

Collection and compilation of national pilot projects of nature-based solutions in the Nordic countries

1. Summary of the Project

As part of the work on Vision 2030, the Nordic Council of Ministers has launched a four-year programme aimed at investigating and promoting nature-based solutions in the Nordic region.

Nature-based solutions (NbS) involve working with nature to address societal challenges, providing benefits for both human well-being and biodiversity. Specifically they are actions that involve the protection, restoration or management of natural and semi-natural ecosystems; the sustainable management of aquatic systems and working lands such as croplands or timberlands; or the creation of novel ecosystems in and around cities.

Work package 1 started in 2021 and will result in a synthesis of experiences and knowledge on nature-based solutions in the Nordic region. Work package 2 will run in 2022 and 2023, and it will support practical implementation of existing and new national nature-based solutions pilot projects in all Nordic countries including Greenland, the Åland Islands and the Faroe Islands. The purpose of work package 2 is to pilot and gather new knowledge and experience on effective implementation of nature-based solutions across the breadth of different ecosystems in the Nordic region. Separate commissions will be announced regarding the pilot projects. The plan is to have between 10 to 15 pilot projects in the different Nordic countries and ecosystems.

The knowledge and experiences gathered in the different pilot projects, must be collected and summarized in order to be shared and spread to a broader community in the Nordic countries. There is the need for **a parallel delivery to the completion of pilot projects, which compiles and collects information on the different pilot projects under work package 2 in the respective countries in an overarching report.** It is this compilation of practical pilot projects that is now being called for. This compilation of practical experiences, knowledge, barriers and advices to overcome them, will be the basis for the information material and policy advices that are planned to be produced in the programme work package 3 and 4. These are information material on methods and best practice (wp3) and policy development (wp4), planned to be announced for in 2023 and delivered in 2024).

2. Commission

Purpose and background of the project

This call to tender is part of the second of five projects in the Nordic thematic programme on nature-based solutions. By collecting information on and evaluating the different practical pilot projects in the eight Nordic countries, the report will provide an overview of the knowledge these pilot projects have contributed to within nature-based solutions in different ecosystems. This includes the costs, benefits, practicalities, financing, success factors and barriers involved in implementing nature-based solutions in different Nordic ecosystems and countries.

The pilot projects should be compared with the IUCN global standard for NBS and recommendations for further development of nature-based solutions in the nordic region should be provided for each ecosystem based on the findings in the pilot projects. This compilation will require the establishment of a system, where the pilot projects systematically report progress and challenges. It also requires follow up of each pilot project through their duration of work package 2, especially in their startup. This follow up is expected to be digital and does not need to include visits to all pilot projects. The follow up also includes participation with summary of status and preliminary results in four digital workshops on case implementation arranged by the programme administration. Together with delivery 1 in the programme, which is a synthesis of implementation of nature-based solutions in the Nordic countries, this delivery will provide a basis for the development of work package 3 and 4 in this four-year programme.

The pilot projects will be called for and selected in a separate announcement. They will be carefully selected to cover the breadth of nature-based solutions in the Nordic countries, both in terms of ecosystems and climate. The requirement in this tender is to collect and compile the knowledge from the different pilot projects and convey it in a report and other communication channels.

Knowledge-sharing and dissemination is an important aspect of the programme and the delivery of work package 2.

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 lands and 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 are already implementing measures for nature-based solutions in different ecosystems and across climatic zones. In order to mainstream and upscale the use of nature-based solutions, the program as a whole will produce various types of information material and advice for policy development in the Nordic countries.

This specific tender will provide a summary of the results and experiences from the pilot projects in a systematic manner that can extract in-depth information on practical implementation, policy measures and financing of these actions. This could be done through a digital form, where the pilot projects can report the needed information systematically and effectively.

In order to give advice on future implementation, the report should test the use of the IUCN criteria and Global Standard for Nature Based Solutions on the pilot projects and suggest adjustments for Nordic countries if necessary.

- 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. Contacts and links to relevant documents can be provided through the reference group and project coordinator. The Nordic project has a web platform under the Nordic council of ministers that will be used to make information available [Naturbaserede løsninger | Nordisk Samarbejde \(norden.org\)](#). Info on different forms and technical requirements can be found on the site: [Om støtte fra Nordisk ministerråd | Nordisk samarbeid \(norden.org\)](#) IUCN standards are here: [IUCN Global Standard for NbS | IUCN](#)

How the assignment will be completed:

Objectives

- All 10-15 pilot projects selected through the separate announcement, in all the Nordic countries including Greenland, the Aland Islands and the Faroe Islands, must be covered.
- No physical meetings/traveling is required. Communication is expected to be digital. Some visits can be carried out if required.
- The consultant, who solves this task, is expected to communicate with the executor of work package 1 to prevent overlap.
- The report should describe the range of pilot projects in the Nordic countries and the knowledge and experiences they have contributed to within nature-based solutions in different ecosystems.
- Digital meetings with the respective project managers of the pilot projects must take place in 2022-2023.

Deliverables

- A report, that describes the different pilot projects, the knowledge they have contributed, and what new questions they address.
 - A description of measures to follow up and evaluate the effect of the NbS, including suggested indicators and ways of monitoring should be compiled (if appropriate)
- A comparison with the IUCN's global standards for nature-based solutions, in particular how the safeguards and criteria have been addressed in the project.
- The report and summary can be delivered electronically and will be published as a TemaNord publication. The Nordic programme coordinator, who also coordinates the project's communication plan, will assist in this. [Naturbaserede løsninger | Nordisk Samarbejde \(norden.org\)](https://norden.org/naturbaserede-løsninger)

- Work schedule

2022 and 2023

Following the pilot projects on the sideline, document development and new knowledge from from the projects.

- A progress report should be provided by September 2022.
- Delivery of the written report of the national pilot projects is due by November 2023.

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

A report should be delivered electronically in English language with additional summary in at least one Scandinavian language. Communication material (if produced) should include relevant logos and acknowledgement of the Nordic Council of Ministers (agreed with the project coordinator).

- Time of delivery

Project deadline 17th of November 2023

- The timing of the contract

1st of January 2022 – 1st of December 2023

- Budget

Total budget: Max 500.000 DKK excluding Value Added Tax.

The project is financed with funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers and must have relevance for all the Nordic countries and autonomous regions (Greenland, the Aland Islands 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 must have a Nordic connection and/or contacts in the Nordic region.

- 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 knowledge of nature-based solutions and / or good contacts within this field of knowledge are preferable 25 %
3. Offered price 50 %

5. Schedule

Dates for

- Announcement: 30th September 2021
- Providing the offers including budget: 8th November 2021
- Choosing the supplier: 29th November 2021
- Signing the contract: 1st January 2022
- Final delivery: 17th November 2023

6. Guidelines and templates

For guidelines and templates visit Norden.org: [About funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers | Nordic cooperation \(norden.org\)](https://norden.org/about-funding-from-the-nordic-council-of-ministers/)