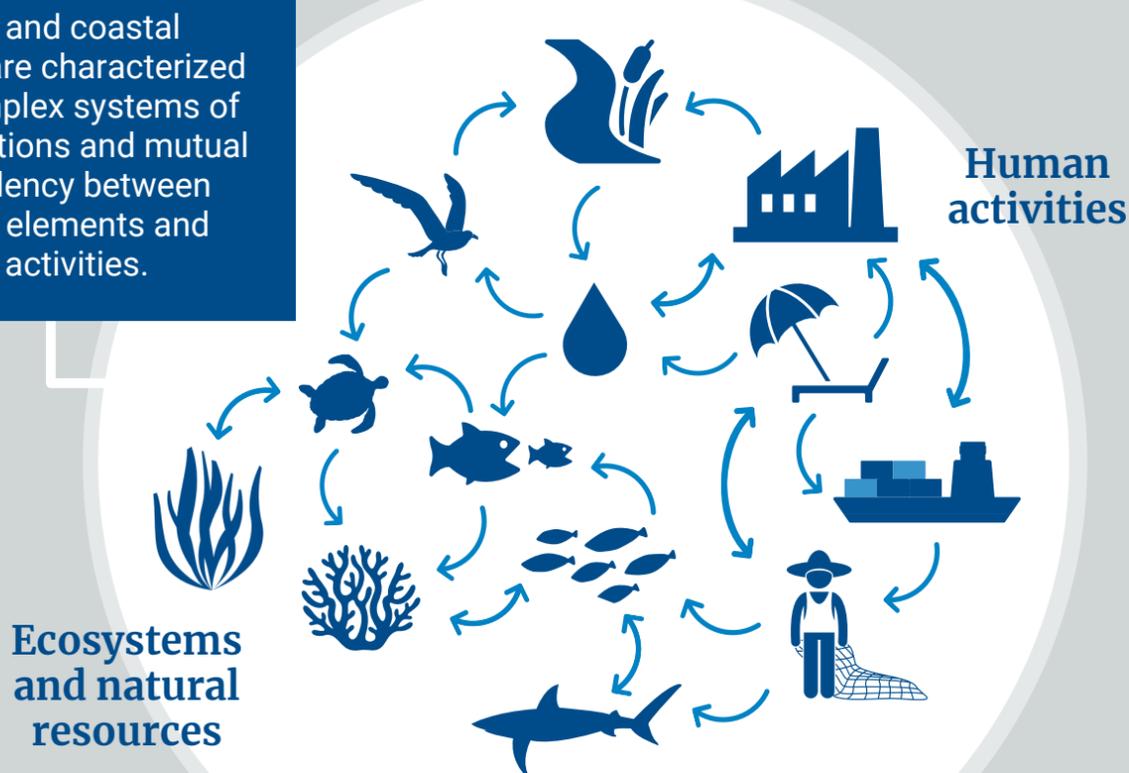


Ecosystem approach and Marine Spatial Planning: key tools to manage natural resources in a sustainable way

To protect the natural environment and at the same time guarantee the sustainable economic future of Mediterranean countries, it's crucial to adopt an integrated framework for the management of marine resources.

Marine and coastal areas are characterized by complex systems of interactions and mutual dependency between natural elements and human activities.



As ecosystems are interconnected, so management must be integrated.

Ecosystem approach

A strategy for the integrated management of natural resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use.

Within the Barcelona Convention, this approach is put into action through the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (IMAP) and its 11 Ecological Objectives and related indicators, with the aim to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) in marine and coastal environments.

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)

A public process for allocating spatial and temporal use of marine resources and services.

This process helps to guarantee a sustainable future for the marine environment and for those who directly depend on it, by working collaboratively across borders and sectors.

Through the use of the ecosystem approach, Marine Spatial Planning benefits from a series of sustainability assessments and generates an integrated plan, contributing to the achievement of **Good Environmental Status (GES)**. Thus, it ensures that the capacity of marine ecosystems to respond to human-induced changes is not compromised.

The policy framework for the implementation of this approach in the Mediterranean is provided by the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).



GEF Adriatic has developed a visual tool to guide decision making processes, providing verifiable and objective scientific data and identifying environmental priorities.

The project promotes the adoption of the ecosystem approach in national Marine Spatial Planning across the Adriatic sub-region of the Mediterranean.

