



Developing Financial Mechanisms in Landscapes: Case Studies From the EU WaterLANDS Project

From Sites to Systems: Putting Landscape Thinking Into Practice for Peatland Restoration

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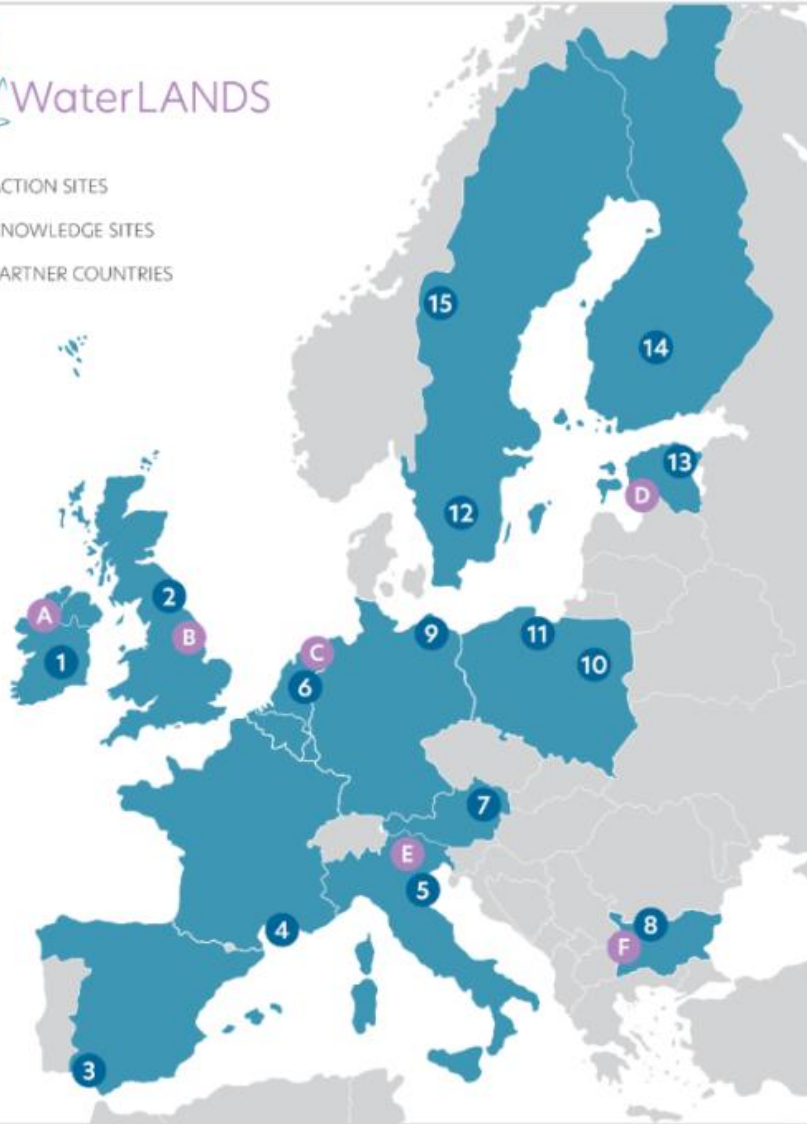


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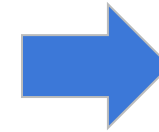




WP 4 Mobilising Finance

WP 2 Engaging Communities

**Define
Financial &
economic
models**



**Test
Financial
instruments**



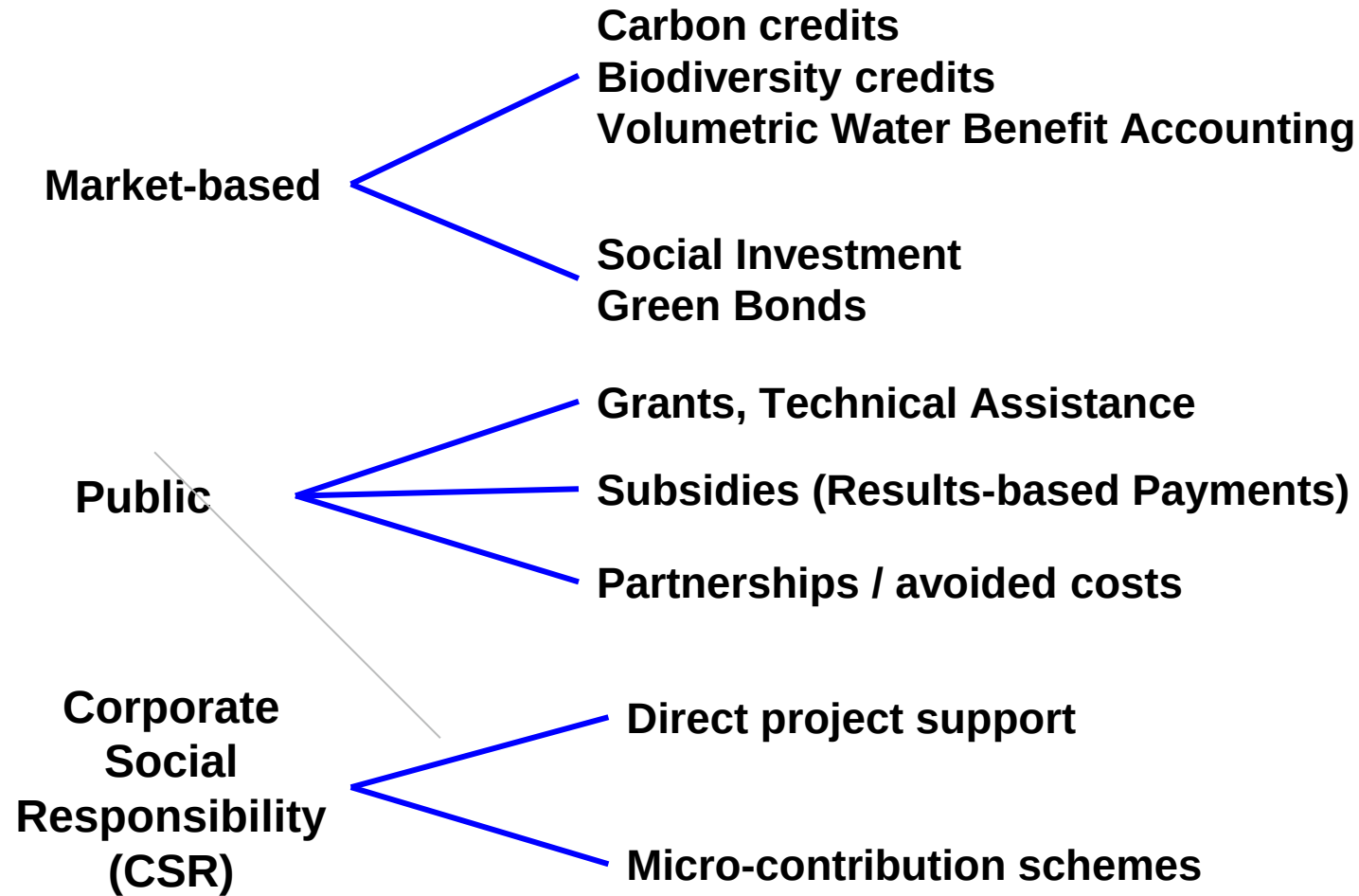
**Identify
Pathways
for scaling
instruments**

Action Sites:

1. Dragoman Marsh (Bulgaria)
2. Pärnu Catchment (Estonia)
3. Cuilcagh-Anierin (Ireland)
4. Venice Lagoon (Italy)
5. Ems-Dollard Estuary (The Netherlands)
6. Great North Bog (UK)



Types of Financing



Market-based Mechanisms

Carbon: (Peatlands: UK Peatland Code, Irish Peatland Standard, Voor vor Vlien). Dragoman Marsh: [Carbon Quicksan](#).

Biodiversity credits: feasibility [Quicksan Tool](#)

Volumetric Water Benefit Accounting: Eems Dollard Estuary

Multiple ecosystem services: Irish Peatland Standard

Challenges / Lessons:

- Price of credits
- Land area required
- Restoration & maintenance costs versus returns
- Capacity required (standards, markets)
- Landowner engagement
- Peatlands (reduced emissions versus removals SBTi)



Public sector

Results-based payment schemes (RBPS): successful ACRES schemes in Ireland. Cuilcagh-Anierin: LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Natre (CAP payments + additional grant finance).

Dragoman Marsh: proposed integration in CAP Strategy.

Partnerships: Eems Dollard - cost of dredging harbours (Technical Assistance, EIB); Venice Lagoon- government agency requirement to restore lagoon.

Supplementing with private sector finance: Eems Dollard Estuary (carbon credits); Cuilcagh-Anierin (additional restoration beyond RBPS - finance via Irish Peatland Standard).

Regulatory requirements: e.g. water companies required by law to support catchment restoration.

Challenges / Lessons:

- Replicating success of results-based payment schemes
- Partnerships require capacity but long-term potential
- Supplementing with private finance complex and costly



Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)



Direct project support: Great North Bog, Dragoman Marsh

Micro-contribution schemes: customers contribute a percentage of bill to restoration. Venice Lagoon (hotels) and Dragoman Marsh (local business).

[Volumetric Water Benefit Accounting: Eems Dollard Estuary]

Challenges / Lessons:

- Some sites are very successful at raising CSR financing.
- Needs resources - network / language-pitch to companies
- Cross-over with market-based schemes as companies. interested in CSR-benefits rather than credits for offsetting.
- Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) providing motivation.



Landowners & Restoration



Lessons from WaterLANDs (Prospex Institute) work in Ireland

Financial incentives: ensuring income for restoration such as through results-based payment mechanisms essential. Market-based mechanisms often seen as risky, concern about selling on to third parties for profit and locking future generations into long-term projects.

Restoration for local employment: potential to engage local farmers / communities in restoration work to provide jobs.

Commonage Charters as governance infrastructure for finance – voluntary collective agreements among co-owners of shared land – represent an institutional innovation that could underpin collective financing or blended funding arrangements across fragmented land tenure

Intergenerational dimension and long-term financial sustainability: younger generations are moving away from farming and need to be considered in any financing model.



Conclusions

Public and CSR are providing financing: location, strategy and capacity of sites are important factors.

Market-based mechanisms remain challenging requiring capacity on standards and markets as well as landowner consent. Securing finance may not be “worth the effort”.

Certification standards may provide a robust approach for MRV which can support CSR-type finance.

Public-private partnerships offer potential to pool resources and expertise and provide a platform to develop private sector financing in the long term..

Landowners often lack effective incentives for engagement in restoration. This is especially the case for market-based mechanisms where concerns about long-term inter-generational commitment and ‘opaque’ nature of market can disincentivise engagement.

