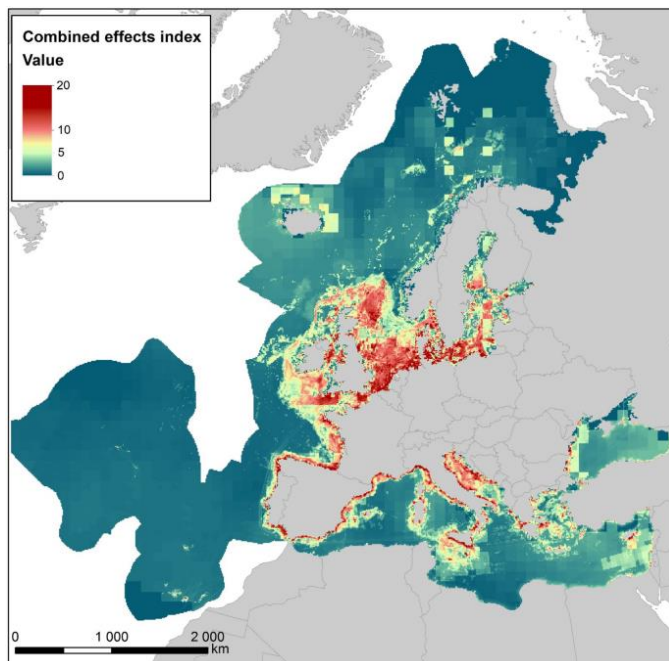


Quality check of emerging environmental minimum requirements for marine and coastal nature-based solutions

Christian Riisager-Simonsen (DTU), Louise C. Flensborg (DTU)

Why are we here today?

Many European seas are
subject to multiple pressures
and far from reaching GES



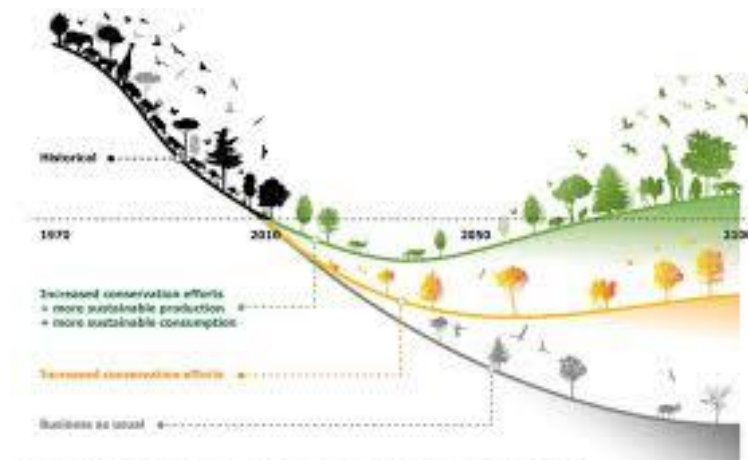
Korpinen et al. (2021)

Simoultaneously we need to
work in Europe and beyond
on global societal challenges



Riisager-Simonsen et al. (2022)
inspired by IUCN

So how do we at the same time
contribute to ‘bending the
curve’ on biodiversity loss ?



Animation created by WUR inspired by Leclère et al. (2020)

'Nature-Based Solutions'



UN's Environmental
Assembly's definition (2022):

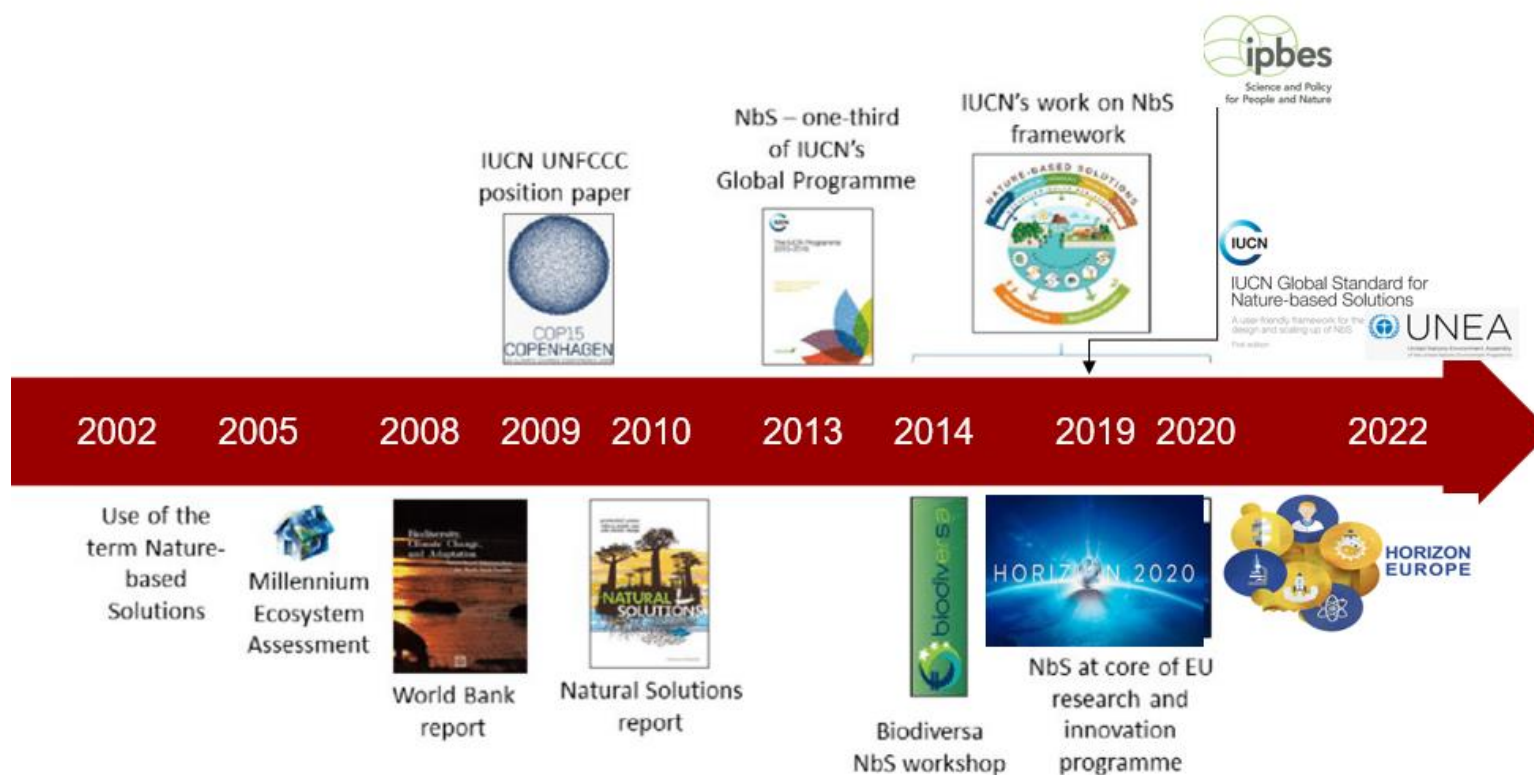
"are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits"



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The umbrella concept 'Nature-based Solutions' as a strategic EU agenda



'Nature-based Solutions' now have a central role in several EU policies

- 1) Green Deal
- 2) ***Taxonomy on sustainable investments + CSRD***
- 3) Biodiversity Strategy
- 4) Blue Economy Strategy
- 5) **EU Restoration Law?**

Is expected to play a key role in achieving goals related to

- a) Net Biodiversity gains
- b) Net ecosystem gains

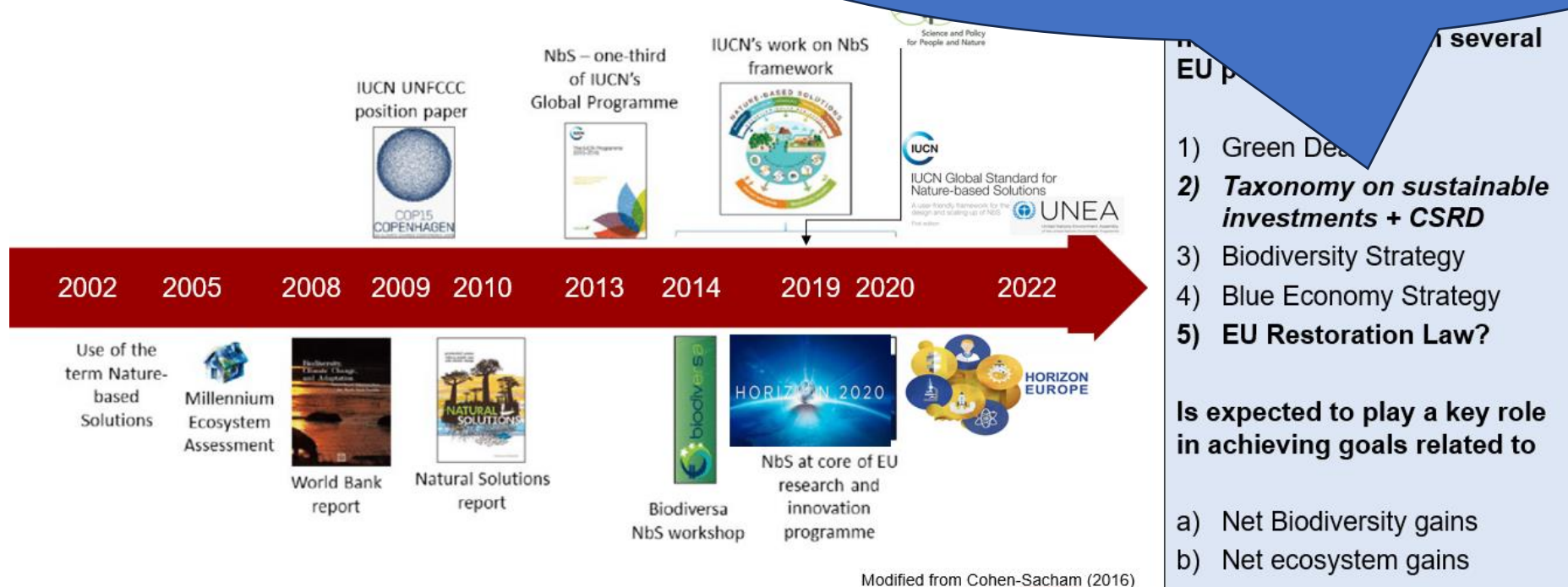
Workshop introduction

A quick look down memory lane



The umbrella of
strategic EU agen

CSRD – ESRS Disclosure Requirement E4-3
The undertaking “*shall describe whether and how it has incorporated local and indigenous knowledge and **nature-based solutions** into biodiversity and ecosystems-related actions.*”



Mainstreaming of NbS causing global concerns

Quotes from summary the intergovernmental
consultation on Nature-Based Solutions 2023



UNITED
NATIONS

UNEP/EA.6/INF/5



United Nations
Environment
Programme

Distr.: General
12 January 2024
English only

United Nations Environment Assembly
of the United Nations Environment Programme
Sixth session
Nairobi, 26 February–1 March 2024
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

International environmental policy and governance issues

Information on the implementation of resolution 5/5 on
nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development

- *“broad consensus **that standards and criteria** are important and can contribute significantly to building a common understanding of NbS”*
- *“having standards and criteria helps determine **what does not count as NbS**, and so helps avoid abuse of the term (eg; “greenwashing”)”*
- *“**environmental safeguards, standards and criteria** can ensure mainstreaming”*
- *“**Simplification** of standards and criteria is required in order to facilitate the adoption of NBS by all relevant **actors**”*

Who are the actors who has a problem if we do not have clarity?

- 1) **Companies** who want to do the 'right thing', but not be accused of *green washing*
- 2) **Consultancies** who tries to guide and advice companies, municipalities, ports etc.
- 3) **Capital asset managers and auditors** who needs to address NbS in relation to the EU taxonomy on sustainable finance, and CSRD reporting
- 4) **Governments** who wants to "live up" to international goals of increased deployment of NbS
- 5) **Research institutions** and others who needs to provide scientific advice like DTU



TRANSEATION

BLUE IS THE NEW GREY · NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

**Advancing Ecosystem-Based Management through Hybrid
Blue-Grey Infrastructures in Marine and Coastal Areas**



Co-funded by
the European Union





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Our task in the TRANSEATION project

Understand what *environmental minimum requirements* could help different actors in EU ensure that NBS implementation in coastal and marine environments are ecosystem-based?

Which can be ***condensed*** into two key questions and objectives for today's workshop

- 1. Which *environmental criteria*** could a potential standard adopt?
- 2. How** could different ***actors*** support its adoption?

Progress so far

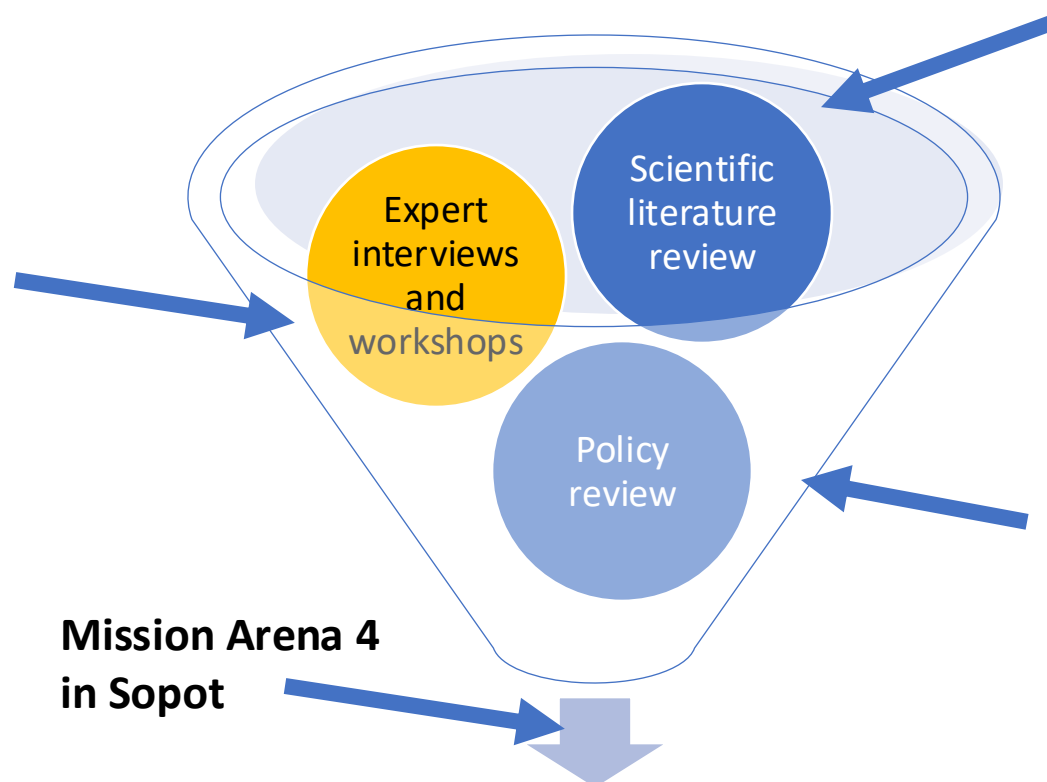
Using PRISMA



Mission Arena 3 in Amsterdam

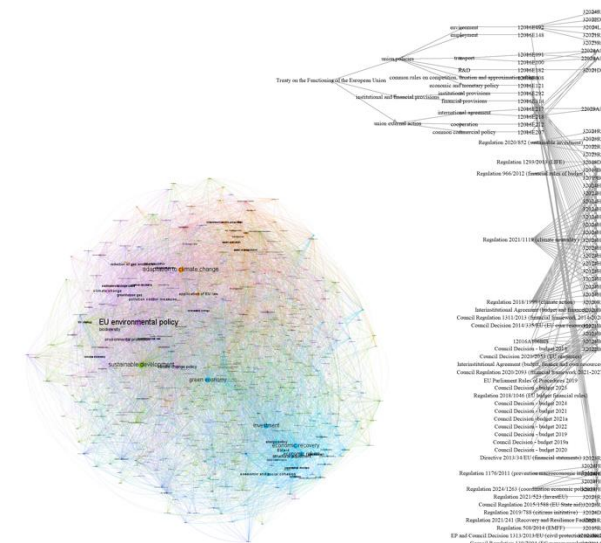


Risks for poor NbS implementation



Mission Arena 4 in Sopot

Draft minimum requirements for stakeholders
going into open public consultation in spring
2025



E.g. using eurovoc
descriptor network from
EUR-LEX

Workshop introduction

Time	Title		Format
20 min.	Introduction to the project and objectives for ws	DTU	Presentation
Session 1: Exclusion criteria			
30 min.	Review candidate exclusion criteria	Groups	Group work
10 min.	Key recommendations from each group	DTU	Presentation
Session 2: Targeted recommendations			
20 min.	What can actors do to implement ecosystem considerations	Groups	Group work
5 min.	Next steps – for the TRANSEATION project and identification of interest in drafting a position paper on minimum ES accounting	DTU	Presentation

Group work 1: Review of candidate exclusion criteria



Session 1: Exclusion criteria

Ground rules:

- Everyone has a right to be heard / make a post it
- Try not to interrupt in discussions
- Use language everyone can understand
- Check what is written is what you mean

Group work practicalities:

- 1) Start out by introducing your self and your background, including how familiar you are with the concept of Nature-Based Solutions
- 2) Pick up one page / statement at a time, and check firstly if all think it is clearly formulated (*moderator makes a check mark*)
 - Secondly, decide in the group by raising a hand if you agree it is a relevant criteria.
 - Make one pile with the statements you agree on in the group and one where you do not.
- 3) Thirdly take the statements you did not agree on and add post its, indicating why not

Groups



1. Implementation

2. Funding

Session 1: Exclusion criteria

Ground rules:

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 - Make one pile with the statements you agree on in the group and one where you do not.
- 3) Thirdly take the statements you did not agree on and add post its, indicating why not

2: Recommendations for actors

How could different **actors** support that NBS implementation in coastal and marine managements are ecosystem-based?

Funding programmes

Env. consultancies

Authorities / Agencies

Research organisations

Banks

Companies

NGOs

European Commission

Auditors

2: Recommendations for actors

Ground rules:

- Everyone has a right to be heard / make a post it
- Try not to interrupt in discussions
- Use language everyone can understand
- Check what is written is what you mean

Group work practicalities:

- 1) Pick up one page / actor at a time, and check firstly if all understand what type of entity is meant (*moderator makes a check mark*)
- 2) Secondly each person writes a post-it with recommendations. When you put on the post it- tell they other what it says, and write below the post it, why it is relevant

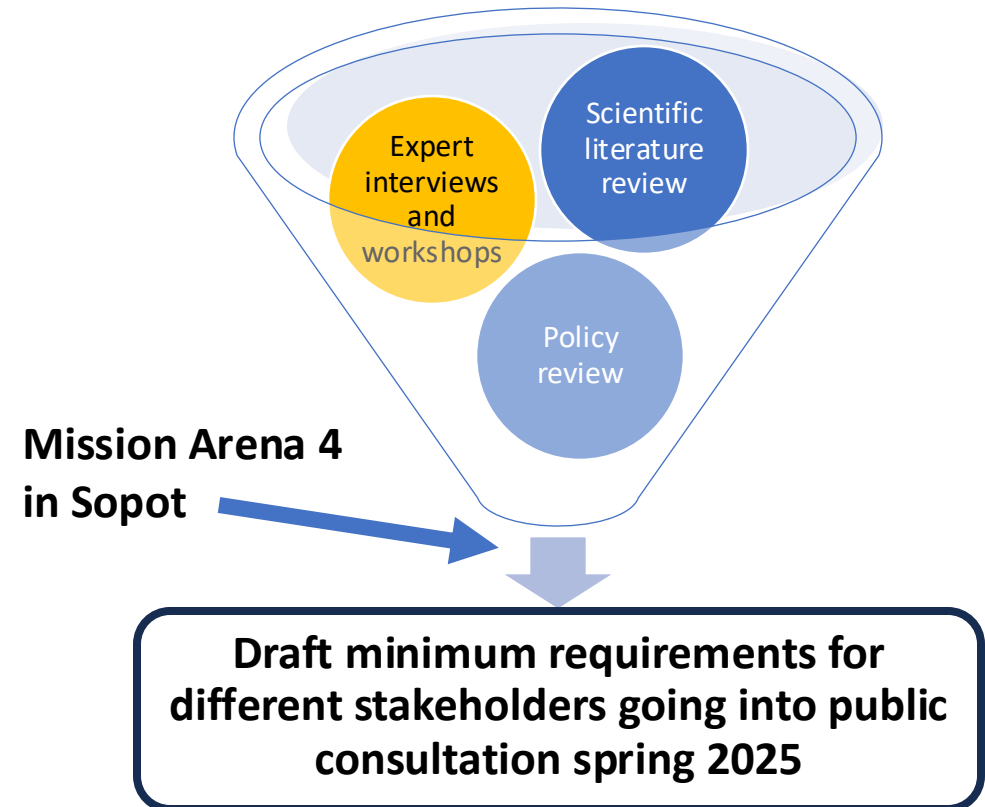
Next steps for the project



Next steps for the project

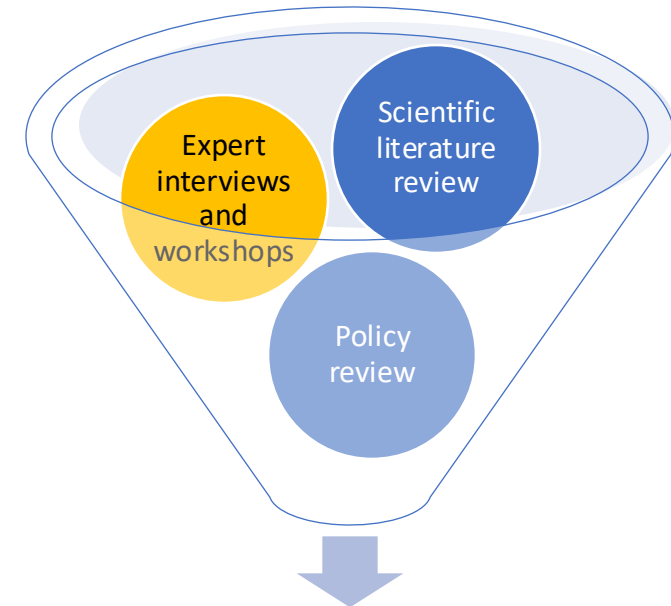
What comes after minimum requirements?

Literature, expert and public consultations on the potential for env. minimum requirements

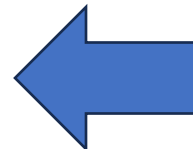


What comes after minimum requirements?

3. Literature, expert and public consultations on the potential for env. minimum requirements



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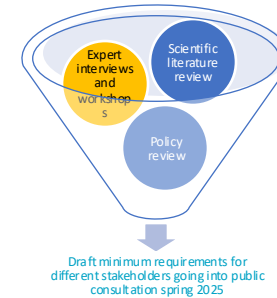
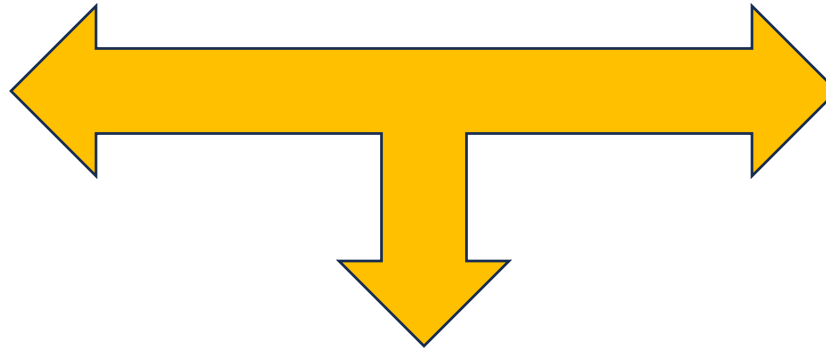
Draft minimum requirements for different stakeholders going into public consultation spring 2025

Next steps for the project

What comes after minimum requirements?

1. Apply the 'Systems approach' to analyse both successful and non successful NbS
2. Testing of risk assessment framework on case NbS in TRASEATION project

3. Literature, expert and public consultations on the potential for env. minimum requirements



3. Produce a draft for a regenerative sustainability **rating system** for hybrid blue-grey infrastructure based on e.g. systems approach and NbS minimum requirements



Next steps for the project



Next steps for the project

Thank you to you for your participation and to Blue Mission BANOS

You are all welcome to reach out
Christian Riisager-Simonsen – chrii@aqua.dtu.dk

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