




# Nature-based solutions: unlocking urban potential?

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An aerial photograph of a vast forest landscape at sunrise. A winding river flows through the forest on the left side, reflecting the bright light from the sun. The sun is positioned low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow across the sky and casting long, soft shadows. Wisps of mist or low-lying clouds are visible in the lower right portion of the image, partially obscuring the forest floor. The overall scene is serene and captures the beauty of nature in the early morning.

**#naturenow**

# Urban Nature Now?

There is an increasing interest in nature-based solutions (related primarily to climate change) alongside renewed calls for biodiversity action globally but much less focus on *urban* nature.



protect



restore



*thrive*

ENABLE INNOVATION & MAINSTREAM





# Urban Nature Atlas

Captures 1000 nature based solutions being developed in 100 cities across Europe. Uses secondary data and provides a summary of each initiative as well as its key characteristics.

Fully searchable online with a database version available for analysis.

[www.naturvation.eu/atlas](http://www.naturvation.eu/atlas)

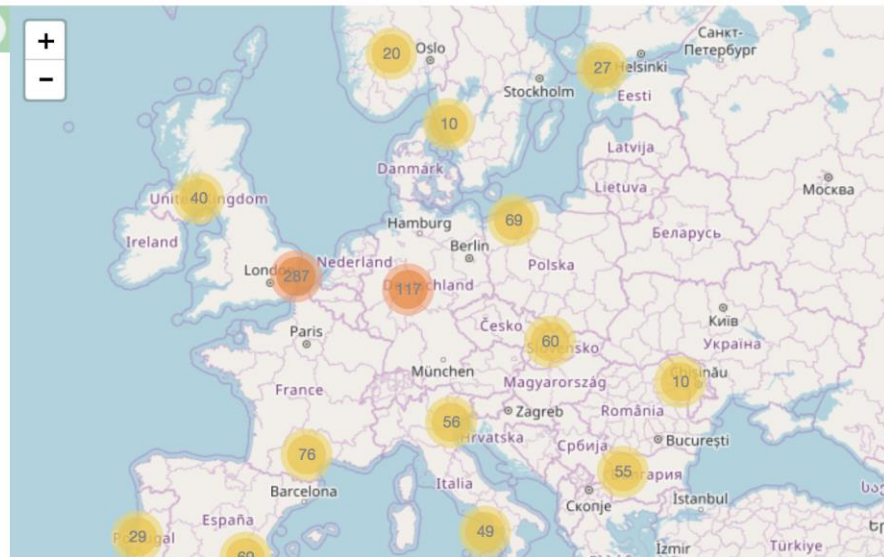


## ABOUT THE ATLAS

Welcome to the Urban Nature Atlas! It contains almost 1000 examples of Nature-Based Solutions from across 100 European cities.

Use the **Quick Search by icon** (to the right of the map) or the **Advanced Search** (below the map) to identify the projects fitting your interests.

The map will be updated to display the results of your search, and a list of all relevant projects is displayed below. Click on the title of projects for further information.



## QUICK SEARCH BY ICON

## KEY CHALLENGES



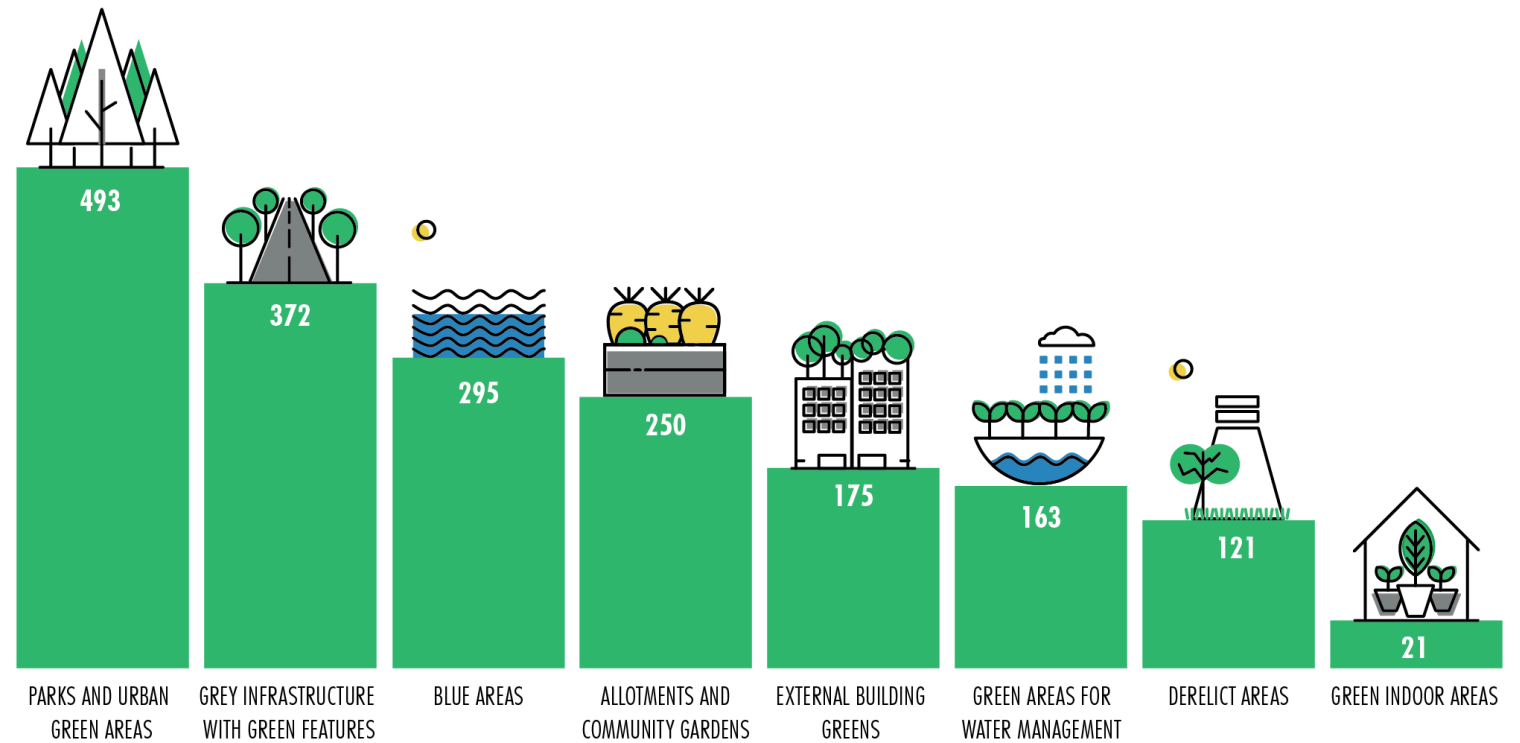
## URBAN SETTING



## PROJECT COST



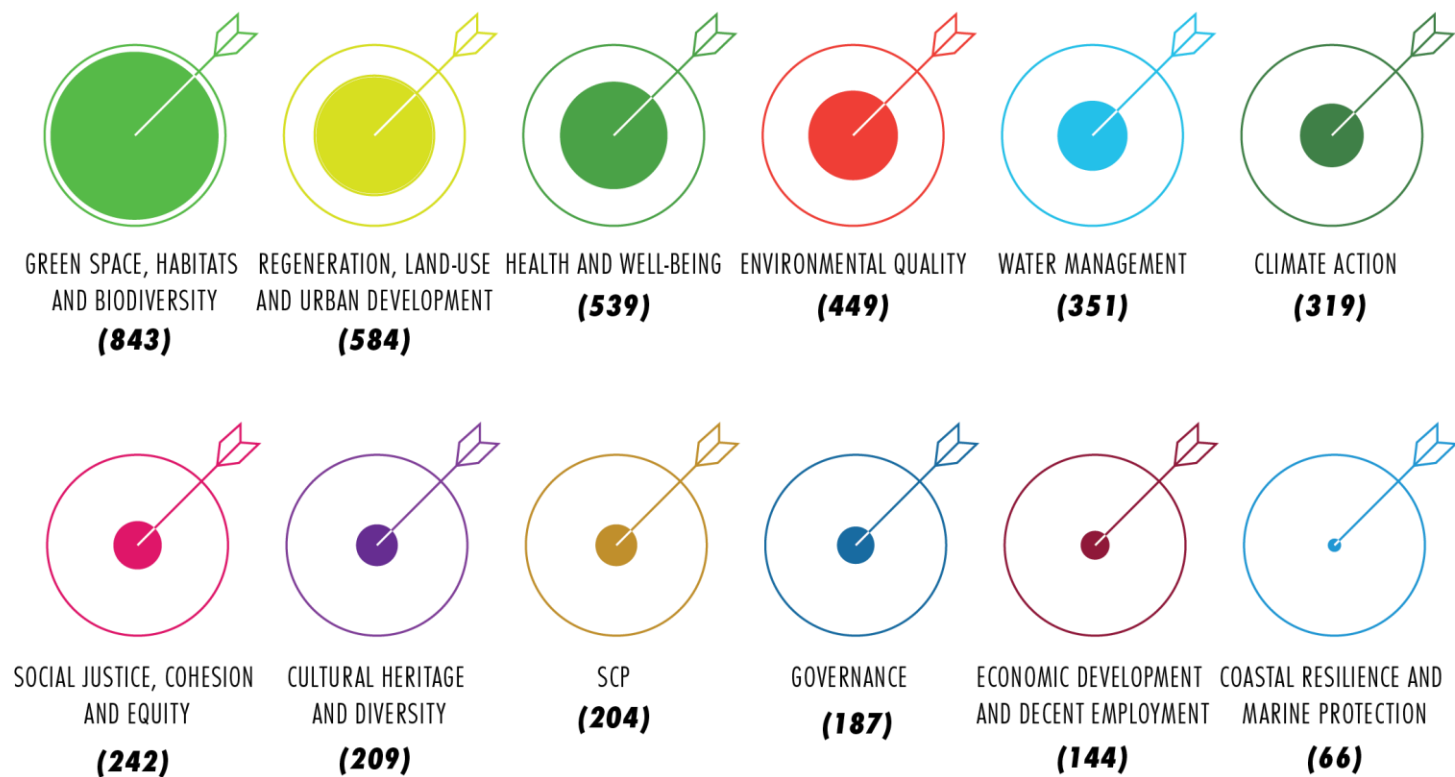
# Urban Nature comes in all shapes & sizes





# Urban Nature for Sustainability

There is a clear *opportunity gap* to work with cities to unlock the potential of NBS for cities; and for cities to demonstrate the potential of NBS for sustainability challenges globally.



# How can we enable innovation?



- **Diverse Modes of Governance:** to leverage capacities beyond formal powers of planning & regulation
- **Novel Business Models:** that can capture value that is shared and dispersed across public & private actors
- **Innovative Financing Arrangements:** which can realise monetary and non-monetary dividends of working with nature
- **Active Citizenship Engagement:** to account for multiple values of nature and ensure just outcomes

# Moving towards the mainstream?



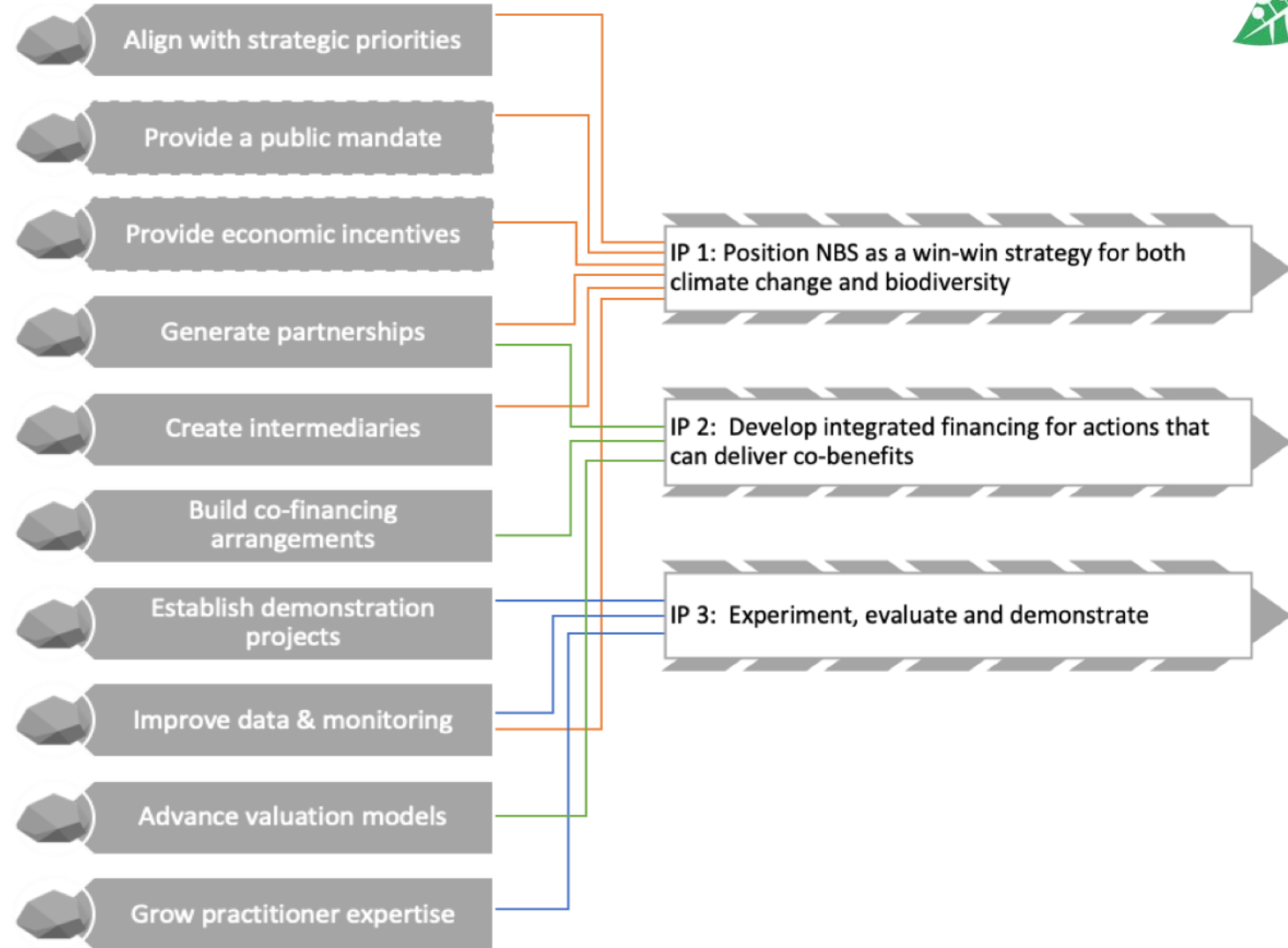
- Existing institutions, policies & practice need to **make space** for nature based solutions
- Limited knowledge & expertise: **new assessment approaches needed** (and the ability to translate into practice)
- Radical innovation needs room to grow and be disruptive
- Innovation processes bring failure & contestation – not all ways of working with nature will succeed
- Outcomes will be diverse and deliver differentiated benefits (and costs) – **principles of social and environmental justice must be used** to ensure pathways are transformative



# There are multiple pathways for mainstreaming NBS ... depending on your destination.

We have identified 20 key 'stepping stones' that have been proven to unlock the potential of NBS and enable them to become widely taken up within cities. The stepping stones that are needed for climate and biodiversity goals are distinct, but common routes can be found.

<https://naturvation.eu/mainstream/key-stepping-stones>





# The Goldilocks Problem

**NBS are too cold:** too narrow focus on instrumental nature, too limited in scope and scale.

**NBS are too hot:** stringent requirements for NBS to deliver biodiversity goals, unrealistic and exclusionary.



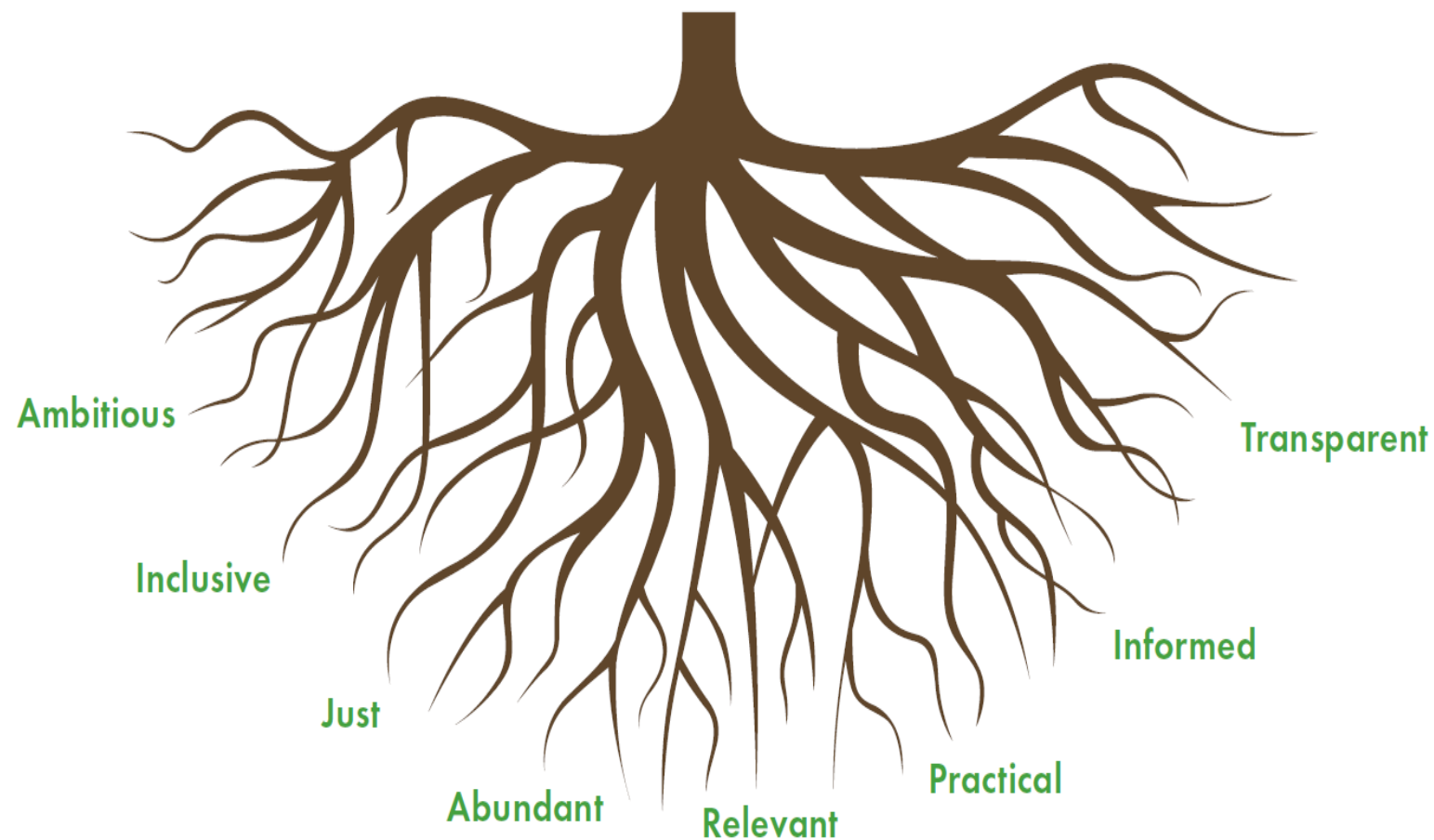
# Natural Justice?

There is growing evidence that the use of nature based solutions in cities can lead to gentrification and exclusion. Approaches are needed to ensure that everyone can benefit from urban nature.

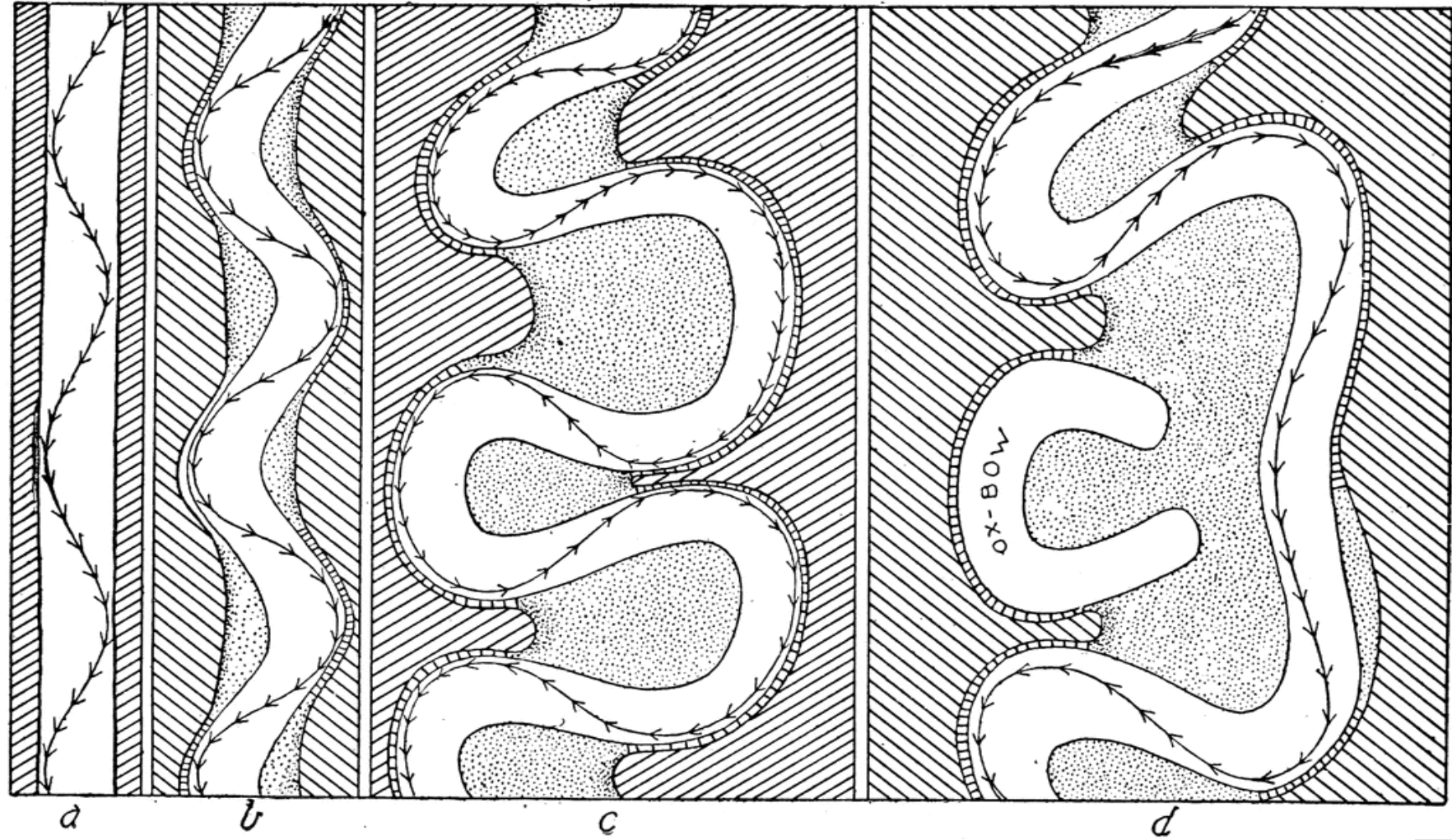




# Growing Strong Natural Solutions with Communities



If we want to  
mainstream  
urban nature,  
what will we  
need to leave  
behind?







# THANKYOU!

[www.naturvation.eu](http://www.naturvation.eu)



# Business Models for Urban Nature-Based Solutions



**Risk reduction**



**Local stewardship**



**Green densification**



**Green health**

➤ Upfront investments into urban nature-based solutions are made to lower future costs from extreme weather events

➤ NBS are valued by citizens and businesses who are willing to protect and support nature in their neighborhood based on the direct value and sense of identity and meaning that they derive from it

➤ Integrating NBS into urban real estate development, with costs embedded as part of larger 'sustainable urban living' business case

➤ The therapeutic, health and wellbeing value of urban nature-based solutions is recognized and used as a driver to finance urban nature-based solutions



# Business Models for Urban Nature-Based Solutions



**Urban offsetting**

- A 'no net loss' approach incentivizes or requires offset investments into urban nature-based solutions that are lost because of real estate and infrastructure development within the city



**Vacant space**

- The government steps back and provides space for local initiatives and (social) entrepreneurship in (sometimes temporarily) unused urban public space



**Education**

- Urban nature-based solutions are set up and managed to support environmental education and allow young, urban citizens to engage with food and nature



**Green heritage**

- Builds on cultural values and a sense of identity to sustain and develop urban nature-based solutions, can lead to different types of value creation, ranging from tourism and education to cultural healing



# Modes of Governing NBS

Municipal governments are central actors in urban governance – they operate through multiple *modes of governance*

For NBS partnership and participation are key.

