



MINISTRY OF MINING, BLUE ECONOMY AND
MARITIME AFFAIRS
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR THE BLUE
ECONOMY AND FISHERIES



Kenya MSP Newsletter

A publication of the National Marine Spatial Plan Secretariat

Kenya prepares to develop a National Marine Spatial Plan

Preparations for the development of a National Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) for Kenya are progressing in earnest after the Cabinet approved the strategic initiative in March, 2024.

The MSP initiative is coordinated by Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, working in cooperation with other line ministries, government departments and agencies. The State Department for the Blue Economy and Fisheries is charged with overseeing the process.

Governance structures and the institutional framework have been established to drive the marine spatial planning process. These include the Executive Committee that comprises Principal Secretaries of the blue economy sectors, a Multi-Agency Steering Committee that provides technical oversight, and an MSP Secretariat charged with managing the process. The Secretariat is based at the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Institute (KMFI) Headquarters in Mombasa.

Pre-planning phase

MSP is currently in the pre-planning phase. The focus here is on concept development, setting goals and objectives, delineating the planning area and stakeholder mapping. This stage also entails analysis of information about ecological, environmental and oceanographic conditions, mapping human activities, identifying current conflicts and compatibilities.

Actual planning will start with the publication of the Intent to Plan, which will signal the beginning of a public process of extensive stakeholder engagement.

The final MSP is expected to guide future uses of the ocean space to ensure sustainable harnessing of the marine resources for Kenya's social and economic development. ●



Stakeholders sketch their vision of the future of Kenya's ocean space during the sector dialogue for academia and research.

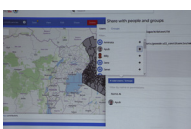
Sector dialogues to inform strategic assessment

Early consultations have started to inform the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), which is a critical stage in the preparations for development of Kenya's National Marine Spatial Plan.

The MSP Secretariat is organizing a series of consultative meetings with representatives of different sectors to discuss how they could support the SESA, particularly by sharing data. The meetings aim to sensitize participants on the MSP process and SESA, determine the issues to be considered and data availability from the sectors,

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Sectors provide input for strategic assessments

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determine capacity building needed to enable sectors participate effectively in MSP, get insights into sector plans and vision for the marine space.

The first two sector meetings brought together officials from national and county governments relevant to marine spatial planning. This was followed by sector dialogues with civil society, including professional bodies, academia and the private sector.

Across the sectors, participants agreed on the need to share data on the ocean space such as that on current and planned uses by different sectors as well as the status of marine resources.

Stakeholder engagement

Although the meetings focused on data sharing, the participants also made important recommendations on how to ensure all stakeholders are effectively engaged and participate fully in the MSP process.

Over 300 stakeholder representatives participated in the dialogue sessions. They proposed additional stakeholders that should be engaged during the various stages of planning.

The MSP Secretariat also briefed governors from the riparian counties bordering the Indian Ocean to ensure that their views and interests are included early in the process and county teams actively involved.

Besides the sector dialogues, the SESA team will visit the counties to engage communities at the grassroots to obtain their views and information, including indigenous knowledge, for the assessment.

SESA is a requirement under the [National Environment Management Authority \(NEMA\)](#) legal framework for large scale programmes, policies, and plans such as MSP. NEMA is represented in the MSP Secretariat to advise on this process and other safeguards.



A participant gives his views during a consultative meeting with civil society representatives from coastal counties.



A facilitator presents during one of the sector dialogues.

Infobyte

SESA comprises a range of analytical and participatory approaches that will be used to evaluate the economic and social aspects of the MSP process. Its findings will inform the planning process, including ensuring environmental considerations are integrated into the plans.

MSP portal to promote data sharing and collaboration

Success of marine spatial planning relies on availability of data for evidence-based decision making. For instance, data helps in understanding current uses of the ocean space, which is vital for balancing competing interests and reducing conflicts. It is also useful in assessing the potential impacts of human activities and making decisions that minimize the negative effects.

A GeoNode data portal is being set up to encourage sharing of data to inform marine spatial planning and similar initiatives. Known as the Kenya Marine Atlas, the portal is part of the preparatory activities for the Kenya MSP. The platform is currently being tested before going live.

GeoNode is an open-source platform for sharing geospatial data and other data such as photos. It serves as a data portal that enables users to upload, share, discover, visualize, and manage geospatial data and maps.

Once the portal is operational, users will be able to upload various types of data, such as shape files and raster data as well as metadata describing data sets. The portal will also enable users to visualize maps. They can also collaborate through shared projects.

The portal will be available via this link: <https://msp.go.ke/data-portal>



A screening of the MSP data portal during training of editors and administrators who will manage the platform.

DATA SHARING FACT SHEET

A data sharing protocol for MSP has been developed

[Click here to Download](#)

SNAPSHOT

Key Achievement in Pre-Planning

■ **MSP Secretariat:** The Secretariat has been set up at the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute (KMFRI). It is led by a national coordinator and comprises experts in various fields relevant to the MSP process as well as representatives of key blue economy ministries, departments and agencies. The team is supported by thematic technical working groups and a team of planning consultants.

■ **Multi-Agency Steering Committee:** The committee has been fully constituted and provides oversight and technical guidance to the Secretariat. It comprises Directors of state departments and agencies relevant to the blue economy. The committee meets quarterly to review MSP progress and advise on emerging issues.

■ Key documents have developed including the **National MSP Framework, Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, Data Sharing Protocol, and Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM).**

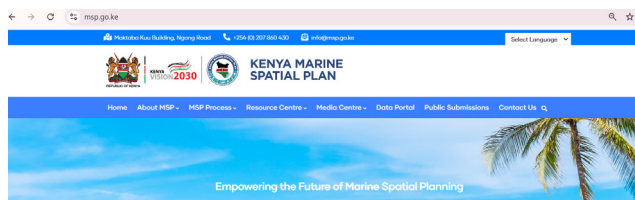
■ **The Kenya MSP logo (right)** has been developed and key information materials developed, including a series of fact sheets



From left: MSP Coordinator Dr Jacqueline Uku (left), Multi-Agency Steering Committee Co-Chairs Lucy Obungu and Julius Seger, KEMFSED Deputy National Coordinator Susan Otieno and Harrison Onganda, Deputy MSP Coordinator, view one of the MSP publicity materials during a quarterly meeting of the committee.

translated into Kiswahili.

■ **Delineation of the planning area**, a key step in the preparatory phase of MSP, has been done and a request submitted to the State Department for Physical Planning and Land Use to gazette the Intention to Plan. Publication of the Intention to Plan will signal the start of the planning phase and invites the public to make submissions on the



Visit MSP website live

The Kenya MSP website is a hub for information and stakeholder engagement on the marine spatial planning process. Access the website via this link: <https://msp.go.ke/>

USEFUL RESOURCES

MSP Kenya Fact sheets

The MSP Secretariat has produced a series of fact sheets in English and Kiswahili that provide basic information on various aspects of the Kenya MSP process. These include fact sheets on:

- MSP Process
- National MSP Framework
- Stakeholder Engagement Strategy
- Environmental and Social Safeguards
- Data Sharing and Management
- Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

An English-Kiswahili glossary of key terms used in MSP has also been compiled. [Downloads](#)



- **MSPglobal: international guide on marine/maritime spatial planning**
Produced by UNESCO, this is a key reference document and benchmark for the Kenya MSP process. [Download](#)
- **Marine spatial planning and the blue economy in Kenya**
This report captures the dialogue held between different sectoral players on environmental pressures along the Kenyan coast and highlights critical aspects that are important for consideration as Kenya develops its Marine Spatial Planning. [Download](#)

NATIONAL MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING IN KENYA

Promoting Sustainable Harnessing of Ocean Resources for the Growth of the Blue Economy

Vision

A sustainable blue economy for accelerated social-economic development

Goal 1: Enhanced ecosystems and biodiversity conservation

Objectives

- To conserve and protect at least 30% of nearshore and offshore areas of high conservation value by 2030.
- To strengthen existing legal and policy frameworks for effective governance of the marine and coastal space through integrated sector-based coordination by 2030.

Goal 2: Improve climate change adaptability and resilience

Objectives

- To implement nature-based solutions to support adaptation and mitigate the impacts of climate change by 2030.
- To develop and implement an integrated and coordinated disaster risk management system, with environmental and social interventions by 2030.

Goal 3: Promote sustainable utilization of coastal and marine resources for inclusive social economic development

Objectives

- To develop and implement science-based plans to support management and sustainable utilization of coastal and marine resources by 2030.
- To support sustainable multi-sectoral planning of coastal and offshore developments by 2030.



Members of the Multi-Agency Steering Committee after a meeting in April 2024.

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