



Marine Spatial Plan for the Gulf of Aqaba, Jordan

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PROJECT DETAILS

- Mainstreaming Marine Biodiversity Conservation Into Coastal Management in the Aqaba Special Economic Zone – UNDP GEF project
- Mainstream biodiversity conservation in order to promote more effective and integrated management of the coastal zone, including its marine area, in the Aqaba Special Economic Zone
- Plan has been developed with a full support of the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA).
- It represents an innovative approach to marine planning in Jordan.
- Area around the city of Aqaba is the only maritime exit of Jordan,
- The marine area is relatively of minor dimension in comparison with the marine area of neighbouring countries
- Rising expectations towards contribution of Jordan's coastal and marine area to its national development
- High importance of Jordan's marine biodiversity



BASIC FEATURES

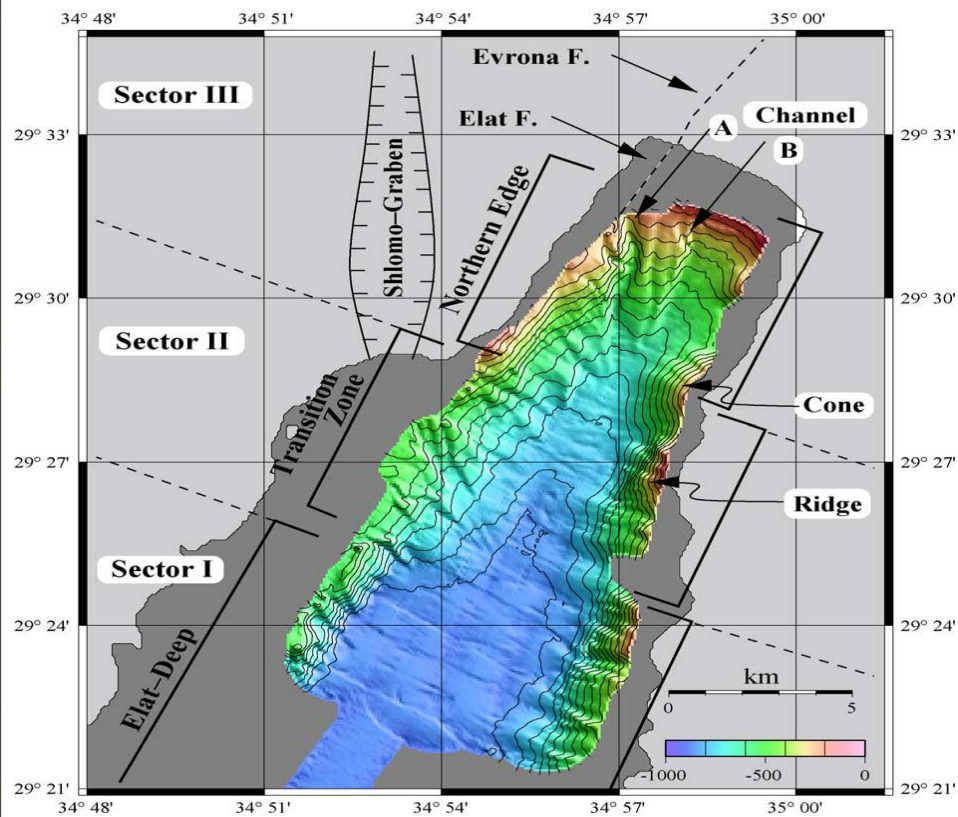
- Semi-enclosed basin that extends over a length of 180 km with a width between 5 and 25 km (average of 16 km)
- The total length of the coasts along the Gulf Aqaba is over 400km, divided approximately as follows: Jordan - around 27.5km, Saudi-Arabia - around 190km, Egypt - over 200km and Israel about 12km.
- It has an average depth of 800m increasing to more than 1,800m as a maximum
- Aqaba is of considerable economic importance for Jordan, developing some major industries along its coast
- Industry and industrial ports, maritime commerce, maritime agriculture and tourism all develop rapidly along its coasts.
- The marine area of the Gulf of Aqaba that belongs to Jordan is comparatively small (96 km²) and covers the entire territorial waters of Jordan

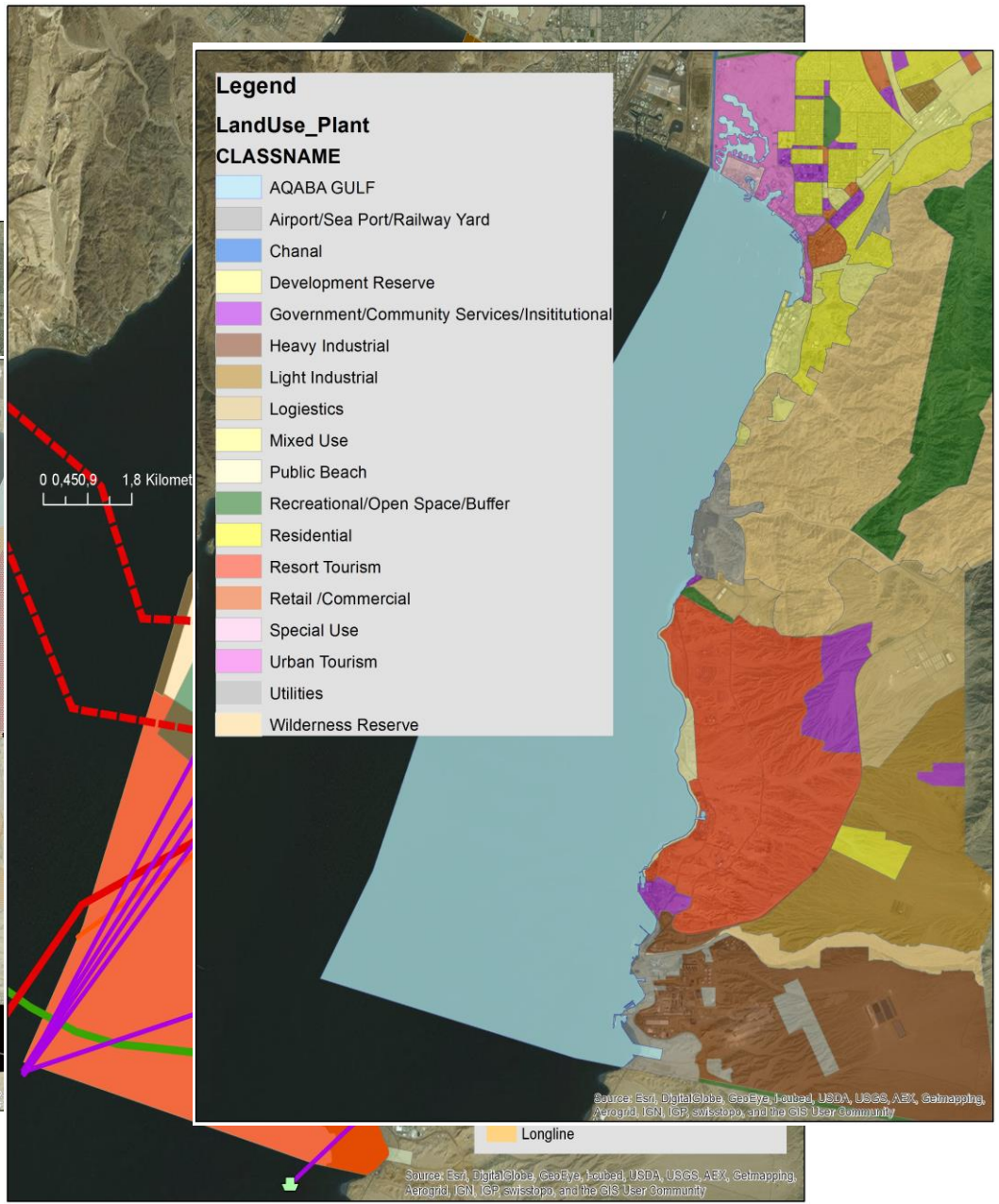


OBJECTIVES

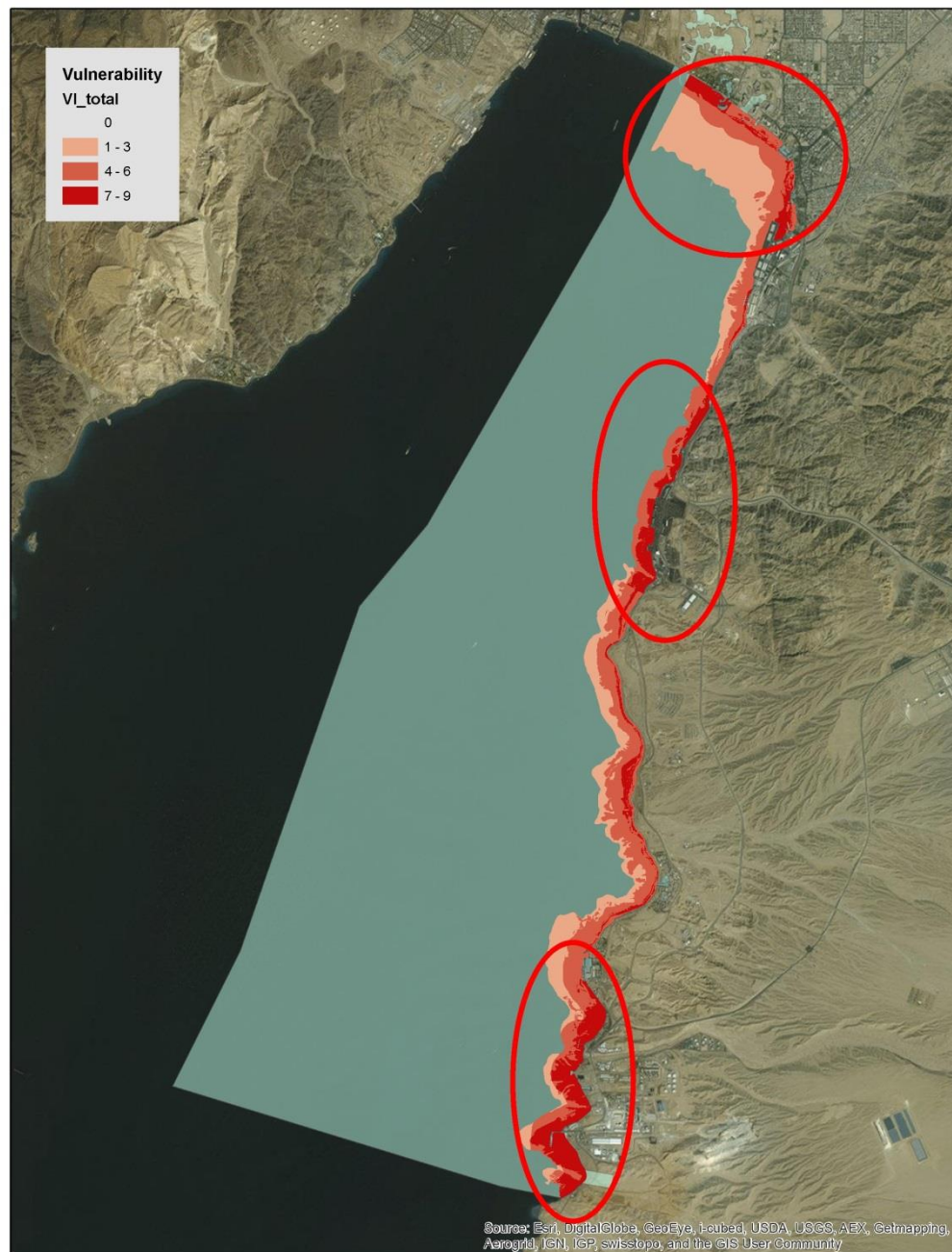
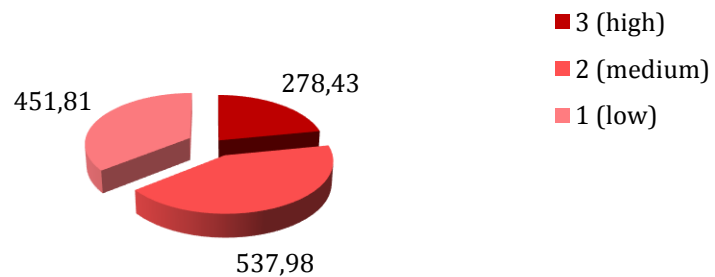
- Protect the most valuable marine resources such as coral reefs;
- Secure planned use of Jordanian marine space through integrated, rather than sectoral management, and avoid making ad-hoc solutions;
- Enable all stakeholders to work together to identify suitable locations for marine development and uses, and to identify sites where important assets need safeguarding and where conservation should take precedence;
- Ensure that adequate marine space is available for the operation and maintenance of essential port and shipping activities;
- Secure adequate marine space for tourism related activities with a view of avoiding conflicts with other activities, notably port and shipping;
- Secure coexistence between tourism and environmental protection of coral reefs;
- Secure the economic viability of other activities for dependent population such as fisheries.







Vulnerability index of marine habitat areas (ha)



	Commercial Fishing: Nets	Commercial Fishing: Hook / line	Recreational Fishing: Hook / line	Recreation: Sailing	Recreation: Boating	Recreation: Personal Watercraft	Recreation: Scuba-diving / Snorkeling	Recreation: Wildlife watching	Marine transportation corridors	Ports & harbour operations	Dredged material disposal	Cables and pipelines	Military operations	Multiple use marine park	Scientific research	Reserved areas	Anchoring areas
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