

## Benguela Current Marine Spatial Management and Governance (BCMariSMaG)

<b>Partner countries:</b>	Angola, Namibia, South Africa
<b>Partner institutions:</b>	Regional level: Benguela Current Commission (BCC) National levels: BCC partner ministries
<b>Implementing organizations:</b>	GIZ & BCC
<b>BMUB grant:</b>	up to 8.900.000 euros
<b>Duration:</b>	08/2014 – 04/2020

### Overarching project objective (outcome):

The sustainable management of the marine biodiversity and resources of the BCLME is strengthened by improving the capacities of the BCC and its member states in relation to Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).

### Specific project objectives (outputs):

1. The BCC member states describe, recognize and manage EBSAs.
2. The BCC and its member states implement and institutionalise MSP.
3. Concepts and instruments for the sustainable management of marine biodiversity and natural marine resources are widely known, accessible and used in the BCLME region and internationally.

The Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) stretches along the coast of Angola, Namibia and South Africa. The BCLME is considered to be the “current of plenty” as it is one of the most productive and biologically diverse ocean regions in the world. In recognition of their unique transboundary natural capital, the governments of Angola, Namibia and South Africa ratified the Benguela Current Convention to promote the trilateral management of the shared LME. Collaborating through the Benguela Current Commission (BCC), the three countries have committed to protecting and sustainably managing the marine biodiversity and natural resources of the area and building a holistic vision of how best to ensure the sustainable development of the ocean space.

The BCMariSMaG project aims at supporting the BCC, its member states, and other stakeholders and key players in the maritime sector to realize an enhanced sustainable management of the BCLME’s marine biodiversity and natural resources.

This will be achieved by developing capacities at various levels to describe the region’s EBSAs and implement management measures to ensure their conservation and sustainable use. The project furthermore aims at institutionalizing and implementing MSP.

The project supports the development of EBSA and MSP related management and governance strategies, policies as well as legal and institutional frameworks, and assists the partners in implementing measures for their application and coming-into-force.

The dissemination of the project results and experiences as well as the tried and tested concepts and instruments in relation to EBSAs and MSP aims at the integration of the products and services generated by the project into national, regional and international policy and negotiation process so as to enable their long-term application.

The project supports the BCLME states to develop and implement a common long-term vision for the socio-economically and ecologically viable human use of the unique ocean space. It is therefore an important contribution to both the protection and the sustainable use of the marine natural life support system and supports the implementation of key areas of action of the BCC’s Strategic Action Programme 2015 - 2019.