



## Urban Planner's Research Results in Coastal Resilience App

**Boca Raton, FL — April 6, 2016** — An FAU researcher's work was recently incorporated into one of the country's leading environmental nonprofit's interactive website focused on coastal erosion. The site is used as a tool by other scientists and officials to study and make decisions that protect the nation's coastlines.

The Nature Conservancy added new data from a project led by Diana Mitsova, Ph.D., an associate professor, and four graduate students at the School of Urban and Regional Planning. The coastal resilience web site is managed by the non-profit, which sponsored and collaborated with Mitsova. With more than one million members, the Virginia-based organization protects more than 15 million acres of U.S. habitat.

Mitsova and her students studied sites across southern Florida that have been fortified using more environmentally-friendly alternatives than physical structures to protect shorelines from coastal erosion. In addition, the team developed criteria to identify and map locations where such alternatives could be implemented. Mangroves, rubble with vegetation and dune planting are examples of alternative stabilization techniques.

The spatial data layers developed as part of the project and recently integrated into the conservancy's coastal resilience website builds on Mitsova's previous study on Florida living shorelines.

To view Mitsova's recently-added Estuarine Shoreline Suitability for Resilience Projects, click [here](#) and in the map layers box, tick off Southeast Florida/shoreline resilience/estuarine shoreline visibility.