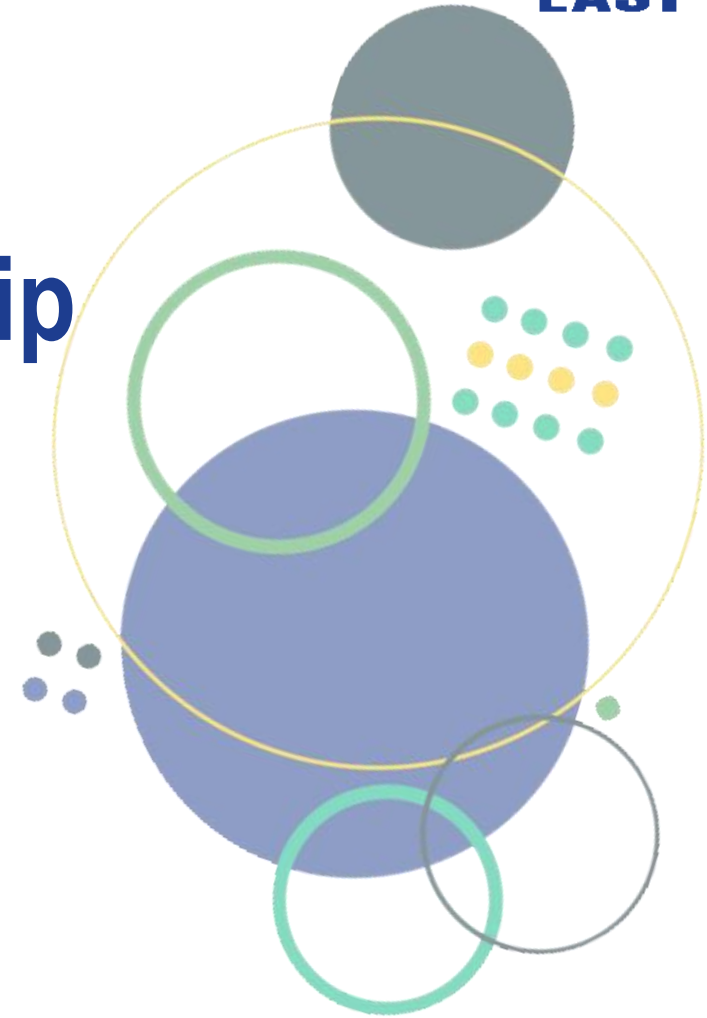


# Nature-based solutions for water management in the Eastern Partnership countries

EU Green Week partner-event

9 June 2026

Yannick Pochon, OiEau



# NbS in the EU4Green Recovery East programme



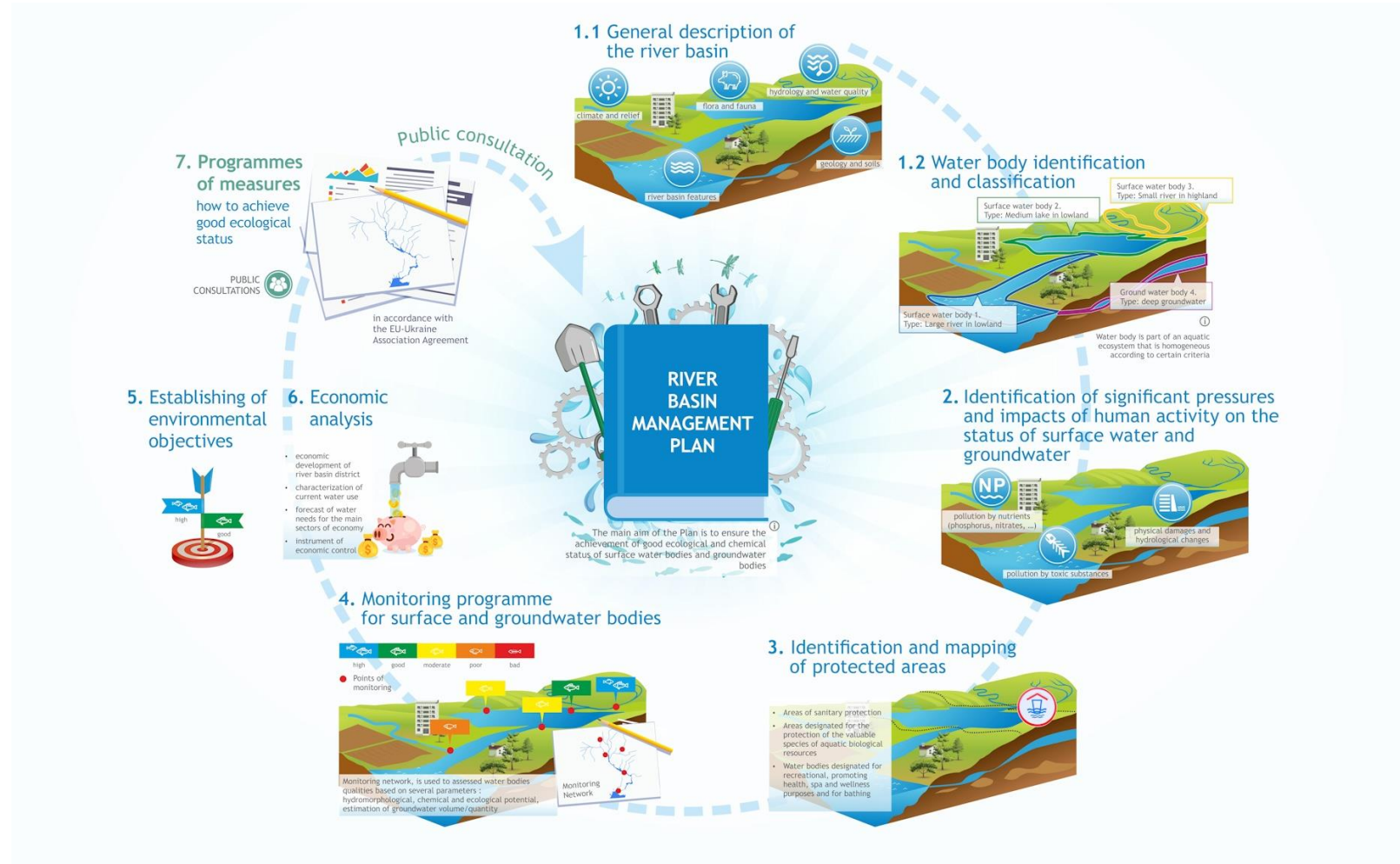
## FIVE PROGRAMME COMPONENTS FOR A GREENER FUTURE

- 1 Promote Circular Economy & Resource Efficiency.** Helping businesses adopt circular models to create new jobs, reduce costs, and decrease reliance on imports.
- 2 Protect Water Resources & Reduce Pollution.** Improving water quality through better management and monitoring to safeguard public and ecosystem health.
- 3 Align with EU Environmental Standards.** Supporting governments in aligning with EU environmental policies (Chapter 27 of the EU acquis).
- 4 Strengthen Environmental Data & Digitalisation.** Improving environmental data integration and sharing at country and EU level for better policy-making.
- 5 Enhance Transboundary Cooperation on Environmental Issues.** Encouraging regional collaboration on natural resources to promote sustainable environmental policies and practices, addressing cross-border pollution.

Implementing partners:

# The River Basin: The Relevant Scale

- Water ignores political boundaries. An isolated Nature-based Solution (NbS) remains vulnerable.
- Vital integration into River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) and Programmes of Measures (PoM).

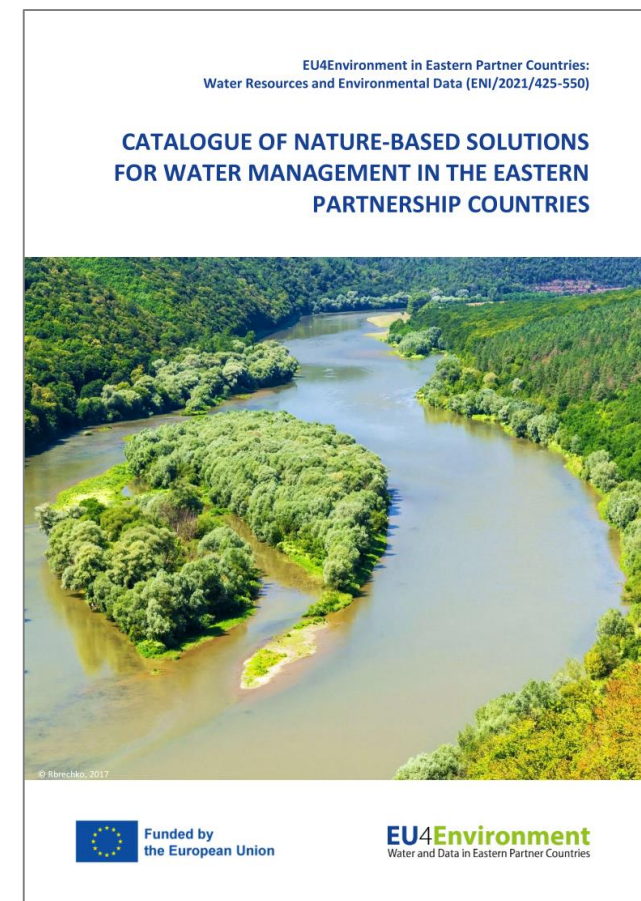


Implementing partners:

# Decision-Making Tool: Transforming Pressures into Solutions

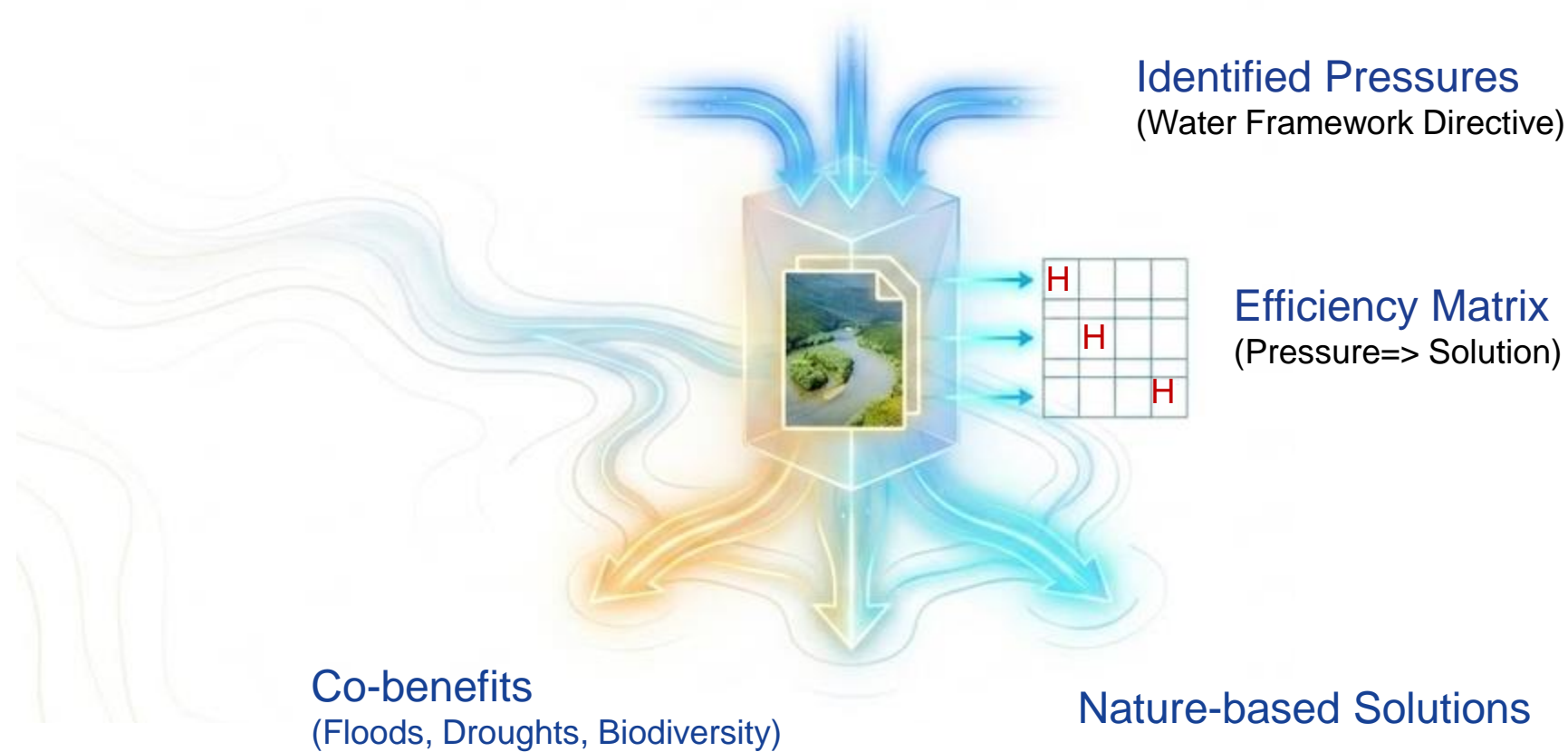
## The Catalogue of Nature-based Solutions for Water Management

- Ease the integration of Nature-based Solutions into Programmes of Measures (PoM)
- Decision support: what Nature-based Solutions are relevant?
- Description of measures to integrate them into Programmes of Measures (PoM)
- Access to further technical references for implementation



Implementing partners:

# The NbS catalogue



Implementing partners:

# Content of the catalogue

H: high effectiveness; M: moderate effectiveness.

Technical sheet	Effectiveness	Relevant nature-based solutions	Co-benefits			EU policies synergy
			Floods	Drought	Biodiversity	
<p><b>1.1 Urban wastewater</b>  <i>May or may not be included in the UWWT Directive. Includes discharges from non-manufacturing commercial areas that can largely be assimilated to urban wastewater. Includes discharges of raw or partially treated urban wastewater that are identified as point sources.</i></p>						
23	H	Constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment			M	M
<p><b>1.2 Storm overflows</b>  <i>Overflows from separated or combined sewers identified as point sources (for diffuse see 'Diffuse – Urban run-off' below).</i></p>						
15	H	Rainwater management public features	H	M	M	M
11	M	Greening of cities (green roofs, city gardens, etc.)	M		H	M
12	M	Raingardens	M	M		M
13	M	Forested parks	M	M	H	M
14	M	Permeable surfaces	M	M		M
18	M	Soil unsealing (removal of built structures)	M	M	M	M

Pressure & definition

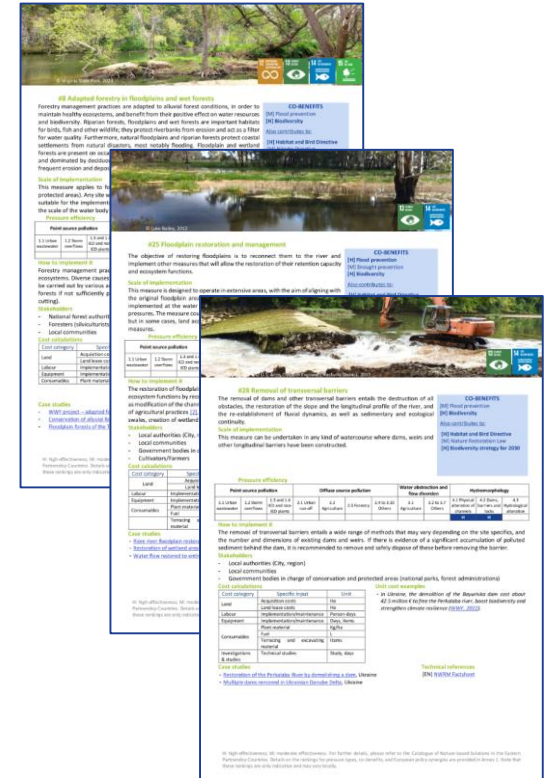
Name of the nbs

Co-benefits

Factsheet nb

Best Nbs

Other relevant Nbs



Implementing partners:

# Spotlight on Adapted Forestry

NbS #8 - Adapted forestry in floodplains and wet forests: Protecting and restoring occasionally or annually flooded sites



## #8 Adapted forestry in floodplains and wet forests

Forestry management practices are adapted to alluvial forest conditions, in order to maintain healthy ecosystems, and benefit from their positive effect on water resources and biodiversity. Riparian forests, floodplains and wet forests are important habitats for birds, fish and other wildlife; they protect riverbanks from erosion and act as a filter for water quality. Furthermore, natural floodplains and riparian forests protect coastal settlements from natural disasters, most notably flooding. Floodplain and wetland forests are present on occasionally or annually flooded sites along streams and rivers and dominated by deciduous trees tolerant of saturated soils, prolonged inundation, frequent erosion and deposition of sediment.

### Scale of implementation

This measure applies to forests (silviculture) and semi-natural areas (nature parks, protected areas). Any site where conventional forestry can be conducted is potentially suitable for the implementation of near-natural forestry. It must be implemented at the scale of the water body to prevent and mitigate pressures.

### Pressure efficiency

Point source pollution		Diffuse source pollution			Water abstraction and flow diversion			Hydromorphology			
1.1 Urban wastewater	1.2 Storm overflows	1.3 and 1.4 ED and non-ED plants	2.1 Urban run-off	2.2 Agriculture	2.3 Forestry	2.4 to 2.10 Others	2.1 Agriculture	2.2 to 2.7 Others	4.1 Physical alteration of channels	4.2 Dams, barriers and locks	4.3 Hydrological alteration
				M	M				H		M

### How to implement it

Forestry management practices in floodplains and wet forests entail measures aiming at protecting and restoring ecosystems. Diverse causes of threats require actions on different administrative, temporal and spatial levels and must be carried out by various actors. Conservation actions can be implemented to stop further degradation of the alluvial forests if not sufficiently protected (filling ditches, abandoning fields, reducing livestock grazing, prohibiting wood cutting).

### Stakeholders

- National forest authorities
- Foresters (silviculturists)
- Local communities

### Cost calculations

Cost category	Specific input	Unit
Land	Acquisition costs	Ha
	Land lease costs	Ha
Labour	Implementation/maintenance	Person-days
	Equipment	Implementation/maintenance
Consumables	Plant material	Kg/ha

### Case studies

- WWF project – adapted forestry, Ukraine
- Conservation of alluvial forests, Kuria River, Azerbaijan
- Floodplain forests of the Transcarpathia, Ukraine

### CO-BENEFITS

- [M] Flood prevention
  - [H] Biodiversity
- Also contributes to:
- [H] Habitat and Bird Directive
  - [M] Nitrate Directive
  - [M] Nature Restoration Law
  - [H] Biodiversity strategy for 2030
  - [H] Forest Strategy for 2030



Georgia case: Restoring the natural ecosystem of floodplain forests by clearing the area in the Chiauri area, Georgia, to allow indigenous species better access to light



Ukraine case studies: WWF project on adapted forestry and the floodplain forests of the Transcarpathia



H: high effectiveness; M: moderate effectiveness. For further details, please refer to the Catalogue of Nature-based Solutions in the Eastern Partnership Countries. Details on the rankings for pressure types, co-benefits, and European policy synergies are provided in Annex 1. Note that these rankings are only indicative and may vary locally.

### Implementing partners:

# EU4GRE: from NBS planning to implementation

- Beyond planning is design, implementation, monitoring and sustaining of NbS in the long term
- Multiple challenges arise:
  - Engage stakeholders
  - Take into account NbS consequences
  - Secure NbS benefits on the longer term (maintenance, other policies, external factors)
  - Integration to policies and governance framework
  - Long term monitoring, data and knowledge sharing

*Implementing partners:*



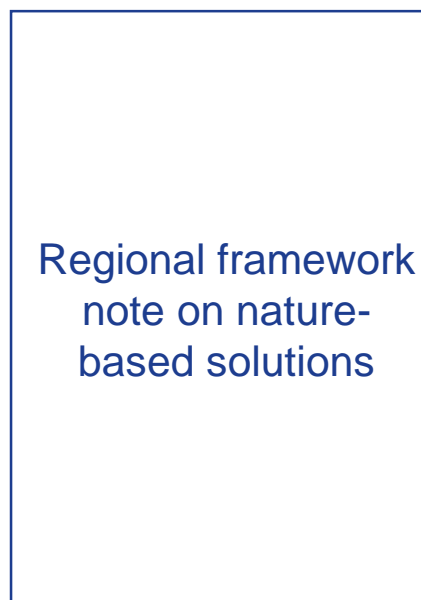
# EU4GRE: from planning to implementation



Adaptation to EaP countries and  
RBMPs/PoM context

Alignement with EU legislation

Consistency with the NbS catalogue



- To be used as:
- Chronological roadmap
  - Practical guidance
  - To do list
  - ...



Implementing partners:



# Common barriers to NbS economic viability

## Market dynamics and investment attractiveness

- Financial institutions struggle with smaller size of NbS projects
- Goals of financial institutions (return on investment) not necessarily aligned with NbS projects, resulting in a lack of private investment and difficulty in attracting conventional investors.

## Lack of capacity and familiarity with NbS business models

- Lenders are not familiar with NbS business models
- Project proponents not equipped to make the case to access finance
- Challenges with valuing co-benefits and avoided costs
- Uncertainty around performance and evolution over time

## Policy and regulatory environments that default to grey infrastructure

- Regulatory requirements and building standards are for grey infrastructure - established engineering standards, financing models, familiar risk allocation for investors and utilities
- Even when NbS are possible, grey is the default

## Available financial resources

- Domestic financial resources for NbS are often insufficient, fragmented and not consistently outcome-based
- IFIs critical source of finance but may struggle to find bankable projects to invest in

Implementing partners:



# Links

## Catalogue of NBS

<https://eu4waterdata.eu/en/resource-library-hidden/56-eap-region-3/378-catalogue-of-nature-based-solutions-for-water-management-in-the-eastern-partnership-countries.html>

## EUGreenweek 2026 – EU4GRE Partner event NBS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ak1Uj9un53c>

## Workshop on NBS

<https://eu4waterdata.eu/en/blog-news/54-eap-region/395-new-catalogue-of-nature-based-solutions-for-improved-water-management-in-eastern-partnership-countries.html>

Implementing partners:





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# Thank you for your attention

*Implementing partners:*

