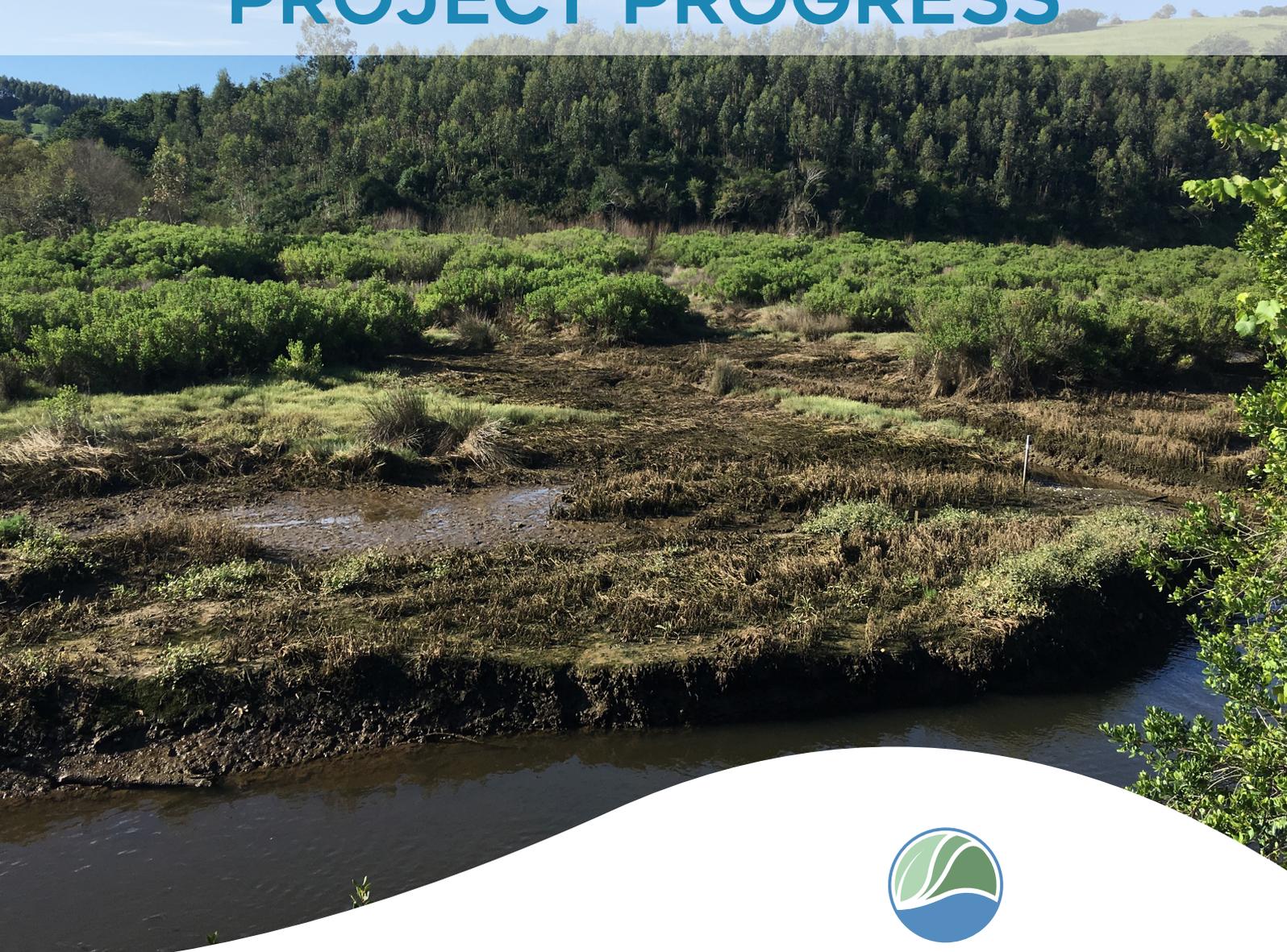


# PROJECT PROGRESS



With the contribution of the  
LIFE Programme of the  
European Union

**ADAPTA BLUES**

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## First steps to set a solid base

During this first year of the project, the aim of LIFE ADAPTA BLUES has been to **lay the foundations** to achieve the goals of the project. Since the kick-off meeting back in October 2019, LIFE ADAPTA BLUES has focused on a **thorough analysis of the project areas**, but also on developing **dissemination materials** to reach collectives that could be interested in LIFE ADAPTA BLUES.

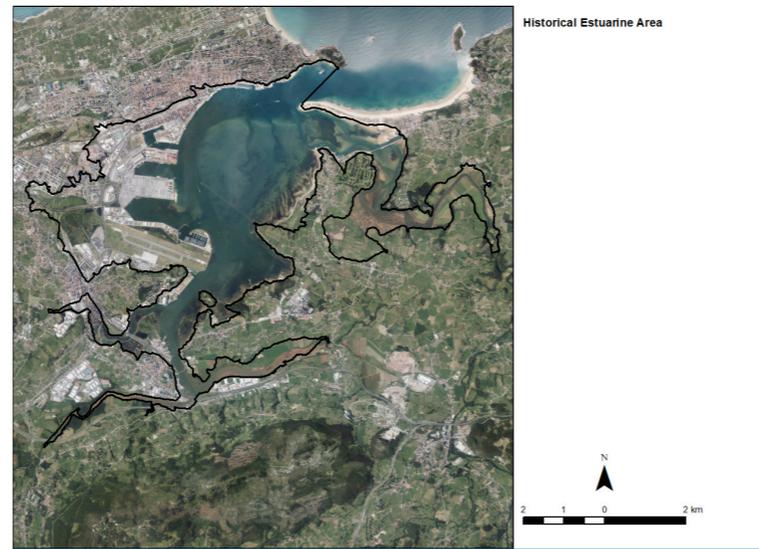


# PREPARATORY ACTIONS

The LIFE ADAPTA BLUES project has started many preparatory actions during the first year of the project. The goal of these activities has been to **map and evaluate the initial state of the areas** to optimize the follow-up restoring actions.

## Mapping the estuarine areas in reclaimed or degraded conditions

LIFE ADAPTA BLUES has developed a protocol for the development of a **geographic information system (GIS)** module to integrate all the geographical information. The project also started the compilation of the **environmental, biological, risk level and legal information** about the three Atlantic pilot sites in Portugal, Spain, and The Netherlands. The GIS module will be available in the next months, **to characterize the restoration potential** of these areas.



Delimitation of the historical estuarine area of one of the pilot sites in Cantabria: Santander Bay .

## Assessing the climate change mitigation and adaptation co-benefits

LIFE ADAPTA BLUES has assessed the **coastal protection and carbon sequestration** capacity of the saltmarsh and seagrass meadows of the project estuarine sites. The project conducted an extensive field campaign for **habitat mapping and sampling of biomass and sediment cores** in five estuarine areas of Coimbra, Cantabria and Zeeland. This action also included **biogeochemical sediment analysis** and **modeling techniques**.



Sampling of sediment carbon stocks in *Spartina maritima* meadows in the Santoña marshes and the Santander Bay (Cantabria, Spain).



Sediments cores processing for Carbon sequestration assessment



Habitat mapping in the estuarine areas of Cantabria.

## Evaluating estuarine habitats' resilience to sea level rise



SED-sensor installed in a *Spartina maritima* meadow in Santander Bay.

The project LIFE ADAPTA BLUES has assessed the **capacity of saltmarsh and seagrass meadows to adapt to sea level rise** through sediment vertical accretion. The analysis was performed combining **sediment dating techniques** and data obtained with **high resolution SED-sensors** deployed in different communities of the project estuaries. In addition, LIFE ADAPTA BLUES has developed a protocol for **mapping potential inland migration areas** considering future scenarios of sea level rise.



# DISSEMINATION ACTIONS

## Project dissemination

LIFE ADAPTA BLUES has created a set of **dissemination materials** in the framework of the project, including the project logo, templates, roll-ups and leaflets.

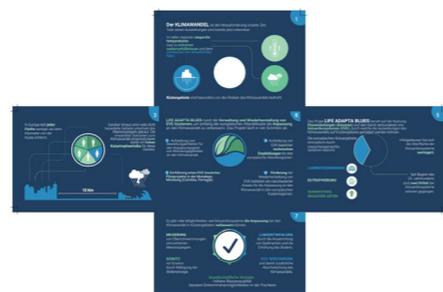
The common visual identity is present in all the produced materials, which aim to symbolize the **driving forces of the LIFE ADAPTA BLUES** project: the **estuarine area and the estuarine vegetation as a nature-based solution** for adaptation to the climate change process.



Project logo



Project website  
(<https://lifeadaptablues.eu>)



Project leaflets

Moreover, LIFE ADAPTA BLUES partners have created a website where many of these dissemination materials are available to download for free. Currently, website visitors can access the **leaflets** in four languages of the project (English, German, Portuguese and Spanish) and obtain information about the **project partners**.

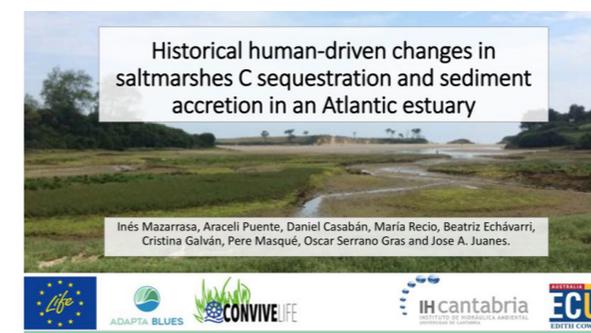
## Networking with other projects

During this first year, the LIFE ADAPTA BLUES project has had the opportunity **to interact with two other LIFE projects**, through our participation in two workshops. In September 2019, the project attended the “1st Workshop for managers and technicians for the development of Blue Carbon projects” organized by the **LIFE BLUE NATURA project** in the Odiel Marshes Nature Reserve. In this event, LIFE ADAPTA BLUES members learnt and exchanged ideas on how to best apply coastal ecosystem conservation and restoration for the mitigation of climate change. Furthermore, in March 2020, we participated, via streaming due to COVID-19 mobility restrictions, in the seminar “Helping Protected Areas to Adapt to Climate Change” organized by the **project LIFE NATURE ADAPTA and the EUROPARC Federation**, which was useful for exchanging knowledge and best practices on enhancing climate change adaptation in protected areas.



Participation in the LIFE BLUE NATURA workshop in the Odiel Marshes Natural Park

In addition, **the project has already attracted the attention of other projects with similar goals**, resulting in the planning of networking visits and online meetings for the following year.



Cover of the presentation given in the CERF conference in November 2019.

Also as part of the dissemination activities, the project presented some of the previous results obtained in the preparatory actions of the LIFE ADAPTA BLUES project in the **Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation conferences (CERF)**, held in Alabama (USA) in November 2019. This was the ideal forum to **introduce the project and to acquire significant knowledge about other experiences** on estuarine restoration and nature-based solutions to climate change.



# MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The management of the project is a continuous process that guarantees the **correct development of LIFE ADAPTA BLUES**. Its aim is to identify and solve the main risks that compromise the achievement of the goals set for the success of the project.

The kick-off meeting of the project was held in September 2019. During this meeting, the LIFE ADAPTA BLUES partners established the **Project Coordination Committee** and introduced an **International Advisory Board** for the assessment of the project actions.



*The KoM was held at FIHAC facilities in Santander, Spain.*

In April 2020, LIFE ADAPTA BLUES received the **visit of the project's NEEMO monitoring team**. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the meeting was held online without major problems. The NEEMO team analysed the progress of the project and reviewed administrative and financial aspects.