

Welcome to AQUACROSS's first newsletter!



Welcome to AQUACROSS's first newsletter! AQUACROSS is a Horizon2020 project that aims to support EU efforts to protect aquatic biodiversity and ensure the provision of aquatic ecosystem services by furthering knowledge, assessment and implementation of ecosystem-based management.

The project has a pan-European consortium of 16 partners and began in June 2015, running until November 2018.

You can stay in touch with us via the [website](#) and [Twitter](#), directly communicate with project partners in the AQUACROSS [LinkedIn Group](#) and access our latest research publications on [Research Gate](#).

Beyond the bounds of research

The AQUACROSS project was developed in recognition of the need to improve management and provide policy solutions for aquatic biodiversity loss. There is a need to document and evaluate drivers of change to biodiversity and the resulting impacts – and ultimately to understand the interdependencies between biodiversity and ecosystem functions as well as resilience in relation to ecosystem provisions.

The AQUACROSS partners are focusing on aquatic ecosystems where biodiversity is declining at an alarming pace in Europe and elsewhere. By promoting the practical application of ecosystem-based management across aquatic realms, the project aims to contribute towards the achievement of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Recognizing that even good research can fall flat if it does not respond to the needs of resource managers and decision makers, the project aspires, with the help of [eight case studies](#), to provide evidence that the integration of concepts (i.e. ecosystem-based management) and co-operation among different actors (from science, policy, and business) can develop useful solutions and responses that abate aquatic biodiversity loss.

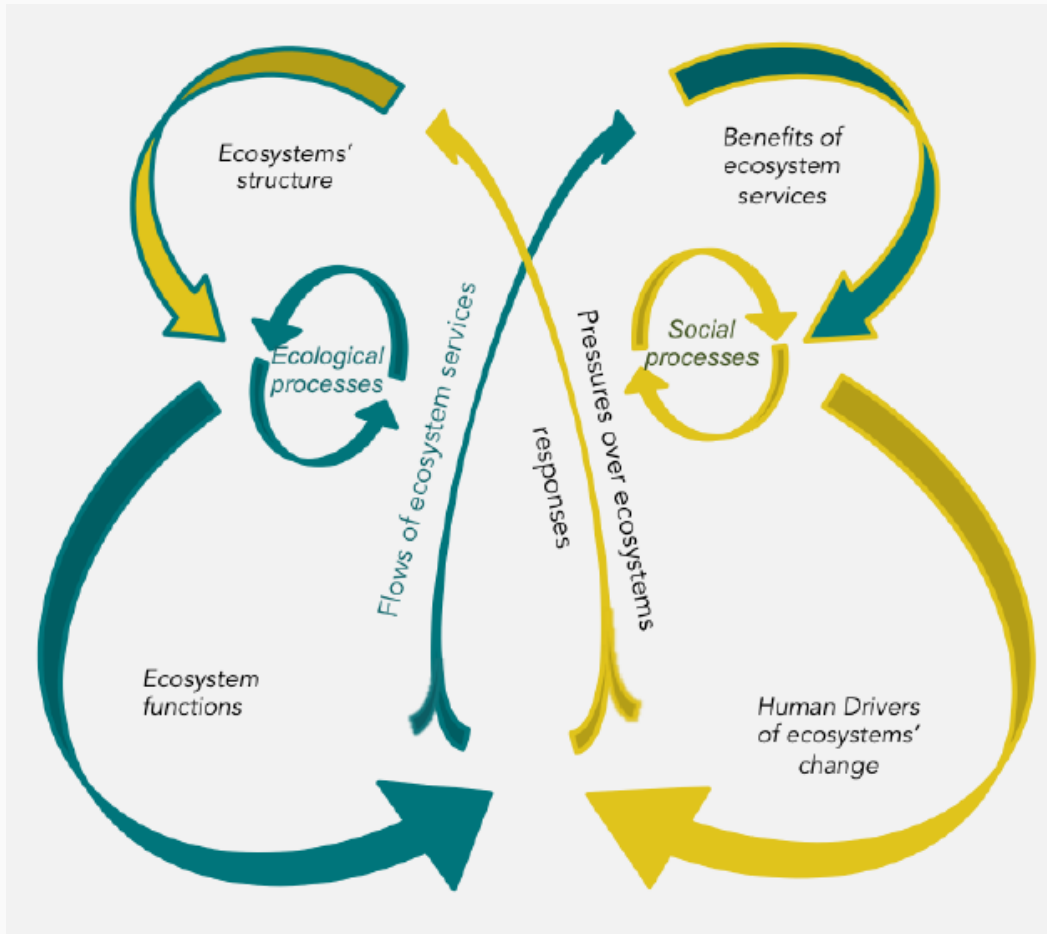
One Year In

The project's first year laid the groundwork for future work. Significantly, AQUACROSS published two major outputs that form the foundation: the [Data Management Plan](#) and the [Innovative Concept](#). Dissemination and outreach progress was also made, including the launch of the [AQUACROSS website](#) and social media profiles, formation of the [Science Policy Business Think Tank](#), and publication of several [policy briefs](#) and a project [leaflet](#).

The AQUACROSS [Innovative Concept](#), work led by [IMDEA](#), provides an overview of key scientific

concepts and approaches to managing aquatic ecosystems along with an analysis of their strengths and weaknesses. In doing so, it identifies key critical issues both for the project's future work as well as the broader science and business community. Read the [executive summary](#) for a concise wrap-up. The Figure below illustrates the inter-dependency and complexity of interactions of socio-ecological systems.

Figure: AQUACROSS Architecture



The second output, the [Data Management Plan](#) is a strategy document to structure the creation of the Information Platform, which will provide a single point of access for diverse data on aquatic ecosystems, sourced from different institutions and locations throughout Europe. The Information Platform will be publicly accessible and is led by [IOC-UNESCO](#).

Briefs and Leaflets

For a general overview of the project's objectives and design, read the project [Leaflet \(EN\)](#), available in seven languages ([PT](#), [FR](#), [RO](#), [ES](#), [SE](#), [DE](#))

Recommended for EU and international policy makers: the [Policy Brief](#) explores the close links between the SDGs and EU environmental policy goals, and discusses how ecosystem-based management and the AQUACROSS project can contribute to international biodiversity objectives.

Alcalá Forum

Over 70 experts and practitioners working in the field of aquatic management gathered in Alcalá de Henares, Spain, for the AQUACROSS Forum on the 27th and 28th June 2016. Participants from Europe (from 14 EU Member States) and beyond (such as the USA, Russia, and Israel) included

policymakers, scientists, marine and freshwater managers and members of the business community. The 1.5 day Forum consisted of multiple panels, discussions, and breakout session. A summary of the event is available [here](#).

Meet the Think Tank

The [Science Policy Business Think Tank](#) (SPBTT) is an advisory group of experts and practitioners whose focus is to help steer and co-develop AQUACROSS results to ensure the relevance and uptake of project outcomes. The SPBTT is made up of selected experts and case-study representatives.

The ten selected experts provide conceptual guidance on the research direction of the project, co-build knowledge and provide quality assurance to ensure the relevance of key project outputs.

The case study representatives and their associated institutions facilitate the application of ecosystem-based management in real-world management scenarios: the eight AQUACROSS case studies. The SPBTT is chaired by R. Andreas Kraemer.

Upcoming Events

- [Dr. Ana Isabel Lillebø](#) (University of Aveiro) will be presenting at the [European Ecosystem Services Conference](#) – Antwerp, Belgium 19-23 September 2016
- [Dr. Steven Degraer](#) (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences) is organizing the [North Sea Open Science Conference – Ostend](#), Belgium 7-10 November 2016

Past Events

- [Benjamin Boteler](#) (Ecologic Institute) and [Helen Klimmek](#) (IUCN) represented AQUACROSS at the [IUCN World Congress](#) – Hawaii 1-10 September 2016
- [Nele Schuwirth](#) (EAWAG) presented at the [ESA Annual Meeting: Novel Ecosystems in the Anthropocene](#) – Fort Lauderdale, Florida 7 -12 August 2016

What we're reading

- IUCN Report (2016) - [Explaining Ocean Warming](#)
- IPBES Report (2015) - [Connecting Nature and People](#)





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