

A synthesis of implementation of nature-based solutions in the Nordic countries

1. Summary of the Project

Nature-based solutions are defined by IUCN and IPBES as "actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits"

There are many examples of how sustainable land management, conservation activities and ecosystem restoration can contribute to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation and simultaneously strengthening and conservation of biodiversity in the Nordic countries. The use of blue-green infrastructure, restoration of peatlands, forests and grasslands, as well as sustainable farming methods are being implemented and developed. Conservation and sustainable use of genetic diversity can contribute as a nature-based solution to food security in a changing climate. Climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, particularly around cities and infrastructure are particularly relevant. The conservation and use of genetic biodiversity is an important aspect particularly for food security and adaptation. There already exists a large amount of scientific literature and synthesis on nature-based solutions. The aim of the synthesis announced here is to extract the most important results and summaries from these, and incorporate them in a context that is relevant for Nordic countries. For most Nordic countries, coastal and arctic nature-based solutions are of particular relevance. There is, however, no overview of these activities and this project aims to provide a synthesis of existing knowledge and work on nature-based solutions in the Nordic countries.

As well as different types of solutions (protection, sustainable use and restoration), the synthesis should cover the breadth of ecosystems and nature types in the Nordics, including blue forests and other marine habitats. The focus is to explore nature-based solutions with multifunctional benefits. However, it is also useful to obtain an overview of any projects that have been less successful in providing win-win results, and where there have been pitfalls. Methodologies, principles, policies and mechanisms need to be catalogued and the results of cost-benefit analyses summarised.

The synthesis on nature-based solutions and a gap-analysis will provide the basis for future projects planned in a wider 4-year programme on nature-based solutions. Further projects include developing national case-studies, policy recommendations and a best-practice report. The work on crop-wild relatives (project led by NordGen) should also be incorporated into the synthesis.

2. Commission

Purpose and background of the project

This synthesis is the first of five projects in the Nordic thematic programme on nature-based solutions. The report and communications materials will provide an in-depth report on current work on nature-based solutions in the Nordic countries, and a frame for the scientific basis of this work. This will provide a basis for the development of further projects in this four-year programme on nature-based solutions in the Nordics. Knowledge-sharing and dissemination is an important aspect of the project.

The synthesis will provide a catalogue of national and regional work on nature-based solutions including methods and mechanisms, the breadth of ecosystems and cost-benefit aspects along with a gap analysis. There are several reports and synthesis of knowledge about nature-based solutions already (contact coordinator for a list of examples). The purpose of this synthesis is to extract the most important aspects for the Nordic countries and their habitats, and to identify knowledge gaps in the current literature and experiences. Knowledge and gaps in socioeconomic evaluations should be included. A short evaluation of existing Nordic projects according to the IUCN global standard for nature-based solutions also useful in identifying potential areas for future improvement.

Background

Three reports (UNCCD 2017, IPBES 2019 and IPCC 2019) developed by the science interfaces of the three UN conventions, on combating climate change, on biological diversity and on combating land degradation and desertification, all reveal that land and its ecosystems are under threat due to impact of climate change and land use.

Nature-based solutions are highlighted by both the IPBES and IPCC as a cost-effective way of meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. The IPBES global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services describes the fundamental role of natural ecosystems in “reducing vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters”. Nature-based solutions encompass actions spanning protection, sustainable use and restoration in order to maintain and re-establish ecosystem services to solve societal challenges such as climate change adaptation, food security, biodiversity loss and climate gas emissions.

- Description of the need

The Nordic countries have different approaches to planning and implementing nature-based solutions for biodiversity, climate change adaptation and mitigation. Many projects have one key priority, others take a more multi-functional approach. Implementation mechanisms and guidance to different target groups may also vary across the Nordics. There is the need to obtain an overview of projects that span both conservation, restoration and sustainable use across different ecosystems. There is also the need for a catalogue of the different types of projects, and summary of work on cost-benefit analyses and a gap analysis. Information on how the different Nordic countries are implementing nature-based solutions and whether there are programmes, regulatory requirements or targeted funding, is required in order to compare and share experiences. This will form the basis for knowledge sharing and the development of future projects on the subject.

The project steps in detail:

- Technical requirements and possible limitations

Production of the report will require collaboration across different Nordic countries and result in knowledge-sharing both within and outside the Nordics.

Communication material such as podcasts, posters or storymaps, workshops and a short film, is part of the project in order to provide opportunities for information dissemination.

Contacts and links to relevant documents can be provided through the reference group and project coordinator.

How the assignment will be completed:

Objectives

- Broad participation across Nordic countries is required – at least 3 countries involved, but a wider range is preferable due to the large scope of the project and habitat diversity.
- The synthesis should describe the range of activities that different Nordic countries have undertaken to implement nature-based solutions and which ecosystems are covered.
- The synthesis should extract the most important aspects for the Nordic countries and their habitats, from all the existing literature on nature-based solutions.
- Workshops and results from these, as well as site visits and meetings with relevant experts will contribute to the gathering of information across different institutions and organisations in 2021 og 2022.
- The synthesis should explore all thematic aspects (conservation, restoration and sustainable use) to catalogue projects.
- Coordinaton with NordGen on their work on crop-wild relatives is required.

Deliverables

- A synthesis that collates the most important aspects of nature-based solutions or the Nordic countries and their habitats, from all the existing literature on nature-based solutions and related activities.
- Knowledge of work on socio-economic aspects such as cost-benefit analyses is part of the delivery.
- A gap-analysis that identifies missing knowledge and experiences on methods, ecosystems and socio-economic aspects should be provided including a comparison with the IUCN global standard for nature-based solutions.
- A short film and story maps, podcasts or similar communications describing nature-based solutions in the Nordics and how they can contribute to the sustainability goals for use on social media and events.
- Fact-sheets and other communication material such as posters that may be useful at events and presentations such as conference of the parties.
- The synthesis and summary can be delivered electronically and will be published on TemaNord. The Nordic project coordinator also coordinates the project's communication plan.

- *Work schedule*

2021

Mapping and documenting both existing Nordic projects that can be included in the description of nature-based solutions.

Analysis of knowledge gaps, thematically and by ecosystem type.

Summary of work done on cost-benefit analyses on nature-based solutions.

Gap-analysis on cost-benefit methodology and ecosystems, also at a landscape level.

Workshops, factsheets and other communication work should be started in 2021.

2022

Workshops and communication materials for use at events, COP etc. such as posters.

A short film and other communications such as story maps or podcasts on nature-based solutions in the Nordic countries.

The draft synthesis report should be provided September 2022.

A written synthesis of the most important aspects for the Nordic countries and their habitats, from all the existing literature on nature-based solutions. Final delivery of the synthesis with summary is due by November 2022.

- *What should be delivered (in which form, format, and language)*

English with additional summary in at least one Scandinavian language.

The report should be delivered electronically.

Factsheets, posters or other communication material should include relevant logos and acknowledgement of the Nordic Council of Ministers (agreed with the project coordinator).

The film and other electronic communications for social media is accessible electronic file format (English).

- *Time of delivery*

Project deadline 5th November 2022

- *The timing of the contract*

31st of June 2021 – November 2022

- *Budget*

Total budget: 2,7 mill DKK excluding Value Added Tax (1mill DKK 2021 and 1,7 mill DKK 2022 included communication video, podcast, factsheets etc.)

The project is financed with funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers and must have relevance and value for at least three of the Nordic countries and autonomous regions (Greenland, Åland and the Faroe Islands).

3. Eligibility Requirements

These are absolute requirements that must be met in order to proceed in the tendering process.

- The supplier must be a legally established company (company certificate required) and have experience in carrying out projects.
- The supplier should have experience from similar projects of relevance.
- The supplier should have sufficient execution capacity.

4. Assessment Criteria

The assessment will be based on a holistic evaluation in which the offers are assessed based on the following objective criteria:

- 1) understanding on the assignment 25%
- 2) competence and experience including experience in implementation of nature-based solutions and / or good contacts within this field of knowledge are preferable 25%
- 3) offered price 50%

5. Schedule

Dates for

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| - <i>Announcement:</i> | <i>31st March 2021</i> |
| - <i>Providing the offers including budget:</i> | <i>10th May 2021</i> |
| - <i>Choosing the supplier:</i> | <i>11th June 2021</i> |
| - <i>Signing the contract:</i> | <i>31st June 2021</i> |

6. Guidelines and templates

For guidelines and templates visit Norden.org: <https://www.norden.org/en/information/about-funding-nordic-council-ministers>