Approach on the implementation of marine spatial planning in Madagascar
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According to the General State policy of Madagascar and reinforced by Madagascar’ commitments presented at the United Nations Ocean Conference in 2017, Madagascar want to include Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) as a basic tool for promoting the blue economy.

Contrasting with land territory, maritime space has a three-dimensional aspect because it is composed of the water surface, the water column and the seabed. It is also noted that the multiplicity of activities and interventions, both public and private sectors, in maritime zones increases the anthropic pressures on marine and coastal ecosystems, on the one hand, and the risks of conflict of uses, on the other hand.

This has led the State authorities to develop a strategic mechanism for the rational management and allocation of maritime space. Indeed, the marine spatial planning is part of the good governance and constitutes a strategic tool to diversify and optimize the sustainable use of living and non-living resources, by combining mapping and regulations to achieve the objectives set and by integrating a long-term vision.

Thus, in an approach aimed at fulfilling the commitment, it appears necessary to choose the MSP in accordance with the national specificities. In this regard, in view of the Malagasy State's recent decision to launch into the blue economy, it follows that the MSP adapted for Madagascar is the one based on activities, specifying that the conservation and preservation of the ecosystem and biodiversity is categorized as activities in its own right.

Moreover, given the exercise of authority and in practice the sovereignty of the State over its maritime space, the MSP falls within the exclusive competence of the State. Thus, it is up to the Malagasy State to define and design a marine spatial planning adapted to its development needs and oriented towards the Government vision.

Madagascar's commitment to use the MSP involves concrete actions by establishing an appropriate and inclusive legal framework, considering regulatory measures setting the principles, the objectives and the strategic orientations of the MSP, putting in place adequate mechanisms and tools, such as the development of a data management system, and setting up an adequate structure for the data collection in order to approve the implementation of the MSP.

Still in our approach on setting up the MSP, the integration of all stakeholders in the process is essential but requires some coordination in order to have a good organisation of all activities. The Government of Madagascar believes that inter-ministerial committees will be set up to ensure coordination, operationalization, monitoring and control of the action plans adopted in the MSP process. In the long term, these committees will also be a permanent structure attached to a higher decision-making level to ensure its impartiality, transversality and sustainable operationalization.