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


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


January 2023


## Background, Introduction and purpose

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 report for the intersessional update of the Southern African and Islands Hydrographic Commission (SAIHC), as an output identified in the SAIHC-MSDIWG TORs. The report focusses on activity during and since SAIHC 18 with a look forward to SAIHC 19 MSDIWG, scheduled to convene in August 2023.

## Current status of MSDI within SAIHC

2.  The SAIHC MSDI Working Group has achieved some success in the provision of online training overviews and MSDI featured previously as a key part of the Hydrographic Governance Workshop. The working group has brought together Seabed 2030 and the IHO MSDIWG activity to inform SAIHC members of key initiatives, resulting in a common level of understanding.

    As previously reported, 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 km2 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/

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_Planning_Report.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

Note, the SAIHC WG has not received any updates since the previous report from member states. Therefore, this represents what was known during our previous meeting. Please provide any pertinent updates to the SAIHC MSDIWG Chair.

## Current status of implementation within SAIHC

3. Members are encouraged to report MSDI implementation as part of their national report updates at the next SAIHC19.

## IHO MSDI activities

4. Following a joint presentation with the World Bank Group (facilitated by the UK Geospatial Commission), and being sponsored by the IHO, OGC, and ISO at the *Twelfth Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management* (UN-GGIM12) in New York during August 2022, UKHO contributed the Lead Author of the IGIF-MSDI Maturity Roadmap (Dr Gerald J Wong) to a World Bank Group geospatial maturity assessment mission to the Republic of the Philippines in October 2022.

This contribution of marine and maritime expertise around an IGIF-aligned MSDI implementation greatly assisted World Bank understanding of the Philippines existing hydrographic strengths and areas where the World Bank could potentially finance future development. This mission also independently provided 3rd party "proof in practice" separate from the existing participants in the IGIF-MSDI Maturity Roadmap initiative: World Bank, IHO, OGC, UKHO, plus NOAA (Chair of WG-MGI). UKHO is also contributing to the development of a draft Geospatial Use Case inventory for the Marine domain as part of the World Bank engagement in the Philippines.

For strategic context, the IGIF-MSDI Maturity Roadmap is intended as a complementary "Quick-Start" guide to the existing ecosystem of IGIF, MSDI, OGC, and National resources, providing a quantitative baseline of a nation (or agency's) marine geospatial maturity and options for future development. It is fully interoperable with the World Bank's NSDI related IGIF Methodology, which includes considerations of Socioeconomic Impact and Country Action Planning, as independently aligned with the wider UN-GGIM IGIF model.

The final documents (including image pack and diagnostic spreadsheet) have been recently released via the OGC's FMSDI initiative and are available for independent use.

[OGC, UKHO, and partners release the IGIF-(M)SDI Maturity Roadmap - Open Geospatial Consortium](#)
[IGIF-(M)SDI Maturity Roadmap - Open Geospatial Consortium (ogc.org)](#)

## Training and Capacity Building requirements and opportunities

5. The SAIHC Capacity Building Coordinator (CBC) is optimising resources by developing a collaborative four-day MSI course in conjunction with NIOHC and RSAHC. At the time of publication of this report, the dates and venue are unknown, however this presents a great opportunity for SAIHC. Please provide your training and capacity building requirements relating to MSDI, either within the national report update, through the SAIHC Capacity Building Coordinator lucy.fieldhouse@ukho.gov.uk or direct to SAIHC MSDIWG Chair Tim.lewis@ukho.gov.uk

## Related MSDI activities and successes

6. SAIHC MSDIWG Chair has been working closely with the African Great Lakes & Rivers Sub-Working Group (AGL&RsWG) since SAIHC17. We recently held a successful two-day meeting, hosted by Malawi. This was attended by six SAIHC nations and included wider regional organisations. SAHIC WG Chair briefed the group on MSDI activities, in particular developments to the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)-MSDI Maturity Framework and "quick start" guide in measuring a nations maturity against the IGIF's nine strategic pathways.

7. SAIHC MSDIWG Chair also referred back to MSDIWG Letter 2/2021 regarding data portal requirements for the group. This will be a focus of discussion at the AGL&RsWG during SAIHC19.

## Future initiatives

8. There is an increasing need to focus on supporting priority requirements discussed at the African great Lakes and Rivers Sub-working Group, such as the portal development to ease data "discovery", in line with the UN-GGIM strategic pathways.

9. As we move ever closer to S-100 implementation, it is imperative to focus elements where MSDI-WG can support this to assist this significant change for Hydrographic Offices.

10. SAIHC next steps will be discussed and developed during the SAIHC 19 MSDIWG meeting.

11. Actions: SAIHC members are invited to:

   a. Note this short intersessional MSDI report,
   b. Consider and update the WG on any MSDI activity in the SAIHC region,
   c. Provide requirements for data portal through the African Great Lakes & Rivers Sub-Working Group.