

STUDY GUIDE

Climate change risk in coastal areas and estuarine- based adaptation strategies

Organised by

- University of Cantabria (UC)

Originally developed in the context of Creative Commons education materials created by the LIFE ADAPTA BLUES project (LIFE18 CCA/ES/001160, “Adaptation to climate change through management and restoration of European estuarine ecosystems”), coordinated by the Environmental Hydraulic Institute of the Universidad de Cantabria (IHCantabria-UC).



1. IDENTIFYING DATA	
Course Name.	Climate change risk in coastal areas and estuarine-based adaptation strategies
Coordinating University.	University of Cantabria (UC)
Course Field(s).	Climate change / Sustainability
Related Study Programme.	Course included in the <i>University Microcredential in Adaptation Pathways through Management and Restoration of Estuarine Ecosystems (ADAPTABLUES)</i>
ISCED Code.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 051101. Biology • 053201. Marine sciences • 071201. Environmental engineering • 073202. Civil engineering
Sustainable Development Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG 04. Quality education • SDG 13. Climate action • SDG 14. Life below water
Study Level.	MECU 7 (Master or 240 ECTS Degree)
Number of ECTS credits allocated.	2 ECTS
Mode of Delivery.	Online self-study
Language of Instruction.	English, with subtitles in Spanish, German and Portuguese
Course Dates.	13.05. 2026 – 29.06.2026
Schedule of the course.	<p>The course can be attended from may until the mid-june at any time. Course materials and assessment forms are fully online and can be checked at any point.</p> <p>Lectures are asynchronous and can be reviewed at any time.</p>
Key Words.	Climate change, Adaptation, Mitigation, Nature-based Solutions
Prerequisites and co-requisites.	No previous requirements established
Number of EUNICE students that can attend the Course.	50



Course inscription procedure(s).	https://web.unican.es/estudios/estudios-propios/informacion-estudios-propios-de-posgrado/detalle-estudios-propios?e=1117
2. CONTACT DETAILS	
Department.	Environmental Hydraulics Institute (IHCantabria)
Name of Lecturer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. José A Juanes (Coordinator) • Prof. Javier López (Director)
E-mail.	juanesj@unican.es lopezjav@unican.es
Other Lecturers.	<p>Academic staff from UC-IHCantabria in charge of this course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Íñigo Losada • Prof. Saúl Torres • Prof. Pedro Díaz-Simal • Prof. María Maza • Dr. Bárbara Ondiviela • Dr. María Recio <p>International advisors from AdaptaBlues project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Laura Airoidi (University of Bologna) • Max Ricker (The Nature Conservancy)
3. COURSE CONTENT	
<p>Teaching materials of this MOOC were co-created, under creative commons licence, in the <i>AdaptaBlues project “Adaptation to climate change through management and restoration of European estuarine ecosystems”</i>, funded by the EU LIFE programme (LIFE18 CC/ES/001160) and developed through the collaboration of academics and researchers from the Institute of Environmental Hydraulics of the University of Cantabria, coordinator of the project, and the University of Coimbra.</p> <p>The course introduces students to the basic concepts related to risk and climate change in the coastal environment, as well as to the different risk assessment systems for the effects of climate change. It brings the student closer to the concept of Nature-based Solutions through its definition and the presentation of real cases of application of this type of adaptation measures. In short, working with nature to reduce the risk associated with climate change.</p>	



4. LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will understand the components of risk: the hazards, exposure and the vulnerability.
- Students will be introduced to different methodological approaches to assess the coastal risk of climate change.
- Students will discover the different adaptation measures that can be applied in coastal areas, highlighting the value of Nature-based solutions

5. OBJECTIVES

This course aims to provide an overview of what are the main impacts of climate change on coastal ecosystems.

6. COURSE ORGANISATION

UNITS

1.	Introduction to climate change
2.	Risk analysis
3.	Climate change risk of coastal ecosystems
4.	Introduction to Nature-based solutions

LEARNING RESOURCES AND TOOLS

The learning resources and assessment tools of the course are available at the UC Moodle Platform.

PLANNED LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND TEACHING METHODS

Students will have access to video materials, written course contents, and automatic online evaluation tests in UC Moodle online environment. Students can review the materials and do the assessments at their own pace during the period of course delivery since. The course is asynchronous and can be reviewed at any time. Students' activity in UC Moodle is expected to consist of the following:

- Watching the video materials available on the course site.
- Reading and familiarization with the text materials available on the course site.
- Taking the evaluation tests that measure students' knowledge and skills in content areas.

The course is completed by independently working and by taking the exams which consists of multiple-choice questions covering the course topics. The course is graded "passed" or "failed".



As an additional optional activity, each sub-topic will have a forum for students to share their questions, discussions or doubts. It will be moderated by the UC Office, with input from professors when necessary. All students are free to participate and post their queries.

7. ASSESSMENT METHODS, CRITERIA AND PERIOD

To complete the course, you must:

- View the materials in each Module, going through all Sub-Topics.
- Correctly answer at least 90% of each of the Automatic Online Assessments.
- Complete the post-survey of the course. This will take approximately 3 minutes.

OBSERVATIONS

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND TEACHING MATERIALS

Teaching materials are available on the course at the dedicated UC Moodle platform. Literature recommendations are also outlined in the course contents.

