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# SRI LANKA

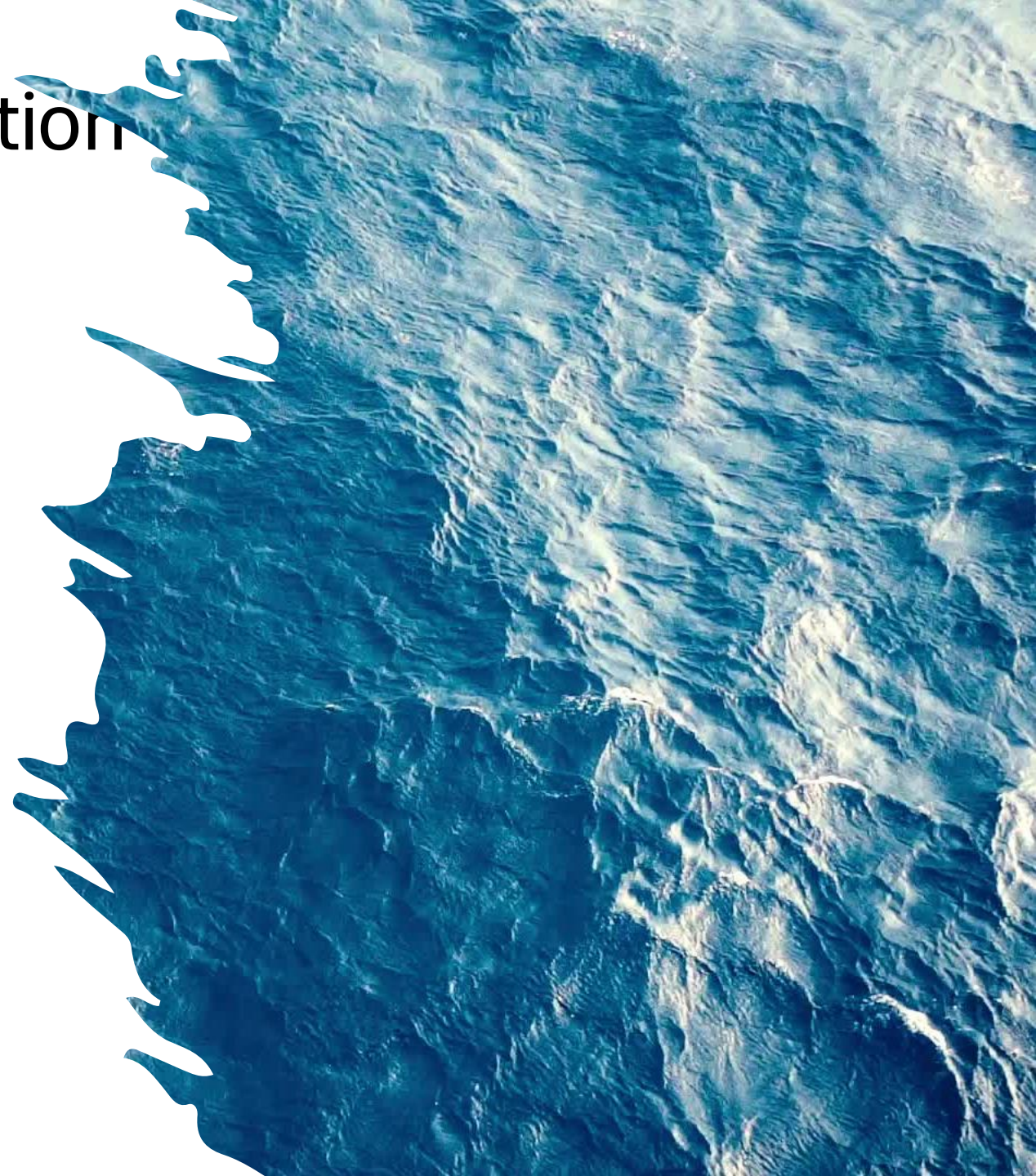
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Ministry of Environment

# Multi institutional Jurisdiction over marine resources

- Sri Lanka's approach to ocean governance guides primarily by the **Ministry of Fisheries, Aquatic and Ocean Resources**,
  - NARA, NAQDA,
- **Ministry of Defence**
  - For national security matters
- **Ministry Of Environment**
  - Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Management Department
  - Department Of Wildlife Conservation
  - Marine Environment Protection authority



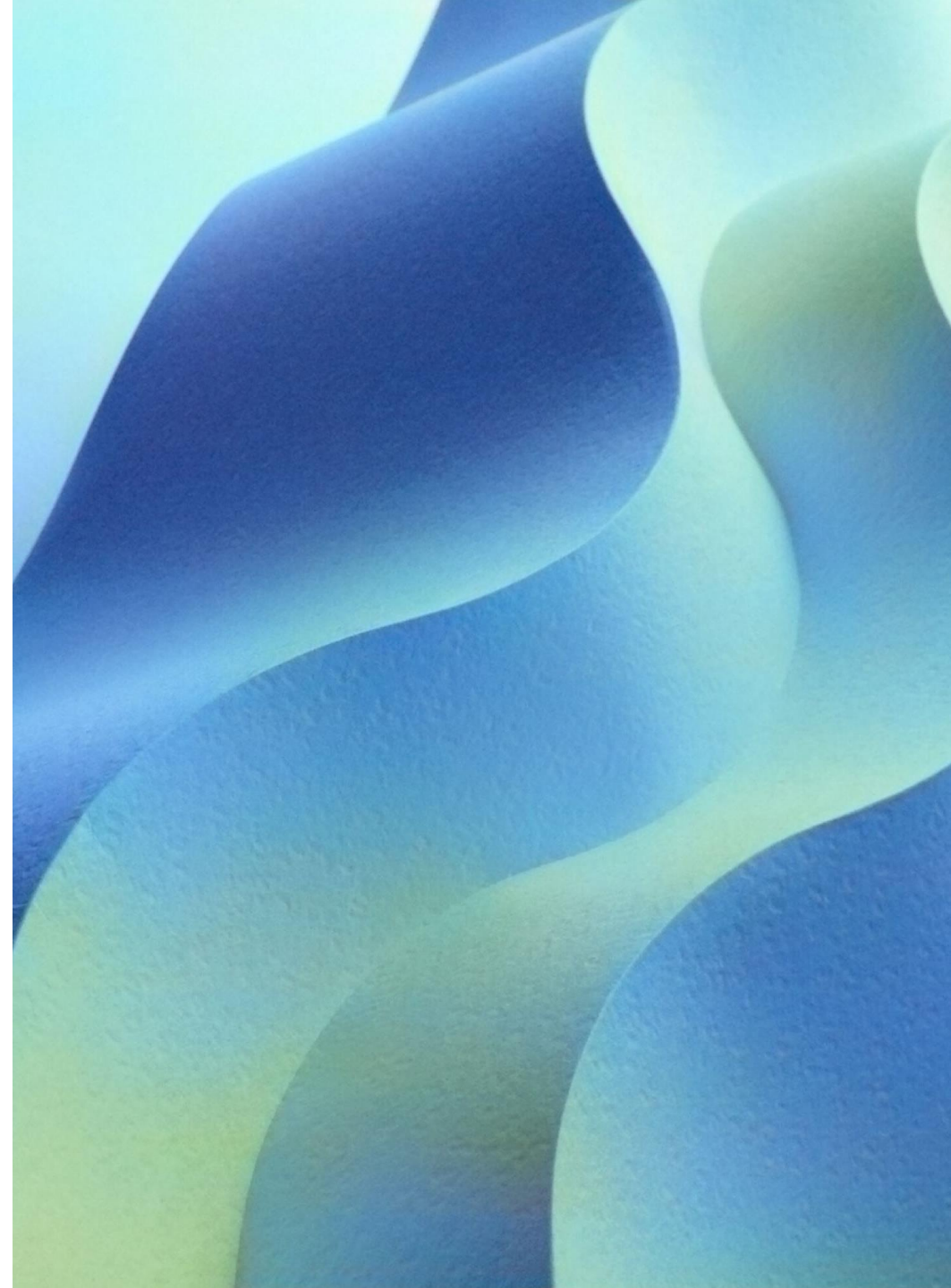
# 1. Cross-Agency Coordination Mechanisms

Historically, ocean management in Sri Lanka was siloed across military and civilian agencies

**DFAR** (Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources): Handles regulatory enforcement and licensing.

**NARA** (National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency): Serves as the dedicated research and scientific arm.

**CC&CRMD** (Coast Conservation and Coastal Resources Management Department): Mandated with executing the **Coastal Zone Management Plan**.



- **Civilian-Military Synergy:** Because Sri Lanka lacks a singular maritime enforcement law, data and operations are bridged between civilian agencies and the **Sri Lanka Navy Hydrographic Office** and **Sri Lanka Coast Guard**. The Ministry of Defence retains oversight of hydrographic data to maintain sovereign control while feeding data into civilian spatial planning.
- **Resolving Overlapping Jurisdictions:** A key governance focus is harmonizing overlapping boundaries between Marine Protected Areas (MPAs, run by the Department of Wildlife Conservation), Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs, run by DFAR), and Special Management Areas (SMAs).



## 2. Turning Policy into Implementable Programs

To transition high-level national environmental and digital economic policies into execution, the Ministry relies on targeted international partnerships and scalable digital single-windows.

- **The Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCPP):** Sri Lanka partners with international bodies to translate marine science into concrete policy tools, standardizing how ecological networks and migratory corridors are protected. It is a UK Government-led initiative under the [Blue Planet Fund](#)
- **Marine Spatial Planning (MSP):** In collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the ERD is actively developing a comprehensive Marine Spatial Plan. This program converts abstract territory rules into clearly demarcated digital zones for conservation, tourism, shipping, and sustainable community fishing.

### 3. Tech-Enabled Ocean Management & Sustaining Institutions

Building lasting institutions requires moving past pilot concepts into fully deployed, national data ecosystems that link smallholder citizens directly to regulators.

- **The Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC):** Operated directly by the Ministry of Fisheries, the FMC relies on satellite tracking and vessel monitoring systems to manage Sri Lanka's deep-sea fishing fleet, ensuring compliance with international regulations (like the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission) and combatting Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- **The Shrimp Industry Information System (SIIS):** Launched as a flagship national digital platform under the Ministry, **NAQDA** (National Aquaculture Development Authority), and the FAO (with South Korean funding), this initiative highlights how technology is sustained at the state level:
  - **The Technology Stack:** Integrates Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping, and Internet of Things (IoT) water-quality sensors.
  - **The Institutional Function:** It operates as a digital single-window. Instead of manual paperwork, farmers, laboratories, and exporters use web and mobile applications for digital licensing, disease tracking, and exporting compliance.
  - **Value Chain Integration:** It bridges the efficiency gap in smallholder supply chains by giving local farmers real-time early warning systems and biosecurity data, making the platform economically indispensable to the community, which ensures its long-term adoption.

# Sri Lanka Coral Reef initiative:2024-2030, supported by GCRF, IUCN

- 2 phases
- Focuses on 3 critical geographic areas
- Bar Reef sanctuary, Pigeon Island MNP, kayankerni sanctuary
- Phase 1: Established Conservation trust fund, private trust to support coral conservation, USD 320000 will be donated by the project to the fund.
  - Community engaged sea weed farming
  - Ecotourism
  - Oyster culture