



**NORDIC
NATURE
NETWORK**

Strengthen Your Municipality's Role in Advancing Global Biodiversity Goals!

Local Actions for the new global framework for Biodiversity

A development program supported by the Nature Program
under the Nordic Council of Ministers

The Nordic Network for Ambitious Nature Municipalities brings together municipalities who want to lead the way in translating international biodiversity targets into documented local practice. The network has been developed in collaboration with the Nature Programme under the Nordic Council of Ministers and builds on the experiences from the initiative Man and the Biosphere – Local Actions for Biodiversity (MAB-LAB). The collaboration takes place in partnership with Nordic UNESCO biosphere reserves and IUCN, providing municipalities with access to both international knowledge and a Nordic development space where solutions are created, tested, and shared.

**Learn more about
the initiative and the
overall effort at:**

<https://www.nordicnaturenetwork.com>

Join an Ambitious Nordic Network for Nature

– A shared development programme supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

Nature is under pressure across the world. The loss of biodiversity affects ecosystems, climate, local communities, and economies. International biodiversity goals outline an ambitious direction for reversing this decline by 2030 and 2050. But these goals only become reality when they are translated into concrete decisions and actions at the local level.

It is in municipalities that nature is restored. It is here that citizen engagement becomes active co ownership. It is here that citizen science and collaboration with researchers strengthen the knowledge base. It is here that nature based solutions are integrated into planning, climate adaptation, and urban development. It is here that biodiversity becomes part of municipal governance and prioritisation. And not least, it is here that biodiversity initiatives create value locally.

The Nordic direction for local biodiversity is therefore shaped in municipalities and communities through practical actions.

A NORDIC COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL REACH

The network brings together 15 to 20 selected municipalities and biosphere areas from across the Nordic region. Participants are chosen based on experience, ambition, and organisational capacity.

The work is grounded in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), which commits countries worldwide to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. The network's task is to develop a municipal translation that makes these targets operational within Nordic planning and management.

Experiences from the network will be shared on international platforms, including COP17 in 2026, and consolidated at a final Nordic conference in autumn 2027. Participating municipalities thus become part of a collaboration with both Nordic and global visibility. By joining, your municipality takes part in a structured and committed development process.

You become part of:

- a collaboration supported by the Nordic Council of Ministers
- a professionally ambitious learning community
- a joint method development process with international relevance
- a network where municipalities set the direction
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The network also forms a development programme in which municipalities both contribute, learn, and help shape new standards for local biodiversity practice.

WHAT YOUR MUNICIPALITY GAINS FROM PARTICIPATING

Participation strengthens both your professional capacity and your strategic position.

You gain access to:

- a municipal “translation” of the international biodiversity targets
- an indicator framework for planning and documentation
- Nordic peer-to-peer exchange with municipalities and biosphere areas
- joint development of methods and practices
- an opportunity to position yourselves as a municipality at the forefront

The network provides a framework for working more systematically, more evidence-based, and more strategically with biodiversity.

WHAT IT TAKES TO PARTICIPATE

The network targets municipalities that have the will to work with biodiversity locally, that may already be engaged seriously in nature and biodiversity efforts, and that are ambitious about further strengthening their work.

Participation requires:

- administrative anchoring
- concrete experience with nature and biodiversity projects
- appointment of a dedicated contact person or a small cross-departmental team
- active participation in the kickoff, webinars, and thematic meetings
- willingness to share experiences and data

Participation is binding but realistic. The programme is designed so it can be integrated into municipal operations, provided that biodiversity is prioritised strategically.

HOW THE PROGRAMME IS ORGANISED

The network is organised as a development programme in 2026 and 2027 with a focus on networking, capacity building, and strengthening municipalities' ability to work with the global biodiversity targets in a local government framework.

The programme runs throughout 2026–2027 and includes, in brief:

- a joint Nordic kickoff
- a development track (Track 1) with four webinars on the “translation” of global biodiversity targets into a municipal context and indicator development
- a thematic learning track (Track 2) with six network meetings
- mini pilot projects testing new approaches and the indicators
- a final Nordic conference in 2027

THE TWO TRACKS

TRACK 1: GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY GOALS IN MUNICIPAL REALITY

Track 1 consists of four webinars focusing on the “translation” of biodiversity targets—meaning a meaningful interpretation and a shared terminology—along with an indicator framework adapted to municipal realities.

As part of this track, several cross-municipal mini pilot projects will be carried out with participation from network members. The purpose is to foster learning, innovation, and new knowledge, as well as to test and qualify the indicator framework.

TRACK 2: THEMATIC NETWORK MEETINGS WITH A FOCUS ON BIODIVERSITY

Track 2 consists of six thematic network meetings addressing key themes relevant to municipal biodiversity work.

The thematic learning track will address topics such as:

- land-use planning and nature restoration
- local citizen involvement
- citizen science, knowledge, and research
- nature-based solutions
- linking climate and biodiversity efforts

The meetings will include expert presentations, facilitated discussions, knowledge exchange, and inspiration from biosphere areas. The work takes place primarily online and is designed to fit into day-to-day municipal operations. English will be the working language of the network.

See also the calendar with dates and times at the end of this leaflet.

Commitments for Network Participants:

Participants commit to:

- taking part in the common Nordic kickoff
- attending the four Track 1 webinars (June 2026, August 2026, January 2027, May 2027)
- participating in at least one mini pilot project (mid 2026 to mid 2027)
- contributing to at least four thematic network meetings under Track 2 (June 2026–October 2027)
- attending the final conference (Q4 2027)

MINI PILOT PROJECTS

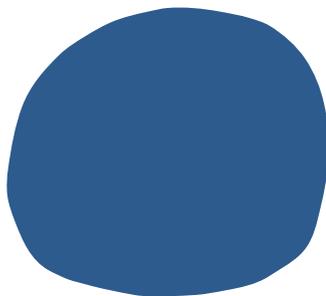
The mini pilot projects are carried out in groups of three to four municipalities per project, in collaboration with a biosphere area. The projects aim to test concrete methods on a smaller scale with a focus on learning, indicator testing, and documentation.

The mini pilot projects will focus on:

- testing a specific approach locally
- documenting experiences systematically
- engaging in professional peer learning across the Nordic countries
- contributing to testing a municipal-adapted indicator framework for implementing the global biodiversity targets

Each pilot group receives a financial grant of 50,000 DKK to support testing and documentation.

At the final Nordic conference in autumn 2027, the pilot projects will serve as flagships in communicating documented experiences and 'next practice' examples.



WANT TO JOIN?

The Nordic direction for local biodiversity is being shaped now. We invite you to a dialogue about how your municipality can join the network.

At the meeting, we will discuss:
your current efforts and ambitions
which thematic tracks are relevant for you
opportunities for pilot project participation
what participation specifically entails

Contact us to book a meeting:

Name: Katrine Dietrich

Organisation: Vordingborg Municipality / Møn UNESCO Biosphere

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Write to us if you are interested in taking part where the Nordic direction for local biodiversity is being shaped — and would like to hear more.



WHO IS BEHIND THE INITIATIVE

The initiative stems from the Nordic collaboration Man and the Biosphere – Local Actions for Biodiversity, which for several years has worked on local implementation of biodiversity targets in Nordic UNESCO Biosphere Areas.

With support from the Nature Programme under the Nordic Council of Ministers, the effort is now being expanded into a municipal network, where municipalities take on the central role as drivers and exemplars.

The work is led by the Møn UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in Vordingborg Municipality, Denmark, and is carried out in close cooperation with Nordic UNESCO Biosphere Areas, with IUCN as an international partner.

Previous reports and results from MAB-LAB can be found here:

<https://www.nordicnaturenetwork.com/>



CALENDAR



NORDIC KICKOFF

19 May 2026, 13:00–15:300

- Programme and participant introductions
- The global biodiversity framework, translation, and indicators

TRACK 1

WEBINARS AND MINI PILOT PROJECTS

22 June 2026, 13:00–15:30

Translation, indicators, and formulation of pilot projects

- Presentation of translation and indicator framework
- Scoping of mini pilot projects
- Mentoring and sparring

25 August 2026, 13:00–15:30

Establishing pilot projects

- Municipal reflections on pilot concepts
- Organisation and planning of pilot progress

19 January 2027, 13:00–15:30

Follow up on pilots and indicator work

- Status, successes, and challenges

27 May 2027, 13:00–15:30

Final webinar for Track 1

- Consolidation of learnings from pilots and indicator framework

TRACK 2

SIX THEMATIC NETWORK MEETINGS

7 SEPTEMBER 2026, 14:00–15:30

Nature based solutions

12 NOVEMBER 2026, 14:00–15:30

Citizen engagement

9 FEBRUARY 2027, 14:00–15:30

Citizen science

14 APRIL 2027, 14:00–15:30

Land use planning / Nature restoration

26 AUGUST 2027, 14:00–15:30

Linking climate and biodiversity initiatives

5 OCTOBER 2027, 14:00–15:30

Theme determined based on needs and interest

FINAL CONFERENCE

4TH QUARTER 2027, TENTATIVELY 3–4 NOVEMBER 2027