

<b>Project name:</b>	<b>Development of Nordic Standards for the Implementation and Evaluation of NbS, based on IUCN's Framework</b>
<b>Contact</b>	<b>Contact person:</b> Fía Niclasen <b>Tel.</b> +298 234341 <b>E-mail</b> nbm@us.fo
<b>Steering group:</b>	<p>This project is overseen by the Nature-based Solutions subprogramme under the Nordic Council of ministers.</p> <p><b>Chairman:</b> Jan-Petter Huberth-Hansen,  <a href="mailto:jan.petter.huberth.hansen@miljodir.no">jan.petter.huberth.hansen@miljodir.no</a>, Norway</p> <p>If you have any questions regarding this tender, please feel free to contact the coordinator or the chairperson listed above.</p>

### **1. Summary of the project:**

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has developed a Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to promote high integrity in the design, verification, and scaling of NbS initiatives. The standard consists of three components: the standard itself, a user guide, and a self-assessment tool.

In autumn 2024, the IUCN Global Standard was translated into Danish and tested in a pilot project at Holmehave, Denmark. The self-assessment tool was also translated and applied in Danish. While neither the standard nor the tool has been formally published in Danish yet, they can be shared upon request.

This project seeks to adapt the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions to Nordic conditions, ensuring it is accessible, relevant, and practical for municipalities and other stakeholders. In addition, the project will develop user-friendly guidance materials to support the effective adoption and implementation of the standard.

### **Expected results:**

- Standardised tools and methods for NbS implementation and evaluation
- Increased use of the standard in planning and executing NbS projects
- Greater likelihood of positive biodiversity outcomes and reduced risk of greenwashing

- Contribution to achieving global biodiversity targets (KMGBF Goals 8, 11, 14, and 21)

The project builds on the final deliverables from the 2021–2024 Nordic NBS programme period, including the Danish translation which is available upon request.

## **2. Commission**

### **Objectives**

The standard should be practical and applicable to real-world Nature-based Solutions (NbS) projects. It will benefit a wide range of stakeholders by increasing confidence that NbS initiatives deliver tangible benefits for both society and biodiversity. In addition, the standard will enhance transparency and traceability in project development, providing added value for investors, regulators, and monitoring bodies.

### **Target group**

- Municipalities and urban planners
- Regional and national authorities
- Private companies and investors
- Research institutions and experts
- Nordic and international organisations

### **Tasks**

- Develop accessible and easy-to-use guidance materials and templates for Nordic municipalities, developers, and other stakeholders
- Organise workshops and events to test and disseminate the materials

### **Output (deliverables)**

- A translated and adapted version of the IUCN Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Global Standard, tailored to Nordic conditions.
- A downloadable self-assessment and project documentation form (e.g., an Excel template).
- A comprehensive user guide featuring suggested indicators and resources. The guide must be available in digital format and published as a TemaNord report.

- All materials must be produced in the six most widely used Nordic languages.

### **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.

Results will be communicated by the project team in collaboration with the coordinator of the NbS sub-programme.

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

- A downloadable self-assessment form (e.g., Excel or similar)
- A digital and printable user guide with indicators and resources
- A TemaNord report version of the guide
- All materials must be available in the six most commonly used Nordic languages

### **Budget**

Maximum total budget: DKK 570.000

Funding period: 2026-2027

50 000 DKK of the budget should be set aside to cover the costs of publishing the main report in the Nordic Council of Ministers' publication series and for other communication activities needed to disseminate the results of the project.

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

## Tender submission

- Clear understanding of the assignment
- Relevant experience and competence
- Realistic budget and timeline
- Capacity to deliver in multiple Nordic languages

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

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 group must cover **a minimum of three Nordic countries**, this includes Greenland, Åland, and the Faroe Islands.
- 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 led by a legally established institution or organisation
- The team should include experts in NbS, standardisation, and stakeholder engagement
- Collaboration with other relevant projects and sub-programmes is required

### **Language**

- All deliverables must be available in the six most commonly used Nordic languages
- Working language for reporting and communication may be English or a Scandinavian language

### **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. Competence and experience (15%)
3. Methodology and relevance (10%)
4. Communication (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**

- [Nordic Programme for Environment and Climate 2025–2030](#)
- [NBSguide.org](#)
- [NBSpolicy.org](#)
- [IUCNs standard](#)
- [KMGBF \(Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework\)](#)