aquacross
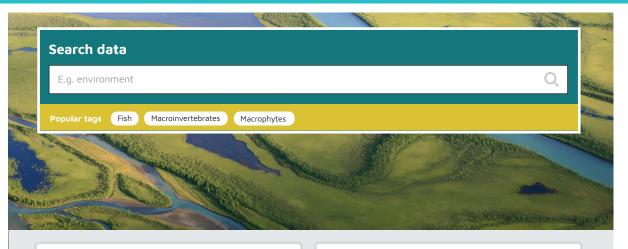
Tools: Information Platform

Welcome to the Information Platform of the AQUACROSS project, which seeks to advance the application of **ecosystem-based management** for **aquatic ecosystems** in an effort to support the timely achievement of the EU 2020 **Biodiversity Strategy** and other international conservation targets.

This platform aims to provide **open access** to a wide range of **resources** related to **aquatic** (freshwater, marine and coastal) **ecosystem** and **biodiversity management** at the European level. The primary focus is on data used in the various project **Case Studies** and Work packages, and resulting maps, model outputs and tools.

As most of this work is on-going, **new resources** will gradually be **uploaded** to this **Information Platform**. We also welcome **suggestions** from external visitors on relevant datasets that could be linked to the platform at: aquacross.IP (at) unesco.org.

CKAN statistics

659	17	8
datasets	organizations	groups

AQUACROSS Information Platform Survey

AQUACROSS Information Platform Manual

AQUACROSS IProject Website

The open access online AQUACROSS Information Platform (IP) is a collaborative effort aimed at supporting more effective European environmental policy and management. It provides scientists, environmental managers and policy-makers with integrated datasets on aquatic systems across Europe at a variety of scales at local, regional, national and transboundary levels in the international context.

THE AQUACROSS INFORMATION PLATFORM: A TOOL FOR EBM PRACTITIONERS

In the Information Platform, water managers and policy makers will find clear and detailed information about the key water-related ecosystems in the EU, the pressures exerted over them, the way they adapt, their current status and their capacity to continue providing valuable services to society as well as about the ecosystem-based management solutions proposed to improve their health based on the AQUACROSS Case Studies.

The Information Platform offers a consolidated data portal for continuously improving collaboration between scientists, environmental managers and policy makers by building common knowledge and sharing data between organisations, project partners and stakeholders. More than 650 different data-sets are easily available free of charge in the platform.

The Information Platform provides clear and traceable pieces of information relevant for decision making. This includes global, European and regional reference layers used as inputs for the AQUACROSS case studies as well as the outcomes of these case studies including models that can be easily replicated with the information and tools made available in the Platform.

THE AQUACROSS INFORMATION PLATFORM: MEANINGFUL INFORMATION FOR IMPROVED POLICY RESPONSES

In the Intercontinental Biosphere Reserve of the Mediterranean (see Case Study: Spain/Morocco) the Information Platform played a key role in integrating datasets at different spatial scale and with different statistical definitions. The Information Platform allowed for: i) the combination of international databases, ii) the elaboration of an integrated database, iii) a harmonised mapping of the relevant variables. This exercise was the basis for developing an integrated ecosystem-based management plan for the entire Intercontinental Biosphere Reserve.

In AQUACROSS's Ria de Aveiro policy analysis (see Case Study: Ria de Aveiro, Portugal) identified that local implementation of the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive have complementary aims, but out-of-sync monitoring and indicators. AQUACROSS researchers, in close cooperation with policy makers and stakeholders, were able to demonstrate that integrated data may help joint monitoring and would decrease costs, increase knowledge, and support more effective biodiversity protection.

← **Go to Brief #10: Linkage Framework**	**www.aquacross.eu/results**	**Go to Brief #12: AQUALINKS Tool** →

Further information

This is one of 38 short briefs summarising the key results of the AQUACROSS Project. For more detailed information on the topics covered in this brief, see the following:

- Arévalo-Torres et al. (2016) AQUACROSS Data Management Plan. Deliverable 6.1, European Union's Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation grant agreement No. 642317. (Deliverable)

- Barbosa et al. (2018) The International Biosphere Reserve of the Mediterranean: Andalusia (Spain) – Morocco – Deliverable 9.2, Case Study 2. European Union's Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation grant agreement No. 642317. (Report and Executive Summary)

- Lillebo et al. (2018) Improving integrated management of Natura 2000 sites in the Ria de Aveiro Natura 2000 site, from catchment to coast, Portugal – Deliverable 9.2, Case Study 5 Report. European Union's Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation grant agreement No. 642317. (Report and Executive Summary)