



# ADAPTA BLUES

“Adaptation to climate change through management and restoration of European estuarine ecosystems”.

E2: ADAPTA BLUES Capitalization: Development of an Online Database of European coastal NbS

<b>Deliverable ID</b>	<b>E2.2</b>
<b>Work Package Reference</b>	<b>E2</b>
<b>Issue</b>	
<b>Due Date of Deliverable</b>	<b>31/07/2022</b>
<b>Submission Date</b>	<b>09/11/2022</b>
<b>Dissemination level<sup>1</sup></b>	
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<b>Grant Agreement No.</b>	<b>LIFE18CCA/ES/001160</b>
<b>Call ID</b>	<b>LIFE ADAPTA BLUES</b>



With the contribution of the LIFE Programme of the European Union

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<sup>1</sup>PU = Public; CO = Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services); CL = Classified, as referred to in Commission Decision 2001/844/EC



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<b>Issue</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Authors</b>
E2	09/11/2022	Creation of an online-platform of NbS in Europe to inform uptake and support the implementation of estuaries restoration and conservation for CC adaptation.	The Nature Conservancy in Europe gGmbH

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## 1 DEVELOPMENT OF AN ONLINE DATABASE OF EUROPEAN COASTAL NBS

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### 1.1 Background

This action aims to address the need to increase the body of knowledge of specific nature-based solutions in Europe. Specifically, this action involved the development of an online platform that presents the case studies collected under action E2.1 and the lessons learnt from as well as further related useful resources. The online platform intends to serve as a tool that can inform the EU Strategy on green infrastructure and other related EU level management initiatives in the long term, as most NbS databases at the time of initiation of this project focused on US-based cases of NbS.

### 1.2 Objective

Despite the well-known strengths of natural infrastructure, we continue to default to traditional grey infrastructure solutions protect people and assets in floodplains and coastal areas. A lack of knowledge and experience with nature-based solutions similarly keeps mainstream disaster risk management practices focused on traditional measures, rather than employing preventative and co-benefit rich natural infrastructure solutions. A critical obstacle in implementing natural infrastructure is a documented lack of familiarity with what natural infrastructure is and how it works (Sutton- Grier et al. 2015; Morris et al. 2018; Whelchel et al. 2018). Furthermore, most of the examples of NBS are from tropical ecosystems and hurricane prone areas. In order to build a natural infrastructure strategy in Europe, disaster risk management practitioners need further examples of successful measures for mitigating coastal risks in temperate ecosystems and, specifically, in ecosystems such as wetlands, oyster reefs, dunes and hybrid schemes for climate adaptation and risk reduction. Targeted experiences in EU are very limited, and disproportionately smaller in number than for conventional infrastructure. This action aims to provide a repository of European coastal NbS case studies and high-level backgrounds on how these measures work and how they were implemented in order to inspire coastal actors in Europe to pursue the implementation and replication of these measures across the European coastline. This action is also driven by four key recommendations that TNC identified with the private sector (The Dow Chemical Company, Shell, Swiss Re, and Unilever) in 'The case for green infrastructure', in 2013. This white paper identified the need of developing: pilot projects, specific skills and knowledge, more comprehensive comparisons of green versus gray and appropriately assess co-benefits. This action aims to expand upon one of the leading platforms for sharing experience on NbS to create a Europe-specific landing page populated with European coastal NbS case studies.



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### 1.3 Methodology

TNC worked together with the web developers of the leading online NbS platform, Naturally Resilient Communities (<https://nrcsolutions.org/>), to create a Europe-specific landing page for the site. This landing page was populated with European case studies which span the European repertoire of coastal NbS measures, including a diverse representation of different scales of projects, different geographies, and different European coastal ecosystems in which the projects were implemented. These case studies were selected as part of the Europe-wide review of coastal NbS conducted in action E2.1. The final selection of 10 case studies for the NRC Solutions website was reviewed and refined by European experts on NbS. For each case study write-up we requested review and further input from the listed representatives of each project. The resulting website is easy to navigate and showcases a range of European applications of coastal NbS.

## 2 NATURALLY RESILIENT COMMUNITIES WEBSITE

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The final website can be accessed here:

<https://nrcsolutions.org/strategies/?region=europe%2Ceu-mediterranean%2Ceu-northseacoast%2Ceu-atlanticcoast>



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