



Assessment and prospects for sustainable implementation of MPAs in the COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO region

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Seminar " For a Better Understanding of the Benefits of Marine Protected Areas on Fisheries And Biodiversity In the ATLAFCO Zone "

31 October-01 November 2024, Casablanca, Morocco



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

**1- AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY IN THE
COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO REGION**

**2- REVIEW OF MPAs IN THE ATLAFCO
REGION**

**3- SWOT ANALYSIS OF MPAs IN THE
ATLAFCO REGION**

**4- PROSPECTS FOR SUSTAINABLE
IMPLEMENTATION OF MPAs IN THE
ATLAFCO REGION**

5- REFERENCES CITED



1- AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY IN THE COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO REGION (1/5)



14 660 km of coast

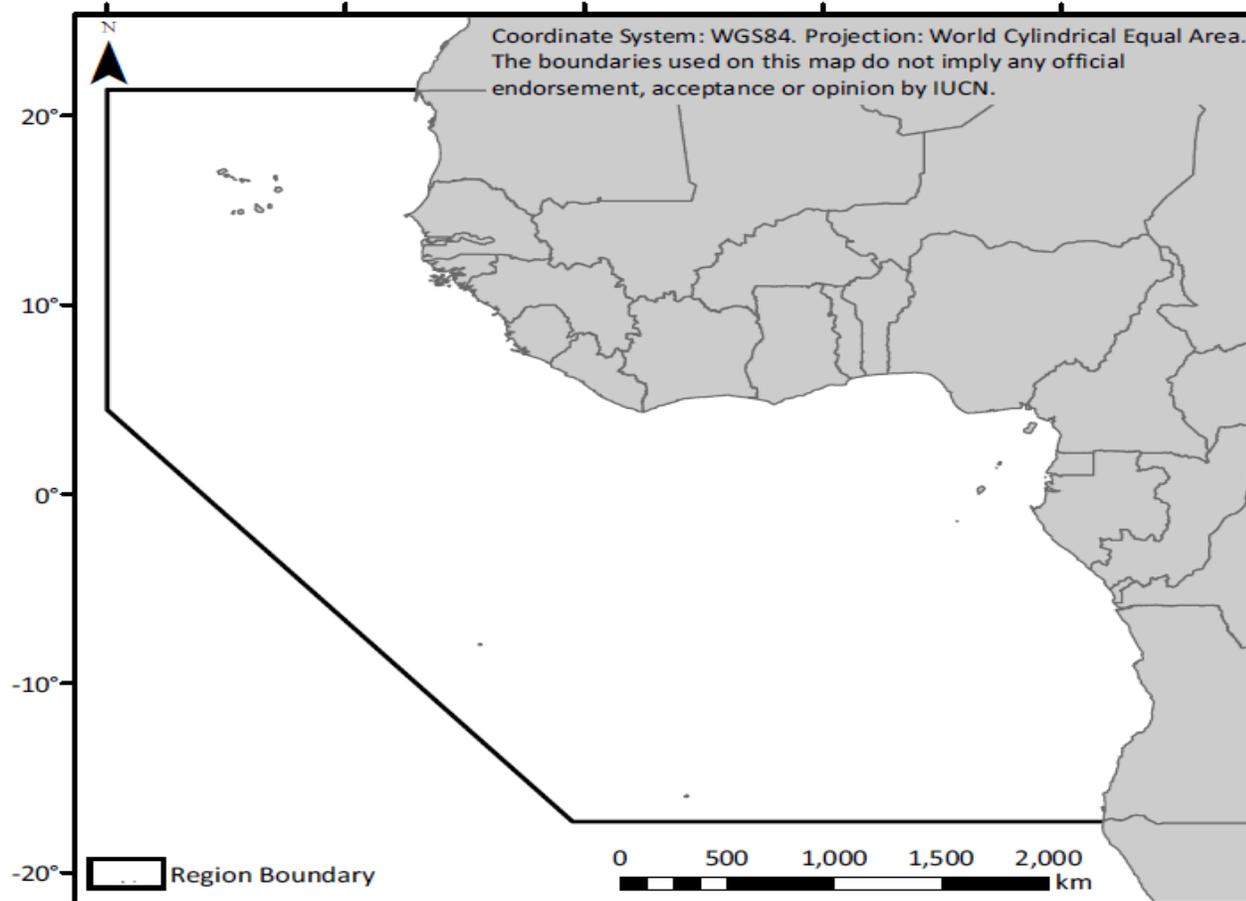
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COASTAL STATES

1. Angola
2. Benin
3. Cameroon
4. Cape Verde
5. Democratic Republic of the Congo
6. Equatorial Guinea
7. Gabon
8. Gambia
9. Ghana
10. Guinea
11. Guinea-Bissau
12. Ivory Coast
13. Liberia
14. Mauritania
15. Morocco
16. Namibia
17. Nigeria
18. Republic of the Congo
19. Sao Tome and Principe
20. Senegal
21. Sierra Leone
22. Togo



1- AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY IN THE COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO REGION (2/5)



**Eastern Central
Atlantic (West and
Central Africa)**

**ATLAFCO REGION
INCLUDED**

Polidoro et al. (2016)

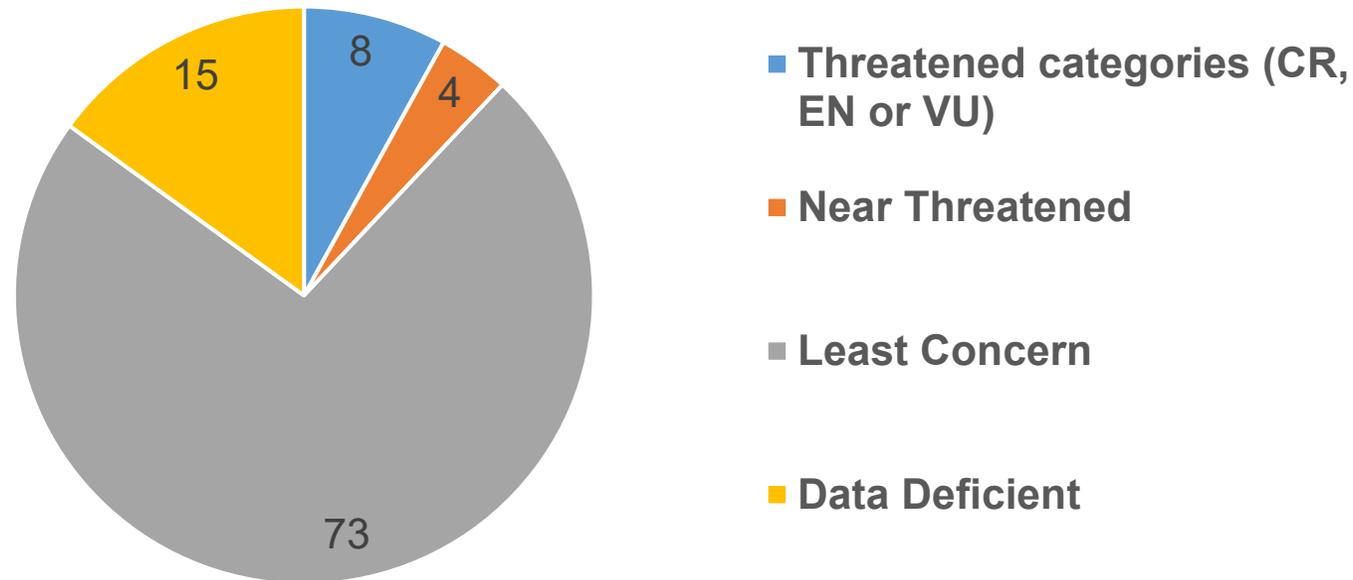
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1- AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY IN THE COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO REGION (3/5)

Proportion (%) of categories in IUCN red list: 1811 marine species in the ECA



Polidoro et al. (2016)

1- AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY IN THE COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO REGION (4/5)

Endemic species to ECA

ECA marine species	356 (<20%) out of 1811
ECA teleost fishes	230 (18%) out of 1284

Polidoro et al. (2016)

1- AQUATIC BIODIVERSITY IN THE COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO REGION

(5/5)

- **Marine fish: Sharks and Rays, Sea horse and other ecologically and economically important fish species**
- **Marine mammals: Whales, Dolphins and Manatees**
- **Marine reptiles: Sea turtles**
- **Birds: Seabirds and migratory birds**
- **Vegetation: Seagrass and mangrove forests**



2- REVIEW OF MPAs IN THE ATLAFCO REGION (1/6)



1. Both national (within EEZ) and transboundary
2. Mainly those gazetted with an official document of establishment regardless of the names given to them in national law
3. Exclude parts of internationally managed areas such as a Ramsar Site, a Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site that are not established as MPA by an official national law document

AU-IBAR (2023)

Literature Review

Online Survey

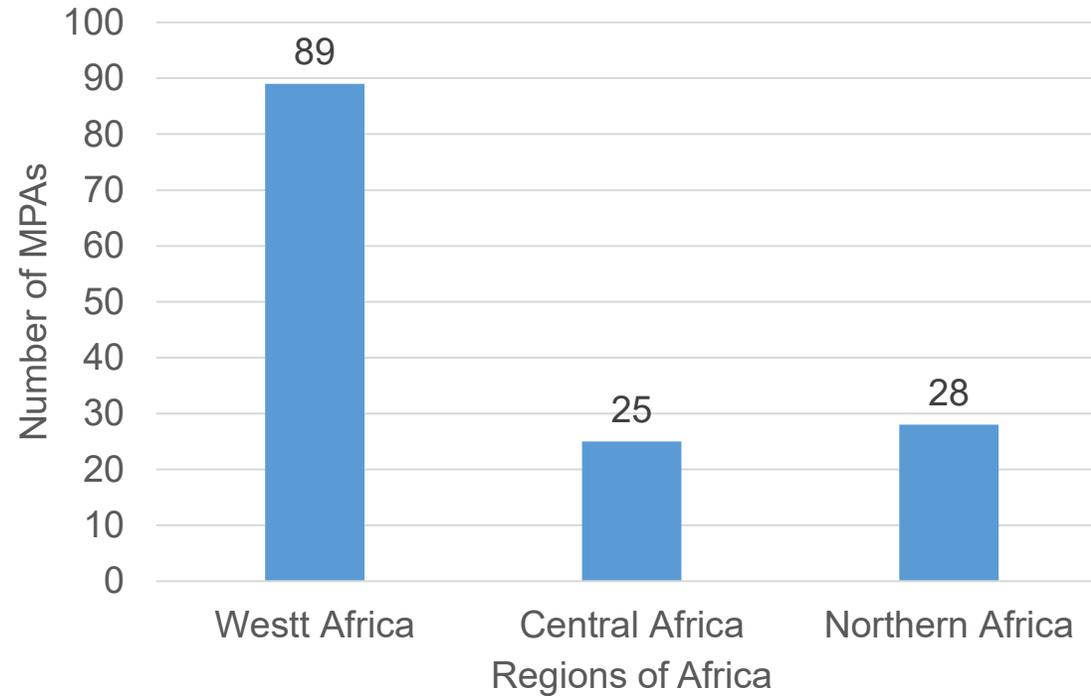
Field Visits

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2- REVIEW OF MPAs IN THE ATLAFCO REGION (2/6)

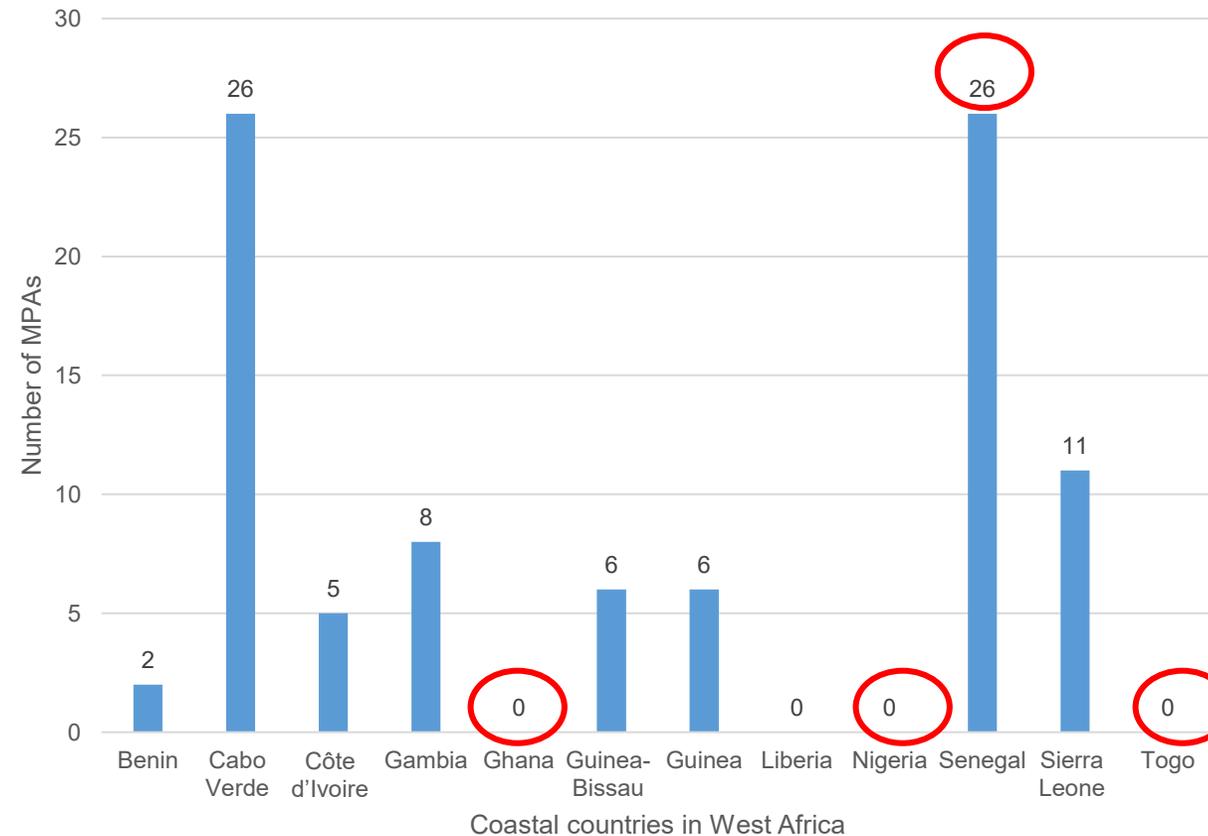


AU-IBAR (2023)

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2- REVIEW OF MPAs IN THE ATLAFCO REGION (3/6)



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2- REVIEW OF MPAs IN THE ATLAFCO REGION (4/6)

MPAs that contain terrestrial, inter-tidal and subtidal components and those that contain terrestrial and inter-tidal ecosystems only are dominant as compared to entirely marine MPAs

Most of number of the MPAs do not a management plan and its implementation plan yet

Centralised or top down model of governance is dominant

The conflict resolution mechanisms are not established for most of the MPAs



2- REVIEW OF MPAs IN THE ATLAFCO REGION (5/6)

Dominant types (permitted activities): Multiple use (MPAs that allows extractive uses like fishing with some restrictions) and **No-take** (MPAs that allow people to use the area but prohibit extraction or any destruction to the area)

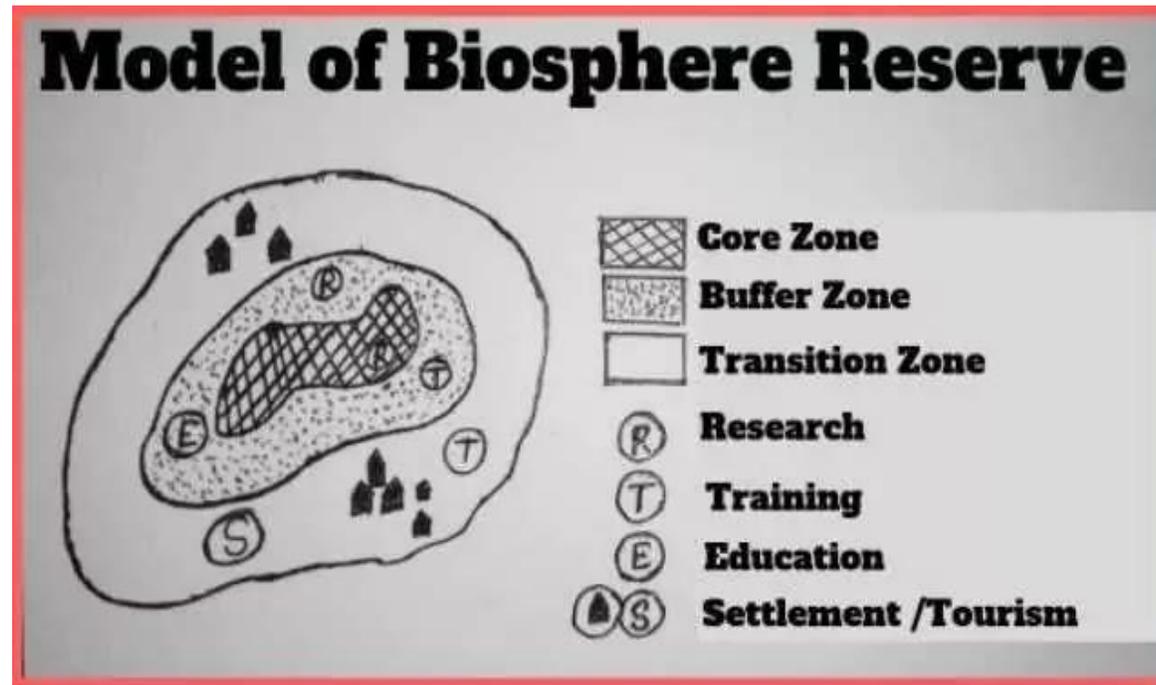
Dominant types (duration): All the studied MPAs are **permanent** (MPAs with indefinite protection, aborted only on future legislative requirement)

Dominant types (IUCN Category): Typ1a (Strict nature reserve) & Type 2 (National park)



2- REVIEW OF MPAs IN THE ATLAFCO REGION (6/6)

Most used zonation approach: **Core Area** or **High protection zone**, **Transition Area** or **adhesion zone** and **Buffer Zone**



3- SWOT ANALYSIS OF MPAs IN THE ATLAFCO REGION

(1/2)

Strengths

1. Sustainable management of fisheries resources
2. Protection and conservation of marine biodiversity
3. Preservation of marine ecosystems/habitats
4. Conservation of sensitive areas such as spawning grounds
5. Conservation of already threatened species
6. Reduction of human footprint on marine resources

Weaknesses

1. Inexistence of reference document on baseline data backing the creation of MPAs
2. Inexistence of framework for the monitoring of changes and effectiveness of MPAs
3. Limited funds allocation for conservation in national budget
4. Insufficiency of human resources
5. Inexistence of management plans for most of the MPAs
6. Weak surveillance and enforcement capacity of MPAs



3- SWOT ANALYSIS OF MPAs IN THE ATLAFCO REGION (2/2)

Opportunities

1. Existence of funding opportunities
2. Existence of tangible and intangible African cultural heritage that can be used to achieve objectives associated to MPAs
3. Possibility of establishing effective surveillance system with local and indigenous community
4. Development of responsible ecotourism to generate incomes to fund activities within MPAs

Threats

1. Land-based and sea-based pollution & Habitat degradation and loss
2. IUU fishing and devastating impacts of distant water fleet fishing vessels
3. Climate change and its related risks
4. Negative impacts of coastal development



PROSPECTS FOR SUSTAINABLE IMPLEMENTATION OF MPAs IN THE ATLAFCO REGION

(1/2)

Development of management plan for each established MPA

Develop national strategies for MPAs

Promote learning and experience sharing tours on MPAs especially in Central Africa

Establishment of a sustainable financing mechanisms to fund the MPA operations at both national and regional levels



PROSPECTS FOR SUSTAINABLE IMPLEMENTATION OF MPAs IN THE ATLAFCO REGION

(2/2)

Assessment of cost benefits of MPAs to provide contextualised evidence

Establishment of livelihood programs to support artisanal fisher folk where MPAs are created

Integration of long-term management and funding of MPAs into the creation process, rather than seeing creation and management as two independent entities

Recruitment of dedicated and specialized staff to support implementation and management of MPAs



5- REFERENCES CITED (1/1)

AU-IBAR, 2023. Continental Review of Existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Document Lessons, Best Practices and Formulate Guidelines for their Sustainable Implementation and Governance in Conservation of Aquatic Biodiversity Resources within the African Union Member States (AU MS) and Regional Levels (West, Central and Northern regions of Africa).

Polidaro et al., 2016. Red list of marine bony fishes of the eastern central Atlantic. <https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.CH.2016.04.en>



MERCI BEAUCOUP

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THANK YOU

