1. What is MSP?

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is a long-term and strategic decision-making process that guides where and when human activities occur in the ocean. Making sure the right activity takes place in the right areas, helps facilitate the development of a sustainable blue economy as recognised in the National Development Plan 5 – benefitting Namibians and the environment alike.

2. Why and where Marine Spatial Planning is implemented in Namibia?

There is a growing range of industries in the Namibian ocean space. These need to be managed in a coordinated way, to avoid conflicts between marine uses and conflicts with the environment. Namibia is therefore implementing MSP to facilitate integrated management of human uses in the ocean.

Various activities within Namibian ocean space:

Fisheries:

![Fisheries Image](image_url)
Defence:

Environmental Protection:
Geological Resource Mapping and Exploitation:

Mariculture:
Marine and Cultural Heritage:

Maritime Transport and Ports:
Marine and Coastal Tourism:

Sea Water Abstraction:
Marine spatial planning seeks to contribute the following towards Namibian ocean development:

a) To balance socio-economic benefits and ecological sustainability, and to do so in the short and long term;

b) To support the ability of sectors to make use of opportunities – in other words, make provisions for their sustainable expansion if and when such opportunities arise; and

c) To plan for those ocean uses that are only beginning to emerge, or may play a more significant role in the future (for example renewable energy generation).

Namibia is a maritime nation with a rich ocean wealth and an ocean area that is about 540,000 km², which is approximately 2/3 the size of its terrestrial area. The core planning area for the development of the first Marine Spatial Plan has been defined. The core planning area is bordered around Cape Cross in the north and Conception Bay in the south; the EEZ is the seaward boundary and the landward limit is the high-water mark. Subsequent plans with transboundary character will consult South Africa and Angola.

The ultimate goal is to have marine spatial plans covering the entire ocean space of the country.

The Namibian Marine Spatial Plan(s) will contain text and maps that set out which activities are encouraged in the planning area.

The first Namibian MSP core planning area

3. Who is responsible for Marine Spatial Planning in Namibia?

Namibia has committed, through the Second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2), Fifth National Development Plan (NDP 5) and the regional BCC Strategic Action Programme, to implement MSP. The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) has been tasked by Cabinet, through the NBSAP 2 and NDP 5, to coordinate the process of MSP in Namibia. The MFMR initiated the formation of the Marine Spatial Planning National Working
Group (MSP-NWG) which leads and implements the technical MSP process. The MSP-NWG consists of representatives from the following ministries and institutions:

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

**MSP Stakeholders**

A MSP stakeholder is understood as being any person or group with an interest or stake in the coastal and marine environment, and/or affected by the forthcoming Marine Spatial Plan(s) and associated planning process(es).

These stakeholders have been and will continue to be engaged in the MSP process which includes the development, implementation and reviewing of the plans.

Stakeholders represent three broad categories as illustrated in the figure below:

- **Government**
  - Central government
  - Regional councils
  - Local authorities
  - State owned enterprises
- Industry: Stakeholders representing the key marine sectors operating in the area
  - Industry associations
  - Enterprises
  - Companies

- Civil society: Stakeholders representing non-governmental and public interests
  - Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
  - Research and educational institutions
  - Local community groups and traditional authorities
  - Traditional authorities
  - Unions
  - Citizen and other community-based organisations

4. What is the status of MSP in Namibia?

The National Overview for Marine Spatial Planning and Knowledge Baseline for Namibia report (Current Status Report) is developed to provide both a national overview and the knowledge base for planning the central Namibian marine area – based on the best available data, information and evidence, compiled and analysed by the MSP-NWG together with technical experts and validated by stakeholders.

The MSP-NWG has developed Current Status Report and presented it at the multi sector stakeholder workshop held in the 19th April 2018, in Swakopmund.

The workshop objectives were as follow:

- Provide an overview of the Namibian MSP process and present the progress to-date;
- Present and invite stakeholder views on the data and information collated and analysed so far; and
- Provide an opportunity for stakeholders to highlight any additional gaps or issues to help inform the coming planning steps.

In total 89 participants attended the workshop, including the NWG and the MARISMA project. Invitations were sent to over 100 stakeholders across all marine sectors to represent civil society groups and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), industries (companies and associations) as well as government/statutory agencies (local authorities, regional councils, state-owned enterprises, and ministries). From these three stakeholder groups, the following number of participants participated: 16 from civil society groups and NGOs, 25 from industry, and 48 from a wide range of government/statutory agencies. Three groups were representing 10 different sectors including conservation, fisheries, mariculture, transport and ports, tourism, mining, heritage, wastewater disposal, environmental protection and defence.
5. Implementation and revision of MSP

MSP in Namibia is implemented through a collaborative, participatory and integrative approach that engages all stakeholders concerned (marine users and regulators) to ensure and enable a process through which they cooperate in working towards (an) agreed Marine Spatial Plan(s).
The MSP process will consider any licences, permits and other management measures that currently exist. In future, sectoral planning and decision-making in terms of issuing licenses, permits and other management measures in the marine environment is expected to be consistent with the forthcoming Marine Spatial Plan(s), which are to be approved by government.

Marine spatial plans are reviewed every 7-10 years but that doesn’t restrict any amendment of the plan earlier if there is a need of amending it.

6. Downloads

MSP in nutshell (Video)
MSP Brochure
Stakeholder engagement strategy
Data and information strategy
(Draft) National Overview for Marine Spatial Planning and Knowledge Baseline for Namibia report