Since 2006, when UNESCO held the first International Workshop on Marine Spatial Planning, interest in this process, as a practical, ecosystem-based approach to coastal and marine management, has increased considerably. However, spatial planning is not an end in itself, but rather fits within the broader integrated coastal management. Spatial planning can occur at various spatial scales. In the coastal environment human activities occur over various spatial and temporal scales, as do the ecosystem processes with which these activities interact. As a result, understanding the influence of an activity on the ecosystem (and its uses), requires not only knowledge on the intensity of the activity, but also on its spatial extent and frequency of occurrence relative to the ecosystem’s spatial and temporal dynamics. This study investigates the practical implementation of MSP – or coastal spatial planning (CSP) - in urban coastal spaces where the need for spatial planning is especially evident. For the purposes of this document, an urban coastal space comprises a component of the coastal zone spanning the near-shore marine environment (“wet coast”), across the shore into the coastal hinterland (“dry coast”). In these coastal zones conflicts arise among ecosystem uses, as a result of the burgeoning demand not only for space and resources for development (e.g. commercial ports, fisheries, mariculture, mining, tourism, etc.), but also the need for biodiversity conservation. As a result coordinated planning in these urban coastal spaces is increasingly becoming a necessity rather than an option. Even if CSP is not a simple task in complex, coastal social-ecological systems, compromising and accommodating a range of needs, and political requirements, the alternative - uncoordinated and ad hoc exploitation of coastal spaces – is sure to have disastrous outcomes, ecologically, socially and economically.