



Netherlands

Generating Impact: Scaling international partnerships for nature-based approaches

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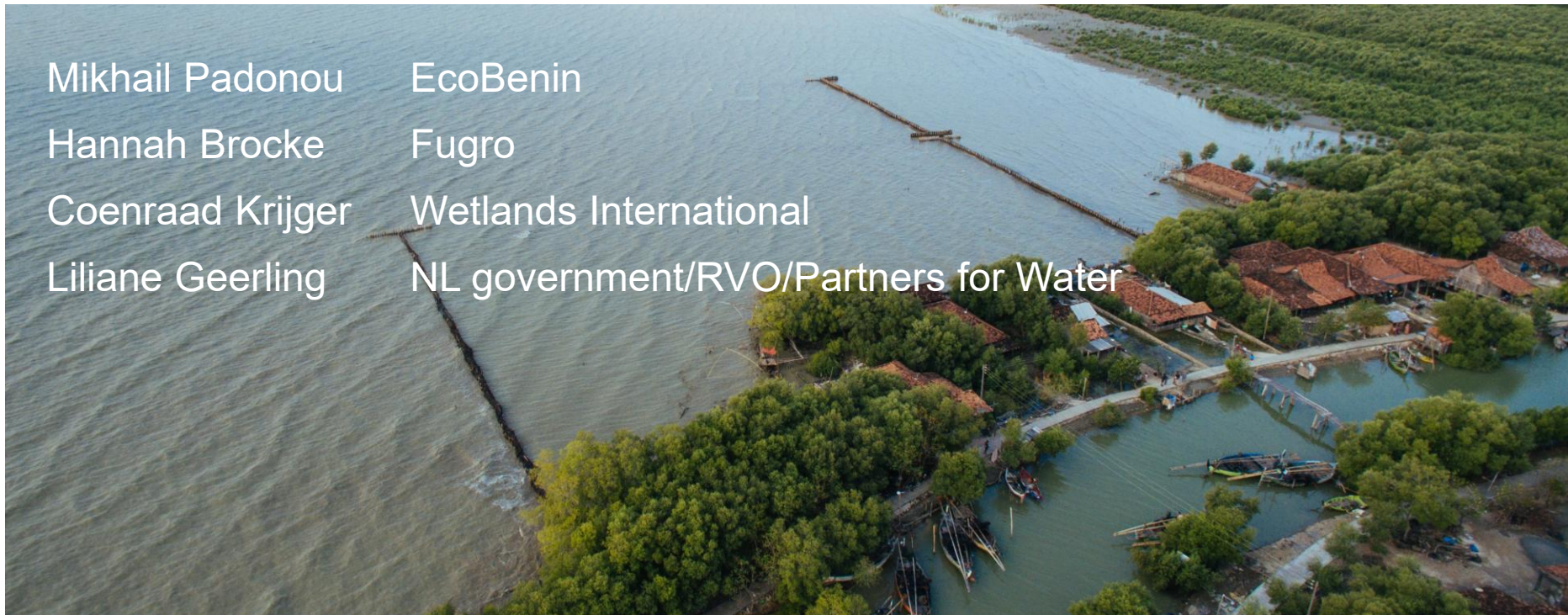
Fugro

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In response to growing climate change pressures, **ecosystem- or nature-based approaches** have emerged as a promising strategy to increase the resilience of ecosystems and support sustainable livelihoods.



Nature-based solutions

“Actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits”

IUCN, Resolution 069, 2016

What is, in your experience, the most important enabler to scale nature-based approaches?

Technology and system knowledge



Multi-stakeholder approach



Management, monitoring and maintenance



Institutional embedding



Business Case



Capacity building



Why nature-based approaches?

01

From silos to synergies

Integrated, landscape-scale planning can maximize ecosystem and biodiversity benefits

02

Investing in nature pays off

NbS reduce climate risks, lower long-term costs and deliver multiple returns for societies and economies.
RoI=2.8:1

03

Success through local partnerships

NbS are most effective when co-developed with local communities, building resilience and long-term ownership.

Nature-based approaches help communities and countries

reduce water risks · improve water availability · improve food security · strengthen ecosystems · increase resilience · create economic value
reduce infrastructure costs · support local livelihoods · deliver win-win outcomes for economies, biodiversity and climate adaptation

Scaling nature-based solutions

What it takes to move from pilot to practice

People & openness

Enthusiastic teams that embrace innovative approaches and cross-disciplinary thinking.

System understanding

Deep knowledge of natural dynamics, ecology and engineering and how they interact.

Integrated planning

Early co-design that brings together local knowledge and technical expertise from the start.

Strategic area planning

Landscape- and river basin-scale assessments of where and how NbS can play a future role.

Long-term investment

Sustained commitment to maintenance, monitoring and building local capacity over time.

Landscape-scale vision

Long-term perspectives that guide decisions beyond the project level.

Partnerships built on trust

Collaboration grounded in reciprocity and shared ownership, not just coordination.

CASE STUDY

Room for the River Netherlands

Flood safety, biodiversity and spatial quality combined

30 locations

nationwide interventions along Rhine and Meuse

€ 2.2 billion

total programme investment

- Rather than raising dikes further, the programme gave rivers space: moving dikes inland, building flood channels, restoring natural floodplains.
- Local communities and municipalities engaged as co-designers from the start, not just consulted.
- Water safety, nature and spatial quality achieved together. Now a global reference for NbS at scale.

The Netherlands | Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Rijkswaterstaat, provinces, municipalities and regional water authorities









CASE STUDY

Sand motor Netherlands

Letting nature distribute sand along the coast

21.5M m³

sand deposited in a single intervention (NL, 2011)

20-30 yrs

coastal protection from one operation vs. repeated nourishment

- One large sand peninsula lets wind, waves and currents distribute sand along the coast for decades. More cost-effective and less ecologically disruptive than repeated nourishment.
- Replicated in Benin (World Bank-funded, built by Boskalis) to halt erosion of up to 45 ft/year, and in Poole Bay and Norfolk in the UK.
- Interest from Peru, Vietnam, South Africa and the United States.

Netherlands | Benin | United Kingdom | Rijkswaterstaat, Province of South Holland, EcoShape, Deltares, Van Oord, Boskalis



Photo: Sand Motor Benin © Boskalis



CASE STUDY

Coastal resilience Demak Indonesia

Mangrove restoration where sea walls had failed

3x

increase in aquaculture production

5:1+

benefit-cost ratio for mangrove restoration (global average)

- Land subsidence, sea-level rise and erosion displaced communities. Conventional sea walls proved costly and ineffective.
- Permeable structures placed offshore allowed mangroves to regenerate naturally, working with coastal processes rather than against them.
- Coastal erosion reversed. First large-scale pilot combining ecological restoration and community resilience.

Indonesia | EcoShape, Wetlands International, Boskalis, Witteveen+Bos, Deltares - in partnership with Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and local communities. Funded via Dutch Sustainable Water Fund (RVO / Ministry of Foreign Affairs)





CASE STUDY

STU+Wave barrier+ Green dike Malolos/Pamawaran Philippines

NBS for coastal protection

10-15 years

Lifespan of Sediment Trapping Units before mangroves will have colonised the area.

186 tropical storms

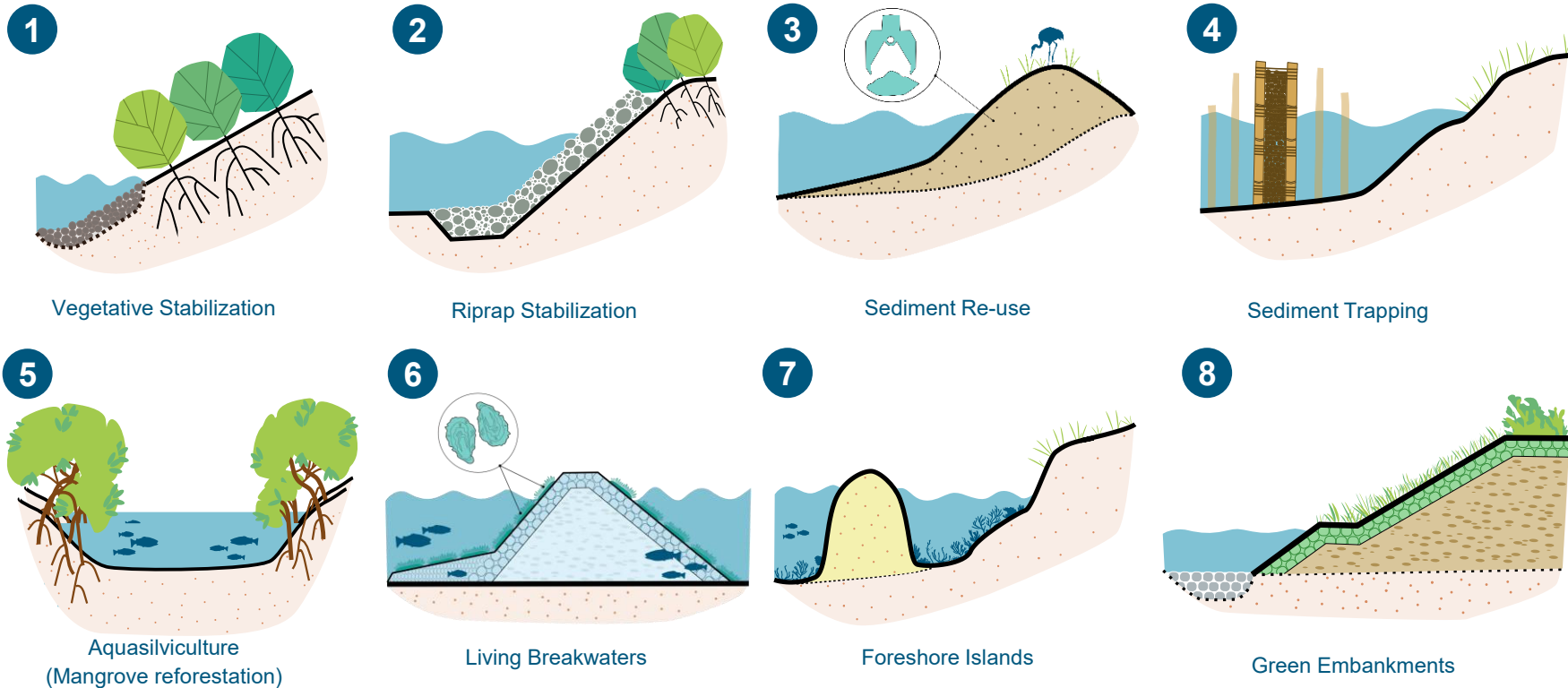
traversed within a 200km radius of the project site, indicating significant potential impact from storms capable of generating severe wave heights and storm surges.

- This pilot project has been designed together with the local government of Malolos and in co-creation with local villagers.
- The government of the Netherlands funded the design, technical assistance and monitoring, the City of Malolos has funded the implementation of all measures.

Haskoning | Netherlands Embassy in The Philippines | Rijkswaterstaat | ABBBP | City of Malolos | Partners for Water



Proposed NbS options











CASE STUDY

Coastal restoration Quelimane Mozambique

Strengthening flood resilience and sustainable
urban development

40 hectares

Of mangrove restoration

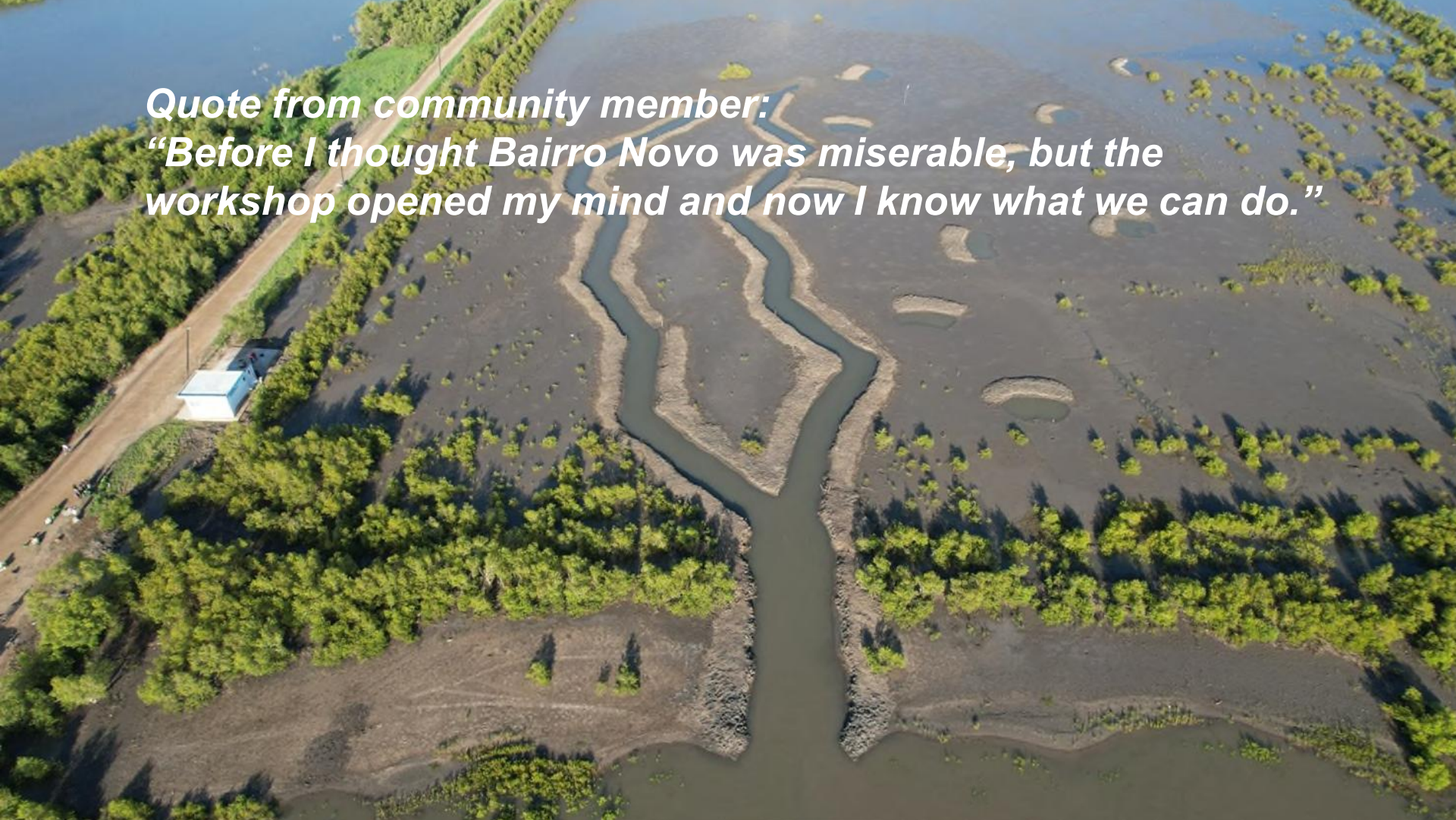
€ 20 million

Budget for first phase of implementation by Invest International and KFW

- Community-driven strategy for strengthening of flood resilience and sustainable urban development in Bairro Novo (Quelimane) was developed as part a vision for flood resilience in Zambezia (Zamvisão) after DRRS mission.
- Combining traditional knowledge with technical expertise, and nature-based strategies with infrastructure improvements, the project explores how urban development, ecosystem restoration, and income generation can go hand in hand.
- Multiple follow-up interventions are in development, including NL-German Investment of 20 million euro (Quelimane Climate Resilience Program, with mangrove restoration), Bairro Novo Demonstration Project, Masterplan for Quelimane and UNEP Restoration Plan.

Partners for Water | Netherlands Embassy Mozambique | Municipality of Beira | VE-R urbanism and landscape architecture | The Weather Makers, Van Oord / Oceans Health | HKV Lijn in Water | Francisca Muluana



An aerial photograph showing a flooded landscape. A winding river or canal cuts through a dark, muddy area. There are patches of green trees and vegetation scattered throughout the flooded region. On the left side, a dirt road runs parallel to the water, with a small blue-roofed building situated near it. The overall scene suggests a coastal or riverine area affected by flooding or water management.

Quote from community member:

“Before I thought Bairro Novo was miserable, but the workshop opened my mind and now I know what we can do.”

- **Investors conference July 2025**

- **NBS measures:**

- **River (Fluvial flooding)**

- Mangrove buffer
- Vegetated riverbanks
- River revetment

- **Urban (Pluvial flooding)**

- Drainage rehab & expansion
- Retention/detention basins
- Flood-resilient roads



The Netherlands

A trusted partner in integrated water management and nature-based approaches

Areas of expertise

IWRM

Integrated Water Resources Management

IRBM

Integrated River Basin Management

ICZM

Integrated Coastal Zone Management

NbS

Nature-based Solutions in practice

Portfolio

Assessment of the full intervention portfolio

Planning

Participatory planning & stakeholder engagement

Delta

Long-term delta planning

Intl.

International cross-sectoral cooperation & knowledge exchange

Our partners

Dutch organisations working on water and nature-based approaches worldwide



Blue Deal

Programme of the Dutch water authorities working with 17 partnerships around the globe to provide 20 million people with access to clean, sufficient and safe water.



EcoShape

Knowledge consortium developing and sharing expertise on Building with Nature: hydraulic engineering approaches that use natural forces for the benefit of environment, economy and society. Partner in the NL2120 programme.



Netherlands Water Partnership

Network of 200+ Dutch water organisations. First port of call for Dutch water expertise, connecting companies, governments, knowledge institutes and NGOs for impact worldwide.



NL2120

10-year national programme in which science, business, government and nature organisations work together to upscale Nature-based Solutions, one of the largest NbS partnerships in the world.



Partners for Water

Dutch government programme driving water security worldwide through long-term cooperation with local partners, knowledge sharing and an integrated approach to water safety and climate.