



SUSTAINING INTERNATIONAL WATERS COOPERATION

Building Traction of the TDA-SAP Process Toward 2030 and Beyond: From Formulation Through Implementation (Coastal Zone and Marine World Café) – 5 November

Around 90 participants gathered around the nine marine tables and addressed questions centred around three themes linked to the TDA-SAP process.

(1) challenges in the implementation of regional action, (2) marine spatial planning and (3) engagement of non-State actors.

After three rounds of discussion, the discussion results were 'harvested' with all marine participants. The tight interlinkage of the three themes became clear during the harvest.

Recurring points for all three themes included:

- Importance of a fair, transparent and inclusive process, which involves a wide range of stakeholders at all levels from the beginning
- Stakeholders play a key role for engagement with local communities, science and technology, traditional knowledge, communication and advocacy, finance and capacity building
- Need for levelling the playing field through developing capacity and by providing access to data and knowledge
- Need for clear communications
- Need for strong science and data to support evidence-based decision-making

Intrinsically linked to prosperity and economic growth, healthy marine ecosystems have gained high-level global and national attention as critical to sustaining life on earth. In SDG 14, the international community committed to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.

The participants had the opportunity to share their experiences and views with regard to the preparation, adoption and implementation of TDA and SAP and related ocean strategic planning processes in shared marine water bodies

This World Café session looked at three themes:

1. EEZ-ABNJ– Connections between TDA-SAPs, Regional Seas, RFMOs and the BBNJ Process

Challenges to implement SAP in the region?

- One country has more than one LME so difficult to implement different SAPs.
- Lack of trust between countries and lack of information sharing.
- Different legal regulatory frameworks
- Demonstrate the benefits for the region – trust in the process itself. Lack of economic data to show the value.
- Lack of political will – sometimes national priorities are not aligned with regional demands.
- High turnover of the government staff.

What could be done to address these challenges?

- more data demonstrating seriousness of environmental issues and economic impacts to policy makers.
- build capacity for technical levels
- Intergovernmental coordination mechanisms.
- info sharing and documentation mainly to deliver it to policy makers.
- align LMEs with national priorities
- establish clear transparent well organized consultative processes
- ensure clear map of shared resources
- establish data access
- linkages between national and regional priorities
- Acquire data on economic value of the natural resources
- assess capacity needs
- strategic prioritization in the TDA/SAP processes
- **Results framework / evaluating stakeholder participation and adapting**
- Governance mechanisms: Benguela current commission.
- Capacity building at local levels to influence political leadership and long term vision.
- MPA as pilot projects to serve as examples and show possibilities

How does the IW community can contribute?

- Promote TDA data visualization
- Need strong champions to coordinate
- Establish strong inter-agency coordination with focal points
- Establish platform for engaging stakeholders including civil society.
- Raise profile of issues by highlighting significance to the regions and countries
- Create space for high level political support commitment;
- Strong science and data to support area based management
- Economic analysis for effective communication
- Finding knowledge gaps
- Strengthen shared learning through the profiling of best practices
- Encourage the sharing of resources (human resources, technology and data)
- Empower country teams for effective negotiations at regional and international level, in particular new international agreements on BBNJ under the UNCLOS.

2. Use of marine spatial planning– coastal, and marine/ABNJ in SAPs and related ocean strategic planning processes

Challenges to implement MSP?

- Challenge to implement: lack of information; existing sectoral mandates that are not integrated ; lack of capacity ;
- who will be implementing mainly in ABNJ, what's the institutional response
- ensure that all stakeholders participate → they get bored with planning / Process of the SAP

Ideal mechanisms of stakeholders consultation

- bring traditional knowledge in and collective wisdom inputs/formulation
- engagement with local communities
- current institutions in the area should lead the process of engagement; institutions with legal mandate should lead the process. Regional Seas as leaders ABNJ regions.
- there is a need of guidelines about sharing information; how to get info from traditional ecological knowledge (production of knowledge) ; good communication.
- build trust
- identify and involve the 5 main stakeholders: mining, energy, tourism, fisheries, transportation.
- Use bottom up and top down approach with many layers in between.
- Good leadership

How does the IW community can contribute to MSP?

- Develop minimum standards
- support social-economic analysis
- support with financing
- providing tools and platforms.
- increase awareness about MSP through communications
- partnership with academia

3. The role of non-State actors in the effective formulation and implementation of the SAP and related ocean strategic planning processes

In what areas can non state actors best contribute to the effective formulation and implementation of the SAP and related Ocean Strategic Planning process?

- Technical support: knowledge experience, science tradeoffs, fast track implementation
- Act as facilitators, brokers through mediation with neutrality, convening power, building local capacity and with expertise to engage local communities
- Support with financial resources
- building network
- bring traditional knowledge in and collective wisdom inputs/formulation
- engagement with local communities