



A landscape approach to financing restoration in European lakes

ProCleanLakes Webinar
18 Nov 2025

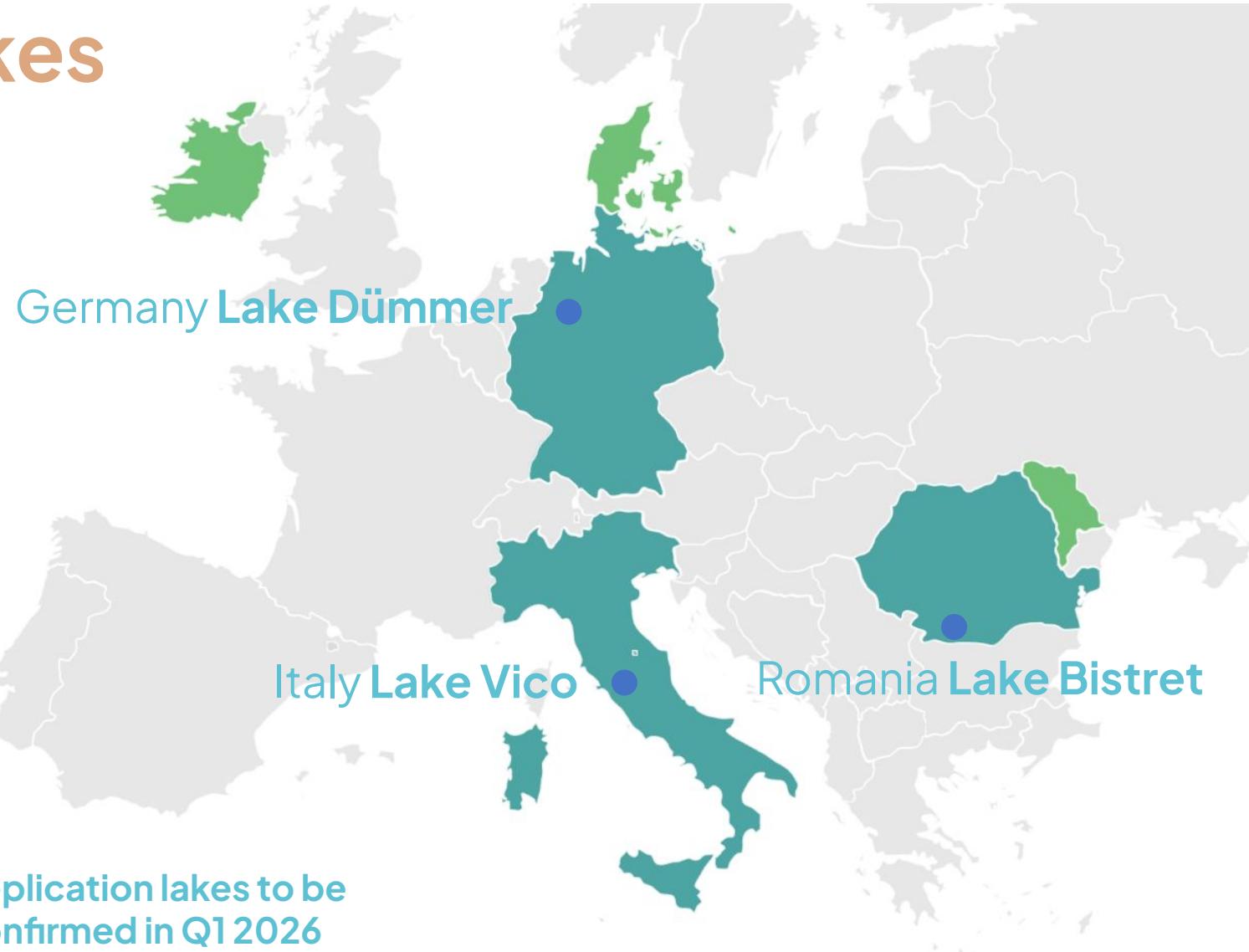


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13 Partners



3 Lakes



Problem

2 800+ EU lakes with bad or poor ecological status

8 000+ lakes with moderate ecological status in 2018.

Human activity creates **negative pressures** at basin scale :

- excess abstraction
- pollutants and eutrophication
- hydro-morphological pressures
- tourism

Lake management and restoration efforts often take a **fragmented approach** that ignore the wider basin landscape and larger impacts to land, water or local stakeholders.



Project

Aim: To protect and restore European natural lakes and their ecosystems.

Methodology: 4 Returns Framework for Landscape Restoration seeking sustainable, long-term solutions at the landscape level.

Focus:

- working with **local communities**
- developing **integrated protection and restoration strategies**
- applying **nature-based solutions and sustainable financing** in three sites
- supporting **replication and scaling-up** in other regions.



Objectives

1. Design and develop **integrated and replicable landscape approaches** for the protection and restoration of selected natural lake ecosystems in Italy, Romania and Germany, using a participatory, stakeholder engagement approach to demonstrate multi-benefit policy solutions for freshwater ecosystems.
2. Demonstrate, monitor, assess and adapt the designed **site-specific set of measures** in each of the 3 natural lake demonstration areas.
3. Enable the **long-term socio-economic transition** for lake restoration through the delivery of trainings on ecosystem services' valuation and identification of sustainable financing opportunities at landscape-scale
4. Implement **advanced modelling techniques** to simulate the impact of selected protection and restoration (P&R) approaches on lake ecosystems
5. Support the **replication and scale-up** of the demonstrated solutions to local and regional authorities defined by an open call
6. Support **policy and decision makers** to foster implementation, replication and upscaling that successfully enhances delivery of the European Green Deal

4 Returns Framework

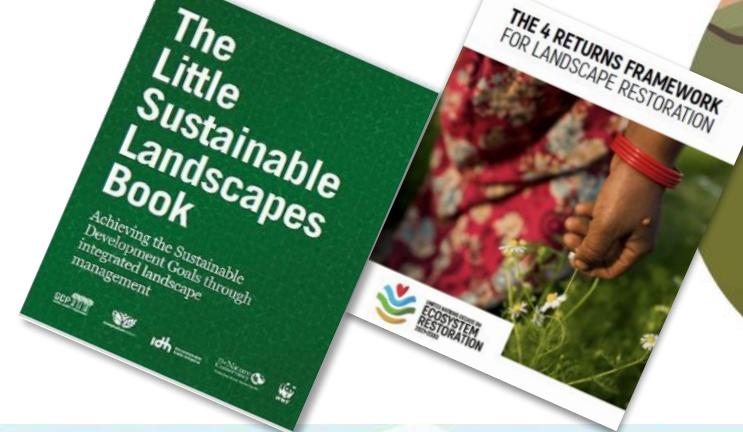


- a **science-based** approach
- aimed at **regenerating landscapes** and addressing the losses associated with land degradation.
- **delivers returns** to people, nature, communities, and businesses
- based on the **ecosystem approach** endorsed by COP5 of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in 2000.

It focuses on creating four key returns:

1. **Natural returns**
2. **Financial returns**
3. **Social returns**
4. **Returns of inspiration**

4 Returns Framework

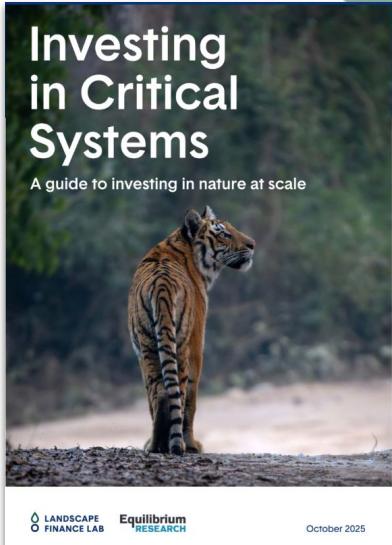
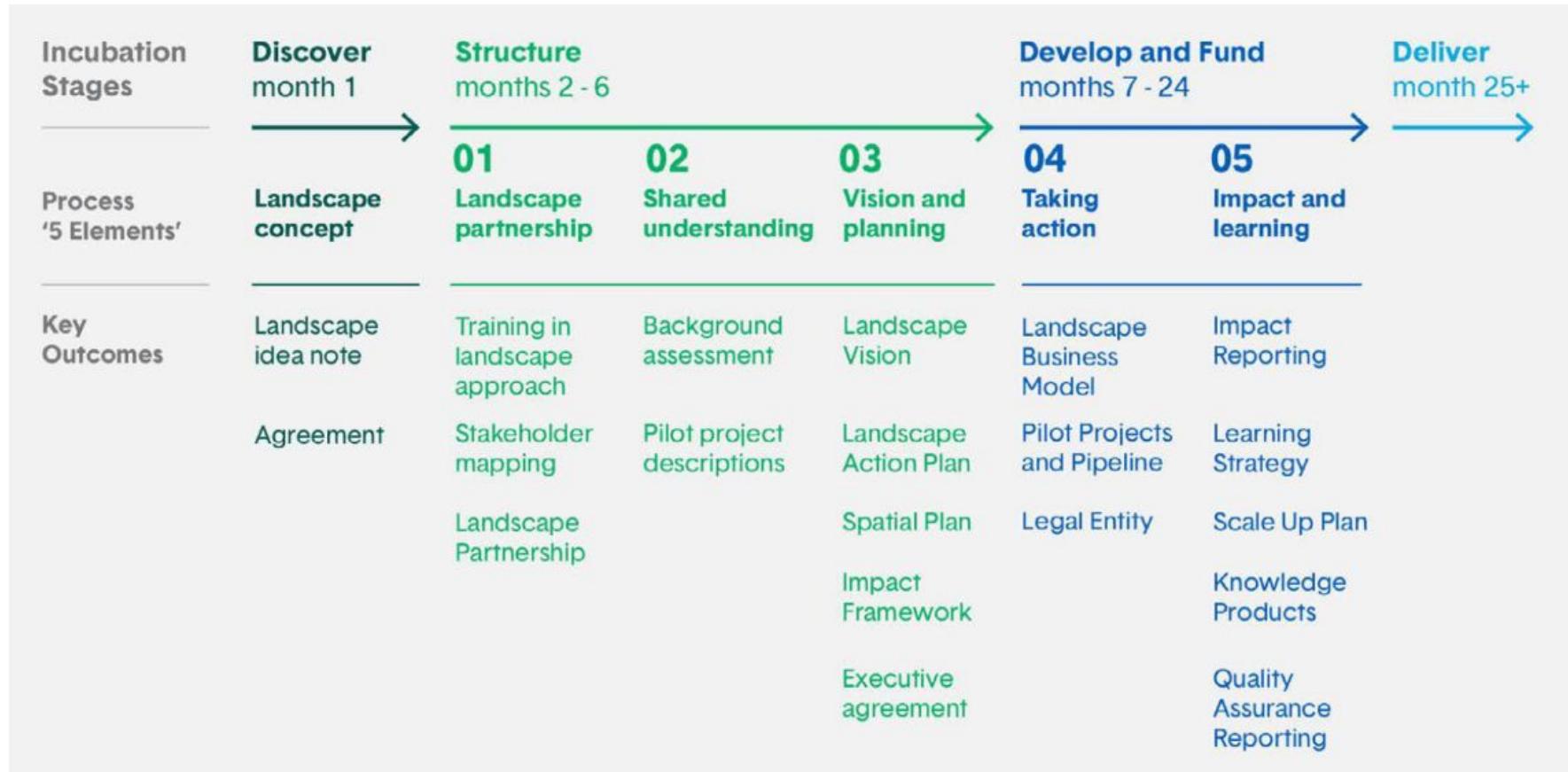


THE 4 RETURNS FRAMEWORK
FOR LANDSCAPE RESTORATION



Landscape Framework

- Operationalising **landscape standards**
- In tune with **investment cycles**
- Pragmatic and **business orientated**
- **Stakeholders ownership** at all stages



Landscape Finance Examples

Peatlands

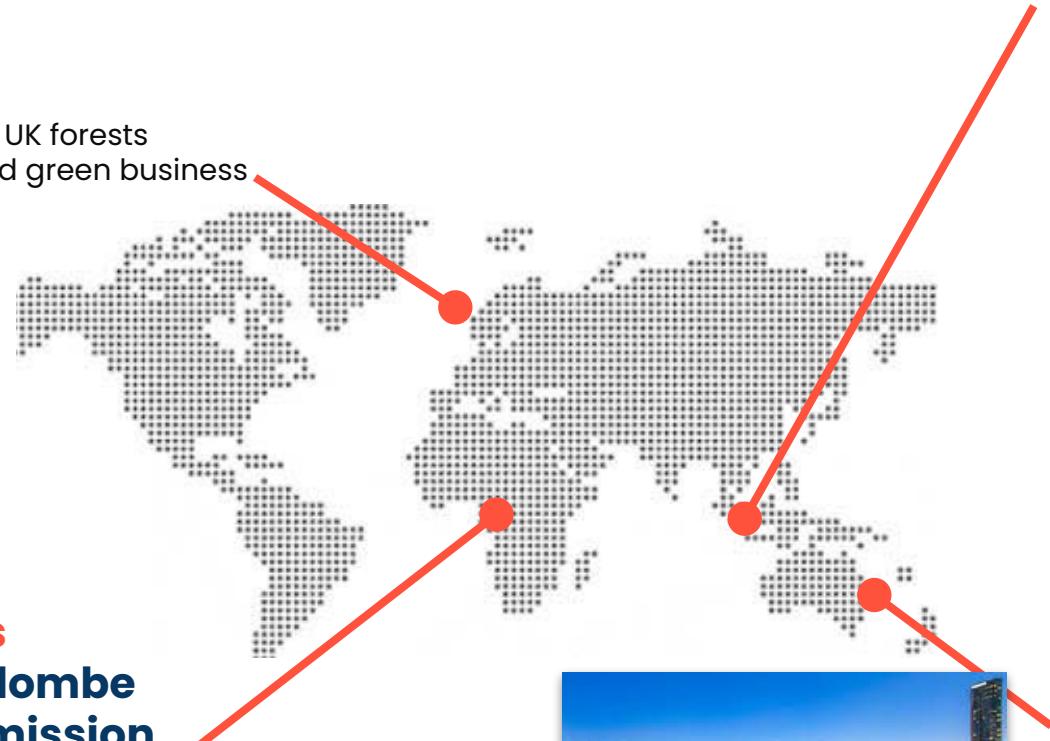
Scotland The Flow Country

- 400,000 ha with 2X the carbon of all UK forests
- Focus on carbon, World Heritage and green business



Rainforests

DRC Mai Ndombe Province Emission Reduction Program



Supply chain

Indonesia Jambi Tropical Landscape Finance Facility

- \$95 M sustainability bond investing in wildlife friendly rubber
- 400,000 M ha corridor with tigers, orangutans and elephants



River resilience

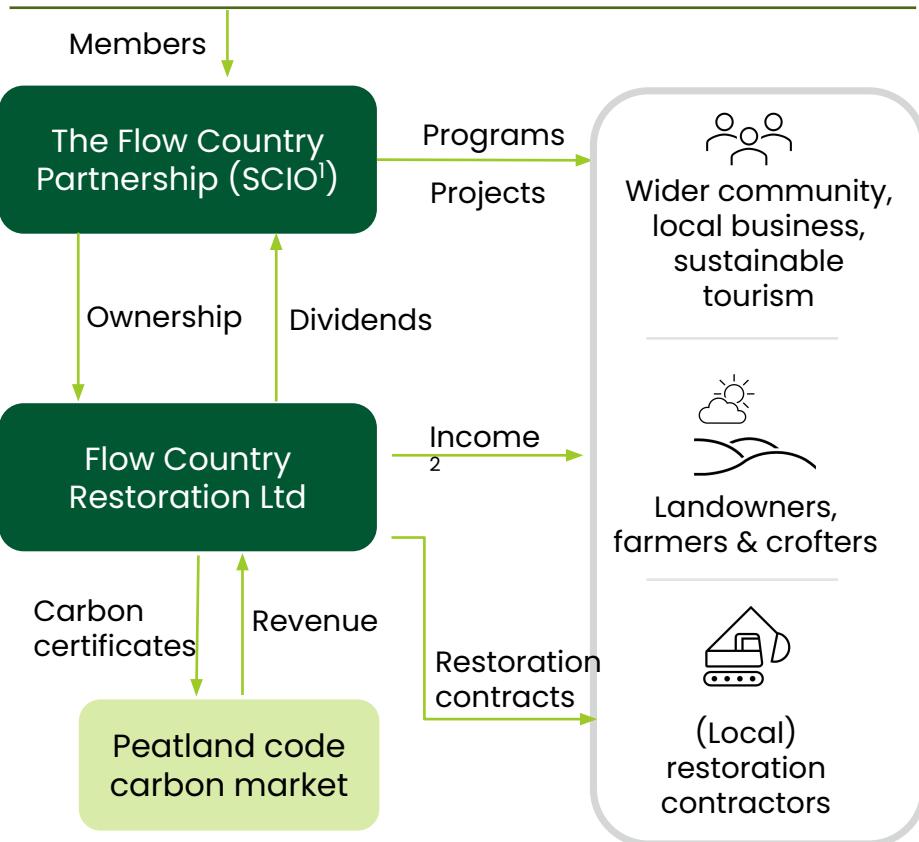
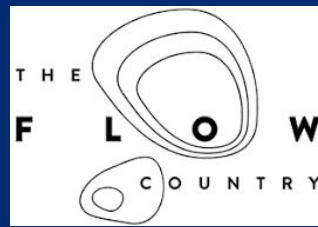
Australia Brisbane Rivers Landscape / ENVestor



- Restoring 600 km of river forests and 200,000 ha of koala forests
- Payments for climate, nature and water results

The Flow Country, Scotland

UK's largest nature restoration effort



Features

- 400,000 ha.
- Largest blanket bog globally
- 400 MtCO₂ ER potential - 2x all UK forests

Key Outcomes

- 100% community owned with dividends for communities activities
- Large scale peatland restoration projects
- High value carbon certificates with co-benefits
- First natural World Heritage Site in UK



Peatland Finance Ireland

Investing in climate, biodiversity and community

Up to 750,000 ha restoration and 114 MtCO₂ emission reduction potential



PEATLAND
FINANCE
IRELAND

Finance

Combining finance streams



Public investments



Carbon credits



Commercial finance

Action

to fund solutions across key sectors



Energy



Forests



Water



Agriculture

Impact

that deliver integrated results



Carbon



Biodiversity



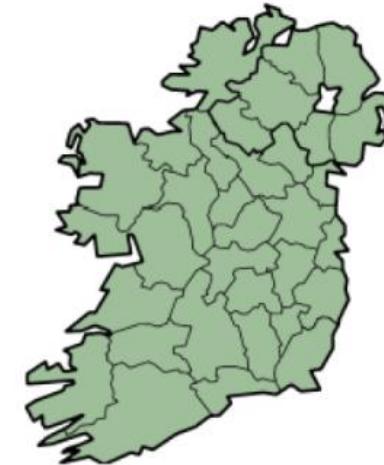
Water



Livelihoods

Scale

At catchment and national level



Peatland Finance Ireland

A multi-partner vehicle to deliver climate, water, biodiversity and livelihood impacts for Irish peatlands

Partners:



European
Investment
Bank



LANDSCAPE
FINANCE LAB



NATURAL
CAPITAL
IRELAND



IUCN
The World Conservation Union



Wetlands
INTERNATIONAL



An Roinn Tithiochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

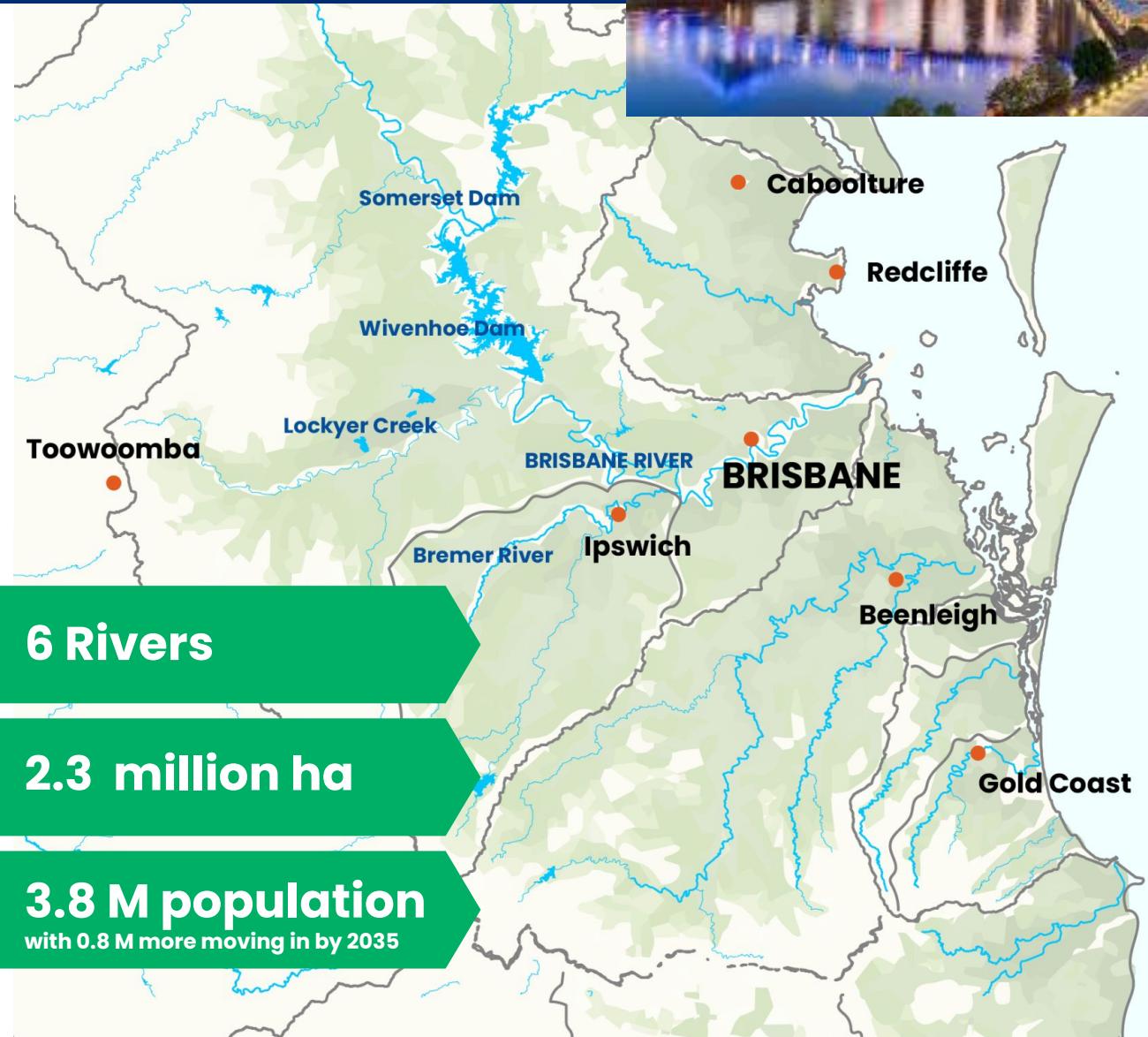
Coordination:

Brisbane Rivers

Nature based investment to reduce flood risk



- Global biodiversity hotspot
- Produces 20% of Australia's GDP
- Host for the 2032 Olympics
- Floods cost A\$7.8 B (€5 B) in 2022
- Engineering solutions are insufficient
- Investment platform to fund 600 km of river forest restoration



ENVestor

LANDSCAPE
FINANCE LAB

Healthy
land & water
Solutions Protecting Your World



Lago di Vico Lake Vico

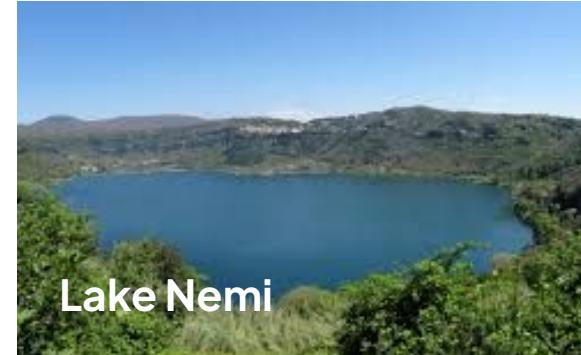


University of Tuscia team



REPLICATION

Volcanic Lakes of the Lazio Region



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