

Climate Smart MSP: Malta's experience

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The context



- Geography
- Size
- Insularity
- Maritime space vs. land area [75,779sqkm vs. 316sqkm]
- Population size [c. 560,000]
- Tourism [>3.2M]

- Historical context [5,000BC]
- Economic structure
- Skills capacity

- Decrease in annual precipitation
- Intensive storm events
- Sea level changes

SPED (2015) - Strategic Framework

- *Urban Area*: focus for socio-economic development through hierarchy
- *Rural Area*: focus of agriculture, rural diversification; incompatible urban uses.
- ***Coastal & Marine Area*: predominantly urban/rural coast, manage user conflict, increase resilience to climate change impacts**
- *Gozo*: Distinct qualities and characteristics

Maritime Spatial Plan as part of national spatial strategy



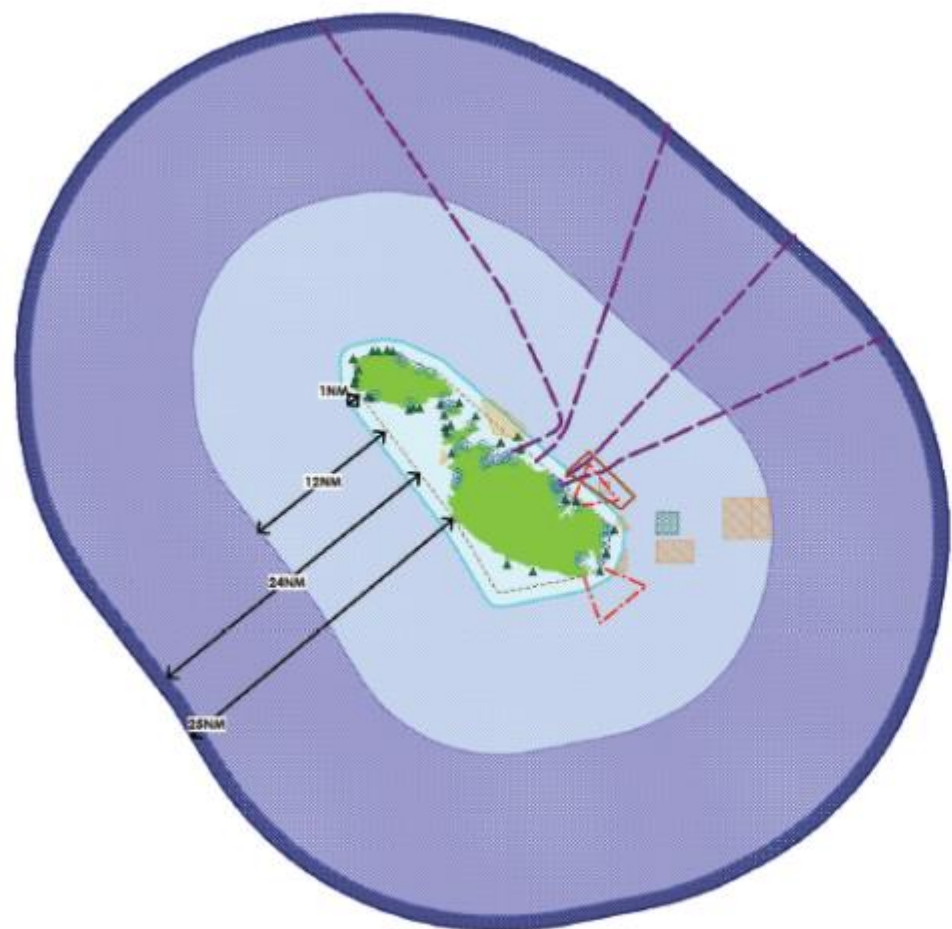
SPED Vision re CC

- The Maltese Islands shall...move closer to a low-carbon, zero-waste, green economy, halt the decline of their biodiverse and improve the quality of their water resources and shall use space sustainably
- The Urban Area...shall be...green...energy efficient and generate energy from micro-renewable infrastructure
- The Rural Area shall...become...more resilient to the impacts of climate change
- The Coastal Zone and Marine Area shall...play a significant enabling role for the Maltese Islands to reduce their impact on climate change and strengthen their capacity to adapt to climate change

The Strategic Vision was focused on enabling action for 2020 Climate targets

37 policies: 14 supporting mitigation; 23 directly or indirectly supporting adaptation

Coastal Objective seeks to ensure that development does not accelerate coastal erosion and increases resilience to climate impacts



MARINE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Baseline for Coastal/ Marine Areas
- Coastal Waters up to 1 Nautical Mile
- Coastal Zone up to 12 Nautical Miles
- Marine Area up to 24 Nautical Miles
- Marine Area up to 25 Nautical Miles

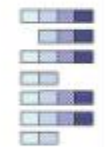
Environmental Objectives

- Favourable Conservation Status of SPAs & SACs
- Good Ecological Status
- Good Chemical Status
- Good Environmental Status
- Protection of Cultural Heritage



Maritime Uses

- Small Scale Fisheries
- Trawling
- Navigation
- Bunkering
- Infrastructure
- Oil Exploration
- Renewable Energy



Existing Major Infrastructure

- Spoil Ground
- Harbour Approach Routes
- Bunkering Sites
- Aquaculture Zones
- Dive Sites
- Swimming Zones
- Communications Infrastructure

MAP 3

REMARKS:

- Policy prepared in the context of the current state of knowledge in the United Kingdom.
- Policy prepared in the context of the United Kingdom's commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

IMPORTANT:

- 1. Subject to any further developments in the Strategic Plan for Environment and Development.
- 2. Both zones based on 2008 data.

Lessons learnt

- Policy implementation depends on:
 - clarity in strategic policy direction given
 - Government commitment to policy; governance structure; investment e.g. shift from oil to gas for electricity supply: maritime installations
 - applications being submitted e.g. marine RES in 12nm;
- Previous experience of co-operation to reduce conflicts/support co-location (ICZM): e.g. aquaculture; PORE
- Continuous efforts at implementation: to maintain narrative of both CC and MSP through funded projects particularly aimed at data collation; improving governance and capacity building



Challenges & Opportunities

- long term impacts vs. need for immediate preventive action
- need to rethink current practices and allocate space for new critical infrastructure
- despite vastness of maritime space most uses more likely to service land and therefore seek same locations leading to potential conflicts/resistance for co-location; cumulative environmental impacts
- economic choices will influence type of technological application chosen: depth; distance; safety; insurance

A concerted effort based on a common understanding of the role of the marine environment and maritime space have in the support of livelihoods not just in coastal communities is ideal.



THANK YOU

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