

SEA contributions for Marine Spatial Planning in Brazil



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ENVSOOFF - Assessment of the environmental and social impacts of offshore wind energy

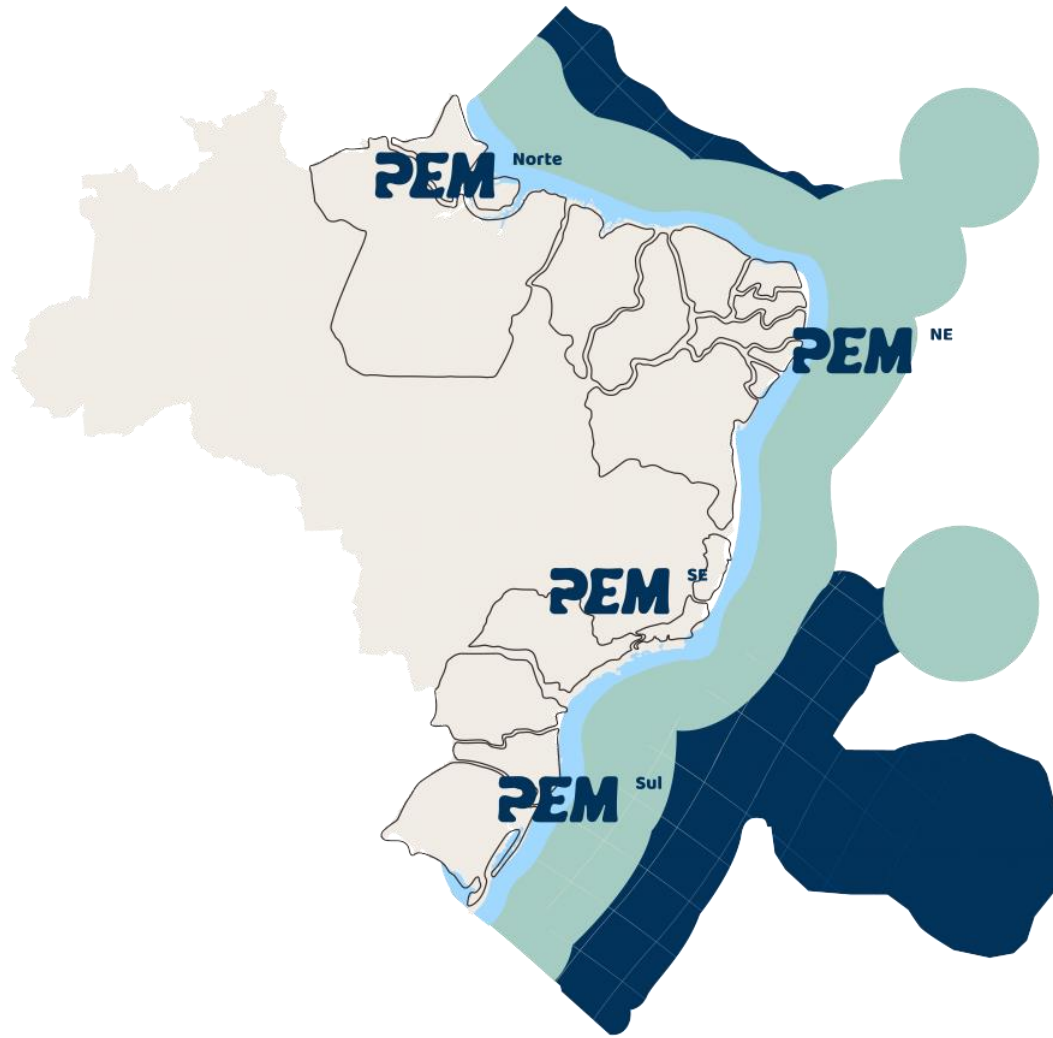
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*What does Marine Spatial Planning process
in Brazil look like?*

How can SEA contribute to MSP in Brazil?

Brazilian “Blue Amazon”



*Jurisdictional waters: approximately 5.7 million km²
(territorial sea + exclusive economic zone +
extended continental shelf)*

17 coastal states

2023 → 19% of national GDP

*Biodiversity conservation
Climate regulation*

*CIRM, 2025
Soares et al., 2016*

<https://www.marinha.mil.br/secirm/pt-br/psrm/pem/projetos-brasil>

Brazilian “Blue Amazon”

1974 → Interministerial Commission for Marine Resources was created

1981 → National Sectorial Plan for Marine Resources

1988 → National Plan for Coastal Management

...

2013 → Working Group of Shared Use of the Marine Environment

2017 → Brazilian voluntary commitment to implement its Marine Spatial Plan until 2030 (United Nations Ocean Conference)

2022 → MSP process initiated

2023 → Publication of vision and principles for Brazilian MSP

Coastal management system lacks integration and legal enforcement
(Scherer & Asmus, 2021)
Applied only up to the territorial sea

Marine Spatial Planning process



Enables sustainable use of marine space

Strategic Environmental Assessment in Brazil:

- not nationally regulated
- scarcely applied in marine spaces
- not mandatory for MSPc

CIRM, 2025

Methods

1. Characterization of Brazilian MSP process:

1.a To identify the history, key legislation, and guiding documents:

- Document analysis → website of the Interministerial Commission for Marine Resources (CIRM);
- Google search engine and ChatGPT were used to seek updates on the MSP process.

1.b To analyze the requirements for MSP preparation:

- Content analysis of the four Tender Notices / Terms of Reference

Criteria*

1. Ecosystem-based approach
2. Availability of relevant data
3. Multisectorial approach
4. Integration among levels of government
5. Integration of terrestrial, costal and marine planning
6. Cross-border and transboundary cooperation
7. Area-based approach
8. Adaptivity
9. Strategic and anticipatory, focused on the long-term
10. Participatory approach
11. Incorporation of climate change

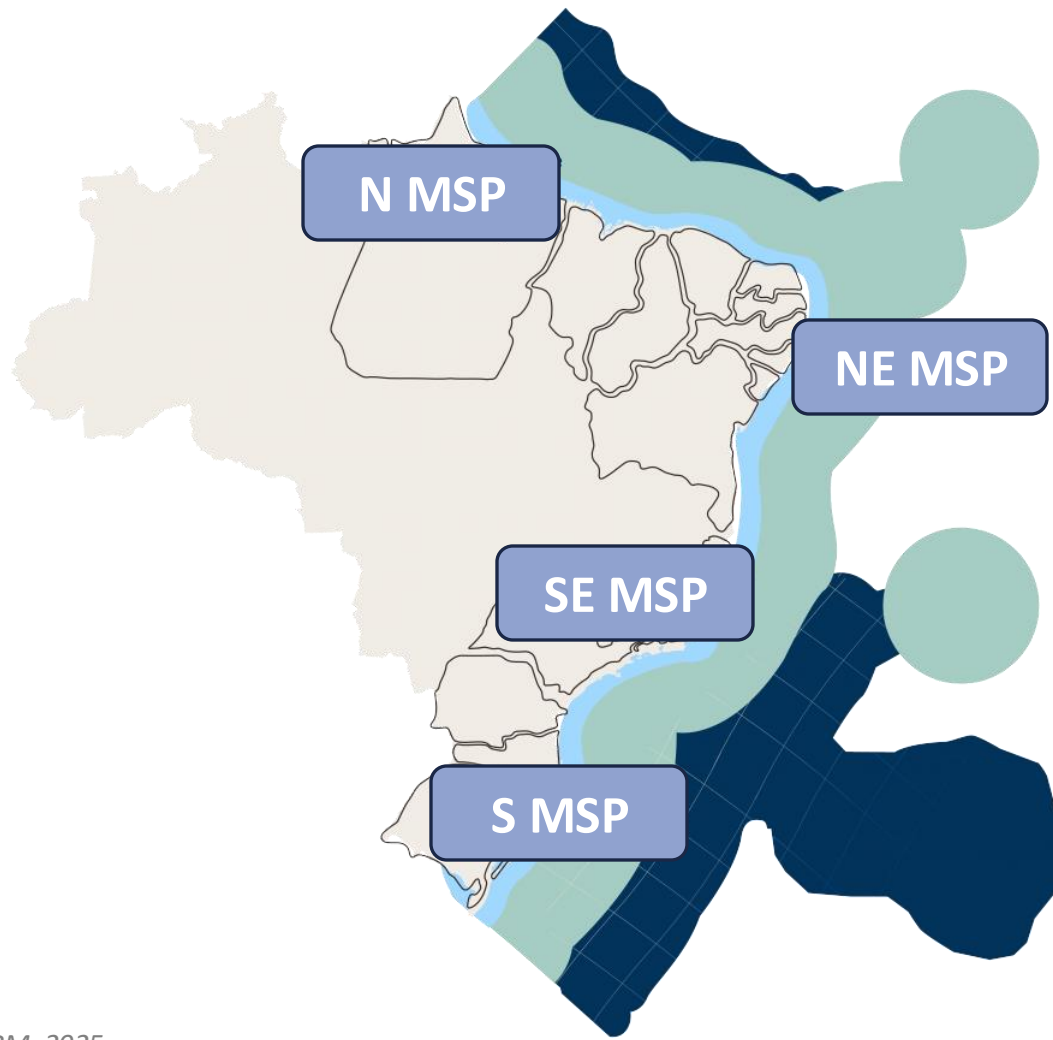
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	Addressed generically
	Only mentioned

* Based on Ehler & Douvere (2009); Kusters et al. (2024); UNESCO-IOC (2021); Zaucha et al. (2025)

2. Identification of SEA potential contributions:

- Analysis of the Terms of Reference + Literature review on SEA and SEA for MSP

MSP process in Brazil



Selection of a consultancy team:

2023 → South-MSP (“Pilot Project”)

2024 → Southeast-MSP and Northeast-MSP

2025 → North-MSP



Tender Notice → theoretical bases, planning phases and activities, minimum content, methodological requirements, and expected products

Terms of Reference

CIRM, 2025

<https://www.marinha.mil.br/secirm/pt-br/psrm/pem/projetos-brasil>

Results: Term of References' analysis

Criteria*	ToR 1 S MSP	ToR 2 SE MSP	ToR 3 NE MSP	ToR 4 N MSP
1. Ecosystem-based approach				
2. Availability of relevant data				
3. Multisectorial approach				
4. Integration among levels of government				
5. Integration of terrestrial, costal and marine planning				
6. Cross-border and transboundary cooperation				
7. Area-based approach				
8. Adaptivity				
9. Strategic and anticipatory, focused on the long-term				
10. Participatory approach				
11. Incorporation of climate change				

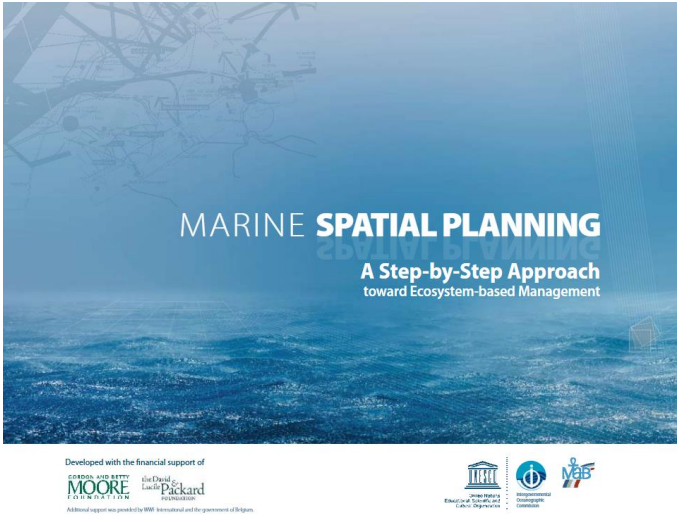
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* Based on Ehler & Douvere (2009); Kusters et al. (2024); UNESCO-IOC (2021); Zaucha et al. (2025).

Overall, all criteria are addressed to some extent



theoretical framework draws on



Ehler & Douvere (2009)

Results: Term of References' analysis

Criteria*	ToR 1 S MSP	ToR 2 SE MSP	ToR 3 NE MSP	ToR 4 N MSP
1. Ecosystem-based approach				
2. Availability of relevant data				
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Learning process

In all cases, the studies must be discussed with the MSP Executive Committee and the public

Results: Term of References' analysis

Criteria*	ToR 1 S MSP	ToR 2 SE MSP	ToR 3 NE MSP	ToR 4 N MSP
1. Ecosystem-based approach				
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Learning process

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*Lacks specifics
(consulting teams must specify)*



Areas of concern

Results: SEA potential contributions

Criteria*	ToR 1 S MSP	ToR 2 SE MSP	ToR 3 NE MSP	ToR 4 N MSP
1. Ecosystem-based approach				
2. Availability of relevant data				
3. Multisectorial approach				
4. Integration among levels of government				
5. Integration of terrestrial, costal and marine planning				
6. Cross-border and transboundary cooperation				
7. Area-based approach				
8. Adaptivity				
9. Strategic and anticipatory, focused on the long-term				
10. Participatory approach				
11. Incorporation of climate change				

Assessing environmental and social impacts, especially cumulative ones.

Enhancing institutional and public participation.

Supporting mitigation guidelines and marine space zoning.

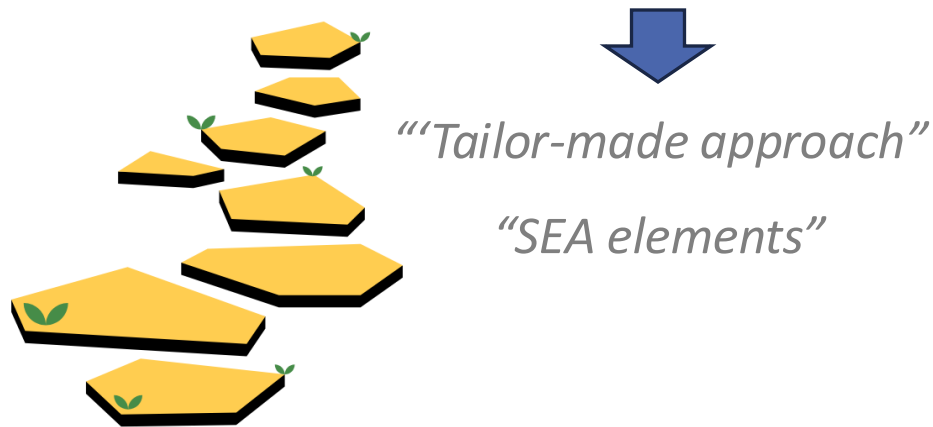
Supporting the definition of follow-up strategies.

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Final remarks

- MSP process in Brazil faces relevant challenges
- Areas of concern: how to guarantee ecosystem-based approach, integration and adaptivity
- SEA can contribute to inform MSP, however...
 - SEA is not mandatory for MSP in Brazil
 - SEA can face the same institutional and political challenges that hinder MSP



Next steps

- Analyze SEA practices applied to MSP in different countries
- Elaborate guidelines for Brazil
- Discuss guidelines with Brazilian stakeholders

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Research Centre for
Greenhouse Gas Innovation



TotalEnergies



UNESCO Chair for Ocean Sustainability



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Let's continue the conversation!

Message me your questions or comments in the IAIA25 app.

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