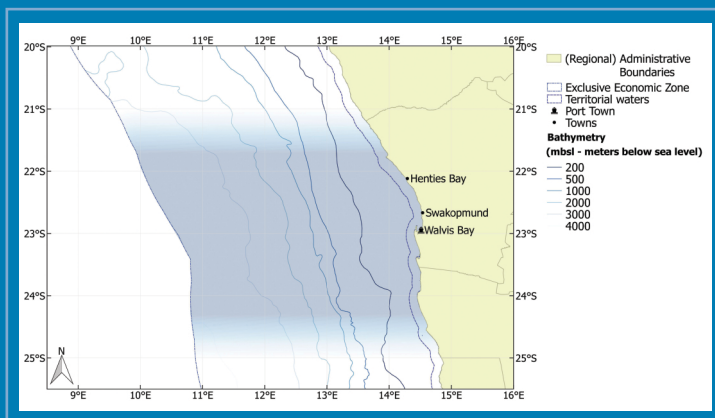


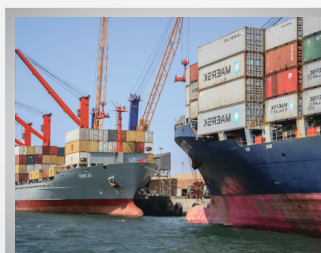
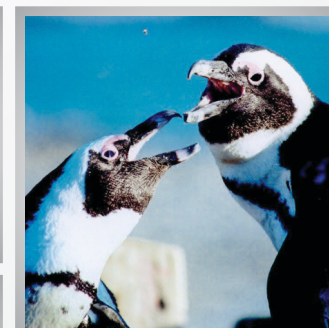
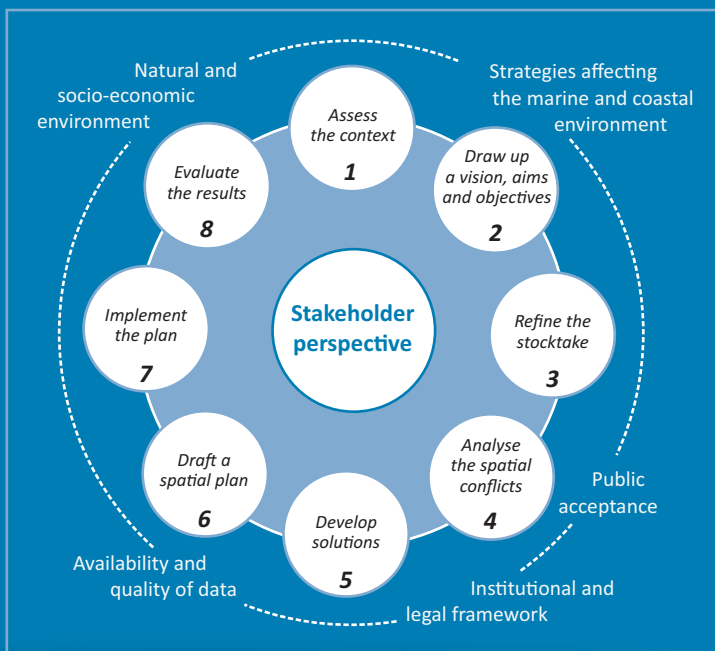
The central Namibian marine area requires management needs due to the growing economic interests and existing and future overlapping uses. This area categorised as high ecological sensitivity and importance. Multiple users and stakeholders are active in the area and have a range of economic, social or environmental interests.



Further Namibian Marine Spatial Plans will be prepared sequentially on a needs basis. The experience gained and lessons learned from preparing the plan for the central area can be used to improve the preparation (or review) of subsequent plans.

How will Namibia implement MSP?

The Government will implement MSP through the MSP-NWG by following the steps of the MSP process cycle. The Government seeks to engage and cooperate with marine users and other relevant stakeholders in this process.



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT



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What is Marine Spatial Planning?

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is a participative decision-making process that guides where and when human activities occur in marine spaces. It provides for comprehensive, integrated and complementary planning and management across all sectors and for all ocean uses in order to enable sustainable ocean development.

Why is Namibia implementing MSP?

Namibia is a maritime nation with a rich ocean wealth and an ocean area that is approximately 2/3 the size of its land area. The ocean is fundamental for the well-being of Namibians as it provides valuable services and resources for multiple sectors. Current use and management of the ocean space is mainly based on silo sector management.

MSP is a relatively new way of improving the management of human activities that take place in the ocean. MSP entails a strategic and long-term public development planning process that guides where and when human activities occur in the sea. MSP coherently organizes the use of space and its marine resources to guide single-sector decision-making and provide for comprehensive, integrated and complementary planning, management and governance of the ocean.

Implementing MSP is therefore in line with Vision 2030, the country's overarching long-term development framework, adopted in 2004, which embraces integrated cross-sectoral planning as well as cooperation and effective institutional arrangements across sectors, agencies, entities and ministries, and among levels of government to achieve sustainable development.

How does MSP work?

MSP helps decision-makers to plan sectors in a coordinated and complementary way. It reveals spatial conflicts and synergies between uses, and it encourages the shared use of marine areas to benefit as many industries as possible. MSP also helps to maintain a healthy ecosystem by integrating conservation objectives for marine biodiversity, which is a prerequisite for sustainable ocean development.

What does a Marine Spatial Plan contain?

A Marine Spatial Plan consists of text and maps. It contains spatial regulations that set out which activities are encouraged where in the area. Permits or licenses for marine uses are a way of implementing the regulations.

What does a Marine Spatial Plan do?

- Sets out priorities and directions for future development within a planning area.
- Ensures that environmental protection is incorporated into marine decision-making.
- Encourages the development of marine industries.
- Helps marine users understand the best locations for their activities, including where new developments may be appropriate.
- Provides a transparent framework for decision-making.

Who is responsible for MSP in Namibia?

MSP is an integrative process that engages a wide range of stakeholders; ministries, institutions, industry, non-governmental organisations and communities cooperate in working towards an agreed marine spatial plan that is supported by as many stakeholders as possible and implemented by public authorities.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) is tasked to coordinate the process of MSP in Namibia through an inter-ministerial Working Group. This National MSP working group (MSP-NWG) is constituted of representatives of the following ministries and institutions, all of which either have regulatory responsibility for human use activities in Namibia's sea space, whose mandates impact on the marine environment or which have technical and scientific expertise required to carry out the planning process:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry (MAWF)
- Ministry of Defence (MoD)
- Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET)
- Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)
- Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and SME Development (MITSMED)
- Ministry of Land Reform (MLR)
- Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME)
- Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD)
- Ministry of Works and Transport (MWT)
- Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST)
- National Commission on Research Science and Technology (NCRST)
- National Planning Commission (NPC)
- University of Namibia (UNAM)

What are benefits of MSP?

- Increase coordination and integration between sectors to reduce conflicts and enhance synergies
- Provide security for public and private sector investment
- Make provision for the diversification of the Blue Economy
- Balancing socio-economic development and ecological sustainability in the short and long term
- Encouraging of shared use of busy areas to benefit as many industries as possible.
- Enabling marine users and coastal communities to be actively and continuously involved in planning and plan implementation.
- Integrates with Coastal Management and planning on land.

Where will Namibia implement MSP?

The central Namibian sea has been chosen as the planning area for the country's first Marine Spatial Plan. The core planning area is bound northwards by Cape Cross and southwards by Conception Bay. The inward boundary of the planning area is the high-water mark. The outward boundary of the area is the outer limit of Namibia's marine area, as determined by the limit of its Exclusive Economic Zone (200 nautical miles) (EEZ).