Local Ecosystem-Based Management: A Case Study of Itapoa, Santa Catarina – Brazil

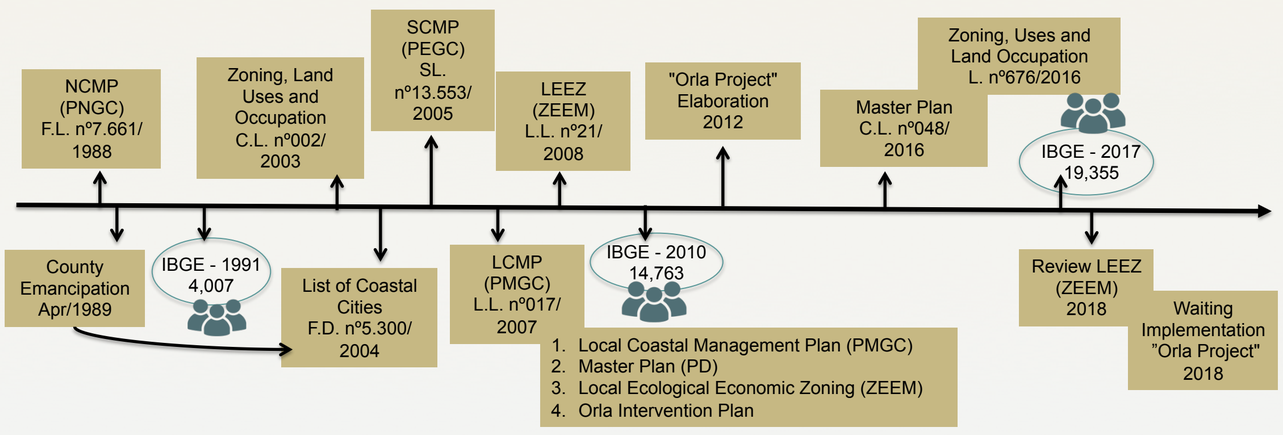
Taynara Gonçalves Pinheiro
Msc. Student in Graduate Programa in Oceanography (PPGO)
Federal University of Santa Catarina
Integrated Coastal Mangement Laboratory (LAGECI)
Contact: taynara.gpinheiro@gmail.com +55(47)992644899

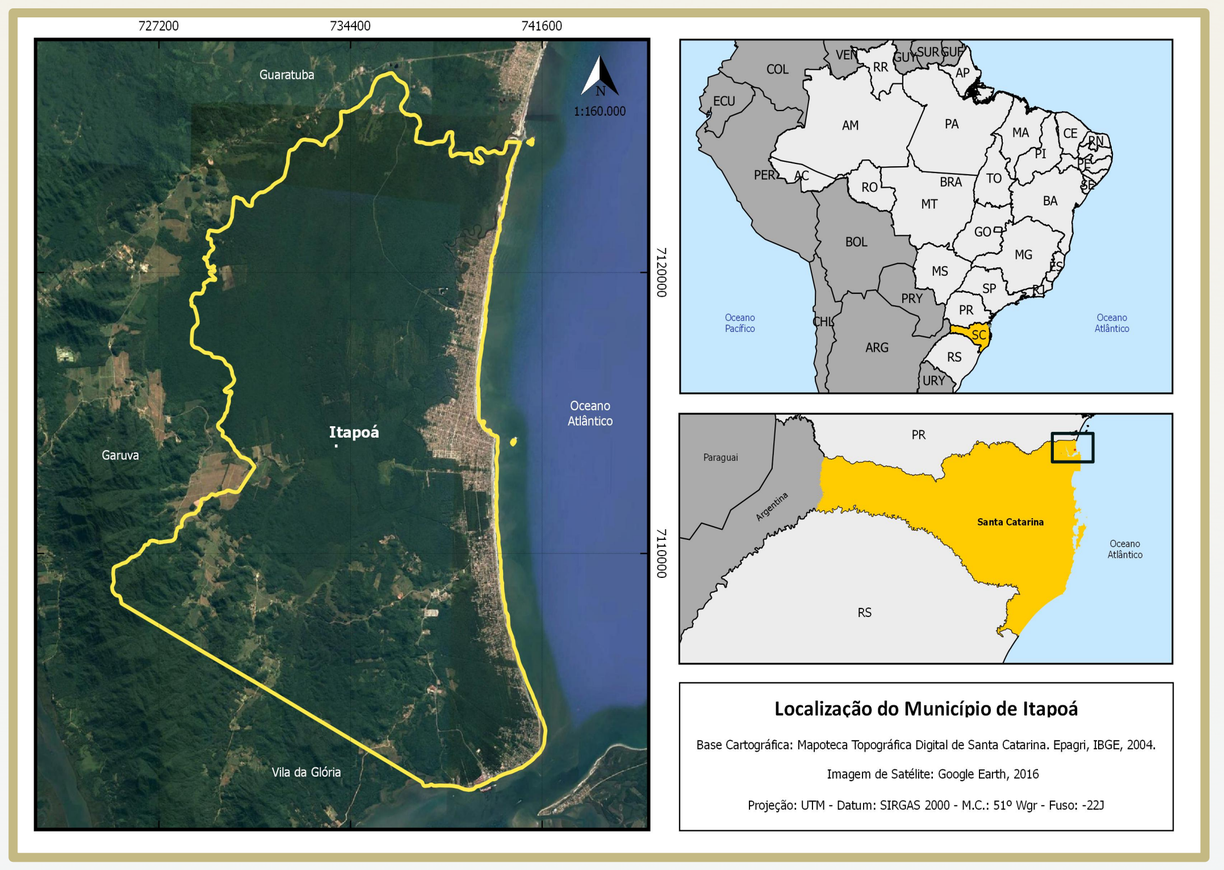
Marinez Eymanel Shcerer
Titular Professor of Federal University of Santa Catarina
Contact: marinezscherer@gmail.com

Background

In the last decades a fast population growth, mostly in the coastal areas, has placed great pressure on marine and costal systems. The intensive use may compromise ecosystem services (ES) which have great benefits for nature and society (Barragán, 2014; Halpern *et al.*, 2008; Mea, 2005). The goal of Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) is to increase and sustain the production of ecosystem services, thus shifting management's focus from short-term economic gains or purely environmental protection/restoration towards assuring the long-term ability of an ecosystem to yield a broad suite of services important to human well-being. Through EBM, a restructuring of public policies could be proposed to understand ecosystem processes and regulate human activities.

In addition, EBM's proposals for planning and management programs can become an interesting alternative at local and regional levels (Barragán, 2014; Pirot *et al.*, 2000). With regard to coastal management policies, Itapoa is at the forefront of many Brazilian coastal cities, the first city to implement the Local Coastal Management Plan (Municipal Law no. 017/2007), which establishes the coastal zone management tools, which should be applied in an integrated way. However, information about the Ecosystem Services in Itapoa is still limited and the evaluation of the efficiency of the environmental and territorial management tools, already implemented, is necessary.



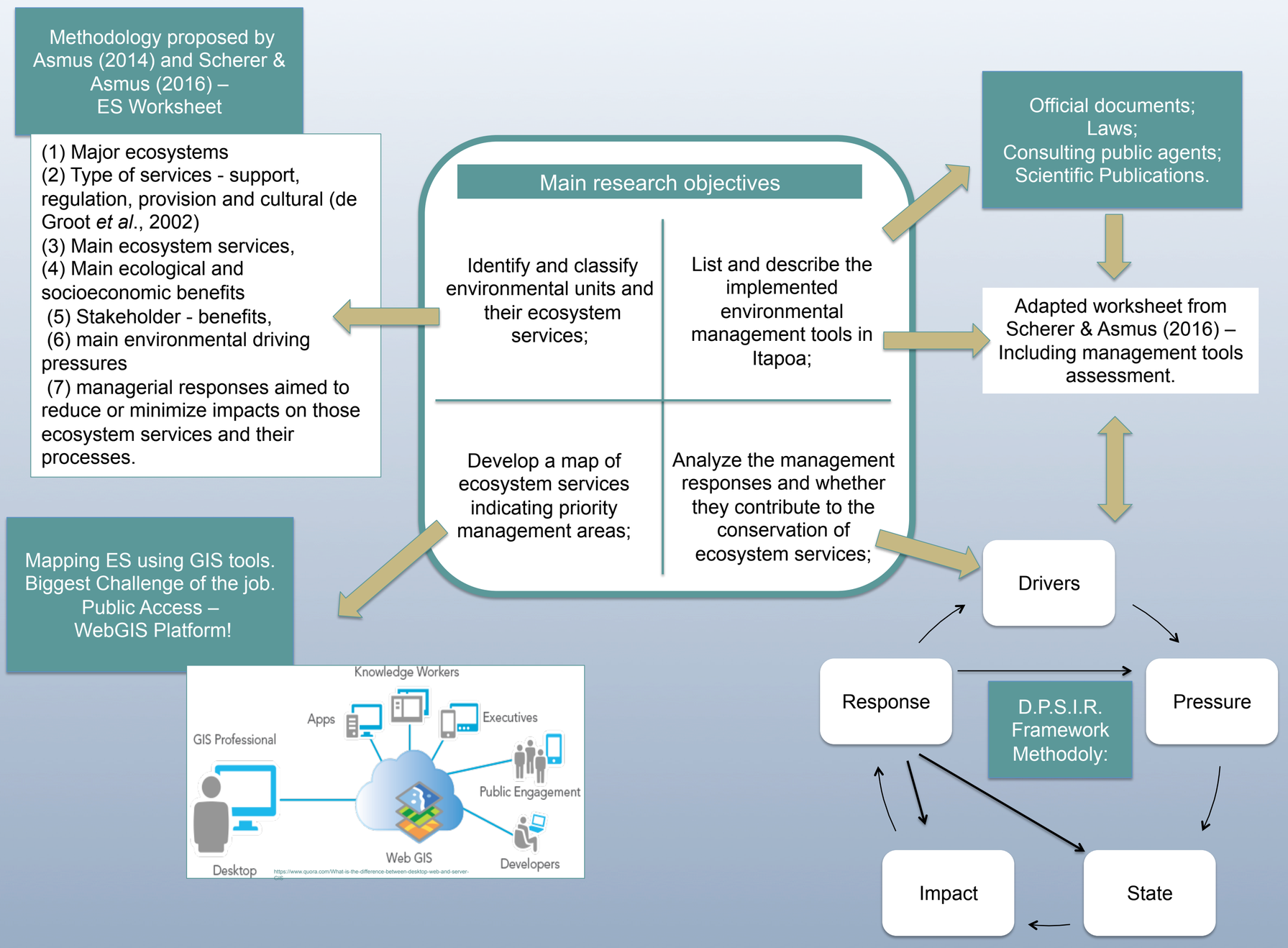







Goals & Methodoly

The main objective of this work is to identify these SEs and to evaluate the potentialities and weaknesses of the municipal management tools that serve as a subsidy for EBM and for maintenance of SEs.



Expected Outcomes

- We hope to highlight the potentialities and weaknesses of municipal environmental management tools in Itapoa as a basis for their relationship to the conservation and maintenance of ESs.
- This work hopes to provide subsidies for Ecosystem Based Management at a local level, serving as a source of consultation for future municipal public management decision making.

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