6th ESP Europe Conference

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SESSION DESCRIPTION

ID: X5

Restoration potential of coastal wetlands in Europe for climate change mitigation and co-benefits

Hosts:

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Abstract:

Coastal wetland ecosystems hold large, under-exploited potential for climate change mitigation via carbon sequestration, while simultaneously delivering multiple ecosystem service co-benefits (flood regulation, water purification, biodiversity habitat, recreation). The RESTORE4Cs project ("Modelling RESTORation of coastal wetlands for Carbon pathways, Climate change mitigation and adaptation, ecosystem services, and biodiversity Co-benefits") has developed integrative models, data protocols, and a toolbox applied across six European pilot sites. This session offers a unique blend of discussion and training: we first bring together leading scientists, practitioners, and policy actors to debate restoration potential, challenges, and trade-offs across Europe; then we guide participants in a hands-on workshop using the RESTORE4Cs toolbox to explore restoration scenarios, assess ecosystem service outcomes, and integrate stakeholder dimensions. Participants will gain insights and experience to further adapt the toolbox in their own contexts, contribute to improving it, and help advance nature-positive restoration planning across Europe. The session contributes directly to the ESP conference theme by combining knowledge of ecosystem services with actionable tools that promote a nature- and people-positive Europe.

Goals and objectives of the session:

- Share latest findings on wetland restoration potential for climate mitigation and co-benefits.
- Link restoration science to EU policy agendas and practical implementation.
- Provide hands-on training in the RESTORE4Cs toolbox.
- Collect user feedback to improve the toolbox and foster co-design.
- Build networks across ESP working groups and regional chapters.

Planned output / Deliverables:

- Short session report with key lessons and recommendations.
- User feedback report to guide toolbox development.
- Expanded collaboration network through the RESTORE4Cs Community of Practice

Session format:

Format

- Half-day session (3.5 h), combining a Discussion Forum (keynote + panel + plenary debate) and a Training Workshop (hands-on with the RESTORE4Cs toolbox).
- The session combines a discussion forum and a training workshop. The forum will feature experts and stakeholders debating opportunities, barriers, and trade-offs in scaling up wetland restoration, drawing on insights from the EU Horizon project RESTORE4Cs. The training will provide participants with hands-on experience using the RESTORE4Cs toolbox, an integrative modeling platform that assesses carbon pathways, climate adaptation, and ecosystem service outcomes across European pilot sites.
- Participants will gain knowledge, practical skills, and new collaborations to apply restoration tools in their own contexts, strengthening the ESP community of practice on ecosystem services and restoration.

Voluntary contributions accepted:

Yes, I allow any abstract to be submitted to my session for review

Related to ESP Working Group:

Other