised monitoring protocol with rightsholders and stakeholders**. Ensure the protocol includes biodiversity indicators that can help track the achievement of targets and commitments.
- **Coordinate with other agencies and institutions** doing environmental monitoring to leverage existing protocols and technologies.
- **Establish a schedule for periodic reviews**, involve rightsholders and stakeholders, and provide feedback.

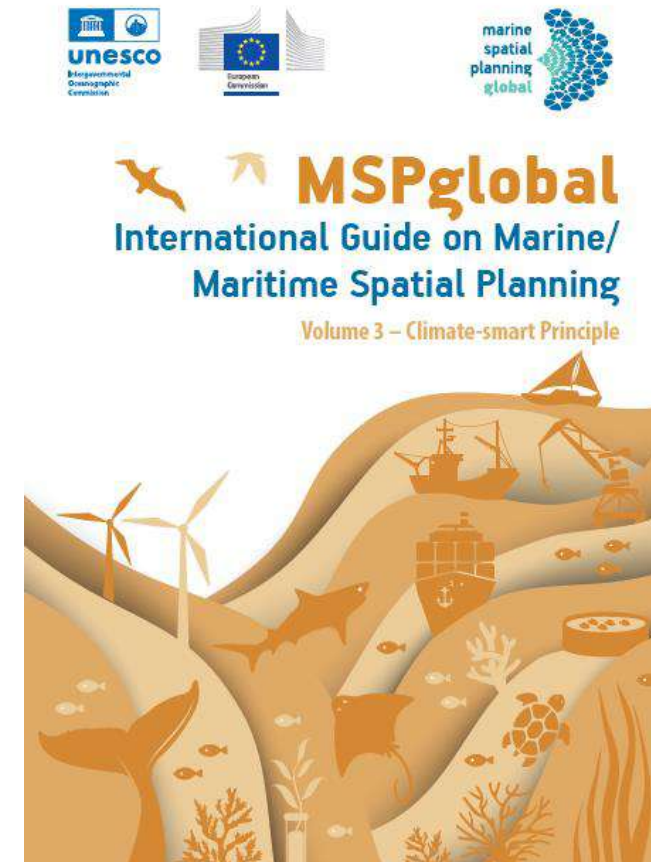
Questions?

Climate-smart MSP



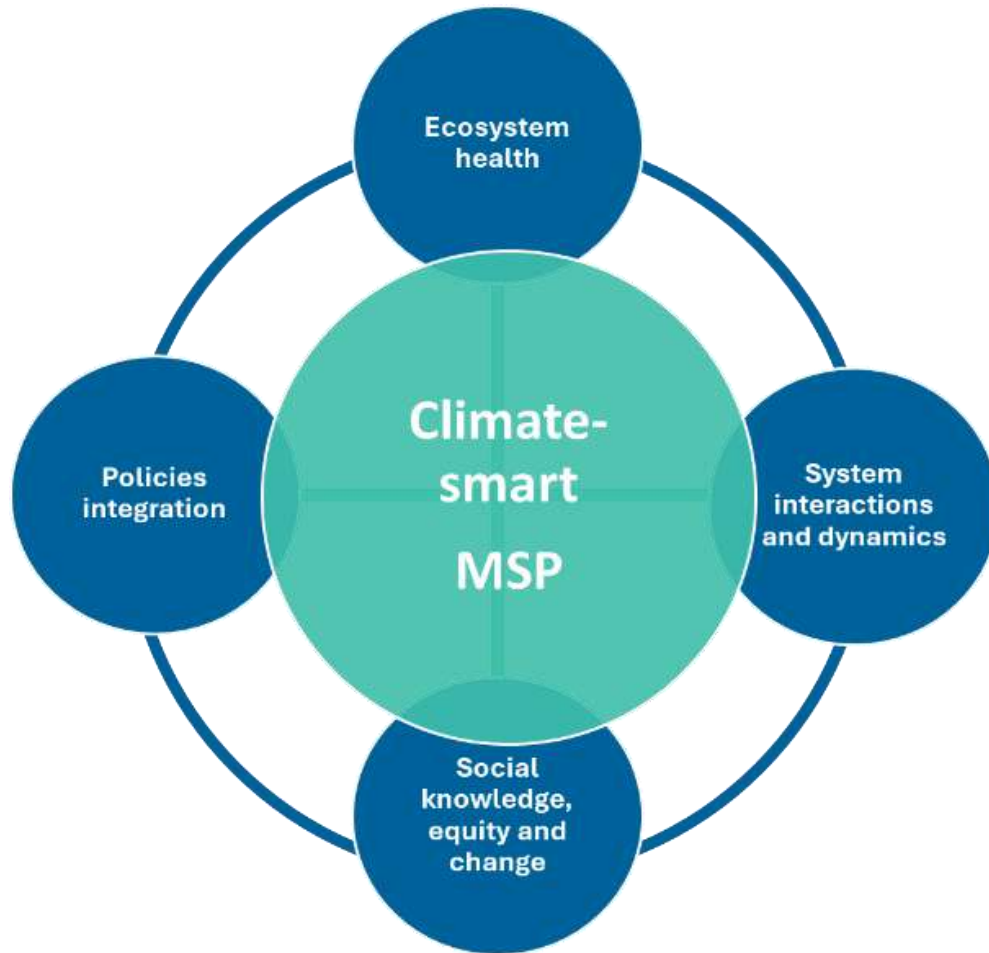
Climate-smart MSP

- Integrating **climate knowledge**
- Incorporating **flexibility to changing conditions**
- Including **climate adaptation and mitigation efforts**



Climate-smart MSP

Key foundational elements



- **Ensuring ecosystem health**, essential for a functioning marine environment that can support the achievement of social and economic objectives.
- **Understanding systems interactions and dynamics**, including cumulative impacts and cascading effects of climate change and other human induced.
- **Considering social knowledge, equity and change** will contribute to a more inclusive planning process.
- **Aligning and integrating climate and marine policies** that can strengthen coherent governance and action at multiple scales.

Climate-smart MSP

Cross-cutting recommendations



➤ Acknowledging uncertainty

- Contend with a **high degree of uncertainty** driven by climate change
- **Uncertainty** must be clearly and transparently communicated, and then **considered in planning**
- Explore **resilience thinking** and **scenario planning** to understand the potential consequences of alternative actions

➤ Combining adaptation and mitigation actions

- Urgent need to **invest in climate change mitigation** alongside **adaptation** efforts
- **Combining** adaptation and mitigation efforts can **improve its effectiveness** in addressing immediate and long-term challenges and help secure the necessary funds

MSPglobal Recommendations per planning phase

MSPglobal Guide



Setting the scene

- Create an MSP working group.
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Designing the planning process

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- Review and revise the marine spatial plan.

Climate-smart principle



Setting the scene

- Laying foundations for climate-smart MSP.
- Establishing cross-sectoral collaboration and policy integration.
- Promoting rights-holders and stakeholders' engagement.
- Leveraging funding and resources.



Designing the planning process

- Bringing climate expertise into the technical MSP team.
- Building a long-term common vision for climate-smart MSP.
- Setting objectives for climate-smart MSP.



Conducting assessments for planning

- Using and developing integrated information systems.
- Collecting and sharing data and knowledge across sectors.
- Incorporating climate projections and diverse modelling techniques.
- Embracing Indigenous and local knowledge.
- Applying comprehensive assessment frameworks.
- Co-creating scenarios.



Developing the marine spatial plan

- Contributing to the definition of areas for the protection and restoration of ecosystems.
- Promoting solutions for climate-smart maritime sectors.
- Considering dynamic zoning and adaptive pathways.
- Reinforcing a human rights-based approach.



Implementing the marine spatial plan

- Building capacity and raising awareness for climate-smart MSP.
- Considering the financial resources needed for long-term implementation.
- Balancing flexibility and legal certainty.



Monitoring, evaluation & adaptation of the process & the plan

- Enhancing monitoring for adaptive management.
- Revising and adjusting plans as conditions evolve.

- Recommendations
- Suggested actions
- Tools that can help
- Further reading sources
- Case studies

Climate-smart principle

- Laying foundations for climate-smart MSP
- Establishing cross-sectoral collaboration and policy integration
- Promoting rights-holders and stakeholders' engagement
- Leveraging funding and resources

Setting the scene

Establishing cross-sectoral collaboration and policy integration



Recommendation:

Climate-smart MSP needs to ensure that it **aligns with existing climate plans, strategies, and commitments** (e.g., national energy plans, NDCs, NAPs, net zero targets, etc.) and can provide a coordinated approach to the different coastal and maritime sectors:

- By **establishing coordination across governance levels and sectors**, climate-smart MSP can ensure that climate mitigation and adaptation goals guide the sectoral objectives, resources are used more efficiently, and potential conflicts are minimised.

Suggested actions:

- **Establish inter-sectoral collaborative task forces or committees** to promote coherence, integration and adaptation of climate goals and actions
- **Identify all the existing climate-related plans, strategies and commitments** across governance levels and sectors
- **Procure sufficient resources to facilitate cross-sectoral cooperation** and ensure its **long-term** existence, covering all stages of the planning cycle

Setting the scene

Establishing cross-sectoral collaboration and policy integration



Integrating climate change in Dominica's Coastal Master and Marine Spatial Plan

Contributed by Josefa Beyer (Utrecht University) and Sarah Mahadeo

- Dominica's Coastal Master and Marine Spatial Plan (CMSP) consists of two key components: the marine spatial plan and the coastal master plan. The **CMSP focused on integrating climate change** to increase resilience, including risk assessment mapping and inputs from a wide range of stakeholder groups.
- The **National Ocean Governance Committee**, which **has the mandate to implement** Dominica's National Ocean Policy, including **the CMSP**, brings **multiple stakeholder groups** together.



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Scott's Head, Dominica

Designing the planning process



Climate-smart principle

- Bringing climate expertise into the technical MSP team
- Building a long-term common vision for climate-smart MSP
- Setting objectives for climate-smart MSP

Designing the planning process

Bringing climate expertise into the technical MSP team



Recommendation:

Expertise in climate science and regarding existing and emerging sectors, linked with mitigation and adaptation, will enable the technical MSP team to develop knowledge-informed, adaptive, and robust climate-smart marine spatial plans.

- **Having that specific expertise is also essential** for interpreting the data collected and generated by models and projections, and communicating and explaining the information to different rights-holders and stakeholders

Suggested actions:

- Establish **dedicated mechanisms** (e.g., science-policy partnerships, platforms) **that foster collaboration with climate experts and scientists**
- Organise a **multidisciplinary team** (within the MSP Authority and/or supporting agencies) **with expertise in different climate-smart components**
- Provide **training sessions to team members on climate-smart** related topics

Conducting assessments for planning



Climate-smart principle

- Using and developing integrated information systems
- Collecting and sharing data and knowledge across sectors
- Incorporating climate projections and diverse modelling techniques
- Embracing Indigenous and local knowledge
- Applying comprehensive assessment frameworks
- Co-creating scenarios

Conducting assessments for planning

Co-creating scenarios



Recommendation:

- One important activity of a climate-smart MSP process is **co-creating scenarios taking into account climate change effects**, descriptions of future situations under certain assumptions and conditions, **which allow planners, rightsholders and stakeholders** to envision new spatial patterns, risks, and opportunities.

Suggested actions:

- Organise workshops and participatory sessions for **the co-creation of scenarios that take into account climate considerations**
- Ensure that **rights-holders and stakeholders' input** regarding climate knowledge and climate solutions are reflected in the future narratives
- Use **climate models, socioeconomic trends, and spatial data** to inform and validate scenarios

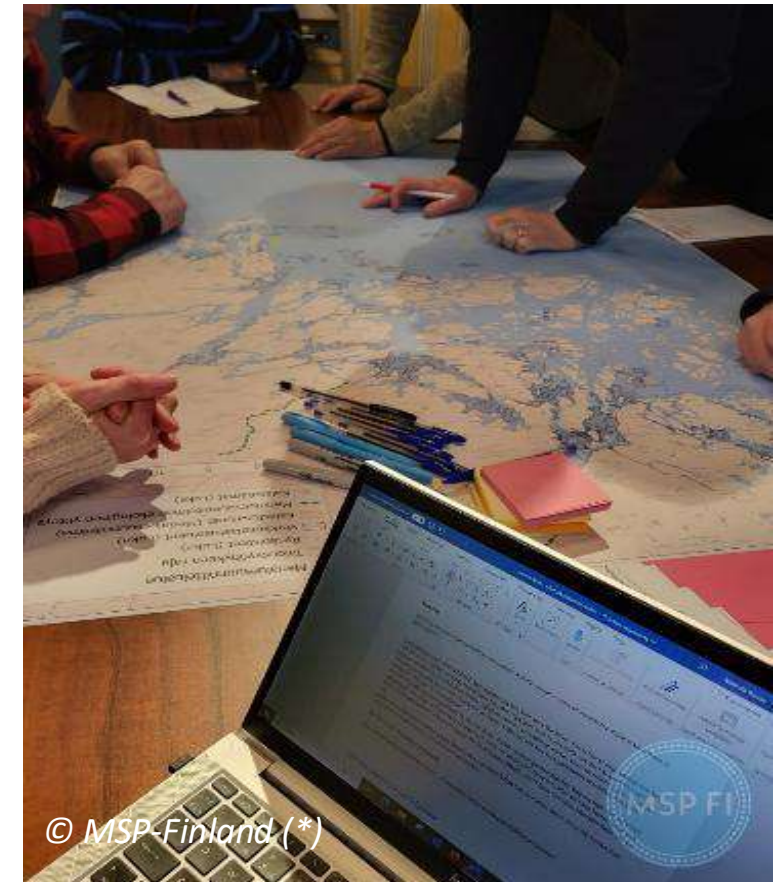
Conducting assessments for planning

Co-creating scenarios

From the co-creation of future scenarios to the adaptation of the fisheries sector to climate change in Finnish MSP

Contributed by Vesa Arki, Mari Pohja-Mykrä and Roosa Mikkola (MSP Cooperation Coordination Finland)

- During the **first cycle of Finnish MSP**, three scenarios for the future of the maritime area until 2050 were developed.
- The **work involved 350 stakeholders** in the co-creation process and the assessment of the impacts of the scenarios.
- They took a **holistic view on the future development** of maritime areas, covering also climate change.
- **An additional case study** was organised focusing on **how the Finnish MSP Plan could consider the impact of climate change** on the fisheries sector.



Climate-smart principle

- Contributing to the definition of areas for the protection and restoration of ecosystems
- Promoting solutions for climate-smart maritime sectors
- Considering dynamic zoning and adaptive pathways
- Reinforcing a human rights-based approach

Developing the plan

Promoting solutions for climate-smart maritime sectors



Recommendation:

Climate-smart MSP should also **try to identify suitable areas for coastal and offshore sector-specific climate action**, support low-carbon pathways and reduce vulnerabilities to climate Change:

- The **spatial allocation of suitable areas** for offshore renewable energy production, carbon capture and sequestration, and for other climate-smart sectors must carefully consider mitigation and adaptation goals, infrastructure needs, as well as social and environmental considerations.

Suggested actions:

- Consider the **spatial and operational requirements** of climate-smart sectors (e.g., ORE, green maritime transport) in planning options
- **Engage sector representatives and other stakeholders** in the analysis of different spatial solutions
- Explore **multi-use of space** where feasible, by **identifying possible synergies** between compatible sectors to maximise climate resilience and space efficiency

Climate-smart principle

- Building capacity and raising awareness for climate-smart MSP
- Considering the financial resources needed for long-term implementation
- Balancing flexibility and legal certainty

Implementing the plan

Balancing flexibility and legal certainty



Recommendation:

- Climate-smart MSP processes and resulting plans should **remain flexible in adapting to changing climate**, environmental conditions and technological innovation.
- At the same time, **investors in emerging technologies** necessary for climate mitigation **require clear and stable legal frameworks** that can minimise their business risks and ensure long-term feasibility.
- An **array of management options** – from legally binding measures to more dynamic approaches– needs **to be considered**.

Suggested actions:

- Identify **relevant legislation that underpins MSP**, including both MSP-specific and other regulatory frameworks, and **assess opportunities to foster flexibility within these frameworks**.
- Identify **relevant management tools across regulatory authorities** (or sectoral management agencies) and their **proportional potential for flexibility** to respond to climate-changing conditions.

Climate-smart principle

- Enhancing monitoring for adaptive management
- Revising and adjusting plans as conditions evolve

Monitoring, evaluation & adaptation

Revising and adjusting plans as conditions evolve



Recommendation:

- **Climate-smart MSP follows adaptive management principles;** thus, revisions (together with monitoring) are essential **to allow adjustments to evolving conditions** and ensure the plan is meeting its objectives and targets and remains relevant in the long-term.
- **Revisions should be fed by the most up-to-date knowledge** (e.g., new IPCC reports), continuous monitoring, and rights-holders and stakeholders' feedback.

Suggested actions:

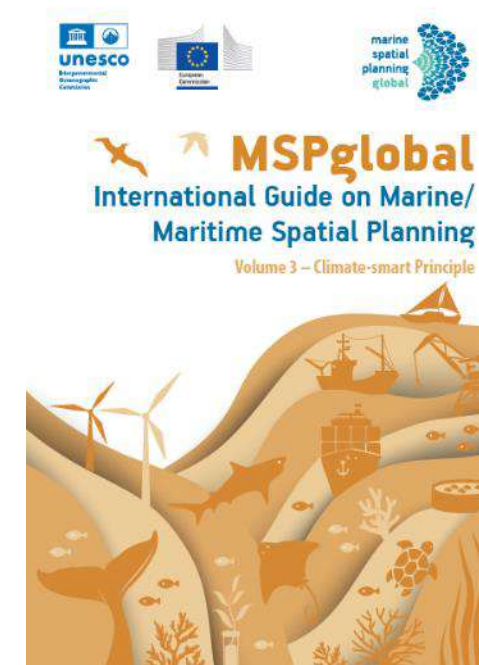
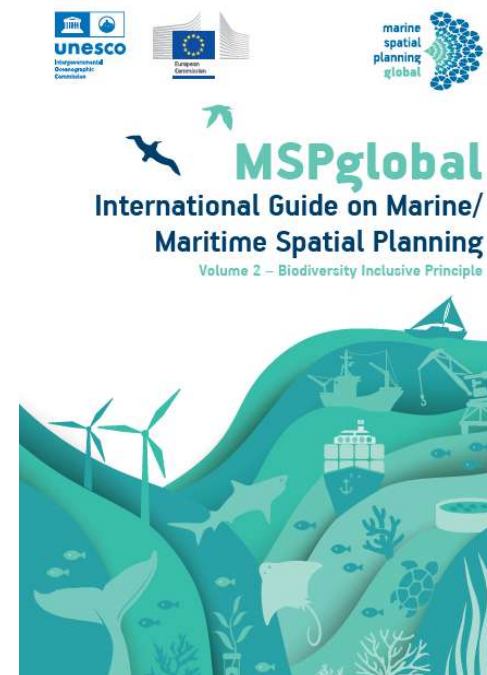
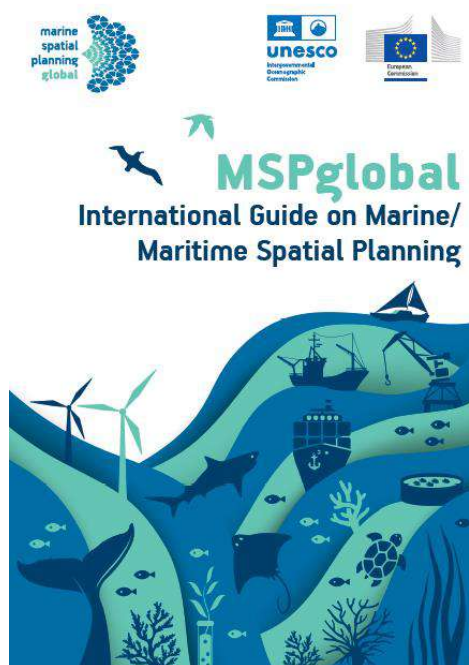
- When developing and approving the plan, make provisions for a **revision mechanism that allows revisions and intermediate adjustments based on thresholds** setting and new data and knowledge
- Keep the **revision process transparent**, making sure data and decisions are available **to rights-holders and stakeholders**
- Ensure that **zones and marine planning measures** are revised to **reflect the shifts in species dynamics and habitat changes** due to climate change impacts

Ways to move forward

Moving towards a healthy, productive and resilient Ocean requires **strengthening capacities, improving tools and knowledge, and ensuring inclusive, adaptive, and integrated MSP** processes that simultaneously address biodiversity conservation and climate resilience



Thank you!

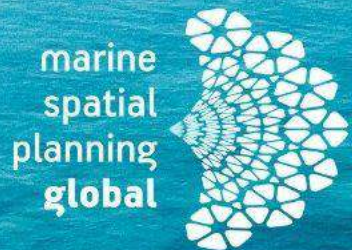


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MSPglobal Regional Training on Marine Spatial Planning

As part of the SwAM International Training Programme
Planning for a Sustainable Blue Future in the Western Indian Ocean: Institutional Strengthening for Marine Spatial Planning

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