

Blue Green City project

Improving policies that promote Blue Green Infrastructure (BGI) and Nature Based Solution (NbS)

Bryan Riney

Southern Regional Assembly, IRE

Thursday 31st March 2022



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City

Interreg Europe



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

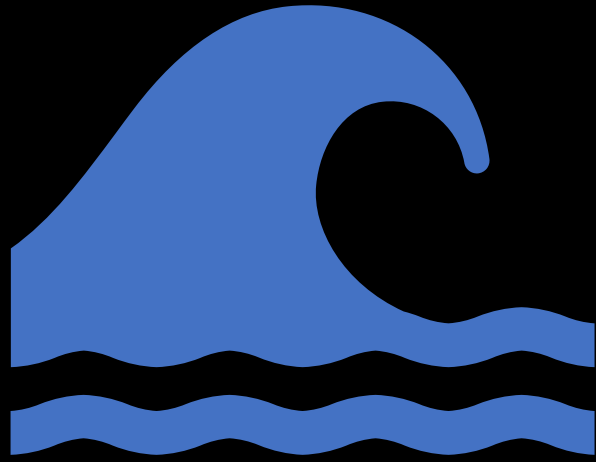


Tionól Réigiúnach an Deiscirt
Southern Regional Assembly

Structure of this Presentation

1. About Blue Green Infrastructure (BGI) and Nature Bases Solutions (NbS)
2. About us and policy context
3. Blue Green City project
 - Shared Challenge
 - International Good Practices
4. Regional Initiatives
5. Action Plan





Blue Green Infrastructure (BGI)

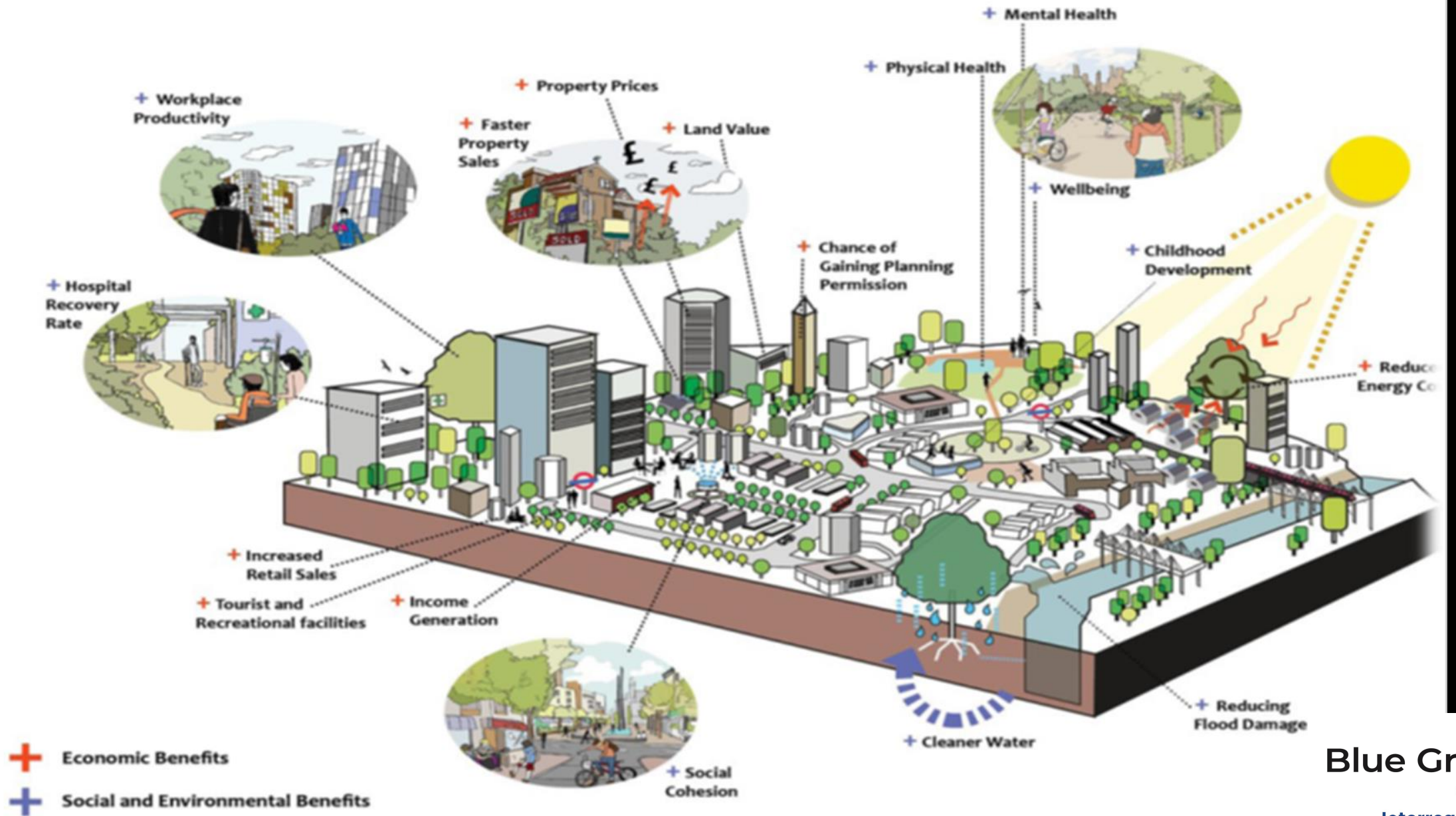


Green spaces and the water environment e.g. park, wetlands.

Referred to as ‘infrastructure’ as it is considered to be as important as other types of infrastructure.

BGI is a framework





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Nature Based Solutions (NbS)



Working with and inspired by nature to address societal challenges



'Win Win' benefits for biodiversity, water management, climate action, air quality, inter alia



NbS is a series of methodologies and interventions

Connectivity between NbS interventions expand and enhance Blue Green Infrastructure

Filter Strip



Bee Stops



Before



After



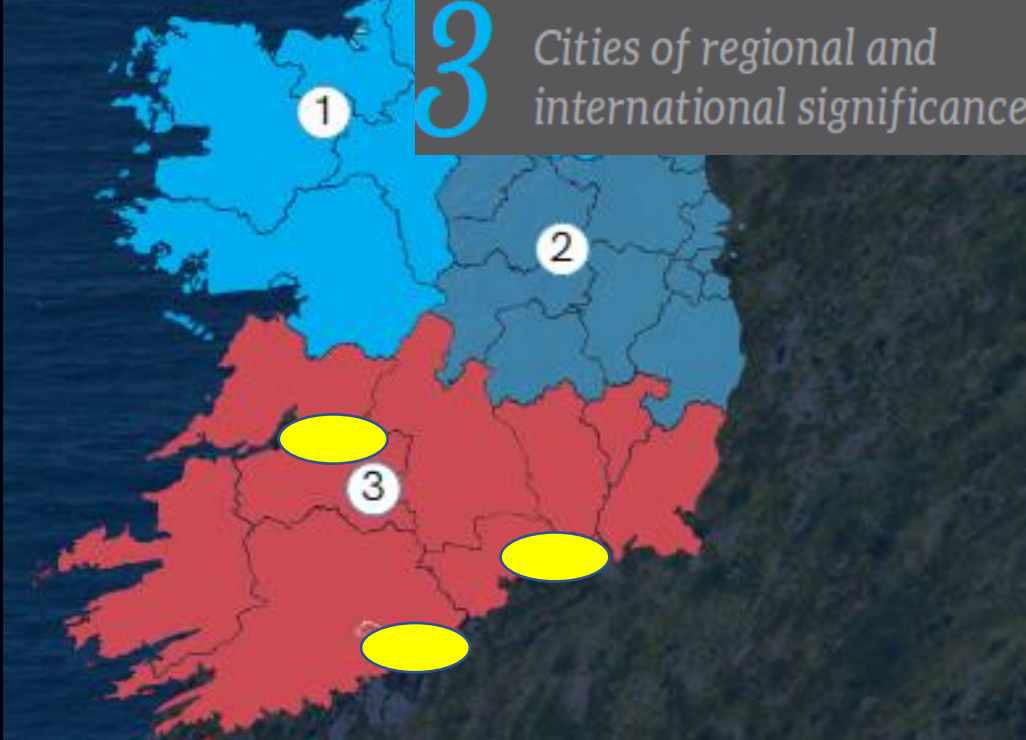
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1,585,906

Population

3 Cities of regional and international significance



Key Functions of Southern Regional Assembly

- Southern & Eastern Regional Operational Programme
- First Level Controller
- EU Projects
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES)



Cork Metropolitan Area



Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area



Waterford Metropolitan Area

1: The Northern and Western Region

2: The Eastern and Midland Region

3: The Southern Region

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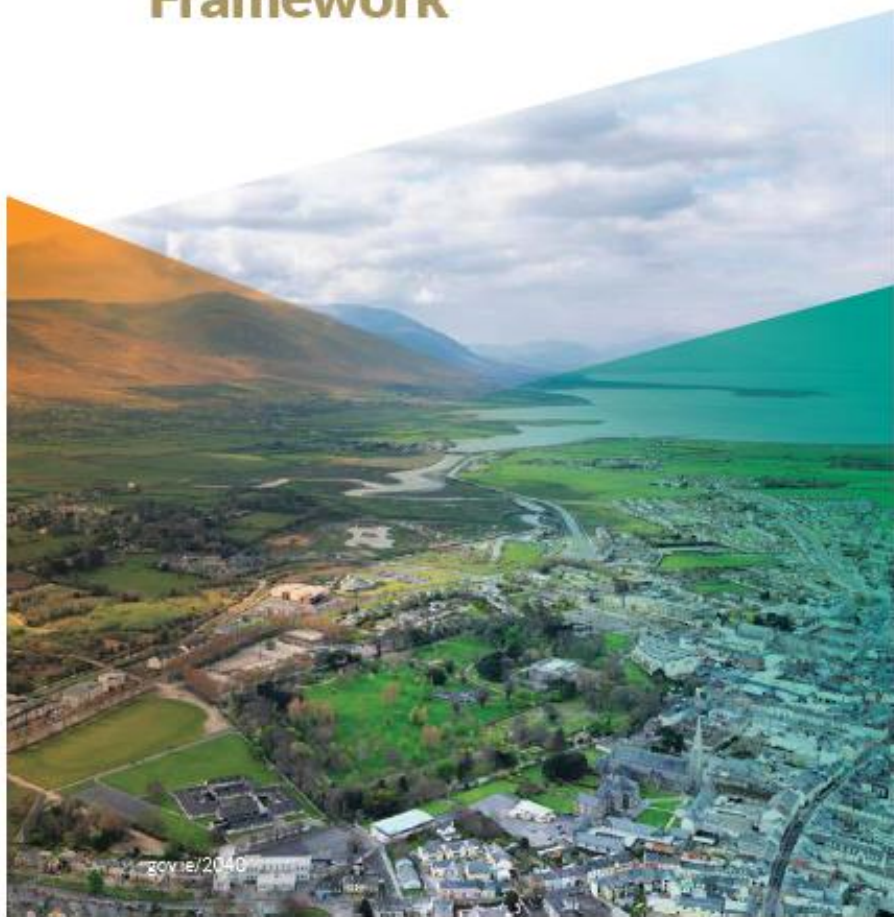




Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Project Ireland 2040

National Planning Framework



A new way forward

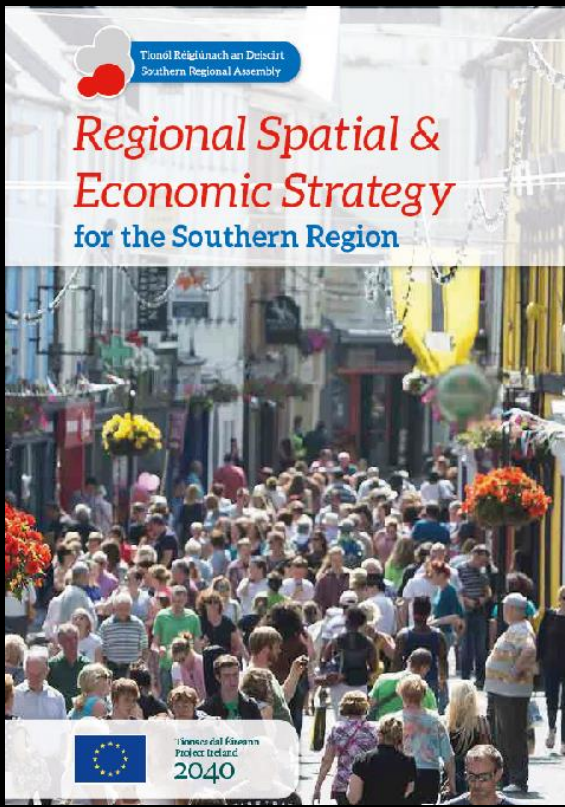
“Our aim is to see a roughly 50:50 distribution of growth between the Eastern and Midland region, and the Southern and Northern and Western regions, with 75% of the growth to be outside of Dublin and its suburbs.”

National Policy Objective 1a

The projected level of population and employment growth in the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly area will be at least matched by that of the Northern and Western and Southern Regional Assembly areas combined.

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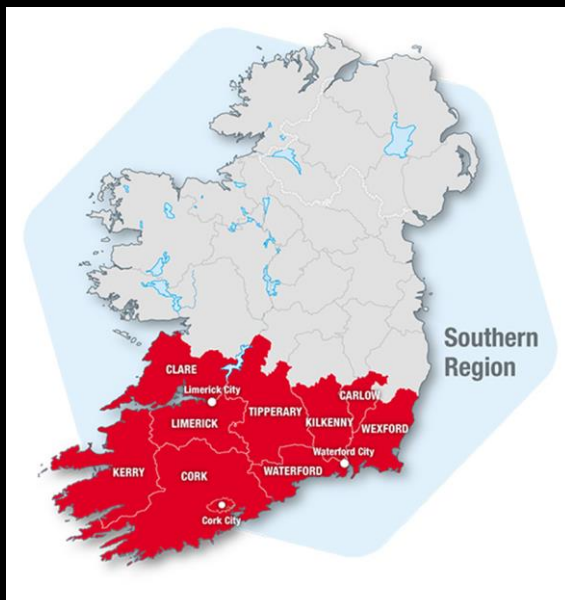


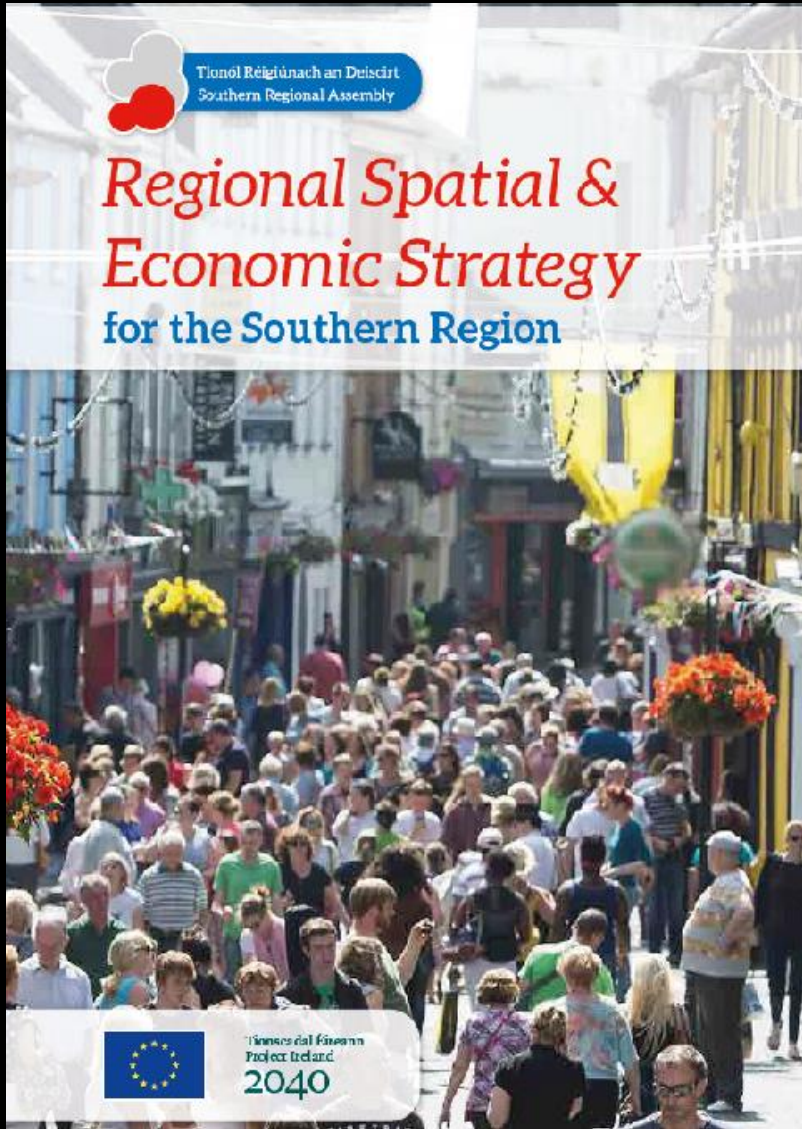


2040 Population Projections

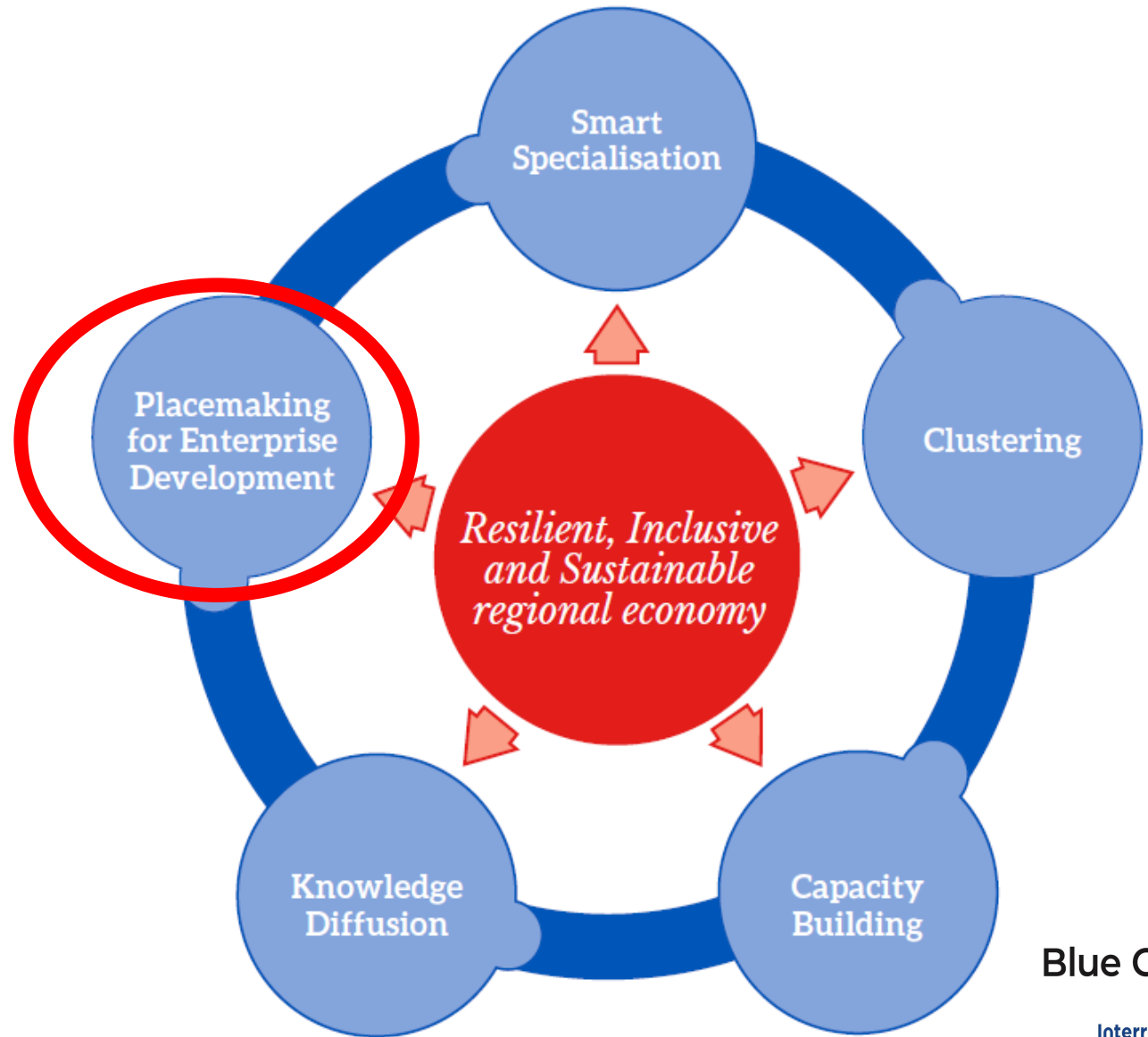
- almost 2 million in Southern Region
- Population growth of 50% to 60% in cities
- compact growth focused on urban areas

“High-quality green and blue spaces are important not just for nature but health and wellbeing, particularly in the context of an increasingly urban society and increasing settlement densities”.



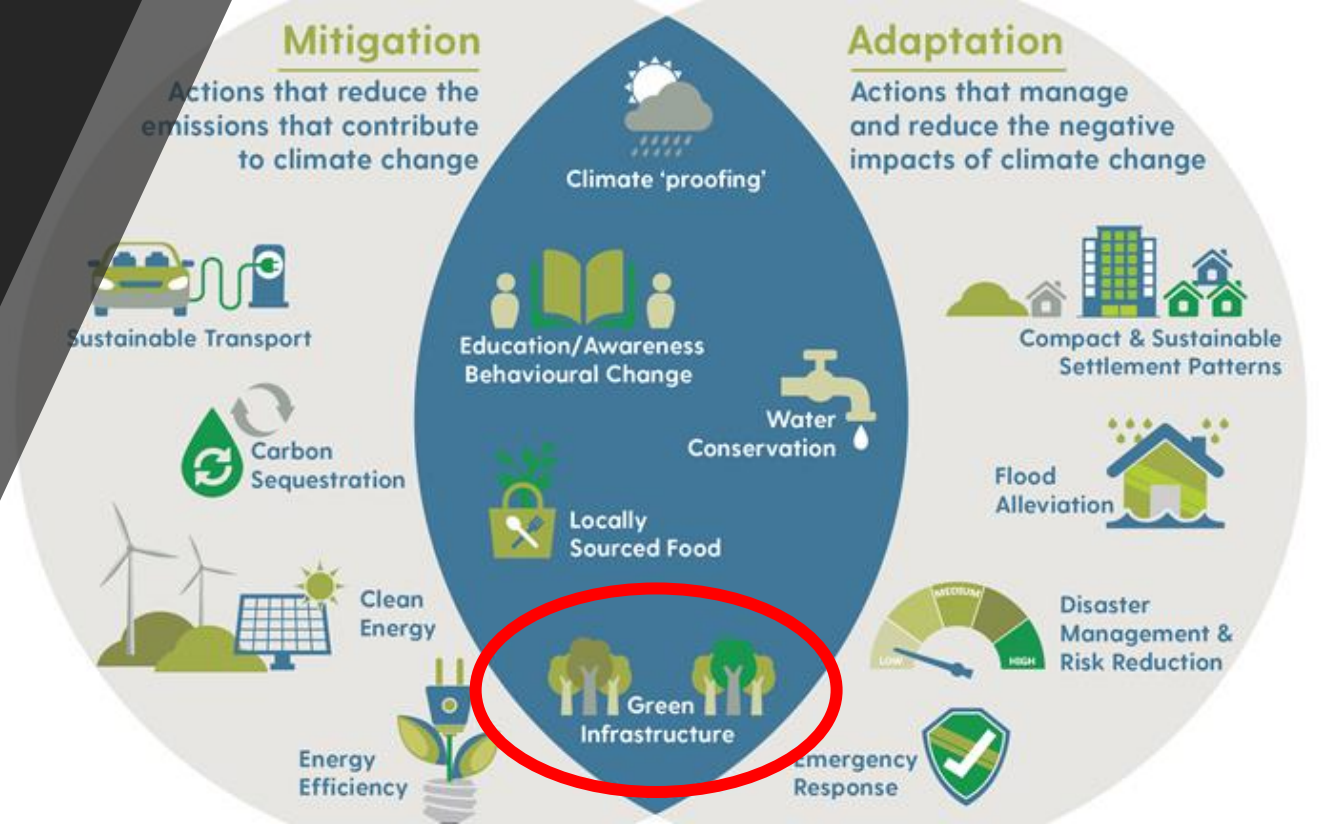


Economic Strategy



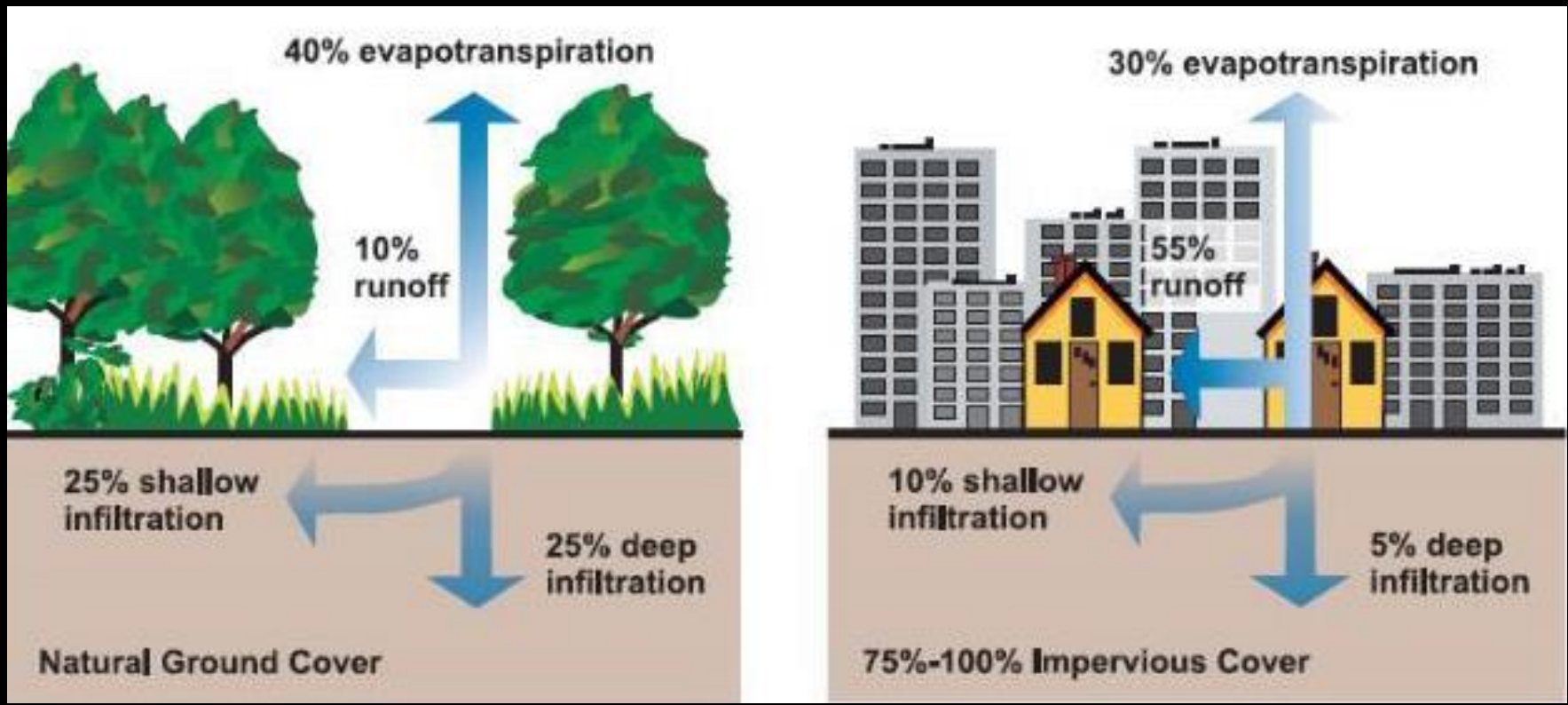
Climate Change and Spatial Planning

- Climate Change is changing the context of planning, - shaping its priorities
- Strengthened environmental dimension – new rationale for priorities
- Catalyst for refocusing priorities



Wastewater Infrastructure Capacity

“Storm water flows can have a significant detrimental impact on the available capacity of combined sewer networks and at treatment plants.” Section 8.1.3 Chapter 8 (Water & Energy Utilities), RSES



Environmental Strategy

- A policy approach based solely on environmental protection and conservation will not suffice
- factors of environmental progress are assembled around local economic and social motivation



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Purpose

- Implement RSES policy objectives
- Work with regional stakeholders
 - identify shared challenges
- International Good Practices
 - move to solutions



TOPIC
Environment and resource efficiency

Shared Challenge

PRACTICAL INCORPORATION AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF BGI AND NBS
AT PROJECT LEVEL



Positives & Challenges

Positives

- ✓ Better multi-agency collaboration
- ✓ Process of learning

Challenges

- ❖ Knowledge and application of methods
- ❖ Gaps in overview (framework) and guidance for intervention

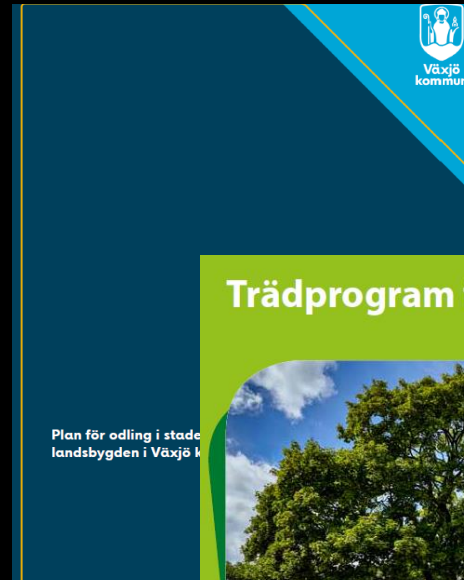


- 70,489 people.
- 1991 – declaration to be fossil-fuel free
- 48% reduction in CO₂ emissions per resident since 1993 – GDP per capita rose by 90%
- 2018 - European Green Leaf Award

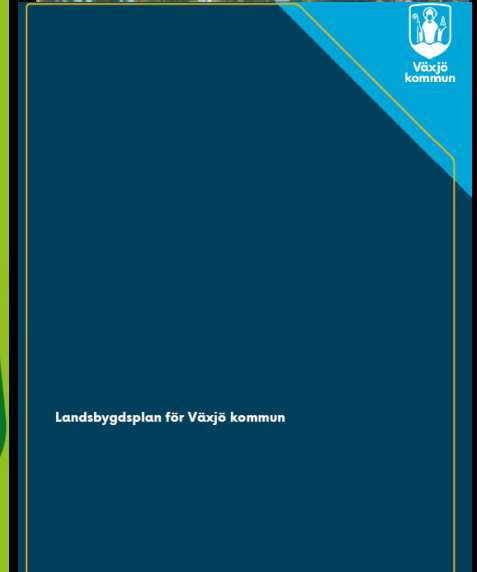
The Green Structure Strategy for the City of Växjö 2013

SHORT VERSION

Växjö
kommun
The Greenest City in Europe



Trädprogram för Växjö kommun



Ingolstadt, Germany

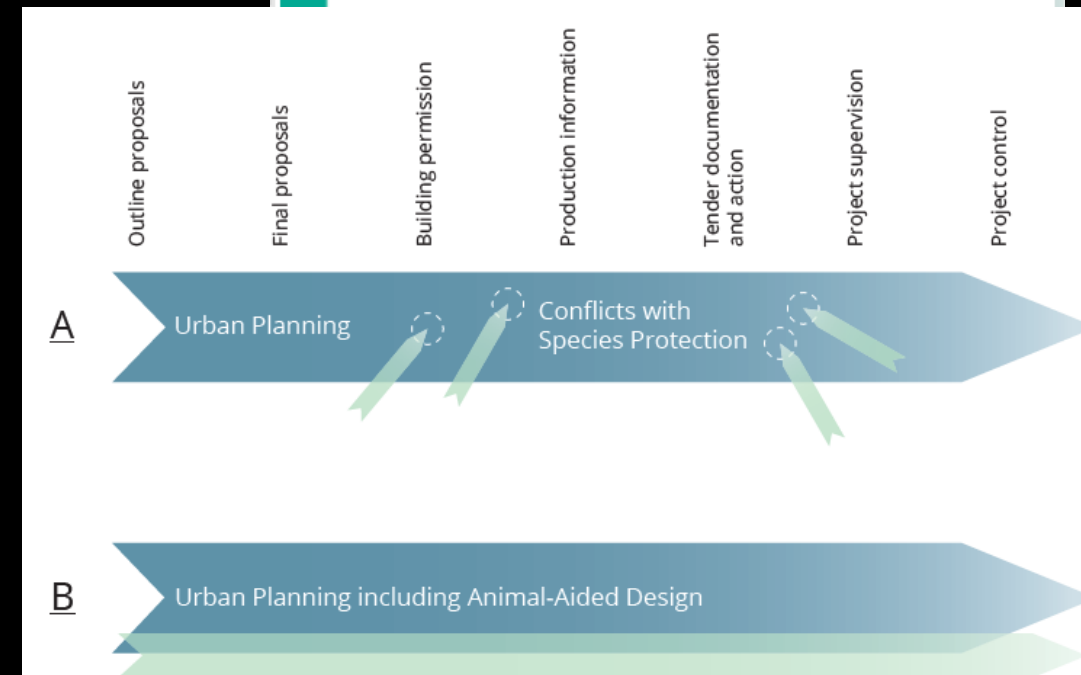
- 136,981 people
- Declining biodiversity → Human land use
- How can Blue Green Infrastructure be built & improved?
 - Defensive conservation won't work
 - Need to be proactive to create BGI



Animal Aided Design (AAD)

species-centred approach

1. Target species need to be selected at the beginning of the planning process.
2. Critical needs of the target species can be identified based on the species life-cycle.
3. Requirements of the species can inspire the design of the green/blue space

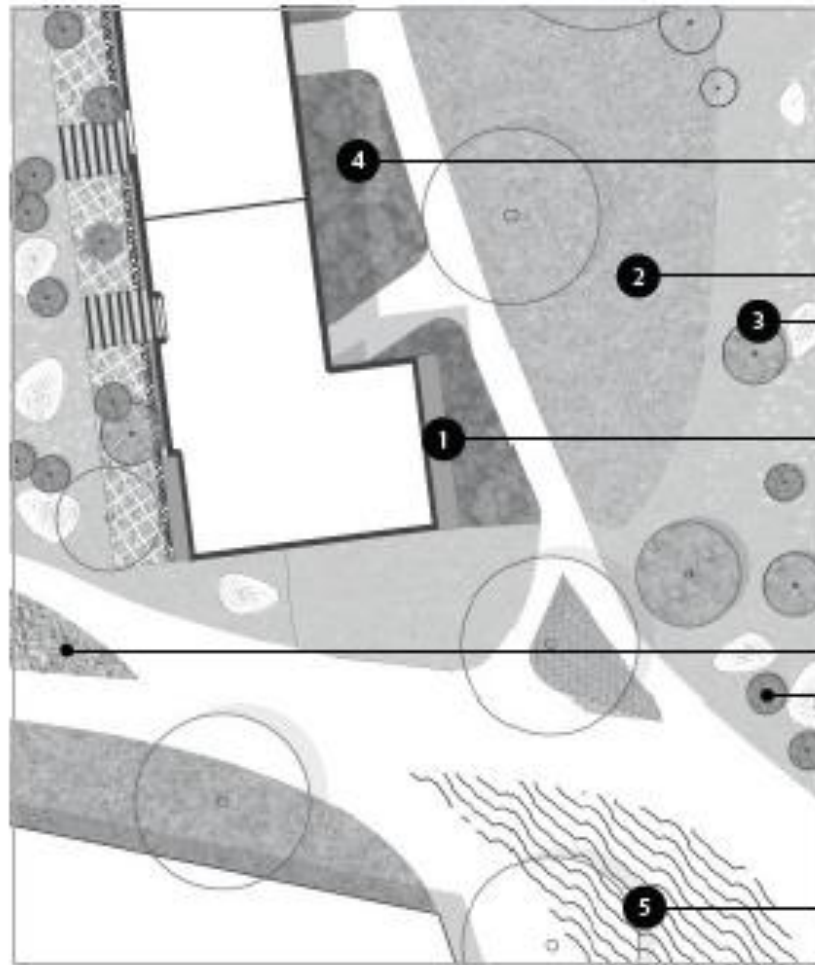


M.1 SPECIES-SPECIFIC DESIGN COMPONENTS

HOUSE SPARROW

The house sparrow lives in colonies and often breeds indoors. Nesting opportunities are provided in the Eastern fronts of the building. As the species has a very small home-range, all critical needs such as seeds and insects for food, shrubs for shelter, a water bath, a dust bath and nest boxes are provided within a circle of 50m radius.

CRITICAL NEEDS



Places for shelter, resting, and roosting in hedges at the East of the building, with thorns and dense branches, e.g. Hawthorn (*Crataegus*), Privet (*Ligustrum*), hornbeam (*Carpinus*)



Seeds of grasses and herbs in species-rich meadows and dry grasslands in the extensively managed court



Arthropods and their larvae on the ground and on plants, especially in the dry grasslands with bare ground, important in particular for fledglings



Nesting place in Eastern front. Nesting modules for sparrows are integrated in the insulation layer at a height between 3 and 10m, with holes of 35mm and 45mm. Min. distance between nests 50cm



Dust baths for cleaning and removing parasites in sandy vegetation-free areas, near sandboxes and boule lane



Fruits for food from fruit-bearing shrubs/trees in autumn and winter: hawthorn (*Crataegus*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), cornel cherry tree (*Cornus mas*), crap apple (*Malus sylvestris*), wild roses (*Rosa*)



Water bath in troughs as part of tarmac skate parcour

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Urban planning and nature based surface water management: from theory to practice

How can Nature Based SuDS be better incorporated into current work practices and policy making

Follow Up

- Developed best practice guidance



Rialtas na hÉireann
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Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas

Water Sensitive Urban Design

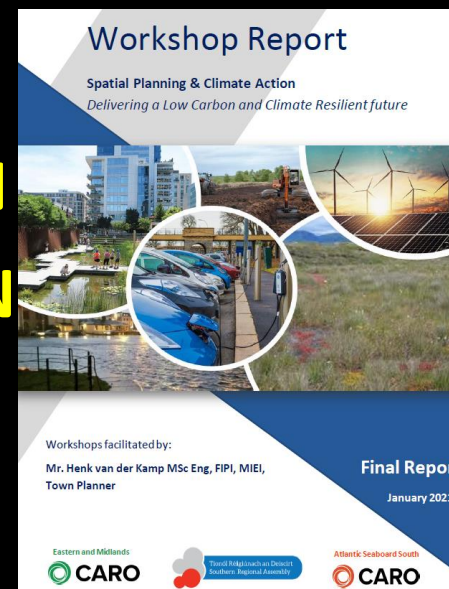
Best Practice Interim Guidance Document

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Workshop 1: Climate Change MITIGATION

Workshop 2: Climate Change ADAPTATION and NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS



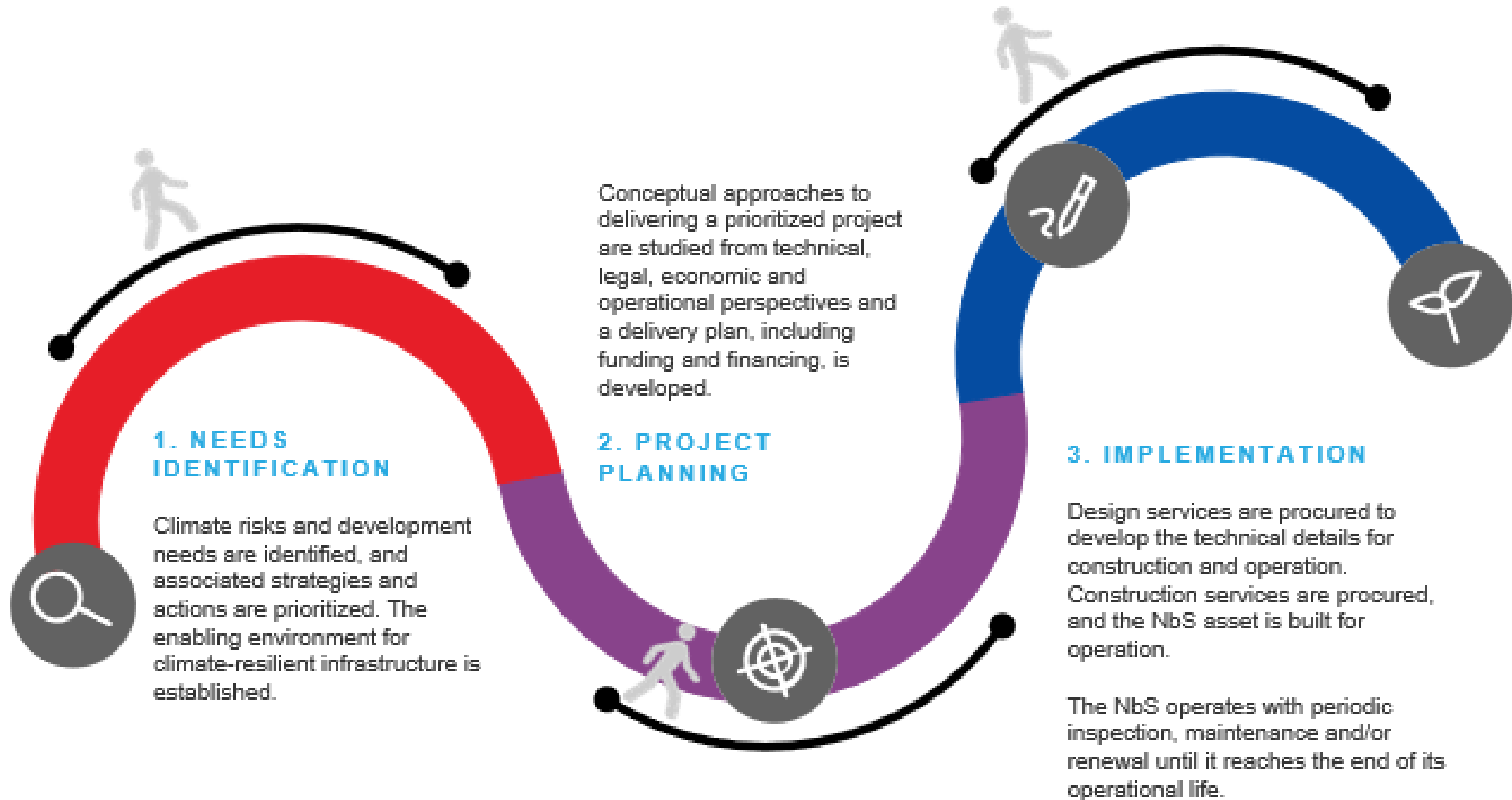
Training Course: Planning for Climate Change



Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Fora



BGI & NbS Framework



Action Plan

Improve the **Governance** of the RSES by establishing a network for BGI and NBS in the Southern Region.

Monitoring the **integration and application** of BGI and NBS in the Southern Region

Ar scáth a chéile a mhairimid



Thank You!

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