



Ireland's RBaPS journey over the last 20 years

LIFE Platform Meeting: Agriculture for the Benefit of Biodiversity
How can results-based payment schemes address the biodiversity crisis?

Leuven, Belgium – 9th to 11th October 2024

Ollscoil
Teicneolaíochta
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic
Technological
University

Mayo

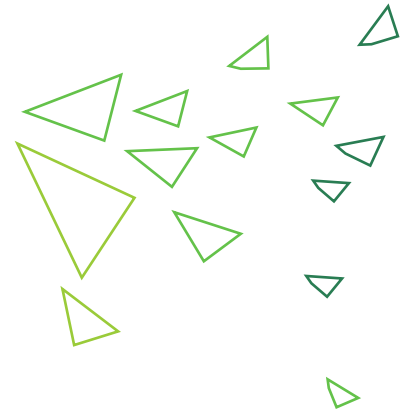
CC CENTRE
Climate
Biodiversity
Water



Dr. James Moran (ATU)

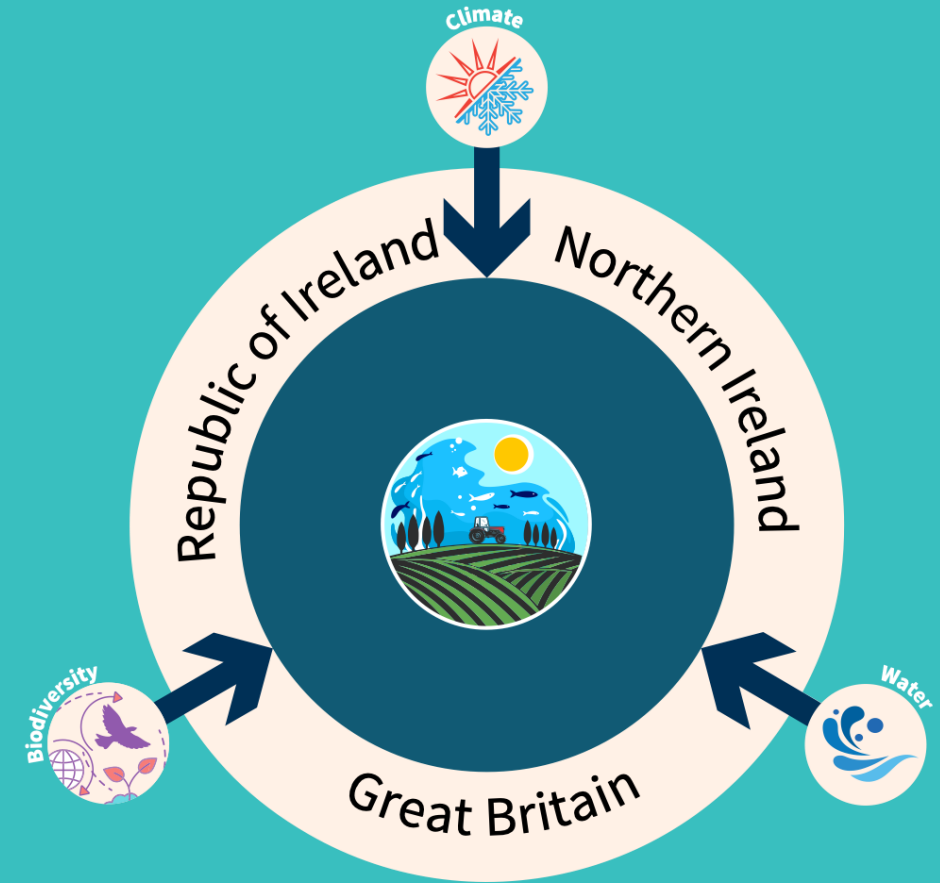
Agroecology and Rural Development Research Group

Outline



- 20 year development pathway: From pilot to wider up-take and out-scaling
- Merging of ideas from broad range of AECM
- Challenges and Solutions for scaling

- €41.3M over 6 years with 30% co-funding from industry
- Urgent need for evidence-based climate action integrated with biodiversity and water
- Policy Response Unit
 - Supported by the Sunflower Charitable Foundation through Community Foundation Ireland



HOST INSTITUTIONS



PARTNER INSTITUTIONS



FUNDED BY:



Progress to date: work of range of project teams and partners



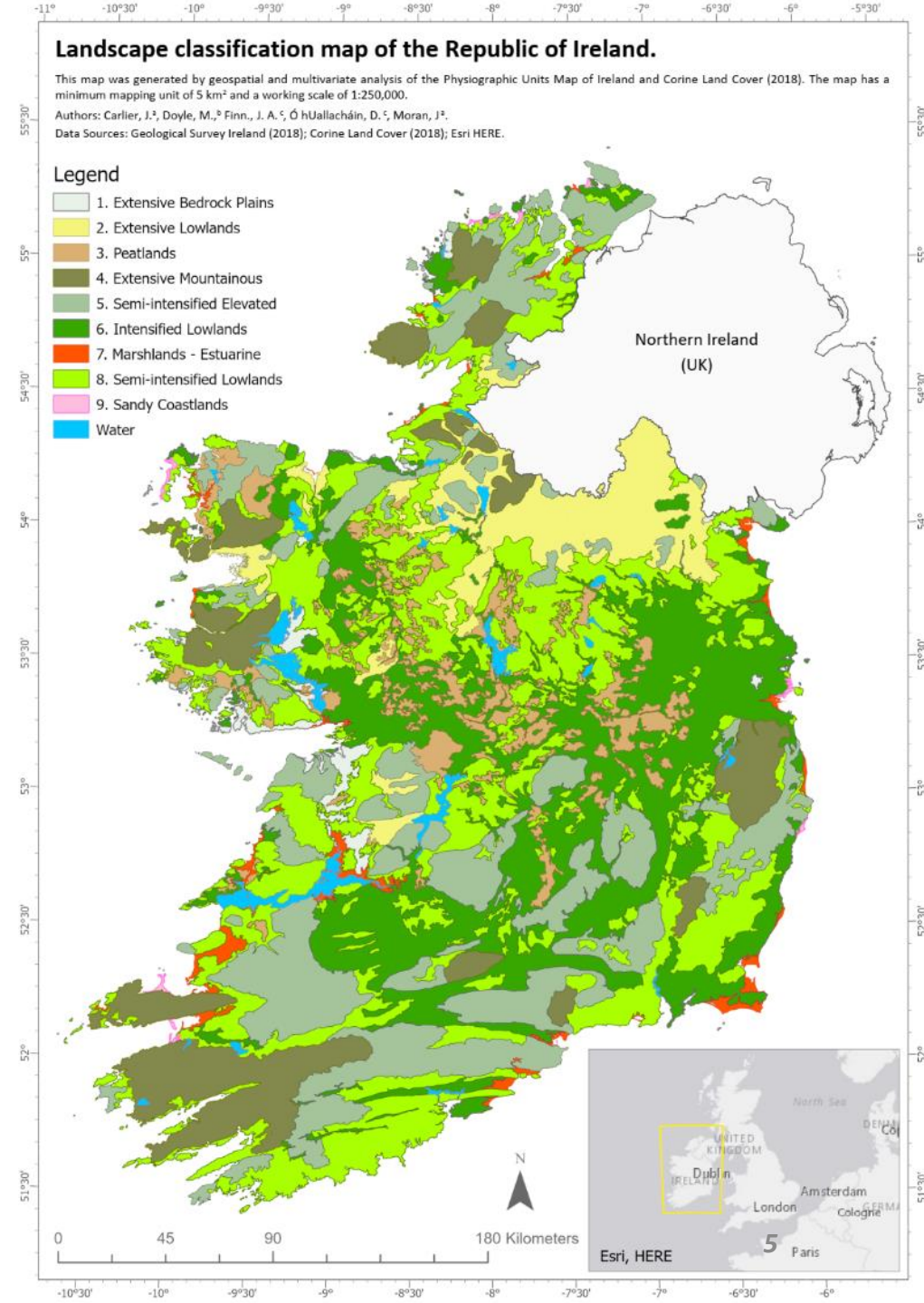
Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Finding solutions to some of the most challenging agri-environment priorities in the country.

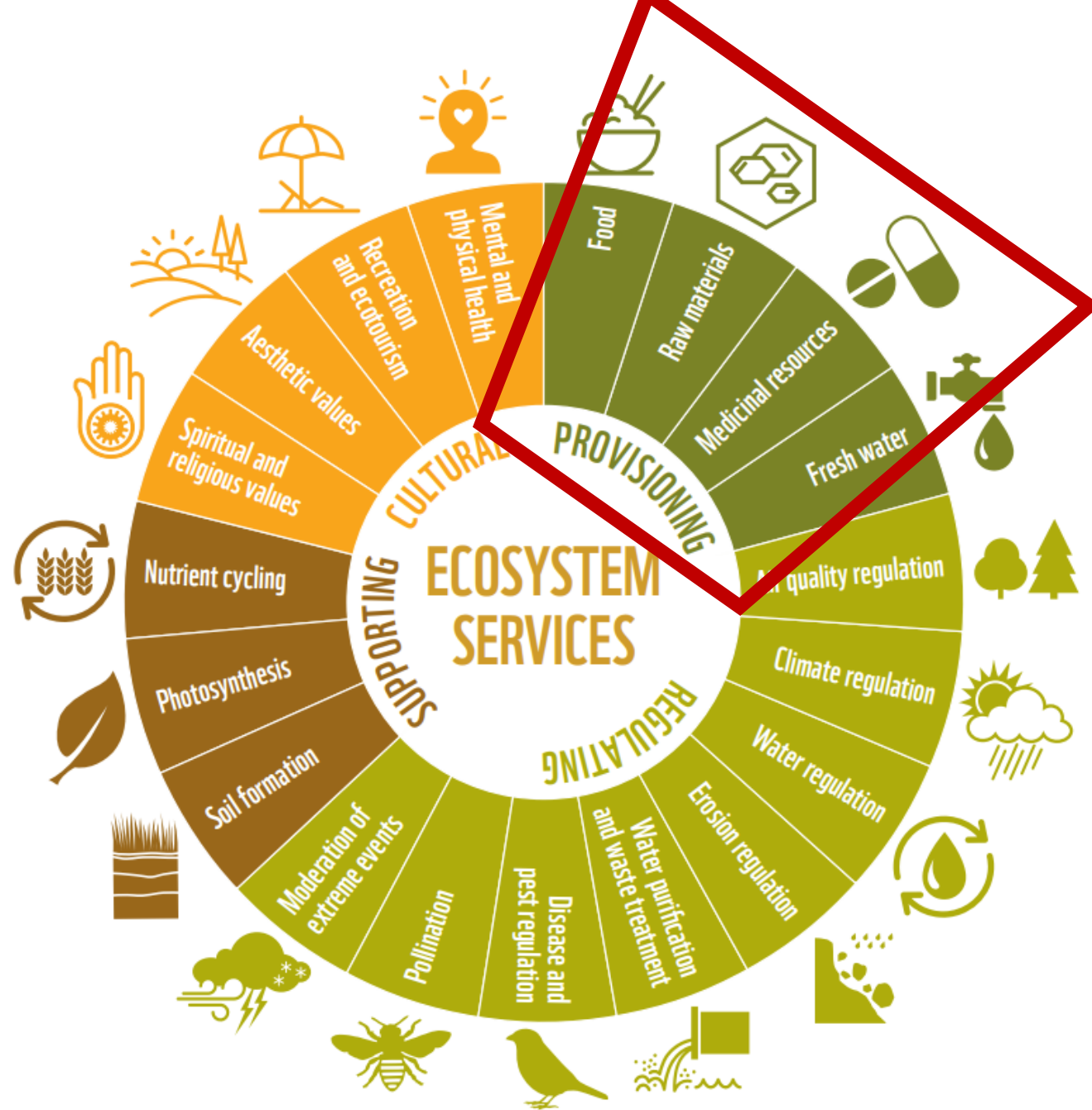
Landscape Diversity

- Broad landscape classification of the country; 9 landscape classes
- Range from intensified lowlands to extensive mountainous areas
- Characterised by difference in geology, soils, climatic variation and land cover with a wide range in land use capacity.
- All land cannot be all things to all people!
- Socio-cultural and landscape diversity much greater at EU level
- One size does not fit all!



Diverse land base -provides range of Ecosystem Services

- Diversity of Irish farmed landscapes
- Need to provide range of goods and services
- Under supply of non-market ecosystem services/public goods



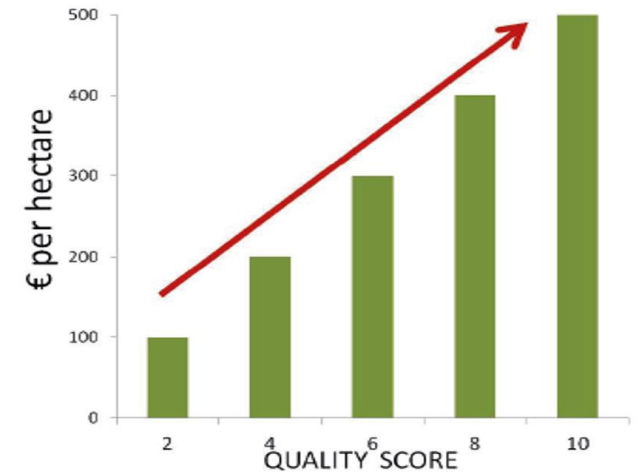
Locally Adapted Results-Based Approach

Biodiversity +

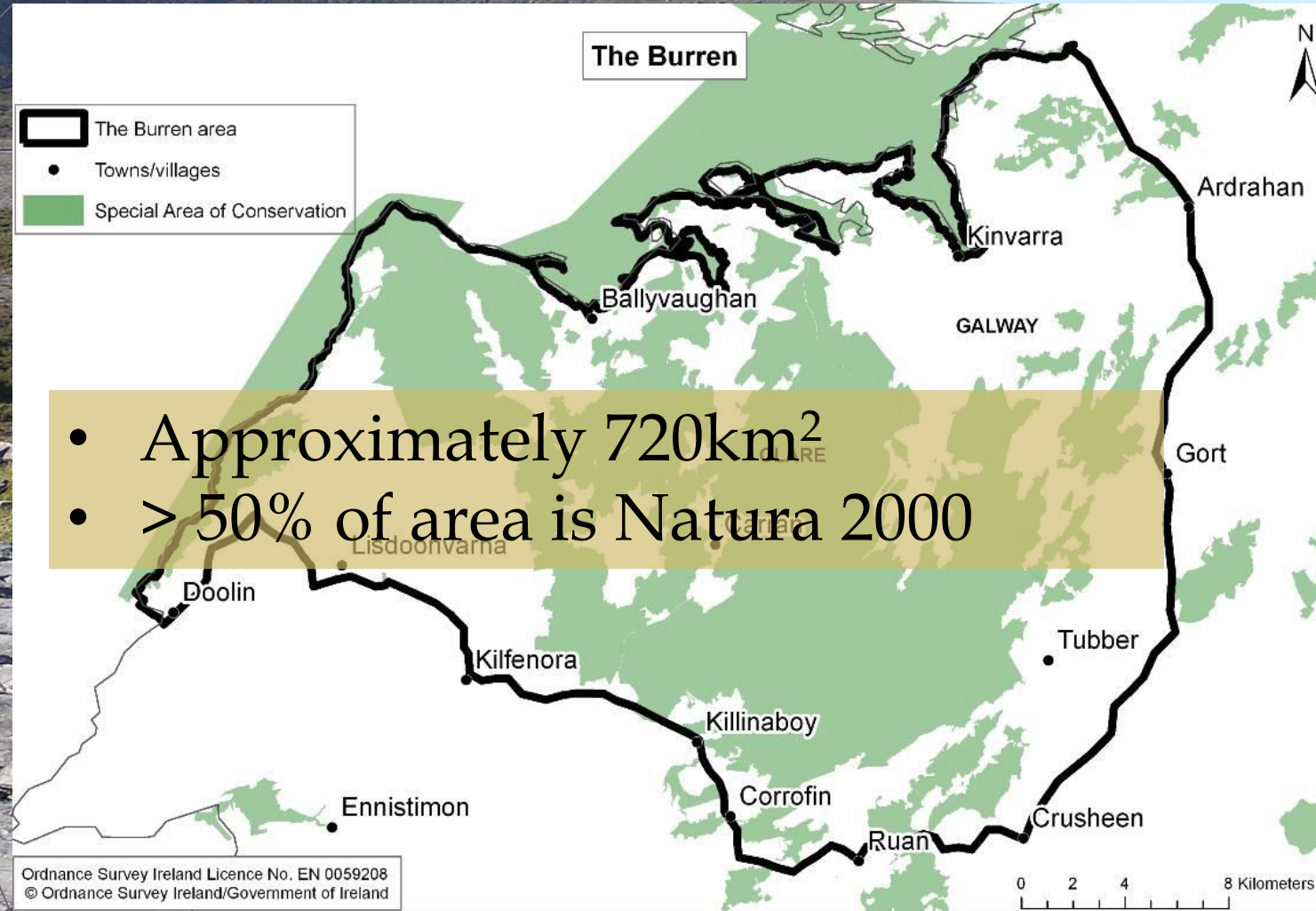
Associated Ecosystem Services

e.g. habitat quality, water, soil
carbon, pollination

Higher Nature Quality = Higher Payment



The Burren Beginning: Early 2000s



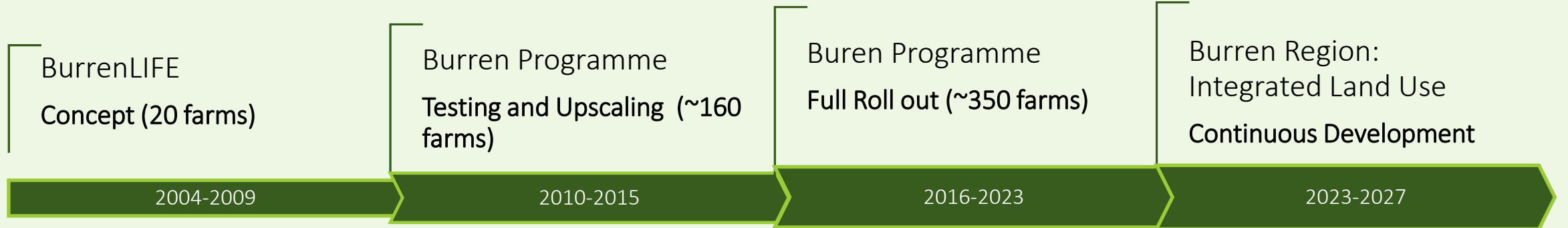
High Nature Value Ireland Programme (Heritage Council and EFNCP)



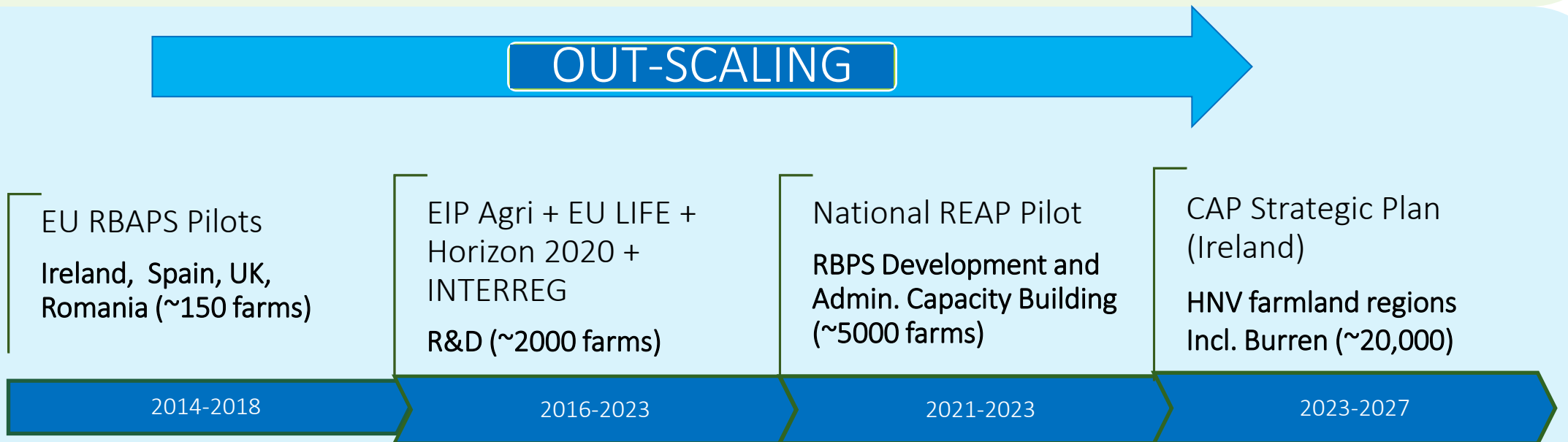
- **Seed funding** for initiatives on HNV farmland and improvement of agri-env policy over 20 years
- **Awareness raising; Networking and capacity building**
- **Policy and advocacy work**
- **Developing the CSP 2023-2027: Farming For Nature Technical Group 2020-2021**
- **EFNCP - LIFE operating grant** in earlier years



UP-SCALING



OUT-SCALING



Stepping stones to out-scaling



- EU RBAPS (2014-2018)
- 2016 DAFM EIPs (*10 testing RBP*)
- Key role of 2 large EIP projects (€35M)
- Innovation: local adaptation for multiple targets (nature, water, climate); administrative efficiencies-mobile apps
- Capacity building in preparation for out-scaling (incremental approach)
- Supporting Research:



General Scorecard Structure

Ecological Integrity (Positive plant indicators and vegetation/indicators of ecosystem structure important for specific target taxa)

Ecological Integrity (Negative Plant Indicators e.g. non-native invasive species)

Soil Integrity e.g. % bare soil, erosion

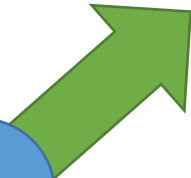
Hydrological Integrity e.g. water features and drainage system near natural to highly modified

Damaging activities e.g. burning, feed site damage, dumping, evidence of inappropriate herbicide/pesticide use

Incentivising and rewarding provision of multiple ecosystem services

10 Scorecards:
Peatland,
Grassland,
Woodland/Scrub

Evidence Base



More than just a scheme!



Head

(Understandable to farmer; accompanied by supports to deliver results)



Heart

(Farmers proud of what they are producing and recognised by wider society; "Better" farmer)



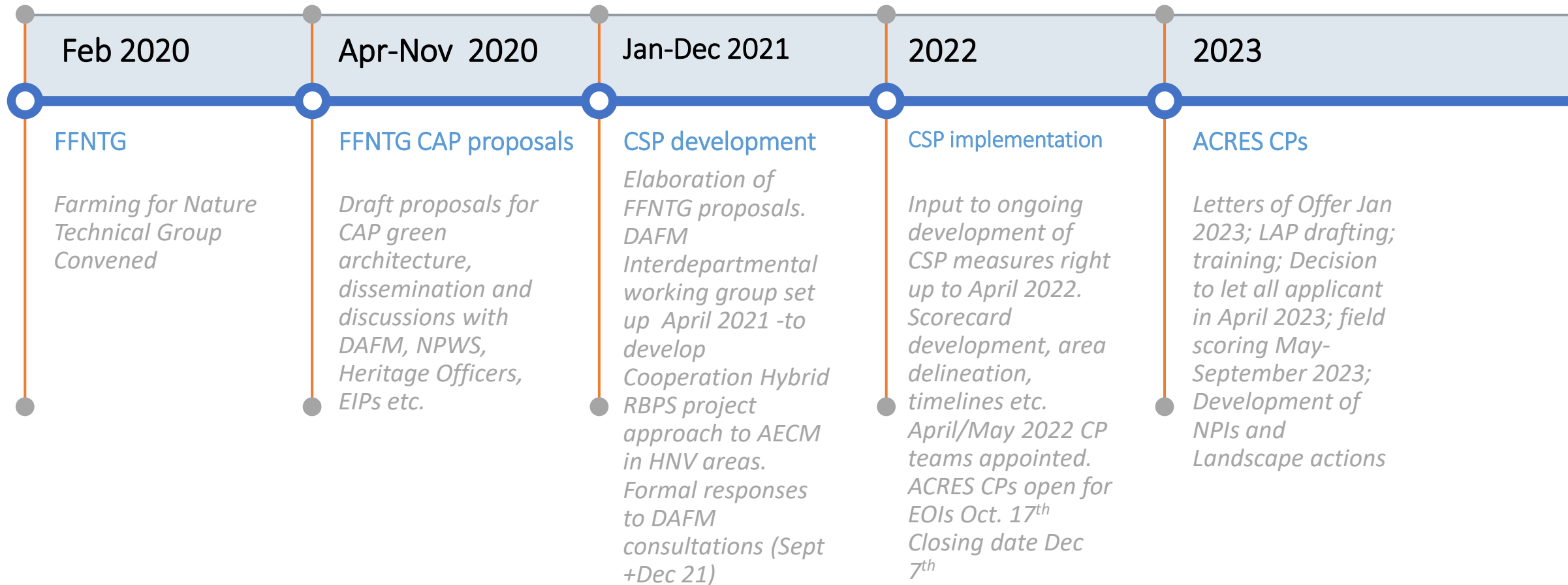
Pocket

(Paying farmers for environmental services; makes business sense)

Designed to appeal to farmers on number of levels

Farming for Nature Technical Group Scaling: Development Timeline

Key dates in development 2020-2023



HNV Ireland Programme CSP Proposals FFN TG: Feb 2020- Dec 2021




FFN TG

Chair: James Moran

- Policy design
- Regular meetings Feb 2020-Apr 2021
- Stream B proposals – set of AEC measures and local co-operation supporting implementation measure
- Interaction with Stream A National AEC measures
- Eco-schemes
- Eligibility and baseline conditionality
- Developed proposals on CSP green architecture

Output = developed policy proposals for CSP green architecture



EIP Farm & Env group

Facilitator: Patrick McGurn

- An informal grouping of EIP managers/nominees that meet on regular basis to share experience.
- Sub-group to be set up to outline emerging questions/solutions of relevance to roll out in CSP and learnings from EIP
- Recommendations for lessons learnt from EIPs for CSP
- Interaction with FFN TG on developing policy framework

Output = sharing experience/knowledge; feedback on lessons learnt for CSP



Wider engagement

- LAWPRO
- ASSAP
- WAN LIFE IP
- DAFM
- NPWS
- CAP consultative committee
- CAP4Nature scientist group
- Heritage Officer Network
- Waters of LIFE IP

Output = increased awareness of FFN TG green architecture policy proposals/sharing ideas/feedback to FFN TG

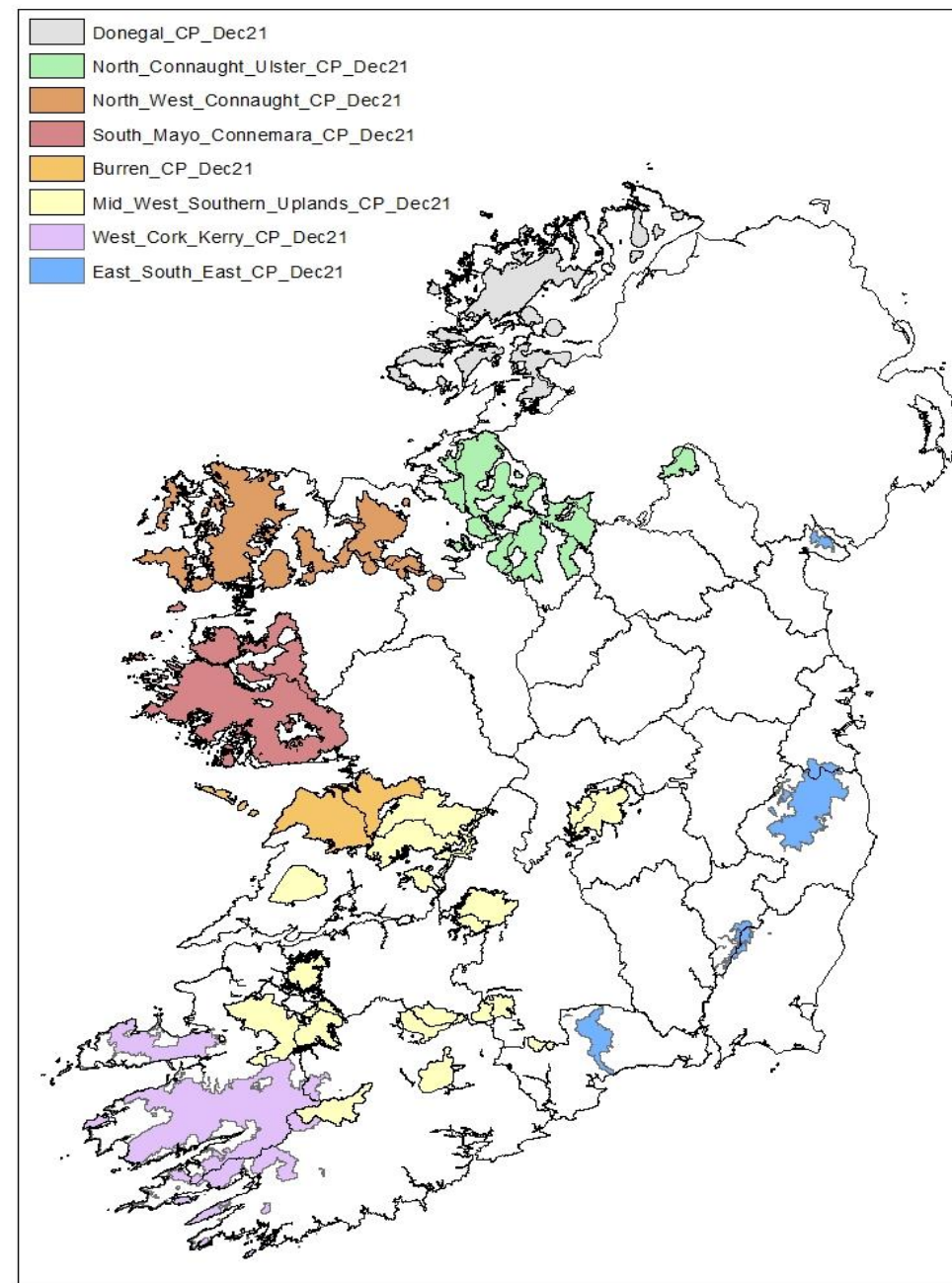
DAFM interdepartmental working group April 2021. Intensive work on development and elaboration of a hybrid results-based framework, locally adapted and aimed at national environmental priorities, up to submission of CSP in Jan. 2022 and appointment of CP Teams April 2022. Key support role WANLIFE (moving RBP action forward to start of LIFE IP), Water of LIFE IP – next generation RBaPS for water

Hybrid Results Based and Locally Adapted Model



Agri-environment co-operation project areas

- AECM (agri-environment climate measure)
 - General Measure (similar to previous national scheme)
 - Cooperation Measure (targeted at high environment priority areas- see map coloured areas; areas with high proportion of designated nature areas under EU legislation plus high status water catchments identified under the water framework directive)
- 8 local area plans: diagnosis and action plan that adapts the overall measure framework to the local context (one size does not fit all recognised in proposal of this measure)
- Specialist Cooperation Project teams
- Design based on lessons learnt from previous European Innovation Partnership projects & LIFE programme
- Hybrid RBPS model
- Specialist advisory support
- Investments in supporting actions and landscape actions
- Potential big break through in rewarding delivery for nature, carbon and water services from our land
- Some issues unresolved/emerging challenges



Source: Dept. of Agriculture Food and the Marine

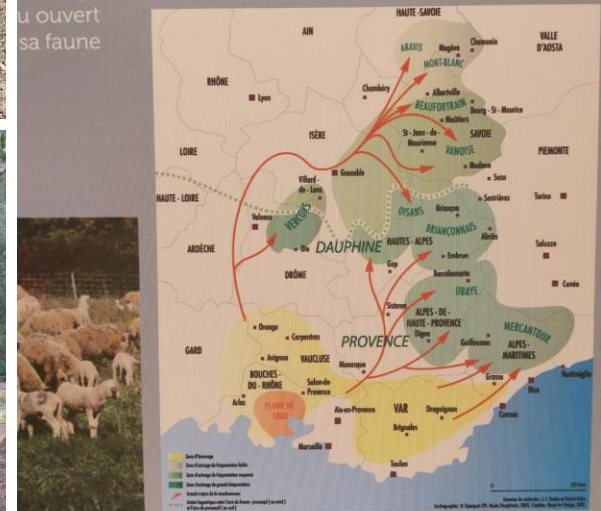
Where did the Cooperation Project element come from?

- Knowledge of proposed CAP Cooperation Article 77 which includes EIPs
- Building on cooperation and partnership elements of various Irish EIPs e.g. commonages and wider issues of governance and broader management
- EFNCP knowledge of operation of French RDP measures 2017-2022 using a “territorial” or place-adapted approach
- Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes RDP – Auvergne, Ardèche département example (~county scale)
 - Territorial Pastoral Plan bringing together partnership of relevant bodies and utilising range of other RDP measures
 - Essentially Local Development Strategies for pastoral areas involving diagnosis (identifying challenges and solutions) and action planning



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e pâtu-
l'ouver-
garde des

rmet de
ne. Mais
pâturage
ou ouvert
sa faune



Les grands sites d'estivage des troupeaux transhumants provençaux © Maison de la Transhumance

Successful Design to Effective and Feasible Implementation (*Well designed car should be simple to drive*)

- **Design, test and trial**
- **Common design approach** across diverse agricultural sub-catchments possible with **local adaptation**
- **RBaPS needs specific objectives, quantifiable and reliable indicators, targets and thresholds of performance**
- **Results-based** and **action-based** not either/or choice
- **Local area diagnosis and action plans (living plans)** mechanism to ensure “right measure in right place”
- Guidance and training for **integrated local farm advisory systems** (peer to peer; technical and specialist support; use of online technology)
- Key role of **specialist support teams**
- **Institutional and administrative innovation requirements** (financing, administration, monitoring, verification and payments systems)
- **Use of technology** for greater **efficiencies**
- **Capacity and trust building across all stakeholders**

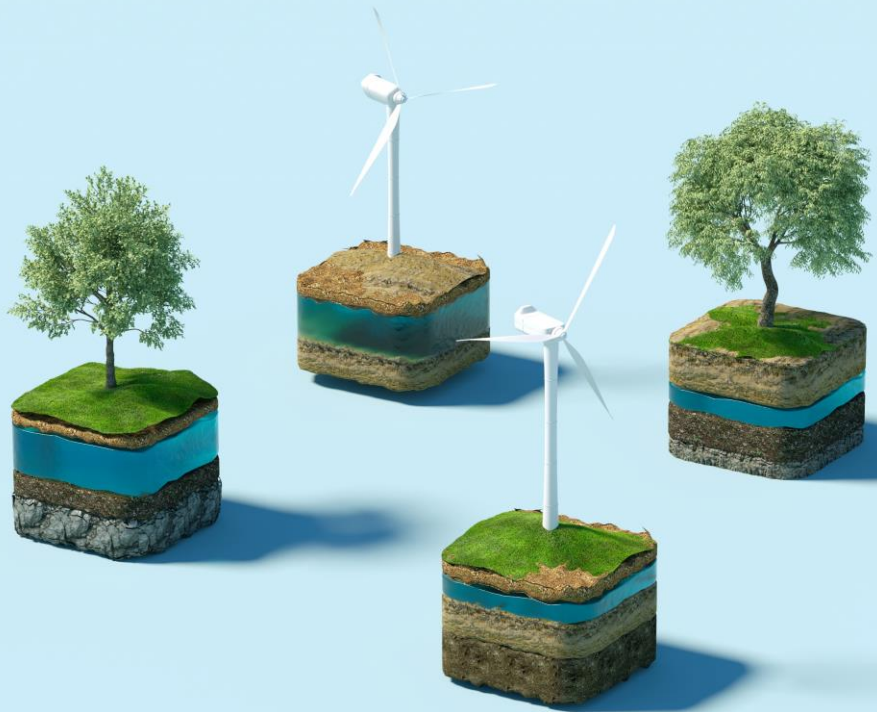




Emerging Challenges and Potential Solutions/ Recommendations

- Payment structure (capping, organics, incentivising improvement? etc.)
- Balance of enforcement of baseline regulation and incentivising higher achievement
- Enabling local adaptability within a centralised administrative framework
- Incorporating RBPS into existing governance structures, administrative and IT systems
- Payment, supporting and landscape action delays leading to erosion of trust
- Delivery of catchment/landscape scale targets will be challenging without enhanced supports
- Managing trade-offs and synergies across multiple targets
- RBPS targets where low starting point/other overriding and competing land use objectives (HNV vs intensive farmland landscape)
- Building capacity while rolling out (chicken and egg!)
- Env. Quality not solely dependent on or impacted by agriculture (multiple stressors)
- Budget and long-term investment/commitment required

- Needs clarity of policy-integrated national land use framework enabling regional/local implementation and adaptability
- Need adaptation and ongoing development of new governance and administration structures, plus IT infrastructure
- Specialist local support/knowledge sharing/advisory system development
- Partnership approach across local communities and state actors (capacity and trust building) needs continuity
- Local action plans- diagnosis, comms, adaptive management tool need to be utilised as living plans
- RBPS will incentivise maintenance and enhancement of existing green-blue infrastructure
- Restoration/rehabilitation required in absence of green-blue infrastructure, needs supporting actions (restoration is expensive)
- Enhanced public and private investment required
- Landscape/catchment goals require coordinated and/or collective action



Key message: RBaPS do not work in isolation

Role in transforming our food system as part of a wider integrated land use strategy.

- **ENABLING WIDER POLICY CONTEXT:** Policy framework needs to enable positive action and incentivize delivery of results to combat biodiversity and climate crisis, while supporting viable farms and meeting societal needs
- **RAPID SYSTEMS CHANGE NEEDED:** need to bring stakeholders with you – systems collapse and rebuild not an option.
- **CAPACITY and TRUST BUILDING:** essential to realise ambitious goals
- **SOLUTIONS:** need to be developed, locally adapted and scaled
- **EMPOWER THROUGH KNOWLEDGE SHARING:** across society producers and consumers
- **PARTNERSHIPS:** capacity and trust building, co-creation, innovation
- **PROMOTE AND RAISE AWARENESS:** societal demand and recognition for agriculture and forest areas and the services they provide; need for sustainable consumption to partner sustainable production within broader food system approach



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over Europe.

Thank You

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