

RAISING COASTAL LAND

OBJECTIVE

Protect coastal areas from flooding.

DESCRIPTION

This measure does not include landfilling of wetland areas and marine areas below the mean tide level to build new urban or industrial sites, a commonly used technique in modern times with high impacts on coastal ecosystems. It is linked instead to the practice used for centuries by coastal communities about using rocks and soil to raise coastal land as a defence against storms and rising sea levels. However, relatively few examples have been seen more recently.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Reduced damages due to tides and storm surges.

RESULT INDICATORS

Area of protected land [m²]

INVOLVED ACTORS

Local communities, national and local governments.

EXPECTED TIMELINE FOR ACTION

- Short term (1-4 years)
- Medium term (5-10 years)
- Long term (> 10 years)

BEST PRACTICES

- UK
- Bilbao - Spain

CRITICALITIES

Bringing in landfill materials can lead to soil compaction and to, at least partial, subsidence. Moreover, it can be difficult to 'lift up' areas where modern urban and industrial areas and infrastructure are settled.

SCOPE OF THE ACTION

- Adaptation

TYPE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Grey

SECTOR OF ACTION

- Coastal management
- Urban settlement

CLIMATE IMPACTS

- Coastal erosion
- Extreme precipitation
- Floods

IMPLEMENTATION SCALE

- Association of municipalities
- Municipality

SOURCE

<https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/metadata/adaptation-options/raising-coastal-land>