



Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan

Future Planning Workshop



Belize Fund For A
Sustainable Future



Today's Agenda

- Icebreaker
- Introduction:
 - Your Marine Spatial Plan - Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan
 - International Example
 - Where we are now
- Drivers of Change
 - Thinking on your feet - Group Activity
- Key Considerations for Spatial Analysis (Group Discussion)
- Scenario-Based Future Planning
 - Mapping Exercise

Icebreaker

"Ocean in One Word"

Share **ONE** word that describes your relationship with Belize's Ocean (The Sea)

(for example: recreation, livelihood, fear, beauty, etc.)

Icebreaker



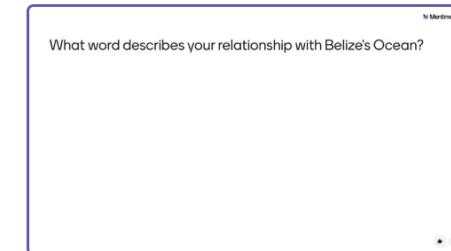
 Mentimeter

Menti

What word describes yo...



Select which slide to add



MSP



Marine Spatial Planning



Planning Marine Space



MSP in Action

Use Zones that conflict **DO NOT** occur within the same space

Use Zones that compatible **CAN** occur within the same space

OVERVIEW MAP

FISHING ALLOWED EVERYWHERE WITH EXCEPTION OF THE OFFSHORE WIND FARMS

SHIPPING ROUTES

MARINE PROTECTED AREA 'VLAAMSE BANKEN'

ZONES FOR COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES

BIRD PROTECTION AREAS

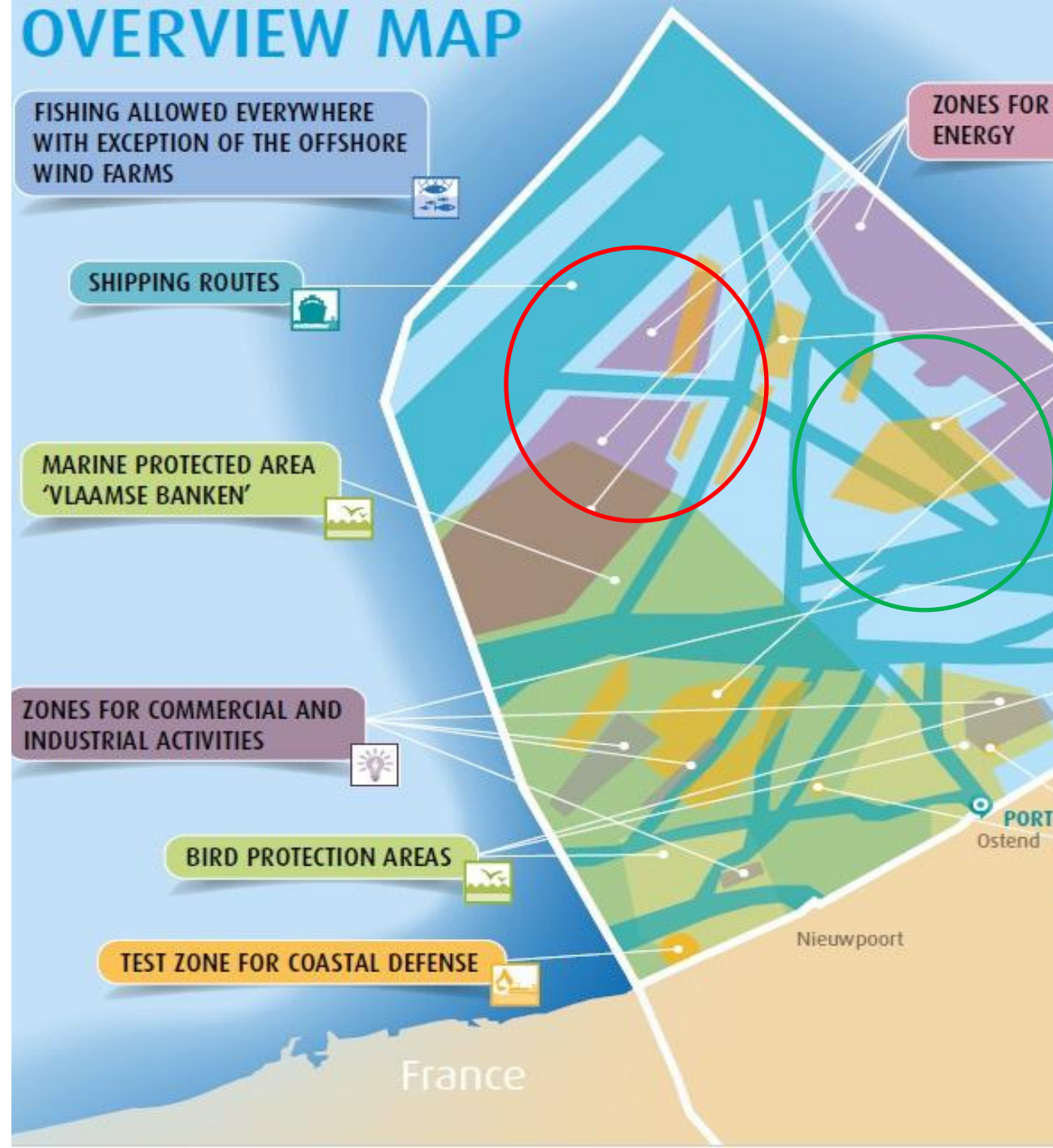
TEST ZONE FOR COASTAL DEFENSE

ZONES FOR ENERGY

PORT Ostend

Nieuwpoort

France



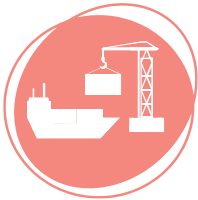
Sectors in the MSP



Fisheries inclusive
Mariculture



Marine & Coastal
Ecosystems



Maritime
Administration



Energy



Tourism



Marine & Coastal
Development

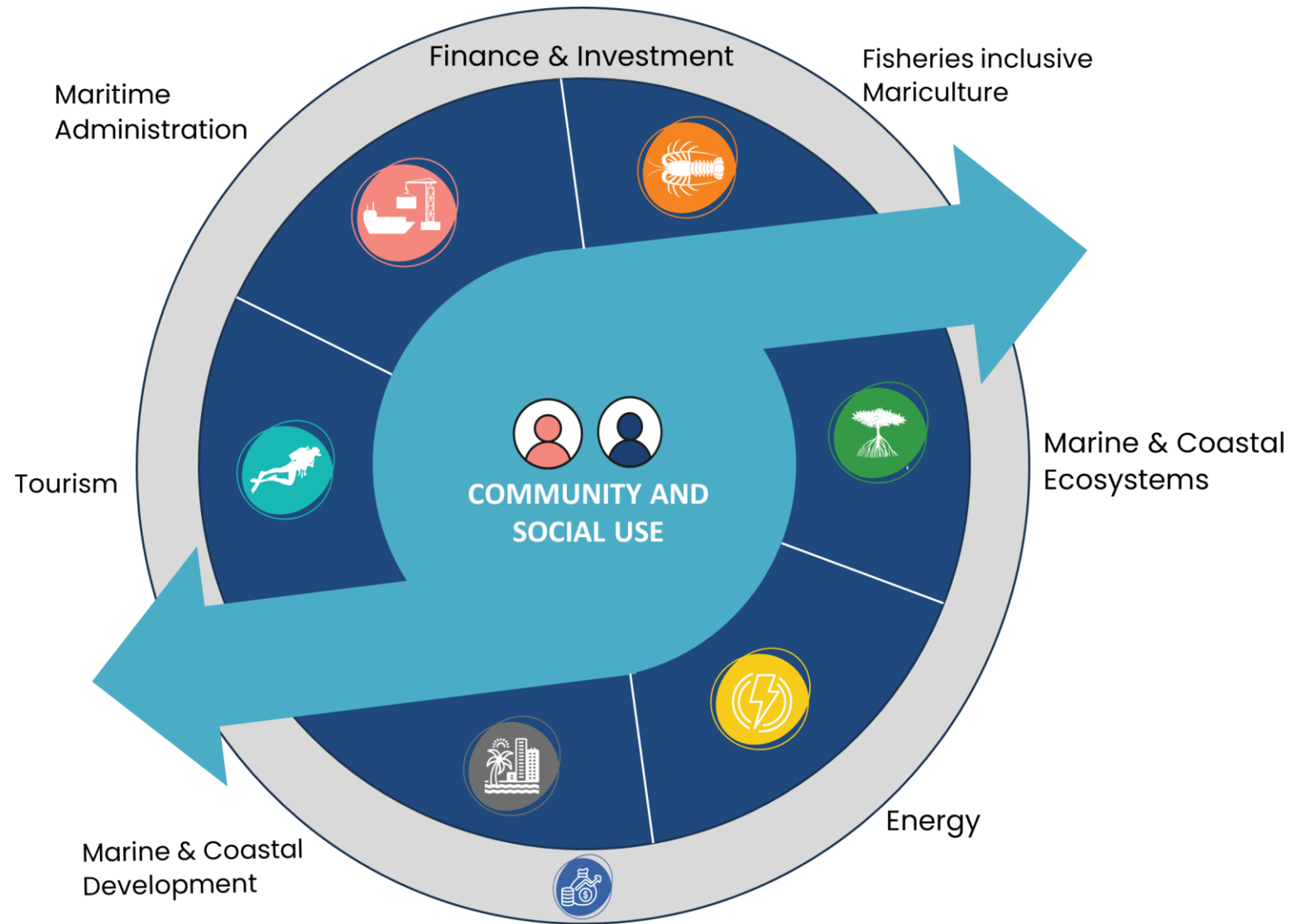


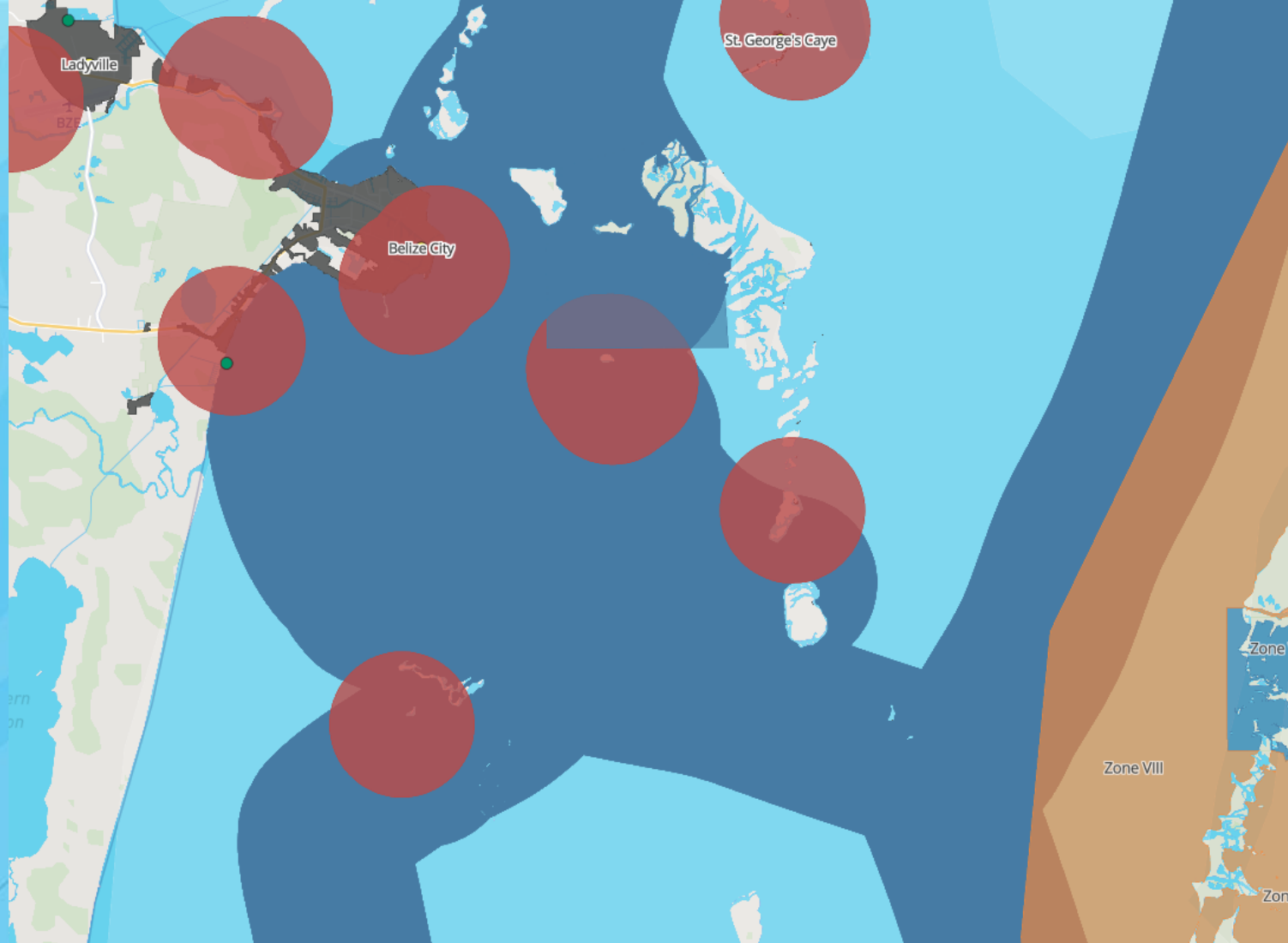
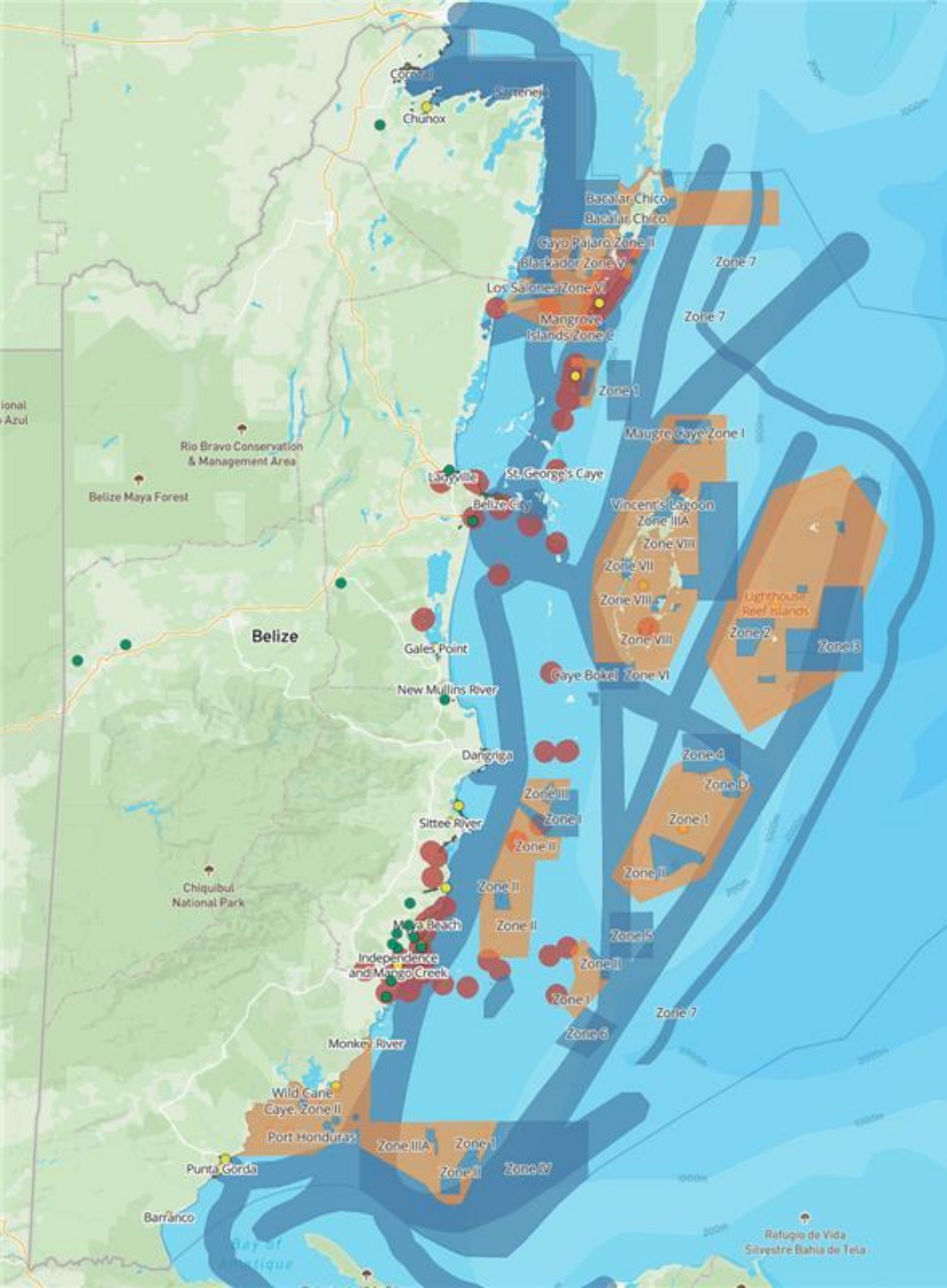
Finance &
Investment

MSP helps all sectors operate with clarity, certainty, and sustainability
One Plan, Shared Benefits



Sectors in the MSP





Legend

- Aquaculture
- BSOP Communities
- Marine Dredging
- Marine Transportation
- Coastal Development

MPA2024

BPZ

- High
■ Medium

Where we are now

**Achievement:
Milestone 5**
Nov. 4, 2025

Analyzing Existing Conditions



Complete

we are here

MSP Future Planning Workshop
Feb 25-27, 2026



**MPA Design Criteria & National
Zoning Framework Workshop**
Dec 11, 2025

Analyzing Future Conditions

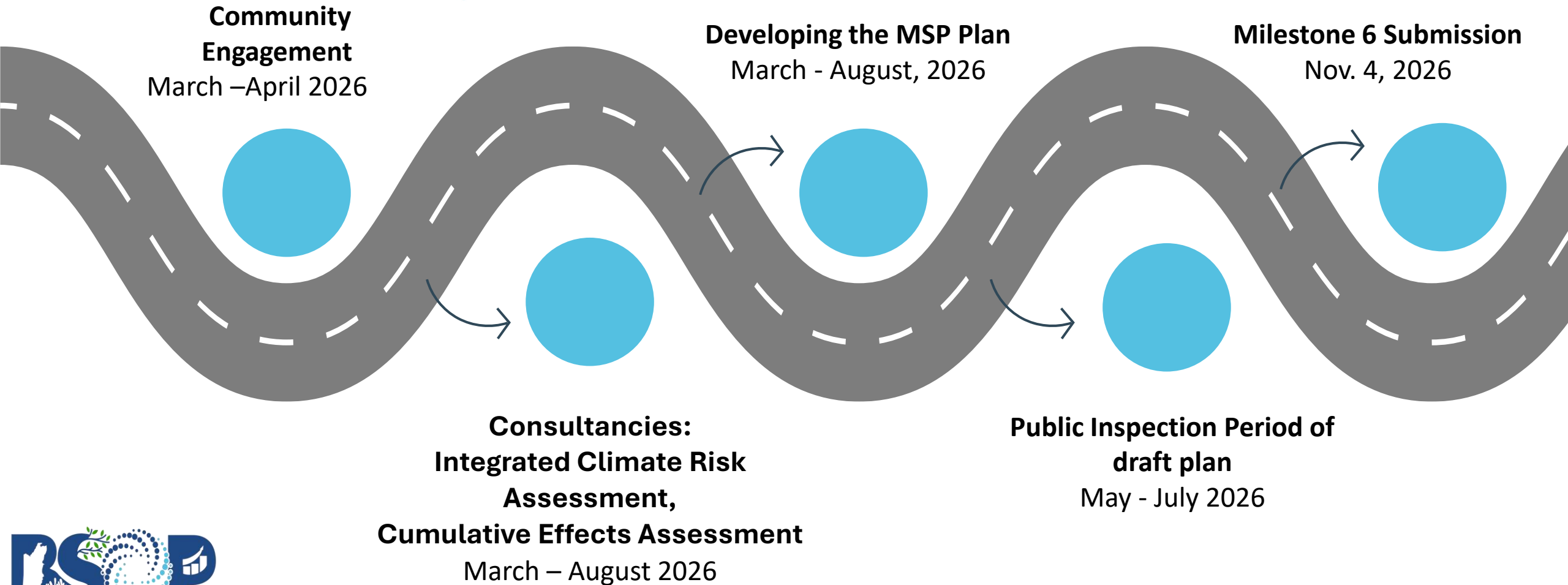


Developing the Plan



Where we are now

future activities



Drivers of Change

Factors or forces that can influence how the future unfolds, shaping trends, outcomes, and decisions. They help us to anticipate potential shifts and design strategies that are viable under different possible futures.



Drivers of Change

Climate Change

- Sea level rise
- Increased storms
- Hotter Days
- Unpredictable Weather Patterns
- Ocean Acidification



&

Governance

- Policy decisions
- Government spending
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Ability to respond to a crisis



Drivers of Change

Group Activity: “Thinking on your feet”

Strongly
Agree

Agree

Neutral

Disagree

Strongly
Disagree



Drivers of Change

Group Activity: “Thinking on your feet”

Statement 1:

*Climate Change and Governance are
the greatest drivers of change.*

Drivers of Change

Group Activity: “Thinking on your feet”

Statement 2:

**Sea level rise and an increase in the number of hotter days will have an effect on my livelihood.*

Drivers of Change

Group Activity: “Thinking on your feet”

Statement 3:

*My livelihood will be impacted if climate change causes severe **negative impact** to **sensitive habitats**. (Seagrass beds, coral, mangroves)*

Drivers of Change

Group Activity: “Thinking on your feet”

Statement 4:

Government decisions have a direct effect on my ability to utilize the marine areas for my livelihood.

Drivers of Change

Group Activity: “Thinking on your feet”

Statement 5:

The introduction of new/amended regulations can change where I am able to use the marine areas.

Drivers of Change

Group Activity: “Thinking on your feet”

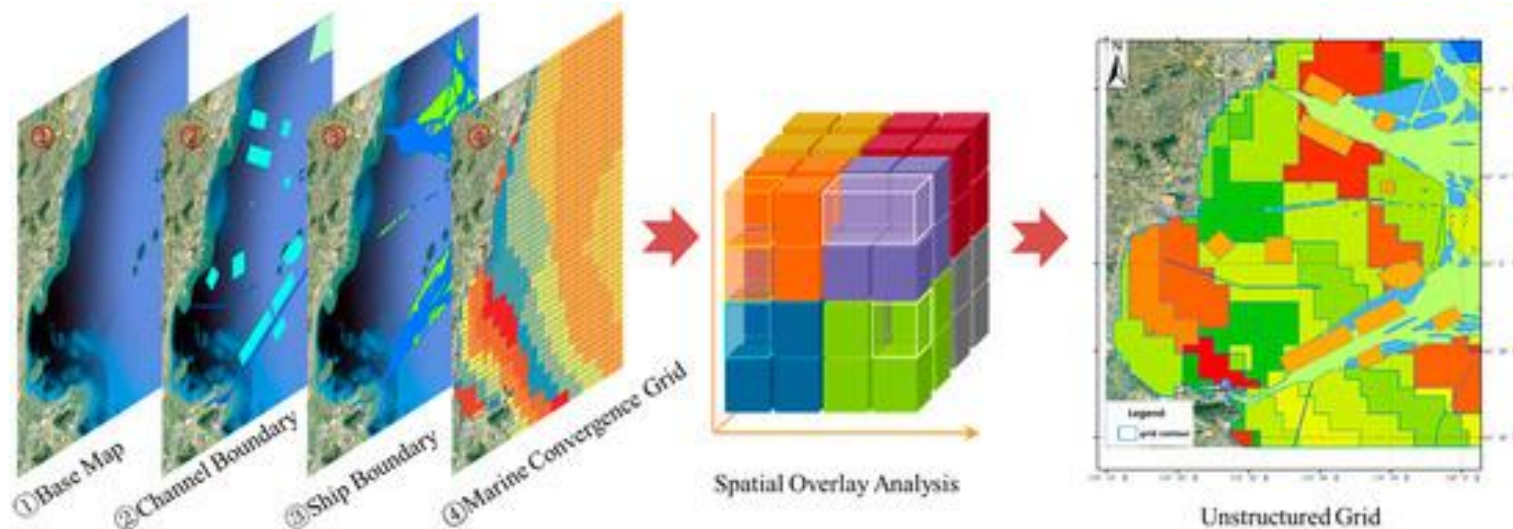
Statement 6:

My ability to utilize the marine areas is dependent on investments from the Government.

Key

Spatial Overlap for Marine Spatial Planning:

- Essential for balancing objectives
- Determine Key Considerations
- Context

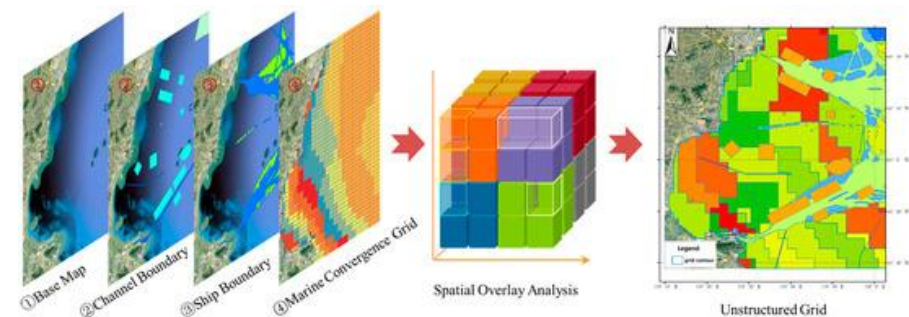


Key

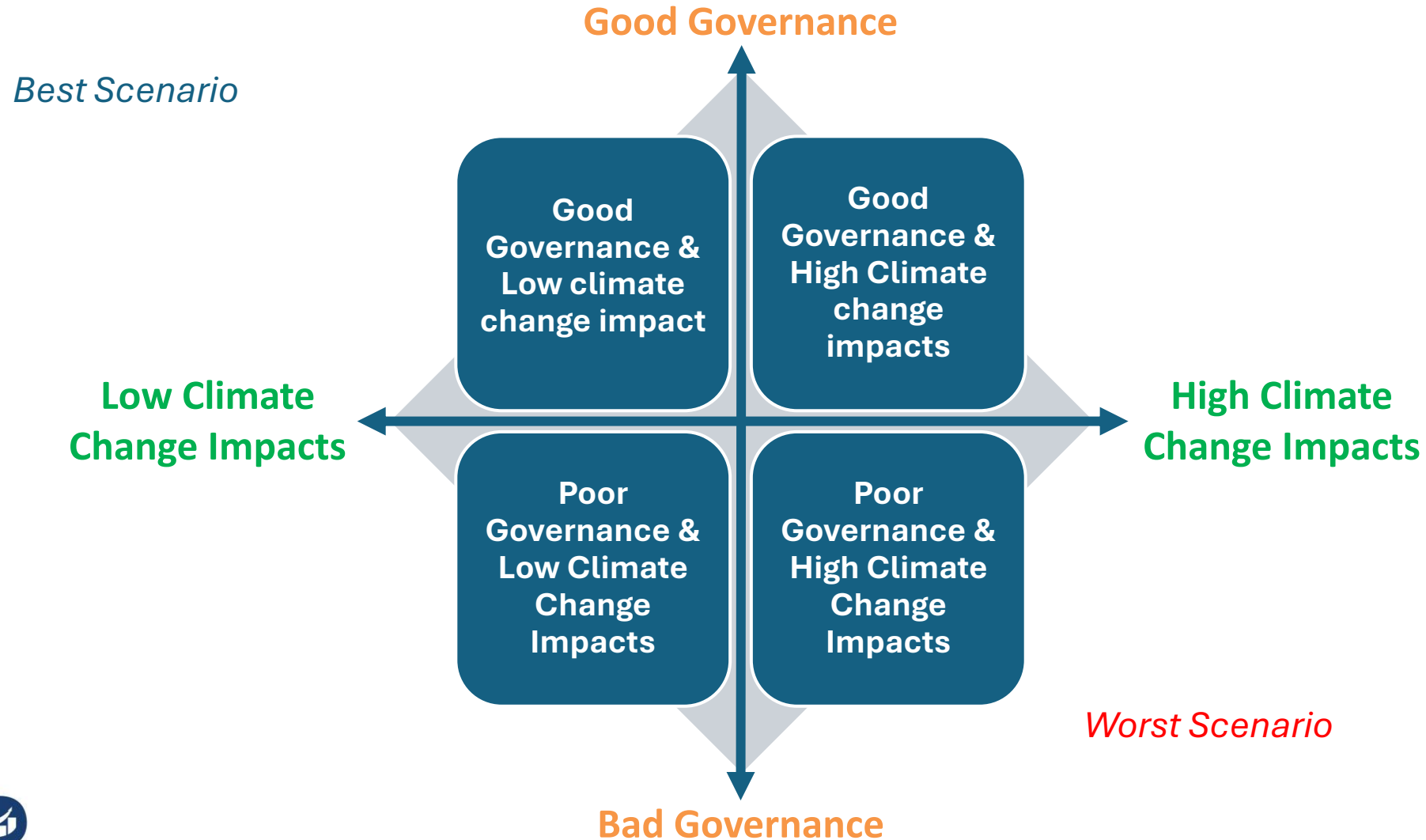
Considerations

Key Considerations Identified by BSOP Steering Committee:

1. Livelihoods - # of people participating in the activity
2. Sustainability – Ability to conduct the activity long-term
3. Environmental Impact – Relative environmental footprint of the activity.
4. Economic Importance – Contribution to GDP
5. Safety – Ability to conduct activity free from harm, danger, or risk.



Future Planning



Future Planning

**Good Governance & High
Climate change impacts.**

**There are severe impacts
from climate change, but
through quick and sound
decision-making, the
government is able to
minimize the effects on
livelihoods and people.**

**Poor Governance & Low
Climate Change Impacts**

**The Government does not
introduce sound or
informed policies and
decision-making.
However, climate change
impacts are minimal.**

Future Planning

Worst Scenario - Hurricane Covid Cat 5+

In this bleak future, Belize experiences alarming rates of corruption, crime due to civil unrest, loss of investment in climate-resilient infrastructure which will ultimately create economic instability. Our people will lose their jobs. And die!

- Vicious cycle of increasing vulnerability + high negative impact
- Increased storm damage leads to increased economic pressures
- Social unrest, social inequality, corruption (a few benefit, many suffer)
- Resource exploitation (reef depleted, fisheries depleted, cleared mangroves, loss of ecosystem function)
- Unregulated, poor investment
- Loss of major industry (tourism, fisheries)
- Jobs lost

Future Planning

Best Scenario - “In mari floremus”

Good governance results in sustainable and climate resilient resources. Our oceans are healthy, providing food, income security, and improved quality of life. Belize shows the world that even a small country can grow strong and happy if it takes care of its people and its environment.

- Tourism booming
- Resulting in increased capital investments in social programs and management of natural resources.
- Sustainable growth and development of Belize’s Blue economy.
- Improved natural marine resources management, supporting sustainable fisheries and tourism livelihoods.

Future Planning

“Middle of the Road” Scenario – Poor Governance Low CC Impact
While Climate Change impact on industries is low the overwhelming effects of poor governance contributes to all in respect of quality of life, economic growth & poverty.

- Climate Change impacts on industries are low
- Poor management and enforcement
- Increased exploitation of resources
- Increased habitat loss

Future Planning

“Middle of the Road” Scenario – Good Governance High CC Impact

Belize is climate resilient due to strong governance, transparent institutions, and science-based planning. This drives sustainable economic growth, high-impact outcomes, secured natural capital, and opportunities for vulnerable communities.

- High Impact from Climate Change:
- Increase in frequency and intensity of storms & disasters
- Sea Surface Temperature increase
- Changing weather pattern (precipitation)
- Habitat loss-biodiversity loss
- Ecosystem degradation
- Impact of coastal communities may shift economic & social situations
- More fires leading to more toxic gases
- Species migration-shift in access to certain commercial species
- Negative impacts on human health leading to strain on the health system.

Coastal Zone Management Authority & Institute

*"Leading the sustainable use and
planned development of Belize's coastal zone"*



Belize Sustainable Ocean Plan

Princess Margaret Drive, P.O. Box 1884
Belize City, Belize
Tel: (501)-223-0719/(501)-223-5739

<https://bsop.coastalzonebelize.org/>

E-mail: bsop@coastalzonebelize.org
BSOP Mobile: (501) 614-9825

