



## Africa Marine Spatial Planning Training Course Overview

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### 1. Background

IOC/UNESCO, UNEP-Nairobi Convention and WIOMSA have forged a partnership to support Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) as well as integrated marine assessments in Africa in general and WIO region in particular.

The partners organized a regional MSP workshop covering the Western Indian Ocean from 13-15 November 2017 in Seychelles to enable participants to develop a common understanding of Marine Spatial Planning in order to support the implementation of sustainable resource use planning in the WIO region. The workshop made a strong case for the application of this tool in coastal/marine development planning. The participants recommended focussed training on ecosystem based management and tools such as MSP.

The partners have responded to these recommendations by planning two joint regional workshops (7-11 May 2018, Antananarivo, Madagascar and 10-14 September 2018, Mombasa, Kenya) for Francophone and Anglophone countries respectively to provide technical training to scientists and managers, responsible for data production, information creation, monitoring and evaluation of coastal and marine environment and socio-economic stakeholders. These workshops will present general concepts on those modules dedicated to Ecosystem-based management but with direct application to data, information and national needs on decision support tools, which are essential to develop any of the technical modules in a satisfactory manner. The workshops include interactive sessions devoted to finding ways of implementing these concepts at national level.

The partners will explore opportunities for capacity building for policy makers, possibly through different workshops. The policy makers will be encouraged to be champions of MSP in their respective countries.

### 2. The African context

Africa is recording on average the highest rate of economic growth, driven by huge financial flows due to a rich natural resource base. A burgeoning youth population, low production costs and a favourable climate all provide a confluence in attracting unprecedented large scale developments hitherto unwitnessed as evidenced by infrastructural investments in ports, extractives, agriculture, roads and railways among others. Despite the progress made in terms of economic growth, Africa continues to present the paradox of widespread poverty in a continent that abounds in human and natural resources.

Africa has the opportunity to define and chart a low carbon development pathway, which will guarantee the continent the much-needed economic growth, while taking into account environmental risk and thus enhances sustainability. The window to define and adopt such a pathway in different contexts across the continent is still open but may close sooner or later as evidenced by the many ongoing, planned and proposed development corridors all around Africa (see Annex 1). A development pathway that won't incorporate sustainability will precipitate huge environmental costs that will require massive capital outlay to ameliorate.

There is an enabling policy environment from global, continental to country level in support of sustainable development. The African Union in May 2013 adopted a strategic framework for the socio-economic transformation of the continent over the next 50 years (Agenda 2063, which recognised that: .. *'Africa's Blue*

*economy, ... shall be a major contributor to continental transformation and growth, advancing knowledge on marine and aquatic biotechnology, the growth of an Africa-wide shipping industry, the development of sea, river and lake transport and fishing; and exploitation and beneficiation of deep sea mineral and other resources.”* Less than one year later, the African Union Assembly at its session in January 2014 decided to adopt the 2050 African Integrated Marine Strategic Plan of Action-(2050 AIM Strategy) which outline the actions that should be implemented to foster increased wealth creation from Africa’s oceans and seas by developing a sustainable thriving blue economy on a secure environmentally sustainable manner.

The 2050 AIM Strategy acknowledges that that over the years, traditional maritime activities, such as shipping or fisheries have intensified, while new ones, such as aquaculture or offshore renewable energy, emerged. Africa’s inland, coastal and marine waters are under pressure and this would require the promotion of human capital development and improved standard of living. The Strategy recognises that marine/maritime spatial planning will aid in balancing frequently competing sector-based interests, so that: (a) marine space and resources are used efficiently and sustainably, (b) decisions can be taken based on sound data and in depth knowledge of the sea and inland water ways, and (c) investors have greater legal certainty, encouraging Africa’s blue economic development.

Maritime review, budgetary planning and the effective allocation of resources to enhance the marine visibility for a prosperous future in Africa will depend on the level of implementation of the strategic objectives of the 2050 AIM Strategy (and regional/country level planning policy provisions), and collaboration between nations in the management of shared coastal/marine resources. Some critical resources are transboundary and this does require collaboration between adjacent states, in which case the application of MSP as a tool becomes very relevant. Such an approach will foster regional integration.

The African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the 2050 AIMS Strategy are in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations in 2015. The 2030 Agenda envisages a world in which: consumption and production patterns and the use of all natural resources – from air to land, from rivers, lakes and aquifers to oceans and seas – are sustainable.”, and “.... development and the application of technology are climate sensitive, respect biodiversity and are resilient”. The agenda sets 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, with one of them (Goal 14) focusing exclusively on the Conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

### **3. Managing the marine and coastal environment and resources**

There are emerging opportunities for the global community to enhance the contribution of the oceans to sustainable development through increased recognition of the concept of blue economy, renewable blue energy, genetic bio-resources, ecosystem services and the ocean’s place in the Earth System amongst others. This is where initiatives such as Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) are needed.

In order to address the challenges and/or opportunities arising out of an upsurge of large scale developments and climate change, nations need to implement cross-sectorial governance reforms at the local, national and regional levels. This can be done by integrating ecosystem-based approaches at the immediate coastal interface through improved use of management approaches such as MSP and ICAM practices within LMEs and across trans-boundary water systems, which will require policy to consider trade-offs between ecosystem health, ecosystem services, human well-being, and socio-economics.

Integrated Management Coastal Area Marine Areas (ICAM) is still a relatively new and evolving concept in Africa. But the integration principle was developed in Agenda 21 from the first Rio summit in 1992, as a tool to pursue sustainable development in coastal zones, as well as an institutional process well codified that needs to be driven by science based information at each step of the process.

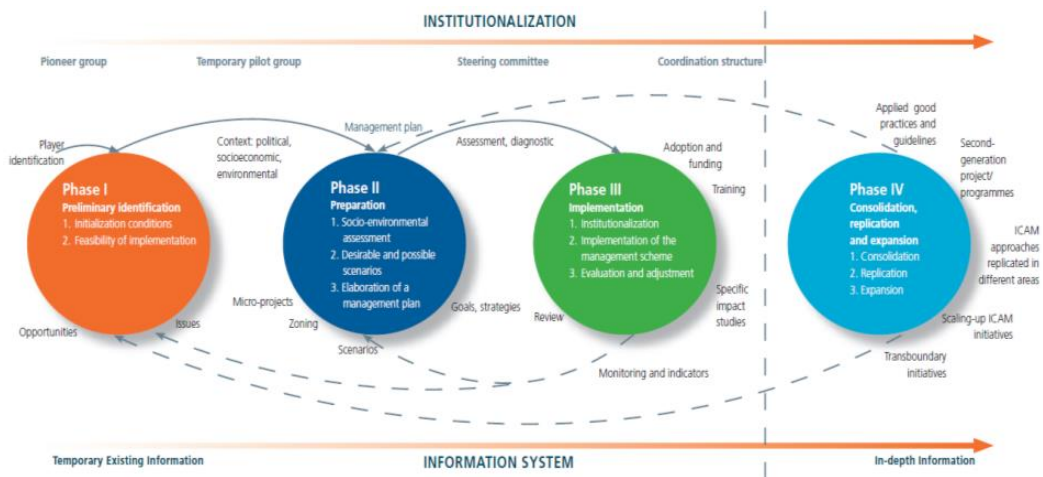


Figure. 1: ICAM Process (Source: IOC-UNESCO, ICAM Strategy)

Marine spatial planning (MSP) arises as a public process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives that usually have been specified through a political process.

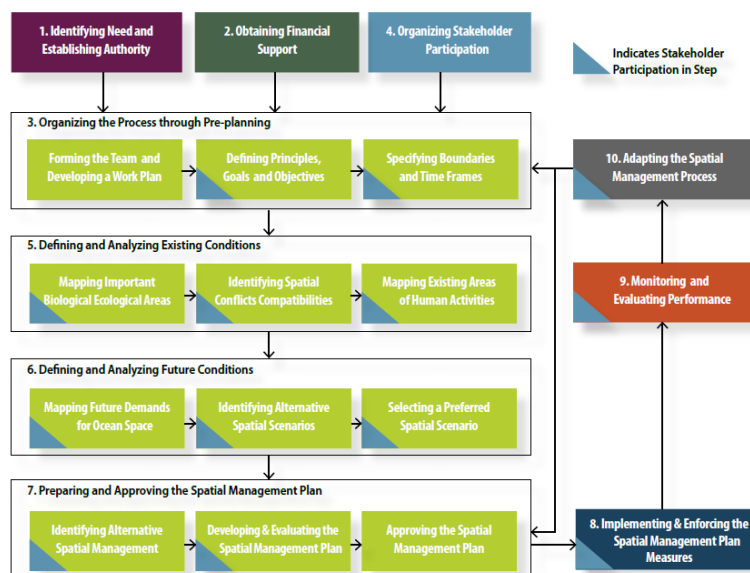


Figure. 2: A step-by-step approach to Marine Spatial Planning (Source: IOC Manuals and Guides No 53)

The 2050 AIM Strategy describes marine/maritime spatial planning as a comprehensive, adaptive, integrated, coherent, ecosystem-based and transparent spatial planning process, based on sound science. By mapping activities and determining the maritime space settled for each activity, the process provides a characterization of current uses and helps to establish potential areas for future uses. This will provide a policy process for Africa to better determine how maritime zones are sustainably used and protected, now and for the future of African generations. In relation with the blue growth and the potential of the coastal areas and the ocean, marine spatial planning aims at balancing frequently competing sector-based interest ensuring that marine space and resources are used efficiently and sustainably, decisions can be taken based on sound data and in-depth knowledge of the sea and the coasts, and investors have greater legal certainty, encouraging Africa’s blue economy development.

A common theme underpinning these concepts is the importance of ecosystem-based approaches (EBAs) to manage human uses and sustain ecosystem services while adapting to the impacts of climate change and the surge in large scale developments in Africa. The new challenges of climate variability and change, alongside the

other existing drivers that cause depletion and degradation within coastal and marine ecosystems, increases the urgency and the need to scale up these efforts at national and regional scales. There is now a need to support adaptive ecosystem-management and governance that is informed by and evolves through ongoing learning and adaptive processes, to help increase the resilience and well-being of societies dependent on marine goods and services.

In the regional context, many initiatives at the scale of Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) are leading activities on improving our understanding of coastal and marine systems by developing robust databases and information products to support coastal and marine governance.

The successful implementation of integrated coastal area management and marine spatial planning in Africa can also be the basis for the minimization of environmental damage and the ratification of international instruments to ensure synergies and coherence between sectoral policies. The MSP capacity building is meant to combat threats and vulnerabilities in order to foster increased wealth creation from Africa's oceans and seas by developing a sustainable thriving blue economy in a secure and environmentally sustainable manner. This vision will strategically contribute to socio-economic development as well as to increase stability and maritime governance in the region.

### **3. Regional partnership in ecosystem-based management towards blue growth.**

IOC/UNESCO has been instrumental in implementing the concept of ecosystem-based management through its Marine Spatial Planning approach. IOC/UNESCO has published a series of manuals and guides for Marine Spatial Planning and maintains a dedicated MSP portal (<http://msp.ioc-unesco.org/>) through which users can access a wide range of MSP Guides, World Applications, MSP Good Practices and Reference materials. IOC/UNESCO is also executing a GEF funded Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) programme that provides support to other GEF projects on LMEs, coastal management and marine protected areas, and their stakeholders. Both the 2050 AIM Strategy and the SDGs explicitly recognise the role of IOC/UNESCO in the promotion of scientific research and capacity development as well as transfer of technology in marine science.

The UN Environment's Nairobi Convention Secretariat is executing two new GEF funded Programmes: *'Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities'* (WIOSAP); WIO-Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms-SAPPHIRE, in which MSP will be a major outcome in both policy and practice. The Nairobi Convention is a champion for establishment of MSP as a tool for the implementation of the Blue Economy in the WIO region. The acceptance and implementation of MSP by the Contracting Parties as recommended and approved via various COP decisions of the Nairobi Convention will create a relationship between regional economic goals and ambitions for improved environmental sustainability.

The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) was established as a regional, non-profit, membership organization in 1993 and registered in Zanzibar, Tanzania in 1994 as a non-governmental organization. The organization is dedicated to promoting the educational, scientific and technological development of all aspects of marine sciences throughout the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region (consisting of 10 countries: Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius, Réunion (France)), with a view toward sustaining the use and conservation of its marine resources. Over time, WIOMSA has built a diverse range of experience in coordinating research grant programs, developing regional research agendas, organizing capacity and professional development initiatives, linking science to management, environmental advocacy, networking and dissemination of technical information.

