



# Interreg



## 2 Seas Mers Zeeën SARCC

European Regional Development Fund

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### Introducing: Sustainable And Resilient Coastal Cities



## Introduction

Sustainable And Resilient Coastal Cities (SARCC) is a programme that will mainstream nature-based solutions (NBS) into coastal management and policy making, as stand alone projects or NBS-hybrids, where they are integrated into existing grey infrastructure and flood defences.

The project builds the capacity of urban leaders, decision-makers and officers involved in coastal flood defences to deploy NBS and understand the additional benefits that they offer in comparison to traditional grey infrastructure.

For more information on SARCC go to: <http://sarcc.eu>

Nature-Based Solutions are actions that are inspired and supported by nature and are used to tackle societal challenges such as climate change whilst providing both benefits to humans and nature (Raymond *et al.*, 2017). The variety of ecosystems that can be used to our advantage is large, including saltmarshes, dunes and mussel reefs.

This document has been brought together by the partners working on the Sustainable And Resilient Coastal Cities project. SARCC is an Interreg 2 Seas project, part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund under subsidy contract No 2S01-065, running from 2019 to 2022.

What are NBS?





Site Visit to a SARCC Pilot Location  
Southend-on-Sea, United Kingdom

With over 50% of people living in urban areas, 40% of these population centres are in 100km of the coast (*Strain et al., 2017*). And with rising sea levels and increase of extreme weather events worldwide, significant numbers of people and property are at risk. Nature-Based Solutions can offer resilience and an extra layer of protection to coastal cities flood defence as well as offering many ecosystem services.

Why SARCC?

ThinkNature  
2019

“  
**Only 5.7% of recent European NBS projects addressed the challenge of coastal resilience.**  
”





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Southend-on-Sea, United Kingdom

“ **NBS can provide over one-third of the cost-effective climate mitigation needed between now and 2030 to stabilize warming to below 2 °C.** ”

UN Global Impact  
2019

ThinkNature  
2019

“ **NBS coastal protection strategies support Sustainable Development Goal 14, to sustainably manage oceans and marine sources.** ”



Site Visit to a SARCC Pilot Location  
Middelkerke, Belgium




## Contact Details

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## Partners

-  Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
-  Maritime Archaeology Trust
-  Environment Agency
-  City of Blenkenberge
-  Municipality of Vlissingen
-  City of Gravelines
-  Exo Environmental Ltd
-  University of Technology Delft
-  Flemish Government - Department of Environment & Spatial Development
-  Flemish Government - Agency for Maritime and Coastal Services
-  Municipality of Middelkerke
-  City of Ostend
-  HZ University of Applied Sciences
-  Vives University of Applied Sciences