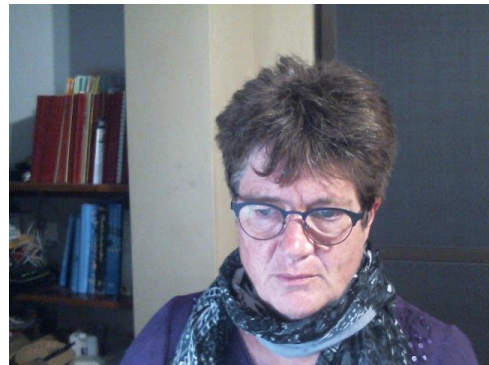
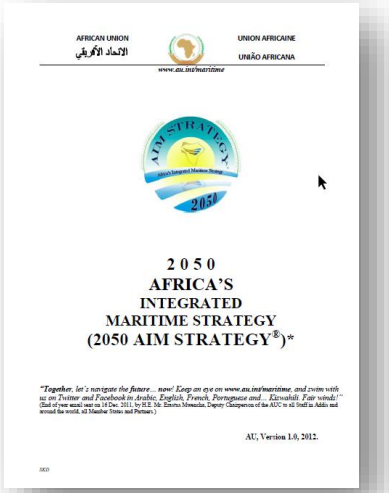
A regional Marine Spatial Planning Strategy for the Western Indian Ocean

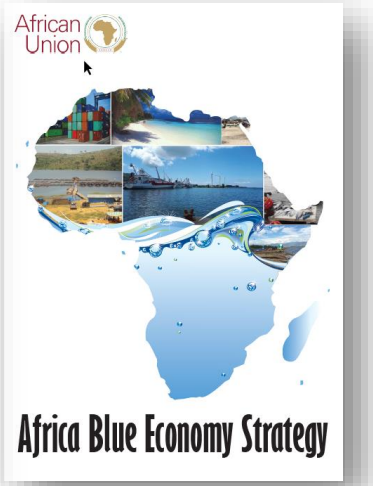
Amanda T. Lombard, Jai K. Clifford-Holmes, Bernadette Snow, Victoria Goodall, Kaylee P. Smit, Mia Strand, Hannah Truter and Vera Horigue

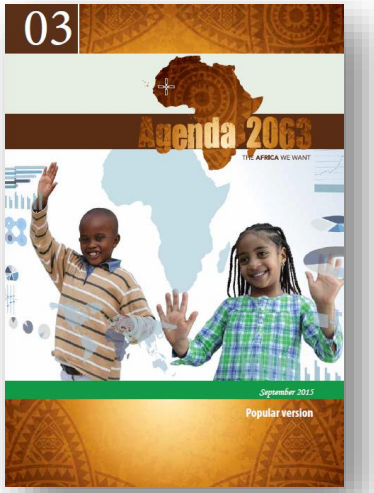


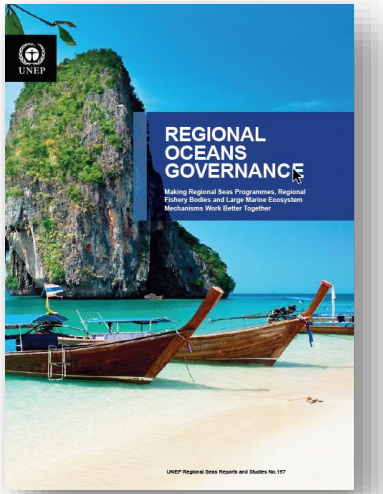
Need for a regional MSP strategy

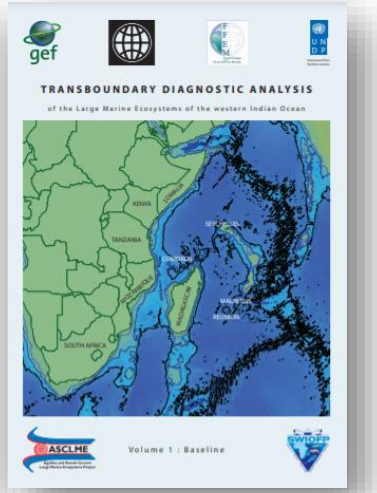
Parties to the Nairobi Convention (NC) and partners, Dar es Salaam, March 2019 … requested the Nairobi Convention Secretariat to work with partners to develop a regional strategy

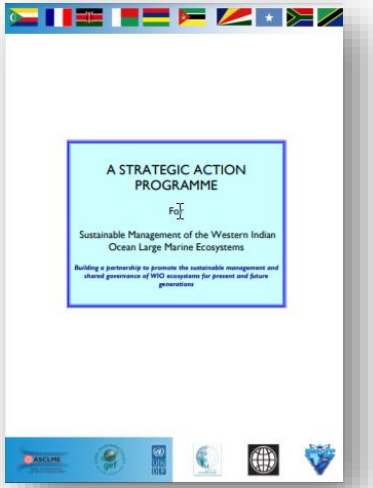




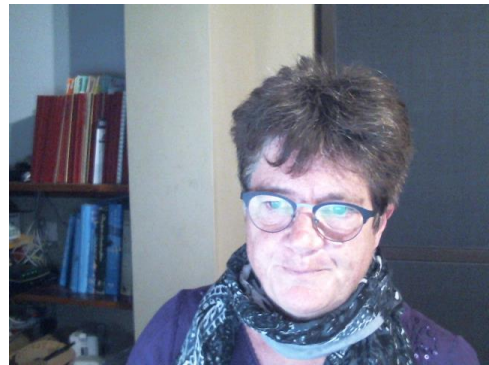








Source	Title
African Union	Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy 2050 (AIMS)
	Africa Blue Economy Strategy 2019
African Union Commission	Agenda 2063. The Africa we want
African Union, UNEP	African Strategy for Ocean Governance
UN Development Programme	Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the Large Marine Ecosystems of the western Indian Ocean
	A Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for Sustainable Management of the Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems



Definition of MSP

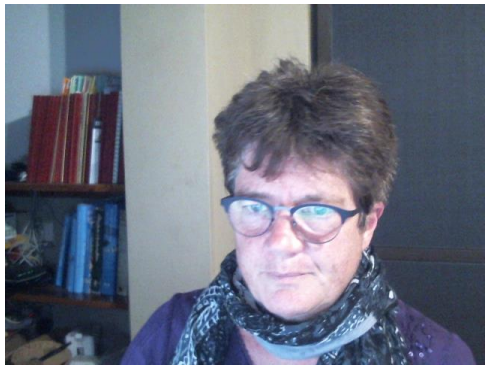
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

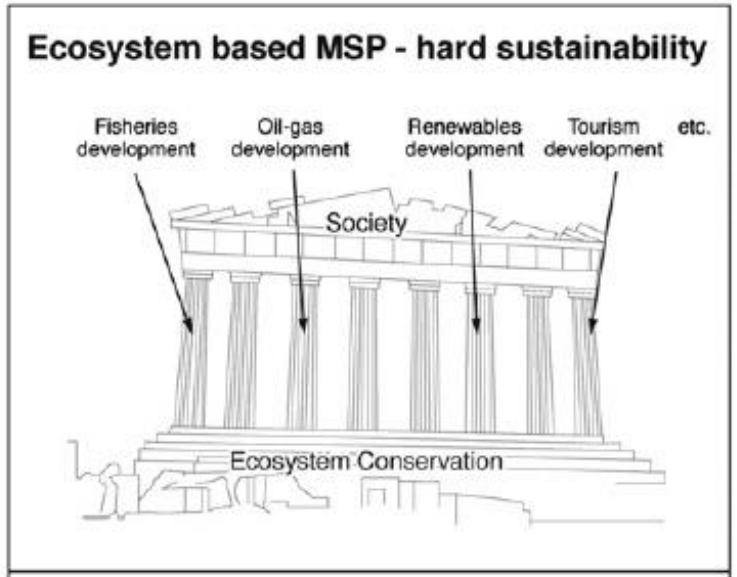
MSP is "a process of analyzing and allocating parts of three-dimensional marine spaces (or ecosystems) to specific uses or objectives, to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives that are usually specified through a political process"

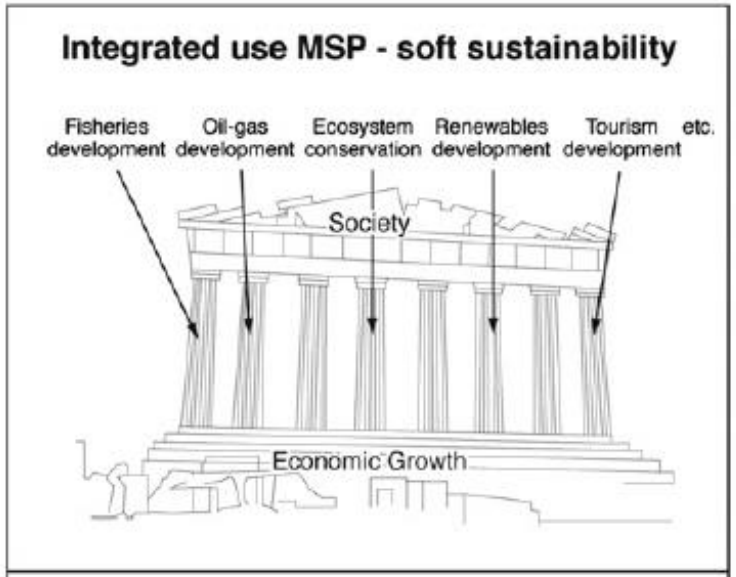
MSP is a process that is:

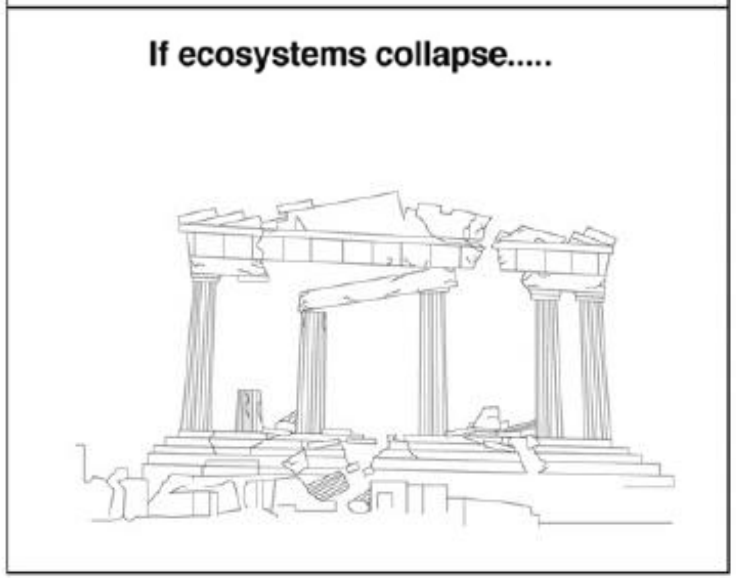
- ecosystem-based
- integrated across sectors & agencies
- area-based
- adaptive
- strategic and anticipatory
- and participatory



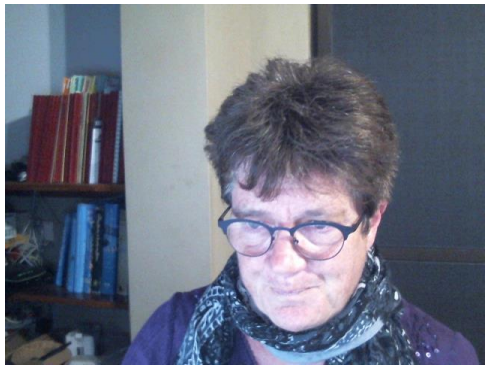
Ecosystem-based versus Integrated use MSP





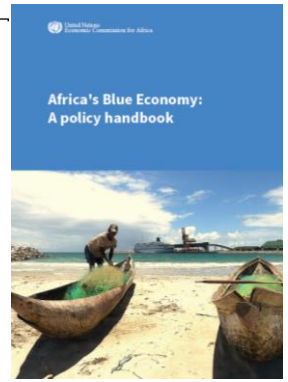


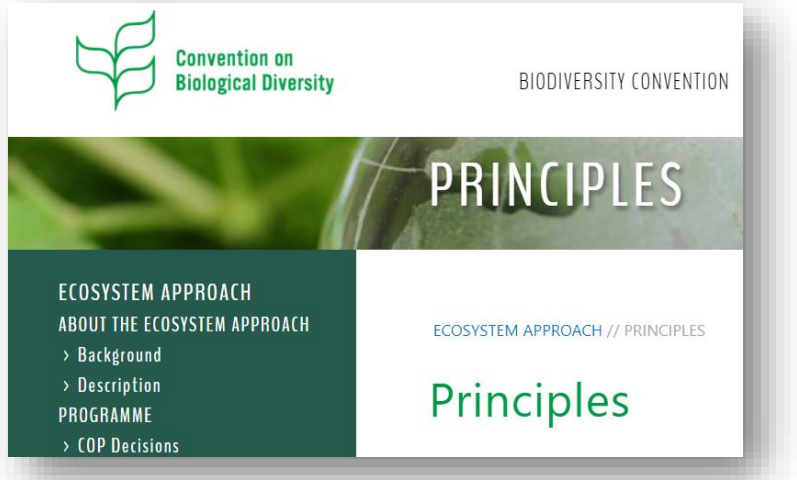
Adapted from Qiu and Jones (2016)



Guiding principles

UN SDGs
UNEP's proposed new Marine and Coastal Strategy (2020-2030)
UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA 2016)





- An ecosystem-based approach
- A Systems thinking approach
- A multi-stakeholder-based approach
- A sound evidence base for decision-making
- Transparency and accountability
- Policy coherence
- Cooperation
- Shared benefits and prosperity for all

Annex 1: Malawi Principles for the Ecosystem Approach

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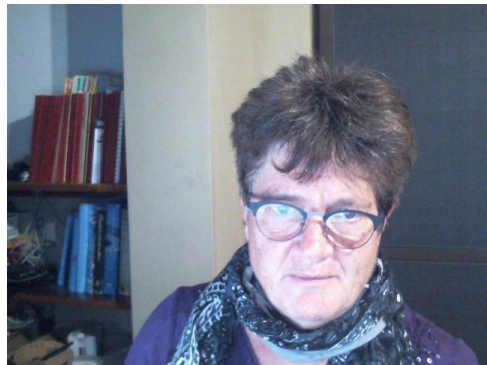
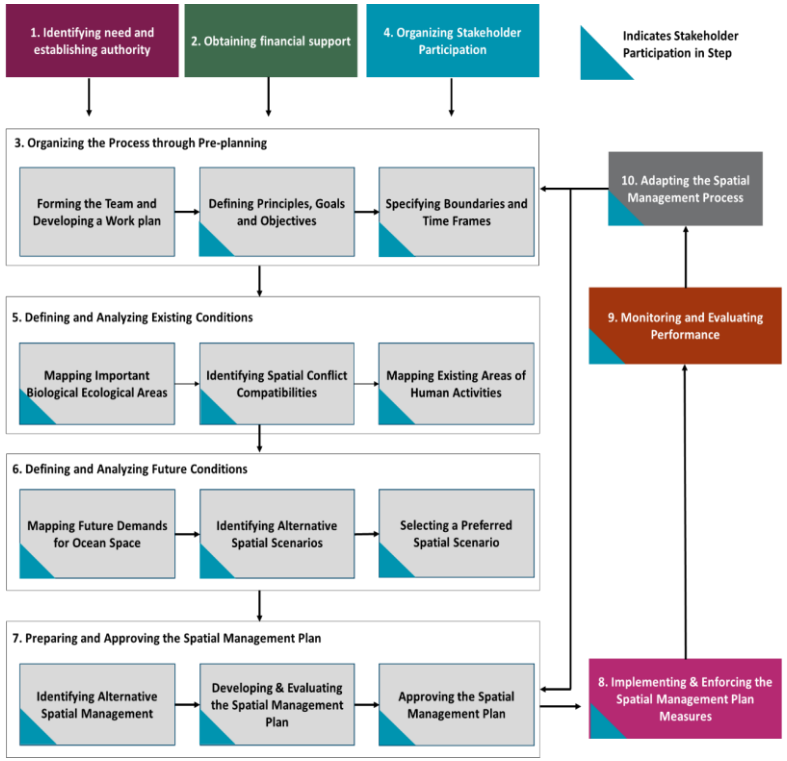


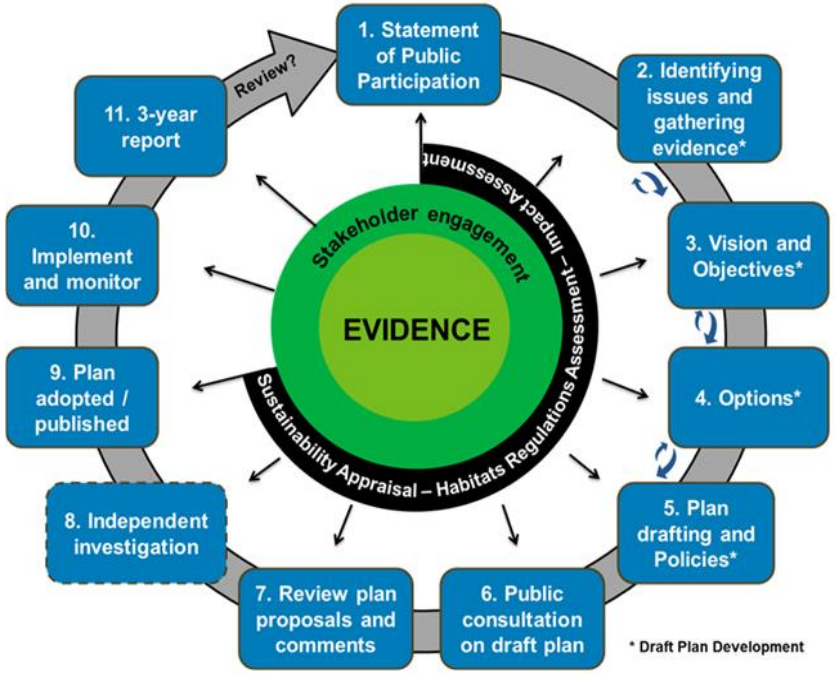
Best practice

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission



Marine Management Organisation



MaPP

Marine Plan Partnership Pacific North Coast

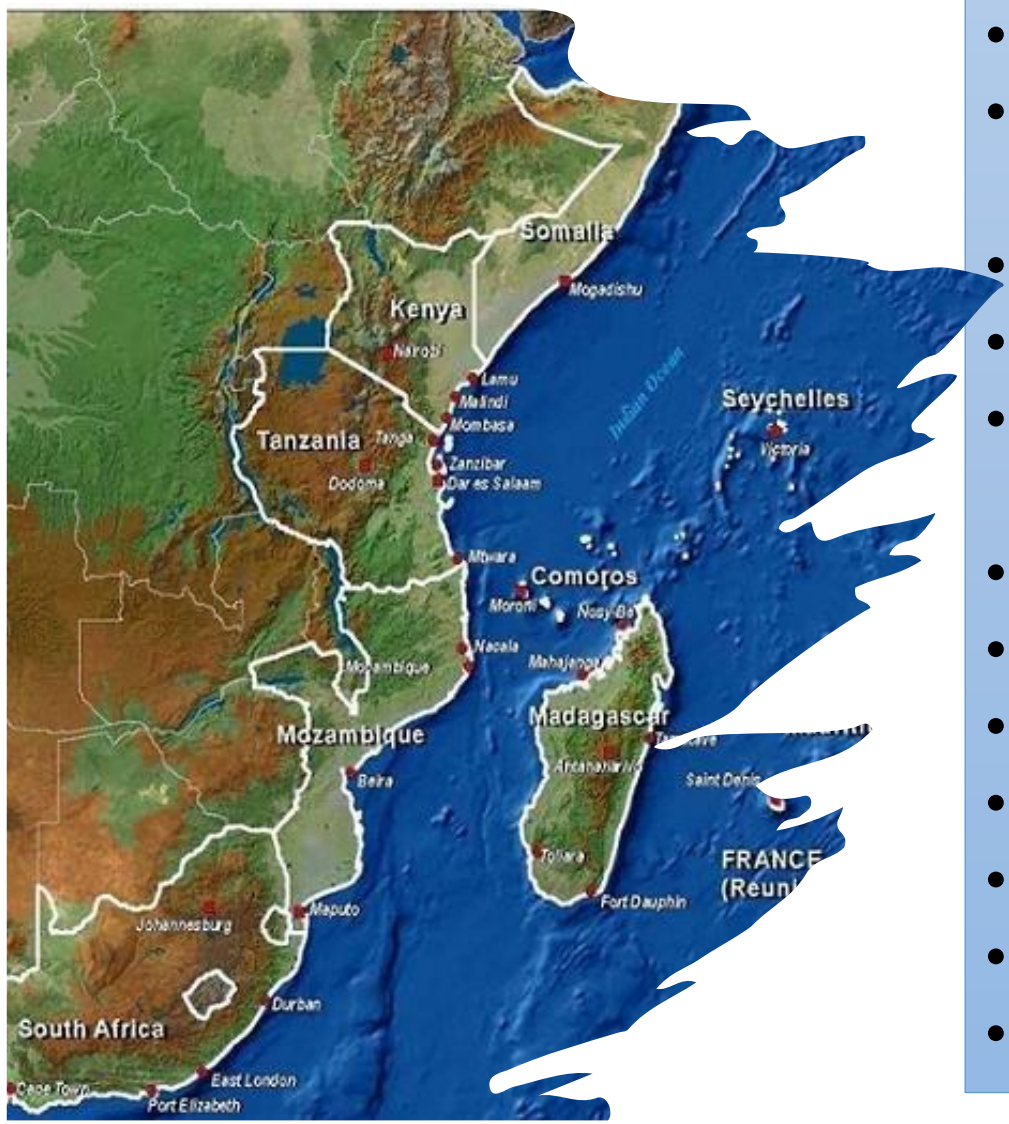
Governance challenges

- Inefficient governance system
- Lack of integration
- Limited access to data
- Lack of funds & inefficient spending
- Limited technical and human capacity
- Lack of monitoring and evaluation
- User/stakeholder conflicts
- Outdated legal/regulatory frameworks
- Human population growth
- Regional issues not prioritised by nations

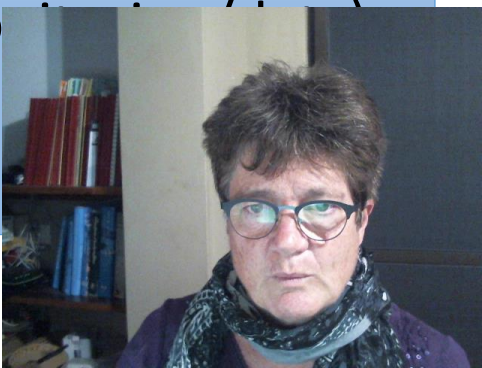
Threatening processes

- Biodiversity loss
- Habitat loss/destruction
- Unsustainable fishing
- Pollution & sedimentation
- Climate-driven changes
- Piracy/marine safety & security
- Poor management of ship traffic

Benefits of regional MSP

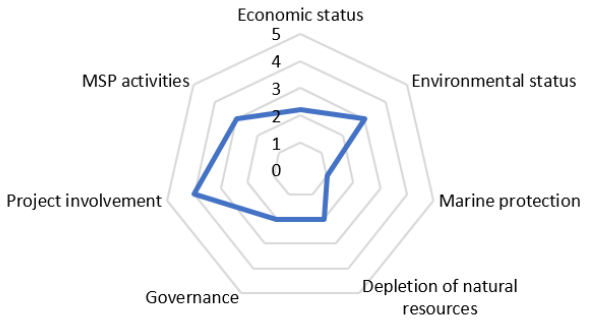


- Increased resilience to climate change
- Effective management of marine ecosystems /processes
- Effective management of migratory marine species
- A reduction of overexploitation
- Improved understanding of regional ecosystem services
- Reduced habitat modification
- Improved water quality management
- Mitigation and reduction of pressures (*pollution)
- Conflict management
- Improved knowledge management (mo
- Conservation of ABNJ
- Improved maritime safety & security

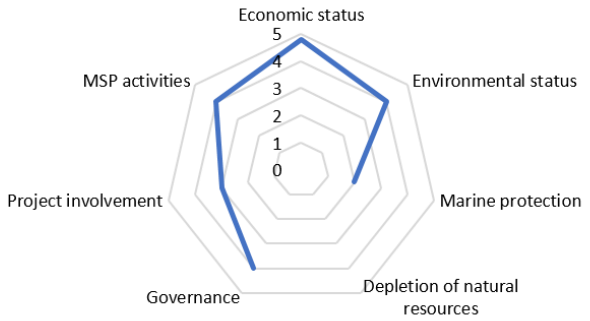


National MSP readiness in the WIO

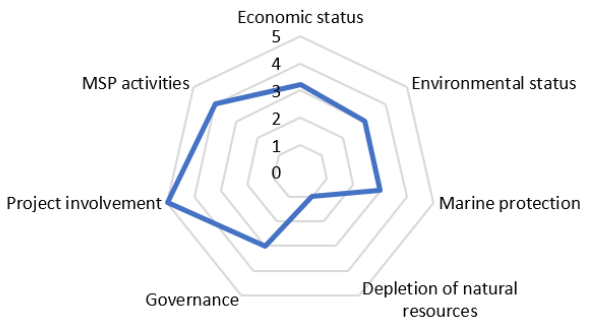
Comoros



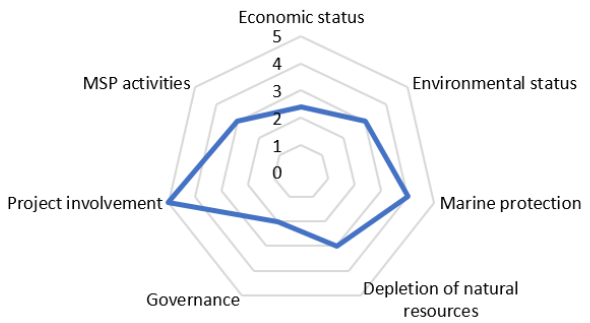
France (Reunion Island)



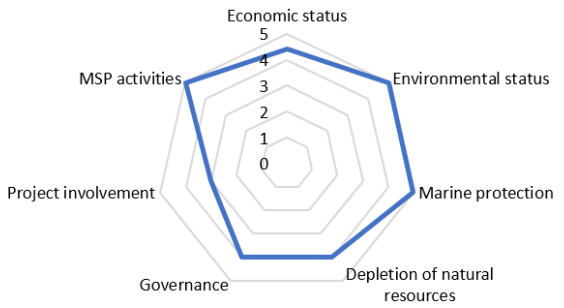
Kenya



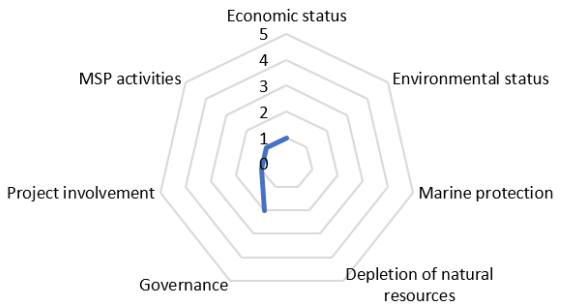
Madagascar



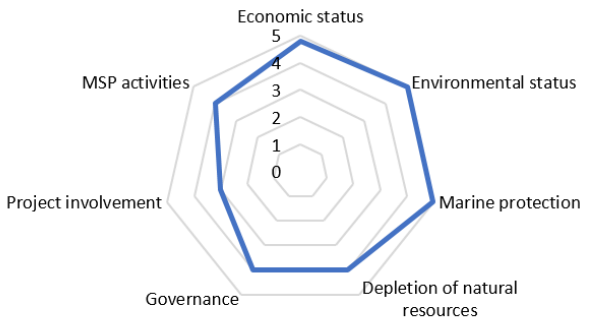
Seychelles



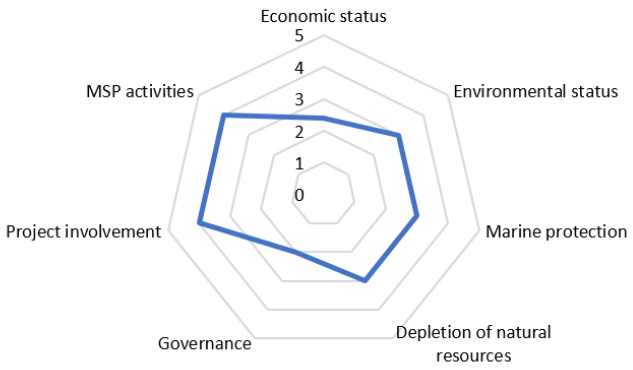
Somalia



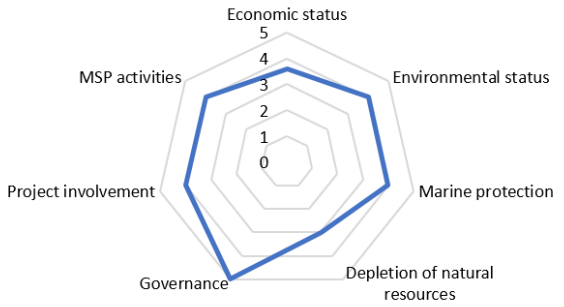
Mauritius



Mozambique



South Africa



Tanzania

Vision
A WIO with inclusive and sustainable management of ocean and coastal ecosystem services for human wellbeing

Goal
An inclusive and holistic MSP process that produces a regional marine spatial plan to support the sustainable management of ocean and coastal ecosystems for all

Objectives

- Roadmap, principles and guidelines for EBA to regional MSP
- Framework for EBA to National MSP
- Policy alignment
- Clear institutional arrangements
- Multi-use & conflict management
- Systems approach
- Manage threatening processes
- Knowledge management
- Sustainable & inclusive blue economies
- Tools for implementation
- Network of MPAs

Strategic Priorities

- Stakeholder engagement processes that bring big industry & smaller interest groups together
- Harmonisation of legal instruments for blue economy practices
- Contextualisation of the global blue economy narrative for the WIO region
- Cross sectoral governance
- Improved mapping of biophysical environment & human activities
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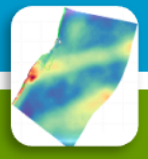
- Multilateral stock management plans
- Management & protection of ABNJ
- Increased ocean protection



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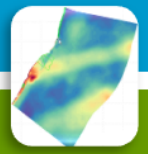

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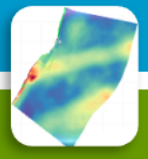

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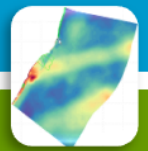

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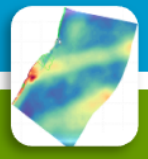
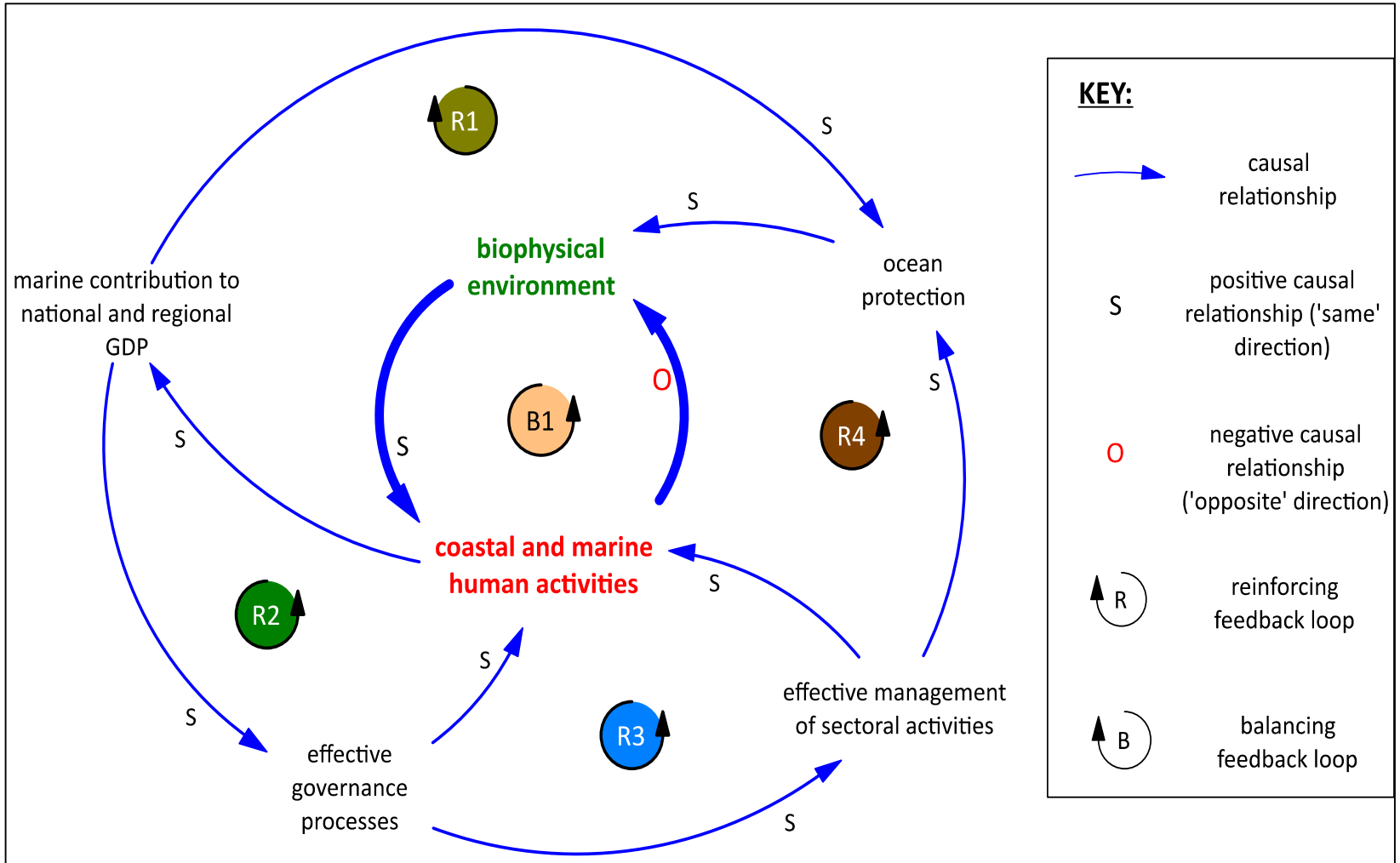


Systemic perspectives of strategic priorities

High-level causal loop diagram (CLD)

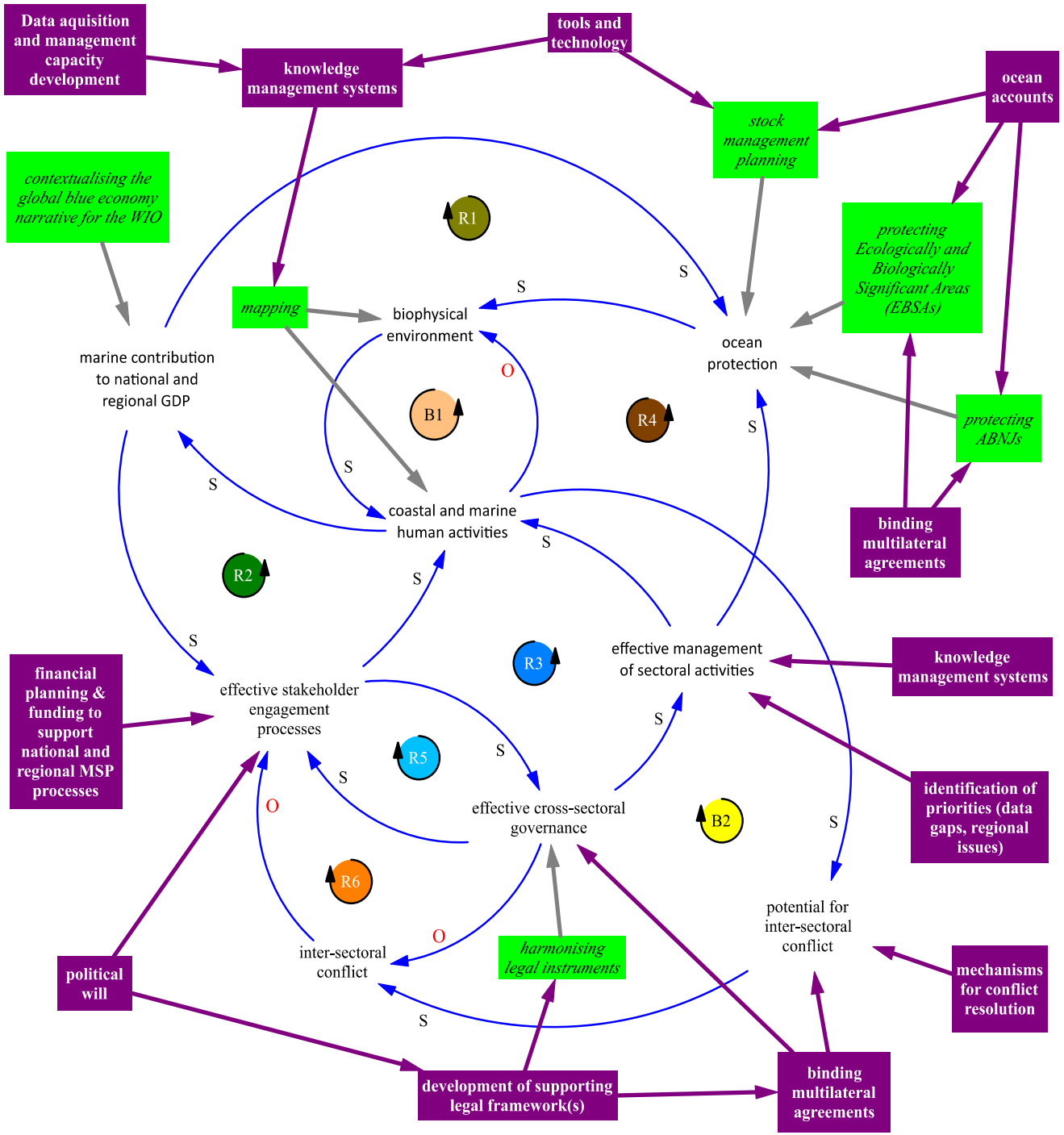


KEY:

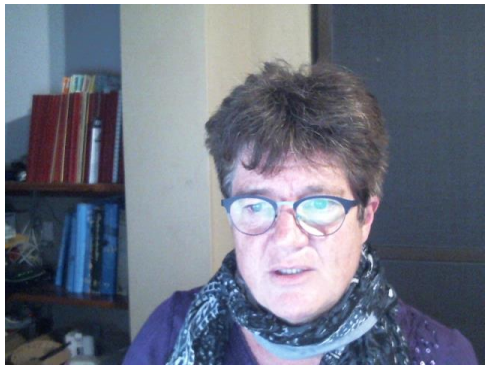
- causal relationship
- S — positive causal relationship ('same' direction)
- O — negative causal relationship ('opposite' direction)
- R — reinforcing feedback loop
- B — balancing feedback loop

FEEDBACK LOOPS:

- B1 — 'ecosystem base controlling human activities' (balancing) loop
- R1 — economic development funding ocean protection
- R2 — marine contribution to national and regional GDP funding engagement processes
- R3 — effective engagement and cross-sectoral governance driving effective management
- R4 — marine contribution to national and regional GDP



Expanded CLD with enabling mechanisms shown in relation to leverage points



Strategic Recommendations

1. Agree to ratify and adopt the strategy
2. Agree to harmonise in-country MSP development with strategy
3. Secure funding and develop capacity MSP
4. Develop regional partnerships (e.g. SADC, RFMOs, IOC, etc.)
5. Ensure that MSP follows an ecosystems-based approach ("Malawi Principles")

Technical Recommendations

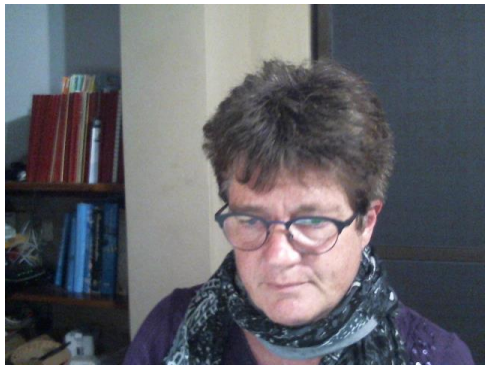
1. Promote an enabling policy environment for in-country MSP legislation.
2. Assist with establishment of in-country cross-sectoral forums/committees/working groups
3. Develop in-country knowledge management systems
4. Develop a communication and stakeholder engagement plan

UN environment programme

Nairobi Convention

THANK YOU

Coastal and Marine Research

NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

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