

MEDITERRANEAN FORUM FOR APPLIED ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS COORDINATION PLATFORM: KNEISS ISLANDS - TUNISIA

The archipelago of Kneiss islands is located in the Gulf of Gabès (south of Tunisia, eastern Mediterranean Sea), covering a surface area of 442 ha and including 4 islets. With their tidal channels, watercourses, shores, intertidal zones and supratidal mudflats, the Kneiss islands constitute a unique ecosystem in the Mediterranean. The archipelago has been classified as a nature reserve and it is considered as a Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI) and a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance. Identified as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA), Kneiss islands are characterized by an extraordinary avifauna diversity, a highly developed halophilic vegetation, phanerogam meadows and important marine biodiversity. Fishing and agriculture are the main economic activities in the region of Kneiss.



“The Kneiss archipelago is a fragile and vulnerable ecosystem, it is impacted by natural (Invasive species, coastal erosion, subsidence and sea-level rise) and anthropic (Pollution by industries and plastic waste; overfishing) pressures causing many disturbances on wetlands mainly habitat loss for birds, decrease of fishery production, loss of biodiversity and regression and decrease of meadows. Furthermore, the difficult access to the islands constitutes a major problem affecting ecotourism development”.

WALID RFAI

Regional Director of the Coastal Protection and Planning Agency (APAL)



“The Kneiss Islands being considered as a future Marine Protected Area (MPA), have an Integrated Management Plan dealing with interdependent environmental issues and proposing the integrated management.

An Integrated Management policy for both terrestrial and marine ecosystems should be recommended to ensure the establishment of effective management tools towards best practices in integrated management and intersectoral coordination”.



EXOTIC SPECIES



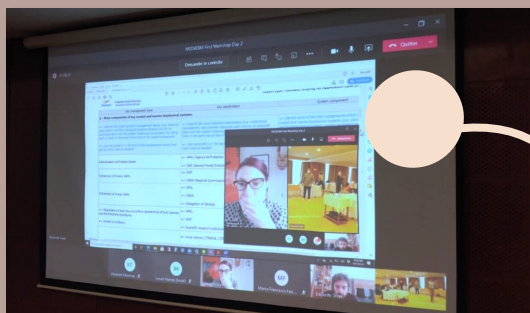
COASTAL EROSION



FISHERIES ACTIVITY

Ecosystem Context Analysis: recognizing connections within and across ecological and human systems spanning over the focused area (System Matrix)

Multi-Stakeholders Working Group, First Workshop: February 23th - 24th, 2021



Name	Description	Key management issues	Key stakeholders
1. Kneiss Islands	One of the 2 main harbours presents the protected area of the Kneiss Islands	Electricity problems, lack of maintenance, sitting up increasing, lack of local authorities	ANP (Agency of the harbours and ports)
2. Kneiss Port	One of the 2 main harbours presents the protected area of the Kneiss Islands	Lack of maintenance	ANP (Agency of the harbours and ports)
3. Kneiss phosphate industries storage areas		Mineral Phosphate pollution	Ministry of Industry, ANP, UCT (Tunisian Chemicals)
4. Purification facilities for dams		Pollution deriving from the purification wastewater	ANP, DSD, CDEA, UTCA
5. Road areas	Areas used both from tourists and local population	Better development of the infrastructures presents inside the rest areas	DSP, ACS (Soul NGC)
6. Protection-bridge (passer)	The one connected to the rest area is damaged, while the one present on the main island is in better condition	Overused due to a low number of these bridges (used mainly by the visitors of the island but also from the fishermen, visitors and...)	DSP, ACS (Soul NGC), ANP (Soul NGC) - original builder in the 2000s
7. Cultural and Historical			
8. Remains of the Monastery of St-Pulgence			
9. Ruins			
10. Archaeological areas			
11. Urban Areas		Lack of urban development plan	Ghabès municipality
12. Kneiss Islands			
13. Kneiss Islands			
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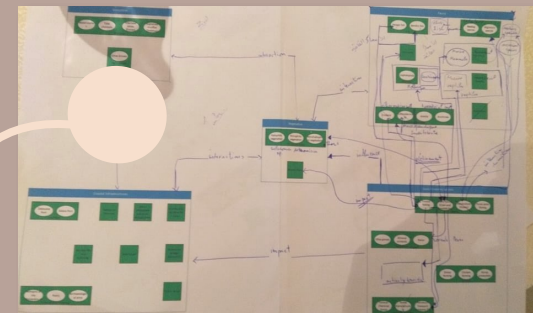
The first workshop focused on the participatory thematic scoping for the EB-ICZM-DSS application in the Kneiss Islands Nature Reserve (Tunisia). Relevant actors and stakeholders jointly identify key biophysical and socio-economic systems, assess the related data availability, and define the spatial domain for the EB-ICZM-DSS application.





Ecosystem Context Analysis: recognizing connections within and across ecological and human systems spanning over the focused area (Diagrams)

Multi-Stakeholders Working Group, Second Workshop: March 16th - 17th, 2021

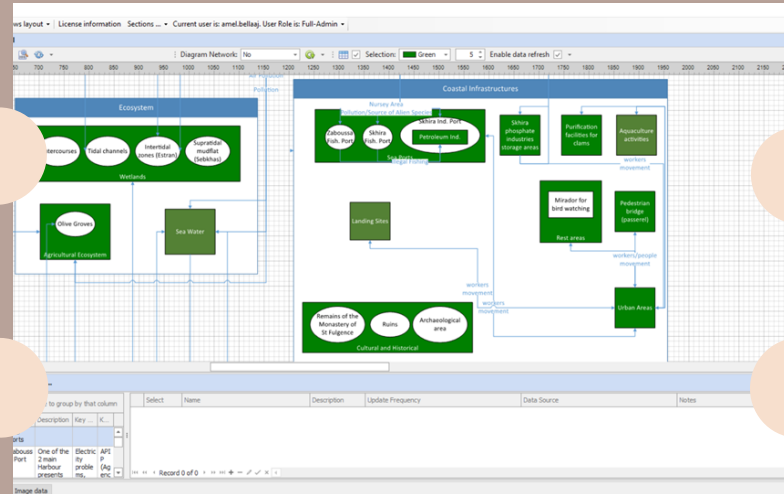


During the second workshop, the stakeholders continue their participatory activity and elaborate diagrams, visual representations of the thematic scoping reports. A set of diagrams were created using the software ISP for the EB-ICZM-DSS application in the Kneiss Islands Nature Reserve. Moreover, the stakeholders identified and explicit the relations between the components and the sub-components of the different diagrams.



Ecosystem Context Analysis: recognizing connections within and across ecological and human systems spanning over the focused area (Indicators)

Multi-Stakeholders Working Group, Third Workshop: April 6th - 7th, 2021



During the third workshop of the Ecosystem Context Analysis, the stakeholders identified a set of quantitative indicators and indexes quantitatively related to each component and sub-component of the different diagrams. The indicators and the indexes were written directly in the ISP software, for the EB-ICZM-DSS application in the Kneiss Islands Nature Reserve.



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Prepared by
Paolo Caroli
PROGES
Consulting



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