



SAIHC MSDIWG Report 2024



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

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

August 2024

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 outlining activity since SAIHC 19 with a look forward to SAIHC20 MSDIWG, scheduled to convene in Kisumu 17-19th September 2024.

Current status of MSDI within SAIHC

2. The MSDI Working Group has focussed on the revision of ToRs/RoPs bringing a focus of S-100 into this group whilst ensuring a review and updates for gender inclusive language. The group has provided support to the African Great Lakes & Rivers Sub-Working Group (AGL&RsWG) on Data Portal requirements. An intersessional VTC update was convened on 30th July, focussing on the future status of this working group and including a detailed overview by the IHO MSDI WG Chair (at 4 below).

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. Mauritius - The Department for Continental Shelf, Maritime Zones Administration & Exploration (CSMZAE) of the republic of Mauritius has set up the Mauritius Ocean Observatory E-Platform (E-platform) to support the Marine Spatial Planning initiative of the Republic of Mauritius by providing a platform to collect, store, organize and provide access to spatial-temporal data relevant to ocean exploration and development. Since last meeting of SAIHC in August 2023, the E-platform has been upgraded to GeoNode version 4.2.3 (Figure 1) to improve efficiency, and reliability in sharing data to users and groups. The E-platform is now accessible to Ministries, Departments and public using the link <https://oceanobservatory.govmu.org/>

- b. 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/>

- c. 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/>

- d. African Coastal and Marine Atlas (ICAN) Has a functioning portal -
<http://www.africanmarineatlas.org/>

- e. 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.

- f. 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 only received updated from Mauritius (Aug 24), 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. The IHO MSDI WG Chair, (USA), presented a comprehensive overview of activities during the SAIHC MDSIWG VTC on 30th July 2024. The presentation is available from this session on the SAIHC website. Main topics discussed included:
 - a. Summary of latest meeting
 - b. Regional MDSIWG Initiatives
 - c. New IHO MDSIWG Work Plan 2024 - 2027
 - d. Partnership with UN-GGIM WG-MGI 6th Expert meeting
 - e. Partnership with OGC Marine Domain Working Group

The update to the IHO C-17 publication was discussed. Link here: [IHO C-17 v. 3.0 Spatial Data Infrastructures: “the Marine Dimension” - Guidance for Hydrographic Offices](#)

The presentation has been shared with SAIHC group. 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.

As previously reported, the final documents (including image pack and diagnostic spreadsheet) have been 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. There is nothing of note to report since SAIHC19. 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 MDSIWG Chair Tim.lewis@ukho.gov.uk

Related MSDI activities and successes

6. SAIHC MDSIWG Chair has been working closely with the African Great Lakes & Rivers Sub-Working Group (AGL&RsWG) since SAIHC17. There will be a focus on Data Portal requirements during SAIHC20.

Future initiatives

7. 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.
8. Now SAIHC has a S-100 Coordinator it is proposed this MSDI WG is withdrawn so the focus can be assigned to the S-100 transition. The aim is to retain an ambassador for MSDI to be alert to items of relevance for this regional commission.

Actions and next steps for SAIHC20

9. SAIHC next steps will be discussed during the SAIHC 20 meeting.
10. Actions: SAIHC members are invited to:
 - a. Note this MSDIWG report,
 - b. Consider withdrawal of SAIHC MSDI WG but retain a MSDI Ambassador representative,
 - c. Consider and update the WG on any MSDI activity in the SAIHC region,
 - d. Provide requirements for data information portal through the African Great Lakes & Rivers Sub-Working Group.