

Community Engagement in Seagrass Restoration: Lessons from the Ria de Aveiro (Portugal)



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Relevance of marine restoration

Seagrass ecosystems



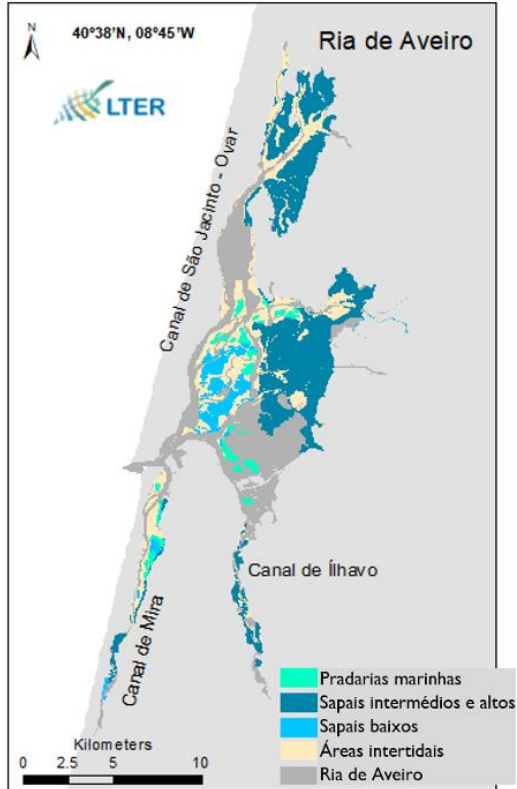
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Relevance of marine restoration



Restoring marine ecosystems is crucial for **climate resilience, biodiversity** recovery, and sustainable **coastal communities**.

Case Study – Ria de Aveiro coastal lagoon (Portugal)



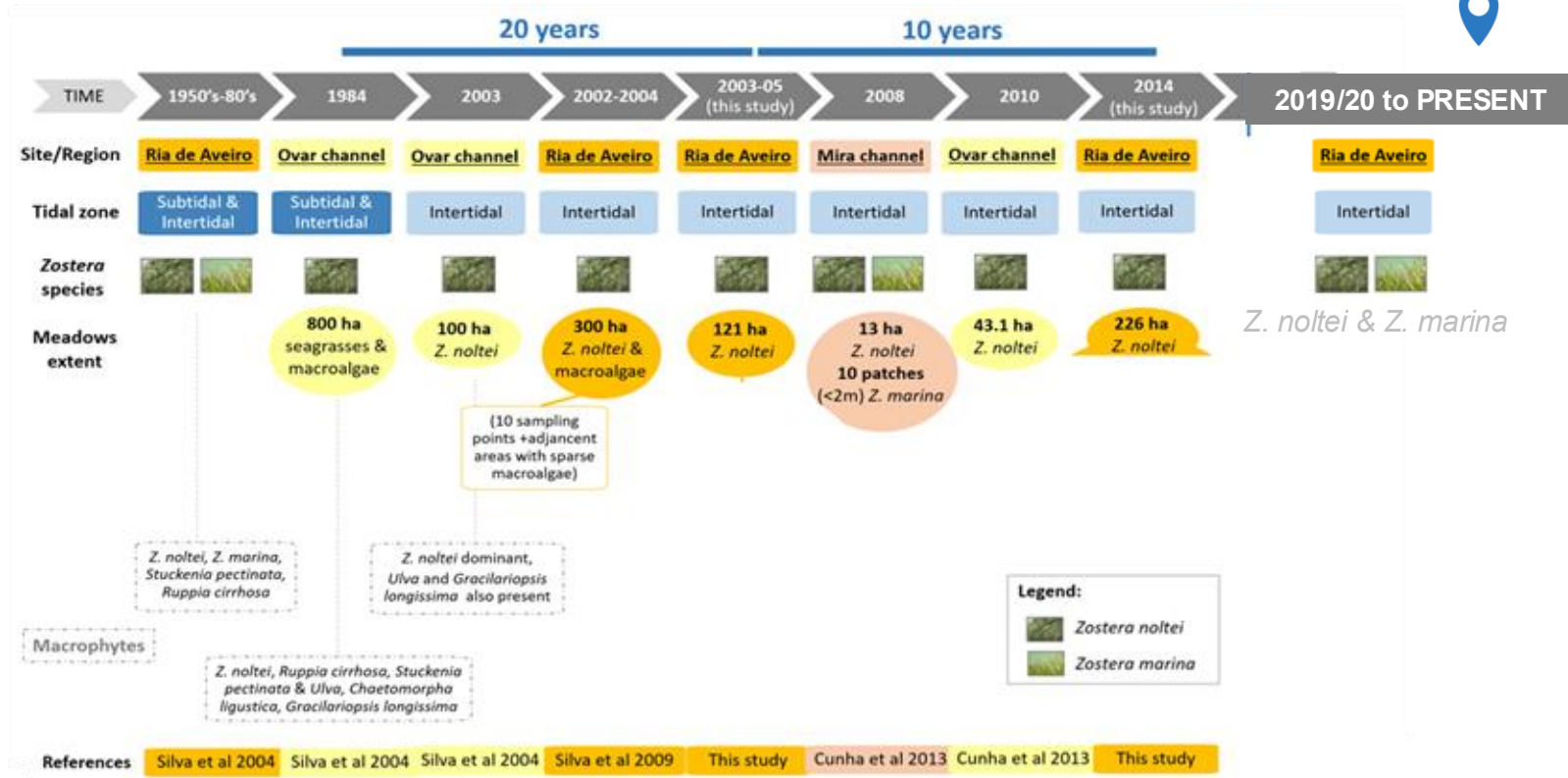
(from Sousa et al. 2019)



An important ecological and socio-ecological system that supports fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, biodiversity...



Seagrass changes at Ria de Aveiro



The restoration challenge

Main pressures:

Habitat fragmentation

Human activities

Non-indigenous species

Changes in hydrodynamics

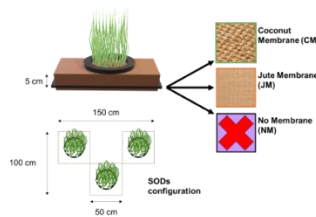
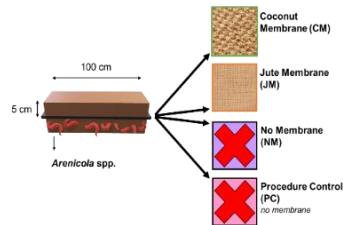
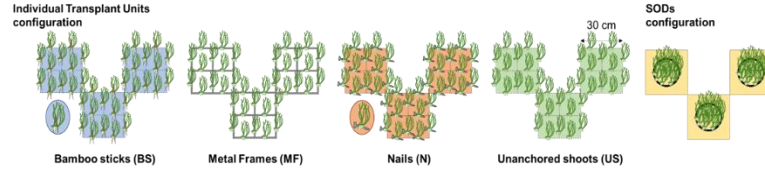


Limited natural recovery in some areas

**Restoration can help accelerate
ecosystem recovery where natural
recolonisation is slow**

Methods testing

Non-indigenous species mitigation



Contribution for climate mitigation

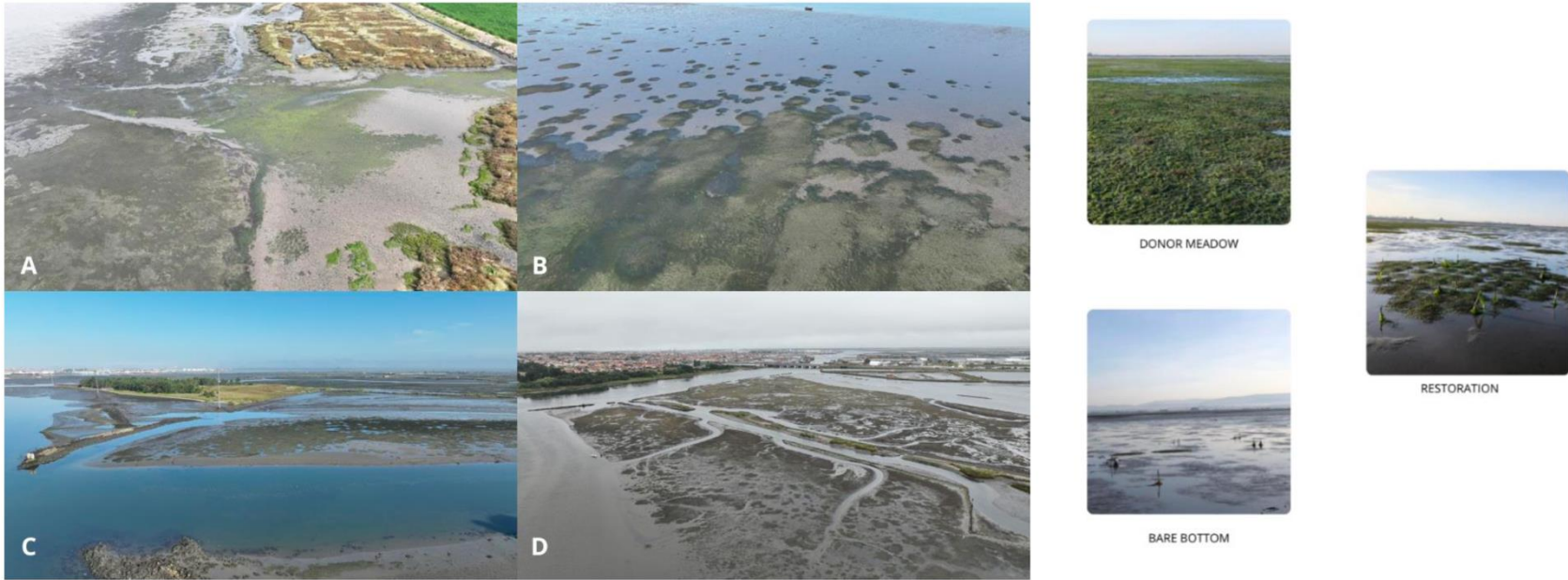


Figure 3 - Restoration sites at Ria de Aveiro coastal lagoon. A - Murtosa; B - Antuã; C - Aveiro and D – Ílhavo. Aerial photos captured with Drone DJI Mavic 3 Classic.

Community engagement



Contribution for climate mitigation

Up-scaling activities



Community engagement in restoration activities



Community engagement in restoration activities

 Co-funded by
the European Union



Community engagement and participatory activities



Living lab of Restoration at Ria de Aveiro



<https://a-aagora.eu/>



<https://www.restore4cs.eu/>



<https://rewriteproject.eu/>



<https://life-seagrassriawild.web.ua.pt>



Take home messages

- Marine ecosystem restoration is possible at local scale.
- Nature-based solutions are key.
- Community engagement can significantly strengthen restoration success (both ecological and social benefits, including ocean literacy).
- Pilot projects can catalyse larger restoration efforts.
- Practical lessons from real projects can guide new community-led restoration initiatives.



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**COMMUNITY-LED ACTION
OPEN CALL (BAAC-01):
WEBINAR ON MARINE
RESTORATION**

12 March 2020
10h - 11h00 AM CET

Online



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