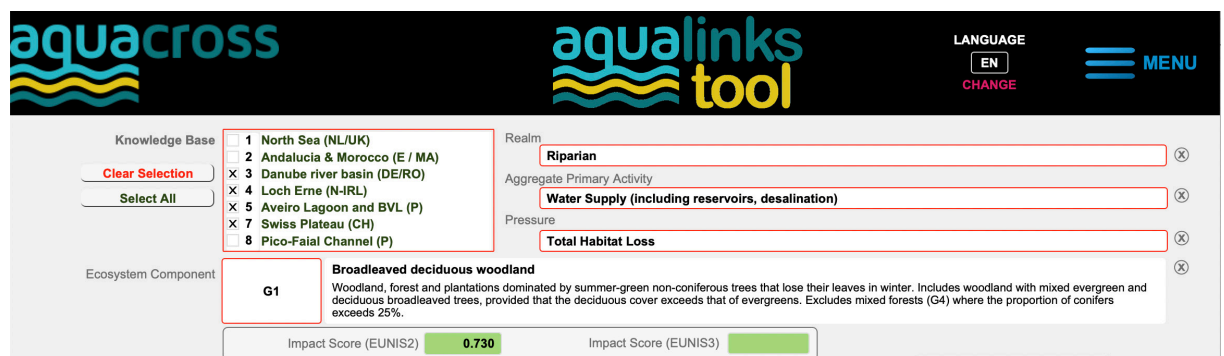


## Tools: AQUALINKS Tool



AQUALINKS tool screenshot

Human wellbeing relies on many different ecosystem services, such as food provision from fish, waste-water bioremediation, and cultural recreation. These services rely on different parts of the ecosystem to supply them, which are threatened by human activities.

The AqualLinks tool implements linkage chains ([see Linkage Framework](#)) relating human activities, the associated pressures, the ecosystems components on which they act and the services and functions that they provide. The links between the different components are based on information produced by the eight case studies using expert judgement within the AQUACROSS project. The database underlying the different linkage chains is quite comprehensive, capturing a wide diversity of spatial scales, ecosystem components, geographic contexts and social contexts at European level.

The AqualLinks tool provides valuable information for policy makers and environmental managers on how human activities and pressures affect ecosystems, their services and biodiversity, through to the capacity of aquatic ecosystems to continue providing the services society depends on.

The use of the tool follows the logical flow along which the user selects the elements they want within the information available in the database. At each step, the information presented for the next step depends on all the conditions previously set. The report generated using the tool provides insight on the linkage chains more likely to be vulnerable and helps decide which management measures are likely to reduce vulnerability of specific parts of the ecosystem. These measures might involve the management of activities and associated pressures or increasing the coverage/representativeness of the vulnerable components.

← **Go to Brief #11: Information Platform**
[www.aquacross.eu/results](http://www.aquacross.eu/results)
**Go to Brief #13: EBM: Modelling approaches** →

**The Aqualinks tool is available:**

- [The CESAM webpage](#)
- ZENODO repository: dataset ([DOI:10.5281/zenodo.1101161](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1101161)) and tool ([DOI:10.5281/zenodo.1101161](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1101161)).