



**SAIHC16 MSDIWG Annual Report  
2020**



**To:** Members of the IHO Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC)

**Subject: ANNUAL REPORT: MARINE SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE (MSDI) WITHIN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND ISLANDS HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION (SAIHC)**

28th July 2020

### Introduction and purpose

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1. During SAIHC15, noting IHO activity under the IHO-MSDIWG, the Commission agreed to establish SAIHC-MSDIWG. UK was elected to chair this working group and compiled initial Terms of Reference (TORs) and Rules of Procedure (ROP), with input and support from the SAIHC group.  
The purpose of this document is to provide a short annual report for the Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC 17), as an output identified in the SAIHC-MSDIWG TORs. The report focusses on activity during and since SAIHC 16 with a look forward to SAIHC 17 MSDIWG, which will be held via conference call alongside ICCWG-9 on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

### Terms of Reference (TORs)/Rules of Procedure (ROP)

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2. During the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference, the SAIHC recognised the importance for all Member States to communicate and collaborate in support of Seabed 2030 activity. This activity is coordinated by SAIHC-MSDIWG. It was agreed to review the existing TORs/ROPs. France and Norway contributed to this revision. For ease of reference the amended TORs/ROPs are included at **ANNEX A** to this report with the incorporation of Seabed 2030 activity changes highlighted in red text.

### Current status of MSDI within SAIHC

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3. The MSDI group within SAIHC remains embryonic, however, we have provided links to training and MSDI featured as a key part of the Hydrographic Governance Workshop (more detail under Training in paragraph 6 below).  
As reported last year, there are a number of MSDI and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) initiatives across the region that have been identified by SAIHC MSDI group. These are highlighted again, if members know of any further developments please alert the MSDIWG:

- a. The Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) Initiative – This is a process focused on planning for and management of the sustainable and long-term use and health of the Seychelles Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The EEZ encompasses 1,374,000 km<sup>2</sup> of ocean and 115 islands. The MSP Initiative is a Government-led process, managed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and TNC Canada in partnership with Government of Seychelles – UNDP GEF Programme Coordinating Unit (PCU).

<https://seymsp.com/the-initiative/>

In 2020 the Seychelles Marine Spatial Plan initiative discussed the management of multiple use areas, climate change adaption and support for their blue economy road map. Allowable activities, management considerations, and other aspects for management of the MSP zones are underway, to be completed by Dec 2020.

- b. Marine Spatial Atlas for the Western Indian Ocean (MASPAWIO) - An open access geospatial data repository for the Western Indian Ocean. MASPAWIO provides access to marine spatial datasets, providing data layers useful for marine spatial planning, management and research, from multiple primary and secondary sources; contributing compiled information into other regional and global repositories. This initiative covers 11 key countries in SAIHC/NIOHC region.

<http://maspawio.net/>

- c. African Coastal and Marine Atlas (ICAN) Has a functioning portal -

<http://www.africanmarineatlas.org/>

- d. BIOPAMA - The BIOPAMA project aims to build a solid information base for decision making on protected areas in the Africa, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) region. This repository, based on GeoNode, is part of the BIOPAMA Reference Information System. Here you can discover and use maps, reports, data and other information sources, and upload your own to share with others. The themes of data you can find here cover a broad range of natural resource management and related topics. Core development is by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, based in Italy. Our project partners IUCN are working with regional institutions to set up Observatories, which will use GeoNode to help share important data.

- e. Nairobi Convention - Marine Spatial Planning Workshop Held at Kenya marine and fisheries research Institute (KMFRI). Held in September 2018. The aim of the workshop was to enhance capacity in science-based management tools such as Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Marine Spatial Planning, and the Large Marine Ecosystem Approach to promote better responses to challenges in coastal and marine environment.

[https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/26353/Marine\\_Spatial\\_Planing\\_Report.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/26353/Marine_Spatial_Planing_Report.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

These may be just a fraction of what is underway within the SAIHC region and communicating to our commission and providing links to these projects could foster future collaboration.

## Current status of individual implementation within SAIHC

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4. The MSDI group distributed Letter No. 1 2019 dated 17th July 2019 contained a questionnaire so we may gain a better collective understanding of individual implementation within SAIHC. Formal feedback to the questionnaire has been received from: France, Malawi, Mauritius, Norway, Tanzania, and UK. In addition, feedback was provided by South Africa around their MSP presentations during SAIHC 16. This highlighted some useful feedback, as an example Tanzania expressed the need for a Technical Assessment Visit, which is planned under the IHO Capacity Building for 2021.

## IHO MSDI activities

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5. The IHO-MSDIWG last met in Rostock, Germany in February 2020. A brief update on the latest activities will be provided during our forthcoming conference call on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The link to IHO MSDI WG is <https://iho.int/en/msdiwg11-2020>

## Training and Capacity Building requirements and opportunities

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6. During our session at SAIHC16, the MSDIWG presented the MSDIWG training material, that was kindly provided ahead of formal release by the IHO MSDIWG. This material can be found on IHO website under SAIHC16 <https://iho.int/en/saihc16-2019>

UK secured wider funding from Her Majesty's Government (HMG) to support regional South African Marine Economies Programme. This enabled funding for Angola, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Seychelles to attend a five-day "Hydrographic Governance Workshop", held in Pretoria, February 2020. A significant objective of this workshop was the development of a Hydrographic Governance Implementation Plan, of which MSDI forms a key part. subject to the prioritisation process. Photo1 below shows the delegates and training team.



*Photo 1 - Hydrographic Governance Workshop", Pretoria, February 2020.*

## GEBCO Seabed 2030 update

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7. During our session at SAIHC16, the UK presented the coverage for SAIHC region that could support 100m grid resolution from vector data currently held at UKHO. This showed a small percentage of adequate coverage. GEBCO Seabed 2030 seeks to gain adequate coverage at different Grid cell sizes, depending on the depth range. See *Table 1* below. In order to further our Seabed 2030 discussions during the MSDIWG

meeting, SAIHC members are encouraged to provide a graphic/snapshot of a grid surface, and if possible the surface itself, that details coverage within SAIHC region.

Depth range	Grid cell size	% of world ocean floor
0–1500 m	100 × 100 m	13.7
1500–3000 m	200 × 200 m	11
3000–5750 m	400 × 400 m	72.6
5750–11,000 m	800 × 800 m	2.7

*Table 1: Depth range/Grid Cell size – GEBCO Seabed 2030*

#### Actions and next steps for SAIHC 17

8. SAIHC next steps will be discussed and developed during the SAIHC 17 MSDIWG VTC meeting, which in turn, will be reported to SAIHC17 plenary in 2021.
9. Actions: SAIHC 17 MSDIWG is invited to:
  - a. Note this annual MSDI report;
  - b. Consider and update the WG on any MSDI activity in the SAIHC region,
  - c. Provide a graphic/snapshot of grid surface, or the surface itself, that supports GEBCO Seabed 2030 coverage within SAIHC region.

## **Annex A – REVISED SAIHC MSDIWG TOR and ROP**



### **Terms of Reference for the Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) Working Group (SAIHC-MSDIWG)**

(Raised during SAIHC15 28-30 August 2018, Seychelles)

(Status - reviewed by and including contributions from SAIHC Members during SAIHC15, revised October 2019 to incorporate coordination of Seabed 2030 activity for SAIHC region)

With referencing to

- IHO Resolution 5 - 2009 on MSDI policy, adopted by the 4th Extraordinary International Hydrographic Conference in June 2009
- 1st HSSC Meeting (Singapore, October 2009)
- Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure Working Group (MSDIWG)
- Guidance for Hydrographic Offices IHO Publication C-17 - Edition 1.0

The SAIHC at its 15th Conference, recognised the need to initiate a study of MSDI in the region to identify areas where maritime SDI implementation is underway and where problems can be foreseen, and how the SAIHC member states see the future development of MSDI in the region and whether co-operation between MS can facilitate this development. **During the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference, the SAIHC recognised the importance for all Member States to communicate and collaborate in support of Seabed 2030 activity. This activity is coordinated by SAIHC-MSDIWG.**

#### **The Working Group should:**

- Identify and analyse the current status of individual MS MSDI implementation.
- Consider MSDI policies within the related international projects e.g. e-navigation, MSP.
- Analyse how maritime authorities can contribute their spatial information and the necessary updates, so information can easily be collated with other information to a current overall picture for the region.
- Focus on how SAIHC in the future can benefit from a regional approach.
- Monitor the specification and development of SDI that could be relevant for the SAIHC region.
- **Consider and coordinate MS activity towards Seabed 2030.**
- To present a yearly report to the SAIHC at its conference. This report should include a description on the current status, recommendations on how to proceed with the MSDI implementation and if deemed necessary an action plan with specified time schedule for future SAIHC and SAIHC-MSDIWG actions.
- Identify any SAIHC capacity building requirements on MSDI.

#### **Rules of procedures:**

- All SAIHC Members and Associate Members are encouraged to participate to the SAIHC-MSDIWG and to contribute to the work of the SAIHC-MSDIWG.
- The SAIHC-MSDIWG should be chaired by one of the Member States elected by the SAIHC MS.
- The SAIHC-MSDIWG should work as far as possible in accordance with existing guidelines and recommendations issued by the IHO and IMO.
- The SAIHC-MSDIWG should consult Task Groups, Committees and Working Groups or other relevant bodies, as deemed necessary.

- The SAIHC-MSDIWG should inform relevant (notably adjacent) RHC's with the aim to coordinate within the other regions as far as possible.
- The work of the SAIHC-MSDIWG will be carried out primarily by correspondence (via e-mails). The members are encouraged to reply without unnecessary delay.
- The SAIHC-MSDIWG Chair, can on request coordinate SAIHC MS views on MSDI topics and present them at the IHO MSDIWG. The SAIHC-MSDIWG Chair can select a representative to present on its behalf as appropriate.