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REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL VULNERABILITY AND ENHANCING COMMUNITY RESILIENCY ALONG THE LOUISIANA COAST THROUGH THE COASTAL SUSTAINABILITY STUDIO

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ABSTRACT The Coastal Sustainability Studio (CSS) uses a multi-disciplinary and systems-oriented approach to develop pragmatic, trans-disciplinary techniques for reducing environmental vulnerability and enhancing community resiliency along the Louisiana coasts. The CSS approaches issues differently than traditional planning efforts in deltaic coasts, placing more emphasis on achieving both environmental and economic sustainability. The CSS deliberately links challenges of storm disturbances, land-use transformations, and climate change to develop adaptations in coupled natural and human systems. The goals of the CSS are to design sustainable systems that reduce vulnerability associated with diverse scenarios of coastal hazards, habitat degradation, and global environmental change and to find innovative and sustainable solutions to critical problems associated with coastal protection and restoration. The CSS is currently working on a plan to restore environmental, community, and economic sustainability in an area affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Keywords: Coastal sustainability, Mississippi delta, Inter-disciplinary.