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Authors

Rodolfo Silva, PhD; Debora Lithgow, PhD; Luciana S. Esteves, PhD; María Luisa Martínez, PhD; Patricia Moreno-Casasola, PhD; Raúl Martell, PhD; Pedro Pereira, PhD; Edgar Mendoza, PhD; Adolfo Campos-Cascaredo, PhD; **Patricio Winckler Grez, PhD**; Andrés F. Osorio, PhD; Juan D. Osorio-Cano, MEng; German Daniel Rivillas, PhD.

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Abstract This paper aims to highlight the prevailing experiences of Latin America and to clarify what 'green infrastructure' entails in addition to describing seven case studies from a range of coastal ecosystems (wetlands, coastal dunes, beaches and coral reefs) at scales varying from local to regional. The case studies are categorised according to their degree of naturalness (nature-based, engineered ecosystems, soft engineering, ecologically enhanced hard infrastructure and de-engineering). Generally, the implementation of green infrastructure projects aims to increase resilience, enhance the provision of ecosystem services, recover biodiversity, reduce the negative effects of hard infrastructure and implement corrective measures. The greatest benefits of these projects relate to the creation of multi-functional spaces, which often combine the above advantages with improved opportunities for recreation and/or economic activities. It is hoped that this paper will disseminate the experience in green infrastructure among academics and practitioners and stimulate wider adoption of green infrastructure projects and good practices.

Keywords: coastal engineering management sustainability