Adaptation to Climate Change through the management and restoration of European estuarine ecosystems « LIFE ADAPTA BLUES »

PROJECT LOCATION: Coimbra, Cantabria and Zeeland

BUDGET INFO:

Total amount: 2,193,891 Euros

% EC Co-funding: 55% (1,103.515 Euros)

DURATION: Start: 01/07/19 - End: 31/07/24

PROJECT'S IMPLEMENTORS:

Coordinating Beneficiary: FIHAC

Associated Beneficiary(ies): The Nature Conservancy in Europe, Figueira da Foz Municipality, Instituto Politécnico de Leira

OBJECTIVES

Demonstrate the potential of the conservation and restoration of European estuaries as an ecosystem-based approach to adapt to CC.

Specific goals:

O1. To standardize the procedures for the assessment of the CC services provided by estuarine ecosystems and its resilience to sea level rise.

O2. To develop CC adaptation and risk reduction technical recommendations for three different Atlantic European regions based on the management of estuarine ecosystems.

O3. To develop one pilot project of CC adaptation based in the implementation of restoration actions in an Atlantic European estuaries.

O4. To explore financial mechanisms that could support estuarine restoration based on the CC services provided.

SCOPE

Preparatory actions

- Quantify CC services and resilience to SLR provided by estuarine habitats
- Map the risk of flooding in three study regions in the EU Atlantic area

Implementation actions

- Propose specific technical measures for the adaptation to CC and risk reduction for Coimbra, Cantabria and Zeeland.
- Implement restoration actions in the Mondego estuary with the aim to favor the restoration of estuarine vegetated communities.
- Harness the results and lessons learned on previous experiences with oyster reefs restoration linked to market approaches and explore innovative insurance policy to support estuarine ecosystems conservation and restoration.

Dissemination actions

- Carry out a Specialist Diploma on ecosystem based-approaches for CC adaptation in estuaries.
- Create an online platform to compile existent ecosystem-based CC adaptation projects in EU.

EXPECTED IMPACTS

Indicator	Description	At the end of the project	3 years after the end
Improved resilience to flooding	Human populations affected by flooding arround the pilot site.	950 people	950 people
	Total area that will improve the resilience to flooding arround the pilot site	15-18 ha	18-20 ha
Areas progressing towards improvement or restoration or in a favourable conservation status	Habitats with an improvement of their conservation status by the actions carried out in the pilot site	3 habitats	3 habitats
Employment	10 new and consolidated employments	10	15
Replication / Transfer		3 regions	10 states
Awareness raising	Specialist Diploma + Technical workshops + Awareness contests + Social networks	3490 people	7490 people
Website	Visits to the website	25000 people	35000 people
Behavioural change	Regional administrations + Local administrations + NGOs + people from social awareness actions.	28500 people	42500 people

+ 30000 people

10 states

3 EU regions

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Application of blue-green infrastructure and ecosystem-based approaches

- EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change (COM (2013) 2016)
- EU Green Infrastructure Strategy (COM(2013) 249 final)

Restoration of ecosystems and habitats:

- EU Biodiversity strategy for 2020
- EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and EU Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)
- European Water Framework Directive (2000/60/CE) and Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)

CONTINUATION (REPLICATION, TRANSFER, MARKET UPTAKE)

Replication

The ADAPTA BLUES project will generate standard protocols to assess the CC services supported by estuarine ecosystems and technical recommendation to develop coastal management plans to adapt to CC applying estuaries conservation and restoration.

Transfer and market uptake

a) The online platform will be continuously updated and will host the tools generated during the project. It will support the networking with other projects, once the project ends.

b) The knowledge acquired through the exploration of market-based approaches and financial mechanisms to fund estuaries restoration and conservation for CC adaptation and mitigation purposes will serve as a first step for future implementations of financial mechanisms for estuarine ecosystems restoration and conservation.

c) The Specialist degree will ensure the transferability of the project results.