

MPA Short Course

7. MPAS and Marine Spatial 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!



An underwater scene featuring a large, colorful striped fish (possibly a Surge wrasse) in the center, surrounded by various smaller fish and coral reefs. The background is a clear blue ocean.

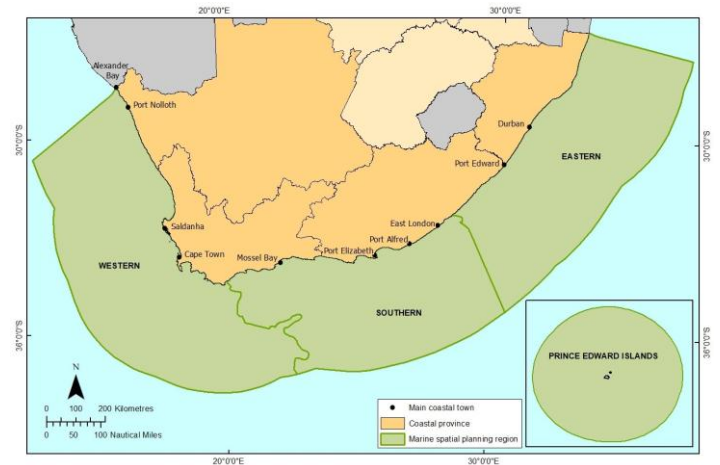
Learning Objectives

This module will provide you with a high-level understanding of:

- The wide range of users and the competing challenges / opportunities facing achievement of sustainable use and development of the marine area and its resources.
- What marine spatial planning is and its role over the next 20 years in ensuring the marine area is managed in a sustainable way.
- How marine spatial planning supports marine protected areas and nature conservation objectives and the achievement of SDG 14 (life below water).
- The processes involved in undertaking marine spatial planning.
- Marine spatial planning in Ghana.

Why do we need marine spatial planning?

- A country's marine area is vitally important for a range of sectors, now and in the future (e.g. conservation, development, fisheries, shipping) **AND**...
- ... a **clean, healthy, productive** and **biologically diverse** marine environment provides many goods and services (eg food, coastal protection, wellbeing)
- Increasing and competing use of marine space and resources risks unsustainable use, ecosystem impacts, and inefficient decision-making
- Need joined-up, proactive approach across sectors that considers the future better than a siloed reactive approach
- Countries are signed-up to relevant international, regional and national commitments (eg [Abidjan convention](#))



Source: Cape Town DFFE, 2021.

What is marine spatial planning (MSP)?

UNESCO: “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”

Fundamental meaning: “make[s] sure the **right activities** happen in the **right place**, at the **right time** and in the **right way**, in the marine area placing **sustainable development** at the centre of all decisions”

Characteristics (compared to ‘sectoral’ approach)

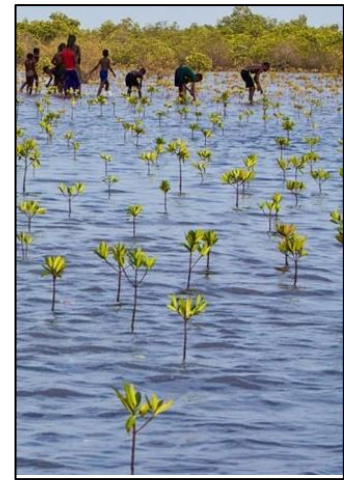
- Integrated and balanced approach across all interests and sustainability (economic, environmental, social)... **focusses on a place... wide range of evidence, interactions**
- **Forward-looking:** plans for the future (vision, objectives, policies, forecasting, scenarios)... **strategic and anticipatory... aspirations, politics (local, national), uncertainty**
- **Public process:** regular, active stakeholder engagement... **very context specific... wide range of interests/organisations, large effort**



Credit: William William / unsplash



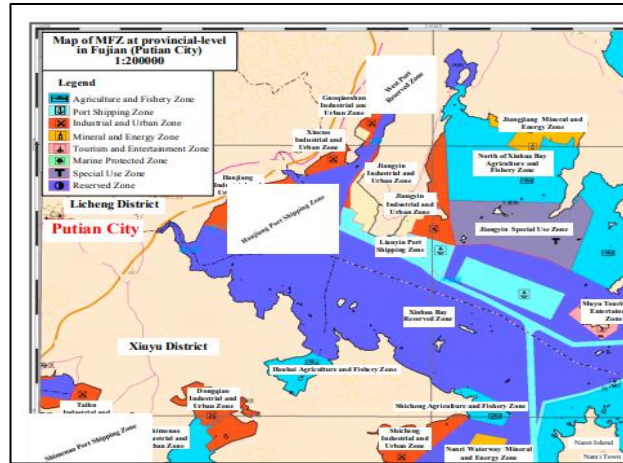
Credit: Matthieu Salvaing



Credit: Blue Climate Initiative

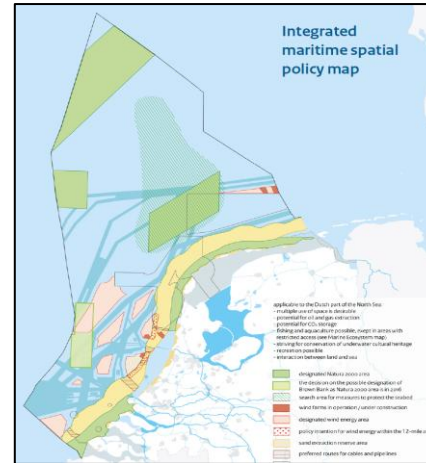
Spectrum of MSP

China



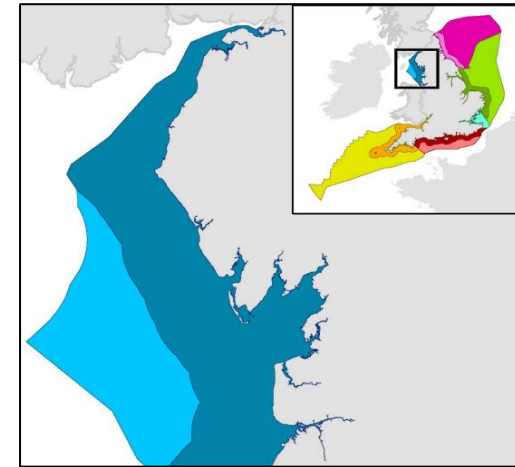
Source: Huang *et al.*, 2019.
DOI: 10.3390/jmse7120442

Netherlands



Source: de Vrees, 2021.
DOI: 10.1016/j.marpol.2019.01.007

England



Source: Defra, 2021.
North West Inshore and Offshore
Marine Plan, Technical Annex.

Final product (appearance and content) depends on goals and demands set by stakeholders and government

Fully zoned

Prescriptive

Strategic

Free for all

More certainty



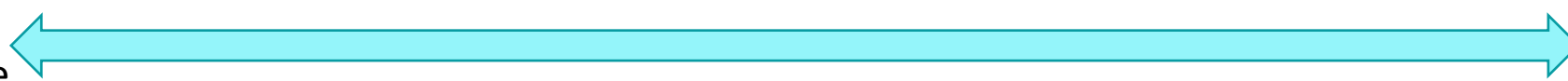
Less certainty

Less flexibility



More flexibility

Better able to respond to change



Better able to respond to emerging ambitions

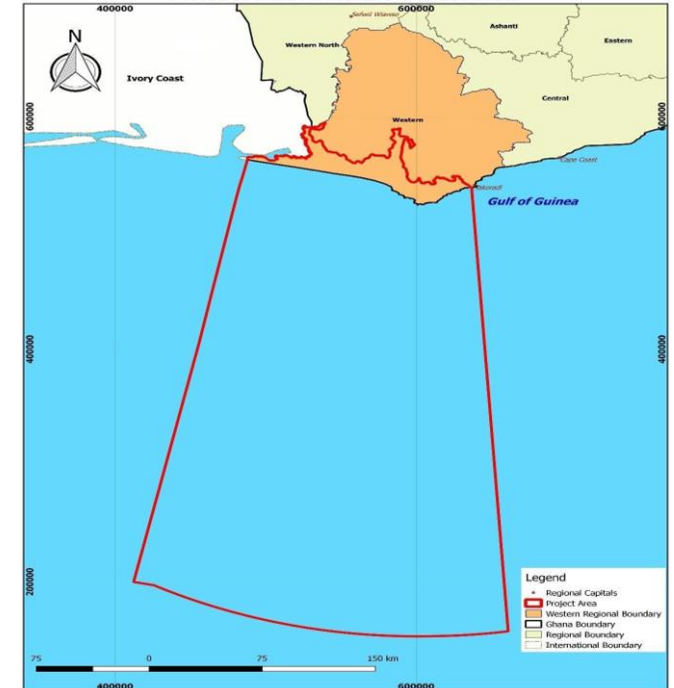
Global examples of MSP

MSP examples from across Africa

- **South Africa, Angola and Namibia**: through the Benguela Current Convention
- Signatories to the Abidjan Convention: **Benin, Cameroon, the Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Togo**
- Further MSP initiatives in **Comoros, Egypt, Morocco, Seychelles and Mozambique**, among others, which can be found on [MSPGlobal's Africa MSP webpage](#)

Variation in areas covered

- **USA state authorities**: usually out to 3 nautical miles (nm) eg Rhode Island
- **Germany**: 'regional' authority out to 12nm; federal government beyond 12nm
- **South Africa**: national government out to the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ; up to 200 nm)
- **Ghana**: Inland boundary up to 50m contour line out to the EEZ



Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan

- Seychelles is a large ocean state with a rich tropical marine ecosystem located in Western Indian Ocean.
- Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 1.35 million km²
- Two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Aldabra Atoll and Vallee de Mai.
- Seychelles' ocean contains many species and different habitats from tiny corals to huge seamounts and underwater canyons.
- MSP started in February 2014 and builds upon existing marine protection and planning efforts in Seychelles.
- Output of debt conversion where the Government made a commitment to expand marine biodiversity protection to 30% of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and Territorial Sea by 2020.
- The debt conversion is a partnership between the Government of Seychelles and The Nature Conservancy and was signed in 2016



<https://ontheworldmap.com/seychelles/seychelles-islands-map.html>

Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan

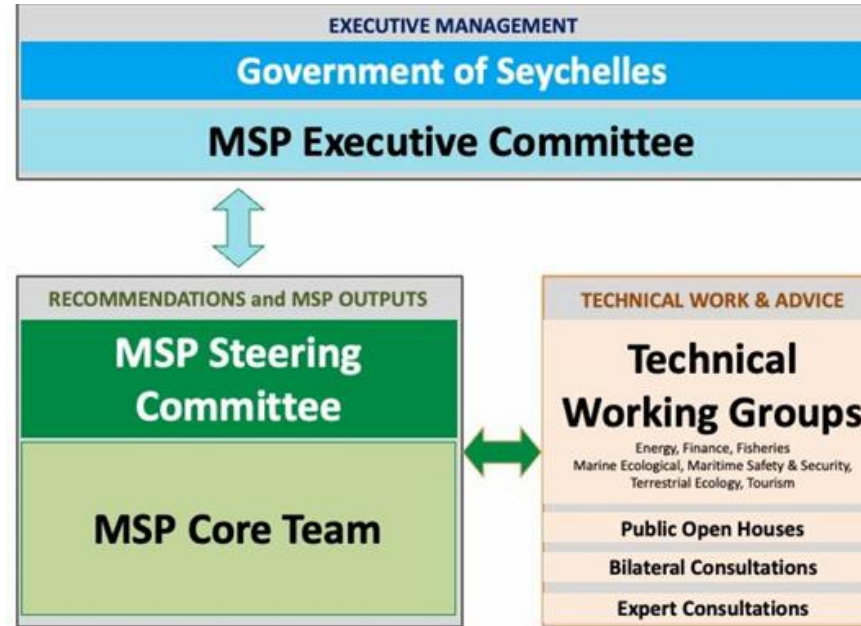
Goals

- Increase Marine Protection Areas by 30 percent.
- Support the Blue Economy Agenda
- Climate Change Adaptation

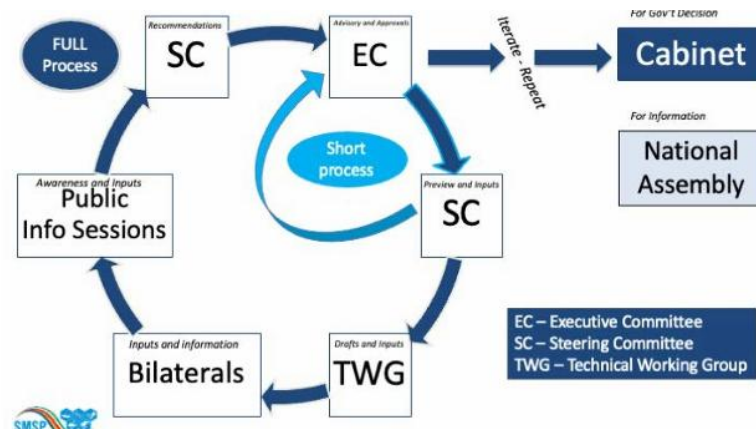
Scope

- Entire 1,351,000 km² of the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

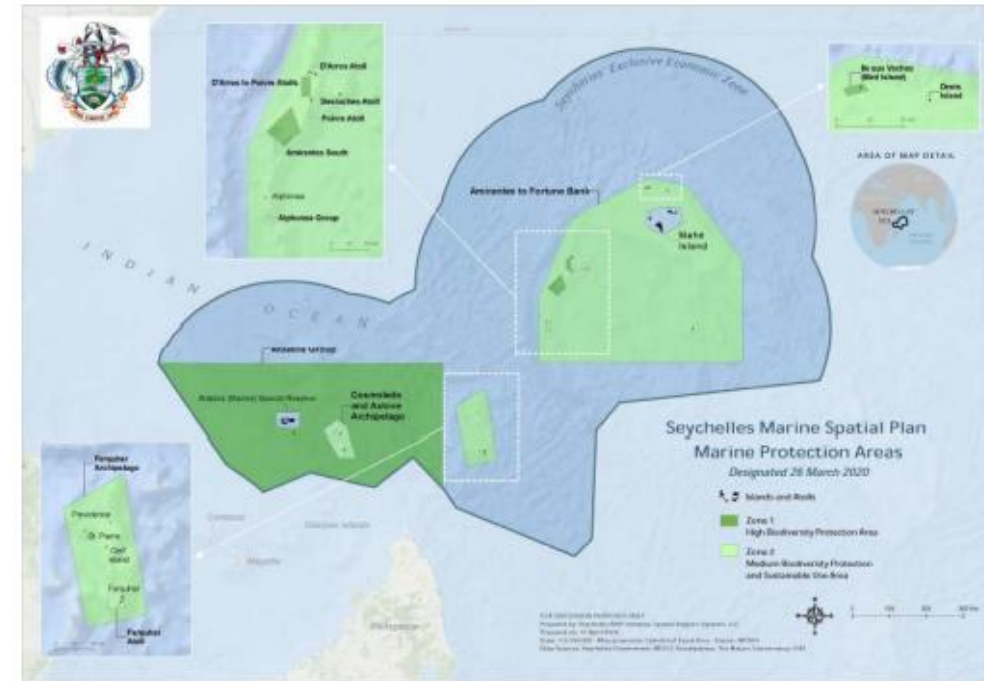
Governance Structure



Source: <https://seymsp.com/the-initiative/structure/>



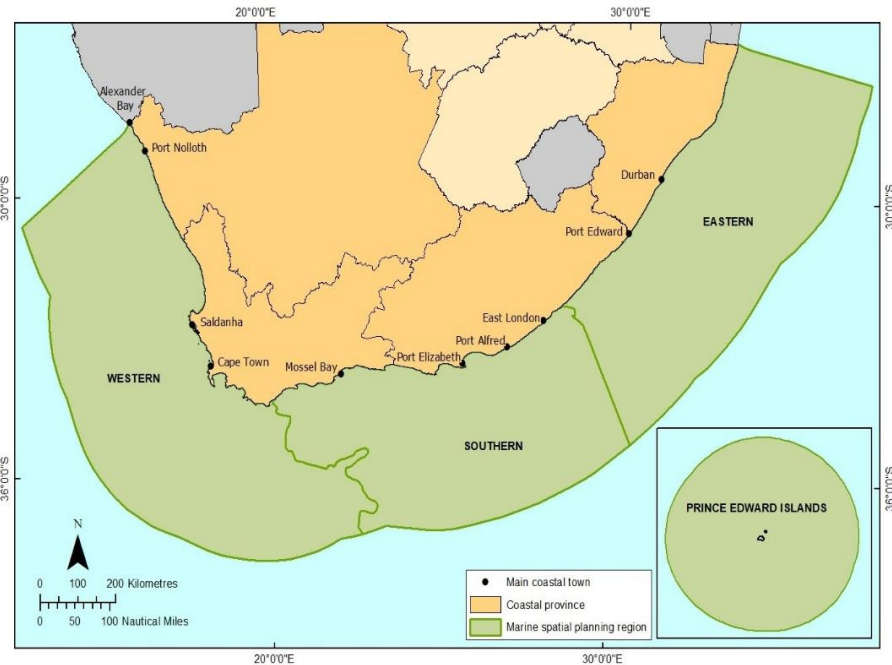
Draft MSP developed in February 2025



Source: <https://seymsp.com/outputs/phase-3/milestone-3-gazetted-areas/>

South Africa Marine Spatial Planning

Source: Cape Town DFFE, 2021.



South Africa's marine space is divided into:

- Western Marine Planning Area
- Southern Marine Planning Area
- Eastern Marine Planning Area
- Prince Edward Islands Marine Planning Area

2013

- MSP prioritized as initiative 10 under Oceans Economy: Operation Phakisa

2014

- MSP-National Working Group established

2017

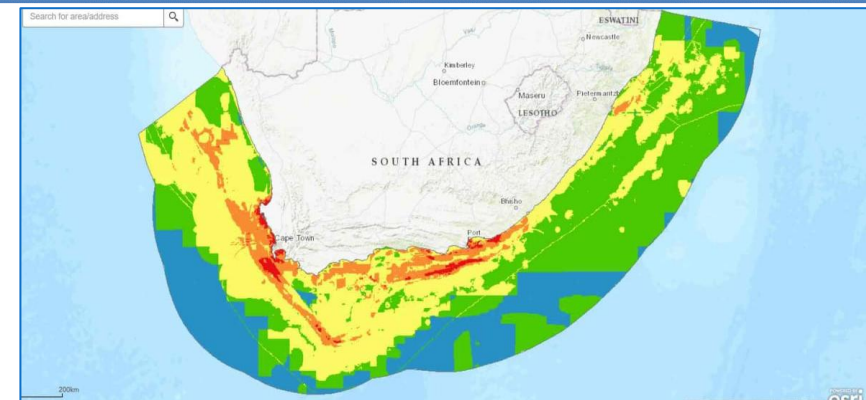
- National MSP Framework provides high-level guidance

2019

- Marine Spatial Planning Act (Act No.16 of 2018) provides legal basis

2020

- National MSP Data and Information Report provides evidence-base



Source: Agriculture, land reform & rural development, R. of S. Africa.

Marine Protected Areas- South Africa

4 MPAs in South Africa. 3 along the mainland and 1 around the Prince Edward Islands.

Bordering Countries: Western and Eastern MPAs share boundaries with Namibia and Mozambique, while the Prince Edward Islands MPA borders France (Crozet Islands).

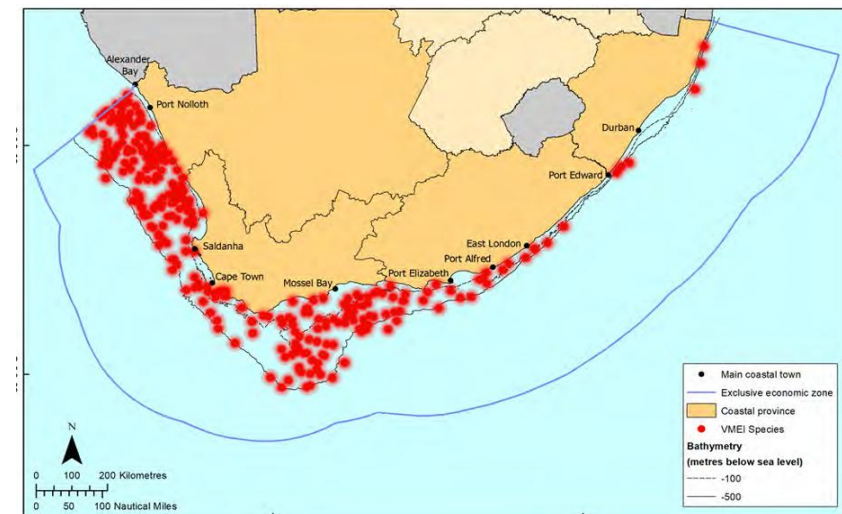
MPA Zoning is based on Marine Bioregions. The boundaries are adjusted to accommodate human activities while protecting high-value biodiversity areas.

Categorization of Marine Ecosystem Protection in South Africa

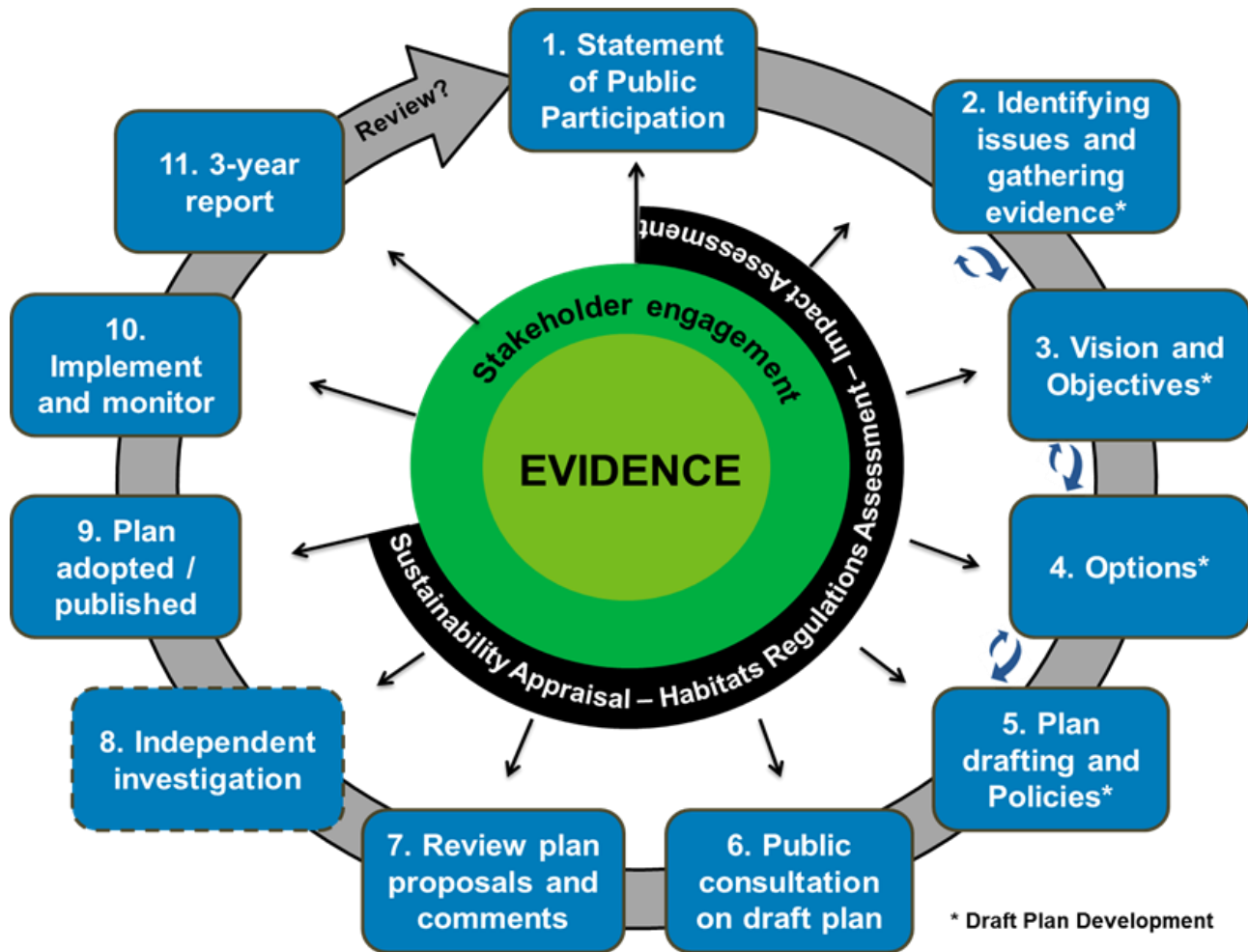
- **Well-Protected:** 47 marine ecosystem types (31%)
- **Moderately Protected:** 62 marine ecosystem types (41%)
- **Poorly Protected:** 22 marine ecosystem types (15%)
- **Unprotected:** 19 ecosystem types (13%)



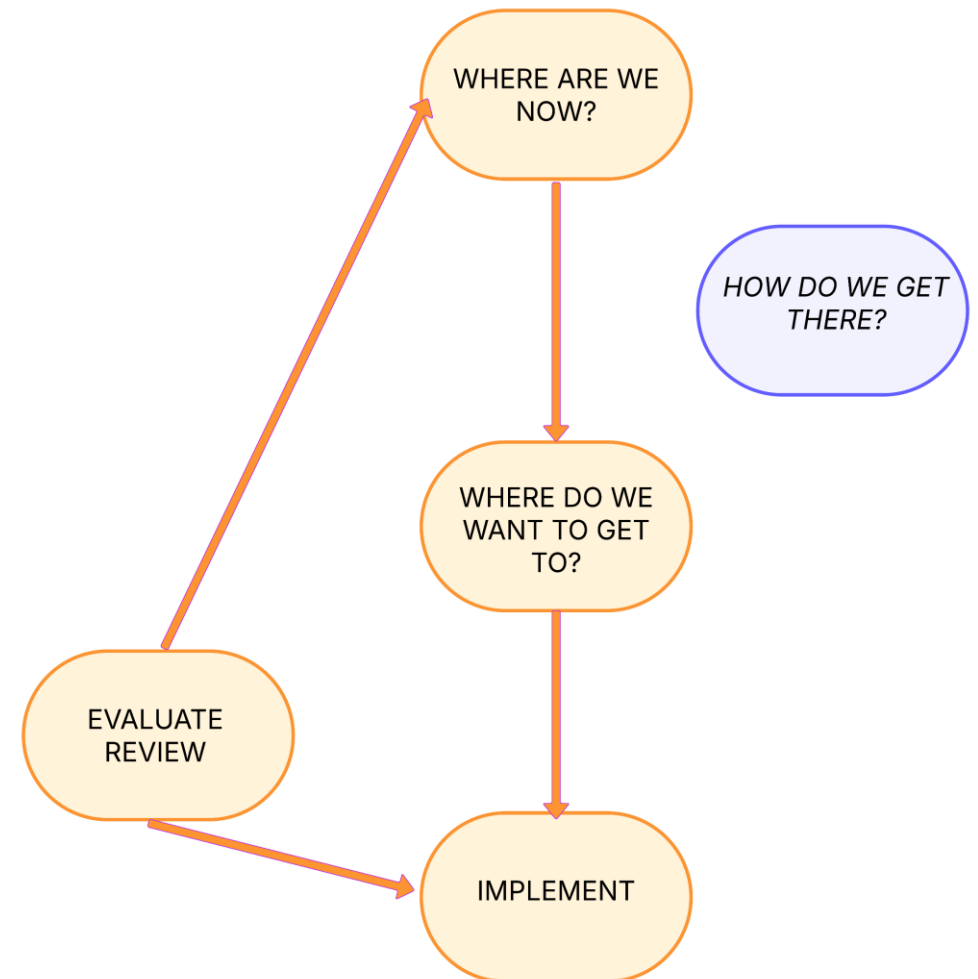
Source: Cape Town DFFE, 2021.



Marine planning stages at the MMO

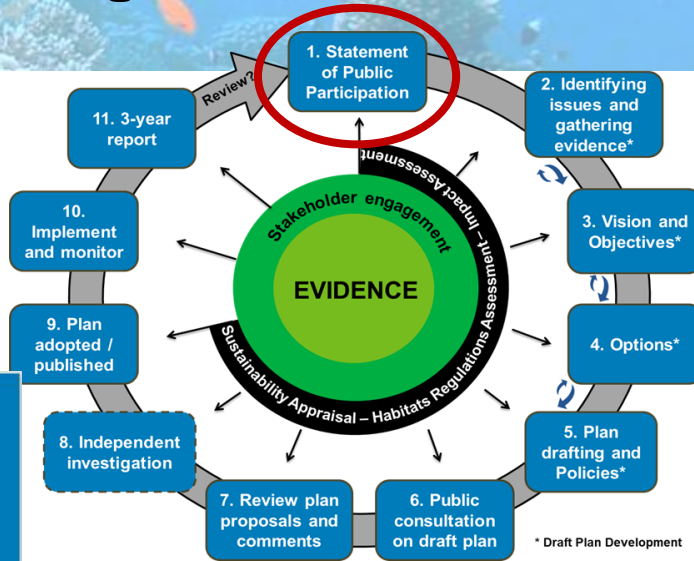
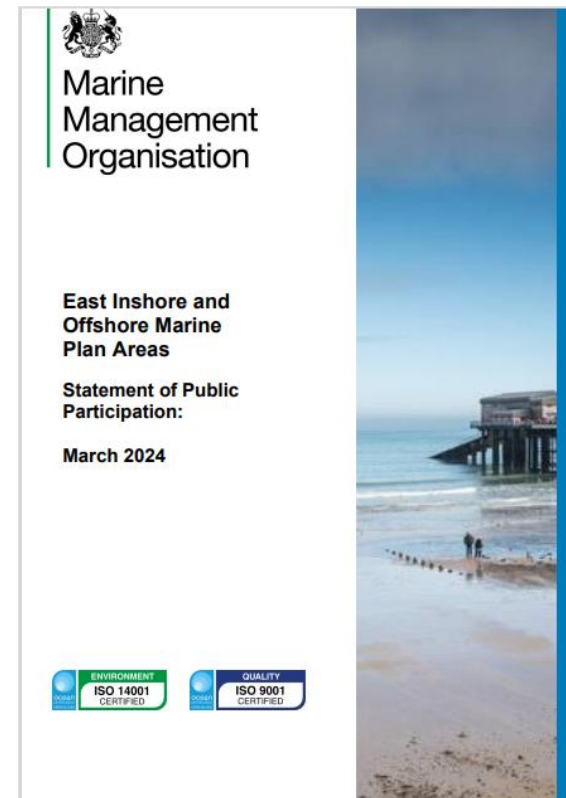


Simplified



Statement of Public Participation

- The statement of public participation sets out **how**, **when** and **why** the MSP authority will engage with stakeholders and **what** they will do with the outcomes of any views and opinions. It **ensures transparency around stakeholder engagement** throughout the development of the Marine Plan.
- Draft statements should be subject to public consultation before approval. Once approved and published, the marine planning process in that area formally starts.
- The Statement should be kept under review and revised, if necessary.



Issues & Evidence Gathering

Planning Issue - Opportunities or challenges likely to drive or be subject to changes within the marine plan areas over the life of the plans

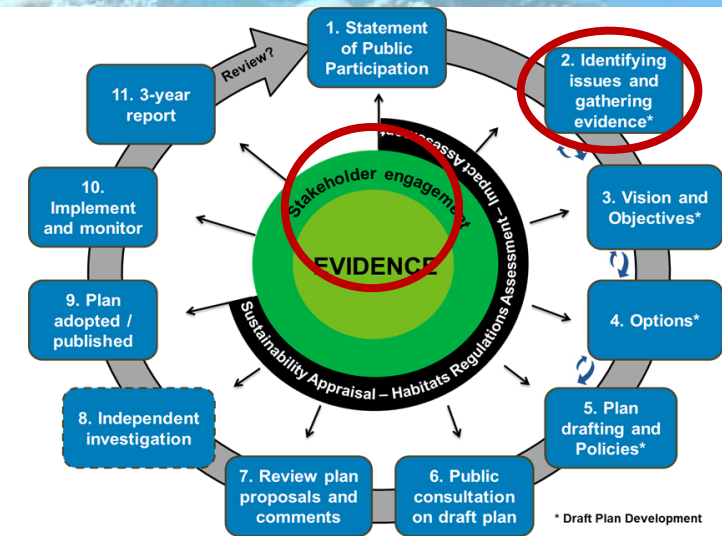
Evidence - Data, information or knowledge used to support decisions

Types of evidence include:

- Research
- Legislation
- National Policy
- Plans and Strategies
- Spatial information
- Stakeholder opinion

Use evidence to answer these 5 questions:

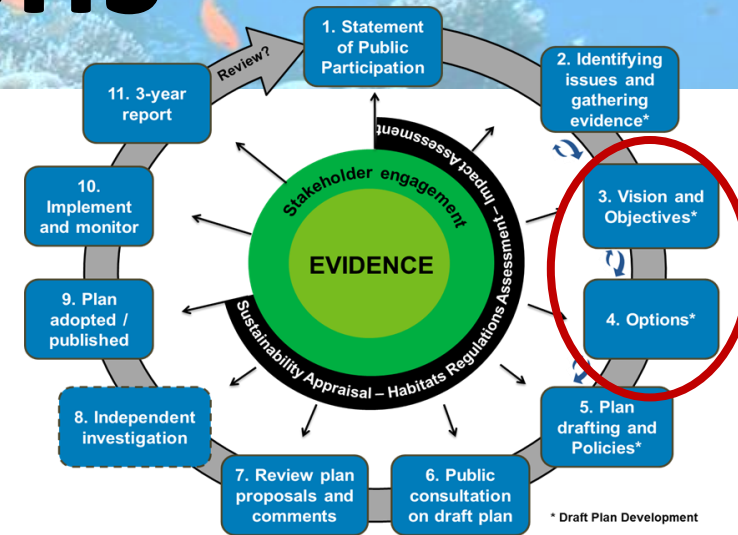
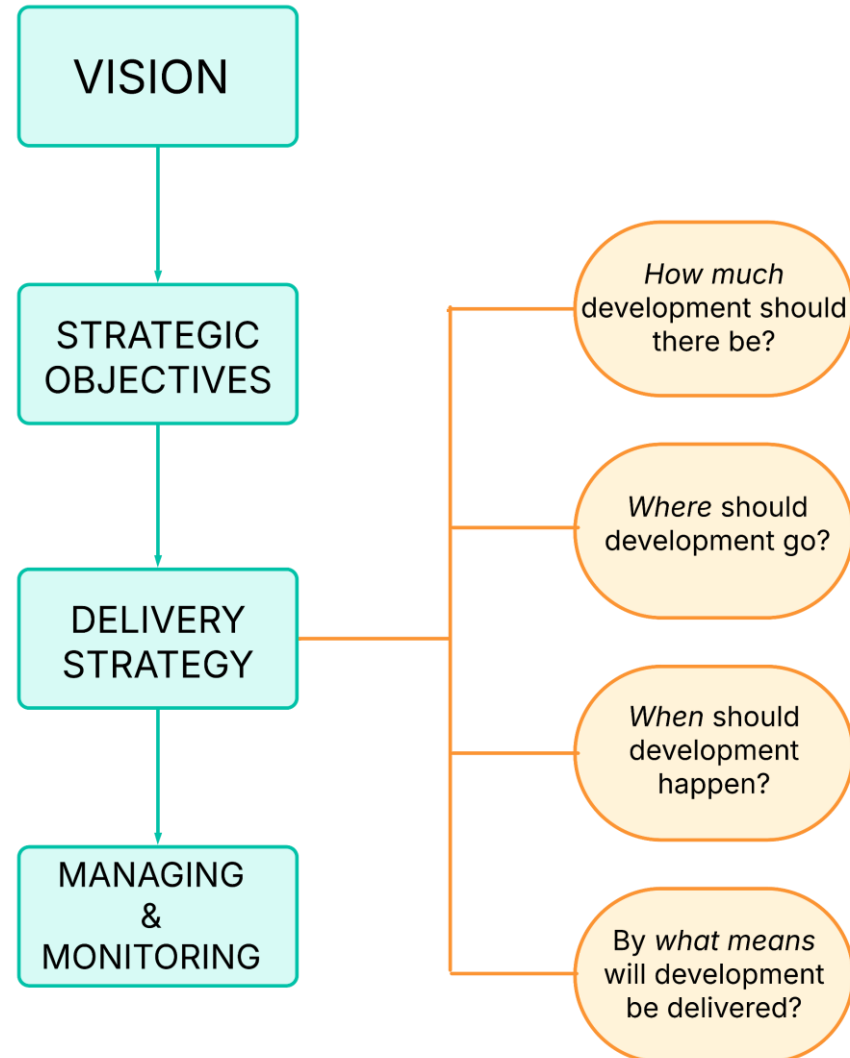
1. **Where do we want to get to?**
2. **Where are we now?**
3. **What are the interactions between activities?**
4. **Given 2. and 3. what marine planning intervention is required to get to 1.?**
5. **What evidence is required to support marine plan implementation, monitoring and reporting?**



Source: MSP Global

Visions, Objectives & Options

- **Vision** – what will the area look like (once plan policies have been applied and goals and objectives achieved)?
- **Objective** – more detailed statements of desired outcomes or observable changes that the plans are seeking to achieve.
- **Options** - potential solutions or scenarios to address identified planning issues.

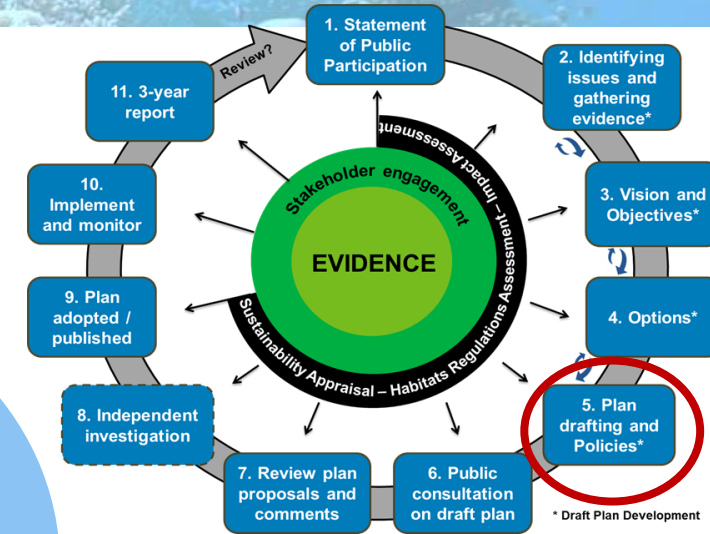
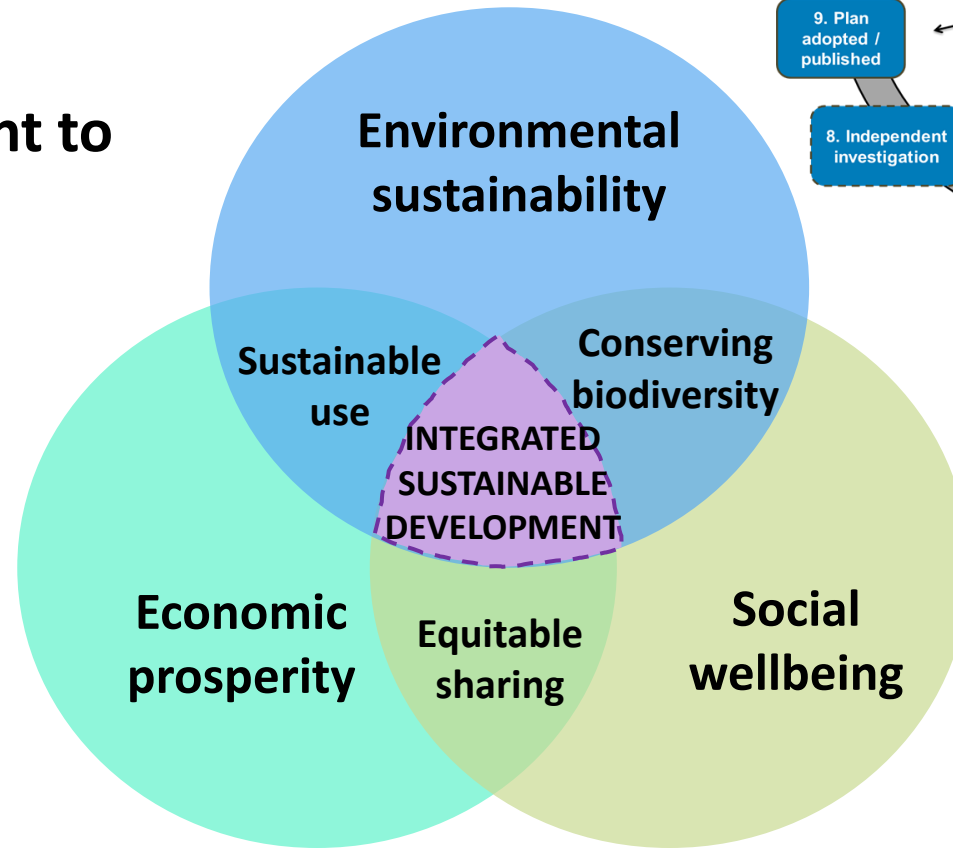


Policy Development & Plan Drafting

Policies are the tests we use to ensure a marine proposal is sustainable covering economic, environmental and social benefits.

When designing a policy, it is important to ensure that the policy is:

- Positively prepared
- Justified
- Effective
- Consistent with national and international legislation and policy



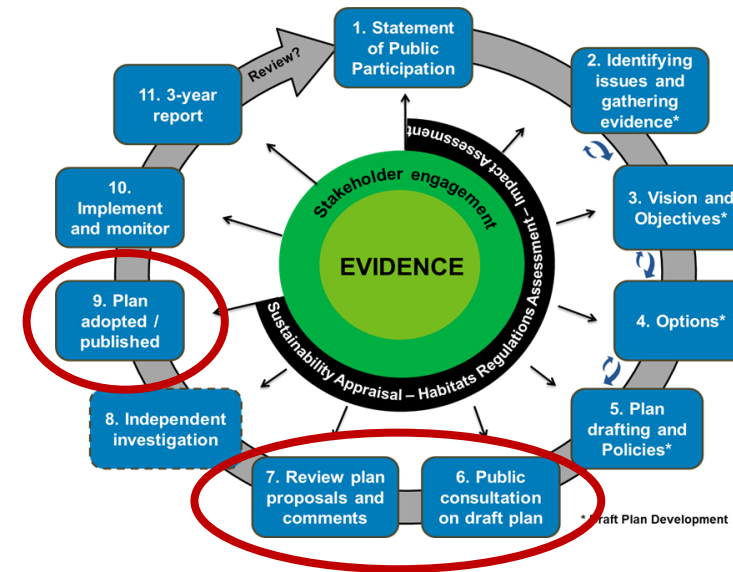
Consultation, Review and Publication

Consultation – consultation focuses on gathering feedback on the draft plan visions, objectives and policies.

Review – collate and analyse all the feedback from the consultation, making amends where necessary.

Publication – the plan is submitted to the relevant governing body for sign off and publication.

Adoption – once the plan is published it is officially adopted for implementation.

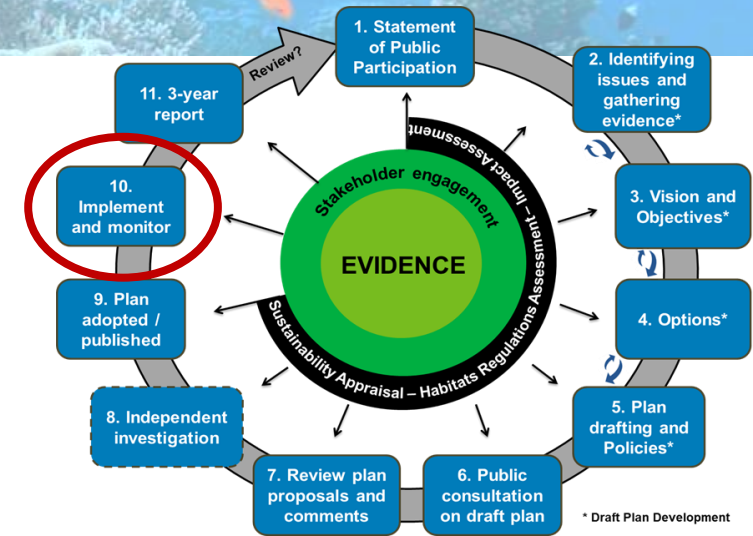


Implementation – Using the Marine Plans

Implementation – effectively using the Marine Plans to help deliver national policies and the plan vision and objectives.

Use of marine plans can be supported through:

- Digital online tools (eg [Explore Marine Plans](#))
- In-person and online training sessions
- Published guidance
- [Videos](#)
- Stakeholder engagement



Map data Marine plan policies Guidance

Marine activity data

To search for activities or data in a specific area:

1. Select data you want to see from the list below, or by searching for layers using the search tool
2. Once added to the map, click the layer on the map to see further information
3. Click on ⓘ next to the layer name on the list below to see additional information about the layer
4. You can click on **clear all** button to deselect all selected layers
5. You can click **collapse all** button to minimise all open categories in the list

You may submit feedback on data, or suggest new data to add to the service, using this [form](#).

Contact Marine planning documents

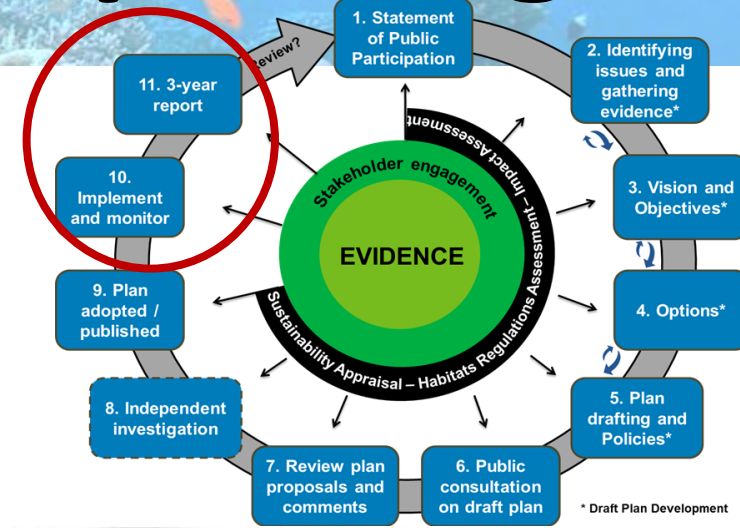
Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS | Open Government Licence. Reproduced with the permission of the Marine Management Organisation, Ordnance Survey and UK Hydrographic Office. | Esri, HERE Powered by Esri

Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting

Monitoring - collection of evidence on how the Marine Plans are being used

Evaluation - analysis to see if the Marine Plans and policies are achieving the vision and objectives

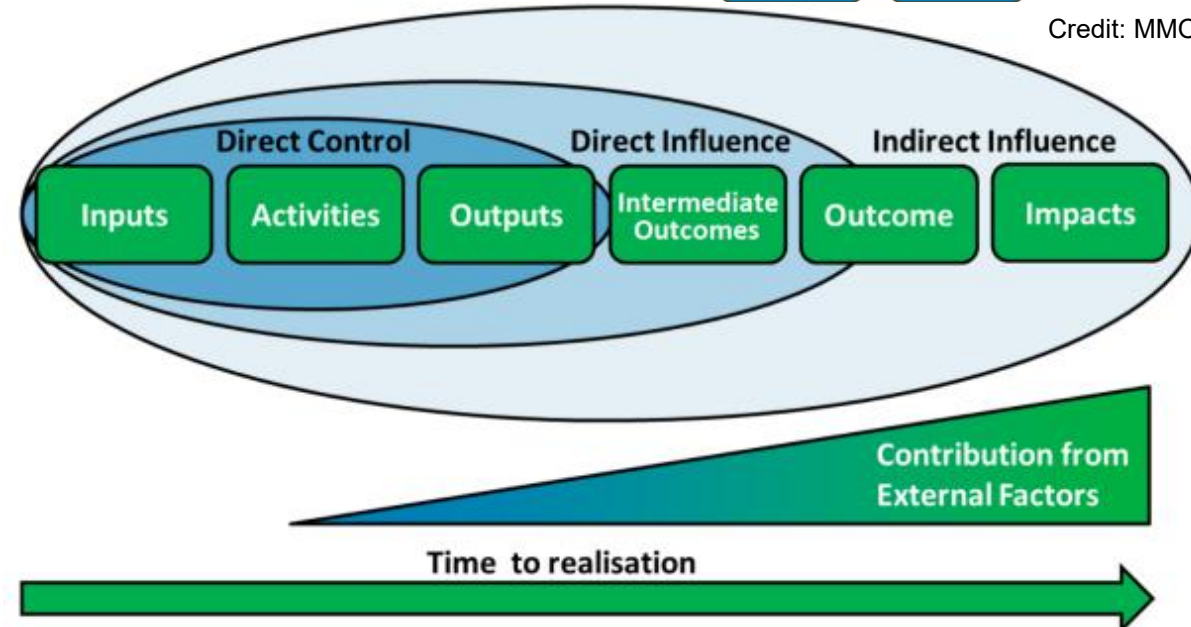
Reporting - Presenting the findings of monitoring and evaluation



Credit: MMO

Monitoring and Evaluation analyses:

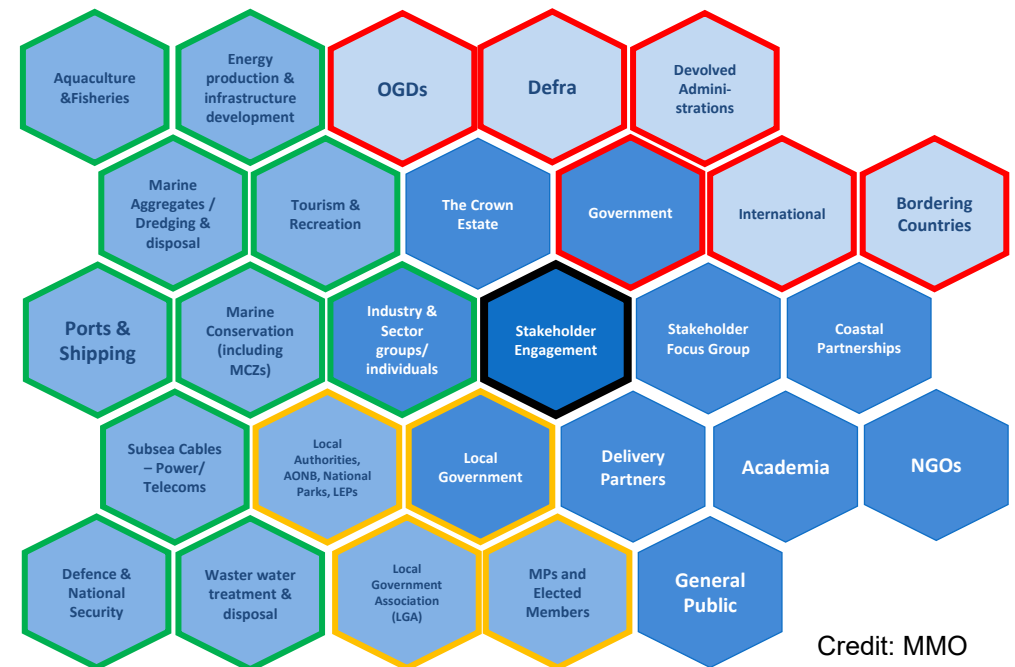
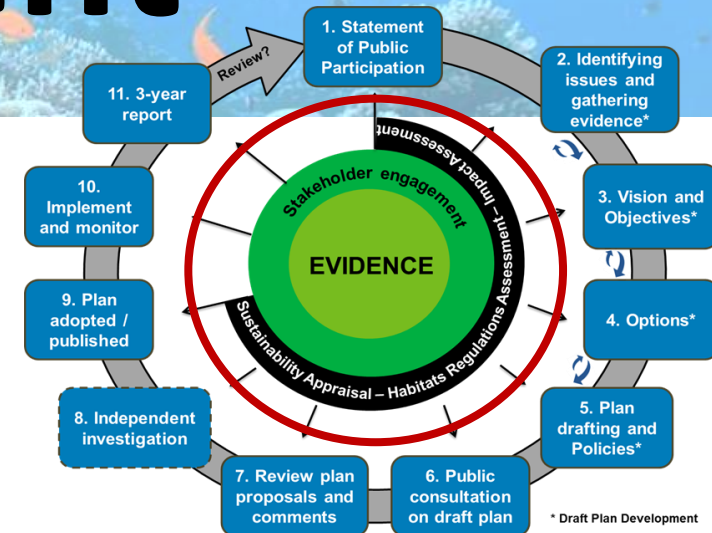
- The effects of the policies on the marine area and activities
- The effectiveness of those policies in securing national objectives
- The effectiveness of those policies in securing marine plan objectives
- Relevant matters and contextual changes



Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement is integral to marine planning:

- Incorporates local knowledge and expertise
- Ensures plans reflect real-world needs
- Promotes policy understanding and compliance
- Builds stakeholder buy-in and trust
- Encourages collaboration across sectors
- Ensures fairness and inclusivity
- Improves plan adaptability and resilience



Credit: MMO

Plan Level Assessments

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

- Assesses economic, social, and environmental impacts of the marine plan.

Impact Assessment (IA)

- Considers the economic and regulatory costs, benefits, and risks of implementing marine plans.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

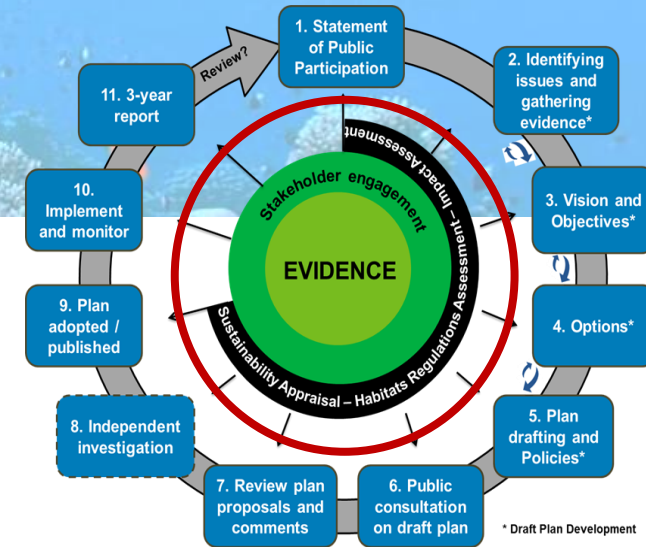
- Ensures marine plans do not negatively impact protected habitats and species European (Natura 2000 sites, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas).

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- Evaluates how marine plans affect different social and economic groups.

Marine Conservation Zone Assessment (MCZ Assessment)

- Evaluates whether proposed activities within (MCZs) are compatible with their conservation objectives.



MPA Designation

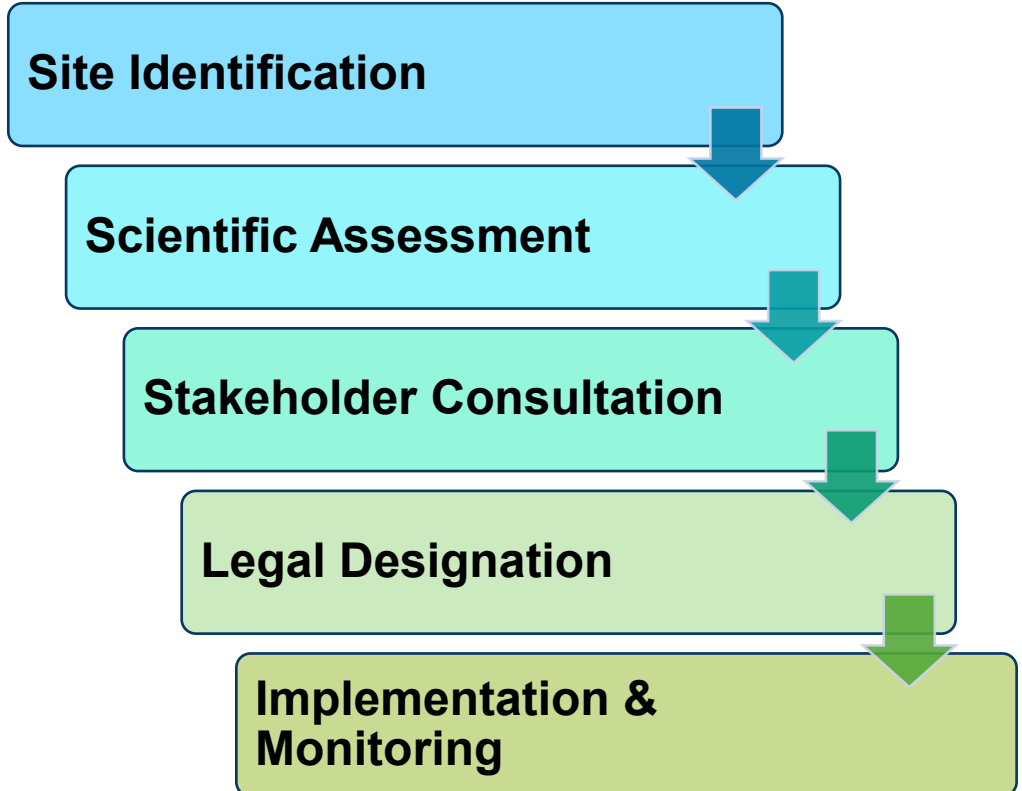
Governing Body Responsibilities

- Establish policies / regulations for marine conservation.
- Oversees the legal process for designating MPAs.
- Ensures MPAs align with national/international commitments.
- Engages with stakeholders.
- Coordinates with enforcement agencies to implement and monitor MPA protections.

Role of Scientific Advisory Bodies

- Conducts ecological assessments to identify important marine habitats and species.
- Provides recommendations on suitable locations and boundaries for MPAs.
- Defines conservation objectives and management measures based on scientific evidence.
- Monitors the effectiveness of MPAs post-designation to inform adaptive management.

Key stages of MPA Designation



Different types of MPAs

MPAs may differ in many ways based on certain criteria specific to that location:

1. Level of protection

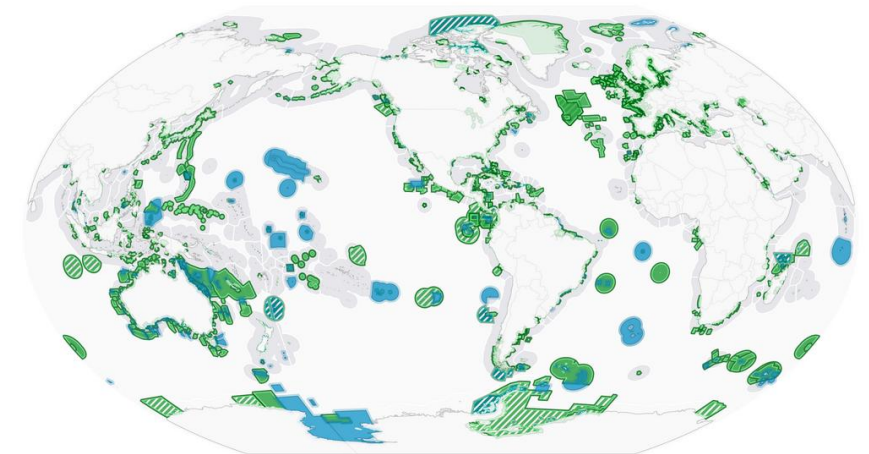
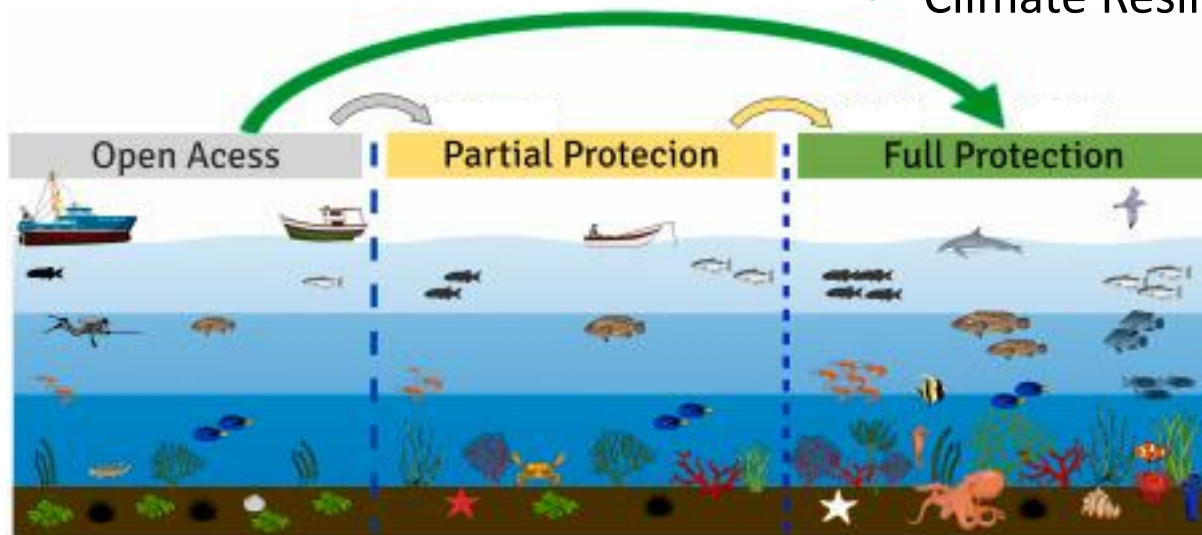
- Fully Protected (No-Take MPAs)
- Highly Protected
- Multiple-Use MPAs

2. Conservation Focus

- Biodiversity
- Fisheries Management
- Cultural and Heritage
- Climate Resilience

3. Management objectives

- Strict protection
- Sustainable use
- Research and monitoring



Marine Protected Areas
Level of Protection
■ Highly-Fully Protected Zones
■ Less Protected Zones / Unknown
▨ Pending Implementation / Proposed

Assessments relevant to MPA designation

There are a number of key assessments that may be required in the MPA designation process:

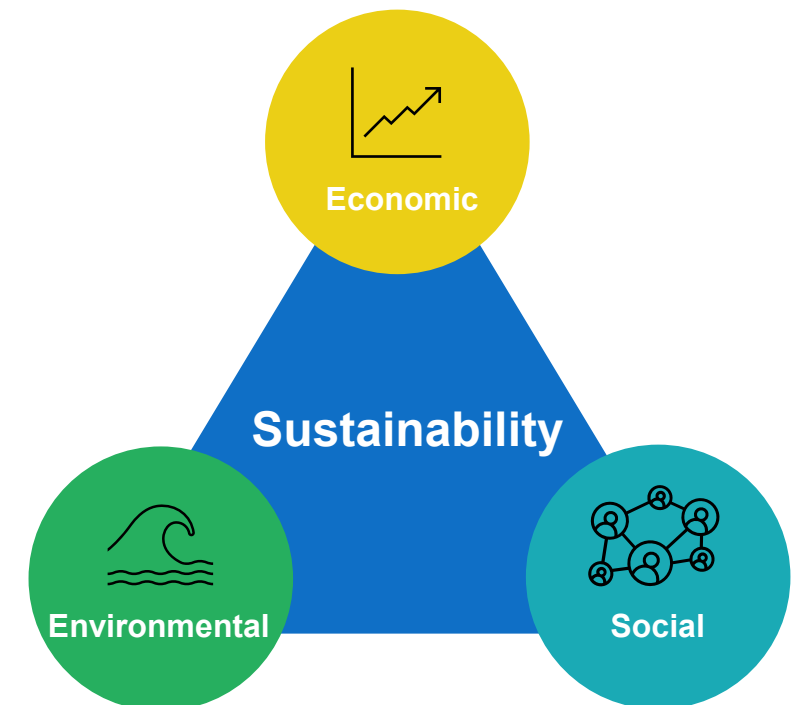
- **Ecological Assessments** - Identify important habitats, species, and ecosystem functions that need protection
- **Socioeconomic Assessments** - Evaluate potential impacts on industries, communities, and livelihoods
- **Legal and Policy Assessments** - Ensure alignment with national and international regulations
- **Climate Resilience Assessments** - Determine how MPAs can support climate adaptation and mitigation
- **Cumulative Impact Assessments** - Assess combined effects of multiple activities on the marine environment

Benefits of Conducting Assessments:

- ✓ Ensures MPAs are based on the best available science for effective conservation.
- ✓ Minimizes conflicts by considering economic and social impacts.
- ✓ Improves stakeholder support through transparent decision-making.
- ✓ Enhances adaptability by identifying future risks and management needs.

Challenges of Assessments:

- ⚠ Data availability and quality can limit accuracy.
- ⚠ Balancing ecological and economic interests may be difficult.
- ⚠ Assessments can be time-consuming and resource-intensive.
- ⚠ Ensuring assessments remain up-to-date with changing conditions.

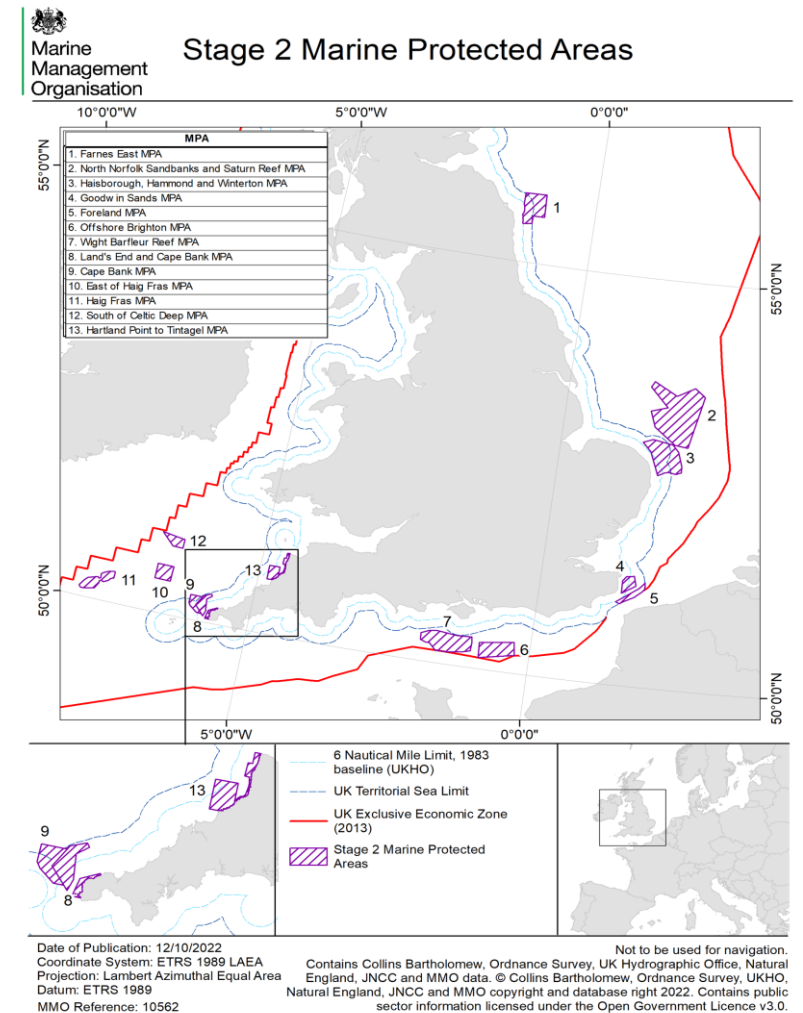


Role of MSP in MPA designation

Governing bodies responsible for decision-making in MPA designation and MSP may be different

MSP authority can support MPA designation by:

- Gathering and analysing data about existing marine activities and how they interact with proposed MPAs
- Compiling spatial data to understand how MPAs may affect other industry activities and communities
- Conducting or contributing to socio-economic impact assessments
- Facilitating consultation with stakeholders
- Integrating MPA considerations into marine planning, ensuring their recognition and alignment with wider marine management frameworks



MSP can benefit MPAs

MSP facilitates the efficient allocation of marine resources and activities by prioritising areas for specific uses. MPAs benefit from this process:



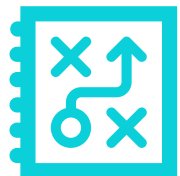
Minimises conflicts

- Better stakeholder engagement , collaboration and support
- Allocates areas outside MPAs for other uses



Supports protection of MPA features

- Conservation goals are integrated into the plan



Allows planning more holistically

- Recognises connectivity between MPAs
- Represents the full range of habitats, species and ecosystems

MPAs can benefit MSP



Biodiversity Conservation:

MPAs play a critical role in achieving the ecological objectives of MSP.



Ecosystem-based Management:

MPAs are a clear application of the MSP principle of an ecosystem-based approach to management.



Scientific Research and Data:

MPAs inform MSP decisions providing valuable information about the health and dynamics of marine ecosystems.

MSP Policies relevant to MPAs

There are many different types marine plan policy relevant to MPAs:

1. Safeguarding and Protection policies
2. Climate Resilience and Adaptation policies
3. Sustainable Resource Management policies
4. Environmental Protection, Conservation and Enhancement policies
5. Development and Economic Growth policies
6. Innovation and Research policies
7. Co-existence policies

MPA policies can for example:

- Support decisions that make MPAs more climate resilient
- Support activities that contribute to MPA conservation goals

EXAMPLE MPA POLICY FROM ENGLISH MARINE PLAN

Proposals that support the objectives of marine protected areas and the ecological coherence of the marine protected area network will be supported.

Proposals that may have adverse impacts on the objectives of marine protected areas must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:

- a) avoid
- b) minimise
- c) mitigate

adverse impacts, with due regard given to statutory advice on an ecologically coherent network.



Issues for MPA network addressed by MSP

Challenges:

- Data gaps – lack of baseline data and long-term monitoring data
- Impact of MPA and displacement of activities
- Impacts of activities on MPAs including offshore wind, dredging, cabling, and fishing.
- Co-existence of MPAs and other uses
- Insufficient management measures
- Effectiveness of MPAs
- Interconnectivity at feature level
- Habitat/species shifts due to climate change and coastal erosion

Opportunities:

- Strengthening governance and collaboration, both nationally and internationally
- Innovative funding mechanisms through blue carbon, sustainable tourism, compensation
- Improving stakeholder engagement
- Adaptive management strategies
- Advances in science and technology

An underwater scene featuring a large, striped fish (likely a Moorish Idol) swimming in the center. The background shows a vibrant coral reef with various colorful corals and smaller fish swimming around. The overall scene is set against a clear blue water background.

Monitoring & Stakeholder Engagement

- Monitoring is integral to understanding MPA conditions and informing adaptive management strategies
- Authorities can use internal and external data
- Stakeholder engagement and collaboration across all stakeholders supports monitoring

Background to marine spatial planning (MSP) in Ghana

The **Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region (Abidjan Convention)** which came into force in 1981, is a legal instrument for cooperation in the protection and development of the marine environment and coastal areas of West, Central and Southern Africa Region.

The Abidjan Convention, linked to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) particularly Regional Seas Programme, covers 22 countries from Mauritania to South Africa.



Purpose of Abidjan Convention

Issues to be addressed under the Abidjan Convention are:

- Pollution from ships
- Pollution as a result dumping
- Pollution from land-based activities
- Pollution from exploration and exploitation of the seabed
- Coastal erosion

It also identifies environmental management issues and proposes cooperative efforts for addressing them for marine protected areas such as wetlands and lagoons

Ghana, is a contracting party to the Abidjan Convention

A pilot project under the Abidjan Convention to develop a Sub-Regional (Western Regional) Marine Spatial Development Framework was undertaken.



Photograph: Ernest Ankomah/The Guardian

Justification for MSP in Ghana

There is needs to reduce the pressures and conflicts between human activities and conservation of resources in the marine and coastal area.

A comprehensive Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) is essential **to guide the effective use, protection and conservation of the coastal and marine ecosystems and ecosystem services.**



Credit: Geslaine R L Gonçalves

Adopted Approach to MSP

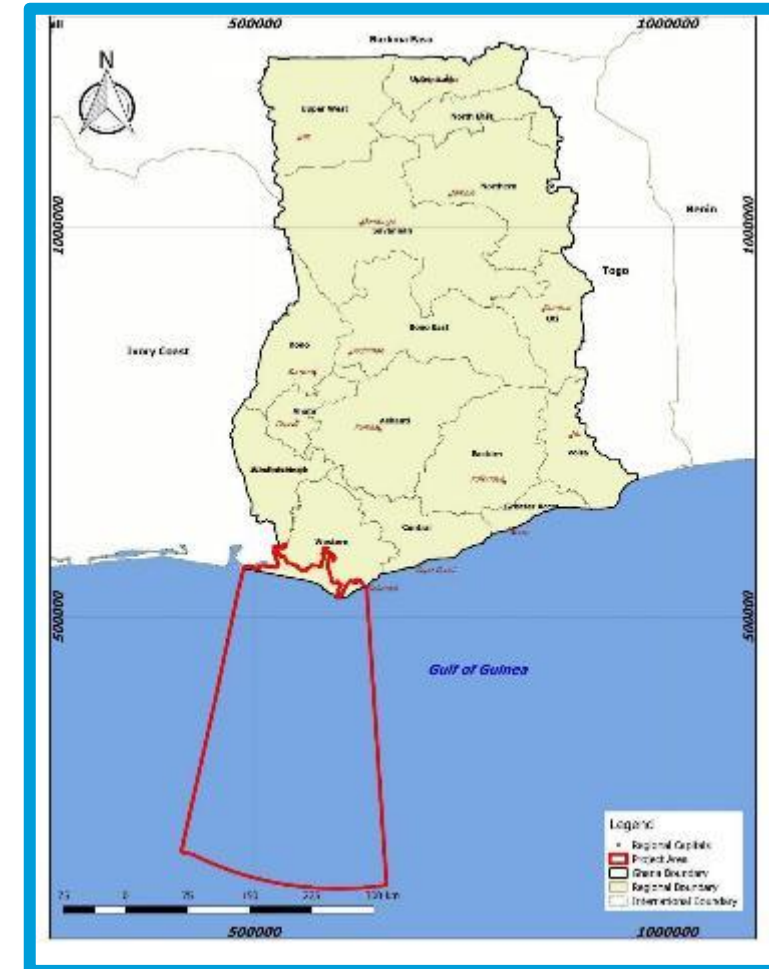
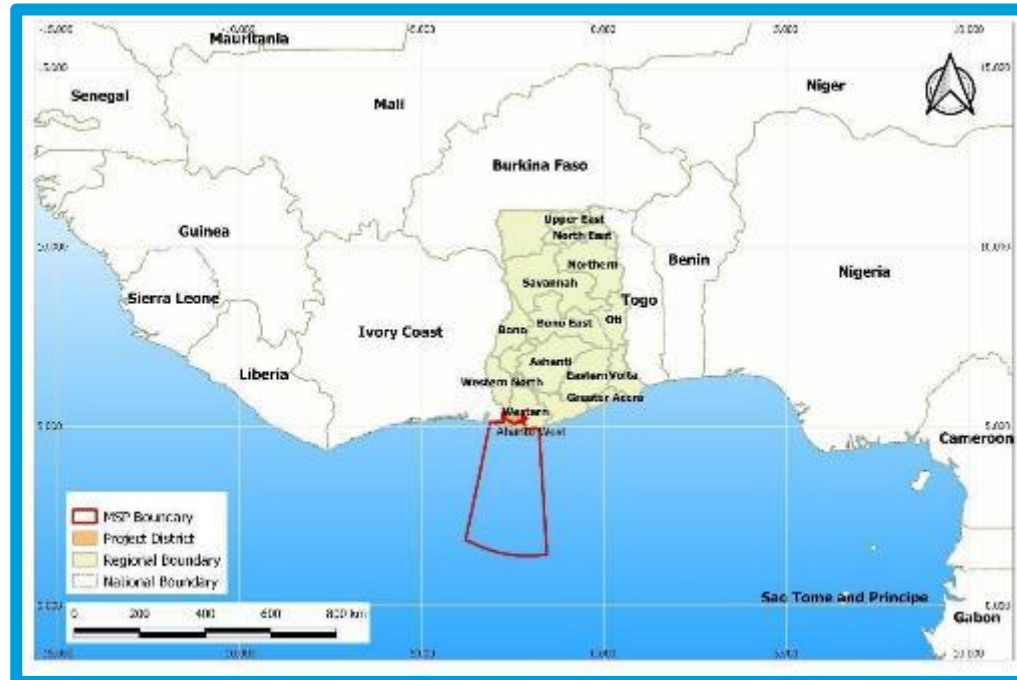


Pilot Area in the Ghana National Context

The Pilot Area covered 200nm off four Western Region coastal districts:

- Jomoro
- Ahanta West
- Nzema East
- Ellembelle

Source: Sub-regional Marine Spatial Development Framework (MSDF)





Areas to Consider in MSP Preparation

Situation Analysis/ Baseline Study

- Profile/Physical Characteristics of the Project Area
- Natural Environment
- Man-made Environment
- Population and Social Environment
- Economic Environment
- Governance Framework

Development Scenarios & Proposals

- Vision, Goals, and Objectives
- Policies
- Fisheries
- Oil And Gas-related Infrastructure
- Telecommunication Cables Infrastructure
- Transport and Fisheries Infrastructure
- Tourism
- Marine Energy & Science
- Mineral Resources Exploration
- Biodiversity Monitoring and Management
- Implementation Plan

MPA and MSP Integration



1 The proposed Cape Three Points MPA is located in Western region and has high ecological significance.

2 Stakeholders have mixed concerns about conservation restrictions on livelihoods of the Cape Three Points area.

3 Consultation processes have highlighted the importance of local ecological knowledge.

Implementation Plan

1

Governance Structures

Governance structures include the interagency National Technical Advisory Committee on MPA and the Joint Development Management Committee (JDMC).

2

MPA Monitoring System

Data collection tools include GIS mapping, citizen science, and joint monitoring systems.

3

Capacity Building

Environmental safeguards and capacity-building are essential for successful MSP implementation.





MPA Short Course

7. MPA and Marine Spatial Planning (UK specific material)

MSP framework in the UK

MSP is a devolved function across the UK

The [UK Marine Policy Statement](#)

- The framework for preparing Marine Plans for all the UK. Prepared and adopted under the legislative background of the [Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009](#)
- Devolved administrations are working towards the same high level marine objectives, so that the system works holistically
- Cross-border co-operation is important to ensure marine plans are compatible with each other
- The legislation also requires cross-border co-operation not just with neighbouring European countries: France, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Ireland

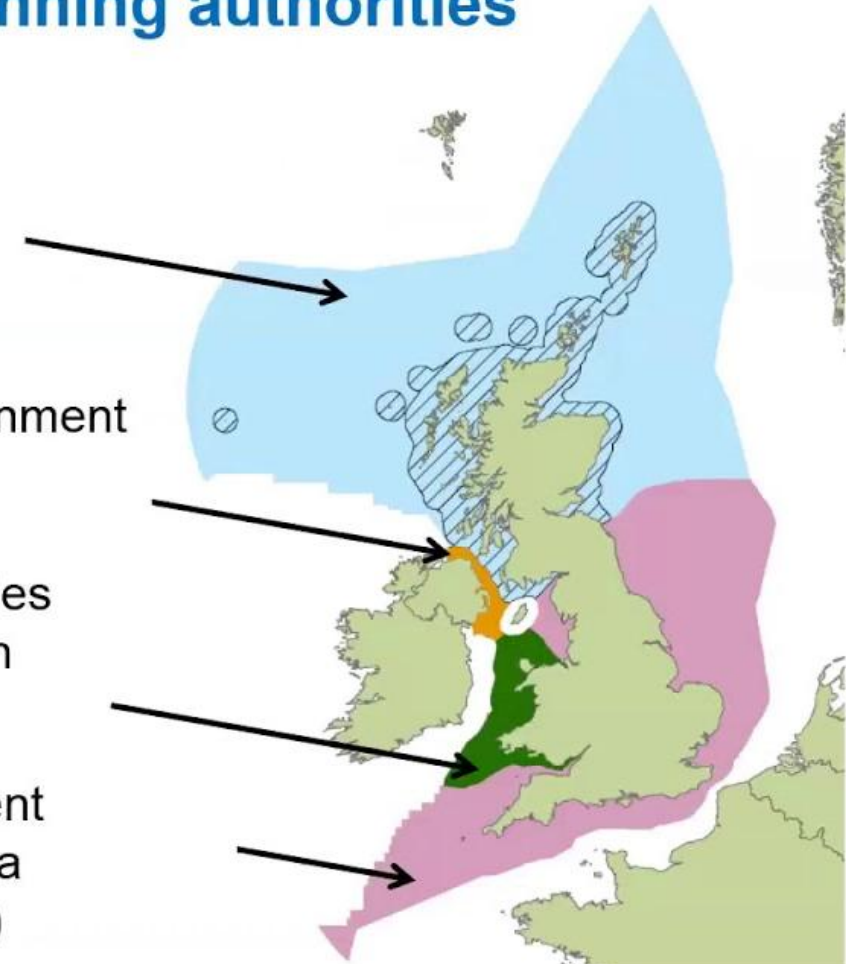
UK marine planning authorities

Marine Scotland

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Marine and Fisheries Department, Welsh Government

Marine Management Organisation (Defra Secretary of State)



Source: MMO

MPA designation in England

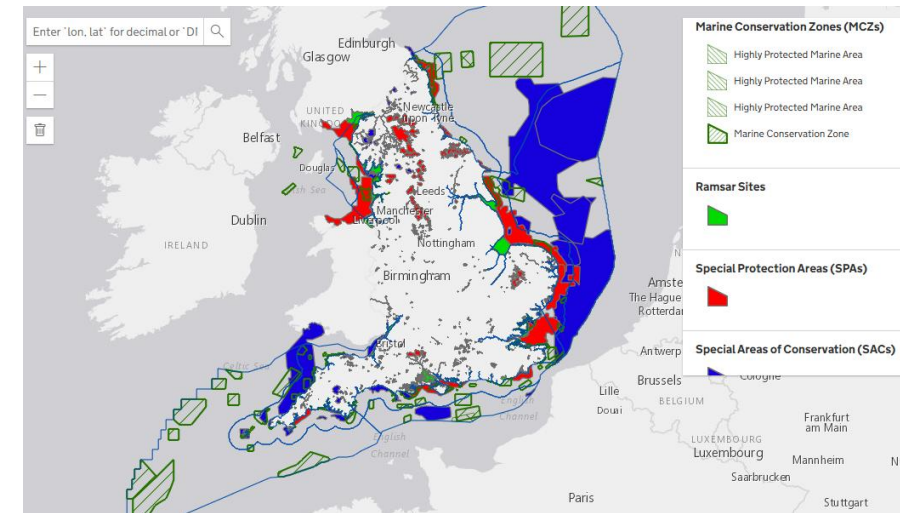
- **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)**
 - The government department responsible for policy and regulations related to the environment, including the marine environment. It oversees the process of establishing MPAs in English waters.
- **Marine Management Organisation (MMO)**
 - The MMO is an executive non-departmental public body that supports Defra. It plays a key role in managing England's marine resources and ensuring that activities within MPAs align with conservation objectives.
- **Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)**
 - Advises the UK Government on nature conservation in offshore waters (beyond 12 nautical miles from the coast). It supports the designation of MPAs in these areas and collaborates with other agencies for consistency in marine protection.
- **Natural England (NE)**
 - Natural England is the government's adviser for the natural environment in England. It provides expert advice on the designation of MPAs, especially Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), which are specific types of MPAs under UK law.



Source: JNCC

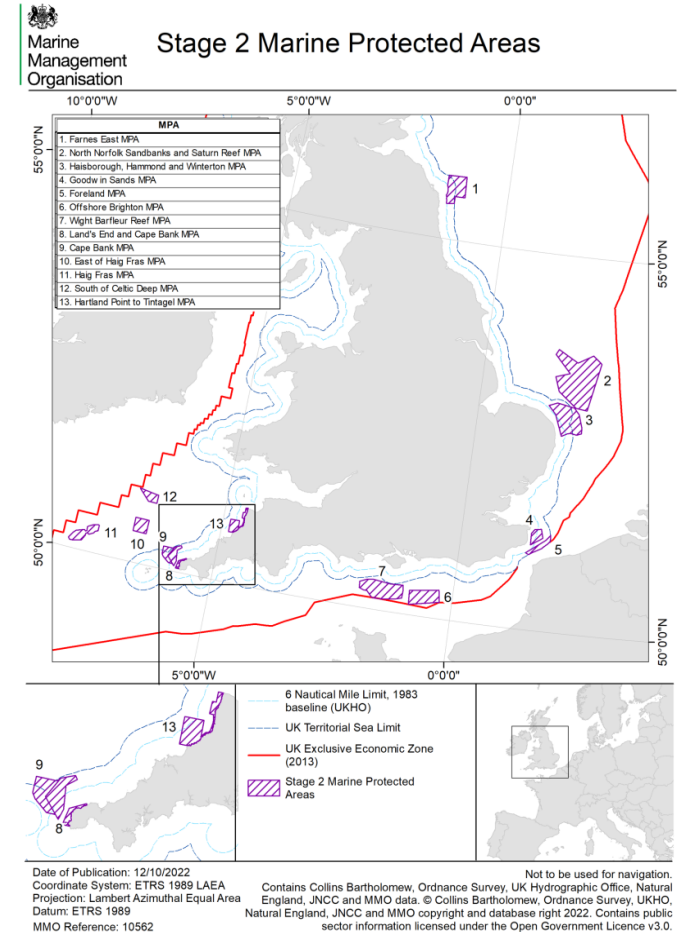
Different types of MPA in England

MPA Type	Key Legal Basis	Primary Conservation Focus	Level of Protection
Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs)	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	Nationally important marine species and habitats	Moderate to high (depends on site)
Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs)	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	Vulnerable or protected marine habitats and species	Very high
Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)	Habitats Regulations 2017 (post-Brexit)	Habitats and species of European importance	High
Special Protection Areas (SPAs)	Birds Regulations 2019 (post-Brexit)	Seabirds and migratory birds	High
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	Intertidal and coastal ecosystems	High (but focused on land-sea interface)
Ramsar Sites	Ramsar Convention	Wetlands and waterbirds	High (international protection)
No-Take Zones (NTZs)	Site-specific regulations	Complete ecosystem protection	Very high (no extraction allowed)



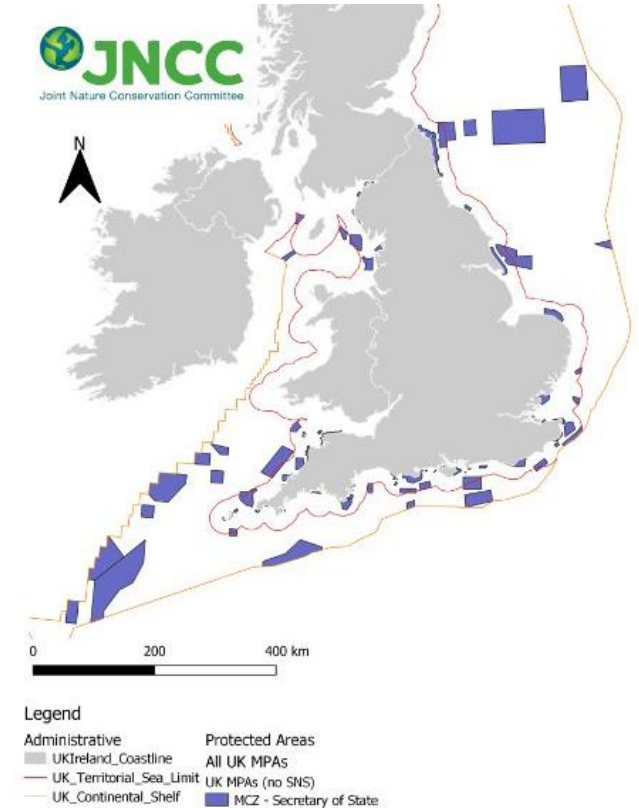
MMO role in MPA designation and management

- Defra are responsible for the decision-making when designating MPAs, receiving scientific advice from advisory bodies like NE and JNCC
- **MMO support the process by:**
 - Gathering and analysing data about existing marine activities and how they interact with proposed MPAs
 - Compiles spatial data to understand how MPAs may affect other industries and communities
 - Facilitates consultation with stakeholders
 - Conducts or contributes to socioeconomic impact assessments
 - **Integrates MPA considerations into marine planning, ensuring alignment with wider marine management frameworks**
 - Takes lead role in implementing management measures and enforcing regulations



Assessments: SA, HRA and MCZ

- **Sustainability Appraisal** - delivers the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. The Sustainability Appraisal appraises the social, economic and environmental impacts of the marine plans to ensure that sustainable development is at the heart of the plan-making process.
- **Habitats Regulation Assessment** - ensures the requirements of the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive are not impeded.
- **Marine Conservation Zone assessment** - will consider the potential impacts of the next marine plan on the protected features of any MCZ.



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MPA Policies in English Marine Plans

MPA-1

Policy S-MPA-1 Marine protected areas ([South Marine Plan](#), 2018)

Proposals that support the objectives of marine protected areas and the ecological coherence of the marine protected area network will be supported. Proposals that may have adverse impacts on the objectives of marine protected areas and the ecological coherence of the marine protected area network must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:

- a) avoid
- b) minimise
- c) mitigate adverse impacts, with due regard given to statutory advice on ecologically coherent network.

Policy MPA1

([East Marine Plan](#), 2014)

Any impacts on the overall Marine Protected Area network must be taken account of in strategic level measures and assessments, with due regard given to any current agreed advice on an ecologically coherent network.

Policy X-MPA-1 Marine protected areas

([SW, SE, NE, NW Marine Plans](#), 2021)

Proposals that support the objectives of marine protected areas and the ecological coherence of the marine protected area network will be supported.

Proposals that may have adverse impacts on the objectives of marine protected areas must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:

- a) avoid
- b) minimise
- c) mitigate

adverse impacts, with due regard given to statutory advice on an ecologically coherent network.

MPA Policies in English Marine Plans

MPA-2

Policy S-MPA-2 Marine protected areas ([South Marine Plan](#), 2018)

Proposals that enhance a marine protected area's ability to adapt to climate change and so enhance the resilience of the marine protected area network will be supported.

Proposals that may have adverse impacts on an individual marine protected area's ability to adapt to the effects of climate change and so reduce the resilience of the marine protected area network, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:

- a) Avoid
- b) minimise
- c) mitigate - adverse impacts

Policy X-MPA-2 Marine protected areas ([SW, SE, NE, NW Marine Plans](#), 2021)

Proposals that enhance a marine protected area's ability to adapt to climate change, enhancing the resilience of the marine protected area network, will be supported.

Proposals that may have adverse impacts on an individual marine protected area's ability to adapt to the effects of climate change, and so reduce the resilience of the marine protected area network, must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:

- a) avoid
- b) minimise
- c) mitigate - adverse impacts.

A vibrant underwater scene featuring a large, colorful fish with yellow and white stripes swimming in the center. The background is filled with various coral reefs and smaller fish, all set against a clear blue ocean.

MPA Policies in English Marine Plans

MPA-3

Policy South and X-MPA-3 Marine protected areas

([South Marine Plan](#), 2018 and ([SW, SE, NE, NW Marine Plans](#), 2021))

Where statutory advice states that a marine protected area site condition is deteriorating, or that features are moving or changing due to climate change, a suitable boundary change to ensure continued protection of the site and coherence of the overall network should be considered.

MPA Policies in English Marine Plans

MPA-4

Policy S-MPA-4 Marine protected areas ([South Marine Plan](#), 2018)

Until the ecological coherence of the marine protected area network is confirmed proposals should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:

- a) avoid
- b) minimise
- c) mitigate adverse impacts on features that may be required to complete the network
- d) if it is not possible to mitigate adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding.

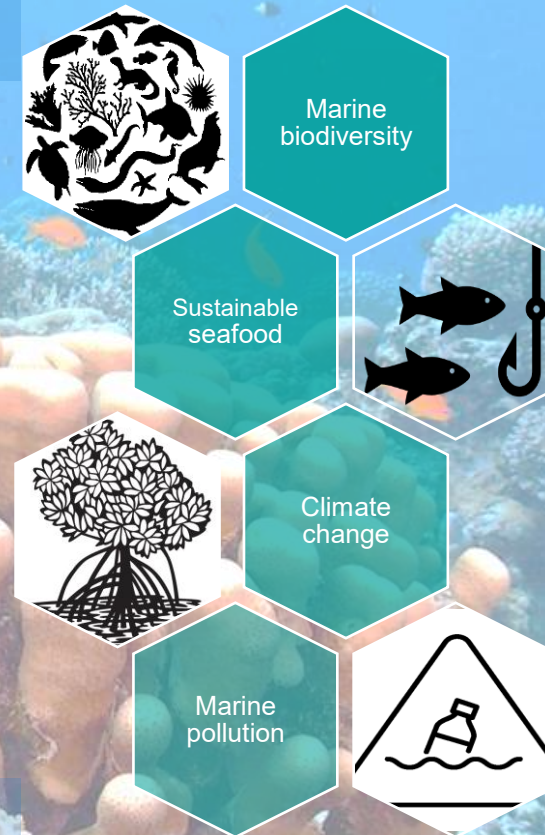
Policy X-MPA-4 Marine protected areas ([SW, SE, NE, NW Marine Plans](#), 2021)

Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on designated geodiversity must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:

- a) avoid
- b) minimise
- c) mitigate -adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.

Issues Identification

Exercise 1



Issues and Evidence Gathering

- **Planning Issue** - Opportunities or challenges likely to drive or be subject to changes within the marine plan areas over the life of the plans

- **Evidence** - Data, information or knowledge used to support decisions

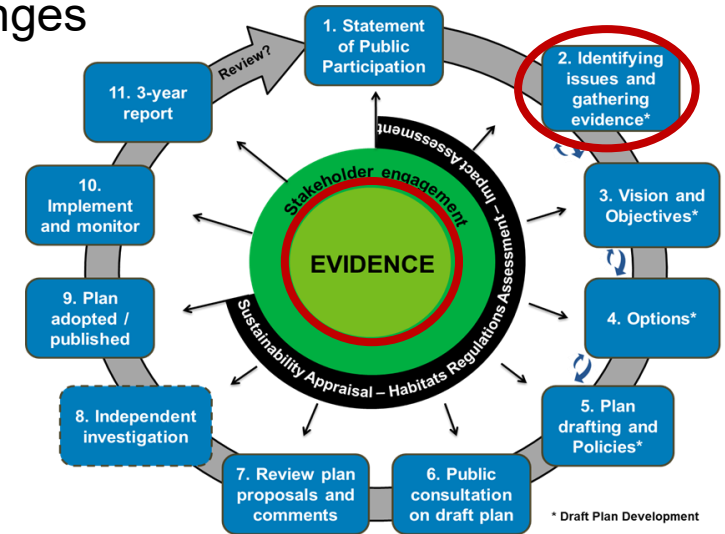
- **Types of evidence include:**

- Research
- Legislation
- National Policy
- Plans and Strategies
- Spatial information
- Stakeholder opinion

- Important all data and evidence is stored appropriately and is quality assured

Use evidence to answer these 5 questions:

1. Where do we want to get to?
2. Where are we now?
3. What are the interactions between activities?
4. Given 2. and 3. what marine planning intervention is required to get to 1.?
5. What evidence is required to support marine plan implementation, monitoring and reporting?



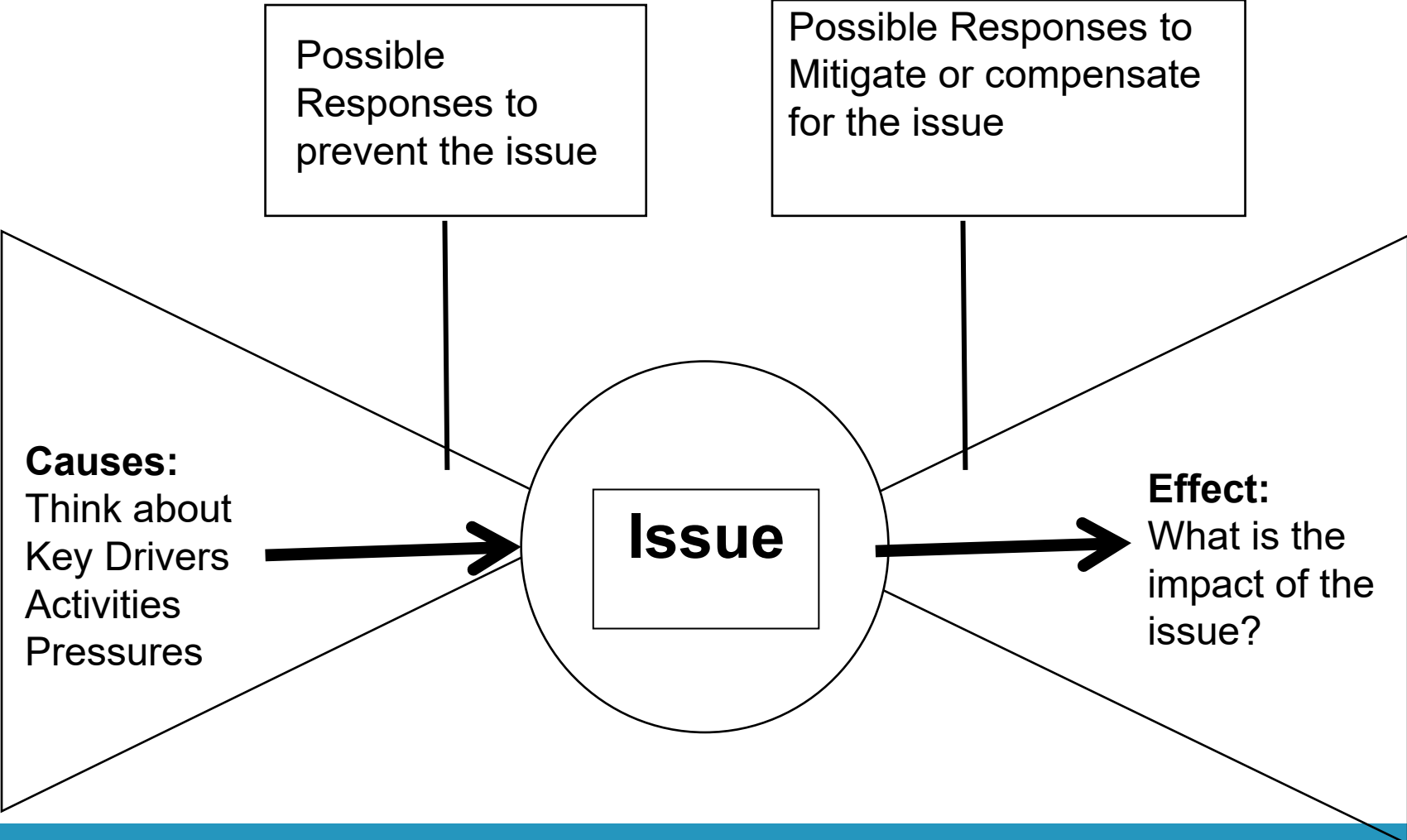
Source: MSP Global

Cause and Effect

An underwater scene featuring a vibrant coral reef. In the foreground, a large, white and yellow striped fish with a prominent dorsal fin swims towards the right. The background is filled with various smaller fish, including orange ones, and more coral structures under clear blue water.

- Analysing cause and effect helps us to explore the reasons for, and impacts of, an issue
- Understanding issue causes and effects is critical for developing meaningful and tailored marine spatial plans

Cause and Effect Model



Example

Causes

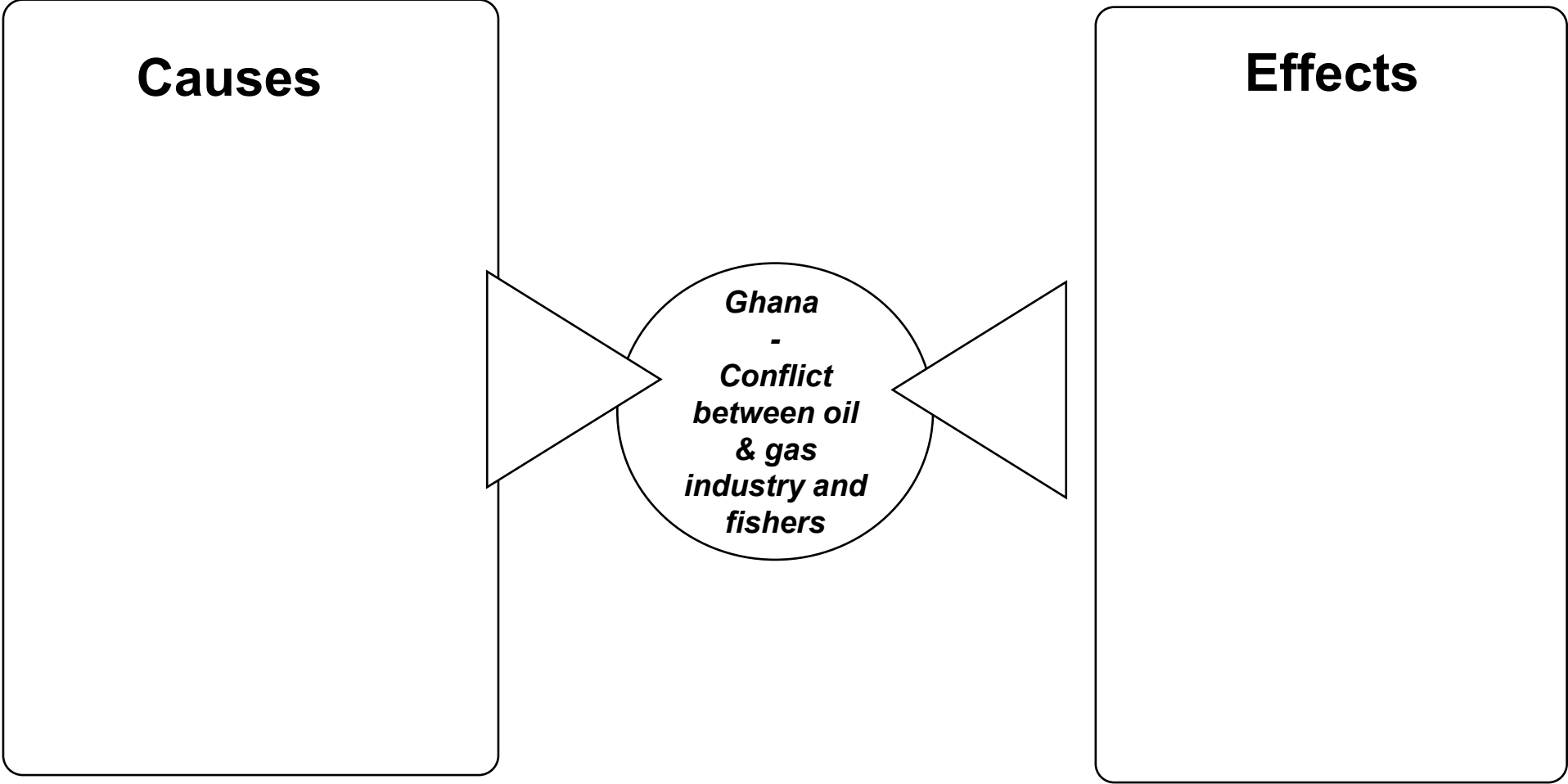
Damaging fishing gear and techniques
Overfishing
Disturbance
Cultural identity
Income generation
International/national MPA targets

Ghana
-
Conflict between fishing and MPA objectives

Effects

Decline in Species numbers
Habitat degradation
Changes to Seascape and Natural Beauty
Loss of ecosystem services
Reduced Fisheries catch
Reduced Tourism
Social impacts
Increased Enforcement Costs

Example



Example

Relevant evidence

Comments

Ghana
-
Conflict
between oil
& gas
industry and
fishers

Exercise 1

An underwater scene featuring a large, colorful striped fish (likely a Moorish Idol) swimming in the center. The background is a vibrant blue ocean with various smaller fish and coral reefs. The lighting is bright, suggesting a shallow depth.

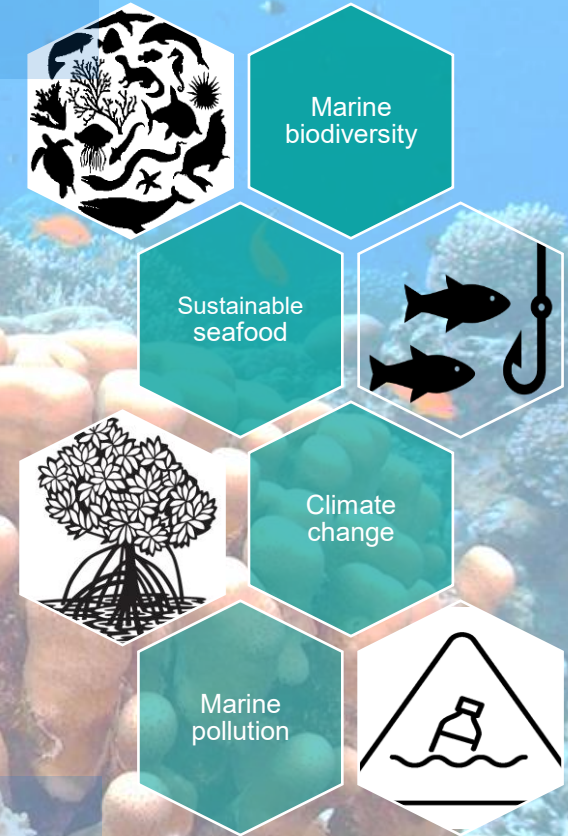
In groups, spend 40 minutes completing the following tasks:

1. Make a list of as many issues as you can (**10 minutes**)
2. Fill out a “Cause-and-Effect” “Bow Tie” sheet for each issue identified (**20 minutes**)
3. Present some issue cause and effect findings to the whole Module group (**10 minutes**).

Remember: Issues = Opportunities or Challenges

Marine Plan Policy Development

Exercise 2



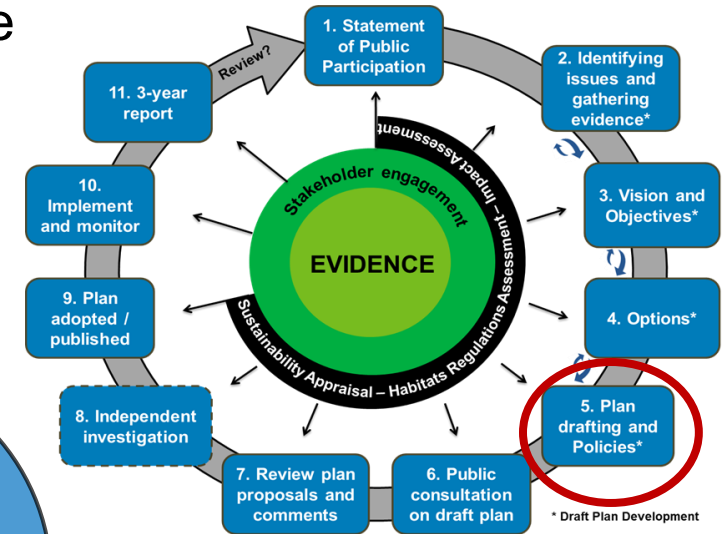
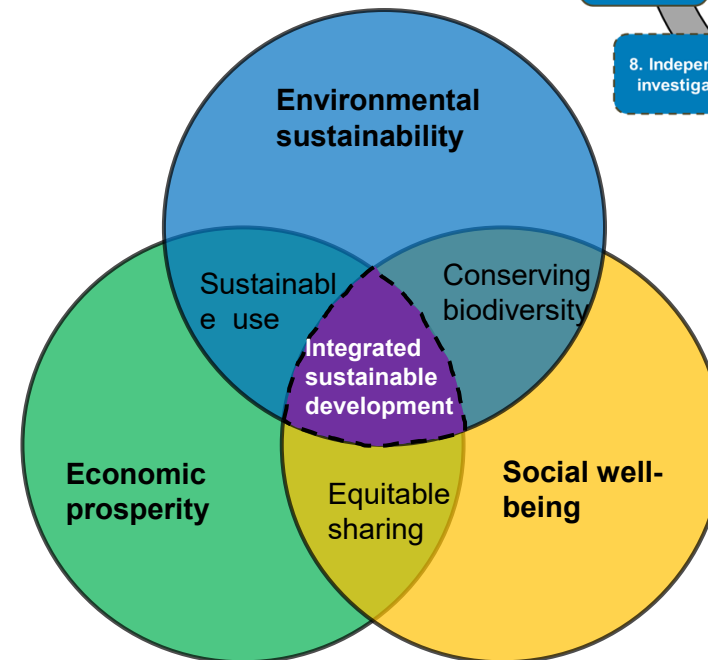
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Policy Development and Plan Drafting

- Policies are the tests we use to ensure a marine proposal is sustainable covering economic, environmental and social benefits.
- When designing a policy, it is important to ensure that the policy is:

- Positively prepared
- Justified
- Effective
- Consistent with national and international legislation and policy



Policy Walkthrough

1. Policies that are relevant to all sectors or apply everywhere.

2. Definitive spatial policies with a clear preference for certain activities.

3. Existing use policies enabling coexistence.

4. Future use safeguarding policies.

5. Strategic policies which directly support diversification, skills enhancement or employment across all activities

6. Policies which support preferred methods and approaches, including best practice and support identification of the best way to successfully achieve a proposal.

CC-2

Proposals in the south west marine plan areas should demonstrate for the lifetime of the project that they are resilient to the impacts of climate change and coastal change.

Policy Walkthrough

1. Policies that are relevant to all sectors or apply everywhere.

2. Definitive spatial policies with a clear preference for certain activities.

3. Existing use policies enabling coexistence.

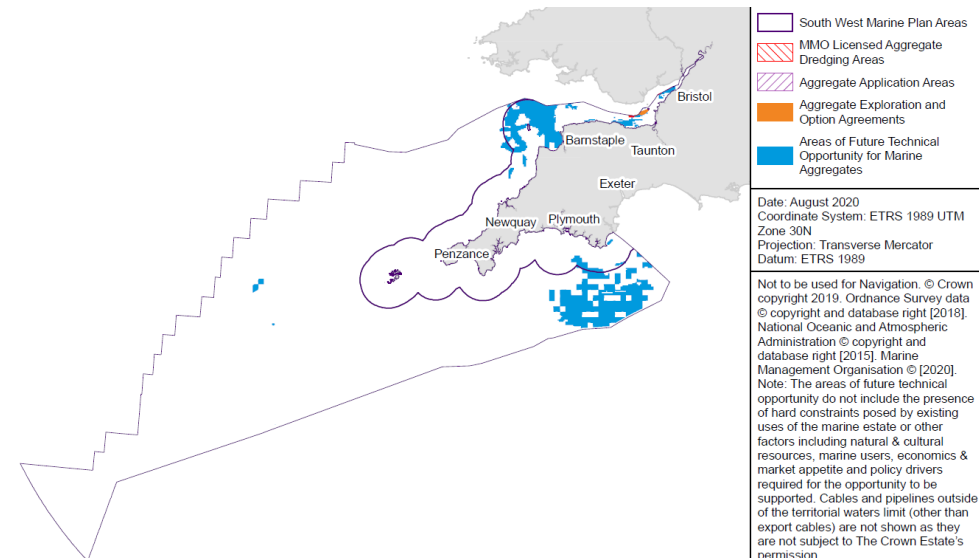
4. Future use safeguarding policies.

5. Strategic policies which directly support diversification, skills enhancement or employment across all activities.

6. Policies which support preferred methods and approaches, including best practice and support identification of the best way to successfully achieve a proposal.

AGG-1

Proposals in areas where a licence for extraction of aggregates has been granted or formally applied for should not be authorised, unless it is demonstrated that the other development or activity is compatible with aggregate extraction.



Policy Walkthrough

1. Policies that are relevant to all sectors or apply everywhere.

2. Definitive spatial policies with a clear preference for certain activities.

3. Existing use policies enabling coexistence.

4. Future use safeguarding policies.

5. Strategic policies which directly support diversification, skills enhancement or employment across all activities.

6. Policies which support preferred methods and approaches, including best practice and support identification of the best way to successfully achieve a proposal.

BIO-1

Proposals that enhance the distribution of priority habitats and priority species will be supported.

Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on the distribution of priority habitats and priority species must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:

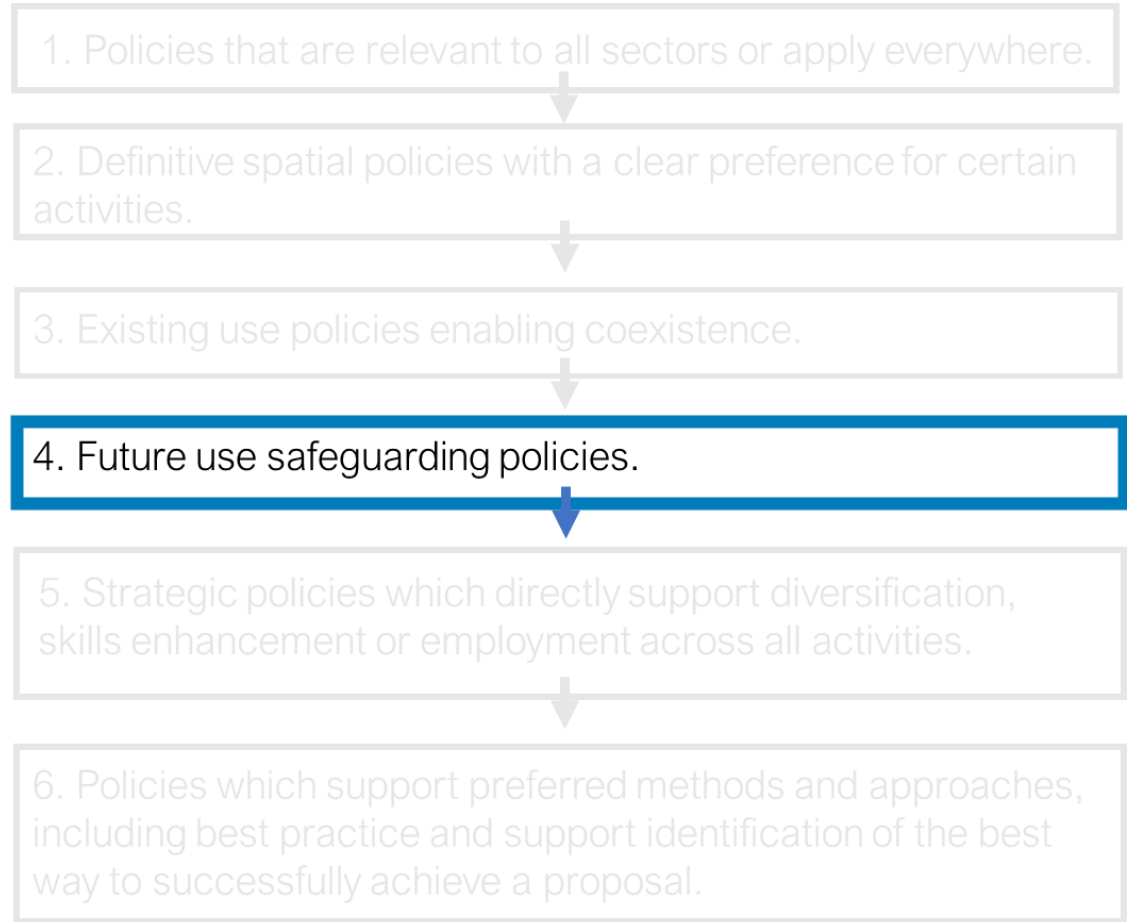
a) avoid

b) minimise

c) mitigate

- adverse impacts so they are no longer significant.

Policy Walkthrough



AQ-1

Proposals within existing or potential strategic areas of sustainable aquaculture production must demonstrate consideration of and compatibility with sustainable aquaculture production.

Where compatibility is not possible, proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on sustainable aquaculture production must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:

- a) avoid
- b) minimise
- c) mitigate
 - adverse impacts on sustainable aquaculture production so they are no longer significant.

If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding.

Policy Walkthrough



1. Policies that are relevant to all sectors or apply everywhere.

2. Definitive spatial policies with a clear preference for certain activities.

3. Existing use policies enabling coexistence.

4. Future use safeguarding policies.

5. Strategic policies which directly support diversification, skills enhancement or employment across all activities.

6. Policies which support preferred methods and approaches, including best practice and support identification of the best way to successfully achieve a proposal.

FISH-1

Proposals that support a sustainable fishing industry, including the industry's diversification, should be supported.

Policy Walkthrough



1. Policies that are relevant to all sectors or apply everywhere.

2. Definitive spatial policies with a clear preference for certain activities.

3. Existing use policies enabling coexistence.

4. Future use safeguarding policies.

5. Strategic policies which directly support diversification skills enhancement or employment across all activities.

6. Policies which support preferred methods and approaches, including best practice and support identification of the best way to successfully achieve a proposal.

CAB-1

Preference should be given to proposals for cable installation where the method of protection is burial. Where burial is not achievable, decisions should take account of protection measures for the cable that may be proposed by the applicant. Where burial or protection measures are not appropriate, proposals should state the case for proceeding without those measures.

Mitigation hierarchy

An underwater scene featuring a vibrant coral reef. In the foreground, a large, white and yellow striped fish, possibly a Moorish Idol, is swimming. The background is filled with various smaller fish and diverse coral structures under clear blue water.

Avoiding removes the impact - by removing the source

Minimising reduces the impact - by altering the intensity of the source

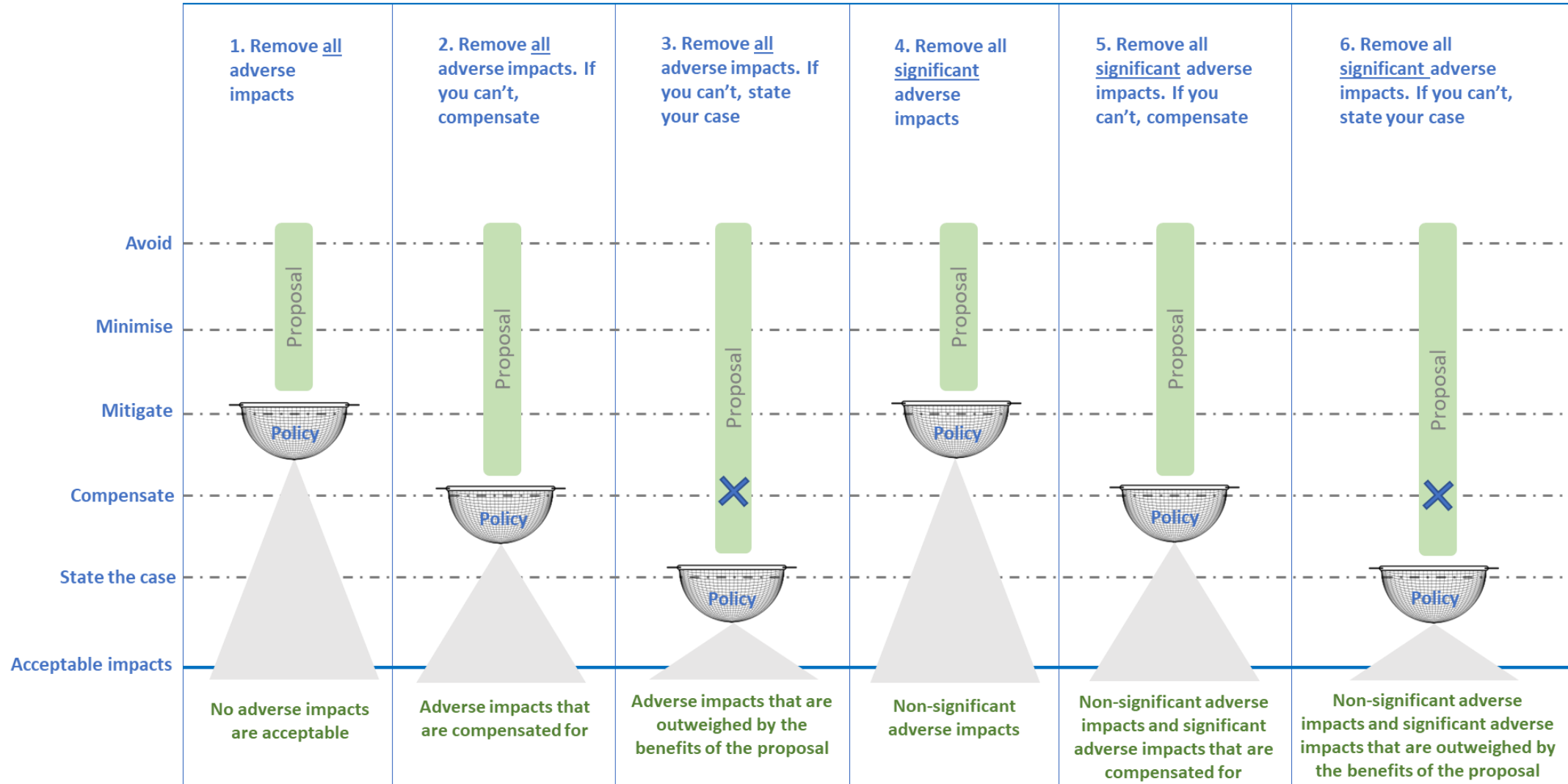
Mitigating reduces the impact - without altering the intensity of the source

Compensating replaces or compensates for the impact - by providing an alternative elsewhere

It is important to note that avoiding, minimising and mitigating impacts should be carried out in that order of preference, but several can happen at the same time to ensure impacts are reduced to an acceptable level.

For example, if changing the depth and frequency of the dredging would still have a significant adverse impact a silt curtain may be deployed to reduce the impact to acceptable levels.

Mitigation Hierarchy



Illustrative diagram of the mitigation hierarchy, adapted from established UK planning and EIA guidance

Mitigation Hierarchy Examples

MPA-1

...

Proposals that may have adverse impacts on the objectives of marine protected areas must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:

- a) avoid
- b) minimise
- c) mitigate

- **adverse impacts**, with due regard given to statutory advice on an ecologically coherent network.

AGG-3

Proposals in areas of high potential aggregate resource that may have significant adverse impacts on future aggregate extraction should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:

- a) avoid
- b) minimise
- c) mitigate

- significant adverse impacts on future aggregate extraction so they are no longer significant.

If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should state the case for proceeding.

BIO-1

...

Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on the distribution of priority habitats and priority species must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:

- a) avoid
- b) minimise
- c) mitigate - adverse impacts so they are no longer significant
- d) compensate for significant adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated.

Exercise 2

An underwater scene featuring a vibrant coral reef. In the center, a large Moorish Idol fish with distinctive white and brown stripes and a long, flowing dorsal fin swims towards the right. The water is clear blue, and numerous smaller, colorful fish are scattered throughout the scene.

In small groups, complete the following tasks:

1. develop a policy approach to an issue identified in the earlier session (**30 minutes**)
2. Present an outline of the policy developed to the whole Module group (**10 minutes**).

Consider the following as you draft:

- What sort of policy structure will you use?
Are you restricting, encouraging, spatially defining or stipulating methodologies for an activity?
- How will the policy be used?
- Will other policies be required to support it?
- How will the use and effectiveness of the policy be monitored?

MSDF Vision, Goals and Objectives

Exercise 3



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Vision

Vision: high-level, strategic, aspirational statement of a desired future

Benefits for MSP:

- provide a long-term direction/focus
- account for future uses of the marine area
- inform underlying goals, objectives and policies
- engage stakeholders and build capacity
- promote cross-sectoral co-operation

Draft MSDF Western Region Coastal Zone Vision:

“Creating a balanced natural and built environment to promote coastal livelihoods whilst protecting marine ecosystems”

Goal

An underwater scene featuring a vibrant coral reef with various types of coral in shades of white, yellow, and green. Several large, white and yellow striped fish are swimming in the clear blue water, surrounded by smaller, colorful fish.

Goal: statements of what needs to be accomplished to implement the vision.

Benefits for MSP:

- Breaks down the aspirational vision into more tangible outcomes.
- Facilitates identification of detailed actions to achieve the Vision.

Draft MSDF Western Region Coastal Zone Goal:

“To support harmonious growth and development of all activities in the marine and the entire coastal sectors”

Objectives


An underwater scene featuring a vibrant coral reef. In the foreground, a large, white and yellow striped fish with a prominent dorsal fin swims towards the right. The background is filled with various smaller fish, including orange ones, and more coral structures under a clear blue sky.


Objective: an action to be taken to achieve the goal and implement the vision


Benefits for MSP:

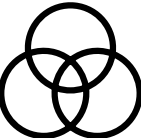
- provide detailed statements of desired, observable physical or behavioural outcomes that the marine plan is seeking to achieve
- represent achievement of a goal, and are (as far as practicable) “SMART” - specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound
- can include targets, such as interim steps to achieving the outcome or goal
- provide a framework within which policies are set out


SMART Objectives

 **Specific:** outline in a clear statement precisely what is required

 **Measurable:** include a measure to enable organisations to monitor progress and to know when the objective has been achieved

 **Achievable:** design objectives to be challenging, but ensure that failure is not built into objectives

 **Relevant:** focus on outcomes rather than the means of achieving them

 **Timebound:** agree the date by which the outcome must be achieved

MSDF Objectives

An underwater scene featuring a vibrant coral reef with various colorful fish swimming around. The water is clear and blue, with sunlight filtering through from above.

Draft MSDF Western Region Coastal Zone Objectives:

1. Apply integrated management tools in an inclusive way to ensure reduction of excessive human induced pressures on marine resources. (Strategic Goal B of the Aichi targets)
2. Achieve sustainable use of marine resources (SDG Goal 14)
3. Enable Ghana to delimit and delineate its maritime zones in accordance with UNCLOS, with particular focus on protection and preservation of the marine environment. (CP 11/14 of the 12th Conference of Parties of the Abidjan Convention)
4. Ensure an integration of ecosystem services, conservation, and socio-economic activities into maritime and coastal governance
5. Co-ordinate existing and future development and related policies affecting the coastal ecology with view to ensuring coherence in policy-making and implementation.

An underwater scene featuring a vibrant coral reef with various types of coral and several colorful fish, including a prominent striped Moorish Idol fish in the center. The water is clear and blue.

Tips for objective writing

1. Use vision themes to structure objectives
2. Consider the three pillars of sustainable development:
 - Economy
 - Environment
 - Society
3. Use Governance objectives to connect the three pillar objectives

Exercise 3



In small groups, complete the following tasks:

1. discuss the Draft MSDF for the four pilot Districts:
 - Vision
 - Goal
 - Objectives

Are they appropriate for all six Western Region Districts?

If not, what changes are required? (**30 minutes**).

2. Present the MSP Vision, Goal and Objectives for the six Western Region Districts developed to the whole Module group (**10 minutes**).