

Regional MSPforum for Latin America and The Caribbean – 1st edition

Event Report

When: 12 and 13 December 2022

Where: Online



Published in 2023 by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Secretariat Office of its Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE).



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For bibliographic purpose, this publication should be cited as follows: IOC-UNESCO. 2023. Regional MSPforum for Latin America and The Caribbean (1st edition), 12–13 December 2022 (online). Paris. Cartagena de Indias, UNESCO. (IOC Workshop Report series, 305).

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(IOC/2023/WR/305)

This document was co-funded by the Government of Sweden.



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DAY 1

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- Setting the scene – MSProadmap

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- Carolina Garcia, Ocean InfoHub - LAC
- Patrick Debels, CLME+ (UNDP/GEF PROCARIBE+ project)
- Susanna DeBeauville-Scott, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States - OECS
- Virginie Tassin Campanella, Law of the Sea Expert and GEBCO Review Advisor

❖ **Session 2: Capacity Development and Awareness**

- Key Messages from 5th International MSPforum and 3rd International Conference on MSP
- Elva Escobar, RPG TAC – Capacity Development leader, UNAM Mexico
- Marinez Scherer, OTGA Cono Sur - UFSC Brazil
- Paula Sierra, OTGA Caribbean – INVEMAR Colombia
- Milena Maltese Zuffo, ECOP Brazil

DAY 2

❖ **Session 3: Marine Protection and Restoration**

- Key messages from 5th International MSPforum and 3rd International Conference on MSP
- Samir Rosado, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute, Belize
- Allison Wiggins, Coastal Zone Management Unit, Barbados

❖ **Session 4: Next Steps Towards Building a Regional Network and Platform for MSP Practitioners**

- Christopher Corbin, UNEP-CEP
- Zuleika Pinzon, CPPS
- Jean-Paul Ngome Abiaga, IOCARIBE
- Alejandro Acosta, FWRI / GCFI – TAC RPG leader – Productive Ocean

❖ **Wrap-Up & Closing**

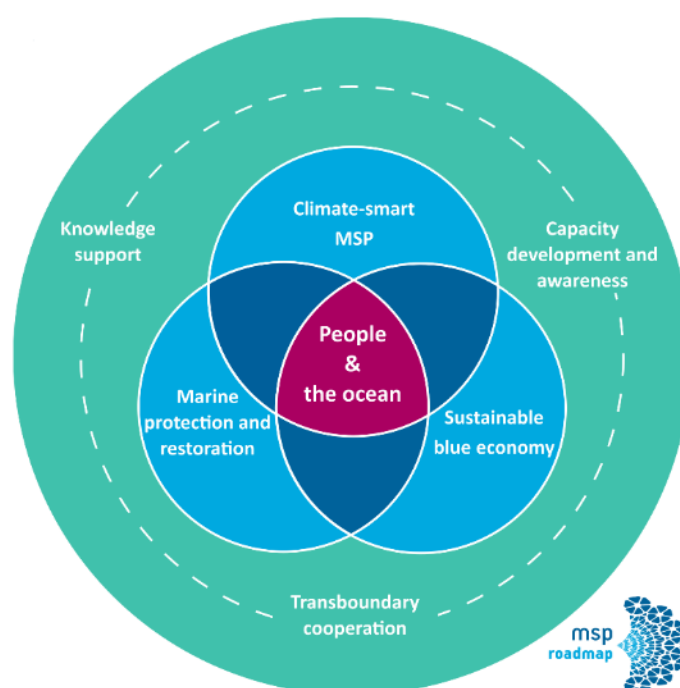
- Wrap-Up by moderators
- Closing remarks by IOCARIBE

MSProadmap and Regional MSPforums

Our ocean is experiencing important challenges nowadays; the living base for millions of humans is threatened in different ways in many sea basins, and there is a global goal to achieve a sustainable development of this menace environment.

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is a process that proposes a more integrative, multisectoral approach to managing marine spaces and resources. It can be defined as a process that brings together relevant authorities to better coordinate how marine spaces are used and managed to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives. MSP can improve decision-making and provides a framework for reconciling competing human activities within social and ecological limits. The overall objective of MSP is to balance sectoral interests and achieve the sustainable use of those marine resources.

Since 2017, the IOC-UNESCO and the European Commission are working together to accelerate MSP processes worldwide through a joint framework called MSProadmap, which an updated version was launched during the 3rd International Conference on MSP, in November 2022. The IOC-UNESCO's work on promoting ecosystem-based management through MSP is also a major contribution to the UN Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).



MSProadmap (2022-2027)

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Action VI of the updated MSProadmap “*aims to support the establishment of a network of Regional MSPforums and Platforms together with interested regional institutions and initiatives working on MSP*”. Regional MSPforums can support a dialogue process on MSP, including its links to the priority areas of the MSProadmap. Obtaining better mutual understanding of marine spatial planning processes undertaken within specific regional contexts is an opportunity to learn from each other's experience.

Therefore, in 2022 IOC-UNESCO and its Sub Commissions (i.e., IOCAFRICA, IOCARIBE, and WESTPAC) created Regional MSPforums for Africa, Latin America and The Caribbean, and Western Pacific and its Adjacent Areas. These forums are a mechanism for IOC-UNESCO, together with regional collaborators and initiatives working on MSP, such as the GEF IW:LEARN project (executed by IOC-UNESCO and implemented by UNDP and UNEP) and Regional Seas Conventions, to act in the regions which need technical support, including Large Marine Ecosystems (LME), thus reinforcing existing transboundary management frameworks at regional level. Looking for synergies between MSP-related programs within and beyond IOC-UNESCO is key to support Member States in a more efficient way.

The first edition of these three Regional MSPforums was organised online, but IOC-UNESCO expects that they were a kick-off to a regular event to be jointly organized by a consortium established by regional partners willing to implement the following editions as a face-to-face event.

More information about the Regional MSPforums organised by IOC-UNESCO and its Sub Commissions is available in a dedicated page on the MSPglobal website:

<https://www.mspglobal2030.org/msp-forum/regional/>

Regional MSPforum for Latin America and The Caribbean

The 1st Regional MSPforum for Latin America and The Caribbean was implemented online on 12 and 13 December 2022 and was co-financed by the Government of Sweden.



msp
roadmap

Online
Regional MSPforum
Latin America and The Caribbean
América Latina y el Caribe
Amérique latine et Caraïbes
12 & 13 Dec 2022, 09.00 – 12.00 (UTC-5)
English & Español & Français

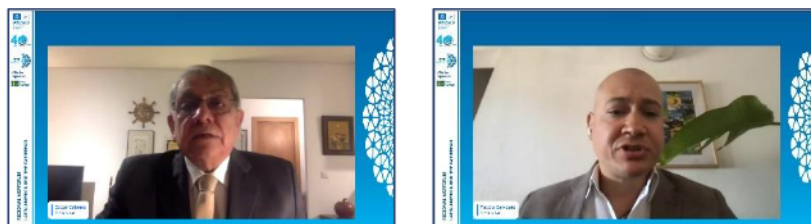
Organised by:  

With the support of: 

The approach taken for the sessions of this edition was to have a panel of speakers to share lessons learnt on three priority areas of the MSProadmap:

- Transboundary cooperation
- Capacity development and awareness
- Marine protection and restoration

This inaugural Regional MSPforum involved 17 speakers and was moderated by Edgard Cabrera (Day 1) and Tadzio Bervoets (Day 2).



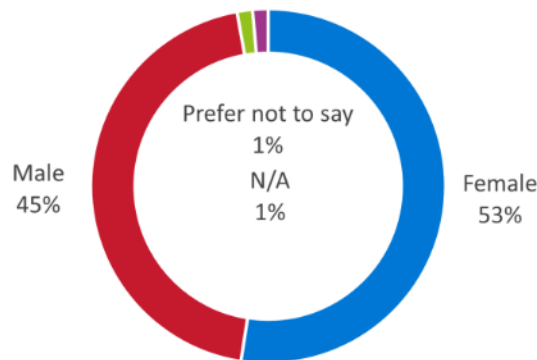
This report shares a summary of the interventions by each speaker as well as recommendations from the 1st Regional MSPforum for Latin America and The Caribbean.

❖ Participants

The Regional MSPforum for Latin America and The Caribbean recorded attendance of 284 participants, with an average participation of about 250 participants per-day, coming from local, national, and regional organizations. Participants included ocean specialists, ocean scientists, transdisciplinary researchers, producers of ocean data, representatives from products and services industry, policy makers and other key stakeholders involved or interested in national and regional Marine Spatial Planning and related ocean and marine matters.

During this first edition, attendees were invited to reply to polls and open-ended questions as well as ask questions. The written questions were answered during the discussion part of the session. Additional verbal questions were taken at the end of the session and considered during the wrap-up discussion. These inputs are part of this event report.

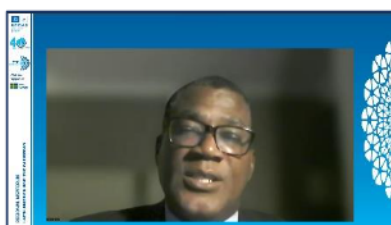
Gender balance and geographical diversity of participants (N = 284 unique viewers)



Summary of the sessions

❖ Opening

The Plenary and Opening session presented an overview of the Marine Spatial Planning concept and the regional developments. Leo Brewster, as Vice-Chair of IOCARIBE and Julian Barbière, on behalf of the IOC-UNESCO, welcomed the participants, followed by a setting the scene presentation on the MSProadmap.



Leo Brewster (IOCARIBE) started with the context of environmental and the use of ocean resources problems that explained the need for an MSP supported in scientific knowledge and linked to the science needed to achieve the ocean we want, the vision of the Ocean Decade.



Julian Barbière (IOC-UNESCO) gave an introduction on the MSProadmap –a partnership with the European Commission– and the importance of initiating Regional MSPforums considering the need for a focus on the regional dimension of MSP and the importance of aligning items being developed in various regions. The need for good science to guide sustainable development and developing new innovative knowledge was also mentioned as was an update on mechanism for regional forums to bring all of the partners together within the region and reinforcing transboundary management framework within and beyond IOC-UNESCO.



Michele Quesada da Silva (IOC-UNESCO) gave background and provided an update about the MSProadmap as well as the status of MSP around the world. An explanation was given on how the MSProadmap is a collection of actions to support the countries towards the development and implementation of MSP processes.

❖ Session 1: Knowledge support

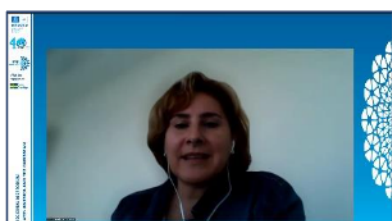
GEF IW:LEARN5



Claudette Spiteri gave a presentation on the GEF IW:LEARN Project and its Phase 5 within the context of strengthening transboundary marine resource management around the globe. This Phase 5 has five components and MSP falls under sub-component 4.3: training and capacity building activities in support of MSP as a tool for strengthening Blue Economy opportunities. The process includes integration of MSP into

the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis/Strategic Action Programme (TDA-SAP) process, organisation of a series of regional trainings on basic concepts and specific technical issues of MSP, and regional dialogues on MSP for Blue Economy. This will be done through the collaboration of GEF IW projects with partners such as IOC-UNESCO to develop, test, and refine materials to be used in the practical approach. After the training events, follow-up guidance and experience-sharing meetings will be conducted.

Ocean InfoHub - Latin America and the Caribbean



Carolina Garcia gave a presentation on the Ocean InfoHub and existing ocean information systems for Latin America and the Caribbean and the making of data regarding our ocean and seas, also within the context of MSP more widely available. More information was given on the data management structure of the Ocean InfoHub and how the platform can be used as a repository of data, including data

regarding MSP.

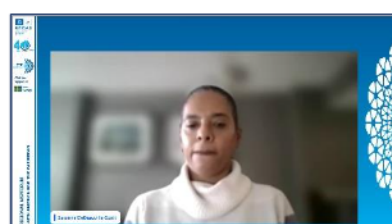
CLME+ (UNDP/GEF PROCARIBE+ project)



Patrick Debels gave a background on the CLME+ regional initiative and the PROCARIBE+ project, making the linkages with Marine Spatial Planning work in the Wider Caribbean Region. Mr. Debels explained: the Ocean Coordination Mechanism; the advancement of the MSP agenda across the Wider Caribbean; and what the process means in terms of aligning Marine Spatial Planning with developing the regional

Blue Economy and implementing and enhancing Marine Protected Areas.

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States – OECS



Susanna de Beauville-Scott gave a presentation on the OECS Authority, and the endorsement since 2013 of the Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy (ECROP). The ECROP Policy Outcome #5 is Coastal and marine spatial planning and integrated management of marine and coastal resources are adopted. In 2021, the OECS completed Coastal and Marine

Spatial Plans (CMSPs) for 5 Member States, the scope of each of these being from the coast to the outer limits of the Economic Exclusive Zone. The structure of the ECROP facilitates decision-making flow from the national level through National Ocean Governance Committees, to the various regional levels (OECS Ocean Governance Team, OECS Council of Ministers, and ultimately the OECS Authority, as appropriate). To encourage and foster transboundary cooperation, an OECS Regional Marine Spatial Planning Framework provides an overarching framework that supports alignment and cooperation among OECS member states. Transboundary MSP issues for cooperation included in the Framework are structured into eight thematic areas and it is expected that transboundary cooperation will be facilitated through several existing systems. For example, the OECS Assembly, which facilitates harmonisation of policies.

International law and frameworks to take into account



Virginia Tassin Campanella gave a presentation on the legal perspectives and discussed options for designing and implementing an MSP regional framework. She explained items including the General Duty of States to protect and preserve the marine environment (UNCLOS, customary law), the implementation of the precautionary approach, the need for states to implement Adequate Environmental Impact

Assessment, the need for baseline information and Ocean Data and the need for clarity in terms of environmental goals, objectives, thresholds and indicators to harmonise management and decision making at the regional level. Her recommendations include:

- Consider other regional models as examples of what is possible: they should not be copied and pasted, but rather need to be adapted to the specific challenges, priorities and values of the region. Identification of these challenges, priorities and values – at the regional level- should be the first step forward, the foundations under which a unique vision can be developed.
- The focus on Blue Economy should not be the main focus, as sustainable development requires to consider equally the economy, environment and social aspects. The social aspect is particularly important since it is currently the least considered pillar in current MSP models. The region has a unique opportunity to innovate in this regard.
- Consider grey areas and disputed marine areas as potential risks into the design/implementation of a regional MSP: these risks should be mitigated to promote economic, environmental and social security and ensure effective implementation of a regional MSP plan.
- Ocean observation and data gathering are needed to understand and evaluate the cumulative and transboundary impacts of activities in the region (and therefore plan their articulation), but important difficulties are currently faced by ocean observation within national jurisdiction, especially in grey areas rich in resources. Provisional arrangements could be a way forward.

❖ Session 2: Capacity Development and Awareness

Elva Escobar, RPG TAC – Capacity Development leader, UNAM Mexico



Elva Escobar described the importance of MSP as a tool to balance the needs of commercial, economical and recreational users and biodiversity conservation in the coastal and offshore ocean. She highlighted that informed and coordinated decisions on the sustainable use of ocean resources by multiple users can reduce conflict between stakeholders. She mentioned that MSP has been on the rise

the last three decades with developing progress within the Tropical Americas and Caribbean region in the individual national plans and integrating others in the organisation of nations. She recognized that challenges and disparities persist in MSP requiring capacity in ocean science and innovation of technology required for developing the layers of knowledge for MSP.

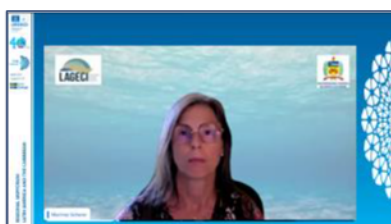
She reminded the audience that capacity development is a priority in the Ocean Decade in achieving sustainable development and the Decade's goal of eradicating inequality. In this time when human activities and the use of resources are moving further offshore and deeper, and when the number of users dependent on the ocean and its resources are growing and are having a longer presence in the ocean, MSP and capacity development are intertwined.

She emphasised the large percentage of nations in the region that are islands bounded by the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea and that their ocean territory sums many times the size of their land territory, their identity is defined by the ocean resources that provide wellbeing to their communities and drive their economies.

A review table of scientific documents and reports using MSP in the region was presented, pointing out the different uses as well as challenges and limitations that the nations had encountered: local experts in MSP, funding, data, repositories, ocean best practices, local and traditional knowledge holders in the stakeholder engagement and collaboration.

She concluded that capacity development needs to be tailored by each nation's needs for effective sea use of the resources and enhance the standardisation of governance and move to Blue Economy opportunities and finalised by stating that MSP capacity development should be a way to create new jobs for the new generations of ocean professionals.

Marinez Scherer, OTGA Cono sur- Universidad Federal Santa Catarina Brazil



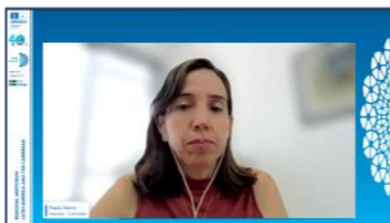
Marinez Scherer exposed MSP capacity development around the globe and presented the Blue Planning in Practice (BPIP), which since 2017, has been delivered more than 40 times with participants from more than 50 countries. Its hands-on and highly participative method is a key to success, in addition to being delivered in several languages in different formats (in-person, online or hybrid). Another

training highlighted was the internet-based platform of the Ocean Teacher Global Academy (OGTA, by IOC/UNESCO).

The Regional Training Centre Cono Sur, a joint initiative of the Federal University of Santa Catarina (Brazil) and the University of the Republic (Uruguay), delivers the Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP) training at OTGA. This training was delivered twice (in 2021 and 2022), having more than 400 registrations, from 20 different countries. 50 people participated in total and the training counts on 14 trainers and 36 hours, for each edition. Some key successful aspects are that the CMSP training is delivered in Portuguese and Spanish, Latin-American languages, and it aims to develop capacity among local coastal and marine planners and managers.

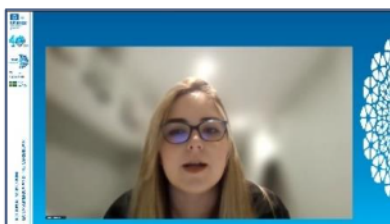
The MSP Challenge Board Game was also presented, which is a game-based training on MSP, promoted by IOC/UNESCO, which also promotes a very hands-on initiative. Having these training as examples we can stress the interest and need for capacity building for coastal and marine planners. The interactive and practice-learning format, as well as delivered in a native language, are key for successful training.

Paula Sierra, OTGA Caribbean – INVEMAR Colombia



Paula Sierra exposed the activities conducted under the Regional Training Centre INVEMAR-Colombia, recognized since 2015 as an OTGA RTC for Spanish speaking countries, and is one of the 17 successful RTC/STCs selected inspiring for capacity development, training and knowledge of the oceans, and related to the work for MSP.

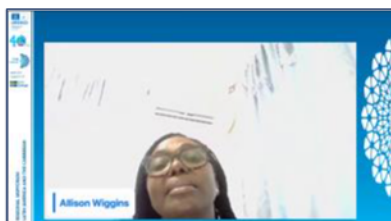
Milena Maltese Zuffo, ECOP Brazil



As a young professional, **Milena Maltese Zuffo** believes that the region might benefit from a joint effort to improve ocean capacity building, and women, young people and traditional knowledge holders must be included at all steps. To improve MSP rules, it is also crucial to ensure access to ocean knowledge for all. She called attention to the negative impacts of the lack of MSP legislation, which can result in the loss of investment opportunities due to legal uncertainty, highlighting thus the relevance of maintaining the discussions initiated at this forum.

❖ Session 3: Marine Protection and restoration

Allison Wiggins, Coastal Zone Management Unit, Barbados



Allison Wiggins, within the context as the team leader for the finalisation of the Barbados Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan 2021-2031 which was approved by the Government of Barbados at the end of 2021, gave a presentation on the process engaged in Barbados regarding Marine Spatial Management/Integrated Coastal Zone Management. She explained that a new Blue Bonds project

will unlock \$50 million to help Barbados protect up to 30% of its marine ecosystems. Inclusive, science-based Marine Spatial Planning is key for lasting success. For small island nations struggling with debt, the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the costly effects of climate change, setting aside money for marine conservation can seem out of reach. Barbados has struck a deal that will leverage funding to help protect the nation's marine ecosystems, support communities and sustainably develop its blue economy.

Samir Rosado, Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute, Belize



Samir Rosado gave his presentation on the Marine Spatial Planning process at the Belize Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute (CZMAI) to guide the development and implementation of the Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan. The focus of the presentation was on the various steps taken in using MSP to manage the Belizean coastal zone. He explained that the Government of Belize and The Nature Conservancy

(TNC) have launched Belize's MSP process, which over the next five years brings together multiple users of the ocean –including energy, industry, government, conservation and recreation– to make informed and coordinated decisions about how to use marine resources sustainably. The process to determine the optimal distribution of human activities across marine areas to achieve the country's ecological, economic, and social objectives is intended to be public, inclusive and participatory, especially considering their high dependence on marine resources whether in fishing or tourism, for example. The Government promises that it will be guided by the principles of transparency, equity, and inclusivity as well as scientific data and local knowledge to ensure that, ultimately, all Belizeans can benefit now and into the future from Belize's abundant marine resources.

❖ Session 4: Next Steps Towards Building a Regional Network and Platform for MSP Practitioners

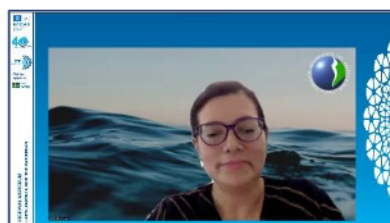
This session focussed on the role of Marine Spatial Planning within the context of the importance of building a regional network for MSP practitioners. With this in mind, presenters whose work has a regional focus were invited to present during this session.

Christopher Corbin, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP)



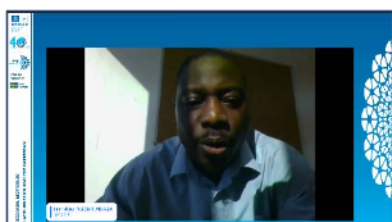
Christopher Corbin gave a presentation on the synergies between the various programs of UNEP-CEP, established in 1981 as one of its Regional Seas Programmes in recognition of the importance and value of the Wider Caribbean Region's fragile and vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems including endemic plants and animals. Countries of the region then adopted an Action Plan also in 1981 that led to the development and adoption of the Cartagena Convention on 24 March 1983. The Cartagena Convention is the first and only regionally binding treaty of its kind. It promotes the protection and development of the marine environment of the region and provides the legal framework for the Caribbean Environment Programme. It is supported by three technical agreements or protocols on oil spills, specially protected areas and wildlife and land-based sources of marine pollution. Within the above context, he explained the importance of MSP on a national and regional scale, highlighting that strong national policies lead towards the implementation of MSP throughout the wider Caribbean region. He also explained the importance of monitoring and standardisation towards using data to develop MSP in the region and the need to jointly address some of the challenges and roadblocks against regional implementation.

Zuleika Pinzon, Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS)



Zuleika Pinzon gave an explanation on how the implementation of MSP has been coordinated in the Pacific Region of Latin America and some of the bottlenecks included therein. She gave a background on the steps taken to implement MSP in the region, the bottlenecks experienced, and the lessons learnt in terms of regional implementation.

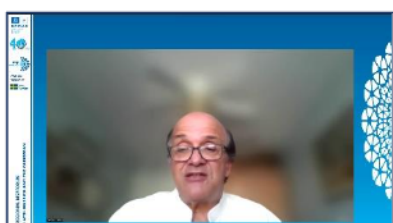
Jean-Paul Ngome Abiaga, IOCARIBE



Jean Paul Ngome Abiaga presented the implementation of MSP in the region within the context of IOCARIBE. He highlighted the importance of regional networking and the need to enhance and increase better coordination in the region in terms of the regional implementation of MSP. He also spoke of the need for regional coordination when it

comes to sharing best practices and lessons learnt as it relates to MSP expertise and how to build an MSP platform within the region.

Alejandro Acosta – FWRI / GCFI – TAC RPG leader – Productive Ocean



Alejandro Acosta gave a presentation on the Ocean Decade and the various working groups associated with it. The focus of the Caribbean working groups is to develop a sustainable and equitable ocean economy, protect and restore ecosystems and biodiversity, and develop skills, knowledge and technology for all. During preliminary workshops, key ocean-related research priorities were identified, and it was

recognized that in order to manage multiple stressors, there is need for observations on marine and coastal life and related socio-economic impacts.

❖ Wrap-up & Closing

During the wrap-up session, the moderators Edgar Cabrera and Tazio Bervoets gave a synopsis on the presentations given over the course of the 2 days of the Regional MSPforum for Latin America and The Caribbean. Then Michele Quesada da Silva also gave a brief wrap-up about IOC-UNESCO's next steps on MSP and how the audience can keep informed about that through the MSPglobal website.

Leo Brewster – IOCARIBE Vice Chair

Leo Brewster made his closing remarks focussed on the fact that, as was apparent from the presentations and interaction with the audience, that although there are quite some initiatives occurring with regards to Marine Spatial Planning, there is a need to combine best practices and lessons learned and make these available to all MSP practitioners within the region. He also emphasized that the current state of projects related to MSP in the region are a good basis to further build on and enhance MSP for Latin America and the Caribbean. He concluded by thanking the Secretariat, presenters, moderators and the audience for two days of excellent dialogue and discussion.

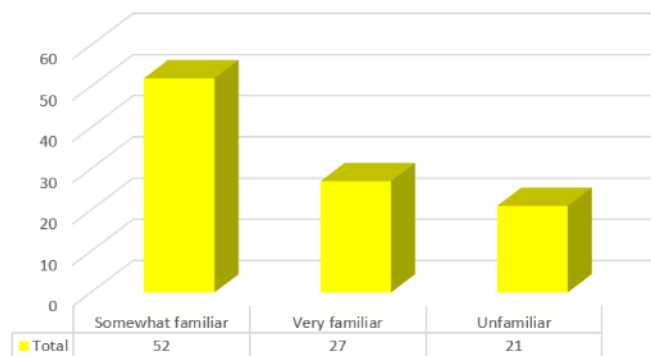
Jean-Paul Ngome Abiaga, IOCARIBE Head of Regional Office

Jean-Paul Ngome-Abiaga thanked the participants and the moderators for the summary of meeting highlights and next steps on MSP implementation at the LAC. He announced the forthcoming IOCARIBE's session by March 2023 and future activities, and highlighted the need to consider Marine Spatial Planning as a priority for the Science and Strategic Plan for IOCARIBE and under the Ocean Decade, the Tropical Americas and the Caribbean plan of action.

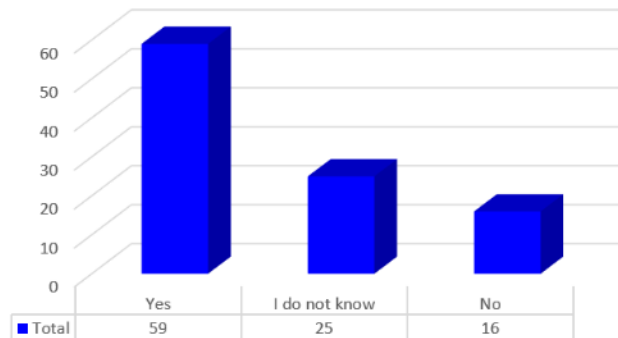
Interaction with the audience

In an effort towards a more effective engagement with participants of the Regional MSPforum for Latin America and The Caribbean, the organisers developed three methods to allow for interaction: poll questions during the event; open-ended questions through a survey; and direct interaction during the online sessions. Poll results are presented below.

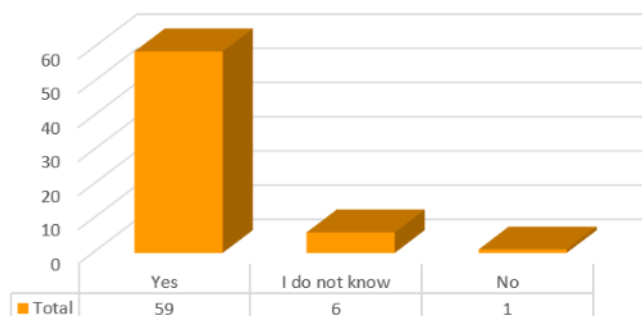
Question 1: How familiar are you with the MSP process?



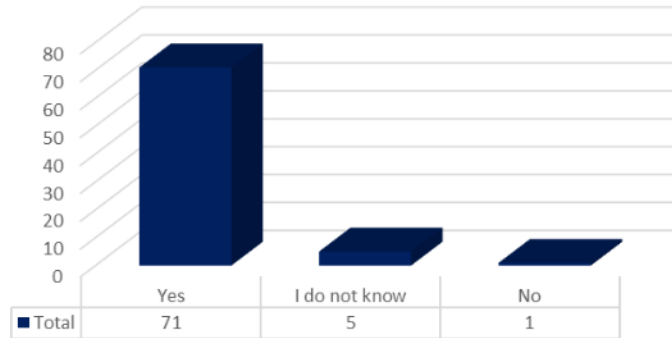
Question 2: Have MSP considerations been used in your country/ territory?



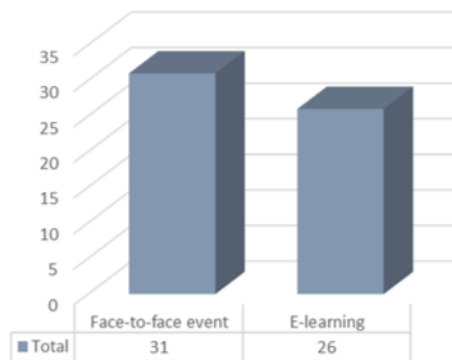
Question 3: Will a comprehensive marine spatial plan help coordinate the multiple and sometimes conflicting uses of the marine space and resources and ensure the sustainable use of marine resources?



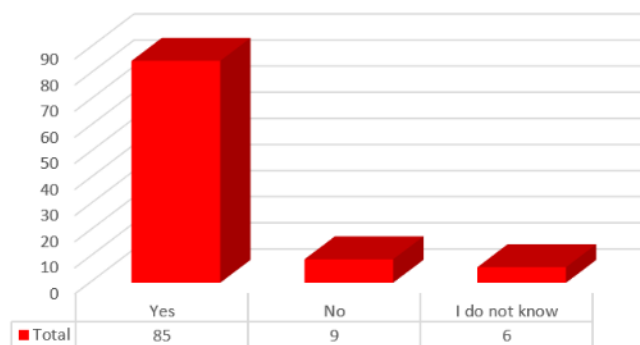
Question 4: Would you be interested in specific training courses in marine spatial planning for the Western Tropical Atlantic Caribbean region?



Question 5: If your answer was “Yes”, choose your preference:



Question 6: Would you be interested in participating in a regional MSP working group?



With regards to open-ended questions, although the response on questions was not as numerous as the response to the polls, it did allow for participants to respond more in-depth and in writing on the use of MSP both locally and regionally and how the Regional MSPforum can more effectively contribute to MSP within the Latin American and The Caribbean Region.

Open Ended Questions

1. What kind of tools in the MSP process are you familiar with?
2. According to your experience, is knowledge for MSP (e.g., science results) easily accessible? For planners? For stakeholders? For the general public? How can knowledge dissemination on the MSP process be enhanced?
3. What is the degree of science-policy-society interface in the MSP process that you are familiar with? What would be the ideal science-policy-society interface? How would you envision it?
4. What are the opportunities of capacity development on MSP in your country?
5. Do you think that MSP issues are adequately covered/addressed at political level (e.g., governments, parliaments)? Taking into account your experience, is MSP sufficiently politicised or is it rather a technocratic exercise? How to enhance high-level political will in relation to MSP?
6. Taking into account your experience, what are the main obstacles to engage in transboundary cooperation with neighbouring countries? How to overcome these challenges?
7. Which institutions support transboundary cooperation in your region? How to ensure that transboundary cooperation lasts beyond the mere preparation and establishment of maritime spatial plans? Do we need transboundary/transnational institutions for MSP?
8. What is the role of MSP in achieving the SDG14?
9. Specifically, what is the role of MSP in addressing "land-sea interactions"?
10. What are the needs of the fishing sector for a MSP?
11. What are the main challenges integrating fisheries into the MSP process?
12. How relevant is Stakeholder Engagement or Fishers Engagement on the integration of fisheries and MSP?

In particular questions 1 to 4 had significant audience engagement. Respondents replied generally speaking that:

- There should be an increased accessibility to evidence-based data to guide the decision-making process.
- There needs to be a support group in terms of guiding the MSP process regionally.
- There needs to be an enhancing of knowledge dissemination through increased stakeholder engagement and capacity development while prioritizing MSP related initiatives at the grass-roots level.

Conclusions & Key Messages

The considerations for Marine Spatial Planning as a public process of analysing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives that have been specified through a political process in Latin America and the Caribbean are significant. Based on both the presentations and the feedback from the attendees there are various levels of MSP implementation within the Caribbean and Latin American region, with some locations being far advanced in the MSP process while others are in the nascent stages of MSP implementation.

In the last decade, MSP processes have spread to all continents and since 2017, the IOC-UNESCO and the European Commission are working together to accelerate MSP processes worldwide through a joint framework called MSProadmap, of which an updated version was launched during the 3rd International Conference on MSP in November 2022. As a result of this partnership, the MSPglobal Initiative and the International MSPforum were established, this last one focused on building mutual understanding on MSP and creating a global community of practice, which is also a significant consideration for the Caribbean and Latin American region.

Although it was clear that MSP is not an end in and of itself but also a practical way to create and establish a more rational use of marine space and the interactions among its uses, to balance demands for development with the need to protect the environment, and to deliver social and economic outcomes in an open and planned way. The most significant feedback from attendees is the need for developing a supportive framework through regional mechanisms; and the Regional MSPforum can be one of them in order to facilitate information exchange and to develop a supportive network of best-practices.

The creation of this Regional MSPforum for Latin America and Caribbean will amplify MSP efforts at the regional level together with IOC's Sub Commissions and other regional partners and initiatives working on MSP in the region such as OECS, CLME+, UNEP-CEP, CPPS, among others. Towards this end, it was recommended that the IOCARIBE Secretariat make available resources through documents and a best practices compilation which can help practitioners in the MSP process.