



Regional Consultancy to Assess the Training Needs and Develop MPA Management Training Materials

MPA Management Training Curriculum

Module 2.2 Introduction to Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)



2026

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1	MODULE INFORMATION.....	1
1.2	MODULE DESCRIPTION.....	1
1.3	OVERALL LEARNING OUTCOMES.....	1
1.4	MODULE CONTENT OUTLINE.....	1
1.5	ESTIMATED TIME REQUIRED.....	2
1.6	ASSESSMENT STRATEGY.....	2
2	MODULE GLOSSARY.....	3
2.1	SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION TO MSP.....	3
2.2	SECTION 2: GOALS AND BENEFITS.....	3
2.3	SECTION 3: THE MSP PROCESS.....	3
2.4	SECTION 4: IMPLEMENTATION.....	3
2.5	SECTION 5: MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....	4
3	SECTION 1 - CONCEPTS AND TERMINOLOGIES.....	5
3.1	DESCRIPTION.....	5
3.2	LEARNING OBJECTIVES.....	5
3.3	CONTENT.....	5
3.3.1	<i>Core Definitions: Ocean Governance, Blue Economy, and MSP.....</i>	<i>5</i>
3.3.2	<i>Stakeholder Engagement.....</i>	<i>6</i>
3.3.3	<i>Spatial Management Concepts: Zoning, Compatibility, and Capacity.....</i>	<i>6</i>
3.3.4	<i>Key Characteristics of MSP.....</i>	<i>7</i>
3.4	FURTHER READING.....	7
3.4.1	<i>Core MSP Guides and Frameworks.....</i>	<i>7</i>
3.4.2	<i>Regional Resources (Caribbean and Latin America).....</i>	<i>7</i>
3.4.3	<i>Caribbean Blue Economy Frameworks.....</i>	<i>7</i>
3.5	ASSESSMENT.....	9
3.6	ANSWER KEY.....	10
4	SECTION 2 – GOALS AND BENEFITS.....	11
4.1	DESCRIPTION.....	11
4.2	LEARNING OBJECTIVES.....	11
4.3	CONTENT.....	11
4.3.1	<i>Conflict Reduction.....</i>	<i>11</i>
4.3.2	<i>Sustainable Economic Development.....</i>	<i>11</i>
4.3.3	<i>Conservation and Ecological Benefits.....</i>	<i>12</i>
4.3.4	<i>Social and Cultural Benefits.....</i>	<i>13</i>
4.3.5	<i>Summary.....</i>	<i>14</i>
4.4	FURTHER READING.....	14
4.4.1	<i>Caribbean Case Studies and Reports.....</i>	<i>14</i>
4.4.2	<i>Global Frameworks on MSP Benefits.....</i>	<i>14</i>
4.4.3	<i>Tools for Assessing Benefits.....</i>	<i>14</i>
4.5	ASSESSMENT.....	15
4.6	ANSWER KEY.....	16

5	SECTION 3 – THE MSP PROCESS.....	17
5.1	DESCRIPTION.....	17
5.2	LEARNING OBJECTIVES.....	17
5.3	CONTENT.....	17
5.3.1	<i>Steps 1 – 3: Preparing the Ground.....</i>	<i>17</i>
5.3.2	<i>Step 4: Stakeholder Engagement.....</i>	<i>17</i>
5.3.3	<i>Steps 5 – 6: Analyzing Conditions.....</i>	<i>17</i>
5.3.4	<i>Step 7: Developing the Spatial Plan.....</i>	<i>18</i>
5.3.5	<i>Steps 8 – 10: Implementation and Adaptation.....</i>	<i>18</i>
5.3.6	<i>Regional Tool: The Caribbean Step-by-Step Guide.....</i>	<i>18</i>
5.3.7	<i>Summary.....</i>	<i>18</i>
5.3.8	<i>Case Study: The Montserrat Marine Spatial Planning Process.....</i>	<i>18</i>
5.4	FURTHER READING.....	20
5.4.1	<i>Core Frameworks and Guides.....</i>	<i>20</i>
5.4.2	<i>Caribbean Process and Case Studies.....</i>	<i>20</i>
5.4.3	<i>Technical Tools for the Process.....</i>	<i>20</i>
5.5	ASSESSMENT.....	21
5.6	ANSWER KEY.....	22
6	SECTION 4 – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN.....	23
6.1	DESCRIPTION.....	23
6.2	LEARNING OBJECTIVES.....	23
6.3	CONTENT.....	23
6.3.1	<i>Regulations and Legal Adoption.....</i>	<i>23</i>
6.3.2	<i>Institutional Roles and Coordination.....</i>	<i>23</i>
6.3.3	<i>Compliance and Enforcement.....</i>	<i>24</i>
6.3.4	<i>Transitioning from Planning to Action.....</i>	<i>24</i>
6.3.5	<i>Summary.....</i>	<i>24</i>
6.3.6	<i>Case Study: Saint Lucia’s Soufrière Marine Management Area (SMMA).....</i>	<i>24</i>
6.4	FURTHER READING.....	25
6.4.1	<i>Core Guides on Implementation.....</i>	<i>25</i>
6.4.2	<i>Caribbean Case Studies and Legal Frameworks.....</i>	<i>26</i>
6.4.3	<i>Technical Tools for Compliance.....</i>	<i>26</i>
6.5	ASSESSMENT.....	27
6.6	ANSWER KEY.....	28
7	SECTION 5 – MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....	29
7.1	DESCRIPTION.....	29
7.2	LEARNING OBJECTIVES.....	29
7.3	CONTENT.....	29
7.3.1	<i>Indicators and Criteria.....</i>	<i>29</i>
7.3.2	<i>The Monitoring Process.....</i>	<i>29</i>
7.3.3	<i>Adaptive Management (The Re-cycling Step).....</i>	<i>30</i>
7.3.4	<i>Regional Tool: The Marine Spatial Planning Index.....</i>	<i>30</i>
7.3.5	<i>Summary.....</i>	<i>30</i>
7.3.6	<i>Case Study: Monitoring and evaluation in the Belize ICZM Plan.....</i>	<i>30</i>
7.4	FURTHER READING.....	31

7.4.1	<i>Core Guides on Monitoring and Evaluation</i>	31
7.4.2	<i>Caribbean Monitoring Methodologies</i>	31
7.4.3	<i>Technical Tools for Adaptive Management</i>	31
7.5	ASSESSMENT.....	32
7.6	ANSWER KEY.....	33
8	FINAL ASSESSMENT	34
8.1	ANSWER KEY.....	35
9	USEFUL RESOURCES	36

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Module Information*

- Focus Areas: Marine spatial planning
- Level: Technical and Theoretical
- Total Sections: 5

1.2 *Module Description*

This module introduces MSP, beginning by defining core concepts and terminology and outlining the key goals and benefits of the framework. Students will systematically examine the MSP process through the globally recognized ten-step framework, focusing on how planning moves from initial assessment and stakeholder engagement to the design of specific management zones, and implementation of the plan. Emphasis is placed on the practical aspects of implementation, covering the necessary regulations, the definition of institutional roles, and the strategies needed for effective compliance and enforcement. The module concludes with the principles of monitoring and evaluation, demonstrating how to select appropriate indicators and criteria to track progress and ensure the MSP plan remains effective and adaptable over the long term.

1.3 *Overall Learning Outcomes*

Upon successful completion of the course, learners will be able to:

- Define and differentiate between key concepts such as MSP, Blue Economy and Ocean Governance
- Categorize the core benefits of MSP into distinct ecological, economic, and social outcomes
- identify the difference in scope and spatial scale of the protection provided by a single MPA and a national system of MPAs, as components of MSP
- Sequence and describe the steps in the MSP framework
- Identify the necessary regulations and institutional roles required to legally adopt and enforce a spatial plan
- Select and justify measurable indicators to track the success of an implemented MSP plan

1.4 *Module Content Outline*

Section 1: Concepts and terminology

- MSP, BE, ocean governance, stakeholder engagement, zoning (compatibility, carrying capacity etc.)

Section 2: Goals and benefits

- conflict reduction, sustainable economic development, conservation etc.

Section 3: MSP process

- ten-step framework
- Caribbean Regional MSP step by step guide
- stakeholder engagement (identification of stakeholders and inclusive engagement strategies)

Section 4: Implementation of the plan

- regulations, roles, compliance, enforcement

Section 5: Monitoring and evaluation

- indicators and criteria

1.5 Estimated Time Required

An estimate of 60 – 90 minutes per section is reasonable to ensure a deep understanding of the core principles. It is therefore estimated that the module should take anywhere between 5 – 8 hours to complete.

1.6 Assessment Strategy

Each section includes a targeted assessment consisting of:

1. Multiple Choice: For factual recall of principles and definitions.
2. Matching: For categorizing services and frameworks.
3. Scenario Analysis: For applying Nexus thinking to real-world conservation challenges.

2 MODULE GLOSSARY

This glossary provides a comprehensive reference for the core concepts and terminologies covered in each section of the module.

2.1 *Section 1: Introduction to MSP*

- **Blue Economy:** An economic model that seeks to promote economic growth, social inclusion, and the preservation or improvement of livelihoods while at the same time ensuring environmental sustainability of the oceans and coastal areas.
- **Multi-Sectoral Management:** An integrated approach to management that brings together different government departments and ocean users (e.g., fisheries, tourism, energy) to make collective decisions.
- **Sectoral Management (Silos):** A traditional management approach where different activities (like shipping or fishing) are managed independently by different agencies with little to no coordination.
- **Spatial Planning:** The process of analyzing and allocating the distribution of activities in a specific area (space) over a specific time.

2.2 *Section 2: Goals and Benefits*

- **Ecosystem Services:** The benefits that humans freely gain from the natural environment and from properly functioning ecosystems (e.g., coastal protection from mangroves, carbon sequestration from seagrass).
- **Larval Connectivity:** The movement of organisms (often in their larval stage) from one area to another, which helps restock fish populations in different parts of a marine network.
- **Spatial Certainty:** A state where ocean users and investors have a clear understanding of where specific activities are permitted, reducing the risk of legal or social conflict.
- **User-Environment Conflict:** Tensions that arise when a human activity (like dredging or anchoring) has a negative impact on a natural resource or habitat.
- **User-User Conflict:** Tensions that arise when two or more human activities compete for the same space or interfere with one another (e.g., a yacht anchoring in a traditional fishing ground).

2.3 *Section 3: The MSP Process*

- **Adaptive Management:** A systematic process for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of operational programs.
- **Baseline:** The initial set of data collected at the beginning of a project used as a benchmark to measure future progress or decline.
- **Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK):** The knowledge, practices, and beliefs regarding the relationship of living beings (including humans) with one another and with their environment, held by people who live in a specific area.
- **Participatory Mapping:** A map-making process that involves local communities to represent their spatial knowledge of an area, often used to capture social and cultural data.
- **Zoning:** The primary tool of MSP used to divide a marine area into different neighborhoods or zones, each with specific rules about what activities are allowed.

2.4 *Section 4: Implementation*

- **Compliance:** The act of ocean users voluntarily following the rules and regulations set out in a spatial plan, often driven by education and buy-in.
- **Conditional Use:** An activity that is not automatically allowed in a zone but may be permitted if certain criteria are met or a specific license is granted.
- **Enforcement:** The process of ensuring that laws and regulations are followed through monitoring, patrols, and the application of penalties for violations.
- **Legal Formalization (Gazetting):** The official process of making a plan legally binding through government legislation or official public notice.

- **Mooring Buoy:** A permanent anchor point in the water that allows boats to secure themselves without dropping an anchor, preventing damage to the seafloor/coral.

2.5 *Section 5: Monitoring and Evaluation*

- **Indicator:** A specific, measurable unit of information (e.g., percentage of live coral) used to track the progress toward a specific goal.
- **Process Evaluation:** An assessment of whether the planning steps were followed correctly (e.g., Was the stakeholder meeting well-attended?).
- **Outcome Evaluation:** An assessment of whether the plan actually achieved its intended results (e.g., Did fish biomass increase?).
- **SMART Criteria:** A framework used to ensure goals and indicators are effective: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.
- **SocMon (Socio-economic Monitoring):** A specific methodology used in the Caribbean to monitor the human dimension of coastal management, such as community perceptions and economic well-being.

3 SECTION 1 - CONCEPTS AND TERMINOLOGIES

3.1 Description

This section establishes the foundational terminology and core concepts required to understand Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) within the broader framework of ocean governance and the sustainable Blue Economy.

3.2 Learning objectives

Upon completion of this section, learners will be able to:

- Differentiate between Ocean Governance, the Blue Economy, and MSP, explaining how they function as separate but nested frameworks for marine management.
- Define Marine Spatial Planning as a public, multi-sectoral, and iterative process rather than a static one-time document.
- Evaluate the role of stakeholder engagement in the planning process, identifying how early and continuous participation influences plan transparency and long-term compliance.
- Analyze marine use compatibility by identifying potential synergies and conflicts between various sectors (e.g., tourism, fisheries, and industrial energy) using spatial management logic.
- Apply the concept of Carrying Capacity to determine the thresholds at which human activities might begin to degrade the ecological integrity of a specific marine area.
- Categorize the key characteristics of an effective MSP, including its nature as ecosystem-based, integrated, place-based, and adaptive.

3.3 Content

Understanding MSP requires distinguishing it from other high-level frameworks while recognizing how they interconnect.

3.3.1 Core Definitions: Ocean Governance, Blue Economy, and MSP

While often used interchangeably, these terms represent different levels of management and strategic intent:

- **Ocean Governance:** The overarching legal, social, economic, and political mechanisms used to manage the ocean and its resources. It involves the frameworks, policies, and regulations that coordinate various sectors (e.g., fisheries, shipping, energy) to achieve sustainable management at local, national, and regional scales.
- **Blue Economy:** A concept that describes an ocean economy where economic activity is in balance with the long-term capacity of ocean ecosystems to support this activity and remain resilient and healthy. It focuses on decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation while ensuring social equity and inclusion.
- **Marine Spatial Planning (MSP):** The primary operational tool used to deliver the Blue Economy. It is defined 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.

Comparison of Core Frameworks

Feature	Ocean Governance	Blue Economy	Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)
Primary Definition	The overarching legal, political, and social mechanisms used to manage ocean resources.	A strategic approach where economic growth is balanced with the long-term health of the ecosystem.	A public, practical process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities.

Feature	Ocean Governance	Blue Economy	Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)
Level of Focus	Policy and Law: High-level frameworks, international treaties, and national legislation.	Economic and Strategy: Strategic vision for sustainable development and resource use.	Operational and Spatial: The on-the-ground implementation tool for mapping and zoning.
Key Objective	To provide the authority and rules for how the ocean is managed across all sectors.	To decouple economic growth from environmental degradation while ensuring social equity.	To reduce conflicts (user-user and user-environment) and achieve specific ecological and social goals.
Scope	Broadest: Includes everything from maritime law to international diplomacy.	Intermediate: Focuses on the how of sustainable resource utilization and investment.	Specific: Focused on the geographic and temporal management of a defined marine area.
Common Tools	Treaties (e.g., UNCLOS), Inter-ministerial councils, Regional agreements.	Sustainable investment guidelines, circular economy models, blue carbon credits.	Zoning maps, compatibility matrices, stakeholder workshops, and permit systems.
Caribbean Context	Regional bodies like CARICOM and OECS setting shared maritime boundaries.	Transitioning from traditional tourism/fishing to sustainable mariculture and renewable energy.	Mapping coral reefs and shipping lanes in Barbados or Belize to create multi-use zones.

How They Work Together

Think of these three concepts as a hierarchy of action:

- Ocean Governance provides the Rules: It establishes who has the authority to make decisions.
- Blue Economy provides the Goal: It defines what kind of sustainable future the nation wants to achieve.
- MSP provides the Map: It is the practical tool that determines exactly where and when activities happen to make the Blue Economy a reality under the rules of Ocean Governance.

3.3.2 Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement is a cornerstone of the MSP process.

- Definition: The process of involving individuals, groups, or organizations who have an interest in, or are affected by, the management of the marine area.
- Role in MSP: Effective engagement ensures that the plan is transparent, inclusive, and accounts for local socio-cultural priorities. Early and continuous involvement of stakeholders (from indigenous communities to industrial sectors) is essential for building public trust, reducing conflict, and ensuring long-term compliance with the plan.

3.3.3 Spatial Management Concepts: Zoning, Compatibility, and Capacity

To move from a broad vision to a practical plan, MSP utilizes specific spatial management tools:

- **Zoning:** The most common output of a spatial management plan. It involves dividing a marine area into specific zones where certain activities are allowed, restricted, or prohibited based on the plan's objectives (e.g., conservation zones, multi-use zones, or industrial zones).
- **Compatibility:** A management approach used to determine if two or more activities can coexist in the same space at the same time. A Compatibility Matrix is often used to identify synergies (where uses support each other) and conflicts (where uses interfere with each other).
- **Carrying Capacity:** The level of human use or activity that a specific marine ecosystem can sustain indefinitely without the degradation of its character, quality, or ecological health. Understanding carrying capacity is vital for setting limits on activities such as tourism, aquaculture, or fishing to ensure they remain sustainable.

3.3.4 Key Characteristics of MSP

For MSP to be effective, it must be:

- **Ecosystem-based:** Prioritizing the health of the entire ecosystem rather than managing individual species or sectors in isolation.
- **Integrated:** Coordinating across different government levels and sectors (e.g., energy, tourism, and environment).
- **Iterative:** Not a one-time plan, but a continuous cycle that adapts as new data, technologies, or environmental conditions emerge.
- **Place-based:** Focused on the specific geographic and ecological context of a marine area.

3.4 Further Reading

3.4.1 Core MSP Guides and Frameworks

- [UNESCO-IOC/European Commission MSPglobal International Guide on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning \(2021\)](#): The most recent flagship guide covering the evolution of MSP, including ecosystem-based management and transboundary cooperation.
- [Marine Spatial Planning: A Step-by-Step Approach toward Ecosystem-Based Management \(2009\)](#): The foundational UNESCO 10-step guide detailing the operational tasks required to move from planning to implementation.
- [The Marine Spatial Planning Index: A tool to guide and assess marine spatial planning \(2023\)](#): A peer-reviewed tool and scoring guide used to assess how well a planning process adheres to the core principles of MSP.

3.4.2 Regional Resources (Caribbean and Latin America)

- [MSPglobal: Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Training and MSPforum Resources](#): A repository of outcomes, reports, and training materials from recent regional capacity-building events in Panama and across the LAC region.
- [1st Regional MSPforum for Latin America and the Caribbean: Event Report \(2023\)](#): Summarizes regional dialogues on transboundary cooperation and the integration of MSP into the Blue Economy.

3.4.3 Caribbean Blue Economy Frameworks

- [The World Bank: Unleashing the Blue Economy of the Caribbean \(UBEC\)](#): Details the regional project aimed at strengthening the enabling environment for the Blue Economy and marine resource management.
- [Caribbean Development Bank \(CDB\): Financing the Blue Economy \(2018\)](#): A comprehensive report outlining the strategic potential and financing mechanisms for sustainable ocean-based growth in the region.

3.5 Assessment

This assessment is designed to evaluate the learning outcomes for Section 1: Concepts and Terminology, focusing on the definitions, relationships, and spatial management tools of Marine Spatial Planning.

Part A: Multiple Choice

1. **Which of the following best describes Ocean Governance?**
 - A. The process of mapping coral reefs for tourism.
 - B. The overarching legal, social, and political mechanisms used to manage marine resources.
 - C. A specific plan for offshore wind energy deployment.
 - D. The measurement of fish stocks in a national park.
2. **What is the primary difference between the Blue Economy and MSP?**
 - A. The Blue Economy is a tool, while MSP is a legal treaty.
 - B. The Blue Economy is the strategic goal of sustainable growth; MSP is the practical process used to achieve it.
 - C. There is no difference; they are identical terms.
 - D. MSP focuses only on fishing, while the Blue Economy focuses only on tourism.
3. **In MSP, a Compatibility Matrix is primarily used to:**
 - A. Calculate the total budget of a project.
 - B. Determine if different human activities (e.g., aquaculture and shipping) can exist in the same space.
 - C. List the names of all stakeholders involved.
 - D. Measure the depth of the ocean floor.
4. **The concept of Carrying Capacity refers to:**
 - A. The maximum weight a vessel can carry.
 - B. The number of stakeholders allowed in a workshop.
 - C. The level of human activity an ecosystem can sustain without degradation.
 - D. The total area of a Marine Protected Area.

Part B: Short Answer

Provide a concise response (2–3 sentences) for each.

5. Differentiate between Zoning and MSP.
6. Explain why stakeholder engagement is considered a cornerstone of the MSP process rather than just an optional step.
7. Define Ecosystem-Based Management in the context of marine planning.

Part C: Scenario Analysis

The Case of Coral Bay

The government of a Caribbean island wants to introduce a new seaweed farming initiative in an area currently used by local artisanal fishers and a nearby dive resort. To resolve potential conflicts, they decide to initiate a Marine Spatial Planning process.

8. Identification: Which of the three frameworks (Ocean Governance, Blue Economy, or MSP) is the government currently employing by starting the planning process?
9. Application: If the government determines that the dive resort and seaweed farming can operate in the same area but the fishers must move, which spatial management tool are they utilizing to make this decision?

10. Critical Thinking: If the seaweed farm grows too large and begins to cloud the water, harming the coral reefs the divers visit, which core concept was likely ignored during the planning phase?

3.6 Answer Key

Answer 1: B

Answer 2: B

Answer 3: B

Answer 4: C

Answer 5: MSP is the *process* of analysis and allocation; Zoning is the *tool* or *output* that defines the rules for specific areas.

Answer 6: It ensures transparency, builds trust, reduces conflict early on, and increases the likelihood of long-term compliance with the plan.

Answer 7: An approach that manages the entire marine ecosystem (including humans) as an integrated whole, rather than managing sectors in isolation.

Answer 8: Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

Answer 9: Zoning (or Compatibility assessment)

Answer 10: Carrying Capacity

4 SECTION 2 – GOALS AND BENEFITS

4.1 Description

This section explores why nations invest in Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and the specific advantages it provides for ecosystems, economies, and coastal communities.

4.2 Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this section, learners will be able to:

- Categorize the core benefits of MSP into distinct ecological, economic, and social outcomes, providing real-world examples for each.
- Identify and differentiate between User-User and User-Environment conflicts and explain how spatial allocation can mitigate these tensions.
- Analyze the economic value of spatial certainty, describing how clear zoning frameworks influence investor confidence and the development of emerging Blue Economy sectors.
- Compare the scope and spatial scale of protection provided by a single, isolated Marine Protected Area (MPA) versus a national system of MPAs integrated within an MSP framework.
- Evaluate the role of participatory mapping in preserving cultural heritage and ensuring the social equity of traditional coastal livelihoods.

4.3 Content

The overarching goal of MSP is to move away from sectoral management (where fisheries, tourism, and energy are managed in isolation) toward an integrated approach. This reduces conflicts and ensures that human activities do not exceed the environment's ability to support them.

4.3.1 Conflict Reduction

One of the most immediate benefits of MSP is the identification and reduction of conflicts. These are generally categorized into two types:

- User-User Conflicts: Occur when different sectors compete for the same space or their activities interfere with one another.
 - Example: A proposed offshore wind farm blocking a traditional transit route for commercial shipping or artisanal fishing grounds.
- User-Environment Conflicts: Occur when human activities negatively impact sensitive marine ecosystems.
 - Example: Positioning a high-traffic cruise ship terminal directly adjacent to a fragile coral reef system or a known whale breeding ground.

4.3.2 Sustainable Economic Development

MSP provides a stable environment for the Blue Economy by offering spatial certainty.

- Investor Confidence: By clearly defining zones for specific industries (e.g., aquaculture or renewable energy), governments reduce the risk for private investors.
- Efficiency: MSP streamlines the permitting process. When a zone is pre-identified as suitable for an activity, the legal and environmental hurdles are clearer for developers.
- Promotion of New Sectors: It allows countries to proactively allocate space for emerging industries, such as marine biotechnology or offshore renewable energy, that might otherwise be crowded out by established sectors.

Case Study: Belize's Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan

Belize's approach is often cited globally because it was one of the first to use a science-based ecosystem services framework to prove that conservation and economic growth are not mutually exclusive.

1. The Economic Driver

In Belize, the coastal zone supports roughly 35% of the population. The economy is heavily dependent on the Belize Barrier Reef (the second largest in the world), which draws over 900,000 tourists annually and supports vital commercial fisheries for spiny lobster and queen conch. Before MSP, uncoordinated development, such as rapid urban expansion and dredging, threatened the very habitats (mangroves and reefs) that fuelled these industries.

2. The MSP Solution

The Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI) led a multi-year process to create a national zoning scheme. They developed three scenarios for the future:

- Conservation Focus: Prioritizing nature above all.
- Development Focus: Prioritizing immediate economic gain (dredging, oil exploration).
- Informed Management (The Selected Plan): A balanced scenario that uses data to place activities where they are most productive and least harmful.

3. Economic Outcomes

By choosing the Informed Management scenario, Belize achieved several measurable economic wins:

- Increased Revenue: Models showed that the balanced MSP would more than double the revenue from lobster fishing compared to an unplanned development scenario, because it protected the nursery habitats (mangroves and seagrass) that the lobsters need to grow.
- Tourism Stability: By zoning specific high-intensity tourism areas and preservation areas, the plan protected the aesthetic and biological value of the reef, ensuring the long-term viability of the US\$200M+ snorkeling and diving industry.
- Coastal Protection Savings: The MSP prioritized the protection of mangroves, which provide over US\$25M in annual coastal protection services by reducing wave energy during storms, thus saving the government millions in infrastructure repair costs.

4.3.3 Conservation and Ecological Benefits

While MPAs (Marine Protected Areas) are a tool for conservation, MSP provides a broader framework for ecological health.

- From Isolated Sites to Networks: A single MPA protects a specific area, but a national MSP framework can connect multiple MPAs into a National System of MPAs. This ensures larval connectivity and protects migratory paths for species like sea turtles and sharks.
- Ecosystem Services: By protecting blue carbon habitats like mangroves and seagrasses, MSP helps maintain natural coastal protection and carbon sequestration, which are critical for Caribbean climate resilience.
- Restoration: MSP can identify degraded areas that are closed to all activities specifically to allow for ecological recovery.

Case Study: St. Kitts and Nevis Marine Zoning Plan

This initiative demonstrates how a national planning process can transform a series of isolated protection efforts into a cohesive, ecologically significant network.

1. The Ecological Problem

Prior to the MSP process, St. Kitts and Nevis faced increasing pressure on its coral reefs, seagrass beds, and mangroves from unregulated fishing, heavy vessel traffic, and coastal runoff. While some areas had informal protection, there was no cohesive strategy to protect the connectivity between different habitats (e.g., how fish move from mangroves to reefs).

2. The MSP Solution

The government, in collaboration with partners like The Nature Conservancy, utilized spatial mapping and stakeholder surveys to design a comprehensive marine zoning scheme. They identified areas of high biodiversity value—specifically replenishment zones—where fishing and industrial activities are restricted to allow ecosystems to recover.

3. Ecological Outcomes

- **Protection of Critical Habitats:** The plan led to the legal designation of a 2-mile Marine Management Area around the entire coast of both islands. This provides protection for nearly 100% of the country's warm-water corals and over 86% of its seagrass beds, which are vital for carbon sequestration and juvenile fish survival.
- **Connectivity and Resilience:** By zoning mangroves, seagrasses, and coral reefs as a single managed system, the plan ensures larval connectivity. This means that the offspring of fish and coral in one protected zone can safely drift and repopulate adjacent areas, making the entire national ecosystem more resilient to climate change.
- **Species Protection:** The zoning specifically protects critical nursery grounds and reproductive areas for culturally and ecologically important species like the queen conch and spiny lobster.

4.3.4 Social and Cultural Benefits

MSP is not just about biology and industry; it is about the people who depend on the sea.

- **Preserving Heritage:** Mapping and protecting shipwrecks, underwater cultural sites, and traditional indigenous sea-use areas.
- **Equitable Access:** Ensuring that coastal development does not block the public's access to the beach or prevent artisanal fishers from reaching their traditional livelihoods.
- **Enhanced Participation:** The MSP process gives a voice to marginalized groups, ensuring that the social value of the ocean—such as its beauty and spiritual significance—is weighed equally against economic gains.

Case Study: Grenada and the Traditional Fisheries Integration

In the Caribbean, the social aspect of MSP often revolves around protecting traditional livelihoods and ensuring that the sea remains a public space rather than a private commodity.

1. The Social Challenge

As Grenada sought to expand its tourism sector and explore offshore energy, there was significant concern among coastal communities that traditional beach seine fishing (a communal fishing method practiced for generations) would be displaced. These areas are not just economic zones; they are vital social hubs where community members gather to pull nets, share the catch, and maintain oral traditions.

2. The MSP Solution

Grenada utilized a participatory mapping process as part of its spatial planning. They used a tool called Marine Integrated Decision Support System (MIDSS) to map not only the biology of the reef but also the socio-cultural value of the coastline.

- **Participatory Mapping:** Local fishers and elders were invited to map their traditional fishing grounds and seine hauls.

- **Cultural Zoning:** These areas were then recognized in the planning framework, ensuring that new tourism developments (like marinas or private resorts) could not block access to these culturally significant beaches.

3. Social and Cultural Outcomes

- **Protection of Livelihoods and Heritage:** By legally recognizing traditional fishing zones, the MSP process protected a cultural practice that dates back centuries. It ensured that the Blue Economy did not come at the expense of local identity.
- **Empowerment of Marginalized Voices:** The process shifted the power dynamic, giving artisanal fishers a seat at the table alongside wealthy developers and government ministers. This fostered social equity, a core pillar of the Blue Economy.
- **Conflict Resolution:** By clearly defining where tourism could grow without infringing on community spaces, the plan reduced social tension and anti-tourism sentiment in coastal villages.

4.3.5 Summary

Benefits of MSP

Category	Primary Benefit
Ecological	Identification of sensitive areas; creation of MPA networks; protection of biodiversity.
Economic	Reduced search costs for new sites; increased certainty for investors; reduced legal conflicts.
Social	Improved community involvement; protection of cultural heritage; maintained public access to marine resources.
Administrative	Better coordination between government agencies; faster and more transparent permitting.

4.4 Further Reading

4.4.1 Caribbean Case Studies and Reports

- [Belize Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan \(2016\)](#): The full technical document detailing the Informed Management scenario that balanced conservation with economic growth in fisheries and tourism.
- [St. Kitts and Nevis Marine Zoning Kit](#): A resource detailing the mapping and stakeholder process used to create the Eastern Caribbean's first multi-use marine zoning plan.
- [Dominica's Sperm Whale Reserve Announcement](#): Official government information on the spatial boundaries and ecological objectives of the world's first sperm whale reserve.
- [The Barbuda Blue Halo Initiative Summary](#): An overview of the community-led spatial planning process and the social outcomes of Barbuda's ocean management.

4.4.2 Global Frameworks on MSP Benefits

- [The Socio-Economic Benefits of Marine Spatial Planning \(MSPglobal\)](#): A policy brief that categorizes the economic and social gains observed in planning processes worldwide.
- [A Step-by-Step Approach toward Ecosystem-Based Management \(UNESCO\)](#): See Step 10 for details on how monitoring the benefits leads to adaptive management.
- [Mainstreaming Gender in Marine Spatial Planning](#): A guide on how MSP can be used as a tool for social equity and inclusion of marginalized groups in the Caribbean and beyond.

4.4.3 Tools for Assessing Benefits

- [The Marine Spatial Planning Index \(2023\)](#): Use this tool to see the specific criteria used to judge whether a plan is actually delivering ecological and social benefits.

4.5 Assessment

This assessment evaluates the core theoretical benefits of MSP and the specific Caribbean case studies of Belize (ICZM Plan), St. Kitts and Nevis, and Grenada.

Part A: Multiple Choice

1. If a cruise ship terminal is built over a known whale breeding ground, this is an example of:
 - A. A User-User conflict.
 - B. A User-Environment conflict.
 - C. A Transboundary synergy.
 - D. Integrated Coastal Management.
2. How does MSP primarily improve Investor Confidence in the Blue Economy?
 - A. By providing subsidies to international corporations.
 - B. By providing spatial certainty and defining clear zones for specific industries.
 - C. By removing all environmental regulations in industrial zones.
 - D. By guaranteeing a fixed profit for aquaculture farms.
3. In the St. Kitts and Nevis example, what was the primary ecological benefit of the national zoning plan?
 - A. It focused only on one specific coral reef.
 - B. It created replenishment zones that protected nearly 100% of the country's warm-water corals.
 - C. It allowed for unlimited fishing in all coastal areas.
 - D. It prioritized deep-sea mining over coastal health.
4. The Belize ICZM Plan used an Informed Management scenario. What was a key economic outcome of this specific choice?
 - A. It resulted in a total ban on the tourism industry.
 - B. It prioritized oil exploration over all other sectors.
 - C. It was modeled to more than double the revenue from the lobster fishery by protecting nursery habitats.
 - D. It decreased the value of coastal protection services.

Part B: Short Answer

Provide a concise response (2–3 sentences) for each.

5. Explain the difference between a User-User conflict and a User-Environment conflict.
6. Using the Grenada case study, explain how MSP can protect social heritage and traditional livelihoods.
7. Why is a National System of MPAs within an MSP framework more effective than a single, isolated MPA?

Part C: Scenario Application

Scenario: The Gulf of Serenity

The Gulf of Serenity is a shared marine space between two neighbouring Caribbean districts.

- District A relies on a historical beach seine fishery and has several sacred coastal sites used for community ceremonies.
- District B has just discovered a high-potential area for offshore wind energy but the best site for the turbines overlaps with a major migration corridor for sea turtles that nest in District A.
- Both districts are seeing a decline in queen conch populations due to overharvesting and habitat loss.

8. Social Benefit (Mapping): To protect the community identity of District A, what specific step should the planning team take during the data collection phase?

- A. Exclude fishers from meetings to avoid conflict with energy developers.
- B. Conduct participatory mapping with local elders to identify and zone cultural heritage and traditional fishing areas.
- C. Prioritize the offshore wind farm since it generates more national revenue.
- D. Move the sacred sites to a different part of the island.

9. Ecological Benefit (Connectivity): If the planning team creates a National System of MPAs that includes the turtle nesting beaches in District A and the migration corridor in District B, which ecological principle are they applying?

- A. User-User Conflict.
- B. Economic Diversification.
- C. Larval and Habitat Connectivity.
- D. Sectoral Management.

10. Economic Benefit (Certainty): How would a completed Marine Spatial Plan for the Gulf help a private wind energy company looking to invest in District B?

- A. It would allow them to ignore environmental laws.
- B. It provides spatial certainty by pre-identifying zones where energy infrastructure is compatible with other uses, reducing their financial risk.
- C. It guarantees that they can use the entire Gulf for turbines.
- D. It forces the local fishers to pay for the wind turbines.

11. Integrated Goal (Synthesis): Describe one way the planning team could achieve a win-win-win (Ecological, Economic, and Social) in this scenario using the concepts learned in this section.

4.6 Answer Key

- Answer 1: B
- Answer 2: B
- Answer 3: B
- Answer 4: C
- Answer 5: User-User is competition between two human activities (e.g., shipping vs. fishing); User-Environment is a human activity harming nature (e.g., dredging vs. coral).
- Answer 6: Grenada used participatory mapping to identify traditional beach seine hauls, ensuring tourism development did not block community access to these cultural spaces.
- Answer 7: A system ensures larval connectivity and protects migratory paths, allowing the entire ecosystem to be more resilient than a single protected patch.
- Answer 8: B
- Answer 9: C
- Answer 10: B
- Answer 11: The team could zone the wind farm away from the turtle corridor (Ecological), allow multi-use where artisanal fishers can still transit the area (Social), and provide stable energy to the tourism resorts (Economic).

5 SECTION 3 – THE MSP PROCESS

5.1 Description

This section examines the how of Marine Spatial Planning, utilizing the globally recognized UNESCO 10-Step Framework. For the Caribbean, this process is adapted to account for small island dynamics, transboundary resources, and limited technical data.

5.2 Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this section, learners will be able to:

- Sequence the ten steps of the UNESCO MSP framework, explaining the logical progression from pre-planning to adaptive management.
- Describe the iterative nature of the MSP cycle, identifying how monitoring and evaluation (Steps 9 and 10) trigger the re-cycling of the planning process.
- Contrast consultation with collaboration within the context of stakeholder engagement, identifying strategies for inclusive participation of marginalized groups.
- Differentiate between existing and future conditions analysis, explaining how scenario planning (Step 6) accounts for climate change and emerging economic trends.
- Identify Caribbean-specific adaptations to the MSP process, such as the integration of Ridge-to-Reef management and the use of Participatory Mapping to address data scarcity.

5.3 Content

MSP is not a linear task that ends with a map; it is a continuous, iterative cycle. If the environment changes or new economic needs arise, the process re-cycles to adapt.

5.3.1 Steps 1 – 3: Preparing the Ground

- Step 1: Establishing Authority: Identifying which government agency has the legal right to manage the sea. In the Caribbean, this often requires new legislation or Blue Economy policies to empower a specific ministry.
- Step 2: Obtaining Financial Support: Planning is expensive. Sources include national budgets, Blue Bonds (as seen in Barbados), or international grants (like the GEF or World Bank).
- Step 3: Organizing the Process: Defining the planning team and creating a work plan. This includes setting the planning boundary (how far out to sea the plan goes).

5.3.2 Step 4: Stakeholder Engagement

This is the most critical step for ensuring the plan is socially equitable.

- Identification: Using stakeholder mapping to find everyone from industrial port authorities to artisanal beach seine fishers.
- Engagement Strategies: Moving beyond consultation (just telling people what is happening) to collaboration (giving them a vote in the zoning process).
- Inclusivity: Ensuring marginalized groups, women in fisheries, and indigenous communities (like the Garifuna in Belize) are included.

5.3.3 Steps 5 – 6: Analyzing Conditions

- Step 5: Defining and Analyzing Existing Conditions: What is happening now? This involves mapping biological resources (reefs, mangroves) and human uses (shipping lanes, fishing spots).
- Step 6: Defining and Analyzing Future Conditions: What should happen? This involves creating scenarios. For example: What happens to our coast if sea levels rise 0.5 meters? or What if we double our cruise ship capacity?

5.3.4 Step 7: Developing the Spatial Plan

This is where the Map is created.

- Identifying Management Actions: Decisions are made on how to move or restrict activities to reduce conflict.
- Zoning: Dividing the ocean into sections.
- Core Conservation Zones: No-take areas for biodiversity.
- Multi-use Zones: Areas where compatible uses (e.g., diving and sustainable fishing) can coexist.
- Industrial Zones: Dedicated areas for ports or energy.

5.3.5 Steps 8 – 10: Implementation and Adaptation

- Step 8: Implementing the Spatial Plan: This is the transition from a paper plan to a real-world management system. It requires the legal adoption of the zoning map.
- Step 9: Monitoring and Evaluation: Using indicators (e.g., coral cover percentage or number of tourism jobs created) to see if the plan is working.
- Step 10: Adapting the Process: Based on the results of Step 9, the plan is modified. This completes the cycle and starts the process again with better data.

5.3.6 Regional Tool: The Caribbean Step-by-Step Guide

The Caribbean Regional MSP Guide (often developed through initiatives like MSPglobal and CaMPAM) emphasizes specific regional needs:

- Transboundary Cooperation: Because Caribbean islands are close together, a plan in one country (e.g., St. Kitts) affects the waters of its neighbour (e.g., Nevis or St. Eustatius).
- Data Scarcity: Using Participatory Mapping to fill gaps where satellite data or scientific surveys are missing.
- Climate Integration: Explicitly including Ridge-to-Reef management to address how land-based runoff affects the marine plan.

5.3.7 Summary

The Lifecycle of a Plan

Phase	Steps	Primary Output
Pre-Planning	1, 2, 3	Legal mandate and budget.
The Analysis	4, 5, 6	Current and future use maps.
The Decision	7	The Spatial Zoning Map.
The Action	8, 9, 10	Enforcement and adaptive changes.

5.3.8 Case Study: The Montserrat Marine Spatial Planning Process

This case study is particularly useful because it highlights how a small island developing state (SIDS) with limited resources can navigate the technical 10-step framework using a participatory and data-driven approach.

1. Step 1-3: Establishing Authority and Organization

The process was initiated under the Blue Halo Montserrat partnership between the Government of Montserrat and the Waite Institute. The authority was established through the Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Lands, Housing, and Environment (MATLHE). Because Montserrat is a British Overseas

Territory, the process also had to align with both local needs and international standards for ocean governance.

2. Step 4: Stakeholder Engagement (The Montserrat Way)

Montserrat placed heavy emphasis on Step 4. The planning team conducted over 100 community consultations, including:

- One-on-one interviews with divers, fishers, and business owners.
- Town hall meetings to ensure the public understood the legal and economic implications of zoning.
- Scientific and Stakeholder Committees that met regularly to review data and ensure the plan reflected local cultural values.

3. Step 5 and 6: Analyzing Existing and Future Conditions

To fill data gaps (common in the Caribbean), the team used a mix of high-tech and community-based mapping:

- Benthic Mapping: Using cameras and sonar to map the seafloor.
- Participatory Mapping: Fishers sat with planners to draw their traditional fishing grounds and hotspots for specific species on maps.
- Future Scenarios: Planners analyzed how climate change and potential volcanic activity (a unique factor for Montserrat) might impact future marine use.

4. Step 7: Developing the Spatial Plan (Zoning)

Based on the analysis, a draft zoning map was created. It included:

- No-Take Marine Reserves: Areas closed to all fishing to allow for population recovery.
- Managed Use Zones: Areas where sustainable fishing was allowed but industrial activities were restricted.
- Transit Zones: Clear lanes for shipping and ferries to reduce conflict with divers and fishers.

5. Step 8-10: Implementation and Adaptation

In 2015, the government officially signed the Marine Spatial Planning Fisheries Regulations. This move translated the paper plan into law. The plan included a commitment to monitoring coral health and fish biomass (Step 9) to determine if the zones need to be adjusted in the future (Step 10).

The Montserrat case highlights three critical elements of the Caribbean MSP process:

Element	Application in Montserrat
Data Pragmatism	When scientific data was missing, the process relied on Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) from fishers.
Volcanic Influence	Unlike many other regions, the plan had to account for the Exclusion Zone created by the Soufrière Hills volcano, which restricts access to a large portion of the island's southern waters.
Legislative Integration	The plan didn't sit on a shelf; it was integrated directly into the Fisheries Act, giving it the teeth needed for enforcement.

5.4 Further Reading

5.4.1 Core Frameworks and Guides

- [UNESCO-IOC: Marine Spatial Planning: A Step-by-Step Approach toward Ecosystem-Based Management](#): The definitive global guide detailing each of the ten steps mentioned in this section, from establishing authority to adaptation.
- [MSPglobal: International Guide on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning](#): An updated manual (2021) that integrates newer concepts like transboundary cooperation and the Blue Economy into the planning process.
- [UNESCO-IOC: Stakeholder Participation in Marine Spatial Planning](#): A focused guide on Step 4, offering specific techniques for identifying, mapping, and engaging stakeholders effectively.

5.4.2 Caribbean Process and Case Studies

- [The Montserrat Marine Spatial Plan: A Case Study in Participatory Planning](#): An overview of the Blue Halo process in Montserrat, demonstrating how to implement the framework in a small island context.
- [Towards Marine Spatial Planning in the Wider Caribbean Region](#): A regional report by the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) discussing the challenges and opportunities for the MSP process in the Caribbean.
- [MSPglobal: Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Training Resources](#): Access to workshop reports and presentations that specifically adapt the 10-step framework to the Caribbean and Latin American geography.

5.4.3 Technical Tools for the Process

- [SeaSketch: Collaborative Ocean Planning](#): A common software platform used in the Caribbean (including Montserrat and Barbuda) for participatory mapping and spatial analysis during the planning process.
- [The Marine Spatial Planning Index](#): A tool to evaluate if a country is correctly following the essential technical and participatory steps of the MSP process.

5.5 Assessment

This assessment is designed to test the learner's understanding of the technical phases, the iterative nature, and the Caribbean-specific nuances of the UNESCO 10-Step MSP Framework.

Part A: Multiple Choice

1. Why is MSP described as an iterative process?
 - A. Because it only happens once every fifty years.
 - B. Because the results of monitoring and evaluation (Steps 9 and 10) are used to re-cycle and improve the plan.
 - C. Because it requires exactly ten people to complete the team.
 - D. Because the plan must be written in multiple languages.
2. During which step would a planning team create Future Scenarios to account for sea-level rise or new cruise ship terminal proposals?
 - A. Step 1: Establishing Authority.
 - B. Step 4: Stakeholder Engagement.
 - C. Step 6: Defining and Analyzing Future Conditions.
 - D. Step 8: Implementing the Spatial Plan.
3. In the Montserrat case study, how did the team address Data Scarcity when scientific seafloor maps were missing?
 - A. They skipped the mapping phase entirely.
 - B. They used Participatory Mapping to capture the Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) of fishers.
 - C. They waited ten years for satellite data to become available.
 - D. They guessed the locations of the reefs based on water color.
4. What is the primary difference between a Core Conservation Zone and a Multi-use Zone?
 - A. Conservation zones allow industrial mining; multi-use zones do not.
 - B. Conservation zones are usually no-take areas for biodiversity; multi-use zones allow compatible activities like diving and sustainable fishing to coexist.
 - C. Multi-use zones are only for shipping lanes.
 - D. There is no difference; they are two names for the same thing.

Part B: Short Answer

Provide a concise response (2–3 sentences) for each.

5. Explain the importance of Step 1: Establishing Authority in a Caribbean context.
6. How does Step 4: Stakeholder Engagement differ from simple public consultation?
7. What is the role of Indicators in Step 9 (Monitoring and Evaluation)?

Part C: Process Logic (Ordering)

8. Place the following steps in the correct chronological order (1–5) as they would occur in the UNESCO framework:

- ☐ Developing the Spatial Zoning Map.
- ☐ Establishing Authority and Budget.
- ☐ Adapting the plan based on new data.
- ☐ Mapping existing biological resources and human uses.
- ☐ Legally adopting the regulations and enforcing the plan.

Part D: Case Study Application

Scenario: You are a planner in a Caribbean SIDS. You have completed your draft zoning map, but a group of artisanal fishers claims they were never invited to the meetings and their favourite fishing ground is now a No-Take Zone.

9. Which step of the MSP framework was likely failed or rushed?

10. Based on the Montserrat Way, what specific action should you take to resolve this and ensure the plan is socially equitable?

5.6 Answer Key

- Answer 1: B
- Answer 2: C
- Answer 3: B
- Answer 4: B
- Answer 5: It provides the legal mandate and teeth for a specific ministry to manage the ocean, which is necessary to move past uncoordinated sectoral management.
- Answer 6: Engagement is collaborative/inclusive; it gives stakeholders an active role in decision-making, whereas consultation is often just informing them after decisions are made.
- Answer 7: Indicators provide measurable data (e.g., % coral cover) to determine if the plan's objectives are actually being met.
- Answer 8: 3 (Zoning), 1 (Authority), 5 (Adapt), 2 (Mapping), 4 (Implementation).
- Answer 9: Step 4: Stakeholder Engagement.
- Answer 10: Conduct participatory mapping and one-on-one interviews with the fishers to incorporate their traditional knowledge and adjust the zones to protect their livelihoods.

6 SECTION 4 – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

6.1 Description

This section addresses how a Marine Spatial Plan moves from a technical document to a legally binding and functional management system. In the Caribbean, successful implementation relies on clear legal mandates, cross-sectoral coordination, and realistic enforcement strategies.

6.2 Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this section, learners will be able to:

- Explain the necessity of legal formalization in the MSP process, identifying how zoning maps are translated into binding regulations.
- Differentiate between types of sea-use regulations, including permitted, conditional, and prohibited uses within specific management zones.
- Analyze the institutional framework required for MSP, distinguishing the coordination role of a Lead Agency from the operational roles of Sectoral Agencies.
- Compare strategies for compliance and enforcement, evaluating the use of carrots (education and participatory mapping) versus sticks (patrols, fines, and remote sensing technology).
- Evaluate the SMMA Inc. model in Saint Lucia as a case study for localized, self-financing, and multi-sectoral institutional management.
- Identify the pillars of sustainable implementation (Legal, Institutional, Operational, and Enforcement) and explain their interdependence in achieving plan objectives.

6.3 Content

Implementation is the phase where the Management Actions and Zoning Maps developed in the planning stage are put into operation. Without this step, MSP remains a paper plan with no impact on the water.

6.3.1 Regulations and Legal Adoption

For an MSP to be effective, it must be supported by a robust legal framework. This generally involves:

- Legal Formalization: The zoning map and management rules must be officially adopted through legislation, executive orders, or regulations under existing acts (e.g., a Fisheries Act or Coastal Zone Management Act).
- Specific Sea-Use Regulations: These are the rules of the road for each zone. They specify:
 - Permitted Uses: Activities allowed without a permit.
 - Conditional Uses: Activities that require a permit or Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
 - Prohibited Uses: Activities strictly forbidden (e.g., no bottom trawling in a conservation zone).
- Permitting Systems: Establishing a clear process for how users apply for space or resources within the plan's boundaries.

6.3.2 Institutional Roles and Coordination

MSP is multi-sectoral, meaning no single agency can do it alone. Implementation requires a clear definition of who does what.

- Lead Agency: A central body (e.g., a National Ocean Council or Coastal Authority) that coordinates the overall plan.
- Sectoral Agencies: Existing departments (Fisheries, Port Authority, Tourism, Energy) retain their specific mandates but must ensure their decisions align with the approved spatial plan.

- Inter-agency Agreements (MoUs): In the Caribbean, formal Memoranda of Understanding are often used to define how different ministries will share data, patrol waters, and review development permits.

6.3.3 Compliance and Enforcement

A plan is only as good as its level of compliance. This involves two distinct approaches:

- Compliance (The Carrot): Encouraging users to follow rules voluntarily.
 - Strategies: Public education, clear buoy markers in the water, and involving stakeholders in the planning process so they feel ownership of the rules.
- Enforcement (The Stick): Active policing to stop illegal activities.
 - Challenges in the Caribbean: Limited budgets, fuel costs for patrols, and vast maritime territories.
 - Solutions: Using technology like Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS), satellite surveillance, and land-based enforcement (checking landings at fish markets).

6.3.4 Transitioning from Planning to Action

The transition requires moving from the Planning Team to a Management Team. This involves:

- Work Planning: Breaking the plan down into annual tasks and budgets.
- Resource Allocation: Ensuring the lead agency has the staff and equipment (boats, computers, software) to manage the plan.
- Communication: Regularly informing the public and stakeholders about when new regulations go into effect.

6.3.5 Summary

Pillars of implementation

Pillar	Focus	Caribbean Example
Legal	Giving the plan teeth.	Integrating MSP zoning into the National Fisheries Regulations.
Institutional	Avoiding siloed management.	Creating a Blue Economy Steering Committee with members from five different ministries.
Operational	Managing daily activities.	Implementing a unified permitting portal for all marine activities.
Enforcement	Ensuring rules are followed.	Utilizing community Sea Rangers to monitor local replenishment zones.

6.3.6 Case Study: Saint Lucia's Soufrière Marine Management Area (SMMA)

This case study provides an example of a localized Marine Spatial Plan in the Caribbean. It can be used as a model for how to implement zoning and institutional coordination at the community level to resolve intense user-user conflicts.

1. The Local Conflict (The Catalyst)

In the early 1990s, the town of Soufrière faced a crisis. The area, home to the iconic Pitons, was seeing rapid growth in tourism (yachting and diving) which clashed with the traditional artisanal fishing community. Conflict erupted over space: divers were accused of damaging nets, and fishers were accused of depleting the reefs that tourists came to see.

2. The Localized MSP Implementation

Rather than a broad national plan, Saint Lucia implemented a localized spatial plan covering 11 km of coastline. The implementation was built on three pillars:

- **Participatory Zoning:** The area was divided into five distinct zones based on consensus between fishers and the tourism sector:
 - Marine Reserves: No-take areas for biodiversity and spillover effects.
 - Fishing Priority Areas: Zones where artisanal fishing has legal precedence over all other uses.
 - Multiple Use Areas: Zones where diving, snorkeling, and fishing can coexist under specific rules.
 - Mooring Areas: Dedicated sites for yachts to prevent anchor damage to reefs.
 - Recreational Areas: Designated public beaches for locals and tourists.
- **Institutional Innovation (The SMMA Inc.):** A key implementation success was the creation of a unique institutional role. The SMMA is managed by a non-profit company (SMMA Inc.) rather than a distant government ministry.
 - The Board: Includes representatives from the Fisheries Department, the Ministry of Tourism, the local Fishermen's Cooperative, and the Hotel and Tourism Association.
 - Self-Financing: The SMMA implements a user-fee system. Divers and yachties pay a small fee to use the zones. This revenue stays within Soufrière to pay for local Sea Rangers, boat maintenance, and coral monitoring.
- **Compliance and Enforcement**
 - Because the local fishers were the ones who helped draw the lines on the map, social compliance is high. However, the SMMA also employs Community Rangers who patrol the waters daily. These rangers act as both educators (explaining the rules to tourists) and enforcers (reporting illegal fishing or mooring violations).

Key Lessons from the SMMA Implementation

Feature	Implementation Method
Conflict Resolution	Created Fishing Priority Areas to ensure the Blue Economy did not displace traditional livelihoods.
Sustainability	The user-fee model removed the dependence on fluctuating national budgets for enforcement.
Institutional Role	The non-profit status allows for faster decision-making and better local buy-in than a centralized government approach.
Ecological Success	Long-term monitoring showed a significant increase in fish biomass within the reserves, which eventually spilled over into the fishing zones.

This localized approach proves that MSP does not always have to be a massive national undertaking; it can be implemented effectively at a scale that directly addresses the needs of a specific coastal community.

6.4 Further Reading

6.4.1 Core Guides on Implementation

- [UNESCO-IOC: Marine Spatial Planning: A Step-by-Step Approach \(Step 8: Implementation\)](#): Detailed guidance on moving from a planning document to action, including the creation of work plans and resource allocation.
- [MSPglobal: International Guide on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning \(Chapter 3: Implementation\)](#): Focuses on the institutional coordination and legal frameworks necessary for modern transboundary and national MSP.

- [Blue Solutions: Compliance and Enforcement in the Marine Realm](#): Case studies and toolkits for improving enforcement through community participation and technology.

6.4.2 Caribbean Case Studies and Legal Frameworks

- [Belize Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan \(2016\) - Full Text](#): The actual legalized plan, providing a clear example of how zoning regulations and institutional roles are defined in Caribbean law.
- [The Soufrière Marine Management Area \(SMMA\) - Institutional Model](#): The official website of SMMA Inc., detailing their non-profit governance structure and user-fee implementation model.
- [UNEP CEP: Regional Assessment of Marine Protected Areas and MSP in the Wider Caribbean](#): A regional analysis of how different Caribbean nations are transitioning from planning to legal implementation.

6.4.3 Technical Tools for Compliance

- [Global Fishing Watch - Vessel Tracking Tool](#): An open-access platform used by many Caribbean planners to monitor vessel compliance and identify illegal activity in protected zones.
- [The Nature Conservancy: Blue Bonds for Ocean Conservation](#): Explains how financial mechanisms are being used to mandate and fund the implementation phase of MSP in countries like Barbados.

6.5 Assessment

This assessment focuses on emphasizing the legal, institutional, and operational pillars required to move from a plan to action, with a specific focus on the Saint Lucia SMMA case study.

Part A: Multiple Choice

1. What is the primary purpose of Legal Formalization in the implementation phase?
 - A. To create a decorative map for the ministry office.
 - B. To give the spatial plan teeth by making zoning rules legally binding and enforceable.
 - C. To ensure that all marine scientists are paid on time.
 - D. To replace the need for stakeholder engagement.
2. In the Saint Lucia SMMA example, which institutional innovation was used to manage the area?
 - A. A centralized military command.
 - B. A private international consultant group.
 - C. A dedicated non-profit company (SMMA Inc.) with a multi-sectoral board.
 - D. A single government ministry with no outside input.
3. The User-Fee system in the SMMA is an example of which implementation benefit?
 - A. Self-financing to support local rangers and monitoring.
 - B. A way to prevent all locals from using the beach.
 - C. A tax used to fund land-based road construction.
 - D. A method to discourage any tourism in the area.
4. Which Pillar of Implementation focuses on encouraging users to follow rules voluntarily through education and participation?
 - A. Enforcement.
 - B. Legal Adoption.
 - C. Compliance.
 - D. Institutional Siloing.

Part B: Short Answer

Provide a concise response (2–3 sentences) for each.

5. Identify the three pillars that the implementation of the Soufrière Marine Management Area (SMMA) was built on.
6. Explain the role of a Lead Agency versus Sectoral Agencies during the implementation of a national MSP.
7. Why are Fishing Priority Areas important for the social success of MSP implementation in the Caribbean?

Part C: Matching Management Rules

Match the regulation type to its correct definition.

Regulation Type	Definition
8. Prohibited Use	A. Activities that require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or special license.
9. Permitted Use	B. Activities strictly forbidden in a zone to protect sensitive habitats.
10. Conditional Use	C. Activities allowed without the need for a specific permit or fee.

Part D: Scenario Application

Scenario: A Caribbean nation has legally adopted a new MSP. However, a group of yacht owners is consistently anchoring on sensitive coral reefs because the nearest official mooring buoy is too far away.

11. Problem Solving: To improve compliance in this scenario (the carrot approach), what should the management team do?

12. Problem Solving: If the yacht owners continue to ignore the rules despite new buoys being installed, what enforcement (stick) measure should be taken?

6.6 Answer Key

- Answer 1: B
- Answer 2: C
- Answer 3: A
- Answer 4: C
- Answer 5: 1. Participatory Zoning; 2. Institutional Innovation (SMMA Inc.); 3. Compliance and Enforcement.
- Answer 6: The Lead Agency coordinates the overall plan and inter-agency efforts; Sectoral Agencies manage their specific areas (Fisheries, Ports) but must align their decisions with the spatial plan.
- Answer 7: They ensure traditional livelihoods are not displaced by new industries like tourism, reducing social conflict and increasing local buy-in.
- Answer 8: B
- Answer 9: C
- Answer 10: A
- Answer 11: Install more mooring buoys and provide educational maps to yacht captains showing reef locations.
- Answer 12: Deploy Sea Rangers to issue fines or boarding notices to vessels found anchoring illegally.

7 SECTION 5 – MONITORING AND EVALUATION

7.1 Description

This final section focuses on the closing of the loop in the Marine Spatial Planning cycle. Monitoring and Evaluation (MandE) ensures that the plan is not just a static map, but a functional tool that achieves its intended biological, social, and economic goals.

7.2 Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this section, learners will be able to:

- Define the role of Monitoring and Evaluation (MandE) in the MSP cycle, specifically explaining how it enables Adaptive Management.
- Distinguish between Baseline, Compliance, and Performance monitoring, explaining the unique purpose of each within a Caribbean management framework.
- Analyze the utility of the State of the Coast reporting model used in Belize as a tool for transparency and government accountability.
- Utilize the Marine Spatial Planning Index to evaluate the technical, participatory, and governance quality of a regional planning process.

7.3 Content

Monitoring and Evaluation (M and E) is the process of systematically collecting information to answer a core question: Is the spatial management plan working? In the Caribbean, where marine environments are highly dynamic and vulnerable to climate change, M and E is essential for Adaptive Management.

7.3.1 Indicators and Criteria

To measure success, planners must move from broad goals to specific, measurable data points.

- **Criteria:** These are the standards or principles by which the plan is judged. For example, a criterion for an Ecological Goal might be Maintenance of Biodiversity.
- **Indicators:** These are the specific units of information used to measure the criteria. Good indicators must be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound).
 - **Ecological Indicators:** Percent of live coral cover; fish biomass per hectare; water turbidity levels.
 - **Economic Indicators:** Number of new jobs in the aquaculture sector; annual revenue from reef-based tourism; reduction in user-user conflict legal cases.
 - **Social Indicators:** Percentage of local fishers involved in decision-making; level of community awareness of zoning rules.

7.3.2 The Monitoring Process

Monitoring is the continuous collection of data on the indicators.

- **Baseline Monitoring:** Establishing the starting point before the plan is implemented. Without a baseline, you cannot prove that the plan caused an improvement.
- **Compliance Monitoring:** Checking if the users are actually following the rules (e.g., are boats staying out of no-take zones?).
- **Impact/Performance Monitoring:** Evaluating if the management actions are producing the desired results (e.g., is the no-take zone actually increasing the number of fish?).

The Evaluation Phase

Evaluation is the periodic assessment of the monitoring data. This usually happens every 3–5 years.

- Process Evaluation: Did we follow the 10 steps correctly? Was the stakeholder engagement inclusive?
- Outcome Evaluation: Did we meet our targets? If we aimed to increase coral cover by 5% and it decreased by 2%, the evaluation identifies why (e.g., was it due to a hurricane, or failed enforcement?).

7.3.3 Adaptive Management (The Re-cycling Step)

The results of the evaluation lead directly back to the beginning of the MSP cycle (Step 10).

- If the plan is failing: The management actions or zoning boundaries are adjusted.
- If new data emerges: For example, if a new seagrass bed is discovered or a new industry like Blue Carbon credits emerges, the plan is updated to include these new realities.

7.3.4 Regional Tool: The Marine Spatial Planning Index

The Marine Spatial Planning Index is a critical tool used in the Caribbean and globally to assess the quality and performance of MSP. It scores plans based on:

- Technical Quality: Is the mapping accurate and science-based?
- Participatory Quality: Were local communities genuinely involved?
- Governance Quality: Is there a clear legal mandate and budget?
- Adaptive Capacity: Does the plan have a built-in mechanism for MandE and revision?

7.3.5 Summary

Monitoring and evaluation components

Component	Purpose	Caribbean Example
Baseline	Provides a point of comparison.	Mapping coral health in Barbados before the Blue Bond implementation.
Indicator	Provides measurable evidence.	Tracking the number of queen conch per square meter in a replenishment zone.
Evaluation	Analyzes the why behind data.	A 5-year review of the Belize ICZM plan to assess tourism impacts.
Adaptation	Corrects the course.	Moving a mooring zone in Saint Lucia because the original site was damaging a newly found reef.

7.3.6 Case Study: Monitoring and evaluation in the Belize ICZM Plan

This case study provides a systematic approach to monitoring and evaluation which utilizes a structured performance review to ensure the plan remains effective and adaptive.

1. The Use of State of the Coast Reports

Belize does not treat M and E as an internal government exercise; it is a public-facing process. The Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute (CZMAI) produces State of the Coast Reports, which act as the primary evaluation tool. These reports compare current data against the baseline established when the plan was first legalized.

2. Tracking SMART Indicators

Belize tracks specific indicators across the three pillars of sustainability:

- Ecological: Monitoring the Coral Reef Health Index (a combination of coral cover, macroalgae, and fish biomass) and the extent of mangrove cover.
- Economic: Tracking revenue from the tourism and fisheries sectors to ensure the Informed Management scenario is delivering the promised economic growth.
- Social: Measuring the number of permits issued versus the number of violations recorded to assess the effectiveness of the zoning regulations.

3. The Evaluation and Adaptation Cycle

The Belize plan includes a legal requirement for a comprehensive review every five years. During this phase:

- The CZMAI evaluates whether the nine coastal planning regions are meeting their specific targets.
- If the monitoring data shows that a specific reef is degrading despite being in a Conservation Zone, the evaluation investigates the cause (e.g., land-based runoff vs. illegal fishing).
- Adaptation: The results are used to update the Management Actions for the next five-year cycle. For example, if climate change has shifted the migration patterns of key species, the boundaries of the replenishment zones can be adjusted.

7.4 Further Reading

7.4.1 Core Guides on Monitoring and Evaluation

- [UNESCO-IOC: A Guide to Evaluating Marine Spatial Plans](#): The comprehensive global manual for Step 9 and 10, providing detailed instructions on how to develop meaningful indicators and evaluate plan performance.
- [MSPglobal: International Guide on Marine/Maritime Spatial Planning \(Chapter 4: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Adaptation\)](#): Focuses on the importance of adaptive management in the face of climate change and evolving blue economy needs.
- [The Marine Spatial Planning Index \(2023\)](#): A specific assessment tool used to score the technical, participatory, and governance quality of a spatial plan.

7.4.2 Caribbean Monitoring Methodologies

- [SocMon Caribbean: Socio-economic Monitoring Guidelines for Coastal Managers in the Caribbean](#): Detailed protocols for tracking the social and cultural indicators of marine management within Caribbean communities.
- [Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network \(GCRMN\): Caribbean Regional Reports](#): A vital source for baseline data and ongoing ecological indicators related to reef health across the region.
- [Belize CZMAI: State of the Coast Reports](#): Direct access to the evaluation reports that Belize uses to adapt its national Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan.

7.4.3 Technical Tools for Adaptive Management

- [The Healthy Reefs Initiative: EcoAudit for the Mesoamerican Reef](#): An example of a regional report card system that evaluates how well governments are implementing management recommendations.
- [Reef Check: Tropical Monitoring Instruction Manual](#): The standard methodology used by many Caribbean NGOs and community groups to collect ecological indicator data for M and E.
- [Marine Integrated Decision Support System \(MIDSS\)](#): A tool designed specifically for Caribbean planners to evaluate different spatial scenarios and their potential impacts on biodiversity and livelihoods.

7.5 Assessment

This assessment is designed to evaluate the learning outcomes of Section, specifically focusing on the selection of indicators, the evaluation process, and the principles of adaptive management within the Caribbean context.

Part A: Multiple Choice

1. In the context of MandE, what is the primary purpose of establishing a Baseline?
 - A. To determine the final budget of the project.
 - B. To provide a starting point of comparison to measure future changes.
 - C. To identify which stakeholders to exclude from the process.
 - D. To legally adopt the zoning regulations.
2. Which of the following is a SMART ecological indicator for a Marine Spatial Plan?
 - A. The ocean should look cleaner next year.
 - B. Increase the number of fish in the sea.
 - C. Achieve a 10% increase in live coral cover within the replenishment zones by 2030.
 - D. Stop all pollution from every source immediately.
3. The SocMon methodology is specifically used in the Caribbean to monitor:
 - A. The movement of migratory whales via satellite.
 - B. The chemical composition of deep-sea sediments.
 - C. Socio-economic indicators, such as stakeholder perceptions and community livelihoods.
 - D. The speed of ocean currents in the Caribbean Sea.
4. What does Adaptive Management (Step 10) require a planning team to do?
 - A. Archive the plan and start a completely unrelated project.
 - B. Use evaluation results to modify and improve the plan's management actions.
 - C. Ignore new data if it contradicts the original plan.
 - D. Permanently close the lead agency once the map is finished.

Part B: Short Answer

Provide a concise response (2–3 sentences) for each.

5. Differentiate between Compliance Monitoring and Performance Monitoring.
6. Explain how the Belize State of the Coast reports contribute to the transparency of the MSP process.
7. Why might a planning team decide to move a Mooring Zone based on evaluation results?

Part C: Indicator Categorization

Classify each of the following indicators as Ecological, Economic, or Social.

8. Indicator: Annual revenue generated from SCUBA diving fees. _____
9. Indicator: Percentage of mangroves successfully restored in a coastal zone. _____
10. Indicator: Level of stakeholder trust in the local management authority. _____

Part D: Scenario Application

Scenario: A Caribbean island implemented an MSP three years ago. Recent monitoring data shows that while the Tourism Zone is generating high revenue, the water quality in the adjacent Marine Reserve is declining due to runoff from new hotel construction.

11. Evaluation: Is the current management plan succeeding in its ecological objectives? Justify your answer.

12. Adaptation: Based on the principle of Adaptive Management, what specific change should the planning team propose for the next version of the plan?

7.6 Answer Key

- Answer 1: B
- Answer 2: C
- Answer 3: C
- Answer 4: B
- Answer 5: Compliance monitoring checks if users are following the rules; Performance monitoring checks if the rules are actually achieving the intended environmental or social goals.
- Answer 6: They make monitoring data public, allowing stakeholders to see if targets are being met and holding the government accountable for the plan's performance.
- Answer 7: If monitoring shows that the original zone is causing unforeseen damage (e.g., to a newly discovered reef), the team adapts by moving the zone to a more compatible location.
- Answer 8: Economic
- Answer 9: Ecological
- Answer 10: Social
- Answer 11: No. While it is succeeding economically, it is failing ecologically because the User-Environment conflict (hotel runoff) is degrading the protected area.
- Answer 12: They should implement stricter Conditional Use regulations for the Tourism Zone, such as mandatory advanced wastewater treatment for hotels.

8 FINAL ASSESSMENT

Part 1: Foundations and Definitions

Short answer and multiple choice.

1. Define Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in your own words. How does it differ from traditional sectoral management (e.g., managing only fisheries or only shipping)?
2. Which of the following is an example of a User-User conflict?
 - A. A cruise ship anchor damaging a coral reef.
 - B. An offshore wind farm being sited in a high-traffic shipping lane.
 - C. Overfishing leading to a decline in queen conch.
 - D. Rising sea temperatures causing coral bleaching.
3. Identify the Three Pillars of Sustainability that MSP aims to balance.
4. List the first five steps of the UNESCO 10-Step Framework in the correct order.

Part 2: Caribbean Case Study Analysis

Refer to the specific case studies covered in this module.

5. Saint Lucia's SMMA: The SMMA implementation was built on three pillars. Name them and explain how the User-Fee system contributes to the long-term sustainability of the area.

Part 3: Implementation and Monitoring

Matching and scenario analysis.

6. (Match the term to its correct definition:
 - A. SMART Indicator ____ 1. A starting point used to measure future change.
 - B. Baseline ____ 2. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound.
 - C. Adaptive Management ____ 3. Checking if users are following the zoning rules.
 - D. Compliance Monitoring ____ 4. Moving from a paper plan to active regulations.
 - E. Legal Formalization ____ 5. Closing the loop by updating the plan based on data.
7. Why is Participatory Mapping specifically valuable in the Caribbean when scientific data (like high-resolution bathymetry) is missing?

Part 4: Capstone Scenario Application

Apply your knowledge to the following hypothetical situation.

The Scenario: The fictional island of Isla Verde is creating its first MSP. Currently:

- Tourism is booming, but hotel developers want to build a marina over the island's last remaining mangrove forest.
- Local Fishers report that their catch is declining and blame the tour boats for scaring away fish.
- A New Industry: An international company wants to install a Blue Carbon project (protecting seagrass) in the same area where the fishers have traditionally worked.

8. Conflict Resolution: Identify one User-User conflict and one User-Environment conflict in this scenario.
9. Zoning Design: Propose a Multi-Use Zone or Conservation Zone that could resolve one of these conflicts. What activities would you permit, and what would you prohibit?
10. M and E Design: Create one SMART Indicator (either Ecological or Social) that the Isla Verde planning team should track to see if their new plan is working.

8.1 Answer Key

Answer 1: Definition: MSP is 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. Difference: Unlike sectoral management (which manages one activity in isolation, like a Fisheries Department only looking at fish), MSP is integrated, looking at how all activities (shipping, tourism, fishing) interact with each other and the environment.

Answer 2: B

Answer 3: Ecological (Environment), Economic, and Social (Cultural).

Answer 4: 1. Identifying Need and Establishing Authority. 2. Obtaining Financial Support. 3. Organizing the Process (Pre-planning). 4. Organizing Stakeholder Participation. 5. Defining and Analyzing Existing Conditions.

Answer 5: Pillars: 1. Participatory Zoning, 2. Institutional Innovation (SMMA Inc.), 3. Compliance and Enforcement. User-Fee: Divers and yachts pay fees that stay within the local community to fund rangers and buoy maintenance, making the plan financially independent of the national budget.

Answer 6: A – 2, B – 1, C – 5, D – 3, E – 4

Answer 7: It captures Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK). Fishers know where the reefs, nurseries, and currents are through generations of experience, providing a human-sensor data set that fills gaps left by missing satellite or sonar data.

Answer 8: User-User: Local fishers vs. tour boats (noise/disturbance affecting catch). OR Fishers vs. Blue Carbon company (competing for the same space). User-Environment: Hotel developers building a marina over a mangrove forest (habitat destruction).

Answer 9: Permit: Research and regulated snorkelling. Prohibit: Marina construction, boat anchoring, and commercial fishing. Goal: Protect the mangrove/seagrass while allowing the fish population to recover for the fishers nearby.

Answer 10: Ecological: Increase mangrove seedling survival rate by 20% in the Isla Verde Conservation Zone by 2028. Social: Reduce the number of reported conflicts between tour boat operators and fishers by 50% within 2 years of plan implementation.

9 **USEFUL RESOURCES**

- [Latin America and the Caribbean regional training and MSPforum resources](#)
- [The Marine Spatial Planning Index: a tool to guide and assess marine spatial planning](#)
- [UNESCO International guide on MSP](#)
- [UNESCO MSP: A step-by-step approach](#)