



# Demonstrating Building with Nature at catchment sites

The Building with Nature project demonstrates Building with Nature solutions at six catchment scale sites in Belgium, the Netherlands, Scotland and Sweden. These 'living laboratories' provide an evidence-base for effectiveness, designing measures, calculating costs, benefits and site selection.

Rivers in the North Sea region (NSR) are increasingly exposed to higher water levels due to increased rainfall and melting water. Developments close to the rivers have confined flood plains, and land management practices have increased runoff from agricultural land. Together, this increases the risk of flooding for communities downstream. Countries in the NSR are working together to understand how different Building with Nature solutions can help manage flood risk, protect people, property and communities, and reduce the cost to the economy. These solutions bring additional benefits:

- Cleaner water
- Greater biodiversity
- Recreation

## Gathering evidence

Building with Nature solutions can be used more widely across the NSR. To this end, the Building with Nature project is bringing together organisations from Belgium, Sweden, Scotland, the Netherlands and Norway to gather evidence that will encourage the use of natural solutions to manage flood risk. These may include creating wetlands that will increase flood water storage higher up in the catchment, or placing wooden structures in streams to retain the precipitated water. Together, we aim to increase the length of waterways managed using shared insight of Building with Nature techniques by 550 km.

## End product

Practitioners across the EU need robust evidence to demonstrate how working with nature across the catchment can help manage flood risk to communities downstream. It is important that we can assess the economic, social and environmental benefits of different nature-based solutions. This will allow Building with Nature solutions to be assessed alongside more traditionally engineered options.



*Living laboratories for Building with Nature in the NSR*

### Contact

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### Partners

The following partners share their knowledge and promote the Building with Nature philosophy in catchments:



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