

A hand is pointing at a map of Brazil, which is covered with numerous small, colorful cards and pins. Each card features a different icon representing various marine resources and activities, such as fish, coral, ships, and renewable energy. The cards are connected by thin black and red lines, illustrating the spatial planning and resource management process. The map itself shows the coastline of Brazil and surrounding waters.

# Vision and Principles for Marine Spatial Planning in Brazil

Resolution 07/2023 of the Interministerial Commission for  
Marine Resources (CIRM)

December 2023



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# Introduction

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The ocean provides essential resources and ecosystem services for a wide range of uses and human activities, such as oil and gas exploration, energy generation, transportation and international trade, tourism, aquaculture and fishing, as well as ocean conservation. Given the increase in these activities and the challenges of climate change, the management of marine ecosystems plays a vital role for maintaining ocean health and human wellbeing. Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) offers a comprehensive, ecosystem-based approach for managing

the ocean in an integrated and systemic manner, considering the interactions between marine environments, ecosystem services and human activities as well as the needs of society. MSP aims to achieve compatibility and synergy between different uses and marine ecosystems, by providing a framework for analyzing and allocating human activities in space and time, considering environmental, economic and social aspects.





# Introduction

In order to set the basis for the MSP process in Brazil, the Interministerial Commission for Marine Resources (CIRM) approved the Resolution 07/2023, which defines Vision and Principles for the MSP. They were previously discussed in a workshop organized by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MMA) and CIRM.

This milestone of the MSP process was supported by the Projects GEF Mar and TerraMar (MMA, ICMBio and GIZ/IKI).



Mariana Bitencourt/Projeto TerraMar



# 1. Vision

A healthy, biodiverse, resilient, safe and productive Brazilian marine territory drives sustainable, orderly, equitable and democratic development.

This will be achieved through continuous, coordinated and participatory planning and governance, considering the best scientific evidence available, traditional knowledge and best practices, to ensure sovereignty and national security, conservation of socio-biodiversity and ecosystem services, sustainable economic development, social inclusion, environmental and climate justice as well as the wellbeing of society.



50 milímetros



# 2. Principles

## 2.1. Adopt an ecosystem-based approach

which considers the complex interactions and interdependencies between coastal and marine ecosystems and human well-being, guaranteeing the conservation of socio-biodiversity, ecosystem health and the maintenance of ecosystem services. This also involves implementing strategies that identify priority areas for maintaining biodiversity, and that protect and regenerate marine ecosystems to maintain ocean health and guarantee the continued provision of the vital services the ocean offers.

## 2.2. Contribute to human health and well-being

guarantee the right to a healthy environment and the rights of traditional territories, improve socio-environmental conditions, avoid and reduce environmental risks and impacts, generate employment and income, reduce poverty and inequality, and ensure food security and nutrition for the population.



Freepik

## 2.3. Precautionary approach

in the context of uncertainty and lack of complete and up-to-date scientific data, consider effective measures to prevent or minimize the degradation of the coastal and marine environment, whenever there are activities that could pose a danger of serious or irreversible damage.



Adobe Stock





Marinha do Brasil

## 2.4. Area-based

MSP should be spatially explicit and consider spatial compatibilities and incompatibilities, using the best available spatial information and recognizing the different spatial and temporal scales of marine processes and features. It should also include the spatialization of the best available scientific, traditional and local knowledge.

## 2.5. Integrated approach

maintain integrated, participatory, inter- and multidisciplinary coastal and marine planning and management strategies, considering land-sea integration, to ensure compatibility between the multiple uses of coastal and marine areas, promoting conflict resolution, mediation, dialogue and negotiated solutions, guided by social and intergenerational justice.

## 2.6. Integration and intergovernmental coordination

mobilize and coordinate the different spheres of government, foster the participation of civil society organizations and ensure the democratic governance of coastal and marine areas. Governance of the marine territory will be characterized by collaboration with the various sectors of society, promoting a coordinated and participatory approach. Considering the scale of analysis compatible with decision-making, local communities will be actively involved, taking into account traditional knowledge and the voice of civil society. Transparency, accountability and equity will be the pillars of governance, ensuring that decisions reflect the interests of the whole nation.



## 2.7. Legitimate social participation

ensure the representativeness and transparency of social participation throughout the process, considering socio-cultural and geographic diversity, and guaranteeing the rights of traditional peoples and communities and the preservation of their rights and traditions.



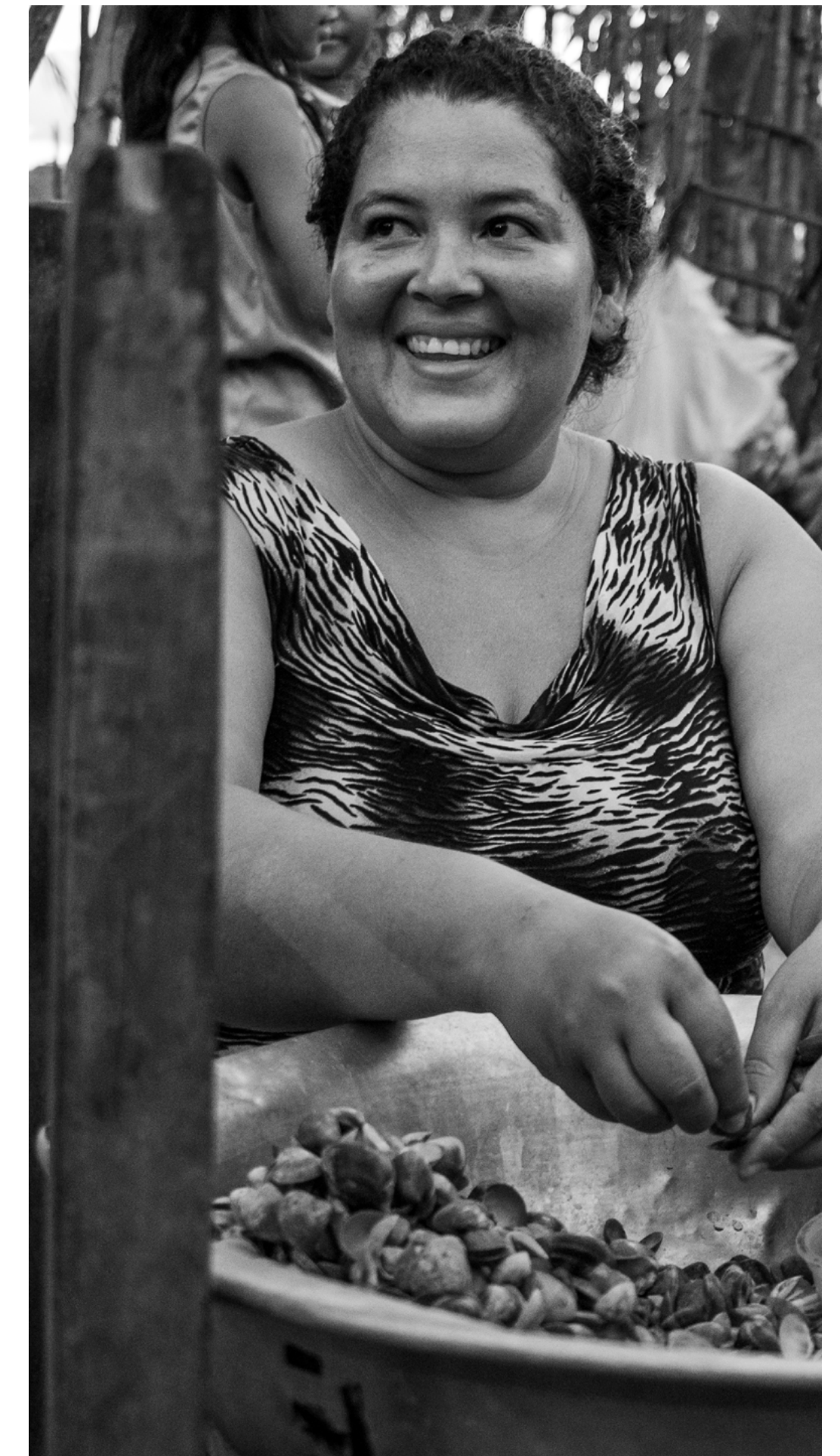
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## 2.8. Ocean Literacy

raise awareness among Brazilian society about the importance of conservation and sustainable use of the ocean, as well as the Marine Spatial Planning process.

## 2.9. Inclusive and accessible

ensure that access to the benefits of the marine territory is equitably distributed, promoting social inclusion and environmental justice. Developing local capacities and creating opportunities for traditional communities will be incentivized, and participation processes should use accessible and easily understandable language, ensuring equity, inclusion and diversity, so that everyone has the opportunity to prosper in a healthy marine environment.



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## 2.10. Transparency

promote transparency in Marine Spatial Planning processes and decisions, ensuring that all stakeholders, including government agencies, economic sectors and local communities, are accountable for the commitments made in the process.

## 2.11. Based on knowledge and innovation

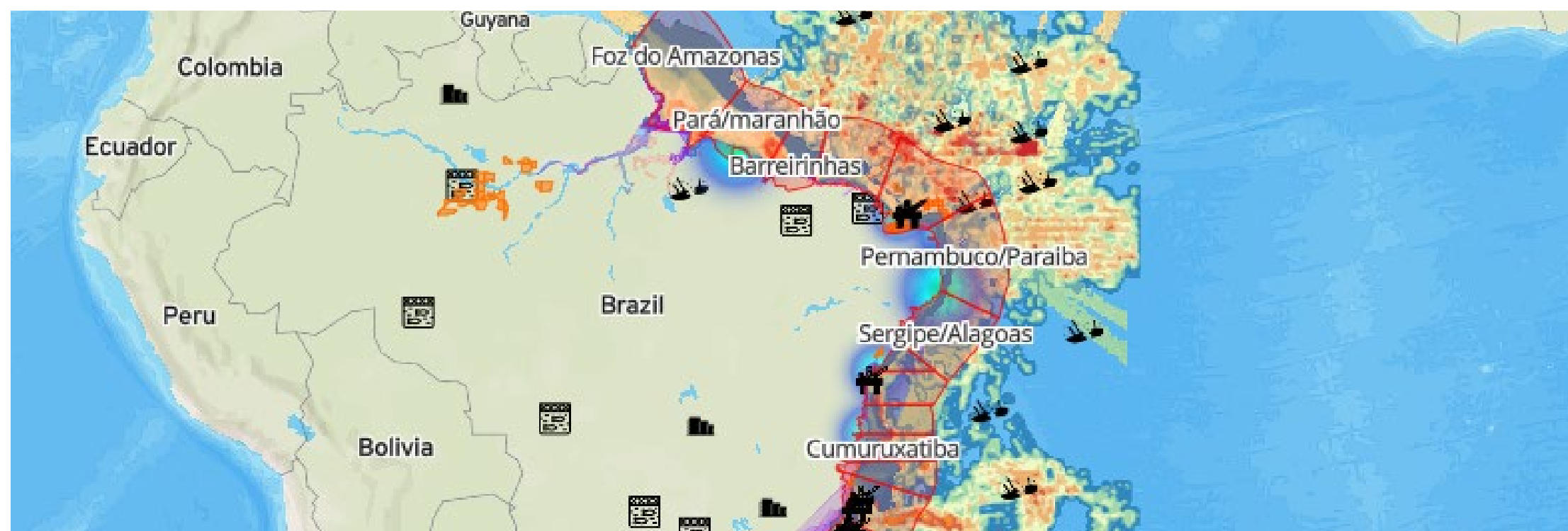
consider the best available scientific knowledge, traditional and local knowledge, as well as best practices, creative solutions and technological innovations. Promote continuous dialogue between scientists, local communities and innovators, as well as investment in science and in understanding the marine environment.

## 2.12. Adaptive and continuous

adopt a continuous and adaptive planning and management process, capable of being flexible and incorporating climate scenarios and environmental, economic, political and social changes over time, as well as providing for periodic updates, without losing sight of long-term objectives. It must use robust monitoring and evaluation tools and recognize uncertainties.

## 2.13. Climate smart

recognize global climate challenges, considering environmental vulnerabilities as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, including the just energy transition.



SeaSketch



Glaucimara Silva (GIZ Brasil/ Cooperação Alemã)



## 2.14. Sustainable ocean economy

consider Blue Economy principles for economic growth based on the ecosystem approach and sustainable practices, to reduce socio-environmental risks and ecological scarcity. It should value good practices in the form of rational economic investment, innovation and job creation, ensuring that coastal communities benefit from economic growth in a fair and inclusive manner.



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## 2.15. Legally binding

based on constitutional principles and current legislation, as well as the principles of public administration (Legality, Impersonality, Morality, Publicity, Efficiency).

## 2.16. International Cooperation

collaborate with neighboring countries and international organizations on transboundary issues and beyond national jurisdiction, promoting conservation and the shared and fair use of marine resources.

## 2.17. Sovereignty, National Defense, and Maritime Security

reaffirm and preserve the sovereignty of the Brazilian state and jurisdiction over its maritime space and activities, promoting stability, national defense and maritime security, considering the international commitments made by the country as well as Brazil's position as an influential maritime actor at the international level, particularly in the South Atlantic.



Shall we navigate this  
planning?





Supported by:



based on a decision of  
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