

# Regional Training Workshop on Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning

Virtual training held November 2020

Training report



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### 1. Background

The Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) provides a regional intergovernmental mechanism for science-based policy setting and implementation. COBSEA's Strategic Directions 2018-2022, adopted by the Intergovernmental meeting in 2018, identifies measures to strengthen ecosystem-based marine and coastal spatial planning (MCSP) including through capacity building and exchange of knowledge.

COBSEA past work has generated MCSP-relevant tools and capacity, including a Regional Resource Document on Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning, national training manuals addressing country-specific needs, as well as a network of practitioners who participated in regional MCSP training through the project 'Spatial Planning in the Coastal Zone – Disaster Prevention and Sustainable Development' (2010-2013). National assessment reports on coastal erosion prepared in 2013 through the project 'Addressing the Challenge of Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Erosion in the East Asian Seas – Initial Implementation of the COBSEA Regional Programme on Coastal Erosion' provide review of national settings, gaps and needs as well as identified priority actions for addressing coastal erosion.

These past projects have identified the need for further capacity building including in terms of hands-on skills as well as technical components of spatial planning and integration of emerging issues. They also found that legal and policy frameworks for marine and coastal spatial planning are not adequate. Consequently, coastal and marine spatial planning is not systematically integrated into the national planning systems of most COBSEA countries, and does largely not incorporate emerging issues. Additionally, previous work emphasizes the need for consultative planning processes integrating stakeholders from different sectors and organizations.

Together with Blue Solutions Initiative (BSI), COBSEA organized a regional training workshop to advance MCSP in the East Asian Seas region, using the training module developed by BSI and leveraging regional knowledge as well as ongoing global efforts by UNEP in relation to sustainable blue economy.

**Blue Solutions Initiative** is a partnership between UNEP, GIZ, GRID-Arendal and IUCN, established in 2013 and funded by the International Climate Initiative of the German Ministry of Environment. Blue Solutions Initiative works on topics relevant in the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources through capacity development and global knowledge exchange. As a global initiative, Blue Solutions works closely with partner projects of the implementing organisations as well as other organisations across the world. More information about Blue Solutions Initiative is available at: <https://bluesolutions.info>

## 2. Training set-up and objectives

The training targeted government officials at senior technical level from COBSEA countries involved in planning and management of coastal and marine areas and their natural resources, representing cross-sectoral management bodies or relevant sectors such as environment, fisheries, tourism, transportation or energy. In total, twenty participants from COBSEA countries attended the training (Annex I).

The training aimed at building capacity of MCSP in the East Asian Seas region through studying theoretical and practical aspects of spatial planning in marine and coastal areas as well as discussing needs-specific action in each country. In order to provide the best learning experience while enabling an interactive participation format, the week-long regional training was offered on two occasions: 2-6 November and 16-20 November 2020. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the training took place by virtual means, consisting of five hours of session per day during five consecutive days.

The training course and material was developed by BSI in cooperation with various international experts in the field of MCSP, building upon a range of existing planning frameworks and practical experiences. The training incorporated lectures; exercises using the fictitious country of 'Bakul'; group work and individual assignments; roleplay; and feedback sessions.

The training was conducted by personnel from BSI with support from COBSEA Secretariat and IUCN. Digital tools were used to enable an interactive online workshop, among them Mural, a digital workspace for visual collaboration, and SeaSketch, an online platform for participatory MCSP. An information session was held prior to the training workshop to introduce online platform tools to participants.

## 3. Overview of training topics

The course used interactive practical exercises to examine different elements of ecosystem-based planning process, in particular for protecting blue economy assets and their climate resilience.

The training highlighted the following modules and elements:

- Identification of need and process design
- Development of shared vision, objectives and goals
- Organization of stakeholder participation
- Inventory and analysis of current and future conditions
- Drafting and approving the spatial management plan
- Implementation and enforcement
- Monitoring, revision and adjustment
- Drafting of personal action plans

Please see agenda in Annex II.

The training further included presentations of MCSP case studies and lessons learned from Myanmar, Costa Rica and Azores. Moreover, draft findings of the policy review identifying enabling conditions for MCSP in the East Asian Seas region were presented and discussed.

#### **4. Participant feedback**

A pre-training questionnaire was used to assess prior knowledge and MCSP-related interests among participants (see Annex III). This enabled appropriate tailoring of the training. Most participants had prior knowledge of biodiversity, ecosystems, climate change and planning and management. About half of the participants had previously attended MCSP trainings and had practical MCSP-related experiences. Of the steps of the MCSP planning process, monitoring and revision were of highest interest to participants, with participants also expressing interest to further learn about sustainable ocean economy.

Daily feedback sessions and final evaluation indicated that participants perceived the training as very useful. Many highlighted the engaging and participatory training methodology as fruitful and in particular enjoyed the casework in which participants, divided into smaller groups, applied steps of a blue planning process to the fictitious case. The diverse backgrounds of fellow training participants was identified as an asset for learning, especially in regard to stakeholder participation. Participants particularly enjoyed elements pertaining to ecosystem services and identification of need and process design, as well as understanding digital mapping tools and discussing case studies. Evaluations show that all training participants increased their MCSP-related knowledge and skills as a result of the training.

##### Comments – What participants liked:

- Content and layout of training
- Learning and using online participatory tools eg SeaSketch
- Opportunity to learn from other participants
- Interactive nature of training
- Teaching methods and content on stakeholder and marine incompatibilities
- Group discussions
- Daily feedback sessions

Comments – What participants would have liked more of:

- Data collection
- Stakeholder negotiation, engagement, analysis and participation
- Methods to tackle incompatibilities and conflicts
- In-person elements
- Deeper analysis of presented cases including main factors of successes and failures
- On-site implementation including developing MCSP in a pilot area

One participant observed the importance of involving local government officials in future trainings, noting that they are the ones implementing MCSP regulations approved by the central government. Similarly, another participant expressed the value of focusing on management and policy plans at the sub-national level. In their personal action plans, several participants stated the usefulness of mapping MCSP-relevant policies and frameworks in their country. The expressed need corresponds to the ongoing review of national and regional legal and policy frameworks.

## 5. Identified priority issues and recommended follow up

Based on discussions, feedback sessions, evaluations as well as reflections from participants and trainers, recommended follow up steps were identified.

1. Topics of particular interest or need for follow up include:
  - Implementation of MCSP, stakeholder engagement, and data collection and management emerged as a particularly important focus areas for a community of practice on MCSP.
  - MCSP implementation including improvement of management practices;
  - stakeholder involvement and participation;
  - how to integrate different sectoral visions and government priorities into MCSP; and
  - data collection and management.
2. A community of practice across COBSEA countries could be developed to enable sharing of information and ideas on identified topics relevant to practitioners from the East Asian Seas region, as well as regional discussion of best practices and lessons learned.

An element of the community of practice could entail conducting pilot studies as well as forming a network of pilot or demonstration sites.

3. Development of regional guidance or guidelines, following up to the ongoing review of national and regional legal and policy frameworks in the COBSEA region and addressing key findings arising from that. In this regard it should be noted that COBSEA Strategic Directions 2018-2022 encompasses development of regional guidelines for an ecosystem-based approach to marine and coastal planning and management.

COBSEA and Blue Solutions Initiative will continue to work collaboratively towards addressing these findings and recommendations in advancing MCSP in the East Asian Seas region during 2021.

Further information and documentation of the training, please visit:

[www.cobsea.org](http://www.cobsea.org)

Contact: [unep-cobsea@un.org](mailto:unep-cobsea@un.org)

## 6. Annexes

Annex I: List of participants

Annex II: Agenda

Annex III: Pre-training survey responses

### Annex I: List of participants

#### List of participants MCSP Regional Training Workshop 2-6 November 2020

Ms. Chanokphon Jantharakhantee	Department of Marine and Coastal Resources	Thailand
Ms. Suthida Kan-atireklap	Department of Marine and Coastal Resources	Thailand
Mr. Pan Zhang	National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center	People's Republic of China
Ms. Malisa binti Mat Noor	Ministry of Environment and Water	Malaysia
Ms. Mazalina binti Ali	Department of Fisheries Malaysia	Malaysia
Mr. Ganesha Wicaksana	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	Indonesia
Mr. Monomoyith Than	Ministry of Environment	Cambodia
Mr. Sith Roath	Ministry of Environment	Cambodia
Mr. Sum Dara	Ministry of Environment	Cambodia
Ms Michiko Sibunga	Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources	Philippines
Ms. Siti Nurul Ain Haron	Ministry of Environment and Water	Malaysia

List of participants MCSP Regional Training Workshop 16-20 November 2020

Ms. Thitima Niyomsilpchai	Department of Marine and Coastal Resources	Thailand
Mr. Yunjun Yun	South China Institute of Environmental Sciences, Ministry of Ecology and Environment	People's Republic of China
Ms. Ahmad Hadi bin Mohamed Rashidi	National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia	Malaysia
Mr. Ario Damar	Bogor Agricultural University	Indonesia
Mr. Sung-Jin Cho	Korea Maritime Institute	Republic of Korea
Ms. Likha Alcantara	Environmental Management Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources	Philippines
Ms. Cheryl Rita Kaur	Centre for Coastal and Marine Environment, Maritime Institute of Malaysia	Malaysia
Ms. Wen Fang	South China Institute of Environmental Sciences, Ministry of Ecology and Environment	People's Republic of China

Team of trainers and resource personnel

Erick Ross Salazar	Blue Solutions Initiative
Mario Caña	Blue Solutions Initiative
Marinez Scherer	Federal University of Santa Catarina
Katrin Eitrem Holmgren	COBSEA Secretariat
Cécile Fattebert (2-6 Nov)	IUCN
Thilanka Seneviratne (16-20 Nov)	Blue Solutions Initiative



## **Annex II: Agenda**

### **Day 1**

#### **Day 1 Welcome, introduction to the course and getting to know each other**

Learning and personal objectives and expectations

Introduction to Blue Planning

Ecosystem services

#### **Day 2 Identification of need and process design**

Identifying the need

Establishing an authority

Formulating a vision

#### **Day 3 Organizing stakeholder participation**

Mapping stakeholders

#### **Inventory and analysis of current and future conditions**

Mapping your seascape

Identifying spatial (in) compatibilities

Case study presentation – Myanmar and Costa Rica

#### **Day 4 Designing and approving the management plan**

Drafting and organizing the Plan

Zoning criteria

Allocating sea use

Update on MCSP policy review

#### **Day 5 Monitoring, revision and adjustment and Personal planning reflection**

Drafting personal action plans

Case study presentation – Azores

Evaluation

Conclusion

### Annex III: Pre-training survey responses

#### Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning Regional Training Workshop Pre-training questionnaire

Question	Question alternatives	Total
Question 1a. Describe your understanding of biodiversity and biodiversity conservation	Good Understanding	3
	A litte bit	8
	Nothing	0
Question 1b. Describe your understanding of ecosystems, ecosystem services and their functions	Good Understanding	6
	A litte bit	5
	Nothing	0
Question 1c. Describe your understanding of climate change	Good Understanding	3
	A litte bit	7
	Nothing	1
Question 1d. Describe your understanding of planning and management	Good Understanding	5
	A litte bit	5
	Nothing	1
Question 1e. Describe your understanding of communication and facilitation	Good Understanding	3
	A litte bit	6
	Nothing	2
Question 2. Have you been trained in MSP and/or MCSP?	Yes	6
	No	5
Question 3. Do you have practical experiences/responsibilities in MCSP?	Yes	5
	No	6
Question 4. Would you be open to sharing these experiences and` examples from your country?	Yes	5
	No	1
	Does not apply	4
Question 5. Which of the following contents are you most interested in? rank from highest (1) to lowest (6)	Identification of need	33
	Stakeholder participation	42
	Inventory and analysis	32
	Drafting and approving	33
	Implementation	41
	Monitoring and revision	50
Question 6. Is there any further topic you would like to learn about?	Yes	1
	No	2
	Climate change and mitigation	1
	MSP linked to OHI	1
	Negotiation	1
	Marine litter	2
	MSP linked to SDG	1
Sustainable Ocean Economy	5	

Question 7. Do you have particular needs in your country that a regional training could support in order to implement MCSP in your country?	Yes	6
	No	1
	SDG achievement	2
	Scarcity of data	1
	Cross-cutting topics (MSP and waste)	2
	Policy/legal/jurisdiction conflicts	1
	Virtual maps	1
	Revision of current plans	1
	Technical tools	1
	Implementation	1
	Regional cooperation	1
Stakeholder engagement	2	
Question 8. Do you see value in a community of practitioners and what should be the most important topics to focus on?	Yes	7
	No	2
	Data	2
	Acceptance of plan	1
	Implementation	3
	Inclusiveness	1
	Fair negotiations	1
	Management	1
	Value of marine uses	1
	Recommendations	1
Stakeholder engagement	5	