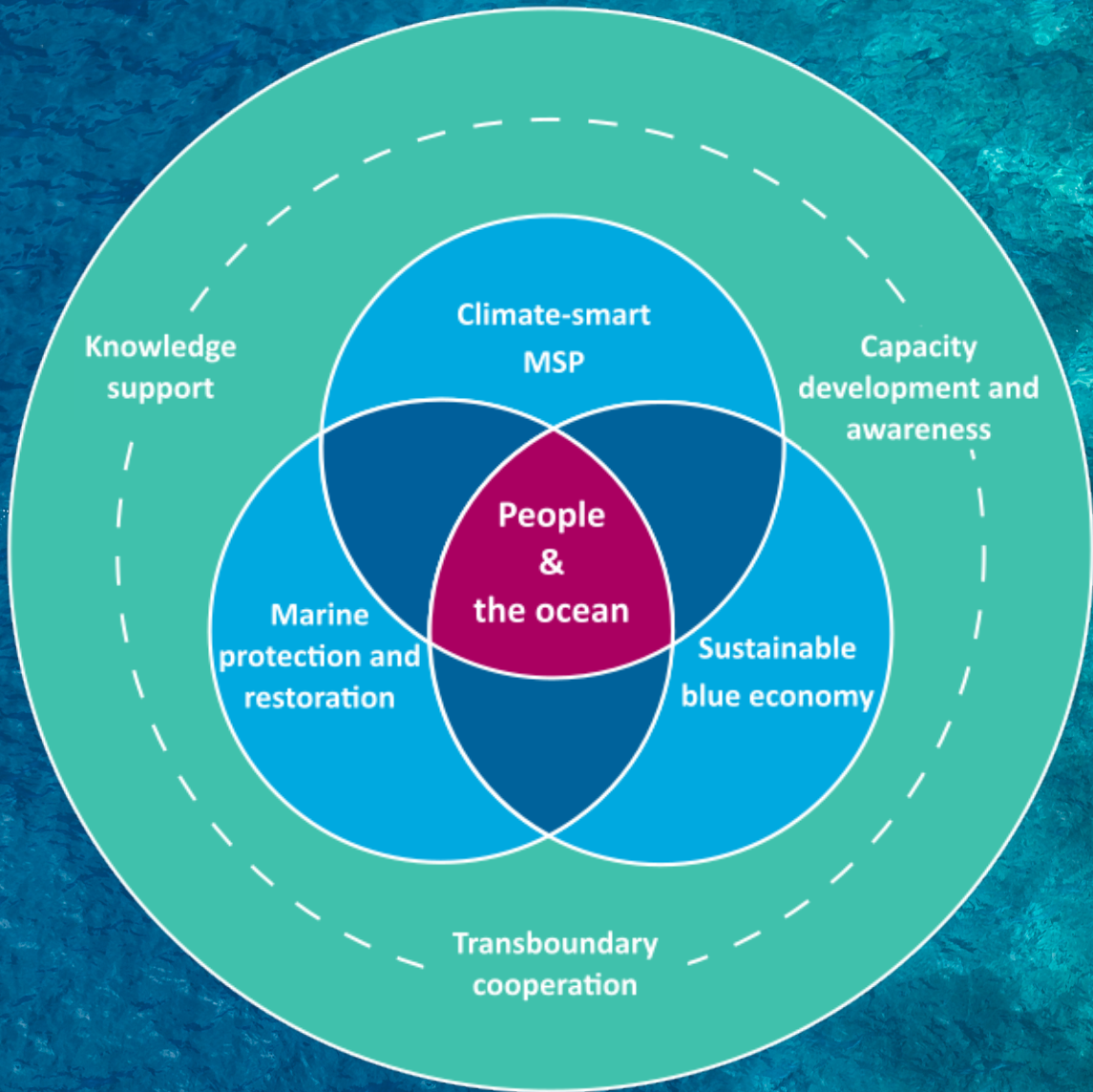
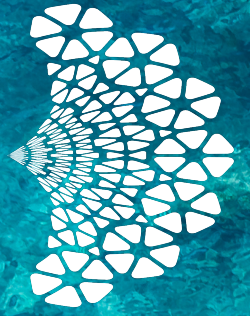
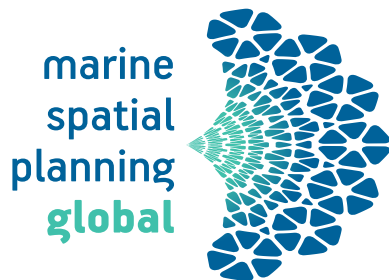


marine
spatial
planning
roadmap





Updated Joint Roadmap
to accelerate
Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning
processes worldwide
MSProadmap (2022-2027)





Updated Joint Roadmap to accelerate Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning processes worldwide - MSProadmap (2022-2027)

Introduction

Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP)¹ has become globally recognised as a necessary area-based policy to shift the paradigm from uncoordinated and sometimes contradictory sectoral policies towards an integrated, multisectoral and participatory overarching process. MSP emerges from the concept of sustainable development, aiming for interconnected ecological, economic and social objectives, thus contributing to the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the international move towards sustainable ocean/blue economies.

IOC-UNESCO's definition of MSP:

"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 have been specified through a political process."

European Union's definition of MSP:

"A process by which the relevant Member State's authorities analyse and organise human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives."

In March 2017, as an outcome of the 2nd International Conference on MSP, organised at UNESCO HQ in Paris, the Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the European Commission (DG MARE) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) adopted a ***"Joint Roadmap to accelerate Maritime/Marine Spatial Planning processes worldwide"*** (***MSProadmap***). This MSProadmap (2017-2021) included ten actions divided into five priority areas: 1) Transboundary MSP; 2) Blue economy; 3) Ecosystem-based MSP; 4) Capacity building; and 5) Building mutual understanding and communicating MSP.

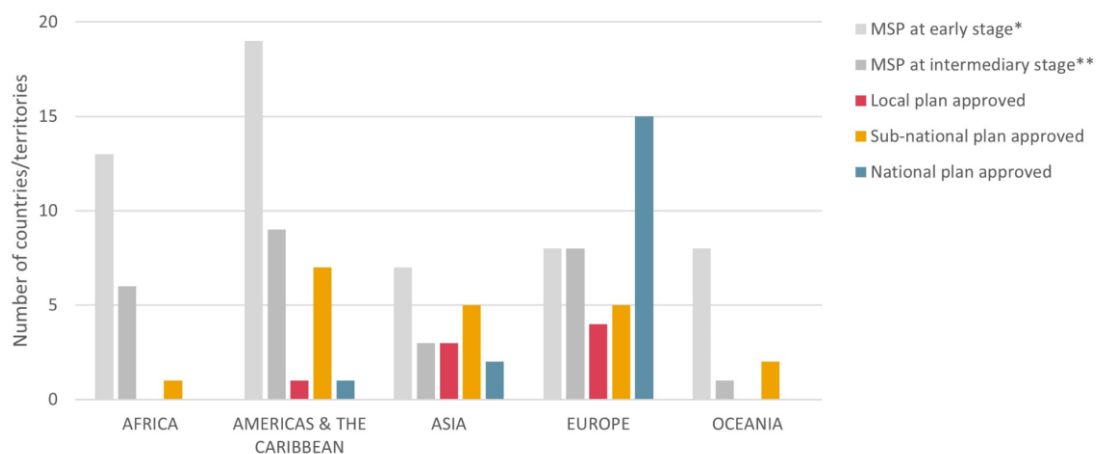
¹ Marine and maritime will be used interchangeably in the text.





To implement the MSProadmap, IOC-UNESCO and DG MARE designed and executed – with the support of Member States, MSP experts and other international organisations - the 3-year project **MSPglobal Initiative**. In addition, an **International MSPforum** was established as a platform to bring together MSP practitioners and experts, a new generation of planners, sectors, businesses, and civil society to share experience and identify solutions related to MSP challenges. By 2021, the MSProadmap benefited around 5,000 different stakeholders from over 140 countries. About 150 activities (e.g., trainings, workshops, stakeholder meetings and MSPforums) were organised around the world and more than 20 publications were produced, including the UNESCO-IOC/European Commission **“MSPglobal International Guide on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning”**. Besides, in parallel, IOC-UNESCO and DG MARE also promoted MSP through other individual initiatives and mechanisms.

Undoubtedly, the partnership between DG MARE and IOC-UNESCO has contributed to promote and build capacity on MSP among Member States during the last years. Nonetheless, although around 100 countries and territories are engaged in MSP, most of them do not have a marine spatial plan yet, which means that support is still necessary to achieve the MSProadmap target. Within this context, the organisations decided to launch this **“Updated Joint Roadmap to accelerate Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning processes worldwide” - MSProadmap (2022-2027)**.



MSP around the world according to the stage of the MSP process by April 2022.

Note: *Whenever a country/territory has only pilots, it was considered at early stage independent of the level of development of the project; **For at least part of the maritime area.

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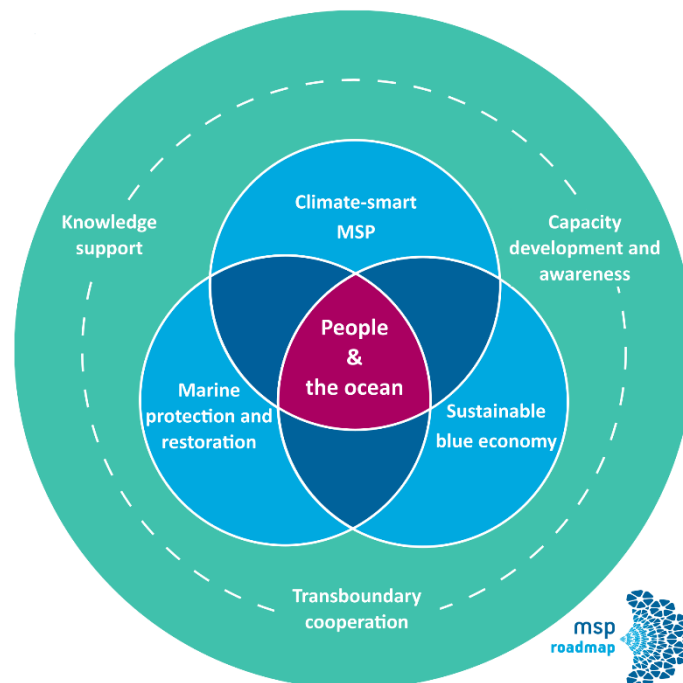
MSProadmap target:
 Support the achievement of covering at least 1/3 of the global maritime areas under national jurisdictions with marine spatial plans by 2030.

The updated MSProadmap is a framework that aims to support and work together with other ocean related processes such as the UNEP Regional Seas Programmes, the High Level Ocean Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UNGC Roadmap to Integrate Clean Offshore Renewable Energy into Climate-smart Marine Spatial Planning, etc. At the European Union level, the MSProadmap is linked to several policies and initiatives relevant to the maritime domain and the marine environment, such as the European Green Deal, the "New approach for a Sustainable Blue Economy", the 2022 EU Ocean Governance Communication or the Horizon Europe research programme.

Priority areas and key actions

The MSProadmap (2022-2027) covers a set of six priority areas divided into cross-cutting and thematic pillars:

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



The actions described in this joint roadmap will be led by both IOC-UNESCO and DG MARE or by one of the institutions. Actions will be implemented by each respective institution or jointly through the second phase of the MSPglobal Initiative (**MSPglobal 2.0**).

IOC-UNESCO and DG MARE invite interested organisations to join forces as key partners or collaborators to help delivering the key actions of the updated MSProadmap.

²

Priority area 1: Knowledge support

Rationale:

*The decade 2021-2030 was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly as the **UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (Ocean Decade)**. The IOC-UNESCO is the UN body responsible for designing and implementing the Ocean Decade. The Ocean Decade's mission is to catalyse “**transformative ocean science solutions for sustainable development, connecting people and our ocean.**”*

*The IOC-UNESCO and the DG MARE have been committed to strengthen the **science-policy interface** in the MSP field. Indeed, MSP practices around the world have shown the key role of ocean science, including Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK), in supporting the different phases of the MSP process. This cross-cutting priority area aims to contribute to the development of new knowledge, tools and analyses towards a robust **knowledge-based MSP**, where comprehensive and integrated data and information is available and used by decision-makers.*

▪ **Action I: Data for MSP**

To develop their marine spatial plans countries should use best available data and information. In many instances coastal states have encounter difficulties to gather data and information needed for the preparation, establishment and monitoring of their marine spatial plans. It also happens that this data and information already exist, but is not easily accessible, or is not available in a format that suits the needs of planners. The European Union and its Member States have developed platforms and frameworks to produce, store and share data required for maritime spatial planning. At global level a number of sources and platforms gather and disseminate data and information on the marine environment (e.g., GEBCO, OBIS, etc.). The Ocean Decade established a multistakeholder Data Coordination Group to strengthen a “digital ocean ecosystem” in order to catalyse cooperation between data generators and users, such as MSP authorities. A number of EU initiatives (e.g., COPERNICUS Marine Service, EMODNET, research and cross-border cooperation projects) produce data and data infrastructures that facilitate the use of data and information for the establishment of maritime spatial plans.

² Institutions interested in collaborating and supporting the MSProadmap can contact IOC-UNESCO through the email MSPglobal@unesco.org

→ This action aims at promoting the transfer of knowledge expertise at EU level by DG MARE to a wider community of planners and technical experts so that they can find, access and structure data and information for maritime spatial planning. It will build on the EU initiatives described above.

▪ **Action II: Co-develop new MSP tools**

Assessments for MSP rely on available data and information to identify both current and potential future conditions of environmental, social, cultural, and economic aspects of the planning area. The development of comprehensive diagnosis, alternative scenarios, and trade-off analyses require different tools for MSP. National experts and researchers have developed such tools to support planning teams, although there are still gaps in relation to specific tasks as well as understanding and accessibility to planning tools.

→ This action will focus on the co-development (involving scientists and MSP authorities) as well as knowledge transfer of new MSP tools based on specific needs related to assessments for planning, such as spatial data infrastructure, predictions from ocean observation of environmental and socio-economic components, cumulative impacts/pressures, scenarios, etc.

▪ **Action III: Promote MSP-related projects within the framework of the Ocean Decade**

Decade Actions are specific programmes, projects or contributions submitted and endorsed by the Ocean Decade. Decade programmes constitute the highest level in the Decade Action hierarchy. They are typically long-term global or regional in scale and will contribute to the achievement of one or more of the ten Ocean Decade challenges.

→ IOC-UNESCO and partners will aim to promote a specific Decade Action Programme on Sustainable Ocean Planning, including a component on MSP, with the objective of delivering transformative science-based knowledge and tools for ocean management. Such programme will work as a framework to host related projects and activities such as the MSProadmap.

Priority area 2: Capacity development and awareness

Rationale:

*This priority area is the combination of the previous “capacity building” and “mutual understanding” priority areas of the first MSProadmap. During the implementation of the joint MSProadmap, it became clear that training and sharing experiences about MSP are a complementary approach to propagate MSP implementation. An **MSPglobal Community of Practice** emerged through several opportunities to learn from each other's experience through exchange of views and best practices. Moreover, an effective MSP process requires both trained planning teams and increased **public and stakeholders' awareness about the MSP process and its benefits**. Even though about 100 countries/territories have already embarked in the establishment of MSP processes within their national waters, the majority is still at early stages. The degree of implementation of MSP is not uniform, nor is the level of institutional, technical, and human capacities. This priority area aims to keep accelerating MSP implementation around the world, contributing to **knowledge exchange and transfer**, while **enhancing awareness of MSP**.*

- **Action IV: Assess the needs and strengthen capacity of decision-makers and stakeholders around the world**

With a view to strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of its Member States, IOC-UNESCO has documented MSP practices around the world, which can be found in its [online knowledge platform MSPglobal](#). DG MARE has achieved similar work in the EU with the creation of the [European MSP Platform](#). Moreover, IOC-UNESCO has assessed the specific needs of Member States as part of its regular surveys on MSP. The results of the 2022 survey will inform the development of specific tailored capacity development activities linked to the MSProadmap as well as contribute to the revision of the IOC Capacity Development Strategy.

The IOC-UNESCO' training platform [OceanTeacher Global Academy](#) (OTGA) already hosts training courses on MSP, which are delivered by members of the network of OTGA Regional and Specialized Training Centres. In addition, the GEF LME:LEARN project executed by IOC-UNESCO developed an [online training on transboundary MSP](#). This action will focus on keeping the delivery of MSP trainings worldwide.

- A multilingual online training course of the [MSPglobal International Guide on MSP](#) (key output of the MSPglobal Initiative) will be developed.
- In addition, with the support of the Government of the Netherlands, an "[MSP Challenge/MSPglobal training network on MSP](#)" will be built to deliver face-to-face training courses in cooperation with national, regional and international institutions, such as other UN agencies.

- **Action V: Sustain the International MSPforum**

In 2018, DG MARE and IOC-UNESCO created the [International MSPforum](#) for all stakeholders involved in MSP in order to empower decision-makers, a new generation of planners, researchers, sectors, and civil society to identify solutions and commit to cross-sectoral actions to conserve our ocean and to use its resources in a sustainable way. Four editions of the MSPforum were already organized, but its continuity was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

- This action aims to resume the International MSPforum with the initial objective of organizing at least three annual forums from 2022.

- **Action VI: Build a network of Regional MSPforums and Platforms**

As acknowledge by participants, the International MSPforum has successfully contributed to the exchange of knowledge and good practices about MSP. Nevertheless, taking into account that neighbouring countries share similar context and transboundary issues, Regional MSPforums and Platforms were identified as effective initiatives to amplify the efforts of the International MSPforum, creating opportunities to engage regional, national and local stakeholders. Indeed, such regional mechanisms already exist in the sea basins shared by EU Member States such as the Baltic MSP Forum, HELCOM-VASAB MSP Working Group, WestMED Initiative, etc.

- This action aims to support the establishment of a network of Regional MSPforums and Platforms together with interested regional institutions and initiatives working on MSP, building on existing work of the European

Commission (DG MARE), IOC Sub-Commissions, Regional Seas Programme, and Large Marine Ecosystem initiatives.

- **Action VII: Develop resources to communicate and build societal awareness on MSP**
 The MSPglobal Initiative has developed a series of flyers about MSP-related topics with key messages written in a clear, direct and simple language to be easily understood by a wide audience. Meanwhile, DG MARE published the document *“Communicating MSP: An inspiring era of cooperation between institutions”*, which includes inputs from MSPglobal experience in engaging local communities.
 - This action aims to continue the work of disseminating MSP among citizens through the development of attractive and easy-to-read communication material.

Priority area 3: Transboundary cooperation

Rationale:

*The development of **coherent marine spatial plans across borders** is critical as marine ecosystems and resources may span national jurisdictional boundaries. In the European Union, a key requirement of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive is the obligation for the EU Member States to cooperate within a sea-basin. This is also convergent with the efforts of the international community and various UN agencies to promote the development of strategic action plans at transboundary scale to achieve long-term sustainable use of ocean resources. This priority area aims to enlarge the support to regional mechanisms that are or could address the development of transboundary MSP, i.e., **encouraging national MSP processes to tackle transboundary challenges and opportunities.***

- **Action VIII: Co-design transboundary projects**
 DG MARE has supported the establishment of lasting mechanisms for transboundary cooperation by providing grants to projects covering all EU sea-basins. During the first MSProadmap, the MSPglobal Initiative developed two transboundary pilot projects in the Western Mediterranean and the Southeast Pacific. The new project MSPglobal 2.0 will include two pilot projects in other sea-basins, which will be defined after a consultation with Member States and regional institutions such as those of the Regional Seas Programme.
 - This action aims to co-design, together with key regional and national institutions, transboundary projects that are aligned and complementary to existing regional mechanisms already addressing MSP.
- **Action IX: Integrate MSP into Large Marine Ecosystems’ approach and mechanisms**
 The International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network ([IW:LEARN](#)) is a project funded by the GEF, implemented by UNDP and UNEP, and executed by IOC-UNESCO that was established to strengthen transboundary water management around the globe by sharing best practices and innovative solutions to common problems across the GEF International Waters portfolio of projects, some of them dealing with MSP.

→ This action aims to support the GEF IW:LEARN 5, which will develop a practical methodological approach to integrate MSP into Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses and Strategic Action Programmes (the TDA-SAP science to policy process of the GEF IW portfolio) with a view to strengthening sustainable blue economy opportunities in Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs). Based on the methodology, a series of regional activities will be led by IOC-UNESCO in Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa and Indian Ocean.

▪ **Action X: Promote cross-border and transboundary cooperation in stakeholder involvement, including in a sea basin context**

In many instances, a maritime spatial plan established by a coastal state might have significant impacts (environmental, economic, social) on adjacent areas under jurisdiction a one or more neighbouring states. To avoid conflicts, it is important that all those concerned by these impacts are, as much as possible, involved in the process of preparing, establishing and implementing these plans. Research and practice have shown that stakeholder engagement is a critical factor to avoid such conflicts, and thus for the success of MSP.

Such involvement might happen through "ad hoc" bilateral and/or multilateral mechanisms. It is also the case that well established multilateral bodies (supranational or intergovernmental) support activities to facilitate consultations with or among stakeholders across borders. The European Union and its Member States have gained experience, understanding and knowledge on how integrate stakeholders in MSP in transboundary and sea basin settings.

→ The aim of this action is to disseminate good practices, methods and approaches in stakeholder involvement in a cross-border, transnational and/or sea basin setting. The action will be carried out in coordination with the activities developed in the context of Action VI "**Build a network of Regional MSP forums and Platforms**", especially at regional level.

Priority area 4: Climate-smart MSP

Rationale:

*The UNFCCC's Paris Agreement and its mechanism of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The European Green Deal includes a number of actions to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy and stop climate change, revert biodiversity loss and cut pollution. To contribute to these international efforts to tackle the climate crisis, it is necessary to **incorporate climate change considerations into MSP objectives and assessments**, although this is still incipient. The adoption of climate-smart MSP is related to the **integration of adaptation and mitigation measures into MSP** in order to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels as well as to build the resilience of marine ecosystems and reduce exposure and vulnerability of coastal communities and maritime activities to climate change impacts. This includes the identification and allocation of spaces for specific uses and ecosystem protection as well as designing adaptive planning processes that are flexible enough to incorporate emerging climate knowledge and actions. MSP can embrace and foster ocean-*

based solutions as NDCs such as the promotion of offshore renewable energy, the protection and restoration of blue carbon ecosystems, etc. Therefore, this priority area aims to promote and support the development of climate-smart MSP.

- **Action XI: Gauge the impact of climate change on activities in the marine environment and the maritime domain**

Seas and ocean are affected by human induced climate change. Increases in water temperature, ocean acidification and deoxygenation, changes in oceanic circulation and chemistry, rising sea levels, increased storm intensity, as well as changes in the diversity and abundance of marine species are among the main impacts of climate change in the marine environment. These impacts further concern a wide array of activities taking place in, or related to, the marine environment and the maritime domain, such as fisheries and aquaculture, transport, tourism, energy production, to name a few. In some cases, some of these activities will have to change in scale (e.g., increase of areas allocated to offshore renewable energy to help mitigation) or to be "moved" (e.g., fishing areas in the context of adaptation).

→ The aim of this action is to promote and facilitate research and assessment on the impacts of climate change on some sectors of activity in, or related to, the marine environment and the maritime domain. The results and the findings of this research and assessment work will feed into the development of guidance on climate-smart MSP (Action XII).

- **Action XII: Co-develop guidance about how to embark on climate-smart MSP**

The MSPglobal Initiative helped to disseminate the concept of climate-smart MSP. The 2021 MSPglobal Guide highlights the incorporation of climate change in several phases of the MSP process. Still, a more specific and detailed guidance needs to be developed as this discussion spreads and improves worldwide. Indeed, the Ocean Stewardship Coalition of the UN Global Compact called the intergovernmental organizations - in its "Roadmap to Integrate Offshore Renewable Energy into Climate-Smart Marine Spatial Planning" – to develop practical guidelines on how to deliver climate-smart MSP.

→ Therefore, this action aims to follow up on the MSPglobal work and develop specific international guidance on climate-smart MSP.

Priority area 5: Marine protection and restoration

Rationale:

There are different **mechanisms that can make MSP contribute to environment protection and restoration, such as the ecosystem-based approach and nature-based solutions**. DG MARE and IOC-UNESCO always advocate for MSP processes anchored in the ecosystem-based approach. Since its first 2009 step-by-step guide on MSP, IOC-UNESCO described MSP as a means toward ecosystem-based management. The 2014 EU MSP Directive also requires its Member States to use the ecosystem-based approach to the management of human activities in order to achieve good environmental status. One of the roles of an ecosystem-based MSP is to deliver ecological objectives, such as those related to international conservation targets (e.g., at least 30 per cent of sea areas conserved by 2030, which is a target included in the draft of the post-2020 global

*biodiversity framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and, increasingly, in some national policies). The 2021-2030 period is also the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**, which aims to reduce pressures on ecosystems in order to enable their recovery, as well as to make ecosystems and human communities more resilient to global change. This priority area aims to enhance the development of marine spatial plans that include measures to contribute to marine protection and restoration and to reverse the global biodiversity crisis, thus **promoting a sustainable development within the planetary boundaries**.*

- **Action XIII: Co-produce recommendations on the inclusion of nature protection and restoration in MSP**

An MSP process can provide a broader perspective to the identification of priority areas for protection and restoration (e.g., MPAs, Biosphere Reserves, Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas - EBSAs, etc.). Besides, it can also incorporate other environmental measures to achieve a good environmental status and resilient communities and ecosystems. At EU level, for instance, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) is the legal framework that requires EU countries to adopt a Programme of Measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status.

- This action aims to produce recommendations to improve the integration of objectives, approaches, tools and initiatives on protection and restoration into marine spatial plans. This will require collaboration with other international institutions directly working with environmental programmes such as CBD, UNEP, Regional Seas Programme, environmental non-governmental organisations (NGOs), etc.

Priority area 6: Sustainable blue economy

Rationale:

*A sustainable blue economy means the sustainable use of ocean resources for socio-economic improvement, including improved livelihoods and jobs, while preserving the health of ocean ecosystems. **Marine spatial plans are expected to build the basis to achieve the objectives of sustainable blue economy strategies**, thus increasing transparency and predictability for investment and licensing. The MSP process is as well an opportunity to align sectoral plans with multisectoral marine policies. This priority area aims to develop specific tools about MSP for maritime sectors, thus enhancing their engagement in MSP and strengthening the link between MSP and the sustainable development of the ocean economy.*

- **Action XIV: Co-produce sectoral-specific recommendations on MSP**

MSP deals with different users' needs and challenges related to planning, thus engaging governmental and private sectoral actors is crucial to make marine spatial plans that include sectoral interests while allocating the most suitable areas for their development.

- This action aims to produce playbooks³ to improve the engagement of key maritime sectors of the sustainable blue economy in MSP, such as offshore wind

³ A playbook is a set of rules, suggestions, or methods that are considered to be suitable for a particular activity, industry, job, etc. (Cambridge Dictionary).

energy, aquaculture, ports, etc. This will require collaboration with other international institutions directly working with the maritime industries such as UNGC, FAO, IMO, etc.

- **Action XV: Co-develop guidance to integrate MSP into sustainable blue economy strategies**

Maritime spatial plans can be "sector driven", i.e., established with an initial main goal to accommodate the needs of one or more activities in the maritime domain. Examples of such sectors are offshore renewable energy, shipping, but also nature protection and conservation (such as Marine Protected Areas - MPAs). Nonetheless, such plans can also be the result of the design and the implementation of a comprehensive vision and/or strategy to sustainably develop the blue economy and/or to protect the marine environment. Developing maritime spatial plans as part of a systemic and integrated view of ocean and seas management will facilitate achieving, in an integrated and coordinated manner, multiple objectives such as nature protection and conservation, food security, clean energy production, mobility, security, etc.

→ The aim of this action is to promote a systemic approach to the sustainable blue economy, in particular through the integration of MSP into comprehensive strategies for the use and management of the marine environment and the maritime domain.

Monitoring & Evaluation

DG MARE and IOC-UNESCO have compiled information about the status of MSP in Europe and around the world, respectively. The results are available on the [European MSP Platform](#) and the [MSPglobal website](#).

In order to monitor the MSProadmap target, an online tool will be developed and made available on the MSPglobal website to track the proportion of maritime areas under national jurisdictions covered by MSP.

MSProadmap and the 2030 Agenda

Through this updated MSProadmap, DG MARE and IOC-UNESCO aims to keep promoting MSP as a means for implementing the 2030 Agenda, especially the following SDG14 targets:

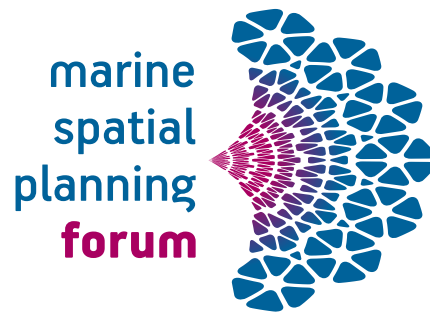
- **14.2:** By 2020*, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts by strengthening resilience and taking action for their restoration in order to achieve a healthy and productive ocean.
- **14.5:** By 2020*, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

- **14.7:** By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States (SIDS) and coastal countries from the sustainable use of marine resources through the sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.
- **14.a:** Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account IOC-UNESCO’s Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, to improve ocean health and enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to sustainable development, in particular in SIDS and less economically developed countries.

** Although the time horizon to achieve the targets 14.2 and 14.5 was 2020, they were not yet fully implemented in many countries.*

Indeed, MSP can contribute to the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda as well as other international ocean-related targets.

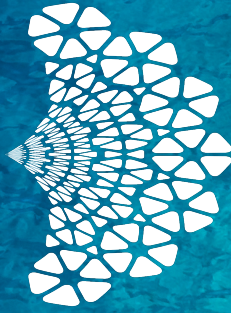




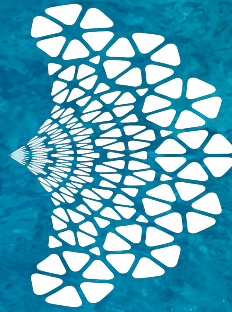
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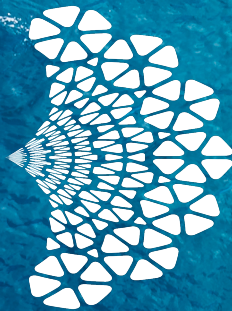
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