

Choose nature.



Unlocking pathways to a resilient economy for people and the planet.



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UK Research
and Innovation

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nature.

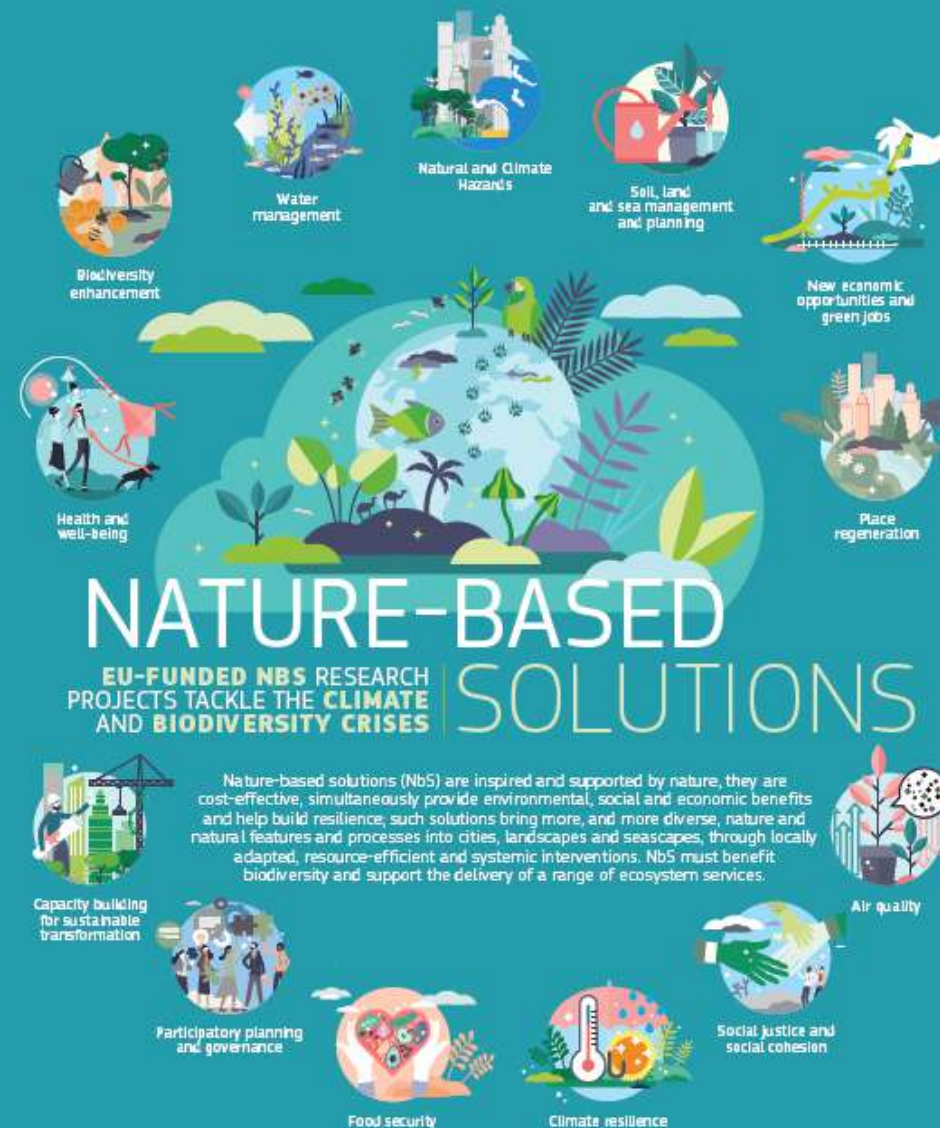


About NetworkNature



We reached 105 R&I projects!

Know more about them:
Nature-based solutions –
Publications Office of the EU



Key achievements

NbS Policy Screening and Analysis of Needs and Gaps for 2024–2030

supporting the mainstreaming of NbS in urban policies, governance and planning frameworks. [Link](#)

Roadmap for Research & Innovation on NbS

shaping the R&I pathways for climate-resilient cities and regions

<https://roadmap.networknature.eu/>

Updated Knowledge Gaps and EU R&I Projects Databases

providing a unique evidence base and mapping of over 100 EU Research & Innovation projects on NbS, widely used by policy makers and researchers.

<https://knowledge.networknature.eu/knowledge-gaps>

NbS Key Facts

delivering concise, evidence-based metrics on NbS effectiveness, co-benefits and contribution to resilience

<https://knowledge.networknature.eu/key-facts>

Mapping the Finance Landscape for NbS

clarifying funding streams and investment opportunities to scale NbS implementation.

Coming out in the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi.



Website User Survey

The new NetworkNature website is live. Visit us at **networknature.eu**

We'd love to hear your thoughts.
Please take a quick 5-minute
survey to share your feedback.

Your input will help the website
improve and grow. Thank you!



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and Innovation

4 sessions | 6 presentations + 1 panel each

Choose to **work with and for nature.**

Choose to **trust nature and people.**

Choose to **invest in nature.**

Choose to **partner with nature.**



Choose to **work** with and for nature.

Nature as the foundation for resilience and wellbeing

6 short presentations

09h30 | 10h20

Choose to **work**
with and for nature.

Nature as the foundation
for resilience and wellbeing

Sebastián Villasante

IPBES Transformative Change Assessment Report

Nathalie Le Meur

Ville de Grenoble

Siobhan McQuaid

Invest4Nature representing NbS Task Force 3

Edoardo Carlucci

International Institute
for Sustainable Development (IISD)

José María Rey Benayas

Universidad de Alcalá de Henares

Sander Jacobs

Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek (INBO)

*It is urgent, vital for the health
of the Planet and Humanity*

To coexist with the living

*To tackle the systemic causes
of nature loss*

Don't repeat the same mistake

It is needed and feasible

*It can unify people
and reverse injustice.*

Choose
nature. 

It is urgent and vital for the health of the Planet and Humanity

Sebastian Villasante

*Distinguished Research Professor
University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain)*

sebastian.villasante@usc.es



A deliberate **transformative change** for a just and sustainable world

-Shifts views, structures and practices in ways that address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and nature's decline

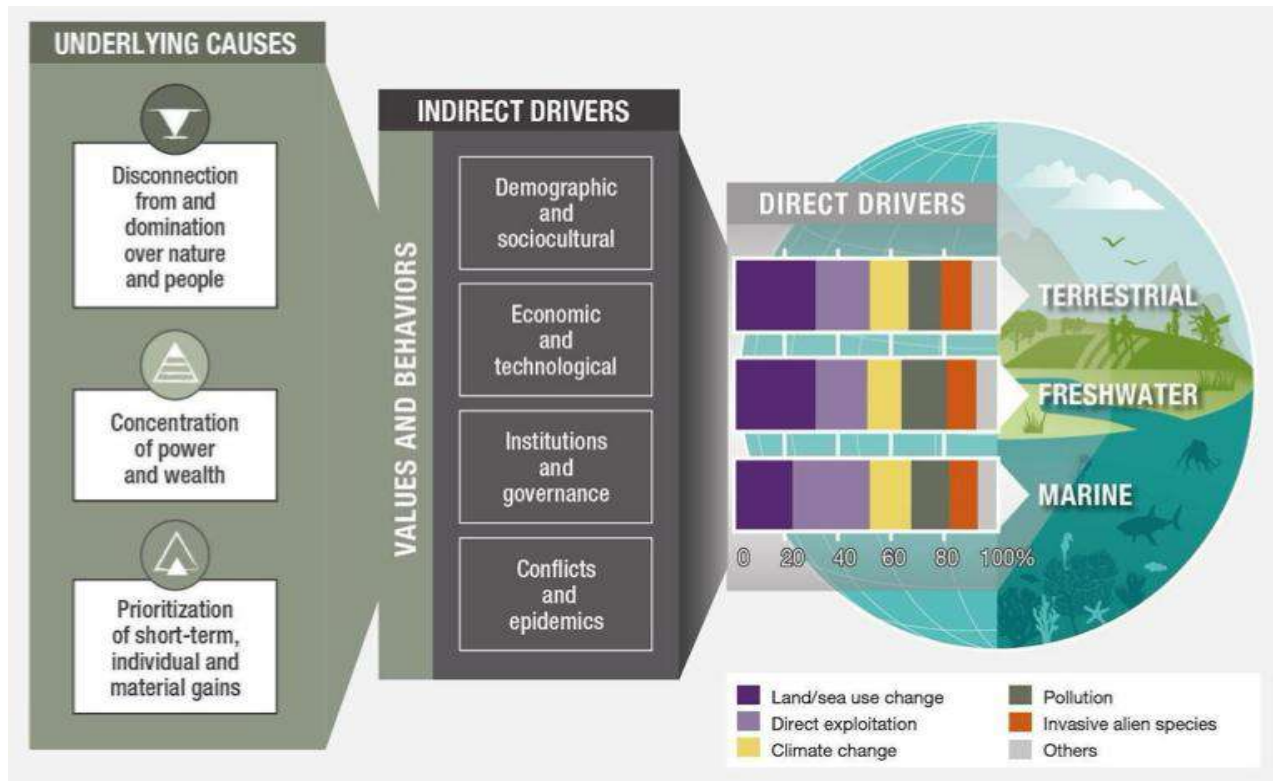
-At the same time, it remains important to **recognise and strengthen** views, structures and practices that are **aligned with generating a just and sustainable world**, such as those of many Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

#TransformativeChange



ipbes

Underlying causes are **deeply rooted and interconnected social and cultural patterns** that shape, influence and reinforce all direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss



The three **key underlying causes** identified in this assessment are:

1. **disconnection** from and domination over nature and people;
2. **concentration** of power and wealth;
3. prioritization of **short-term, individual and material gains**.

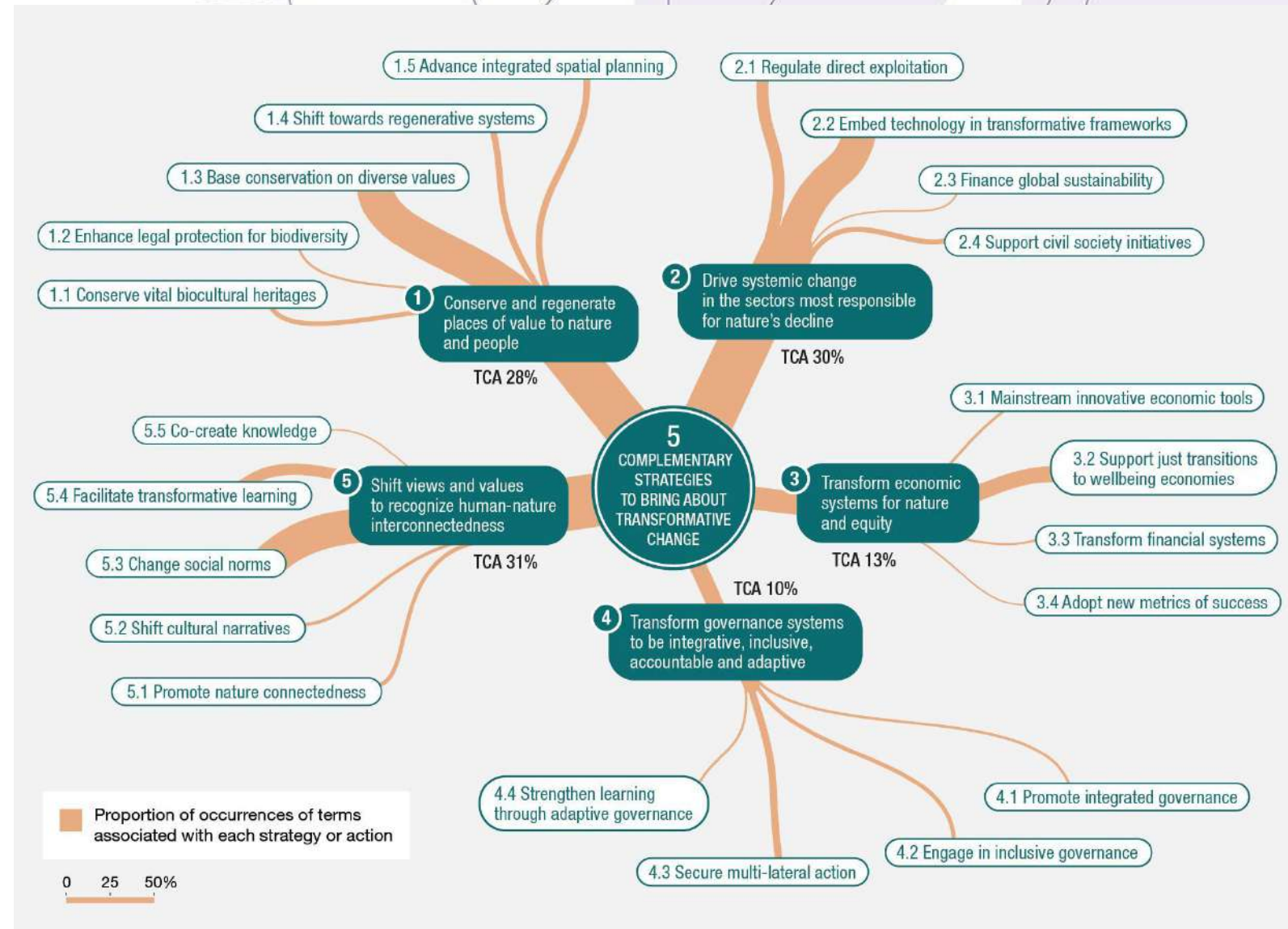


The key principles of transformative change:

- Equity and justice
- Pluralism and inclusion
- Respectful and reciprocal human-nature relationships
- Adaptive learning and action



Five key strategies and associated actions have complementary and synergistic effects and substantial potential to advance deliberate transformative change for global sustainability.

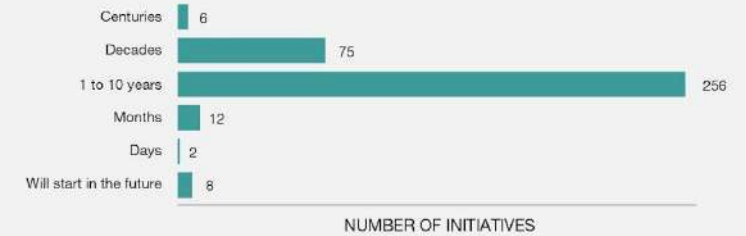


Both **small-scale and large-scale changes** contribute to **transformative change** for a just and sustainable world when they address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and nature's decline.

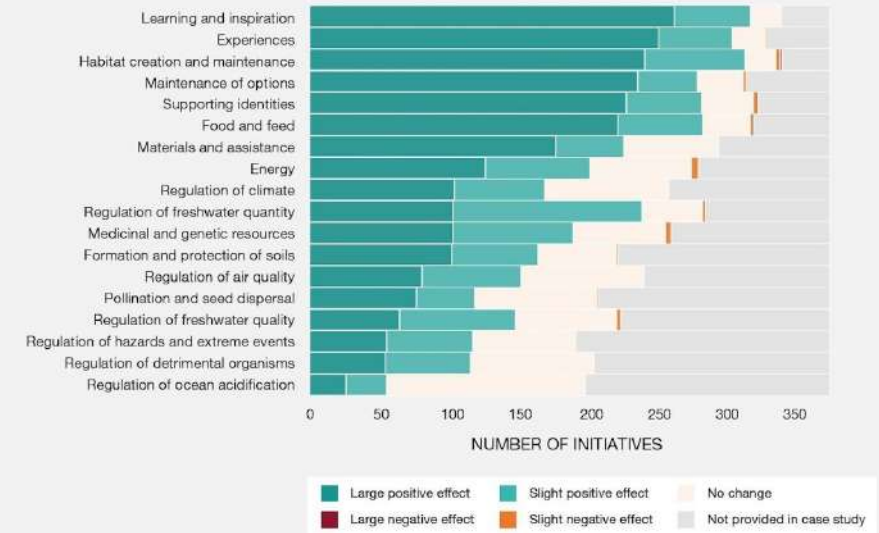
Positive outcomes have been evidenced within a decade or less (panel A) for a diverse set of social, economic and environmental indicators (panels B and C)

#TransformativeChange

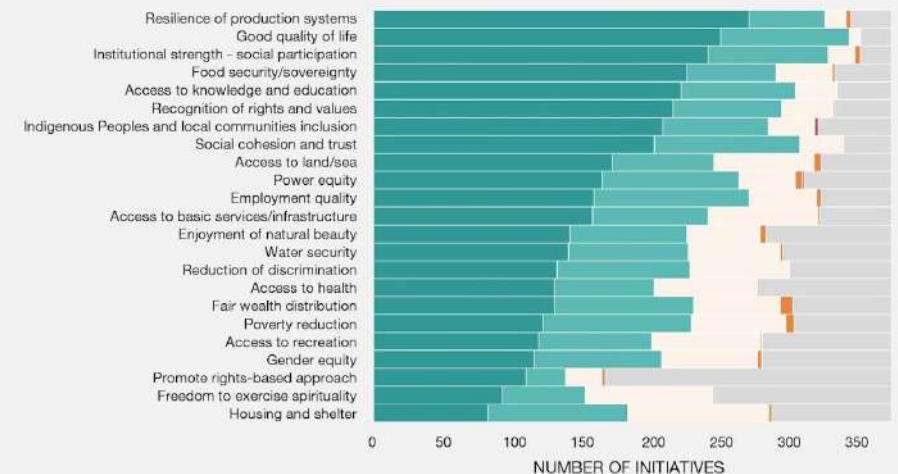
A TIME-FRAME FOR THE CHANGE



B NATURE'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO PEOPLE OUTCOMES

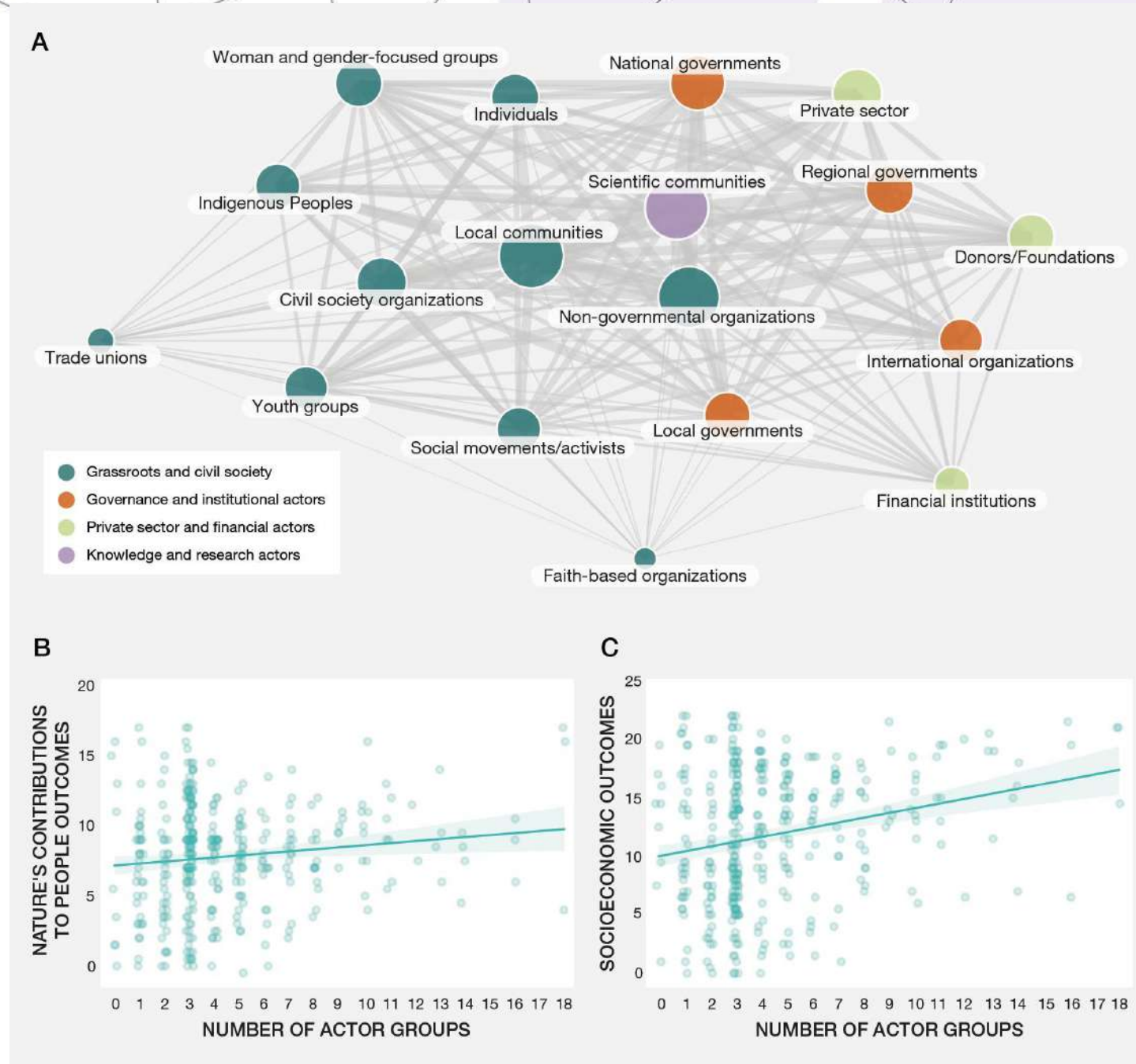


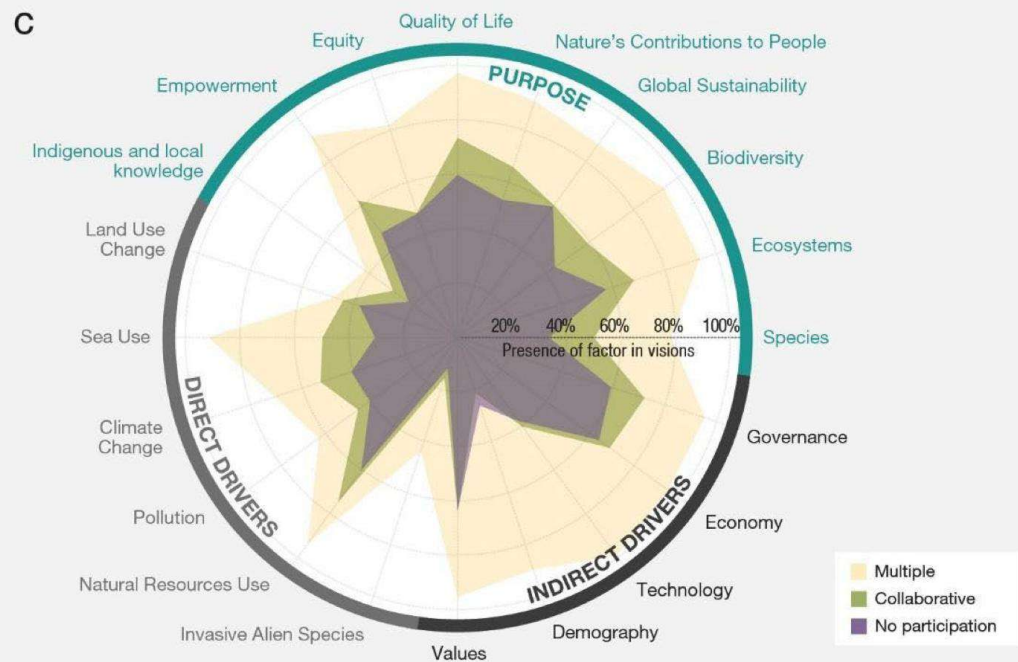
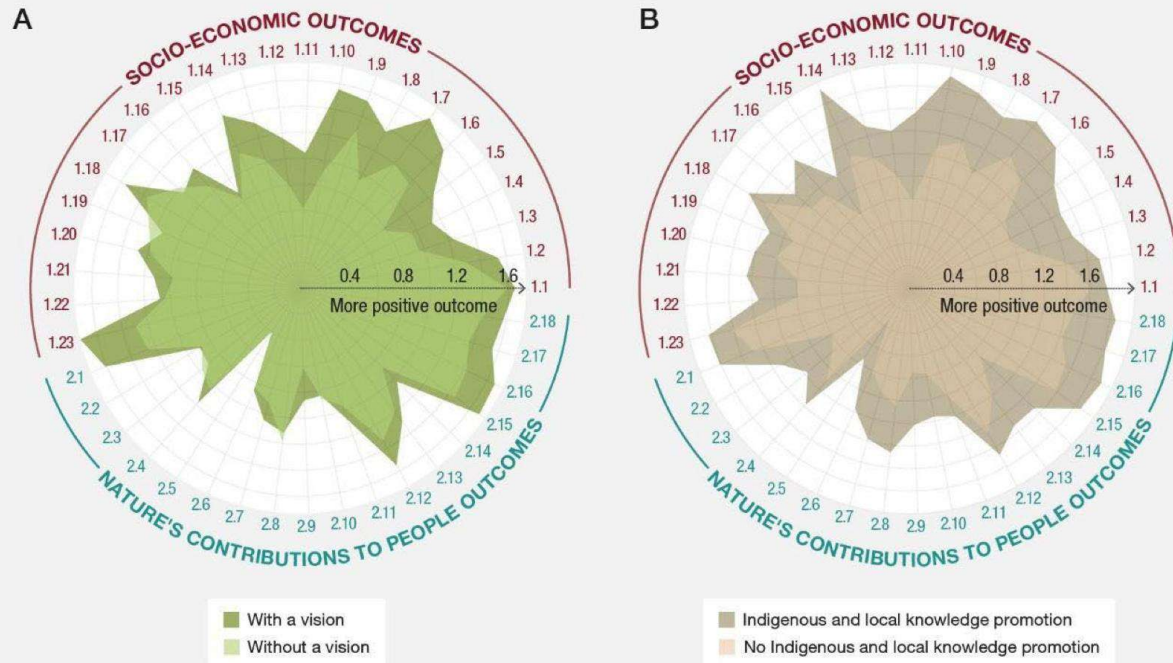
C SOCIO-ECONOMIC OUTCOMES



Different actor groups collaborate closely with one another, and initiatives involving **greater collaborations** among actor groups achieve more **positive outcomes**

#TransformativeChange





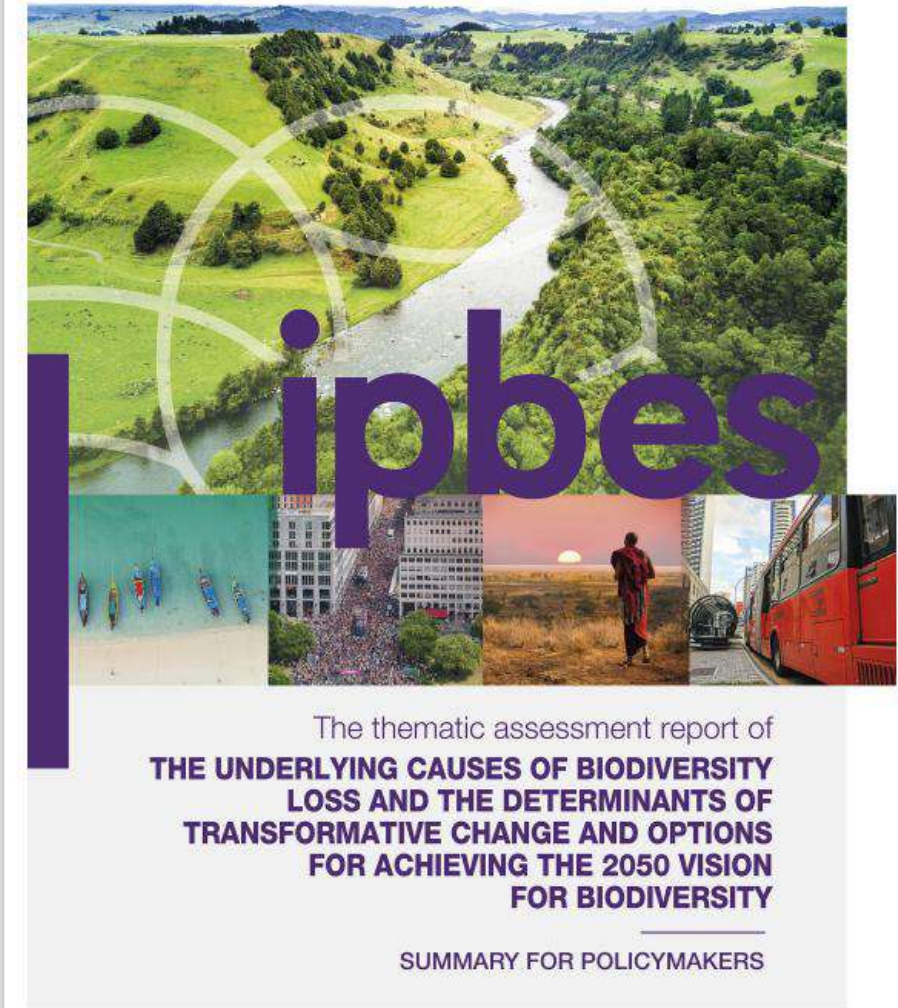
Diverse visions (N=881)
illuminate the interdependency
of humans and nature for
advancing towards a flourishing
future and transformations
towards a just and sustainable
world.



Transformative change for a just and sustainable world:

1. Addresses underlying causes of biodiversity loss;
2. Involves principled strategies and actions;
3. Results from both small-scale and large-scale changes;
4. Identifies roles for everyone in enabling transformative change.

#TransformativeChange



Find the summary for policymakers here:



<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.11382230>

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USC
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DE COMPOSTELA



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erc
European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

=equalsea
Transformative
adaptation towards
ocean equity



**Choose
nature.**



To coexist with the living

Nathalie Le Meur

Doughnut Economics Project Manager – City of Grenoble, France



GRENOBLE
2040

« At the end of every street, a mountain »
Stendhal



①

Grenoble, capital of the Alps



Omnipresent nature

Grenoble Metropolitan Area



 456 093 inhab.

 546 km²

 824 inhab./km²

 Intercommunality

 49
municipalities

 Canopy index
26,7 % (2023)



City of Grenoble



 156 389 inhab.

 18,13 km²

 8 626
inhab./km²

 Municipality

 Six sectors

 Canopy index
16,6 % (2024)



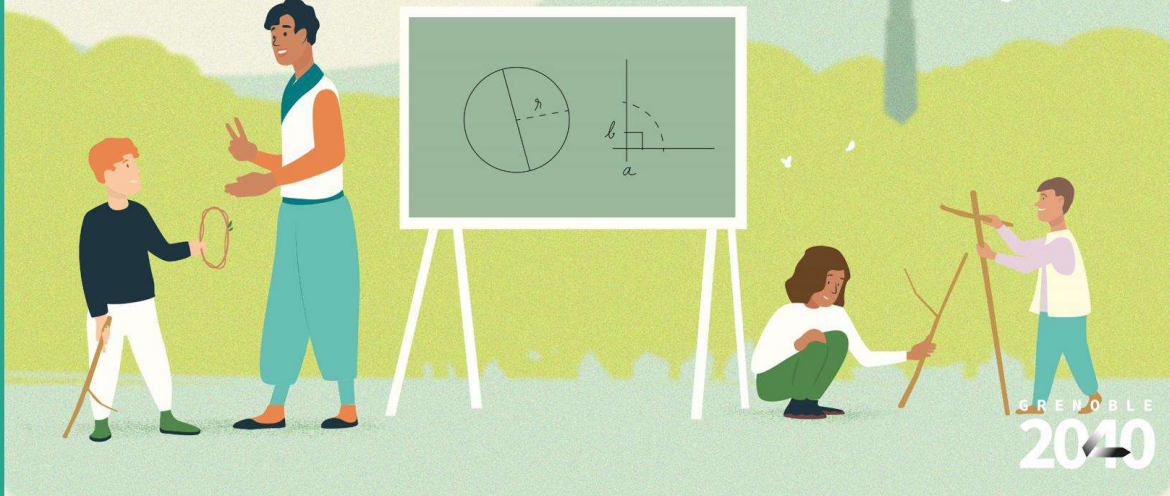


2022, a springboard year



What if tomorrow

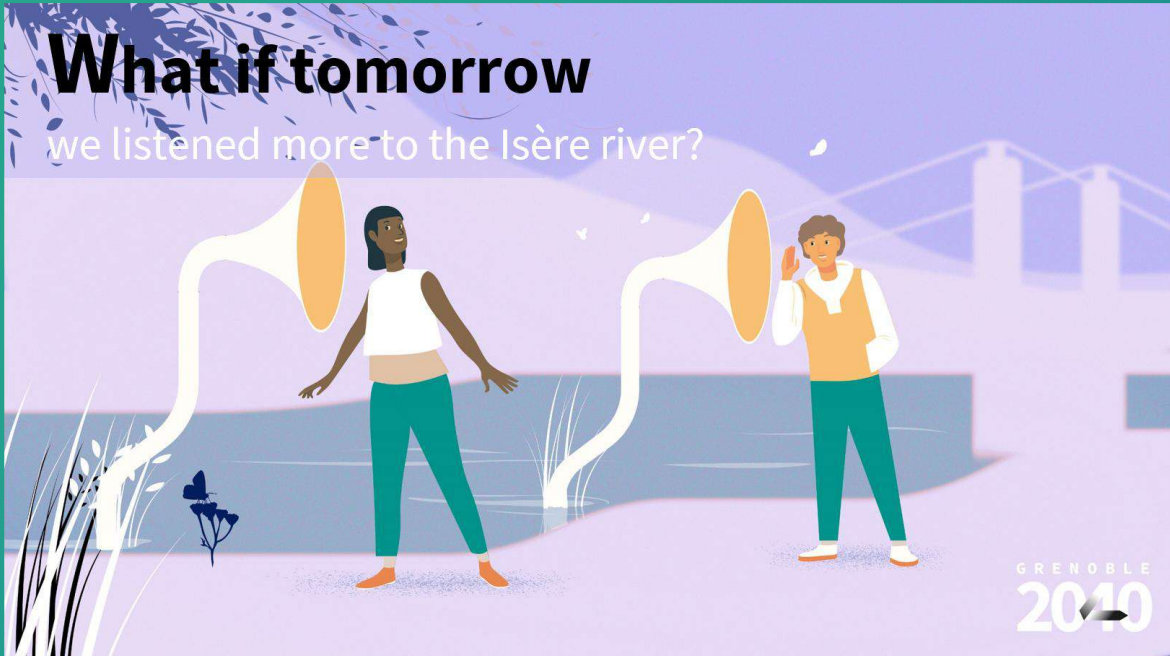
our children learned from nature?



GRENoble 2040

What if tomorrow

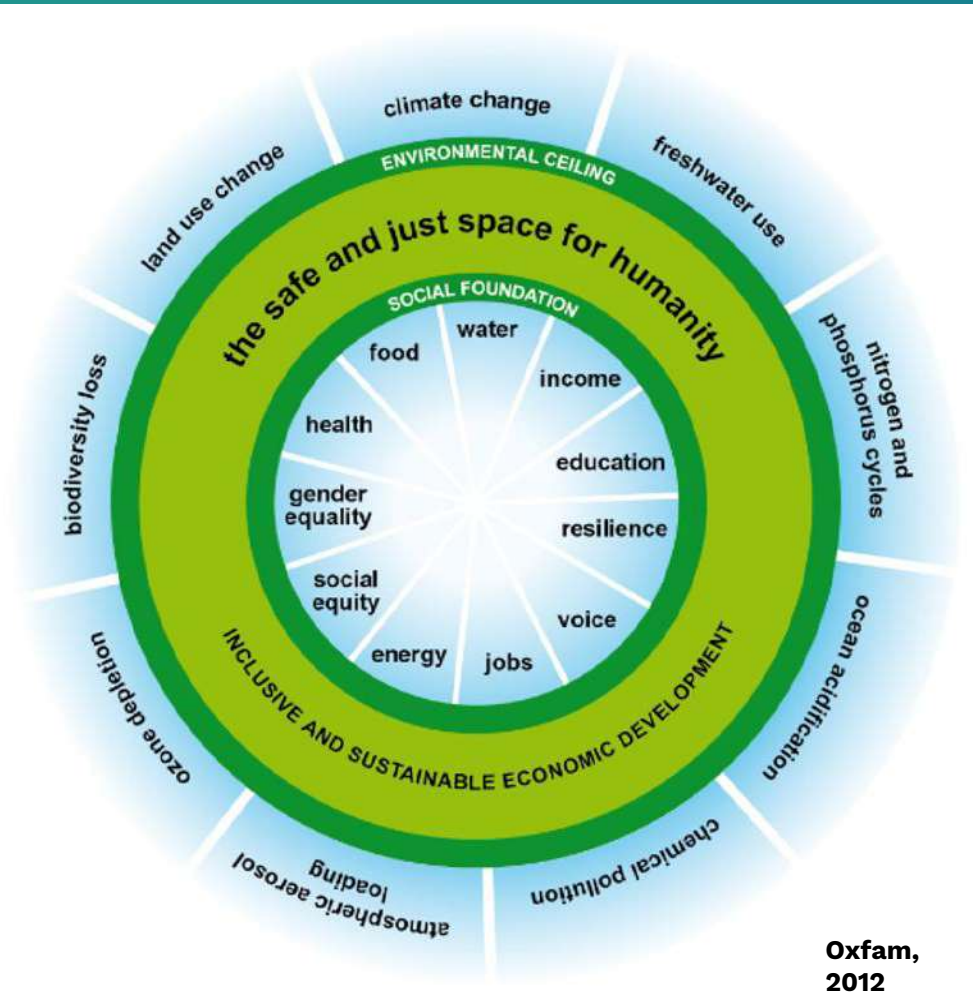
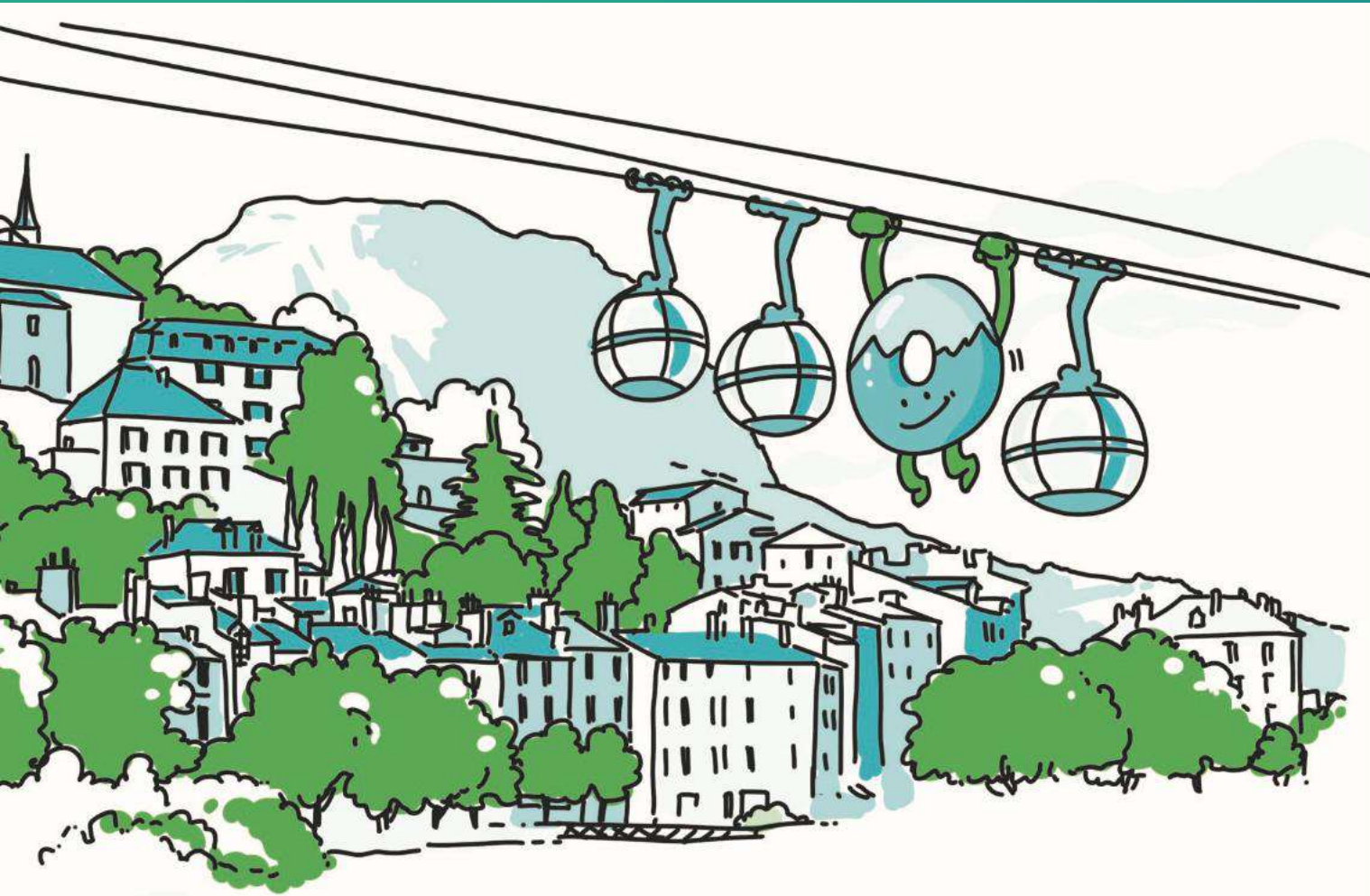
we listened more to the Isère river?



- Link social and environmental issues
- Connect local and global scales
- Reconcile reason and emotion



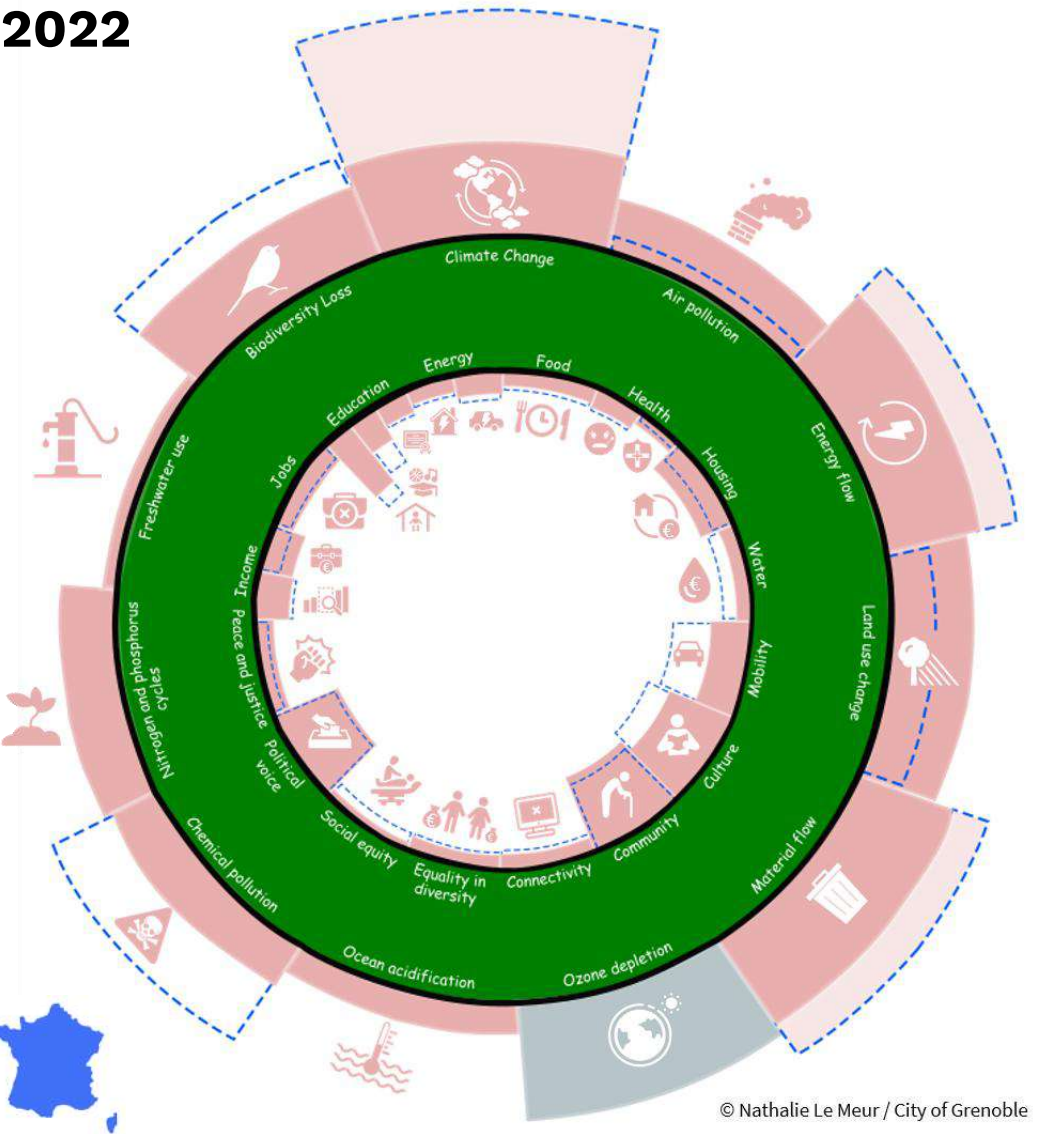
② Doughnut Economics, a holistic framework



A – Data Portrait of Grenoble

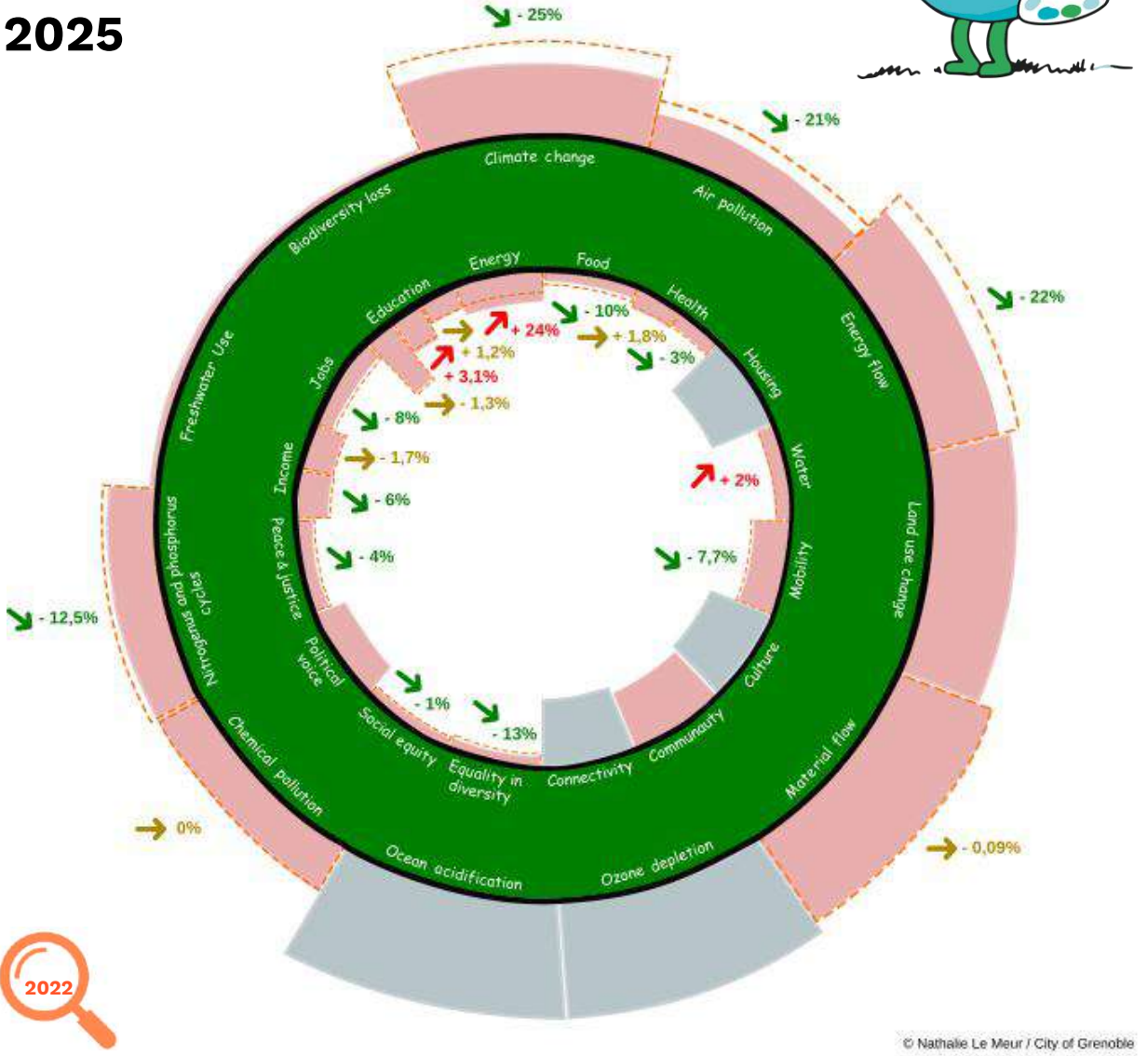


2022



© Nathalie Le Meur / City of Grenoble

2025



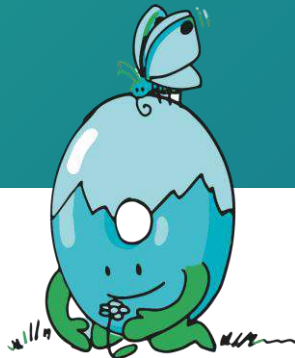
© Nathalie Le Meur / City of Grenoble

Marsh harrier


**Critically
endangered**



B – Ambitious policies regarding nature



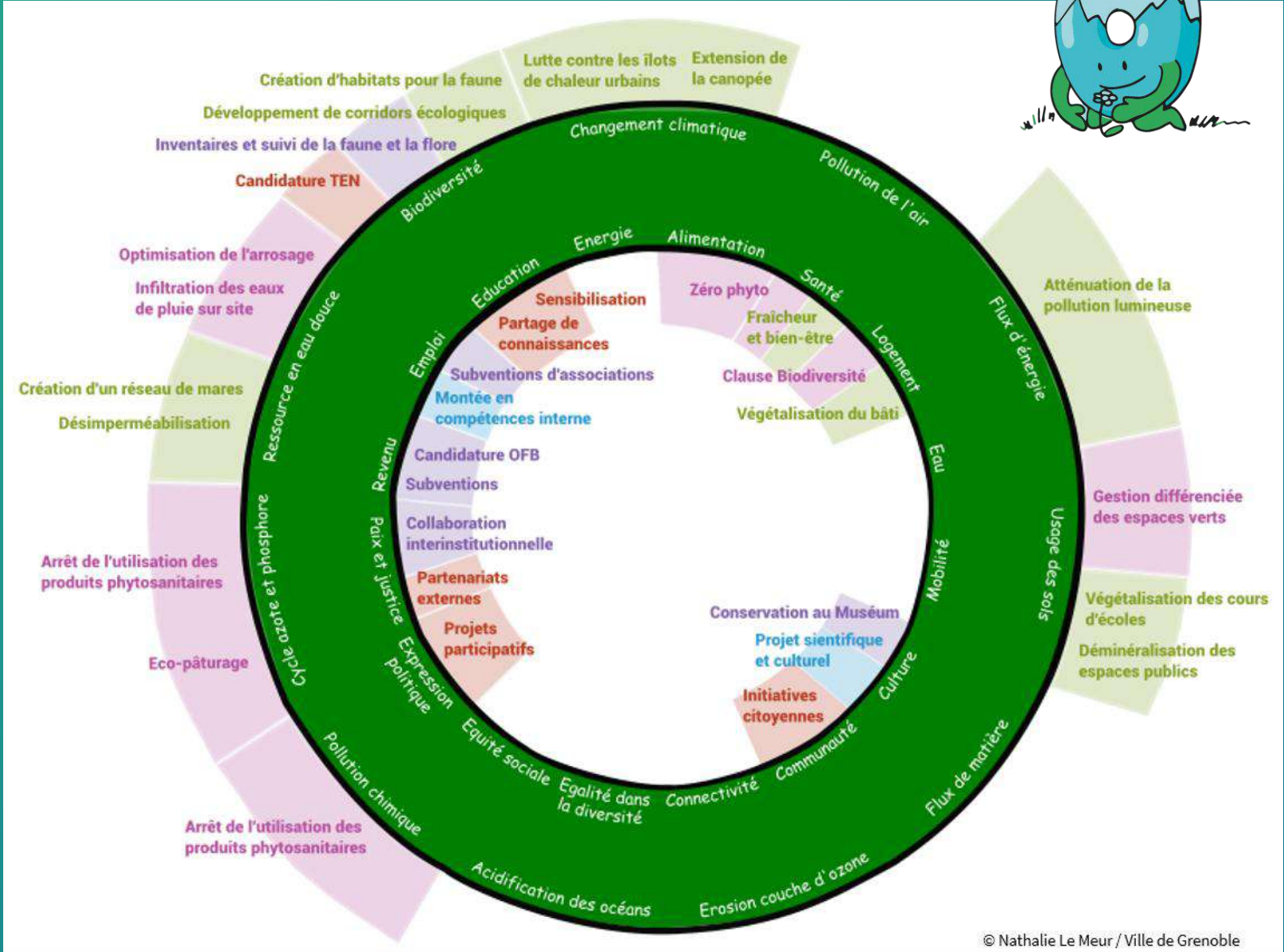
Conseil municipal du 13 mai 2024
Annexe n°1 à la délibération n° 35565



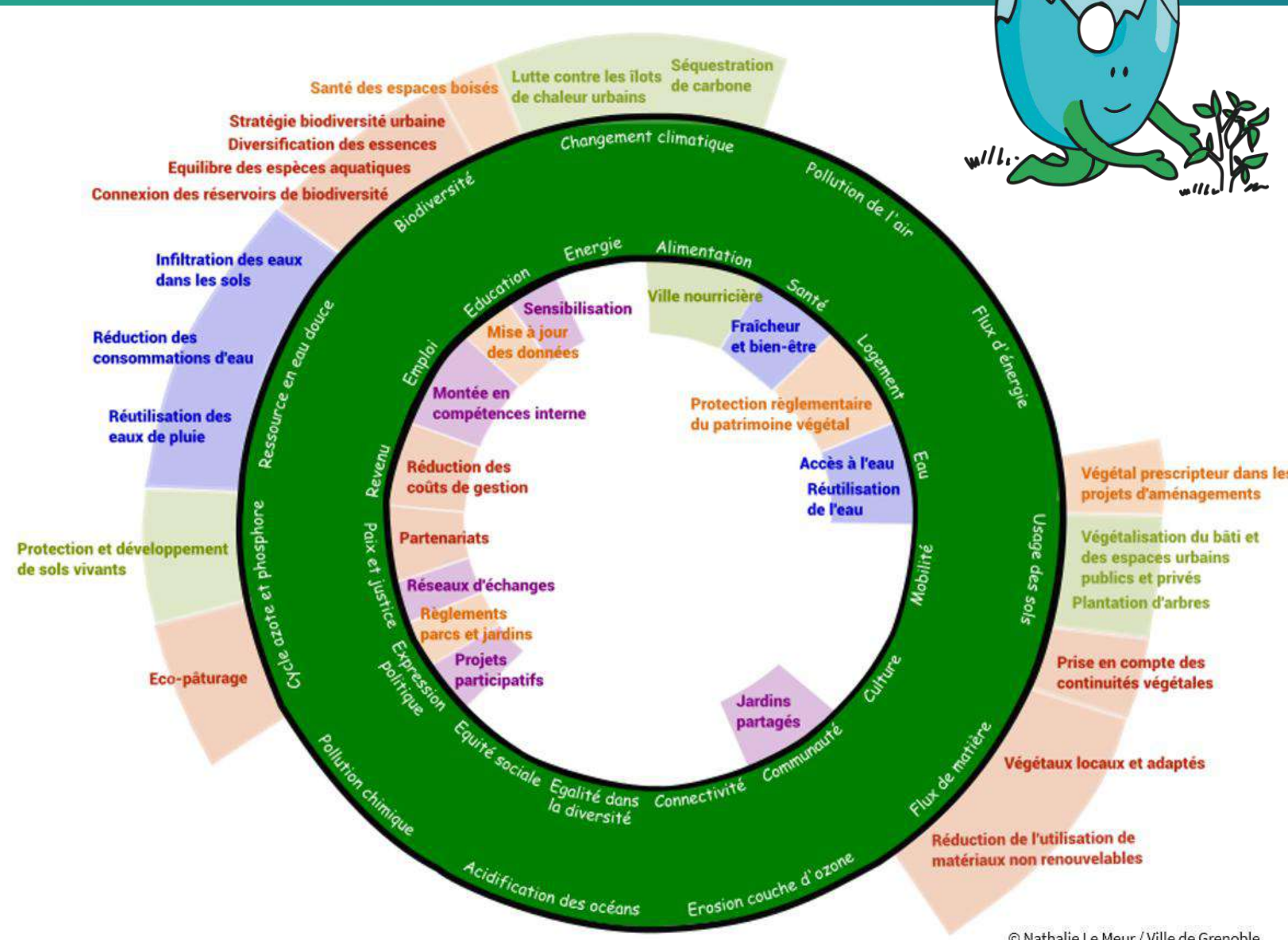
Biodiversity strategy

pour préserver les espaces naturels et urbains
et accueillir la flore et la faune

2020-2030



Vegetation strategy



C – Nature, a central component of municipal projects



Environmental responsibility x3



Social responsibility x3



Climate Change

Climate
Carbon footprint
Energy
Sufficiency
Mobility
Heating

Attenuation
Adaptation



Biodiversity Ecosystems

Land use
Artificialisation
Soil sealing
Fauna and flora
Natural areas
Pollutions

Preservation
Restauration



Ressource Management

Raw materials
Water
Inputs
Outputs
Circularity
Waste

Sufficiency
Circularity



Human Health

Quality of life
Public health
Food
Nature in the city
Sports
Public services

Fundamental
Well-being



Social Cohesion

Citizenship
Social link
Culture
Education
Hospitality
Peace and justice

Citizenship
and inclusion

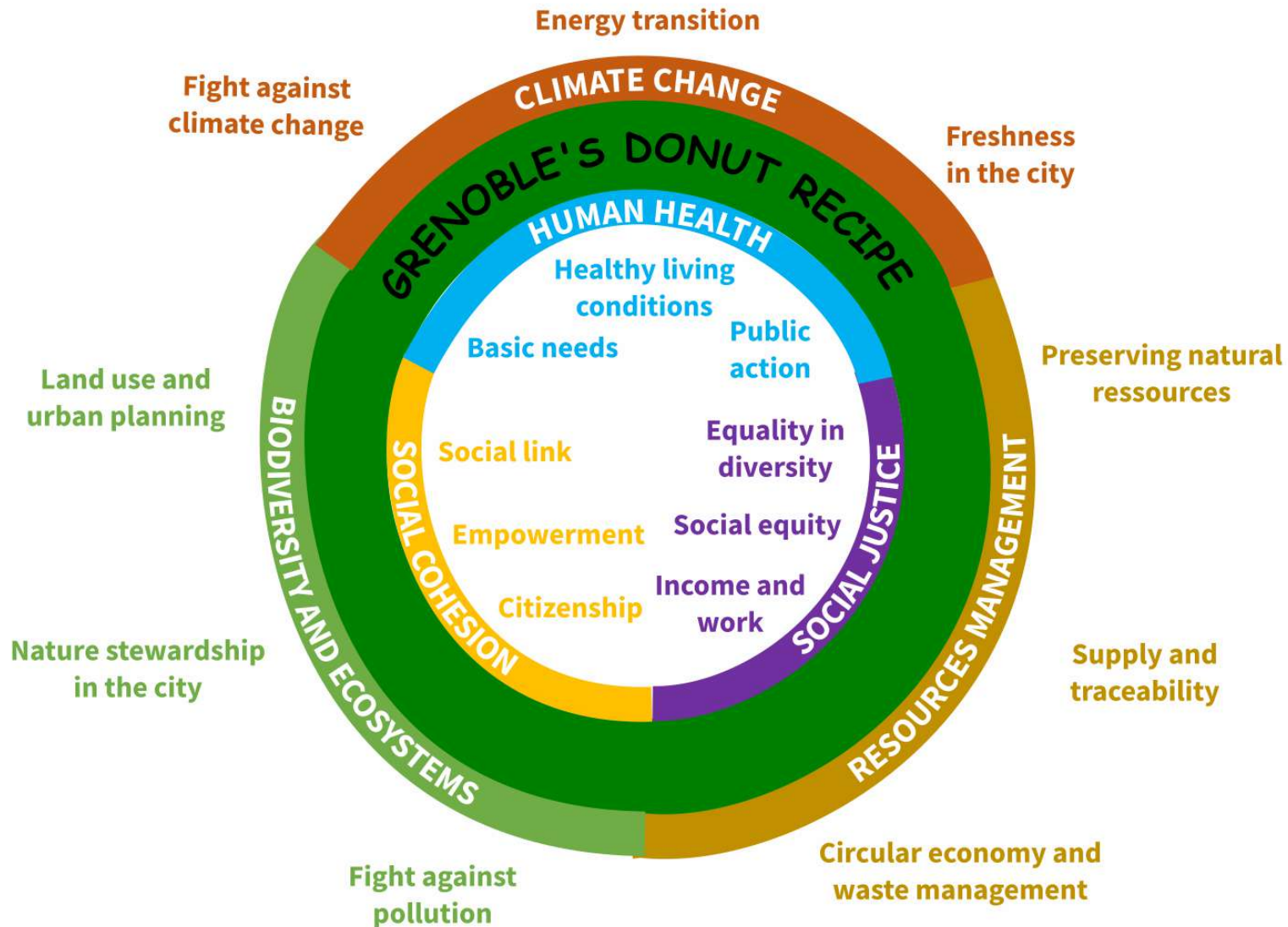


Social Justice

Social and economic
insecurity
Social welfare and
economic support
Equality in diversity
Social equity

Precariousness
and vulnerability

Environmental and social analysis grid



- Vegetal cover
- Water cycle
- Fauna & flora
- Artificialization of soils
- Soil sealing
- Soil quality
- Air quality
- Water quality



Coqueli'cours



Before

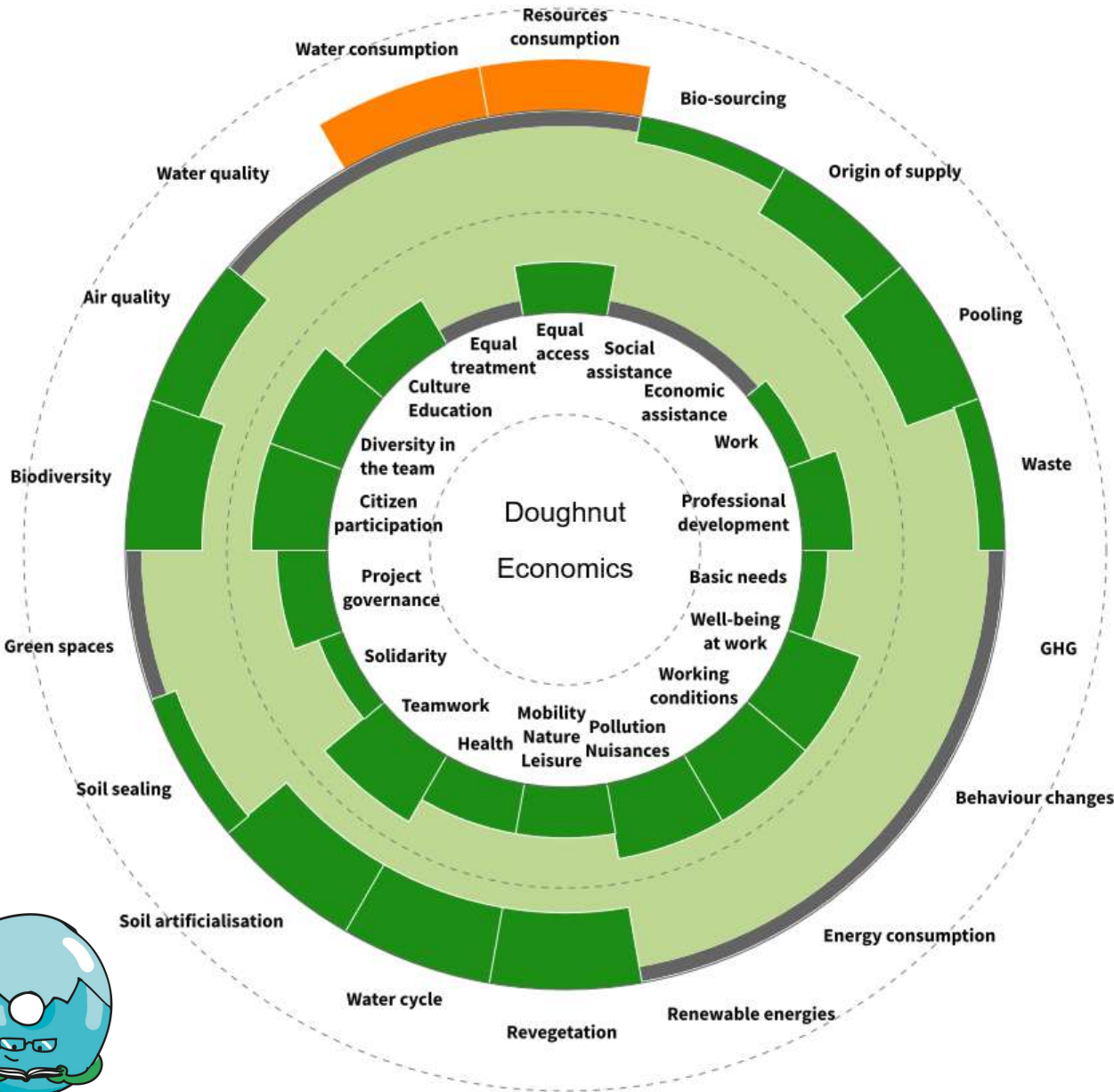


Auriane Poillet

After



Auriane Poillet



D – Changing our perspective



LIMITE PLANÉTAIRE

ÉROSION DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ

La biodiversité désigne toute la variété des formes de vie sur Terre. Elle représente ainsi la diversité du vivant à toutes les échelles : entre espèces, entre individus d'une même espèce et entre écosystèmes. L'intégrité de la biodiversité est déterminée par la diversité des éléments qui la composent en tant que réseau biologique en constantes évolution et interaction. Mais les activités humaines ont déclenché la sixième extinction de masse, entraînant la disparition de plus de 75% des espèces marines et terrestres en un temps court.

6ème extinction de masse

Le rythme de disparition des espèces vivantes est **10 à 100 fois plus rapide** que la moyenne observée sur les 10 derniers millions d'années

75% des espèces marines et terrestres ont disparu depuis le début de l'holocène

Cinq causes d'extinction

- DESTRUCTION DES HABITATS : Déforestation, Artificialisation des sols
- SUREXPLOITATION : Agriculture intensive, Surpêche
- CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE : Événements extrêmes, Disparition des coraux
- POLLUTION : Eutrophisation, Dégradation des milieux
- ESPÈCES INVASIVES : Perturbation des chaînes alimentaires

Zoom sur Grenoble

Préfiguration du Portrait Donut de Grenoble
Décembre 2022 (version complète accessible sur le site de la Ville)

Le constat

Indicateur : Pourcentage d'espèces d'oiseaux menacées (vulnérables, en danger, en danger critique) ou quasi menacées de disparition sur le territoire

Données (source) :

- Grenoble Alpes Métropole : 21,10% en 2019 (Observatoire de la Biodiversité, Grenoble Alpes Métropole)
- France : 32% en 2016 (UICN - Liste rouge nationale : le déclin des oiseaux nicheurs se poursuit en France, septembre 2016)

Il y a moins d'espèces d'oiseaux menacées sur le territoire de la Métropole grenobloise qu'en moyenne en France.

Espèces menacées ou quasi menacées sur le territoire grenoblois

Oiseaux	21,1%	Mammifères	23,8%	Reptiles	12,5%	Amphibiens	29,2%	Végétaux	14,3%
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Sources : Observatoire de la Biodiversité, 2019 - Grenoble Alpes Métropole

LE DONUT DE LA MONTAGNE

Les enjeux **environnementaux** et **sociaux** des écosystèmes de montagne, leurs **conséquences** et leurs **impacts** sur le vivant et les sociétés humaines

CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE

En 2100, l'élévation de la température moyenne annuelle est estimée à +1,4°C dans le sud de la France et +2°C dans les Alpes.

RESSOURCES EN EAU DOUCE

En 2040, la demande en eau douce sera de 12,4 milliards de m³, contre 10,4 milliards en 2010.

POLLUTION CHIMIQUE

Les glaciers des Alpes françaises ont perdu 40% de leur surface depuis 1970.

ACIDIFICATION DES OcéANS

En 2100, l'acidification des océans pourrait entraîner la disparition de 10 à 20% des espèces marines.

EROSION DE LA COUCHE D'OZONE

En 2100, l'érosion de la couche d'ozone pourrait entraîner une augmentation de 10% des cancers de la peau.

POLLUTION DE L'AIR

En 2100, la pollution de l'air pourrait entraîner une augmentation de 10% des maladies respiratoires.

BIODIVERSITÉ

En 2100, la biodiversité pourrait être réduite de 10 à 20%.

USAGE DES SOLS

En 2100, l'usage des sols pourrait entraîner une augmentation de 10% des surfaces artificialisées.

CYCLES DE L'AZOTE ET DU PHOSPHORE

En 2100, les cycles de l'azote et du phosphore pourraient être perturbés.

ÉQUILIBRE DANS LA DIVERSITÉ

En 2100, l'équilibre dans la diversité pourrait être perturbé.

ÉQUITÉ SOCIALE

En 2100, l'équité sociale pourrait être perturbée.

ÉMOI ET REVENU

En 2100, l'emploi et le revenu pourraient être perturbés.

CONNECTIVITÉ

En 2100, la connectivité pourrait être perturbée.

EAU

En 2100, l'eau pourrait être perturbée.

PAIX ET JUSTICE

En 2100, la paix et la justice pourraient être perturbées.

EXPRESSION POLITIQUE

En 2100, l'expression politique pourrait être perturbée.

COMMUNAUTÉ

En 2100, la communauté pourrait être perturbée.

ÉGALITÉ DANS LA DIVERSITÉ

En 2100, l'égalité dans la diversité pourrait être perturbée.

ÉQUITÉ SOCIALE

En 2100, l'équité sociale pourrait être perturbée.

MOBILITÉ

En 2100, la mobilité pourrait être perturbée.

SANTÉ

En 2100, la santé pourrait être perturbée.

ÉDUCATION

En 2100, l'éducation pourrait être perturbée.

CULTURE

En 2100, la culture pourrait être perturbée.

ALIMENTATION

En 2100, l'alimentation pourrait être perturbée.

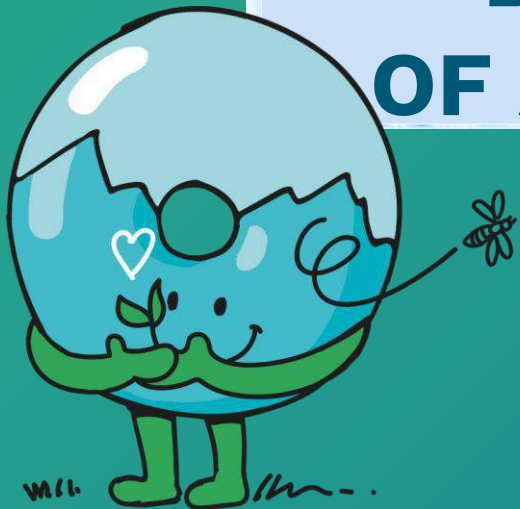
LOGEMENT

En 2100, le logement pourrait être perturbé.

ÉNERGIE

En 2100, l'énergie pourrait être perturbée.

« Considering that respect for animals by humans is inseparable from respect between humans »



© Jean-Sébastien Faure / Ville de Grenoble

③ Outcomes and insights



A – Diversified greening: nature everywhere



© Auriane Poillet / Ville de Grenoble

Preserving natural areas



© Auriane Poillet / Ville de Grenoble

Developing plant heritage

B – Differentiated management: let nature breathe

Welcoming fauna and flora



© Auriane Poillet / Ville de Grenoble

Favoring natural practices



© Auriane Poillet / Ville de Grenoble

C – Professional evolution: when nature inspires innovation



Reintegrating life cycles

Imagining tomorrow's jobs



D – Culture revolution: living in harmony with nature



*Respecting all kind
of life*

Protecting living beings



**« We protect what we love
and we love what we know »**

Jacques Cousteau



Recommended literature



- *Doughnut economics: seven ways to think like a 21st century economist.* Kate Raworth. Random House. 2017. [Link](#)
- *Petit traité de jardin punk : apprendre à désapprendre.* Eric Lenoir. Terre vivante. 2028. [Link](#)



- *Doughnut Economics: a new compass for thinking the future of Grenoble?.* Nathalie Le Meur. Ville de Grenoble. 2024. [Link](#)
- *Grenoble Doughnut Data Portrait.* Nathalie Le Meur. Ville de Grenoble. 2025. [Link](#)



- Stratégie Biodiversité. Ville de Grenoble. [Link](#)
- Stratégie Végétalisation. Ville de Grenoble. [Link](#)



- *Théorie du Donut.* Ville de Grenoble. [Link](#)
- *Nature en Ville.* Ville de Grenoble. [Link](#)



**Choose
nature** 

To tackle the Systemic Causes of Nature Loss

Siobhán McQuaid
On behalf of the NbS Task Force 3



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

What are the systemic causes of nature loss?

Direct Drivers

1. changes in land and sea use,
2. direct exploitation of organisms,
3. climate change,
4. pollution,
5. invasion of alien species

IPBES, 2019

Indirect Drivers

1. production and consumption patterns,
2. human population dynamics and trends,
3. trade,
4. technological innovations and diffusion

IPBES, 2019

Our Current Economic Systems....

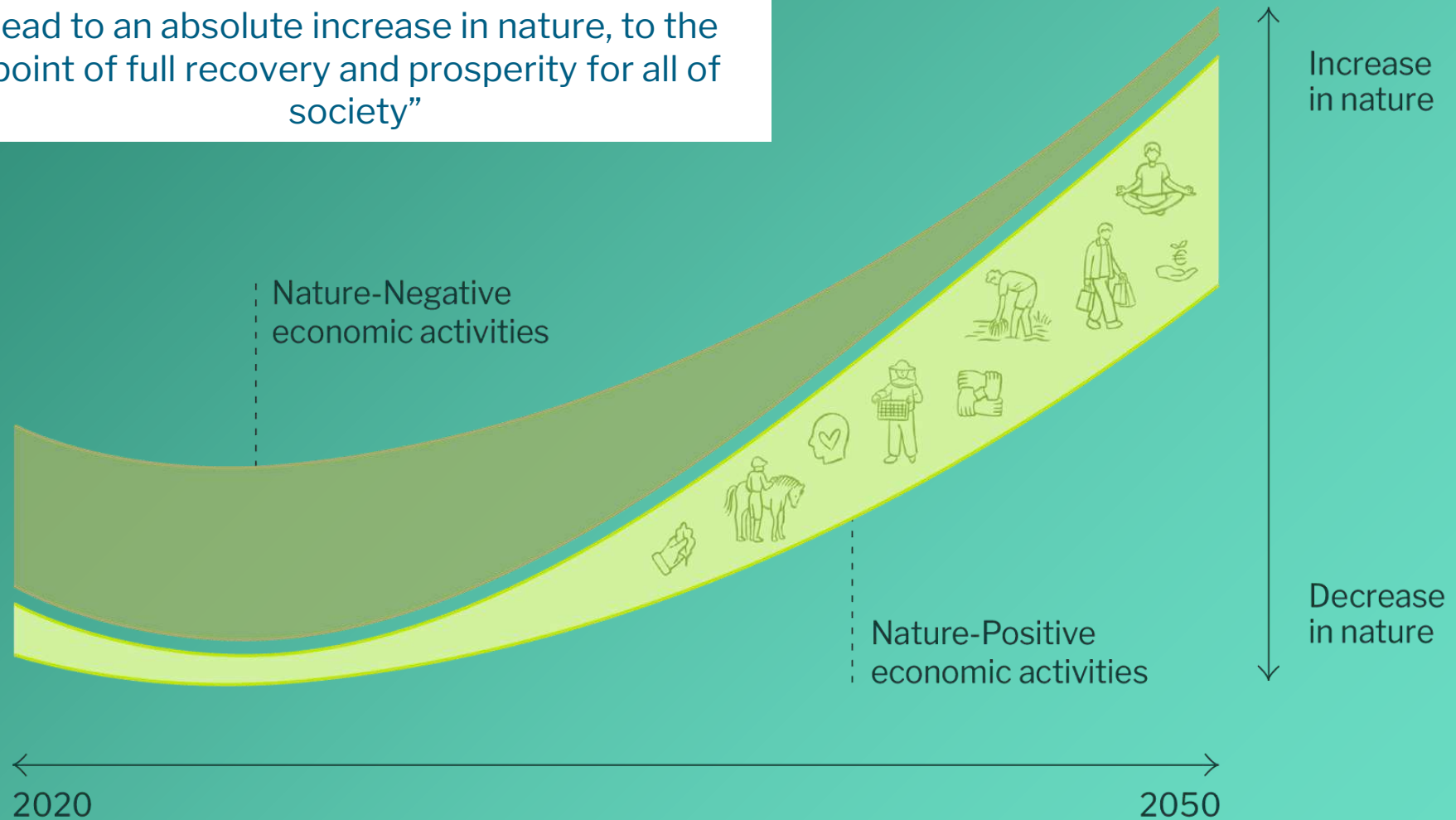
Underlying causes

1. disconnection from and domination over nature and people;
2. concentration of power and wealth;
3. prioritization of short-term, individual and material gains.

IPBES, 2024

Is there an alternative?

“A Nature-Positive Economy means that the net result of all economic activities combined lead to an absolute increase in nature, to the point of full recovery and prosperity for all of society”



Thank you to the 46 projects who contributed...



3 Policy Imperatives



(EC JRC, 2025)

Dependency:

Two thirds of EU Gross Value Added (GVA) is estimated to have a high or medium dependency on nature (EC JRC, 2025)

Risk:

75% of bank loans, to more than three million companies, are granted to beneficiaries with a high dependency on at least one ecosystem service (ECB, 2023)

Opportunity:

\$10 trillion worth of annual business opportunities and 395 million potential jobs can be created by 2030 from nature transitions (WEF, 2024)

Strengths & Knowledge Gaps



Policy

Environment, Health & Social Benefits

Economic Benefits - disaster risk reduction, insurance, resilience

Cost of inaction higher than cost of action

Knowledge Gaps:

- Job loss v job creation from nature positive transition
- Impact on competitiveness: Productivity? Costs?



Finance

Strong case for increased public sector investment

Emerging case for blended finance e.g. outcome-based contracts, restoration bonds, revolving funds

Knowledge gaps :

- Business model for business (of all sizes)?
- Nature credits...
- Potential for scaling alternative not-for-profit models

**Choose
nature.**



**Don't repeat
the same mistake.**

Edoardo Carlucci

Sustainable Finance Advisor

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)



The \$2 Trillion Question

Every year, we spend **\$2 trillion**
keeping the problem alive

While nature — our greatest ally —
gets less than \$100 billion



The Truth About Our Money

\$2T

Harmful Subsidies

Environmentally destructive
subsidies annually

\$1.1 - 1.7T

Fossil Fuels

Direct subsidies to oil, gas,
and coal industries

\$100B

Nature Protection

Total global spending on biodiversity
conservation

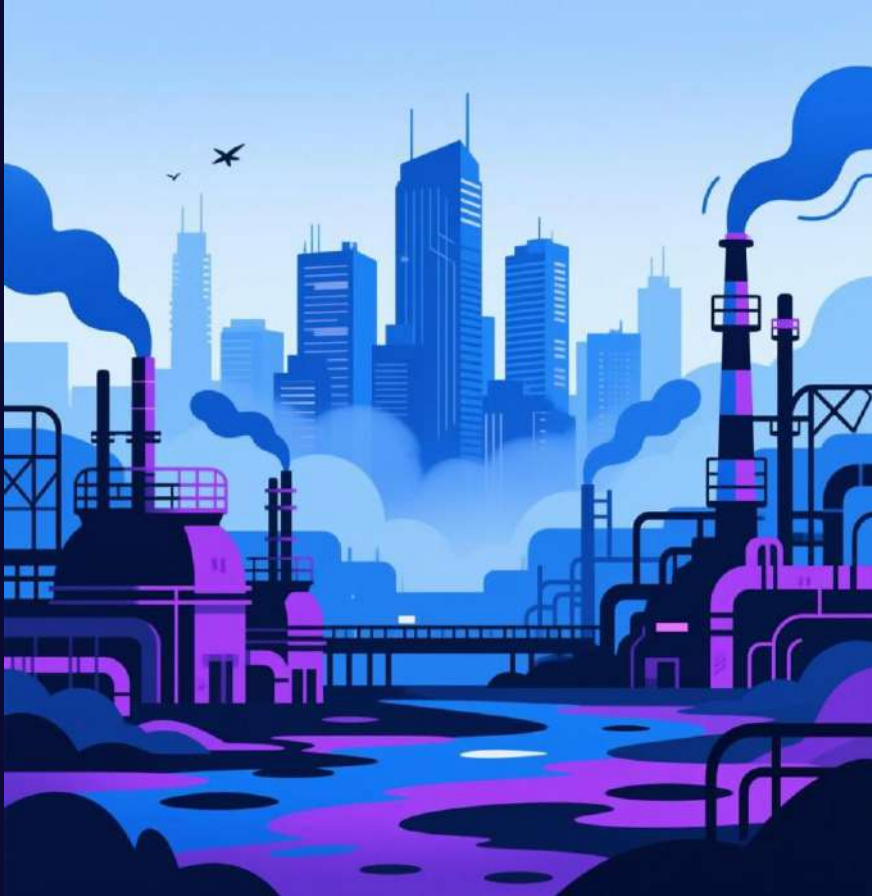
\$300B

Climate Target

Promised climate finance by 2035

We're literally **paying to subsidize our own destruction** while starving the solutions that could save us.

The Impact of Environmentally Harmful Subsidies



Economy

Fossil fuel and water subsidies amplify harm across agriculture, forestry, fisheries.

Social

Strains public budgets; distorts markets; entrenches inequalities.

Innovation

Undermines green innovation; perpetuates inefficient industries.

The \$2+ Trillion Opportunity

What if we **flipped the script**?

Repurposing even a fraction of the public money currently channeled via grants, loans, loan guarantees, tax breaks, regulated prices and other forms of EHS could go a long way toward achieving important social and environmental goals



The World Has Already Committed



Reduction Target

Harmful subsidies to eliminate by 2030

In 2022, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) created unprecedented momentum for EHS reform. Nearly 200 countries have agreed to reduce environmentally harmful subsidies by **\$500 billion annually** while scaling up positive incentives for nature.

The Value of Nature



Netherlands

Coastal dunes generate **higher tourism revenue** than traditional dike infrastructure



Greece

River restoration delivers **2.9x better returns** than conventional flood control



Burkina Faso

Land restoration generates between **\$869 Million - \$1.09 billion in benefits** through increased agricultural productivity

The Triple Win of Subsidy Reform



Each element reinforces the others, creating a **self-reinforcing cycle** of ecological, social, and economic benefits.

EHS Reform Opportunity



Local/National Reform

- Involves fewer actors so can move faster
- The smaller the context, the more intensive reform is possible

National reforms builds momentum for international cooperation



National dynamics shape international discussion



International Cooperation on reform

Often slow, but at scale can address competitiveness blocks

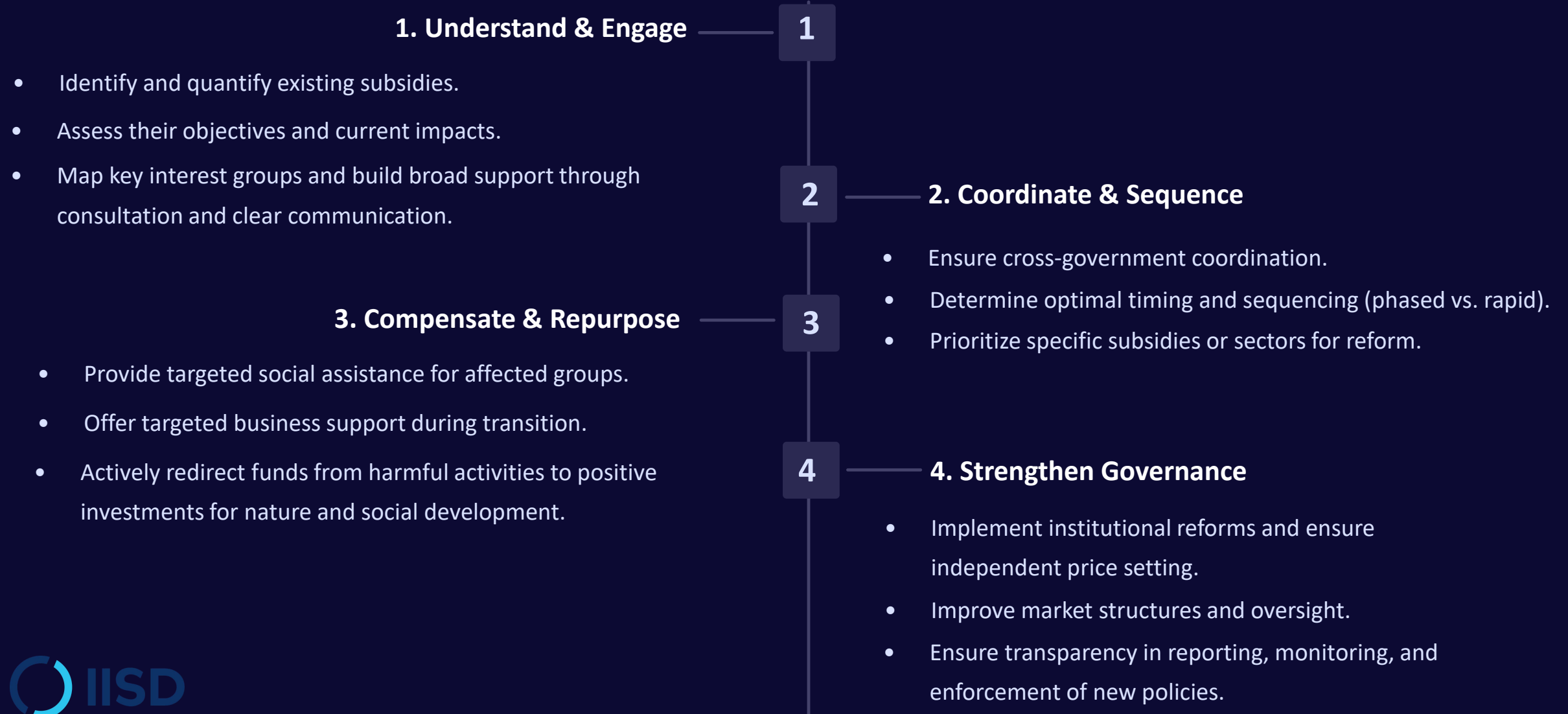
Different form of cooperation:

- Norms and principles for subsidy reform
- Legally binding treaties to lock on domestic reform achieved or push future reform.
- First-mover clubs of governments lead by example

International norms and principles drive national action

The Roadmap to Reform

Shifting trillions requires a clear, strategic framework. Here's how we can make subsidy reform a reality:





Policy recommendations:

- Conduct independent national assessments and audits of environmentally harmful subsidies to increase transparency and inform targeted reform actions.
- Establish first-mover government clubs and leverage international cooperation to prevent reform backsliding and foster coordinated subsidy phase-out.
- Engage and align agricultural subsidy reforms with national food system transformation strategies to promote regenerative and sustainable farming practices.

20 Years of IISD's Global Subsidies Initiative

Join IISD to celebrate 20 years of the Global Subsidies Initiative with a high-level panel discussion about the past, present and future of subsidies policy

WTO Headquarters, Geneva | 18 September 2025 | 5:00 PM

[Learn More & Register](#)



THANK YOU !

For additional information:

Email: ecarlucci@iisd.org

IISD: <https://www.iisd.org/>

NBI Centre: <https://nbi.iisd.org/>



Recommended Literature

Research Papers & Reports

- **Reforming Environmentally Harmful Subsidies: A playbook.** Ivetta Gerasimchuk, Darcie Doan, Claire McConnell, Indira Urazova, Farooq Ullah, Tara Laan, Alice Tipping, Fernando Morra. International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). 2025. <https://www.iisd.org/system/files/2025-02/environmentally-harmful-subsidies-reform.pdf>
- **Sustainable Asset Valuation (SAVi) of Nature-Based Coastal Protection in the Netherlands.** Ronja Bechauf, Emma Cutler, Matthew Gouett, Marco Guzzetti. International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). 2021. <https://nbi.iisd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/savi-nature-based-coastal-protection-netherlands.pdf>
- **Sustainable Asset Valuation (SAVi) of River Restoration in Greece.** Ronja Bechauf, Edoardo Carlucci, Emma Cutler, Marco Guzzetti. International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). 2023. <https://nbi.iisd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/savi-river-restoration-greece.pdf>
- **Sustainable Asset Valuation of Land Restoration and Climate-Smart Agriculture in Burkina Faso.** Edoardo Carlucci, Marco Guzzetti. International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). 2024. <https://nbi.iisd.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/nbi-burkina-faso.pdf>

**Choose
nature.**



**It is needed
and feasible**

José M. Rey Benayas

University of Alcalá

Fundación Internacional para la Restauración de Ecosistemas
(FIRE)

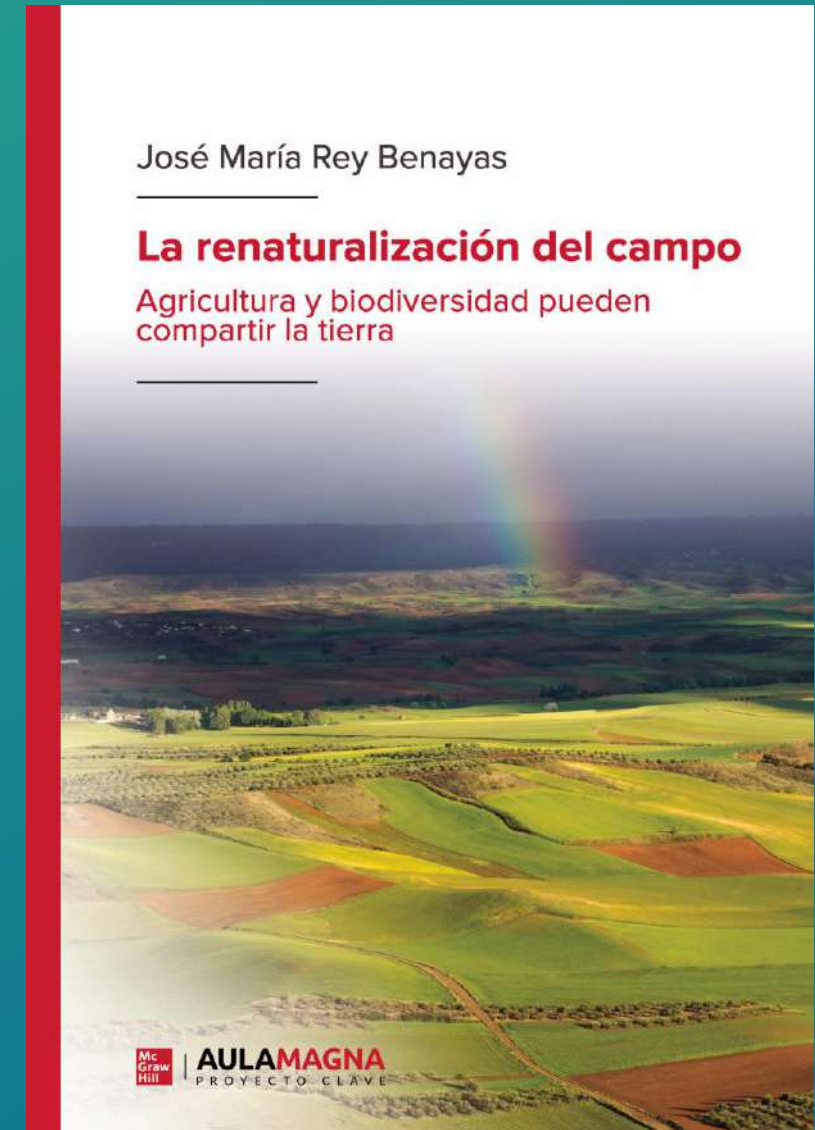


Redressing the global footprint caused by agriculture is desperately needed

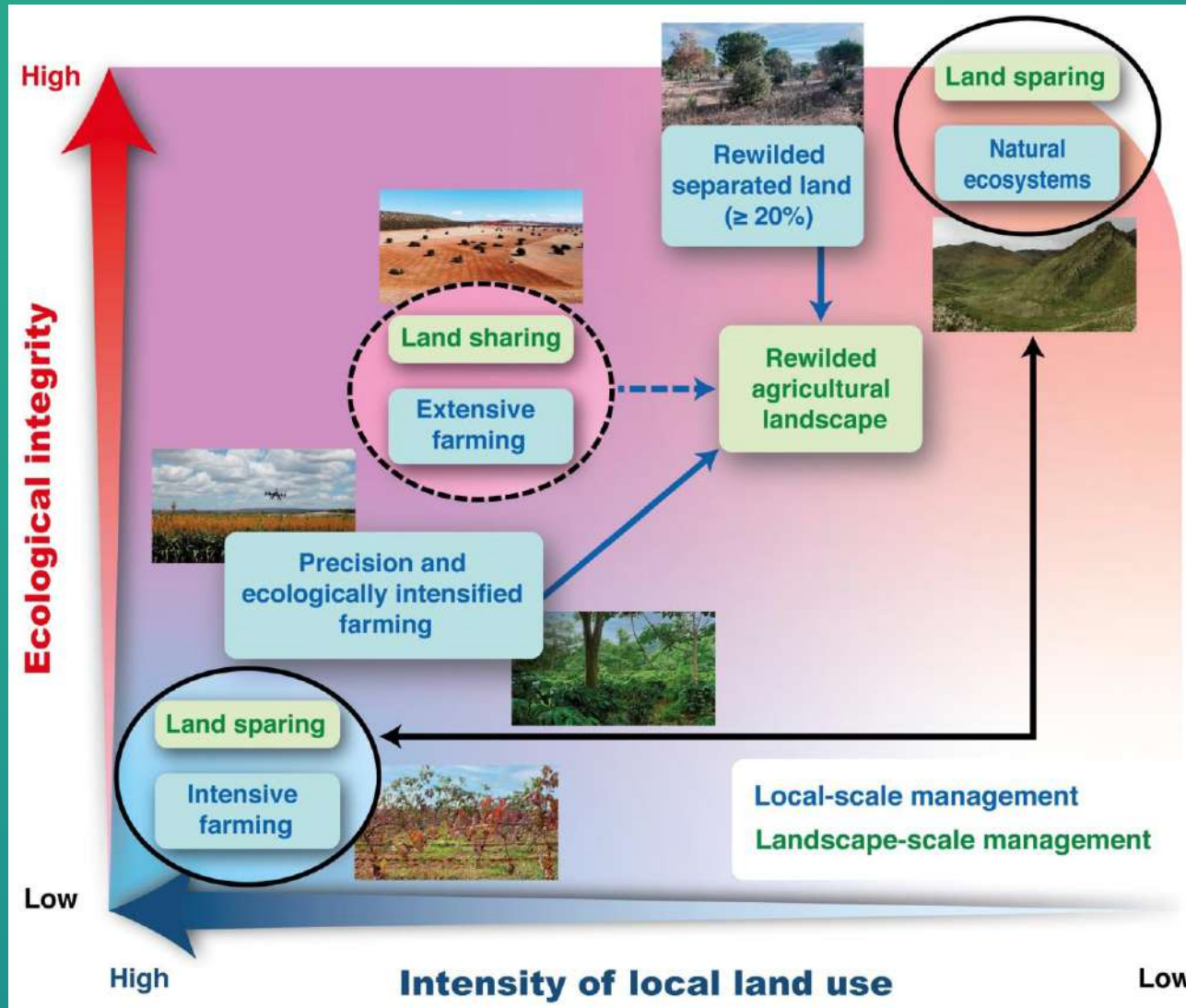
- (Industrial) agriculture is a major cause of biodiversity loss, climate change and other environmental damages (erosion, pollution, etc.)
- One third of the produced food is lost or wasted worldwide, and previous work points that, at the global level, more food can be produced with less land (e.g., [Folberth et al. 2020](#), [Gerten et al. 2020](#))
- There is momentum for an agroecological transition in Europe (e.g., the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity for 2030 strategies and Nature Restoration Regulation)

I have worked and am currently working using complementary approaches, namely

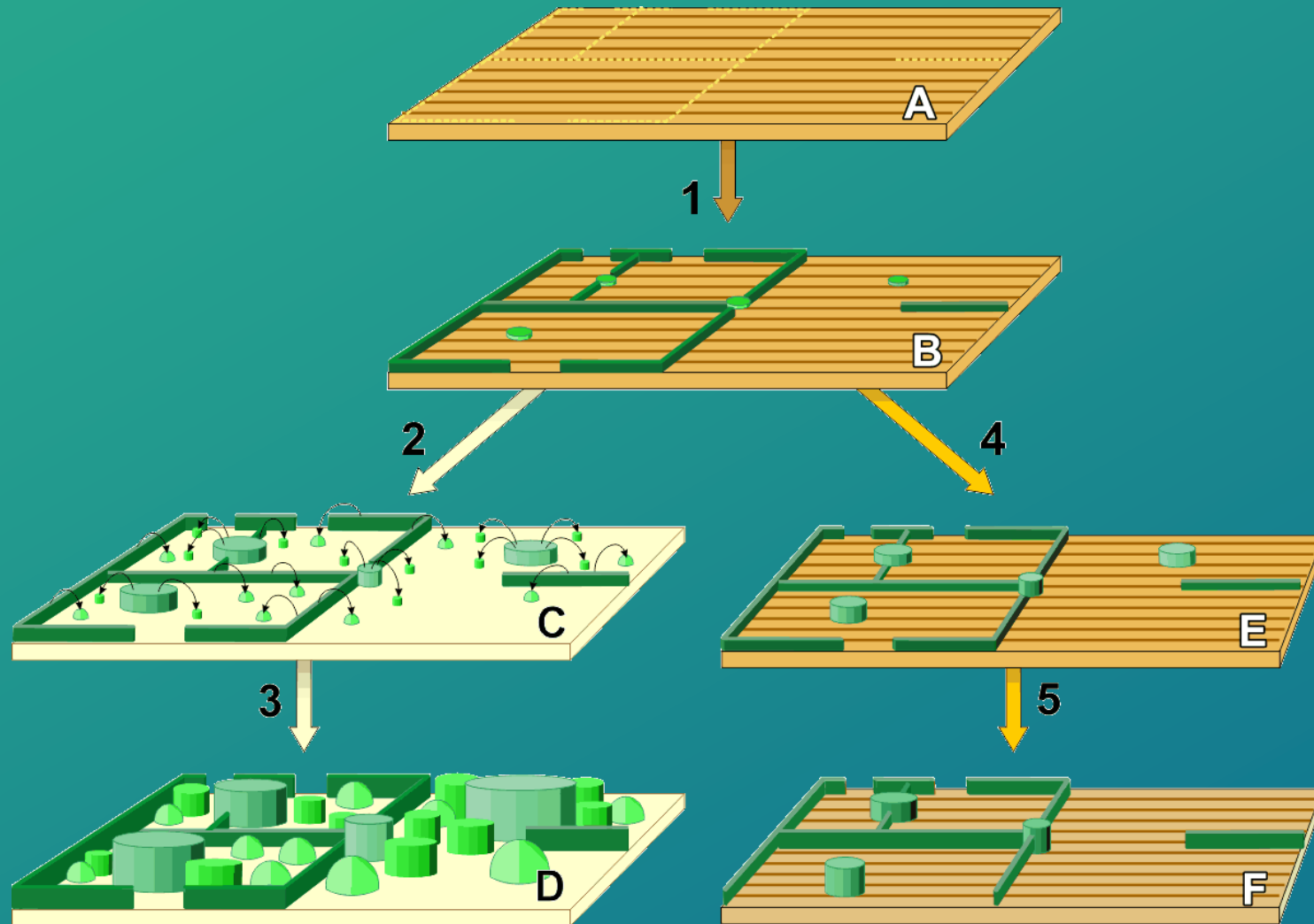
- Conceptual frameworks, such as:
 - the agricultural rewilding concept | Rey Benayas et al. 2025
 - the “woodland islets and coast in agricultural seas” concept | Rey Benayas & Bullock 2015
- Systematic reviews and meta-analyses
- Observational and experimental field research
- Demonstration projects
 - La Nava del Conejo <https://rutanavalab.org/>



Rewilding is a nature-based-solution strategy to enhance agricultural landscapes



Woodland islets and hedgerows in agricultural seas – green infrastructure for dispersion and many other services



Slow natural regeneration does not mean bad

Unplowed field strips with planted hedgerows favored the spontaneous recruitment of Holm oaks (rate was $22.7 \text{ ha}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}$) compared to unplanted strips ($7.8 \text{ ha}^{-1} \text{ year}^{-1}$) – attraction of dispersers



The “before” agricultural landscape



Rey Benayas & Bullock 2015

The “after” agricultural landscape



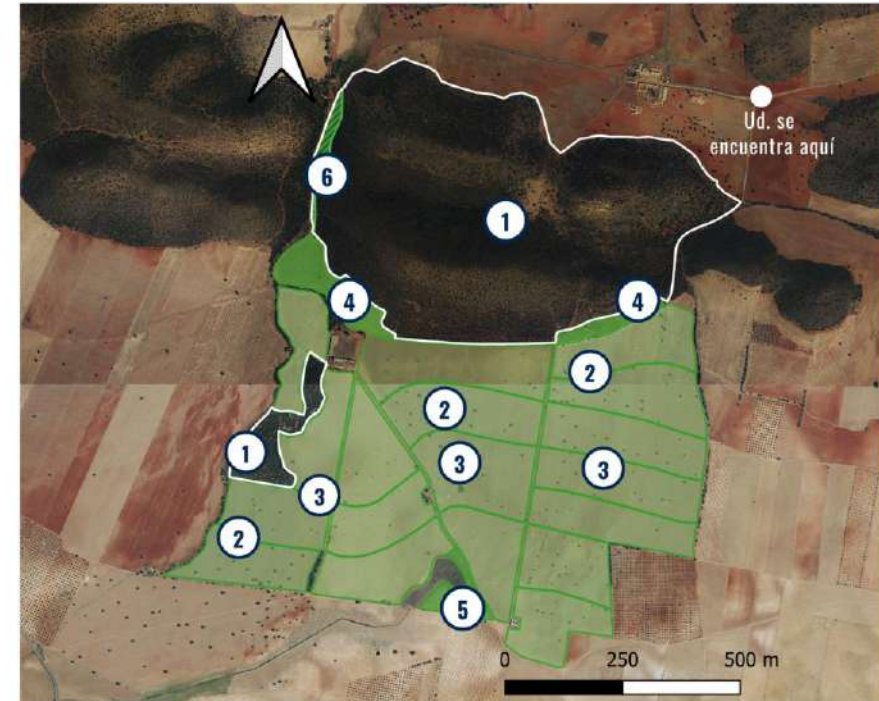
Strategic revegetation taking advantage of the landscape **linear elements** (field borders and margins, streams and rivers, way and road sides) and “dead, empty” spaces such as road roundabouts

LA NAVA DEL CONEJO

FIELD LABORATORY

AGROECOLOGICAL AND FOREST RESTORATION

- Management of woodlands ① and dehesas ②
- Organic and conservation agriculture ③
- Forest restoration on cropland ④
- Pasture recovery ⑤
- Riparian revegetation ⑥
- Multiple exploitation
- Specific actions for flora and fauna conservation
- Scientific monitoring
- Naturalistic agritourism
- Education, training, capacity building and demonstration



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The agronomic scheme

- Six-year crop and fallow rotation including legume and cereal crops and tilled and non-tilled fallows
- Six cultivated species simultaneously
- Tillage follows keylines to maximize run-off retention
- Reduced non-inversion tillage
- Presence of a permanent soil organic cover and residue retention
- Sheep grazing
- All standards of (certified) organic agriculture
- Untilled field margins
- Planting hedgerows (ca. 6.5 km in length with ca. 26,000 plants of 21 species)
- *Ad-hoc* actions for beneficial fauna
(pollinators, bats, insectivorous birds, and raptors)



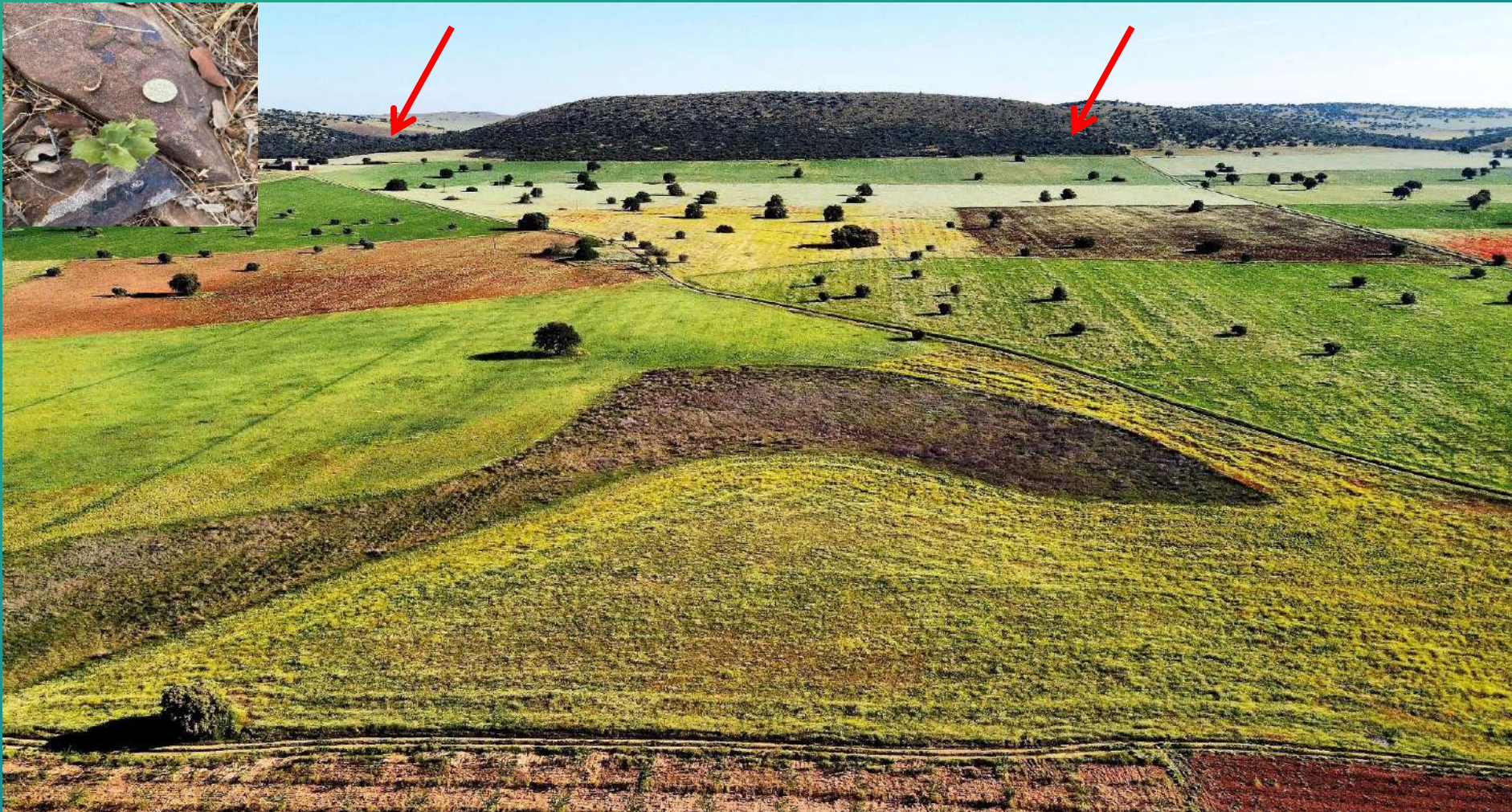




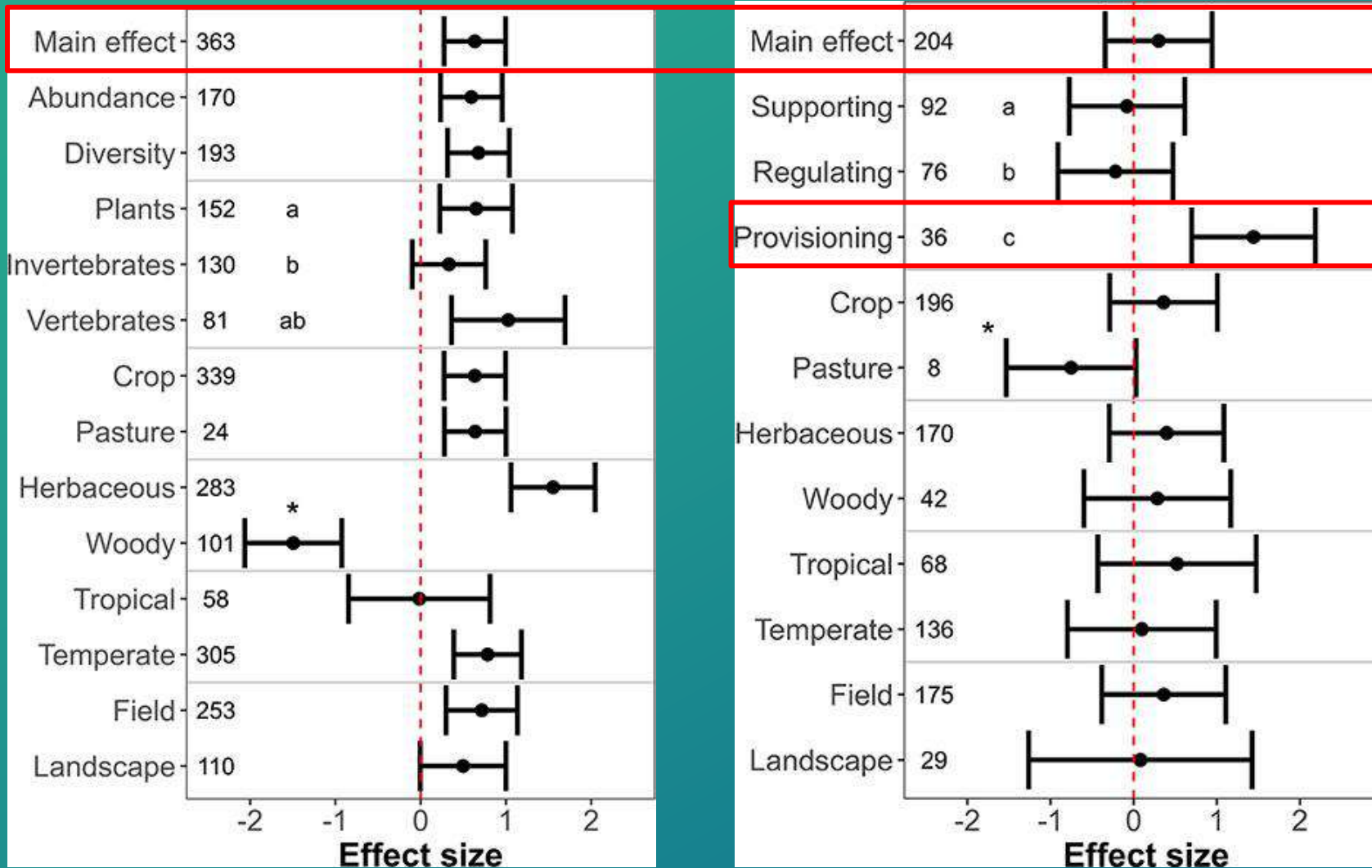


The land separation actions

- Restoration of a wetland (non-tillage, weed clearing, drainage suppression)
- (Assisted) spontaneous restoration of the woodland (Mediterranean *monte*)



Benefits on biodiversity and ecosystem services provided by hedgerows



García de León *et al.* 2021

Other benefits — financial

Some scientific evidence gathered by Rey Benayas (2023):

- Yield following diversification practices (+1% — Tamburini et al. 2020)
- Yield following intercropping (+22% — Li et al. 2023)
- Yield with hedgerow networks (+6% — Van Vooren et al. 2017; +15% — García de León et al. 2021)
- Stabilization of crop yield (+18% — Renard & Tilman 2019)
- Profitability of organic agriculture (+30% — Smith et al. 2019; + 10% — Reganold & Watcher 2016)

Take-home messages

- The agroecological transition cannot wait anymore because agriculture is the major cause of environmental damage and food is wasted
- Agricultural rewilding must combine the land sharing and land separation strategies
- The major processes that rewilding aims to restore (connectivity, trophic complexity, and stochastic disturbances) must be targeted in a feasible and flexible manner
- Agricultural rewilding can be practiced in relatively small (e.g., a few hundred hectares) states
- Europe is living a good momentum for agricultural rewilding.

Recommended literature

- *A multi-scale approach to integrating rewilding into agricultural landscapes.* Rey Benayas, J.M. et al. 2025. UAH and others. <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/fee.2860>.
- *La renaturalización del campo. Agricultura y biodiversidad pueden compartir la tierra.* Rey Benayas, J.M. 1st Edition. 2023. <https://libros.cc/La-renaturalizacion-del-campo.htm?isbn=9788419544919>.
- *Current conservation policies risk accelerating biodiversity loss.* Bateman, I. & Balmford, A. 2023. U. Exeter B.S. & U. Cambridge. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-01979-x>.
- *Beyond organic farming – harnessing biodiversity-friendly landscapes.* Tscharntke, T. et al. 2021. U. Göttingen and others. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-01979-x>.
- *Vegetation restoration and other actions to enhance wildlife in European agricultural landscapes.* Rey Benayas, J.M. & Bullock, J.M. UAH & NERC. 2015. <http://link.springer.com/book/10.1007%2F978-3-319-12039-3>.
- *FIRE website.* FIRE. <https://fundacionfire.org/proyecto/>.
- *Experiencia agroturística NavaLAB.* FIRE. <https://rutanavalab.org/>.

Thank you!

josem.rey@uah.es

**Choose
nature.**



**Care for nature
can unify people
and reverse injustice.**

Sander Jacobs

Research Institute for Nature and Forest INBO

RESEARCH INSTITUTE
NATURE AND FOREST







Why? Root causes*:

- **Disconnection** from and **domination** over nature and people
- Unsustainable **production** and **consumption**
- **Concentration of power and wealth**

*IPBES plenary adopted wording

-
- Value indicators
 - Specific values
 - Broad values
 - Worldviews and knowledge systems

Illustrative examples of how aspects of the values typology are highlighted by certain life frames

Values typology

Living from
river
resources

Living in
riverine
landscape

Living with
riverine
species and
habitats

Living as
river as
part of us

WE ALL CARE

Values typology

- Value indicators
- Specific values
- Broad values
- World views and knowledge systems

Illustrative examples of how aspects of the values typology are highlighted by certain life frames

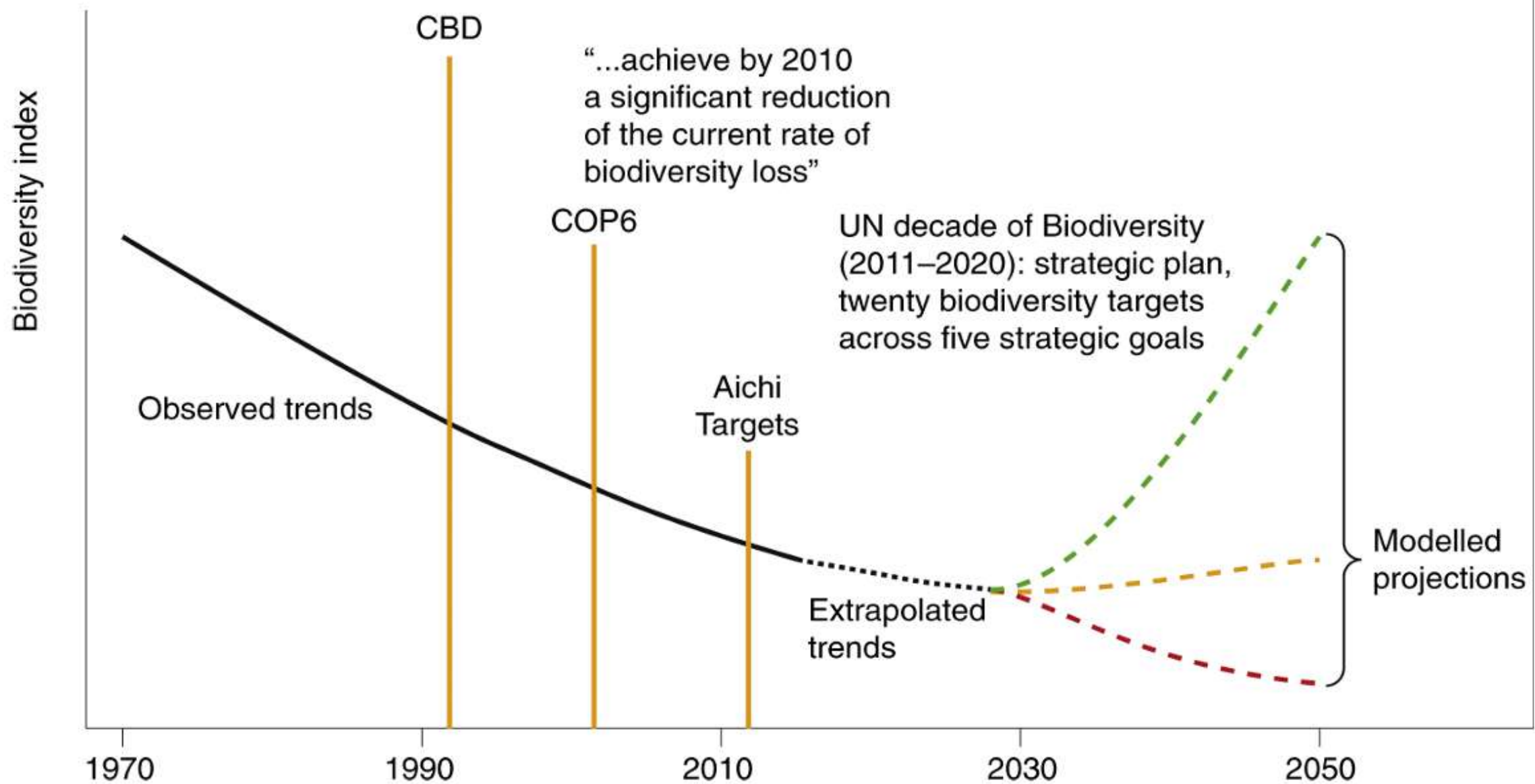
Living from
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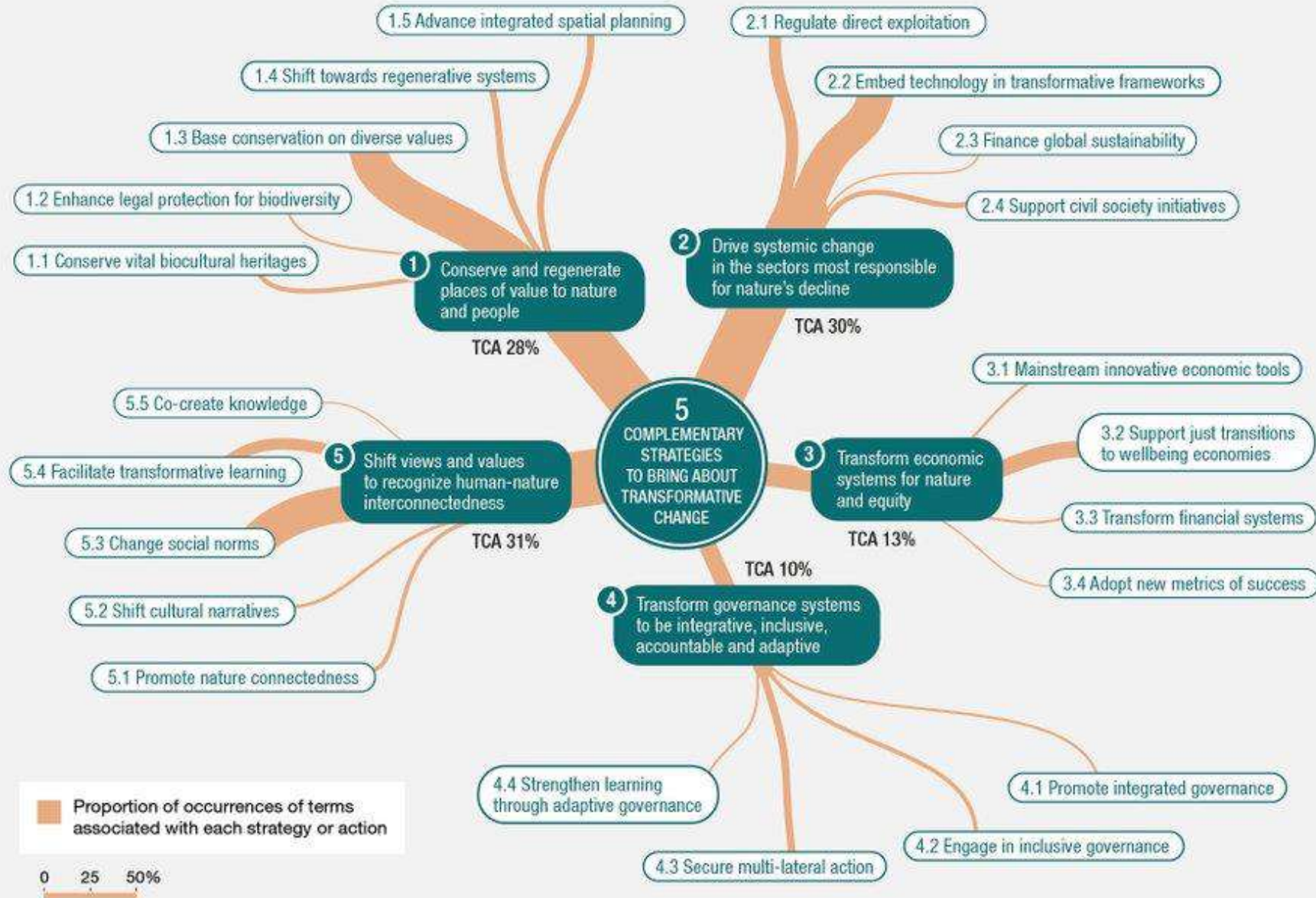
Living with
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Living as
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part of us





Mace, G.M., Barrett, M., Burgess, N.D. *et al.* Author Correction: Aiming higher to bend the curve of biodiversity loss. *Nat Sustain* 3, 885 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-020-00604-3>



MOP the floor

SET GOALS TO:

AND

CLOSE the tap

Maintaining and restoring ecosystems

Sustainable use and management of biodiversity

Halting extinction of species

Restoring **disconnection** between people and nature

Reversing **domination** over nature and people

Reversing **power-concentration**

Why?

- **We know now:** global science and policy backed facts
- **We have the capacity:** we are able to make big changes
- **We have the obligation:** power, wealth, domination position

Why?

- **We know now:** global science and policy backed facts
- **We have the capacity:** we are able to make big changes
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How?

- **IPBES** as a benchmark
- **Set ‘mop & tap’ goals** on personal, organisational, policy levels
- Think about “**caring**” rather than “managing”

Why?

- **We know now:** global science and policy backed facts
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How?

- **IPBES** as a benchmark
- **Set ‘mop & tap’ goals** on personal, organisational, policy levels
- Think about “**caring**” rather than “managing”

What can you do **this week?**

- **Engage in a conversation** with a ‘victim or perpetrator’



Further reading:

Thematic Assessment Report on the Underlying Causes of Biodiversity Loss and the Determinants of Transformative Change and Options for Achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity

<https://www.ipbes.net/transformative-change-assessment>

Pascual, U., Balvanera, P., Anderson, C.B. *et al.* Diverse values of nature for sustainability. *Nature* **620**, 813–823 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06406-9>

Choose to **trust**
nature and people.



Recognising social and economic dependencies on nature

6 short presentations

11h10 | 12h00

Choose to **trust
nature and people.**

**Recognising social and economic
dependencies on nature**

Lisa Biber-Freudenberger

IPBES Nexus Assessment Report

Joachim Maes

DG ENV | European Commission

Cédric Sounard

Assemblée Citoyenne pour le Climat |
Brussels-Capital Region

Sonja Gantioler

JUSTNature |
Hochschule Weihenstephan-Triesdorf

Sue Miller

STOP Ecocide International

Vona Méléder

REWRITE | Nantes Université

We depend on it

*Water needs nature
from source to sea*

People have solutions!

A good life for all

Nature is our future

*We cannot stop the tide –
but we can open the door,
and let nature lead.*

**Choose
nature.**



We depend on it

Lisa Biber-Freudenberger
Center for Development Research, Uni. of Bonn



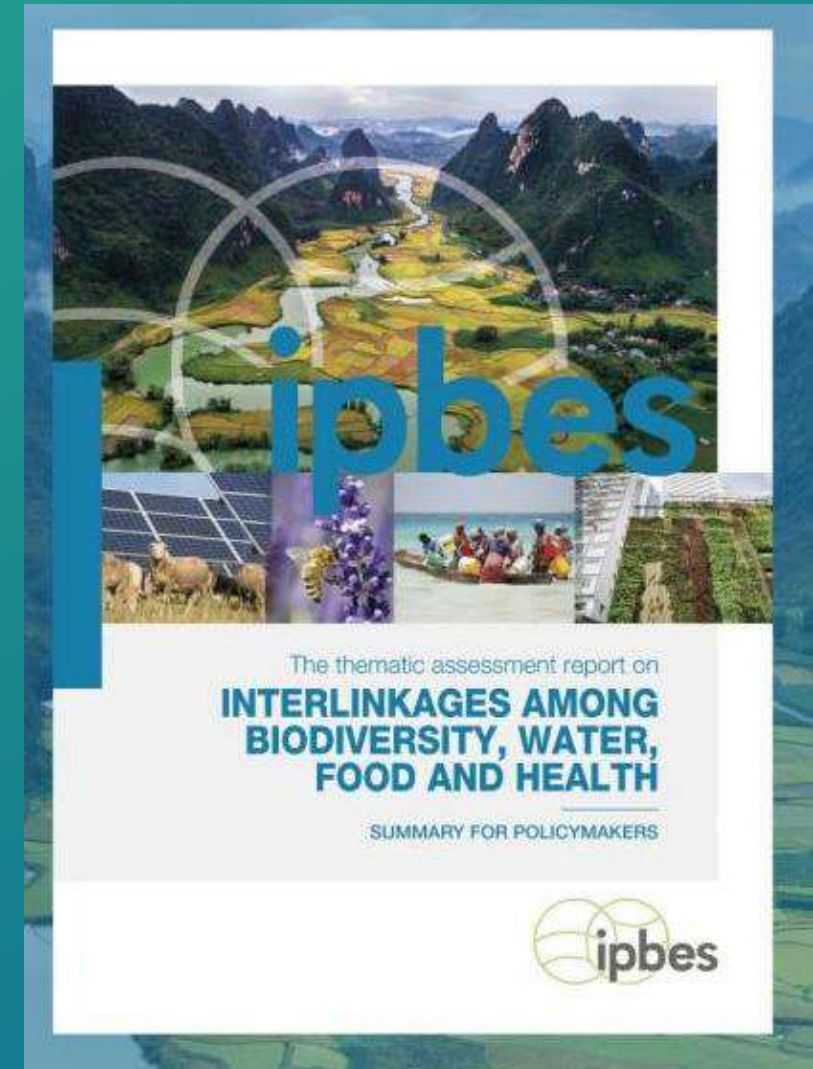
zef
Zentrum für
Entwicklungsforschung
Universität Bonn

UNIVERSITÄT **BONN**

Assessment Report on Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health

www.ipbes.net

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform
on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services



#NexusAssessment

Scope of the Assessment

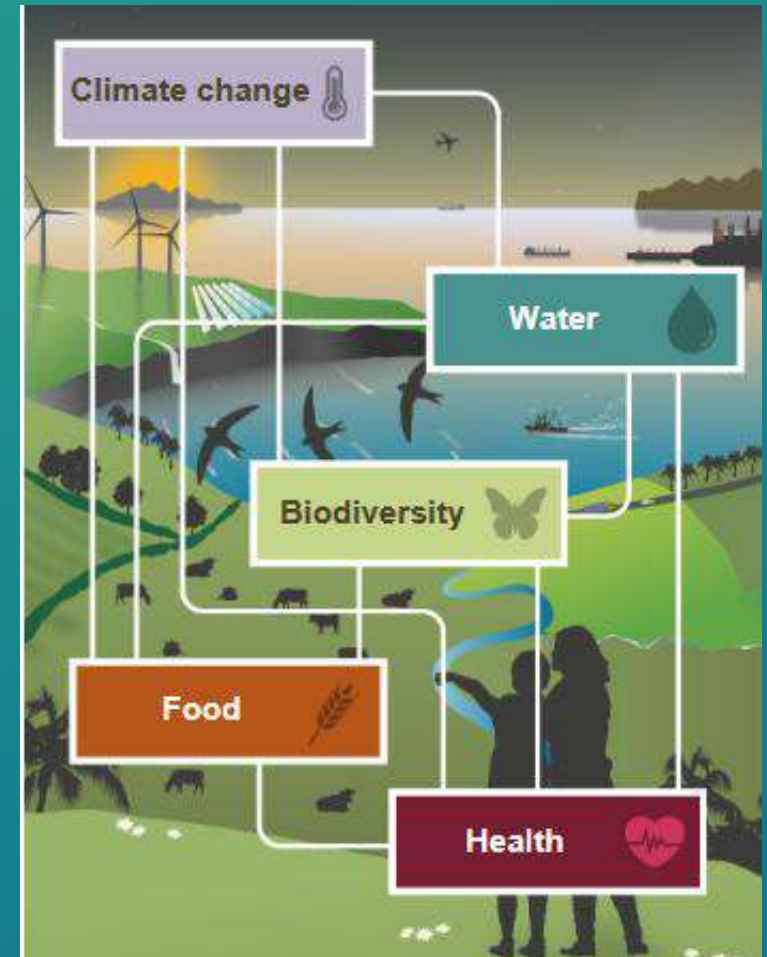
Assess Interlinkages between biodiversity, water, food, health, and climate.

Identify synergies and trade-offs from actions across these systems.

Explore future scenarios to evaluate integrated vs. siloed responses.

Review response options that deliver co-benefits across the nexus and different policy frameworks.

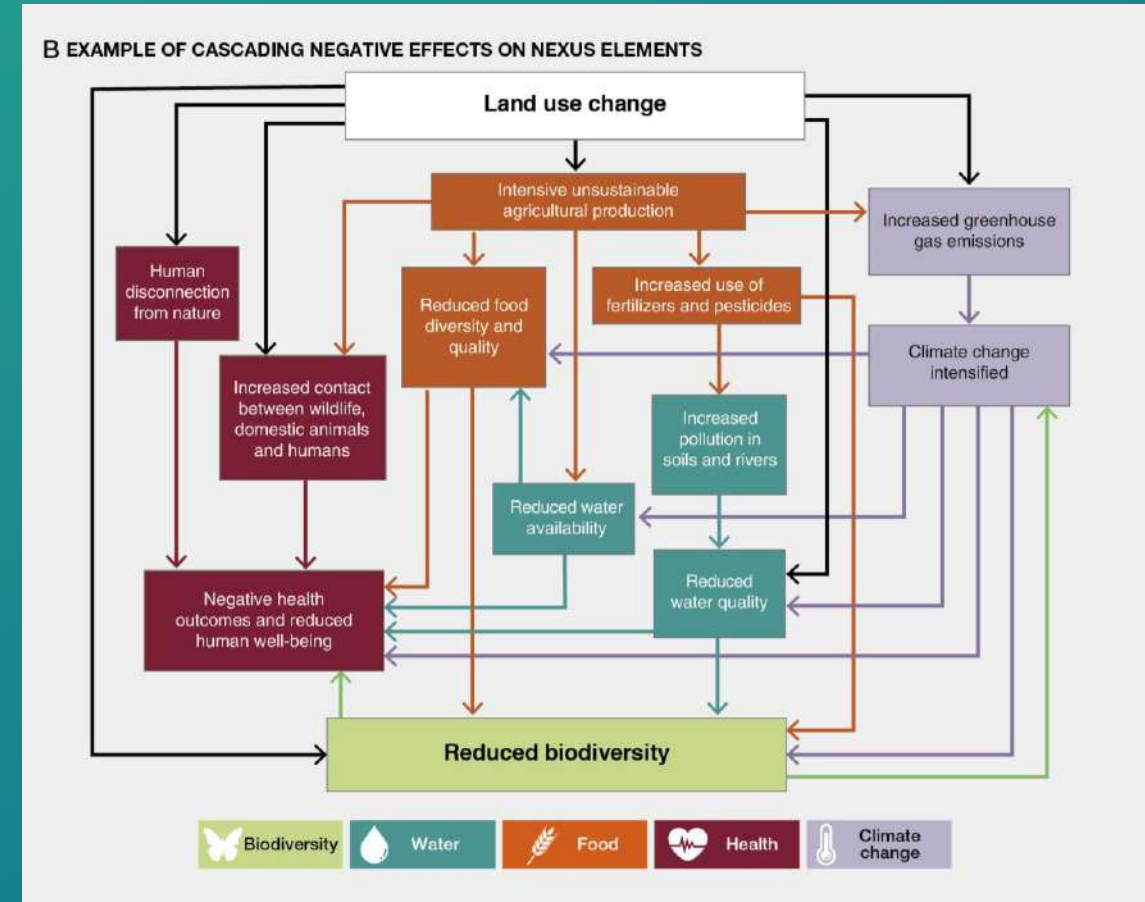
Support transformative change through inclusive, just, and knowledge-diverse approaches.



Past and current trends in nexus elements and their interactions

Trends in indirect and direct drivers of biodiversity loss and their impacts on nexus elements

Current societal, economic and policy decisions prioritize limited and short-term benefits while ignoring their negative impacts on the nexus elements



A TRENDS IN INDIRECT DRIVERS AND THEIR IMPACTS ON TRENDS IN DIRECT DRIVERS

Indicators of indirect driver		Trend in indirect driver	Impact on trend in direct driver				
			Land/ sea use change	Unsustainable exploitation	Climate change 	Pollution	Invasive alien species
Economic	GDP	↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑
	Material intensity	↘		↓	↓	↓	
Demographic	Trade	↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑	↑	↑↑
	Poverty	↓	—	—	—		—
	Population	↗	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	
Institutional	Urbanization	↗	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
	Regulations (environmental)	↑	—	—	—	—	—
	Armed conflicts	↑	~	~	↑	↑	
Cultural	Knowledge/literacy	↗					
Technology	Per capita consumption	↗	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑↑	↑
	Renewable energy (solar and wind)	↑	↑	↑↑	↓	~	
	Use of ICT	↑		↑↑	~	↑	↑

Trend characterization, annual growth rate since 2001

↑	> +3%
↗	0.3 to 3%
→	-0.3 to 0.3%
↘	-0.3 to -3%
↓	< -3%

How trend in indirect driver impacted trend in direct driver

↑↑	Intensification
↑	Modest intensification
—	Stable/little impact
↓	Small reduction
↓↓	Large reduction
~	Variable

Level of evidence of impact

	Well established
	Established but incomplete
	Unresolved
	Inconclusive

B TRENDS IN INDIRECT DRIVERS AND THEIR IMPACTS ON NEXUS ELEMENTS

Indicators of indirect driver		Trend in indirect driver	Biodiversity 	Water 		Food 		Health 	
				Availability	Quality	Quantity	Quality	Physical	Mental
Economic	GDP	↑	↓↓	▼	↓↓	▲	▼	▼	▼
	Material intensity	↘	—	—	—	▲	—	—	—
	Trade	↑	↓↓	▼	↓↓	▲	▼	▼	▼
	Poverty	↓	—	~	—	~	~	~	~
Demographic	Population	↗	↓↓	▼	↓↓	▲	▼	▼	▼
	Urbanization	↗	▼	▼	▼	▲	~	▼	▼
Institutional	Regulations (environmental)	↑	▲	▲	—	—	—	—	—
	Armed conflicts	↑	~	—	—	—	↓↓	↓↓	↓↓
Cultural	Knowledge/literacy	↗	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Per capita consumption	↗	↓↓	▼	↓↓	▲	▼	▼	—
Technology	Renewable energy (solar and wind)	↑	▼	—	—	~	—	~	—
	Use of ICT	↑	▼	—	—	—	—	▼	—

Direct driver

Climate change


↑↑

Trend characterization, annual growth rate since 2001

↑	> +3%
↗	0.3 to 3%
→	-0.3 to 0.3%
↘	-0.3 to -3%
↓	< -3%

How trend in indirect driver impacted trend in direct driver

↑↑	Intensification
↑	Modest intensification
—	Stable/little impact
↓	Small reduction
↓↓	Large reduction
~	Variable

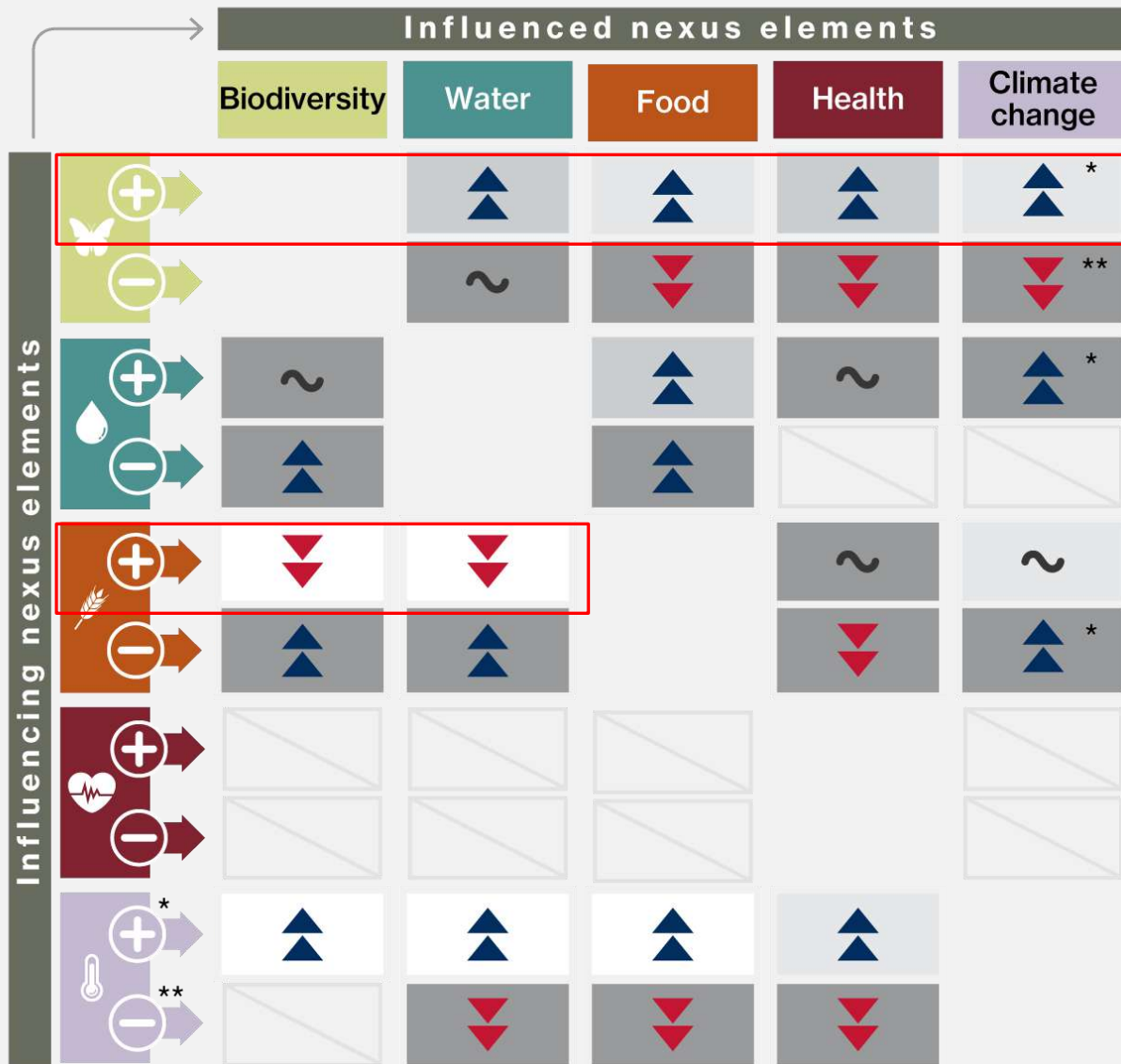
Level of evidence of impact

Well established
Established but incomplete
Unresolved
Inconclusive

How trend in indirect driver impacted trend in nexus element

▲▲	High positive impact
▲	Moderate positive impact
—	Stable/little impact
▼	Moderate negative impact
↓↓	High negative impact
~	Variable

A INTERACTIONS AMONG NEXUS ELEMENTS



Direction of influence



Positive



Negative



Variable

Level of evidence



Well established



Established but incomplete



Unresolved



Inconclusive



No evidence

* Positive means mitigating climate change

** Negative means intensifying climate change

Section B

Future nexus interactions

Continuation of current trends in direct and indirect drivers will result in **substantial negative outcomes for biodiversity, water, food, and health while exacerbating climate change**

Scenarios that **prioritize a single nexus element** without regard to other elements **result in trade-offs across the nexus**

Positive outcomes for people and nature are feasible and include **integrated and timely adoption of multiple response options**

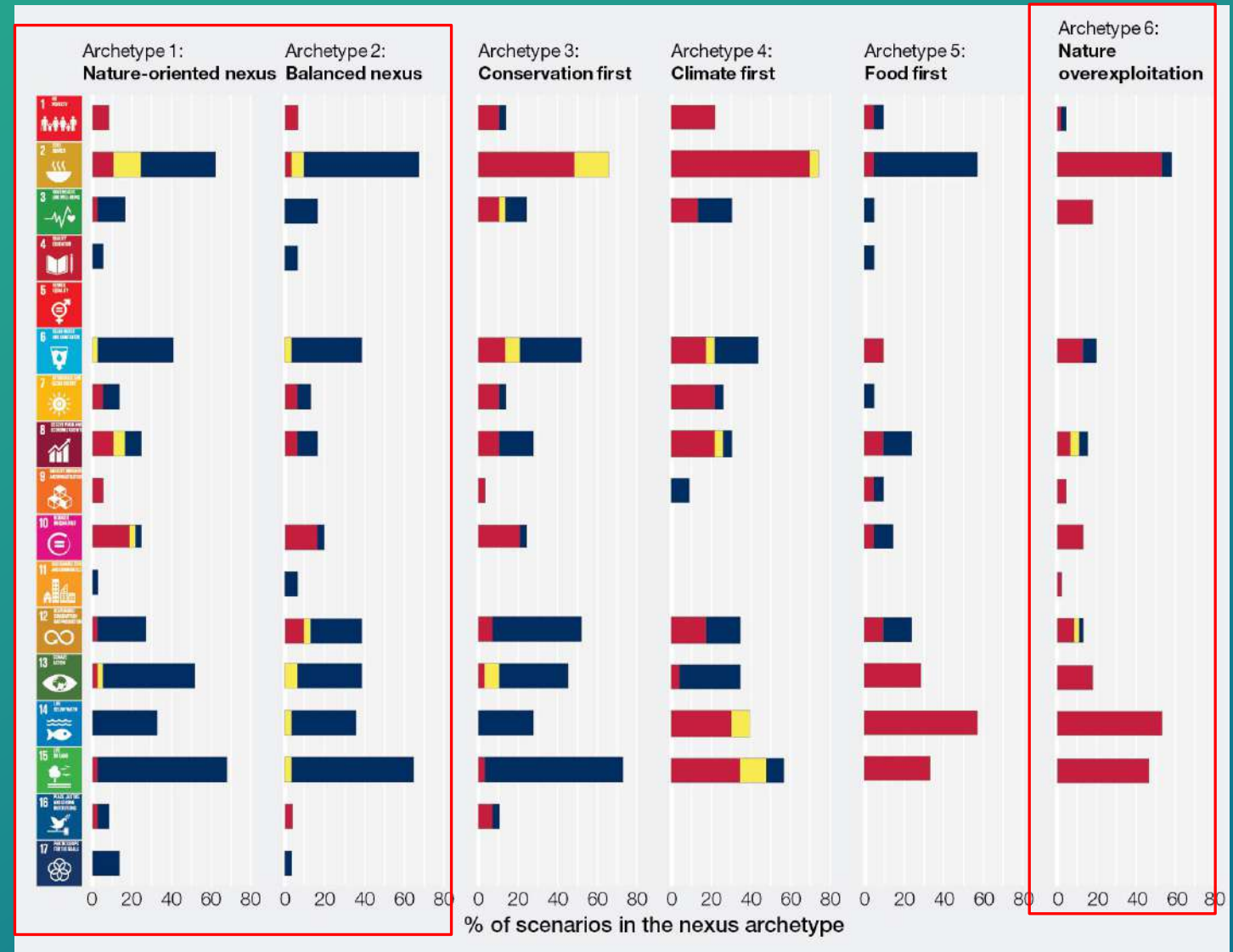
A PROJECTED FUTURE IMPACTS ON THE NEXUS ELEMENTS

Nexus archetype	Nexus element					Impacts on each nexus element under each nexus archetype
	Biodiversity	Water	Food	Health	Climate	
1. Nature-oriented nexus	▲▲▲	▲▲	▲	▲	▲▲	▲▲▲ Highly positive
2. Balanced nexus	▲	▲	▲▲	▲▲	▲	▲▲ Moderately positive
3. Conservation first	▲▲	~	▼▼	~	▲	▲ Slightly positive
4. Climate first	▼	~	▼▼	▲	▲▲	~ Variable
5. Food first	▼▼	▼	▲	▲	▼▼	▼ Slightly negative
6. Nature overexploitation	▼▼	~	▼▼	▼	▼▼	▼▼ Moderately negative
						▼▼ Highly negative

Section B

Future nexus interactions

Scenarios that **positively impact biodiversity and the other nexus elements** have more beneficial outcomes for the **Sustainable Development Goals**



Section C

Response options that address nexus interactions

Many response options are available to actors in multiple sectors for sustainably managing the nexus elements

Many response options benefit multiple nexus elements when implemented at appropriate scales and accounting for context

Response option								Response option								
Conserve ecosystems	B01	Area-based conservation	●	●	●	●	●	Integrate planning and governance	B03	Integrated landscape and seascape approaches	●	●	●	●	●	●
	F01	Halt conversion of ecosystems of high ecological integrity	●	●	●	●	●		B12	Land and sea planning	●	●	●	●	●	●
	H10	Forest conservation for health	●	●	●	●	●		W02	Integrated water infrastructure	●	●	●	●	●	●
Restore ecosystems	B05	Forest landscape restoration	●	●	●	●	●	W08	Transboundary water cooperation	●	●	●	NE	●	●	
	B06	Restoration of coastal and marine systems	●	●	●	●	IC/NE	W09	Groundwater governance	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	B07	Restoration of inland water systems	●	●	●	●	●	W13	Water-sensitive urban infrastructure	—	●	●	●	●	●	
Manage ecosystems	B08	Rewilding	●	●	●	●	●	W15	Community water management	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	F02	Restore soil health	●	●	●	●	●	F12	City region food systems	—	●	●	●	●	●	
	H08	Mangrove conservation and restoration for health	●	●	●	●	●	H12	Integrated watershed-health interventions	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Manage ecosystems	C04	Wetland conservation and restoration	●	●	●	—	●	B02	Urban nature-based solutions*	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	C13	Restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems for carbon sequestration	●	●	●	●	●	G14	Ecosystem-based adaptation in rural landscapes	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	B03	Agroecology*	●	●	●	●	●	W03	Dam operation	—	●	●	●	●	●	
Manage ecosystems	C11	Sustainable inland fisheries	●	●	●	●	●	H03	Net-zero sustainable healthcare	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	W11	Manage alien species	●	●	●	●	●	H09	Urban green infrastructure	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	F04	Ecological intensification - croplands	●	●	●	●	●	H11	Biodiversity management for zoonoses	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Manage ecosystems	F05	Ecological intensification - rangelands	●	●	●	●	●	H13	Health impact assessments	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	F06	Ecological intensification - aquatic foods	●	●	●	●	●	H14	The One Health approach	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	C01	Increase soil organic carbon	●	●	●	●	●	C09	Multi-hazard early warning systems	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Manage ecosystems	C03	Integrated multi-trophic aquaculture	—	—	●	●	●	B10	Rights-based approaches	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	C12	Forest-based practices to address climate change	●	●	●	●	●	W01	Inclusive water education	IC	IC	●	●	●	IC	
	W04	Efficient water use in agriculture	●	●	●	●	●	W06	Inclusive water management	●	●	NE	NE	NE	NE	
Consume sustainably	F10	Reduce food loss and waste	●	●	●	●	●	W07	Flights of nature	IC	●	IC	●	●	IC	
	F11	Sustainable healthy diets*	●	—	●	●	●	W14	Address gendered burdens of water collection	NE	●	●	●	●	●	
	C15	Sustainable use of medicinal plants	●	●	●	●	●	F14	Foster gender transformative approaches	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Consume sustainably	H04	Sustainable use of medicinal plants	●	●	●	●	●	F15	Indigenous food systems	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	H06	Reduce meat overconsumption	●	—	●	●	●	F16	Access to natural resources and land	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	C05	Offshore wind power	●	●	●	●	●	H01	Universal health coverage	IC/NE	●	●	●	●	●	
Consume sustainably	C06	Solar photovoltaics on land	●	●	—	●	●	H02	Intercultural health services	IC/NE	NE	●	●	●	NE	
	C07	Sustainable bioeconomy	●	●	●	●	●	B13	Natural capital accounting	●	—	●	●	●	●	
	W12	Manage wastewater	●	●	●	●	●	W10	Finance for water infrastructure	—	●	●	●	—	—	
Reduce pollution	F07	Reduce nutrient pollution	●	●	—	●	—	F13	Reform public spending	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	F08	Reduce pesticide pollution	●	●	●	●	—	C10	Global cooperation for finance and technology	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	F09	Reduce plastic pollution	IC	●	●	●	●	B11	Multilateral environmental agreements	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Reduce pollution	H07	Pollution prevention	●	●	●	●	●	B14	Reconnecting people with nature	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	C02	Sustainable intensification*	●	●	●	●	●	H05	Nature on prescription	—	—	●	●	●	●	
	F03	Reduce short-lived climate pollutants	—	NE	●	●	●	H15	Integrated health education	●	●	●	●	●	●	
Average impact score			Nexus elements													
Positive impact			● ≥ 2.5													
Negative impact			● ≤ -2.5													
No impact			— No impact													
IC			IC Inconclusive													
NE			NE No evidence													
			● ≥ 1.5 and < 2.5													
			● ≤ -1.5 and > -2.5													
			● > 0 and < 1.5													
			● < 0 and > -1.5													
			● > 0 and < 1.5													
			● < 0 and > -1.5													
			● > 0 and < 1.5													
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Response option								Response option							
Conserve ecosystems	B01	Area-based conservation	●	●	●	●	●	Integrate planning and governance	B09	Integrated landscape and seascape approaches	●	●	●	●	●
	F01	Halt conversion of ecosystems of high ecological integrity	●	●	●	●	●		B12	Land and sea planning	●	●	●	●	●
	H10	Forest conservation for health	●	●	●	●	●		W02	Integrated water infrastructure	●	●	●	●	●
Restore ecosystems	B05	Forest landscape restoration	●	●	●	●	●		W08	Transboundary water cooperation	●	●	●	NE	●
	B06	Restoration of coastal and marine systems	●	●	●	IC/NE	●		W09	Groundwater governance	●	●	●	●	●
	B07	Restoration of inland water systems	●	●	●	●	●		W13	Water-sensitive urban infrastructure	—	●	●	●	●
	B08	Rewilding	●	●	●	●	●		W15	Community water management	●	●	●	●	●
	F02	Restore soil health	●	●	●	●	●		F12	City region food systems	—	●	●	●	●
	H08	Mangrove conservation and restoration for health	●	●	●	●	●		H12	Integrated watershed-health interventions	●	●	●	●	●
G04	Wetland conservation and	●	●	●	●	●	B02		Urban nature-based	●	●	●	●	●	

Section C

Response options that address nexus interactions

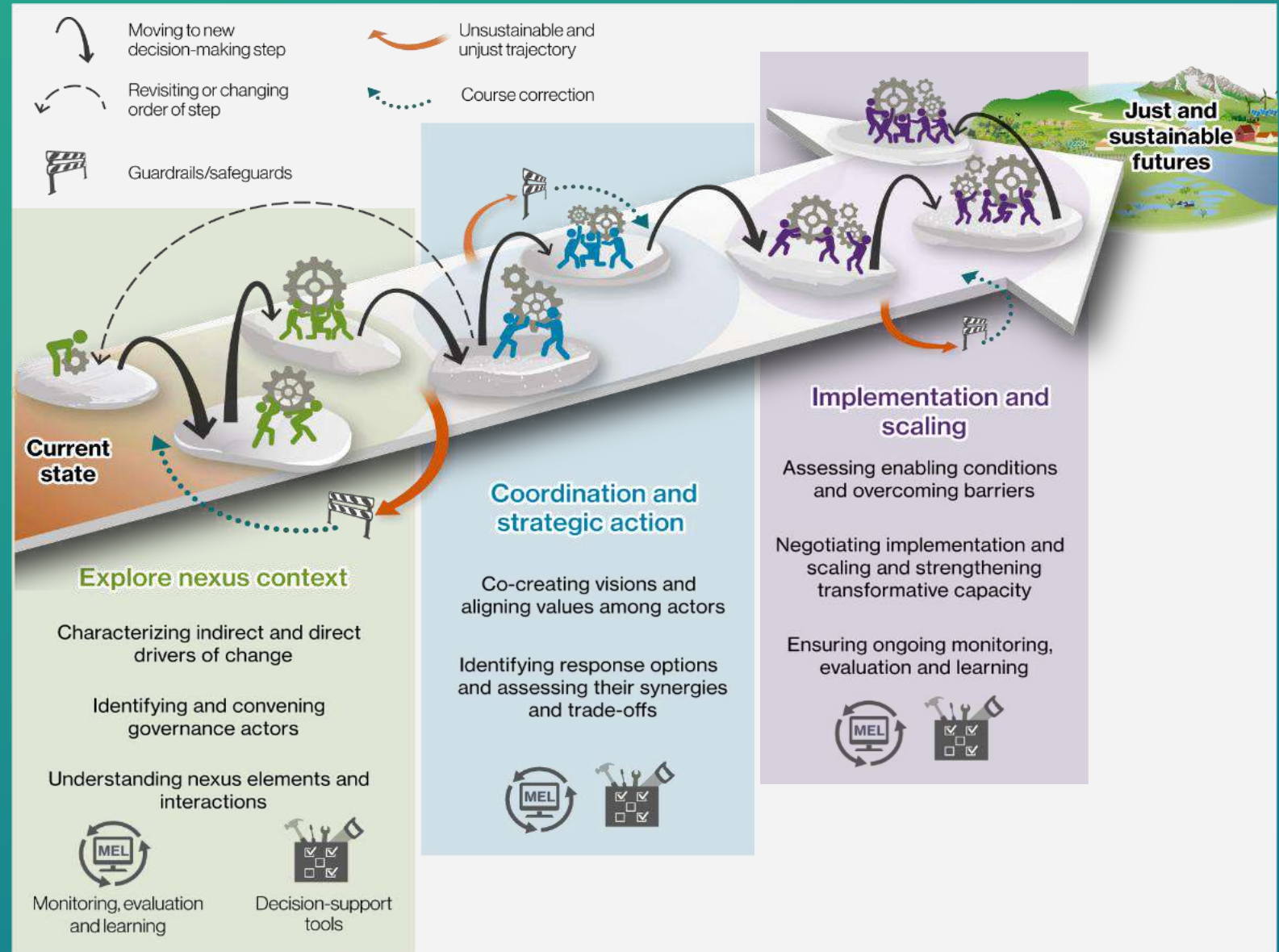
Responses options implemented together or in sequence may enhance their nexus-wide benefits

Response options can support the achievement of global goals and targets such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework targets and the Paris Agreement



Section D

Governing the nexus for achieving just and sustainable futures



Recommended literature

- Summary for Policymakers of the Thematic Assessment Report on the Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, IPBES. 2024 <https://zenodo.org/records/15673657>

**Choose
nature.**



Water needs nature from source to sea

Joachim Maes

European Commission – DG Environment



The Water Crisis Challenge

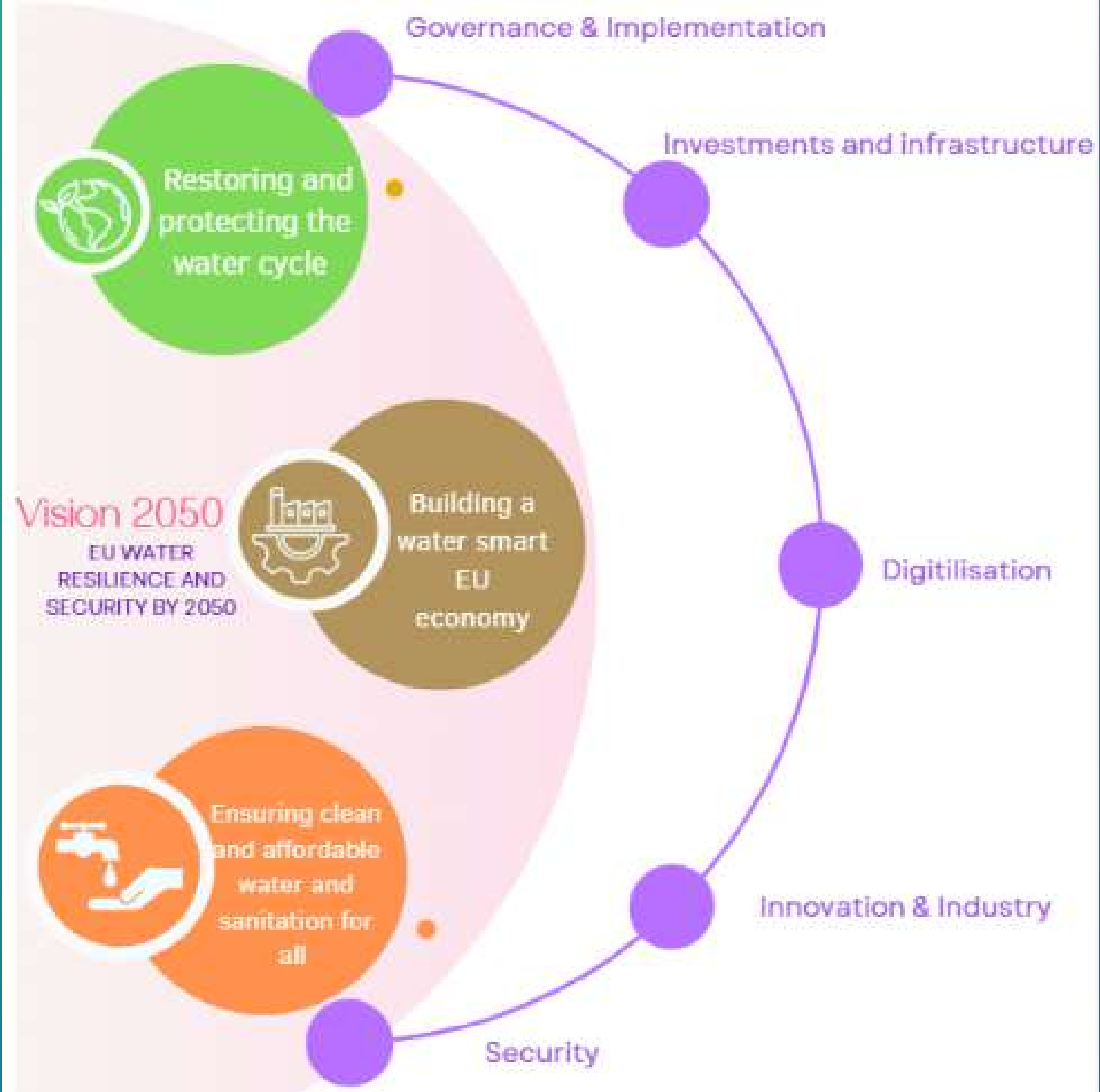
Europe's Water Wake-up Call

- **Key message:** The water cycle naturally stores, purifies, and releases water - but we've disrupted this natural system through overexploitation, pollution, and environmental degradation
- Climate change is intensifying droughts, floods, and water scarcity across Europe
- Conventional infrastructure alone cannot meet these unprecedented challenges



European Water Resilience Strategy

- The Strategy's foundational principle: *"Restoring and protecting the water cycle as basis for sustainable water supply"*



Nature as Our Water Bank

Restoring Nature's Sponge Functions

- The **Water Resilience Strategy's** foundational principle: *"Restoring and protecting the water cycle as basis for sustainable water supply"*
- Key ecosystems that act as natural water infrastructure from source to sea: Soils, forests, wetlands, floodplains - nature's water storage systems
- Healthy ecosystems store freshwater, replenish groundwater, protect biodiversity
- "Nature's sponge functions of landscapes"



Enforcing Current Water Laws

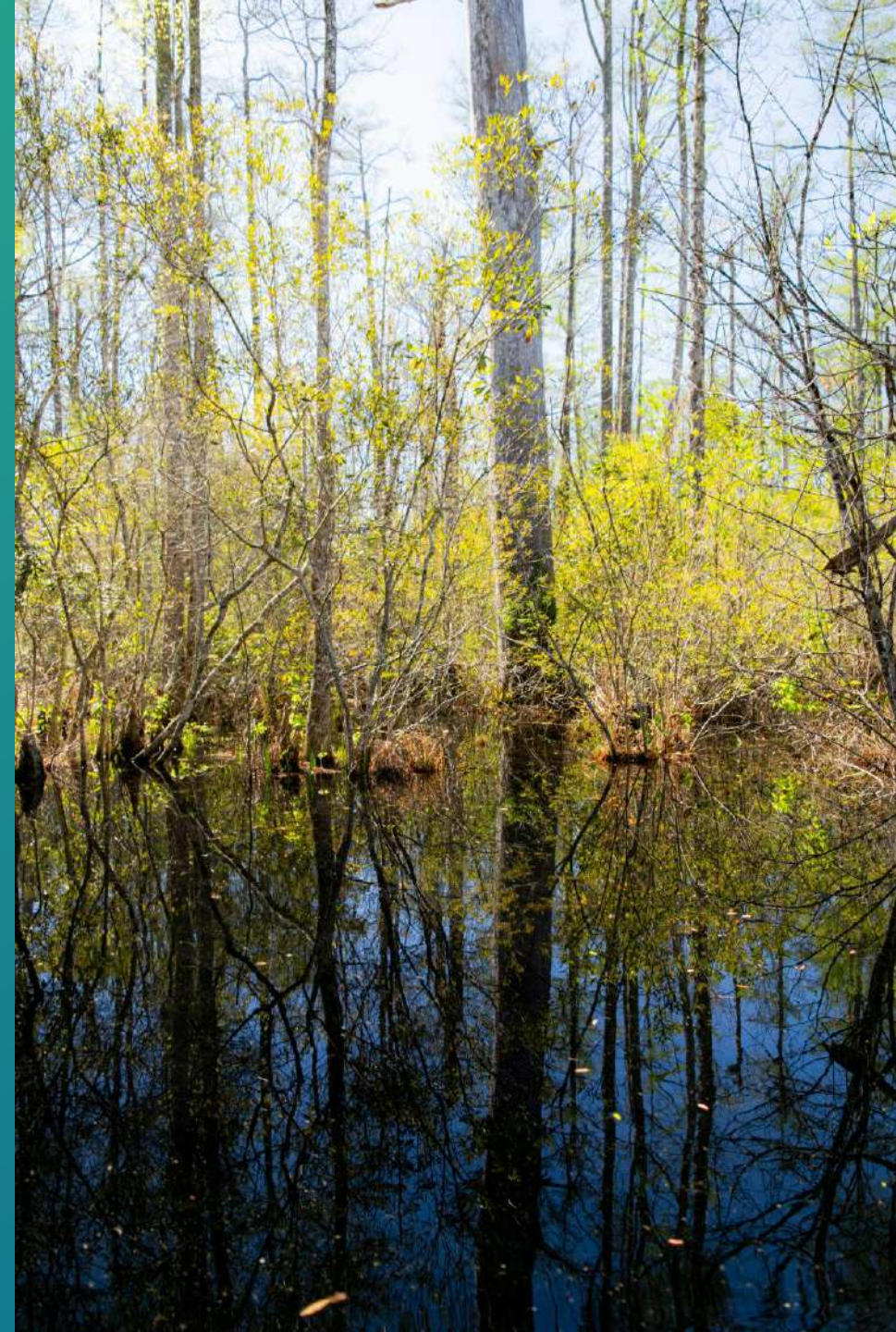
Driving Water Resilience Forward

- Prioritise enforcement of existing water and flood directives
- Develop indicators and guidance to better manage droughts and water scarcity
- Fully integrate water and climate resilience into national restoration plans
- Improve the Marine Strategy Framework Directive to reduce pollution



Scaling Up Water Resilience Beyond Current Legislation

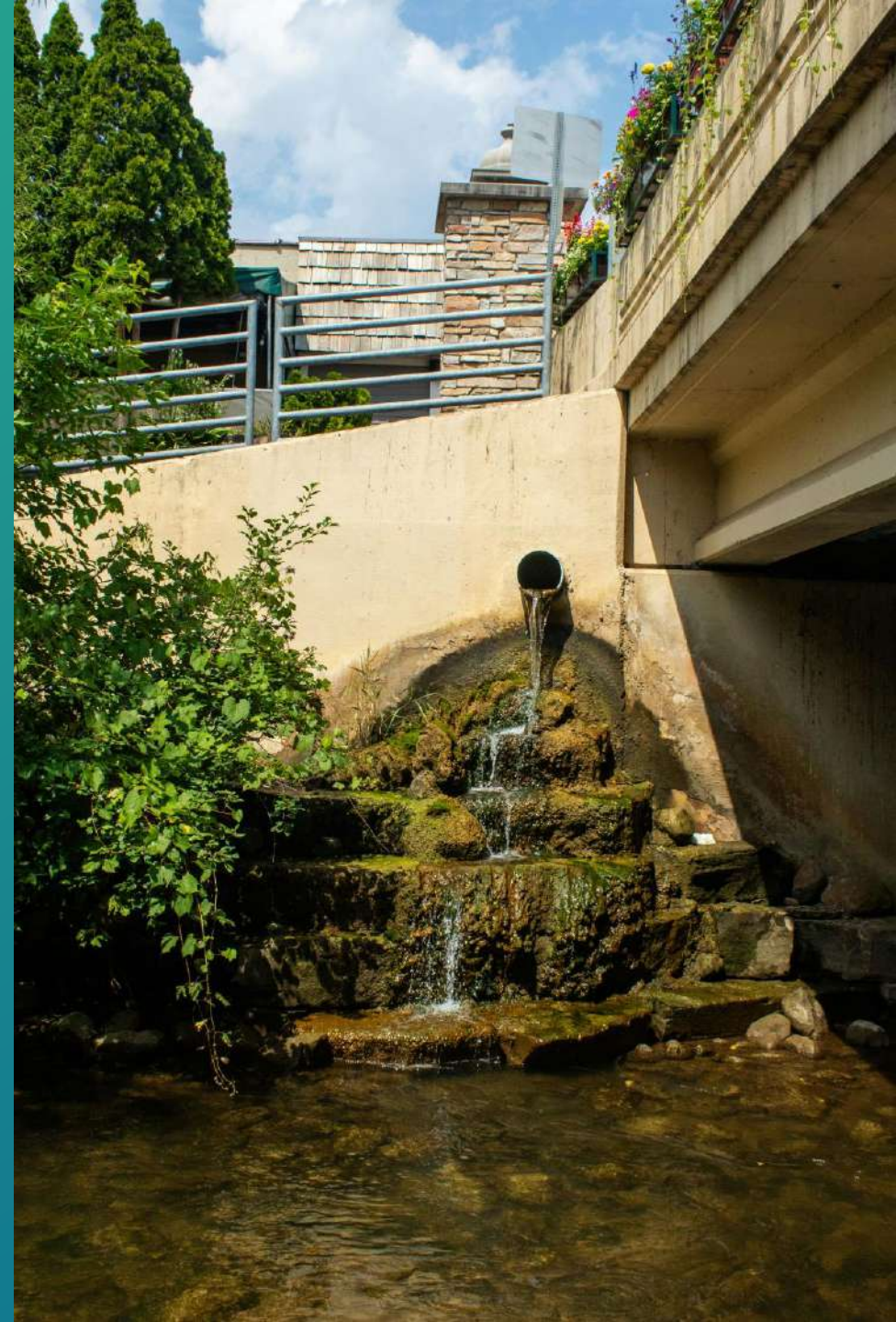
- Develop a "Sponge Facility" to scale up water retention on land
- Promote "sponge cities" and farming practices that retain water in soil
- Strengthen integrated management of fresh and marine waters
- Technical solutions like reservoirs are a part of a sustainable strategy



Sponge Facility

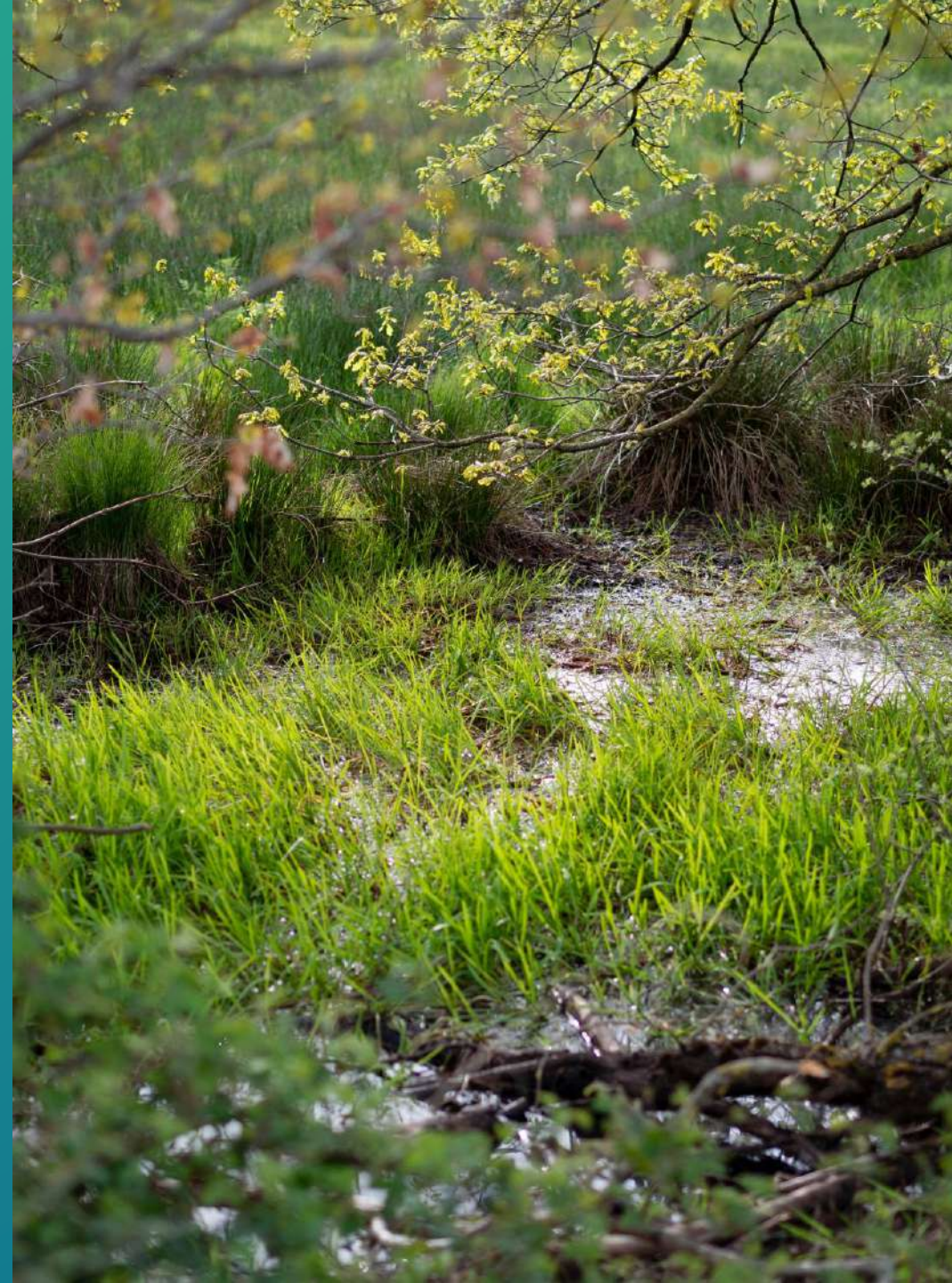
Scaling Up Successful Water Retention

- Action to better coordinate and scale up new and existing initiatives aimed at increasing natural water retention on land
- Increasing knowledge and confidence among land-use and spatial planners, disseminating examples of reliable and economically sound best practices
- Likely an online knowledge hub / Community of Practice



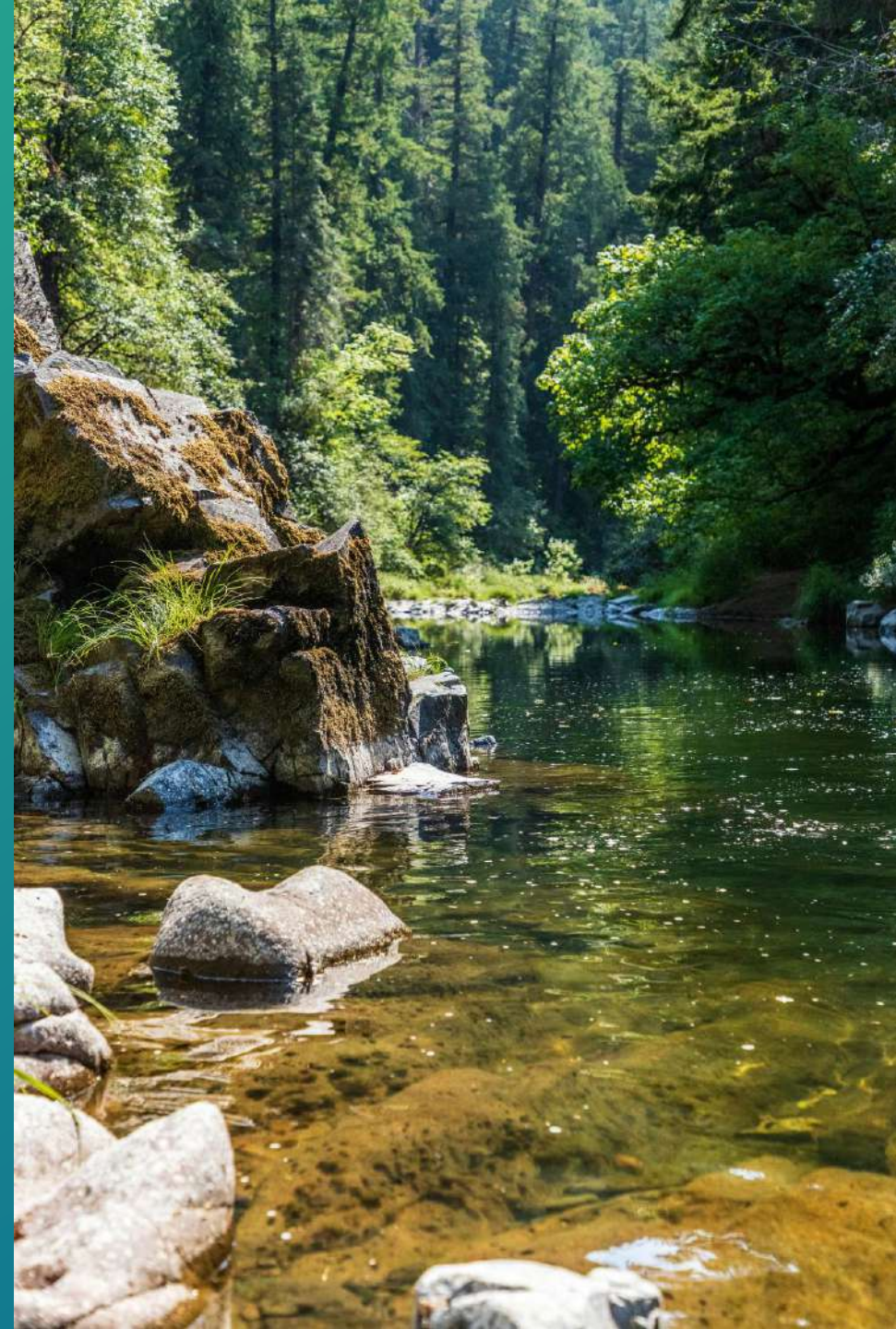
Investment in Water Resilience

- Priority under the revised cohesion policy for 2025-2027
- EUR 15 billion from the European Investment Bank for 2025-2027
- Water Resilience Investment Accelerator: 20 pilot innovative cases
- Roadmap for Nature Credits: Incentivizing private investment in ecosystem services



The Path Forward – Choose Nature

- Vision: Climate-resilient Europe where nature and people thrive together
- Call to action:
 - Support implementation of the Water Resilience Strategy
 - Invest in nature-based solutions as core infrastructure
 - Integrate water resilience into all policy decisions



Recommended readings

- [European Water Resilience Strategy](#)
- [Nature Restoration Regulation](#)
- [Benefits, co-benefits, and trade-offs in natural water retention measures: a review of classifications and indicators](#)

**Choose
nature.**



People Have Solutions !

Cédric Sounard

Citizen : Burgerraad voor het Klimaat + CommonsHub.Brussels + North Star AGI



commons*hub
BRUSSELS



Recommended literature and Web Pages

- <https://www.assembleeclimat.brussels/>
- <https://environnement.brussels/citoyen/nos-actions/plans-et-politiques-regionales/assemblee-citoyenne-pour-le-climat-construisons-ensemble-la-ville-de-demain>
- Food Waste Index Report 2024. Think Eat Save: Tracking Progress to Halve Global Food Waste
<https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/45230;jsessionid=5E1538B78756BC3F453A2939E286F924>
- Elinor Ostrom Economic Theory on the Commons (Third Cycle on sharing)
- Kate Raworth works on Donut Economics (For sustainability)
- <https://www.ns2agi.com/events/> (for the Hackathons of North Star)
- <https://tgtg.onelink.me/OGjG/w5urdsh2> (to join me on Too Good to Go and save food!)

**Choose
nature.**



A good life for all

Sonja Gantioler

Prof. Transformation Environment

| Nature | Landscape

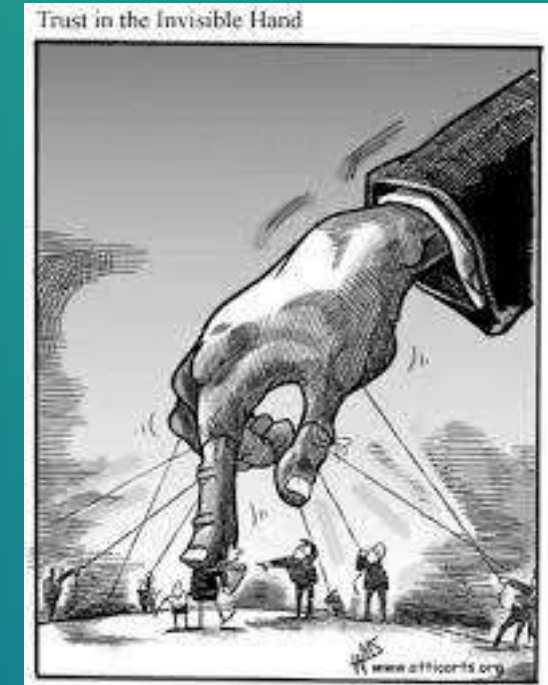
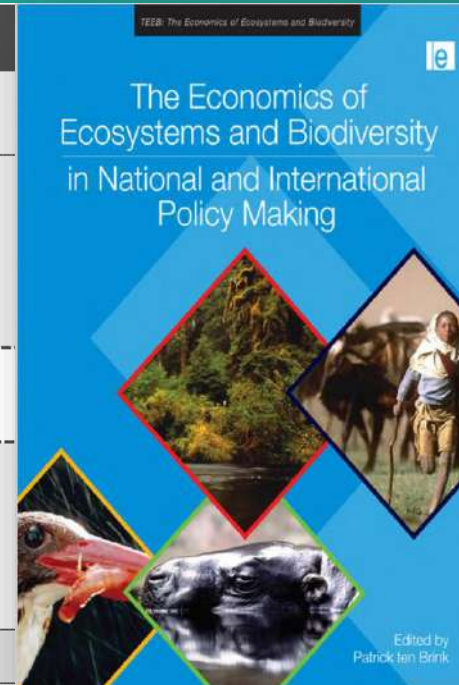
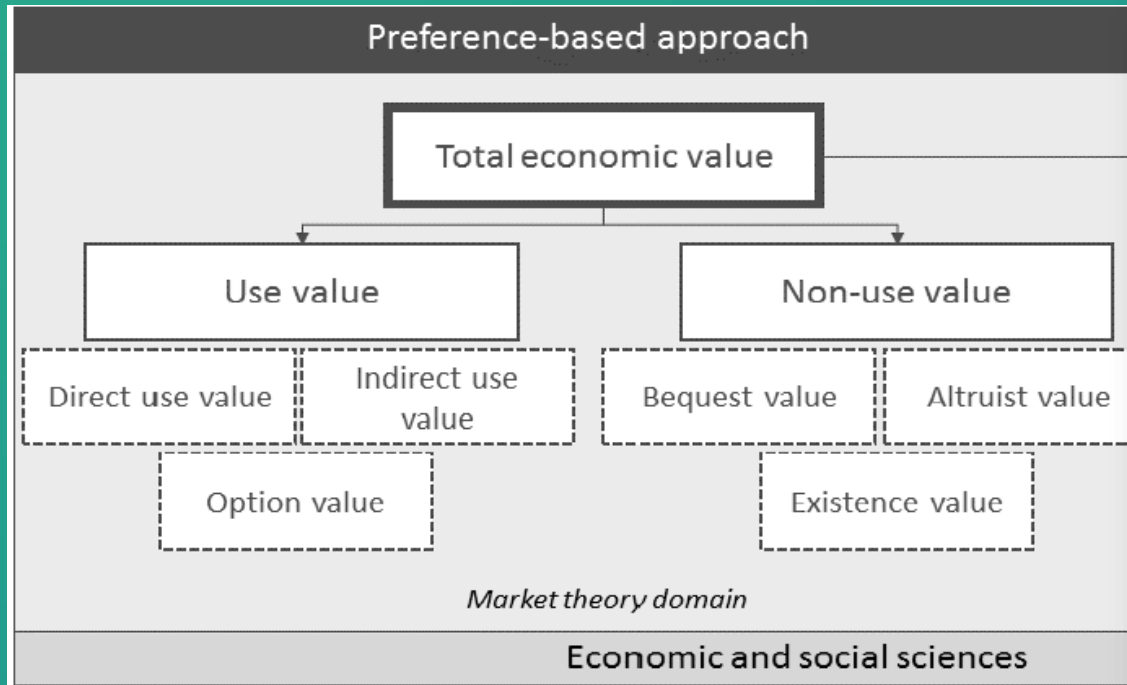
University of Applied Sciences

Weihenstephan-Triesdorf | JUSTNature



WEIHENSTEPHAN • TRIESDORF
University of Applied Sciences

Moving from the market theory domain....

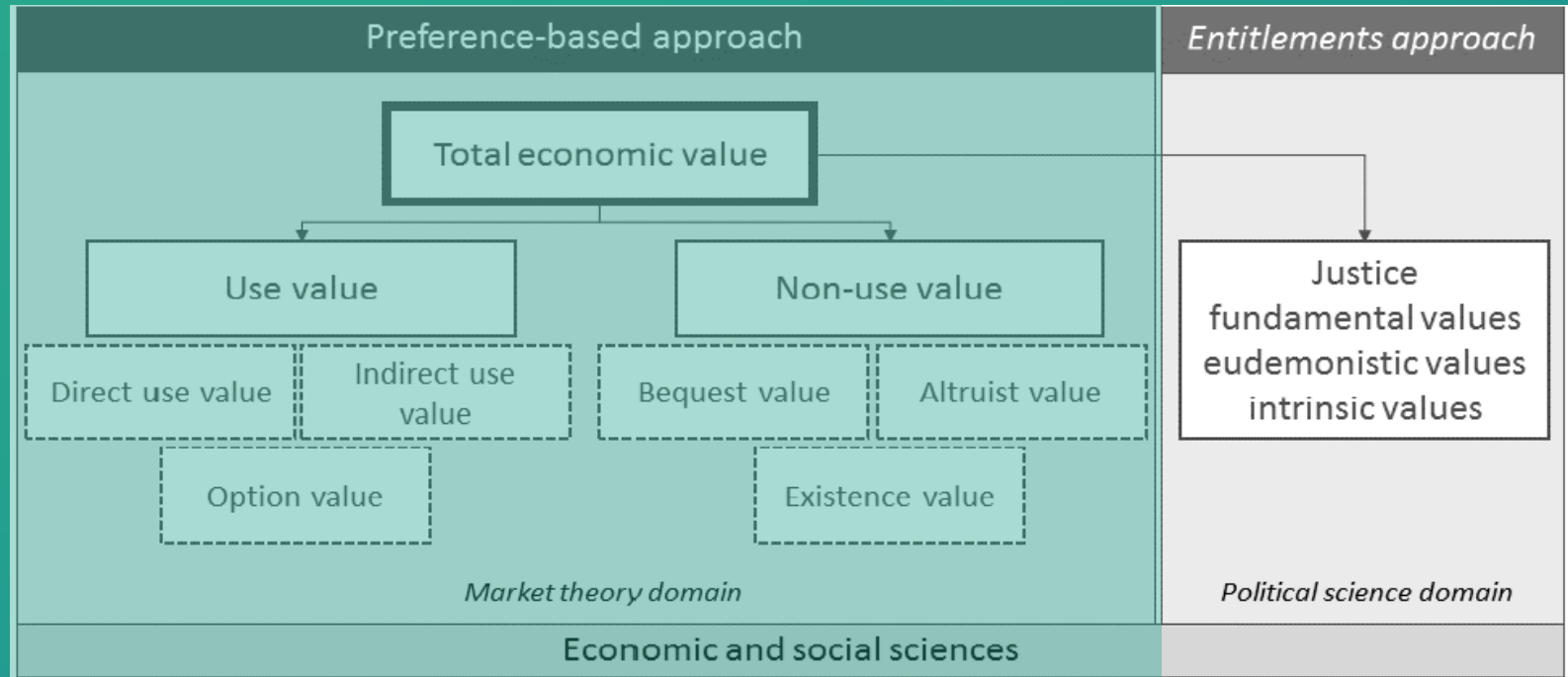


Gantioler 2019

Success of the model of the perfect competitive market: it *'helped avoiding to think about issues of power'*

Atkinson (2015)

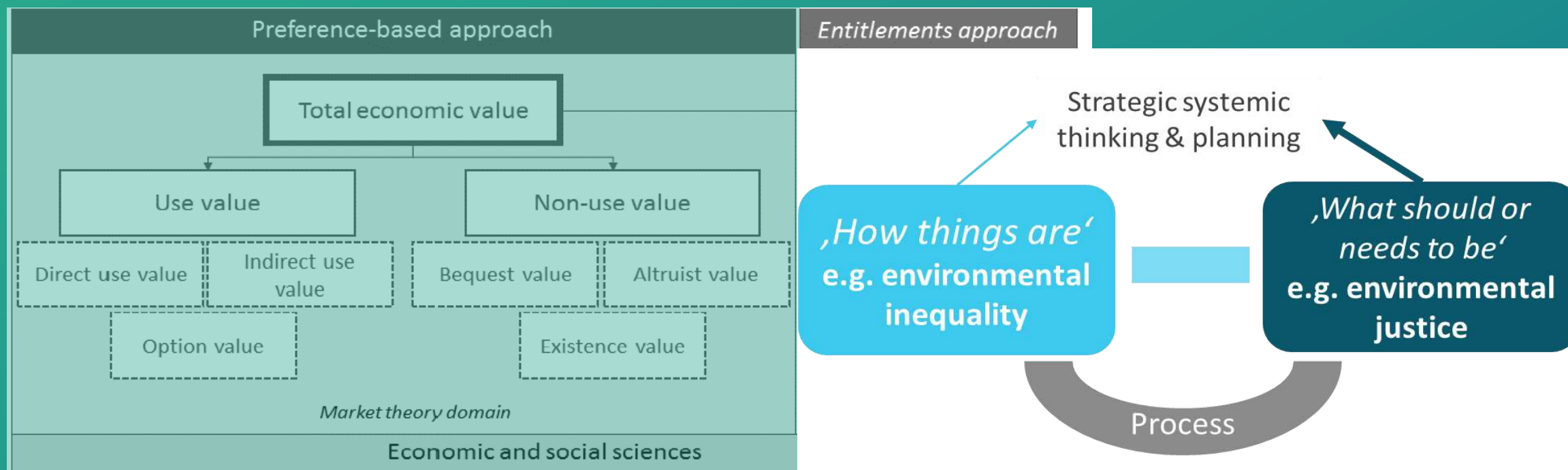
To the political science domain....



Gantioler 2019

Transforming is 'making sense together'

To the political science domain....



Gantioler 2019

Transforming is ‘making sense together’

Collaboratively activating

From single functions
or benefits



Solar energy
production



To multiple functions
or co-benefits



Solar energy
production

Green walls
shade provision

Green roofs
climate cooling



Multi-functionality
or multifunctional benefits



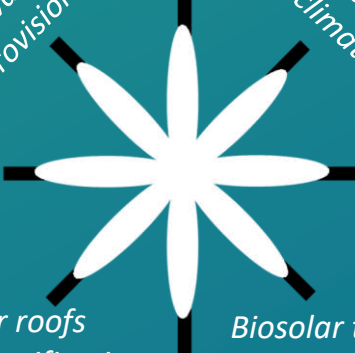
Biosolar roofs energy
production

Biosolar walls
shade provision

Biosolar roofs
climate cooling

Biosolar roofs
water purification

Biosolar terraces
food production



Transformative functionings
or good life in IABY



Energy production

Air quality

Restoration

Water retention

Habitat

Urban gardening

Noise abatement

Climate cooling

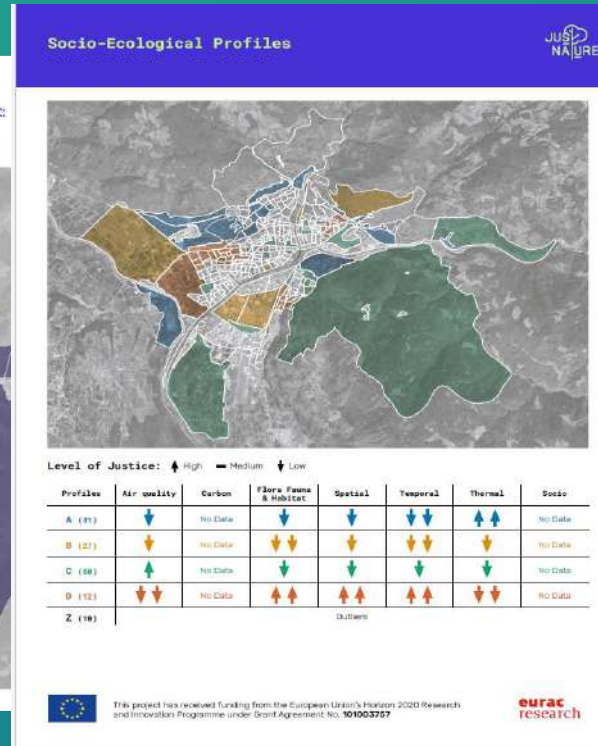
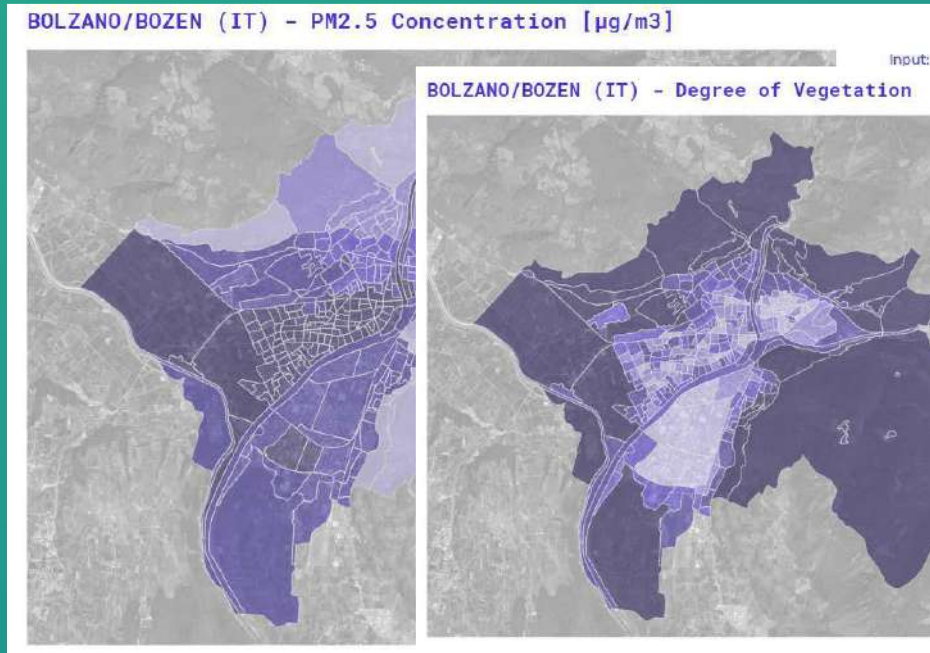
Amenity



Strategic planning of the what should be!

‘Strategic spatial planning is a transformative and integrative, (preferably) public-sector-led socio-spatial process through which a **vision, coherent actions, and means for implementation** are produced that shape and frame what a place is and what it might become’

Albrechts (2006)



Re-interpreting entrepreneurship!

Entrepreneurship as including **ALL ACTORS** organizing, managing, and assuming the risks of an endeavor – from public administrations to the private sector and individual citizens as well as research institutions.

DellaValle, Gantioler, Tomasi (2021)

Bewirb dich jetzt!

Netzwerkveranstaltung
**Unternehmen und
Stadtverwaltung für
mehr grüne Freiräume
in der Stadt**

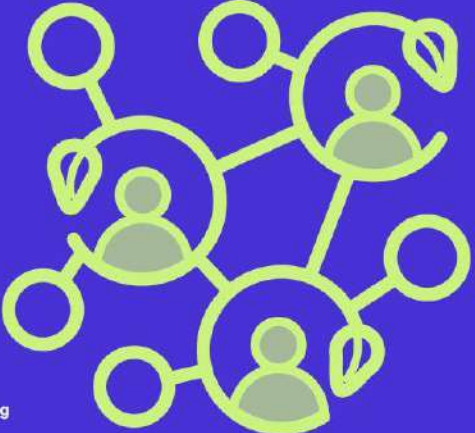
Am 13. Mai 2025
im Munich
Urban CoLab

Anmeldung
und Infos





 Landeshauptstadt
München
**Referat für Stadtplanung
und Bauordnung**



Nature-positive built environment: Cooperatively competing!



Vienna Sonnwendviertel, ©BauXgund



Vienna Nordbahnviertel

Recommended literature

Albrechts, L. (2006). Shifts in strategic spatial planning? Some evidence from Europe and Australia, *Environment and Planning*, 38(6), 1149–1170

Atkinson, A. B. (2015). *Inequality*. Harvard University Press.

Batáry, P. et al (2025). Biodiversity and human well-being trade-offs and synergies in villages. *Nat Sustain* 8, 894–904 (2025).

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-025-01592-y>

Della Valle N, Gantioler S and Tomasi S (2021) Can Behaviorally Informed Urban Living Labs Foster the Energy Transition in Cities? *Front. Sustain. Cities* 3:573174. doi: 10.3389/frsc.2021.573174

Gantioler, S. (2019). *The right to ecological space / in the city*. TUM University Press. <https://mediatum.ub.tum.de/doc/1428708/1428708.pdf>

Websites:

A Good Life For All Within Planetary Boundaries. <https://goodlife.leeds.ac.uk/>

**Choose
nature**



Nature is our future

Ms Sue Miller

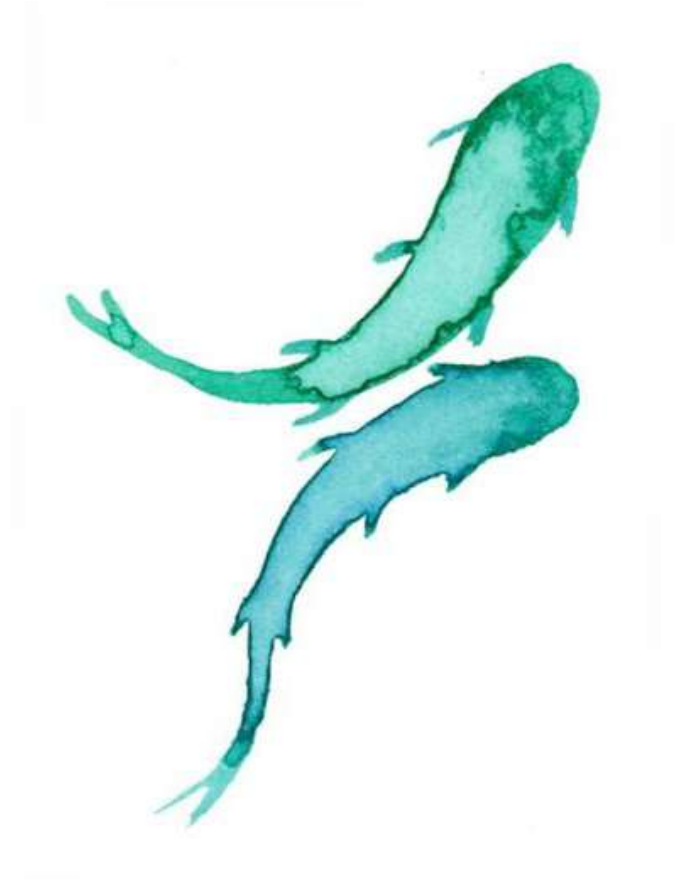
Chief Networks Officer,
Stop Ecocide International



Ecocide means

unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts.

Independent Expert Panel for the Legal Definition of Ecocide, June 2021;
proposed for inclusion in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,
September 2024.



www.stopecocide.earth

STOP
ECOCIDE
International

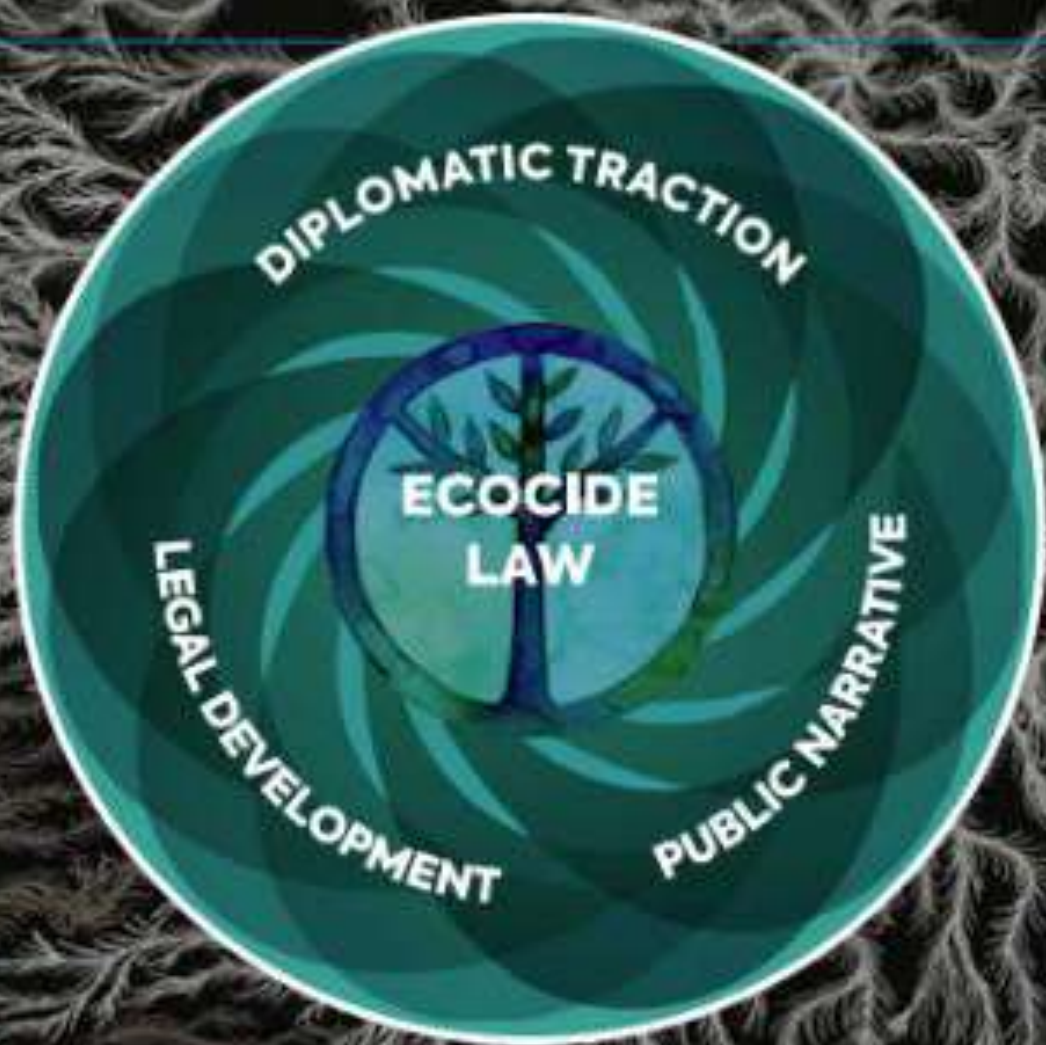
OUR STRATEGY

We build **momentum and concrete progress** through **mutual reinforcement and reiteration** of:

Diplomatic traction: high level advocacy and connecting, UN/ICC dialogue, state level support

Legal development: convening legal definition, expert advisory panels, model laws

Public narrative: tracking, framing and amplifying developments



ROCKET SPEED...

SEI has propelled ecocide law **from obscurity to inevitability** in a few short years.

This **speed and scale** of progress is **unprecedented** in modern international lawmaking.



N.B. repeat engagements have not been noted here. This infographic only includes progress in the public domain. SEI has directly engaged with dozens more nation states under diplomatic confidentiality.

Ecocide law

A foundational and transformational protection for
nature and our future

Watch this space!



Recommended literature

Website: *The Legal Definition of Ecocide*. Ecocide Law. 2021.

<https://ecocidelaw.com/definition/>

Website: *Ecocide Law Breaking News*. Stop Ecocide International.

<https://www.stopecocide.earth/breaking-news>

**Choose
nature.**



**We cannot stop the tide,
but we can open the door
and let nature lead**

Vona Méléder

Professor, Nantes Université, IUF, FRANCE

PI of REWRITE EU-project



institut
universitaire
de France



REWRITE



REWRITE

Why I care

"I grew up by the wide, muddy coastline of French Guiana, watching the tide uncover endless mudflats. Over time, I watched the mudflats — and the life they sustain — disappear. This loss inspired my work in marine science."



© CNRS Image



© CNRS Image

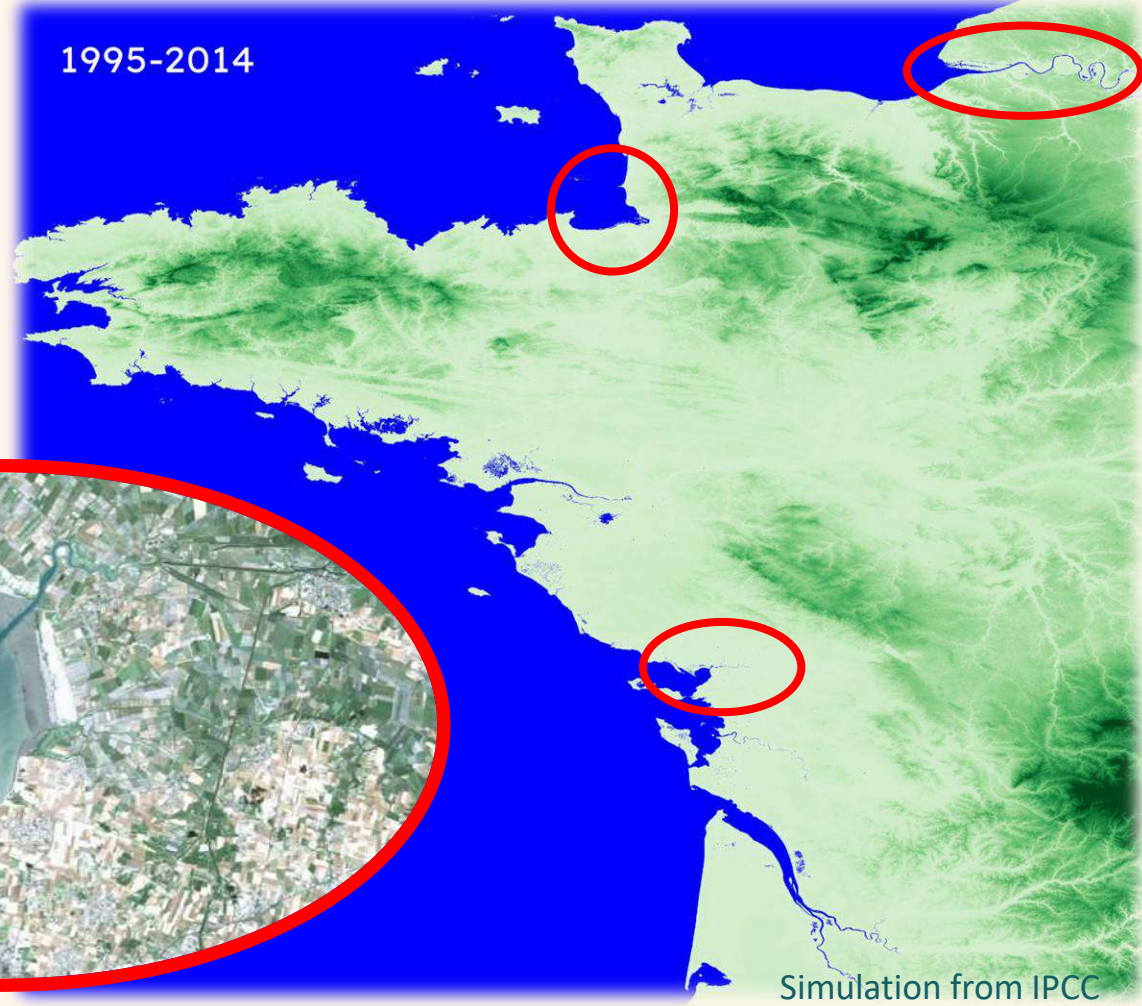
Why should we care

“Coastal ecosystems as mudflats, saltmarshes, and mangroves are squeezed between the rising sea and the walls we’ve built.

Each year, the water rises, and we raise the dikes, but walls alone won’t save us.”



1995-2014



Storm Xynthia – When walls fail

During the night of 28 February to 1 March 2010, storm Xynthia swept over France's Atlantic coast. Despite the defences, 50 lives were lost and damages exceeded €2 billion.

A tragic reminder that higher walls aren't enough.



© PHILIPPE CHERE-OUEST FRANCE



© Max PPP - Max PPP



Coastal Rewilding

When the opportunities appear



Coastal Rewilding

When the opportunities appear

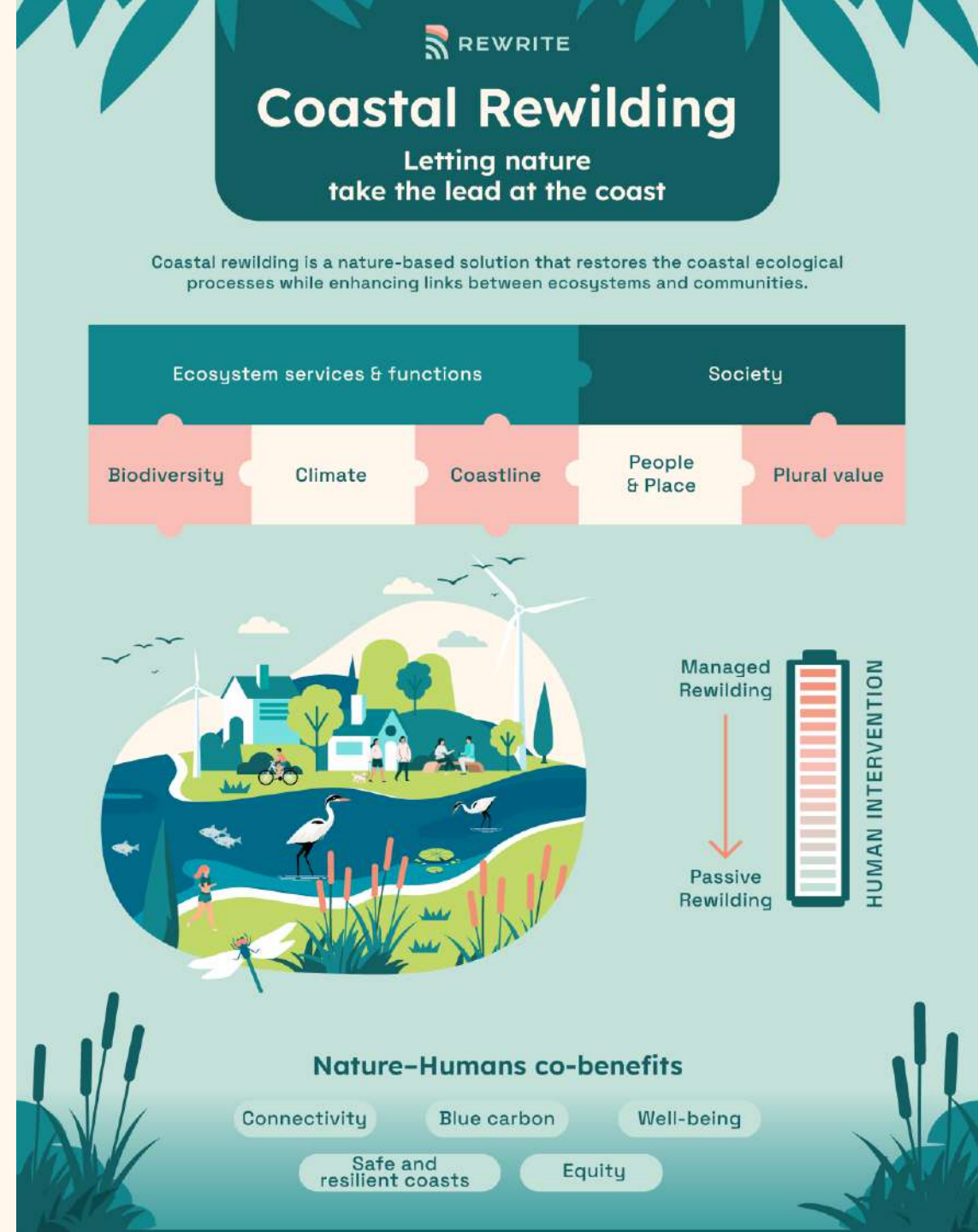


Coastal Rewilding

When the opportunities appear

Rewilding coastal ecosystems means **restoring natural processes**, while recognising the entanglement of **geological, ecological and social processes**.

By integrating natural science knowledge with the humanities and social sciences, rewilding emerges as a form of **rewriting past, current and future scenarios** and imaginaries of the coast.



Gyldensteen, Denmark: proof it works

- *616 ha total of surface area: Coastal Lagoon (214 ha), Freshwater lake (144 ha)*
- *Wild reserve/strict protection, but with access in determined areas*



Breaching of
the dike in
March 2014:
an open event
to citizens of
the
municipality

Owned by:

**AAGE V.
JENSEN** 
NATURFOND



Change in landscape



Cultural references preserved



Infrastructure available for outreach activities



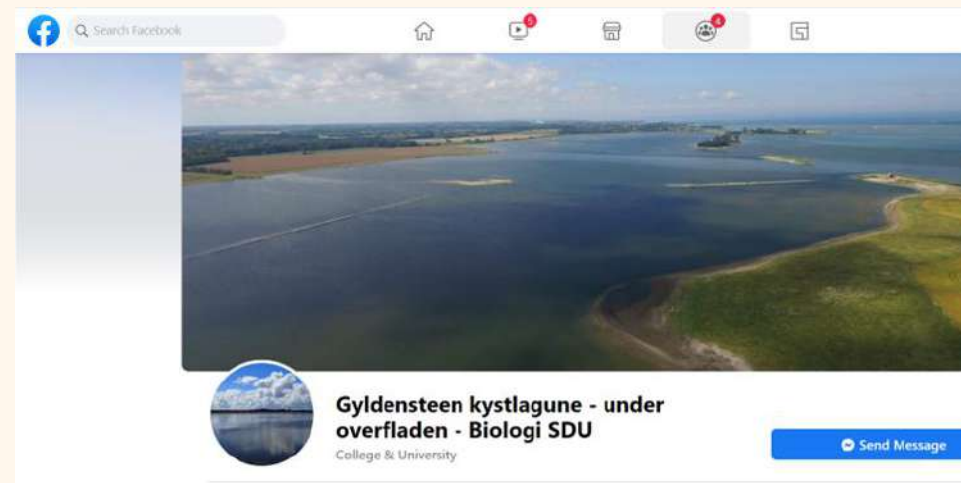
Increasing societal engagement (citizens, schools, tourists)

Expected visitors according to
Environmental Impact report:
5,000 to 11,000 per year

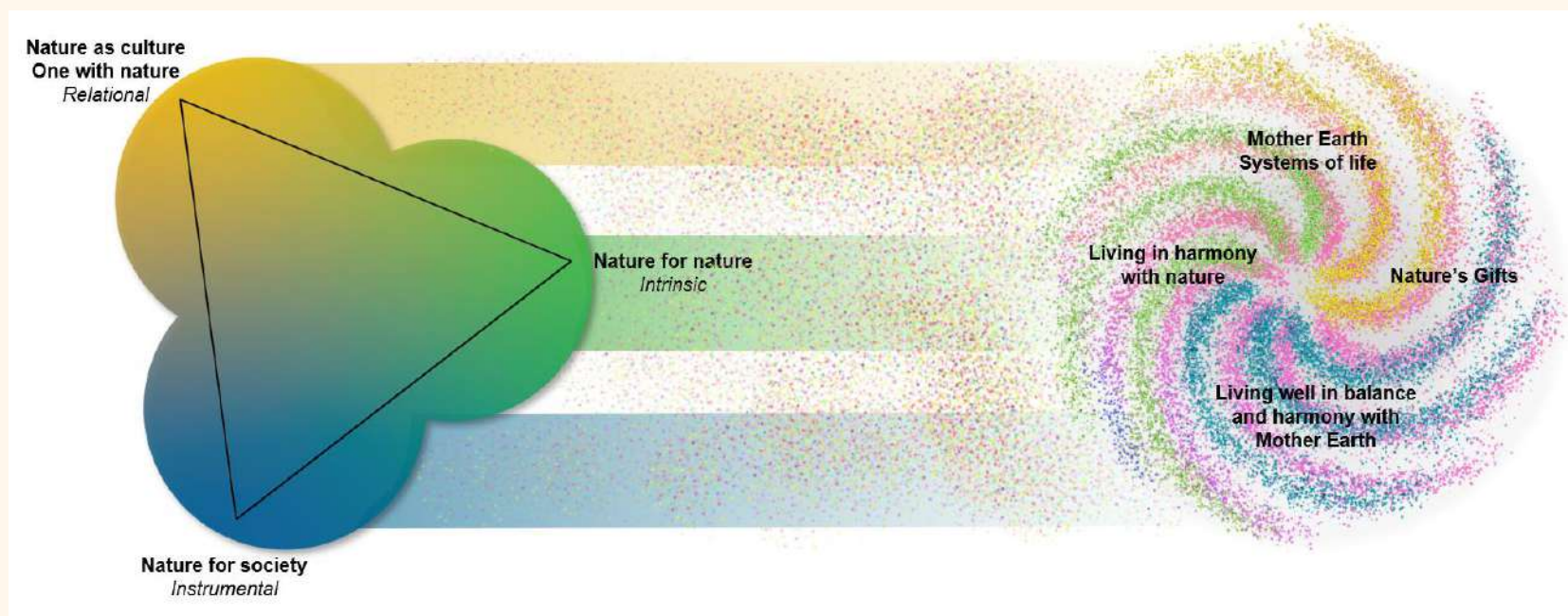
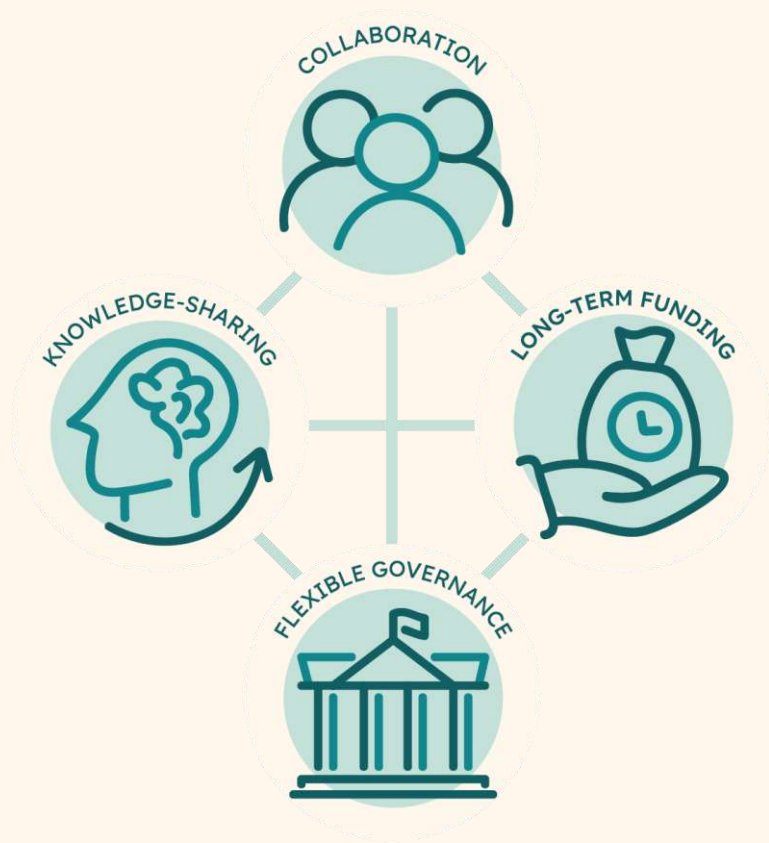
Registered visitors: 60,000 per year

High engagement of local guides for
guided tours and voluntary work to bird
counting and bird-watching.

Facebook groups as main channels for
organizing tours and sharing of photos



What We Need





REWRITE

What We Need

From local pilots to a continental vision:
give a room to sea water at EU level

- 
- A map of Europe with 8 numbered location pins. The pins are red with white numbers inside. The locations are: 1. Denmark (Gyldesteen Coastal Lagoon), 2. The Netherlands (Wadden Sea), 3. The UK (Essex Estuaries Complex), 4. Ireland (Dublin Bay), 5. Belgium / The Netherlands (Scheldt Estuary), 6. France (Loire Estuary), 7. Portugal (Ria de Aveiro), and 8. Spain (Cadiz Bay).
- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 DENMARK
GYLDENSTEEN
COASTAL LAGOON | 5 BELGIUM /
THE NETHERLANDS
SCHELDT ESTUARY |
| 2 THE NETHERLANDS
WADDEN SEA | 6 FRANCE
LOIRE ESTUARY |
| 3 THE UK
ESSEX ESTUARIES
COMPLEX | 7 PORTUGAL
RIA DE AVEIRO |
| 4 IRELAND
DUBLIN BAY | 8 SPAIN
CADIZ BAY |

Choose nature, choose resilience!



Larry Gibson / Getty Images



To go beyond:

 Nature Futures Framework
<https://www.naturefuturesframework.org/>

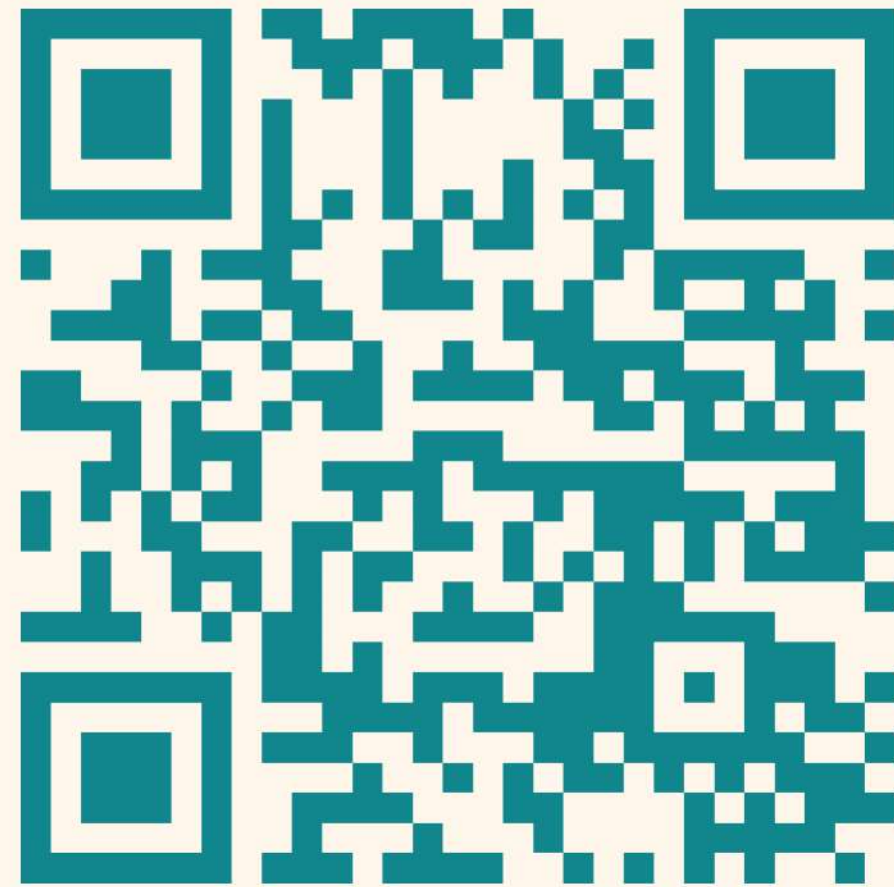
 REWRITE
<https://rewriteproject.eu/>

 Retreat by Ole Fryd, University of Copenhagen
<https://artsandculturalstudies.ku.dk/research/art-and-earth/environmental-humanities-glossary/retreat/>

 Spalding, M.D., et al. 2013. Conservation Letters
<https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12074>

 Brochure of Glydensteen Strand
https://www.avjf.dk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Gyldensteen-Folder-UK_Web.pdf

 Birds at Glydensteen Strand
<https://www.birdingplaces.eu/en/birdingplaces/denmark/gyldensteen-strand>



Quintana C.O., Egemose S., Frederiksberg G., Kujawa H., Perschke M.J. 2025. Ecological consequences of infrastructures at the land-sea continuum and opportunities of nature-based solutions in Denmark. *In: Planning and designing cities for a rising sea-level.* Jørgensen G., Nielsen T. (eds.). Danish Architecture Press.

Petersen S.G.G., Kristensen E., **Quintana C.O.** 2023. Greenhouse gas emissions from agricultural land before and after permanent flooding with seawater or freshwater. *Estuaries and Coasts* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12237-023-01218-6>

Thorsen S.W., Holmer M., **Quintana C.O.**, Flindt M.R., Valdemarsen T., Kristensen E. 2021. Internal Nutrient Loading Controls Macroalgal and Cyanobacterial Succession in a Coastal Lagoon Restored by Managed Realignment of Agricultural Land. *Frontiers in Marine Science* 8: 649360 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.649360>

Kristensen E., **Quintana C.O.**, Valdemarsen T., Flindt M.R. 2020. Nitrogen and phosphorus export after flooding of agricultural land by coastal managed realignment. *Estuaries and Coasts* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12237-020-00785-2>

Thorsen S.W., Kristensen E., Valdemarsen T., **Quintana C.O.**, Flindt M.R., Holmer M. 2019. Fertilizer-derived N in opportunistic macroalgae after the flooding of agricultural land. *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 616: 37-49.
<https://doi.org/10.3354/meps12927>

Valdemarsen T., **Quintana C.O.**, Thorsen S.W., Kristensen E. 2018. Benthic fauna bioturbation and early colonization in newly flooded coastal habitats. *Plos One*. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0196097>

Thank you!



Choose to **invest** in nature.

Financing change through existing and new opportunities



6 short presentations

12h30 | 13h20

Choose to **invest in nature.**

**Financing change through existing
and new opportunities**

Hadrien Michel

DG ENV European Commission

Mark Van Nieuwstadt

BIOFIN-EU Naturalis Biodiversity Center

Marianne Zandersen

Invest4Nature | GoNaturePositive! | Aarhus
Universitet

Natacha Boric

Finance for Biodiversity Foundation

Frédéric Hache

Green Finance Observatory

Étienne Aulotte

Brussels Environment, Brussels-Capital Region

*It is a strategic asset for Europe's
resilience and competitiveness*

*The value of nature has the superpower
to arrive at effective local solutions*

*To enhance the insurance value
of nature and transition towards
a nature-positive economy*

It is central to responsible investment

*Is lack of private investment
the real issue preventing us from
addressing the biodiversity crisis?*

To rethink health and wellbeing

**Choose
nature.**



**Nature is a strategic asset
for Europe's resilience
and competitiveness.**

Hadrien MICHEL

European Commission – DG Environment



Nature as a foundation for prosperity

Nature sustains
essential ecosystem services

Plays a vital role in climate
adaptation and resilience

Shapes economic
and financial system dynamics

Local actors are on the frontline
of stewardship

Markets can reward
those protecting nature

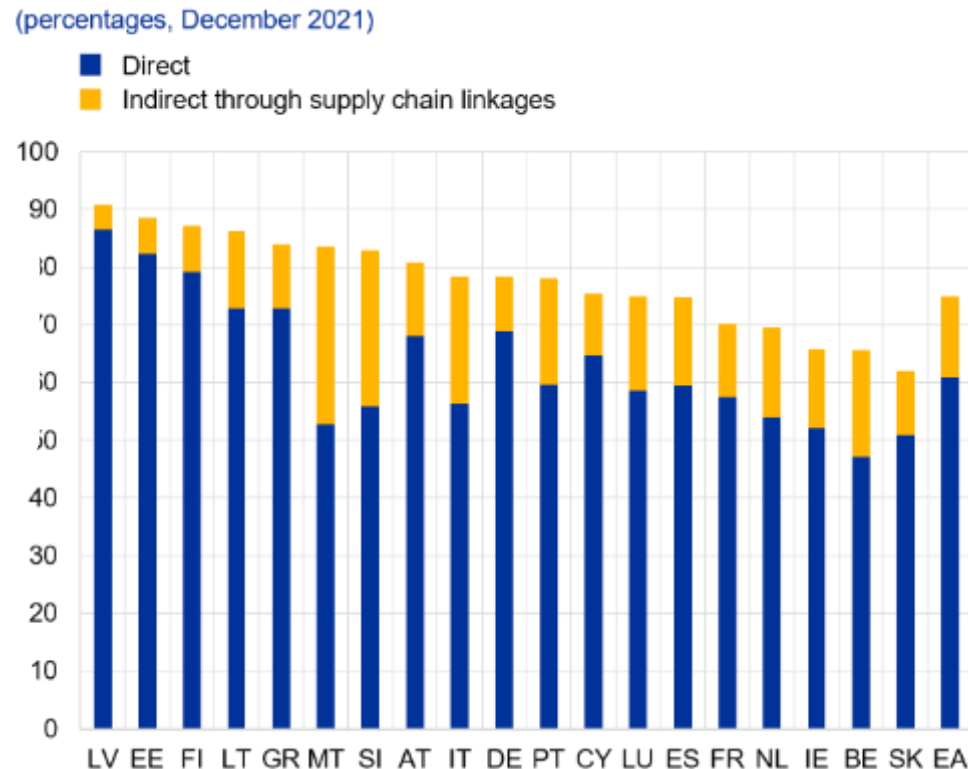


Economic dependence on nature

The economy and banks need nature to survive | European Central Bank

Share of corporate loans from banks to companies with a high dependency score for at least one ecosystem service.

Nature loss drives financial and macroeconomic risks...



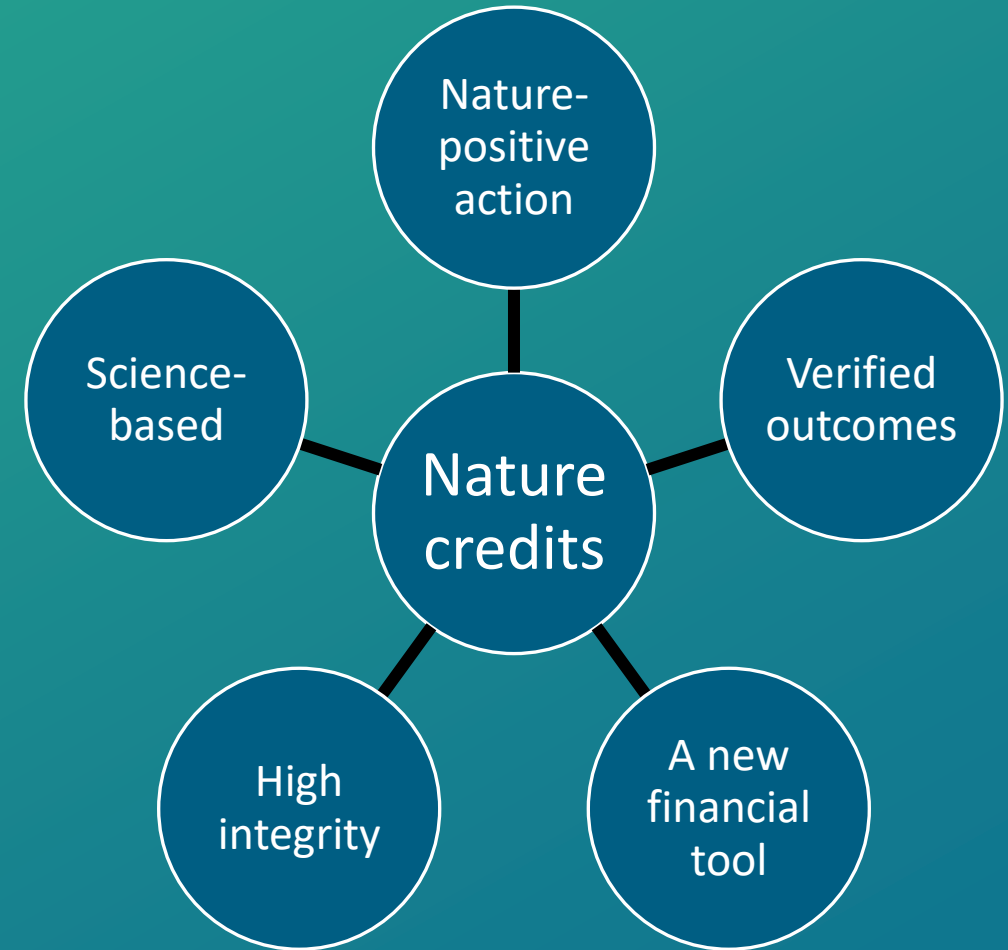
But loss of ecosystem services remains unpriced!

What are nature credits?

Complementary
to public finance

Rewarding
nature 'stewardship '

Steering economic rationality
with identifiable market signals



Benefits for supply actors

Nature credits provide
new revenue streams

Strengthen ecosystem services
and resilience

Enhance reputation
and trust among stakeholders

Reduce environmental and economic risks



Benefits for demand actors

Supports biodiversity disclosure

Enhances supply chain resilience and traceability

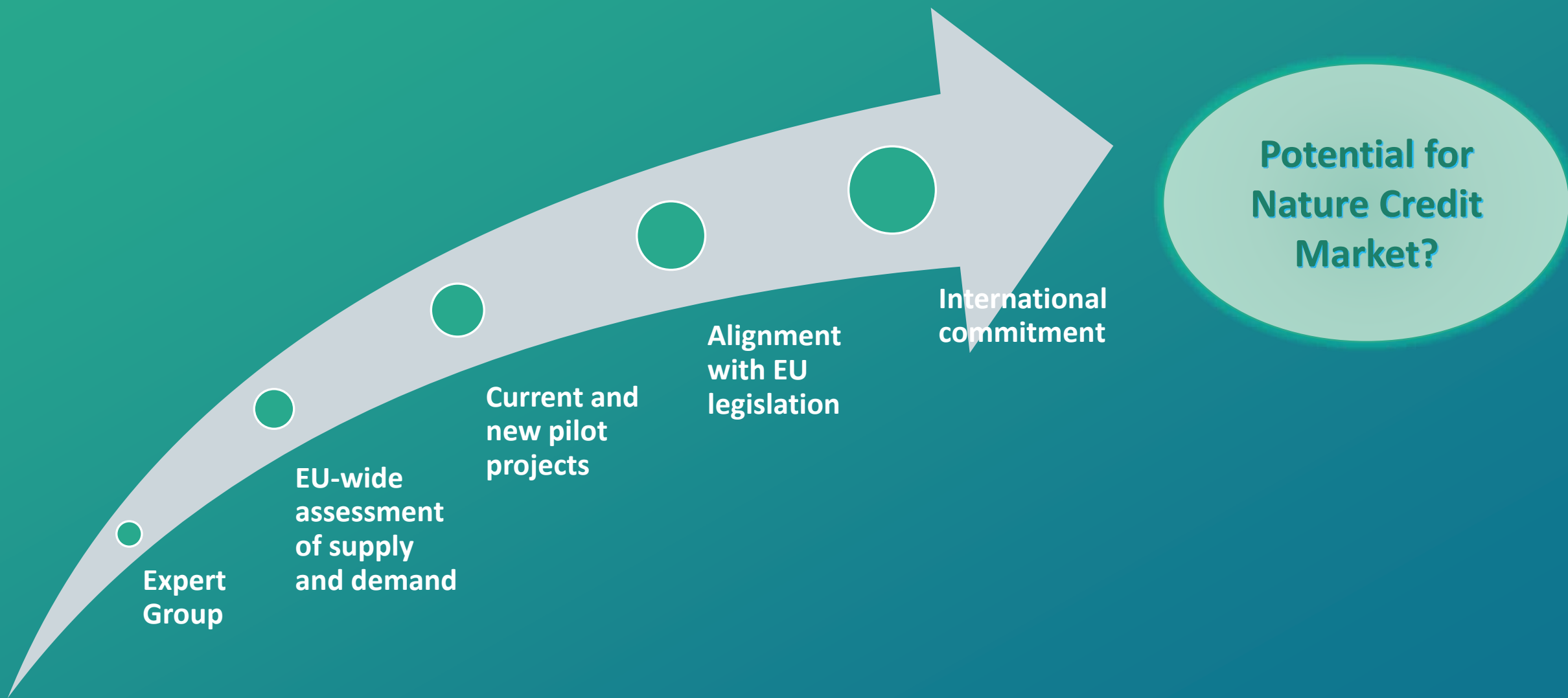
New business models and green products emerge

Stronger investor confidence and market access

Contributes to climate and nature objectives



Roadmap actions for 2025–2027



Choose
nature 

Nature has the *superpower* to arrive at effective local solutions

Mark van Nieuwstadt

Naturalis Biodiversity Center,
Netherlands
BIOFIN-EU



**Choose
nature.**



What superpowers?



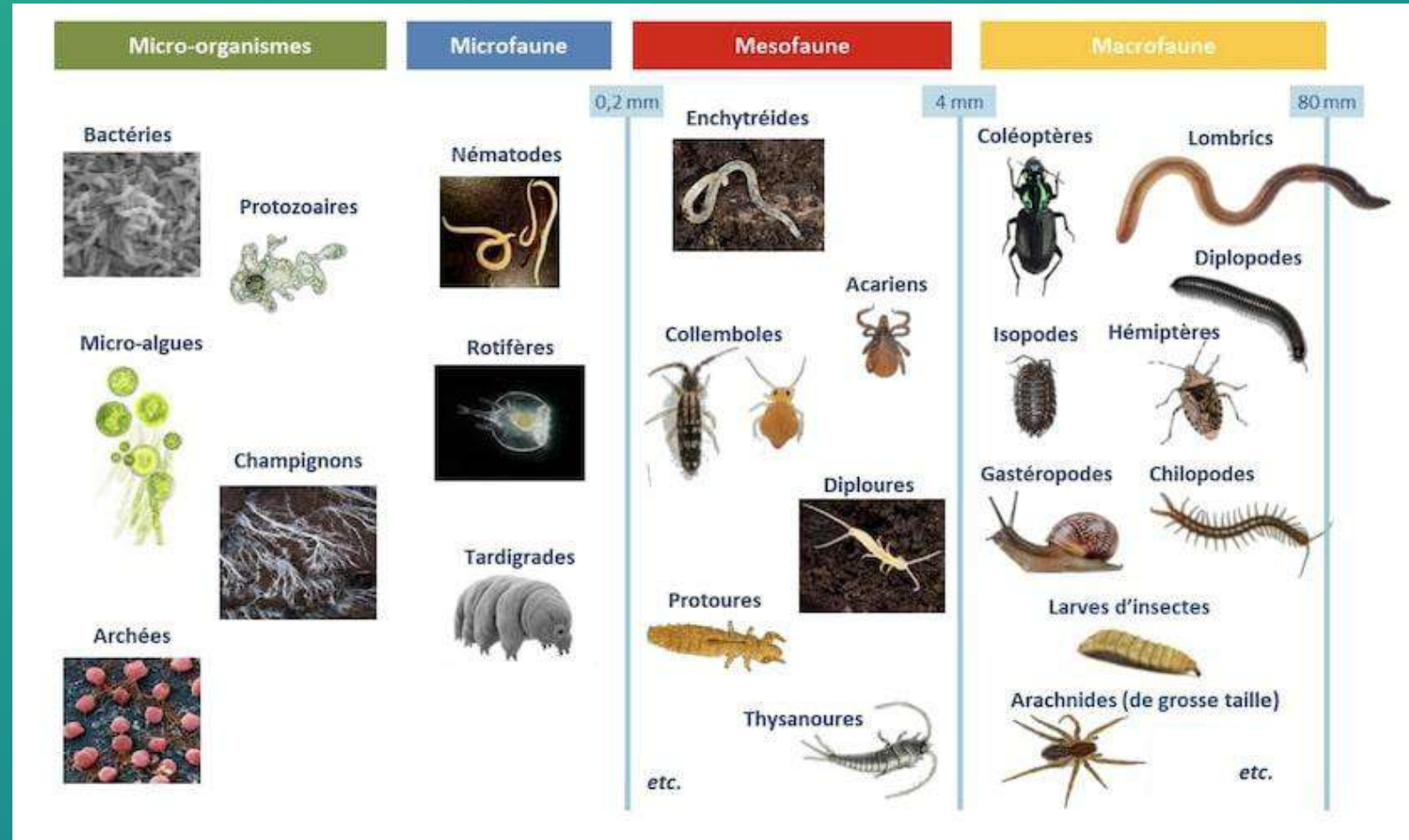
Eons of local adaptation and variation

Choose
nature.



Superpowers beneath your feet

Source: www.encyclopédie-environnement.org/en/soil-soil-biodiversity



Biodiversity is all about the humble and invisible 99%

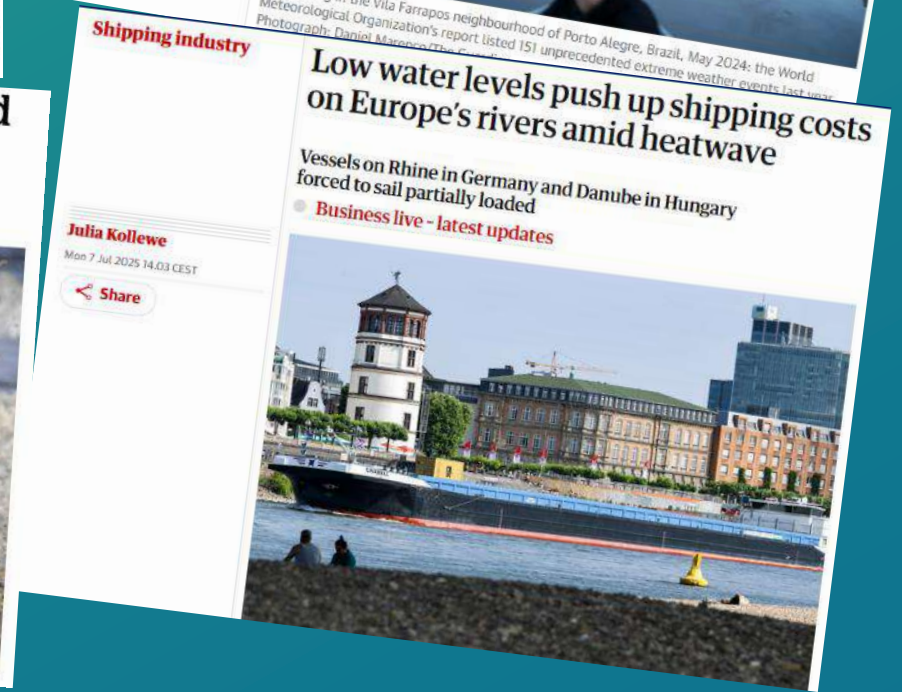
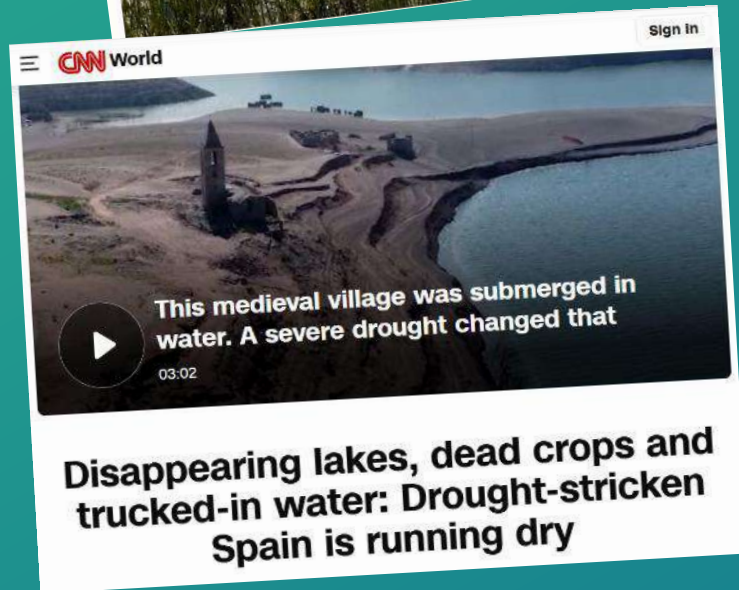
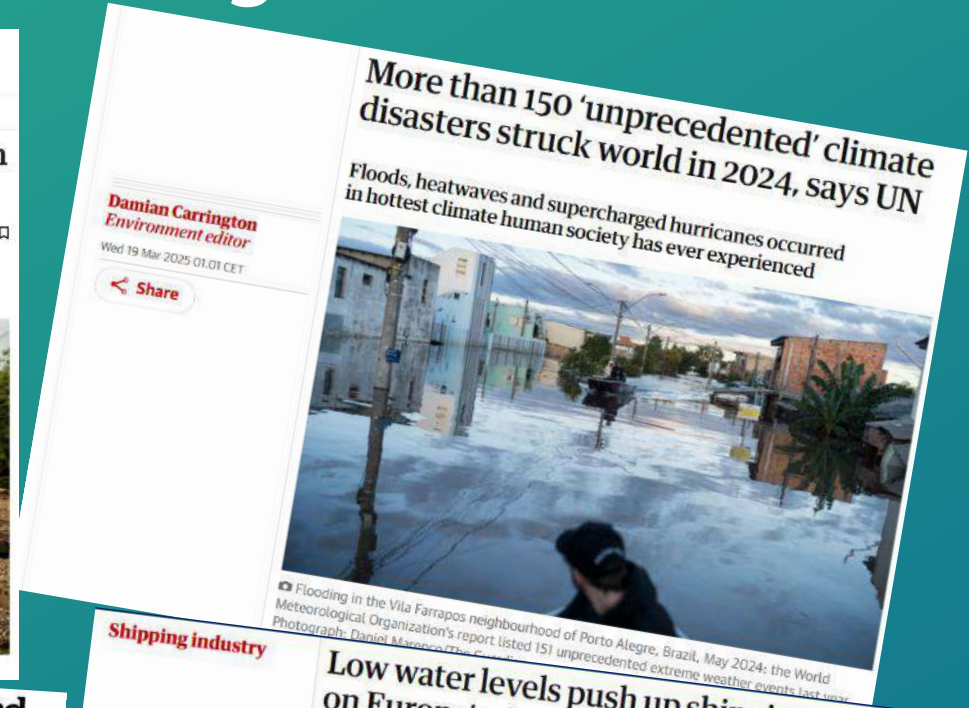
Choose
nature. 

**Nature has
Superpowers...
How to *use them to
our advantage?***



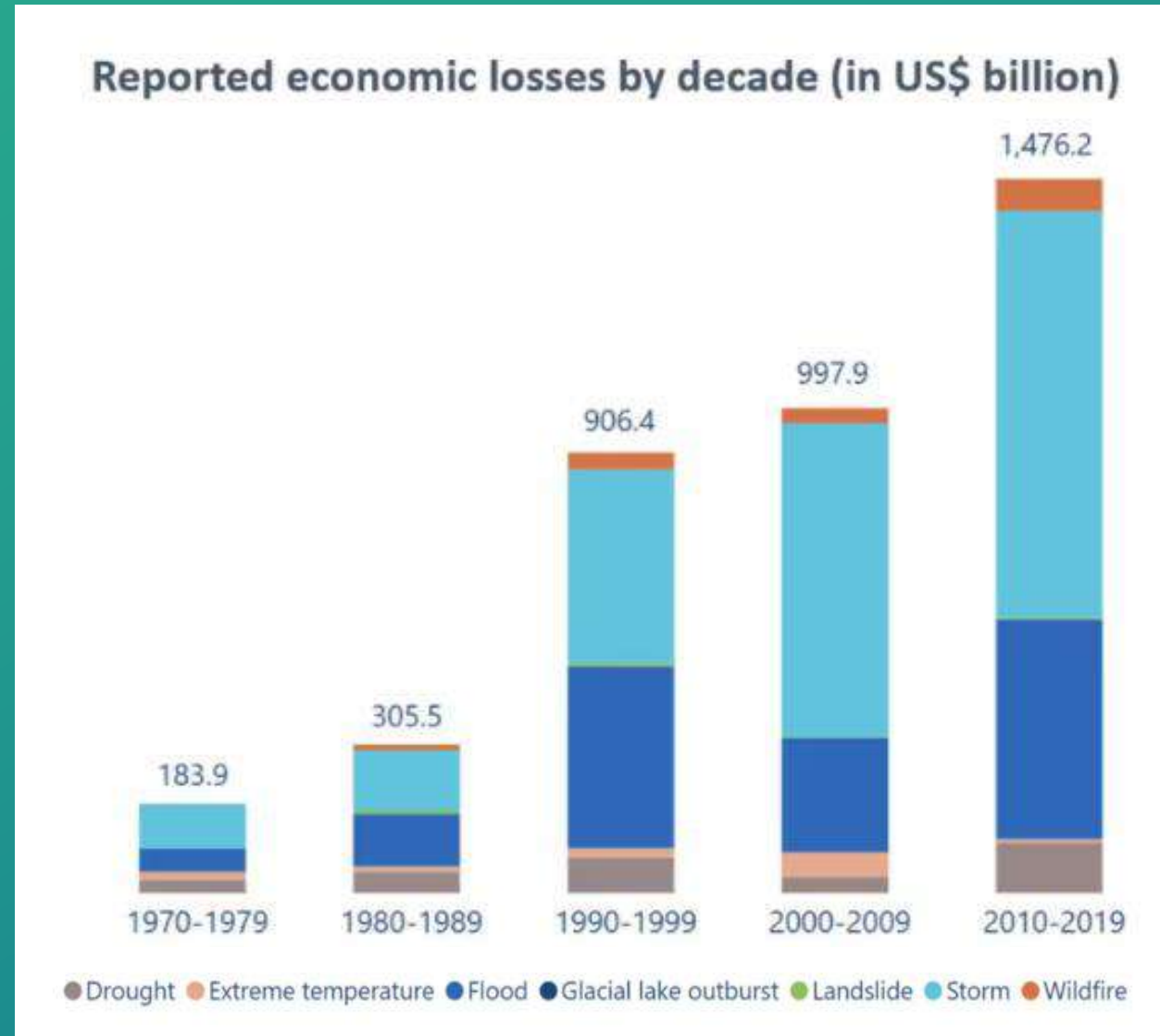
Superpowers are not easily subdued

Source: the Guardian, etc.



Not just for nature lovers...

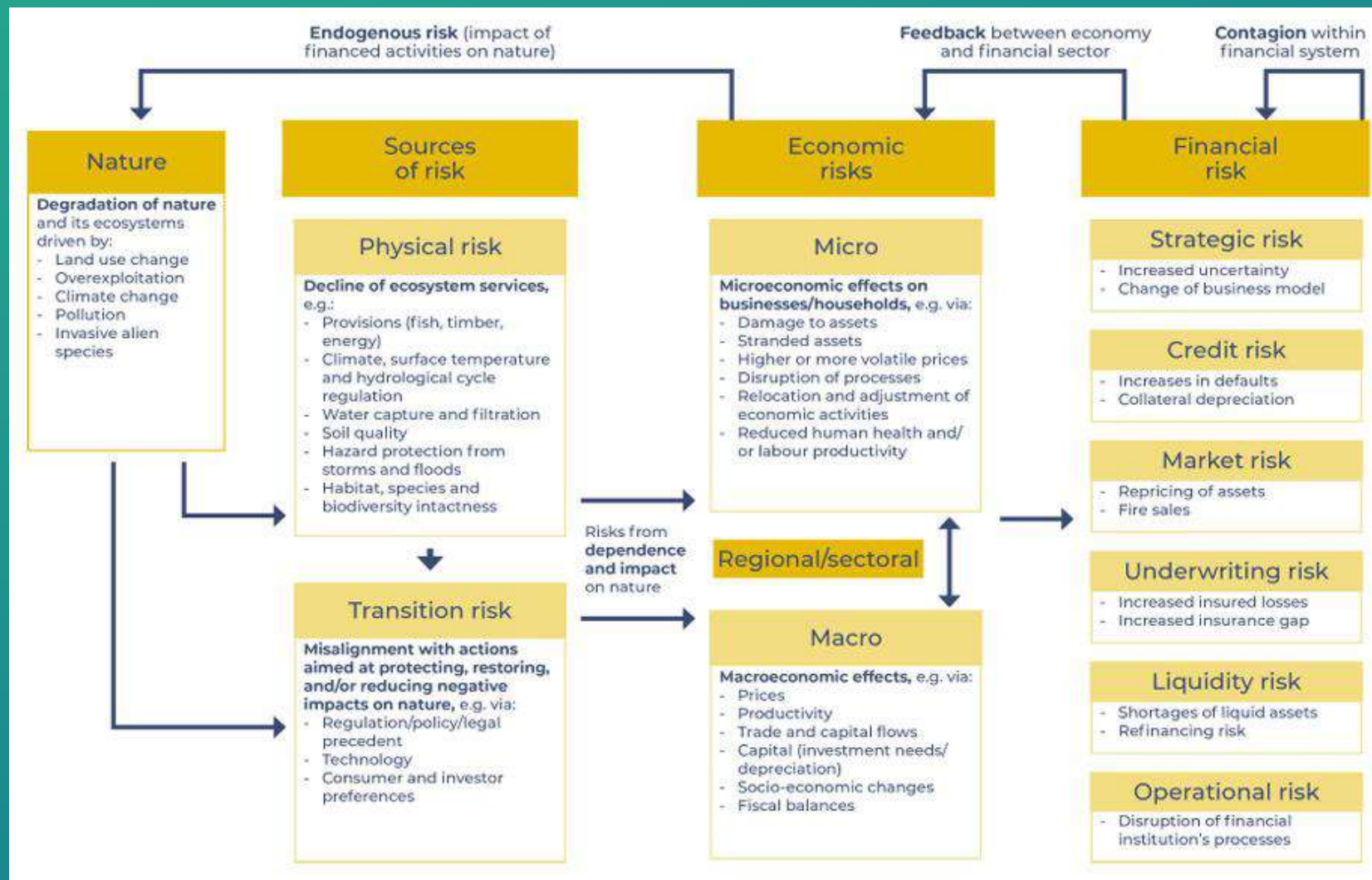
Source:
www.weforum.org/stories/2023/11/climate-crisis-cost-global-economies/



Source: WMO 2023

Nature-related financial risk framework

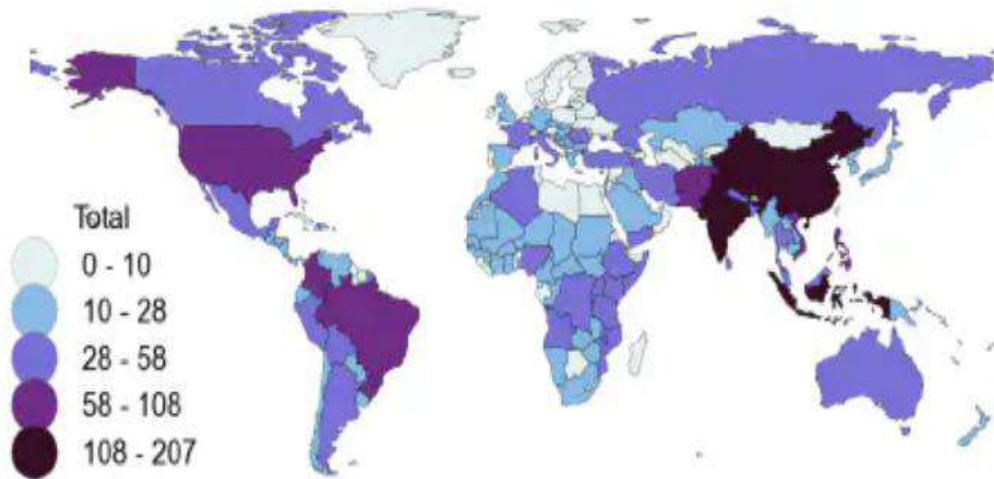
Economists
think in risks
(and
increasingly in
impacts and
dependencies)



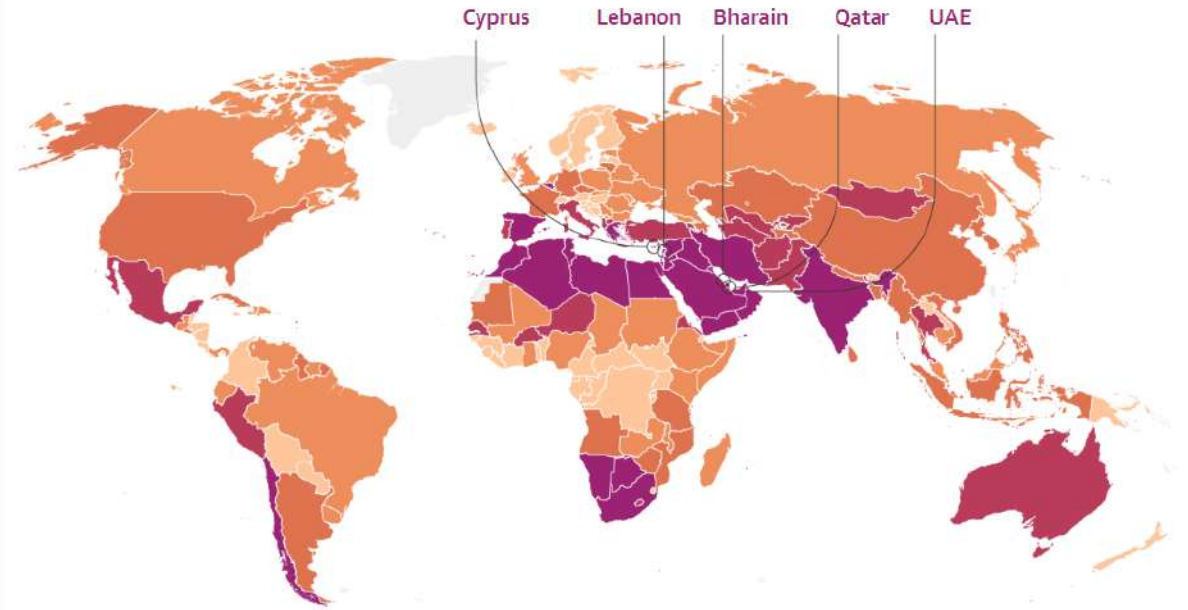
Nature sets the conditions

Source: EM DAT Flood Occurrences, WRI, the Guardian

Flood occurrence per country (2000-2022)



>80% extremely high 40-80% high 20-40% medium-high 10-20% Low-medium <10% Low No data

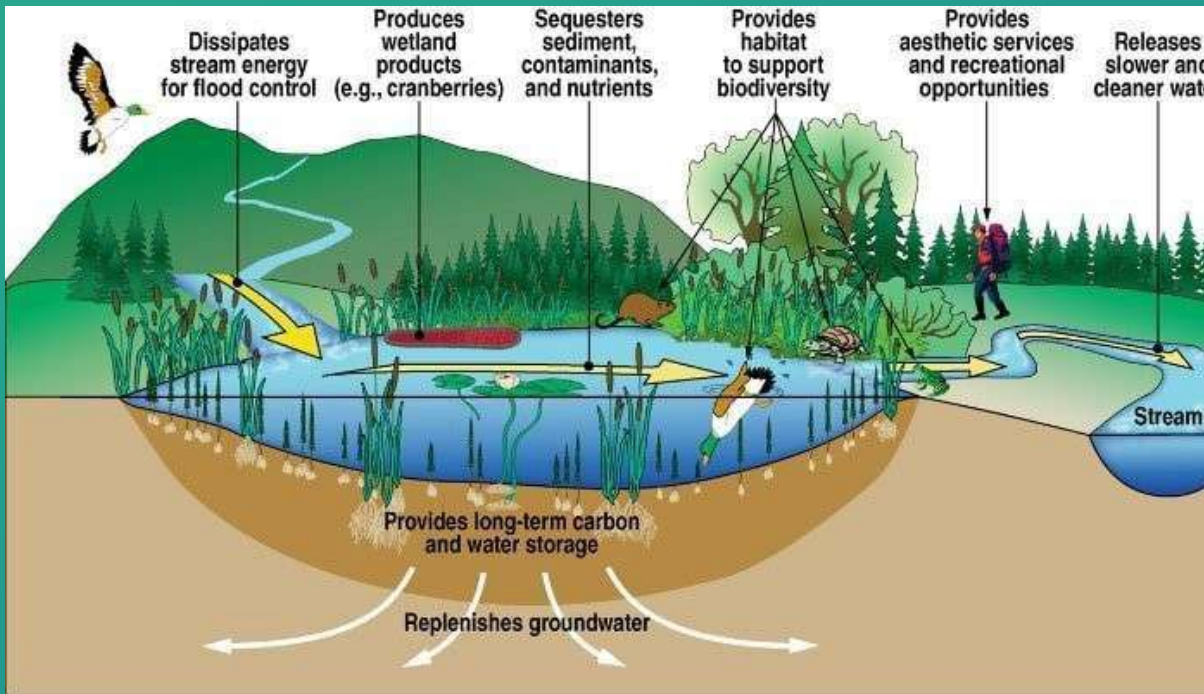


Guardian graphic. Source: World Resources Institute

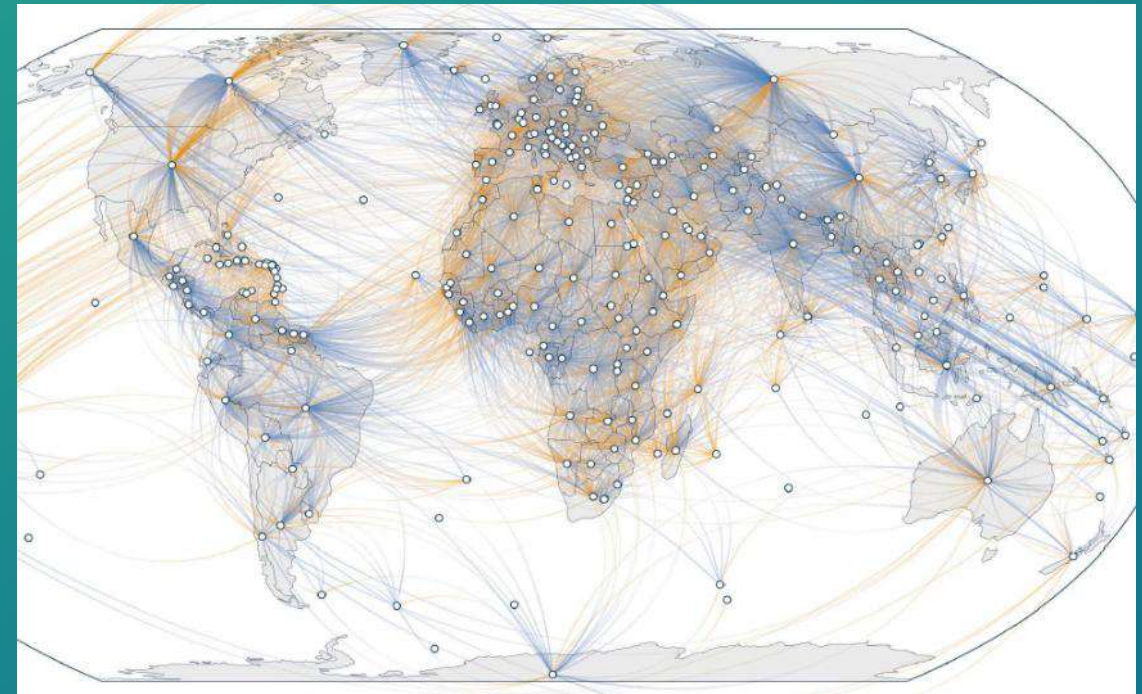
By 2050 close to 60% of the world's population could experience extremely high water stress at least one month a year

Water stress by country, 2050 forecast. Top five countries labelled.

Ecosystems with *local*



Financial systems with *global*



***What do you do when you're manager of a worldwide
10.000 client portfolio?***

The Bio-Fin Gap

Mainstream finance

- Standardization
- Large volumes
- Profit driven
- Risks, impacts, dependencies
- Free-rider problem

NbS and N+ solutions

- Context dependent
- Small scale
- Multiple stakeholders
- Long-term, adaptive
- Shared benefits

Data *plus* Governance

Bridging the Bio-Fin Gap

**Private
finance**

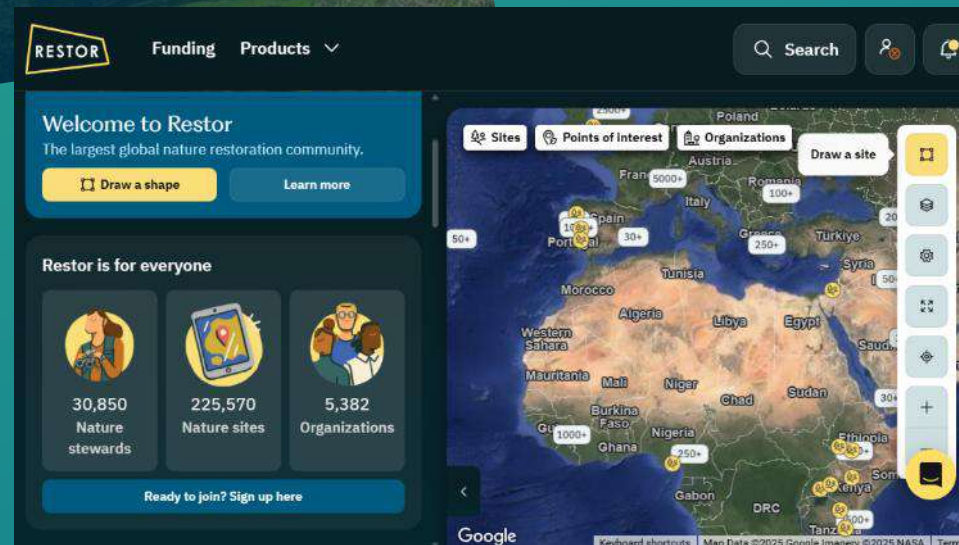
**Land
owners**

**Regional Bio-Fin
Facilitator**

Tasks:

- Knowledge
- Data
- Governance
- Trust
- Scaling

Examples of Regional Bio-Fin Facilitators



- Often public funding
- Variety of shapes
- Missed opportunities

Real-world example: Waters of LIFE

Tasks

- Expert advise
- Stakeholder coordination
- Monitoring
- Landowner training
- Payment schemes
- Reporting

Needs

- Policies, legislation, corporate guidelines
- Payment mechanisms (financial instrument)
- Standardized environmental data
- Landscape assessments
- Science based knowledge

Accountability

- (Effectiveness, integrity)
- Reporting structure
- Certification
- Share approach

Business plan

- (For own organization)
- Upscaling
- Currently:** public funding
- Future:** public, blended or private funding

Blueprint for *Regional Bio-Fin facilitators*



- **Tasks**
- **Needs**
- **Accountability**
- **Business plan**

**Choose
nature.**

Invest in nature?

**We are at war with 95% of
nature.**

**If we win the battles,
we will loose the war.**

***Or... we could learn to embrace
the superpowers of nature instead.***



Recommended literature

- BIOFIN-EU. biofin-project.eu
- *Conceptual Framework for nature-related financial risks to guide policies and action by central banks and financial supervisors*. NGFS. 2023. www.ngfs.net
- *Financial Sector Guidebook on Nature-Based Solutions Investment*. World Resource Institute (WRI). 2025. www.wri.org/research/financial-sector-guidebook-nature-based-solutions-investment
- *Investing in nature-based solutions, State-of-play and way forward for public and private financial measures in Europe*. European Investment Bank (EIB). 2023. DOI: 10.2867/031133.
- *River basin management in a changing climate. Common Implementation Strategy for the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive Guidance document No. 24*. DG Environment. doi:10.2779/126657
- *Study for a methodological framework and assessment of potential financial risks associated with biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation*. 2024. DG FISMA. data.europa.eu/doi/10.2874/30768
- *The economics of water: Valuing the hydrological cycle as a global common good*. N.d. Global Commission on the Economics of Water (GCEW). economicsofwater.watercommission.org/
- *The Global Biodiversity Standard*. www.biodiversitystandard.org/
- *The Little Sustainable Landscapes Book*. Denier, L., et al. Global Canopy Programme: Oxford. 2015. globalcanopy.org/insights/publication/the-little-sustainable-landscapes-book/
- Waters of LIFE. www.watersoflife.ie

**Choose
nature.**



**..to enhance the insurance value of
nature and transition towards a
nature-positive economy**

Marianne Zandersen
Aarhus University



GoNaturePositive!

Motivation

**We need to transition towards an
economy that regenerates nature – to a
nature positive economy**

**Nature restoration enhances the
insurance value of nature to people,
businesses and society**

Nature Positive Economy

Definition: “an economy is a Nature-Positive Economy when the net result of **all economic activities** combined leads to an **absolute increase in nature**, to the point of full recovery and **prosperity for all of society**”

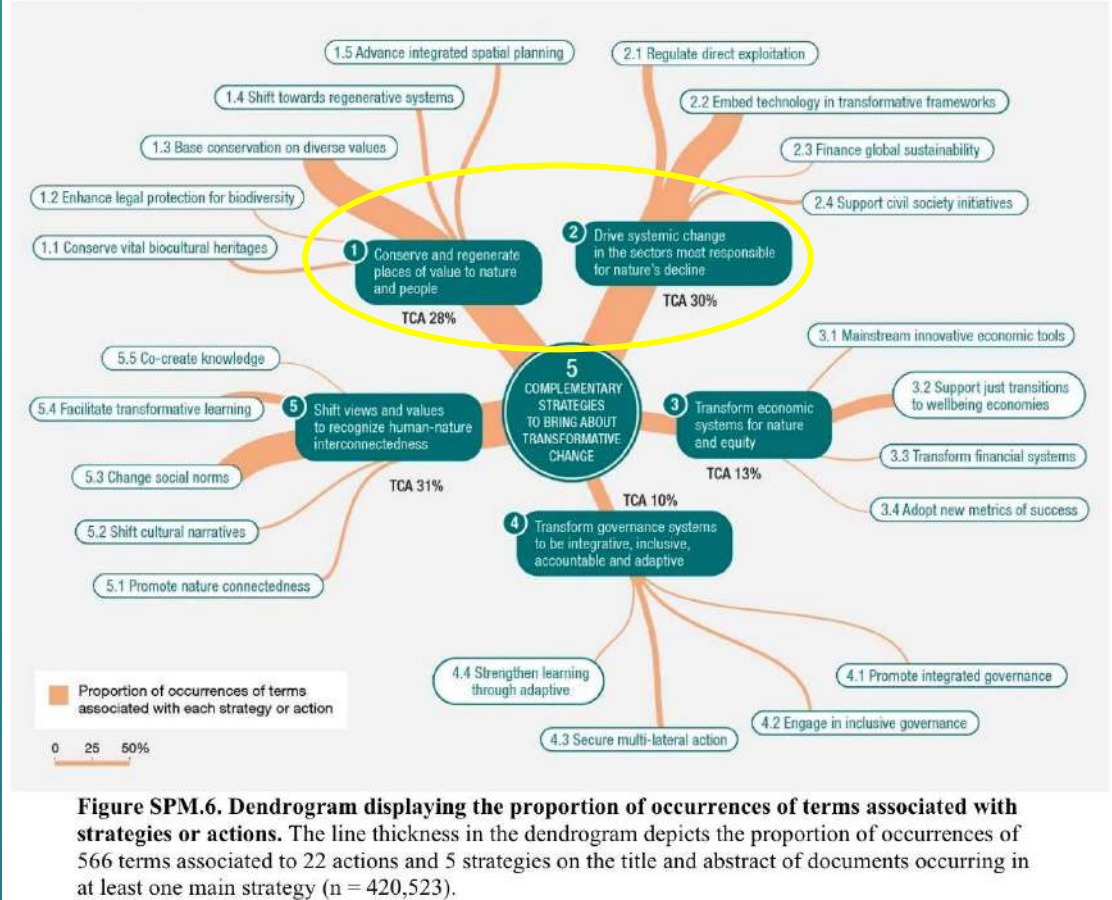


Transformative change

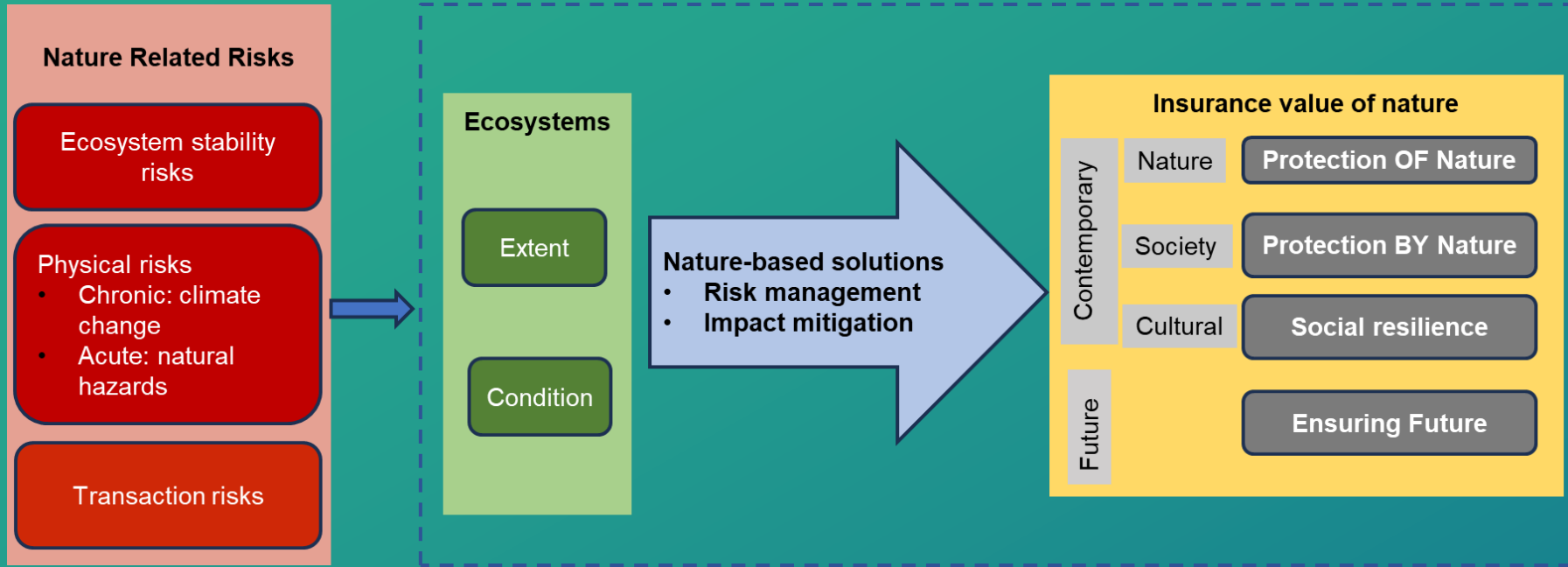
IPBES strategies to advance transformative change:

Conserve and regenerate places of value to nature and people

Drive systemic change in sectors most responsible for biodiversity loss

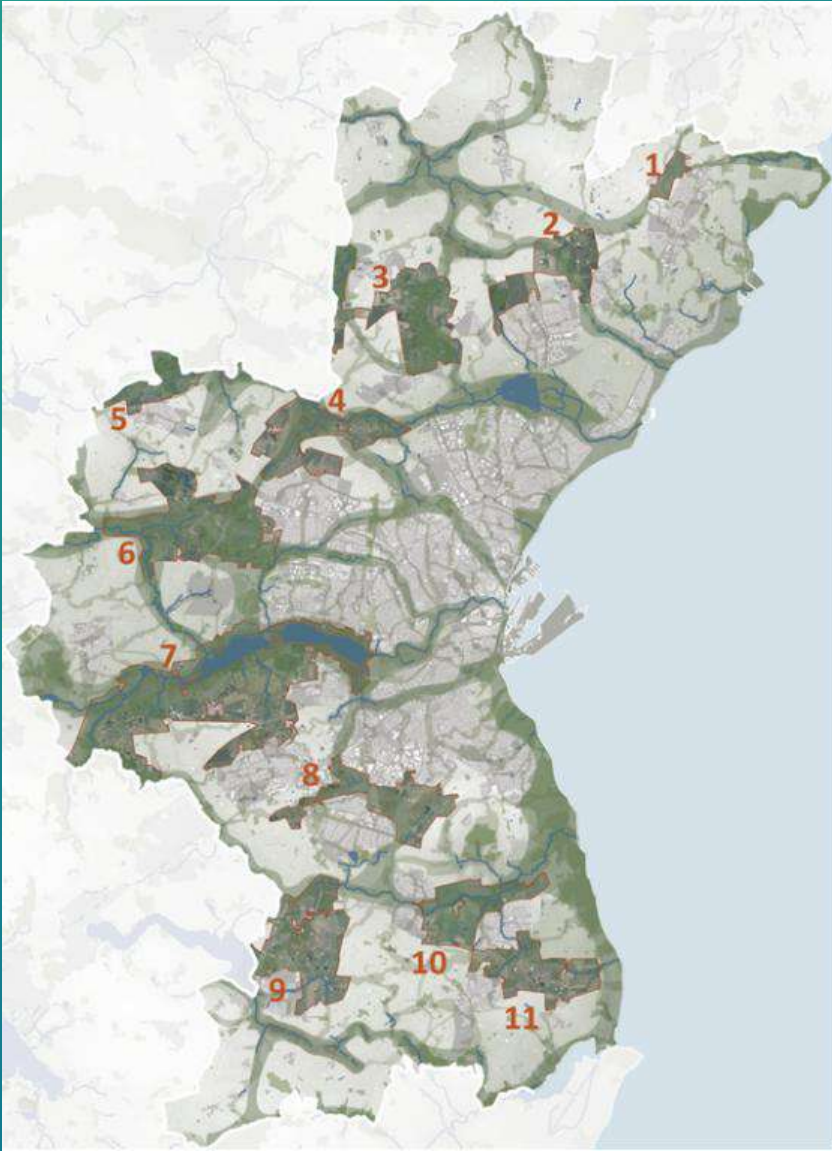
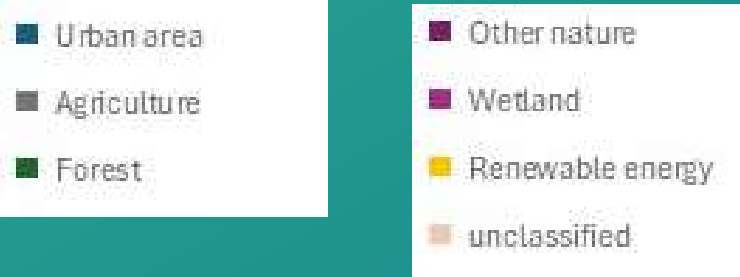
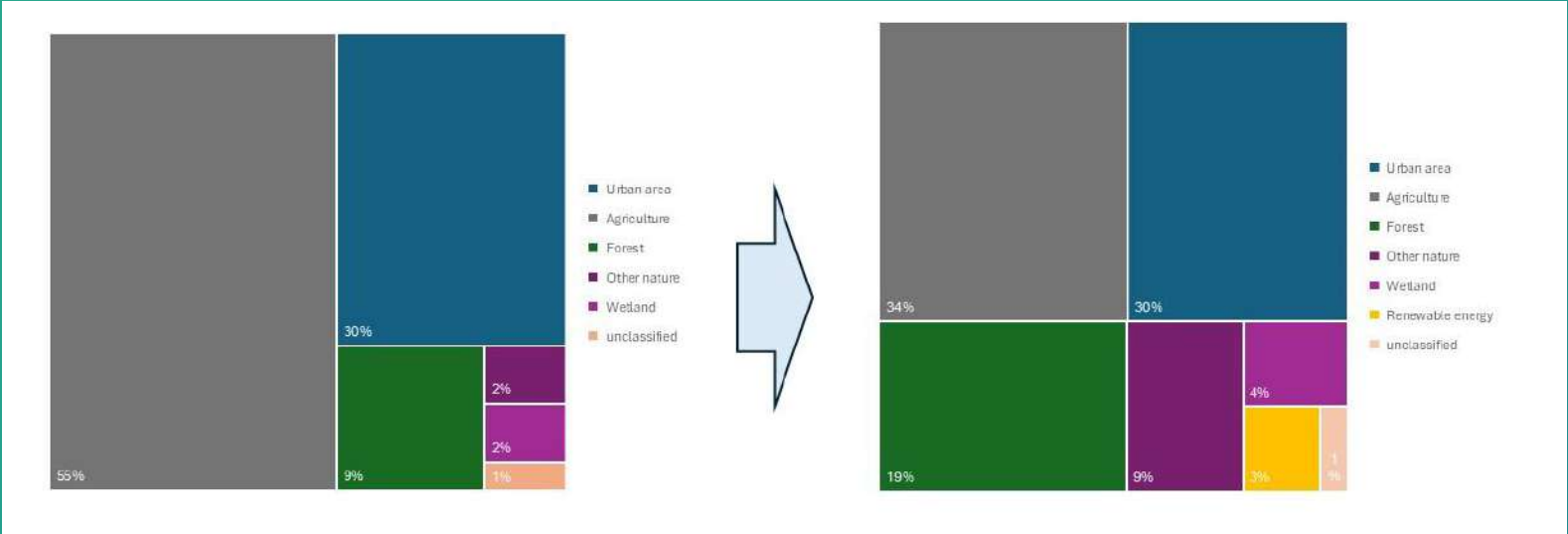


Insurance value of nature



Protection OF Nature : value of ensuring continued provision of ecosystem services
Protection BY Nature : value of reduced risks and mitigating negative impacts
Social resilience : value of enhancing societal capacity and community wellbeing
Ensuring the future : value of preserving ecosystems and services to future generations

Rebalancing landscapes – Aarhus Denmark

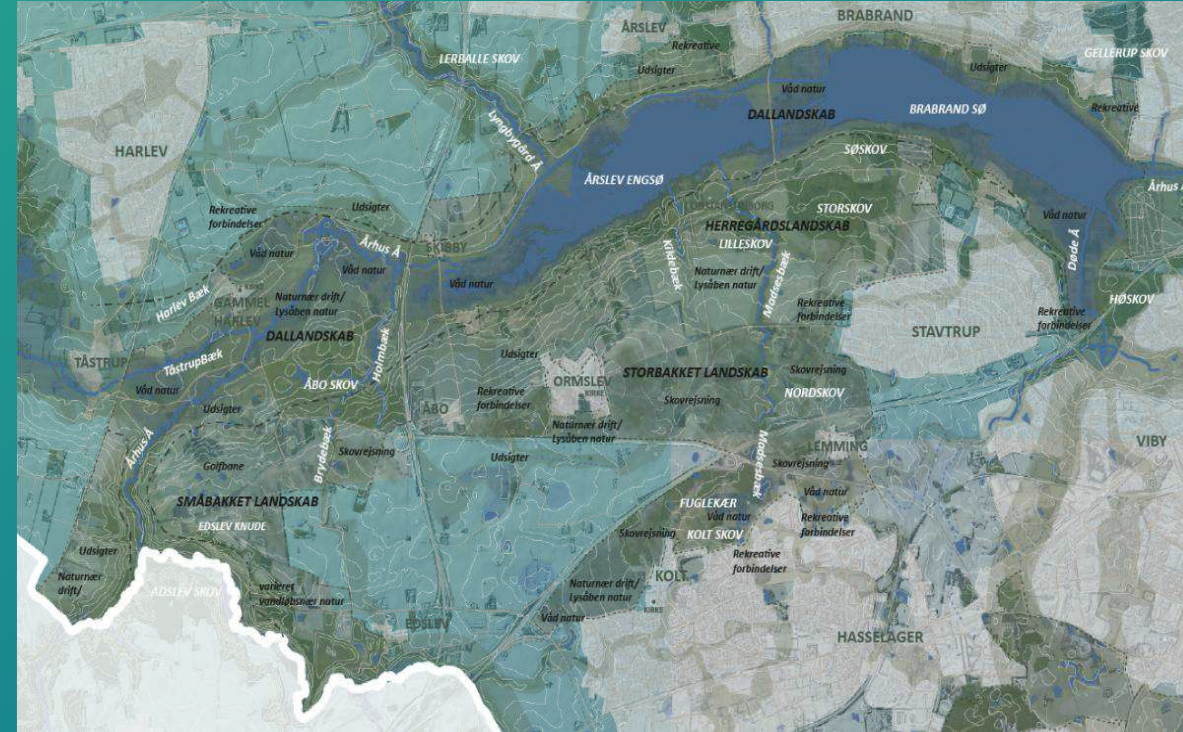


Large-scale NbS

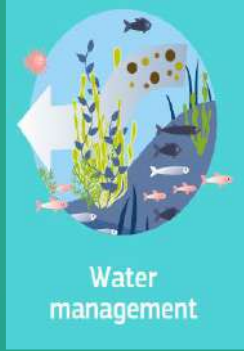
Total area: 2,368 ha

Renaturation of 1,076 ha agricultural land

NbS actions: afforestation,
restoration of natural hydrology,
protection and restoration of blue
infrastructure.



Insurance values of nature at play



Protect groundwater resources -> protection OF nature

Improve biodiversity -> protection OF Nature

Improve surface water -> protection OF nature

Sequester carbon -> Protection BY Nature

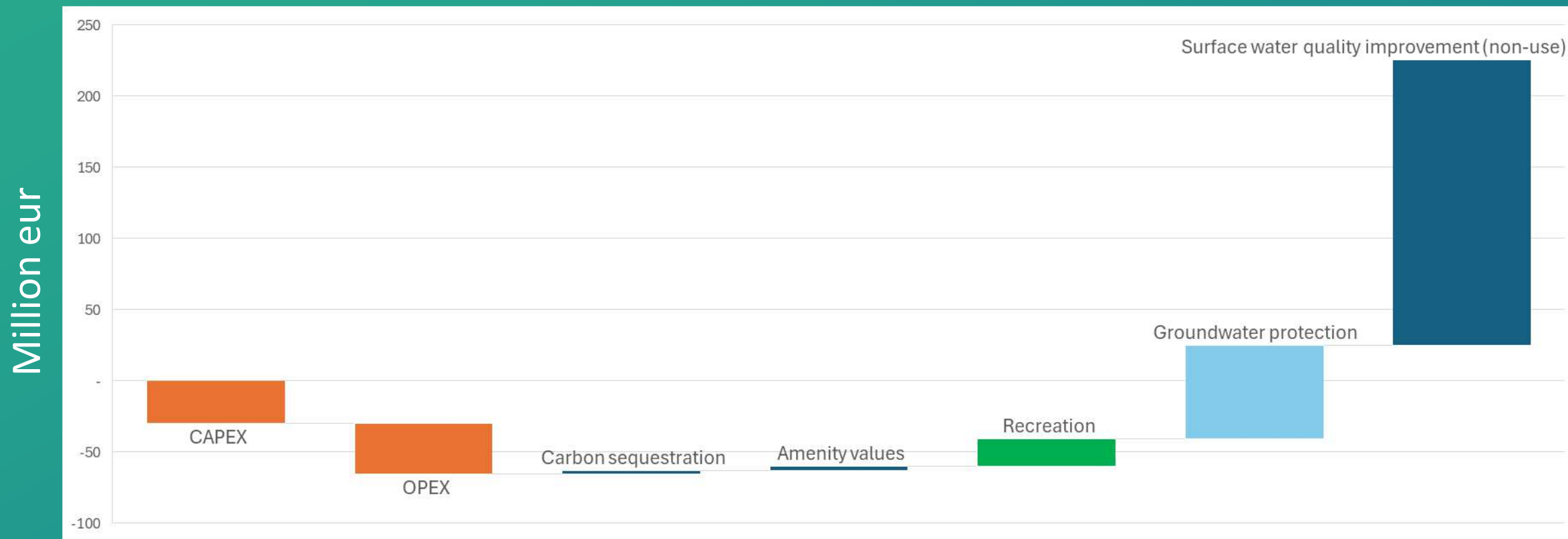
Retain & slow water flows -> Protection BY Nature

Enhance recreational opportunities -> Social resilience

Assessment approaches

- ✓ Market-based assessment (costs, carbon sequestration)
- ✓ Travel cost functional value transfer (recreation)
- ✓ Hedonic pricing functional value transfer (amenity value)
- ✓ Meta-analytical functional value transfer (surface water)
- ✓ Point-value benefit transfer (groundwater)

Cost-benefit analysis results



Present values in mio. eur (2024) | 50 year period | 2.5% discount rate

Cost benefit ratio: 4.4

3 Key Messages

An aerial photograph of a wetland landscape. A winding path leads through a marshy area with patches of water and green vegetation. In the background, a city with various buildings and a water tower is visible under a cloudy sky. The foreground shows a mix of water, reeds, and a sandy path.

Regenerating & conserving places of value to nature and people makes welfare-economic sense

Large-scale NbS can help drive systemic change in agriculture – a sector most responsible for biodiversity loss

Danish Green Tripartite means withdrawing and writing off production rights in the landscape

Resources

Invest4Nature: <https://invest4nature.eu/>

GoNaturePositive!: <https://www.gonaturepositive.eu/>

Danish Green Tripartite Agreement: <https://en.fvm.dk/news-and-contact/focus-on/the-agreement-on-a-green-transition-of-the-agricultural-sector>

**Choose
nature.**



Nature is central to responsible investment

Natacha Boric

Finance for Biodiversity (FfB) Foundation



**Finance *for*
Biodiversity**
Foundation

Why is Nature Finance needed?

The average size of wildlife populations is estimated to have **declined by 73%** since 1970.
WWF Living Planet Report (2024)

Meeting current climate, biodiversity and land degradation targets is expected to require **an additional \$4.1 trillion by 2050** and current investments are not being made at a rate to meet this target.
UNEP State of Finance for Nature (2021)

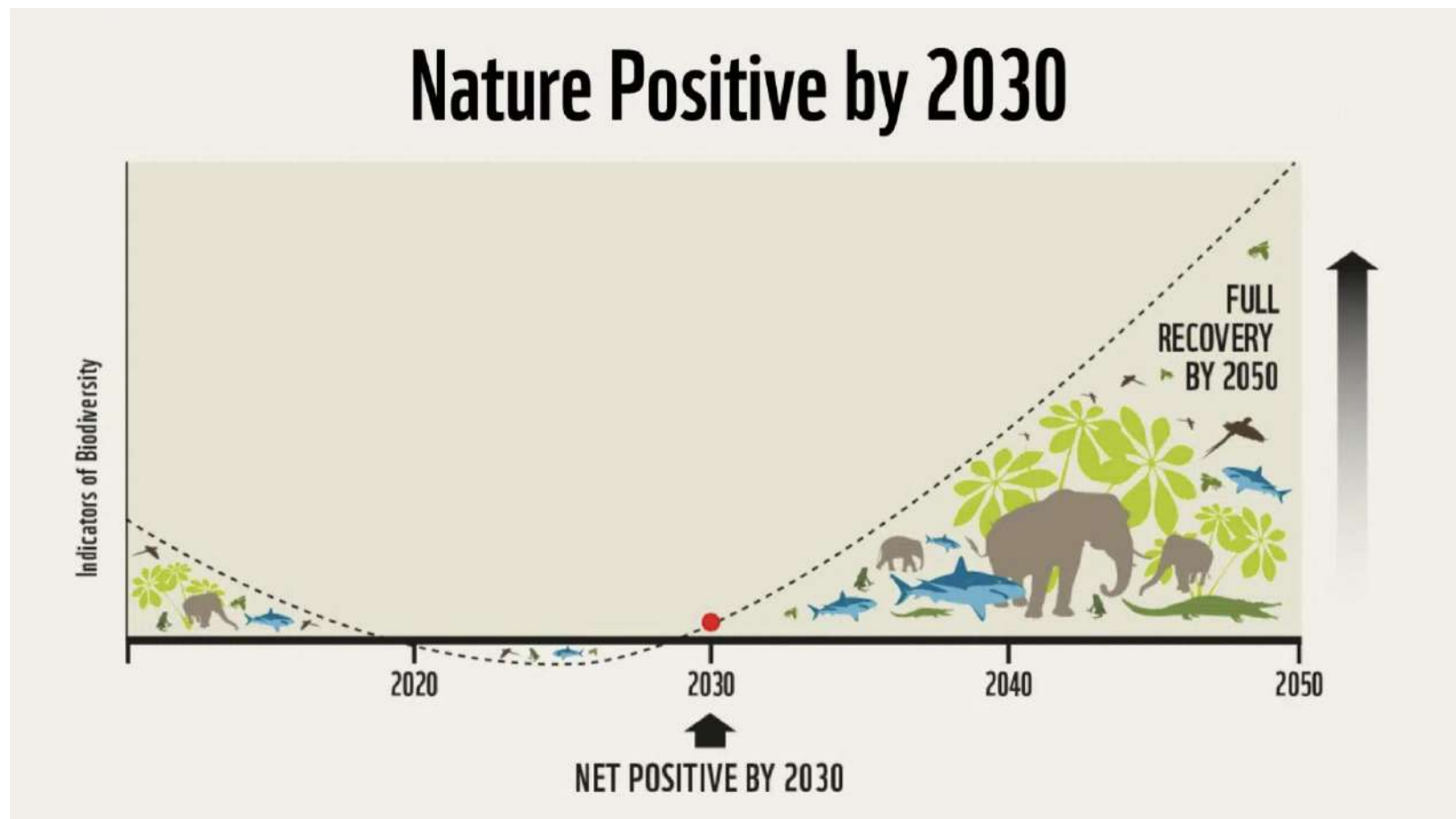


Figure credit: NPI

The Finance for Biodiversity Pledge

We, 200 financial institutions, representing EUR 23 trillion in assets, call on global leaders to take effective measures to reverse nature loss this decade and to ensure ecosystem resilience.

As financial institutions, we know that healthy societies, resilient economies and thriving businesses rely on nature. Together, let's protect, restore, and sustainably manage our natural resources. We make every effort to take our share of responsibility and contribute to the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems through our financing activities and investments.

We therefore commit to do the following within two years of signing the Pledge...



1 Collaboration and knowledge sharing

We will collaborate and share knowledge on assessment methodologies, biodiversity-related metrics, targets and financing approaches for positive impact.

2 Engaging with companies

We will incorporate criteria for biodiversity in our ESG policies, while engaging with companies to reduce their negative and increase positive impacts on biodiversity.

3 Assessing impact

We will assess our financing activities and investments for significant positive and negative impacts on biodiversity and identify drivers of its loss.

4 Setting targets

We will set and disclose targets based on the best available science to increase significant positive and reduce significant negative impacts on biodiversity.

5 Reporting publicly

We will report annually and be transparent about the significant positive and negative contribution to global biodiversity goals linked to our financing activities and investments in our portfolios.

The Finance for Biodiversity Pledge Signatories

200 signatories | EUR 23 trillion AUM | 28 countries



Why is Nature important for financial institutions?

- Biodiversity loss has an **impact** on the economy and, therefore, also on the financial sector.
- All businesses **depend** on and impact biodiversity via ecosystem services and other natural capital assets, either directly through their operations or indirectly through supply chains
- Financial institutions that provide financing for economic activities that depend on these ecosystem services (e.g. agriculture, forestry) are exposed to the **physical risks** of biodiversity loss via their portfolios
- A second risk concerns financing companies that have a major negative impact on biodiversity, and is therefore a reputational, **transition risk** for financial institutions.

Source: 'Indebted to nature', Dutch Central Bank, 2020

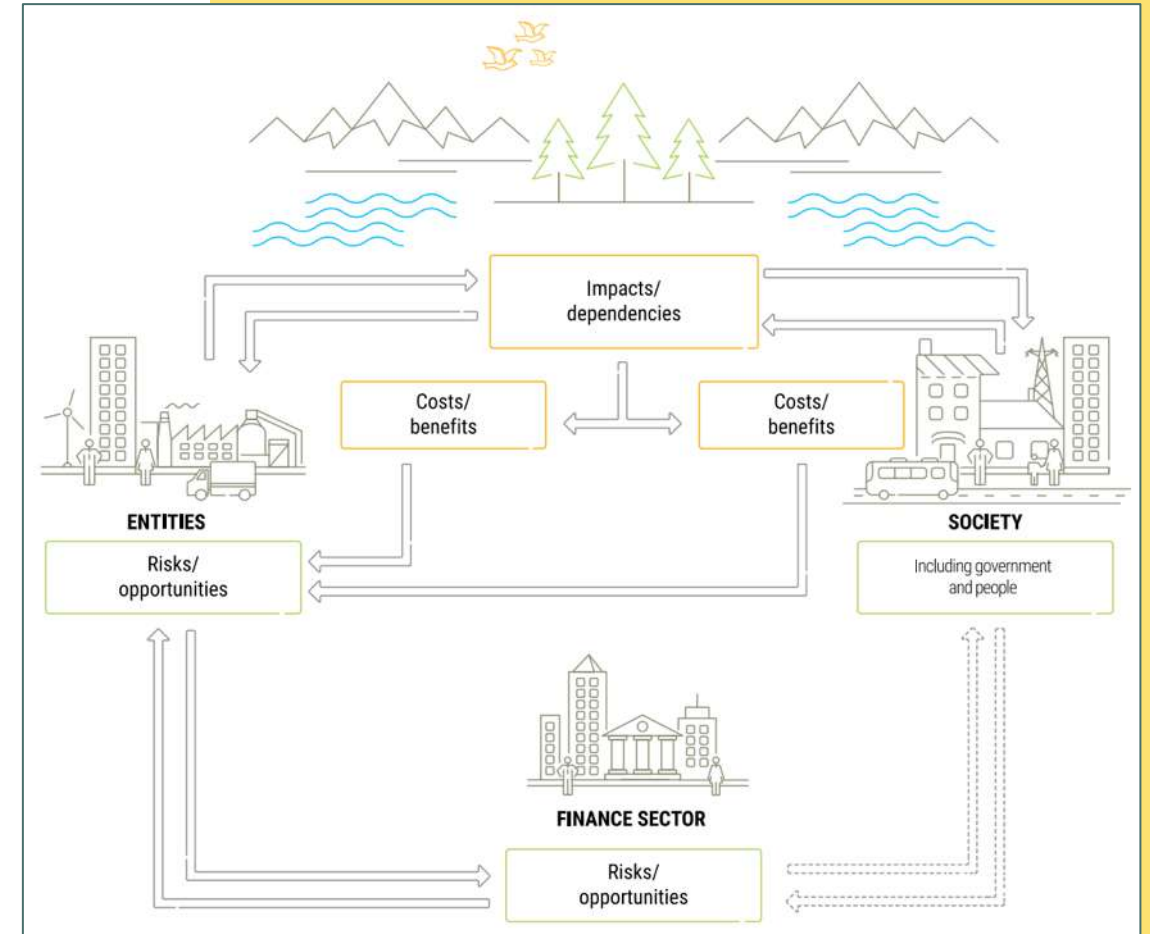
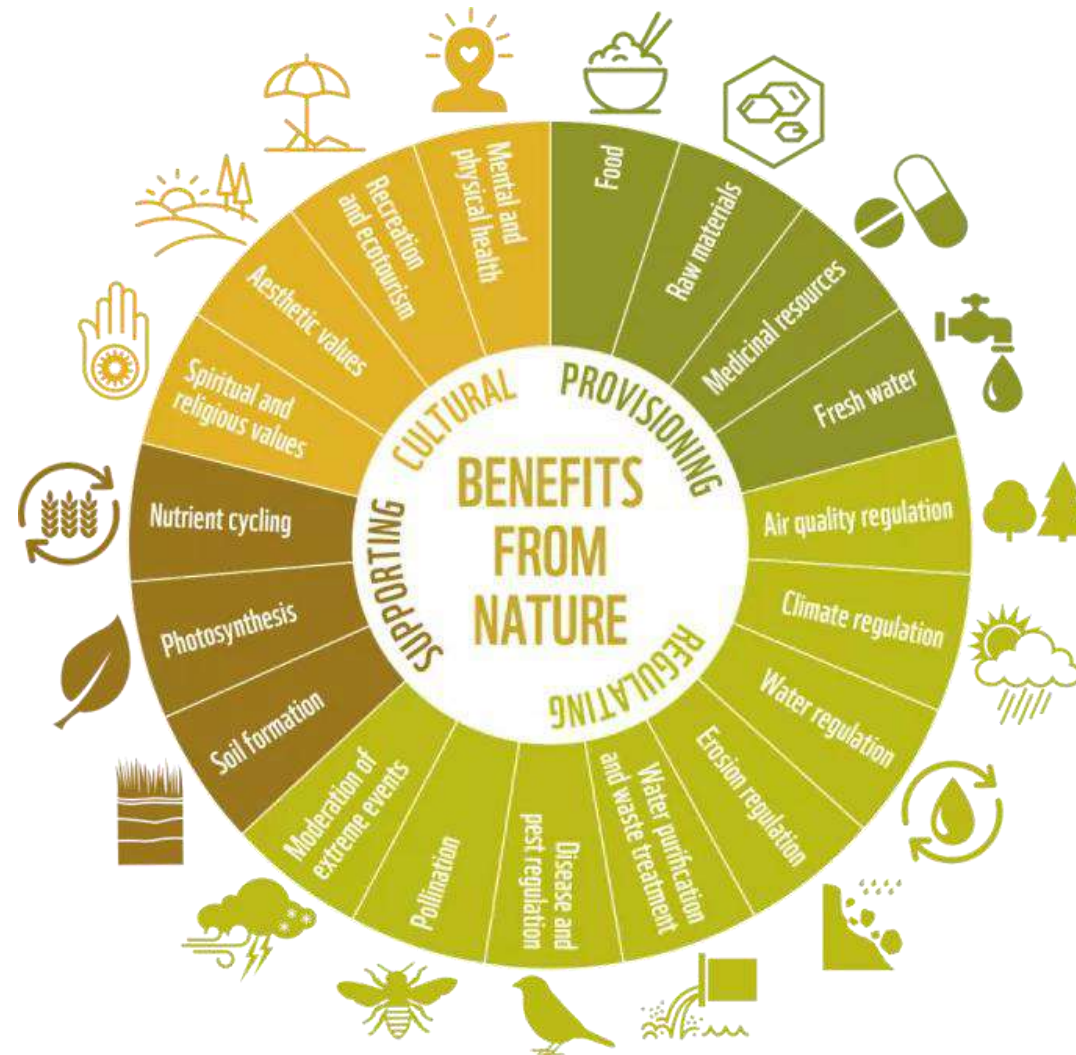
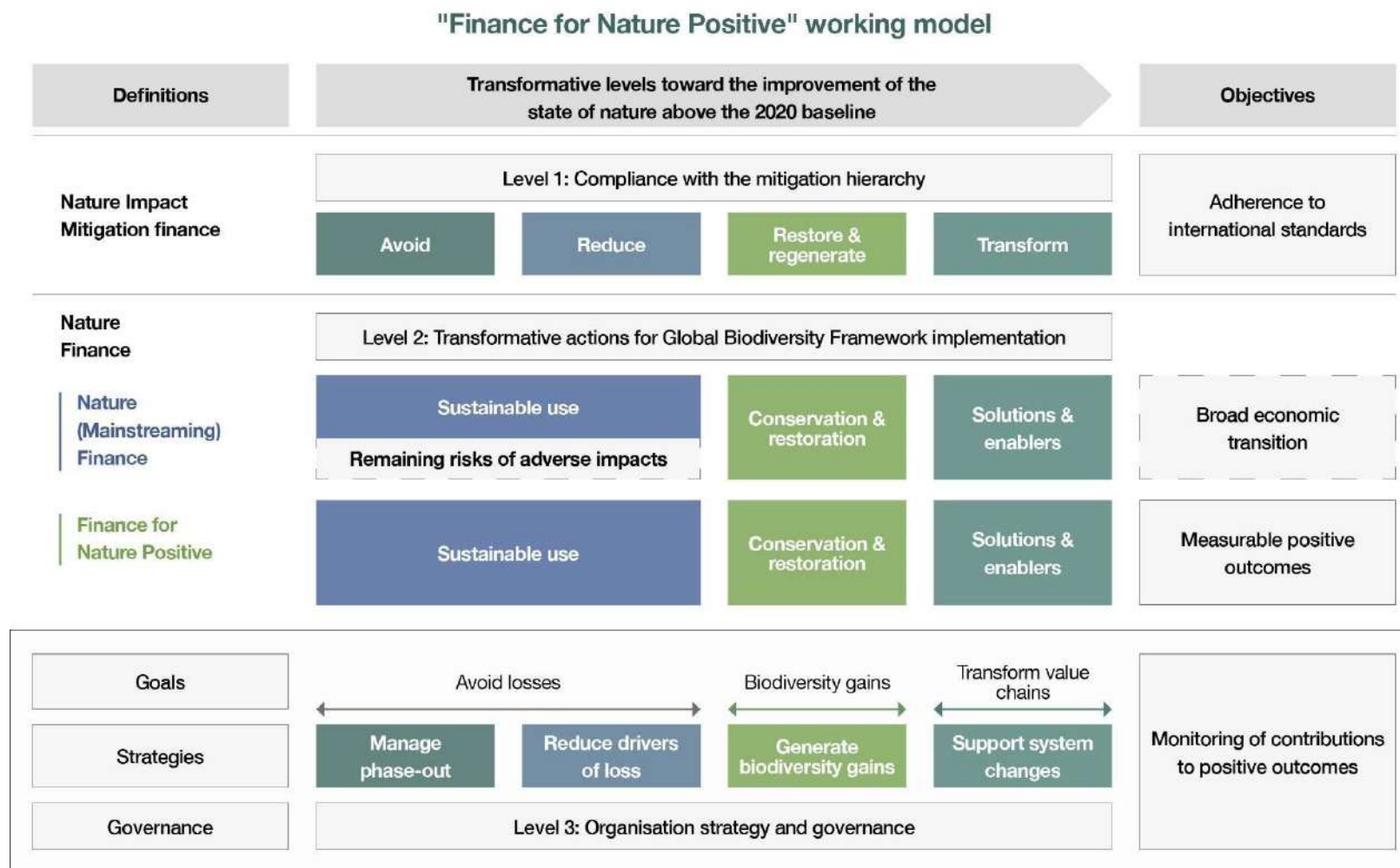


Figure: Natural Capital Coalition

Nature underpins the stability of our economies and societies



How to develop a Finance for Nature Positive strategy?



Join Us

We invite financial institutions committed to making progress on nature conservation to become a Pledge signatory and member of FfB Foundation.

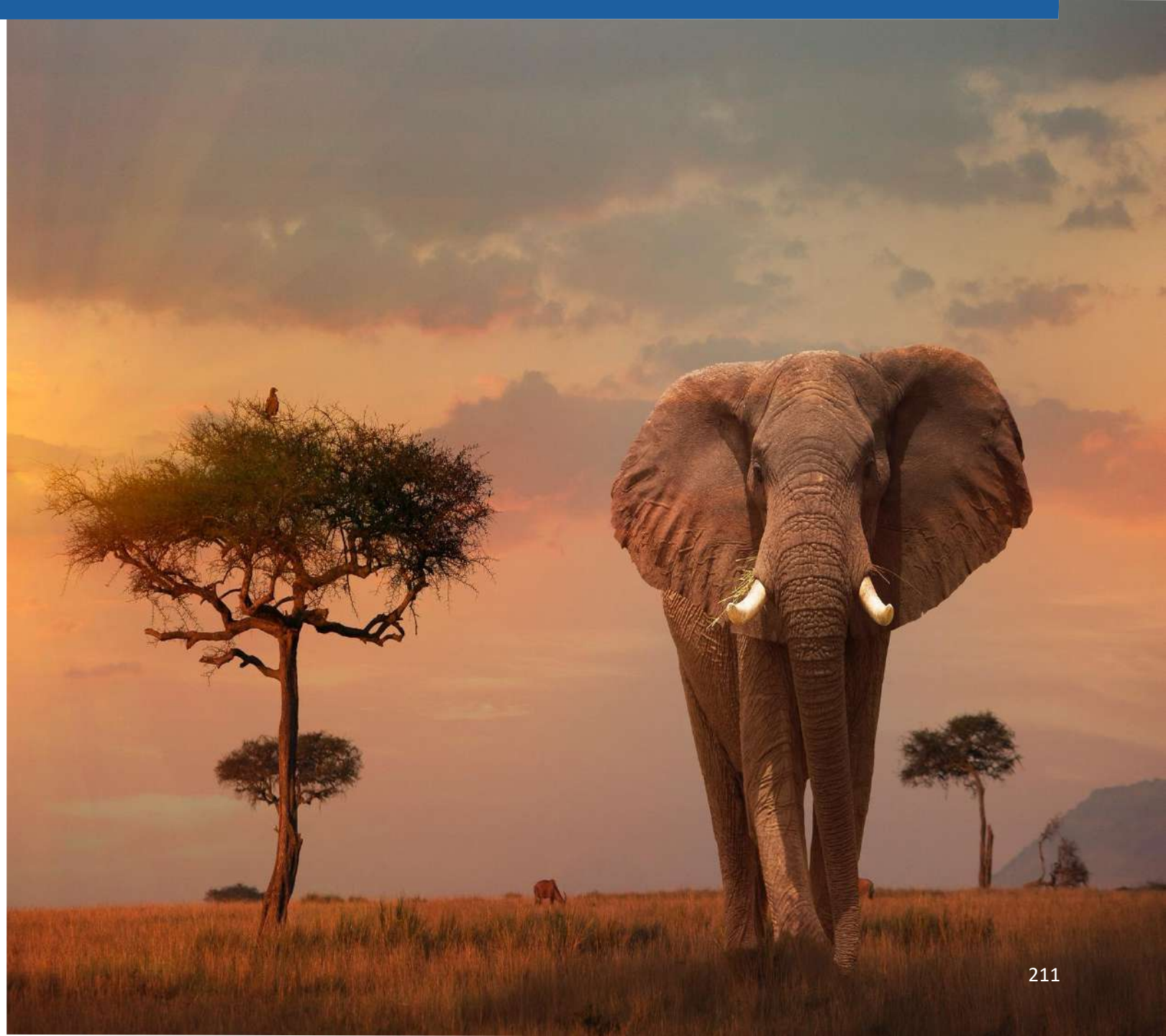
[Application form](#)



info@financeforbiodiversity.org



www.financeforbiodiversity.org



**Choose
nature.**



**Is a lack of private investment
the real issue preventing us
from addressing
the biodiversity crisis?**

Frederic Hache
Green Finance Observatory



The \$700bn funding gap
- a debatable and politically biased framing?

What type of investing?

public investment of financial and political capital
vs

private investment in new tradable nature credits

Why promote biodiversity credit markets,
knowing that they will likely be
an environmental failure,
just like carbon offsets before them?

What is the political goal?

What should we do instead?

Recommended literature:

- Spash C, Foundations of social ecological economics, Manchester University Press
- Green Finance Observatory, roadmap to ruin <https://greenfinanceobservatory.org>
- Green Finance Observatory, 50 shades of green part 2: the fallacy of environmental markets <https://greenfinanceobservatory.org>
- Latour B, Down to Earth: Politics in the New Climatic Regime, Wiley
- Biodivmarketwatchinfo collective manifesto <https://www.biodivmarketwatch.info/>



Choose
nature. 

To rethink health and wellbeing

Etienne Aulotte

Brussels Environment

eaulotte@environnement.brussels



brussels
environment
.brussels 

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

North-West Europe

Forest4Youth

Context

17.5%

The percentage of young people (10-19) suffering from mental health problems in North West Europe.

- depression
- anxiety
- behavioural disorders
- addictions, etc.

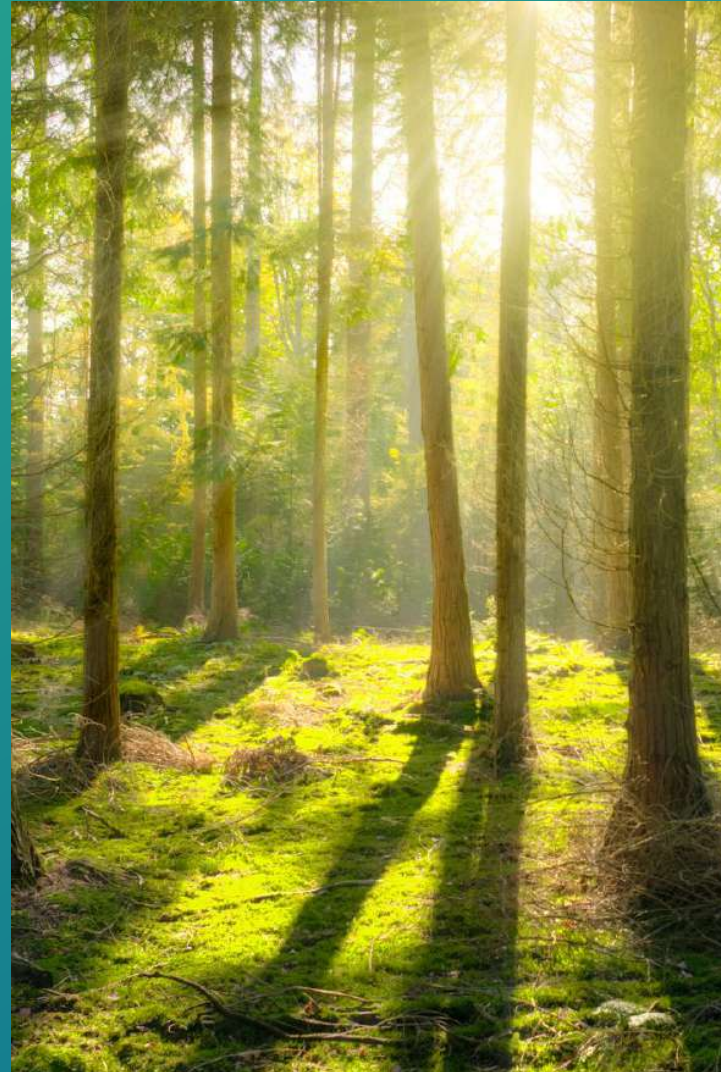


Context

+20%

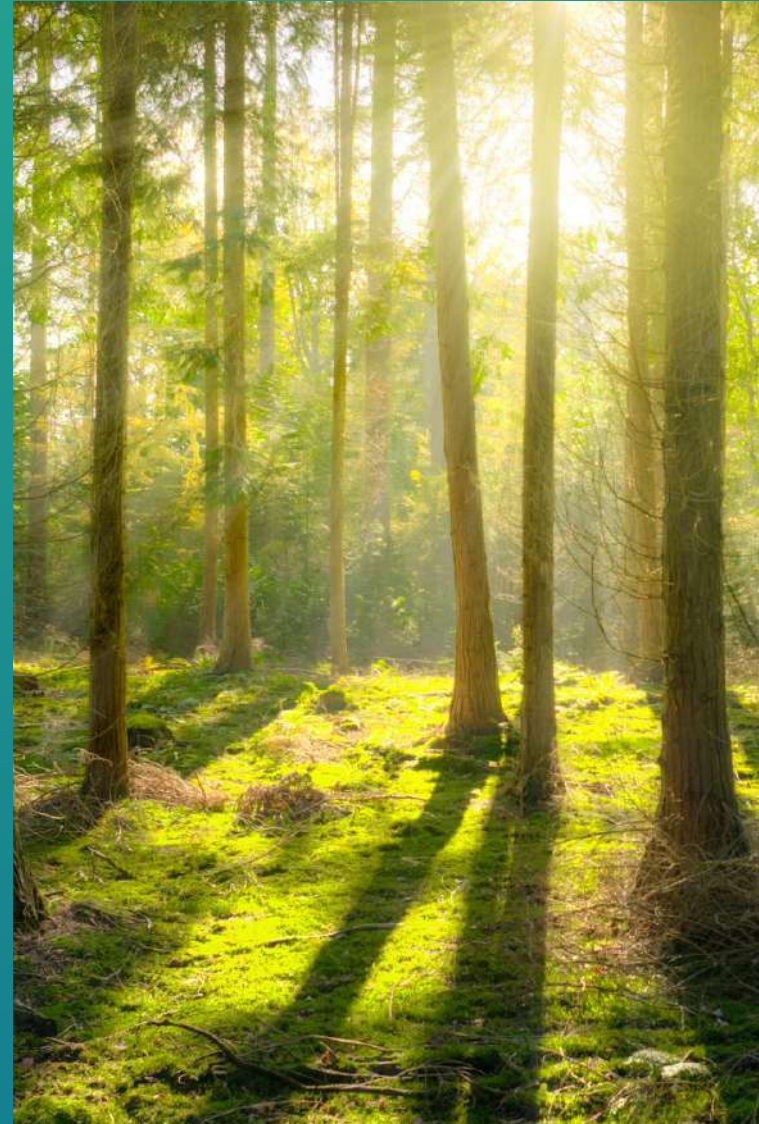
The surface of woodland in North West Europe, a high-value potential of natural spaces to benefit adolescent mental health.

Research has shown promising results for therapies based on immersion in forest&green spaces, particularly with regard to symptoms of depression and anxiety.



Evidence base

More than 5000
scientific articles
mentioning the
benefits of nature
for health



Approach & Outcome 1 (2025-2026)

Demonstrate the win-win situation while integrating forest-based therapies into mental health care facilities and encouraging their adoption

400 adolescents involved (12 to 18 years old)

8 pilot sites across Europe to quantify positive results

A win-win collaboration between mental health and green spaces/forest managers

Interreg

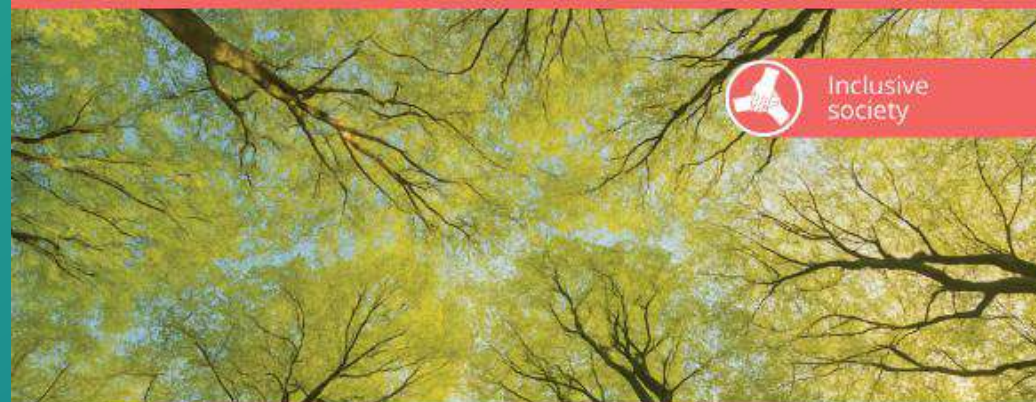


Co-funded by
the European Union

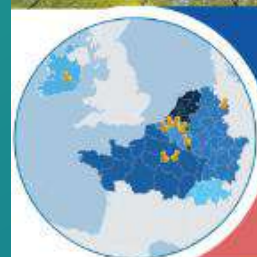
North-West Europe

Forest4Youth

Forest-Based Therapies for Adolescent Mental Health Recovery in North-West Europe



Inclusive
society



9 partners from BE, DE, FR, IE, LU
Collaborating from 2025 to 2028

EU funding
€3,3 million

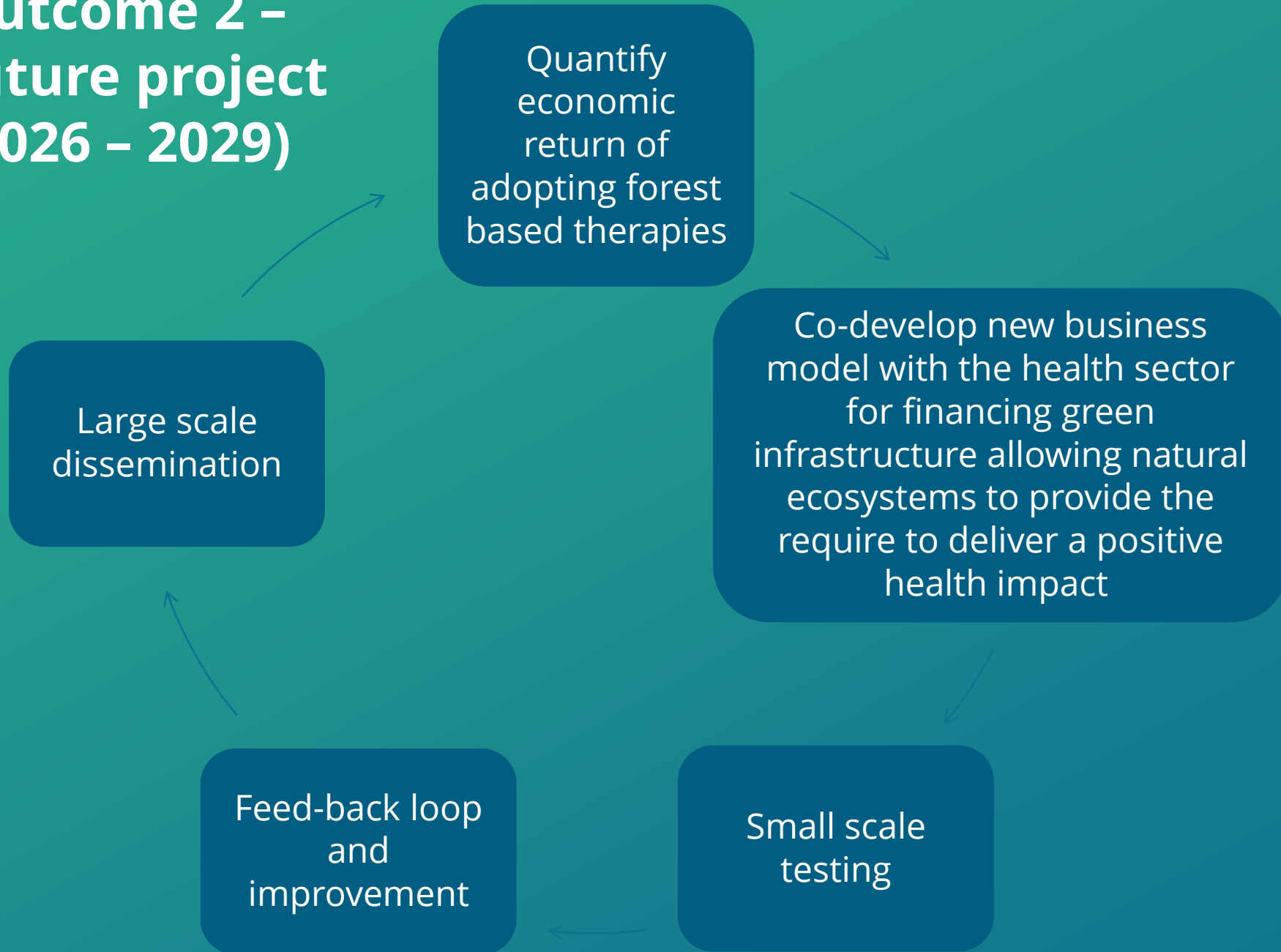
Total project budget
€5,5 million

Map: © EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries (the TS in blue)

Forest4Youth aims to develop forest-based therapies for young people in North-West Europe by assessing current practices and co-designing care protocols. Transnational collaboration will ensure these protocols are harmonised and evidence-based, implement pilot projects, explore VR-based alternatives to enhance access, and offer training for professionals adopting these interventions.

forest4youth.nweurope.eu

Outcome 2 – future project (2026 – 2029)



Key take away

**Invest in nature
to promote
a new resilient healthy model**

Recommended literature

<https://www.unature.org/fr/recherche>

<https://forest4youth.nweurope.eu/>

<https://environnement.brussels/citoyen/nos-actions/projets-et-resultats/forest4youth-un-projet-europeen-pour-ameliorer-la-sante-mentale-des-jeunes-en-foret>



Choose to partner with nature.

Creating new businesses with and for nature

6 short presentations

15h10 | 16h00

**Choose to partner
with nature.**

**Financing change through existing
and new opportunities**

Sharon Brooks

UNEP – WCMC

Barbora Chmelova

Czech Ministry of the Environment

Martina Brody

GoNaturePositive! | Horizon Nua

Kerry Waylen

MERLIN | The James Hutton Institute

Michaël van Cutsem

BeeOdiversity

Laura Rubio

La Osa Cooperativa

*There is no business
without nature*

It is the right moment

Work with what you love!

*For climate resilient solutions
that benefit business and society*

Nature is the solution

To change the way we do businesses

**Choose
nature.**



There is no business without nature

Sharon Brooks

Head of Nature Economy, UNEP-WCMC



Expectations are high

- **Stakeholder interests and expectations** are shifting
- **The role of business** in meeting societal goals recognised including in the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- **Accountability is on the rise** – TNFD, GRI, SBTN, ISSB



95% of millennials and **85%** of *all investors* are now interested in sustainable investing strategies

Morgan Stanley 2020

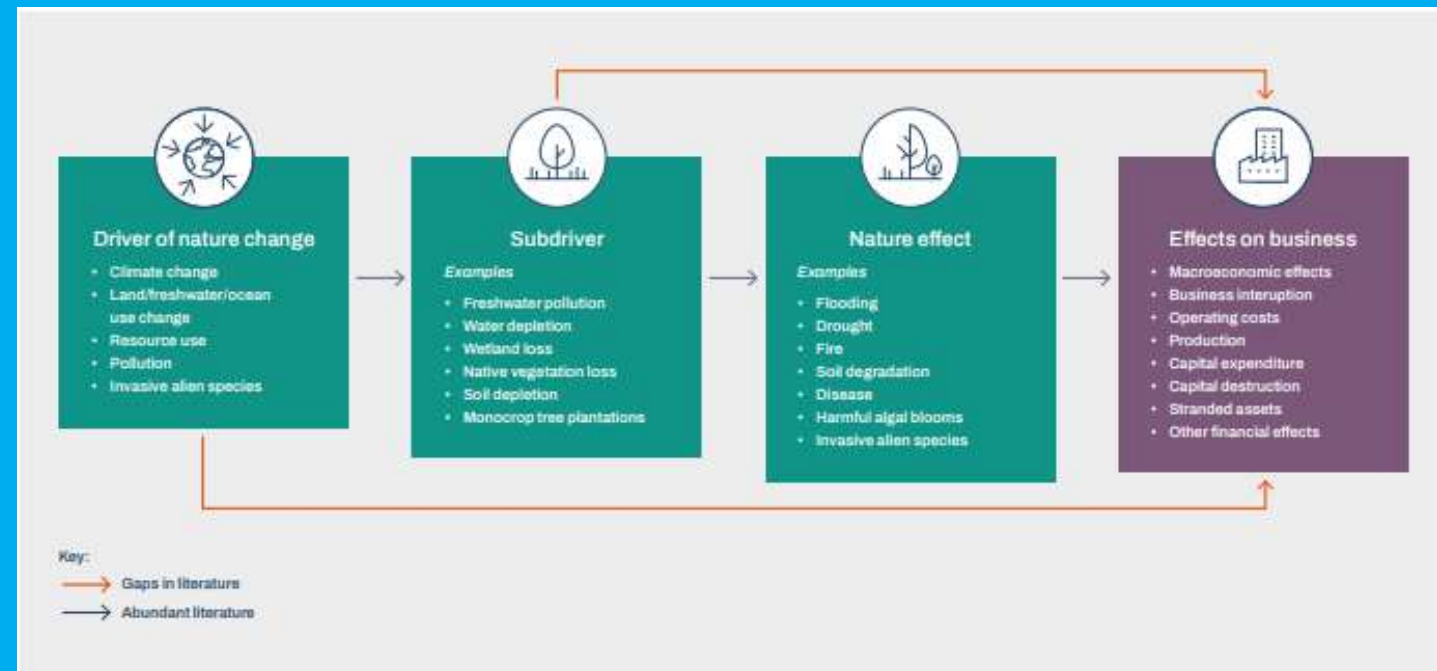
36% of employees favour companies that focus on social equity and environmental protection

Mercer, Global Talent Trends, 2020-2021

190 investors with \$23.6 trillion in asset under management or advice are participating in Nature Action 100 seeking reassurance from the companies we invest in that action will be taken to align their business model with the targets and goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework

NA100, 2023

...driven by impacts and dependencies on nature



Exploring Natural Capital Opportunities, Risks and Exposure

Select ISIC Section or ISIC Division (based on the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities) to explore dependencies and impacts on natural capital.

ISIC Section



ISIC Division

View: ☒ Dependencies ☐ Impacts

- Enter a ISIC Section -



EXPLORE



Natural Capital Module: Visualise links between the economy and nature

Explore your potential impacts and dependencies on natural capital.

Find out more >



Biodiversity Module: Explore potential portfolio alignment with biodiversity goals

This new functionality helps explore the potential alignment of financial activities in selected sectors with a nature-positive future.

Find out more >

ENCORE



- Over 270 economic activities covered, including value chain links



- Helps understand both dependencies and impacts



- Provides a foundation for further detailed analyses

Businesses are responding

Business commitments growing (e.g. net positive impact, SBTN targets) but challenges persist

Current emphasis on nature related assessments to meet disclosure requirements and urgent need for greater action

Need for:

- Capacity and knowledge
- Location-based company data,
- Appropriate use of nature related data and tools
- Mainstreaming across business functions





A 20+ year collaboration between UNEP-WCMC and leading businesses



Convening a cross-sector group of businesses



Identifying shared knowledge gaps



Generating actionable science and knowledge



Building business capacity to utilise biodiversity knowledge



Enabling integration into decision making and corporate processes



Businesses design and take actions for nature



Businesses contribute to global goals for nature

proteus

UN  WCMC
environment
programme

Every Job is a Nature Job

Enhancing Procurement With Nature

June 2024

proteus

UN  WCMC
environment
programme

Every Job is a Nature Job

Business Development with Nature in Mind

March 2025

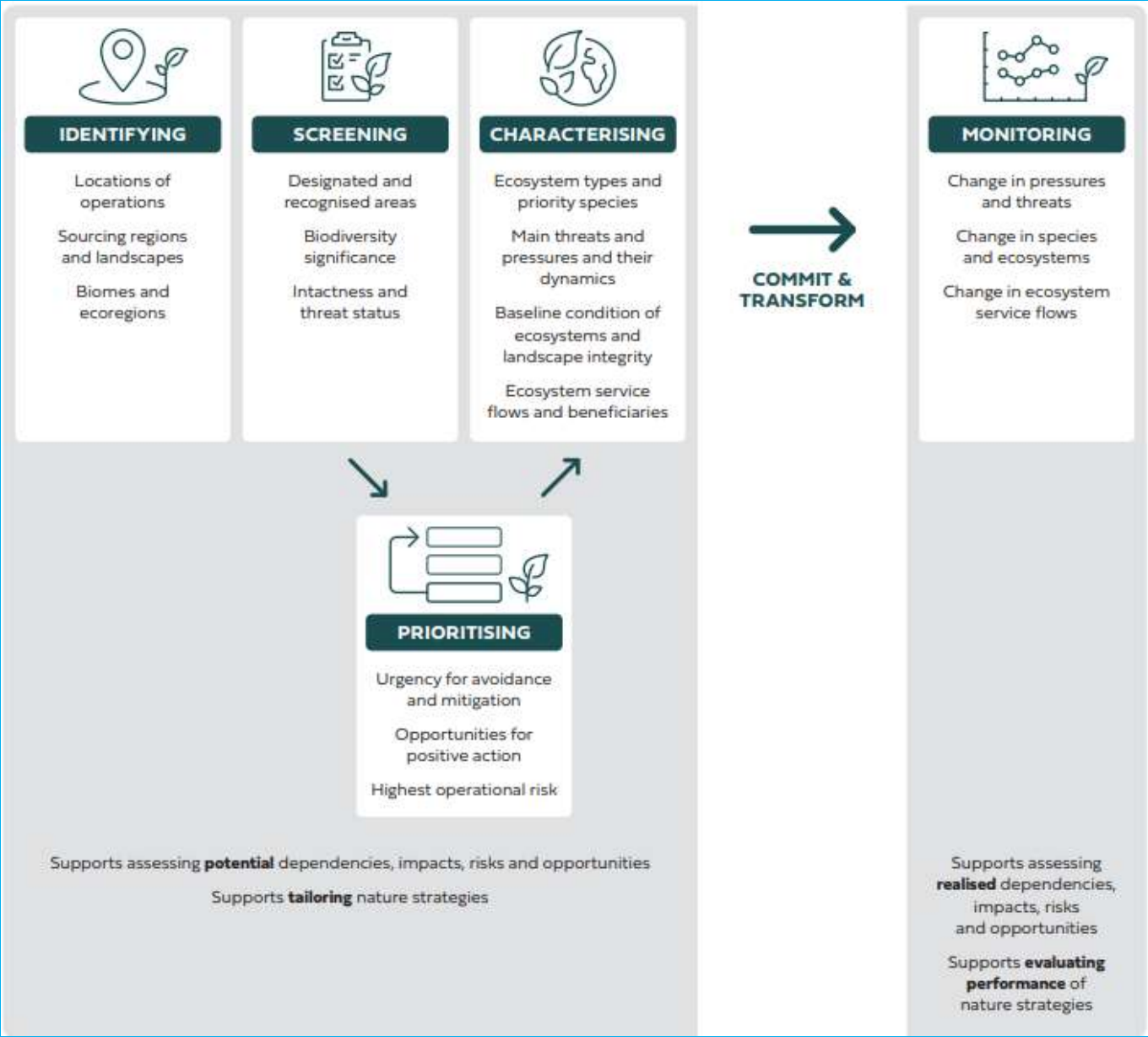
Embed nature programme

Location focused decision making

Make decisions based on local nature-related issues.

Apply and interpret spatial datasets and metrics.

[READ MORE](#)



Upcoming IPBES Business and Biodiversity Assessment

Scoping report approved at IPBES 10 in 2023

To be considered for approval at IPBES 12 in February 2026 in Manchester

- Chapter 1. Setting the scene
- Chapter 2. How does business depend on biodiversity?
- Chapter 3. How does business impact biodiversity?
- Chapter 4. Approaches for measurement of business dependencies and impacts on biodiversity
- Chapter 5. Businesses as key actors of change: options for action by business
- Chapter 6. Creating an enabling environment for business: options for actions by Governments, the financial sector and civil society



Contact:

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Twitter: [@unepwcmc](https://twitter.com/unepwcmc)
LinkedIn: [UNEP-WCMC](https://www.linkedin.com/company/unep-wcmc)

Recommended literature

Scoping report for a methodological assessment of the impact and dependence of business on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people (IPBES, 2023). <https://www.ipbes.net/business-impact>

Accountability for nature (UNEP-FI & UNEP-WCMC, 2025). <https://www.unepfi.org/publications/accountability-for-nature-comparison-of-nature-related-assessment-and-disclosure-frameworks-and-standards-3/>

Evidence review on the financial effects of nature-related risks (TNFD, 2025)
<http://tnfd.global/publication/evidence-financial-effects-of-nature-related-risks>

Exploring Natural capital Opportunities, Risks, Exposure (ENCORE). www.encorenature.org

Proteus Partnership. www.proteuspartners.org/

Every Job is a Nature Job – Procurement UNEP-WCMC (2024). https://resources.unep-wcmc.org/products/WCMC_RT567

Every Job is a Nature Job - Business Development UNEP-WCMC (2024). https://resources.unep-wcmc.org/products/WCMC_RT674

Embedding nature in business decision-making: challenges and gaps (A-track, 2025). <https://a-track.info/a-track/resource/embedding-nature-business-decision-making-challenges-and-gaps>

Building narratives through nature (A-track, 2025). <https://a-track.info/a-track/resource/building-narratives-through-nature-data>

**Choose
nature.**



It is the right moment.

Barbora Chmelova

Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic



Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic

**Choose
nature.**



Because...

**Choose
nature.**



**Nature is not
a nice-to-have...**

**Choose
nature.**



...it's now – or never.

More than policy change

The EU Nature Restoration Regulation sets ambitious targets for nature — but its real power lies in transforming society.





National Restoration Plan in Czechia

Reinventing restoration in a changing landscape



Business engagement

*From risk to opportunity:
why restoration
makes business sense*



Learning to work with businesses

Curiosity sparks new partnerships

A misty, rolling landscape with bare trees and a distant forest ridge under a soft, hazy sky. The scene is captured in a cinematic style with muted colors and a soft focus, creating a sense of tranquility and mystery. The text is overlaid on the center of the image.

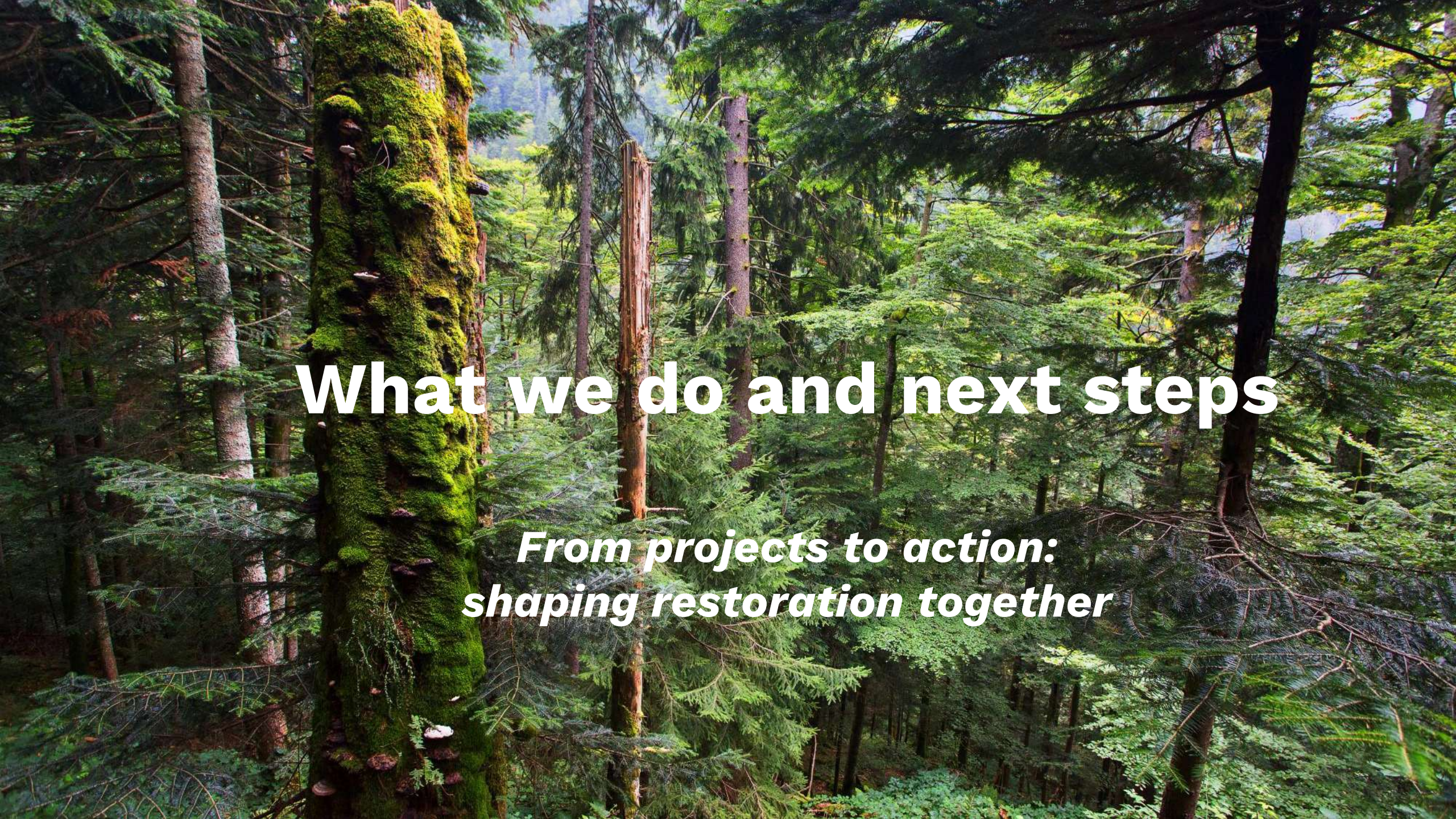
Key challenges

*The business case
for nature restoration
— what's holding us back?*

A black and white bird, possibly a species of quail or similar ground-dwelling bird, stands on a small mound of brown soil. The bird has a distinctive crest of long, thin black feathers on its head. Its body is primarily white with black markings on its wings and back. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with green and brown tones.

What we need to move forward

Enabling conditions for restoration partnerships

A photograph of a dense forest. In the foreground, a large tree trunk is covered in bright green moss. The background is filled with many tall, thin evergreen trees, creating a lush green canopy. The lighting is soft, suggesting a forest interior.

What we do and next steps

***From projects to action:
shaping restoration together***



**It is the right moment to
partner with nature —**

***because restoration
is not just about reversing damage,
it's about actively co-creating
a future we all want to live in.***

**Choose
nature.**



barbora.chmelova@mzp.gov.cz

www.linkedin.com/in/barborachmelova

Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic

**Choose
nature**



Work with what you love!

Martina Brophy
Horizon Nua



Horizon
Nua



Connecting Nature
Enterprise Platform



What are Nature-based Enterprises?

Nature-Based Enterprises (NBEs) are emerging as a powerful segment of businesses in the transition toward a nature-positive economy. Driven by a mission to work with and for nature, NBEs actively address some of the most pressing challenges of our time such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation. While they are engaged in economic activity, they often pursue both social and environmental goals, setting them apart from conventional enterprises.



Micro and small
businesses



Hybrid goals
(Economic + non-economic)



Know more about NBEs from <https://networknature.eu/networknature/nature-based-enterprise>



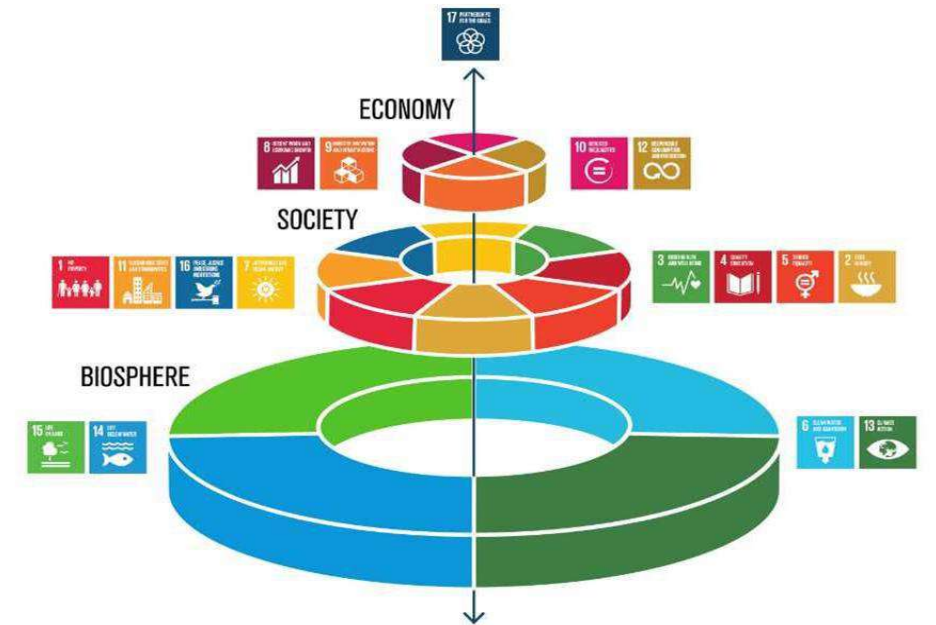
Horizon
Nua



GoNaturePositive!

Nature and the Economy

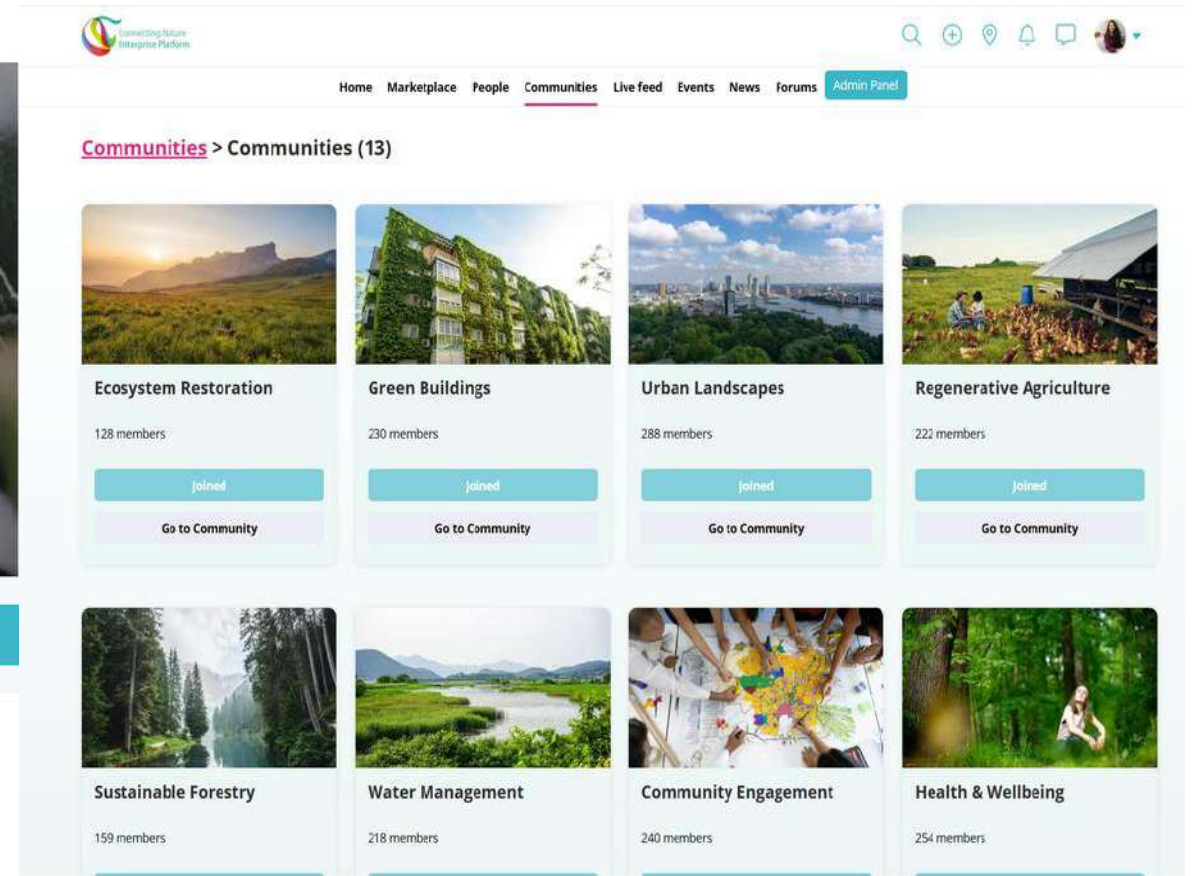
- 55% of global GDP is moderately or highly dependent on nature ([PwC 2023](#))
- In 2025, biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse rank second only to extreme weather events, in a list of over 33 risks expected to deteriorate significantly over a 10-year horizon (WEF, 2025).
- WEF estimates that nature can contribute to \$10 trillion worth of annual business opportunities and 395 million potential jobs can be created by 2030



Source: The SDGs Wedding Cake, by the Stockholm Resilience Centre

Connecting Nature Enterprise Platform

-An online platform for nature-based enterprises



Choose nature



Join Connecting Nature Enterprise Platform now!
<https://naturebasedenterprise.com/signup>



Links used:

NBEs featured on NN+:

<https://networknature.eu/networknature/nature-based-enterprise>

PwC publication on Managing nature risks: From understanding to action

<https://www.pwc.com/gx/en/issues/esg/nature-and-biodiversity/managing-nature-risks-from-understanding-to-action.html>

WEF report: New Nature Economy Report II: The Future of Nature and Business

<https://www.weforum.org/publications/new-nature-economy-report-ii-the-future-of-nature-and-business/>

Connecting Nature Enterprise Platform

<https://naturebasedenterprise.com/signup>

**Choose
nature.**



**.... for climate resilient
solutions that benefit
business & society**

Kerry Waylen
James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen, Scotland



The James
Hutton
Institute

MERLiN

Engaging new
sectors is not
always easy...
...But challenges
offer insight



MERLIN

Mainstreaming Ecological Restoration of freshwater-related ecosystems
in a Landscape context: INnovation, upscaling and transformation

Daniel Hering & Sebastian Birk, University of Duisburg-Essen (DE)

MERLIN has received funding from the European Union's Horizon
2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No
101036337.

<https://project-merlin.eu>



PEATLANDS
AND WETLANDS

SMALL STREAMS
AND BASINS

LARGE
TRANSBOUNDARY
RIVERS





Working with rivers

Measures

- i** floodplain reconnection / re-meandering rivers
- ii** wetland restoration
- iii** river bank restoration
- iv** dam removal
- v** increase of water infiltration (v)

Benefits for both people and nature

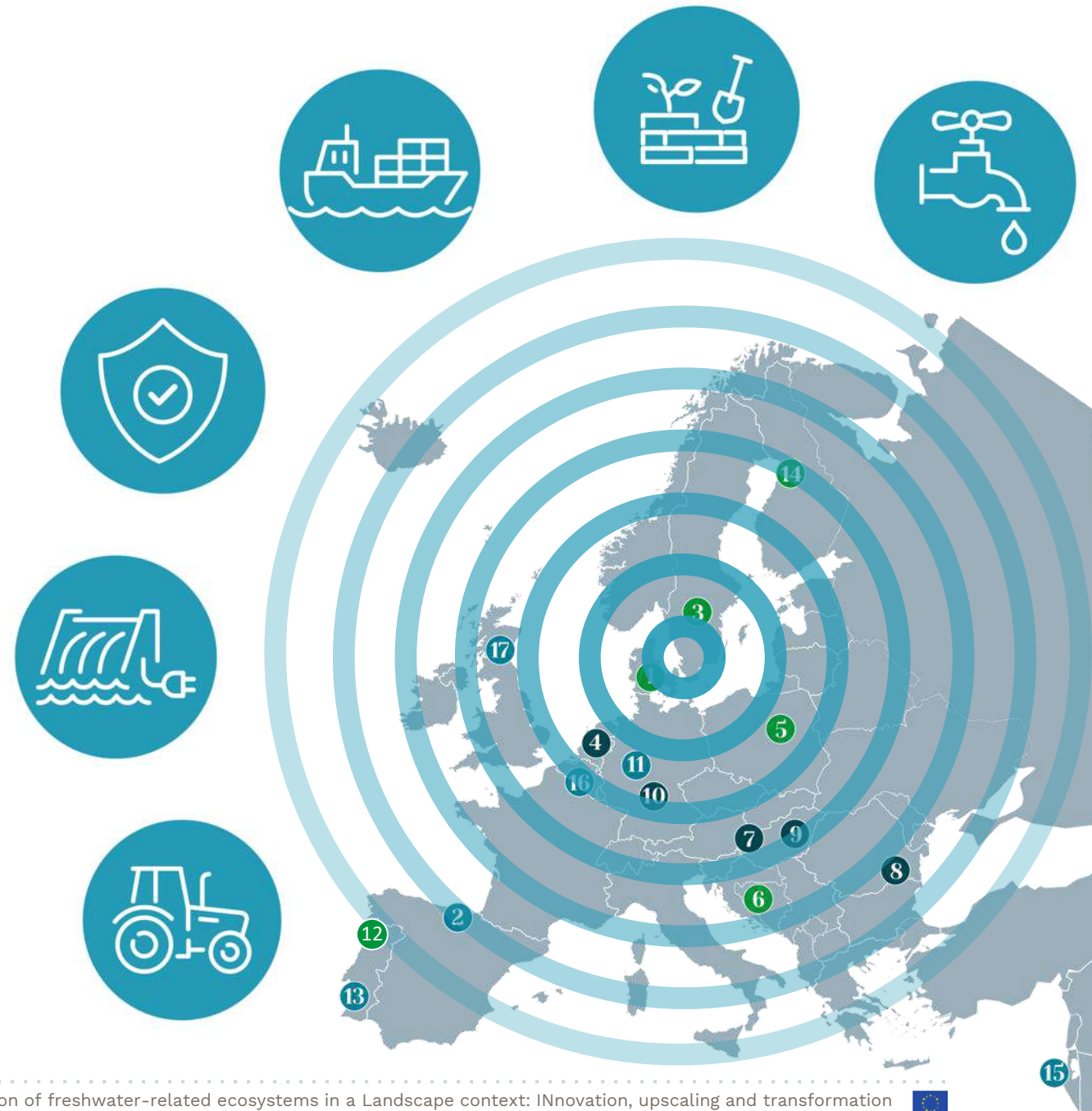
- A** minimised downstream flood risk
- B** zero pollution / clean drinking water
- C** recreation & enjoyment
- D** drought resilience & carbon storage
- E** wetland habitats
- F** biodiversity
- G** safeguarding natural water needs



6 x
Economic
sectors
→
6 x
New CoPs

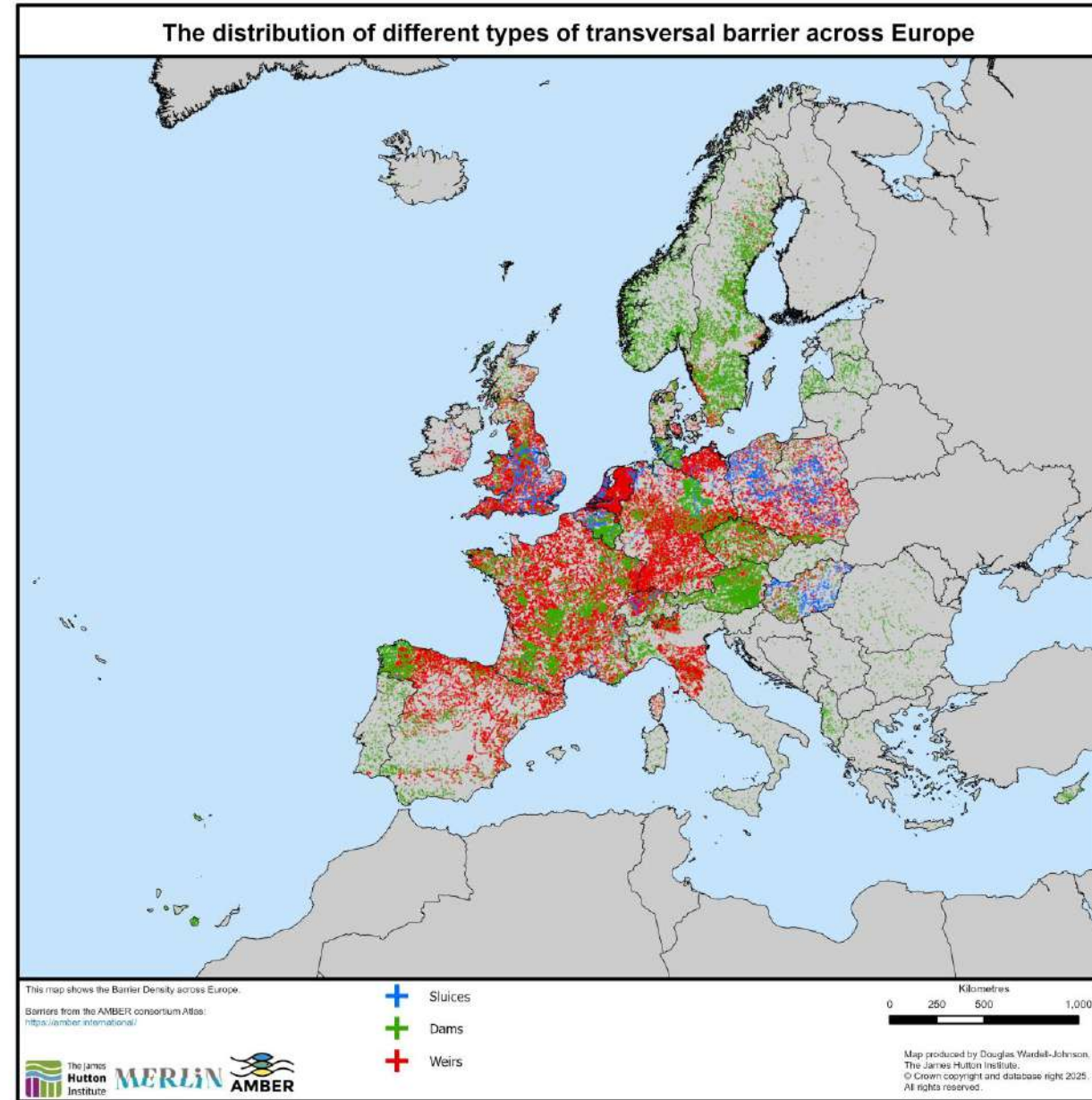
With our sectoral partners:

- Natureland
- Suomen ympäristökeskus (SYKE)
- I-Catalist
- BfG (Pianc) and Deltares
- International Peatland Society (IPS)
- Aqua Publica Europea (APE)



Hydropower sector

- Barrier impacts: biodiversity and underlying ecosystem processes
- Sector dependence on nature: power generation depends on water flows; but a changing climate makes these increasingly vulnerable & variable
- Other pressures: social perceptions
- Our focus: Actions to remove any barriers that are not economically viable.

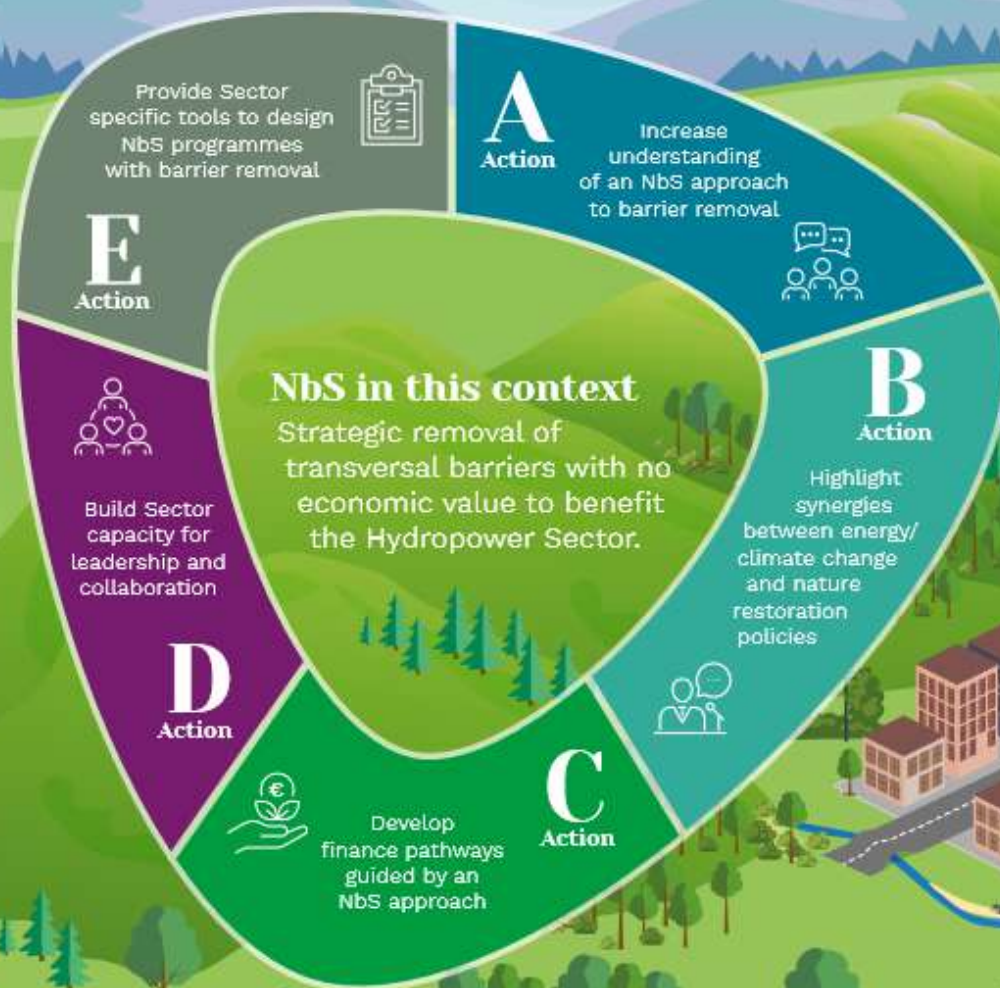




Hydropower Sector Strategy

Involving the Hydropower Sector in strategic barrier removal: applying an NbS approach

Read the
strategy
here
→



2030 Vision



- Barrier removal and NbS approach embedded in company strategies
- Works in partnership to remove barriers
- Has the relevant skills and expertise for ambitious action

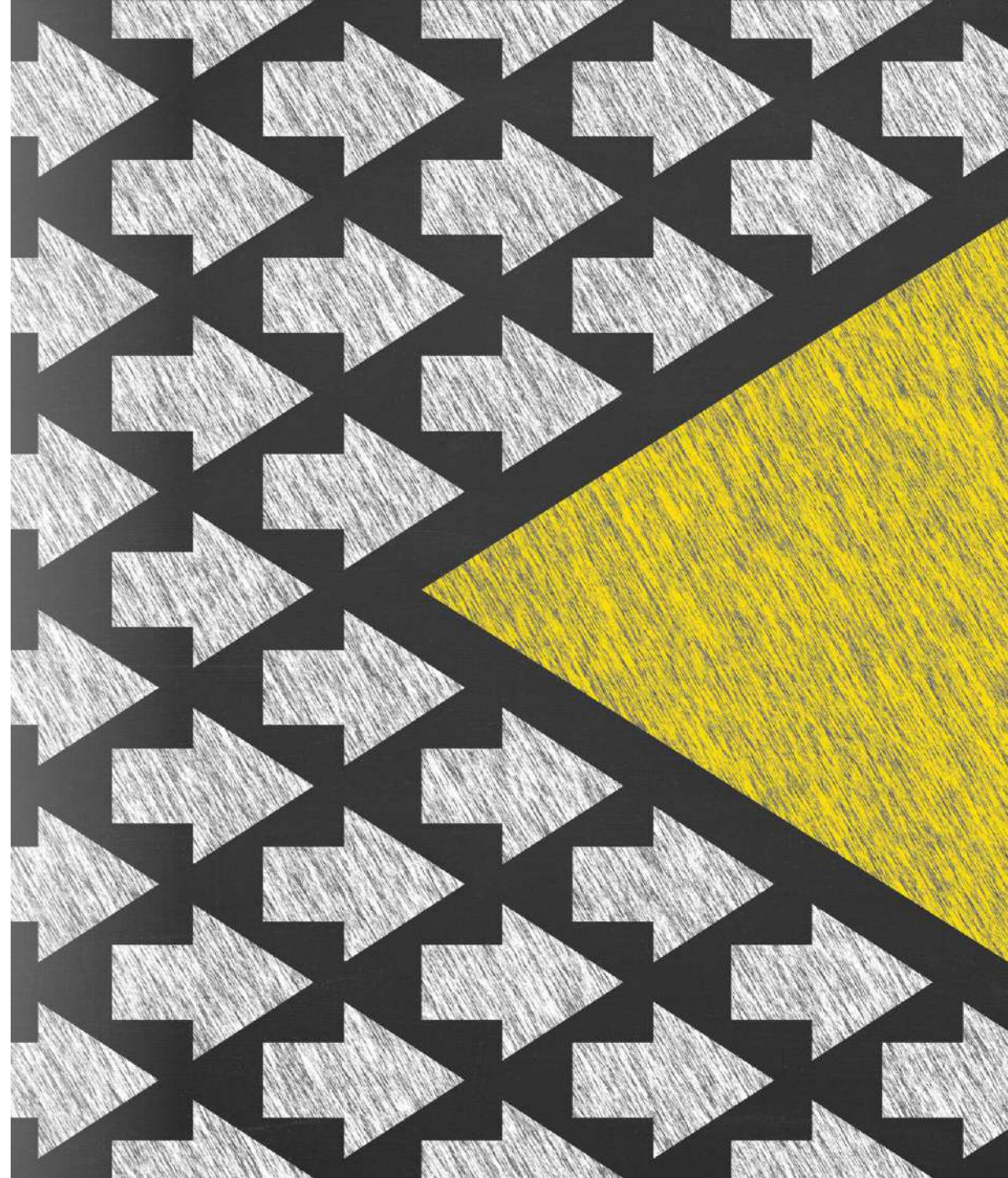
NbS – Nature-based Solutions

Also some difficult
discussions...



Pushback

- Not a problem....
...barriers are beneficial
- Not their responsibility...
...action already sufficient
...climate adaption is a job for
the public sector
- Not their capability
...can't work alone



Progress

Sweden

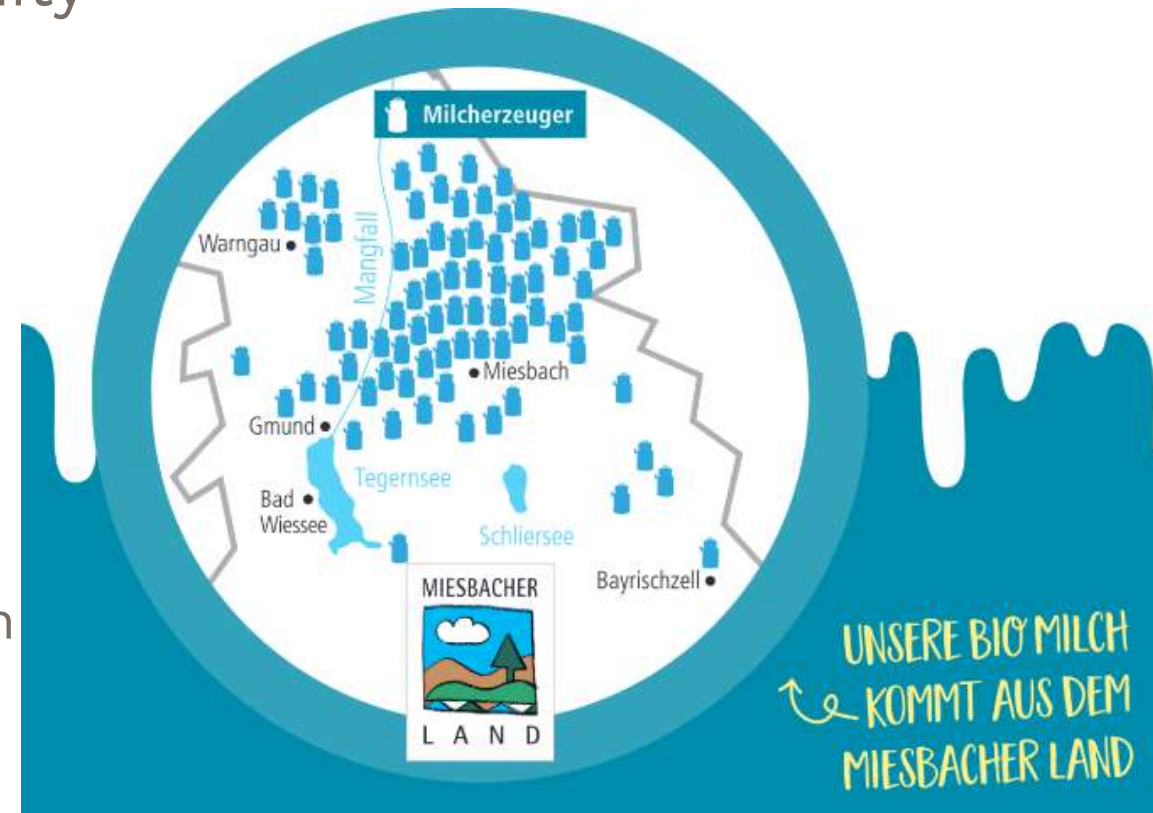
- Legal obligation – WFD compliance
- Whole sector /large scale
- Collaborative framing
- Time to develop plan, not rush solely to actions
- Now Pooled resources and action beyond obligations



Relevant to other sectors

Legal Obligation → Business Opportunity

- Drinking water standards & continuity of supply
- Munich Water :
 - Failing compliance
 - Water supply company & farmers
 - Reduce inputs/improve water retention
 - Farmers create a new regional brand
 - Sell products at premium



Conclusions

Working with nature offers long-term benefits: but many may only see irrelevance or short-term costs

- Need to expect resistance
 - Invest in skills to overcome this, use policies to drive
- Burden sharing matters
 - Whole-sector approach & cross-sector collaboration
- Peer-to-peer learning
 - Normalise engagement with nature, support forerunners

Conclusions

- Still need 'traditional' restoration actors and drivers
- Use legal requirements to spur engagement, collaboration & coordination

Focus on people and partners, not just money and tasks



Recommended literature

- *IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions. A user-friendly framework for the verification, design and scaling up of NbS.* First edition, IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature), 2020. <https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.CH.2020.08.en>
- *Nature-based solutions and restoration are intertwined but not identical: Highlighting implications for societies and ecosystems.* Waylen, Wilkinson, Blackstock, Bourke. *Nature-Based Solutions Journal*. 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nbsj.2024.100116>
- *Involving the Hydropower Sector in strategic barrier removal: Applying an NbS approach.* Carmen & Blackstock. EU H2020 MERLIN Project. 2025. https://project-merlin.eu/files/merlin/downloads/sectoral_strategies/MERLIN_sectoral_strategy_Hydropower_sector.pdf
- *Information on MERLIN Sectoral Strategies.* EU H2020 MERLIN Project website <https://project-merlin.eu/outcomes/sectoral-activity.html>
- *Focus Sectoral Strategies for mainstreaming freshwater restoration.* Bérczi-Siket, Blackstock & Nyíró. EU H2020 MERLIN Project. 2025. https://project-merlin.eu/files/merlin/downloads/deliverables/MERLIN_D4.5_Sectoral_Strategies.pdf

**Choose
nature.**



Nature is THE solution

Michael van Cutsem
BeeOdiversity

BEEODIVERSITY



BEEODIVERSITY

regenerating value

Create value with bees and biodiversity

LAND USE

01



02 POLLUTION

92%

of the population lives
in POLLUTED AREAS



45%

of our food is contaminated
BY PESTICIDES





INVASIVE SPECIES

03

NATURE & BUSINESS

Food & Beverage

Water production

Real-estate

Recycling





BeeOmonitoring

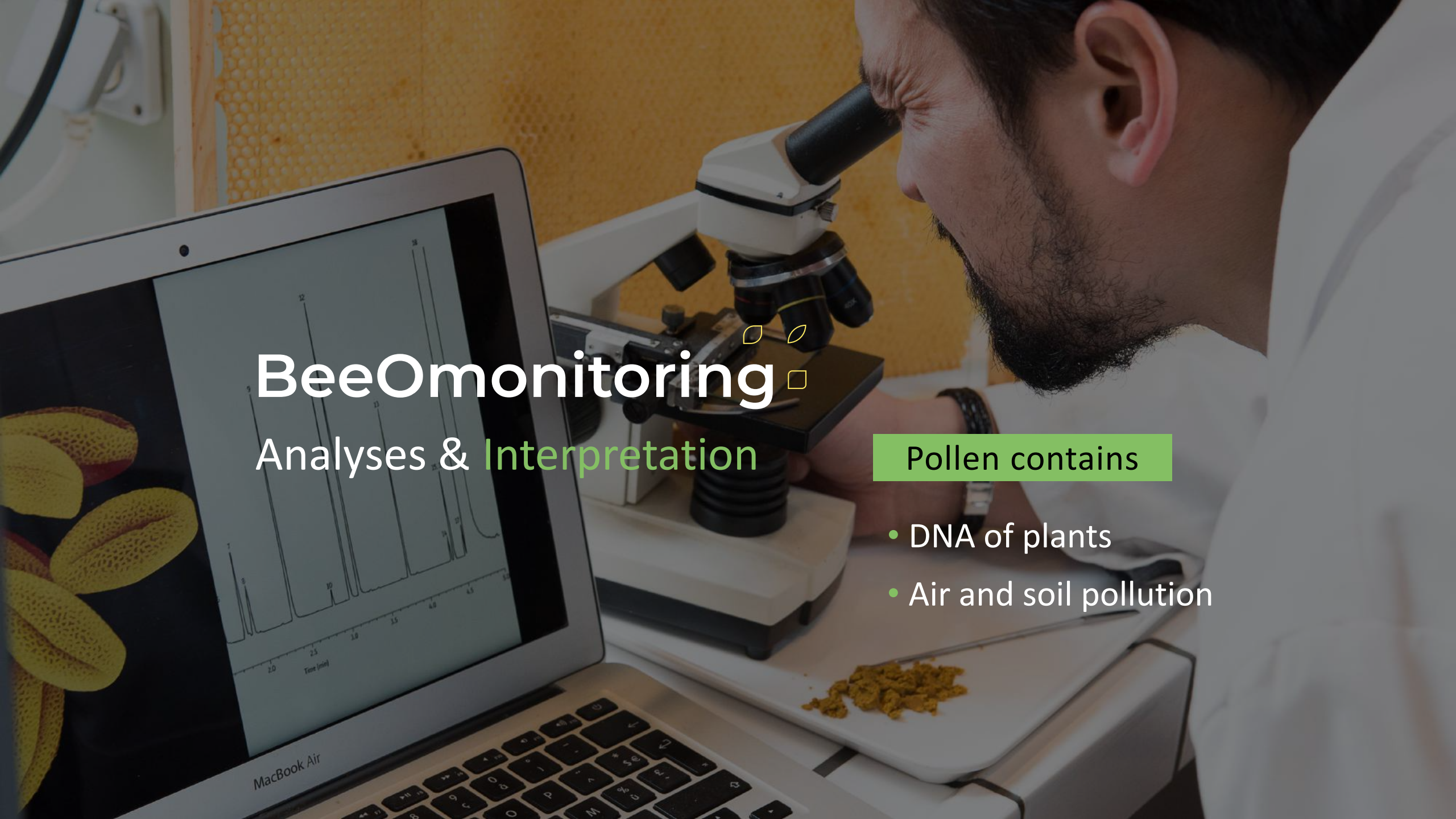
Bees as natural drones



BeeOmonitoring

A sampling **force**

Billions
of flowers
On **700**ha



BeeOmonitoring

Analyses & Interpretation

Pollen contains

- DNA of plants
- Air and soil pollution



BeeOmonitoring

Analyses & Interpretation

Pollution
(Agricultural
Industrial)



Origin



Impact

Plant
diversity



Lack of biodiversity

Related
ecosystems

BeeOmonitoring

Report & Action



BeeOmonitoring

Use cases



Pesticides

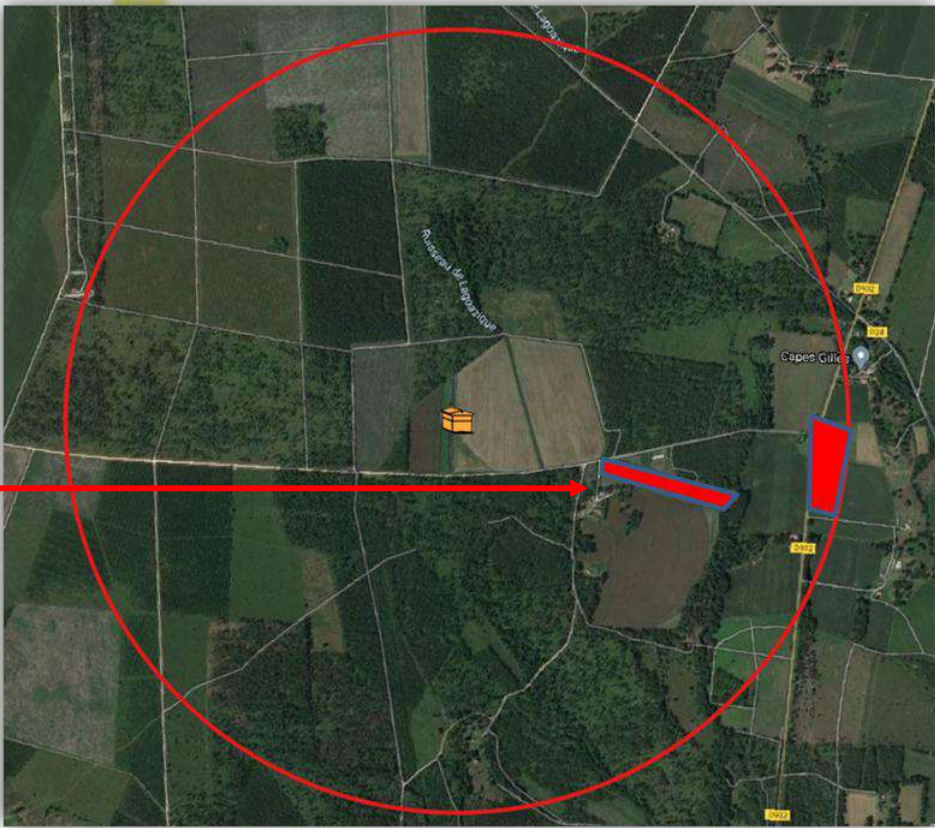
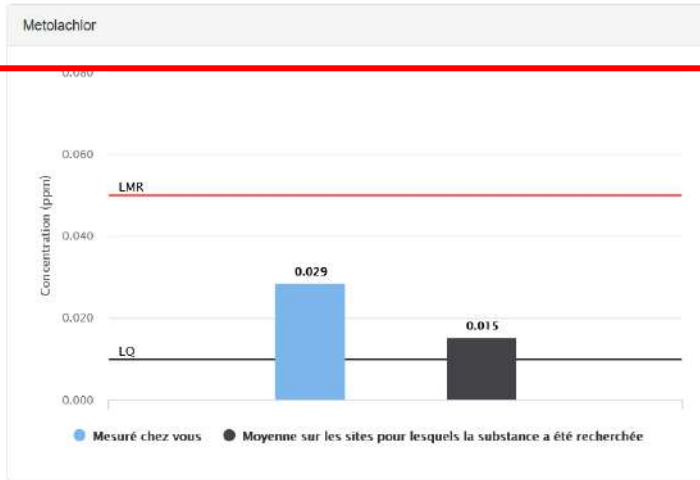
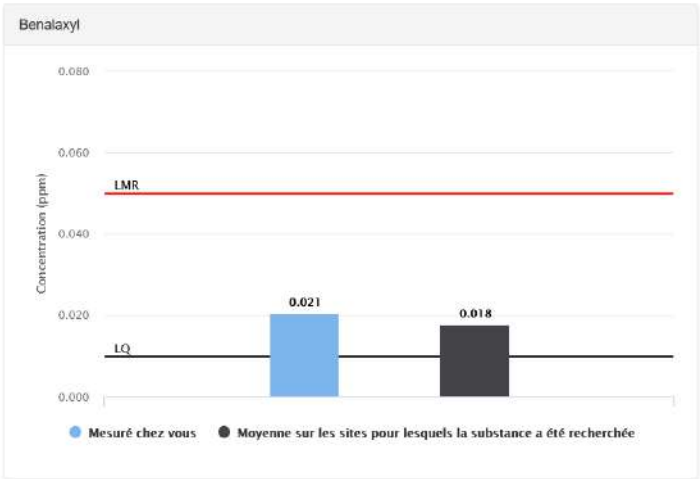
25

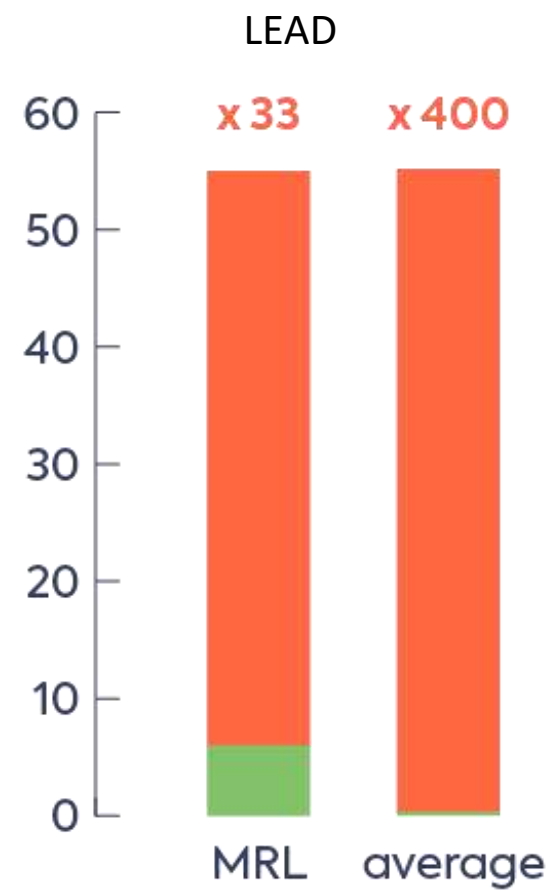
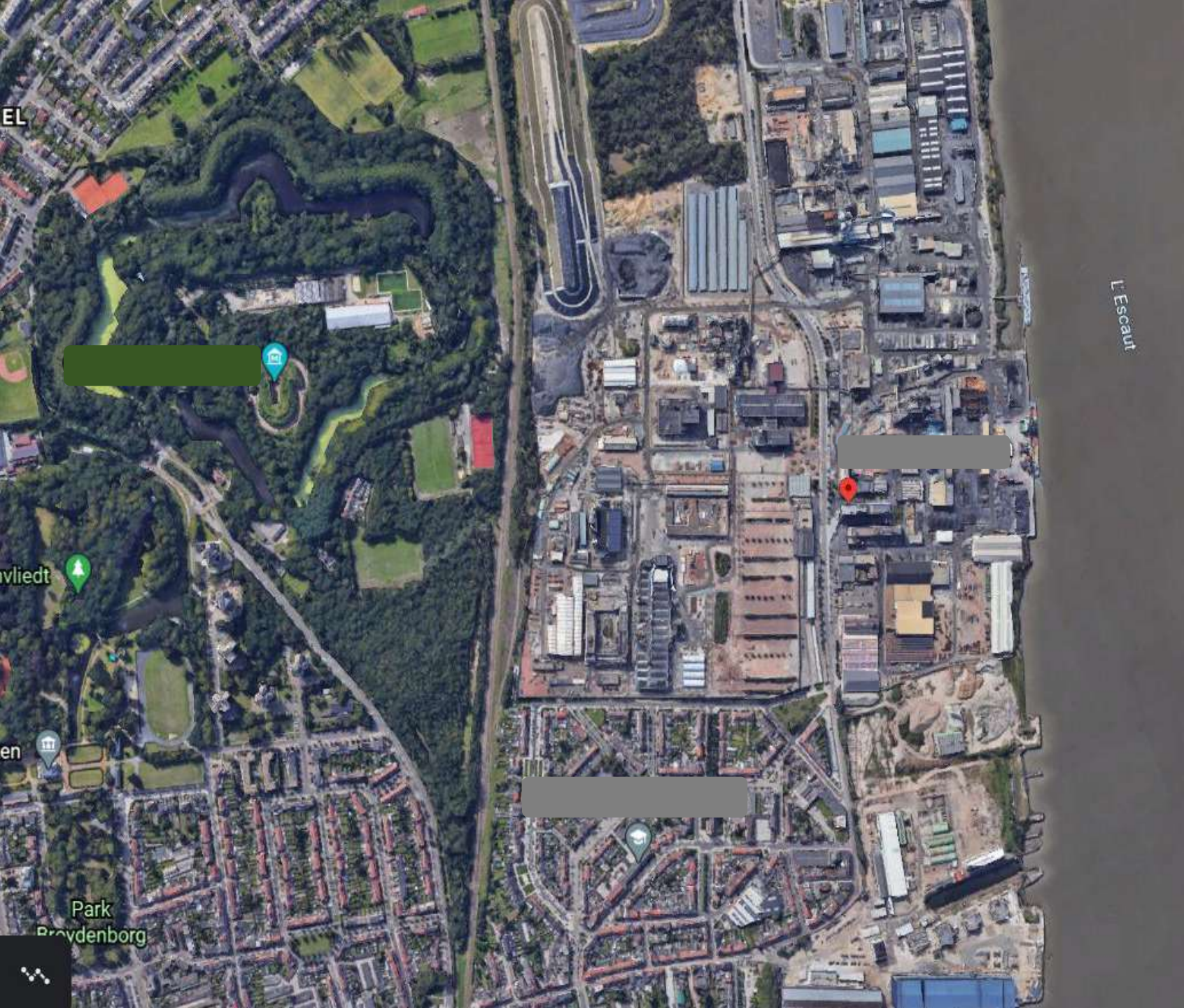


Number of plant species

0 %

HIGHLIGHT RISKS AND DEFINE PRIORITIES TO WORK ON





USP

Parcel & landscape level

Multiple parameters

Low cost: -50 to -95%

Based on nature

Citizen science



BeeOsite

A unique solution



40ha

On 700ha

BeeOmonitoring

Use cases



BeeOmonitoring

Use cases



Biodiversity
RESTORATION PROJECTS

INVASIVE

RESTORED

NATURAL

PLANT DIVERSITY

44%

89%

100%

SOIL HEALTH

18%

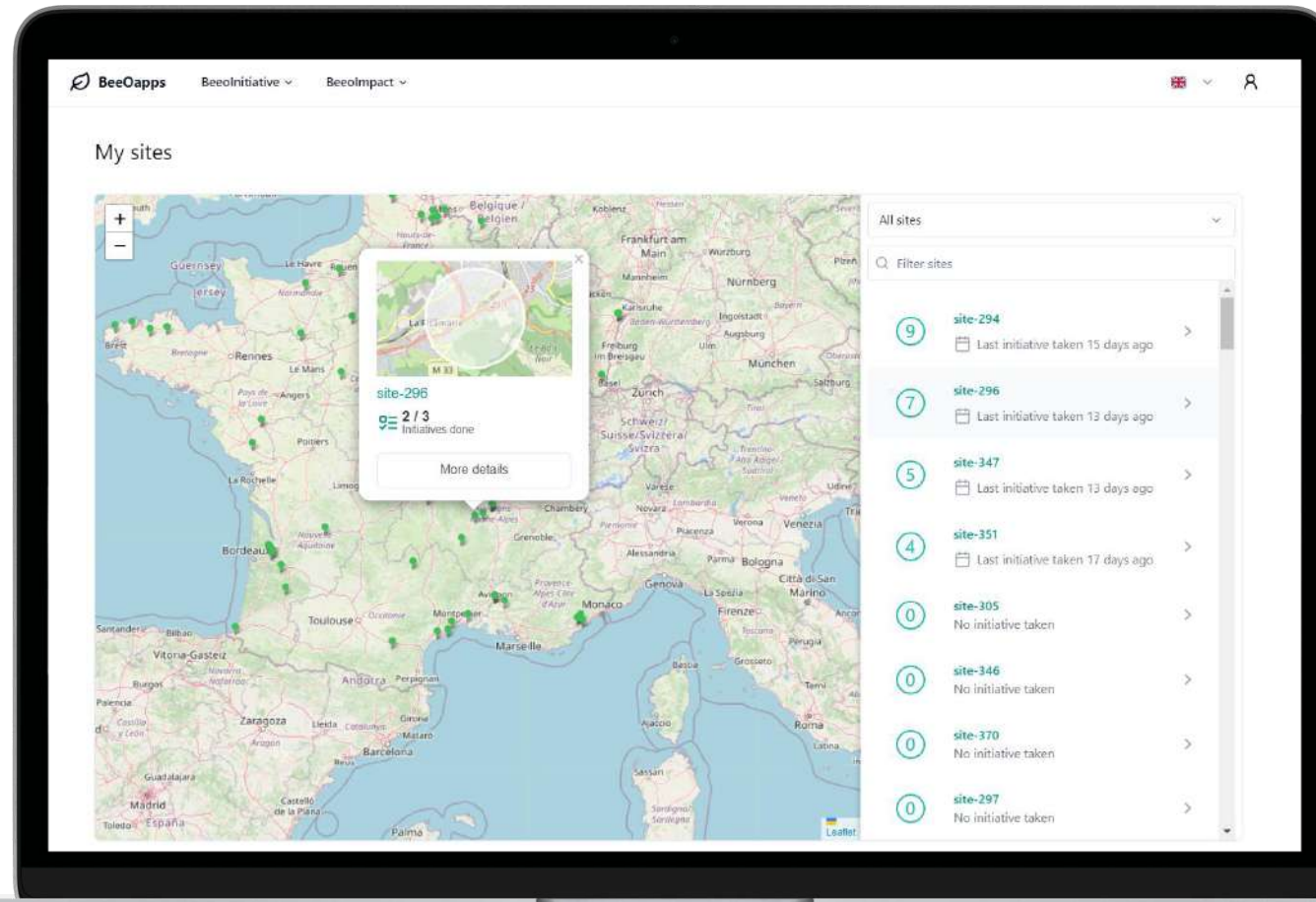
75%

100%

AI PLATFORM – MULTIPLE SITES



IDENTIFY
issues



ACT
for
biodiversity
preservation

OUR IMPACT

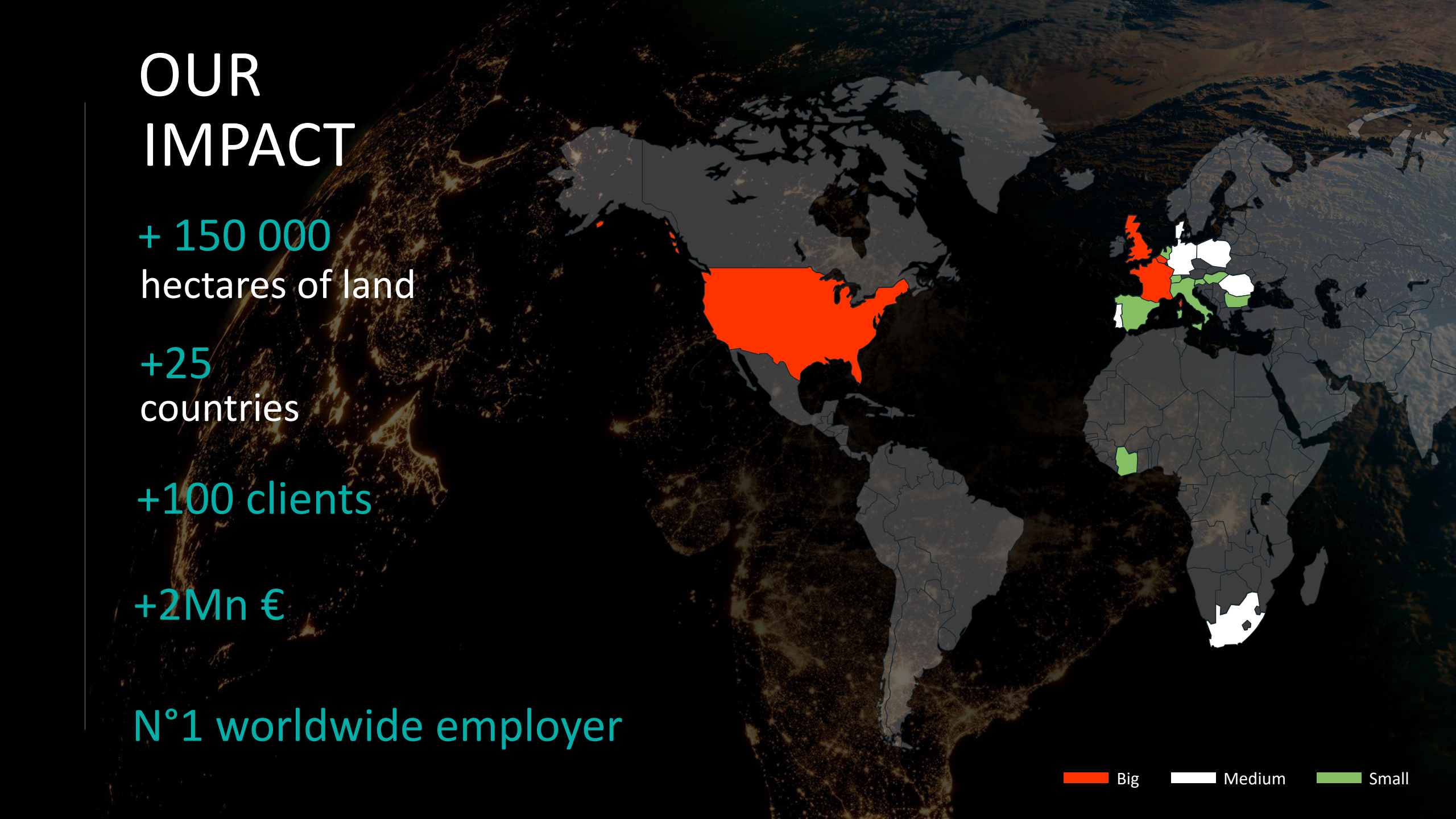
+ 150 000
hectares of land

+25
countries

+100 clients

+2Mn €

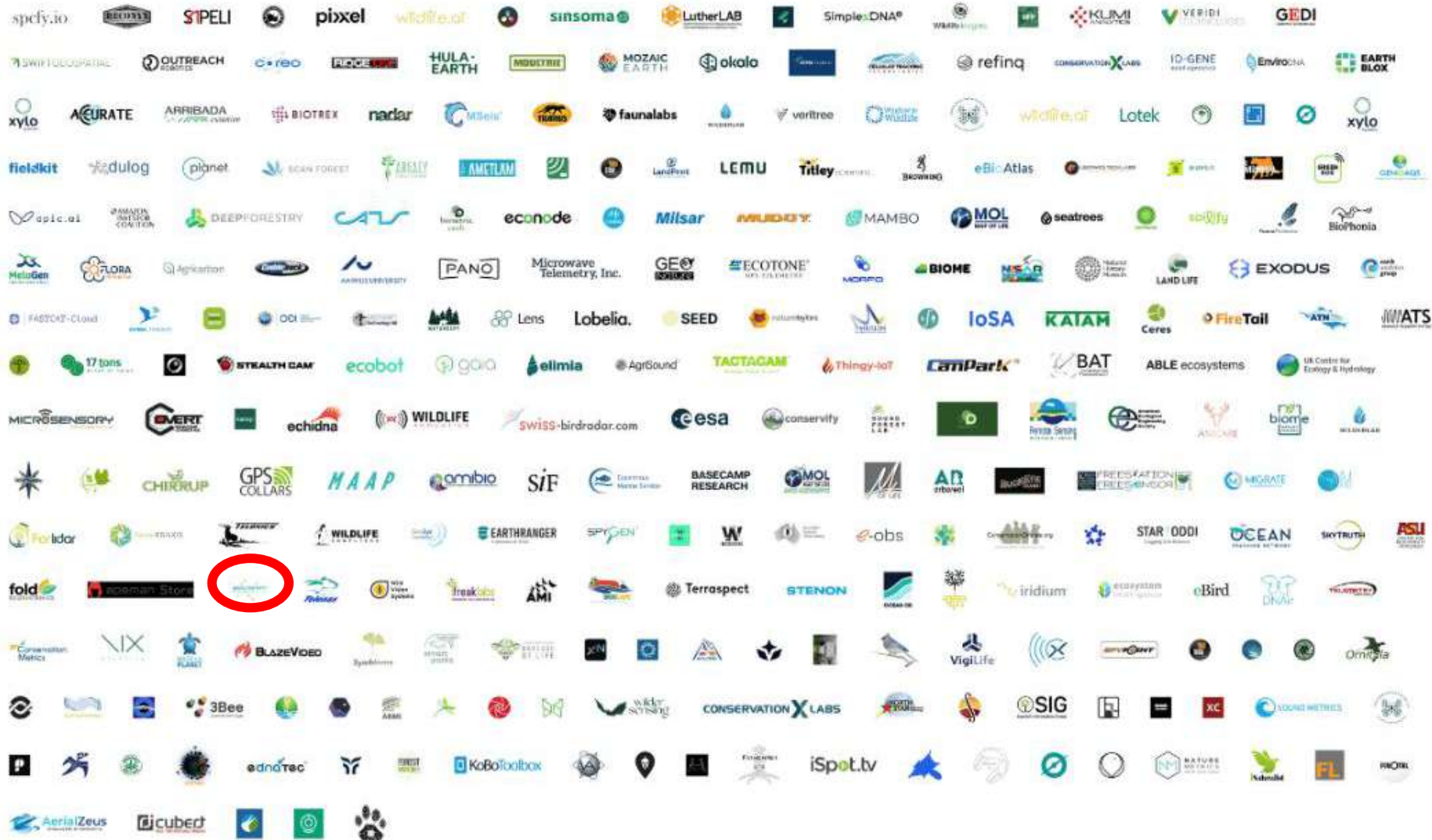
N°1 worldwide employer



Big Medium Small

Nature tech for biodiversity sector map

Measurement



Material Change



The solution

RoI

MR**A**V



For ESG reasons, risks, dependencies,
regulations, value creation,
or simply for our future...

Join us to protect biodiversity

BEEODIVERSITY 
regenerating value

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CIO & R&D
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www.beeodiversity.com



**Choose
nature.**



**To change the way we do
businesses.**

Laura Rubio
La Osa Cooperative

LA OSA
coop



- After just one week on a pesticide-free diet, the level of these toxins in the body drops by 95%. Universities of Berkeley, San Francisco, the Commonweal Institute, and Friends of the Earth.
 - Yet in Spain, 50% of fruits and vegetables contain pesticide residues.
- “Straight to Your Hormones” by Ecologistas en Acción



Organic farms host 30% more plant species and up to 50% more beneficial fauna—such as insects, birds, microorganisms, and pollinators—than conventional farms.



In Spain, a farmer can earn up to 6.5 times more per kilo of product when selling through a cooperative—€0.80/kg compared to just €0.12/kg in large conventional supermarkets. Moreover, final prices for consumers can be up to 25% lower for organic products.





LA OSA
coop

TU SUPERMERCADO
COOPERATIVO
DE MADRID



La Louve

Paris, since 2016.



park slope
FOOD COOP

Park Slope Food Coop

New York, the 1st



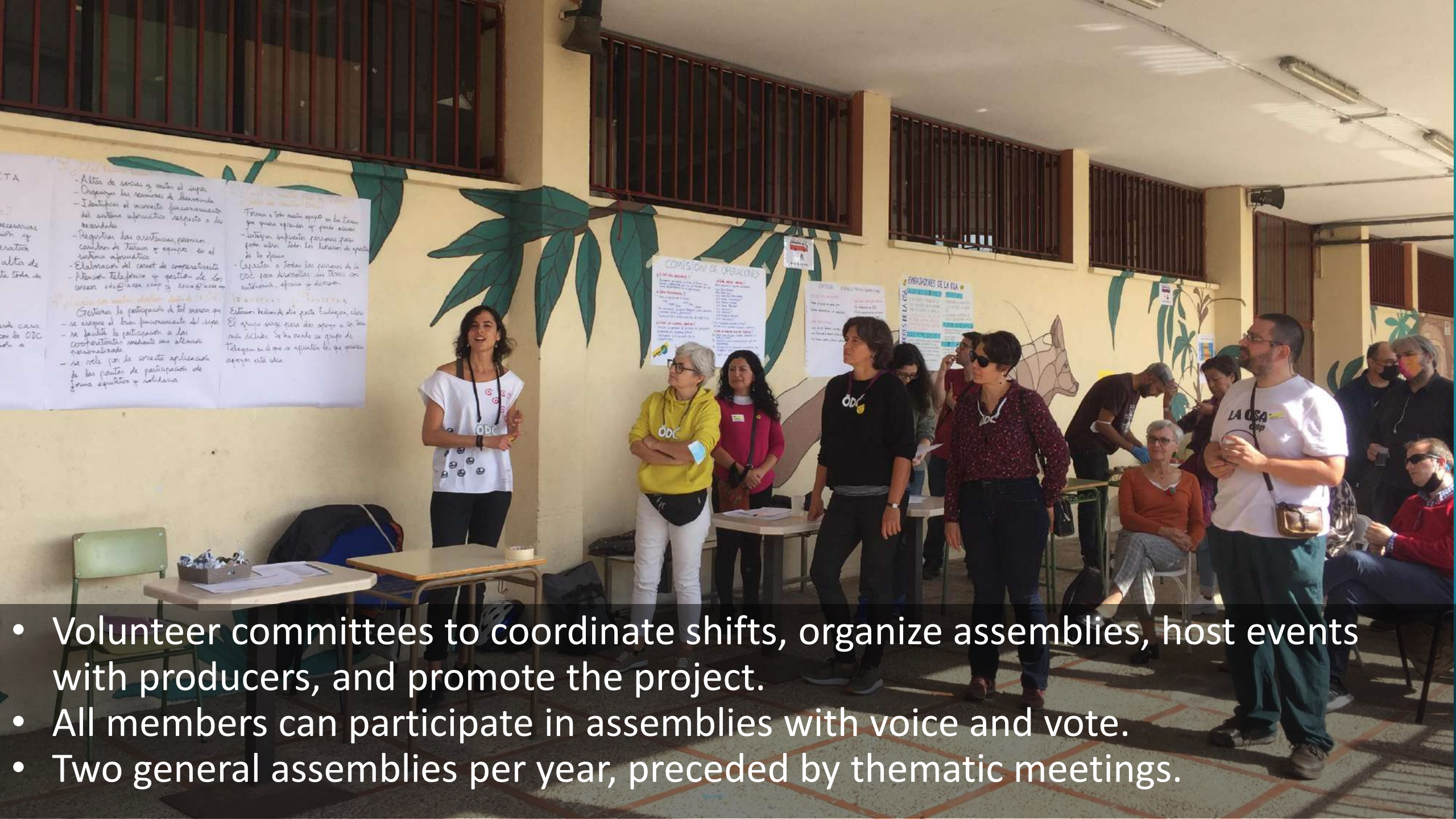


- Owners
- Participants
- Consumers

3 hours every 4 weeks



- 
- A close-up photograph of a person's hand, with dark skin, inserting a coin into the slot of a white piggy bank. The piggy bank is shaped like a pig and has a small coin slot on its back. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the hand and the smooth surface of the piggy bank.
- Lower operating costs
 - Smaller margins



- Volunteer committees to coordinate shifts, organize assemblies, host events with producers, and promote the project.
- All members can participate in assemblies with voice and vote.
- Two general assemblies per year, preceded by thematic meetings.



We sell products organic from small producers.
We're working to expand this network, reduce packaging, prevent food waste, and better understand the labor realities behind each product.

Diversity to increase inclusion



✓ Asturcilla



✓ La Vida Vegan



✓ Nocilla



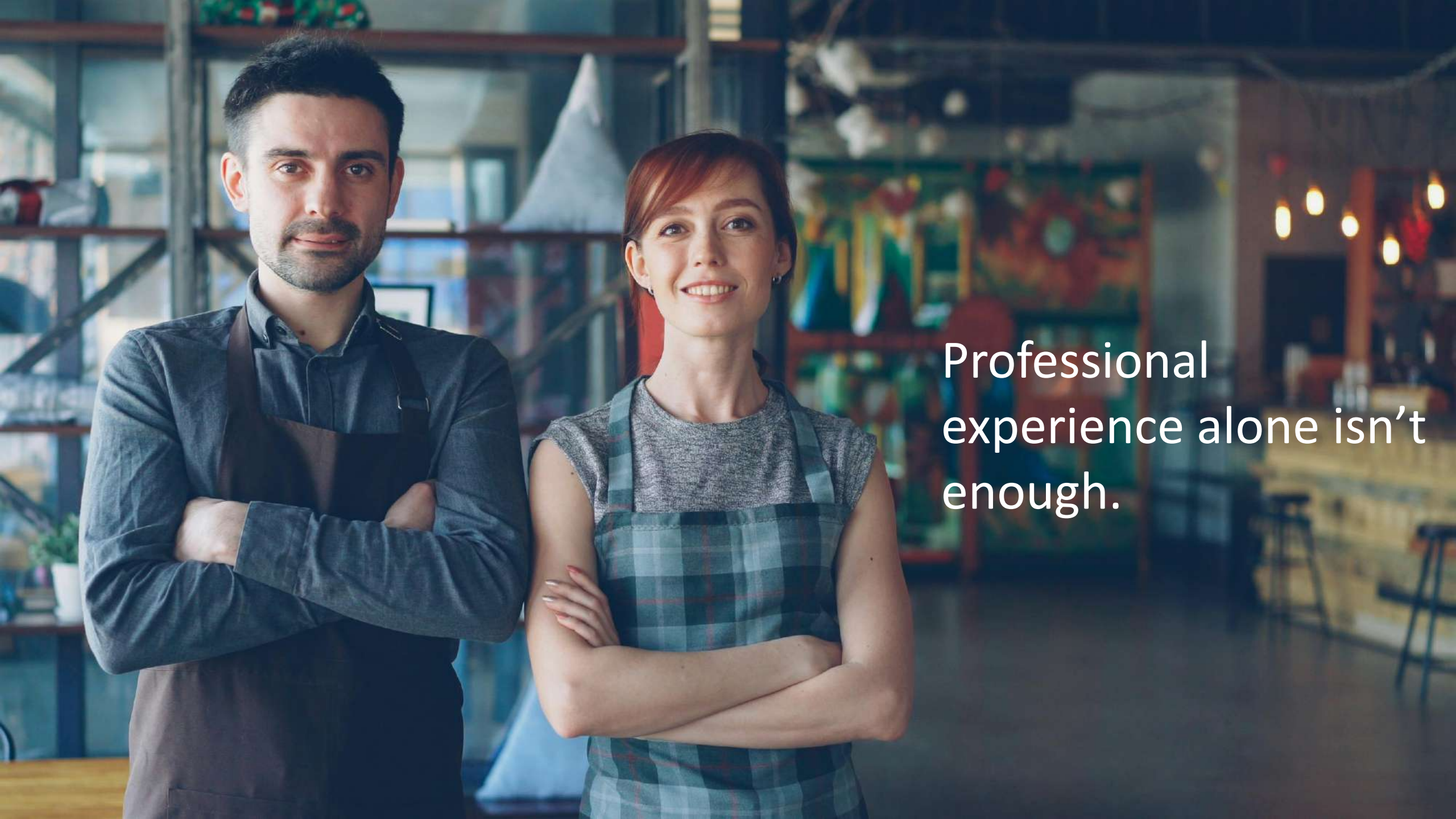
✓ Gourmet

- 
- 3,000 references
 - 100 producers and suppliers
 - approximately 75% are organic.

- 
- A person wearing a light-colored coat and a face mask is walking through a grocery store aisle, pushing a shopping cart filled with various items. The shelves are stocked with various products, including boxes and bottles. The image has a teal overlay.
- 1,481 members
 - 709 were active members
 - Revenue of €1,088,000
 - 8% growth compared to the previous year



Working closely with producers is essential.



Professional
experience alone isn't
enough.



Decisions should be made by those with expertise, but always shared and approved by the broader membership.

"The supermarkets where you're in charge (and work)"

COMERCIO >

Los supermercados en los que tú mandas (y trabajas)

Llegan a España los 'súper' cooperativos, donde los asociados deciden los productos y colaboran tres horas al mes como voluntarios. ¿Valen la pena? ¿Son más caros? ¿Demasiado hippies? Visitamos uno y analizamos sus pros y contras.



Cooperativismo, un modelo para promover el consumo responsable y sostenible

EFE: Verde

"Cooperativism: a model for promoting responsible and sustainable consumption"

"Cooperative and traditional supermarkets: an ethical commitment to service over profit"

Supermercado cooperativo y súper tradicionales: una apuesta ética de servicio frente al negocio



Fernando Navalón, coordinador de la red de supermercados cooperativos.

**Good Products,
Good Prices,
Good People.**



▪ RECOMMENDED SOURCES OF INFORMATION:



<https://laosa.coop>

<https://www.foodcoop.com>

<https://cooplalouve.fr>



Organic diet intervention significantly reduces urinary pesticide levels in U.S. Hyland C, Bradman A, Gerona R, Patton S, Zakharevich I, Gunier RB, Klein K. children and adults. Environ Res. 2019 Apr;171:568-575.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0013935119300246?via%3Dihub>

Directo a tus hormonas. Ecologistas en acción. 2018.

<https://www.ecologistasenaccion.org/98821/informe-directo-a-tus-hormonas-2018/>

"The effects of organic agriculture on biodiversity and abundance: a metaanalysis". Bengtsson, J., Ahnström, J., Weibull, A.C. (2005). Journal of Applied Ecology 42: 261-269.

<https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2664.2005.01005.x>

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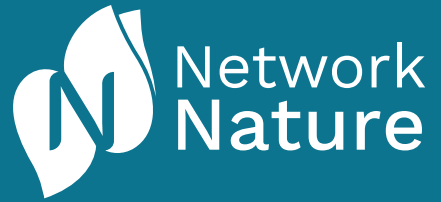
"The effects of organic agriculture on biodiversity and abundance: a metaanalysis". Bengtsson, J., Ahnström, J., Weibull, A.C. (2005). Journal of Applied Ecology 42: 261-269. <https://besjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2664.2005.01005.x>

"Análisis comparativo y evolutivo de los precios de los alimentos ecológicos del supermercado cooperativo La Osa". El Halfaoui K., Taglialavore O., Pascual S., Sanz Cañada J., Rodríguez Guerra V. Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas. 2025. Publicly available soon.

LA OSA
coop



www.laosa.coop



See you Next Year
in the **NN Annual Event 2026**



NbS Cities Festival

Join us in 2026 for a two day practical and inspirational event.

Be part of the launch of the capacity building dedicated to Local and regional Governments.





networknature.eu



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[/networknature](https://www.linkedin.com/company/networknature)



[Network Nature](https://www.youtube.com/NetworkNature)



Funded by
the European Union



UK Research
and Innovation

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This work is also funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) under the UK government's Horizon Europe funding guarantee [grant number 10064784]