

<b>Name:</b>	<b>24. NEW ORLEANS: PRESERVING THE WETLANDS TO INCREASE CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE</b>		
<b>Region</b>	North America	<b>Country</b>	USA
<b>Ecosystem</b>	Inland Waters; Marine and coastal		
<b>Nature of approach</b>	Improvement in capacity, design and policy measures (identifying and/or developing adaptation approach); Implementation of EBA measures (natural resource management)		
<b>Description of approach</b>	<p><b>Objective/Expected outcomes</b> New Orleans has always faced the risk of flooding from three sources: the Mississippi River, heavy rains, and hurricane storm surge, with the latter posing the greatest threat of catastrophic flooding. Following the failure of flood defenses during Hurricane Katrina in 2005, steps are being undertaken to increase the resilience of New Orleans to sea level rise, and the risk of stronger, more frequent hurricanes and river flooding as a result of climate change. An approach utilising many lines of defence has been adopted, involving structural and non-structural defences. One of the key protection measures is the conservation and restoration of wetlands as a buffer zone between the sea and the city.</p> <p><b>Actions</b> The need for protection and restoration of wetlands around New Orleans has been included as a feature of the City Masterplan (Plan for the 21st century: New Orleans 2030) produced in January 2010. Current plans are to restore as much of the wetlands as quickly as possible. This will involve a combination of restoration of natural delta building, marsh creation from use of dredged material, water control structures, and hard structures (e.g. levees and floodgates). The interior marshes have been prioritized for conservation and restoration because of the ecosystem services they provide, combined with the storm surge protection they offer to densely populated areas including New Orleans.</p> <p><b>Results achieved</b> The plan is yet to be implemented.</p> <p><b>Lessons learned</b> Lessons from the experiences of the Netherlands were taken on board in developing the strategy of restoring wetlands as a buffer. However, the plan of restoration measures to protect New Orleans is likely to encounter many of the challenges that affect other ecosystem based approaches. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• introducing and gaining support for new approaches (here using wetlands after years of relying on engineered levees);</li> <li>• mismatches between the natural boundaries of the problem and the scales at which regulatory and planning authorities operate. New Orleans has planning and regulatory jurisdiction over only a small fraction of the coastal area, requiring collaboration with state and national bodies;</li> <li>• dealing with substantial uncertainties.</li> </ul>		
<b>Type of organisation</b>	Government	<b>Name of organisation:</b>	City of New Orleans
<b>Further information and contact details</b>	<a href="http://www.grabs-eu.org/membersArea/files/new_orleans.pdf">http://www.grabs-eu.org/membersArea/files/new_orleans.pdf</a> <a href="https://www.communicationsmgr.com/projects/1371/docs/100121_Vol2_Ch12_Resilience.pdf">https://www.communicationsmgr.com/projects/1371/docs/100121_Vol2_Ch12_Resilience.pdf</a>		