

A PAPER PARK OR A HEALTHY OCEAN? | By Jenny Hertzman



The management Plan for Mafia Island Marine Park is currently being updated. The challenge is that a good-looking, strategic management plan does not necessarily translate into concrete implementation and continuous evaluation.



A success factor for effective management is management that is adaptive: where the activities and monitoring are clearly connected to the goals of the park; where the learnings from continuous evaluation of progress are actively reflected and taken into account. Consequently, the work plan needs constant reconsideration to really answer these three questions:

Are we doing the right thing?

Are we doing them well?

Are we having an impact?

A management team in Mafia Island Marine Park has worked together with the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, during several sessions to make this bridge between the

management plan and its implementation. This has involved a series of 10 sessions, nine of which were conducted online.

The first session was held in November 2021 and the latest one was a two-day in-person workshop held at Mafia Island in June 2022. During this process, the team identified measurable and relevant goals for the park that will be monitored and improved by actions to reduce the human threats to the ecological and human well-being targets of Mafia Island Marine Park. **The results can then show the effectiveness of the park – is the protection making a difference for the biodiverse marine ecosystems or is it a park on paper?**