



The Faial–Pico Channel: Scientists, stakeholders, and policy-makers – working together to improve Marine Protected Area management

Oct/2017

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- ≈ **Name:** Knowledge, Assessment, and Management for AQUAtic Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services aCROSS EU Policies (AQUACROSS)
- ≈ **Type of project:** Research and Innovation
- ≈ **Funding:** Horizon 2020
- ≈ **Budget:** ca. 7 million EUR
- ≈ **Duration:** 1 June 2015—30 November 2018

The Challenge

- ≈ Biodiversity provides ecosystem services crucial for human well-being. As biodiversity is declining, despite existing policy efforts, there is an urgent need to both **document** and **evaluate** :
1. effects of drivers of change to biodiversity,
 2. links between biological diversity, ecosystem functions and resilience, and in turn to ecosystem service provision


These actions will help ensure effective **policy** and **sustainable development**.



The EBM Principles

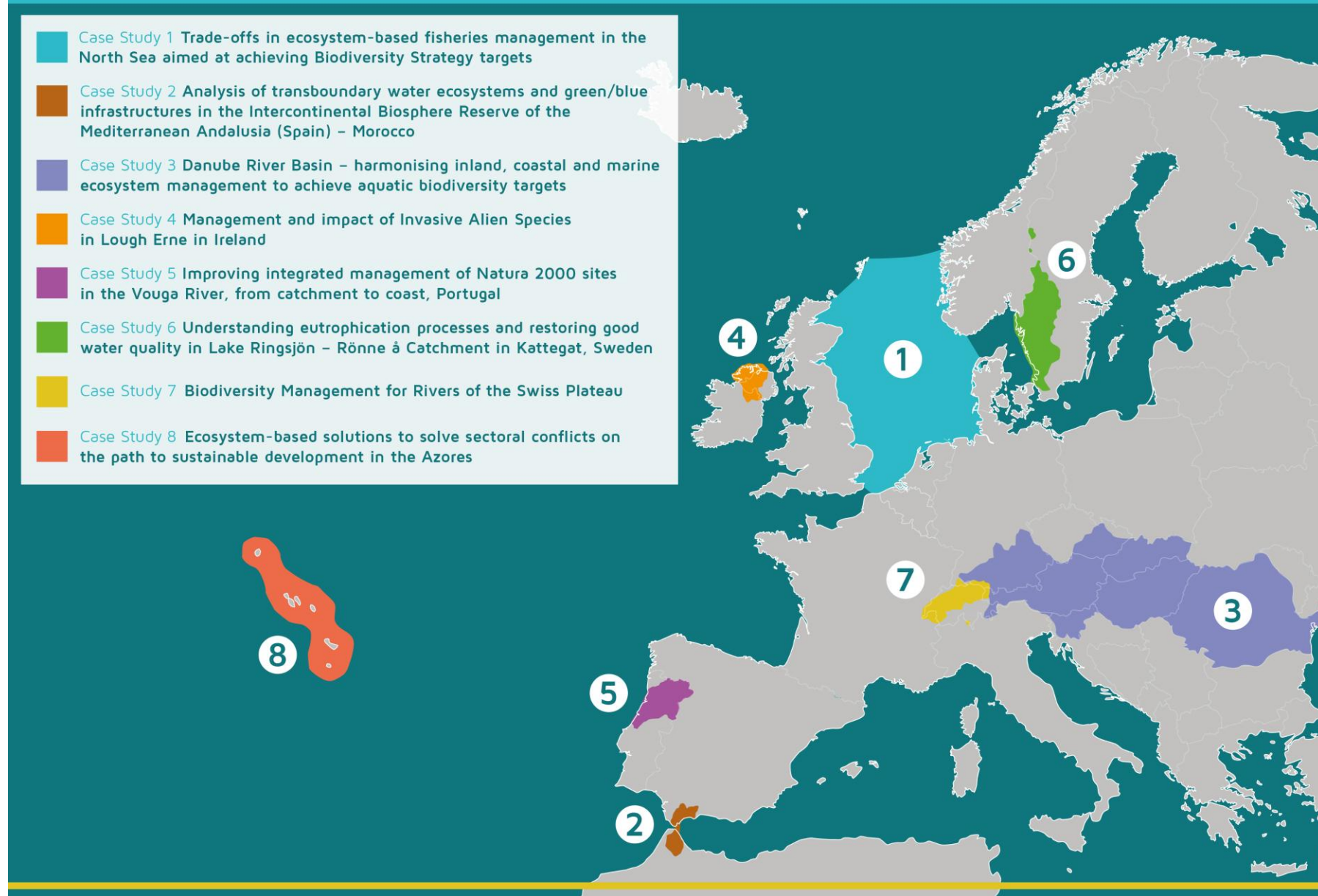


- ≈ EBM considers ecological integrity, biodiversity, resilience and ecosystem services.
- ≈ EBM is carried out appropriate scales.
- ≈ EBM develops and uses multi-disciplinary knowledge.
- ≈ EBM builds on social-ecological interactions, stakeholder participation and transparency.
- ≈ EBM supports policy coordination.
- ≈ EBM incorporates adaptive management.

-  The case studies have been specifically selected to:
- test the application of EBM
 - showcase specific elements of the objectives of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy relevant for the management of aquatic ecosystems;
 - understand the most relevant challenges surrounding the protection of aquatic biodiversity; and
 - maximise the lessons learnt and up-scale of results.

Location of AQUACROSS case studies

-  Case Study 1 Trade-offs in ecosystem-based fisheries management in the North Sea aimed at achieving Biodiversity Strategy targets
-  Case Study 2 Analysis of transboundary water ecosystems and green/blue infrastructures in the Intercontinental Biosphere Reserve of the Mediterranean Andalusia (Spain) – Morocco
-  Case Study 3 Danube River Basin – harmonising inland, coastal and marine ecosystem management to achieve aquatic biodiversity targets
-  Case Study 4 Management and impact of Invasive Alien Species in Lough Erne in Ireland
-  Case Study 5 Improving integrated management of Natura 2000 sites in the Vouga River, from catchment to coast, Portugal
-  Case Study 6 Understanding eutrophication processes and restoring good water quality in Lake Ringsjön – Rönne å Catchment in Kattegat, Sweden
-  Case Study 7 Biodiversity Management for Rivers of the Swiss Plateau
-  Case Study 8 Ecosystem-based solutions to solve sectoral conflicts on the path to sustainable development in the Azores



≡ The AQUACROSS Assessment Framework is put in practice in eight case studies – How?

1. Building baseline scenarios
2. Identifying objectives for policy action
3. Assessing interactions between drivers, pressures and impacts on ecosystem state
4. Analysing causalities between biodiversity, ecosystem functions and ecosystem services delivery
5. Ascertaining gaps between baseline and target status (deficits)
6. Choosing management measures to bridge the gaps (EBM)
7. Building policy scenarios
8. Evaluating them against baselines
9. Testing an optimal set of EBM measures or NBS

Objectives of the day



- ≈ Lessons from the 1st year since the increase in fishing regulations in the Channel
- ≈ Identify how people are aware of the new policy and how they learnt about it – or if they have questions
- ≈ Discuss options for monitoring/enforcement
- ≈ Discuss how knowledge has informed decision making and management of the Faial–Pico Channel MPA
- ≈ What type of new or improved information might be needed in order to help management of the MPA
- ≈ Identify potential new options and processes for improving management of the Faial–Pico Channel

Agenda



09:25 - 09:40 - Current management and goals of the Faial-Pico MPA - *Gilberto Carreira, Direção Regional dos Assuntos do Mar (DRAM)*

9:40 – 10:10 - Ecosystem services and societal benefits provided by the Faial-Pico MPA - *Adriana Ressurreição, Universidade dos Açores*

10:10 – 10:30 - Short statements from selected stakeholders on their involvement in Faial-Pico MPA management to date, and how they would like to contribute in the future

10:30 – 10:50 - **Coffee break**

10:50 - 12:30 – Plenary discussion

12:30 - 12:45 - Reflections on the discussions & outlook - *Ben Boteler, Ecologic Institute & Filipe Mora Porteiro, Direção Regional dos Assuntos do Mar (DRAM)*

12:45 – 14:00 – Lunch

AQUACROSS Partners

