



**Nature
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Solutions**

The nature of progress

The IUCN Global Standard for NbS™ and Self-Assessment Tool

Verónica Ruiz, Nature-based Solutions Programme Officer IUCN

Time to hear from you!



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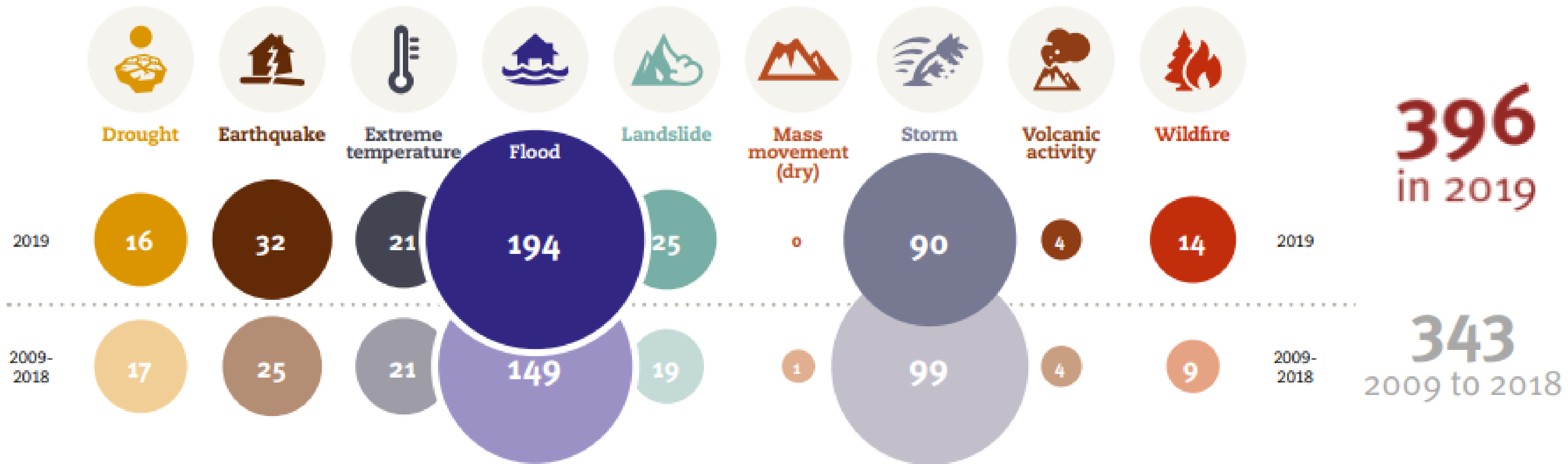


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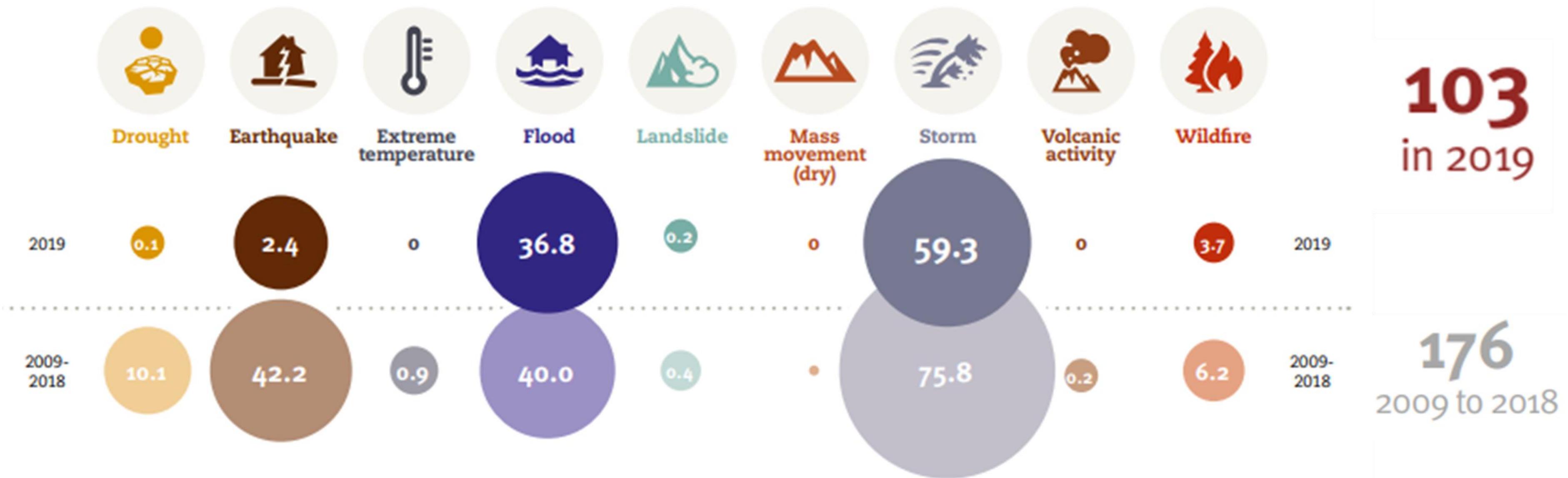
Getting on the same page

Natural disasters 2019 : Occurrence



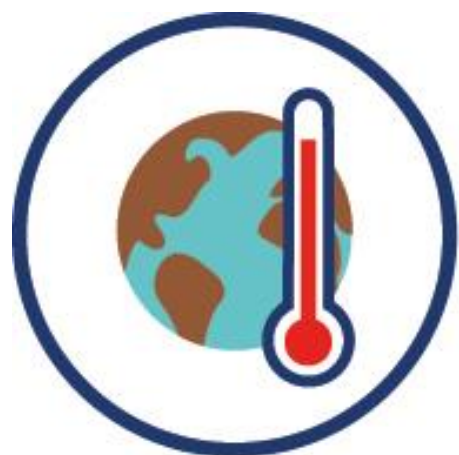
EM-DAT, 2019

Natural disasters 2019 : Economic losses (billion US\$)



EM-DAT, 2019

Societal challenges



Climate change
mitigation and
adaptation



Disaster risk
reduction



Economic
and social
development



Human health



Food security



Water security



Environmental
degradation and
biodiversity loss

The definition



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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.

IUCN, 2016

Staying true to Nature-based Solutions



Nature-based
solutions

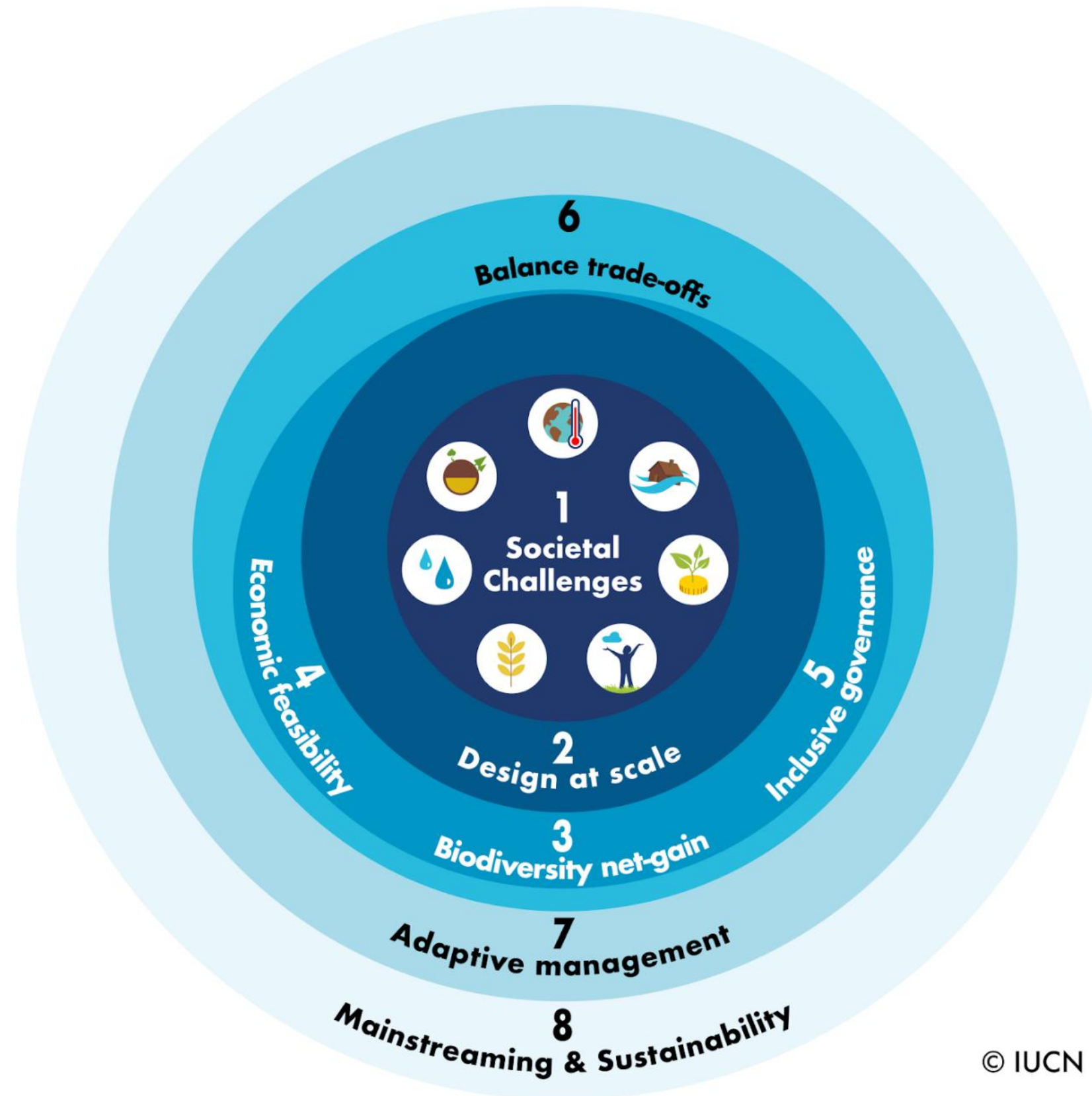


Nature-derived
solutions



Nature-inspired
solutions

Scaling up NbS to secure its potential



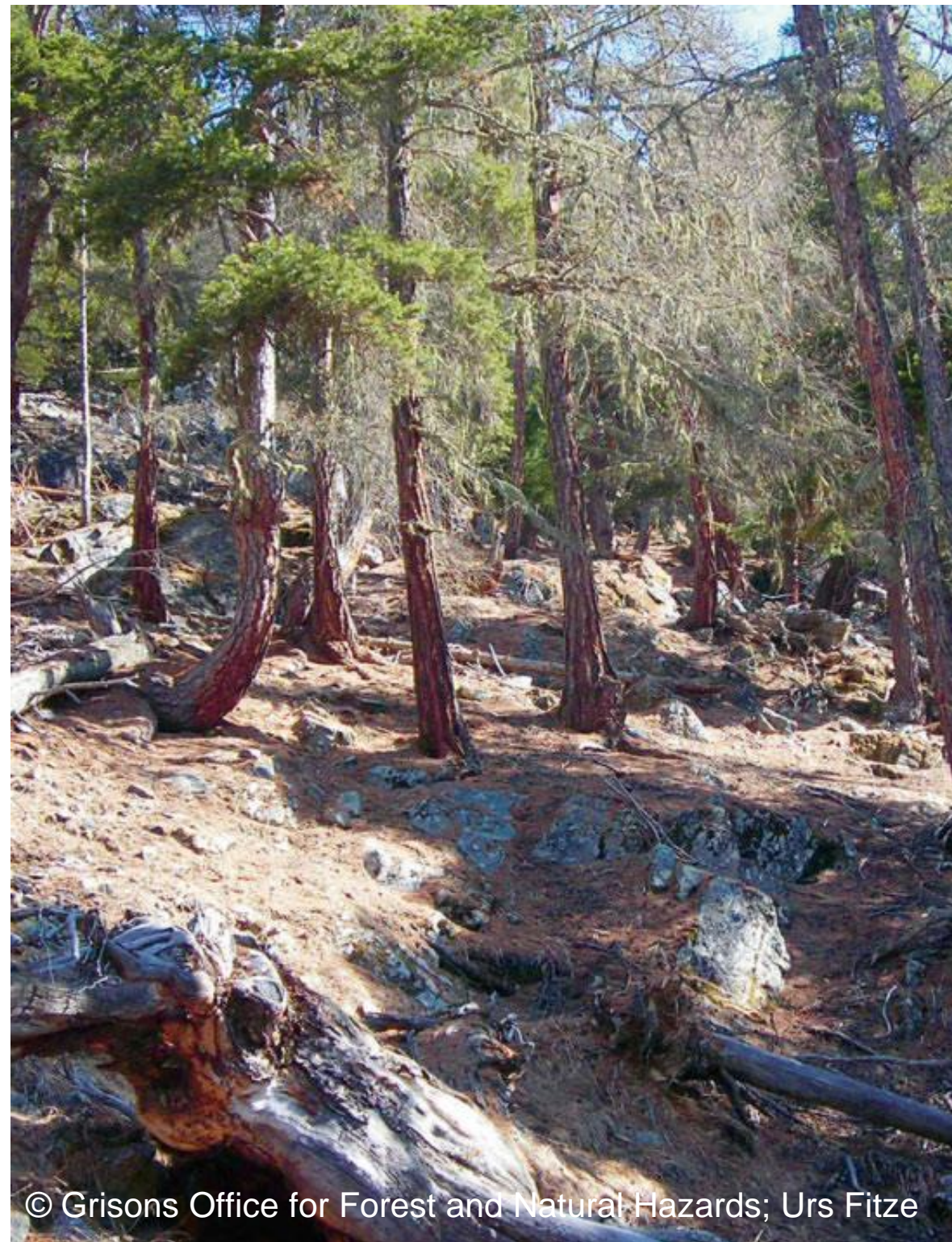


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What do Nature-based Solutions look like?

Protection – Switzerland, since mid-19th century



Societal challenges: Disaster Risk Reduction and socioeconomic development.

Intervention:

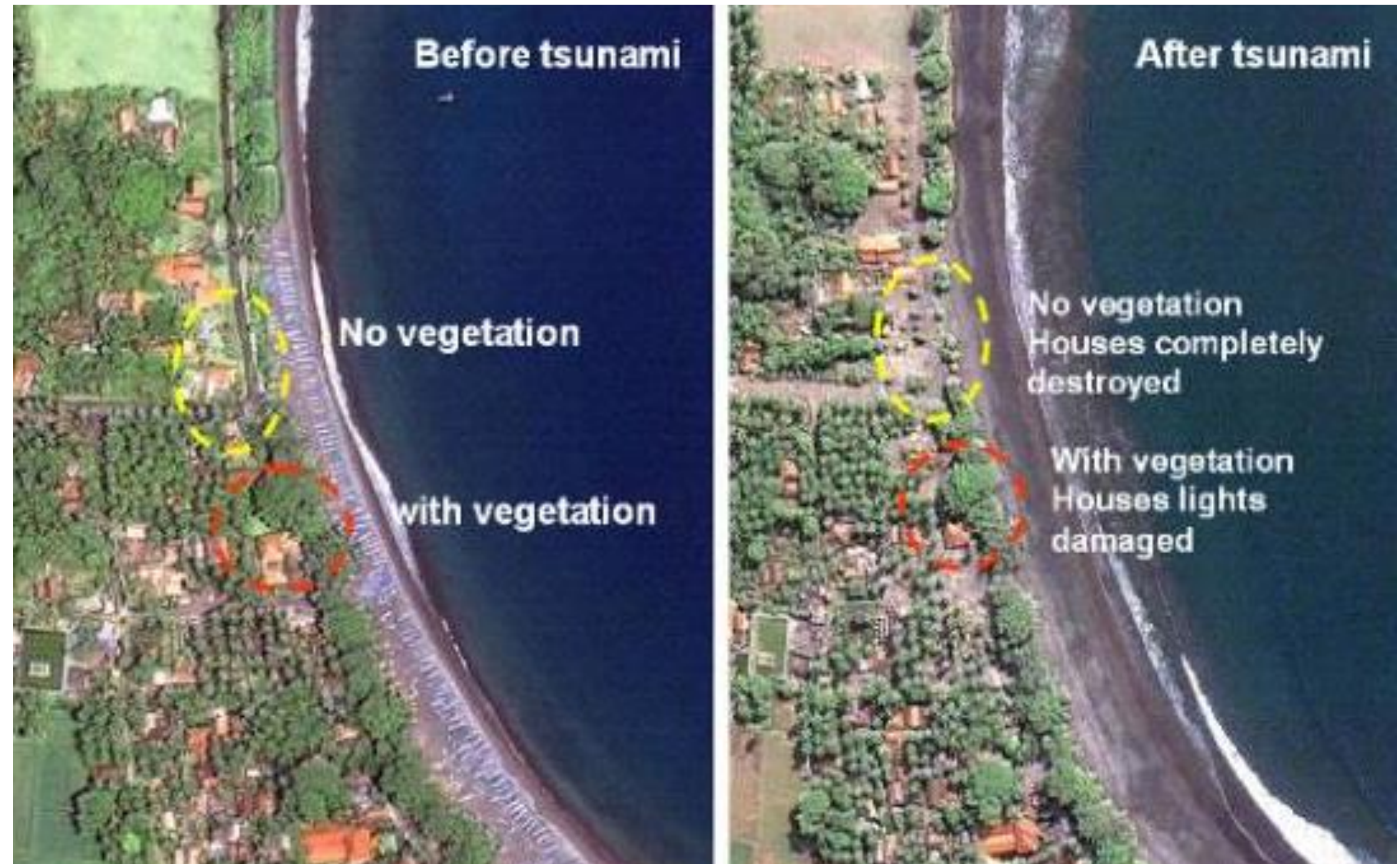
- designated category called *Protection Forests*
- up to CHF 150 million per year investment in forest management for hazard reduction

Benefits

- 5-10 times less expensive than engineered structures for protection from landslides, rock falls, and avalanches
- Additional recreational, biodiversity habitats, tourist and carbon sequestration values

Conservation of coastal forests – Sri Lanka

Protection of people and
infrastructure



Community action for desalinization and floods - Burkina Faso

Participatory
vulnerability
assessment

Identification of
priority
vulnerabilities

Identification of
local solutions



Time to hear from everyone!

**What are some examples in your work of NbS
or activities linked to NbS?**



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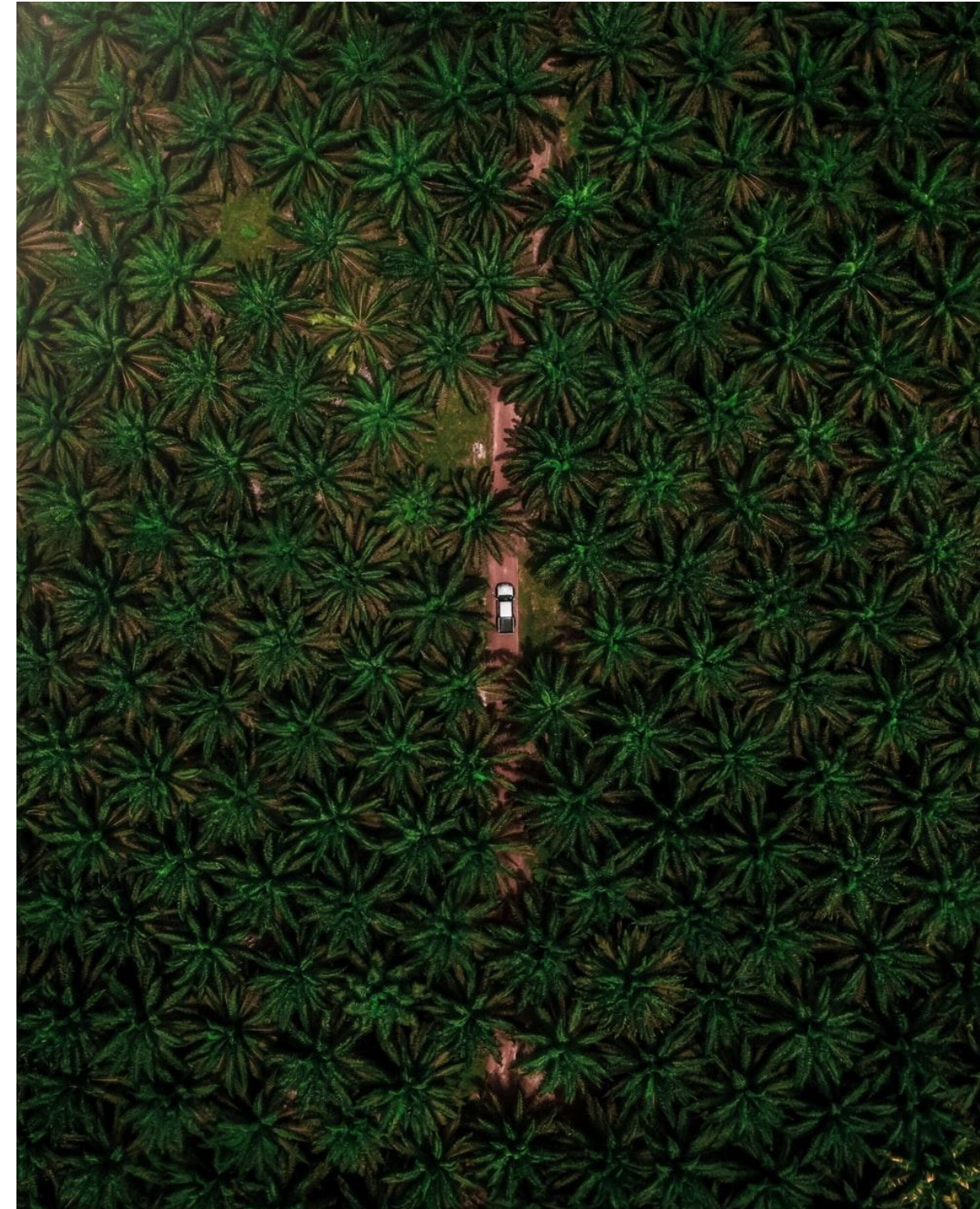
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Introducing the Standard, criteria and self-assessment

A problem solving approach for sustainable development



They can only reach this potential if not mislabelled/misused

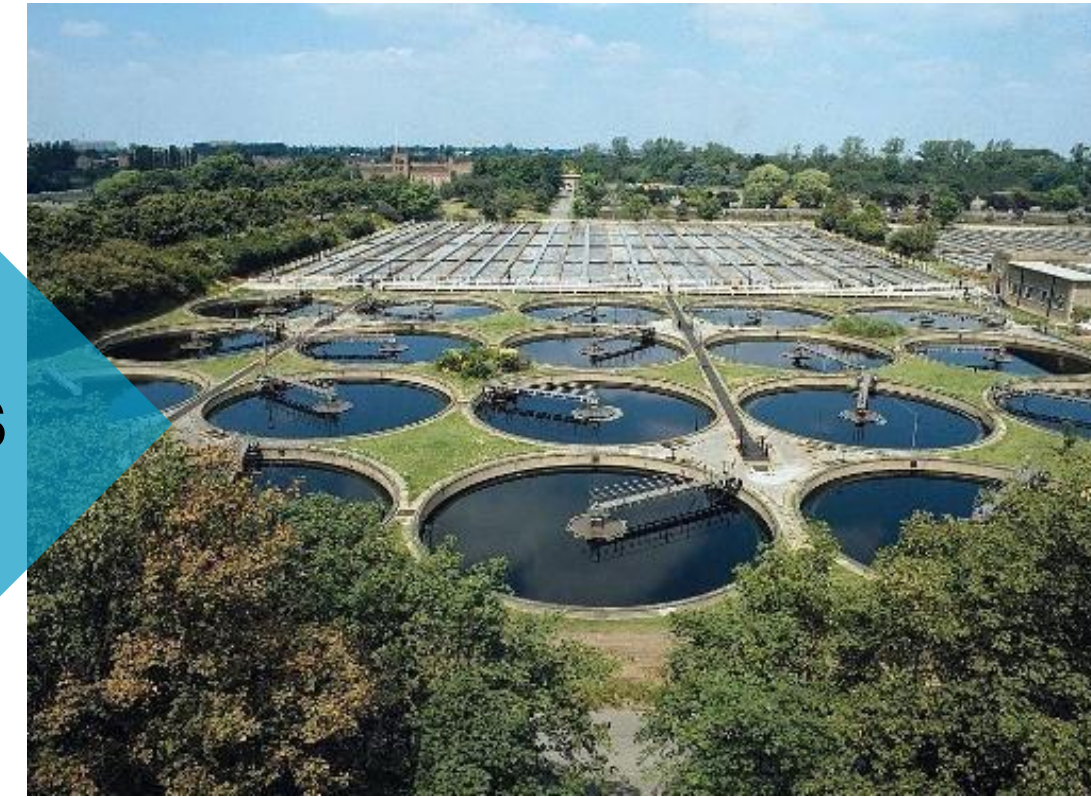
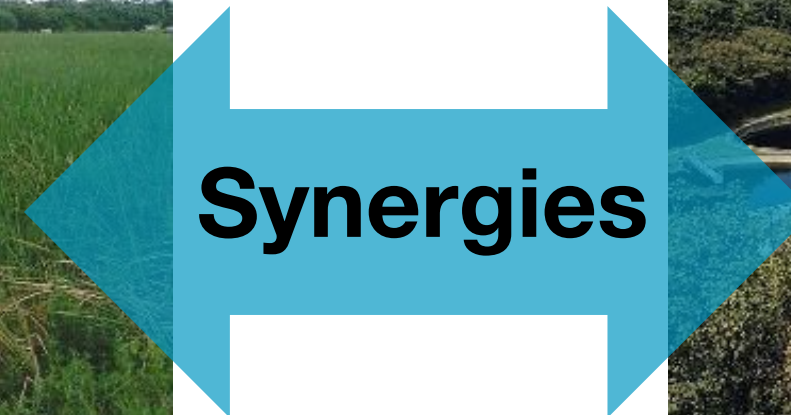


Can only reach potential if scaled up and complementaries explored

Hybrid approaches, utilizing a combination of natural and grey infrastructure



Natural infrastructure



Grey infrastructure

1. Ecosystem restoration approaches



2. Issue-specific ecosystem-related



3. Infrastructure-related approaches



4. Ecosystem-based management



5. Ecosystem protection approaches

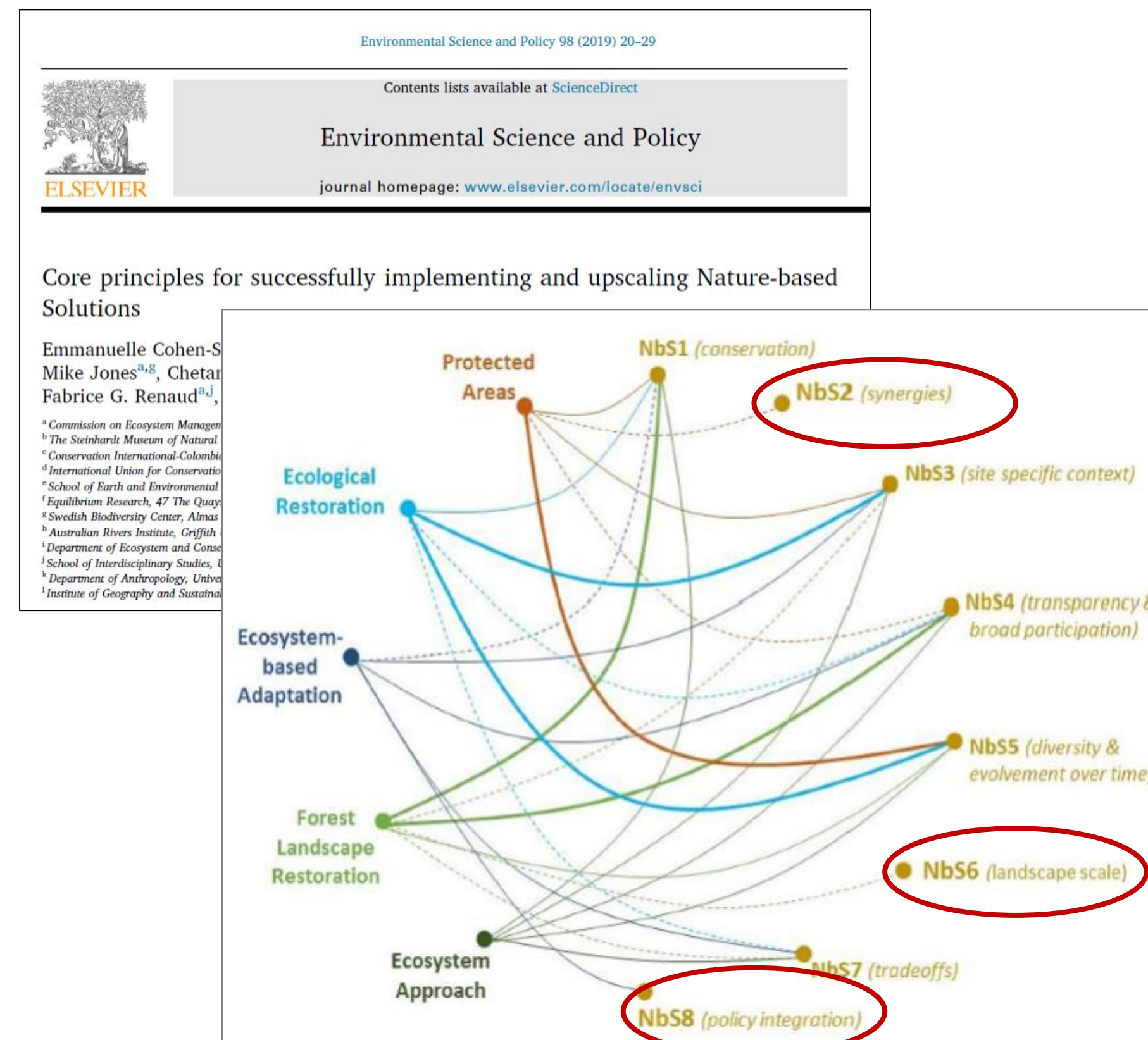


A uniting approach

NbS is complex but possible if we are prepared to break down the silos we operate within!

Latest IUCN publication highlights gaps –

- Need for action at scale
- Policy alignment for sustaining action and impact
- Enabling and innovative operational mechanisms that help address multiple challenges with the same one solution



Scaling up NbS to secure its potential

Now is the time to mainstream NbS:

- NbS are a cost-effective complement to established mechanisms;
- NbS provide multiple benefits across multiple variables (climate change, biodiversity, jobs, etc);
- NbS provide cross sectoral collaboration and policy coherence.

What is needed?

- Supporting NbS that go beyond pilots;
- Ensuring strong NbS interventions on the ground;
- Promoting the link to policy and outreach for sustainability;
- Bring in new sectors and technology.

For NbS to reach their potential in addressing our global challenges, we need a global standard.

Scaling up NbS to secure its potential

[illegible]

4. Guidance to Criteria

4.1 Summary

The Standard consists of eight Criteria, each with a set of Indicators. The Criteria strongly build on the NbS Principles as well as the feedback from consultations.

Criterion 1 outlines the process for determining the societal challenge(s) the stakeholders and rights-holders face, as well as establishing an understanding of associated opportunities and challenges. The design of the solution must aim to address the challenge, taking into consideration the wider social, economic and ecological contexts within which the challenge and solution exist, as per Criterion 2. Criterion 2 addresses the fact that even if the execution of the solution is at a site level or smaller scale, the larger scale level considerations can greatly inform the robustness and durability of the solution, beyond its implementation. Criteria 3, 4 and 5 outline processes that can enhance the chances of positive outcomes for biodiversity, society and the economy. However, in order to achieve these three Criteria with respect to both immediate, short-term and long-term outcomes, trade-offs need to be determined and made, which are directly addressed in Criterion 6. In order to give this issue visibility and importance, the decision-making processes for any trade-offs that are made need to be transparent and equitable and be within the context of one or more of Criteria 3, 4 and 5. In addition, principles of adaptive management underpinned by a theory of change and iterative learning processes, as per Criterion 7, can also enhance the success of NbS. Criterion 8 focuses on processes for mainstreaming NbS in spatial and temporal scales, whereby actions and impacts may be sustained beyond stand-alone projects, in order to fully realise the potential of nature as a tool providing a solution to societal challenges.

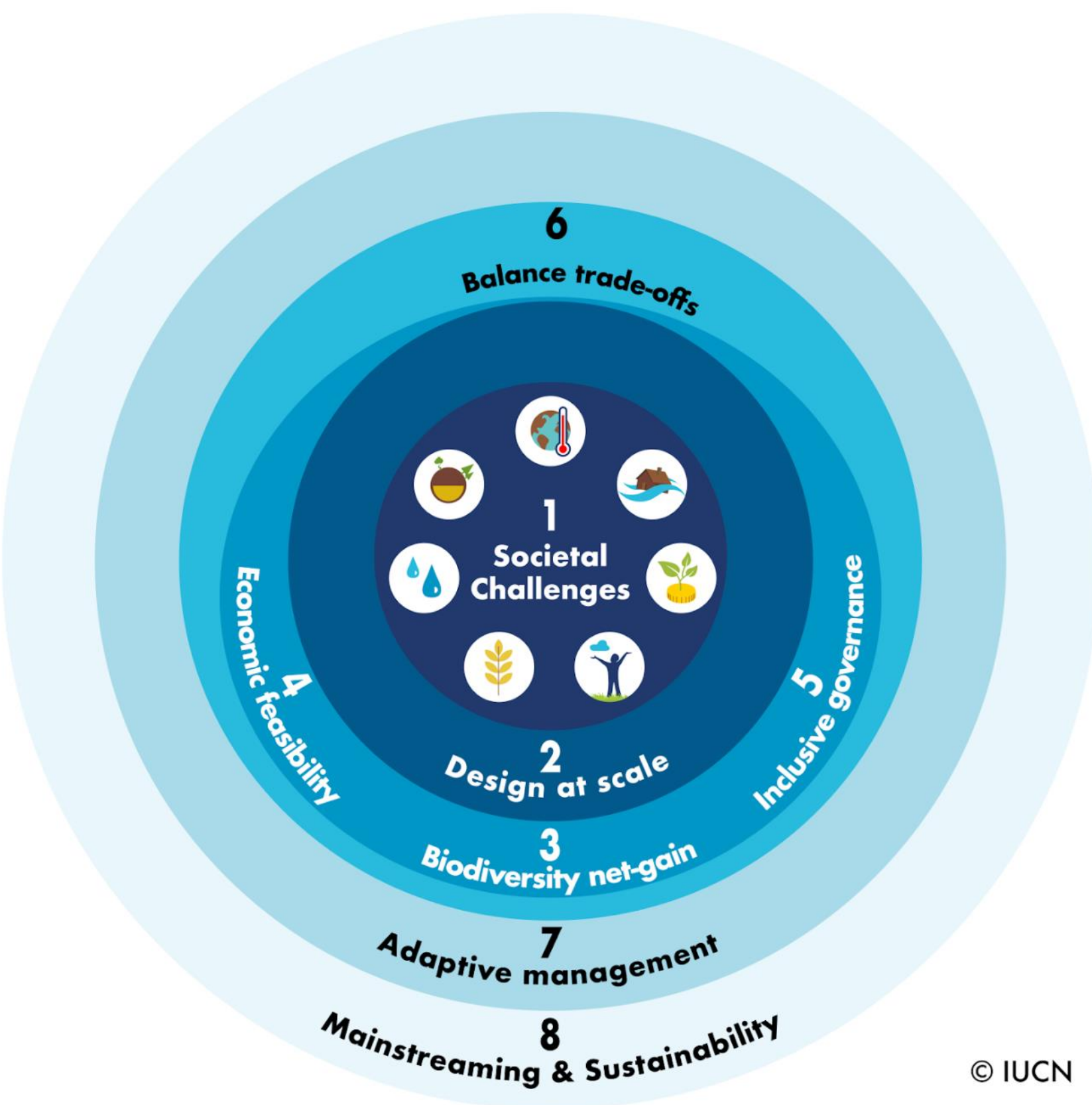
The following sections provide guidance on the eight Criteria of the NbS Standard and their underlying Indicators. The guidance describes the elements of a strong NbS and also identifies where the different Criteria and Indicators are linked to one another.

Figure 6: The eight Criteria that make up the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions – First edition

16 | Guidance for using the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions – First edition



Scaling up NbS to secure its potential



- A facilitative standard for design, verification and scaling up of NbS to realise IUCN's ambitious transition;
- 8 criteria and 28 indicators
- Based on knowledge co-creation: conservation science, social science, traditional knowledge;
- 'Crowd-sourced' drafts through two rounds of open consultation, 800+ people across 100 countries, 1000's of comments, each comment and response tracked;
- Developed to be compatible with the ISEAL Alliance Code of Good Practice – revised every four years.

Scaling up NbS to secure its potential

Criterion 1: NbS effectively address societal challenges

Indicator	Guidance
1.1 The most pressing societal challenge(s) for rights-holders and beneficiaries are prioritised	Guidance: The NbS intervention must address clearly specified challenges that have significant and demonstrable impacts on society. Identification of the most pressing societal challenges is best informed by a transparent and inclusive consultation process (Criterion 5). An NbS may offer benefits to various societal stakeholders and local populations and/or sectors.
1.2 The societal challenge(s) addressed are clearly understood and documented	Guidance: Establishing a clear understanding and definition of the challenge(s) to be addressed, and ensuring these are documented, is important for future accountability and optimising those strategies to contribute to human well-being outcomes (1.3). An NbS often yields multiple points of benefits, such as job creation or increased flow of ecosystem services, and the societal challenges these additional benefits address should also be documented.
1.3 Human well-being outcomes arising from the NbS are identified, benchmarked and periodically assessed	Guidance: NbS must deliver tangible and substantive benefits to human well-being. Specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely (SMART) targets should be set as appropriate, as they are important for accountability and informing adaptive management (Criterion 7).

Societal challenges:

Case study: Identifying a societal challenge

Targeted long-term risks from climate change and disasters. Climate change impacts are increasingly visible through sea-level rise, drought, and degradation and contributing to the risk to agricultural productivity and economic development, particularly in the drylands. Using the [Community-led process](#), the community members defined their societal challenges as disaster risks, food security and ecosystem degradation. Initially, the project design had a strong focus on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Following the community planning process, project managers redesigned activities to include all the challenges identified. Sustainable agricultural practices and strengthening the local resilience of people and nature to floods and the impacts of land subsidence were the resulting NbS solutions, co-designed with the communities and collaboratively implemented by all stakeholders involved in the consultation process. Making the project priorities more inclusive of local needs was relatively simple and yielded co-benefits for soil rehabilitation, biodiversity conservation and food crop yields.

Guidance to Criteria

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The following sections provide guidance on the eight Criteria of the NbS Standard and their underlying Indicators. The guidance describes the elements of a strong NbS and also identifies where the different Criteria and Indicators are linked to one another.

Figure 6: The eight Criteria that make up the IUCN Global Standard for NbS are all interconnected (© IUCN)





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Any questions?

Systematic measure of progress

Criterion 3. NbS result in net gain to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity

Indicator 3.1 NbS actions directly respond to evidence-based assessment of the current state of the ecosystem and prevailing drivers of degradation and loss

Strong

Adequate

Partial

Insufficient



Yes. An updated assessment of the current status of ecosystems at the appropriate spatial and temporal scales is in place. The assessment includes information about the drivers of change and biodiversity loss. The assessment includes field verification and local knowledge.

There is information available about the current state of the ecosystems using secondary data and reference maps, not older than 10 years. The information of the ecosystem has been verified in general terms through field visits, with general inputs from local communities and traditional knowledge, where possible.

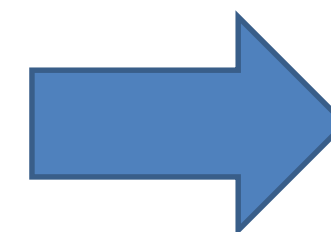
General information about existing land cover and land use is used for assessing the status of the ecosystems, at more general scales and not older than ten years. There is not validation at field level and data coming from communities or traditional knowledge.

No. There is no information available about general conditions of the status of the ecosystems at any relevant spatial or temporal scale.

Final output – a successful test of the standard

Criterion	Your Criterion Score	Maximum Criterion Score	Normalised criterion	FINAL OUTPUT Your Criterion %age
1. Societal challenges	6	9	0.67	0.7
2. Design at scale	5	9	0.56	0.6
3. Biodiversity net-gain	1	12	0.08	0.1
4. Economic feasibility	9	12	0.75	0.8
5. Inclusive governance	11	15	0.73	0.7
6. Balance trade-offs	7	9	0.78	0.8
7. Adaptive management	4	9	0.44	0.4
8. Sustainability and mainstreaming	4	9	0.44	0.4
Total			4.46	0.6

Key	Output
Strong	Intervention adheres to the IUCN Global Standard for NbS.
Adequate	
Partial	
Insufficient	Intervention does not adhere to the IUCN Global Standard for NbS.



Not in adherence with the IUCN Global Standard as C3 is Insufficiently addressed.



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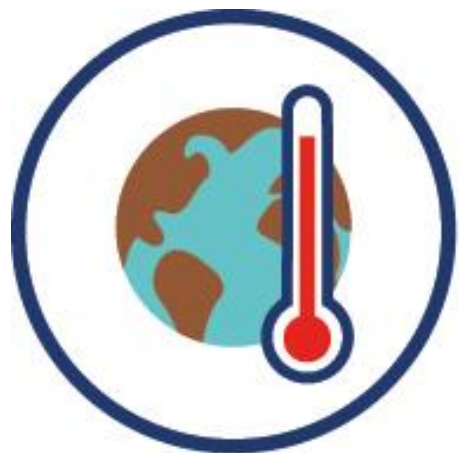
Deep dive into the criteria

What does the standard look like?

	Criteria
1.	NbS effectively address societal challenges
2.	Design of NbS is informed by scale
3.	NbS result in net gain to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity
4.	NbS are economically viable
5.	NbS is based on inclusive, transparent and empowering governance processes
6.	NbS equitably balances trade-offs between achievement of its primary goal(s) and the continued provision of multiple benefits
7.	NbS are managed adaptively, based on evidence
8.	NbS are sustainable and mainstreamed within an appropriate jurisdictional context

Criterion 1 – Societal challenges

NbS effectively address societal challenges



Climate change mitigation and adaptation



Disaster risk reduction



Economic and social development



Human health



Food security



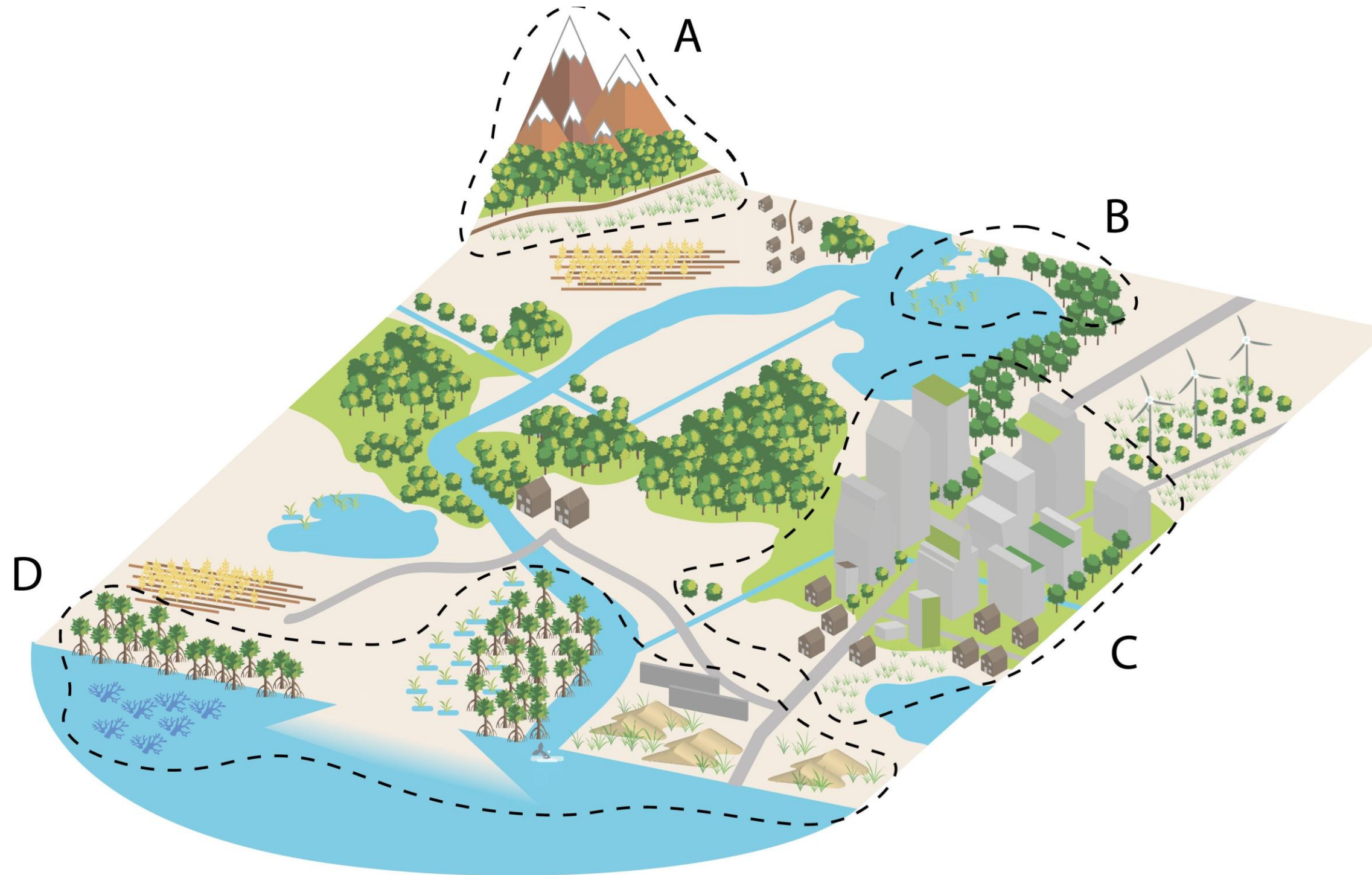
Water security



Environmental degradation and biodiversity loss

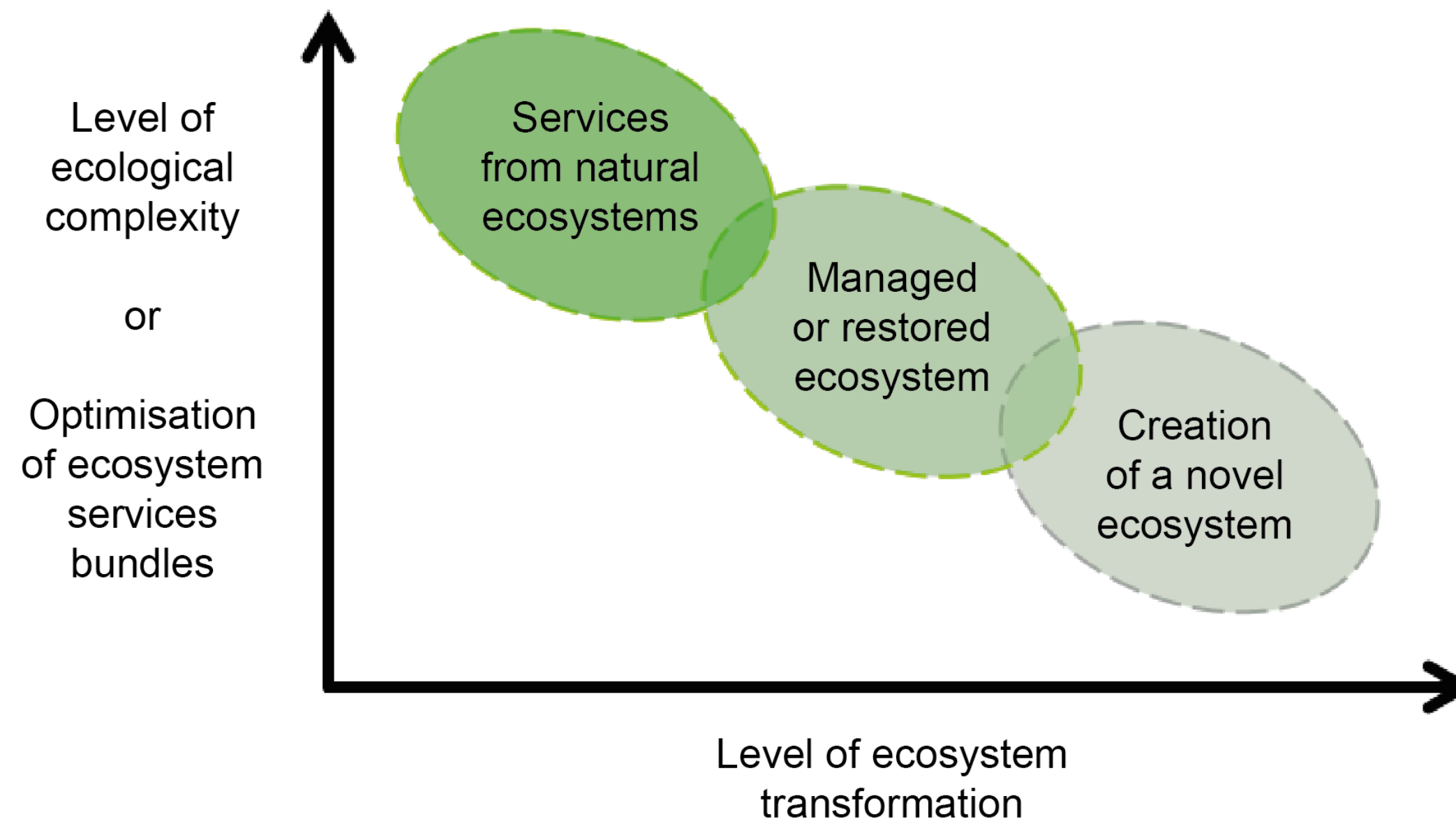
Criterion 2 – Design at scale

Design of NbS is informed by scale



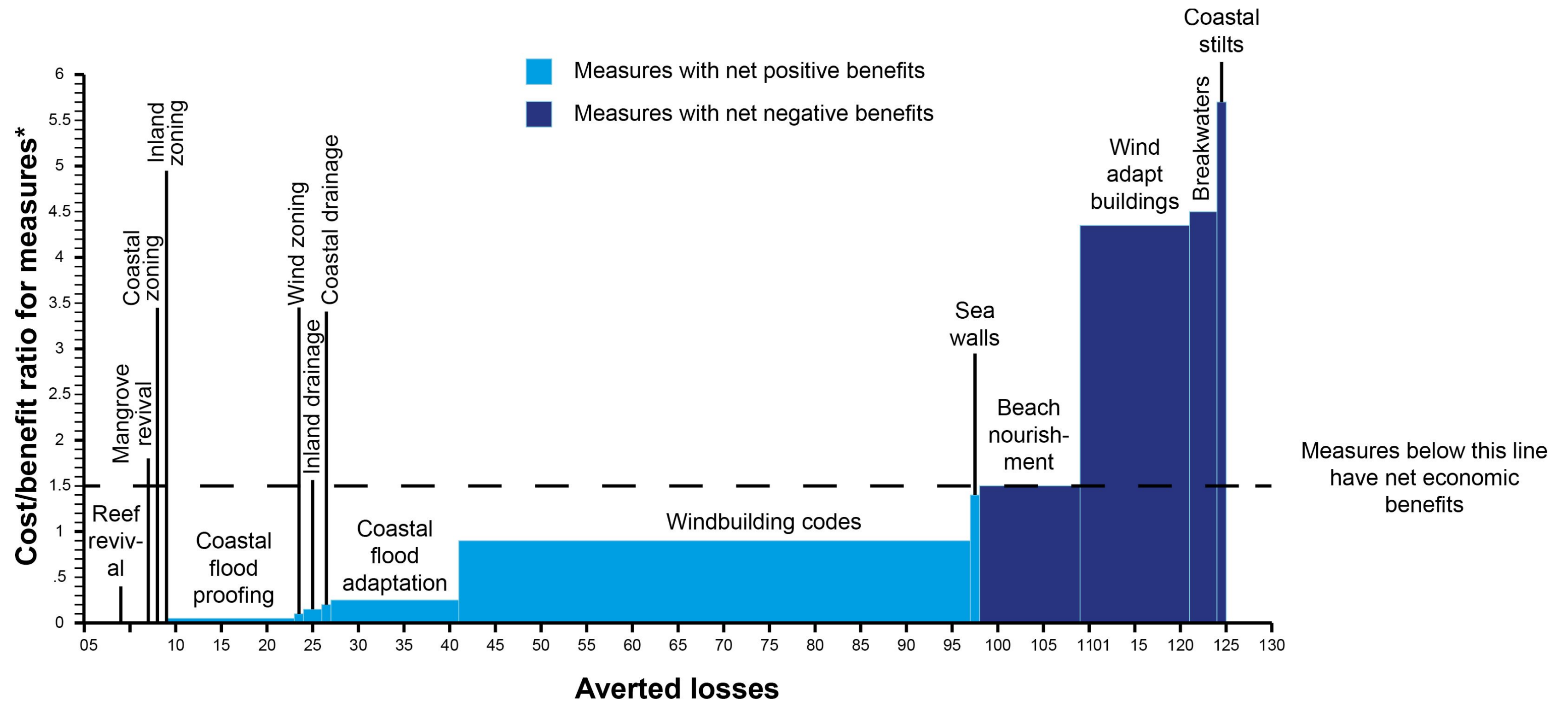
Criterion 3 - Biodiversity net-gain

NbS result in net gain to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity



Criterion 4 – Economic Viability

NbS are economically viable



*Does not account for synergies or dis-synergies between measures (e.g. building sea walls behind a breakwater)

Criterion 5 – Inclusive Governance

NbS are based on inclusive, transparent and empowering governance processes

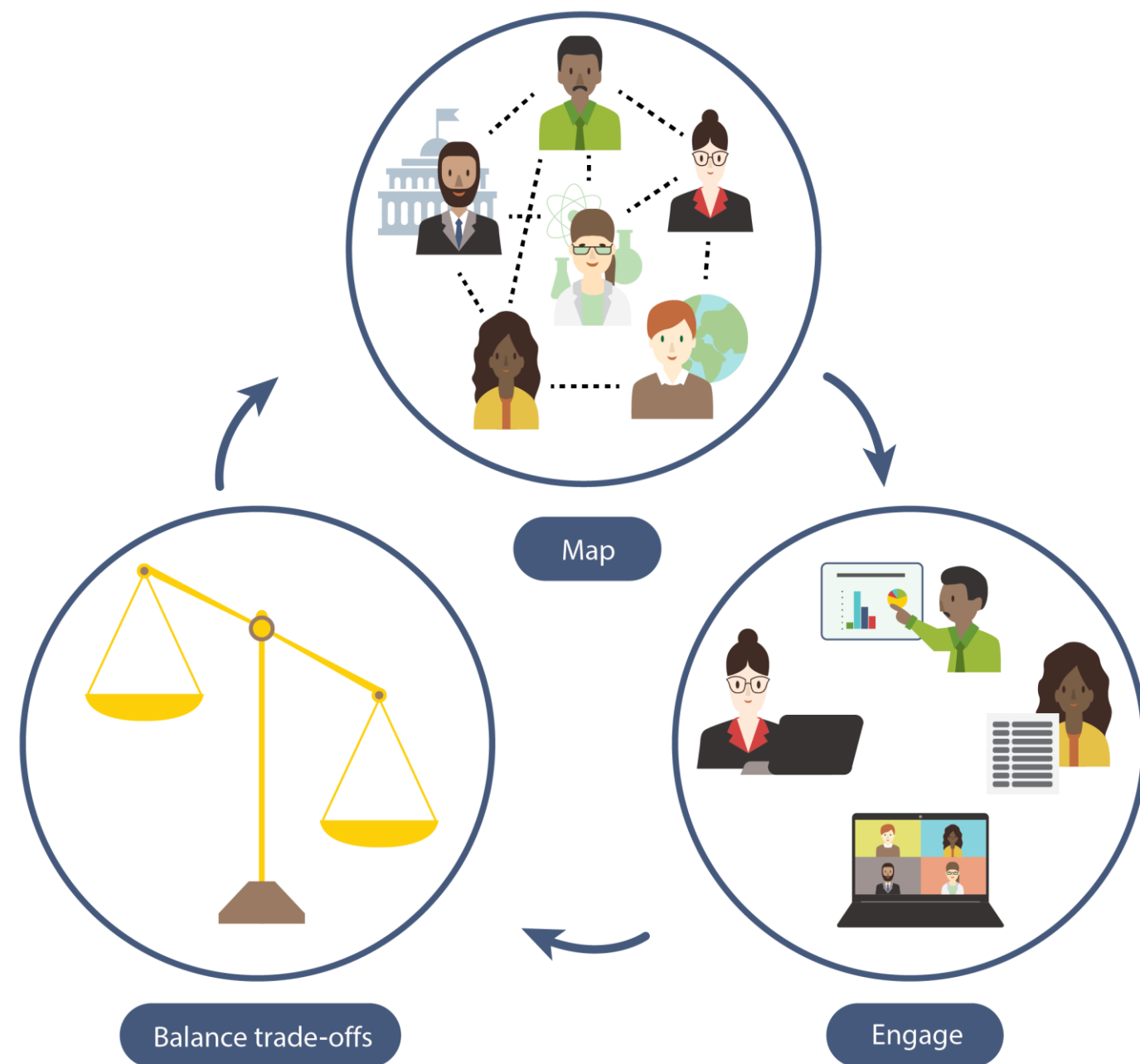


Figure 13 Co-creation of the experiment for a linear park in Antwerp in a “dreaming” exercise. © Stadslab 20150, Antwerp, 17.09.2017

Criterion 6 – Balance trade-offs

NbS equitably balances trade-offs between achievement of their primary goal(s) and the continued provision of multiple benefits

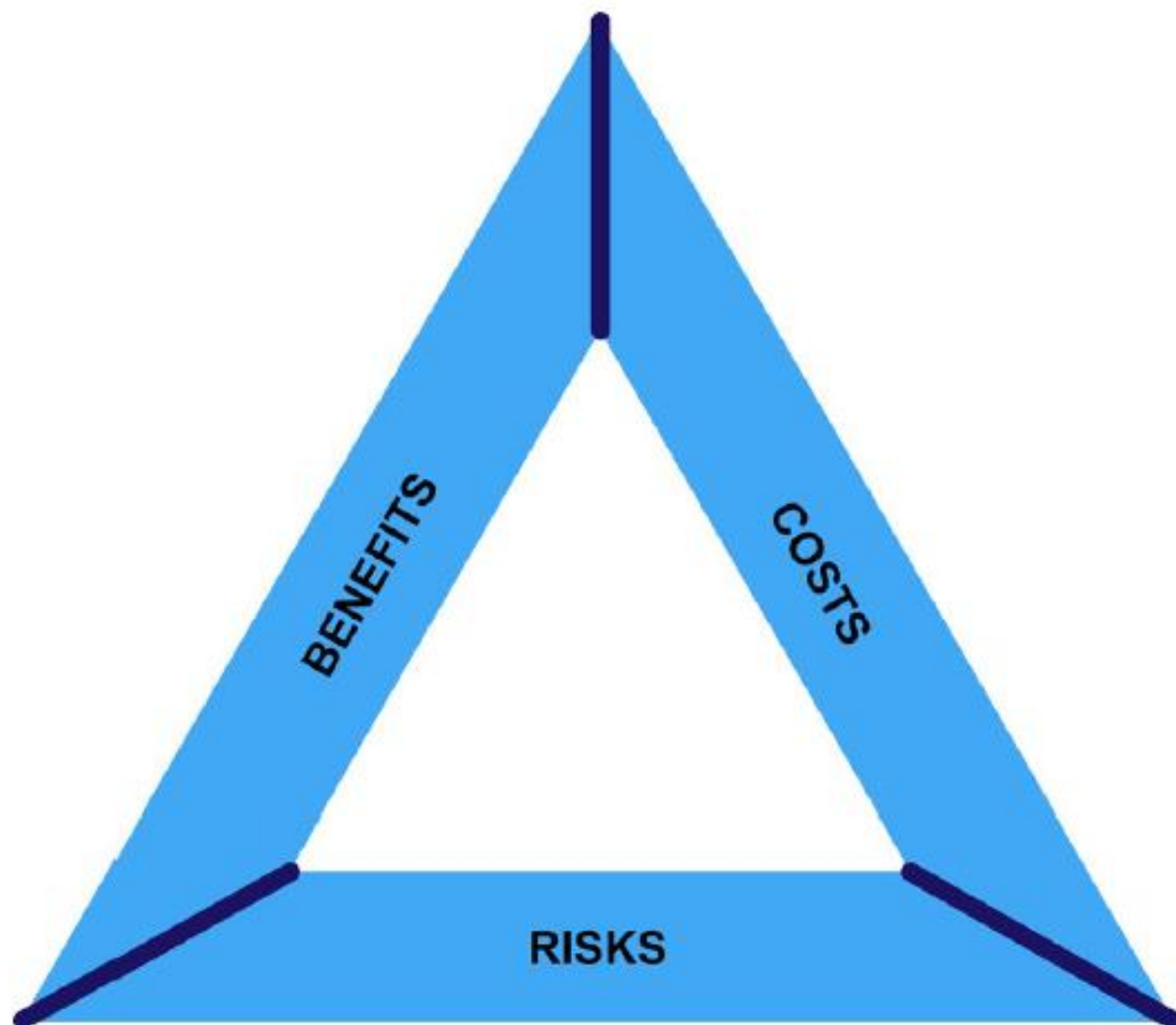
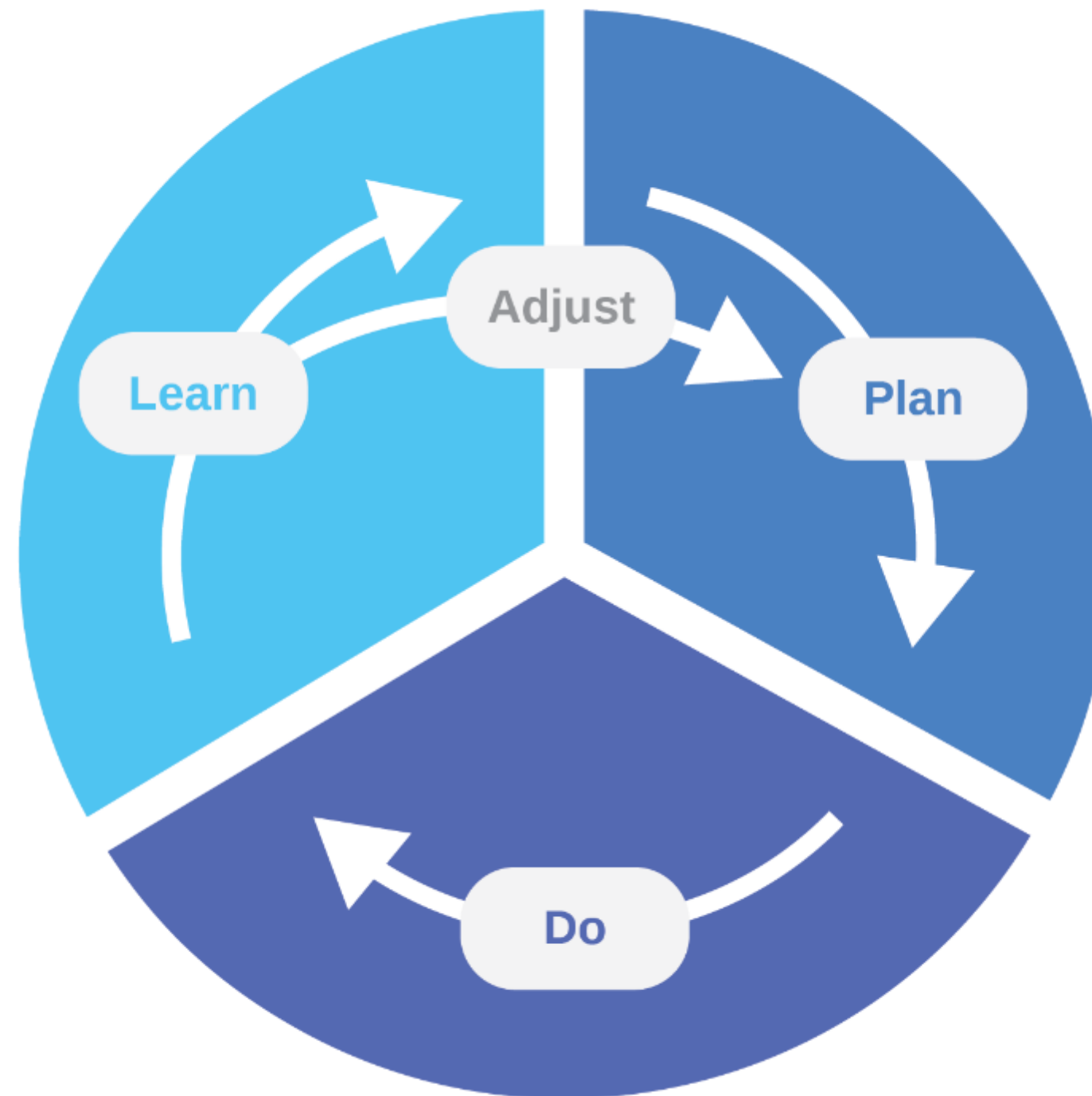


Figure 15 Hilsa Conservation Group Meeting in Barisal Bangladesh in 2015. © WorldFish, Flickr

Criterion 7 – Adaptive management

NbS are managed adaptively, based on evidence



Criterion 8 – Sustainability and mainstreaming

NbS are sustainable and mainstreamed within an appropriate jurisdictional context



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**





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Stepping through a self-assessment

What does the Standard look like?

The Standard, each criterion with brief case studies and graphic aids.

The Guidance puts NbS into context and provides a clear path to Criteria.

DRAFT NbS self assessment pilot v3 - protected - Excel

File Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Tell me what you want to do...

Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles

J4 Recommendations, opportunities and challenges

Criterion 1: NbS effectively address one or more societal challenges						
Indicator or No.	Indicator	Guiding questions	How well has the indicator been met?			
			Strong	Adequate	Partial	Insufficient
1.1	The most pressing societal challenges for rights holders and beneficiaries are prioritised	Are societal challenges identified? Are rights holders and beneficiaries consulted? Are the most pressing societal challenges for rights holders and beneficiaries prioritised?	Yes. The most pressing societal challenges prioritized based on full consultation with rights holders and beneficiaries.	Specific societal challenges identified with some consultation with rights holders and beneficiaries.	General societal challenges identified with limited input from some rights holders and beneficiaries only.	No. No clear societal challenges identified and/or no consultation with any rights holders and beneficiaries.
Insufficient						
1.2	The societal challenges addressed are clearly understood and documented	Are the drivers and responses to the societal challenges identified? Are the societal challenges understood at the relevant national/local context? Are the societal challenges documented and accessible to affected stakeholders?	Yes. The drivers of and responses to identified societal challenges are well understood, including with reference to the relevant national/local context, and are fully documented and accessible.	Drivers of and responses to identified societal challenges are broadly understood within the relevant context although some documentation and knowledge gaps persist.	Societal challenges framed in terms consistent with widely accepted narratives but multiple documentation and context-specific knowledge gaps persist.	No. Superficial/limited understanding of drivers of and responses to identified societal challenges with limited or no documentation.
Insufficient						
1.3	Human wellbeing outcomes arising from the NbS are identified, benchmarked and periodically assessed	Are human wellbeing outcomes relevant to the identified societal challenges identified? Are there benchmarks in place to monitor impact? Are outcomes and benchmarks assessed at regularly occurring intervals? Are human wellbeing outcomes incorporated into the strategy for the intervention?	Yes. SMART human well-being outcomes and benchmarks, relevant to the identified societal challenges and national/local context, are identified and are assessed at regularly occurring intervals.	Specific human well-being outcomes and benchmarks, relevant to the identified societal challenges and national/local context, are identified and assessed at least once during the intervention period.	General human well-being outcomes and benchmarks identified but no provision has been made for their assessment.	No. Human well-being outcomes are not identified or are vague and ill defined with no benchmarks and no provision for assessment.
Insufficient						

Access to Criteria

eight Criteria, each with
Criteria strongly build on
the feedback from

process for determining
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or Criterion 2. Criterion

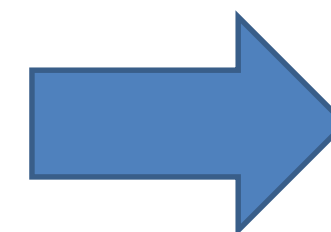
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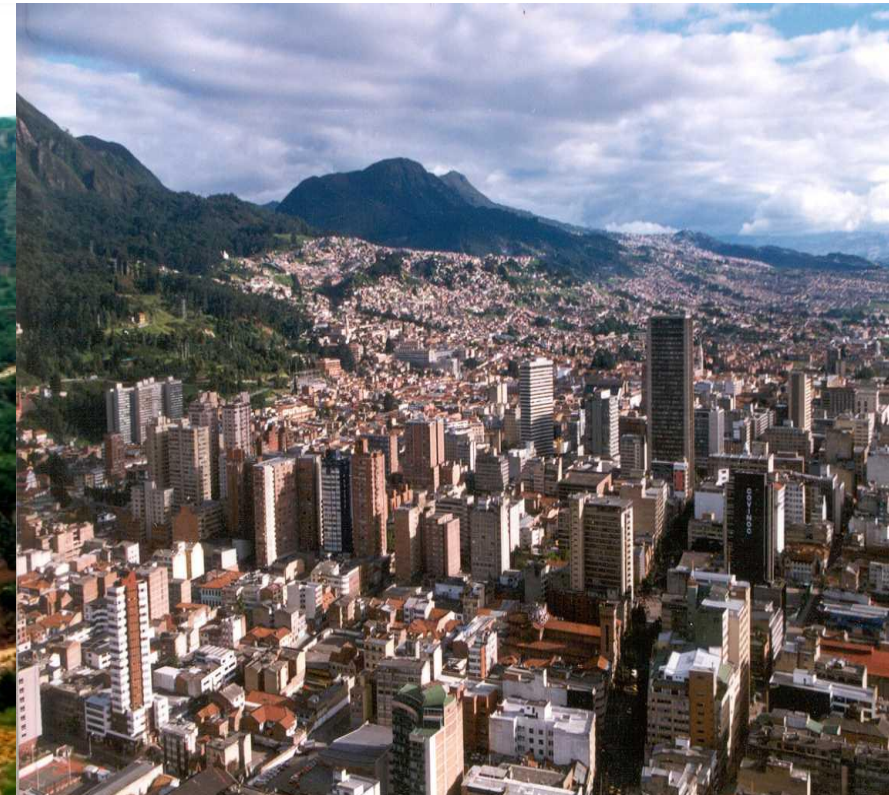
Not in adherence with the IUCN Global Standard as C3 is Insufficiently addressed.

What can you use the Standard for?



Uses of the self-assessment sheet:

- Assess whether an intervention/proposal adheres to the Standard
- Inform internal and external stakeholders on the means of verification in place/used (or lack of) to measure the indicators
- Identify areas for improvement"



Method of piloting the Standard

Criterion 3. NbS result in net gain to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity





Each of the 8 criteria has a subset of indicators to be addressed.

Indicator 3.1 NbS actions directly respond to evidence-based assessment of the current state of the ecosystem and prevailing drivers of degradation and loss

The adherence of the intervention to each indicator is rated.



Giving an overall output of whether the intervention is in adherence with the Standard and how strong that adherence is.

Key		Output
	Strong	Intervention adheres to the IUCN Global Standard for NbS.
	Adequate	
	Partial	
	Insufficient	Intervention does not adhere to the IUCN Global Standard for NbS.

Process of assessment and review

1. Project overview for partners identifying needs and resources

2. Share relevant information and documentation

3. Initial mapping against self-assessment tool

4. Sourcing of missing documentation and information

5. Finalisation of self-assessment tool and outputs

Time to hear from you!



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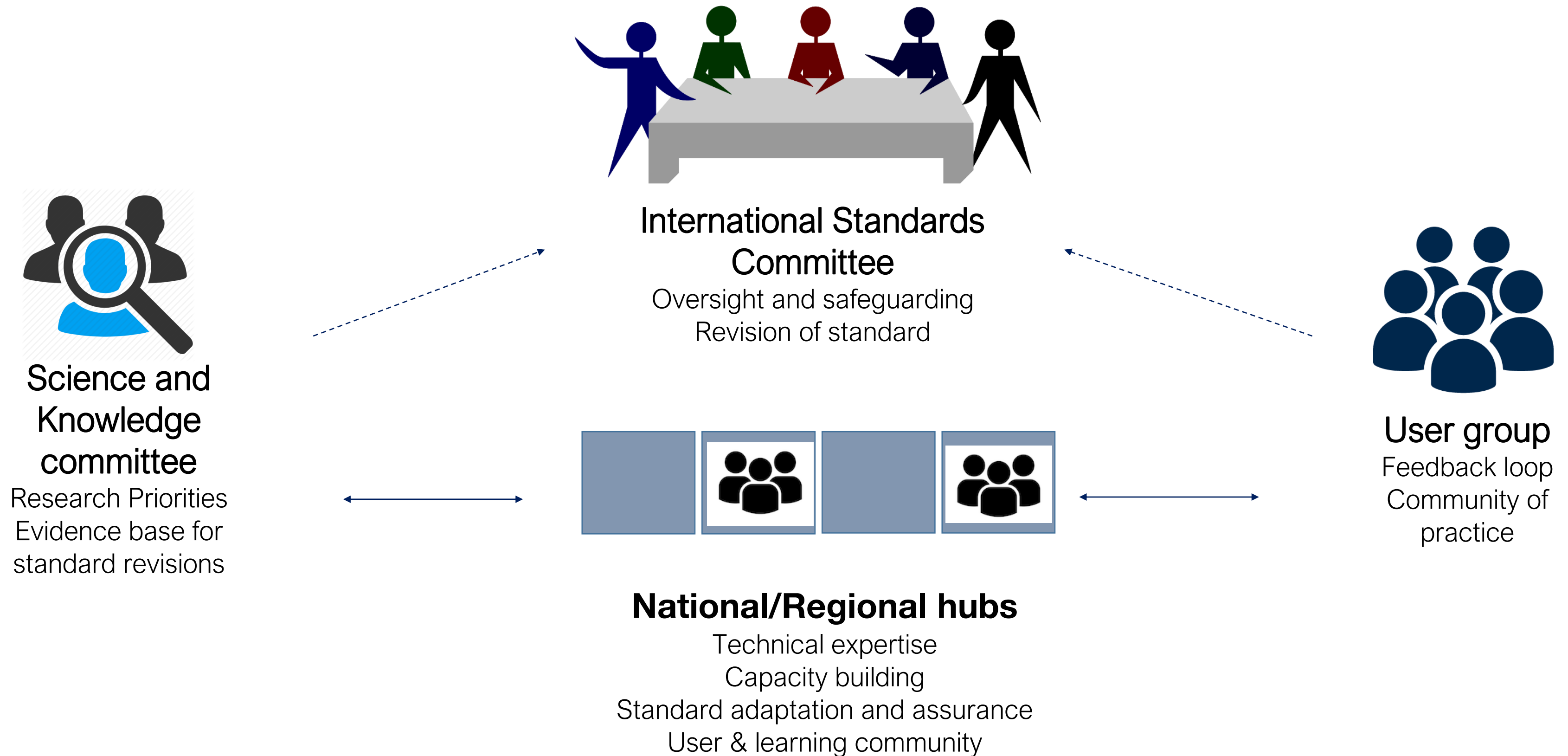


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Next steps

Governance, transparency, learning and improving future solutions



Rollout of the Global Standard

Standard

Rollout and technical support
Capacity building
Context specific solutions

Criterion 3: NBS result in net benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity			
Sub-criterion	Indicator	Scoring conditions	Score
3.1	NBS will not result in net loss of biodiversity or ecosystem integrity	Net loss of biodiversity or ecosystem integrity is avoided	Strong
3.2	NBS will result in net benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity	Net benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity are achieved	Adequate
3.3	NBS will result in net benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity	Net benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity are achieved	Partial
3.4	NBS will result in net benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity	Net benefits to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity are achieved	Insufficient

Assurance and Oversight

How is performance verified and ensured? Who has authority to make decisions?

Logo and Claims

Learning from IUCN's other certification schemes



Impacts



Thank you! Gracias! Merci!

For more information:



Learn more



<https://www.iucn.org/NbS>

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