



Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP)



What is CMSP?

Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) is a science-based approach that can be used to analyse and allocate coastal and marine uses over space and time to address specific ocean management challenges and advance goals for economic development and conservation. Simply put, in the same manner that land zoning regulates land uses, coastal and marine spatial planning can create ocean zoning, with maps categorizing marine space for specific uses.

Why CMSP?

There is a need to move away from the current sector- and species-based approaches and to manage the use of the ocean space in an integrated, comprehensive and effective manner. CMSP is a necessary and important process that can be implemented at both the national and regional levels to ensure that the ocean's resources are available for generations to come. CMSP will allow for the ocean space to be allocated in a rational manner that will minimise conflicts of interest, optimize benefits and protect critical resources to ensure economic and environmental sustainability. CMSP also allows for cultural, social, economic and environmental considerations to be incorporated into the process.

Economic Benefits

- Provision of greater certainty to the private sector when it plans new investments;
- Identification of compatible uses within the same area for development;
- Reduction of conflicts among incompatible uses and between uses and nature.

Ecological Benefits

- Identification of areas of biological or ecological importance;
- Allocation of space for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem protection;
- Reduction of the impacts of human uses on marine ecosystems.

Social Benefits

- Improved opportunities for community and citizen participation;
- Identification of impacts of decisions on the allocation of ocean space for certain use (or non-use) for onshore communities and economies;
- Identification and improved protection of cultural heritage;
- Identification and preservation of social and spiritual values related to ocean use.

Where does CMSP apply?

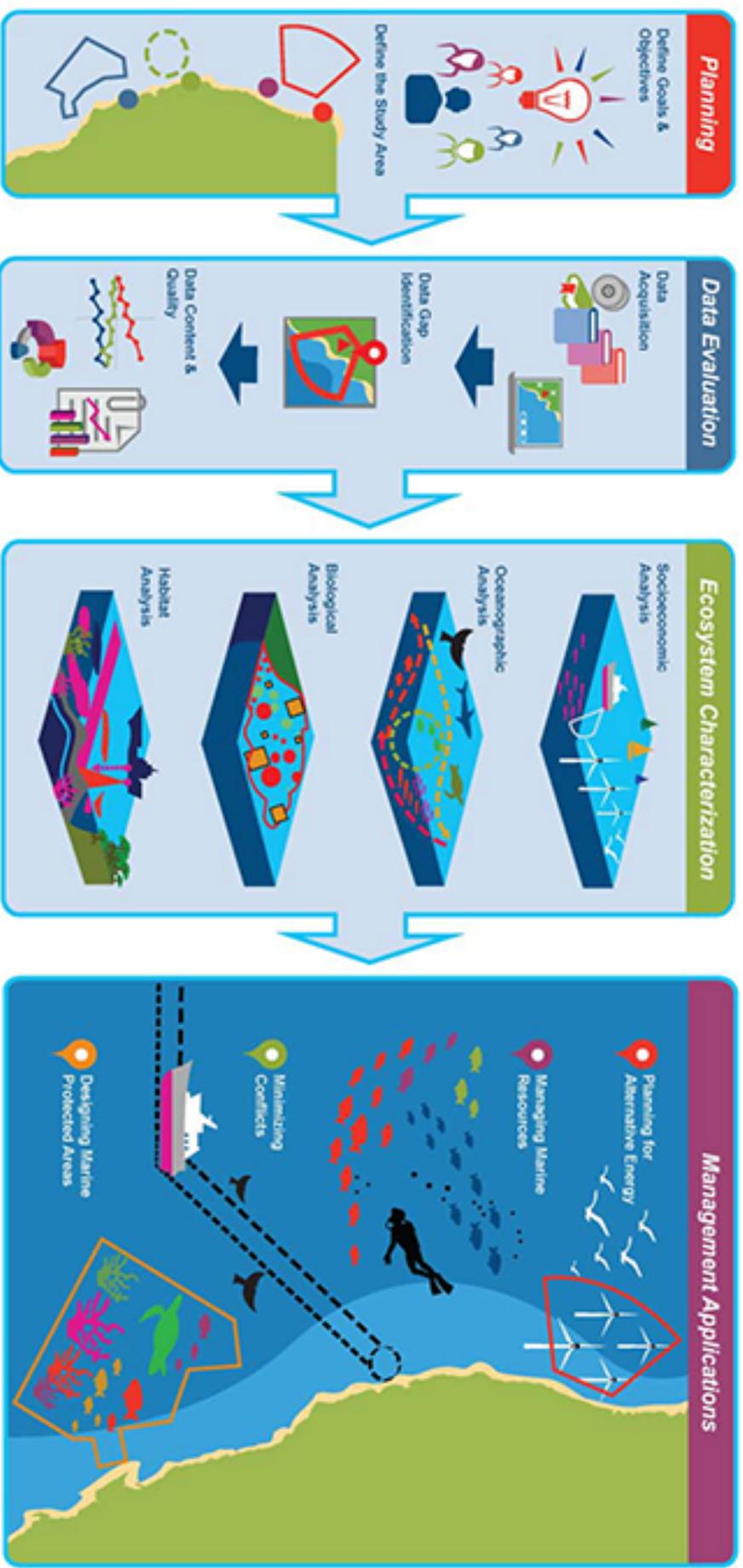
CMSP can be applied at the scale of the coastal area (Coastal Spatial Planning) and at the scale of exclusive economic zone (Marine Spatial Planning). For islands, the geographic area of coverage for CMSP should effectively be from the coastal watershed to the furthest seaward boundary under the jurisdiction of the country.

Who is responsible for CMSP?

Full stakeholder awareness and participation is required to ensure credible and accepted rules that identify and assign responsibilities appropriately. Making decisions in a transparent and accountable manner will minimize disputes, promote cooperation and reduce conflicts. For the CMSP to succeed, partnerships must be forged and maintained between government, the private sector, and civil society to ensure co-responsibility for ocean management.

How do we ensure effective CMSP?

To ensure effective CMSP the process must be based on the following principles: equitable, adaptive, holistic, transparent, knowledge driven, public and political buy-in and accountability, sustainability, ecosystem-based management, precautionary principle, integrated management, duty of care and accountability, multi-stakeholder participation, user pays and other economic instruments, and simplicity.



Marine Spatial Planning (Source: <https://pipap.sprep.org>)