

# MPA Short Course

## 5. MPA Management and Management Planning

# MPA Course Overview

- ~~1. Introduction to MPAs~~ ✓
- ~~2. MPAs around the world~~ ✓
- ~~3. MPAs in Ghana~~ ✓
- ~~4. MPA identification and regulation~~ ✓
- 5. MPA management planning & management**
6. MPA monitoring
7. MPA & Marine Spatial Planning
8. Your Voice

You are here!



# Learning Objectives

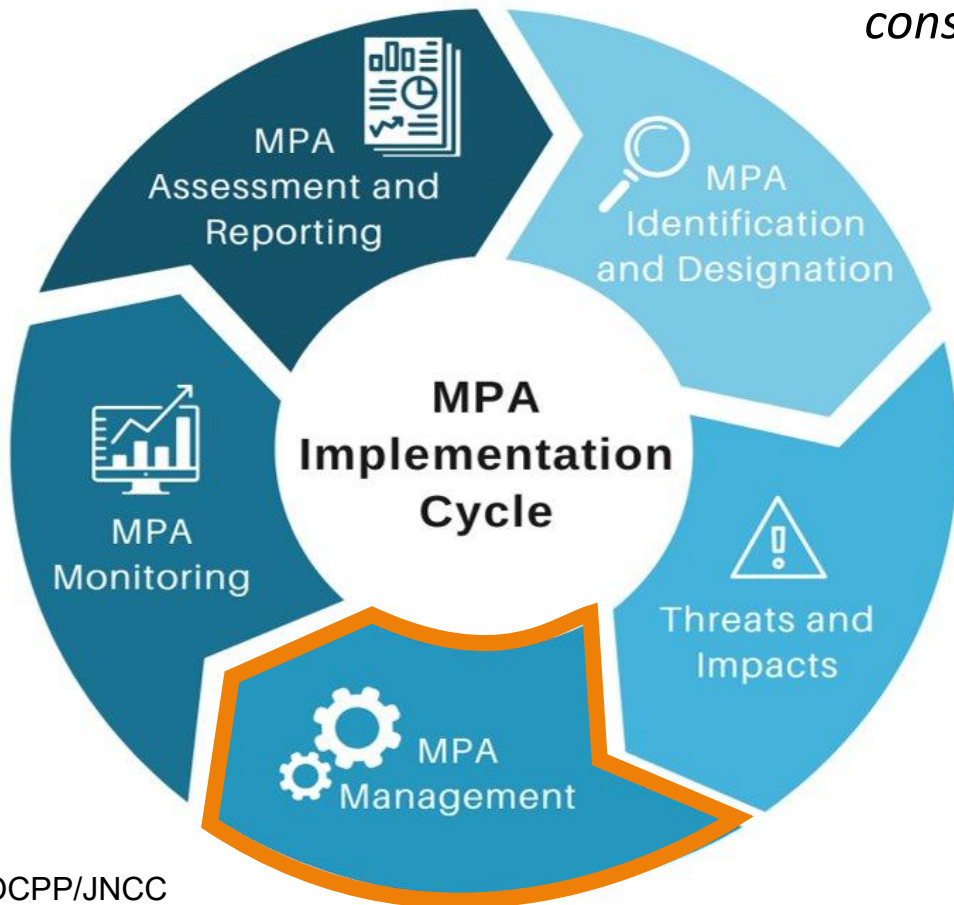
- Introduce MPA management & Management plan tools
- Explain what good MPA management planning looks like
- Highlight the benefits of MPA management planning
- Explain the different phases of MPA management planning
- Understand MPA management frameworks



# MPA Management

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) defines a protected area as

*“A geographically defined area, which is designated or regulated and then importantly **managed** to achieve specific conservation objectives”*



**The management planning process identifies:**

- What a protected area is (present condition)
- What it should become (future condition)
- How to maintain or attain that desired condition in the face of changing internal and external conditions.

# Why manage MPAs?

- To help achieve MPA objectives which may be
  - Ecological;
  - Socioeconomic; and/or
  - Cultural objectives.
- To ensure the use of resources in MPAs is sustainable:
  - Benefitting both environment and local communities



# What do we manage?

Anything that could be causing a **pressure** or **threat** to the protected features:

- Human activities
  - Fishing
  - Oil and Gas extraction
  - Shipping
  - Recreational & touristic activities
- Invasive species
- Pollution
- Climate change



The specific activities managed, and the degree of management should be determined in an MPA's management plan

A vibrant underwater scene featuring a large yellow and white striped fish in the center, surrounded by various coral reefs and smaller colorful fish in clear blue water.

# Considerations for effective management

- The ecological, socio-economic and cultural objectives of the MPA
  - What actions will contribute to achieving these objectives?
- The threats and pressures of the site
  - Do management actions consider and address these?
- Identified constraints and whether the actions are realistic
  - What are the resources available to manage and enforce these actions?
  - What is the timeframe in which management can be undertaken?
  - What is the frequency in which management can be undertaken?
- Acceptance and perception of government and wider public
  - How do the local stakeholders rely on the local marine environment?

# Methods for management

Plenty of options to consider and adapt to specific needs:

- Selective management on most damaging activities
- Zonation
- Annual opening and closing
- Permits
- Total ban on certain activities
- Best practice/ Codes of conduct/Regulatory requirements
- Do nothing
- Outreach and education



# Developing Management Plan

Management planning is a continuous process with several key components:

1. Defining the current situation and what you want to achieve (your vision)
2. Preparing a Management Plan
3. Implementing the plan
4. Monitoring and evaluating the plan
5. Revising the plan



# Good Management Planning



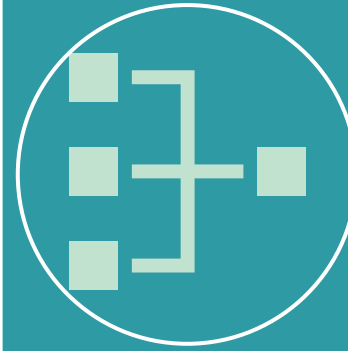
1. Creates a process, not an event.



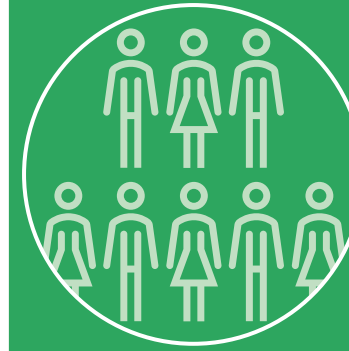
2. Provides a mechanism for thinking about threats, opportunities and potential difficult issues



3. Considers the future



4. Is systematic



5. Is open and inclusive

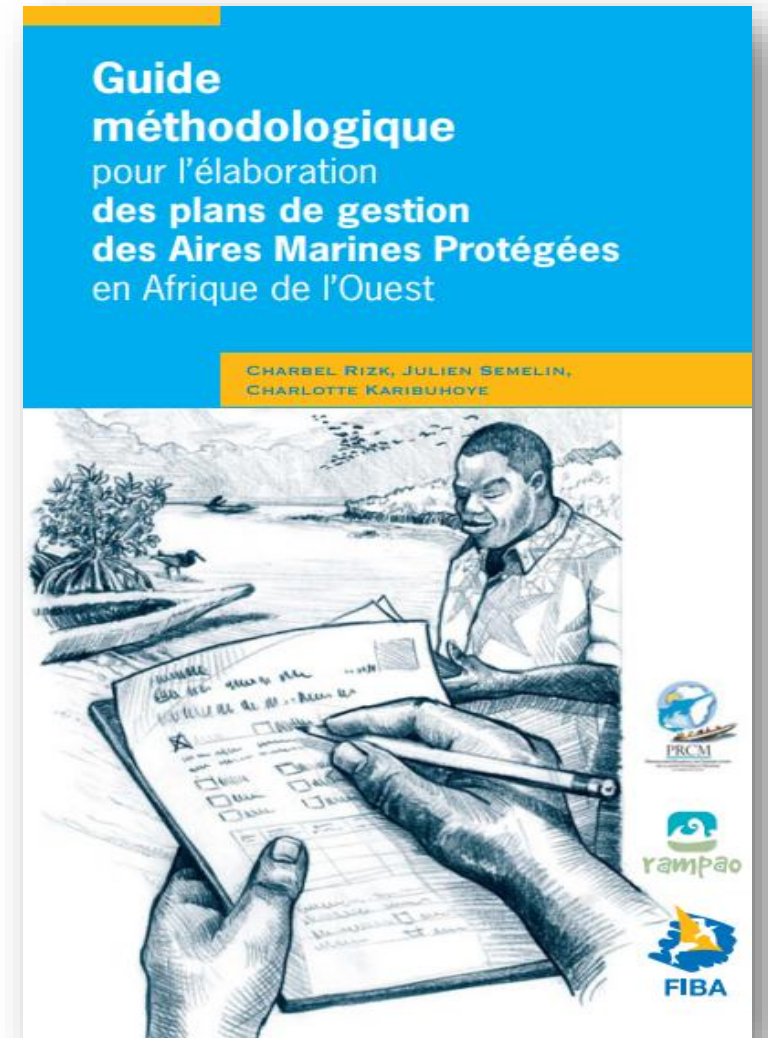


6. Is flexible and adaptive

**Management Planning Principles**

# Benefits Management Planning

- Improved management of the MPA:
  - Ensures decisions are based on a clear understanding of the area
  - Provides guidance for managers and continuity in case of staff changes
  - Can be used to assess management effectiveness (PAME)
- Improved use of financial and staff resources
- Increased accountability
- Improved communication
- **Improved chances of long-term success**



# Defining the process

## Step 1: Scoping/Pre-planning

- Identify the purpose of the MPA
- Define the planning processes to be used
- Determine the audience for the plan
- Identify the stakeholders (key)



# Data and information collection

## Step 2: Gap Analysis

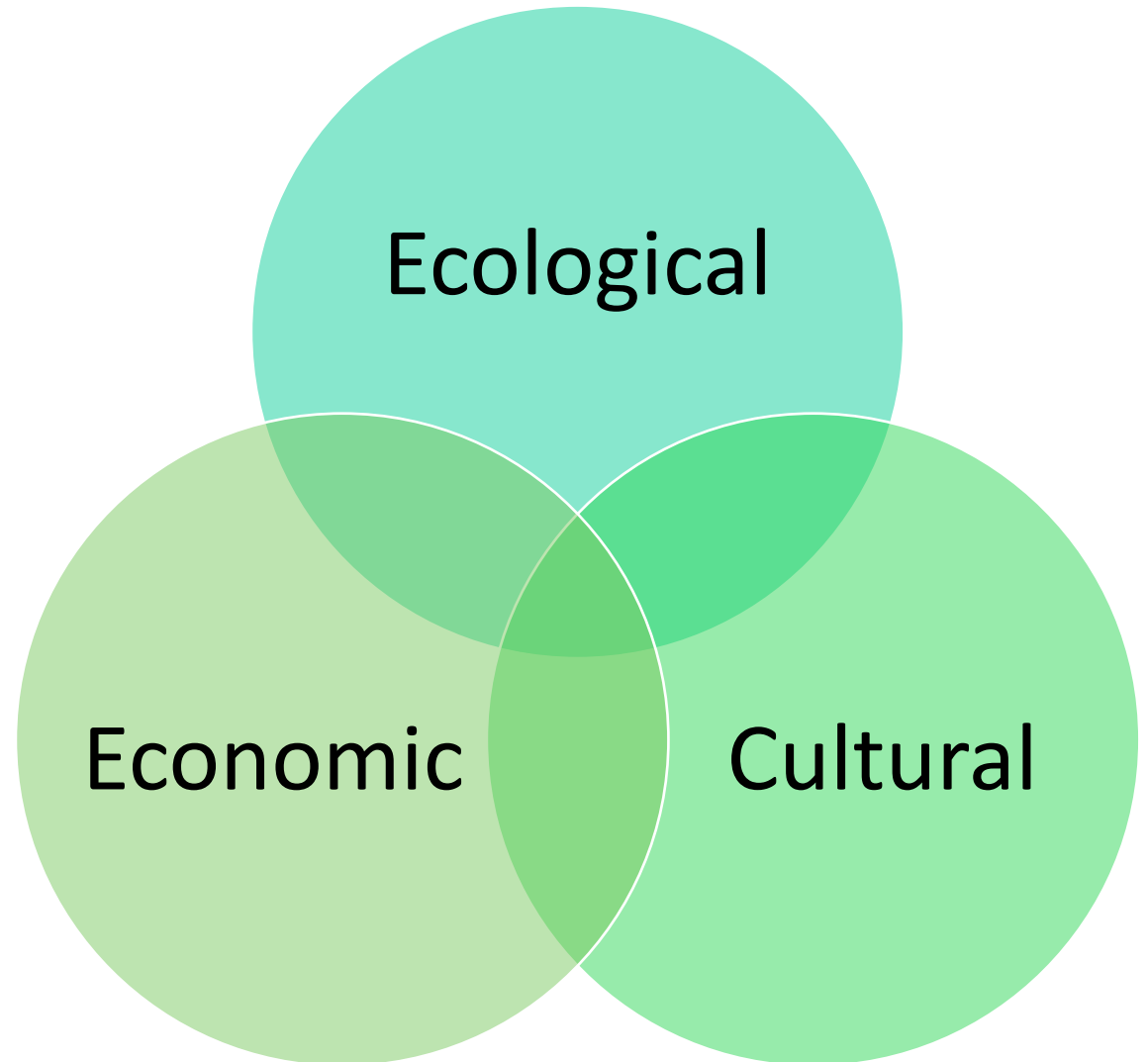
- Data collection and research – biological, physical and cultural
- Identification of knowledge gaps
- Stakeholder knowledge



# Defining the Scope

## Step 3: Evaluating the information

- Why is the MPA important
- Identify key features or exceptional value
- Define critical areas for community use and significance



# Defining the Scope

## Step 4: Identification of

- **Constraints** – natural or human induced, when identified early they can be effectively factored into MPA planning.
- **Threats** – to or pressures on the MPA, they can be natural or human induced, may originate in or outside of the MPA
- **Opportunities** – effectively identifying threats and constraints can identify opportunities for beneficial change.



# Defining the Scope



## Step 5: Vision & Mission

These are high level intentions that **define** and **detail** the aspirations for the health of the Marine environment long term and how this will be achieved

In addition, a Management Plan can also include a Mission Statement and Goals

# Prepare the Management Plan

## Step 6: Developing Management Objectives

- Follow on from the Vision and Mission Statement
- Critical in the determination of management effectiveness
- Statements of outcomes for the site
- Should be S.M.A.R.T.



# SMART Objectives



Specific

**S**

Specific objectives provide **clarity and precision** in defining the specific conservation targets of an MPA.



Measurable

**M**

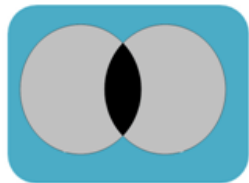
Measurable objectives allow for the use of **quantifiable indicators and metrics** to assess progress and success.



Attainable

**A**

Attainable objectives are **realistic and achievable**.



Relevant

**R**

Relevant objectives **align** with **broader conservation strategies, policies, and priorities**.



Time Based

**T**

Time-based objectives set a **clear timeline** for achieving the desired outcomes

# Step 7: Identify actions that will achieve the Objectives

## Step 7: How to achieve the vision and objectives set out in the Management Plan

- How will each of the objectives will be achieved?
- Do you have options on how to achieve this?
- Identify the range of options for management actions and choose the most appropriate ones.



# Develop Management Actions

## Ecological, Socio-economic and Governance elements

### Ecological

- Protection of key species and habitats
- Implementation of monitoring programmes
- Research to address evidence gaps

### Socio, cultural and economic

- Benefits to local communities
- Equitable distribution of benefits
- Reduction of conflict between users
- Education and awareness

### Governance

- Correct processes are in place
- Stakeholder participation
- Resource allocation
- Enforcement

# Prepare the Management Plan

## Step 8: Preparation of a draft Management Plan.

- Pre-planning, data collection and evaluation stage.
- The integration of information from Steps 1-7 into a single document will result in a draft Management Plan.



# Contents of a Management Plan

- Every MPA is unique – so all MPA Management Plans will be different.
- Different formats can be explored.
- Could be one document or a framework of complementary documents
- Presentation, style and format can influence how the MPA is understood and supported. It needs to be accessible to all, so it can be supported by all.

## Management Plans should be:

- ✓ **Clear and accessible**
- ✓ **Concise and comprehensive**
- ✓ **Accurate and objective**
- ✓ **Systematic and logical**
- ✓ **Acceptable and motivating**
- ✓ **Precise and practical**
- ✓ **Focussed and effective**
- ✓ **Flexible**

# Prepare the Management Plan

## Step 10: Public consultation on the draft Management Plan

- A vital step in the management planning process!
- Opportunity for public to comment on the draft Plan



## Step 11: Approval of Management Plan

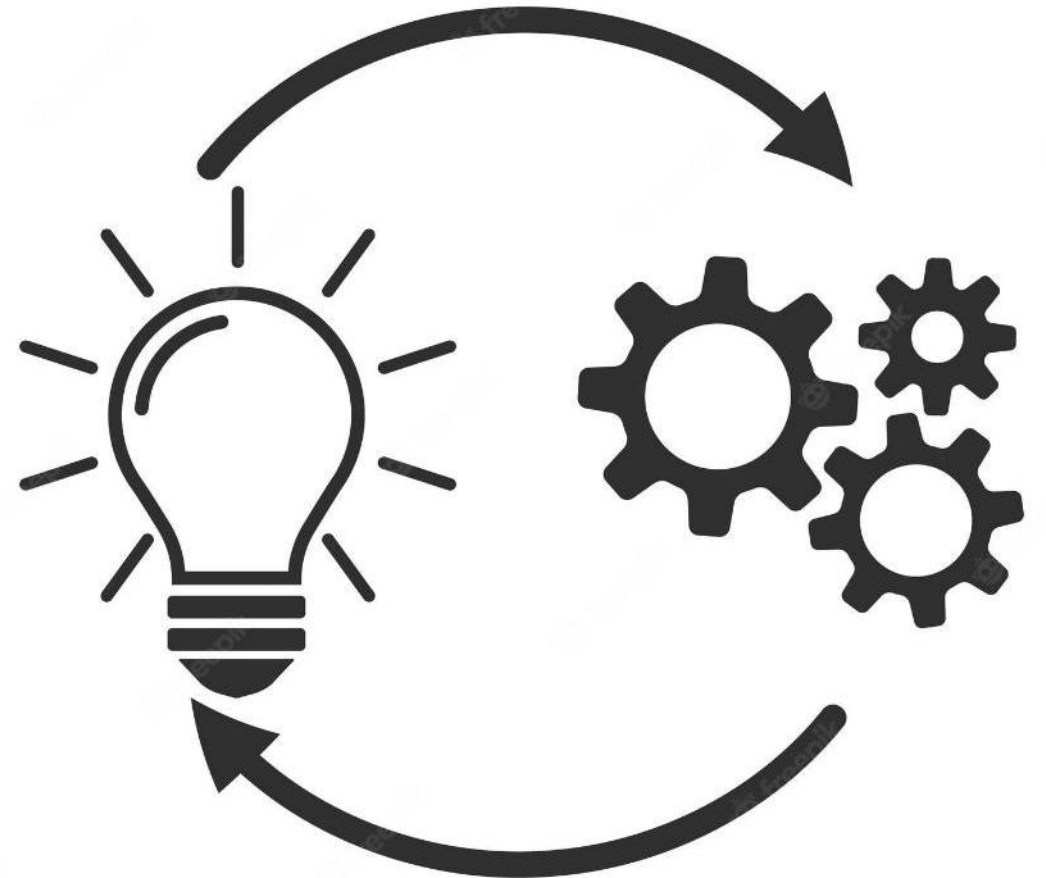
- Formal process of adoption, ratified into legislation.



# Implement the Management Plan

## Step 12: Implementation of the Management Plan

- Allocation of staff, equipment and infrastructure
- An annual operational plan
- Budget



# Stakeholder Engagement When Implementing Management Plans

- **The** most important factor affecting MPA success
- Effective and meaningful engagement
- Local ecological knowledge
- Development of stakeholder engagement plans

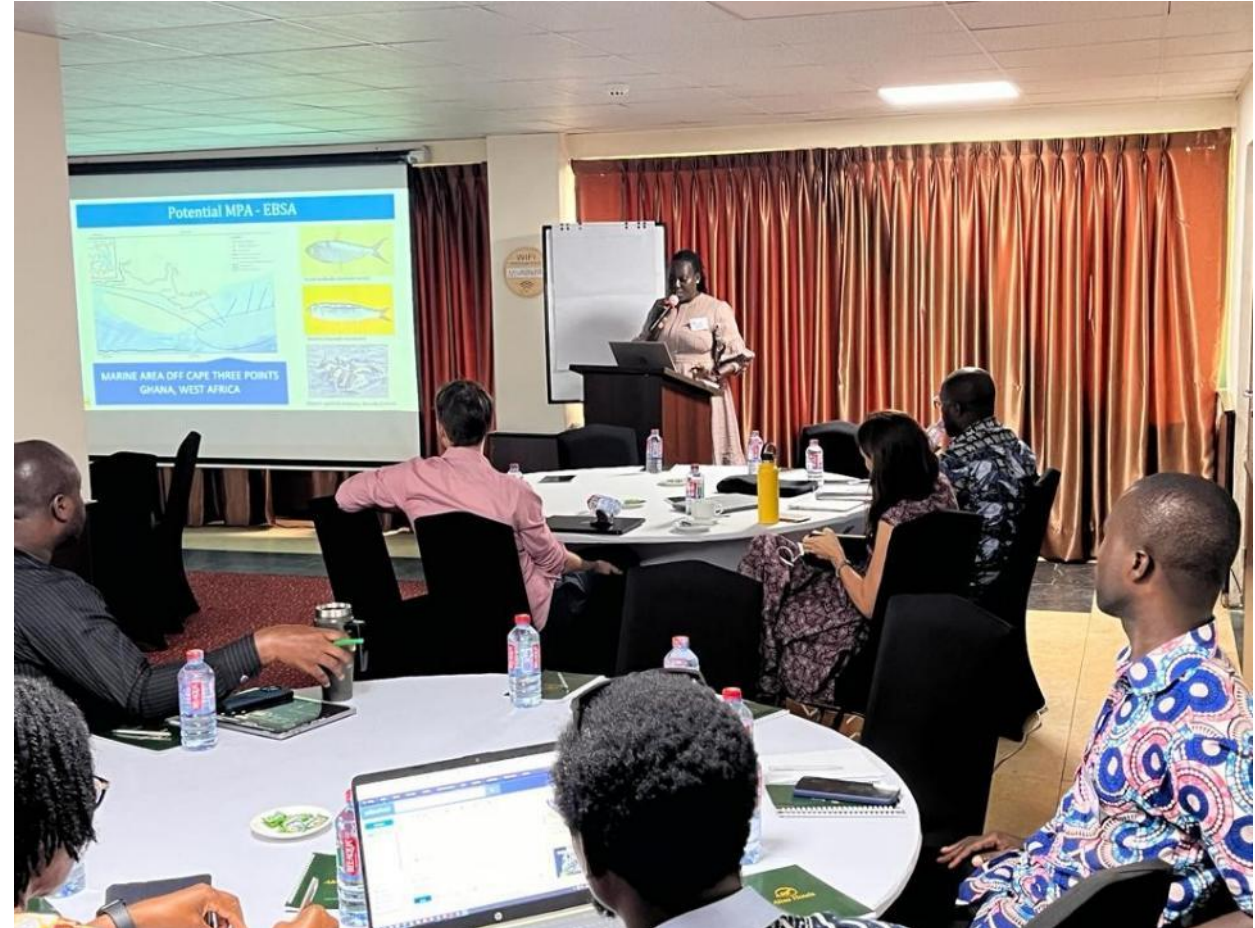


Photo MMO

# Monitor And Evaluating Management Against Outcomes

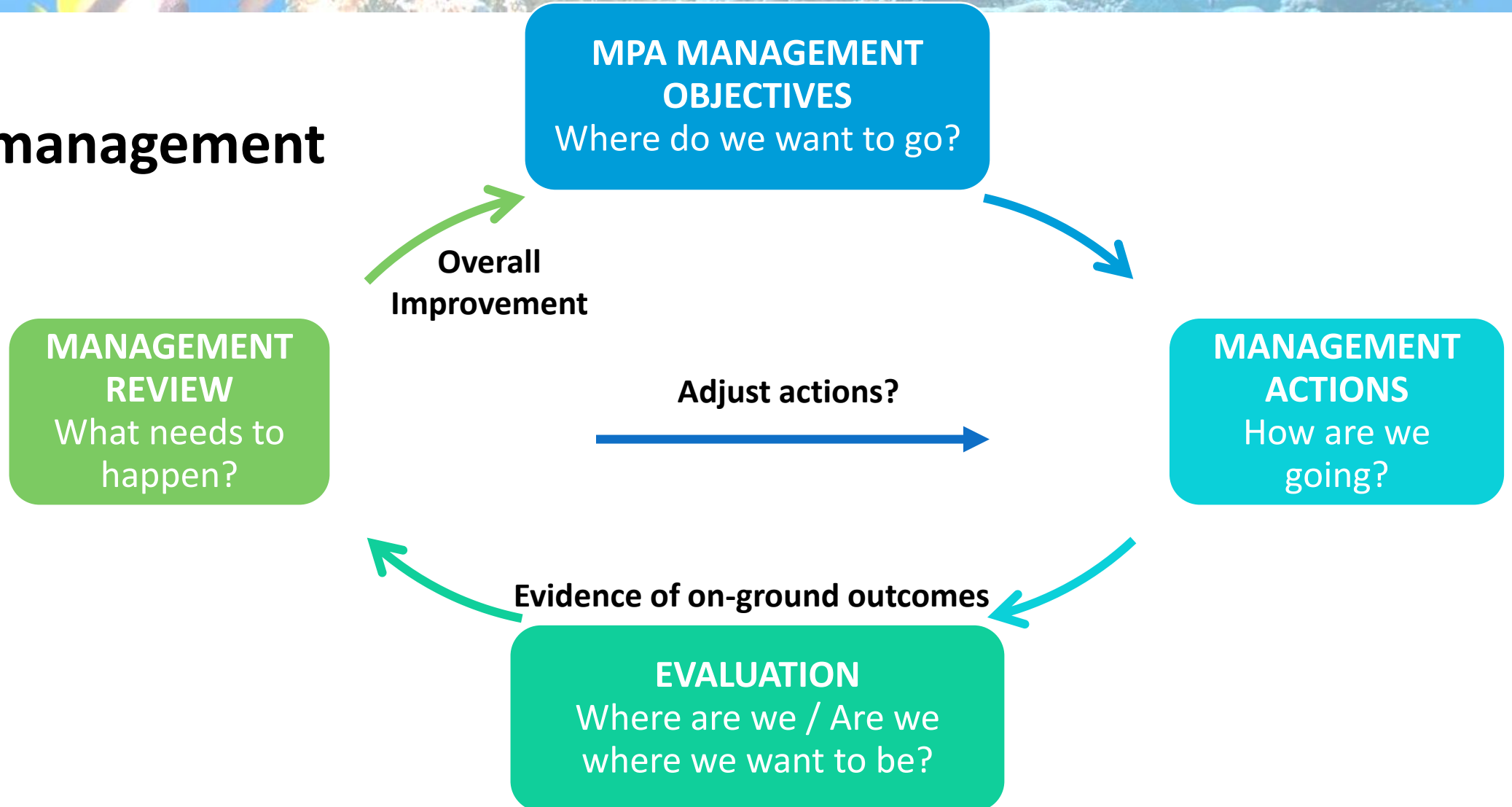
## Monitoring & Evaluation of performance

- Identifies whether the plan is being implemented effectively
- Continue to consider both ecological, socio-economic and cultural objectives
- Can be used to re-deploy resources and effort to improve implementation through adaptative planning
- Can include an “Assessment of management effectiveness”, which is an evaluation of outcomes against objectives



# Management Plan Revision

## Step 14: Adaptive management



# Recap

## You should now:

- Understand what we mean by MPA management planning
- Understand why MPA management planning is important
- Know the different phases of MPA management planning and what each one involves



# Summary

## What we have covered in this Module:

- What we mean by MPA Management
- What activities and methods might be used to implement management
- Steps involved in the development of management plans

