



Financing of Natural water Retention Measures

**DG Environment
Claire McCAMPBILL**

STRASBOURG 1ST JULY

NWRM- Background

- ***Water Blueprint: Maximization of the use of Natural Water Retention Measures (Green Infrastructure) - CIS Guidance by 2014***
- ***CIS MANDATE for WG POM: CIS Guidance or other tool on NWRM by 2014 (drafting team : DG ENV, DE, FR, IT, NL, UK, EEB, WWF, WI, NWRM PP and WFD CIS support consultants)***
- ***COM Launched NWRM Pilot project for technical tools & documents (www.nwrm.eu)***

Definition of NWRM

*Natural Water Retention Measures are **multi-functional measures** that aim to protect water resources and address water-related challenges by restoring or maintaining **ecosystems** as well as **natural features and characteristics** of water bodies using **natural means and processes**.*

*The main focus of applying NWRM is to enhance the **retention capacity** of aquifers, soil, and aquatic and water dependent **ecosystems** with a view to improve their **status**. Appropriate application of NWRM supports green infrastructure, improves the **quantitative status** of water bodies as such, and **reduces the vulnerability** to floods and droughts. It positively affects the **chemical and ecological status** of water bodies by restoring **natural functioning** of ecosystems and the services they provide. The restored ecosystems contribute both to **climate change adaptation and mitigation**.*

Why Natural Water Retention Measures?

NWMR as one of the responses can:

- *reduce impact of diffuse pollution,*
- *regulate the flow regime in natural pattern and reduce vulnerability to Climate Change,*
- *restoring the deteriorated morphological element on the riparian area and the floodplain,*
- *improve water status (surface and groundwater) (incl. DW, BW),*
- *be a Better Environmental Option for Flood, risk management supporting Natural Flood Risk Management,*

NWRM have links with other Policies

- *Env. Policy: Biodiversity Strategy (including GI strategy), Nature 2000, Habitats Directive, LIFE, Soil Strategy*
- *Climate Change Adaptation Strategy*
- *New Forest Strategy*
- *Regional Policy: Cohesion Funds, ERDF*
- *Agricultural Policy: CAP, EAFRD*
- *Research and Innovation funds*

Financing

EU funds

➤ *ESIF*

➤ *LIFE*

❖ Funding being decided nowopportunity to influence the inclusion of NWRM now



THE EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS 2014-2020

(ESIF) comprise the following EU funding mechanisms:

- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
- * European Social Fund (ESF)
- Cohesion Fund (CF)
 - **NWRM fit within both TO5 and 6 (climate, environment))**
 - **5 % ring-fenced for urban issues – eg SUDs**
- European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)
 - Used in DK to remove fish barriers – other uses ?**
- * European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

ESIF - Thematic objectives Linked to Multifunctional Measures

Among the 11 thematic objectives, 3 on sustainable growth:

(TO 2)Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors

(TO 5) Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management

(TO 6)Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

Climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management

Priorities:

- *supporting dedicated investment for adaptation to climate change, including ecosystem based approaches*
- *promoting investment to address specific risks, ensuring disaster resilience and developing disaster management systems;*

Opportunities:

Ecosystem-based adaptation:

- Preserving natural areas, biodiversity, water quality & quantity, ecosystem services
- New/Improved recreational areas = positive health effects
- New jobs & activities

Protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency

Priorities include:

- *investments in water sector to meet the EU environmental acquis;*
- *conserving, protecting, promoting, and developing natural heritage*
- *protecting biodiversity, soil protection and promoting ecosystem services including NATURA 2000 and green infrastructures;*
- *improving urban environment including regeneration of brownfield sites and reduction of air pollution.*

Opportunities for NWRM:

- Supporting Implementation of RBMPs /FRMPs including investments in green infrastructure: Preservation of ecosystem services e.g. Floodplains, river re-naturation, wetlands...
- Synergies with other Environmental objectives

EARDF

➤ *Pillar 1*

- ❖ **GAEC: buffer strips , soil protection**
- ❖ **Significant ability to improve on the implementation of these**

Q: do you know what the rules are for these in your MS?

- ❖ **Greening *new**

Ecological focus areas - should/could promote NWRM?

Q: do you know what the rules are in your MS? They may not be decided yet

EARDF

Pillar 2 - Rural Development Programme:

priority

- *4. Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems related to agriculture and forestry*
- *5. Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors*

Links with Agricultural policy CAP mainly EAFRD (2/3)

30 % budget of each RDP to environment investments

- *Investments in physical assets (article 17)*
- *Restoring agricultural production potential, preventing natural disasters (floods)*
- *Investments in forest area (articles 21 - 25) :*
 - ❖ development and improvement of the viability of forests,
 - ❖ afforestation and creation of woodland,
 - ❖ establishment of agroforestry systems ,
 - ❖ prevention and restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events,
 - ❖ investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems.

Links with Agricultural policy CAP mainly EAFRD (3/3)

- *Agri-environment-climate payments (article 28)*
- *Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments (article 30)*
- *Forest-environmental and climate services and forest conservation (article 34)*
- *Guidance on how to use RDP to implement WFD*
<https://circabc.europa.eu/d/a/workspace/SpacesStore/5223df97-5434-4942-8bff-2418b9dc5da1/WFD%20%26%20CAP-%20greening%20and%20RDP%20opportunities%2010214.doc>
- EC comments on draft RDPsopportunity to integrate more NWRM

LIFE - overview

- first call under new LIFE programme will be launched in June.
- More information <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/>
- Integrated projects for water, air, nature, waste
- Water IP prioritises NWRM in selection criteria
- Approx 12m in funding for large scale implementation of NWRM to address significant pressures in one RBD

Tools: Integrated projects (IPs)

For whom?

- *Mainly public administrations or other entities active in the field of environment and climate protection, **capable of coordinating, besides the IP, complementary actions** co-funded by additional private, public (preferably EU) funds.*

What?

- *Implementing Union environmental and climate plans and strategies (LIFE MAWP for 2014-2017); big scale; complementary actions with additional co-funding; involvement stakeholders*

Average size?

- *2 to 10 beneficiaries; EU contribution: €10 mio. to €15 mio.; about 3 IPs per Member State.*

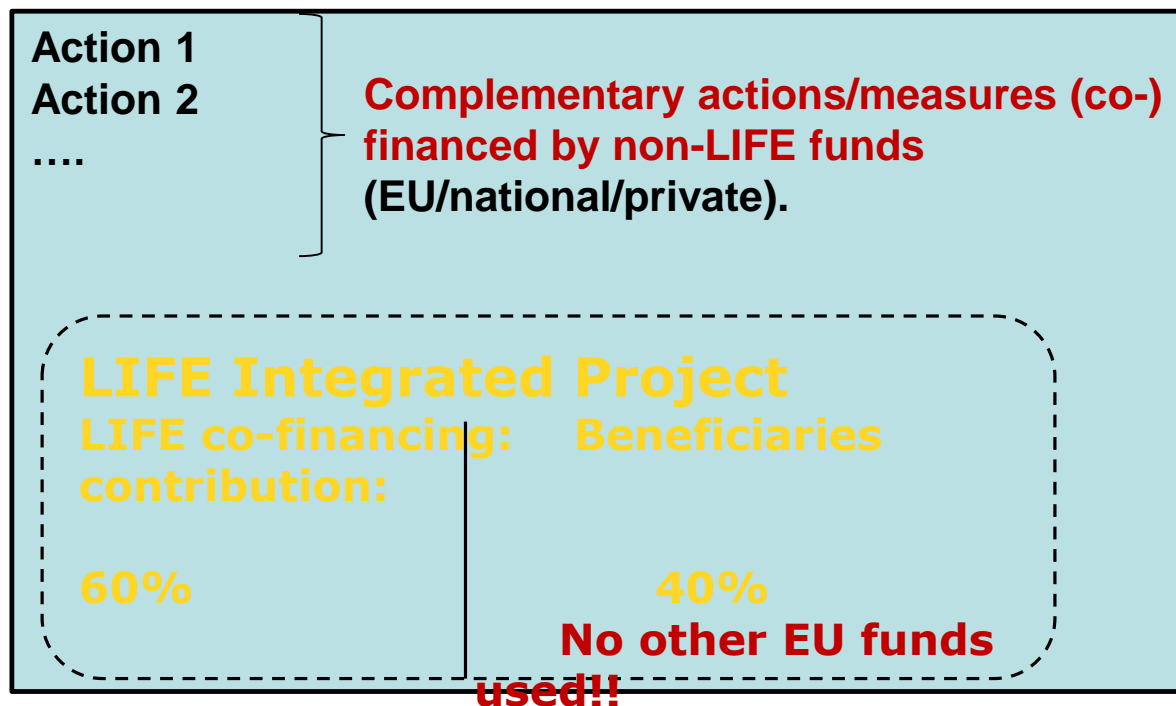
Co-funding rate?

- **60%**



LIFE – IPs – the concept

Plan/strategy implemented by the IP and complementary actions:



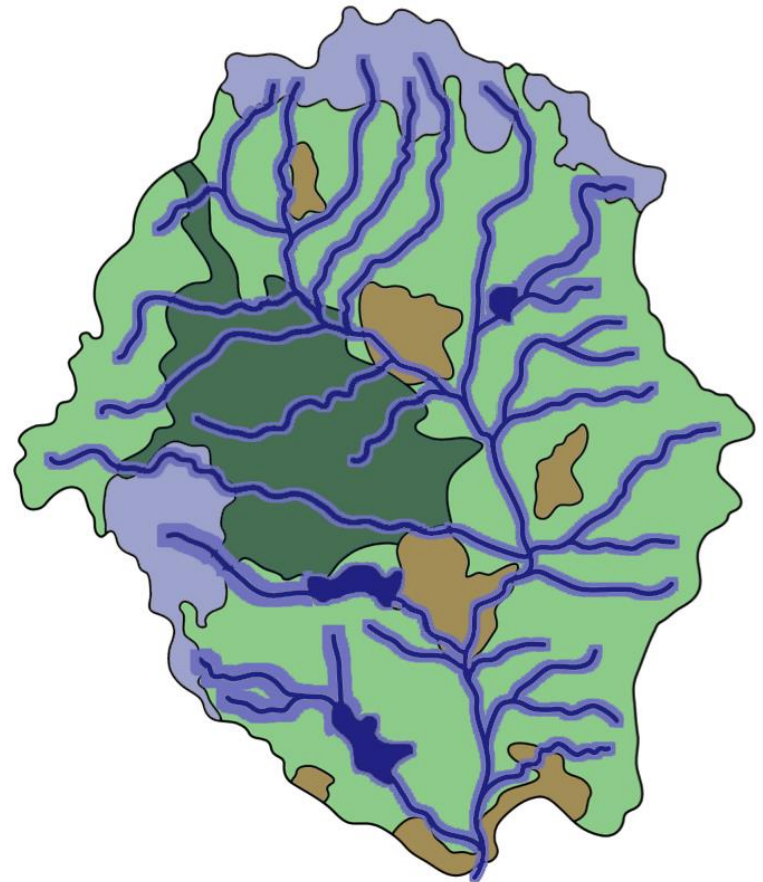
LIFE –Water IPs should...

- ➔ **implement a/parts of a River Basin Management Plan (RMBP) in line with the Water Framework Directive,**
- ➔ **draw in and target supplementary funding from EU sources (e.g. EARDF), public funding sources (e.g. flood funds), private finance (e.g. water companies, local business) and commitments to implement the whole plan in a significant part of the catchment area,**
- ➔ **involve local stakeholders and NGOs in decision making**
- ➔ **offer a blueprint for how to integrate EU, national and local priorities on the ground**

Water IP – RBMP example:

Target whole river basin district

- **Seek out synergies at the outset and plan for multiple benefits**
- **Plan and implement measures to restore to good status and achieve protected area objectives**
- **Focus on improving compliance with basic measures**
- **Targeted land use change to protect sensitive areas and achieve good status**
- **Remove hydromorphological barriers from source to sea**



Water IP - example

Continuous 5 m buffer strips on all watercourses - protecting water and offering terrestrial biodiversity benefits

Competent authority

Regular management & control:

Local public authority

Drinking water protected areas: Target uptake of measures that reduce pesticides and nutrients in binding agreements (e.g. arable reversion, forestry)

NGO, competent authorities

Reduce pollutant loss from all agricultural land through targeted advice and inspections EU directive and WFD basic measures

Competent authorities, stakeholders

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)

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Remove all hydromorphological barriers

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

Bathing waters (land hydrologically connected to bathing water):

Target uptake of measures that reduce likelihood of faecal pathogens entering waters

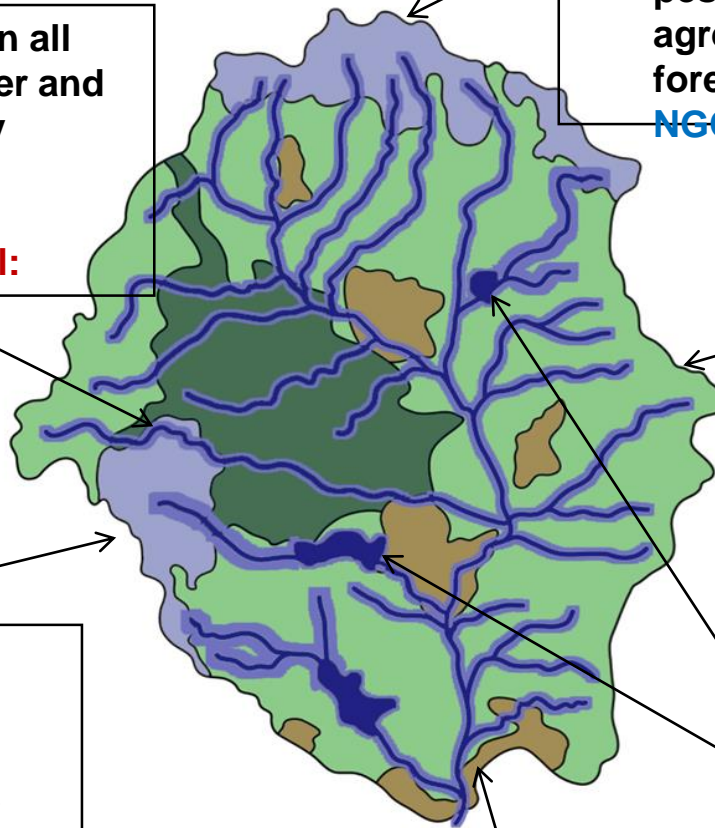
Local authorities

Wetland creation/restoration

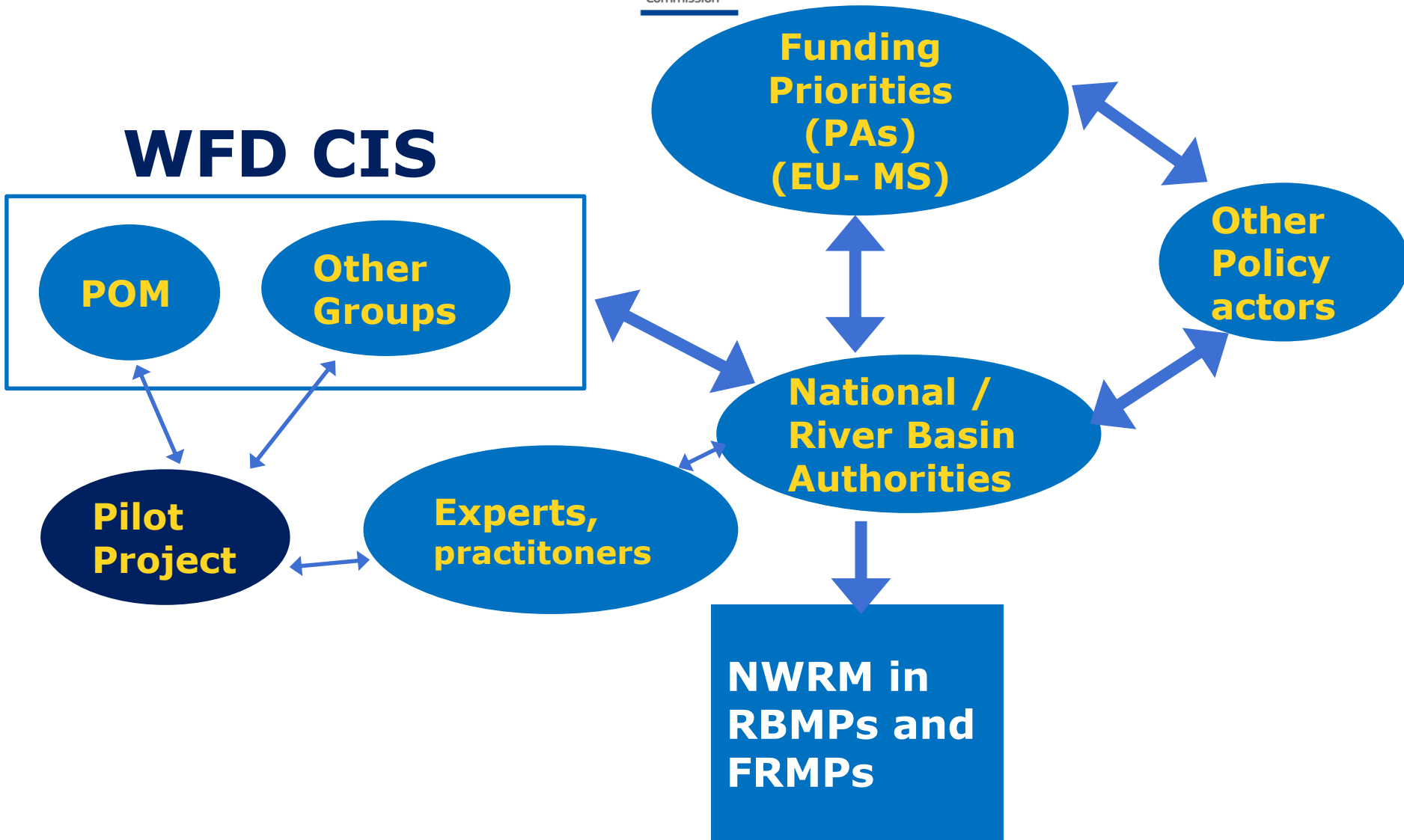
To reduce nutrients, recreate pre-existing wetlands, store flood waters

Pilot: NGO, competent authorities

Large scale: ESIF



WFD CIS



CONCLUSION

- *Many opportunities*
- *Complicated structures to understand and influence*

.....timing is critical

.....act now to secure funds needed for 2nd RBMP

....while building towards more coherent integration of NWRM in other policies