



Ocean Country Partnership Programme Senegal

Achievement Report

Authors: Lois Duff (Country Co-ordinator – MMO), Julia Baker (Programme Director – Cefas) and workstream leads (MMO, Cefas and JNCC)

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Programme:

The Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCP) is a 5 year (2021-2026) technical assistance and capacity building programme that provides tailored support to countries to manage the marine environment more sustainably, including by strengthening marine science expertise, developing science-based policy, management tools and creating educational resources for coastal communities. The OCP delivers work under three thematic areas: biodiversity, marine pollution, and sustainable seafood. OCP was delivered by three British Government Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs): the Centre for the Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO). Other components of OCP were delivered by the Global Ocean Accounts Partnership (GOAP) and the Friends of Ocean Action (FOA) and those elements are not covered in this report. More information on OCP can be found at: [DevTracker Programme GB-GOV-7-BPFOCP Documents](#)

Document Purpose:

This Achievement Report presents a summary of the activities undertaken and the achievements obtained as a result of cooperation between countries for this partnership. This document does not cover the multilateral components of the programme and this report only covers achievements by the end of the programme. A range of further achievements are expected as recommendations from the OCP are adopted by partner countries in the preceding period post-programme closure.

All OCP Achievement Reports have been authored by the ALBs and therefore key achievements and impacts of collaboration reflects individuals own perspectives. Independent evaluation by the OCP MEL provider verifies outputs and outcomes against the programme logframe, the findings of which can be viewed in the programme's annual reviews and closure report on Dev Tracker.

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Acronyms

- ANSD – Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie
- BPF – Blue Planet Fund
- EEZ – Exclusive Economic Zone
- GPAP – Global Plastic Action Partnership
- IHH – Institute for Health and Human Development
- IUU – Illegal, Unreported or Unregulated (fishing)
- MEDDTE – Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development, Transport and Energy
- MMO – Marine Management Organisation
- MPA – Marine Protected Area
- MSP – Marine Spatial Planning
- NGO – Non-Governmental Organisation
- OCPP – Ocean Country Partnership Programme
- OSRL – Oil Spill Response Limited
- PID – Project Initiation Document
- REFEPAS – Senegalese Network of Artisanal Fishing Women
- ToR – Terms of Reference
- UCAD – Université Cheikh Anta Diop
- UNESCO – The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
- USAID – United States Agency for International Development

Executive Summary

The Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCP) has partnered with Senegal since 2022 to strengthen the sustainable management of its marine and coastal environment in the face of climate change, overfishing, pollution and expanding offshore oil and gas activity. Delivered under the UK Government's Blue Planet Fund (BPF), OCP provided targeted technical assistance, capacity building and evidence generation across biodiversity, marine pollution and sustainable seafood, aligned with Senegalese priorities.

Working with government, academia, NGOs and regional partners, OCP strengthened marine governance, policy and coordination. Key outcomes include improved preparedness for marine pollution emergencies, progress toward marine spatial planning through a national MSP framework, and development and validation of an offshore Marine Protected Area framework led by national authorities. These interventions improved inter-agency collaboration and evidence-based decision-making across Senegal's Exclusive Economic Zone.

OCP also invested in long-term scientific capacity through the establishment of two microplastics laboratories, and the production of climate and pollution risk assessments, aquaculture data analyses, and education and training initiatives. Gender equality, disability and social inclusion were embedded throughout delivery, leaving Senegal better equipped to manage marine risks and pursue a sustainable Blue Economy.

Context

The Republic of Senegal, hereafter referred to as Senegal, is a country in West Africa with a coastline spanning the Atlantic Ocean. Senegal's coastal zone is approx. 198,000 km², with various ecosystems, including sandy and rocky coasts, wetlands, mangroves, and sandy islands.

Currently 70% of Senegal's population lives in coastal areas with fishing a key industry along with mining, construction, tourism and agriculture.

Senegal is viewed as one of the most stable countries in Africa and is the only country in West Africa not to have had a military coup. The fisheries sector is dominated by small scale artisanal fleets which are a cornerstone of the economy, providing thousands of jobs and ensuring food security. The fisheries sector as a whole accounts for 10.2% of all exports and contributes 3.2% to Senegal's GDP.

Partnership scoping was carried out in February 2023. Introductions were held with government stakeholders as well as wider donors to understand Senegal's priorities for the marine environment and where OCPP could best support.

Coastal and Marine Pressures

Climate change

According to the Climate Risk Index which covers the 1993-2022 period, Senegal is 121st in the ranking of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries ([Germanwatch](#), 2025). Since the 1950s, Senegal's average annual temperature has increased by nearly 2°C (Rigaud et al. 2021).

Sea-level rise is a key climate change marker, increasing the risk of erosion and storm surges. The costs of erosion for Senegal were estimated at US\$ 537 million in 2017 (3.3% of 2017 GDP), mainly due to the loss of land and its associated value (Croitoru et al. 2019). Several reports (such as Cissé et al. 2022; Almar et al. 2019; Dada et al. 2024) indicate that the coastline of the Dakar region is increasingly affected by coastal flooding caused by extreme water levels during wave events. Almar et al. (2019) studied the low-lying sandy coast of Senegal and reported that it is highly susceptible to marine flooding and erosion. This is amplified by population pressure and harmful and unsustainable urban development practices in coastal areas which are not formally/systematically planned (including building on the shore in areas within the 100m highest tide limit that by law is considered public domain) ([Fall](#), 2021). It is predicted that up to 52% of land in the Saloum Delta will be submerged (Niang et al. 2010) and that coastal erosion could result in the loss of up to 4.02 km² by 2100 (Dennis et al. 1995).

Fisheries provide 75% of consumed animal protein in Senegal and employ between 97,000 and 825,000 people.

Unsustainable fishing practices

Senegal's fisheries and aquaculture sector are dominated by small-scale fleets, providing employment to approximately 630,000 people, (roughly 4% of the population). This sector is crucial for food security, supplying 75% of consumed animal protein, and serving as the country's top export sector ([Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy](#), 2016). Estimates on the number of people employed in the sector vary greatly from roughly 97,000 employed in fishing and processing ([ANSD](#), 2019), to 825,000 relying on fisheries for some portion of their income (when all direct and indirect jobs are considered) ([Harper and Sumaila](#), 2019). Men dominate fishing activities, while women play a lead role in fish processing and transformation.

Fish stocks to support the growing population are being threatened by overfishing from artisanal and industrial fleets. Calculations suggest Senegal loses approximately \$272 million annually due to Illegal, Unreported or Unregulated (IUU) fishing. The overfishing related to IUU activity is contributing to the collapse of stocks of both the small pelagic species consumed locally, and the coastal demersal species which are mainly exported.

Aquaculture has a long tradition in Senegal, but is not at present a major contributor to aquatic food production in the country. There is substantial potential to expand both the mariculture and freshwater aquaculture industries as sources of aquatic protein additional to fishing, but challenges exist around obtaining licences, feed, juvenile supply, securing investment, and establishing a market for produce.

Additionally, both artisanal fisheries and aquaculture may be vulnerable to climate change and severe weather events.

Marine Pollution

Marine pollution can severely compromise ecosystem and public health and impacts a wide range of sectors reliant on a healthy marine environment. Coastal urbanisation, inadequate wastewater treatment, and waste disposal into the ocean and illegal dumping area all contribute to pollution challenges in Senegal ([Fall](#), 2021).

The expanding oil and gas presence in Senegal has raised concerns amongst marine stakeholders, especially regarding lack

*Calculations suggest Senegal loses approximately \$272 million annually due to **Illegal, Unreported or Unregulated (IUU)** fishing.*



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of enforcement of environmental regulations. Support to monitor impacts and establish oil spill response plans are essential to help to regulate this industry and avoid or minimise future catastrophes.

Plastic pollution is also a major issue affecting coastal areas, particularly on the Cape Verde peninsula where much of the industry is focussed. In 2025 Senegal joined the Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) to implement data-driven solutions for plastic waste reduction, indirectly targeting microplastic generation by cutting upstream plastic use and improving waste management.

Senegal passed laws banning single-use plastics (2015 and 2020), aiming to reduce plastic leakage into the environment and oceans. However, enforcement remains a challenge, especially for water sachets, which are a major source of microplastic pollution.

Poverty and Development

According to the World Bank Group's [Senegal Poverty and Equity Brief : October 2025](#) high poverty levels in Senegal are closely linked to deficits in human capital accumulation and limited access to basic infrastructure. Senegal has made progress in improving access to basic services, particularly in water, sanitation, and healthcare, but challenges remain, especially in remote areas and for poor and vulnerable households.

[Delio, Haben. \(2023\)](#) take a socioeconomic approach, condenses these Senegal's poverty challenges into the following sectors:

- Inequality and Social Divides
- Agricultural Pressures
- Education Constraints
- Rapid Urbanisation and Informal Employment
- Health Inequities

These structural challenges are further compounded due to environmental degradation, climate change and resource scarcity, directly impacting the local coastal communities that face significant threats to their livelihoods. With limited opportunities for alternative employment, people affected by the environmental degradation are pushed into daily wage labour or into debt and poverty.

These pressures hit women, youth, and informal workers hardest, as they lack assets and social protection. Coastal environmental decline undermines fisheries and livelihoods, leading to poverty and migration, reinforcing vulnerability and instability in Senegal.

Stakeholders

At the start of the partnership, OCPP engaged with contacts at the British Embassy Dakar to understand the stakeholder landscape and to identify key individuals to engage with. There are multiple government agencies, NGOs, academic institutions and donors active in marine conservation, fisheries management and Blue Economy development in Senegal. It was important to deconflict activities, ensure alignment with ongoing programmes and build on previous work that had taken place.

Key Government bodies engaged through the partnership were the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Fisheries, Maritime and Port Infrastructures and the High Authority for the Coordination of Maritime Safety, Maritime Safety and Protection of the **Marine Environment (HASSMAR)** which reports directly to the presidency. Across these institutions, OCPP worked closely with a range of technical departments (including the DAMCP, ANA, ANAM, DPM, DGEFM) to progress delivery and ensure alignment with wider priorities.

Academic collaboration, particularly with **University Ibe Der THIAM de Thie** and **Université Amadou Mahtar Mbow De Dakar** supported training, capacity building and the integration of new facilities to process microplastics samples and improve evidence on the occurrence, abundance and distribution of microplastics in the marine environment.

Delivery relied on strong collaboration with national and regional partners. NGOs such as Blue Ventures, Oceanium, Nebeday contributed to engagement on offshore MPAs, MSP and gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI). OCPP also engaged with regional initiatives and bodies such as West Africa Coastal Areas Management Programme (WACA), Wetland International Western Africa (WIAO) Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa (RAMPAO) and the Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation (PRCM) to ensure alignment with other relevant programmes.

There are also a number of other donors present in Senegal, including World Bank and multiple international conservation NGOs such as IUCN. Through collaborative planning with government, NGOs and regional partners, the programme contributed to a more coherent and technically grounded foundation for marine biodiversity conservation, emergency response preparedness, sustainable seafood and the wider Blue Economy.

OCPP has been supported by the British Embassy, Dakar throughout the programme. An excerpt from a speech given at OCPP Celebration by Ms Carine Robarts, His Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal is captured below. A full stakeholder list can be seen in Annex 1.

“There are many activities taking place at sea, and sometimes conflicts arise among stakeholders even beyond offshore exploitation, including within the same artisanal fishing sector.

For these reasons, I believe it is important to develop marine spatial planning in order to identify the different stakeholders and activities, define zones, periods, and timeframes, and specify that each activity should take place within a defined space and for a specific duration”

Mrs. KA Interview – HASMAR



"It is a great honour to welcome you today to celebrate the Ocean Countries Partnership Programme (OCCP), funded by our United Kingdom through the Blue Planet Fund. This programme embodies the British government's commitment to ocean protection, a key priority of our environmental and climate policy.

We commend Senegal's sustained efforts to preserve marine ecosystems through its existing marine protected areas, while strengthening the governance of these areas in line with the commitments of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Sustainable Development Goal 14. These initiatives are progressively positioning the country as a regional leader in marine biodiversity"



Impact



Advancing Senegal's Capacity for Policy, Regulation, and Governance

Since 2022, OCPP has worked closely with partners in Senegal to build the technical, institutional, and governance foundations needed for effective marine management. This includes strengthened laboratory capacity to analyse microplastics, improved understanding of climate change risks, frameworks to deliver on marine spatial planning and offshore marine protected areas ambition, and knowledge to explore the expansion of aquaculture.

OCPP has focussed on strengthening inter agency collaboration to ensure skills and experience are distributed across institutions. This has included reconvening a cross governmental MSP working group to guide the development of MSP and bringing together key stakeholders from government and academia to discuss aquaculture suitability mapping and site selection.

OCPP has provided a full suite of equipment, installation and training for two microplastics laboratories, one at the Université Iba Der THIAM de Thiès and the other at Université Amadou Mahtar MBOW. These labs, and their respective institutions, have been incorporated into a OCPP initiative to set up a global network of microplastics laboratories, all applying the same methods and acting as a collaboration point for sharing learnings and funding opportunities.

OCPP has also supported attendance at regional conferences such as GI WACAF and CBD COP16 to promote regional and global join up on oil spill response and marine protected areas (MPAs).

Strengthened preparedness to respond to emergencies

OCPP has significantly strengthened Senegal's readiness to respond to marine pollution emergencies, which is especially important considering the growth in the oil and gas sector in recent years. OCPP facilitated training for government agencies (delivered by Oil Spill Response Limited and Sancob) providing them with the skills, tools, and regional coordination mechanisms needed to respond quickly and effectively.

A joint training session with Mauritania and The Gambia provided an opportunity for regional join up and collaboration. A key element of the training focussed on developing a joint roadmap that identifies high risk areas, priority species and current readiness gaps. Senegal faces transboundary marine pollution and increasing climate driven coastal hazards, making regional cooperation and integration with climate resilience planning essential.

OCPP completed a risk assessment of shipping and oil and gas related pollution across Senegal's EEZ which examined the increasing pollution risks from offshore energy development and dense shipping traffic. This has provided the Government of Senegal with improved data on highly vulnerable ecological and socio-economic areas, including mangroves, MPAs, and artisanal fishing zones, and modelled spill scenarios showing significant risks of shoreline and cross-border impacts.

As a result, Senegal now has stronger national capability, clearer regional responsibilities and better aligned contingency planning, enabling the country to respond to marine pollution incidents faster, more collaboratively, and with reduced environmental and socioeconomic impact.

Build capacity to deliver marine spatial planning

OCPP has supported the Government of Senegal to make significant progress with the development of a marine spatial plan, working closely with the High Authority for the Coordination of Maritime Security, Maritime Safety, and Protection of the Marine Environment (HASSMAR) who were appointed as the lead authority and the MSP working group members to drive things forward.

OCPP supported HASSMAR to elevate MSP as a priority area in discussions and the working group is currently being formalised through a ministerial decree to ensure that appropriate budget is allocated. OCPP delivered training to the MSP working group members to strengthen capacity to deliver and implement MSP. OCPP also

provided additional guidance on developing MSP legislation to strengthen and add weight to the process which the Government of Senegal can use to inform decisions going forward.

OCPP assisted the Government of Senegal to better understand what data and evidence relevant to MSP already existed and to identify any gaps. To achieve this, OCPP developed and promoted a national call for evidence which included an online survey supplemented by extensive in-person engagement. OCPP facilitated engagement sessions with a range of stakeholders, enabling them to input meaningfully into the call for evidence. This included travelling to local coastal communities to speak with fishers and women's groups to gather their input.

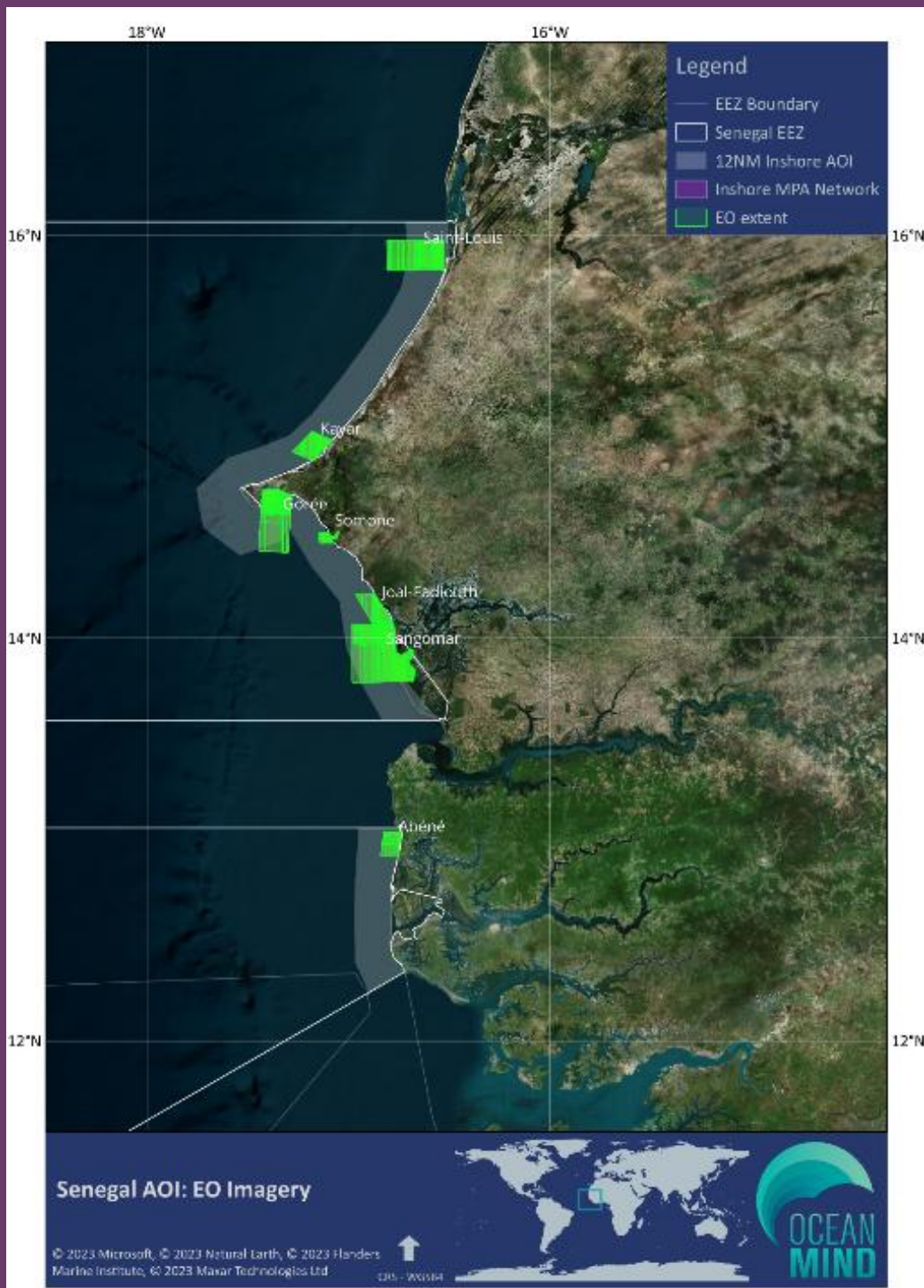
The information received through the call for evidence was used to inform a national MSP framework which provides a framework for guiding decisions which may affect the marine environment or users of the marine environment in Senegal and for developing marine plans. The framework will support Senegal to manage its marine environment sustainably in line with national goals and ambitions.

Build capacity to establish offshore marine protected areas

OCPP has co-led (with the DAMCP) the development of an offshore MPA Framework for Senegal. Support included hosting two training workshops on (1) offshore MPA implementation and best practises, and (2) offshore MPA monitoring. Following these workshops, the DAMCP has actively incorporated the knowledge and material provided during these workshops, subsequently adapting the framework.

The DAMCP has shown a real commitment to the framework being validated at ministerial level. Evidence of this include comms chains, and reports (both OCPP report and report from the DAMCP) highlighting the will of the DAMCP to move towards validation with the potential establishment of an offshore MPA committee.

A validation workshop was held in November 2025 in Dakar, with a total of 16 organisations present to provide comments and validate the framework. The discussions praised the commitment of the Senegalese Government towards offshore conservation, and the inclusive approach that was taken. The framework received comments and has been adapted by the DAMCP in January 2026 to incorporate this. It is now waiting for official ministerial sign off but has already been used as a guide to define next year's activities.



In April 2024, the OCPP conducted a Senegal Satellite Imagery Review.

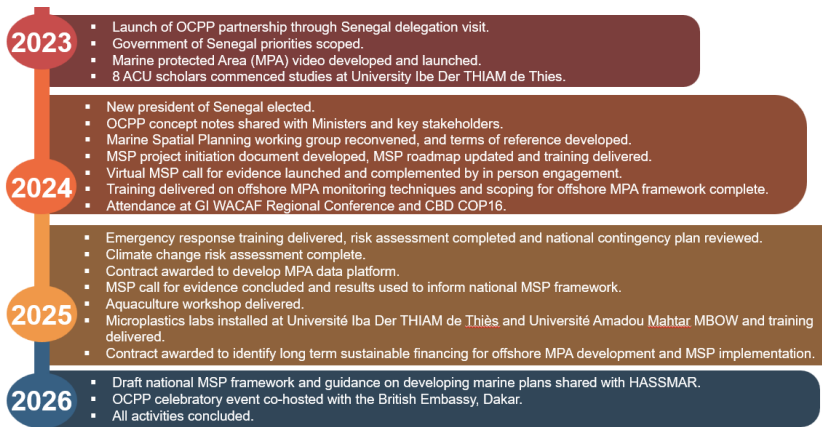
The aim of the assessment was to gather intelligence and identify potential instances of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing activity within Senegal's 12 nautical-mile littoral zone and within Senegal's coastal marine protected area (MPA) network. This was achieved through the analysis of satellite imagery and vessel transmissions via the Automatic Identification System.

The review provided recommendations on how to strengthen approaches based on the intelligence gathered.

Workstreams

OCPP delivered in Senegal across eight workstreams which were identified to address local challenges using the expertise of the delivery partners.

Timeline



Marine Spatial Planning

The maritime area under Senegalese jurisdiction is becoming increasingly busy, particularly with the development of the oil and gas sector, and there is a need to manage conflicting priorities to ensure sustainable use. During an initial scoping visit, The Government of Senegal indicated that they would like to apply an MSP approach to inform decisions made in the marine area to balance the needs of the economy, the people and the environment and to facilitate sustainable development.

An initial technical visit to Senegal in Autumn 2023 provided an opportunity for OCPP to develop an understanding of Senegal's MSP needs and requirements, and to identify how the programme could best assist Senegal in the delivery of MSP. It was clear that some progress with the delivery of MSP had been made through several different programmes and projects, including:

- [Mami Wata Project: Enhancing Marine Management in West, Central and Southern Africa through training and application](#) (Mami Wata, 2016-21)
- [Planning in a liquid world with tropical stakes](#) project (PADDLE, 2017-2021)
- [West Africa Coastal Areas Management Programme](#) (WACA)

The OCPP team was keen to build on the work that had already taken place to avoid duplicating effort.

Based on the information provided by stakeholders attending the OCPP workshops in 2023, the following priorities for MSP delivery in Senegal were identified:

- Clarify the purpose and therefore scope of MSP, enabling formulation of an initial vision and objectives and confirmation of approach to all sectors and interests.



- Explore options for preparing MSP legislation or proceeding without legislation in place. This would require an understanding of political context and appetite for MSP.
- Clarify governance arrangements including the designation of an authority to be responsible for leading MSP in Senegal and how other key players will be involved.
- Develop an MSP framework for the whole of Senegal's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and assess options for defining 'areas/regions' for which plans will be prepared.
- Strengthen institutional collaboration and build partnerships in-country. This includes ensuring that the MSP working group is meeting regularly and is kept informed as the MSP process moves forward.
- Strengthen stakeholder awareness of, and capacity in undertaking, marine spatial planning processes.
- Build on progress within Senegal, reinforce and make the most of international cooperation including to promote sharing of information and best practice.

The president of Senegal formally appointed the High Authority for the Coordination of Maritime Security, Maritime Safety, and Protection of the Marine Environment (HASSMAR) as the lead authority for MSP in Senegal, supported by key implementing partners DPM and ANAM.

In 2024, OCPP assisted HASSMAR to reconvene a working group to guide the development of MSP in Senegal. OCPP provided guidance on developing a term of reference outlining the required governance and assurance arrangements for the working group. Since the partnership started, the working group has met four times. The working group is currently in the process of being formalised through a ministerial decree.

Extensive stakeholder engagement was conducted across multiple sectors to raise awareness and building understanding of MSP. Engagement sessions provided individuals with the opportunity to share information on activities taking place within the marine area including any challenges or opportunities.

Engagement was planned to ensure that all people and groups had the chance to input meaningfully into the development of MSP in Senegal and that local and traditional knowledge was appropriately captured. Potential barriers to participation were identified during the planning process and engagement was planned to overcome these. Taking into account the diverse needs of people, participatory methods and tools were used including participatory mapping and drawing.

An online call for evidence survey was also circulated, providing individuals with a different way to get involved.

The information gathered through stakeholder engagement and the call for evidence process has been used to inform a draft national MSP framework for Senegal.

The purpose of the MSP framework is to provide the basis for developing marine plans and guide decisions which may affect the marine environment or users of the marine environment in Senegal.

It is intended that this national framework provides the basis for strategic planning and will be complemented with regional marine plans which will provide policy for locally specific issues.

To ensure sustainability of the work produced under OCPP and successful implementation of both the MSP roadmap and offshore MPA framework, OCPP worked with Finance Earth and key stakeholders to develop a sustainable financing roadmap.

The project conducted research and analysis to identify a long list of financing mechanisms, evaluated each option, and mapped potential implementation partners sustainable financing options for MSP and MPA.

Food Security

Aquaculture is an important industry in Senegal, providing job opportunities to thousands. However, there is ambition to expand and diversify existing aquaculture in Senegal to provide greater food security in response to declining wild fish stocks and to provide additional employment opportunities. Women, many of whom currently work in fisheries processing and transformation, will particularly benefit from the creation of new jobs.

There is currently a scarcity of information on where coastal and nearshore aquaculture facilities are situated in Senegal, and in particular where the new facilities could be developed. To support with this, OCPP collaborated with L'Agence nationale de l'Aquaculture (ANA) to conduct an environmental data gap analysis for aquaculture suitability mapping in Senegal. This methodology identified the most suitable available data from global modelled or satellite products. This report provides the first step of the analysis by reviewing available environmental datasets and identifying data gaps.

Emergency Response

Oil and gas reserves were discovered off the Senegalese coast in 2014. Oil production started in 2024, followed by gas in early 2025. Key developments include the Sangomar oil and gas field located approximately 100km south of Dakar and the Greater Tortue Ahmeyim, on the border between Senegal and Mauritania, with further projects underway. The

potential to extract oil and gas and move away from importing heavy fuel oil and coal is important for Senegal's energy security and provides an opportunity to improve living standards and encourage economic development. With the development of the sector, there is an increasing risk of pollution incidents.

HASSMAR is responsible for coordinating responses to pollution incidents in Senegal. To support, the OCPP conducted a oil spill risk assessment presented in a technical report with recommendations on the topics of enhancing national contingency planning, strengthening response capability and readiness, and protection of coastal communities and fisheries. To ensure technical capacity was developed, specialist training was provided on emergency response and oiled wildlife, and Senegalese attendance was supported at the GI WACAF Regional Conference in Togo to discuss the challenges of oil spill preparedness, facilitating information sharing and lessons learnt at a regional scale.

"We [the director and myself] reiterate our full commitment to establishing sustainable financing for offshore MPAs and the effective implementation of MSP in Senegal."

Commandant Binta Ba, email exchange



Climate Change

OCPP collaborated with academics from Université Amadou Mahtar MBOW to produce a report assessing potential impacts of climate change related hazards on the marine environment of Senegal. The report summarises the available evidence of climate change in Senegal and the wider West African region and the impact on coastal communities. It highlights the importance of mitigation and adaptation and outlines a series of recommendations to mitigate climate risks to Senegal's marine environment, mainly using nature based solutions. The report has been shared with key Government Ministries and research institutes.

Plastic Pollution

OCPP funded two microplastic laboratories which have been installed at the Université Iba Der THIAM de Thiès and the Université Amadou Mahtar MBOW in Senegal. The facilities will be used to produce scientific evidence on the occurrence, abundance and distribution of microplastics in the marine environment. A key piece of analytical equipment, an Attenuated Total Reflectance Fourier-Transform Infrared spectrometer (ATR-FT-IR), was also provided, for each location, for the analysis of plastic particles down to ~ 300 μm and to determine material composition. Scientific evidence will contribute towards addressing the gap on baseline data for microplastics prior to any national or regional policy actions (e.g. the Global Plastics Treaty). The newly created laboratories were also added to an OCPP International Laboratory Network online platform to ensure connectivity of the facilities to the wider network. The online platform is also being used to retain training materials from field sampling, including GIS training to laboratory processes as well as the identification of funding streams to ensure long-term financial sustainability.



An additional offer to Senegal under the Plastic Pollution workstream was in-person attendance at a OCPP Ghana-hosted workshop on abandoned, lost, or discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) in West Africa. There were two attendees from

Senegal, both from the Directorate for the Management and Exploitation of the Seabed, Ministry of Fisheries, Maritime and Port Infrastructures.

Day one addressed the nature, drivers, and impacts of ALDFG, while day two explored potential solutions and stakeholder roles, considering differential impacts across groups. This included comparative case studies from Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and the United Kingdom facilitated cross regional learning and identification of best practices. Key presentations included Senegal's Directorate of Management and Exploitation of the Seabed, who presented a video of diver recovery of ALDFG which clearly demonstrated the normally unseen impact of ALDFG on the marine environment.

To ensure full participation by our Senegalese delegates, professional translation services were provided throughout both session types. Picture below of Massar Gueye of the DGEFM team in Senegal presenting at the Ghana ALDFG workshop.



"The most significant achievement of the OCPP programme is the establishment of a microplastics analysis laboratory. I believe this is one of the most important outcomes for Senegal.

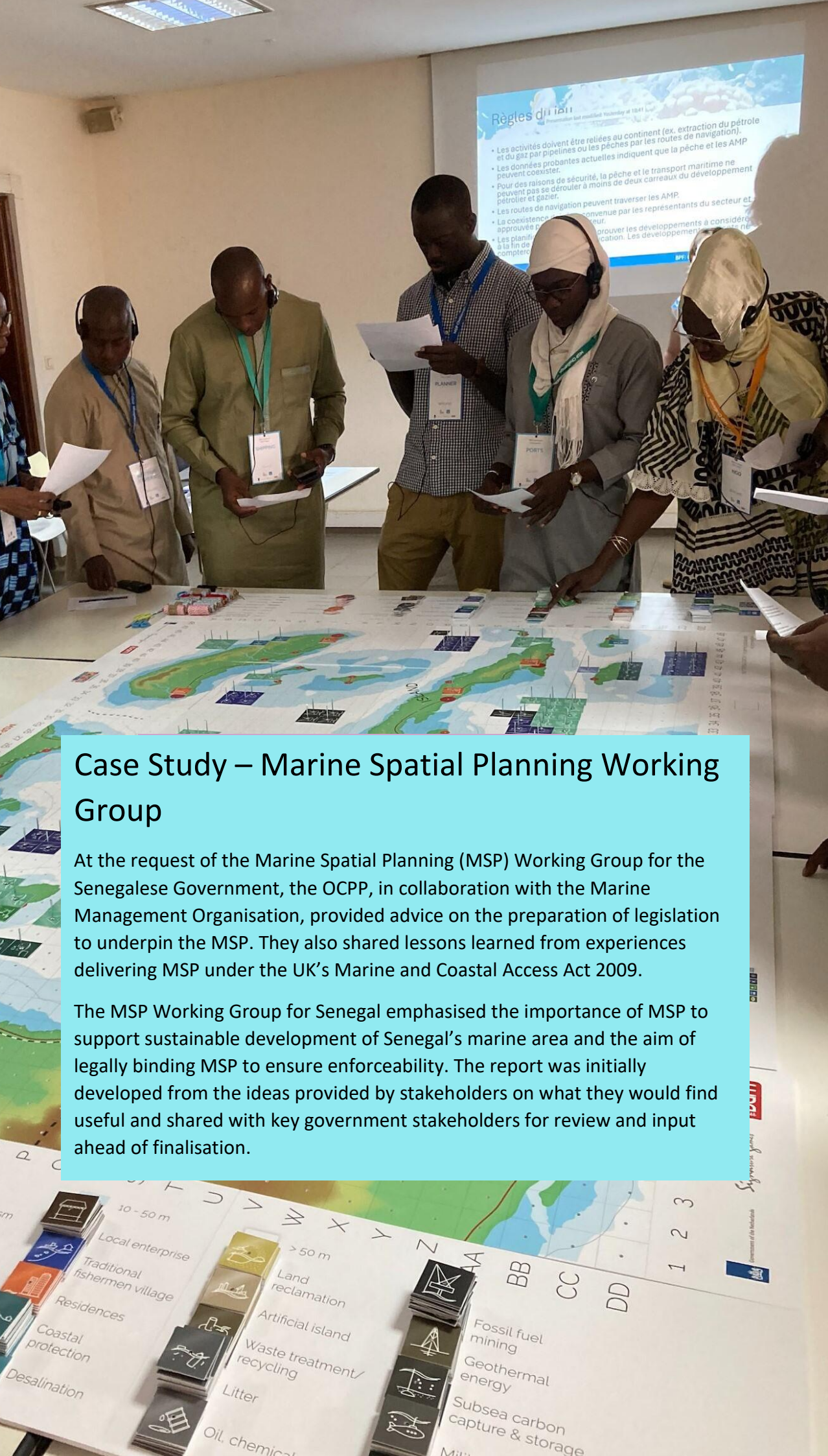
Why? Because currently Senegal lacks reliable data on microplastics. We know that plastics are present in coastal waters and on beaches, but until now we have not been able to properly characterise and quantify these elements.

The provision of this equipment now allows us to generate reliable scientific data, which are essential for informing and guiding public policy decisions"

Ms. Major Binta Ba

Directorate of Community Marine Protected Areas





Case Study – Marine Spatial Planning Working Group

At the request of the Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Working Group for the Senegalese Government, the OCPP, in collaboration with the Marine Management Organisation, provided advice on the preparation of legislation to underpin the MSP. They also shared lessons learned from experiences delivering MSP under the UK's Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

The MSP Working Group for Senegal emphasised the importance of MSP to support sustainable development of Senegal's marine area and the aim of legally binding MSP to ensure enforceability. The report was initially developed from the ideas provided by stakeholders on what they would find useful and shared with key government stakeholders for review and input ahead of finalisation.

Marine Protected Areas

Senegal has one of the most well-established networks of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in western Africa and is particularly well known for its bottom-up approach involving local communities in coastal MPAs. During the scoping visit and initial discussions in 2023, the Division of Community-Based MPAs (DAMCP), the entity in charge of MPAs in Senegal, communicated its intent to expand its successful network of coastal MPAs to the offshore, an area with increased use from the fisheries and energy sector in the last 10 years, in particular with the first two oil and gas field opening. This approach was also highlighted as a key next step to build an ecologically coherent network of MPAs and to promote the sustainable use of the offshore areas.

To support this ambition, OCPP conducted a series of workshops in November 2023. An initial Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) workshop allowed OCPP to understand challenges of integrating offshore MPAs in a space with multiple users. Additional workshops focused on the implementation cycle of MPAs, involving interactive activities and engagement from different stakeholders, covering the first steps to developing a roadmap for offshore MPAs. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) best practise workshop provided a background on the importance of EIAs in the context of oil and gas expansion. The workshops allowed OCPP to identify key priority areas for the implementation of offshore MPAs in Senegal, notably capacity building workshops on offshore monitoring and general challenges of offshore MPA implementation, and the building of a framework document for offshore MPA implementation and management.



Atelier sur la Planification spéciale marine au Sénégal

du 31 Octobre au 07 Novembre 2023 Hôtel Savana Dakar



OCPP developed a guidance document and template for offshore MPA implementation in Senegal, gathering recognisable best practices and considerations for offshore MPAs. OCPP then worked with the DAMCP to complete the document and adapted it to the exact needs of Senegal. In January 2025, a two-week capacity building workshop was held in Dakar. The first week gathered a range of stakeholders to discuss the key implementation challenges and details for offshore MPA implementation, such as responsibilities, GESDI considerations, and resources. The second week focused on offshore monitoring capacity building, exploring different techniques and approaches used in the UK and worldwide.

Using the data gathered during these workshops, the framework for offshore MPAs was amended in collaboration with the DAMCP to produce a final version. This was then validated at a validation workshop in

November 2025. The stakeholders present praised the inclusive approach used by the DAMCP to produce this document. The framework has received final comments and is now ready for use. It includes sections on the designation of MPAs, the consideration of threats to the environment and the impacts to local and marginalised communities, the establishment of management plans for offshore MPAs, management principles and responsibilities, monitoring and assessment. This framework is a key addition to the government's existing plan such as the Coastal MPA strategy.

In parallel to the offshore work, OCPP also supported the DAMCP in their effort to raise awareness of the benefits of MPAs in regions where the communities and local elected officials were reticent. In 2024, with the local producing company Studio 4k, OCPP developed a video showcasing the approach of the Senegalese government to coastal MPAs. This piece of work will also be showcased at IMPAC6, hosted by Senegal.

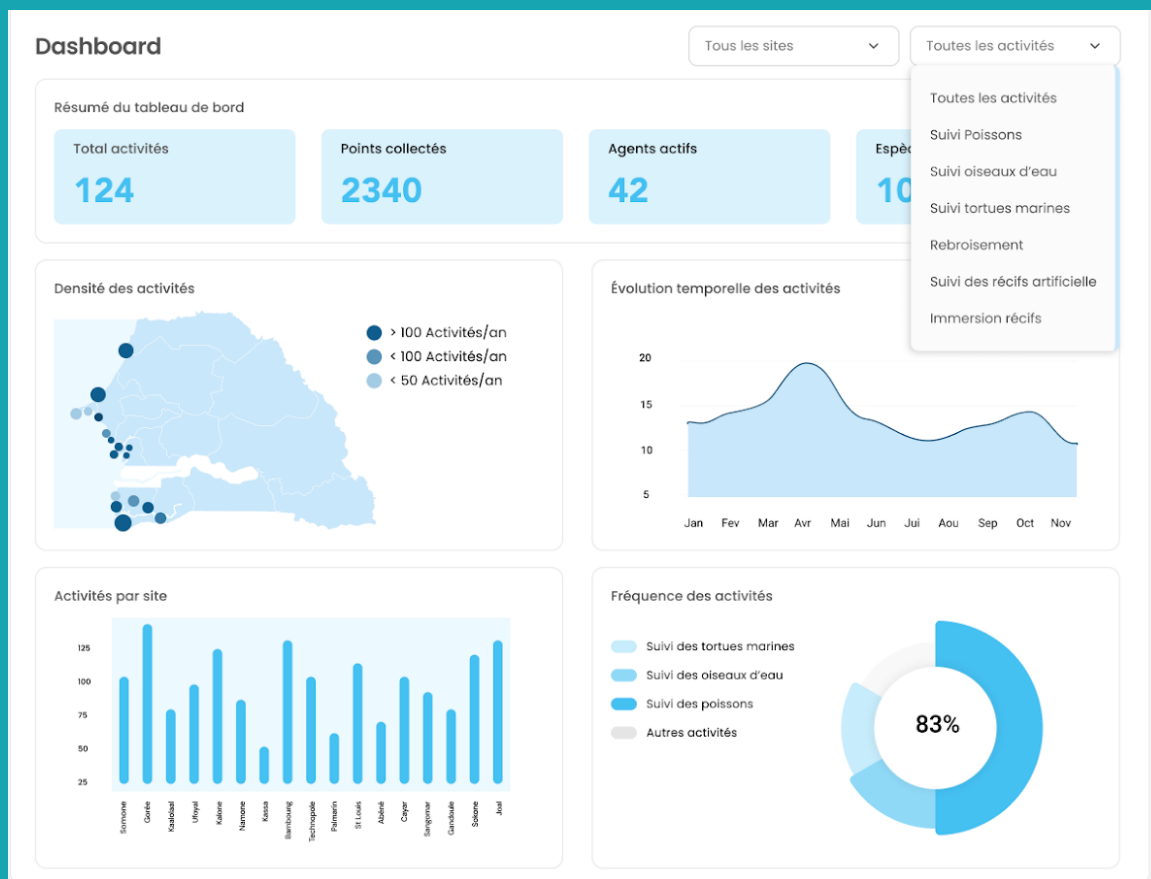


Finally, another key gap identified was the lack of a centralised data-management platform. During the scoping visit in 2023, it was understood that a lot of data was lost or never processed. To support this, OCPP commissioned the local developer Baamtu Datamation to produce a platform for all MPA data. The platform was finalised at the start of 2026, and will allow MPA managers and staff to directly input data when in the field, or upload relevant data, store it, and analyse it. The platform will allow the DAMCP to take robust decisions based on available data.

"The OCPP's support was therefore crucial, particularly in terms of capacity building, through the provision of tools for the designation and effective management of marine protected areas. Our objective is to avoid the creation of so-called "paper parks", meaning protected areas that exist on paper but lack real functionality on the ground.

Thus, the programme's support was instrumental in ensuring the effective and sustainable management of these marine environments"

Statement by Ms. Diaba Dio, President of REFEPAS



Case Study – Data platform for MPA data

OCPP supported Senegal's Directorate of Community Marine Protected Areas (DAMCP) in developing a modern, centralised data-management platform to improve how information on the country's MPAs is collected, stored, and used. Built by the local company BAAMTU, the system aimed to combine a mobile app for offline-capable field data collection with a secure, government-hosted web platform that streamlines data validation, reporting and analysis. Data management improvements strengthen national monitoring, biodiversity management and evidence-based decision-making. The project was carried out with continuous collaboration and feed-in from partners, including through workshops and regular feedback sessions, ensuring that the outputs work for the department and could be integrated into their operations going forward.

"This innovative solution represents a major step forward for marine and coastal biodiversity conservation. It provides the DAMCP with the tools necessary for more effective, interactive management between the operational and strategic levels, which in turn allows us to drive our conservation efforts with enhanced precision. This platform is much more than a technical tool; it is the foundation of sustainable, evidence-based management that will benefit both marine-coastal ecosystems and coastal communities."

Commandante Binta Ba

Transition – Sustainable Financing

The objective of the sustainable financing transition work was to support the Government of Senegal to identify long-term sustainable financing opportunities to support the implementation of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and the expansion of offshore marine protected areas (MPAs).

The project conducted research and analysis to identify a long list of sustainable financing options for MSP and MPA expansion, evaluated each option, and mapped potential implementation partners.

It also undertook stakeholder engagement with key government departments and technical partners to test potential options and to understand priorities and concerns. Based on this engagement, the project produced a prioritised shortlist of the most viable financing mechanisms and developed a financing roadmap setting out implementation pathways and next steps. This outcome has been handed directly to those involved in the consultation.

Education

8 OCPP Master of Science scholarships were awarded in Senegal, managed by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), hosted at Université Iba Der Thiam de Thiès. All students studied towards a Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering and Management. Uptake of the scholarships offer was low in Senegal compared to other OCPP partner countries, potentially due to the lack of awareness about the scholarship offer. It is possible this was due to it being the first time ACU hosted a scholarship offer in Senegal, so did not have the established network to advertise. A full scholar research title list can be found in Annex 2.

Topics selected by the students for their research areas included:

- marine and coastal pollution and environment
- sustainable seafood, food safety, and human health
- marine protected areas and coastal ecosystem management



I am a Master's student in Environmental Engineering and Management at the Iba Der Thiam University of Thiès, specializing in Natural Risk and Disaster Management. And I am a scholarship recipient of the Ocean Country Partnership Programme. It is a programme that has facilitated our research in marine sciences, whether that be pollution or overexploitation. For example, I work on microplastics, evaluating microplastics in sediments, surface water, and also in biota, to allow Senegal to establish its first baseline on microplastics.



GEDSI

Social Development Direct were contracted by Cefas to conduct a national level Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) analysis for Senegal. A GEDSI analysis helps to understand how power relations, social norms, attitudes, and beliefs shape and impact the opportunities, rights, services, and resources available to different social groups, as well as their experiences of discrimination and poverty (SDDirect, 2025). This is critical in being able to assess inequalities and social exclusion, tackle rather than perpetuate inequalities, remove barriers and leave no-one behind (FCDO, DESNZ, DEFRA, 2025).

The report identifies who the most marginalised and vulnerable groups living in coastal communities in Senegal are and the challenges that women and girls, persons with disabilities, the LGBTQI+ community, people living with HIV, children and young people and migrants face. The analysis also explores how these groups are at risk from future environmental degradation. The analysis provided a series of recommendations for OCPP to take forward and consider through programme delivery to ensure a robust GEDSI approach.

To support consistent implementation across the partnership, OCPP has developed a comprehensive GEDSI Toolkit for the blue economy that will provide practical guidance, templates and monitoring tools. The toolkit has been translated into several languages including French and Wolof. It will help country teams and partners identify and address GEDSI risks, strengthen safeguarding protocols, and integrate inclusive design principles into future programming and transition planning.

Annex 1 – full stakeholder list

Stakeholder type	Organisation
Government	National Agency of Aquaculture (ANA)
Government	National Agency for Civil Aviation and Meteorology (ANACIM)
Government	National Agency for Maritime Affairs (ANAM)
Government	National Agency for Territorial Planning (ANAT)
Government	National Agency for Renewable Energies
Industry	British Petroleum (BP)
Government	The Emergency Situations Council (COSU)
Research institute/ University	Oceanographic Research Center of Dakar-Thiaroye (CRODT)
Research institute/University	Centre of Ecological Monitoring (CSE)
Research institute/ University	Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission of West Africa (CSRP)
Government	Directorate of Community MPAs (DAMCP)
Government	Climate Change Directorate (DCC)
Government	Division of Prevention and Control of Pollution and Nuisances
Government	Directorate of local authorities (DCT)
Government	Directorate for the Economy, Planning and Cooperation (DEPC)
Government	Directorate of Management and Exploitation of the Seabed (DGEFM)
Government	Coastal Management Division (DGL)
Government	Directorate-General for Economic Planning and Policy (DGPPE)
Government	Directorate of Urban Planning and Architecture (DGUA)
Government	Directorate of Investments and Tourism Development (DIAT)
Government	Department of Fisheries Processing Industries (DITP)
Government	Department of Merchant Shipping (DMM)
Government	Department of Marine Fisheries (DPM)
Government	National Park Directorate (DPN)
Government	Directorate of Fisheries Protection and Surveillance (DPSP)
Government	Directorate of Environmental Regulation and Control
Government	The High Authority for Coordination of Maritime Security, Maritime Safety, and Protection of the Marine Environment (HASSMAR)
Government	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDDTE)
Government	Directorate of Scientific Research
Government	Directorate of Climate Change, Ecological Transition and Green Financing (METE)
Government	Department of Mines and Geology

Government	Ministry of Fisheries, Maritime and Port Infrastructure
Government	The Main Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC)
Government	Ministry of Tourism and Air Transport (MTTA)
Government	Autonomous Port of Dakar (PAD)
Government	Ministry of Hydrocarbons and the National Petroleum Company (PETROSEN)
Regional NGO	Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation (PRCM)
Regional NGO	Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa (RAMPAO)
Research institute/ University	Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD)
Research institute/ University	Université Iba Der THIAM de Thiès
Research institute/ University	Université Amadou Mahtar MBOW
International project	West Africa Coastal Areas Management Programme (WACA)
Regional NGO	Wetland International Western Africa - WIACO
Government	Border control (marine)
Government	Customs
Government	Directorate of Civil Protection
Government	Environmental Municipal Police
Government	GES-PETROGAS
Industry	African Refining Company (SAR)
Government	Hydrocarbons Directorate
Government	Ministry of the Armed Forces
Government	National Fire Brigade
Government	Environmental Police
Government	Marine and National Police
Government	National Police
Government	Navy
National NGO	Nébédjay
National NGO	Océanium
Government	Port Infrastructure Directorate
Industry	Woodside Energy
Local	Network of women in artisanal fishing in Senegal (REFEPAS)
Local	Protected Areas of Collective Action (APACs)
Local	Local Artisanal Fisheries Councils (CLPAs)
Government	Directorate of Geographic and Cartographic Works
International NGO	Blue Ventures

International NGO	International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Government	MPA Management Committees
Industry	Vivo Energy

Annex 2 – OCPP scholar research titles

1. Characterization of plastic waste in the Joal-Fadiouth Marine Protected Area (Thiès, Senegal)
2. Evaluation of the ecosystem quality of the Gandoule Marine Protected Area (MPA) before the commissioning of the port of Ndakhonga (Fatick, Senegal)
3. Study of the quality of products from the Joal-Fadiouth oyster farm (Thiès, Senegal)
4. Assessment of contamination risks related to the consumption of seafood from the Soumbédioune market in Dakar (Senegal)
5. Study of community adaptation to coastal erosion: the case of Niodior and Dionewar (Fatick, Senegal)
6. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the Somone Community Marine Protected Area (Thiès, Senegal)
7. Study of water and sediment pollution in the Joal-Fadiouth Marine Protected Area (Thiès, Senegal)
8. Comparative analysis of Environmental and social risks of oil and gas projects in Senegal: Sangomar vs Greater Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA)