



ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

The Mediterranean experience

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In the Mediterranean, a process has been initiated for the application of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities that may impact the marine and coastal environment





We consider ecosystem approach as the strategy for the comprehensive integrated management of human activities based on the best available scientific knowledge about the ecosystem and its dynamics, in order to identify and take action on influences that are critical to the health of marine and coastal ecosystems, thereby achieving sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services and maintenance of ecosystem integrity





The goal of the ecosystem approach is:

to restore and sustain the functions of marine and coastal ecosystems, based on their health, productivity and biological diversity, and the overall quality of life through management systems that are fully integrated with social and economic goals, for the benefit of current and future generations





EC/MAP Project (ECOMED)

AIMS:

- ❖ To facilitate the implementation of the ecosystem approach by MAP and its components;
- ❖ To develop a road map.





In the framework of the project:

- ➔ a working group of experts was set up which met twice (April & November 2006)**
- ➔ a document with proposals that was discussed at a Regional meeting of government-designated experts (February, 2007) was prepared.**





Moving to the ecosystem approach

- ⇒ not a **revolutionary** step but
- ⇒ an **evolution** of integrated management of human activities with a greater emphasis on ecosystem implications



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2 STEPS IN THE APPROACH

1. **TRANSFORM** our Vision for the marine ecosystem from a descriptive status (clean, healthy, etc.) to a measurable target

2. **ADAPT** existing management plans on the basis of the agreed ecosystem and national objectives

3. **IMPLEMENT** the management plans following the ecosystem approach principles