

## Launch of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) for Puducherry and Lakshadweep as part of Indo-Norwegian Collaboration on Integrated Ocean Management

Under the India-Norway Marine Spatial Planning for two areas namely Pondicherry and Lakshadweep were taken up to balance growth alongside sustainable management of ocean resources and coastal environment preservation. The work was implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) through **National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR)**, Institute of Marine Research (IMR) and the Norwegian Environment Agency (NEA), Norway along with the Department of Science and Technology of the UT of Puducherry and Lakshadweep.

The coastlines of Pondicherry and Lakshadweep were chosen to pilot the MSP initiative MoU that envisaged India and Norway collaborating on implementing MSP in the maritime space.

“Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) is a public process of analyzing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas to achieve ecological, economic and social objectives that have been specified through a political process”.



MSP for Puducherry & Lakshadweep is a platform to bring diverse stakeholders together in the maritime domain to understand the current spatial usage of the coastal and ocean space by various sectors, MSP will help in tracking key sectoral indicators to enable course correction and formulate action plans for sustainable development, minimize intersectoral conflicts and enhance synergy for optimal utilization of coastal and ocean space to ensure inclusive and sustainable development.

The MSP for Puducherry and Lakshadweep was developed with the best available datasets in the form of a spatial data repository with all thematic maps relevant to the pilot sites. MSP aims to enhance regional planning, integrating current and future plans of all coastal and marine regions. Ecosystem health is being assessed through indicators such as Water quality index, Mangroves area under economic pressure etc and these status indicators play an important role to plan course correction or remedial actions to maintain the health of the ecosystem and wellbeing of the society.



MSP for Puducherry and Lakshadweep has been developed as a platform to upload and study new proposals in the light of the conflict and compatibility with other economic sectors environment parameters. A new coastal tourism activity is to be planned and this tool takes into consideration the present usage of the beach, available resources, the environmental parameters and possible future projects of all the different sectors.

MSP for Puducherry was launched on 13th February in Puducherry by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, Dr. Tamilisai Soundarajan in the presence of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Puducherry, Shri. N. Rangasamy, Hon'ble Speaker, Puducherry Legislative Assembly, Shri. Selvam, Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Shri. K. Lakshminarayanan, Hon'ble Ambassador of Royal Norwegian Embassy HE. Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences Dr. M. Ravichandran, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Puducherry Shri. Rajeev Verma, IAS. The programme was coordinated by Dr M V Ramana Murthy, Director, NCCR and Dr. A. Muthamma, IAS Secretary - Science, Technology and Environment Govt. of Puducherry.



The Norwegian delegation along with Scientists from NCCR and Ministry of Earth Sciences visited the Lakshadweep Islands. The draft Msp for Lakshadweep was launched on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023 by Hon'ble Administrator Shri. Praful Patel in the presence of Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Govt of India, Hon'ble Ambassador of Royal Norwegian Embassy HE. Mr. Hans Jacob Frydenlund, and Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences DR. M. Ravichandran.

The programme was coordinated by Dr M V Ramana Murthy, Director, NCCR and Shri .A. Anbarasu IAS, Advisor to the Administrator, UT Lakshadweep.

MSP is globally identified as a tool for sustainable and integrated ocean management. It will play a significant role in India's vision of New India by 2030 and highlights the blue economy as one of the ten core dimensions of growth.