



A landscape approach to financing restoration in European lakes

ProCleanLakes Webinar
18 Nov 2025

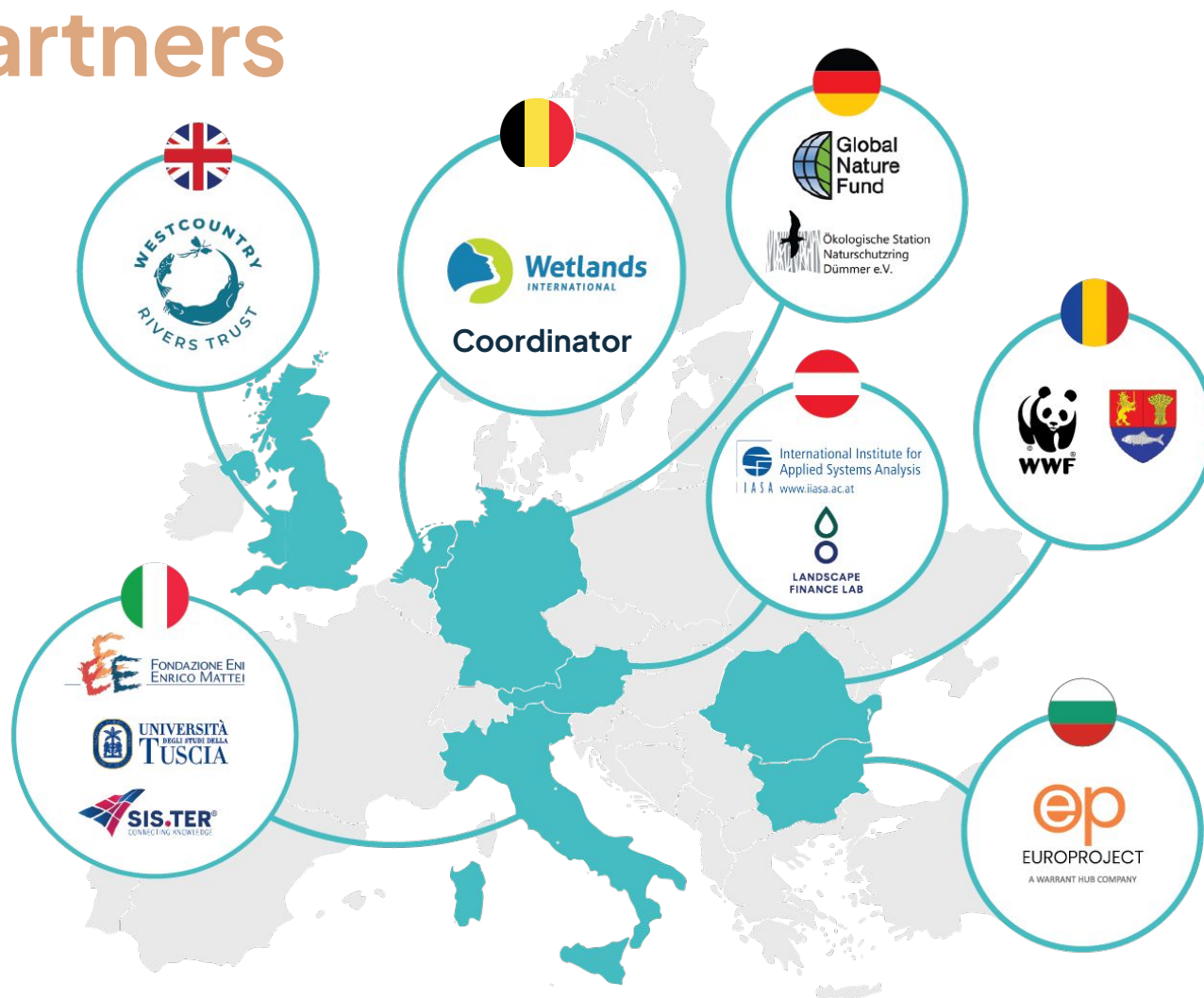


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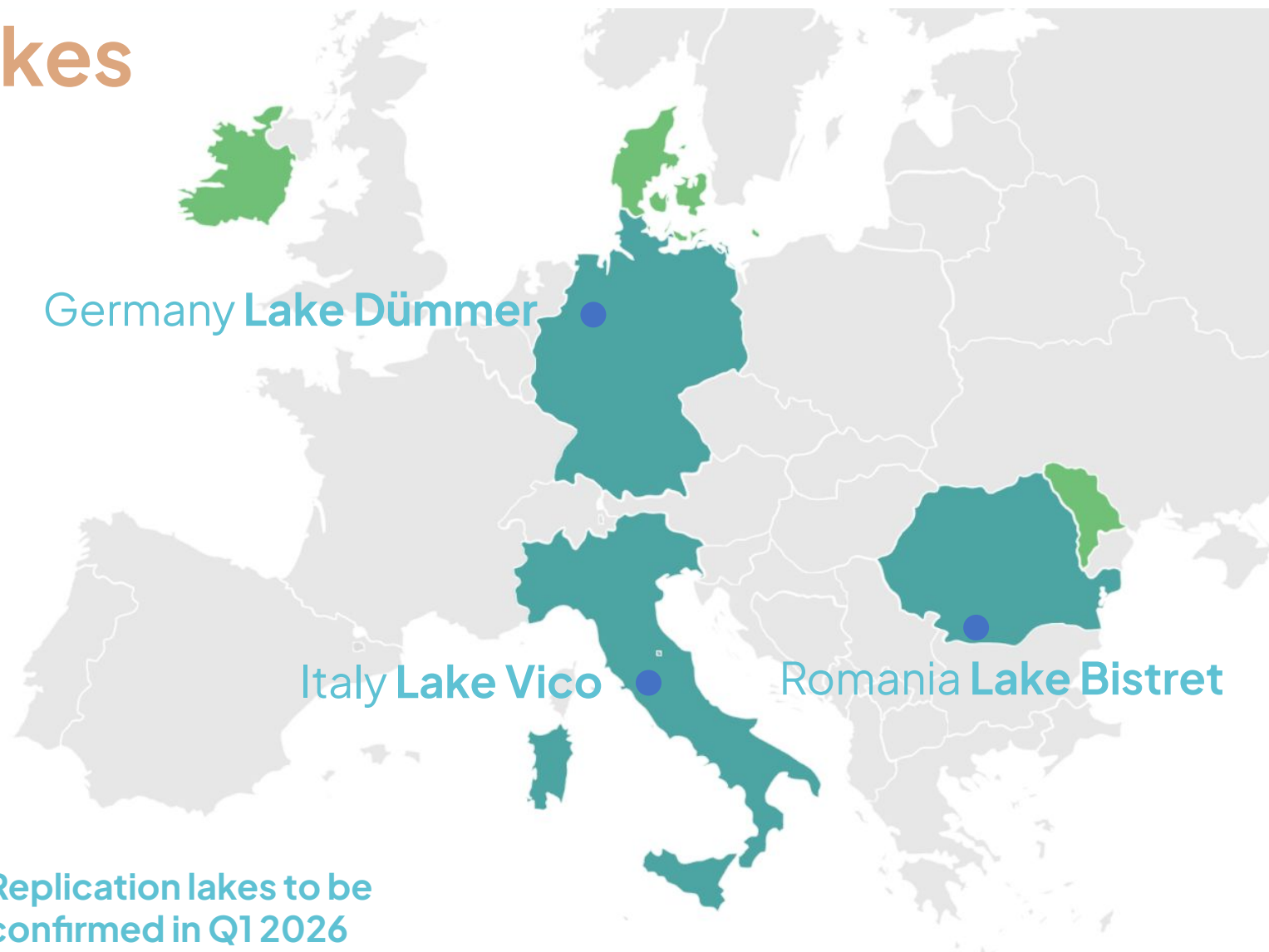
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13 Partners



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

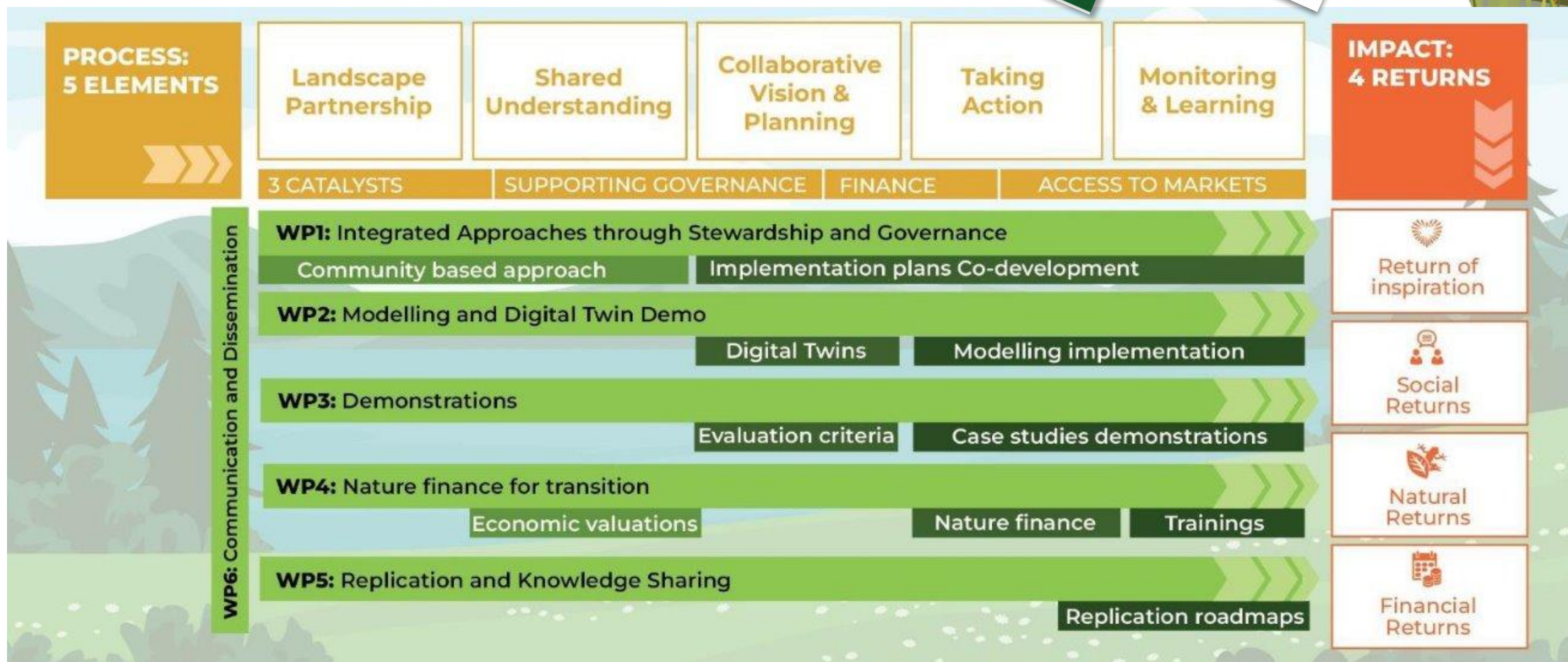
- a **science-based** approach
- aimed at **regenerating landscapes** and addressing the losses associated with land degradation.
- **delivers returns** to people, nature, communities, and businesses
- based on the **ecosystem approach** endorsed by COP5 of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in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

It focuses on creating four key returns:

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

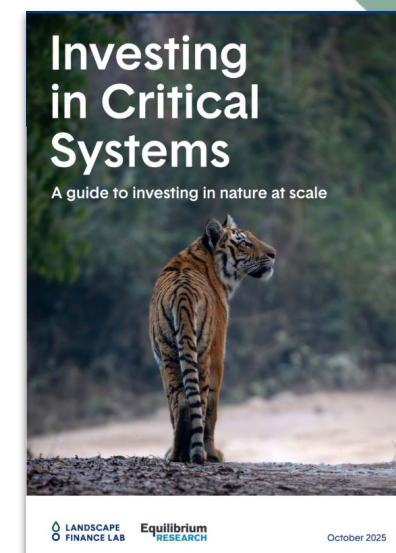
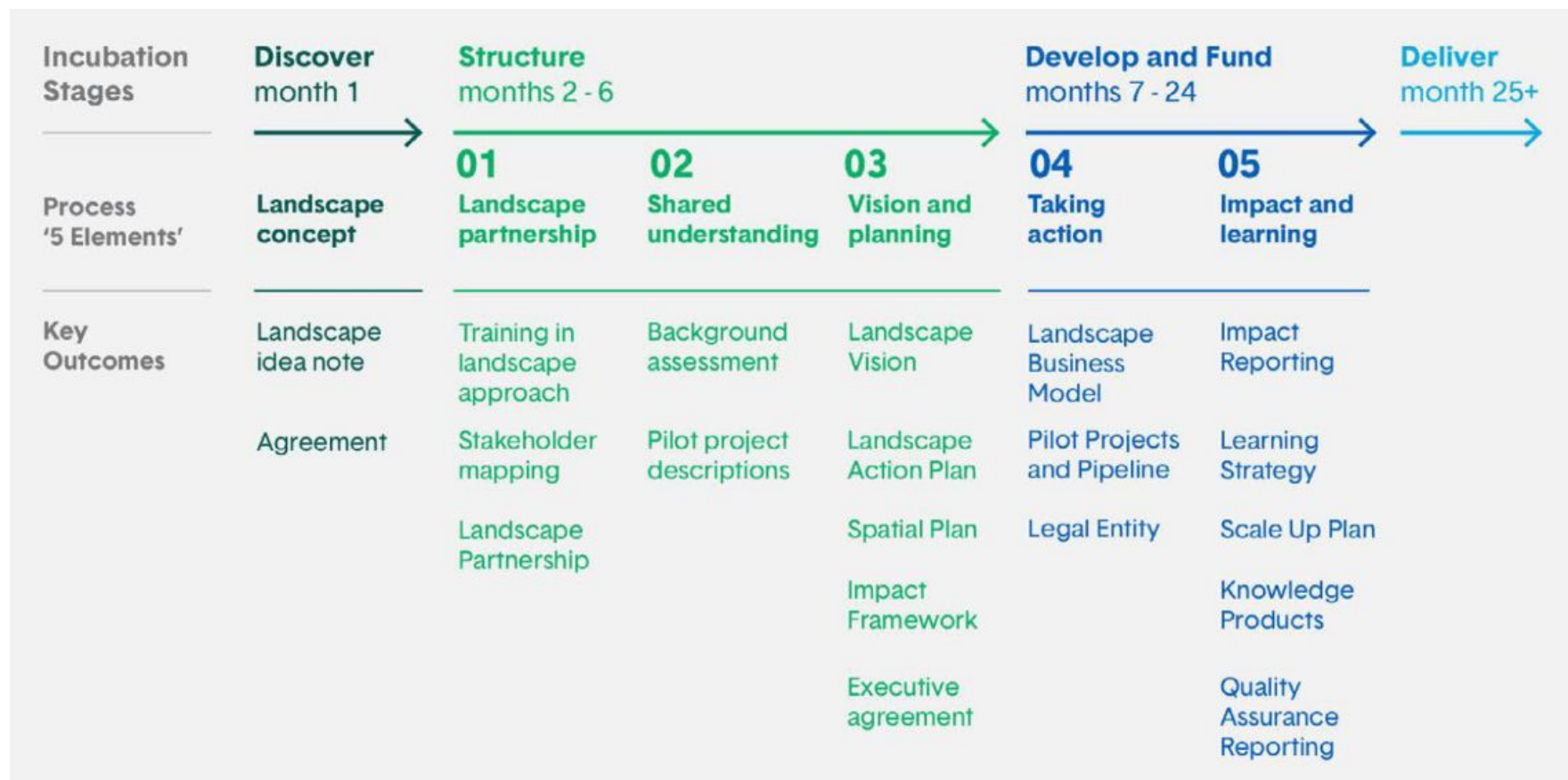


4 Returns Framework



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

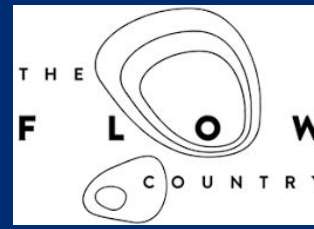
Australia Brisbane Rivers Landscape / ENVestor

- 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

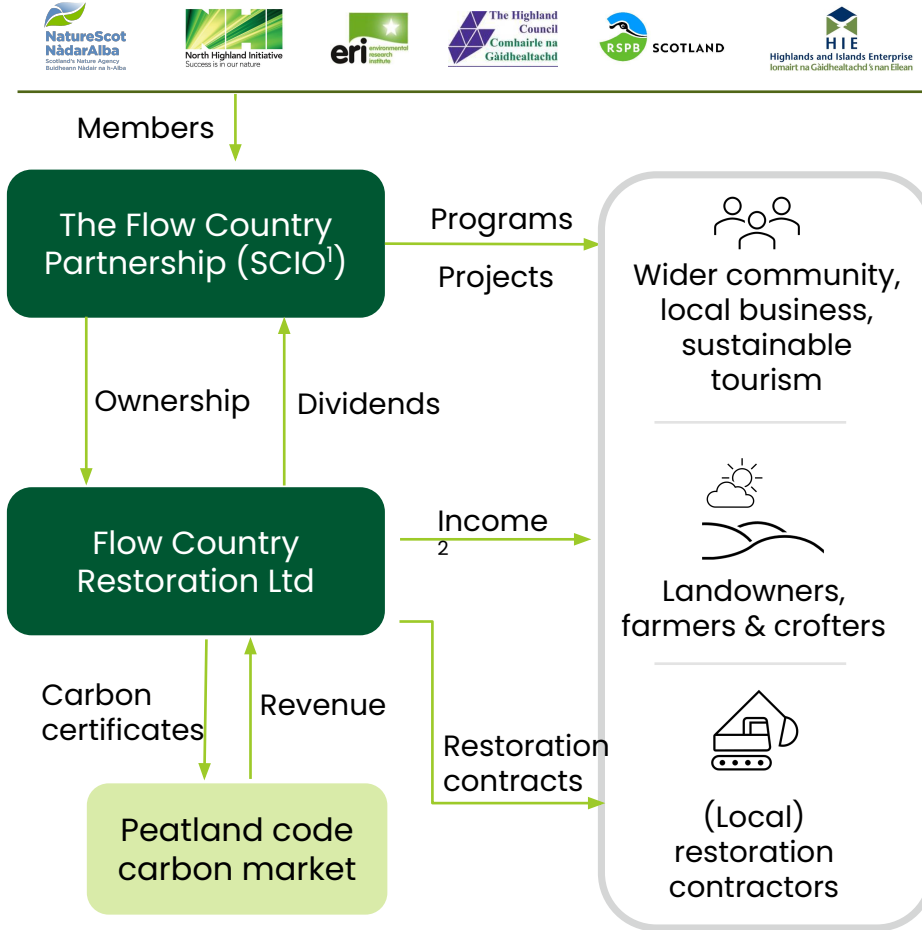


Features

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

Key Outcomes

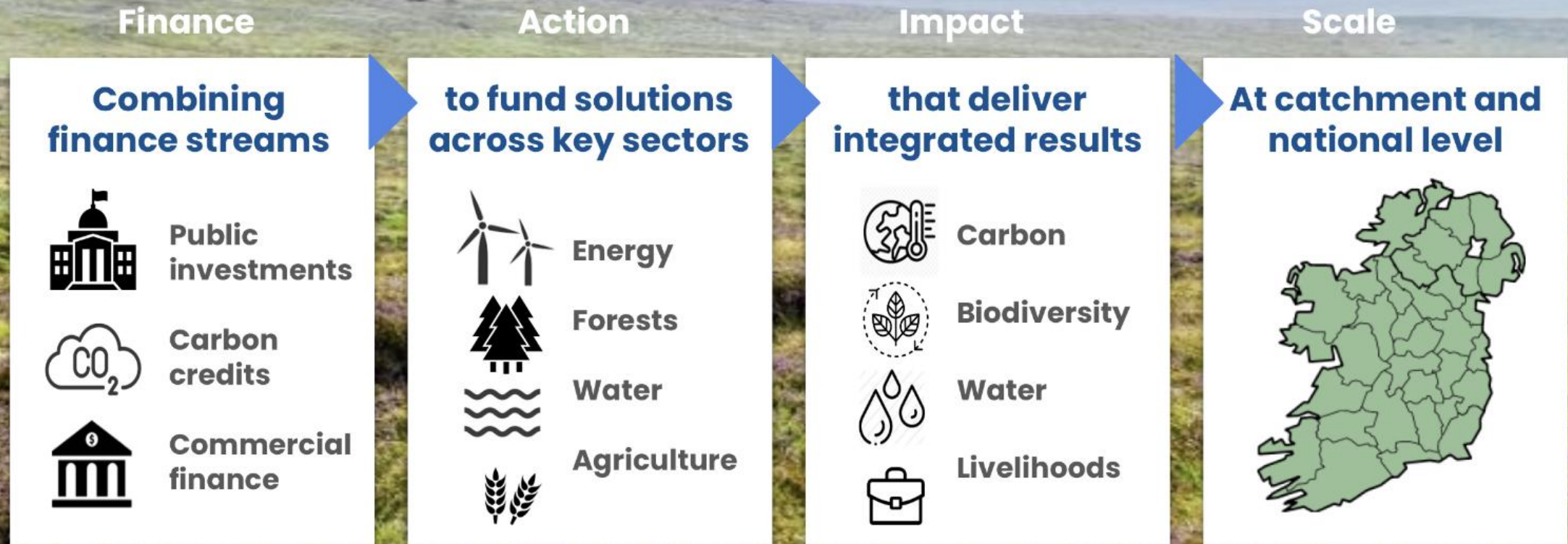
- 100% community owned with dividends for communities activities
- Large scale peatland restoration projects
- High value carbon certificates with co-benefits
- First natural World Heritage Site in UK



Peatland Finance Ireland

Investing in climate, biodiversity and community

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



**Peatland
Finance
Ireland**

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

Partners:



Coordination:

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

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



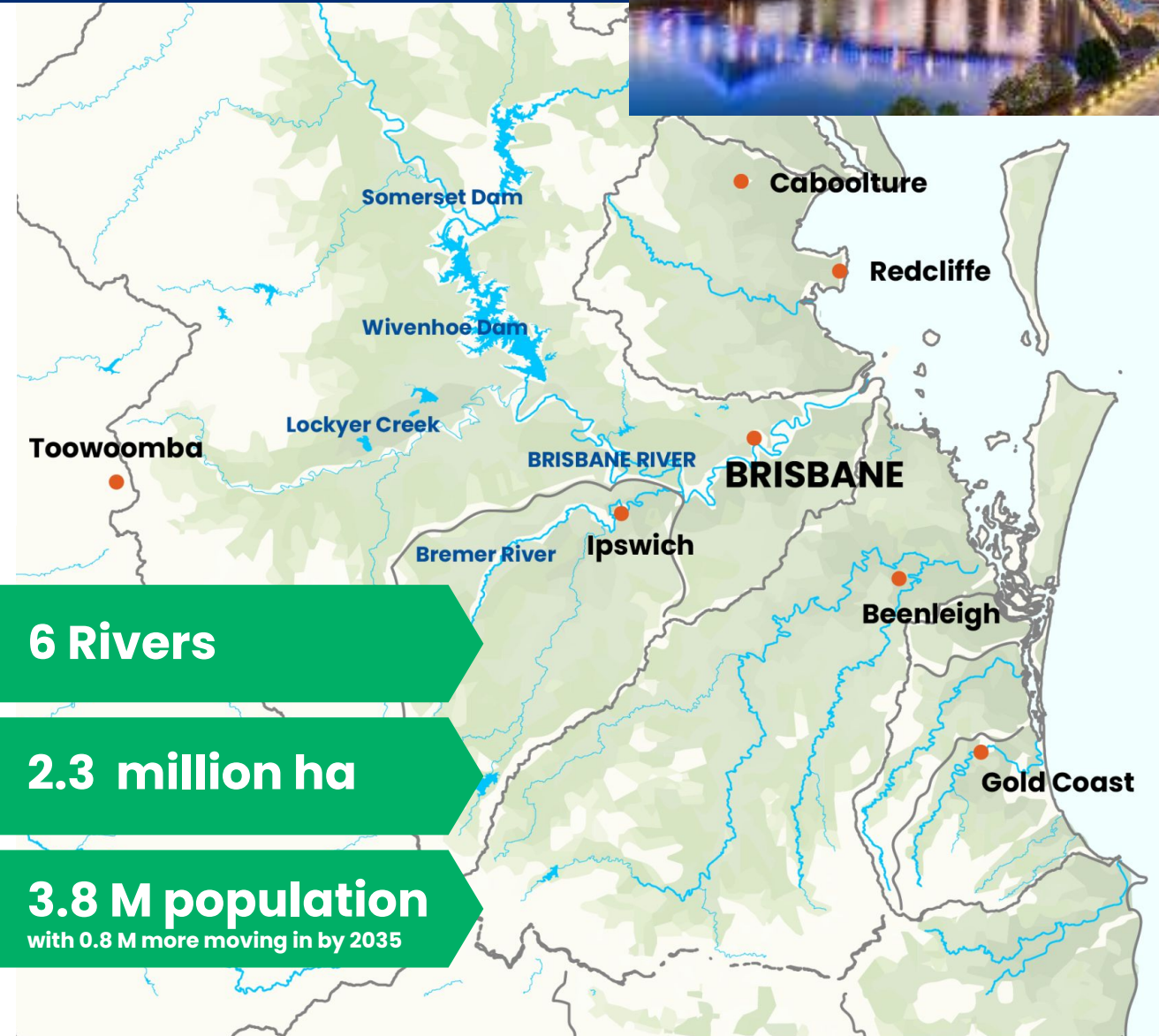
ENVestor



6 Rivers

2.3 million ha

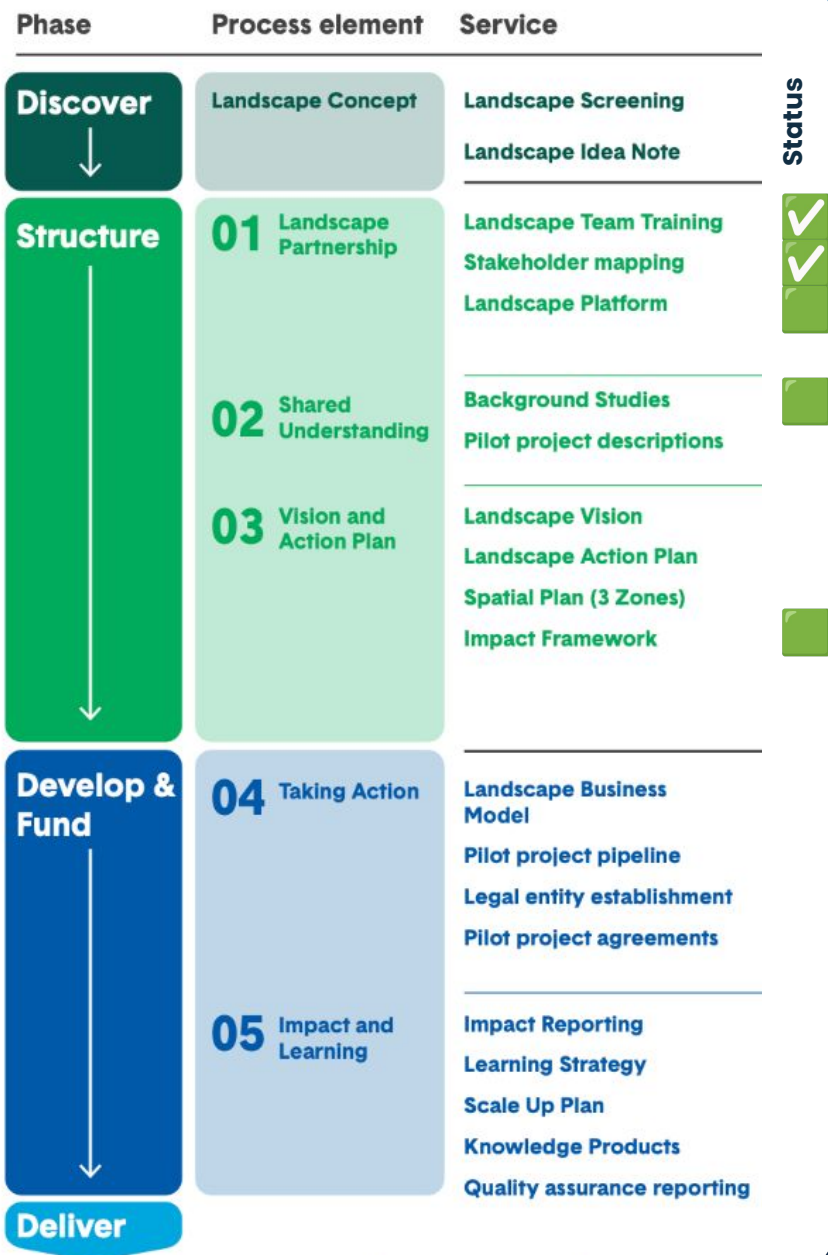
3.8 M population
with 0.8 M more moving in by 2035



Lago di Vico Lake Vico

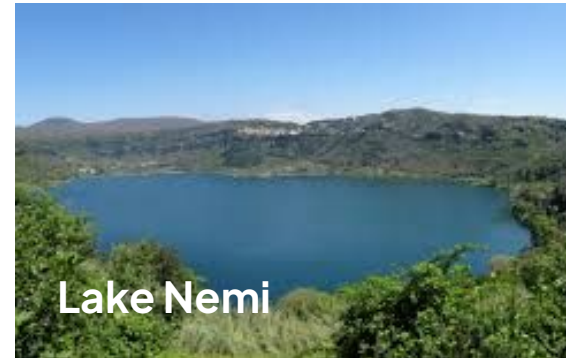


University of Tuscia team



REPLICATION

Volcanic Lakes of the Lazio Region



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