

Mediterranean Forum For Applied Ecosystem-Based Management

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	Non-management issues	Other stakeholders
1. Wetlands			
2. Wetlands	One of the 2 main harbours presents inside the protected area of the Kneiss Islands	Electricity problems, such as maintenance, wiring-up increasing, lack of local authorities	MSP (Agency of the harbours and ports)
3. Wetlands	One of the 2 main harbours presents inside the protected area of the Kneiss Islands	Lack of maintenance	MSP (Agency of the harbours and ports)
4. Wetlands	Wetlands	Human/Prophetic pollution	Ministry of Industry, Mines, GCT (Tunisia)
5. Wetlands	Wetlands	Pollution deriving from the purification treatment	MPS, SSVI, CDESA, CDESA
6. Wetlands	Wetlands	Better development of the infrastructure (sewerage inside the port area)	SNP, ACS (Société Nationale)
7. Wetlands	The area connected to the port area is damaged, while the area present on the main island is in better condition.	Controlled due to a low number of people (tourists) and the presence of the island but also from the fishermen, visitors, etc.	SNP, ACS (Société Nationale), AMET (Société Nationale)
8. Cultural and Historical			
9. Cultural and Historical	Ministry of the Ministry of the Heritage		
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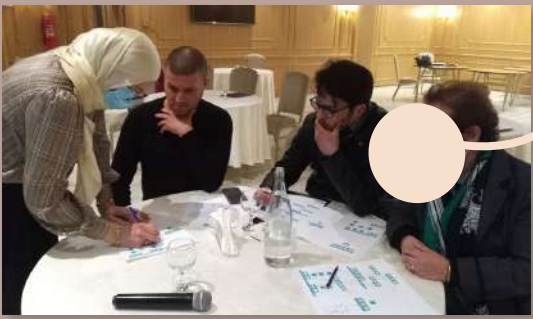
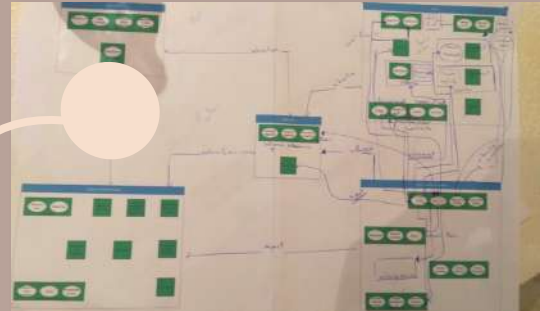


The first workshop focused on the participatory thematic scoping for the EB-ICZM-DSS application in the Kneiss Islands Nature Reserve (Tunisia). Relevant actors and stakeholders jointly identify key biophysical and socio-economic systems, assess the related data availability, and define the spatial domain 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

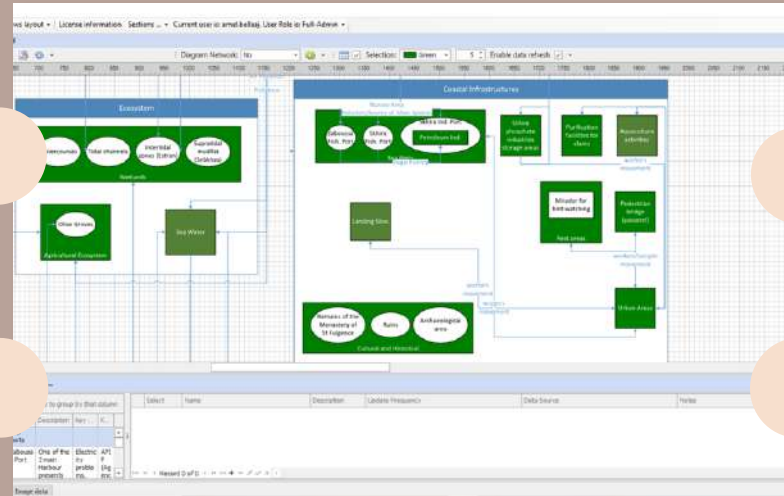


During the second workshop, the stakeholders continue their participatory activity and elaborate diagrams, visual representations of the thematic scoping reports. A set of diagrams were created using the software ISP for the EB-ICZM-DSS application in the Kneiss Islands Nature Reserve. Moreover, the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