

SUSTAINING INTERNATIONAL WATERS COOPERATION

AQUACROSS

Besides the development of the knowledge information portal on aquatic ecosystems, IOC-UNESCO is responsible for the application of the AQUACROSS assessment framework to a pilot case study area located at the Intercontinental Biosphere Reserve of the Mediterranean (Andalucía (ES) - Morocco). This pilot helped to uncover best practice examples of nature-based solutions for aquatic ecosystems through the development of direct recommendations to increase the establishment of green and blue infrastructures in the management and planning of transboundary water ecosystems. One of the main components of the AQUACROSS project was the engagement of stakeholders and knowledge transfer, including the development of innovative tools to disseminate project results such as the storytelling tool developed by IOC-UNESCO.



The session was dedicated to present the results of AQUACROSS as part of the knowledge transfer strategy IOC-UNESCO by including a review of the methodological approaches used in the development of the different actions in Andalusia and Morocco and the data, information and innovative tools to share the results through the information platform and the storytelling tool.

Participants were invited to analyse the results of the work led by IOC-UNESCO in the context of AQUACROSS providing valuable inputs in terms of data, information and tools, methods and stakeholder engagement and the identification of way to replicate our work in other regions of the world.

Participants agreed that the approach might be implemented in other areas because it is a robust method with strong evidence-based that can be standardized. The AQUACROSS approach developed by IOC-UNESCO can easily be applied to other ecosystems and assess its efficiency in different contexts in relation to alternative tools helping policy makers to decide what type of habitats to include in the restoration plan and in consultation with local stakeholders. The story telling was well appreciated and highlighted as an extraordinary tool to communicate the results among non-technicians. Some participants recommended to include climate change scenarios in the AQUACROSS approach in line with the RAMSAR manual 4 of UNESCO dedicated to guidelines for adaptation of biosphere reserves to climate change.