

Project name:	Local Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework in the Nordics
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1. Summary of the project:

The global Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), adopted in December 2022, is a global framework aimed at halting and reversing the loss of nature and ecosystems. While national action plans are the primary instruments for implementation, the framework should also be integrated into local work and daily management at the municipal level. Municipalities play a key role in enacting tangible local actions, as they are responsible for implementing specific actions, adapting to national frameworks, and collaborating with local communities, UNESCO biosphere reserves, and private stakeholders.

This project will establish a Nordic Network for Ambitious Nature Municipalities and Biosphere Areas. The network will contribute to strengthening cooperation between municipalities across the Nordic countries to promote local implementation of the KMGBF. The project will focus on improving the capacity of Nordic municipalities by learning from biosphere areas and ambitious nature-forward municipalities to address the challenges that arise in the intersection of nature and culture and promoting a better understanding of the goals in KMGBF.

Key components of the project include:

- **Establishment and operation of the Nordic Network:** The network will facilitate cooperation among Nordic municipalities and biosphere areas. There should also be a large conference in 2027 and a final project report must summarise results and provide recommendations for further local Nordic KMGBF implementation.
- **Translation of KMGBF to Nordic local and municipal contexts:** Building on insights from the MAB-LAB project (see 6. Background documents), this effort will identify key elements of KMGBF relevant to Nordic municipalities, examine how the framework can enhance municipal nature management, and highlight local contributions.
- **Mainstreaming local actions:** A collection of best practices should be created to document successful KMGBF implementations. Collaborative experiments with municipalities and biosphere areas will pilot new approaches to nature management, providing valuable insights and scalable solutions.

UNESCO Biosphere areas are model areas for sustainable development and serve as a strong foundation for identifying good practices and developing next practices. This project must build on the knowledge from the Nordic MAB-LAB project (see 6. Background documents below) to foster broader collaboration and experimentation among Nordic municipalities.

Coordination with related Nordic projects, particularly those focusing on nature-based solutions in cities and municipalities, will be essential to align efforts with KMGBF goals 8 and 11.

A final report must be prepared at the conclusion of the project, summarising results and offering recommendations for advancing implementation of KMGBF at the local level. This report will draw on the lessons learned from the experiments, seminars, and tools developed, offering strategic guidance for the continued evolution of nature management in Nordic municipalities.

2. Commission

Objectives

The project aims to strengthen cooperation between municipalities across the Nordic countries, drawing on the experiences of UNESCO Biosphere areas. It will support local implementation of KMGBF by developing and applying common tools, policies and indicators, including translating KMGBF to a local context building on the translation from the MAB-LAB project (see 6. Background documents below).

The establishment of local indicators will build on the generic translation completed in the MAB-LAB project, ensuring that KMGBF indicators are effectively aligned with the specific conditions and opportunities faced by municipalities and local communities. This approach will enable more efficient and improved monitoring and evaluation of progress, and Municipalities will also improve their capacity to handle the challenges arising at the intersection of nature and culture, while gaining a better understanding of the goals of KMGBF.

Target group

The primary target group for the project are Nordic municipalities, local authorities and municipal networks. This includes UNESCO Biosphere areas.

Tasks

2026-2027:

- Establishment and operation of the Nordic Network for Ambitious Nature Municipalities and biosphere areas. The network must be established in 2026 and consist of representatives from municipalities from all of the 8 Nordic countries and from biosphere areas in the Nordics.
- In 2026, a digital kickoff seminar must be held to introduce the network. In 2027, two digital seminars must be organised. In 2027, a physical final conference must be held, bringing together all participants and relevant stakeholders.
- As part of network operations, meeting minutes will be prepared to document discussions, decisions, and action points. Supporting materials—including background documents, reports, progress overviews, and action plans—will be developed to guide ongoing activities. These documents will be shared in advance, with follow-ups on tasks closely monitored. Communication between meetings will be maintained through regular updates and the use of collaboration tools to ensure all materials are accessible to participants.
- A social media strategy and action plan should be included and implemented to support outreach and communication efforts. The project team should also participate in key national, Nordic, and international events.

In addition, the following tasks must be delivered:

- **Translation of KMGBF to Municipal and Local Contexts:**
The KMGBF must be adapted to a local Nordic context, building on the translation from the MAB-LAB project (see 6. Background documents below). This includes identifying relevant themes, how municipalities can improve nature management strategies, and recognising municipalities' implementation potential.
- **Mainstreaming Local Efforts:**
Development of best practice collections and experimentation with new municipal, local and biosphere area-based approaches to nature management.
- **Final Report:**
A final report will summarise results and provide recommendations for the continued implementation of KMGBF at the local level. The report must be written

in English and published through the Nordic Council of Ministers' publication series.

Publication costs must be covered by the project budget (estimated at DKK 50.000 DKK).

Output (deliverables)

- Establishment and operations of the Nordic Network for Ambitious Nature Municipalities and Biosphere Areas
- Translation of KMGBF to local contexts (building on MAB-LAB).
- Development of local indicators ensuring that KMGBF indicators are effectively aligned with the specific conditions and opportunities faced by municipalities and local communities.
- Best practice documentation and experimentation with new approaches
- Final report summarising results and providing strategic recommendations
- A physical final conference, bringing together all participants and relevant stakeholders

Communication of results

Effective communication is essential to the success and impact of this project. A dedicated communication strategy must be developed to ensure timely, clear, and accessible dissemination of progress, results, and key insights.

The communication strategy should be initiated early in the project and evolve as needed to support project goals and stakeholder engagement.

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

The final report should be published electronically through the Nordic Council of Ministers. The report must be written in English and published through the Nordic Council of Ministers' publication series. Publication costs will be covered by the project budget

(estimated at DKK 50.000).

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

Videos and other electronic communications for social media must be in at least two Nordic languages as well as in Finnish and Icelandic. It must also be accessible in English.

Applicants should specify how each deliverable will be produced, including the proposed formats and languages for delivery.

Budget

2026: 1.987.500 DKK

2027: 1.987.500 DKK

The total budget is 3.975.000 **DKK**. All proposals must be submitted in **Danish Krone (DKK)**. Offers in other currencies will **not** be accepted.

Tender submission

Proposals must be submitted in **Danish Krone (DKK)**. Offers in other currencies will **not** be accepted.

The proposal must demonstrate how the steering group can accommodate new members based on the composition of the network of municipalities and biosphere areas.

The proposal must develop conditions of becoming members of the network, criteria and obligations for participation and a clear onboarding process.

Proposals can be written in a Scandinavian language (Danish, Norwegian or Swedish) or in English.

All projects that are granted funding need to meet the Nordic Council of Ministers' conditions: <https://www.norden.org/en/information/how-apply-funding-nordic-council-ministers>

Projects funded with resources from the Nordic Council of ministers must, where relevant, comply with the three cross-sectoral perspectives:

- Sustainable development
- Gender equality
- Integration of child and youth perspectives

Successful integration of these perspectives is essential to achieving the vision of the Nordic Region as the world's most sustainable and integrated region by 2030.

Projects financed with Nordic funds must comply with the three cross-sectoral perspectives. More details can be found here: <https://pub.norden.org/politiknord2020-719/>

Additional specific requirements for this project:

- The project must cover all 8 Nordic countries.
- The proposal should clearly describe:
 - The approach to ensuring Nordic relevance and coverage.
 - The planned methodology and work plan, including timeline and division of responsibilities.
 - Proposed team composition and relevant qualifications.
 - Budget in DKK, with clear specification of costs, including estimated publication costs.

Project organisation

The project must be organised through a lead partner and should build on the knowledge gathered in the Nordic MAB-LAB projects (see 6. Background documents below).

Coordination and Synergy Requirement

Given the overlapping target groups and thematic linkages between this project and the project “**Implementering af Naturbaserede løsninger lokalt i nordiske byer og kommuner (Implementation of Nature-based Solutions locally in Nordic Cities and Municipalities)**” (also posted on keyportal.fo), successful applicants must ensure ongoing coordination and collaboration throughout the full project period.

Both project teams are required to establish mechanisms for regular communication, joint planning where relevant, and sharing of knowledge, experiences, and outcomes. The objective is to create synergies, avoid duplication of efforts, and strengthen the overall impact of both initiatives. Applicants must include in their proposal a brief description of how they intend to facilitate this coordination in practice.

Language

English and two Nordic languages with additional summaries in Finnish and Icelandic. This is to ensure broad accessibility and dissemination in the Nordics.

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 institution, organisation or company (company certificate required) and have experience in carrying out projects.

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 including Greenland, Åland and the Faroe Islands.

Further proposals

- The supplier should possess relevant experience in comparable projects.
- 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 of the assignment (15%)

2. Demonstrated professional competence and relevant experiences in the field (15%)
3. Communication of results (10%)
4. Experience with involvement of target groups at local level (10%)
5. Offered price (50%)

5. Schedule

Application deadline: 05.10.2025

Deadline for questions: 22.08.2025

Choosing the supplier: 28.11.2025

Project start: 01.01.2026

Project completion: 31.12.2027

6. Background documents

[Local actions for the new Global Biodiversity Framework: How do we develop co-existence with nature through the UNESCO Biosphere Reserves?](#)

[UNESCO Biosphere Reserves – A Path to Local Holistic Sustainability - A guide to establish UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in the Nordic Countries](#)

[Local actions for biodiversity – From good practice to next practice in the Nordic Biosphere Reserves: How Nordic UNESCO Biosphere Reserves can support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework](#)

[Sample collection – Local Actions for Biodiversity: Inspiring examples from the Nordic UNESCO Biosphere Reserves](#)