

From Conflict to Collaboration? Lessons from Denmark's Green Tripartite Agreement

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September 3rd 2026

Power to the Peatlands

Outline

1. Context
2. Process for the negotiation
3. Key elements of the agreement
4. Conditions for compromise
5. Opportunities and challenges ahead



Danish Society for Nature Conservation

- Largest environmental NGO in Denmark (~140,000 members and 2500 volunteers)
- Secretariat with professional staff, 95 local departments run by volunteers

We do:

- Advocacy and campaigns
- Monitoring of environmental permits
- Projects for children and youth
- Wide portfolio: Nature, climate, environment



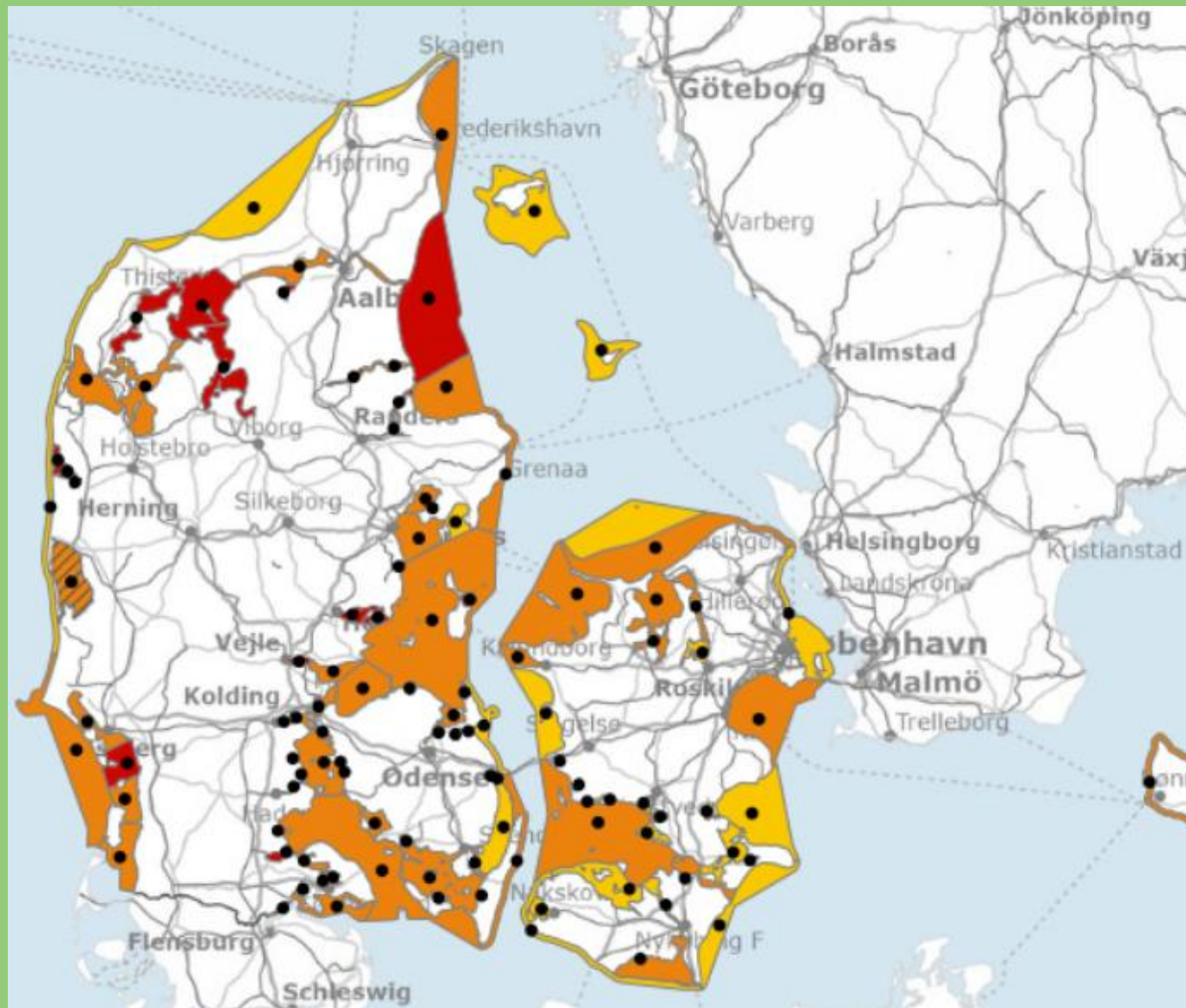
Context

Political context:

- 2022: Coalition government
- Controversy on CO₂e tax on emissions from agriculture

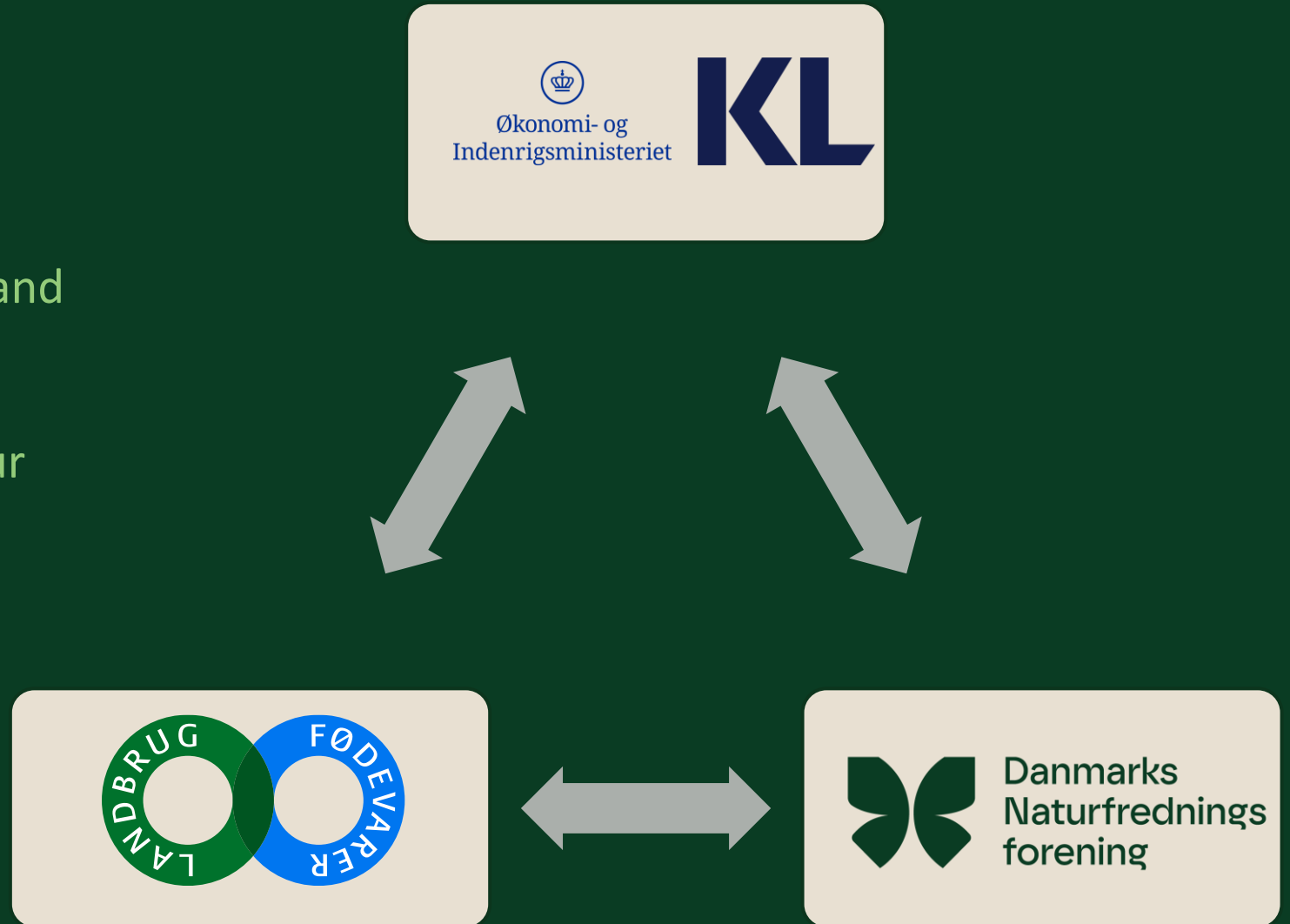
Environmental context:

- Need to cut CO₂e emissions from agriculture to achieve 2030 climate target
- 0 out of 109 coastal waters in good ecological status
- Biodiversity crisis



The tripartite model

- Inspired by the Danish model for labour rights: the Tripartite Model
- Purpose: Find common ground between food production, climate and nature
- Representatives from green civil society, farmers, industry and labour unions





Key elements of the agreement

- Conversion of 15% of cultivated land into forest, wetlands and nature (400.000 hectares)
- 250.000 hectares of new forest
- Restore of 140.000 hectares of peatland
- Cut CO2e emissions from agriculture with 55% by 2030
- Cap on nitrogen emissions by 2027 – good ecological status in all coastal waters by 2030
- Seven additional biodiversity reserves
- Local involvement in land conversion

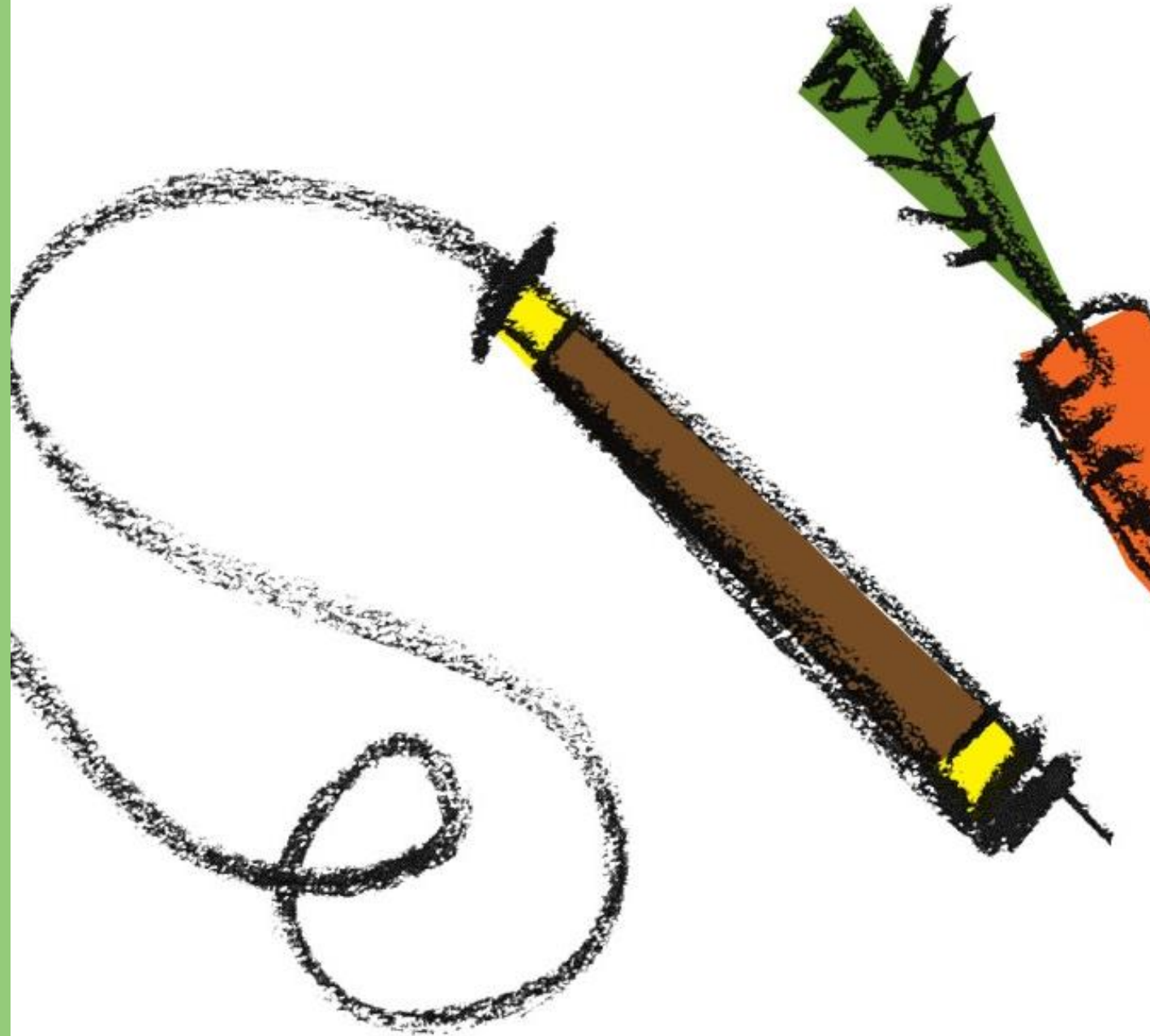
Aftale om et Grønt Danmark

Aftale mellem regeringen,
Landbrug & Fødevarer,
Danmarks Naturfredningsforening,
Fødevareforbundet NNF,
Dansk Metal,
Dansk Industri og
Kommunernes Landsforening

24. juni 2024

Policy measures

- Regulations (sticks)
 - Nitrogen regulation by 2027
 - Tax on GHG emissions from drained peatland by 2028
 - CO2e tax on emissions from farm animals by 2030
- Compensations schemes (carrots)
 - Competitive compensation for permanent conversion to forest, wetland, nature
 - 43 billion kroner (5,7 billion euros)



Lessons learned: Conditions for compromise

1. Building trust
2. Common ground among farmers and DSNC: land conversion over regulation
3. Dedication from government
4. Funds

First two years: Collaboration AND conflict

1. Strong local support for land conversion
2. Many projects in scope – few realized
3. Continued support for agreement... but increased dissatisfaction among farmers



Kvælstofindsats

5.624 ton

12.776 ton

Anlagt	30 ton / 74 projekter
Etableringstilsagn	701 ton / 595 projekter
Forundersøgelsestilsagn	4.892 ton / 613 projekter

Lavbundsindsats

97.039 ha

140.000 ha

Anlagt	728 ha / 11 projekter
Etableringstilsagn	24.607 ha / 206 projekter
Forundersøgelsestilsagn	71.703 ha / 639 projekter

Skovrejsningsindsats

3.340 ha

250.000 ha

Anlagt	606 ha / 85 projekter
Etableringstilsagn	2.733 ha / 376 projekter

Looking ahead

- Implementation phase (2025–2045)
- The agreement builds the framework, but many elements remain yet to be decided in detail
- Continued support?
- Are the policy tools sufficient to reach policy goals?
 - Need to raise CO₂-tax?
 - Need to tighten nitrogen regulation?
 - Need to increase payment?



Questions?

Thank you!



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