

# WET HORIZONS

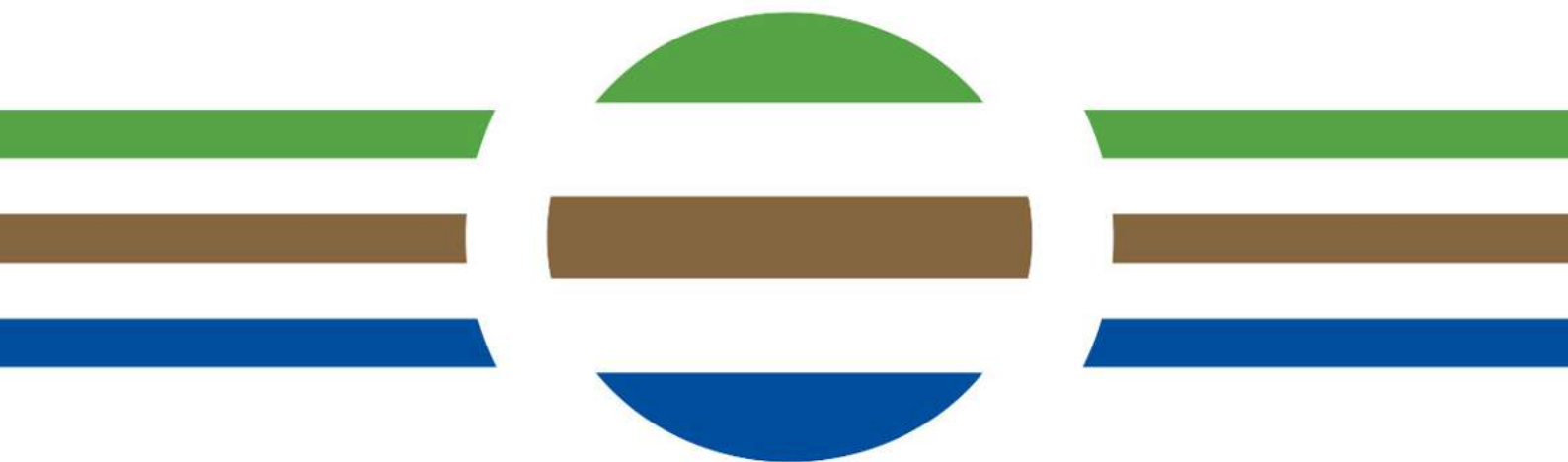
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## D6.1 Stakeholder analysis and impact planning

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1      PU = Public  
 PP = Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)  
 RE = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)  
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## Disclaimer

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## Summary of Deliverable

The research aimed to identify relevant parties in 9 Wet Horizons study catchments interested in, influenced by, or impacted by project outcomes, using a novel "3i approach" (to assess relative Interest, Influence, and Impact). Additional research was conducted to gain insights from relevant organisations identified as highly interested, influential, or impacted. The 3i approach goes beyond traditional stakeholder analyses by prioritising hard-to-reach and vulnerable groups and providing detailed information that can guide subsequent engagement activities.

An initial survey gathered insights from a purposive sample of key informants about relevant parties in each of the project's study catchments. Results are presented by catchment and then by organisation or group, with each relevant party assessed based on their relevance at the catchment, national, or international level, and ordered by aggregate 3i scores, ranking organisations from higher to lower levels of interest, influence, and impact. High-scoring organizations may be powerful allies in generating impact or may act as "gatekeepers", hindering impact. To ensure inclusive engagement, tailored strategies may be necessary to draw those with limited interest and influence into project activities and deliver impacts for more marginalised groups.

A second survey targeted parties that scored highly in the first survey or were identified as having potential for impact, to identify potential opportunities for the research to generate impact in each catchment. Survey responses were analysed to develop impact plans and recommendations for organisations in each catchment. These are presented after the analysis of 3i results for each organisation. Findings emphasised knowledge exchange, identification of ecosystem market opportunities, policy support for wetland restoration via public funding and the development of blended finance mechanisms, and the use of digital tools to enhance the effectiveness of restoration projects.

Finally, an international advisory board was assembled to develop an international impact plan for the project. Current and planned work was discussed to identify opportunities for collaboration that could deliver impact. In common with catchment level impact opportunities, there was a strong focus on policy and market engagement. Policy engagement involves collaborating with the European Peatlands Initiative to influence peatland policy, supported by evidence-based strategies, co-productive work across Europe, and capacity building among the peatland research community. Market engagement aims to increase private investment integrity and scale up restoration efforts through a communication campaign, leveraging synergies among EU projects and partners to promote peat-free horticulture and develop paludiculture value chains. Further work is needed to explore collaboration opportunities for impact between sister projects funded by Horizon Europe, based on the analysis presented in this report.

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# 1 Introduction

It is essential to engage effectively with those affected by change, who typically represent varied, and often conflicting, positions, priorities and values (Reed, 2008; Reed et al., 2017). It is widely acknowledged that those affected by such challenges “*can and should*” (Prell et al., 2009) participate in decisions relating to those problems. The focus of this paper is how to identify relevant parties for such decision-making. The process of systematically analyzing who may be affected by an issue, intervention, project, process or decision has for decades been known as *stakeholder analysis*. This type of analysis is recognized as an essential precursor to effective engagement that can enhance the quality of decision-making (Colvin et al., 2020; Prell et al., 2009; Reed et al., 2009, Reed et al., 2008, Rowe and Frewer, 2000). By systematically ensuring the representation of relevant parties, a well-designed and theoretically-informed participatory process has potential to markedly improve outcomes and can mitigate the risks associated with tokenistic participation mechanisms (De Vente et al., 2016; Reed et al. 2009; Reed et al., 2018a, Rowe and Frewer, 2000). Studies in governance show that co-production of knowledge and evidence can have long-lasting effects on relationships between different actors and implementation of policy outcomes (Armitage et al. 2015). On the other hand, failure to systematically identify and engage directly with those who are affected by a given issue at an early stage can inflame conflicts, resulting in alienation and distrust and the failure of well-meaning efforts to deliver social and environmental benefits (Chinseu et al., 2021, Reed et al., 2017, Prell et al., 2009). Without a systematic analysis of who is relevant to engage, there is a heightened risk that powerful groups and organizations have a greater influence on decision making, marginalising other groups and voices and potentially biasing outcomes (Reed et al., 2009; Reed and Rudman, 2022).

Despite their broad adoption and application to a variety of policy contexts and issues, stakeholder analysis methods have seen limited conceptual development since their introduction 30 years ago. Traditional stakeholder analysis approaches have been criticized for being overly simplistic, as they tend to prioritize stakeholders with high interest and influence (“key players”) for engagement, using low interest and influence as a justification for the exclusion of marginalized groups (Reed et al., 2018). This is widely acknowledged to reinforce existing power disparities (Dougill et al., 2006; Reed and Curzon, 2015; Prell et al., 2009; Colvin et al., 2020).

In addition, concerns have been raised with the word *stakeholder* itself. Banerjee (2003), Reed et al. (in prep.) and others have suggested that the word should no longer be used, as part of a wider effort to decolonize research vocabulary. This is because the term was used by colonial settlers in what is now Canada, who staked out their claim to the land prior to any treaty with First Nations groups. For this reason, we use the term *relevant parties*, drawing on Freeman’s (1984:52) original definition of stakeholders as “groups and individuals who can affect, or are affected by” an action or decision (in his case, he was referring to the mission of an organization). We use the word *parties* to refer to actors, people, groups, partners or rightsholders, to include non-human species and those who are not (yet) formally recognized as partners or rightsholders, but who may still be interested in, have influence over or be affected by an issue, intervention, project or decision. Freeman (1984) identified two essential characteristics: influence (the capacity to affect a decision) and impact (the capacity to be impacted by a decision, whether positively or negatively). However, stakeholder analysis has to date focused primarily on the relative interest and influence of different parties.

Despite these challenges, there have been some efforts to reverse the logic of traditional interest and influence frameworks and promote broader inclusivity. For example, Hart and Sharma’s (2004) concept of “radical transactiveness” acknowledges the knowledge, perspectives and potential to influence outcomes that are possessed by marginalized groups and supports the inclusion and empowerment of those on the “fringe”. This approach has been used to identify relevant marginalized groups to be empowered through the engagement process (Prell et al., 2009). Reed and Curzon (2015) proposed the use of “extendible matrices” to qualitatively characterize the nature of different interests and suggest reasons for the level of influence ascribed. This qualitative analysis facilitated an exploration of relevant parties’ varying levels of influence in different contexts or at different times. In addition, the extendible matrix allowed for the consideration (and documentation) of additional factors that might influence existing social roles or relationships between groups, such as coalitions or conflicts between different parties that could affect engagement strategies. Consistent with radical transactiveness (Hart and Sharma, 2004), Reed et al. (2018a) proposed the inclusion of *benefit*, recognizing that interest does not necessarily equate to benefit and not all stakeholders will benefit equally from the outcomes.

Building on this, we introduce an *impact* criterion as a third criterion in a “3i’s” framework that considers the relative *‘interest’*, *‘influence’* and *‘impact’* of different parties (Reed et al., under review). *Impact* can be either positive or negative, enabling the identification of both beneficiary groups and those likely to be negatively impacted. This is particularly pertinent for groups that have limited interest and influence, who would otherwise be overlooked by traditional interest-influence matrix approaches, who may already be marginalized, enabling more inclusive engagement.

This report describes the development and application of the 3i approach to identify relevant parties in each of the 9 Wet Horizons study catchments (Figure 1) that might be interested in, have influence over, or may be impacted by future decision-making in relation to the intended outcomes of the Wet Horizons project. Additional research was then conducted to gain insights from specific organisations identified as highly interested, influential or impacted by the project and/or its intended outcomes. This data was analysed to form impact plans and recommendations for organisations in each catchment.

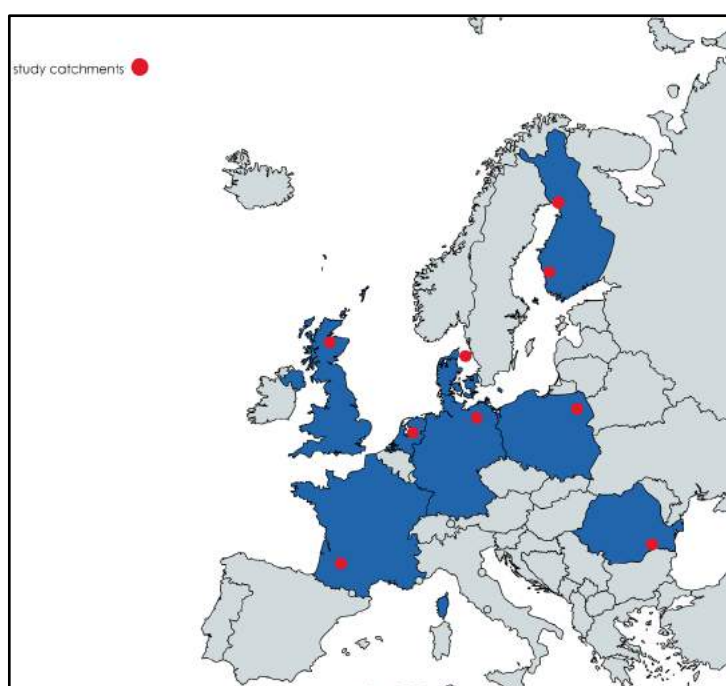


Figure 1: Location of the study catchments indicated by a red circle

## 2 The 3i analytical framework

Here we present the 3i analytical framework as a tool for analyzing relevant parties' *interest* in, *influence* over and experience or likely *impact* of issues, interventions, projects, processes and decisions. This approach helps to go beyond interest and influence to evaluate the likely impact of the issue both in terms of the likely benefits and potential risks. Table 1 shows how the analysis seeks to understand *interest*, *influence* and *impact* at two levels: primary and secondary. Such multi-level analysis builds more comprehensive understandings of relevant parties than traditional stakeholder analyses, aiming to uncover hidden dynamics that might be driving interactions and outcomes. Primary analysis seeks to provide metric style evaluations of relevant parties, aligned with traditional methods of stakeholder analysis. Secondary analysis questions assumptions and facilitates deeper discussions. The added value of secondary analysis provide additional insights that may empower the user to engage more empathically and effectively with relevant parties.



**Table 1:** The two levels for clarifying interest, influence and impact.

	Interest	Influence	Impact
Primary	Stated interest and preferences	Explicit, hierarchical “power over”	Immediate benefits or negative impacts from initial engagement
Secondary	Underpinning (transcendental) values beliefs and norms	Implicit, personal and transpersonal “power with”	Longer term benefits or negative impacts

For interest, the primary level is consistent with traditional interest/influence matrices, and identifies their degree of interest from low to high via consideration of their stated interests and preferences. The secondary level of analysis considers a deeper articulation of (often implicit) underlying (transcendental) values, beliefs and norms that may underpin interests or drive disinterest (following the deliberative value formation model of Kenter et al. (2016a) and their (2016b) conceptualization of “shared, plural and cultural values”).

The degree of influence that any party exerts, is explored along two dimensions defined from high to low and positive to negative. Influence here is framed by Berger’s (2005) definition of power and the first level is consistent with traditional interest-influence matrices in considering explicit, hierarchical ‘power-over’ forms of influence that are typically characterized by control, instrumentalism and self-interest, and driven by factors such as access to resources, organizational scale, property rights, and levels of authority and expertise. The secondary level of analysis probes deeper to consider the implicit or personal ‘power with’ forms of empowerment, characterized by dialogue, inclusion, networks, negotiation and shared power (Berger 2005). For example, a landlord has ‘power over’ their tenant farmer due to the legally binding restrictions contained within a tenancy agreement, whereas, a farmers’ union, which tries to guide or influence tenant farmers towards, say, adopting certain environmental practices has ‘power with’. In both cases, influence can act to facilitate or block change.

This inclusion of impact represents a novel third criterion for analysis that aims to understand who is likely to directly benefit or, equally as importantly, be negatively impacted from engaging with a given issue, intervention, project, process or decision. This broadens the benefit criteria proposed by Reed et al. (2018a), ensuring that disempowered groups are not further marginalized, whilst simultaneously identifying and mitigating the risk of negative unintended consequences for relevant parties. It seems paradoxical that groups or individuals expected to be impacted might be deemed not to be interested. Such a situation might arise from inter alia lacking information, social distance from decision-makers, being disconnected from issues or policy-making contexts, or being alienated by language or other power mechanisms. In common with the first two criteria, the impact criterion operates at two levels. The primary level is designed to consider the short-term impacts from engagement and identify both the benefits that might arise from engagement, for example, the formation of new networks, capacity, knowledge or skills, and the possible risks that may arise, such as inflaming conflict, or misunderstandings that could lead to disengagement. The secondary, deeper level of analysis considers the longer-term putative benefits or possible risks that might arise from the engagement. This could include instrumental benefits, such as new policies, or economic, social, environmental, health or cultural benefits arising from the issue, intervention, project, process or decision as it plays out, or negative impacts that might arise as an unintended consequence.

The 3i framework in Tables 2 and 3 facilitates analytical classification of multiple parties and provides insights into the relationships between these parties and an issue, intervention, project, process or decision. The questions in Table 2 are designed to facilitate discussion (where the analysis is conducted via a workshop) or feed into a survey (where this method is preferred to conduct the analysis) at both the primary and secondary levels described in Table 1. Questions are posed in both positive and negative forms to capture those with and without interest and influence and those who may be negatively or positively impacted by the issue, intervention, project, process or decision.

**Table 2:** Questions to identify relevant parties for engagement based on the dimensions of interest, influence and impact, including questions to facilitate analysis at both the primary and secondary levels described in Table 1.

Dimension of the analysis	Primary level questions	Secondary level questions
Interest	<p>Which parties are already interested and what is the nature of their interest?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the scope of their interest?</li> <li>• What aspects of an issue are they interested in?</li> <li>• Who within the group or which part of the organization is most interested?</li> </ul> <p>Who else would you like do you think should be interested?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why should they be interested?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What values, beliefs, norms or assumptions might be influencing their <i>perception</i> of the issue, intervention, project, process or decision?</li> <li>• What values, beliefs, norms or assumptions might be driving or inhibiting the <i>interest or disinterest</i> in the issue, intervention, project, process or decision?</li> </ul>
Influence	<p>Which parties have the power to <i>facilitate</i> development of positive or negative impacts in relation to this issue, intervention, project, process or decision?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do they have direct influence over impacts, for example via access to resources, organizational scale, property rights, or levels of authority and expertise that give them “power over” others?</li> <li>• Which individuals with a group or groups within an organisation have most influence to facilitate impact and why?</li> </ul> <p>Who has the power to <i>block</i> development of these impacts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do they have direct influence over impacts?</li> <li>• Which individuals or groups have most influence to block impact and why?</li> </ul> <p>Who or what can they influence and at what geographical, social or other scale?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who has indirect influence to facilitate or block impacts, for example via dialogue, inclusion, networks, negotiation and shared power that give them “power with” others?</li> <li>• Which individuals or groups within organisations have most influence to facilitate or block impact in these ways?</li> <li>• Who or what can they influence and at what geographical, social or other scale?</li> </ul>
Impact	<p>Which parties might benefit most in the short-term from initial engagement with this issue, intervention, project, process or decision?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What types of benefits are likely to be gained for each of these parties, for example, the formation of new networks, capacity, knowledge or skills?</li> </ul> <p>Which parties may be disadvantaged or harmed most in the short-term, from initial engagement with this issue, intervention, project, process or decision?</p>	<p>Which parties might benefit most in the long-term as a result of the issue, intervention, project, process or decision as it plays out?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What types of benefits are likely to be gained for each of these parties, for example, new policies, or economic, social, environmental, health or cultural benefits?</li> <li>• How significant and far-reaching are these impacts anticipated to be?</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What risks are these parties likely to be exposed to or disadvantages might they suffer, such as inflaming conflict, or misunderstandings that could lead to disengagement?</li> </ul>	<p>Which parties may be disadvantaged or harmed most in the long-term, as this issue, intervention, project, process or decision plays out?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What risks are these parties likely to be exposed to or disadvantages might they suffer, for example as a result of negative unintended consequences?</li> <li>• How significant and far-reaching are these impacts anticipated to be?</li> </ul>
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### 3 Methods

To generate data more efficiently using the 3i approach, two survey designs were developed, refined and built using an online survey platform<sup>1</sup> (Appendices 1 and 2). Informed consent was gained from all participants via a consent block in the online survey, and both survey designs were approved by the SRUC Ethics Board.

The first '3i survey' design (Appendix 1) focuses on gathering insights about relevant parties from individuals who are identified by the researchers as knowledgeable about the landscape of relevant parties for wetland restoration in each catchment. To identify participants for this survey, a call-out for participation was circulated within Wet Horizons researchers' networks, forming the basis for a snowball sample. Participation was requested of those with knowledge of the groups or organisations with a stake or relation to wetlands restoration in each catchment. Where survey responses were low, additional requests for participation were made via social media (Twitter and LinkedIn). This first survey received n=94 responses across the 9 study catchments.

Once data for each catchment had been collected, survey results were analysed to identify the nature and level of each relevant party's interest, influence and impact in relation to the Wet Horizons project. Each organisation was given an overall '3i score', with higher scores indicating the more important organisations to engage in the project.

In order to validate these scores and ascertain more detail on the organisations reported about subjectively by respondents who were, in many cases, external to those organisations, a second survey was distributed (Appendix 2). The second 'impact planning' survey adopted a purposive sampling method. It was specifically distributed to parties who either scored highly on the 3i survey or were identified by respondents within the 3i survey as having a specific potential for impactful opportunities in order to gather the information required to develop more specific impact plans. Respondents were identified by making contact with those from the 3i survey who had specified they had contacts they would be willing to invite to participate in the survey. The impact planning survey received n=20 responses across 4 study catchments.

These survey entries were then analysed and triangulated with the other responses for each organisation from the 3i survey to develop more detailed impact recommendations.

#### 3.1 Survey Instruments

##### 3i survey

Following a description of the research project and a block of demographic questions, the survey in Appendix 1 starts by asking respondents to assess their own awareness of organisations or groups that may be relevant to the planned work or aims of the project. This initiates the process of respondents

<sup>1</sup> [qualiaanalytics.org](http://qualiaanalytics.org)

reviewing their network in relation to the project, and defining specific relevant parties to answer subsequent 3i questions about.

Once a specific party has been named, the next question measures the level at which they are related to the research in terms of geographical scale (local, national, or international), from the perspective of the respondent. The analytical purpose of this question is to understand the scope of the relevant party's interest, and to indicate from which geographical angle their perspective is likely to be informed by. This is followed by a series of questions exploring whether the group or organisation is likely to be interested, impacted by (positively or negatively) or able to influence (in terms of supportive or blocking power) the process of wetland restoration in the catchment. These aspects were measured using a Likert scale from 0 (not at all) - 100 (extremely), providing ordinal data. Open text boxes also gave space for respondents to indicate the nature of their interest, influence, or how they might be impacted.

The penultimate block of questions starts with a question assessing the respondent's awareness of any other useful information it would be useful for the project to know with regards to engaging the relevant party. This might include important context, such as their knowledge base, expertise, funding, or the political context they are embedded in. Finally, respondents are asked if they have the ability and willingness to invite someone from this relevant party to engage with the project. This is asked in order to lay the foundations for actual engagement and impact planning work, and gain consent for asking the respondent to support this engagement.

#### Impact planning survey

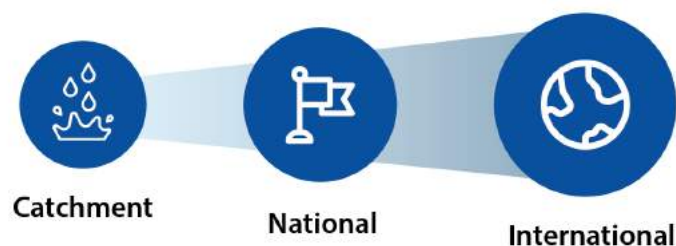
The survey design in Appendix 2 opens with the same project description and demographic question blocks, and asks respondents to identify which catchment they are related to. Respondents are then presented with a thought-listing question, asking 'What comes to mind when you think of wetland or peatland restoration?' in order to give a general idea of their perspective in relation to wetlands. Then, respondents are given a more detailed account of the project aims and the intended types of outputs intended to be created, followed by questions aiming to gauge the respondents' perception of the project, particularly in terms of their level of interest and its importance to them and their organisation.

The subsequent section swiftly identifies potential impact areas by inquiring about major challenges and existing initiatives within their catchment area related to wetland or peatland. If respondents are aware of specific initiatives where the project could be beneficial, questions about potential beneficiaries, the types of valuable project outputs, and their preferred formats follow. The survey also seeks to determine the most effective communication channels for disseminating project results. This methodical approach aimed to refine the project's focus and tailor outputs to potential beneficiaries' needs and preferences, thus maximising impact and relevance.

Both surveys have been translated into selected languages pertinent to each study catchment, as identified by partners, to accommodate varying levels of English proficiency among intended respondents (including German, French, Dutch, Danish, Finnish, Polish). This ensures broader accessibility and inclusiveness in gathering valuable insights.

## 4 3i analyses and impact planning results

Each organisation was assessed by the respondents based on its relevance to the research at the catchment, national or international level. These categories are symbolised with the following icons:



Within each catchment section, Appendix 3 presents the survey results for each organisation identified by the 3i survey respondents, followed by any impact survey results available. Organisations are presented in order of their aggregate 3i scores (i.e., scores across interest, influence and impact) from high to low. As such, results are presented first for the organisations with the highest interest, influence and impact, then for the relevant parties that respondents scored lower on the 3i survey. In some cases, respondents indicated there would be some level of interest, influence or impact for the organisation, but did not provide a score indicating the extent. In these cases, desk research and interpretation of open-ended responses were used to infer an appropriate level (low, medium or high).

### 4.1 Example 3i analysis output

To illustrate the findings, the remainder of this section provides excerpts from the results for one catchment, where the 3i analysis tool was used to identify parties relevant to wetland and peatland restoration in the catchment of the River Dee, Scotland, UK. A total of 11 organisations were identified with interests in, influence over and/or likely to be impacted positively or negatively by wetland and peatland restoration in the catchment. This information was provided by 9 survey respondents. Table 3 summarises the organisations identified in four categories and Table 4 shows the scores assigned for each organisation's interest, influence and impact. The full analysis of all organisations is provided in Appendix 3. Results for two contrasting organisations are provided below, to allow comparison of the organisations with the highest versus lowest scores across the three criteria, interest, influence and impact. In some cases, respondents indicated there would be some level of interest, influence or impact for the organisation, but did not provide a score indicating the extent. In these cases, desk research and interpretation of open-ended responses were used to infer an appropriate level (low, medium or high).

**Table 3:** Relevant party categories identified for the Dee catchment, Scotland, UK.

Relevant party category	Category description	Organisations	No. of organisations identified
National and regional level public bodies	National and regional public bodies with statutory powers responsible for nature conservation or public land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cairngorms National Park Authority</li> <li>• Forestry &amp; Land Scotland</li> <li>• Peatland Action (NatureScot)</li> </ul>	3
Local authorities and community councils	Local level public bodies and voluntary organisations set up by statute by local authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballater and Crathie Community Council</li> </ul>	1
Environmental charities, initiatives and partnerships	Non-governmental organisations, partnerships, networks and initiatives with conservation and restoration goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership</li> <li>• Dee Catchment Partnership</li> <li>• Dee District Salmon Fishery Board and River Dee Trust*</li> </ul>	3
Landowners	Private estates, charitable estate owners, owner occupier farmers, and other institutional landowners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balmoral Estate</li> <li>• Glenmuick Estate</li> <li>• Invercauld Estate</li> <li>• Mar Lodge Estate</li> </ul>	4

\* Dee District Salmon Fishery Board and River Dee Trust are legally separate entities that in many ways function as a separate organisation, with a shared website, office and staff team. The fisheries board is a statutory body, so could have been categorised differently here.

**Table 4:** Scores assigned to each of the organisations identified, in relation to their interest, ability to influence the achievement of restoration goals (positively or negatively), and the likely impacts (either positive or negative) arising from restoration for each organisation. Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Balmoral Estate. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

Organisation	Interest	Influence (Positive)	Influence (Negative)	Impact (Positive)	Impact (Negative)	Total 3i score
Balmoral Estate	80	100	100	50	80	410
Invercauld Estate	80	90	80	50	80	380
Forestry and Land Scotland	100	76	70	79	N/A	325
Mar Lodge Estate (National Trust)	90	80	30	70	N/A	270
East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership	50	80	80	40	N/A	250
Peatland Action (NatureScot)	70	100	80	N/A	N/A	250
Ballater and Crathie Community Council	90	50	20	80	NA	240
Dee Catchment Partnership	68.5	60	56.5	55	N/A	240
Glenmuick Estate	50	80	51	50	N/A	231
Cairngorms National Park Authority	70	69	30	60	N/A	229
Dee District Salmon Fishery Board and River Dee Trust	60	42.5	22	85	N/A	213

## Balmoral Estate

Balmoral Estate, covering an area over 20,000 hectares, is well-known for Balmoral Castle - a residence of the British royal family. The estate was bought by Prince Albert husband of Queen Victoria in 1852<sup>2</sup>. The estate falls within the Cairngorms National Park and partly within the Deeside and Lochnagar National Scenic Area, and contains several other designated protected areas. The estate contains extensive tracts of woodland, grouse moor and farmland, as well as large numbers of deer. The estate is also a major tourist destination with visitors coming to see the castle and grounds, access a range of guided walks, talks and 'land rover safaris', and pay to fish from the estate's rivers<sup>3</sup>.

The respondent commented that, 'Balmoral Estate probably owns the largest continuous area of peatland in the Dee catchment (south of Loch Muick), therefore their cooperation in progressing peatland restoration to help mitigate flood risk in this catchment is vital'.

### Interest

Balmoral Estate was rated as likely to be highly interested (80%) in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though no further explanation was given, this is likely due to the estate containing significant areas of peatlands. Furthermore, Balmoral has been engaged in peatland restoration since 2015 with work to reprofile hags, install dams, and restore areas of bare peat<sup>4</sup>. The estate was recently awarded further funding from Peatland Action to expand its restoration efforts<sup>5</sup>. A number of monitoring studies are also being carried out on the estate in relation to peatland restoration, including one led by the James Hutton Institute which uses aerial mapping technology<sup>6</sup>.

### Influence

Balmoral Estate was rated as likely to have a high level of influence (100%) to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This power to facilitate restoration relates firstly to control over what happens to peatlands contained on the estate itself. In addition, the respondent noted that 'if they take a lead in restoration, neighbouring estates that are managed in a similar way'. One forum where this type of influence may be exerted is the East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership (ECMP), of which Balmoral is a partner, described below. Balmoral Estate was rated as likely to have a high level of influence (100%) to block Wet Horizons and its outcomes, with the respondent highlighting the control the estate has over what happens on its own land. Following the above, it is also evident that the estate's power to block restoration is likely to include its ability to shape the decision making of neighbouring estates.

### Impact

Balmoral Estate was rated as likely to receive a moderate level of benefit (50%) from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent noted here that there, 'could be significant potential benefits in terms of publicity for the estate, attracting paying visitors, if they can demonstrate green credentials...peatland restoration could also enhance landscape quality, further attracting visitors'. Given that Balmoral Estate is already engaged in peatland restoration, it can also be assumed that the estate would benefit from any improvements in restoration practice as a result of the Wet Horizons project.

Conversely, Balmoral Estate was rated as likely to experience a high level of negative impact (80%) from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent explained that there is the, 'potential for incompatibilities between some of the estate's traditional commercial activities (e.g. hunting and shooting) that could be a barrier to restoration'. The respondent highlighted the impact of high deer numbers in reducing the effectiveness of restoration, and it is notable that Balmoral Estate has previously been criticised for failing to reduce deer populations<sup>7</sup>.

### Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning

- **Engaging through existing ECMP and CNPA:** the estate is located within the Cairngorms National Park and is a member of the East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership. Engaging the

<sup>2</sup> <https://balmoralcastle.com/index.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.scottishlandandestates.co.uk/events/walk-talk-peatland-restoration-spittal-glenmuick-balmoral-estate>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/20/royal-family-balmoral-estate-could-be-worth-80m>

<sup>6</sup> [Aerial maps used to monitor peatland restoration on Balmoral Estate | The James Hutton Institute](https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18270928.queen-urged-cull-deer-balmoral/)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/18270928.queen-urged-cull-deer-balmoral/>





estate through these and other existing forums may enhance its view of the credibility of the project.

- **Raising public awareness:** Balmoral Estate has a strong public presence as a residence of the British royal family and is a significant destination for tourists. Increasing the public's awareness of the value of restoration could there ensure the estate is more likely to engage with the project.
- **Sharing tools, best practice and lessons learned about restoration:** as the estate is already engaged in peatland restoration, it is likely to benefit from any practical outputs from the project.
- **Sharing ecosystem market outputs which support growth in revenue streams:** as the estate is privately owned and operates commercially, it is likely to be interested in any outputs that improve its ability to access natural capital markets.

## Dee District Salmon Fishery Board and River Dee Trust

Dee District Salmon Fisheries Board (DDFSB) and River Dee Trust are separate legal entities working together as a single 'River Dee team', including through sharing a website, office and team<sup>8</sup>. The organisations describe their shared roles as, 'two organisations who look after the UK's highest river and one of the best-known salmon fishing rivers worldwide... working toward our vision of a thriving river supporting abundant biodiversity and binding strong the Deeside communities in Northeast Scotland'. The River Dee Trust is a community based charitable community set up to improve knowledge about the river's ecology and fish stocks and to carry out restoration activities. DDFSFB is a statutory body, 'tasked with protecting and enhancing stocks of salmon and sea trout across the district'<sup>9</sup>.

One respondent commented here that, 'they work with local landowners to restore habitat and natural geomorphic function to these watercourse. Restoring river habitats may include improving the channel-floodplain connectivity, which can have benefits for wetland environments on the floodplain. Therefore, there may be opportunities to tie in wetland restoration with some of the projects that they are working on'.

### *Interest*

DDFSB and the River Dee Trust were rated as likely to have a moderate level of interest (60%) in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. One respondent commented here that the organisations, 'are regularly looking for opportunities to improve and restore the natural catchment function. This project may help to identify other potential areas for them to target. Following this, in its 'Management Plan 2020-25', DDFSFB states that it is planning to carry out peatland restoration in an effort reduce run-off during flooding and improve water quality. However, it also should be noted that no evidence that this work is on-going was found during the research<sup>10</sup>.

### *Influence*

DDFSB and the River Dee Trust were rated as likely to have moderate influence (45.5%) to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. One respondent noted here that the organisations have, 'good connections with landowners across the Dee catchment, from previous and ongoing work'. Such work includes a range of river restoration activities including removing dams, riparian woodland creation and tackling invasive species. A note of caution here is that activities to date appear to have mostly focused on the river and immediately adjacent lands, with less focus on restoration of peatlands or wetlands. Hence, the role of DDFSFB and the River Dee Trust in facilitating the Wet Horizons could be limited if the project is not seen as directly relevant their work. DDFSFB and the River Dee Trust were rated as likely to have a low level of influence (22%) to block Wet Horizons and its outcomes, with one respondent commenting here that 'it wouldn't be in their interest to do so, unless there was a specific risk to the Dee'.

<sup>8</sup> <https://riverdee.org.uk/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://riverdee.org.uk/who-we-are/#board>

<sup>10</sup> <https://riverdee.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Dee-Fisheries-Management-Plan-2020-25.pdf>



### Impact

DDFSB and the River Dee Trust were rated as likely to receive a high level of benefit (85%) from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. One respondent highlighted a potential benefit as, 'reduced runoff from degraded peatlands into the River Dee'. Following this, benefits could include improvements in restoration practice and tools leading to enhancements in water quality and ultimately to improved fish stocks. Similarly, an increase in peatland restoration across the catchment could be beneficial for DDFS and the River Dee Trust, for example as a result of any improvements in modelling supporting further expansion of peatland natural capital markets. The respondents did not state whether DDFS and the River Dee Trust were likely to experience any negative impacts as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes, but this would appear to be unlikely.

### Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning

- **Sharing tools, best practice and lessons learned about restoration:** given their stated intention to carry out peatland restoration as part of current management planning, DDFS and the River Dee Trust could benefit from any practical outputs from the project.
- **Sharing research summaries and papers:** the responsibility of DDFS and the River Dee Trust for improving the environmental quality of the Dee and its surrounding ecosystems, suggests that they rely on scientific data to guide their work. Research summaries and academic papers are likely to be of interest, particularly as they relate to the potential for restoration to lead to improvements in water quality and habitats.
- **Collaborating on policy and governance:** as the statutory body responsible for improving water quality and increasing fish stocks in the region, DDFS represents an important body to engage in discussions about policy and governance.

## 5 Impact

### 5.1 National impact opportunities

Drawing on data from across the organisations analysed in each country, it is possible to summarise a number of key opportunities for impact in each study catchment.

#### UK

Opportunities for impact in the Dee catchment of Scotland include:

1. **Engagement through established partnerships and authorities:** Utilizing existing channels such as the ECMP and CNPA to engage estates and enhance the credibility of conservation projects.
2. **Public awareness:** Raising public awareness about the value of ecological restoration, especially in areas with a strong tourist presence or public interest, to increase engagement and support for such projects.
3. **Knowledge sharing and best practices:** Disseminating tools, best practices, and lessons learned from peatland restoration efforts to benefit various estates and organizations actively engaged in or planning such activities.
4. **Ecosystem market and revenue streams:** Sharing information on ecosystem market opportunities to support estates and organizations in accessing these markets, thus improving their commercial viability.
5. **Research and scientific data:** Distributing research summaries and academic papers to organisations like the National Trust for Scotland and Peatland ACTION, which rely on scientific data for environmental management and conservation.
6. **Policy collaboration:** Engaging with organizations on policy work and governance, including discussions on improving policies and governance mechanisms for peatland and wetland restoration.



7. **Data sharing:** Providing data sets that improve understanding of the distribution and status of wetland ecosystems, which can be particularly useful for organizations coordinating conservation and restoration activities.

## Romania

Opportunities for impact in the Danube Delta region of Romania include:

1. **Research communication:** Sharing research summaries and academic papers with organizations like ARBBD, which rely on scientific data but are not research bodies themselves, could provide new evidence impacting their management practices.
2. **Strategic engagement:** Engaging organizations like ARBBD through partners such as DDNI could increase the perceived credibility of the Wet Horizons project.
3. **Danube Delta research collaboration:** Sharing specific research plans with organizations like DDNI might align with their evidence gaps or areas of interest, fostering collaboration and policy engagement.
4. **Digital data and tool sharing:** Disseminating digital data and tools resulting from Wet Horizons could aid organizations like Rewilding Danube Delta in their restoration efforts and improve their revenue generating strategies through nature-based solutions projects funded by ecosystem markets.
5. **Policy engagement and advocacy:** Engaging entities like WWF Romania in policy recommendations may assist their advocacy work and public education efforts about the Danube Delta's environment.
6. **Outreach and dissemination:** Leveraging the capacities of organizations like Rewilding Ukraine to disseminate project outputs and engage their stakeholder networks for wider impact.
7. **Supporting economic growth through ecosystem markets:** BDG's focus on supporting SMEs could be complemented by understanding ecosystem markets, which Wet Horizons will explore, and the integration of project data into IT tools for water use scenarios.
8. **Academic and local collaboration:** Universities such as the University of Bucharest and Ovidius University of Constanța can play a role in identifying current restoration initiatives, sharing academic outputs, and providing access to local authorities and stakeholders.

## The Netherlands

Opportunities for impact in the IJssel catchment of The Netherlands include:

1. **Engagement and collaboration:** Nederlandse Landschappen's involvement in decision-making processes could benefit the project, emphasizing the need for customized solutions and insights tailored to local conditions.
2. **Socio-economic and ecological research:** Natuurmonumenten may value socio-economic modelling studies and detailed ecological research findings from the Wet Horizons project to aid advocacy and conservation efforts.
3. **Sustainable management and policy guidance:** Providing guidelines on sustainable peatland management and policy development is crucial for Waterboard Amstel, Gooi and Vecht, as well as ANLB, to align with national policies and to guide their members towards sustainable practices.
4. **Data sharing:** Sharing research summaries and advocating the importance of healthy wetlands could benefit organizations like Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta in their decision-making and interaction with the government.
5. **Community engagement and educational initiatives:** Leveraging the expertise of organizations like Samenwerken aan Riviernatuur and IVN in community engagement and environmental education may enhance public support and understanding of the project.



6. **Knowledge exchange and advocacy:** Utilizing the knowledge-exchange capacities of NWA-LOSS and the advocacy experience of CNK could disseminate project outputs effectively and foster public engagement initiatives.

## Poland

Opportunities for impact in the Narew catchment of Poland include:

1. **Promotion of nature-based solutions:** Quantifying the benefits of nature-based solutions, such as carbon sequestration and nutrient capture projects, may assist SWHPW in integrating these into daily water management practices.
2. **Research dissemination:** Making up-to-date research on modern water management available to SWHPW may facilitate the inclusion of restoration elements in their work.
3. **International field visits and cooperation:** BNP may benefit from international collaboration facilitated through Wet Horizons, sharing experiences with other protected area managers.
4. **Ecosystem services based management:** Implementing a management model that showcases diverse benefits of ecosystem management may help BNP authorities demonstrate the value of their work beyond environmental restoration alone.
5. **Tool validation and knowledge transfer:** OTOPE's experience could help validate tools developed by Wet Horizons, such as ServiPeat, and share their environmental management expertise.
6. **Policy engagement and public awareness:** PTOPE could be involved in disseminating policy recommendations and raising climate awareness due to their advocacy and educational roles.
7. **Academic collaboration and local engagement:** SGGW experts could contribute to identifying restoration initiatives and engage local authorities for the Wet Horizons project.

## Finland

Opportunities for impact in the Kokemäenjoki catchment of Finland include:

1. **Brokering engagement:** Utilizing well-established organizations like LBS as trusted intermediaries for engaging multiple relevant parties and disseminating project outputs.
2. **Restoration monitoring:** Exploring the potential for LBS to monitor restoration projects and impacts on water quality due to their research infrastructure and experience.
3. **Wetland governance and policy development:** Collaborating with organisations like Metsähallitus to integrate wetland governance policies that comply with EU nature directives and enhance national environmental strategies.
4. **Ecosystem market insights:** Addressing the immediate practical needs of organizations like the Vanajavesi Center by sharing ecosystem market insights and blending public and private finance to support impactful restoration activities.
5. **Digital and decision support tools:** Providing organizations like Metsähallitus with tools that could enhance their land management capacities.
6. **Integration of digital tools in existing projects:** Wet Horizons can offer digital tools for upscaling wetland restoration to be integrated into ongoing initiatives like the SOTKA project, enhancing monitoring and management practices.
7. **Knowledge exchange:** Establishing a knowledge exchange between Wet Horizons and other EU-funded initiatives like wetlands.pl to find synergies and enhance both projects.
8. **Communication partnerships:** Utilizing the communication networks of universities and research groups for disseminating findings and engaging a broader audience.

Opportunities for impact in the Kemi catchment of Finland include:

1. **Citizen science:** Encouraging volunteer participation from local communities in citizen science tasks to utilize their enthusiasm and insights.
2. **Community engagement:** Aligning restoration efforts with local interests like cloudberry gathering and hunting to garner community support and participation.
3. **Collaboration with land managers:** Partnering with Metsähallitus to apply Wet Horizons' restoration techniques broadly, ensuring restoration activities are complementary to forestry management goals.
4. **Herders' local knowledge:** Engaging with the Local Reindeer Herders' Association to integrate their environmental knowledge into restoration planning, adapting efforts to support traditional reindeer herding.
5. **Peatland restoration expertise:** Collaborating with Hiilipörssi to enhance peatland restoration efforts and sharing restoration techniques and knowledge.
6. **Knowledge exchange:** Utilizing the Finnish Forest Centre's role in advisory and monitoring to share best practices from Wet Horizons, particularly in forested wetland areas.
7. **Financial mechanisms for restoration:** Exploring ecosystem markets and financing models with organizations like the Finnish Forest Centre to support forest owners in funding restoration initiatives.

## Denmark

Opportunities for impact in the Kattegat catchment of Denmark include:

1. **Inclusivity and engagement:** Engage stakeholders like Danmarks Jægerforbund and SEGES early in the planning process, ensuring their interests are considered. Maintain open communication, share data, and involve them in collaborative efforts to leverage their networks and expertise.
2. **Interdisciplinary advocacy:** DM BIO, with its diverse environmental focus, could be engaged to advocate for Wet Horizons, promoting the project through collaborative outreach and by emphasizing the importance of wetland restoration from multiple perspectives.
3. **Knowledge sharing:** Collaborate with organizations like Fri Natur to raise awareness about Wet Horizons, share knowledge, and develop collaborative initiatives that amplify the impact on ecological sustainability.
4. **Policy development and ecosystem markets:** Work with Naturstyrelsen to ensure policy recommendations align with local and regional policies. Share ecosystem market outputs with them to develop new public-private finance models.
5. **Agricultural perspectives:** Address Bæredygtigt Landbrug's skepticism by providing professional justification for wetland restoration, emphasizing the climate and biodiversity benefits beyond merely flooding agricultural land.
6. **Regional planning and support:** Engage with entities like the Gudenå Committee and Viborg municipality in the context of river basin management plans and the National Action Plan for the Aquatic Environment, offering inspiration, knowledge, and tools to assist with regional planning efforts.

## Germany

Opportunities for impact in the Peene River catchment of Germany include:

1. **Ecosystem market involvement:** Encourage organizations like the Eco-Securities Office to deepen their understanding of new ecosystem market governance frameworks, which could benefit their involvement in carbon markets and initiatives like MoorFutures.



2. **Data sharing and policy development:** Share project datasets and digital tools with the Eco-Securities Office to support policy-making processes and best practices for sustainable land management.
3. **Land manager governance models:** Offer insights on governance models to land management organizations, like Peene Valley River Landscape Nature Park, promoting international collaboration and knowledge exchange.
4. **Decision support for conservation authorities:** Provide decision-support-system tools to authorities like the Nature Conservation and Water Administration to facilitate their permission-granting process for restoration projects.
5. **Sustainable agricultural practices:** Engage with agricultural associations to balance farming practices with wetland restoration, ensuring that policy recommendations reflect the interests of the agricultural community.
6. **Local expertise in wetland management:** Utilize the knowledge of local organizations, such as WBV Untere Peene, to refine wetland restoration strategies and implement ecosystem services-based management models.
7. **Regional development and restoration initiatives:** Collaborate with regional entities like Land Company MV mbH to develop wetland governance policies that align with EU directives and regional development goals.
8. **Digital tool engagement:** Introduce digital tools from Wet Horizons to conservation-focused organizations like Ostseestiftung to support their efforts in managing the Baltic Sea's ecological status.

## France

Opportunities for impact in the Garonne catchment of France include:

1. **Policy collaboration:** The Conseil Départemental du 82 could align Wet Horizons' outputs with local environmental policies, leveraging local government support for implementation, especially in community engagement and regional planning.
2. **Co-financing opportunities:** Collaborating with SMEAG could enhance both Wet Horizons and SMEAG initiatives by sharing datasets, digital tools, and exploring co-financing opportunities, ensuring the integration of project insights with local and regional wetland policies.
3. **Wetland conservation collaboration:** Partnering with organizations like ANA could align Wet Horizons' restoration activities with ongoing conservation efforts, enhance community engagement, and lead to shared data and research initiatives in the Ariège region.

## 5.2 International impact plan

In addition to identifying opportunities to benefit peatlands in each of the project's catchments, an international advisory panel was assembled to identify national and international opportunities for the project to generate impacts. The panel met for the first time on 1st February 2024.

### Composition of the panel

The advisory panel consists of experts from policy and industry operating at international scales (those present at the first meeting are in bold):

- Amy Duchelle is Team Leader of the Forests and Climate Change Team at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- Luca Montanarella has recently retired from the Joint Research Centre (JRC) where he was responsible for the European Soil Data Centre, the European Soil Information System and the European Soil Bureau Network



- Orjan Berglund is the first Scientific Officer for the International Peatland Society, with a background as an agronomist and researcher with a special focus on peat soils and greenhouse gas emissions from the ground
- Jan Peters jointly leads the Michael Succow Stiftung Foundation (commonly referred to as the Succow Foundation, abbreviated here to SF), where he collaborates closely on peatland policy with the Greifswald Mires Centre (GMC) at the University of Greifswald
- Ben Dipper is Head of Peatlands Policy at Scottish Government and leads on a number of international collaborative initiatives

In addition, Wet Horizons team members with international policy and practice experience included:

- Wetlands International were represented by Odette Gonzalez (Project Manager at the European office), Sonia Mena Jara (Portfolio Manager at the international office) and Ellis Dupker (Technical Officer)
- The Global Peatlands Initiative (UNEP) were represented by Dianna Kopansky (UNEP Policy & Programme Expert and Coordinator of GPI), Patrick Scheel (UNEP Consultant) and Mark Reed (Co-Chair of GPI's Research Working Group, Centre Director at SRUC and Research Lead for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's UK Peatland Programme)

## Key international impact opportunities

Current and planned work was discussed to identify opportunities for collaboration that could deliver impact. Two key impact opportunities were identified (for full notes from the panel meeting, see Appendix 4):

1. **Policy engagement:** Work with European Peatlands Initiative to bring in more organisations into the initiative and develop a policy strategy including windows of opportunity to influence peatland policy in CAP, NRL and carbon market regulation
  - a. Any influencing strategy should be evidence-based, target key loopholes and operate at both EU and national levels, to support national implementation of Directives
  - b. This should be informed by co-productive work across Europe being facilitated by SF/GMC with peatland farmers and other landowners in living labs and the work of Wet Horizons and other sister EU projects.
  - c. It should build on the ongoing work of Wetlands International (Europe), who are already working in EU policy and advocacy, bringing the outcomes of research projects to policymakers, to conserve, restore and promote sustainable use of peatlands
  - d. Build capacity across the peatland research community through a programme of evidence synthesis training that delivers evidence-based policy briefs on policy-relevant topics. This would include updating emissions factors in collaboration with UNEP and GMC, and working with the EPI and GPI to identify policy-relevant topics for syntheses/briefs via a new GPI/British Academy collaboration
  - e. Prof Reed can offer training for EU projects and others based on his forthcoming book, *The Researcher's Guide to Influencing Policy* (Routledge)
2. **Market engagement:** Increase the amount and integrity of private investment in peatland restoration, to scale-up restoration efforts across Europe via an integrated European communication campaign
  - a. Exploit synergies between outreach/communications of EU projects and key partners, e.g., those represented on this advisory group and Climate Catalyst (building on German experience in developing integrated comms campaigns). We may want to build on the following ongoing/planned activities as part of any campaign, to achieve specific impacts:
    - i. Wetlands International Europe will raise awareness of peat-free horticulture (alternative providers) throughout 2024

- ii. SF/GMC are building synergies between businesses from different sectors and countries to support the development of paludiculture value chains
- b. Identify and exploit synergies across the EU Horizon projects, building on existing guidance and tools for business (e.g., [Investing in Peatlands](#), [Business Guide to Peatlands](#), [Economics of Peatlands report](#)) to make recommendations for high-integrity investment in peatlands, communicated effectively to the corporate sector.
- c. Build support from across the EU for IUCN and GPI's campaign to change SBTi's stance on peatland carbon markets.

Work is ongoing to further develop collaborations in each of these areas, reaching out to EU sister projects and other relevant organisations to develop a strategic programme of impact generation activities.

## Collaboration opportunities between EU wetland/peatland projects

To support the work of the advisory panel, a comparison between other current EU wetland and peatland projects was done to analyse their impact goals and identify potential synergies between them. This information will be used when reaching out to projects for collaboration around the impacts identified in the previous section. For the full analysis, [see this living document](#).

In the comparison matrix, for each project, we are including its overall description, summarized objectives, list of partners and countries involved, project sites' locations, duration, budget, websites, and known advisory board/steering committee members.

Key synergies identified (further analysis in Appendix 5 and online spreadsheet):

- There are a lot of similarities between the different projects (full list below) funded by Horizon Europe. Some objectives and activities align and complement with those of Wet Horizons. Most projects focus on peatland knowledge generation aimed at providing policy recommendations but through different approaches (project similarities below).
- Several partners from Wet Horizons are currently involved in other projects (full list below).
- Most projects involve the same European countries (mainly Germany, UK, Netherlands, Finland, Denmark). Only MARGINUP! involves non-EU countries (Argentina and South Africa).
- We should identify the members of other advisory boards and steering committees. On the project websites, this information is not usually included. Dianna Kopansky is also currently involved as a member of the advisory boards of RESTORE4Cs, REWET, and WaterLANDS.
- The duration of all these projects varies from 2 to 5 years, with budget ranging from 4 to 24 million Euros. While not all projects disclose their budgets, among the 6 projects that do, the total budget rises to 70 million Euros.
- Even though there are several similarities between projects, it looks like Wet Horizons is the only project that involves citizen science and the development of an app.



## 6 Discussion

The central premise of the 3i approach is that, by their acquisition of a greater depth of knowledge regarding relevant parties and the nature of relationships between them, users are empowered to initiate effective engagement. In so doing the 3i approach acknowledges the importance of social context and the likelihood that, for any given issue, relevant parties may have had previous engagement experiences and therefore come with predispositions towards other participants or decision makers (Colvin et al., 2020). It is also important to emphasize those interested, with influence or who are impacted by an issue, intervention, project, process or decision are unlikely to be static and there is therefore a need to regularly revisit the analysis to capture new parties as they become relevant to the work, and to ensure that engagement remains targeted to dynamic needs and interests.

Using this framework, it is possible to propose a typology of relevant parties who should be engaged in issues, interventions, projects, processes or decisions, based on eight functional groups grounded in their levels of interest, influence, and relative impact (Table 6). Note that in traditional interest-influence matrices, those with low interest and low influence are termed “the crowd” and are often deprioritized or “crowded out” of subsequent engagement. However, this may exclude those who are not interested or influential, but who may be significantly impacted. Using the 3i approach, it is legitimate to deprioritize those who have limited interest, influence and impact, our “uninterested” category, only after ascertaining that they are low on all three criteria.

**Table 6:** Typology of relevant parties that should be included in engagement processes

Stakeholder type	Interest	Influence	Impact
Uninterested	Low	Low	Low
Uninterested and impacted	Low	Low	High
Uninterested influencers	Low	High	Low
Uninterested, influential and impacted	Low	High	High
Only interested	High	Low	Low
Interested and impacted	High	Low	High
Interested influencers	High	High	Low
Interested, influential and impacted	High	High	High

The 3i approach enhances levels of insight and inclusivity in “stakeholder analysis” through its integration of impact as a third criterion against which to identify and analyze relevant parties, alongside their relative levels of interest and influence. A number of alternative additional criteria have been discussed in the literature, leading Mitchell et al. (1997) and subsequently Hoare et al. (2023) reviewed terminology used in stakeholder analysis and demonstrate both the range of attributes used, and find power, influence, legitimacy and urgency to be the most common. Although legitimacy could be seen as a type of interest (i.e., those with legitimate interests in an issue, process or decision), it may be difficult to assess legitimacy objectively, given that who is deemed to have a legitimate interest is typically decided by those in power. This opens the analysis to bias and power imbalances, depending on how legitimacy is defined and by whom, and may therefore say as much about who has influence as it does about legitimacy. Like legitimacy, urgency may be used to qualify the nature of an interest, and as such can be included in a 3i analysis under the interest criterion. Given the additional time needed to analyze relevant parties in relation to an additional criterion, there needs to be a strong theoretical and/or normative argument for the addition of a third criterion. Given the key problem with existing stakeholder analysis methods being used to legitimize the exclusion of potentially important groups, the inclusion of impact has the potential to identify marginalized groups who have limited interest and power, but who could nevertheless be significantly impacted (whether positively or negatively) by an issue, intervention, project, process or decision, to ensure that they are prioritised for engagement.

By including impact as a third criterion in the 3i analysis, two types of additional insight were gained from the case study applications of the approach. First, additional depth of insight was facilitated by going beyond the exploration of interest as simple expressions of preferences (as is done in traditional stakeholder analyses), without considering the underpinning values and beliefs that drive those preferences. For example, the GGR-Peat analysis

Second, the 3i approach facilitated greater inclusion of diverse parties, including vulnerable groups with limited interest or influence, who stood to be significantly impacted (whether positively or negatively) by the issue or project. In traditional stakeholder analyses, those with low levels of interest and influence are often referred to as “the crowd” and as a result are crowded out of subsequent engagement processes. By employing the 3i analysis process systematically, organizations can identify a larger number of stakeholders than previously recognized by traditional approaches or by authorities. This can lead to a broader engagement. This in turn results in a shift from developing specific guidelines to establishing minimum requirements for existing entities operating in a particular space. Moreover, using a classification system for stakeholders can help identify certain hard-to-reach groups that could be influential in generating impact if their interests are adequately addressed. Collaborative efforts with relevant parties can be particularly beneficial, as the insights gained from these partnerships have been used to strengthen existing alliances or forge new connections in various sectors.

While the large number of relevant parties identified using the 3i approach may be viewed as a challenge, the categorization step in the method enabled long lists of organizations to be organized into as few groups as possible, to help structure subsequent engagement. It was then possible to ensure that at least one representative was engaged from each category in subsequent project work (or more than one individual/organization for large or diverse groups, which were sometimes divided into sub-groups to represent that diversity more systematically). There is now robust evidence that representation of relevant parties is the most significant factor influencing the outcomes of participatory processes (Newig and Fritsch, 2009; Newig et al., 2018), so it is essential that a systematic approach is followed to choose who gets to “sit at the table”. Without this, a participatory process may be challenged and delegitimized by those who believe they were unfairly excluded from the process. Whilst being aware of a problem (e.g. the under-representation of minority groups) doesn’t inherently decrease its proclivity, these processes are designed to make the identified parties list as comprehensive and representative as possible. In addition to this, developing the engagement process further to diversify the type of participation differently categorised relevant parties could further increase impact of research. Stanghellini & Collentine, (2008) use three modes of engagement: co-knowing, co-thinking and co-working, to structure engagement, avoid participant fatigue and utilise the how the attributes to enable contributions from the relevant parties. Efficiency as well as equity are key in engagement processes and this method can help justify the roles taken by relevant parties.

## 7 Conclusion

A "3i approach" was used to pinpoint relevant parties in nine Wet Horizons study areas, ranking organisations and groups based on their significance locally, nationally, or internationally, using aggregate 3i scores. A follow-up survey with high-scoring parties or those with potential impact local impact plans and recommendations. An international impact plan was then developed in collaboration with an international advisory board, focusing on collaborative opportunities in policy and market engagement.

Findings from this research may be used to inform engagement in each study catchment in a number of ways:

- Organisations are ranked by their 3i score in the findings above, to help identify organisations with high interest, influence and impact who are likely to be interested in engaging with the project;
- In most cases, these organisations are supportive of the research and are seeking similar impacts, but in some cases, interests may diverge, for example due to ideological differences, and the analysis can guide engagement with "gatekeeper" organisations who might otherwise prevent impacts from being achieved;
- Some of the organisations have limited influence, but may be significantly impacted by the project (whether positively or negatively), and as such may be vulnerable. The analysis can help identify these organisations for engagement, to ensure they are involved in the co-production of impacts where possible.
- Where these organisations lack both influence and interest, they may be both vulnerable and hard to reach. The analysis provides information about the context and interests of these organisations, which may be used to design engagement activities that will be of interest, drawing them into project activities.

There are a number of potential synergies that could be explored with organisations across the Wet Horizons catchments, to add value to ongoing work and generate impact from the research. In particular, there are opportunities to explore ecosystem market opportunities with organisations working on wetland restoration in a number of catchments. The work of these organisations could be significantly scaled with additional private or blended finance. In more mature wetland carbon markets in comparable countries (e.g. the UK's Peatland Code; Reed et al., under review), there are growing issues with availability of land for restoration, as demand outstrips supply. Working with organisations such as those identified in this analysis may help mitigate these issues as similar markets expand across Europe, given the reach of the land they own and manage and/or the landowners they are able to advise. A number of the organisations working at catchment level also have aspirations to influence policy to protect, restore and sustainably manage wetlands, given the role of some national subsidies under CAP in promoting ongoing unsustainable agricultural practices on peatlands (UNEP, 2022). Subsidies like these are likely to come into conflict with the new Nature Restoration Law, and are a major barrier to reaching net zero targets for the land use sector in many EU countries, given the significant emissions associated with agriculture on peatlands. Further work is needed to explore collaboration opportunities for impact between sister projects funded by Horizon Europe, based on the analysis presented in this report. In particular, there may be opportunities for collaboration between catchment, national and international partners around shared market and policy engagement objectives. This could integrate inputs from sister projects, including collaboration with the European Peatlands Initiative to use research findings to influence peatland policy in the Common Agriculture Policy, Nature Restoration Law and carbon market regulation.



## 7 References

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## Appendix 1: 3i survey design

### Welcome!

This page is intended to answer any questions you may have about participating in research for the European Union-funded **Wet Horizons** project. Please read this information before providing your consent to participate.

### Why we are asking for your help

You have been identified as having interests relevant to wetland restoration (including peatlands) in one of the study countries involved in the Wet Horizons project. For this reason, **we would like to invite you to share your knowledge of other groups or organisations interested in, involved or affected by restoration.**

### How your insights can make a difference

Wet Horizons aims to boost wetlands knowledge and develop tools and approaches for fast-tracking large-scale restoration action. To do this, we need to understand who is interested in, involved or affected by the restoration of wetlands and peatlands, in and around specific catchments in each study country. This will help us engage the right people to shape our research and ensure it benefits EU citizens.

We will use findings from this research to help scale up wetland restoration to help tackle climate change and biodiversity loss, whilst protecting the livelihoods of local communities. This project is being conducted alongside three related projects, looking at other aspects of natural capital markets, and data will be shared between these projects, as described below under “How will my data be stored and used”.

### Who is conducting this research

This research is conducted by staff at the [Thriving Natural Capital Challenge Centre](#) at SRUC, including: Prof. Mark Reed (research lead), Prof. Eric Jensen (research fellow), and Sarah Noles (research assistant). The broader EU project team comprises 12 universities and research organisations from around Europe (details of this consortium can be found [here](#)).

### How is this research funded

This research is being funded by the European Commission, under the Horizon Europe funding programme, and the Scottish government.

### How to participate

This survey will take between 5-20 minutes. This depends on how much detail you provide in your responses. For example, this survey will take very little time if you do not know many others interested in, involved or affected by wetland restoration. We still ask that you answer any relevant questions.

If you cannot complete this questionnaire, you are welcome to forward the original invitation and survey link to another suitable individual(s) and encourage them to submit a response.

### How data will be stored and used

Data will not be shared outside SRUC and its project partners for Wet Horizons, two related Scottish Government-funded projects being run by SRUC, “Galvanising Change via Natural Capital” (ref. JHI-D5-3) (including the James Hutton Institute) and “Provision of research with supply-side actors in Scotland’s peatland natural capital markets” (ref. CR/2022/08) (including SAC Consulting and Finance Earth). Data will also be shared with the ALFAwetlands project, funded by the European Commission. Data may be used where relevant in publications for these related projects. All personal data will be anonymised before sharing beyond the SRUC and project partner research teams for the Wet Horizons

project. Your contributions will remain anonymous by default in project publications, which may include peer-reviewed academic journals and publications aimed at research and policy professionals. Electronic data will be stored on encrypted, password-protected computers, and backed up on secure, encrypted EU-based servers in full compliance with GDPR.

## Right to withdraw from participation

No risks associated with this research that would affect you as a participant have been identified. Participation is entirely voluntary, and you may withdraw yourself or your data at any time prior to data anonymisation, without providing any reason.

## Research Team Contact

Please contact Sarah Noles ([sarah.noles@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.noles@sruc.ac.uk)) if you have questions about participating in this research, would like to request a copy of your data (or request that it is destroyed), or withdraw from participation.

### Agreement to participate

After reading the participant information page, please read the following statements and then indicate your understanding and consent:

- I have read the participant information page and the Wet Horizons project objectives of this research study.
- I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and clarify any doubts regarding the project.
- My participation is voluntary and I am free to withdraw at any time before my responses are anonymised.
- My personal information (name, organisational affiliation, contact details and research contributions) will be processed by SRUC.
- My personal information may be retained for the duration of the Wet Horizons project (end of August 2026) and the three related projects (the longest of which ends March 2027).
- My responses may be shared with partners of the Wet Horizons project and three related projects funded by the Scottish Government.
- After my responses have been anonymised, the information I provide may be used to produce research outputs, including academic journal articles and policy briefings or be published as an open dataset (due to European Commission's open data requirements).

### 1.1. Please indicate whether you understand and agree with the statements above, and consent to participate in this survey: [Checkbox]

I consent to participate in this survey and for my responses to be used as indicated above.

### 1.2. In addition, please also indicate whether you opt-in to the following uses of your data: [Checkbox]

*(This will not affect your eligibility to participate in the survey)*

Yes, you may indicate my name (or other professional identifier) as a research participant (e.g., in the acknowledgements of the report not linked to any specific responses).

Yes, you may keep me up to date on project news using the contact details I have provided (e.g., an invitation to presentations/webinars on findings).

Yes, you may re-contact me for the purposes of this study.



Yes, you may re-contact me for future studies on related topics.

Please click Next to continue

**[PAGE BREAK]**

Contact details

**First name**

**Last name**

**2.2. Email [Email]**

**2.3. Organisation/Institution name [Text line]**

**2.4. Current job title [Text line]**

*(If you have more than one, please indicate the one you consider primary)*

Note: If you have more than one institution or job title, please indicate the one you consider primary

Please click Next to continue

**[PAGE BREAK]**

**3.1. Which country and catchment areas are you familiar with? [Checkbox (Button)]**

Denmark [various rivers along the Kattegat]

Finland [Kokemäenjoki, region of Lounais-Häme]

Finland [Kemi, region of Kittilä, Muonio & Enontekiö]

France [Garonne]

Germany [Peene River]

Netherlands [incl. Lower Rhine, Ljssel]

Poland [Biebrza]

- Romania [Danube]
- Scotland [Dee]
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

### 3.2. Which country and catchment area are you the most familiar with? [Dropdown]

*Please select the area in which you are most aware of groups or organisations relevant to improving wetlands or peatlands restoration processes. This is the catchment area we will focus on for this survey.*

- Denmark [various rivers along the Kattegat]
- Finland [region of Lounais-Häme]
- Finland [region of Kittilä, Muonio & Enontekiö]
- France [Garonne]
- Germany [Peene River]
- Netherlands [incl. Lower Rhine, Ljssel]
- Poland [Biebrza]
- Romania [Danube]
- Scotland [Dee]
- Other (please specify)

Please click Next to continue

*Shown if Denmark [various rivers along the Kattegat], Finland [region of Lounais-Häme], Finland [region of Kittilä, Muonio & Enontekiö], France [Garonne], Germany [Peene River], Netherlands [incl. Lower Rhine, Ljssel], Poland [Biebrza], Romania [Danube] OR Scotland [Dee] selected in 3.2. [Applies to text below, to 4.1.]*

**[PAGE BREAK]**

Please answer the following questions relevant to the country and catchment area you are the **most** familiar with.

### 4.1. What role(s) have you held relevant to [Most familiar catchment areas]? [Checkbox (Button)]

*(Tick all that apply)*



- Researcher
- Local community member
- NGO representative
- Government or policy representative
- Land-use business representative (e.g. farmer)
- Land-planning or environmental management representative
- Commercial organisation representative (e.g., with a link to the catchment)
- Other (please specify)

Please click Next to continue

**[PAGE BREAK]**

## The Wet Horizons project

### Help us engage with the right people

We want to engage with organisations or groups interested in, involved or affected by the restoration of wetlands and peatlands around this country and catchment area: **[Most familiar catchment areas]**

Sharing your knowledge will help shape our understanding of which stakeholders will be most affected by our research and impact work so that we can more effectively improve the process of restoring wetlands and peatlands.

The key features of Wet Horizons overall plans include the following:

- Use of citizen science for data collection
- Developing digital tools for upscaling wetland restoration, including an app for the visualisation of wetland status and a decision support system for policy makers
- New governance models in land manager organisations
- Use of ecosystem markets to increase private investment in place-based governance of restoration and sustainable wetland management
- Blending public and private finance for wetland restoration in Europe
- Policy recommendations for the protection and restoration of wetlands across Europe

### 5.1. Are you aware of any organisations or groups in **[Most familiar catchment areas]** that may be relevant to these topics in any way? **[Radio box]**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

*Shown if Yes selected in 5.1. [Applies to text below]*



**Wonderful!**

We would greatly appreciate you continuing the survey.

Please respond to our questions on the following pages for as many relevant parties as possible.

Please click Next to continue

*Shown if No OR Unsure selected in 5.1. [Applies to text below]*

We appreciate you taking the time to respond to our questions.

We may follow up with you should we require any further information.

Have a wonderful day!

Please click Submit to send your responses.

*Shown if Yes selected in 5.1. [Applies to Relevant Party 1, text below, Assessment of project relevance for the organisation or group, to 6.3. and 7.1. to 7.17.]*

**[PAGE BREAK]**

## Relevant Party 1

**Please complete the following information about the first relevant party that comes to mind. You may answer these questions about yourself if you are a relevant party for the**

**project. You will have the opportunity to add information about other relevant parties later in the survey.**

## **Organisation/group details**

**6.1. Name of organisation or group [Textarea]**

**6.2. Organisation/group website link(s) [Textarea]**

**6.3. Organisation or group description [Textarea]**

*Provide a short description (1-2 sentences) of this organisation or group from your perspective, and how it connects to wetland restoration in and around this catchment.*

Please click Next to continue

**[PAGE BREAK]**

## **Assessment of project relevance for the organisation or group**

We want to provide you with a description of the **Wet Horizons project**, so you can more fully understand its aims to improve the process of restoring wetlands and peatlands areas around Europe. The following external link will take you to Wet Horizons' website.

[View Project Description](#)

After reviewing this information, let us know how you think this organisation or group can connect to our project.

**7.1. At what level is this organisation/group related to this research? [Checkbox (Button)]**

*(Tick all that apply)*

[Most familiar catchment areas]

National

International



None of the above

**7.2. How is this organisation/group related to this research project's work?  
[Checkbox (Button)]**

*(Tick all that apply)*

Interest - They are likely to be interested in the project's work

Influence - They are likely to have some power to block or facilitate the project's work

Benefit - They might benefit from the project's work

Negative impact - They might be negatively affected by the project's work

*Shown if Interest - They are likely to be interested in the project's work selected in 7.2. [Applies to to 7.4.]*

**7.3. How interested in the project's work do you think they are likely to be?**

Range slider from 0 to 100 with 11 labels.

**7.4. Please explain [Textarea]**

*Shown if Influence - They are likely to have some power to block or facilitate the project's work selected in 7.2. [Applies to to 7.8.]*

**7.5. How much power do you think they have to support the project to deliver its goals in [Most familiar catchment areas]?**

Range slider from 0 to 100 with 11 labels.

**7.6. Please explain [Textarea]**

**7.7. How much power do you think they have to block the project from achieving its goals in [Most familiar catchment areas]?**

Range slider from 0 to 100 with 11 labels.

**7.8. Please explain [Textarea]**

*Shown if Benefit - They might benefit from the project's work selected in 7.2. [Applies to to 7.10.]*

### 7.9. To what extent would this organisation benefit from the project's work in [Most familiar catchment areas]?

Range slider from 0 to 100 with 11 labels.

### 7.10. Please explain [Textarea]

*Shown if Negative impact - They might be negatively affected by the project's work selected in 7.2. [Applies to to 7.12.]*

### 7.11. To what extent would this organisation be negatively affected by the project's work in [Most familiar catchment areas]?

Range slider from 0 to 100 with 11 labels.

### 7.12. Please explain [Textarea]

	Yes	No	Unsure	Not applicable / No opinion
7.13. Is there anything else we should know about engaging with this relevant party? [Likert Scale (3-point: Yes - No - Unsure)]				

*Shown if Yes selected in 7.13. [Applies to 7.14.]*

### 7.14. What should we know about when engaging with this relevant party? [Textarea]

	Yes	No	Unsure	Not applicable / No opinion
7.15. Would you be able to contact someone from this relevant party? [Likert Scale (3-point: Yes - No - Unsure)]				
7.16. Would you be willing to invite your contacts to help shape the Wet Horizons project? [Likert Scale (3-point: Yes - No - Unsure)]				

*Shown if Yes selected in 7.16. [Applies to text below]*



Note: We can provide you with an email template and information about the project for you to personalise and share.

	Yes	No	Unsure	Not applicable / No opinion
7.17. Are you willing to provide information on an additional specific relevant party? [Likert Scale (3-point: Yes - No - Unsure)]				

*If Yes selected, questions are repeated for as many relevant parties as the respondent is aware of.*

*Shown if No, Unsure OR N/A selected in 7.17. [Applies to text below]*

On behalf of the Wet Horizons team, thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire. If further details are needed, we will follow up with you soon.

Please click Submit to send your responses.



## Appendix 2: Impact planning survey design

### Welcome!

This page is intended to answer any questions you may have about participating in research for the European Union-funded **Wet Horizons** project. Please read this information before providing your consent to participate.

### Why we are asking for your help

You have been identified as having interests relevant to wetland restoration (including peatlands) in one of the study countries involved in the Wet Horizons project. For this reason, **we are inviting you to tell us how we could support or add value to your work through our project, to ensure it leads to real benefits.**

### How your insights can make a difference

Wet Horizons aims to boost wetlands knowledge and develop tools and approaches for fast-tracking large-scale restoration action. To do this, we need to engage with people like you who are interested in, involved or affected by the restoration of wetlands and peatlands, in and around specific catchments in each study country.

We want you to help shape our research and impact plans, to ensure it benefits EU citizens. We will use findings from this research to help scale up wetland restoration to help tackle climate change and biodiversity loss, whilst protecting the livelihoods of local communities. This project is being conducted alongside three related projects, looking at other aspects of natural capital markets, and data will be shared between these projects, as described below under “How will my data be stored and used”.

### Who is conducting this research

This research is conducted by staff at the [Thriving Natural Capital Challenge Centre](#) at SRUC, including: Prof. Mark Reed (research lead), Prof. Eric Jensen (research fellow), and Sarah Noles (research assistant). The broader EU project team comprises 12 universities and research organisations from around Europe (details of this consortium can be found [here](#)).

### How is this research funded

This research is being funded by the European Commission, under the Horizon Europe funding programme, and the Scottish government.

### How to participate

This survey will take between 10-20 minutes. This depends on how much detail you provide in your responses. For example, this survey will take very little time if you do not think the Wet Horizons project is relevant to your work or interests, or you do not know how our outputs could support your work. We still ask that you answer any relevant questions.

If you cannot complete this questionnaire, you are welcome to forward the original invitation and survey link to another suitable individual(s) and encourage them to submit a response.

### How data will be stored and used

Data will not be shared outside SRUC and its project partners for the Wet Horizons, two related Scottish Government-funded projects being run by SRUC, “Galvanising Change via Natural Capital” (ref. JHI-D5-3) (including the James Hutton Institute) and “Provision of research with supply-side actors in Scotland’s peatland natural capital markets” (ref. CR/2022/08) (including SAC Consulting and Finance Earth), and the EU-funded ALFAwetlands project. Data may be used where relevant in publications for these related projects. All personal data will be anonymised before sharing beyond the SRUC and

project partner research teams for the Wet Horizons project. Your contributions will remain anonymous by default in project publications, which may include peer-reviewed academic journals and publications aimed at research and policy professionals. Electronic data will be stored on encrypted, password-protected computers, and backed up on secure, encrypted EU-based servers in full compliance with GDPR.

## Right to withdraw from participation

No risks associated with this research that would affect you as a participant have been identified. Participation is entirely voluntary, and you may withdraw yourself or your data at any time prior to data anonymisation, without providing any reason.

## Research Team Contact

Please contact Sarah Noles (sarah.noles@sruc.ac.uk) if you have questions about participating in this research, would like to request a copy of your data (or request that it is destroyed), or withdraw from participation.

### Agreement to participate

After reading the participant information page, please read the following statements and then indicate your understanding and consent:

- I have read the participant information page and the Wet Horizons project objectives of this research study.
- I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and clarify any doubts regarding the project.
- My participation is voluntary and I am free to withdraw at any time before my responses are anonymised.
- My personal information (name, organisational affiliation, contact details and research contributions) will be processed by SRUC.
- My personal information may be retained for the duration of the Wet Horizons project (end of August 2026) and the three related projects (the longest of which ends March 2027).
- My responses may be shared with partners of the Wet Horizons project and three related projects funded by the Scottish Government.
- After my responses have been anonymised, the information I provide may be used to produce research outputs, including academic journal articles and policy briefings or be published as an open dataset (due to European Commission's open data requirements).

### 1.1. Please indicate whether you understand and agree with the statements above, and consent to participate in this survey: [Checkbox]

I consent to participate in this survey and for my responses to be used as indicated above.

### 1.2. In addition, please also indicate whether you opt-in to the following uses of your data: [Checkbox]

*(This will not affect your eligibility to participate in the survey)*

Yes, you may indicate my name (or other professional identifier) as a research participant (e.g., in the acknowledgements of the report not linked to any specific responses).

Yes, you may keep me up to date on project news using the contact details I have provided (e.g., an invitation to presentations/webinars on findings).

Yes, you may re-contact me for the purposes of this study.

Yes, you may re-contact me for future studies on related topics.

Please click Next to continue

**[PAGE BREAK]**

Contact details

**First name**

**Last name**

**2.2. Email [Email]**

**2.3. Organisation/Institution name [Text line]**

**2.4. Current job title [Text line]**

*(If you have more than one, please indicate the one you consider primary)*

Please click Next to continue

**[PAGE BREAK]**

**3.1. Which country and catchment areas are you familiar with? [Checkbox (Button)]**

Denmark [various rivers along the Kattegat]

Finland [Kokemäenjoki, region of Lounais-Häme]

Finland [Kemi, region of Kittilä, Muonio & Enontekiö]

France [Garonne]

Germany [Peene River]

Netherlands [incl. Lower Rhine, Ljssel]

Poland [Biebrza]

- Romania [Danube]
- Scotland [Dee]
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

**3.2. Which country and catchment area are you the most familiar with? [Radio box]**

*Please select the area you are most aware of, in terms of improving wetlands or peatlands restoration processes. This is the catchment area we will focus on for this survey.*

- Denmark [various rivers along the Kattegat]
- Finland [region of Lounais-Häme]
- Finland [region of Kittilä, Muonio & Enontekiö]
- France [Garonne]
- Germany [Peene River]
- Netherlands [incl. Lower Rhine, Ljssel]
- Poland [Biebrza]
- Romania [Danube]
- Scotland [Dee]
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

Please click Next to continue

**[PAGE BREAK]**

**Please answer the following questions in relation to the country and catchment area you are the most familiar with.**

**4.1. What role(s) have you held relevant to [Most familiar catchment areas (radio box)]? [Checkbox (Button)]**

*(Tick all that apply)*

- Researcher
- Local community member
- NGO representative
- Government or policy representative

- Land-use business representative (e.g. farmer)
- Land-planning or environmental management representative
- Commercial organisation representative (e.g., with a link to the catchment)
- Other (please specify)

## 4.2. What comes to mind when you think of wetland or peatland restoration? [Textarea]

*A wetland is a type of place, like a swamp, marsh, or peatland, where the ground is always or often soaked with water, making it a special home for certain kinds of plants and animals. A peatland, also called a bog or mire, is a wetland where dead plants build up over time, creating a special kind of soil called peat.*

Please click Next to continue

[PAGE BREAK]

### Assessment of project relevance

#### Help us understand how we can add value to your work

We want to provide you with a description of the Wet Horizons project, so you can more fully understand its aims to improve the process of restoring wetlands and peatlands areas around Europe. The following external link will take you to Wet Horizons' website.

[View Project Description](#)

Wet Horizons is all about helping restore Europe's soggy, swampy places called wetlands. We are working with a big team of people - from wetland and peatland experts to citizen scientists and policy makers - to study 9 wetland areas across Europe and explore how to boost our knowledge about these special places and create new tools and methods for restoring them on a large scale. We'll gather more and better information about different types of wetlands - whether they're untouched, drained, or already restored. We'll also predict what could happen if these areas were restored and what this could mean for people living around them. Finally, we'll come up with country-specific guidelines and best practices for managing these unique environments sustainably.

The key features of Wet Horizons overall plans include the following:

- Developing digital tools for upscaling wetland restoration, including an app for the visualisation of wetland status and a decision support system for policy makers
- Use of citizen science for data collection
- New governance models in land manager organisations
- Use of ecosystem markets to increase private investment in place-based governance of restoration and sustainable wetland management
- Blending public and private finance for wetland restoration in Europe
- Policy recommendations for the protection and restoration of wetlands across Europe

After reviewing this information, let us know what you think.



**5.1. How INTERESTING do you find this project?**

Range slider from 0 to 100 with 11 labels.

**5.2. How IMPORTANT do you think this project is for people like you?**

Range slider from 0 to 100 with 11 labels.

**5.3. Please explain your answer to the two previous questions: [Textarea]**

Please click Next to continue

**[PAGE BREAK]**

**6.1. Please list the biggest wetland- or peatland-related challenges facing [Most familiar catchment areas (radio box)]? [Textarea]**

**6.2. Are you aware of any existing initiatives that are working to support wetland restoration in [Most familiar catchment areas (radio box)]? [Radio box]**

*An initiative could be a project, strategy, or a workstream, undertaken by a group or an organisation.*

Yes

No

Unsure

*Shown if Yes selected in 6.2. [Applies to text below, 6.3. to 6.4.]*

Please name and describe **one** existing initiative working to support wetland restoration that **you are most familiar with**.

**6.3. Initiative name: [Text line]**

**6.4. Initiative description: [Textarea]**

*Please provide any relevant web-links*

Please click Next to continue

*Shown if Yes selected in 6.2. [Applies to Tell us more about [Initiative name:], text below, to 7.8. and 8.1. to 8.17. and 9.1. to 9.4. and 10.1. to 10.4. and 11.1. to 11.3.]*

*Shown if Yes selected in 6.2. [Applies to Tell us more about [Initiative name:], text below, to 7.8.]*

**[PAGE BREAK]**

## Tell us more about [Initiative name:]

We want to consider and plan for a wide range of possible **benefits** that could be developed from the **Wet Horizons project**, such as through **adding value to existing initiatives** working to support **wetland restoration**. Thinking about this at an early stage will help us orient the project's work to make such benefits more likely. For the questions on this page, please think about a 'best case scenario', where the project is very successful in achieving its aims.

*For a reminder about the project and its aims, see [the project website](#).*

**7.1. Are you aware of any benefits the Wet Horizons project could help to develop for [Initiative name:]? This includes both vague ideas of potential synergies or connections, or more specific ideas and plans you could foresee developing, e.g. using the project results or outputs in some way. Benefits could be received by individuals, groups, organisations, or wider society. For a reminder about the project and its aims, see the project website. [Radio box]**

Yes

No

Unsure

*Shown if Yes selected in 7.1. [Applies to text below]*

*Shown if Yes selected in 7.1. [Applies to 7.2.]*

**7.2. What types of benefits do you think Wet Horizons could help to develop for [Initiative name:]? [Checkbox (Button)]**

*(Subcategories will appear for some.)*

Capacity building and benefits for industry practice(e.g., positive changes to environmental management and/or protection capacities and/or practices).

Government policy

Awareness or understanding



Other institutional or organisational policy(e.g., positive changes to environmental management and/or protection policies in industry.)

Public welfare

Economic

Government efficiency or effectiveness

Ecosystem services(The benefits provided by nature that contribute to making human life both possible and enjoyable)

Other (please specify)

*Shown if Capacity building and benefits for industry practice(e.g., positive changes to environmental management and/or protection capacities and/or practices)., Awareness or understanding OR Ecosystem services(The benefits provided by nature that contribute to making human life both possible and enjoyable) selected in 7.2. [Applies to text below]*

(Tick all sub-options that apply)

*Shown if Capacity building and benefits for industry practice(e.g., positive changes to environmental management and/or protection capacities and/or practices). selected in 7.2. [Applies to 7.3.]*

### **7.3. Capacity building and benefits for professional practice [Checkbox]**

Informing organisational decision-making

Changing organisational practices or methods

Improving organisational structures, culture and/or communication flow

Enhancing professional skills, knowledge or expertise

Enhancing professional networks or partnerships

Other (please specify)

*Shown if Economic selected in 7.2. [Applies to 7.4.]*

### **7.4. Economic [Checkbox]**

Jobs/employment

Community wealth creation

Economic efficiency

Profit

Other (please specify)

*Shown if Awareness or understanding selected in 7.2. [Applies to 7.5. to 7.6.]*

### **7.5. Awareness or understanding [Checkbox]**





- Of a problem
- Of potential solutions to a problem
- Of available technology, tools or data
- Other (please specify)

*Shown if Other awareness or understanding (please specify) selected in 7.5. [Applies to 7.6.]*

## 7.6. Please explain [Textarea]

*Shown if Ecosystem services(The benefits provided by nature that contribute to making human life both possible and enjoyable) selected in 7.2. [Applies to 7.7.]*

## 7.7. Ecosystem services [Checkbox]

Regulation or maintenance of the natural environment Benefits to biophysical structures and processes that mediate environmental conditions that impact on people's health, safety or comfort, e.g. as a result of improved environmental management and/or protection.

Resource provisioning ecosystem services Benefits to the outputs from an ecosystem that we can use for of materials, nutrients or energy

Cultural ecosystem services Benefits to the non-material benefits people obtain from ecosystems

*Shown if Yes selected in 7.1. [Applies to 7.8.]*

## 7.8. Please explain the potential benefits in more detail: [Textarea]

Please click Next to continue

*Shown if Yes selected in 6.2. [Applies to Tell us more about [Initiative name:], text below, to 8.17. and 9.1. to 9.4. and 10.1. to 10.4.]*

**[PAGE BREAK]**

## Tell us more about [Initiative name:]

**Which types of groups or organisations could benefit from Wet Horizons' contribution to [Initiative name:]?**

*This includes the groups/organisations working within the initiative itself, and groups/organisations the initiative might be trying to engage, communicate with, or benefit.*

## 8.1. [Checkbox]



My own group or organisation

## 8.2. Government or policy [Checkbox]

Government department(e.g., DEFRA)

Government agency(e.g., NatureScot, Scottish Forestry)

Local authority or municipal government(e.g., Local Planning Authorities, Councils, Local Government Association)

International governmental body(e.g., The International Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets, United Nations Environment Programme)

Other government body or initiative (please specify)(e.g., Climate Change Committee, Joint Nature Conservation Council)

*Shown if Government department(e.g., DEFRA), Government agency(e.g., NatureScot, Scottish Forestry), Local authority or municipal government(e.g., Local Planning Authorities, Councils, Local Government Association, International governmental body(e.g., The International Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets, United Nations Environment Programme) OR Other government body or initiative (please specify)(e.g., Climate Change Committee, Joint Nature Conservation Council) selected in 8.2. [Applies to 8.3.]*

## 8.3. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind: [Textarea]

## 8.4. Carbon or other ecosystem markets [Checkbox]

Established domestic voluntary carbon market(e.g., Scottish Forestry [Secretariat for the Woodland Carbon Code])

Emerging voluntary carbon market that could operate in the UK(e.g., Hedgerow Code)

Biodiversity and other single service markets(e.g., Biodiversity Net Gain)

Cross-cutting ecosystem markets(e.g., Landscape Enterprise Networks)

*Shown if Established domestic voluntary carbon market(e.g., Scottish Forestry [Secretariat for the Woodland Carbon Code]), Emerging voluntary carbon market that could operate in the UK(e.g., Hedgerow Code), Biodiversity and other single service markets(e.g., Biodiversity Net Gain) OR Cross-cutting ecosystem markets(e.g., Landscape Enterprise Networks) selected in 8.4. [Applies to 8.5.]*

## 8.5. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind: [Textarea]

## 8.6. Commercial business [Checkbox]

*(nature-based solutions investment community)*

Return on investment (including land and commodity value)(e.g., investment manager, insurance company)

Major voluntary carbon offsetter(e.g., supermarket, airport)

Major carbon insetter(e.g., Nestlé, McDonalds)

Other (please specify)

*Shown if Return on investment (including land and commodity value)(e.g., investment manager, insurance company), Major voluntary carbon offsetter(e.g., supermarket, airport) OR Major carbon insetter(e.g., Nestlé, McDonalds) selected in 8.6. [Applies to 8.7.]*

**8.7. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind:**  
[Textarea]

**8.8. Landowner/manager community and their suppliers [Checkbox]**

Landowner(e.g., The Crown Estate, private landowner)

Tenant or other rights owners(e.g., tenant farmer, sporting interest)

Supplier to nature-based solutions projects(e.g., peatland restoration contractor, ecological consultancy)

*Shown if Landowner(e.g., The Crown Estate, private landowner), Tenant or other rights owners(e.g., tenant farmer, sporting interest) OR Supplier to nature-based solutions projects(e.g., peatland restoration contractor, ecological consultancy) selected in 8.8. [Applies to 8.9.]*

**8.9. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind:**  
[Textarea]

**8.10. Advisor or intermediary [Checkbox]**

Land agent, advisor or broker to the land management community(e.g., Savills, Knight Frank)

Nature-based solutions project developer or offset/inset provider(e.g., The Wildlife Trusts)

Financial advisor or broker to natural capital investors or policymakers(e.g., Finance Earth)

*Shown if Land agent, advisor or broker to the land management community(e.g., Savills, Knight Frank), Nature-based solutions project developer or offset/inset provider(e.g., The Wildlife Trusts) OR Financial advisor or broker to natural capital investors or policymakers(e.g., Finance Earth) selected in 8.10. [Applies to 8.11.]*

**8.11. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind:**  
[Textarea]

**8.12. Infrastructure providers [Checkbox]**

Environmental protection agency(e.g. Scottish Environmental Protection Agency))

Water board(e.g. Scottish Water)

Other (please specify)

*Shown if Environmental protection agency(e.g. Scottish Environmental Protection Agency) OR Water board(e.g. Scottish Water) selected in 8.12. [Applies to 8.13.]*

**8.13. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind:  
[Textarea]**

**8.14. Networks and professional bodies [Checkbox]**

Ecosystem markets networks(e.g., Scottish Nature Finance)

Professional bodies(e.g., Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management)

*Shown if Ecosystem markets networks(e.g., Scottish Nature Finance) OR Professional bodies(e.g., Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management) selected in 8.14. [Applies to 8.15.]*

**8.15. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind:  
[Textarea]**

**8.16. Other types [Checkbox (Grid)]**

Landowner/manager NGO, thinktank or representative organisation(e.g., National Farmers Union)

Environmental/sustainability NGO, thinktank or representative organisations(e.g., Rewilding Britain, The Woodland Trust)

Local community/rural or recreation group(e.g. general public in Shetland, Scottish Rural Action, Ecotourism, shooting association)

Other (please specify)

*Shown if Landowner/manager NGO, thinktank or representative organisation(e.g., National Farmers Union), Environmental/sustainability NGO, thinktank or representative organisations(e.g., Rewilding Britain, The Woodland Trust) OR Local community/rural or recreation group(e.g. general public in Shetland, Scottish Rural Action, Ecotourism, shooting association) selected in 8.16. [Applies to 8.17.]*

**8.17. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind:  
[Textarea]**

Please click Next to continue

*Shown if My own group or organisation selected in 8.1. [Applies to Tell us more about [Initiative name:], text below, to 9.4.]*

**[PAGE BREAK]**



## Tell us more about [Initiative name:]

### 9.1. What can Wet Horizons offer your group or organisation that would be useful for this initiative? [Checkbox (Button)]

- Information
- Access to research data
- Access to technology/software
- Unsure
- Other (please specify)

*Shown if Information selected in 9.1. [Applies to 9.2.]*

### 9.2. What would be the most useful format for receiving this information? [Checkbox (Button)]

*(Tick all that apply.)*

- Database
- Report
- Policy note/brief
- Toolkit, framework or practical guidance
- Research summary
- Video
- Mobile app
- Analytic software/methods
- Unsure
- Other (please specify)

### 9.3. Please explain how this could contribute to benefits: [Textarea]

### 9.4. Which of the following communication options (if any) would be helpful for getting project information to your organisation? [Checkbox (Button)]

*(Tick all that apply)*

- Informal sharing of project outputs (e.g., a social media post or sending an email with relevant information)
- Informal communication of personally summarised project findings (e.g., a casual chat or meeting)
- Formal sharing of project outputs (e.g., a scheduled event)



Formal communication of personally summarised project findings (e.g., a report)

Other (please specify)

Please click Next to continue

*Shown if any of the questions 8.2., 8.4., 8.8., 8.10., 8.12., 8.14. are NOT empty [Applies to Tell us more about [Initiative name:], text below, to 10.4.]*

**[PAGE BREAK]**

## Tell us more about [Initiative name:]

### 10.1. What can Wet Horizons offer relevant groups or organisations in [Most familiar catchment areas (radio box)] that would be useful for [Initiative name:]? [Checkbox (Button)]

Information

Access to research data

Access to technology/software

Unsure

Other (please specify)

*Shown if Information selected in 10.1. [Applies to 10.2.]*

### 10.2. What would be the most useful format for relevant organisations in [Most familiar catchment areas (radio box)] to receive this information? [Checkbox (Button)]

*(Tick all that apply)*

Database

Report

Policy note/brief

Toolkit, framework or practical guidance

Research summary

Video

Mobile app

Analytic software/methods

Live event or workshop



Other (please specify)

**10.3. Please explain how this could contribute to benefits for relevant organisations in [Most familiar catchment areas (radio box)]: [Textarea]**

**10.4. Which of the following communication options (if any) would be helpful for getting project information to this organisation? [Checkbox (Button)]**

*(Tick all that apply)*

Informal sharing of project outputs (e.g., a social media post or sending an email with relevant information)

Informal communication of personally summarised project findings (e.g., a casual chat or meeting)

Formal sharing of project outputs (e.g., a scheduled event)

Formal communication of personally summarised project findings (e.g., a report)

Other (please specify)

Please click Next to continue

*Shown if Yes selected in 6.2. [Applies to Tell us more about [Initiative name:], text below, to 11.3.]*

**[PAGE BREAK]**

## **Tell us more about [Initiative name:]**

**11.1. Is there anything else we should know about when engaging with [Initiative name:]? [Radio box]**

*(For example: key timelines, organisational, cultural, or social factors, or people we should be aware of)*

Yes

No

Unsure

*Shown if Yes selected in 11.1. [Applies to 11.2.]*

**11.2. What should we know about when engaging with this initiative? [Textarea]**



**11.3. Are you able to provide information about another initiative that is working to support peatland restoration in [Most familiar catchment areas (radio box)]? [Radio box]**

Yes

No

Unsure

Please click Next to continue

*If Yes selected, questions 7.1 - 11.2 are repeated.*

**[PAGE BREAK]**

**Aside from contributing to existing initiatives**, we want to consider and plan for a wide range of possible benefits that could be developed from the Wet Horizons project, directly, **without** working through a pre-existing initiative. Thinking about this at an early stage will help us orient the project's work to make such benefits more likely. For the questions on this page, please think about a 'best case scenario', where the project is very successful in achieving its aims.

*For a reminder about the project and its aims, see [the project website](#).*

**17.1. Are you aware of any general benefits the Wet Horizons project could help to develop? This includes both vague ideas of potential synergies or connections, or more specific ideas and plans you could foresee developing, e.g. using the project results or outputs in some way. Benefits could be received by individuals, groups, organisations, or wider society. For a reminder about the project and its aims, see the project website. [Radio box]**

Yes

No

Unsure

*Shown if Yes selected in 17.1. [Applies to text below, to 17.9.]*

**17.2. What types of benefits do you think Wet Horizons could help to develop? [Checkbox (Button)]**

*(Subcategories will appear for some.)*

Capacity building and benefits for industry practice(e.g., positive changes to environmental management and/or protection capacities and/or practices).

Economic

Public welfare





- Awareness or understanding
- Government efficiency or effectiveness
- Government policy
- Ecosystem services(The benefits provided by nature that contribute to making human life both possible and enjoyable)
- Other institutional or organisational policy(e.g., positive changes to environmental management and/or protection policies in industry.)
- Other (please specify)

*Shown if Capacity building and benefits for industry practice(e.g., positive changes to environmental management and/or protection capacities and/or practices)., Awareness or understanding OR Ecosystem services(The benefits provided by nature that contribute to making human life both possible and enjoyable) selected in 17.2. [Applies to text below]*

(Tick all sub-options that apply)

*Shown if Capacity building and benefits for industry practice(e.g., positive changes to environmental management and/or protection capacities and/or practices). selected in 17.2. [Applies to 17.3. to 17.4.]*

### **17.3. Capacity building and benefits for industry practice [Checkbox]**

- Informing organisational decision-making
- Changing organisational practices or methods
- Improving organisational structures, culture and/or communication flow
- Enhancing professional skills, knowledge or expertise
- Enhancing professional networks or partnerships
- Other (please specify)

*Shown if Informing organisational decision-making selected in 17.3. [Applies to 17.4.]*

### **17.4. Informing organisational decision-making [Checkbox]**

- Operational or technical decision-making
- Regulatory or policy-related decision-making
- Strategic or management-related decision-making
- Other (please specify)

*Shown if Economic selected in 17.2. [Applies to 17.5.]*

### **17.5. Economic [Checkbox]**

- Jobs/employment

- Community wealth creation
- Economic efficiency
- Profit
- Other (please specify)

*Shown if Awareness or understanding selected in 17.2. [Applies to 17.6. to 17.7.]*

### **17.6. Awareness or understanding [Checkbox]**

- Of a problem
- Of potential solutions to a problem
- Of available technology, tools or data
- Other (please specify)

*Shown if Other awareness or understanding (please specify) selected in 17.6. [Applies to 17.7.]*

### **17.7. Please explain [Textarea]**

*Shown if Ecosystem services(The benefits provided by nature that contribute to making human life both possible and enjoyable) selected in 17.2. [Applies to 17.8.]*

### **17.8. Ecosystem services [Checkbox]**

Regulation or maintenance of the natural environment Benefits to biophysical structures and processes that mediate environmental conditions that impact on people's health, safety or comfort, e.g. as a result of improved environmental management and/or protection.

Resource provisioning ecosystem services Benefits to the outputs from an ecosystem that we can use for of materials, nutrients or energy

Cultural ecosystem services Benefits to the non-material benefits people obtain from ecosystems

### **17.9. Please explain the potential benefits in more detail: [Textarea]**

Please click Next to continue

**[PAGE BREAK]**

Which types of groups or organisations could benefit from Wet Horizons, if it is successful?

### **18.1. [Checkbox]**

My own group or organisation

## 18.2. Government or policy [Checkbox]

Government department(e.g., DEFRA)

Government agency(e.g., NatureScot, Scottish Forestry)

Local authority or municipal government(e.g., Local Planning Authorities, Councils, Local Government Association)

International governmental body(e.g., The International Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets, United Nations Environment Programme)

Other government body or initiative (please specify)(e.g., Climate Change Committee, Joint Nature Conservation Council)

*Shown if Government department(e.g., DEFRA), Government agency(e.g., NatureScot, Scottish Forestry), Local authority or municipal government(e.g., Local Planning Authorities, Councils, Local Government Association, International governmental body(e.g., The International Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets, United Nations Environment Programme) OR Other government body or initiative (please specify)(e.g., Climate Change Committee, Joint Nature Conservation Council) selected in 18.2. [Applies to 18.3.]*

## 18.3. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind: [Textarea]

## 18.4. Carbon or other ecosystem markets [Checkbox]

Established domestic voluntary carbon market(e.g., Scottish Forestry [Secretariat for the Woodland Carbon Code])

Emerging voluntary carbon market that could operate in the UK(e.g., Hedgerow Code)

Biodiversity and other single service markets(e.g., Biodiversity Net Gain)

Cross-cutting ecosystem markets(e.g., Landscape Enterprise Networks)

*Shown if Established domestic voluntary carbon market(e.g., Scottish Forestry [Secretariat for the Woodland Carbon Code]), Emerging voluntary carbon market that could operate in the UK(e.g., Hedgerow Code), Biodiversity and other single service markets(e.g., Biodiversity Net Gain) OR Cross-cutting ecosystem markets(e.g., Landscape Enterprise Networks) selected in 18.4. [Applies to 18.5.]*

## 18.5. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind: [Textarea]

## 18.6. Commercial business [Checkbox]

*(nature-based solutions investment community)*

Return on investment (including land and commodity value)(e.g., investment manager, insurance company)

Major voluntary carbon offsetter(e.g., supermarket, airport)

Major carbon insetter(e.g., Nestlé, McDonalds)

Other (please specify)

*Shown if Return on investment (including land and commodity value)(e.g., investment manager, insurance company), Major voluntary carbon offsetter(e.g., supermarket, airport) OR Major carbon insetter(e.g., Nestlé, McDonalds) selected in 18.6. [Applies to 18.7.]*

**18.7. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind:**  
[Textarea]

**18.8. Landowner/manager community and their suppliers [Checkbox]**

Landowner(e.g., The Crown Estate, private landowner)

Tenant or other rights owners(e.g., tenant farmer, sporting interest)

Supplier to nature-based solutions projects(e.g., peatland restoration contractor, ecological consultancy)

*Shown if Landowner(e.g., The Crown Estate, private landowner), Tenant or other rights owners(e.g., tenant farmer, sporting interest) OR Supplier to nature-based solutions projects(e.g., peatland restoration contractor, ecological consultancy) selected in 18.8. [Applies to 18.9.]*

**18.9. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind:**  
[Textarea]

**18.10. Advisor or intermediary [Checkbox]**

Land agent, advisor or broker to the land management community(e.g., Savills, Knight Frank)

Nature-based solutions project developer or offset/inset provider(e.g., The Wildlife Trusts)

Financial advisor or broker to natural capital investors or policymakers(e.g., Finance Earth)

*Shown if Land agent, advisor or broker to the land management community(e.g., Savills, Knight Frank), Nature-based solutions project developer or offset/inset provider(e.g., The Wildlife Trusts) OR Financial advisor or broker to natural capital investors or policymakers(e.g., Finance Earth) selected in 18.10. [Applies to 18.11.]*

**18.11. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind:**  
[Textarea]

**18.12. Infrastructure providers [Checkbox]**

Environmental protection agency(e.g. Scottish Environmental Protection Agency))

Water board(e.g. Scottish Water)

Other (please specify)

*Shown if Environmental protection agency(e.g. Scottish Environmental Protection Agency) OR Water board(e.g. Scottish Water) selected in 21.13. [Applies to 18.13.]*

**18.13. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind:  
[Textarea]**

**18.14. Networks and professional bodies [Checkbox]**

Ecosystem markets networks(e.g., Scottish Nature Finance)

Professional bodies(e.g., Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management)

*Shown if Ecosystem markets networks(e.g., Scottish Nature Finance) OR Professional bodies(e.g., Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management) selected in 18.14. [Applies to 18.15.]*

**18.15. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind:  
[Textarea]**

**18.16. Other types [Checkbox (Grid)]**

Landowner/manager NGO, thinktank or representative organisation(e.g., National Farmers Union)

Environmental/sustainability NGO, thinktank or representative organisations(e.g., Rewilding Britain, The Woodland Trust)

Local community/rural or recreation group(e.g. general public in Shetland, Scottish Rural Action, Ecotourism, shooting association)

Other (please specify)

*Shown if Landowner/manager NGO, thinktank or representative organisation(e.g., National Farmers Union), Environmental/sustainability NGO, thinktank or representative organisations(e.g., Rewilding Britain, The Woodland Trust) OR Local community/rural or recreation group(e.g. general public in Shetland, Scottish Rural Action, Ecotourism, shooting association) selected in 18.16. [Applies to 18.17.]*

**18.17. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind:  
[Textarea]**

Please click Next to continue

*Shown if My own group or organisation selected in 18.1. [Applies to text below, to 19.4.]*

**[PAGE BREAK]**

**19.1. What can Wet Horizons offer your group or organisation? [Checkbox (Button)]**

- Information
- Access to research data
- Access to technology/software
- Unsure
- Other (please specify)

*Shown if Information selected in 19.1. [Applies to 19.2.]*

**19.2. What would be the most useful format for receiving this information? [Checkbox (Button)]**

*(Tick all that apply.)*

- Database
- Report
- Policy note/brief
- Toolkit, framework or practical guidance
- Research summary
- Video
- Mobile app
- Analytic software/methods
- Unsure
- Other (please specify)

**19.3. Please explain how this could contribute to benefits: [Textarea]**

**19.4. Which of the following communication options (if any) would be helpful for getting project information to your organisation? [Checkbox (Button)]**

*(Tick all that apply)*

- Informal sharing of project outputs (e.g., a social media post or sending an email with relevant information)
- Informal communication of personally summarised project findings (e.g., a casual chat or meeting)
- Formal sharing of project outputs (e.g., a scheduled event)
- Formal communication of personally summarised project findings (e.g., a report)
- Other (please specify)

Please click Next to continue

*Shown if Return on investment (including land and commodity value)(e.g., investment manager, insurance company), Landowner/manager NGO, thinktank or representative organisation(e.g., National Farmers Union), Environmental protection agency(e.g. Scottish Environmental Protection Agency)), Government department(e.g., DEFRA), Landowner(e.g., The Crown Estate, private landowner), Ecosystem markets networks(e.g., Scottish Nature Finance), Land agent, advisor or broker to the land management community(e.g., Savills, Knight Frank), Established domestic voluntary carbon market(e.g., Scottish Forestry [Secretariat for the Woodland Carbon Code]), Emerging voluntary carbon market that could operate in the UK(e.g., Hedgerow Code), Tenant or other rights owners(e.g., tenant farmer, sporting interest), Professional bodies(e.g., Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management), Nature-based solutions project developer or offset/inset provider(e.g., The Wildlife Trusts), Water board(e.g. Scottish Water), Major voluntary carbon offsetter(e.g., supermarket, airport), Environmental/sustainability NGO, thinktank or representative organisations(e.g., Rewilding Britain, The Woodland Trust), Government agency(e.g., NatureScot, Scottish Forestry), Financial advisor or broker to natural capital investors or policymakers(e.g., Finance Earth), Local authority or municipal government(e.g., Local Planning Authorities, Councils, Local Government Association, Major carbon insetter(e.g., Nestlé, McDonalds), Local community/rural or recreation group(e.g. general public in Shetland, Scottish Rural Action, Ecotourism, shooting association), Supplier to nature-based solutions projects(e.g., peatland restoration contractor, ecological consultancy), Biodiversity and other single service markets(e.g., Biodiversity Net Gain), Cross-cutting ecosystem markets(e.g., Landscape Enterprise Networks), International governmental body(e.g., The International Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets, United Nations Environment Programme), Other government body or initiative (please specify)(e.g., Climate Change Committee, Joint Nature Conservation Council) OR Other (please specify) selected in 18.2. or if 18.4. or if 18.6. or if 18.8. or if 18.10. or if 18.12. or if 18.14. [Applies to 20.4.]*

**[PAGE BREAK]**

**20.1. What can Wet Horizons offer these relevant groups or organisations in [Most familiar catchment areas (radio box)] that would be useful? [Checkbox (Button)]**

- Information
- Access to research data
- Access to technology/software
- Unsure
- Other (please specify)

*Shown if Information selected in 20.1. [Applies to 20.2.]*

**20.2. What would be the most useful format for relevant organisations in [Most familiar catchment areas (radio box)] to receive this information? [Checkbox (Button)]**

*(Tick all that apply)*

- Database
- Report

- Policy note/brief
- Toolkit, framework or practical guidance
- Research summary
- Video
- Mobile app
- Analytic software/methods
- Live event or workshop
- Other (please specify)

### 20.3. Please explain how this could contribute to benefits: [Textarea]

### 20.4. Which of the following communication options (if any) would be helpful for getting project information to your organisation? [Checkbox (Button)]

*(Tick all that apply)*

Informal sharing of project outputs (e.g., a social media post or sending an email with relevant information)

Informal communication of personally summarised project findings (e.g., a casual chat or meeting)

Formal sharing of project outputs (e.g., a scheduled event)

Formal communication of personally summarised project findings (e.g., a report)

Other (please specify)

**[PAGE BREAK]**

We also want to consider and try to avoid any possible **negative effects** of the project. Thinking about this at an early stage will help us orient the project's work to make such negative outcomes less likely. For the questions on this page, please think about a '**worst case scenario**', where the project ends up making some things worse in [Most familiar catchment areas (radio box)].

For a reminder about the project and its aims, see [the project website](#).

### 21.1. Are you aware of any negative effects that Wet Horizons could have? [Radio box]

*Negative effects could be any project-related outcomes that disadvantage individuals, groups or organisations.*

Yes

No



Unsure

*Shown if Yes selected in 21.1. [Applies to text below, 21.2. to 21.18.]*

**Which types of groups or organisations could be negatively affected by this project (either directly or indirectly)?**

### 21.2. [Checkbox]

My own group or organisation

### 21.3. Government or policy [Checkbox]

Government department(e.g., DEFRA)

Government agency(e.g., NatureScot, Scottish Forestry)

Local authority or municipal government(e.g., Local Planning Authorities, Councils, Local Government Association)

International governmental body(e.g., The International Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets, United Nations Environment Programme)

Other government body or initiative (please specify)(e.g., Climate Change Committee, Joint Nature Conservation Council)

*Shown if Government department(e.g., DEFRA), Government agency(e.g., NatureScot, Scottish Forestry), Local authority or municipal government(e.g., Local Planning Authorities, Councils, Local Government Association, International governmental body(e.g., The International Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets, United Nations Environment Programme) OR Other government body or initiative (please specify)(e.g., Climate Change Committee, Joint Nature Conservation Council) selected in 21.3. [Applies to 21.4.]*

**21.4. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind: [Text line (multiple)]**

### 21.5. Carbon or other ecosystem markets [Checkbox]

Established domestic voluntary carbon market(e.g., Scottish Forestry [Secretariat for the Woodland Carbon Code])

Emerging voluntary carbon market that could operate in the UK(e.g., Hedgerow Code)

Biodiversity and other single service markets(e.g., Biodiversity Net Gain)

Cross-cutting ecosystem markets(e.g., Landscape Enterprise Networks)

*Shown if Established domestic voluntary carbon market(e.g., Scottish Forestry [Secretariat for the Woodland Carbon Code]), Emerging voluntary carbon market that could operate in the UK(e.g., Hedgerow Code), Biodiversity and other single service markets(e.g., Biodiversity Net Gain) OR Cross-cutting ecosystem markets(e.g., Landscape Enterprise Networks) selected in 21.5. [Applies to 21.6.]*

**21.6. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind: [Text line (multiple)]**

**21.7. Commercial business [Checkbox]***(nature-based solutions investment community)*

Return on investment (including land and commodity value)(e.g., investment manager, insurance company)

Major voluntary carbon offsetter(e.g., supermarket, airport)

Major carbon insetter(e.g., Nestlé, McDonalds)

Other (please specify)

*Shown if Return on investment (including land and commodity value)(e.g., investment manager, insurance company), Major voluntary carbon offsetter(e.g., supermarket, airport) OR Major carbon insetter(e.g., Nestlé, McDonalds) selected in 18.6. [Applies to 21.8.]***21.8. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind: [Textarea]****21.9. Landowner/manager community and their suppliers [Checkbox]**

Landowner(e.g., The Crown Estate, private landowner)

Tenant or other rights owners(e.g., tenant farmer, sporting interest)

Supplier to nature-based solutions projects(e.g., peatland restoration contractor, ecological consultancy)

*Shown if Landowner(e.g., The Crown Estate, private landowner), Tenant or other rights owners(e.g., tenant farmer, sporting interest) OR Supplier to nature-based solutions projects(e.g., peatland restoration contractor, ecological consultancy) selected in 21.9. [Applies to 21.10.]***21.10. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind: [Text line (multiple)]****21.11. Advisor or intermediary [Checkbox]**

Land agent, advisor or broker to the land management community(e.g., Savills, Knight Frank)

Nature-based solutions project developer or offset/inset provider(e.g., The Wildlife Trusts)

Financial advisor or broker to natural capital investors or policymakers(e.g., Finance Earth)

*Shown if Land agent, advisor or broker to the land management community(e.g., Savills, Knight Frank), Nature-based solutions project developer or offset/inset provider(e.g., The Wildlife Trusts) OR Financial advisor or broker to natural capital investors or policymakers(e.g., Finance Earth) selected in 21.11. [Applies to 21.12.]***21.12. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind: [Text line (multiple)]**

### 21.13. Infrastructure providers [Checkbox]

Environmental protection agency(e.g. Scottish Environmental Protection Agency))

Water board(e.g. Scottish Water)

Other (please specify)

*Shown if Environmental protection agency(e.g. Scottish Environmental Protection Agency)) OR Water board(e.g. Scottish Water) selected in 21.13. [Applies to 21.14.]*

### 21.14. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind: [Textarea]

### 21.15. Networks and professional bodies [Checkbox]

Ecosystem markets networks(e.g., Scottish Nature Finance)

Professional bodies(e.g., Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management)

*Shown if Ecosystem markets networks(e.g., Scottish Nature Finance) OR Professional bodies(e.g., Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management) selected in 21.15. [Applies to 21.16.]*

### 21.16. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind: [Text line (multiple)]

### 21.17. Other types [Checkbox (Grid)]

Landowner/manager NGO, thinktank or representative organisation(e.g., National Farmers Union)

Environmental/sustainability NGO, thinktank or representative organisations(e.g., Rewilding Britain, The Woodland Trust)

Local community/rural or recreation group(e.g. general public in Shetland, Scottish Rural Action, Ecotourism, shooting association)

Other (please specify)

*Shown if Landowner/manager NGO, thinktank or representative organisation(e.g., National Farmers Union), Environmental/sustainability NGO, thinktank or representative organisations(e.g., Rewilding Britain, The Woodland Trust) OR Local community/rural or recreation group(e.g. general public in Shetland, Scottish Rural Action, Ecotourism, shooting association) selected in 21.17. [Applies to 21.18.]*

### 21.18. Please list any specific groups or organisations that come to mind: [Text line (multiple)]

*Shown if Yes selected in 21.1. [Applies to 21.19. to 21.20.]*



	Yes	No	Unsure	Not applicable / No opinion
21.19. Can you give any specific details about possible negative effects for groups or organisations in [Most familiar catchment areas (radio box)]? [Likert Scale (3-point: Yes - No - Unsure)]				

*Shown if Yes selected in 21.19. [Applies to 21.20.]*

**21.20. Please explain: [Textarea]**

**[PAGE BREAK]**

**22.1. Is there anything else you would like to add or any additional comments? [Textarea]**

**22.2. Would you like to be added to a project news contact list to be kept up to date as the project progresses? [Radio box]**

Yes

No

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire! Your contribution will help to shape the project and improve its chances of delivering positive benefits.

Please click Submit to send your responses.



## Appendix 3: 3i analysis and impact planning

### Dee, Scotland 3i Analysis Results

This report presents results from the 3i analysis to identify relevant parties for the Wet Horizons research to consider engaging with, in the catchment of the River Dee, Scotland. Organisations are presented in order of their 3i scores, from highest to lowest.

#### Sample

A total of 11 organisations were identified with interests in, influence over and/or likely to be impacted positively or negatively by wetland and peatland restoration in the Dee catchment. This information was provided by n=9 participants. These organisations were sorted into the following 4 categories:

**Table 1: Relevant party categories identified**

Relevant party category	Category description	Organisations	No. of organisations identified
National and regional level public bodies	National and regional public bodies with statutory powers responsible for nature conservation or public land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cairngorms National Park Authority</li> <li>• Forestry &amp; Land Scotland</li> <li>• Peatland Action (NatureScot)</li> </ul>	3
Local authorities and community councils	Local level public bodies and voluntary organisations set up by statute by local authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ballater and Crathie Community Council</li> </ul>	1
Environmental charities, initiatives and partnerships	Non-governmental organisations, partnerships, networks and initiatives with conservation and restoration goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership</li> <li>• Dee Catchment Partnership</li> <li>• Dee District Salmon Fishery Board and River Dee Trust<sup>11</sup></li> </ul>	3
Landowners	Private estates, charitable estate owners, owner occupier farmers, and other institutional landowners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balmoral Estate</li> <li>• Glenmuick Estate</li> <li>• Invercauld Estate</li> <li>• Mar Lodge Estate</li> </ul>	4

<sup>11</sup> Dee District Salmon Fishery Board and River Dee Trust are legally separate entities that in many ways function as a separate organisation, with a shared website, office and staff team. The fisheries board is a statutory body, so could have been categorised differently here.

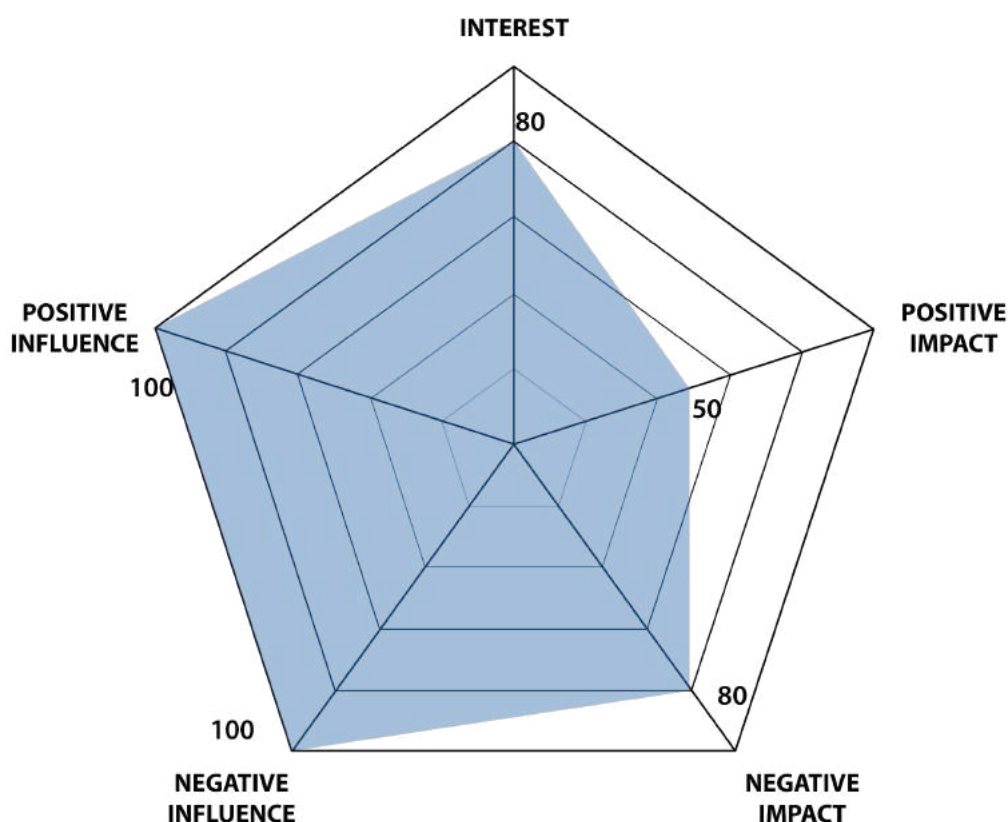
## Balmoral Estate



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 410

Figure 2: Overview of 3i analysis for Balmoral Estate<sup>12</sup>



### 3i analysis

Balmoral Estate, covering an area over 20,000 hectares, is well-known for Balmoral Castle - a residence of the British royal family. The estate was bought by Prince Albert husband of Queen Victoria in 1852<sup>13</sup>. The estate falls within the Cairngorms National

<sup>12</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Balmoral Estate.

<sup>13</sup> <https://balmoralcastle.com/index.html>

Park and partly within the Deeside and Lochnagar National Scenic Area, and contains several other designated protected areas. The estate contains extensive tracts of woodland, grouse moor and farmland, as well as large numbers of deer. The estate is also a major tourist destination with visitors coming to see the castle and grounds, access a range of guided walks, talks and 'land rover safaris', and pay to fish from the estate's rivers<sup>14</sup>.

The respondent commented that, "Balmoral Estate probably owns the largest continuous area of peatland in the Dee catchment (south of Loch Muick), therefore their cooperation in progressing peatland restoration to help mitigate flood risk in this catchment is vital" (Scottish Environment Protection Agency [SEPA], 3i survey).

### *Interest*

Balmoral Estate was rated as likely to be **highly interested (80%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though no further explanation was given, this is likely due to the estate containing significant areas of peatlands. Furthermore, Balmoral has been engaged in peatland restoration since 2015 with work to reprofile hags, install dams, and restore areas of bare peat<sup>15</sup>. The estate was recently awarded further funding from Peatland Action to expand its restoration efforts<sup>16</sup>. A number of monitoring studies are also being carried out on the estate in relation to peatland restoration, including one led by the James Hutton Institute which uses aerial mapping technology<sup>17</sup>.

### *Influence*

Balmoral Estate was rated as likely to have a **high level of influence (100%) to support** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This power to facilitate restoration relates firstly to control over what happens to peatlands contained on the estate itself. In addition, the respondent noted that "if they take a lead in restoration, neighbouring estates that are managed in a similar way" (SEPA, 3i survey). One forum where this type of influence may be exerted is the East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership (ECMP), of which Balmoral is a partner, described below. Balmoral Estate was rated as likely to have a **high level of influence (100%) to block** Wet Horizons and its outcomes, with the respondent highlighting the control the estate has over what happens on its own land. Following the above, it is also evident that the estate's power to block restoration is likely to include its ability to shape the decision making of neighbouring estates.

### *Impact*

Balmoral Estate was rated as likely to receive a **moderate level of benefit (50%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent noted here that there, "could be significant potential benefits in terms of publicity for the estate, attracting paying

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<sup>14</sup>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.scottishlandandestates.co.uk/events/walk-talk-peatland-restoration-spittal-glenmuick-balmoral-estate>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/apr/20/royal-familys-balmoral-estate-could-be-worth-80m>

<sup>17</sup> [Aerial maps used to monitor peatland restoration on Balmoral Estate | The James Hutton Institute](#)

visitors, if they can demonstrate green credentials...peatland restoration could also enhance landscape quality, further attracting visitors” (SEPA, 3i survey). Given that Balmoral Estate is already engaged in peatland restoration, it can also be assumed that the estate would benefit from any improvements in restoration practice as a result of the Wet Horizons project.

Conversely, Balmoral Estate was rated as likely to experience a **high level of negative impact (80%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent explained that there is the, “potential for incompatibilities between some of the estate's traditional commercial activities (e.g. hunting and shooting) that could be a barrier to restoration” (SEPA, 3i survey). The respondent highlighted the impact of high deer numbers in reducing the effectiveness of restoration, and it is notable that Balmoral Estate has previously been criticised for failing to reduce deer populations<sup>18</sup>.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

Here, we highlight any practical or strategic implications or inferences that can be drawn out based on the information presented about this organisation, both in terms of self-description and the perspective of the respondent(s). These recommendations focus on further engagement guidance, and outputs likely to be of interest for them.

- **Engaging through existing ECMP and Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA):** the estate is located within the Cairngorms National Park and is a member of the East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership. Engaging the estate through these and other existing forums may enhance its view of the credibility of the project.
- **Raising public awareness:** Balmoral Estate has a strong public presence as a residence of the British royal family and is a significant destination for tourists. Increasing the public's awareness of the value of restoration could then ensure the estate is more likely to engage with the project.
- **Sharing tools, best practice and lessons learned about restoration:** as the estate is already engaged in peatland restoration, it is likely to benefit from any practical outputs from the project.
- **Sharing ecosystem market outputs which support growth in revenue streams:** as the estate is privately owned and operates commercially, it is likely to be interested in any outputs that improve its ability to access natural capital markets.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18270928.queen-urged-cull-deer-balmoral/>



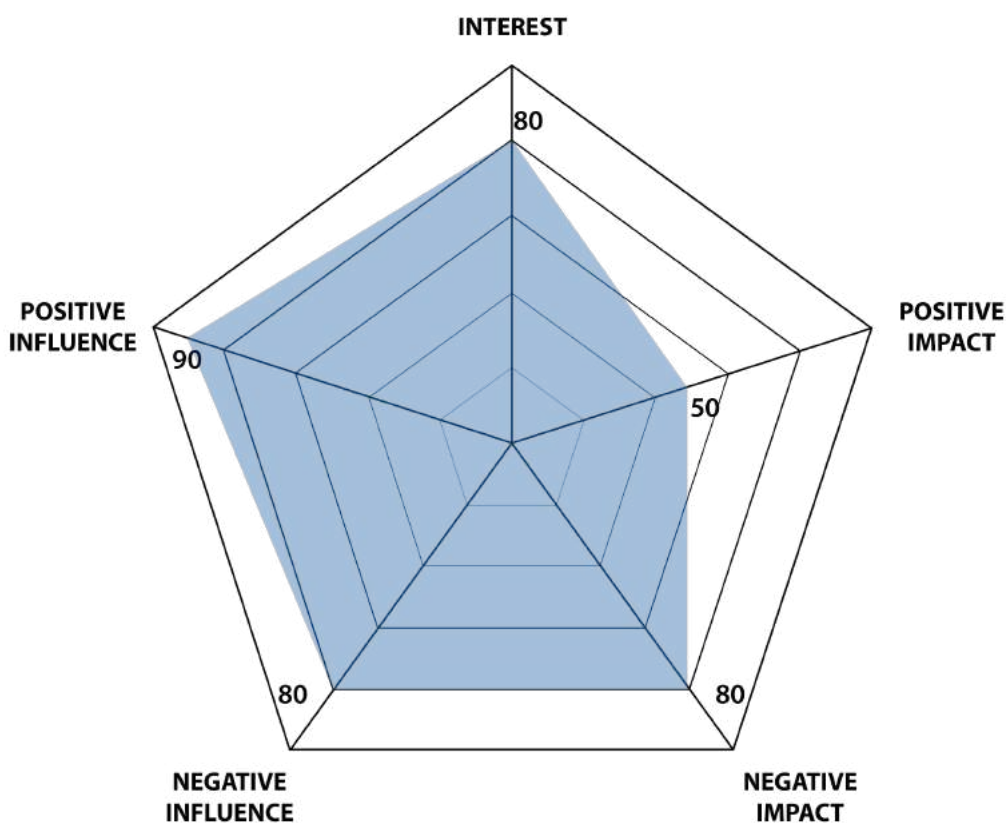
## Invercauld Estate



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 380

Figure 3: Overview of 3i analysis for Invercauld Estate<sup>19</sup>



### 3i analysis

Invercauld Estate is a privately owned estate covering approximately 95,000 acres of the Cairngorms National Park and located close to the communities of Braemar and Ballater. The estate has been owned by the Farquharson family since the sixteenth century. The estate’s website describes a range of habitats, including natural woodland, heather moorland, grassland, montane and ‘blanket bog with areas of deep peat and moss’, and notes the presence of, ‘thriving populations of mountain hare,

<sup>19</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Invercauld Estate.

eagles, golden plover, curlew, ptarmigan and black grouse among many others'<sup>20</sup>. Economic activities include timber production, sheep farming, property lettings, grouse shooting, deer stalking, fishing, and other forms of tourism. The estate highlights its role in facilitating several conservation projects (e.g. tree planting, river restoration), most notably the restoration of peatlands.

The respondent noted Invercauld Estate is, “a major landowner with significant areas of peatland within the Dee catchment, (and) their engagement with peatland restoration is important to help achieve significant restoration” (SEPA, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

Invercauld Estate was rated as likely to have a **high level of interest (80%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though no further explanation was given, this is likely to reflect the fact that Invercauld Estate is already engaged in peatland restoration. Whilst no detailed information on restoration activities being undertaken was found during the research, it is notable that the estate’s website highlights a range of benefits in relation to natural capital restoration, including both natural (e.g. habitat provision) and economic (e.g. farming, natural capital markets).

### *Influence*

Invercauld Estate was rated as likely to have **high level influence (90%) to support** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent repeated comments made in relation to Balmoral Estate, describing influence in terms of the power over whether to restore peatlands on the estate and the broader ability to influence the actions of neighbouring estates. Following the same reasoning, Invercauld Estate was rated as likely to have a **high level of power (80%) to block** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Invercauld Estate’s influence is likely to be exerted through the formal networks that it is engaged with, including the ECMP and the Dee Catchment Partnership (DCP).

### *Impact*

Invercauld Estate was rated as likely to receive a **moderate level of benefit 50%** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. As with Balmoral, the respondents noted the potential of restoration to attract additional tourist visitors to the estate by demonstrating ‘green credentials’ and improvements to the quality of the landscape. The fact that Invercauld Estate is already engaged in peatland restoration suggests that it may experience other benefits from the project outcomes, including improvements to restoration tools and best practice and the development of new models for understanding reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions. Invercauld Estate was rated as likely to experience a **high level of negative impact (80%)** as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent again highlighted the potential conflict here between restoration efforts and traditional commercial activities based around grouse and deer shooting.

## ***Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning***

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.invercauld.estate/>

- **Engaging through existing ECMP and CNPA:** the estate is located within the Cairngorms National Park and is a member of the East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership. Hence, engaging it through these and other existing forums may enhance its view of the credibility of the project.
- **Raising public awareness:** Invercauld Estate is an important destination for tourists. Increasing the public's awareness of the value of restoration could help to ensure that the estate is more likely to engage with the project.
- **Sharing tools, best practice and lessons learned about restoration:** as the estate is already engaged in peatland restoration, it is likely to benefit from any practical outputs from the project.
- **Sharing ecosystem market outputs which support growth in revenue streams:** as the estate is privately owned and operates commercially, it is likely to be interested in any outputs that improve its ability to access natural capital markets.

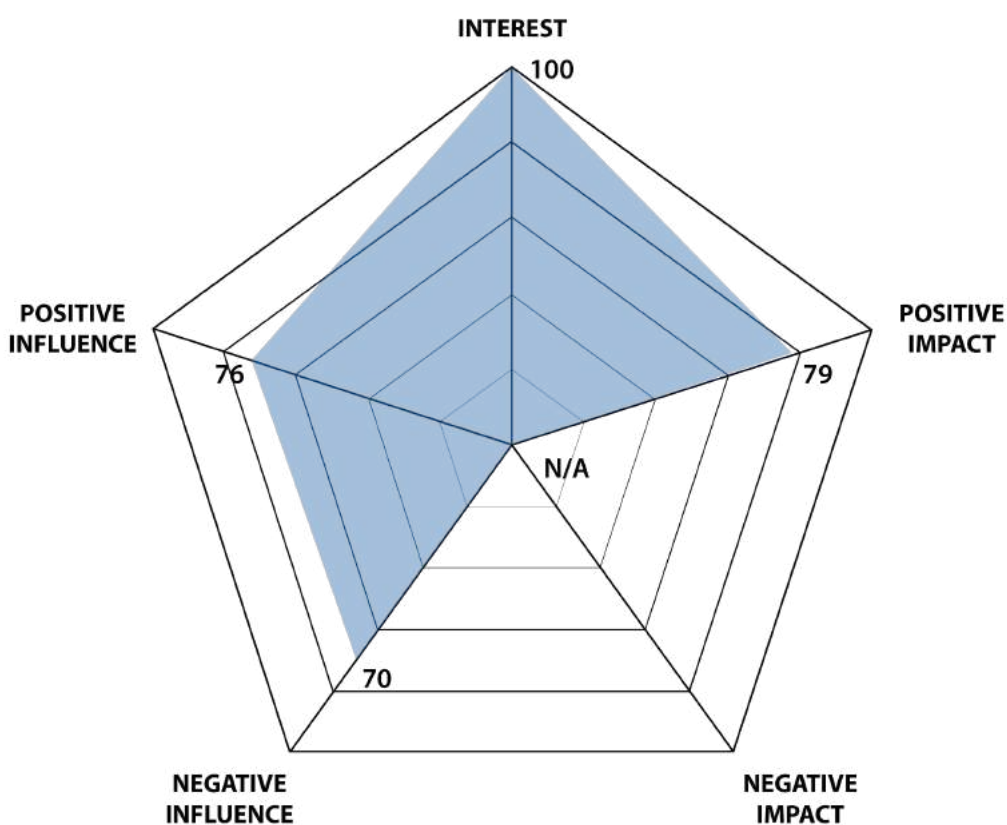
## Forestry and Land Scotland



### National

Overall 3i score: 325

Figure 4: Overview of 3i analysis for Forestry and Land Scotland<sup>21</sup>



### 3i analysis

<sup>21</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Forestry and Land Scotland.

Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) is a Scottish Government agency established in 2019 following the full devolution of forestry to Scotland from the UK government. FLS is responsible for managing Scotland's national forests and land, and took on duties previously managed by Forestry Commission Scotland and Forest Enterprise Scotland. FLS states that it aims to, 'look after national forests and land to enhance biodiversity, support tourism and increase access to the green spaces that will help improve Scotland's physical and mental health and well-being... (and) continue to provide vital timber supplies to support the rural economy' (FLS, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

FLS was rated as likely to have a **high level interest (76%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent commented that the project is, "directly relevant to the work that FLS undertakes in the peatland programme" (FLS, 3i survey). This comment relates to FLS's role as a delivery partner for Peatland Action, Scotland's national programme to restore peatlands. As such it is responsible for restoring peat on the land under its management, which FLS describes as 'over 160,000 hectares of peatland... some of these bogs are open habitats, while others had trees planted on them from the 1950s to the 1990s'<sup>22</sup>. FLS's websites states that it began the restoration of almost 7,500 hectares of peatland from 2014 to 2020, but does not provide more up to date figures<sup>23</sup>. In some cases, this has included tree removal - where plantations had been established on peatlands - and it is notable that at a regional level, FLS is already carrying out 'forest to bog restoration' within the Dee catchment.

### *Influence*

FLS was rated as likely to have a **high level of influence (76%) to support** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though no further explanation was given here, it can be assumed that the respondent was referring to FLS's role as a Peatland Action delivery partner and the restoration activities that FLS is already undertaking on its land. FLS was rated as likely to have a **high level of influence (70%) to block** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent commented here that, "land management decisions are taken on a frequent basis balancing restoration and/or commercial outcomes" (FLS, 3i survey). This can be understood as a reference to FLS's responsibilities for both peatland restoration – under which FLS is removing trees from afforested peatlands – and for maintaining timber supplies. FLS commits to restoring only some of its afforested peatlands back to open peatland, and states that it aims to "manage peatlands in an optimal way to maximise the benefits they can provide" (FLS, 3i survey).

### *Impact*

FLS was rated as likely to receive a **high level of benefit (79%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent commented here that, "any further research to help

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<sup>22</sup> <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/biodiversity-and-conservation/peatlands>

<sup>23</sup> <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/what-we-do/biodiversity-and-conservation/peatlands/how-we-are-helping-peatlands>

inform decisions will be implemented” (FLS, 3i survey). This suggests that FLS could benefit from enhancements in restoration best practice and governance mechanisms, development of new decision making tools, and improvements to models for understanding the potential for carbon sequestration. No score was given regarding the likelihood that FLS will experience negative impacts as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, given FLS’s active participation in peatland restoration and its status as a Peatland Action delivery programme, it appears unlikely that it will experience significant negative impacts.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing tools, best practice and lessons learned about restoration:** as a Peatland Action delivery partner, FLS is likely to benefit from any practical outputs from the project and should therefore be engaged in this area.
- **Sharing research summaries and papers:** given its role in managing Scotland’s forests and land, FLS is likely to rely on scientific data to guide its work. Hence, research summaries and/or academic papers are likely to be of interest, particularly as they relate directly to FLS’s role in managing and restoring peatlands and wetlands.
- **Collaborating on policy work:** FLS’s status as a statutory body, and a public body responsible for using government funding to restore peatlands, means it will be an important organisation to engage in discussions concerning policy and governance recommendations.

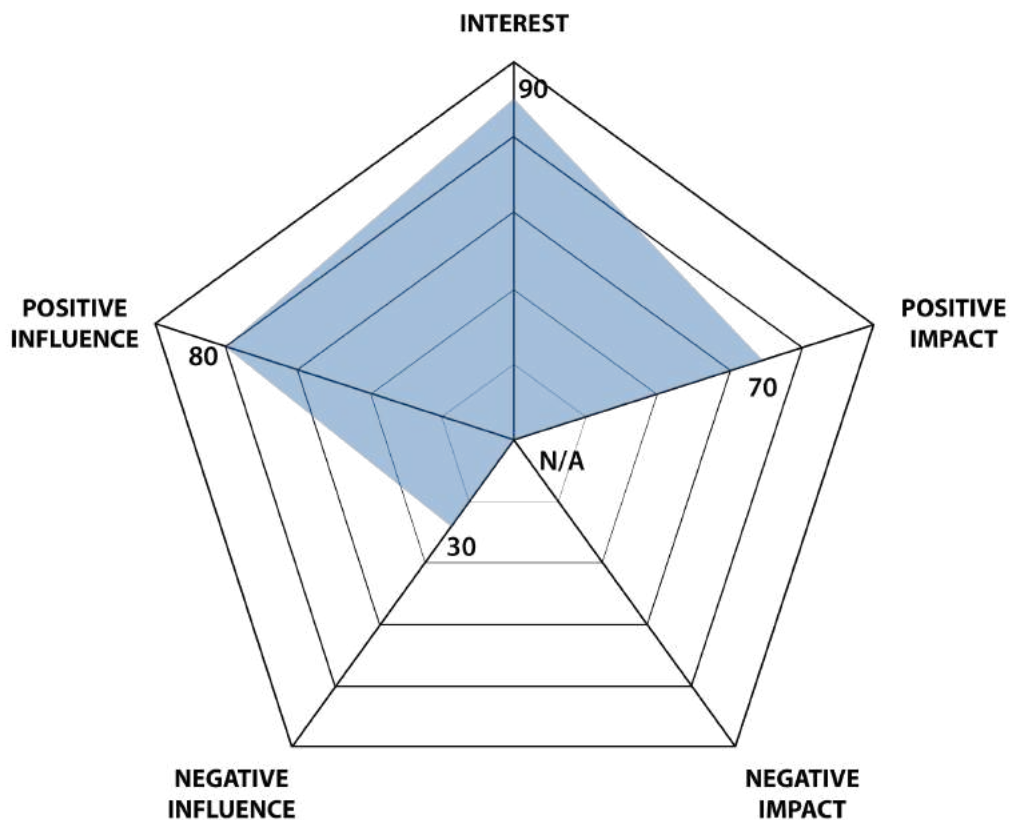
## Mar Lodge Estate



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 270

Figure 5: Overview of 3i analysis for Mar Lodge Estate<sup>24</sup>



### 3i analysis

<sup>24</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Mar Lodge Estate.



Covering more than 29,000 hectares, Mar Lodge Estate is the UK's largest National Nature Reserve and forms a significant area within the Cairngorms National Park<sup>25</sup>. The estate contains 4 of the 5 highest mountains in Scotland, as well as the headwaters of the River Dee. Since 1995 Mar Lodge Estate has been owned by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS), having previously been privately owned and operating as a traditional sporting estate. Under NTS's ownership, significant emphasis has been placed on conservation and improved environmental management, with efforts to regenerate Caledonian pine forests, repair footpaths, and restore peatlands. Whilst some small-scale, low-intensity deer stalking still happens on the estate, Mar Lodge has taken steps to substantially reduce deer numbers, which is viewed as important to allowing woodlands and peatlands to regenerate.

The respondent commented that, "there is significant nature conservation work going on land owned by this estate, but my impression is that this is not currently focused on the parts of the estate where most of the peatlands are present" (SEPA, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

Mar Lodge Estate was rated as likely to be **highly interested (90%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent commented here that, 'the estate's owners are heavily involved in nature conservation work already; peatland restoration would be logical extension of this'. In fact, Mar Lodge Estate is already engaged in peatland restoration, albeit on a smaller scale than it is with woodland regeneration<sup>26</sup>. The estate contains approximately 5,500 hectares of peatland, some of which are degraded and forming erosion gullies. In an article on NTS's website, the estate's Conservation Manager describes efforts to restore peatlands as including putting new dams into gullies, commenting that, "it's really important for us here to ensure that they're in a good condition because they're important for carbon storage, but also in regulating water flow throughout the River Dee catchment"<sup>27</sup>.

### *Influence*

Mar Lodge Estate was rated as likely to have a **high level of influence (80%) to support** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent commented that, 'they are a major landowner and already have a high profile in terms of nature conservation work. There may be potential for their involvement in peatland restoration work to influence neighbouring landowners'. An important formal network within which Mar Lodge Estate may exert this influence is the ECMP, where it is the only one of six partner estates that is charitably owned, the others all being under private ownership. Furthermore, as per NTS's website, Mar Lodge can be viewed as 'one of the most important areas for nature conservation in the British Isles', highlighting its wider role in developing and promoting best practices in landscape management<sup>28</sup>.

Mar Lodge Estate was rated as likely to have a **low degree of power to block (30%)** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent commented here, "if they don't

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/mar-lodge-estate>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/restoring-peatland-at-mar-lodge-estate>

<sup>27</sup>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/mar-lodge-estate>



engage with peatland restoration, there is a risk that neighbouring landowners don't see it as land management priority. I can't see that they would be motivated not to get involved in peatland restoration, however" (SEPA, 3i survey).

### *Impact*

Mar Lodge Estate was rated as likely to receive a **high level of benefit (70%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent commented that benefits could include, "improved profile for their conservation activities, adding another facet to their already well-known conservation work" (SEPA, 3i survey). Given the estate's focus on conservation and previous efforts to restore peatlands, other benefits are likely to include improvements in restoration tools and best practice. No score was given regarding the likelihood that Mar Lodge Estate will experience negative impacts as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, given the estates conservation objectives and existing work on peatland restoration, it appears unlikely that it will experience significant negative impacts.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing tools, best practice and lessons learned about restoration:** as the Mar Lodge Estate is already engaged in peatland restoration and has objectives around its further expansion, it is likely to be interested in learning about practical outputs from the project.
- **Sharing research summaries and papers:** the estate's owners, NTS, carry out environmental management and conservation across a range of properties and ecosystems in Scotland. NTS will rely here on scientific data, suggesting there will be value in sharing research summaries and/or academic paper as a means of engaging it, and the Mar Lodge estate specifically.
- **Raising public awareness:** Due to the interest of NTS and the Mar Lodge Estate in promoting conservation and building understanding of restoration efforts, they may be well placed to support the dissemination of information from the project, both to visitors to the estate and the wider Scottish public.
- **Collaborating on policy work:** NTS's work includes a significant focus on policy and advocacy, across areas such as marine environments, wildernesses, and environmental protection. The organisation is therefore likely to be interested in engaging in discussions which relate to recommendations on how to improve policy and governance mechanisms for peatland and wetland restoration.

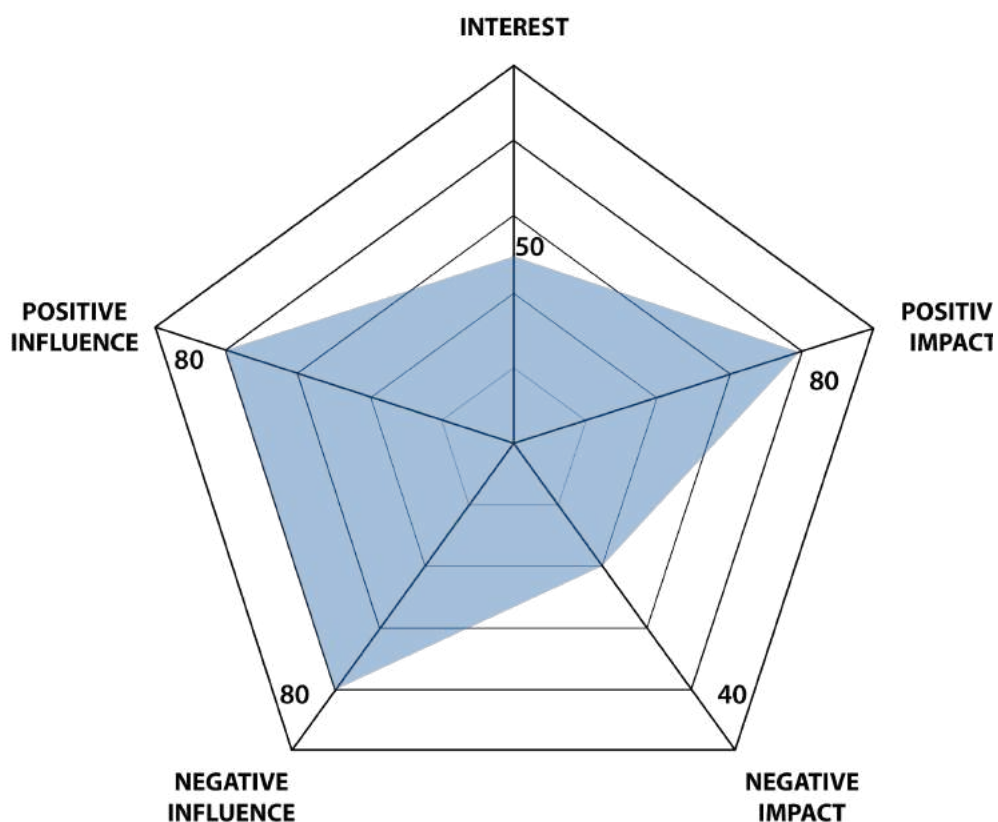
## East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 250

Figure 6: Overview of 3i analysis for East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership<sup>29</sup>



<sup>29</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the East Cairngorms Moorland Partnership.

### *3i analysis*

ECMP is coordinated by the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) and brings together six estates (Mar Lodge, Mar, Invercauld, Balmoral, Glenavon and Glenlivet) to 'collaborate on a landscape scale'<sup>30</sup> ECMP describes itself as an 'innovative approach... seeking to demonstrate that it's possible to combine delivery of public and private interest outcomes and achieve the successful integration of grouse moors and sporting management with other land uses'. As such, the partnership is seeking to deliver conservation projects – including peatland restoration, woodland expansion, raptor conservation – alongside the management of land to support traditional shooting sports.

The respondent described ECMP, as “landowners/managers... working together at a landscape scale to deliver a range of habitat restoration and species conservation projects alongside estates' private interests” (Cairngorms National Park Authority, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

ECMP was rated as likely to have a **moderate interest (50%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. By way of explanation the respondent noted that, “most of the estates are already engaged in peatland restoration and some in river restoration. They are potentially interested in finance schemes associated with natural capital. However, they probably don't see wetlands as a major interest” (Cairngorms National Park Authority, 3i survey). Alternatively, in a 2019 'action plan', ECMP includes peatland restoration as one of several focus projects stating that, 'using Peatland Action funds, (it is) planning major restoration work on all six estates'. Given that ECMP is coordinated by CNPA (a Peatland Action delivery partner) and includes several estates already noted in this analysis as undertaking peatland restoration, it seems likely that ECMP's interest in the project's outcomes may be greater than perceived by the respondent.

### *Influence*

ECMP was rated as likely to have a **high level of influence to support (80%)** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent located this influence in terms of the direct power which landowners within the partnership will hold over what happens to peatlands on their estates. Based on the same reasoning, ECMP was also rated as likely to have a **high degree of power to block (80%)** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent commented here that, “as landowners, they have the power to prevent restoration on their land if they feel there is nothing in it for them, or if it conflicts with their interests” (Cairngorms National Park Authority, 3i survey).

### *Impact*

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<sup>30</sup> <https://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/EastCairngormsMoorlandPartnershipJuly2019.pdf>.

ECMP was rated as likely to receive a **moderate level of benefit (40%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent commented that, “the estates in the partnership have already agreed to engage in restoration activities so some will go ahead regardless of this project. If finance for restoration becomes more readily available due to this project, this would be a beneficial outcome” (Cairngorms National Park Authority, 3i survey). As noted when discussing the individual estates involved in ECMP, benefits could also include improvements to restoration tools and best practice. As indicated by the respondent, there is also potential for the project to support the further scaling up of natural capital markets, for example, through the development of improved modelling and understanding of reductions in GHG emissions, which could provide additional benefits to ECMP members.

No score was awarded in relation to the likelihood that ECMP will experience negative impacts as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Given the partnership’s focus on landscape scale collaboration for the purposes of improved environmental management and conservation, it appears unlikely that ECMP will experience significant negative impacts.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing tools, best practice and lessons learned about restoration:** ECMP’s focus on improving the management and environmental quality of the region’s moorlands, suggests that it is likely to be interested in learning about the practical outputs of the project.
- **Sharing research summaries and papers:** ECMP, as part of the wider CNPA, will rely on scientific data to guide its management of moorland ecosystems. Hence, there is likely to be significant value in sharing research summaries and/or academic papers with ECMP.
- **Collaborating on policy and governance:** ECMP’s focus on integrating conservation approaches and the successful commercial management of moorlands (i.e. for deer and grouse shooting) reflects a central tension in how peatlands can be restored across a landscape traditionally reserved for shooting sports. ECMP could therefore be an important and highly useful body to engage in discussions around policy and governance issues.

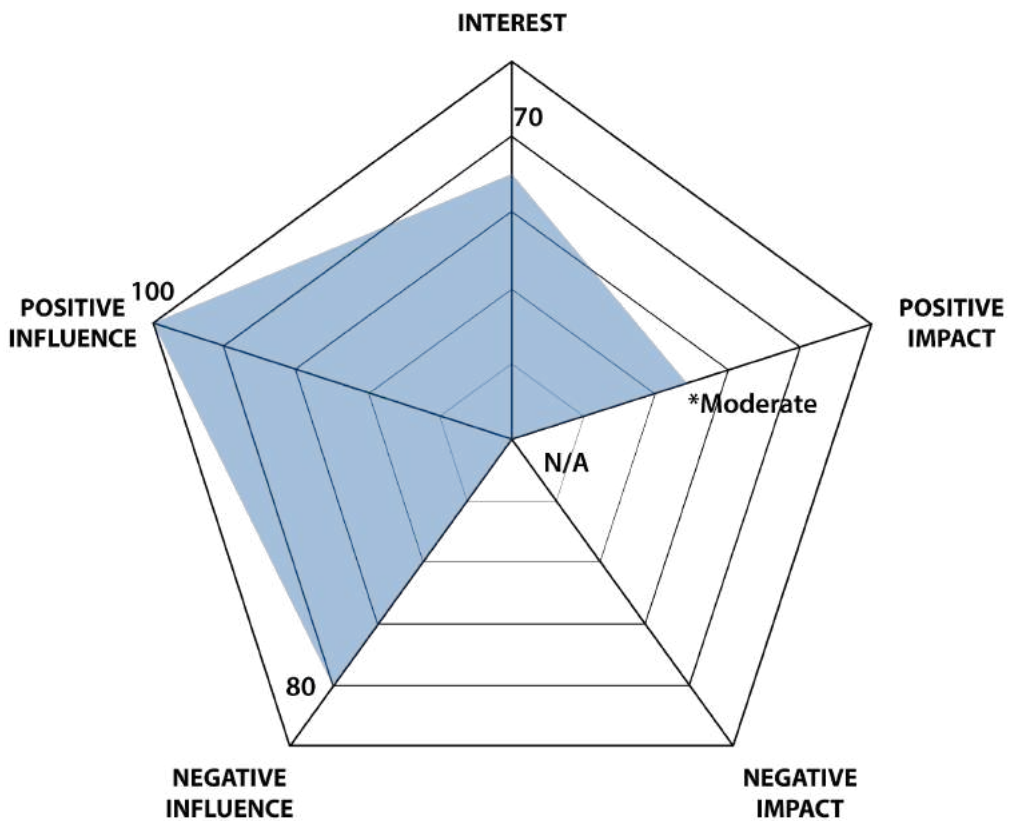
## Peatland Action (NatureScot)



**National**

**Overall 3i score: 250**

**Figure 7: Overview of 3i analysis for Peatland Action (NatureScot)<sup>31</sup>**



<sup>31</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 2 survey responses were entered about Peatland Action. However, only 1 of the respondents chose to elaborate by including scoring and comments. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### 3i analysis

Peatland Action is the Scottish Government's programme for peatland restoration. It was established in 2012 and is part of NatureScot, the government's wider advisory body on landscape, nature and wildlife management. Peatland Action provides funds for peatland restoration and technical guidance to parties wishing to undertake restoration, including via a number of regional project officers. To deliver the programme, NatureScot works with several delivery partners, specifically FLS, CNPA, Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority, and Scottish Water<sup>32</sup>. Peatland Action's websites states that it has 'set over 43,000 ha of degraded peatland on the road to recovery', and aims to achieve a target of 250,000 ha by 2030<sup>33</sup>.

The respondent noted that, "Peatland Action provides funding to improve the condition of degraded peatlands across Scotland" (UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology [UKCEH], 3i survey).

#### Interest

Peatland Action was rated as likely to have a **high level of interest (70%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though no further information was provided by the respondent, Peatland Action's status as Scotland's national programme for peatland restoration suggests that it likely to have significant interest in improvements to restoration tools and best practice, enhancements in our understanding of the impact of restoration on GHG emissions under different conditions, and the development of effective policy and governance options.

#### Influence

Peatland Action was rated as likely to have a **high level of influence (100%)** to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though no further information was provided by the respondent, this reflects the fact that Peatland Action is the primary body responsible for administering public funding for peatland restoration in Scotland. Peatland Action also performs several other functions which award it significant influence over the restoration efforts, including coordination of the programme's other delivery partners, provision of on-the-ground advice, and hosting technical resources and guidance materials on its website.

Peatland Action was rated as likely to have a **high degree of power to (80%)** to block Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though no further information was provided by the respondents, the centrality of the programme to peatland restoration efforts in Scotland suggests that Peatland Action would have the power to block the project and its outcome, even if this does seem quite unlikely.

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<sup>32</sup> <https://www.nature.scot/climate-change/nature-based-solutions/peatland-action-project/peatland-action-what-we-do>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.nature.scot/climate-change/nature-based-solutions/peatland-action/peatland-action-what-we-have-achieved>



### *Impact*

No scores were awarded in relation to the likelihood that Peatland Action will experience either positive or negative impacts as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, as referred to above, it is reasonable to assume that Peatland Action would benefit to **a moderate extent** from any improvements to tools and practices leading to more effective peatland restoration. Similarly, developments in our understanding of the impacts of restoration on GHG emissions under different conditions, and the models available for peatland practitioners, could also ensure the programme is better placed to justify its continued access to and use of public funding. No score was given regarding the potential negative influence on Peatland Action.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing tools, best practice and lessons learned about restoration:** Peatland Action, as Scotland's national programme for peatland restoration, is a key provider of technical expertise and guidance. It is therefore highly likely to benefit from any practical outputs from the project, and is also the organisation best placed to ensure wider dissemination across Scotland.
- **Sharing research summaries and papers:** given its role in leading Scotland's national programme of peatland restoration, Peatland Action relies heavily on scientific data to guide its work. Research summaries and academic papers are likely to be of considerable interest, particularly as they relate directly to peatland restoration.
- **Collaborating on policy and governance:** Peatland Action is central to the distribution of government funding for peatland restoration and, as part of NatureScot more broadly, plays a key role in advising the government on matters relating to wildlife, the natural environment, and conservation. Hence, Peatland Action and NatureScot will be important bodies to engage in discussions around recommendations on new policies and governance mechanisms.

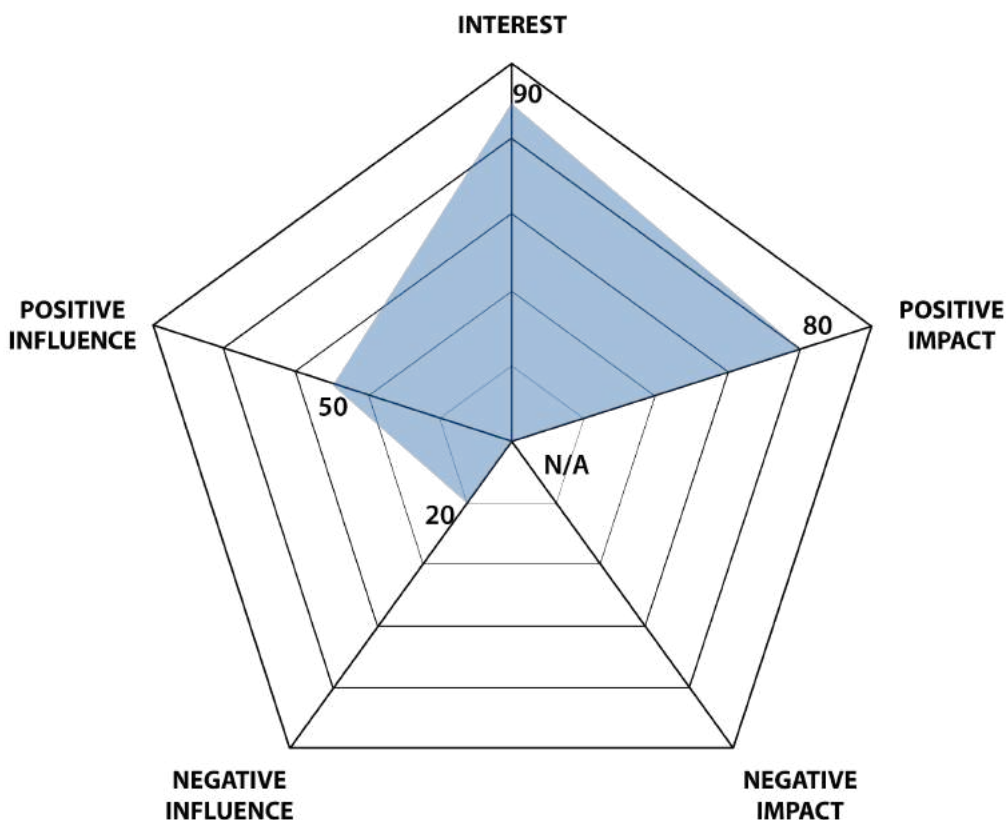
## Ballater and Crathie Community Council



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 240

Figure 8: Overview of 3i analysis for Ballater and Crathie Community Council<sup>34</sup>



### 3i analysis

Community councils are voluntary organisations set up by statute by Scottish local authorities and run by local residents. Ballater and Crathie Community Council (BCCC) is one of a number of community councils within the project region. BCCC’s website states that exists to, ‘proactively identify and assess issues of concern of the

<sup>34</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Ballater and Crathie Community Council.



local community that we were elected to represent<sup>35</sup>. BCCC's Community Action Plan 2023 highlights a number of focus areas for the coming 5 year period including recreation, establishing a community hub, the local economy, and the environment<sup>36</sup>. Flooding is identified as a key issue under the environment, with stated goals including improving flood risk mitigation measures and exploring options for expanding upstream storage.

The respondent noted that Ballater has been "significantly impacted by flooding in recent years" and commented that the, 'local community council, and also other community councils in Deeside, would welcome an opportunity to input to strategic plans for peatland restoration in the Dee catchment" (SEPA, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

BCCC was rated as likely to have a **high interest (90%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent commented that, "here have been significant impacts from flooding in the community they represent and they are likely to welcome action that has the potential to mitigate flooding, including peatland restoration" (SEPA, 3i survey). It is unclear from initial research whether peatlands are located within the community council's boundaries or whether interest would relate to the restoration of peatlands upstream of Ballater and Crathie. The degree to which BCCC is aware of the potential for peatland restoration to mitigate flood risk is also unclear. Notably, the community action plan highlights a number of options for reducing flood risk (e.g. tree planting, reprofiling rivers, building up river banks) without any reference to restoration of peatlands and wetlands.

### *Influence*

BCCC was rated as likely to have a **moderate influence (50%) to support** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent commented here that, "they do not have any direct power to facilitate restoration activity, but could campaign to support it, if they felt it was likely to provide benefit to the local community" (SEPA, 3i survey). BCCC was rated as likely to have a **low degree of power (20%) to block** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent commented here that BCCC's power to block restoration activities relates to the possibility that it might campaign against activities. However, this was also viewed as unlikely by the respondent.

### *Impact*

BCCC were rated as likely to receive a **high level of benefit (80%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent commented here that, "if peatland restoration does mitigate flood risk, there would be significant community benefits from completing restoration in the area" (SEPA, 3i survey). Hence, any improvements in restoration tools and best practice which led to enhancements in natural flood management and risk reduction could, in the event that restoration was undertaken in the area, benefit the communities in Ballater and Crathie. No score was given regarding any potential negative impact on BCCC.

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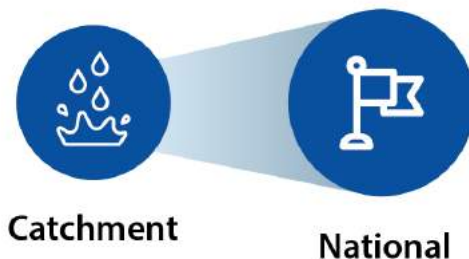
<sup>35</sup> <https://www.ballaterandcrathiecommunitycouncil.com/>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.ballaterandcrathiecommunitycouncil.com/community-action-plan>

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

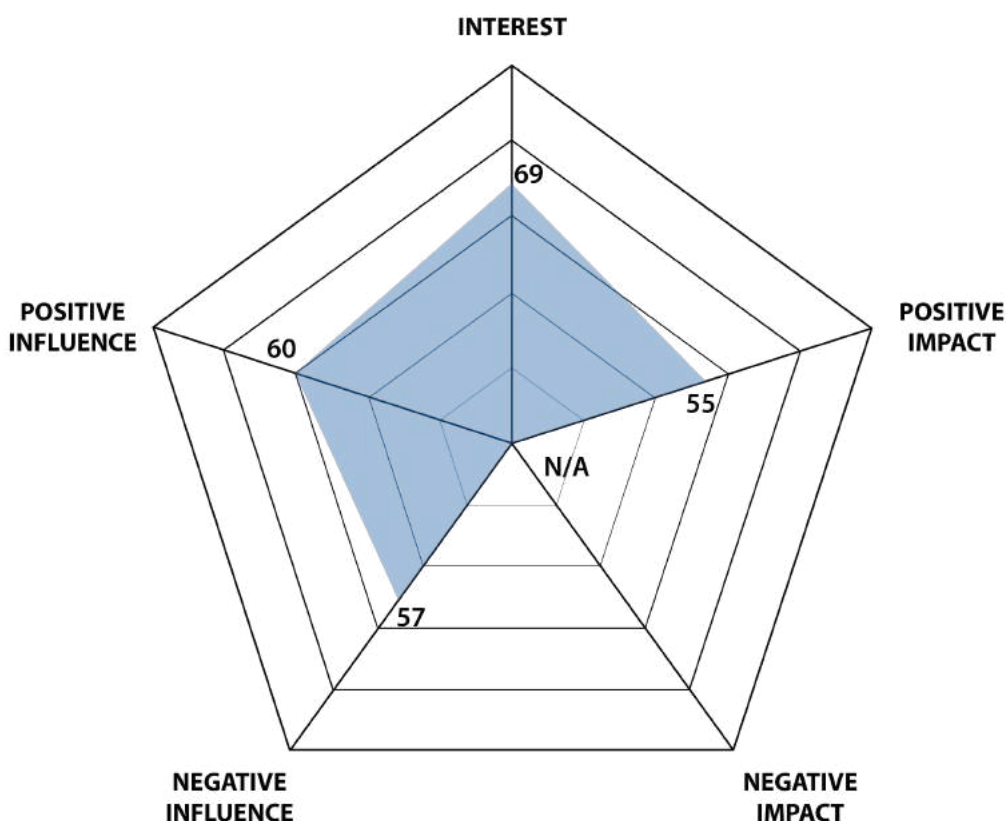
- **Raising public awareness:** building understanding of the potential benefits of peatland and wetland restoration in reducing flooding risk could provide an important means by which to engage local communities in the project.
- **Sharing project outputs:** following the above, it will be useful to share any project outputs in relation to wetland restoration and flood mitigation with communities in Ballater and Crathie, and those across the region more broadly.

## Dee Catchment Partnership



Overall 3i score: 241

Figure 9: Overview of 3i analysis for Dee Catchment Partnership<sup>37</sup>



### 3i analysis

DCP was established in 2003 to improve management and conservation within the catchment and to restore habitat and water quality<sup>38</sup>. Partners involved in the DCP include statutory agencies (Scottish Forestry, Scottish Water, NatureScot), local

<sup>37</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 2 survey responses were entered about Dee Catchment Partnership.

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.deepartnership.org/>

authorities (Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council), environmental organisations and groups (RSPB, River Dee Trust, NTS), and CNPA. DCP is responsible for the River Dee's Catchment Management Plan which provides a strategic framework for partners working to improve the catchment's ecosystems and water quality<sup>39</sup>. Projects that DCP is involved in focus on river restoration, improving water quality, tackling invasive species, natural flood management, and creating habitats for wildlife.

One respondent described DCP as, "one of Scotland's foremost catchment partnerships with a strong track-record in catchment planning, project delivery and raising awareness" (SEPA, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

DCP was rated as likely to have a **high level interest (68.5%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though no further information was provided by the respondents, it is notable the 2022-27 delivery plan for the Catchment Management Plan sets a vision that the landscape will be characterised by an, 'upland mosaic (which) includes extensive rewetted peatland and native woodland' by 2047<sup>40</sup>. However, it should also be noted that research suggests that peatland and wetland restoration have not been significant focuses for DCP to date, potentially limiting the partnership's interest in the project and its outcomes.

### *Influence*

DCP was rated as likely to have a **moderate level of influence (60%) to support** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though no further information was provided by the respondents, DCP's role in bringing together a range of partners across the catchment to work on conservation and restoration efforts, suggests that it could play an important role in facilitating the project delivery. More directly, the inclusion of targets specifically related to wetland and peatland restoration in catchment management and delivery plans, should ensure that the partners involved in the DCP commit to these activities. DCP was rated as likely to have a **moderate level of influence (56%) to block** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. One respondent commented here that, "if they don't want to restore, it won't happen - but that is opposite to what they work for!" (James Hutton Institute, 3i survey).

### *Impact*

DCP was rated as likely to receive a **moderate level of benefit (55%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though no further was provided by the respondents, such benefits are likely to include improvements to restoration tools and practices, which could support the DCP in meeting its objectives in conserving and restoring ecosystems and habitats with the Dee catchment. An expansion of peatland and wetland restoration in the catchment – due, for example, to enhancements in our understanding of the role of restoration in reducing GHG emissions – could also benefit

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<sup>39</sup> <https://www.deepartnership.org/our-work/catchment-management-planning/>

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.deepartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/DCP-Delivery-Plan-2022.pdf>

these objectives. The respondents did not state whether DCP was likely to experience any negative impacts as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes, though this does appear to be unlikely.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing tools, best practice and lessons learned about restoration:** given the stated intention to carry out peatland restoration as part of its wider catchment management plan, DCP is likely to benefit from any practical outputs from the project.
- **Sharing research summaries and papers:** due to its role in coordinating conservation and restoration activities across the Dee catchment, DCP relies on scientific data to guide its work. Research summaries and academic papers are likely to be of considerable interest and an important means by which to engage the partnership.
- **Collaborating on policy and governance:** DCP's role in bringing together a range of organisations relevant to restoration in the catchment, suggests that it will be an important organisation to engage in discussions about policy and governance.
- **Sharing data sets:** given DCP's role in coordinating conservation and restoration activities, it is likely to be interested in any data sets which improve understanding of the distribution and status of wetland ecosystems within the catchment. Relevant data sets could include those concerning the potential for restoration of degraded peatlands.

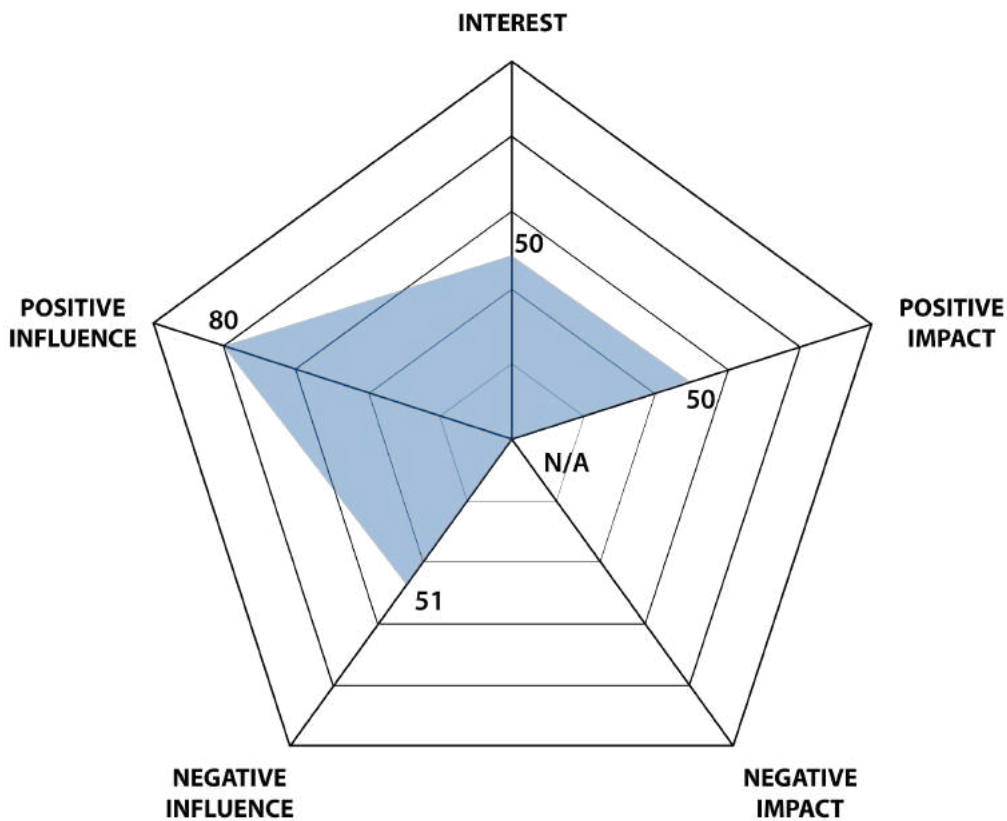
## Glenmuick Estate



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 231

Figure 10: Overview of 3i analysis for Glenmuick Estate<sup>41</sup>



### 3i analysis

Glenmuick Estate covers approximately 14,000 acres and is situated within the Cairngorms National Park. The estate is privately owned, characterises itself as a traditional hunting lodge, and offers visitors the chance to engage in deer stalking, grouse shooting and fishing. Glenmuick Estate’s website states that the estate is,

<sup>41</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Glenmuick Estate.

'managed carefully to enhance its biodiversity and conserve the habitat for all its wild inhabitants' and that it provides habitat for salmon, sea trout, capercaillie, golden eagle and wild cat<sup>42</sup>.

The respondent described Glenmuick as a 'medium sized, rural estate with watercourses connected to the River Dee'.

### *Interest*

Glenmuick Estate was rated as likely to have a **moderate interest (50%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent commented that, "they are already engaged in restoration" (Cairngorms National Park Authority, 3i survey). Whilst no further information was found about current restoration activities through research, Glenmuick Estate's stated commitment to conservation does suggest that it could be interested in the project's outcomes. Further research is needed to understand the extent and status of any peatland and wetlands on the estate, as well as the level of interest the estate's owners and managers have in restoring any degraded ecosystems.

### *Influence*

Glenmuick Estate was rated as likely to have a **high level of influence (80%)** to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though no further information was provided, it may be that this perception related to any peatlands on the estate's own land. It also appears likely that, as with other estates discussed in this analysis, Glenmuick Estate's actions regarding restoration could influence those of other estate's in the region.

Glenmuick Estate was rated as likely to have **moderate influence (51%) to block** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent commented that it was 'unlikely, but possible' that the estate would seek to do this. Following the discussions in relation to other estates, one potential motivation for Glenmuick to attempt to block the project would be if restoration activities were perceived as conflicting with the traditional sporting pursuits that are central to the estate's operation. Such tensions include the potential need to reduce deer numbers in the region in order to allow for peatlands to be restored effectively.

### *Impact*

Glenmuick Estate was rated as likely to receive a **moderate level of benefit (50%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though the respondent did not provide any further information here, we can assume that if the estate is already engaged in restoration – or interested in doing it in the future – then it may experience benefits from the project, such as improvements to restoration tools and best practice and development of new models for forecasting potential emissions reductions. The respondent did not respond as to whether Glenmuick Estate is likely to experience any negative impacts as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, the potential for conflict between restoration efforts and traditional shooting activities again appears relevant here.

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<sup>42</sup> <https://glenmuick.com/>

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Raising public awareness:** Glenmuick Estate is a destination for tourists, particularly those engaged in shooting sports, and therefore increasing the public's awareness of the value of restoration could encourage the estate to engage with the project.
- **Sharing tools, best practice and lessons learned about restoration:** if the estate is already engaged in peatland restoration – or planning to do so in the future – it stands to benefit from any practical outputs from the project.
- **Sharing ecosystem market outputs which support growth in revenue streams:** the estate is privately owned and operates commercially, and is therefore likely to be interested in any outputs which improve its ability to access natural capital markets.





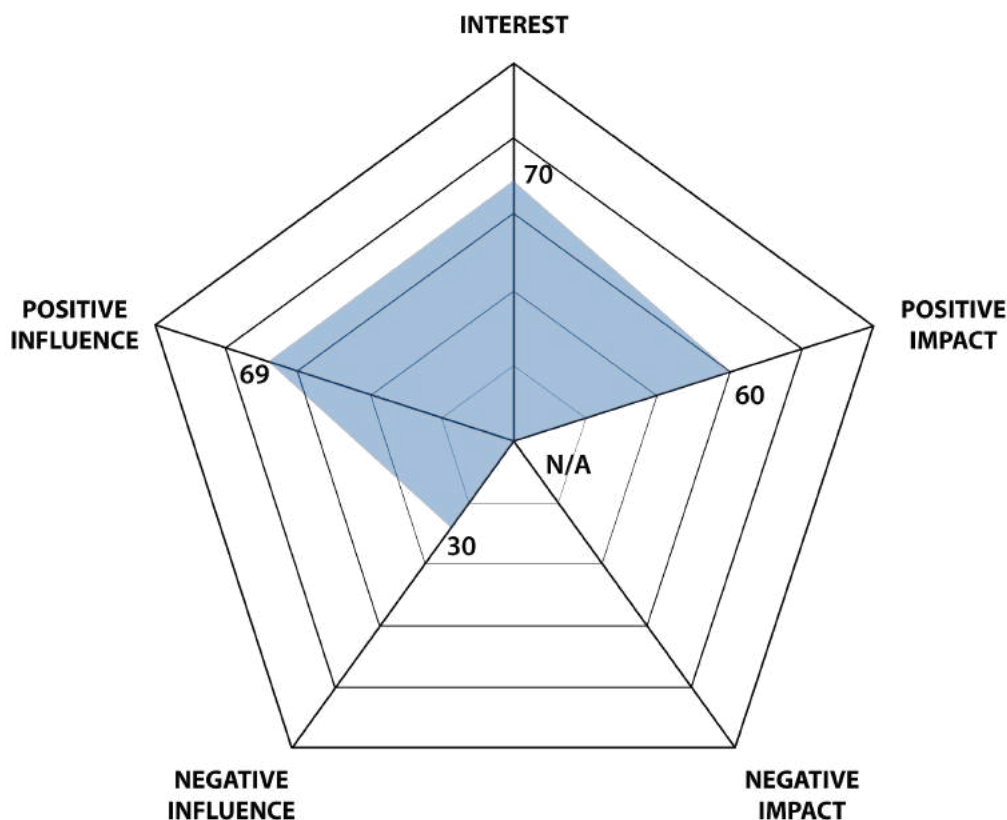
## Cairngorms National Park Authority



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 229

Figure 11: Overview of 3i analysis for Cairngorms National Park Authority<sup>43</sup>



### 3i analysis

<sup>43</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Cairngorms National Park Authority.

The Cairngorms National Park was established in 2003 and at 4,528 km<sup>2</sup> represents the UK's largest protected area. The park provides habitat for many different species, across a range of landscapes including mountains, moorlands, peatlands, woodlands and forests<sup>44</sup>. The park also contains various types of land ownership and management, including traditional sporting estates, farms and crofts, and rural settlements. Governance of the park is led by Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA), which is responsible for conserving and enhancing the natural environment as well as promoting sustainable social and economic development. CNPA's 'Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2022-27' estimates that the park contains 90,000 ha of degraded peatlands, of which 57,000 ha have experienced erosion, and sets an aim to, 'restore and manage peatland within the National Park to reduce carbon emissions and improve biodiversity'<sup>45</sup>.

The respondent commented here that, "(CNPA) have a peatland team that oversee peatland restoration work in the park. CNPA also administers Peatland Action funding to projects within the park" (National Trust for Scotland, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

CNPA was rated as likely to have **a high level of interest (70%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent commented here that "they are looking for peatland projects with the most beneficial outcomes so will be interested" (National Trust for Scotland, 3i survey). As suggested above, peatland restoration is an important priority for CNPA, which also acts as a Peatland Action delivery partner. Following this, CNPA's targets for restoration include ensuring that a minimum of 38,000 ha of peatlands are under restoration management by 2045, and that 80% of all drains are restored by 2035<sup>46</sup>. Actions planned in support of these targets include developing guidance on the integration of peatland and woodland restoration, which further underlines CNPA's likely interest in the project's outcomes.

### *Influence*

CNPA was rated as likely to have **a high level of influence (69%) to support** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent noted that as CNPA are "administering the Peatland Action funding, they can prioritise particular projects" (National Trust for Scotland, 3i survey). Hence, CNPA's Cairngorms Peatland Action Programme has an important role to play within the park as a distributor of public funding and a provider of 'technical support for peatland restoration projects that deliver quality outcomes and provide multiple benefits at a scale'<sup>47</sup>. On a practical level, CNPA also holds significant spatial data relating to the extent and status of peatlands within the park, which is likely to be relevant to the project delivery<sup>48</sup>.

CNPA was rated as likely to have **a low level of influence (30%) to block** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent noted here that CNPA holds "power due

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<sup>44</sup> <https://cairngorms.co.uk>

<sup>45</sup> <https://cairngorms.co.uk/working-together/partnershipplan/>

<sup>46</sup> <https://cairngorms.co.uk/working-together/partnershipplan/>

<sup>47</sup> <https://cairngorms.co.uk/caring-future/cairngorms-landscapes/landscape-conservation/peatland-action/>

<sup>48</sup> <https://cairngorms.co.uk/peat-restoration-planning-tool/>

to the administration of peatland action funding” (National Trust for Scotland, 3i survey). Given the current importance of public funding in promoting peatland restoration in Scotland, and CNPA’s role in distributing that funding across a significant proportion of the catchment, it can be argued that the park authority in fact holds significant power to block restoration. However, given CNPA’s focus on conservation, and specifically peatland restoration, it also appears unlikely that it would wish to do so.

### *Impact*

CNPA was rated as likely to receive a **moderate level of benefit (60%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent commented here that “it would definitely help their future project planning” (National Trust for Scotland, 3i survey). As with the wider Peatland Action programme, CNPA could benefit from any improvements to tools and practices that support more effective peatland restoration. CNPA could also benefit from an improved understanding of the impacts of restoration on GHG emissions under different conditions, including as a result of the development of new modelling approaches. These advancements may ensure that CNPA is better able to justify its continued and expanded access to public funding in support of peatland restoration. The respondent did not state whether CNPA were likely to experience any negative impacts as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Given CNPA’s commitment to conservation and restoration it appears unlikely that it will experience significant negative impacts.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing tools, best practice and lessons learned about restoration:** as a Peatland Action delivery partner with a team dedicated to restoring the park’s peatlands, CNPA is highly likely to benefit from any practical outputs from the project. CNPA will also be well placed to disseminate information and tools to any parties interested in engaging in restoration within the national park.
- **Sharing research summaries and papers:** given its role in leading conservation and restoration activities within the UK’s largest protected area, CNPA relies heavily on scientific data to guide its work. Research summaries and academic papers are therefore likely to be of considerable interest.
- **Collaborating on policy and governance:** as a public body responsible for distributing government funding and providing technical expertise in support of peatland restoration, CNPA could bring important insights to any discussion of recommendations on new policies and governance mechanisms.
- **Sharing and collaborating on data sets:** CNPA is likely to be interested in accessing any data that can improve its understanding of the distribution and status of ecosystems within the boundaries of the national park. Moreover, CNPA’s Peatland Action programme itself holds significant data about peatlands, which may represent an important input to the project.

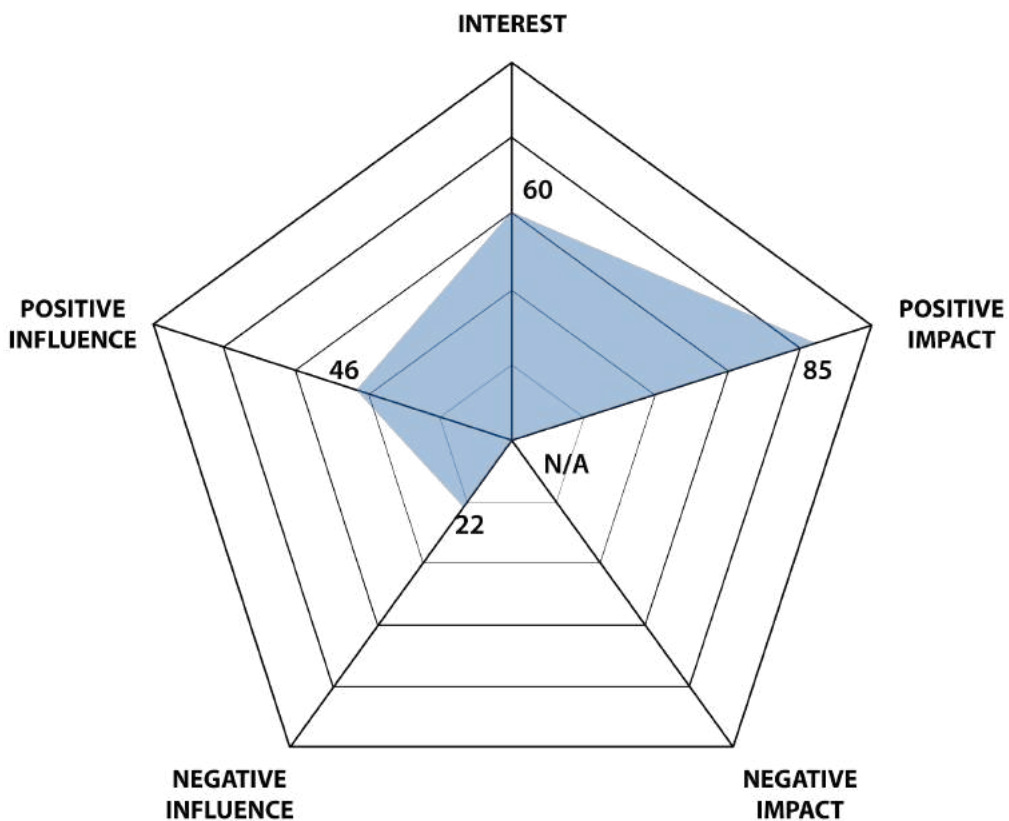
## Dee District Salmon Fishery Board and River Dee Trust



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 213

Figure 12: Overview of 3i analysis for Dee District Salmon Fishery Board and River Dee Trust<sup>49</sup>



### 3i analysis

Dee District Salmon Fisheries Board (DDSF) and River Dee Trust are separate legal entities working together as a single ‘River Dee team’, including through sharing a

<sup>49</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 2 survey responses were entered about Dee District Salmon Fisheries Board and the River Dee Trust.

website, office and team<sup>50</sup>. The organisations describe their shared roles as, “two organisations who look after the UK’s highest river and one of the best-known salmon fishing rivers worldwide... working toward our vision of a thriving river supporting abundant biodiversity and binding strong the Deeside communities in Northeast Scotland” (CNPA, 3i survey). The River Dee Trust is a community based charitable community set up to improve knowledge about the river’s ecology and fish stocks and to carry out restoration activities. DDFSB is a statutory body, ‘tasked with protecting and enhancing stocks of salmon and sea trout across the district’<sup>51</sup>.

One respondent commented here that, “they work with local landowners to restore habitat and natural geomorphic function to these watercourse. Restoring river habitats may include improving the channel-floodplain connectivity, which can have benefits for wetland environments on the floodplain. Therefore, there may be opportunities to tie in wetland restoration with some of the projects that they are working on” (CNPA, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

DDFSB and the River Dee Trust were rated as likely to have a **moderate level of interest (60%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. One respondent commented here that the organisations, “are regularly looking for opportunities to improve and restore the natural catchment function. This project may help to identify other potential areas for them to target” (CNPA, 3i survey). Following this, in its ‘Management Plan 2020-25’, DDFSB states that it is planning to carry out peatland restoration in an effort to reduce run-off during flooding and improve water quality. However, it also should be noted that no evidence that this work is on-gong was found during the research<sup>52</sup>.

### *Influence*

DDFSB and the River Dee Trust were rated as likely to have a **moderate influence (46%) to support** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. One respondent noted here that the organisations have, “good connections with landowners across the Dee catchment, from previous and ongoing work” (CNPA, 3i survey). Such work includes a range of river restoration activities including removing dams, riparian woodland creation and tackling invasive species. A note of caution here is that activities to date appear to have mostly focused on the river and immediately adjacent lands, with less focus on restoration of peatlands or wetlands. Hence, the role of DDFSB and the River Dee Trust in facilitating the Wet Horizons could be limited if the project is not seen as directly relevant to their work. DDFSB and the River Dee Trust were rated as likely to have a **low level of influence (22%) to block** Wet Horizons and its outcomes, with one respondent commenting here that “it wouldn’t be in their interest to do so, unless there was a specific risk to the Dee” (CNPA, 3i survey).

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<sup>50</sup> <https://riverdee.org.uk/>

<sup>51</sup> <https://riverdee.org.uk/who-we-are/#board>

<sup>52</sup> <https://riverdee.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Dee-Fisheries-Management-Plan-2020-25.pdf>

### *Impact*

DDFSB and the River Dee Trust were rated as likely to receive a **high level of benefit (85%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. One respondent highlighted a potential benefit as, “reduced runoff from degraded peatlands into the River Dee (CNPA, 3i survey). Following this, benefits could include improvements in restoration practice and tools leading to enhancements in water quality and ultimately to improved fish stocks. Similarly, an increase in peatland restoration across the catchment could be beneficial for DDFS and the River Dee Trust, for example as a result of any improvements in modelling supporting further expansion of peatland natural capital markets. The respondents did not state whether DDFS and the River Dee Trust were likely to experience any negative impacts as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes, but this would appear to be unlikely.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing tools, best practice and lessons learned about restoration:** given their stated intention to carry out peatland restoration as part of current management planning, DDFS and the River Dee Trust could benefit from any practical outputs from the project.
- **Sharing research summaries and papers:** the responsibility of DDFS and the River Dee Trust for improving the environmental quality of the Dee and its surrounding ecosystems, suggests that they rely on scientific data to guide their work. Research summaries and academic papers are likely to be of interest, particularly as they relate to the potential for restoration to lead to improvements in water quality and habitats.
- **Collaborating on policy and governance:** as the statutory body responsible for improving water quality and increasing fish stocks in the region, DDFS represents an important body to engage in discussions about policy and governance.

## Danube, Romania

This report presents results from the 3i analysis to identify relevant parties for the Wet Horizons research to consider engaging with, in the Romanian side of the Danube catchment.

### Sample

A total of 8 organisations were identified with interests in, influence over and/or likely to be impacted positively or negatively by wetland restoration in the Romanian Danube Delta catchment. This information was provided by  $n=3$  participants. These were organisations were sorted into the following 4 categories:

Table 1: Relevant party categories identified

Relevant party category	Category description	Organisations	Number of organisations identified
Environmental/sustainability NGOs, thinktanks or representative organisations	Non-governmental organisations working on wetland conservation and management in the Danube catchment, typically with wider national and international interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rewilding Danube Delta - Romania</li> <li>• Rewilding Ukraine</li> <li>• WWF Romania</li> </ul>	3
Research Performing Organisations (RPOs)	Universities, research institutes, research groups or science organisations that carry out research on topics relating to environmental governance or wetland restoration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Bucharest</li> <li>• Ovidius University of Constanta</li> <li>• Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development</li> </ul>	3
Government agencies	Government agencies and other bodies with statutory powers responsible for nature conservation or public land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority</li> </ul>	1

Suppliers to nature-based solutions projects	Companies supplying landowners and managers delivering services to ecosystem markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Development Group</li> </ul>	1
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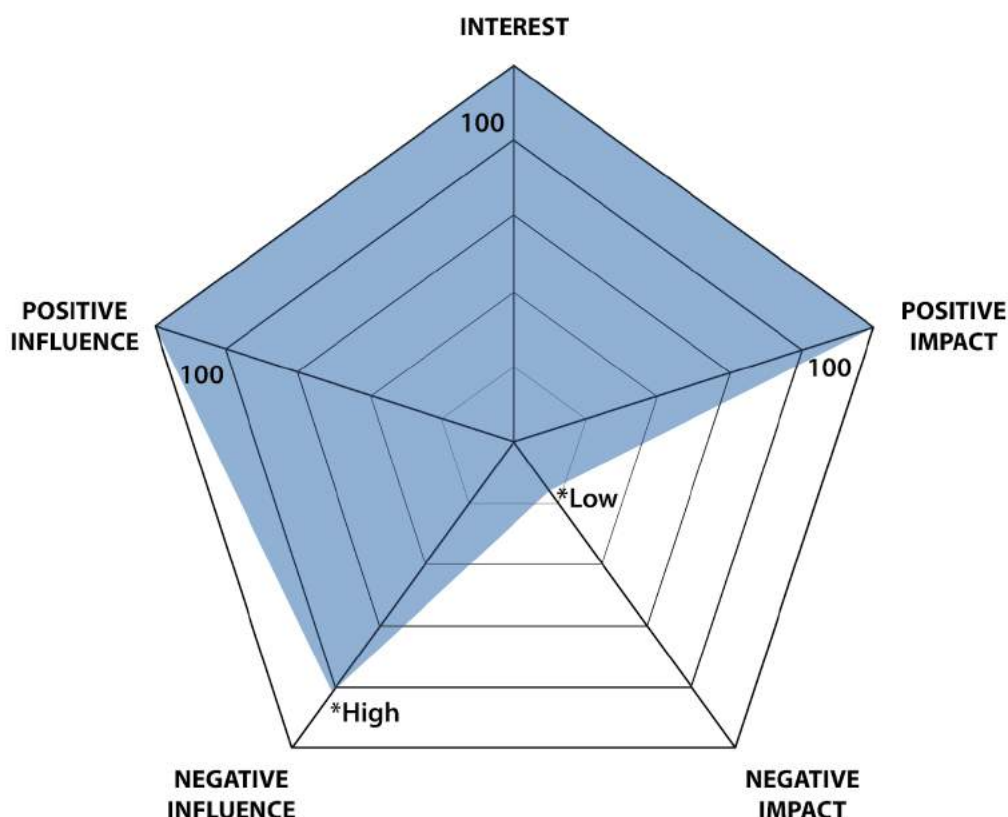


## Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority



Overall 3i score: 400

Figure 13: Overview of 3i analysis for Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority<sup>53</sup>



<sup>53</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### 3i analysis

The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority (ARBDD) was established in 1990 to manage and protect the natural heritage within the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. It operates under the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Forests and is responsible for enforcing various environmental and conservation laws, preserving and protecting biological diversity in the Danube Delta's natural ecosystems, and regulating human settlements and economic activities in harmony with the delta's ecosystem capacities. Additionally, it promotes sustainable use of renewable natural resources within the reserve's ecological limits, relying on scientific data and experience to guide its management efforts.<sup>54</sup>

The respondent described them as “the body responsible with the management of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve” (Ovidius University of Constanța, 3i survey).

#### *Interest*

ARBDD were rated as likely to be **highly interested** (100%) in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though no further explanation was given, this is likely to be due to the fact that the ARBDD rely on scientific data to guide their management efforts, which Wet Horizons will be various forms of (economic, geophysical, social scientific, etc.).

#### *Influence*

ARBDD were rated as having a **high level of power** (100%) to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though no further explanation was given, this is likely to be due to their connection to the Romanian government (Ministry of Environment, Water, and Forests), regulatory power, and formal power for the general management of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. While no score was given regarding the potential extent of their negative influence, it can be inferred that they are likely to have a **high level of power to block** Wet Horizons outcomes, aligned with their power to support those outcomes.

#### *Impact*

ARBDD was rated as likely to receive a **high level of benefit** (100%) from Wet Horizons and its project outcomes. Though no further explanation was given, this is likely to be due to the expansion of the evidence base on the Danube Delta that Wet Horizons will contribute to, which will enable them to improve their understanding and awareness of the biosphere and consequently lead to more informed institutional practice and management. In addition, while no information was given on the extent of the potential negative impact of the project on ARBDD, it could be that new information may impede or contradict their current activities or understandings, which could lead to increased uncertainty and a **low level negative impact** in the short term.

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<sup>54</sup> <https://ddbra.ro/despre-institutie-2/>

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

Here, we highlight any practical or strategic implications or inferences that can be drawn out based on the information presented about this organisation, both in terms of self-description and the perspective of the respondent(s). These recommendations focus on further engagement guidance, and outputs likely to be of interest for them.

- **Sharing research summaries and papers:** As ARBBD relies on scientific data to guide its management efforts (but is not a research organisation itself) it is likely that research summaries and/or academic papers are likely to be of interest, particularly if they foreground new evidence that may implicate their management practices.
- **Engaging ARBBD through DDNI:** As ARBBD also relies on experience to guide its management efforts, it may be worth engaging this organisation once buy-in from DDNI (who have a strong working relationship with them) has been attained, as Wet Horizons' association with them is likely to increase the ARBBD's perception of the project's credibility.
- **Sharing ecosystem market outputs:** As ARBBD are responsible for regulating human settlements and economic activities in harmony with the delta's ecosystem capacities, they are likely to benefit from developing their understanding of the new governance models, ecosystem markets, and public-private finance models that Wet Horizons will explore.

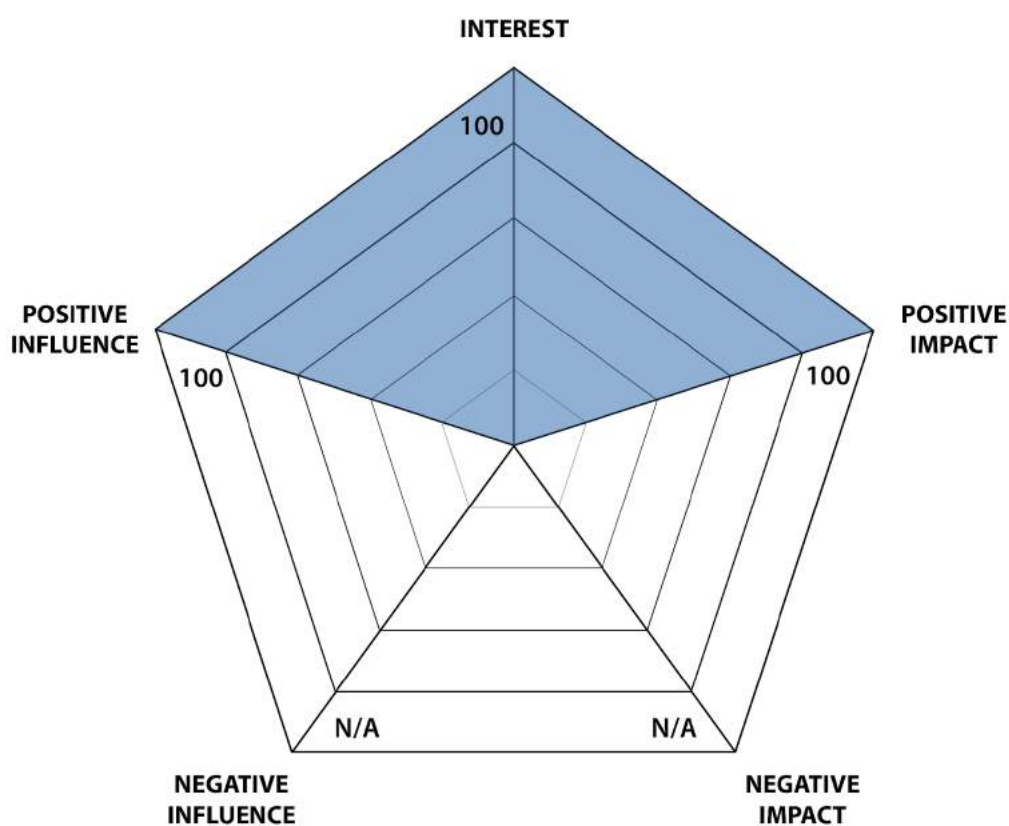
**Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development**



**Catchment**

**Overall 3i score: 300**

**Figure 14: Overview of 3i analysis for Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development<sup>55</sup>**



**3i analysis**

<sup>55</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development.

Established in 1970, Danube Delta National Institute for Research and Development (DDNI) conducts fundamental and applied research to support the management of Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (DDBR) and other wetland areas.

The respondent reporting about DDNI described them as the “main research body for the Danube Delta” (Ovidius University of Constanța, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

DDBR was rated as likely to be **highly interested** (100%) in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though no further explanation was given, as the main research body for the area, it is possible they will be interested to know if the Wet Horizons project is covering any gaps in evidence that the project is filling or alternatively if there is any overlap in areas of interest.

### *Influence*

DDNI were rated as having a **high level of power** (100%) to support the project. Though no further explanation was given by the respondent, it can be inferred that this is likely due to their credibility in the field of Danube Delta research<sup>56</sup>, as well as the robust stakeholder network resulting from the applied nature of their work. DDNI's affiliations with the Ministry of Environment, 'Romanian Waters' National Administration, National Agency for Environmental Protection, and National Agency for Fishing and Aquaculture could facilitate integration of project outcomes into national policies and regulations. Their collaboration with the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority ensures alignment with local conservation goals, while engagement with the European Community could help foster Wet Horizons' broader international recognition and support. Additionally, DDNI could facilitate partnerships with SMEs in Romania, offering scientific expertise and data to guide their involvement, thus ensuring that Wet Horizons' legacy extends to practical, on-the-ground restoration efforts.

### *Impact*

DDNI were rated as likely to receive a **high level of benefit** (100%) from Wet Horizons and its project outcomes. Though no further explanation was given, at a general level, it can be inferred that Wet Horizons' emphasis on new governance models, ecosystem markets, and public-private finance models aligns with the institute's objective to “support studies for the harmonisation of socio-economic interests with the concept of conservation of natural capital”<sup>57</sup>. Additionally, the modelling work within Wet Horizons is likely to support their objective of assessing “natural resources and the exploitation levels in accordance with the regeneration potential and carrying capacity of the

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<sup>56</sup> Centre of Excellence for Deltas & Wetlands; National Reference Centre for Land Cover and Fisheries; Main Scientific Advisor for NATURA 2000 Network implementation; Centre of Technological Information for the Danube Delta.

<sup>57</sup> <https://ddni.ro/wps/aboutus/>

ecosystems”, as well as developing a “Geographic Information System for the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve”<sup>58</sup>.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing Danube Delta-specific research plans and methods:** It is possible DDNI will be interested to know if the Wet Horizons project is covering any gaps in evidence they have or alternatively if there is any overlap in areas of interest.
- **Sharing datasets and digital tools:** As a research organisation, it is likely that the datasets and digital tools resulting from the project will be of interest for DDNI, as they may be able to utilise them to bolster or expand their own research.
- **Sharing plans for traditional academic outputs:** This organisation is likely to be interested in being notified of any peer-reviewed papers published with reference to the state of the Danube Delta, as they may wish to collaborate.
- **Collaborating on policy work:** Due to DDNI’s robust stakeholder connections to important organisations governing the Danube Delta, it may prove useful to engage them in the policy recommendations produced throughout the Wet Horizons project, so they can feed them into their own work.

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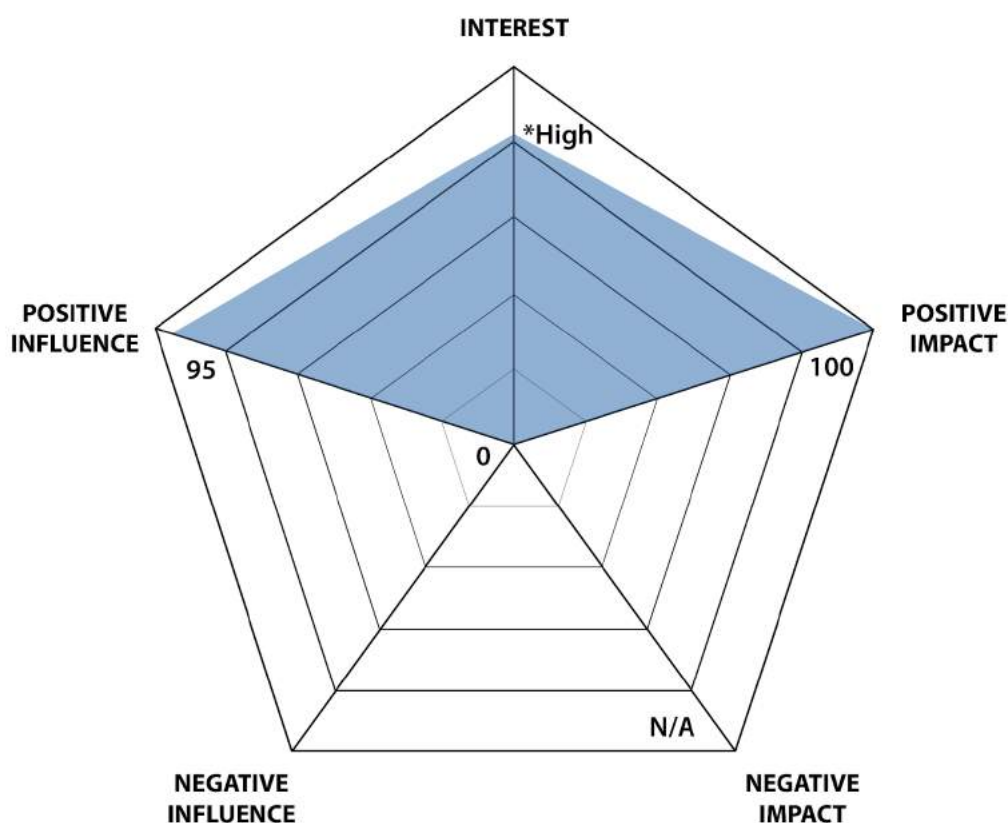
<sup>58</sup> <https://ddni.ro/wps/aboutus/>

## Rewilding Danube Delta - Romania



Overall 3i score: 278

Figure 15: Overview of 3i analysis for Rewilding Danube Delta - Romania<sup>59</sup>



### 3i analysis

Rewilding Danube Delta is a part of Rewilding Europe, which is a non-profit organisation that focuses on the restoration and promotion of natural ecosystems and

<sup>59</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Rewilding Danube Delta - Romania. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

biodiversity across Europe. The respondent reporting on this organisation described it as “proactive towards nature conservation through rewilding of keystone species while creating space for natural processes like forest regeneration and free-flowing rivers” (Rewilding Europe, 3i survey).

Specifically with regards to their work on the Romanian side of the Danube Delta, their “team focuses on restoring lateral connectivity of the 3 main branches of the delta (Chilia, Sfântul Gheorghe, and Sulina) through dyke removals and ecological reconstruction projects. The main objective is to convince land owners, farmers, and concession owners that there are nature-based solutions that provide a stable source of income (other than government subsidies) for restoring the floodplains and wetlands” (Rewilding Europe, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

While no quantitative data was given for this category potentially indicating a lack of prior awareness of the project or respondent error, open ended responses for Rewilding Danube Delta indicate they are likely to have a **high level of interest in some specific outputs** of the project, if they are applicable to the Romanian context, specifically “digital tools” (Rewilding Europe, 3i survey). Further, the fact the organisation description mentions they aim to “convince land owners, farmers, and concession owners that there are nature-based solutions that provide a stable source an income (other than government subsidies) for restoring the floodplains and wetlands” (Rewilding Europe, 3i survey) indicates they are likely to be interested in the ecosystem markets aspect of the project.

### *Influence*

Rewilding Danube Delta was perceived as having a **high level of influence to support** the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes. The respondent reporting on this organisation highlighted that it is working with other key relevant parties likely to be involved in restoration processes, indicating existing working relationships and a degree of influence. These parties include “the national authorities in the area, respectively Administration of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve (ARBDD Tulcea) and the National Research and Development Institute Delta [...] the WWF and other similar parties in the area, as well as local communities” (Rewilding Europe, 3i survey).

### *Impact*

Rewilding Danube Delta was perceived as likely to receive a **high level of benefit** from the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes. The respondent noted that specifically, “the organization will benefit immensely from the digital tools stemming from this project, as we are having difficulties acquiring digital data for most parts of the Danube Delta (Romania) - the reason being the lack of cooperation from local authorities” (Rewilding Europe, 3i survey). This indicates they are involved and interested in tools that address the practical data needs for wetland restoration.



### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

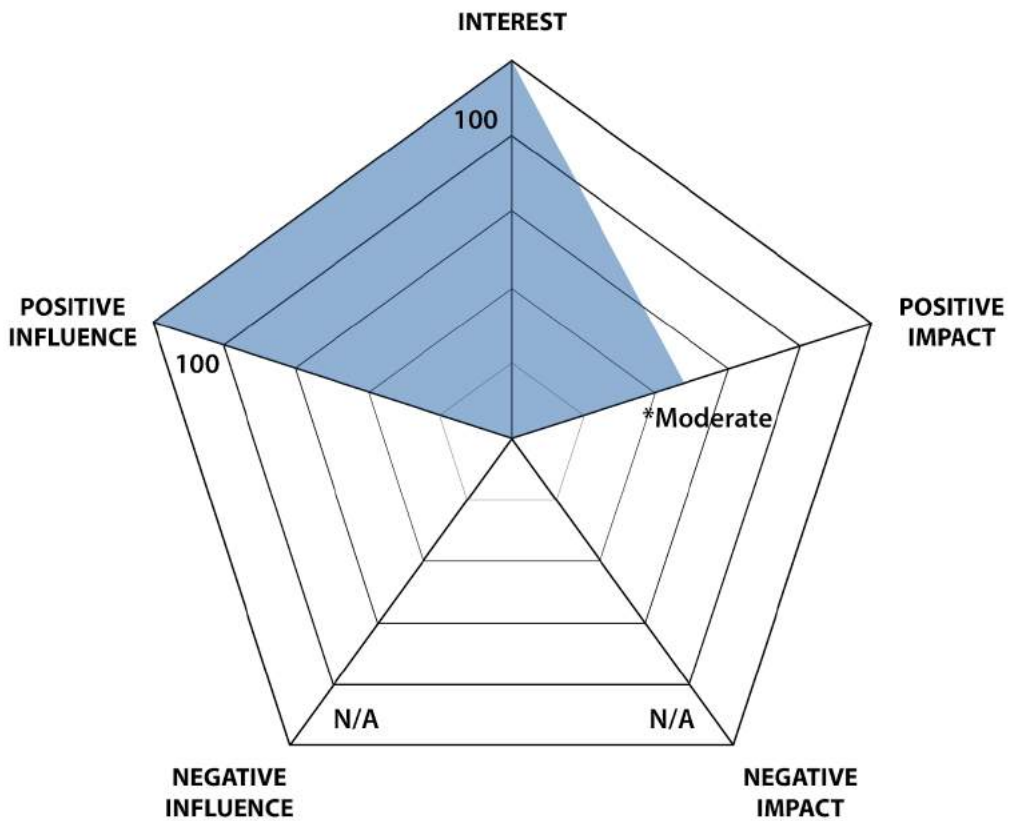
- **Scoping Rewilding Danube Delta's existing initiatives:** The respondent for this organisation is a key relevant party themselves, so direct engagement regarding existing initiatives the project could feed into is appropriate.
- **Sharing digital data research outputs:** This organisation should be engaged in the digital data collection work for this catchment, as this seems to be impeding their current efforts towards restoration.
- **Sharing digital tools:** This organisation would “benefit immensely from the digital tools stemming from this project” (Rewilding Europe, 3i survey), so these should be shared with them when they are available.
- **Sharing ecosystem markets outputs for revenue assurance strategies:** Outputs that could help this organisation “convince land owners, farmers, and concession owners that there are nature-based solutions that provide a stable source of income (other than government subsidies) for restoring the floodplains and wetlands” (Rewilding Europe, 3i survey) are likely to be highly welcome.

WWF Romania



Overall 3i score: 250

Figure 16: Overview of 3i analysis for WWF Romania<sup>60</sup>



<sup>60</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about WWF Romania. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) Romania is a national branch of the WWF, which is a global environmental NGO, dedicated to the protection of endangered species, conservation of natural habitats, and the promotion of sustainable environmental practices worldwide. WWF Romania specifically has been working since 2006 to protect the wild environment in the Carpathian Mountains and along the Danube, including the Danube Delta. For example, the Integrated Management of the Danube Delta sub-basin project, conducted from 2010 to 2014 in collaboration with partners aimed to boost climate resilience, involving a Vulnerability Study, a Transboundary Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, ecological reconstruction, green energy from reeds, and education to raise climate awareness among communities. They also work to facilitate the transition to the green economy and have an environmental education program aimed at young people. The head office is in Bucharest, but WWF is also present in Braşov, Reşita, Baia Mare, Cluj-Napoca and Tulcea.

The respondent reporting on behalf of this organisation also highlighted that WWF Romania is part of a “worldwide NGO with a lot of activity in the Danube Delta” (Ovidius University of Constanţa, 3i survey).

#### *Interest*

WWF Romania was rated as likely to be **highly interested** (100%) in the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes. This is likely to be due to the fact that they have a “lot of activity in the Danube Delta” (Ovidius University of Constanţa, 3i survey), so any outputs presenting new or usefully-formatted ecological data could be of interest to feed into their existing initiatives and mission relating to the catchment. This might include biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services assessments, enhancing climate resilience, guiding habitat restoration, advocating for policy changes, and raising awareness about the importance of wetland conservation in the region.

#### *Influence*

WWF Romania was perceived as having a **high level of influence (100%) to support** the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes. The respondent reporting on this organisation did not provide further details. However, it is likely that due to its extensive activities in the catchment, partner networks, credibility, and unique advocacy function, they have a specific type of power that could be highly useful for impact planning efforts for Wet Horizons.

#### *Impact*

The respondent for WWF Romania gave no information regarding the extent to which this organisation might be impacted by the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes. However, it is inferred from open-end responses and desk research that they are likely to be at least **moderately benefited** by a wider evidence base on the state of the

Danube Delta's wetlands, and may benefit from a range of output types from the project.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing policy recommendations:** Due to WWF Romania's advocacy function as an eNGO, it may prove useful to engage them in the policy recommendations produced throughout the Wet Horizons project, so they can feed into their campaigning and advocacy activities.
- **Raising public awareness:** Due to WWF Romania's educational role aiming to raise climate awareness among communities, it is likely they will be well set-up to disseminate information to local publics surrounding the Danube Delta. Therefore it could be useful to engage WWF Romania in any impact plans that depend on public or local community engagement.
- **Disseminating outputs with new information on the state of the Danube Delta:** This organisation is likely to be interested in outputs that might update their understanding of the state of the Danube Delta, and its implications for environmental governance, which could inform their work

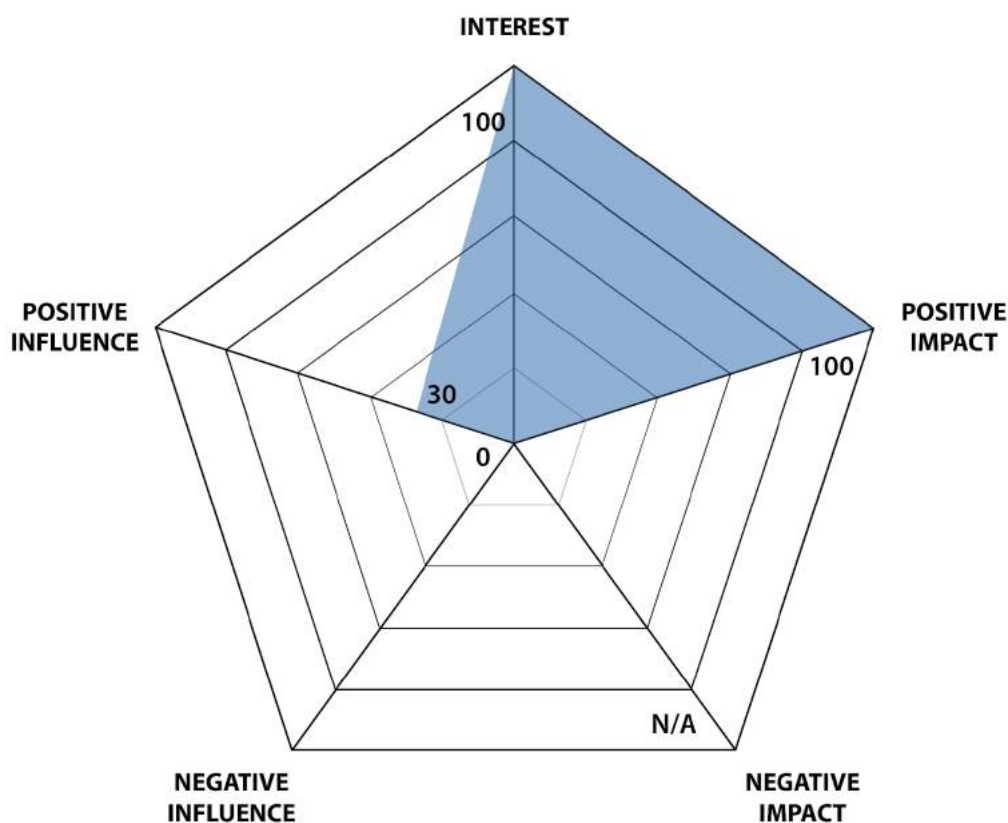
## Rewilding Ukraine



### International

Overall 3i score: 230

Figure 17: Overview of 3i analysis for Rewilding Ukraine<sup>61</sup>



### 3i analysis

<sup>61</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Rewilding Ukraine. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

Here, we present the respondent's analysis of the ways in which the organisation is relevant to the research and its potential impact. The respondent indicated that Rewilding Danube Delta would have a **high level of interest, low level of influence**, and receive a **high level of benefit** from the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes.

[Rewilding Ukraine](#) is a part of Rewilding Europe, which is a non-profit organisation that focuses on the restoration and promotion of natural ecosystems and biodiversity across Europe. The respondent reporting on this organisation described it as "identical to Rewilding Danube Delta in terms of aims and objectives, Rewilding Ukraine is a branch of Rewilding Europe focusing on wetland restoration of the Danube Delta on the Ukrainian side" (Rewilding Europe, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

Rewilding Ukraine was rated as likely to be **highly interested** (100%) in the project at a general level, in the sense that "together with Rewilding Danube Delta, their interest is to promote wetland conservation and restoration of former floodplains" (Rewilding Europe, 3i survey).

### *Influence*

Rewilding Ukraine was rated as likely to have a **low level of positive influence** (30%) on the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes, and as having **no interest in exerting negative influence**. This is because they are "limited in their legal rights on the Romanian side", however, with the little influence they do have, "they can provide assistance using their contacts and professional network" (Rewilding Europe, 3i survey). They could be more influential in dissemination work beyond Wet Horizons study countries, as "in terms of Ukraine, they are highly influential in the conservation work happening across the Chilia Branch of the Danube Delta" (Rewilding Europe, 3i survey).

### *Impact*

Rewilding Ukraine was rated as likely to receive a **high level of benefit** (100%) from the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes. The respondent explained this result as due to the geographical spread of the biosphere of the Danube Delta, which is not limited to Romania and instead is "divided between Romania, Ukraine, and Moldova" (Rewilding Europe, 3i survey). As such, the respondent noted that they would eventually benefit from any wetland restoration work in the Danube Delta, regardless of its national attribution - "any research or project thriving toward wetland restoration will surely be a top priority for them" (Rewilding Europe, 3i survey).

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Disseminating outputs with Danube Delta relevance:** This organisation is likely to be interested in any Danube Delta related outputs, which could inform their work "promot[ing] wetland conservation and restoration of former floodplains" (Rewilding Europe, 3i survey).
- **Leveraging Rewilding Ukraine's dissemination capacities:** As an eNGO, Rewilding Ukraine may have capacity to assist with transforming Wet Horizons

outputs into the most appropriate content formats and disseminating it to the organisations or stakeholder groups that need it, particularly beyond Wet Horizons study countries.

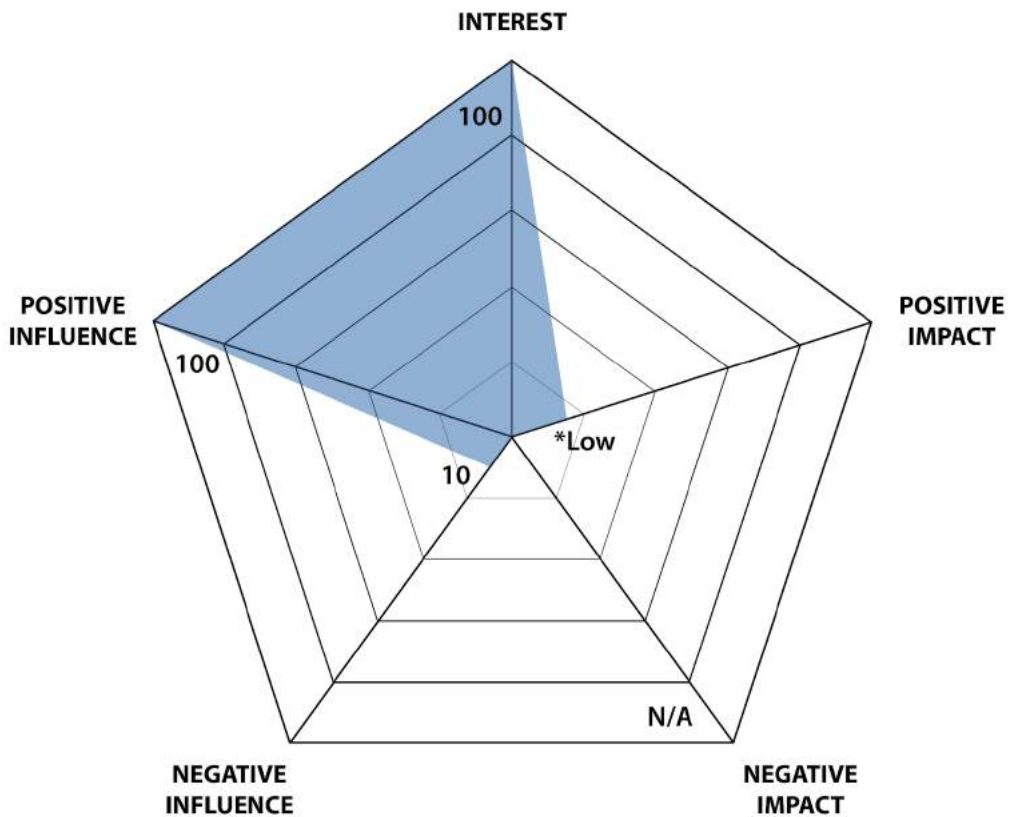
- **Engaging Rewilding Ukraine's stakeholder network:** When engaging with Rewilding Ukraine, it may be worth simultaneously engaging their partner network and delegating streams of impact work from the start, as “together with Rewilding Danube Delta, both organisations collaborate with the *Lower Prut Biosphere Reserve Agency*, as well as other important stakeholders in policymaking and nature conservation in the Republic of Moldova (such as *Verde e Moldova Agency* and *United Nations Development Programme - UNDP Moldova*” (Rewilding Europe, 3i survey).

## Business Development Group (BDG)



Overall 3i score: 227

Figure 18: Overview of 3i analysis for Business Development Group (BDG)<sup>62</sup>



### 3i analysis

BDGroup, a management consultancy company founded in 1994, supports small and medium enterprises seeking growth in Romania. Originally focused on local

<sup>62</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Business Development Group (BDG). Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.



development in mining regions, their projects spanned textiles, metals, agriculture, waste reuse, and community water management.<sup>63</sup>

The respondent from this organisation described BDG as “a management consultancy company involved in various project as regards the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), Nature Based Solutions (NBS) and Nexus<sup>64</sup> interlinkages. We successfully bring together stakeholders from various levels and backgrounds” (Business Development Group, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

BDG was rated as likely to be **highly interested** (100%) in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent reporting on behalf of this organisation noted that they “always look for projects to foster [a] circular economy in general and for water in [particular]” (Business Development Group, 3i survey). This indicates they are likely to be most interested in the economic implications of Wet Horizons findings for the Danube Delta and water use.

### *Influence*

BDG was rated as having a **high level of power** (100%) to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent reporting on behalf of this organisation noted that “in one project we are currently involved [in], we intend to develop IT tools to allow policy makers and public authorities to run scenarios about water use” (Business Development Group). This indicates that as well as focusing on business enablement, they also provide services to the public sector. The quote also indicates they perceive their influence as rooted in their ability to provide these services.

BDG was rated as **highly unlikely (10%) to use power to block** Wet Horizons or the achievement of its outcomes stating “we are not interested [in] block[ing] projects” (Business Development Group, 3i survey).

### *Impact*

**No score or information was given** about the extent to which this organisation might be impacted by the Wet Horizons project. However, it could be inferred that scientific data about the state of the Danube Delta **might benefit them**, as it may be appropriate information to feed into the “IT tools to allow policy makers and public authorities to run scenarios about water use” (Business Development Group, 3i survey) that they are developing.

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<sup>63</sup> <http://www.bdggroup.ro/about-us/Our-Story.html>

<sup>64</sup> “The water – energy – food (– ecosystems) (WEF(E)) nexus has emerged as a key framework to address complex resource and development challenges over the past 10 years. The nexus assessment provides the basis on which to develop nexus approaches and solutions. The tool describes the Nexus framework as well as the methodology for nexus assessment.” <https://iwrmaactionhub.org/learn/iwrm-tools/nexus-framework>

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing ecosystem market outputs:** As BDG are 'continuously searching for creative ways to fuel economic growth'<sup>65</sup>, and are primarily focused on supporting SMEs, they are likely to benefit from developing their understanding of ecosystem markets, and public-private finance models that Wet Horizons will explore, with particular focus on the journey that a Romanian SME with a potential dependence on the resources in the Danube Delta might take participating in these markets.
- **Sharing modelling datasets and digital tools:** As BDG is involved in the development of IT tools that project water use scenarios, it is likely that the datasets and digital tools resulting from the project will be of interest for DDNI, as they may be able to utilise them feed into this tool development.

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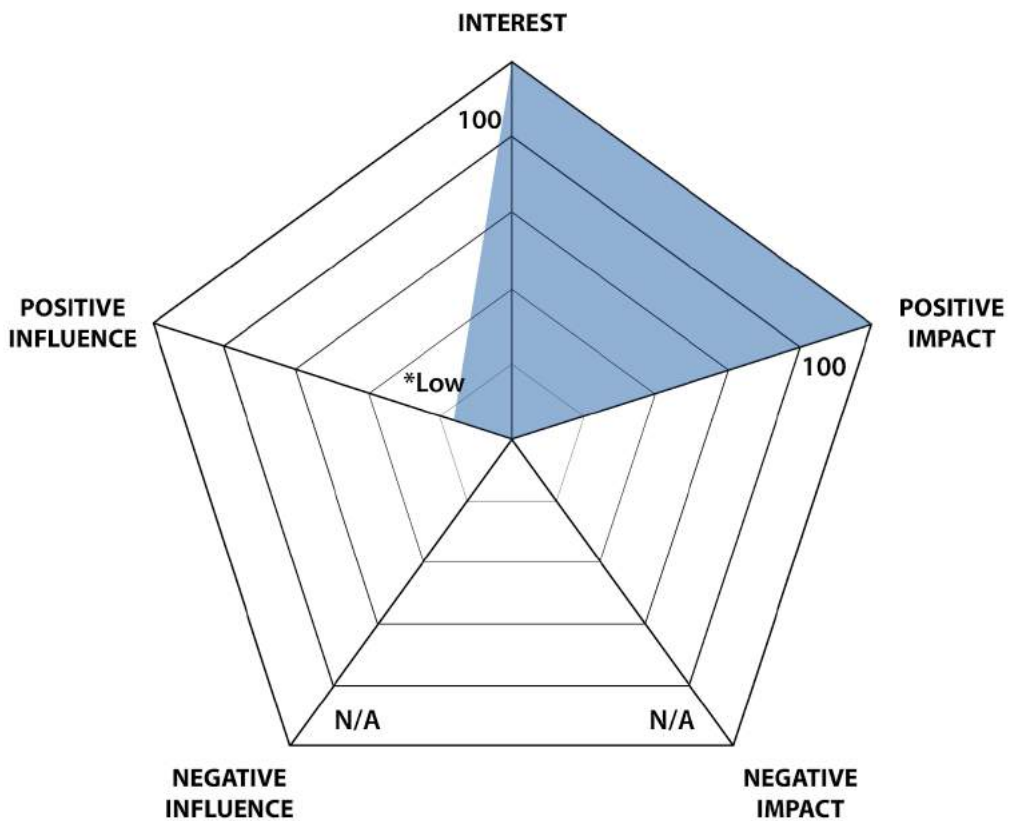
<sup>65</sup> <http://www.bdggroup.ro/about-us/Our-Story.html>

## University of Bucharest



Overall 3i score: 217

Figure 19: Overview of 3i analysis for University of Bucharest<sup>66</sup>



### 3i analysis

<sup>66</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the University of Bucharest. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

The University of Bucharest, established in 1864, is one of Romania's oldest and most prestigious educational institutions, offering a wide range of academic programs and contributing significantly to the country's cultural and intellectual heritage. The University of Bucharest's Geography department covers a wide range of research areas with direct relevance to nature restoration, including fluvial geomorphology, natural hazards assessment, renewable energy resources, coastal geomorphology, and ecological modelling<sup>67</sup>. Desk research shows there are several prominent alumni from the University of Bucharest who go on to work in the field of restoration and other environmental aspects of the Danube Delta<sup>68</sup>. In addition, the university is associated with an MA module titled 'Environmental challenges facing the Danube River'<sup>69</sup>.

The respondent reporting on this organisation also noted that they are likely to have a specific relation to the restoration of the Danube Delta "through projects implemented by experts together with local authorities and WWF Romania" (Ovidius University of Constanta, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

The University of Bucharest was rated as likely to be **highly interested** (100%) in the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes. The respondent noted that "the results will help the organisation to better understand the environment and ecosystem services related to this area" (Ovidius University of Constanta, 3i survey). This organisation is likely to be interested in feeding Danube-Delta related findings from Wet Horizons both into researchers' project work and into university course content.

### *Influence*

The University of Bucharest was **not rated as likely to have any power** to support or block Wet Horizons or its' outcomes. While this may be true in a direct sense, the university is likely to have **some indirect power to support** the effective dissemination and knowledge exchange of Wet Horizons results and outputs within the Romanian academic community.

### *Impact*

The University of Bucharest was rated as likely to receive a **high level of benefit (100%)** from the Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent gave the same rationale for this response as they did for the 'interest' category - "the results will help the organisation to better understand the environment and ecosystem services related to this area" (Ovidius University of Constanta, 3i survey). This can be conceptualised as an improved awareness or understanding benefit, with potential further long-term benefits for professional practice within the academy.

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<sup>67</sup> <https://unibuc.ro/cercetare/domenii-de-cercetare/?lang=en#1543912870624-b1c6ddac-066e>

<sup>68</sup> <https://aquacross.eu/content/danube-delta-national-institute-research-development.html>

<sup>69</sup> <https://civis.eu/ro/civis-courses/environmental-challenges-facing-danube-river>

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

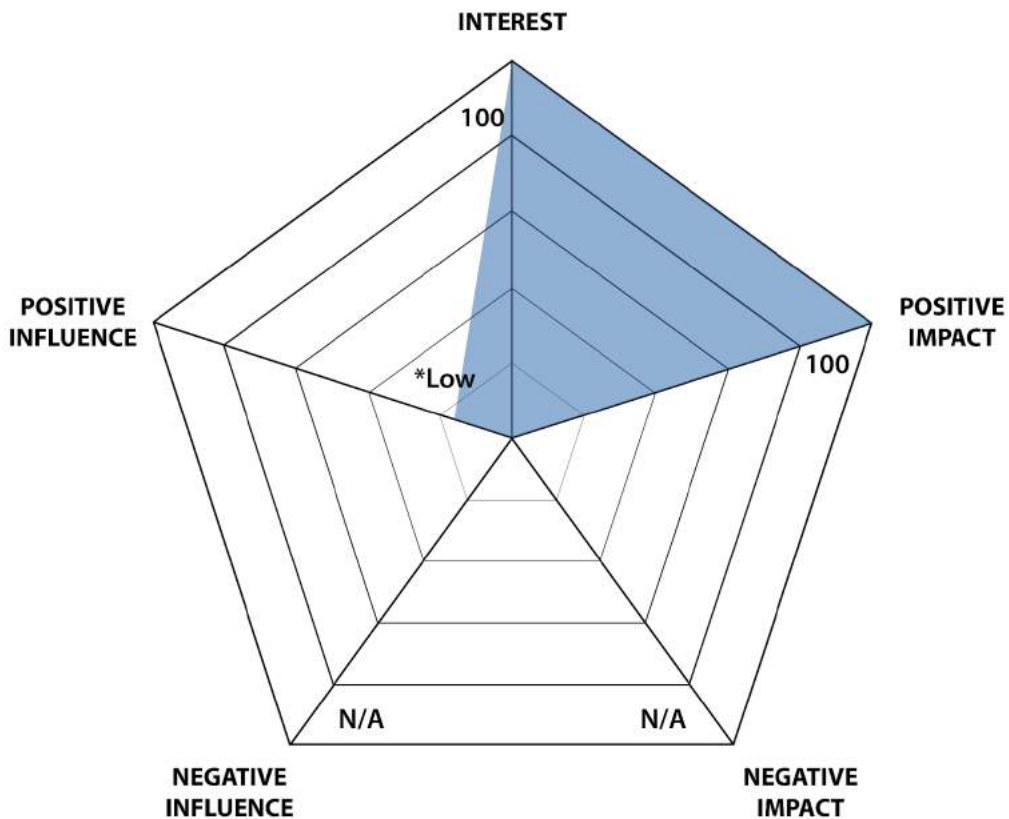
- **Sharing traditional academic outputs:** This organisation is likely to be interested in being notified of any peer-reviewed papers published with reference to the state of the Danube Delta, and its implications for environmental governance.
- **Identifying current restoration initiatives:** Experts from the University of Bucharest are active in projects implemented alongside other prominent stakeholders, and are likely to have a broad awareness of current restoration initiatives that could be mapped by Wet Horizons.
- **Accessing local authorities:** Experts from the University of Bucharest are active in projects implemented alongside local authorities, so may be willing to provide contacts if they are needed for Wet Horizons impact or communication activities.

Ovidius University of Constanta



Overall 3i score: 217

Figure 20: Overview of 3i analysis for Ovidius University of Constanta<sup>70</sup>



3i analysis

<sup>70</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the Ovidius University of Constanta. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

Ovidius University of Constanța, located in Constanța, Romania, is a reputable institution of higher education offering a wide range of academic programs and research initiatives, contributing significantly to the cultural and educational landscape of the Black Sea region. Their Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences is one of their oldest (1961), with six specializations (study programs) operating: Agriculture, Biology, Ecology and Environmental Protection, Geography, Tourism Geography, and Horticulture .

The respondent reporting on behalf of this organisation also highlighted there are restoration ongoing initiatives that University of Constanța researchers are involved in “the staff from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Agricultural Sciences is involved in wetland restoration initiatives.” (Ovidius University of Constanța, 3i survey)

### *Interest*

Ovidius University of Constanța was rated as likely to be **highly interested** (100%) in the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes. The respondent described them as “very interested” (Ovidius University of Constanța, 3i survey). This organisation is likely to be interested in similar ways as the University of Bucharest - i.e. by feeding Danube-Delta related findings from Wet Horizons both into researchers’ project work and into university course content.

### *Influence*

The Ovidius University of Constanța was **not rated as likely to have any power** to support or block Wet Horizons or its’ outcomes. While this may be true in a direct sense, the university is likely to have **some indirect power to support** the effective dissemination and knowledge exchange of Wet Horizons results and outputs within the Romanian academic community.

### *Impact*

The University of Bucharest was rated as likely to receive a **high level of benefit (100%)** from the Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent gave the same open-ended response as they did for the ‘interest’ category - “very much” likely to benefit (Ovidius University of Constanța, 3i survey). It is likely this benefit would manifest in the form of improved awareness or understanding, with potential further long-term benefits for professional practice within the academy.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing traditional academic outputs:** This organisation is likely to be interested in being notified of any peer-reviewed papers published with reference to the state of the Danube Delta, and its implications for environmental governance.
- **Identifying current restoration initiatives:** Experts from the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences within Ovidius University of Constanța are active in

wetland restoration initiatives, and are likely to have a broad awareness of current restoration initiatives that could be mapped by Wet Horizons.

- **Accessing Danube Delta stakeholders:** Experts from the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences within Ovidius University of Constanța are active in wetland restoration initiatives projects, so may be willing to provide contacts if they are needed for Wet Horizons impact or communication activities.



## IJssel, Netherlands 3i Analysis Results

This report presents results from the 3i analysis to identify relevant parties for the Wet Horizons research to consider engaging with, in the IJssel catchment in the Netherlands.

### Sample

A total of 13 organisations were identified with interests in, influence over and/or likely to be impacted positively or negatively by wetland restoration in the IJssel catchment. This information was provided by  $n=7$  participants. These were organisations were sorted into the following 4 categories:

**Table 1: Relevant party categories identified**

Relevant party category	Category description	Organisations	Number of organisations identified
Government agencies	Government agencies and other bodies with statutory powers responsible for nature conservation or public land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta</li> <li>• Forestry Commission / Staatsbosbeheer</li> <li>• Waterboard Amstel, Gooi and Vecht</li> </ul>	3
Landowner/manager NGOs, thinktanks and representatives	Organisations representing the interests of landowners and managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dutch Landscapes / Nederlandse Landschappen</li> <li>• Agriculture and Horticulture Organization / Land- en Tuinbouw Organisatie Nederland (LTO)</li> <li>• Agricultural Nature Association / Agrarisch Natuurvereniging (ANLB)</li> <li>• Coalition Natural</li> </ul>	4

		Climate Buffers	
Environmental and sustainability NGOs, thinktanks, and representative organisations	Organisations with conservation or climate goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nature Monuments / Natuurmonumenten</li> <li>● Coalition Natural Climate Buffers</li> <li>● IVN Nature education</li> </ul>	3
Research Performing Organisations (RPOs)	Universities, research institutes, research groups or science organisations that carry out research or pilots on topics relating to environmental governance or wetland restoration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wet Cultivation Pilot / Pilot Natte Teelten</li> <li>● Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam</li> <li>● Living On Soft Soils (LOSS) Research Programme</li> </ul>	3

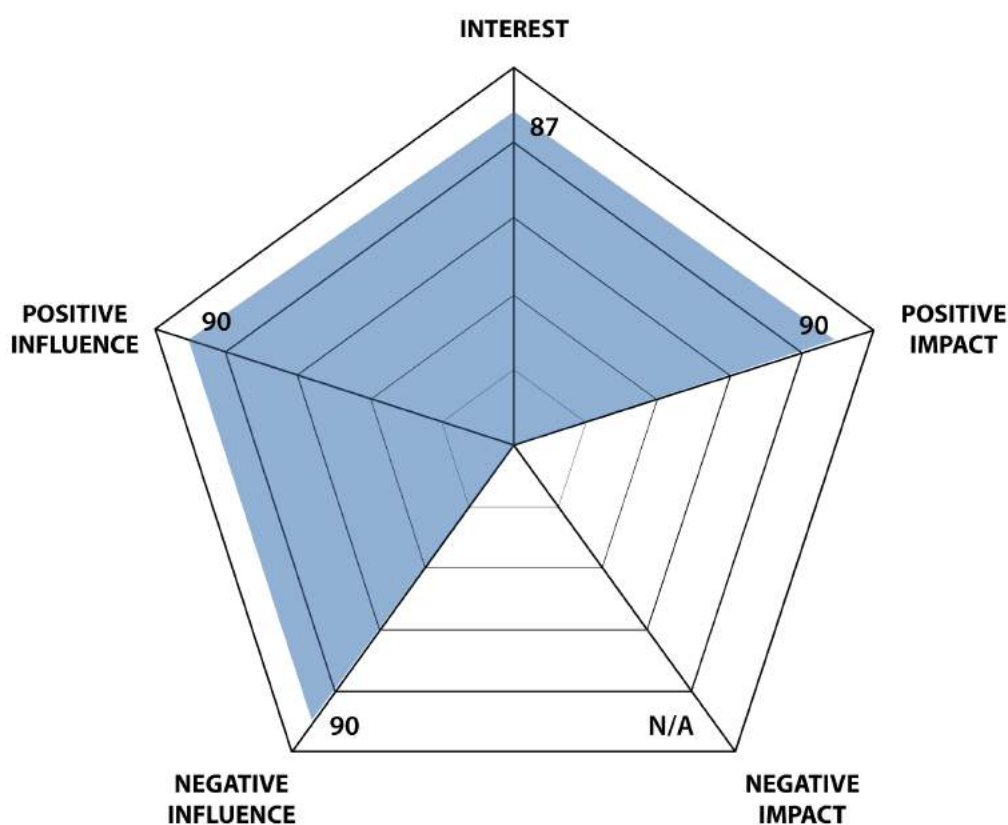
## Dutch Landscapes / Nederlandse Landschappen



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 357

Figure 21: Overview of 3i analysis for Nederlandse Landschappen<sup>71</sup>



### 3i analysis

Nederlandse Landschappen, also known as Dutch Landscapes, is an organisation representing “many local nature managers (i.e. for most provinces)” (Utrecht

<sup>71</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Dutch Landscapes.

University, 3i survey) in the Netherlands, primarily focused on managing and preserving natural landscapes, including vital wetlands. In the IJssel catchment area, their role is particularly significant for wetland restoration, where their expertise in ecological integrity and habitat preservation is crucial. They engage in collaborative efforts with environmental organisations, government bodies, and local communities, aiming to implement sustainable management practices for wetlands. This is essential for water management, flood control, and maintaining the rich biodiversity within the IJssel catchment, ensuring the delivery of vital ecosystem services.

### *Interest*

Nederlandse Landschappen were rated as likely to have a **high level of interest (87%)** in the Wet Horizons project. This interest likely stems from the project's direct relevance to their core mission of managing and conserving natural landscapes, particularly wetlands, which are integral to the ecological balance in their regions of operation.

### *Influence*

The organisation was rated as **likely to have a potential for strong positive (90%) and negative (90%) influence** on the project. Their positive influence is likely due to their extensive network and expertise in local environmental management, which can significantly aid the project's implementation. The equal level of negative influence suggests that their disagreement or non-cooperation could substantially hinder the project's progress, reflecting their critical role in local environmental management.

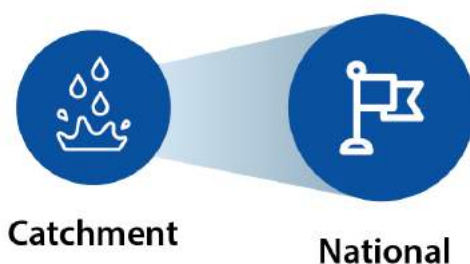
### *Impact*

The **positive impact (90%)** on Nederlandse Landschappen from the Wet Horizons project is expected to be significant. The project's outcomes can provide invaluable insights and tools for better managing and restoring wetlands, directly benefiting the organisation's objectives. No negative impact was noted, indicating a predominantly favourable view of the project's potential effects on their operations.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

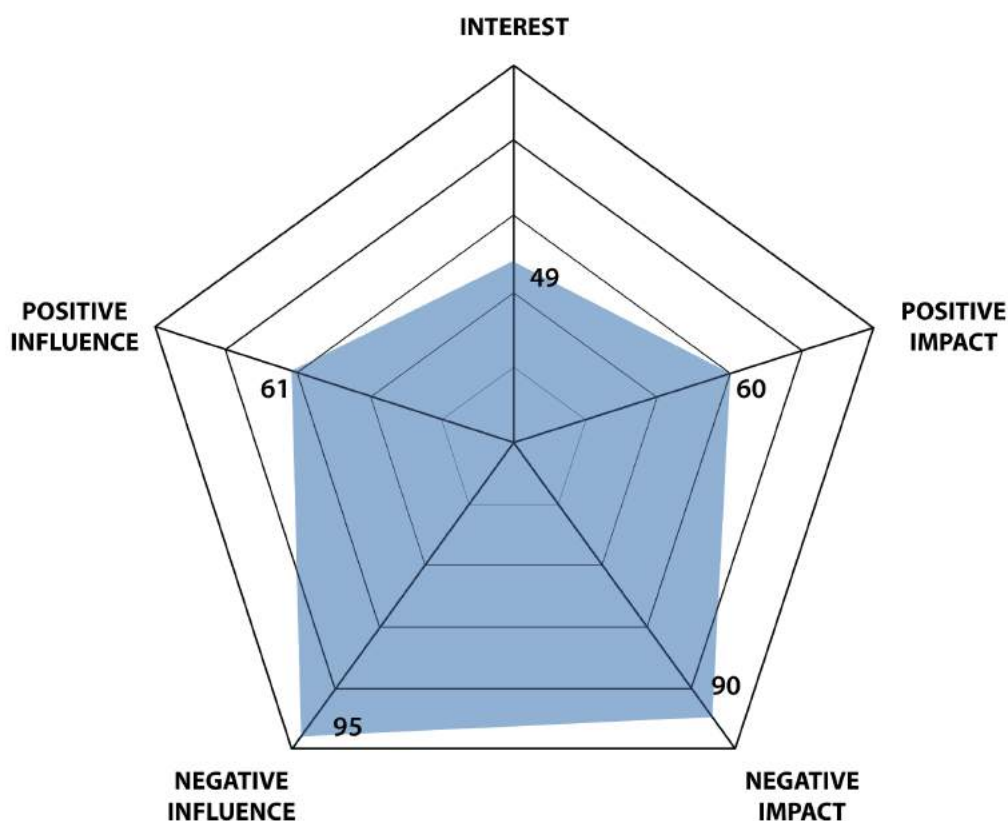
- **Engagement and Collaboration:** Due to their high interest and influence, engaging Nederlandse Landschappen in collaborative efforts and decision-making processes for the IJssel catchment would be beneficial for the project.
- **Customised Solutions and Insights:** Sharing tailored research findings and best practices that cater to the specific needs and challenges faced by local nature managers can foster a positive relationship and enhance project outcomes.

## Agriculture and Horticulture Organization / Land- en Tuinbouw Organisatie Nederland (LTO)



Overall 3i score: 355

Figure 22: Overview of 3i analysis for Land- en Tuinbouw Organisatie Nederland<sup>72</sup>



### 3i analysis

<sup>72</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Land- en Tuinbouw Organisatie Nederland (LTO).

Land- en Tuinbouw Organisatie Nederland (LTO) is a significant agricultural organisation in the Netherlands that represents the interests of farmers and the agricultural sector. In the context of wetland restoration, LTO's role is nuanced, balancing the environmental benefits of such initiatives with the concerns of the agricultural community. While acknowledging the ecological advantages of restoring wetlands, including biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration, LTO also focuses on the potential impacts on agricultural productivity and farmer livelihoods. The organisation advocates for sustainable land-use practices that harmonise agricultural viability with environmental conservation, often supporting restoration projects that include benefits or compensation for the farming community.

The survey respondent reporting about this organisation noted that it has a “very conservative” (Struunhoeve, 3i survey) stance.

### *Interest*

LTO was rated as likely to have a **moderate level of interest (49%)** in the Wet Horizons project. This lukewarm interest may be due to a perceived misalignment between the project's environmental focus and the organisation's primarily agricultural objectives.

### *Influence*

LTO was rated as likely to have a **moderate positive influence (61%)**, suggesting it can support the project to some extent, particularly in areas where agricultural and environmental interests converge. However, their high negative influence (95%) indicates that their opposition could be a significant obstacle to the project, possibly due to conflicting interests between environmental conservation and agricultural practices.

### *Impact*

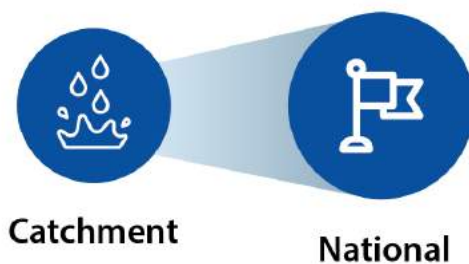
LTO were rated as likely to receive a **moderate positive impact (60%)** from the project, likely in areas where sustainable agriculture intersects with environmental conservation. However, the rating of LTO high negative impact (90%) suggests that the project's outcomes might challenge existing agricultural practices or introduce changes that are not favourably viewed by the organisation. A qualitative response about this organisation underscored this potential for a conflict of interests - “the members are proactive, but have been farming on dried peat for years and are initially sceptical and conservative.” (Struunhoeve, 3i survey)

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Balancing Interests:** Given LTO's conservative nature and the potential for high negative impact, efforts should be made to balance environmental objectives with agricultural practices, seeking common ground.

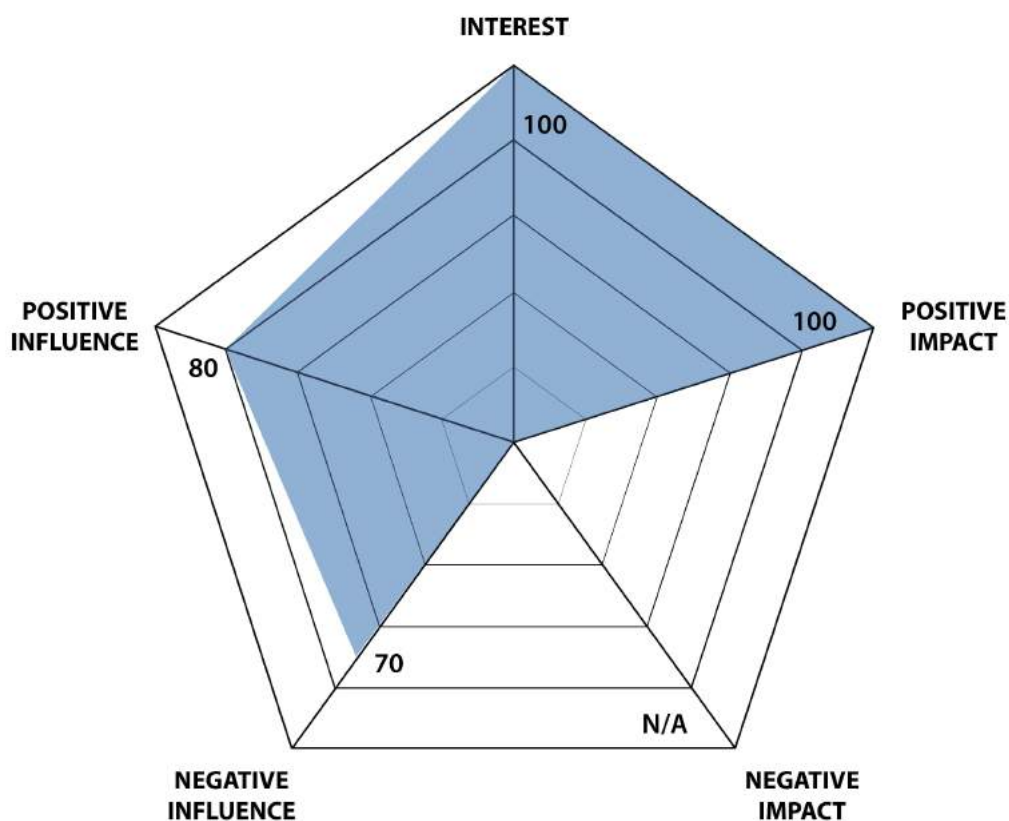
- **Dialogue and Understanding:** Engaging in continuous dialogue with LTO can help in addressing their concerns and potentially mitigating their negative influence.

## Nature Monuments / Natuurmonumenten



Overall 3i score: 350

Figure 23: Overview of 3i analysis for Natuurmonumenten<sup>73</sup>



### 3i analysis

<sup>73</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Land- en Tuinbouw Organisatie Nederland (LTO).



Natuurmonumenten is a leading conservation organisation in the Netherlands that “manages lots of nature areas in the Netherlands” (Utrecht University, 3i survey), deeply involved in the protection and restoration of natural landscapes, including wetlands. In the realm of wetland restoration, Natuurmonumenten plays a pivotal role, actively advocating for and implementing measures to restore and preserve these critical ecosystems. Their efforts are focused not only on ecological restoration to enhance biodiversity and natural water management but also on raising public awareness about the importance of wetlands. As stewards of numerous nature reserves, Natuurmonumenten's work in wetland restoration involves scientific research, practical conservation activities, and collaboration with various stakeholders to promote sustainable ecosystem management.

### *Interest*

Natuurmonumenten was rated as having an extremely **high level of interest (100%)** in the Wet Horizons project. This intense interest likely originates from their mandate to protect and manage natural areas, dovetailing perfectly with the Wet Horizons project's focus on wetland restoration and conservation. Their involvement in similar ecological endeavours makes them a prime candidate for benefiting from and contributing to the project.

### *Influence*

The organisation was rated as having a **strong positive influence (80%)**, indicative of their capacity to significantly advance the project's goals through their established conservation networks and expertise in managing natural habitats. Conversely, their negative influence is substantial (70%), suggesting that if the project's direction diverges from their interests or strategies, it could face considerable challenges or resistance.

### *Impact*

Natuurmonumenten was rated as likely to gain a **significant positive impact (100%)** from the project, benefiting from the advanced methodologies and insights into wetland restoration that Wet Horizons promises. No negative impact was anticipated, underscoring the alignment of the project's objectives with the organisation's goals.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Socio-Economic Impact Studies:** Considering Natuurmonumenten's role in advocacy and public awareness, they might be interested in socio-economic modelling from the Wet Horizons. Understanding the broader impacts of wetland restoration on communities and economies could aid their efforts in engaging stakeholders and shaping public opinion on conservation issues.
- **Research Findings on IJssel Wetland Ecosystems:** Natuurmonumenten would likely be interested in detailed research findings from the Wet Horizons project, especially those focused on the ecological aspects of wetland restoration. Insights into biodiversity, water management, and ecosystem



health would align with their mission of enhancing and preserving natural landscapes.

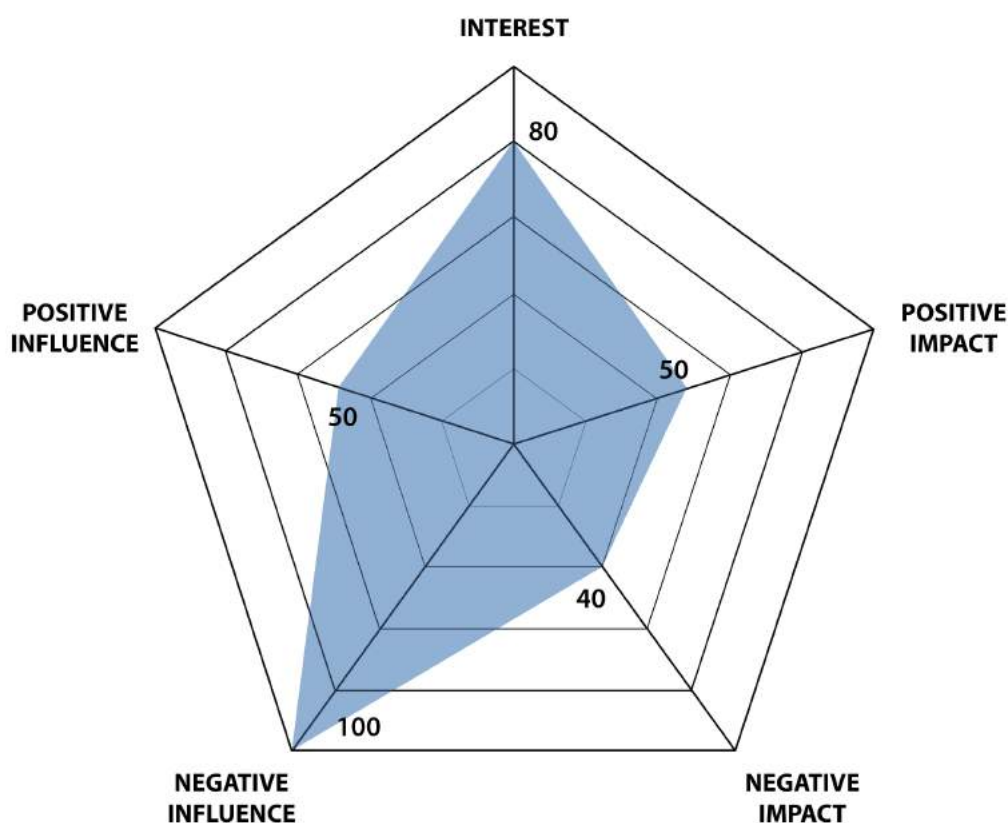
- **Best Practices for Wetland Restoration:** As a conservation organisation, Natuurmonumenten would benefit from access to best practice guidelines and case studies developed by the Wet Horizons project. These would provide practical information on effective wetland restoration techniques, which they could apply in their conservation efforts.

## Waterboard Amstel, Gooi and Vecht



Overall 3i score: 320

Figure 24: Overview of 3i analysis for Waterboard Amstel, Gooi and Vecht<sup>74</sup>



### 3i analysis

Waterboard Amstel, Gooi and Vecht is a regional water authority in the Netherlands, primarily responsible for managing water levels and ensuring water quality in its jurisdiction, which includes parts of the IJssel catchment area. The organisation plays

<sup>74</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Waterboard Amstel, Gooi and Vecht.

a crucial role in wetland restoration within this region, focusing on maintaining and enhancing the ecological health of wetlands. Their activities are particularly relevant for managing water systems in a way that supports the restoration and preservation of wetlands, contributing to biodiversity, water purification, and flood control. The waterboard's work in the IJssel catchment area is essential for balancing ecological objectives with the needs of the local community and agriculture.

As highlighted in a survey, “We are a waterboard, responsible for water levels, also in wetland ditches. We are governmental but our strategy against peat soil decomposition is to cooperate with stakeholders (farmers, nature NGO's). Besides we are pro active in developing knowledge by pilot projects in rewetting peatlands. We do support the national program greenhouse gas emissions from peat pastures” (Waterboard Amstel, Gooi en Vecht/Waternet, 3i survey), underscoring their experience in developing collaborative strategies with various stakeholders and role as an intermediary.

### *Interest*

Waterboard Amstel, Gooi and Vecht was rated as likely to have **a high interest in the project (80%)**, aligning with their policy on peatland rewetting and sustainable land use. This alignment indicates a strong synergy between the board's existing strategies and the project's aims, especially in the context of national policies focusing on soil and water as key principles for land use. The survey respondent from this organisation highlighted that they “have a policy on rewetting peatlands/peat pastures to much higher groundwater tables. This is also/mainly a national policy. 'Water/soil as basic principle for land use". This meets the Wet Horizons aims” (Waterboard Amstel, Gooi en Vecht/Waternet, 3i survey) evidencing this interest level.

### *Influence*

Their **moderate positive influence (50%)** suggests a capacity to support the project within their operational framework, particularly in terms of being the “legal party to manage the water levels” (Waterboard Amstel, Gooi en Vecht/Waternet, 3i survey), albeit with limitations. The very high negative influence (100%) underscores this legal authority and potential to significantly impact water management practices, indicating that their alignment with the project is crucial for its success.

### *Impact*

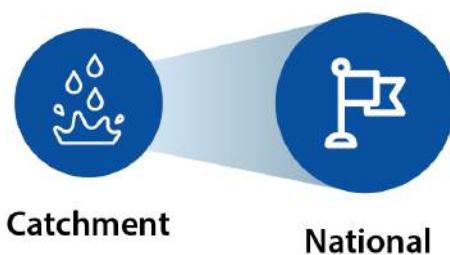
The Waterboard was rated as having a **moderate positive impact (50%)** on the project, with the respondent noting that “The waterboard works for public goals. So there is not a direct benefit for the board, as we fulfil political decisions rather than making them.” ((Waterboard Amstel, Gooi en Vecht/Waternet, 3i survey). As a body that implements rather than creates policies, their direct benefit might be limited, yet their role in executing political decisions is crucial. The negative impact was rated lower (40%), with concerns about balancing the needs of diverse stakeholders, including farmers, firms, and homeowners, who contribute to their funding and may be affected by changes in water management practices. The survey respondent

explained the score given in a detailed manner: “Less than 50 % because the waterboards own policy tends already towards more sustainable water/land interaction in the long term because we are held to the climate agreement. Not 0% because we have to fulfil the demands of all stakeholders and our politicians in the steering board, like farmers and firms. And house owners, as they pay our taxes” (Waterboard Amstel, Gooi en Vecht/Waternet, 3i survey).

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

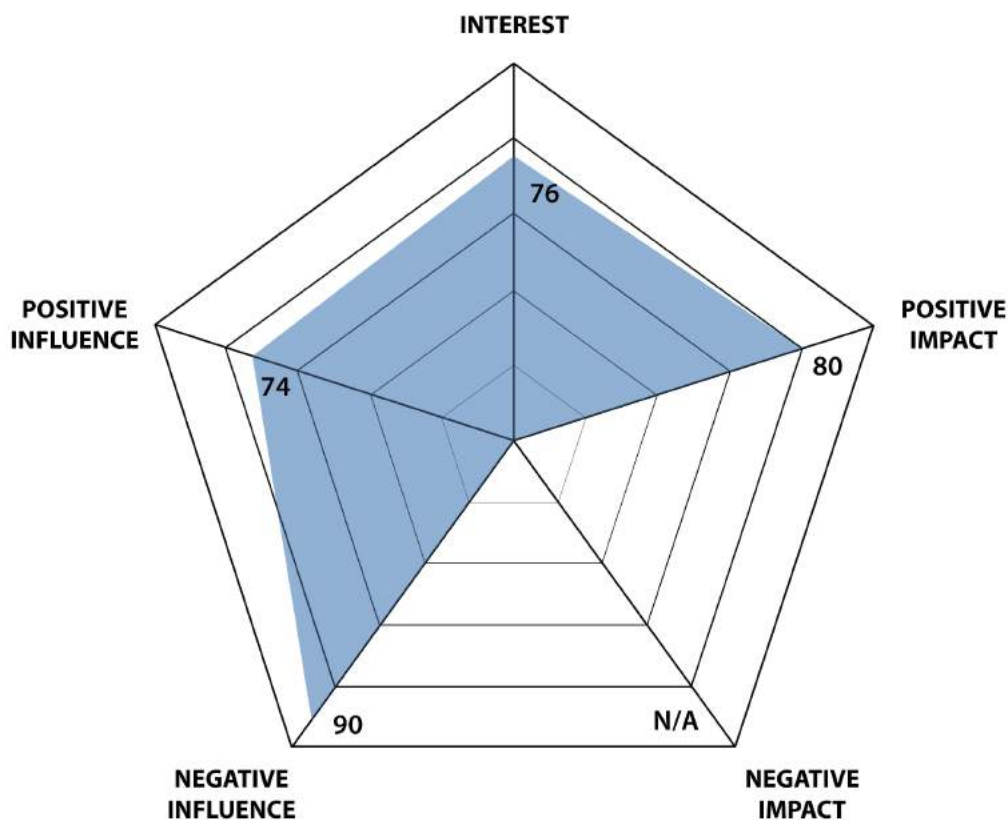
- **Guidelines on Sustainable Peatland Management:** Waterboard Amstel, Gooi and Vecht would likely be interested in comprehensive guidelines and best practices for sustainable peatland management from the Wet Horizons project. These would align with their ongoing efforts in rewetting peatlands and contribute to their strategies against peat soil decomposition, supporting their national policy on higher groundwater tables in peat areas.
- **Research on Water Management and Wetland Restoration:** The Waterboard would benefit from detailed research findings on water management techniques and wetland restoration, particularly those focusing on biodiversity enhancement and flood control. This information would aid them in effectively managing water systems within the IJssel catchment, aligning with their responsibility for water quality and level management.

## Agricultural Nature Association / Agrarisch Natuurvereniging (ANLB)



Overall 3i score: 320

Figure 25: Overview of 3i analysis for Agrarisch Natuurvereniging<sup>75</sup>



### 3i analysis

<sup>75</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Agrarisch Natuurvereniging (ANLB).

The Agrarisch Natuurvereniging (ANLB), or Agricultural Nature Association, is an organisation in the Netherlands that represents a network of proactive farmers focused on integrating agricultural practices with environmental conservation. They facilitate sustainable farming methods that support wetland conservation, balancing agricultural productivity with ecological restoration, making them key in aligning farmer interests with environmental goals in these areas.

The survey respondent for this organisation noted that they have a key aim around policy development - “agricultural nature associations aim to stimulate government policy among proactive farmers. They can play a policy-developing role in rewetting. see: <https://loketveenweideboeren.nl/>” (Struunhoeve, 3i survey). The initiative referred to, the Locket Veenweideboeren (Peat Meadow Farmers' Desk) in Noord-Holland is an initiative led by the ANLB, particularly the association Water, Land & Dijken. This desk offers personal advice and support to farmers in the veenweide (peat meadow) areas of North Holland who wish to implement climate measures on agricultural land.

### *Interest*

ANLB was rated as likely to have a **high interest (76%)** in the project, reflecting their focus on integrating agricultural practices with environmental conservation. The Wet Horizons project's emphasis on sustainable peatland management directly relates to their mission of advocating for environmentally friendly farming practices.

### *Influence*

ANLB was rated as likely to have a **high level of positive influence (74%)**, indicating their potential to shape policy and practices in the farming community, especially in the context of sustainable land use. Specifically, the respondent for this organisation highlighted that they have expertise and capacity to engage in policy impact efforts: “agricultural nature associations aim to stimulate government policy among proactive farmers. They can play a policy-developing role in rewetting. see: <https://loketveenweideboeren.nl/>” (Struunhoeve, 3i survey). However, the high negative influence (90%) highlights the challenges posed by the scepticism and conservatism prevalent among their members, who have traditionally relied on dried peat for farming.

### *Impact*

ANLB was rated as likely to experience a **significant positive impact (80%)** from the project, potentially benefiting from new sustainable practices in peatland management. However, the negative impact remains unknown, reflecting the uncertainty about how these new practices will be received and implemented by their members.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sustainable Peatland Management Strategies:** ANLB would greatly benefit from the Wet Horizons project's research and findings on sustainable peatland management strategies. Given their focus on integrating agricultural practices with environmental conservation, insights into effective wetland rewetting techniques and their impact on agricultural land would be particularly valuable.



This would help them in advising and guiding their members towards more sustainable farming practices in peatland areas.

- **Policy Development Guidance:** The Wet Horizons project's outputs on policy recommendations for wetland restoration could be instrumental for ANLB. As they play a role in influencing government policy among farmers, access to well-researched policy frameworks and guidelines would enhance their ability to advocate for effective and farmer-friendly environmental policies.
- **Feeding guidelines and toolkits into Locket Veenweideboeren (Peat Meadow Farmers' Desk):** ANLB play a key communication role to farmers wishing to implement climate measures on agricultural land. This could be an ideal platform to publicise Wet Horizons outputs on restoration measures, or seek engagement from agricultural land managers.



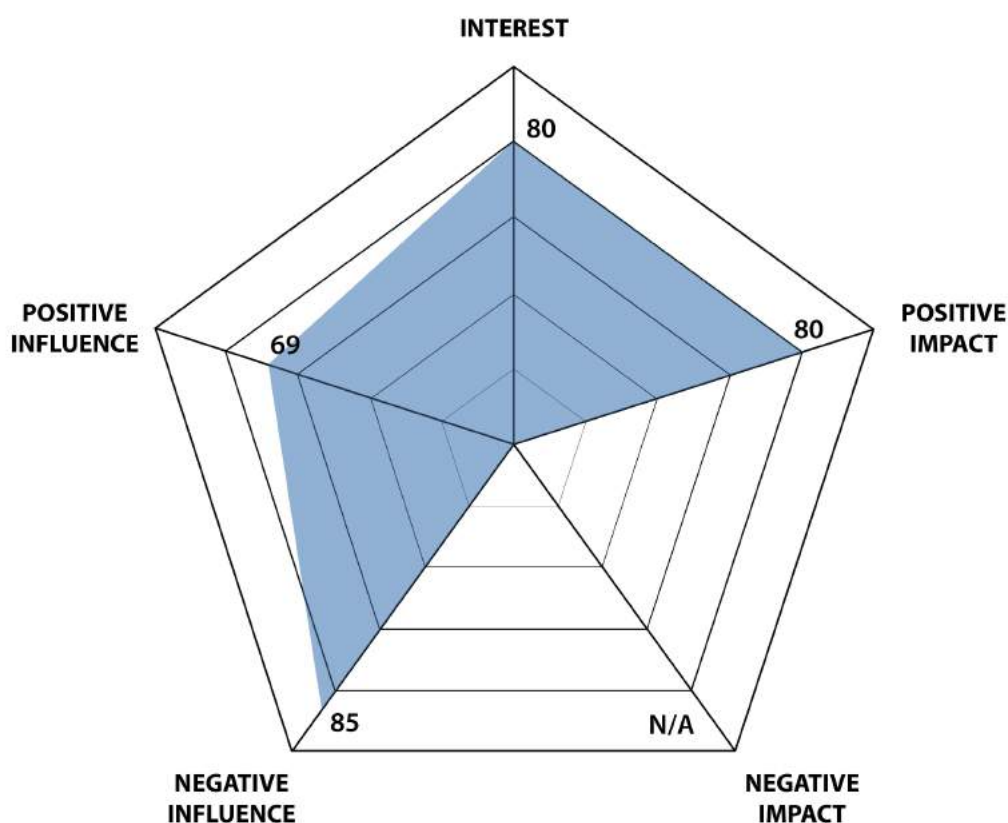
## Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 314

Figure 26: Overview of 3i analysis for Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta<sup>76</sup>



### 3i analysis

<sup>76</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 2 survey responses were entered about Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta is a regional water authority in the Netherlands, focusing on water management within parts of Drenthe and Overijssel, including the IJssel catchment area. Tasked with managing water levels, ensuring water quality, and flood protection, this organisation plays a critical role in wetland restoration in the region. This organisation plays a crucial role in initiatives to restore and maintain wetland areas and ensuring environmental sustainability, and collaborating with local stakeholders like nature managers and farmers.

The survey respondent for this organisation also highlighted these key responsibilities: “(Waste)water authority located partially in the IJssel area. It connects to wetland restoration because it is responsible for water quality in waterbodies and flood protection in the area. Furthermore, it has set goals to improve biodiversity and help fight climate change (eg: Droughts) as it is a Dutch government organisation.” (Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta were rated as likely to have a **high level of interest (80%)** in the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes. This strong interest likely stems from the project’s alignment with the organisation’s goals that it has set itself for sustainable water management, fighting droughts and ecological conservation. A respondent from the organisation itself noted specifically that “one issue in the Netherlands is soil subsidence due to drought. Improving wetland health could help with this. Furthermore, it would help us improve biodiversity and climate resilience.” (Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta, 3i survey). As such, the Wet Horizons project’s focus on wetland restoration and its implications for water systems directly relates to Waterschap IJsseldelta’s operational and strategic goals.

### *Influence*

Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta were considered to have a **high level of positive influence (69%) to support** the project. This influence could be attributed to its regulatory and management role in the IJssel catchment area. One respondent highlighted that their high level of interest in the project aims as a result of challenges in the area brings potential for this high level of power to be exercised - “I believe there is a lot of interest around the topic of drought, biodiversity loss and restoring wetlands” but also noted that the small size of the Netherlands brings challenges when it comes to land use change, as there are competing priorities: “but the Netherlands lacks space. This means that the project would get support as long as it does not ‘threaten’ the other responsibilities (mostly water safety)” (Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta, 3i survey). Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta were rated as having a **high potential for negative influence (85%)**, likely due to its need to balance these conflicting interests between nature management and agricultural practices or other concerns, as indicated by the qualitative survey response “...if they deem it important to keep an area dry then they will” (Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta, 3i survey).

### *Impact*

Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta was rated as having potential to receive a **high level of positive impact (80%)** from the outcomes of Wet Horizons. The project's focus on innovative wetland restoration techniques and modelling could provide valuable insights and tools for the organisation, in particular in terms of making the case for restoration in terms of ecosystem services: "as long as the information coming forth from the project does not infringe on the other responsibilities, the information coming available would greatly help the organisation to argue why wetland restoration might be essential" (Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta, 3i survey). However, they were also rated as having potential to receive a **moderate level of negative impact (60%)**, which might arise from the challenges of aligning the project's outcomes with the diverse and sometimes opposing interests of the stakeholders they work with, such as nature managers and farmers - "they have to work with nature managers and farmers: opposing stakes!" (Utrecht University, 3i survey).

### *Impact Planning Survey Results*

A participant from Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta accepted an invitation to respond to the Wet Horizons impact planning survey, providing details about how they perceive the project and its potential positive impact for their organisation and its wetland restoration activities.

#### *Perception of Wetlands and the Importance of Wet Horizons:*

In response to the question 'What comes to mind when you think of wetland or peatland restoration?', they responded with a range of concepts indicating a high level of awareness with the issues driving the Wet Horizons project activities: "CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions from drought. Soil Subsidence. Biodiversity. Ecosystem Services" (Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta, impact planning survey). The respondent found the project **70% interesting** and **60% important**, and explained that while they saw some relevance of the project to their work, they have a different primary focus: "My job is more focused on the wastewater infrastructure. Apart from reusing wastewater effluent or source-separation and using these to help combat drought-prone areas there is not a lot of overlap. It is very interesting, and I see potential to use wastewater to provide area's with water in times of drought to help keep peatlands wet, but this is only a small portion of the bigger picture" (Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta, impact planning survey).

#### *Challenges in the IJssel Catchment Area:*

The respondent from the water authority noted that the main challenge was the conflict between farmers' land use preferences and the follow-on environmental impacts: "From my point of view: farmers requesting groundwater levels to be lowered for efficient farming and access with heavy equipment. This is common practice in the Netherlands and has resulted in soil subsidence in many areas (not just peatlands). Finding a balance between the needs of farmers and nature is difficult" (Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta, impact planning survey).

#### *Beneficiary Initiatives and Organisations:*



The respondent from this organisation indicated that the government statement designating 'Water and Soil as Guiding Factors'<sup>77</sup> within spatial planning was a key initiative that the Wet Horizons project could generate benefits towards - "The government has decided to give 'water and soil' a more guiding role in spatial planning" (Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta, impact planning survey).

In terms of specific organisations, the respondent noted that Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta could benefit from the project, as well as "basically the whole Dutch government. We have issues with CO<sub>2</sub>eq emissions and e.g. building- and farming-regulations. Having more insight in the value of wetlands helps argue its importance" (Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta, impact planning survey). Other beneficiaries included Landschap Overijssel, the water board which is "in constant discussion with farmers and other related parties (nature conservation etc.) about the ground-water table" indicating a clear use for outputs, and the landowner/manager community and their suppliers. The respondent stated that restoration could offset their emissions - "farmers could possibly be allowed to emit more CO<sub>2</sub>eq if the surrounding area becomes a carbon sink" (Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta, impact planning survey).

#### *Benefits Offered by Wet Horizons for Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta:*

The respondent from the Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta noted that the project would be most likely to generate benefits by providing **access to research data, and information** in the form of a **report** or **research summary**. The respondent specified that the main contribution they thought Wet Horizons could make with these outputs was in terms of "arguing the importance of peatlands for decision making in groundwater table management [...] by quantifying the value of 'healthy' wetlands and peatlands it becomes easier to argue the social importance against e.g. the farmers. By showing that (e.g.) the farmers can also benefit from a healthy surrounding environment they might be more likely to change their methods and be more willing to compromise." (Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta, impact planning survey). They responded that this was likely to manifest in benefits for **awareness or understanding - both of potential solutions to a problem and of available technology, tools or data, government efficiency or effectiveness, capacity building and benefits for professional practice** in terms of **changing organisational practices or methods**, and benefits for various **ecosystem services**.

#### *Preferred Communication Methods:*

Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta expressed a preference for **formal channels for sharing project outputs, (e.g., a report)**.

#### *Awareness of Negative Effects:*

Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta noted that negative effects could arise for their organisation as a result of the project if attention is not paid to local context: "in an

<sup>77</sup>

<https://open.overheid.nl/documenten/ronl-c35e65eba0903d738ae26dab222462337b0d8de7/pdf>

absolute worst-case scenario generic laws are put in place where there is no room for tailoring to local needs” (Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta, 3i survey).

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

Here, we highlight any practical or strategic implications or inferences that can be drawn out based on the information presented about this organisation, both in terms of self-description and the perspective of the respondent(s). These recommendations focus on further engagement guidance, and outputs likely to be of interest for them.

- **Sharing research summaries and data that make the case for restoration:** Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta stated they would value outputs that showcase the ecosystem services that healthy wetlands provide. Given their need to balance the interests of farmers in groundwater level decision-making, it likely needs solid data and reviews that quantify the value of restored peatlands for farmers, and how they could benefit from restoring their land.
- **Sharing Knowledge on Wetland Management to Overcome Soil Subsidence Challenges:** As the project progresses, sharing tailored research findings and best practices specific to the IJssel catchment area could be immensely beneficial to Waterschap IJsseldelta, particularly any outputs with implications for improving soil subsidence through wetland restoration due to the catchment’s challenges as a result of drought.
- **Sharing policy briefs:** Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta stated that they engage with the Dutch government on developing and implementing building- and farming-regulations, so any policy-based outputs that cover these issues are likely to be of interest.

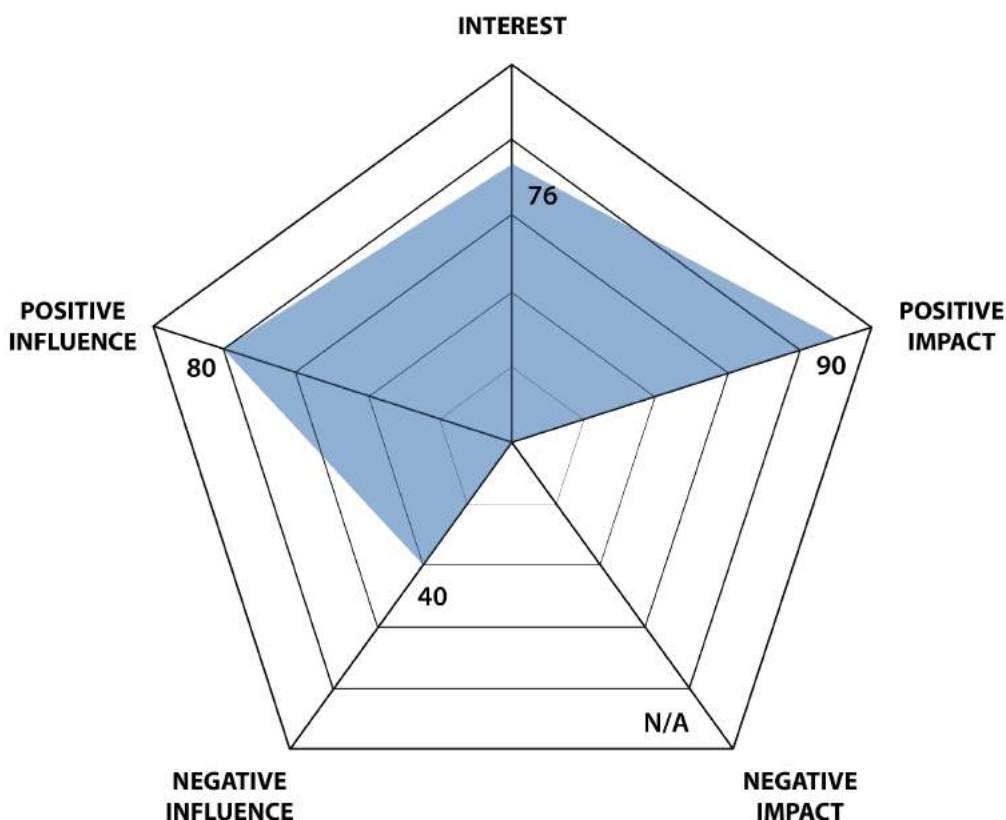
Working Together on River Nature / Samenwerken aan Riviernatuur



Catchment

Overall 3i score: 286

Figure 27: Overview of 3i analysis for Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta<sup>78</sup>



<sup>78</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Samenwerken aan Riviernatuur. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

Working Together on River Nature (Samenwerken aan Riviernatuur) is an organisation known for its innovative approach to environmental management, particularly in the context of floodplain rearrangement along the IJssel river. Their strategy involves engaging diverse stakeholders, including local communities, farmers, and shipping organisations, to facilitate smooth implementation of their projects.

The survey respondent for this organisation highlighted its experience in this area - "this organisation led a rearrangement of the floodplains of the IJssel close to my childhood home. They tried to involve local communities as well as farmers and shipping organisations to make the plans go smoothly" (Radboud University, 3i survey).

#### *Interest*

Working Together on River Nature was rated as having a **high level of interest (76%)** in the Wet Horizons project. As per the Radboud University survey respondent, "They might be interested in new ideas and innovation". This indicates their openness to exploring novel approaches and methods in environmental management, aligning well with the innovative nature of the Wet Horizons project.

#### *Influence*

Working Together on River Nature was rated as likely to have a **highly positive influence (80%)**, with the potential to "provide a test site or data for WH research," (Radboud University, 3i survey) suggesting their capability to significantly contribute to the project's research and data collection efforts. Their negative influence was rated lower (40%), indicating limited power outside their project areas. However, their ability to "influence public opinion" (Radboud University, 3i survey) highlights their role in shaping community perspectives, which can be crucial for broader project acceptance and support.

#### *Impact*

Samenwerken aan Riviernatuur was rated as likely to experience a **high positive impact (90%)** from the project, particularly in enhancing community engagement - "They could increase community engagement with the project's work" (Radboud University, 3i survey). The absence of a negative impact rating underscores the perceived alignment of the organisation's goals with the project's objectives.

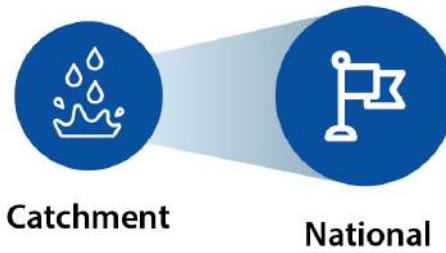
### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Leveraging Community Engagement:** Samenwerken aan Riviernatuur's expertise in involving local communities can be invaluable for the Wet Horizons project. Collaborating with them to develop community outreach strategies could increase local support and participation in the project.
- **Utilizing Test Sites and Data Sharing:** The organisation's willingness to provide test sites and share data can be a significant asset for Wet Horizons

research. Establishing a formal partnership for data exchange and field testing can enhance the project's research capabilities and practical applicability.

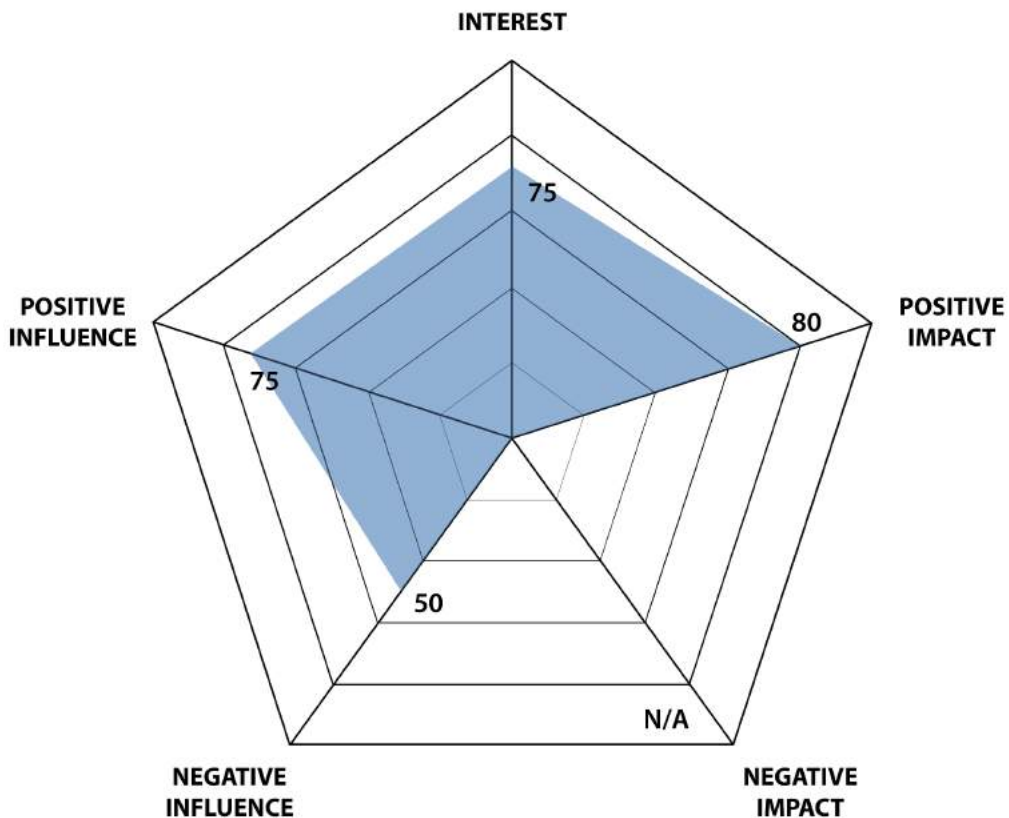


## Forestry Commission / Staatsbosbeheer



**Overall 3i score: 280**

**Figure 27: Overview of 3i analysis for Staatsbosbeheer<sup>79</sup>**



### 3i analysis

<sup>79</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Staatsbosbeheer. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

Staatsbosbeheer is a state forestry organisation in the Netherlands responsible for managing extensive natural areas, including peatlands and other wetlands. Their role in environmental stewardship and land management positions them as a key stakeholder in the realm of natural conservation and sustainability.

The survey respondent for this organisation noted that they are the "State Forestry organisation, managing large nature areas in The Netherlands, including peatlands and other wetlands" (Natuurmonumenten, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

Staatsbosbeheer was rated as having a **high level of interest (75%)** in the Wet Horizons project. According to Natuurmonumenten's survey response, "They might be interested overall, but I think that only when their own areas are involved they will consider investing time in the project" (Natuurmonumenten, 3i survey). This suggests that while they may be generally supportive of environmental initiatives, their active participation might hinge on the direct involvement or impact on the areas under their management.

### *Influence*

The organisation was rated as having a **high level of positive influence (75%)**. The survey respondent for Staatsbosbeheer noted, "you should know who to contact since this organisation is quite big," (Natuurmonumenten, 3i survey) indicating that navigating their internal structure is key to effectively engaging with them. Their negative influence was rated as moderate (50%), suggesting that while they are unlikely to actively oppose the project, their engagement level could significantly affect its implementation, especially in areas under their management.

### *Impact*

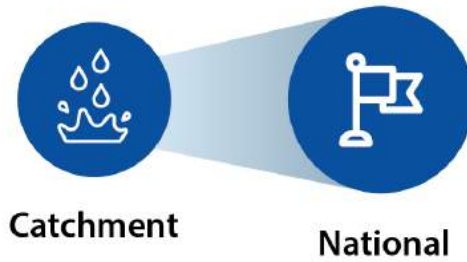
Staatsbosbeheer was rated as likely to experience a **high positive impact (80%)** from the Wet Horizons project. The project's focus on wetland restoration and sustainable management practices aligns with their mission and could enhance their conservation efforts. No negative impact was noted, which implies a general alignment of the project's objectives with the organisation's goals and operations.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- Targeted Engagement: Given their interest is more pronounced when their managed areas are involved, it would be strategic to tailor engagement efforts to highlight the project's relevance and potential benefits to the regions under Staatsbosbeheer's management.
- Effective Communication Channels: Understanding Staatsbosbeheer's organisational structure and identifying key contacts will be crucial for effective collaboration. Establishing direct communication channels with relevant departments or individuals can facilitate smoother cooperation and resource sharing.

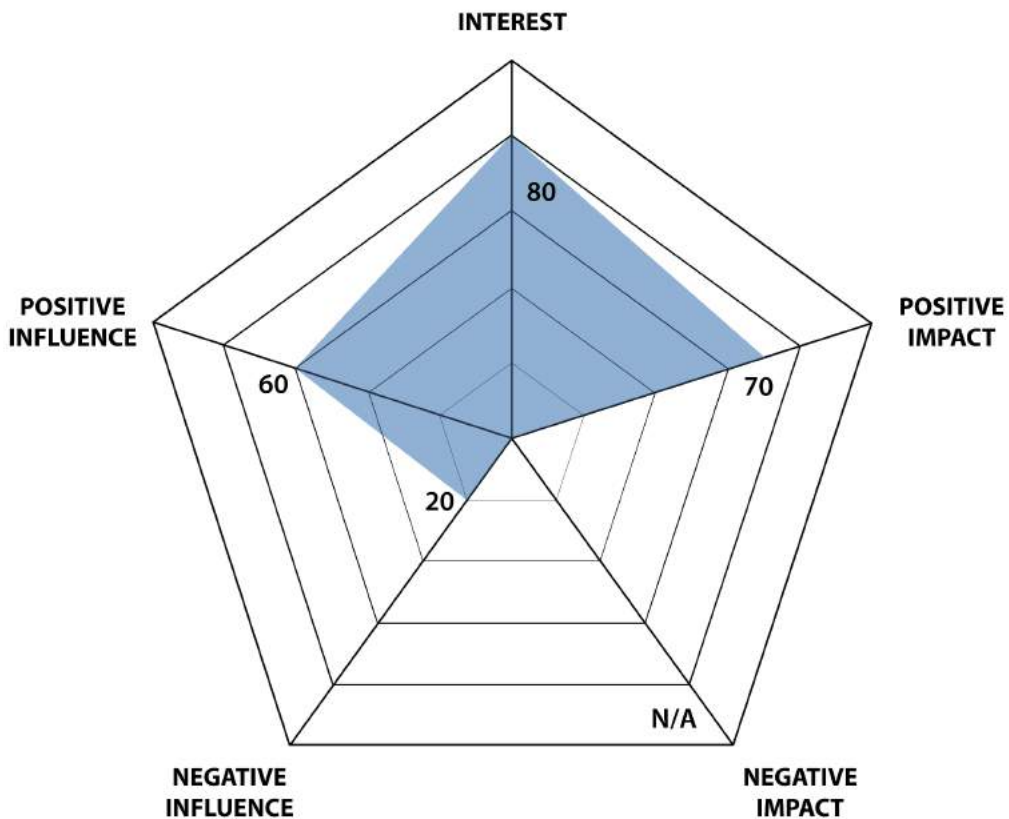


## IVN Nature Education



**Overall 3i score: 230**

**Figure 28: Overview of 3i analysis for IVN Nature Education<sup>80</sup>**



### 3i analysis

<sup>80</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about IVN Nature Education. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

IVN, an organisation in the Netherlands, is known for its environmental education and conservation activities, including conducting inventories of natural areas and hosting excursions. Their focus on environmental awareness and community engagement positions them as a key player in promoting sustainable practices and nature conservation.

The survey respondent noted their role in providing information to the public about specific areas: "they make inventories of many areas/host excursions." (Utrecht University, 3i survey)

### *Interest*

IVN was rated as likely to have a **high level of interest (80%)** in the Wet Horizons project. This level of interest likely stems from their commitment to environmental education and the conservation of natural areas. Their activities in conducting inventories and hosting excursions align well with the project's objectives, suggesting a strong potential for collaboration and mutual benefit.

### *Influence*

IVN was rated as likely to have a **moderate level of interest (60%)**. This rating indicates that while IVN may not have extensive power to directly shape policy or large-scale environmental practices, they hold a significant capacity to support the project through their educational programs and public outreach efforts. Their **negative influence was rated as low (20%)**, implying that they are unlikely to oppose or hinder the project's progress.

### *Impact*

IVN was rated as likely to experience a **high level of positive impact (70%)** from the Wet Horizons project. This impact could manifest in enhanced educational content, increased public engagement in environmental issues, and a broader reach in their conservation efforts. No negative impact was anticipated, which suggests that the project's goals are in harmony with IVN's mission and activities.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Collaborative Educational Initiatives:** Leveraging IVN's expertise in environmental education could be highly beneficial for the Wet Horizons project. Collaborating to develop educational materials and programs based on the project's findings can help raise public awareness and understanding of wetland restoration and conservation.
- **Public Engagement and Excursions:** Utilizing IVN's experience in hosting excursions could provide excellent opportunities for public engagement with the project. Organizing joint excursions to project sites or areas of interest could help in showcasing the practical applications and benefits of the project's research and conservation efforts.

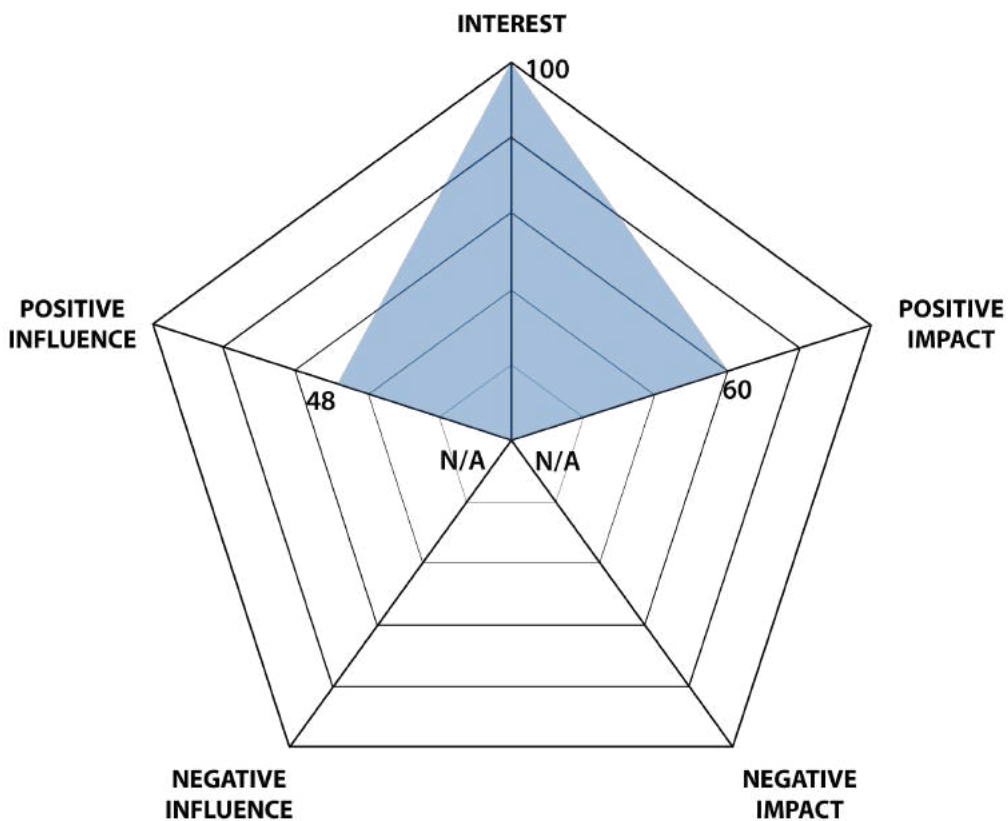
**Living On Soft Soils (LOSS) Research Programme**



**National**

Overall 3i score: 208

**Figure 29: Overview of 3i analysis for Living On Soft Soils (LOSS) Research Programme<sup>81</sup>**



<sup>81</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Living On Soft Soils (LOSS) Research Programme. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, [...] survey response was entered about [...]. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

The NWA-LOSS research program<sup>82</sup>, funded by the National Science Agenda, addresses the complex issue of ongoing subsidence in the Dutch lowlands, particularly in peat and clay areas. This subsidence poses significant challenges for cities and polder land, leading to damage in built-up areas, wetting, salinization, and an increased risk of flooding in rural areas. The program is conducted by a diverse consortium of universities, research institutes, and societal partners in the Netherlands. As subsidence continues, existing strategies become less effective, prompting the need for a solid knowledge base. NWA-LOSS focuses on developing this knowledge base by investigating the reasons and mechanisms behind ground subsidence, predicting subsidence, and exploring technical, administrative, and legal measures to address the issue. The ultimate goal is to adapt strategies and create a subsidence-resistant Netherlands.

#### *Interest*

NWA-LOSS was rated as likely to have **a high level of interest (100%)** in the Wet Horizons project. This interest is likely driven by the fact that wetland restoration can address soil subsidence by enhancing groundwater recharge and organic matter accumulation, which together increase soil volume and reduce its compaction.

#### *Influence*

NWA-LOSS's **positive influence** on Wet Horizons and its outcomes was rated as **moderate (48%)**. This is likely to be due to the fact that they have a specific work package focusing on knowledge utilisation and impact, which aims to facilitate the translation of scientific findings from the entire program into practical applications for policy-making, water management, consultancy, and building infrastructure, and so are likely to have the network necessary to strategically feed Wet Horizons outputs into conversations already linked to impact. The reason the score was not higher is probably due to the fact that they are not direct decision-makers, and may have other impact priorities.

NWA-LOSS was not rated as likely to negatively impact the Wet Horizons project or its outcomes.

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<sup>82</sup> <https://nwa-loss.nl/en/>

### *Impact*

NWA-LOSS was rated as likely to receive a **moderate level of benefit (60%)** from this project. While the respondent did not provide any qualitative details, it can be inferred that Wet Horizons outputs could provide synergetic arguments and tools for their own impact plans, given the link between soil subsidence and wetland restoration.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Identifying impact synergies:** NWA-LOSS could be engaged to co-develop impact plans that address the issues of soil subsidence and wetland degradation, particularly in terms of exploring technical, administrative, and legal measures.
- **Leveraging NWA-LOSS's knowledge-exchange capacities:** As a project with a dedicated work package to knowledge exchange, NWA-LOSS could be engaged to assist with disseminating Wet Horizons outputs to the organisations or stakeholder groups that need it.



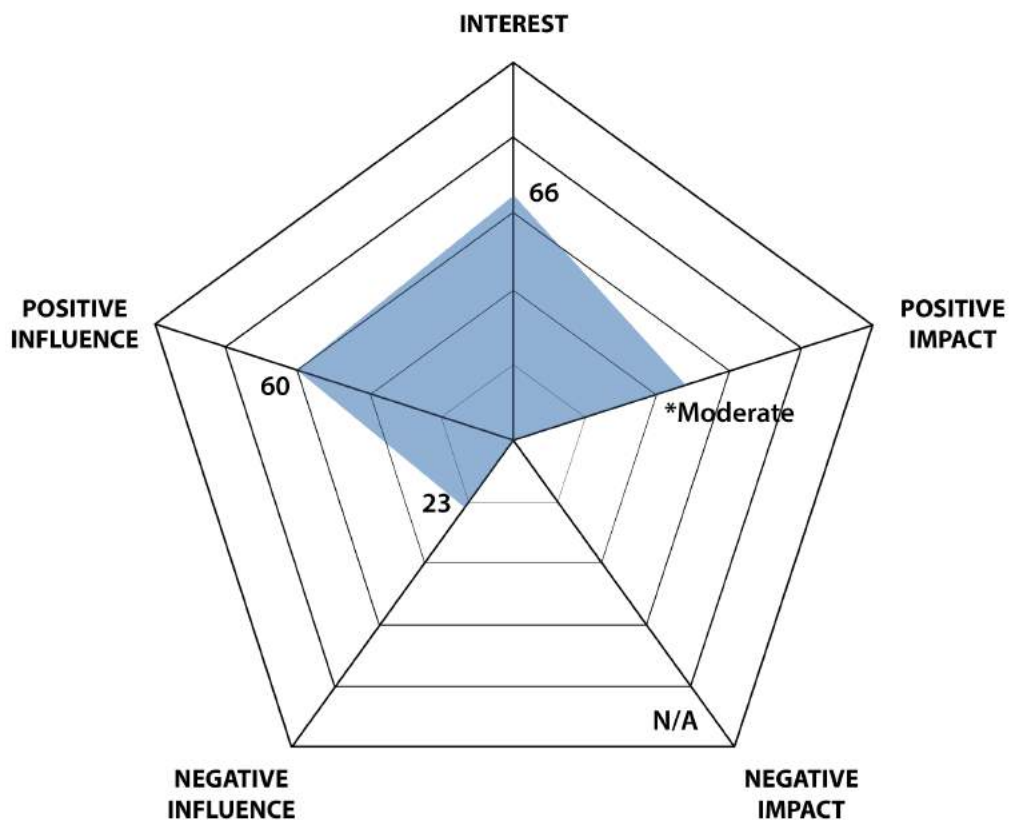
## Coalition Natural Climate Buffers



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 199

Figure 30: Overview of 3i analysis for Living On Soft Soils (LOSS) Research Programme<sup>83</sup>



<sup>83</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Coalition Natural Climate Buffers. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, [...] survey response was entered about [...]. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of opened responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

The Coalition Natural Climate Buffers (CNK) is a collective that includes many landowners and nature conservation organisations in the Netherlands, involved in managing or developing wetlands, including areas along the IJssel. Their collective effort in wetland conservation and development positions them as an influential group in the realm of environmental stewardship.

The survey respondent for this organisation described them as an organisation with a broad membership: "this coalition includes most of the land owners/nature conservation organisations that manage or develop wetlands in the Netherlands including also nature development along the IJssel." (Wageningen Environmental Research, 3i survey)

#### *Interest*

CNK was rated as having **a moderate level of interest (66%)** in the Wet Horizons project. The survey respondent noted that "they are interested from a national point of view as well as from an international point of view" (Wageningen Environmental Research, 3i survey). This interest is further supported by their previous participation in projects about peatlands under "Interreg and LIFE IP" (Wageningen Environmental Research, 3i survey), indicating their experience and alignment with the goals of wetland restoration and conservation research at both national and international levels.

#### *Influence*

The organisation's **positive influence was rated as moderate (60%)**. The survey respondent noted that "they have experience in lobbying for wet wetland restoration and also with citizen science. But they are not decision makers," suggesting that while they can support the project through advocacy and public engagement, their direct decision-making power is limited. Their **negative influence was rated as low (23%)**, indicating minimal potential to hinder or obstruct the project, as "They have no stake to block this EU project" (Wageningen Environmental Research, 3i survey).

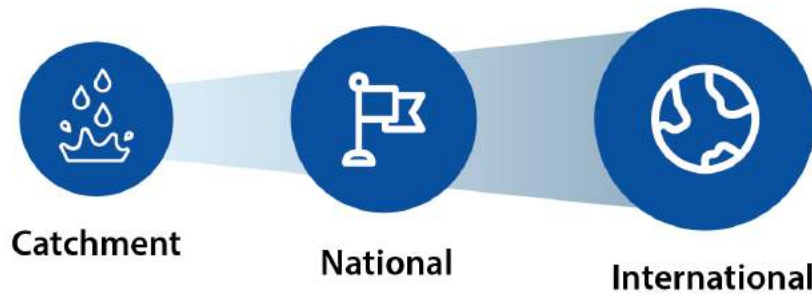
#### *Impact*

The positive impact of the Wet Horizons project on CNK is unknown. This uncertainty could stem from the diverse nature of the coalition's membership and the varying degrees to which different members may benefit from the project's outcomes. However, it is likely that specific outputs may be of interest for them to boost their ongoing relevant activities.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

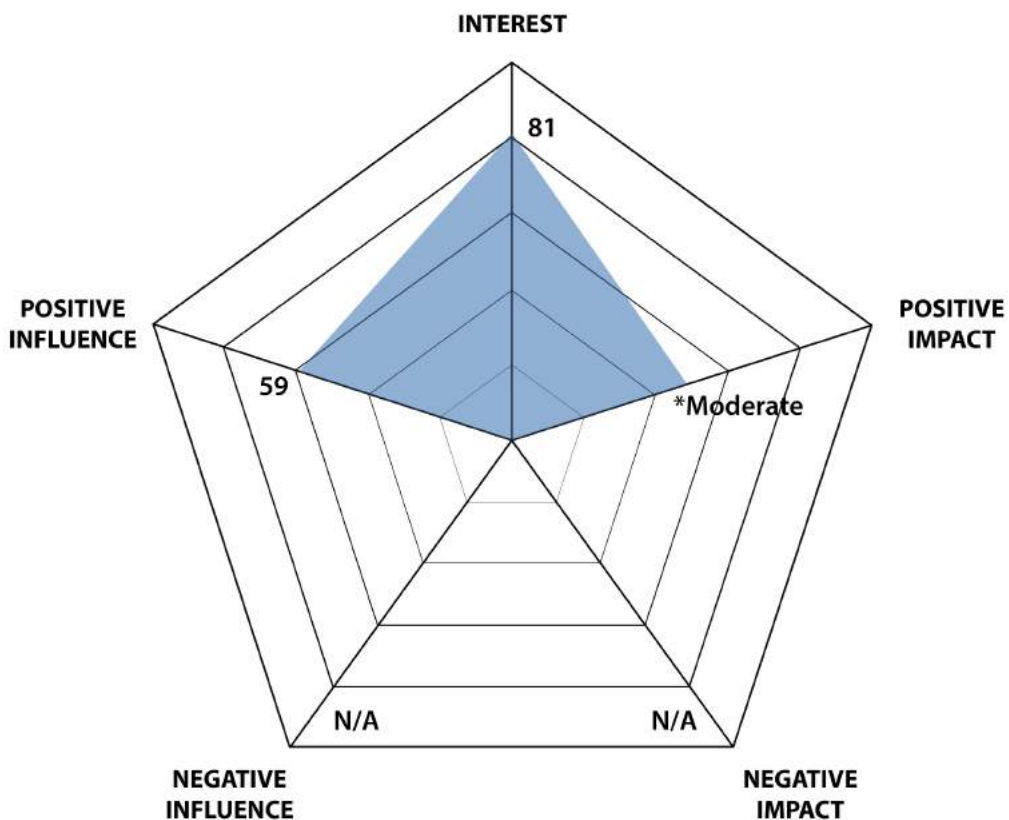
- **Leveraging Advocacy and Citizen Science:** CNK's experience in lobbying for wetland restoration and their involvement in citizen science can be beneficial for the project. Collaborating with them on advocacy campaigns and public engagement initiatives could enhance the project's visibility and support.
- **Building on Existing Project Synergies:** Given CNK's involvement in similar projects, exploring synergies and learning from their experiences could provide valuable insights for the Wet Horizons project. This could involve sharing best practices, methodologies, and lessons learned from past and ongoing initiatives.
- **Interest in International Impact Efforts:** This organisation's participation in international projects indicates they may be interested in collaborating at an international level as well as national.

## Wet Cultivation Pilot / Pilot Natte Teelten



Overall 3i score: 190

Figure 31: Overview of 3i analysis for Pilot Natte Teelten<sup>84</sup>



<sup>84</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Pilot Natte Teelten. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

Pilot Natte Teelten, or Wet Cultivation Pilot, is an initiative in the Netherlands involving a team dedicated to experimenting with wet agriculture, specifically growing crops like cattail, reed, and sphagnum on rewetted agricultural peat soil. This innovative approach aims to explore sustainable agriculture practices on peatlands, focusing on crops that thrive in wetter conditions and can contribute to peatland restoration and carbon sequestration.

#### *Interest*

The team was rated as likely to have a **high level of interest (81%)** in the Wet Horizons project. This interest is likely driven by their focus on developing and implementing new methods of agriculture that align with environmental conservation, particularly in peatland areas. Their engagement in pioneering wet cultivation techniques demonstrates a strong alignment with the goals and objectives of the Wet Horizons project.

#### *Influence*

Their **positive influence was rated at a moderate level (59%)**, with the team stating, "We are quite ahead in the field of cattail growth, harvesting, and are active in this new network (moreover with developers of products and manufacturers)" (Waterboard Amstel, Gooi en Vecht/Waternet, 3i survey). This suggests that while they are not the primary decision-makers in the broader agricultural sector, their expertise and innovative approaches in wet agriculture give them a noteworthy capacity to influence practices and perceptions within this emerging field. In addition, the fact they are known by the water board indicates their strong connection with decision-makers. They were not rated as likely to negatively impact the Wet Horizons project or its outcomes.

#### *Impact*

The team were not given scores for the level of benefit or negative impact they might experience as a result of the Wet Horizons project. However, their involvement in wet agriculture positions them well to **benefit to a moderate level** from the project's research and innovations in wetland restoration.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing Research on Wet Agriculture:** The Wet Horizons project should share its findings and innovations in wet agriculture with the team, especially those related to crop viability, ecological benefits, and sustainable farming practices on rewetted peat soil.
- **Collaboration on Crop Development and Market Strategies:** Collaborating with the team on developing and marketing new crops like cattail and sphagnum could be mutually beneficial. Their experience in this niche area could provide valuable

insights for the project, while the project's broader research scope could help validate and expand their pilot initiatives.

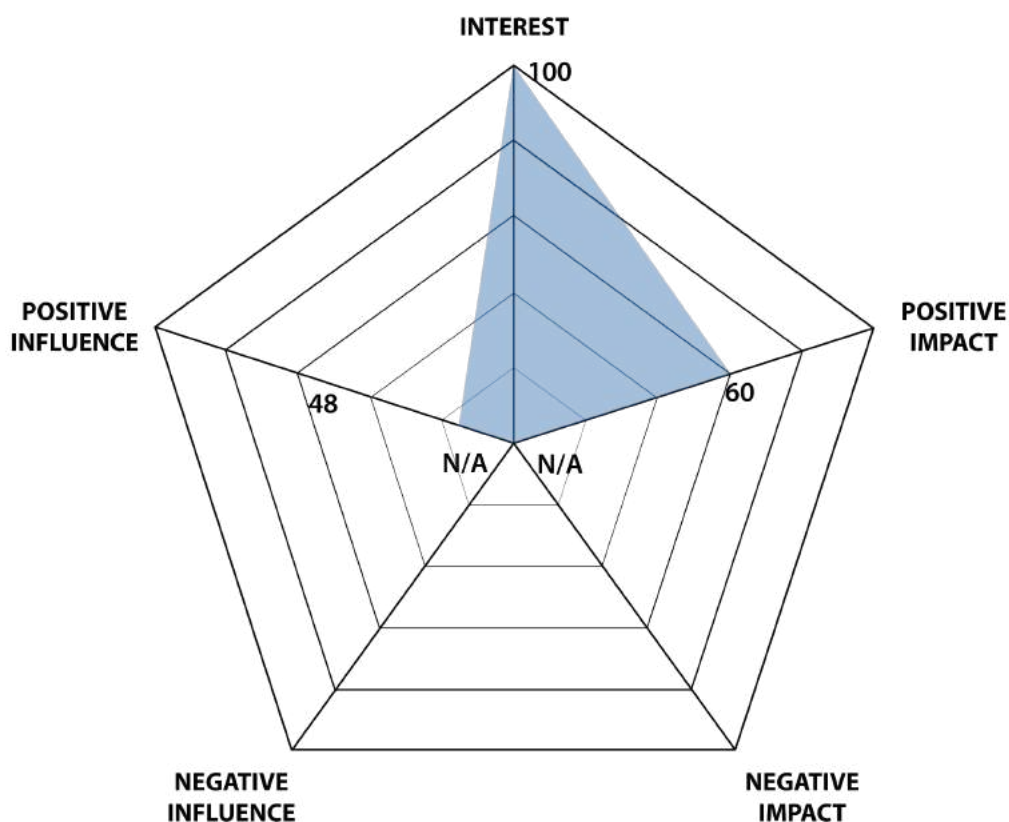
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam



National

Overall 3i score: 177

Figure 32: Overview of 3i analysis for Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam<sup>85</sup>



<sup>85</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU Amsterdam), established in 1880, is an internationally recognized public research university located in the heart of Amsterdam's business district, 'Zuidas'. VU Amsterdam's dedication to Science for Sustainability could mean the university is well-positioned to contribute to, and benefit from the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes. Specifically, researchers from the university have contributed to the field of decision-support tools for wetland restoration for nearly two decades, indicating alignment in this area of the project.

#### *Interest*

The university was rated as likely to have **a high level of interest (100%)** in the Wet Horizons project. This interest is likely driven by the fact they have several researchers and educational programs (e.g. MA in Hydrology<sup>86</sup>) which focus on wetlands, ecosystem services (particularly their valuation), and governance issues<sup>87</sup>. Therefore, they are likely to be interested in scientific outputs that could feed into this work.

#### *Influence*

Their positive influence was not rated quantitatively. However, the university's extensive network within the business and scientific communities could provide a platform for Wet Horizons collaboration, dissemination of research findings, and practical application of restoration strategies, which could amount to a **low level of positive influence**.

They were not rated as likely to negatively impact the Wet Horizons project or its outcomes.

#### *Impact*

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam was rated as likely to receive **a moderate level of benefit (60%)** from this project. While the respondent did not provide any qualitative details, it can be inferred that this could be in terms of application of Wet Horizons outputs in their educational programs and applied research work.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing traditional academic outputs:** This organisation is likely to be interested in being notified of any peer-reviewed papers published concerning the state of Dutch wetlands and the implementation of ecosystem services and markets in the context of wetland management.

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<sup>86</sup> <https://vu.nl/en/education/master/hydrology/future>

<sup>87</sup> <https://research.vu.nl/en/persons/ron-janssen>, <https://research.vu.nl/en/persons/luke-brander>



## Narew, Poland 3i Analysis Results

This report presents results from the 3i analysis to identify relevant parties for the Wet Horizons research to consider engaging with, in the Narew catchment, Poland.

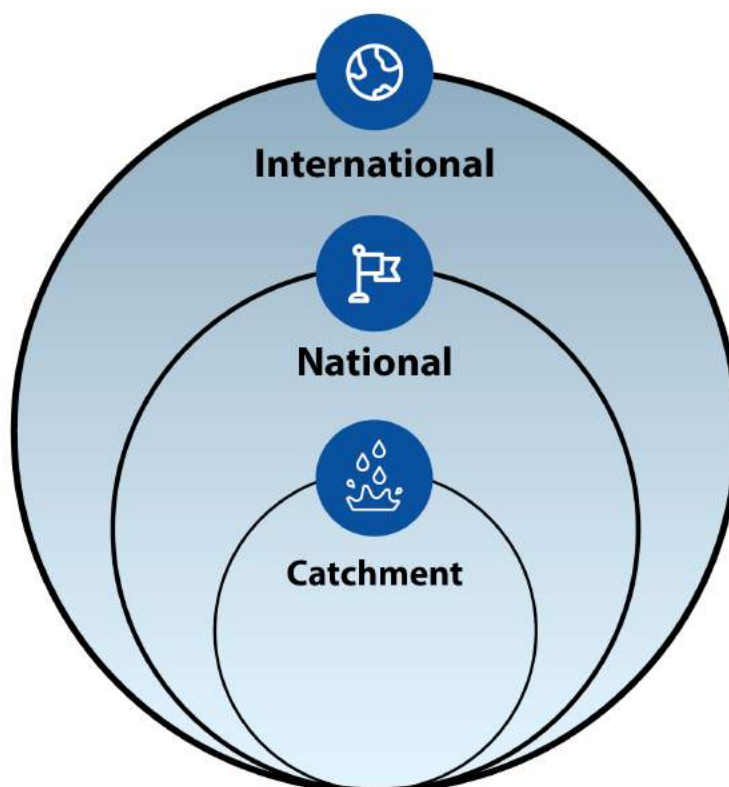
A total of 8 organisations were identified with interests in, influence over, and/or likely to be impacted positively or negatively by wetland restoration in the Narew catchment. This information was provided by  $n=3$  participants. These organisations were sorted into the following 3 categories:

Table 1: Relevant party categories identified

Relevant party category	Category description	Organisations	Number of organisations identified
Environmental/sustainability NGOs, thinktanks or representative organisations	Non-governmental organisations working on wetland conservation and management in the Narew catchment, typically with wider national and sometimes international interests (with Germany and Belarus in the past)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OTOP/BirdLife Poland - Polish Society for the Protection of Birds</li> <li>• PTOP - Polish Society for the Protection of Birds</li> <li>• Prohabitat - Society for the Protection of Habitats</li> </ul>	3
Research Performing Organisations (RPOs)	Universities, research institutes, research groups or science organisations that carry out research on topics relating to environmental governance or wetland restoration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warsaw University of Life Sciences (WULS-SGGW)</li> </ul>	1
Government agencies	Government agencies and other bodies with statutory powers responsible for nature conservation or public land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biebrza National Park</li> <li>• Narew National Park</li> <li>• The State Water Holding Polish Waters</li> <li>• Office of Forest</li> </ul>	4

		Management and Forest Geodesy, Branch in Białystok	
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Each organisation was assessed by the respondents based on its relevance to the research at the catchment, national or international level. These categories are symbolised with the following icons:

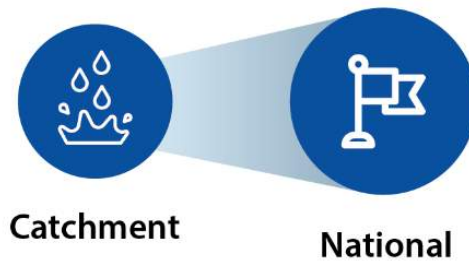


### Organisation-level 3i analysis

Here, we present the survey results for each organisation identified by respondents. Organisations are presented in order of their aggregate 3i scores (i.e., scores across interest, influence and impact) from high to low. As such, results are presented first for

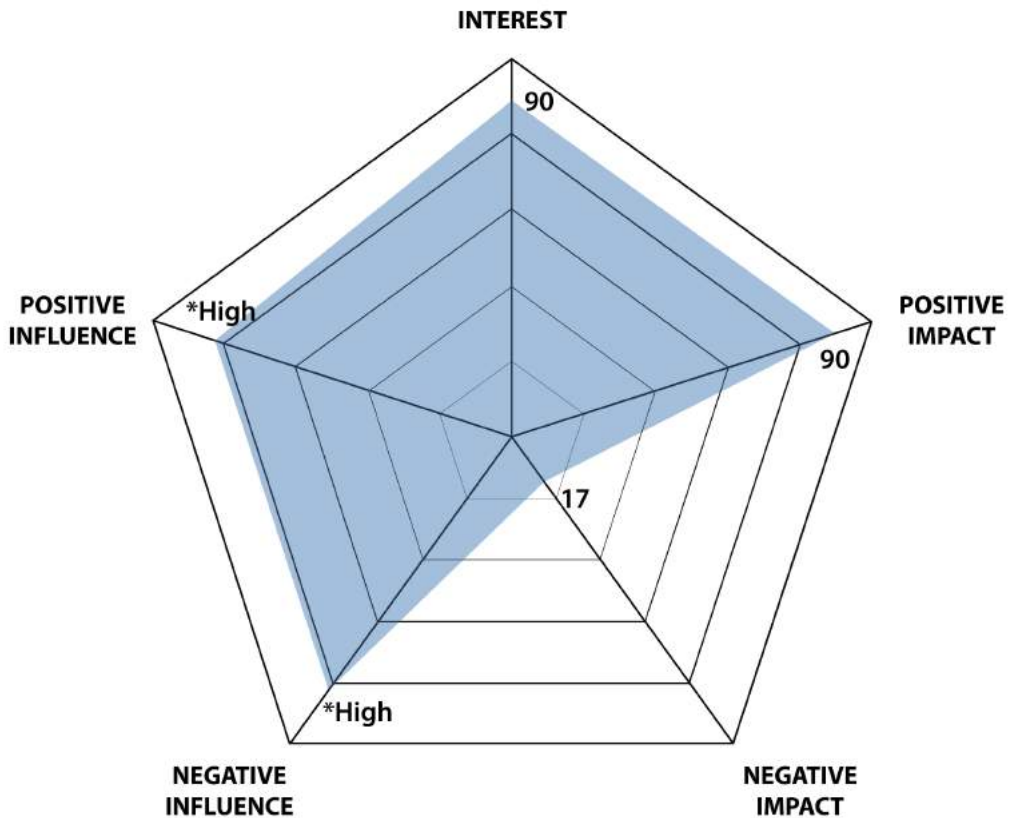
the organisations with the highest interest, influence and impact, then for the relevant parties that respondents scored lower on the 3i survey. In some cases, respondents indicated there would be some level of interest, influence or impact for the organisation, but did not provide a score indicating the extent. In these cases, desk research and interpretation of open-ended responses were used to infer an appropriate level (low, medium or high).

## The State Water Holding Polish Waters



Overall 3i score: 360

Figure 33: Overview of 3i analysis for the State Water Holding Polish Waters<sup>88</sup>



<sup>88</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Authority. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey responses were entered about the State Water Holding Polish Waters. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

Established in 2018, the State Water Holding Polish Waters (SWHPW) is the dominant governmental body responsible for water management in Poland. SWHPW is vertically structured based on the hydrographic division of the country (country – water region – river basin – subbasin: National Board of Water Management (pol. Krajowy Zarząd Gospodarki Wodnej) - Regional Board of Water Management (pol: Regionalny Zarząd Gospodarki Wodnej) – River Basin Management Authority (pol: Zarząd Zlewni) - and Water Board (pol: Nadzór Wodny). This institution is responsible for implementing water management measures throughout the country, and as such is considered a key player in the stakeholder classification.

#### *Interest*

SWHPW is considered **highly interested** (90%) in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Survey participant stated that the main role of this stakeholder is to support the realisation of restoration/renaturation measures placed in 3rd River Basin Management Plan<sup>89</sup> or to apply good practice for water management or river maintenance<sup>90</sup>.

#### *Influence*

SWHPW was rated a considerably **high level of power** (83%) to support the project. Though no further explanation was given by the respondent, it can be inferred that this is likely due to the high influence of this institution on any water management actions in the country that must either be approved by this institution or – at least – reported to this institution to a certain extent. **Negative influences** may arise from the fact that the majority of the staff of this institution is trained with no specific focus on modern water management measures (including NBS). This is why, it is expected that messages delivered by WetHorizons can probably not receive positive perception. However, the chances that NBS-based messages are well-received are likely to be higher, as the next planning horizons followed by the development of the next issues of water management plans will emphasize the need for wider implementation of NBS, including wetland restoration.

#### *Impact*

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<sup>89</sup> <https://www.gov.pl/web/susza/plany-gospodarowania-wodami-na-obszarach-dorzeczy-pgw>

<sup>90</sup> <https://www.gov.pl/web/klimat/katalog-dobrych-praktyk-w-zakresie-robot-hydrrotechnicznych>

SWHPW is expected to receive a **high level of benefit** (90%) from Wet Horizons and its project outcomes. Though no further explanation was given, at a general level, it can be inferred that Wet Horizons' emphasis on new governance models, ecosystem markets, and co-benefits-based approaches to water management and wetland restoration can indicate the need for fast-track implementation of modern sustainable measures. Additionally, we suspect that the modelling work within Wet Horizons is likely to support their objective of assessing natural resources and the exploitation levels by the regeneration potential and carrying capacity of the ecosystems, especially wetlands. By the **negative impact** (17%), we consider the fact that the need for changes will be most likely accompanied by resistive approaches to implementing modern, ecosystem-services-based ideas to water management.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Reviewing the existing water management agendas:** SWHPW should harmonize the existing water management plans with the existing and available restoration plans (e.g., National Program for Surface Waters Restoration<sup>91</sup>). Explicit implementation of river restoration actions listed therein could result in increasing the environmental quality of river Narew and its tributaries, along with the associated wetland ecosystems.
- **Promoting NBS as measures that have no technical alternatives:** WetHorizons provides a range of indicators informing about the increase of the quality of ecosystems that are subject to restoration. Proper quantification of these actions (such as carbon sequestration by restored peatlands, nutrient capture by wetland buffer zones etc) may help this stakeholder to implement other-than-technical solutions in their day-to-day water management practices.
- **Sharing research summaries:** Sharing the most up-to-date research advances in the field of modern water management may facilitate the successful implementation of nature restoration elements in their everyday pragmatism.

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<sup>91</sup> <https://www.gov.pl/web/susza/krajowy-program-renaturyzacji-wod-powierzchniowych-kprwp>

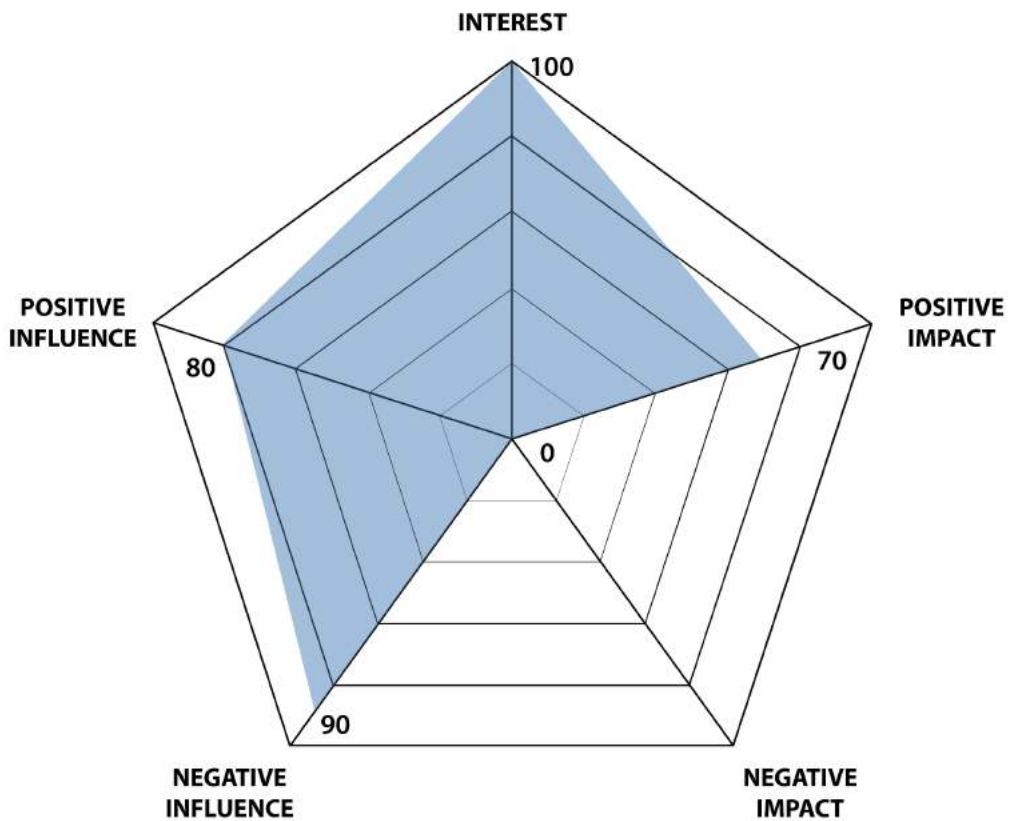
Narew National Park



Catchment

Overall 3i score: 340<sup>92</sup>

Figure 34: Overview of 3i analysis for Narew National Park<sup>93</sup>



<sup>92</sup> The value is uncertain – remark of the authors of this report

<sup>93</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the Narew National Park. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

Narew National Park (NPN) protects a large stretch of anastomosing river Narew. It was established in 1996 and since then has implemented environmental conservation of wetlands and rivers. NPN implements a range of educational projects that are oriented toward biodiversity conservation and landscape protection<sup>94</sup>. The director of the NPN has the power to implement (or ban) activities that are (not) in line with the NPN's management plan. Although part of the NPN grounds is private, the area is one of the most important biodiversity hotspots in NE Poland. Its influence is considered a catchment scale.

#### *Interest*

As stated by the respondent reporting on this institution, NPN is **highly interested** (100%) in the WetHorizons project and its outcomes. It is because the messages and products of WetHorizons are in line with modern, sustainable wetland management.

#### *Influence*

The NPN was rated as having a **high positive (80%)** and **negative (90%)** influence on implementing the WetHorizons project. The positive influence is likely exacerbated by the fact of the high legal power of the director of the national park who can implement a range of measures. Similarly, the negative influence originates from the fact that one decision of the director can halt the implementation of measures. However, the authors of this report suspect that the respondent did not follow the main idea of this question so the values provided in response are subject to uncertainty.

#### *Impact*

The NPN was rated as likely to receive a **considerable level of benefit (70%)** from the Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent gave the same open-ended response as they did for the 'interest' category - "very much" likely to benefit. This benefit would likely manifest in the form of improved awareness or understanding, with potential further long-term benefits for professional practice in the field of applied environmental management.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing publicly available and plain language outputs:** This organisation is likely to be interested in being notified of any plain language communicates developed in WetHorizons and related to wetlands and rivers of Europe.
- **Reference site:** NPN is a nice reference site for temperate natural wetlands. It can be used as a reference site in Wet Horizons project.
- **Insights from agriculture-related stakeholders:** NPN is skilled in communication with local stakeholders, which can be useful in WetHorizons.

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<sup>94</sup> <https://npn.pl/realizowane-projekty/>



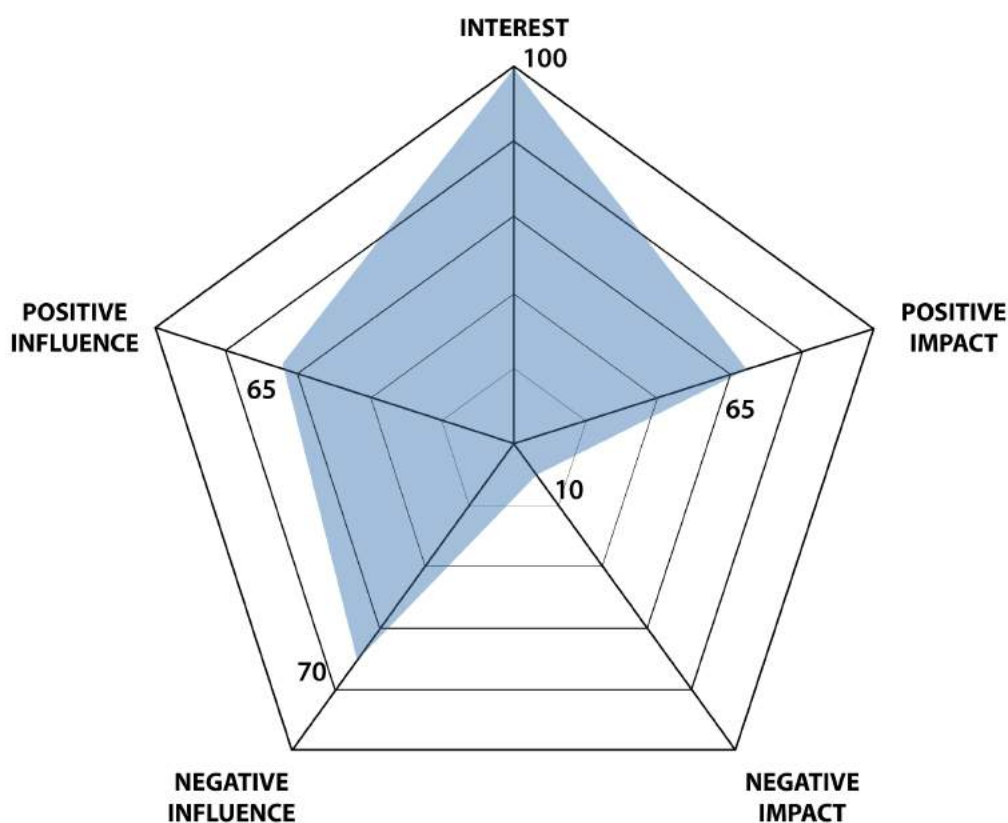
## Biebrza National Park



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 310

Figure 35: Overview of 3i analysis for Biebrza National Park<sup>95</sup>



<sup>95</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 2 survey responses were entered about the Biebrza National Park. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below

### *3i analysis*

The Biebrza National Park (BNP) was established in 1993 to manage and protect the unique wetland habitats of the Biebrza Valley. It remains one of the largest coherent, well-preserved wetland areas of the EU. It operates under the Ministry of Climate and Environment and is responsible for implementing various environmental and conservation laws, preserving and protecting the biological diversity and heritage of the Biebrza Valley, and regulating human settlements and economic activities in harmony with the wetland ecosystems' requirements. Additionally, it promotes the sustainable use of renewable natural resources (such as hay) within the boundaries of the BNP, relying on scientific data-supported management plans<sup>96</sup>. One of the survey participants described BNP as an institution that "with the support of national funds (the National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management and own funds) and the European Commission with the support of the LIFE mechanism, has been implementing large projects aimed at restoring wetlands and improving the water regime in the Biebrza river basin, in the middle the Biebrza valley" (BNP, 3i survey).

#### *Interest*

BNP was rated as likely to be **highly interested** (100%) in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though little explanation was given, this is likely to be because the BNP in its everyday operation relies on scientific data used as a reference in making their regular management plans. Additionally, it is one of the very few institutions in Poland that uses the restoration of rivers and wetlands as a regular management measure. With this regard, Wet Horizons offers a variety of information and contexts that might help the park facilitate communication with local stakeholders, especially when it comes to the promotion of environmental restoration.

#### *Influence*

BNP was rated as having a **moderate power** (65%) to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This is likely to be due to their connection to the national authorities that are responsible for managing the public grounds, yet approximately 30% of the BNP area is in private hands, which makes the broad implementation of environmental restoration not feasible everywhere. BNP was also rated as having a considerably **moderately strong power** (70%) to the negative influence as the BPN promotes rather technical approaches to river and wetlands restoration. Although the Nature-Based solutions (NBS) oriented at wetland restoration have been planned in the most recent management plan for BNP, they have not been received positively by the Park authorities.

#### *Impact*

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<sup>96</sup> Grygoruk, M., Rannow, S. 2017. Mind the Gap! Lessons from science-based stakeholder dialogue in climate-adapted management of wetlands. *Journal of Environmental Management* 186, 108-119. doi: 10.1016/j.jenvman.2016.10.066.

BNP was rated as likely to receive a **moderate level of benefit** (65%) from Wet Horizons and its project outcomes. This is because (as listed in the survey) “BNP is interested in the implementation of wetland renaturation projects in its area and in the Biebrza catchment area” (BNP, 3i survey). It was also documented that WetHorizons could provide the park with a tool for multifaceted cooperation between all stakeholders operating within protected areas. Especially given the fact that The Biebrza National Park conducts renaturation of watercourses and wetland habitats and the activities of the project could be used for further work in this field.

In addition, while no information was given on the extent of the potential negative impact of the project on ARBDD, it could be that new information may impede or contradict their current activities or understandings, which could lead to increased uncertainty and a **low-level negative impact** in the short term. It was already discussed in social media that some of the restoration projects implemented by BNP are not in line with the most up-to-date knowledge in the field of aquatic ecosystem management (Fig. 2).

Ano... Takie właśnie cwane myki zaczęto stosować ostatnimi laty... Kilka pojęć stosowanych rzeczywiście w renaturyzacji, jak sekwencja bystrzy/ tu przerobiona na kaskadę/ przyzwoliła na finalnie ordynarną techniczną zabudowę rzeki... Dużo nauki i pracy, a niereformowalni niestety, do odstawki. Właściwie to ten projekt można, głębiej analizując uznać za szkodę w środowisku i jako taką, rozliczyć za nieuzasadnione wydanie kasy...

Mam nadzieję, że nowa dyrekcja BPN przyjrzy się temu "dziełu" wraz z Ministerstwem właściwym dla Środowiska

[Paulina Hennig-Kłoska](#)

[Anita Kucharska-Dziedzic - posłanka na Sejm RP](#)

[Bogdan Wziątek](#)

[Mateusz Grygoruk](#)

[Mikołaj Dorożala](#)

[Piotr Nieznanski](#)

[Koalicja Ratujmy Rzeki / Save the Rivers Coalition](#)

Figure 2: A sample Facebook post (in Polish) on restoration activities done in BNP, containing moderate scepticism towards the “technical” approach in environmental restoration and not using any NBS. Source: Facebook. [Translation: *Well... Such sly tricks have started to be used in recent years.... Several concepts used in restoration, such as the sequence of rapids/ here converted into a cascade/ acquiesced in the final gross technical development of the river.... A lot of study and work, and the unreformed, unfortunately, to be put away. This project can, with deeper analysis, be considered environmental damage and as such, be held accountable for the unjustified spending of cash....*

*I hope that the new management of BPN will look into this "work" together with the Ministry responsible for the environment].*

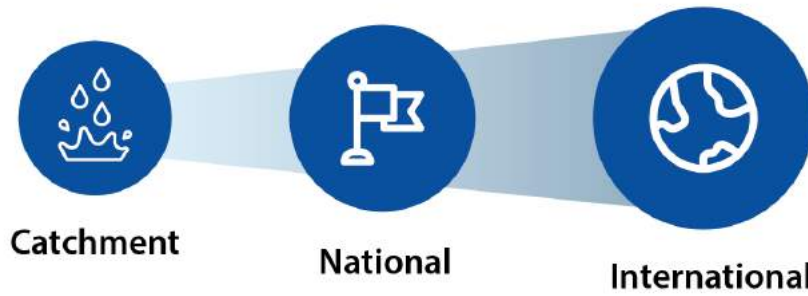
### **Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning**



Here, we highlight any practical or strategic implications or inferences that can be drawn out based on the information presented about this organisation, both in terms of self-description and the perspective of the respondent(s). These recommendations focus on further engagement guidance, and outputs likely to be of interest for them.

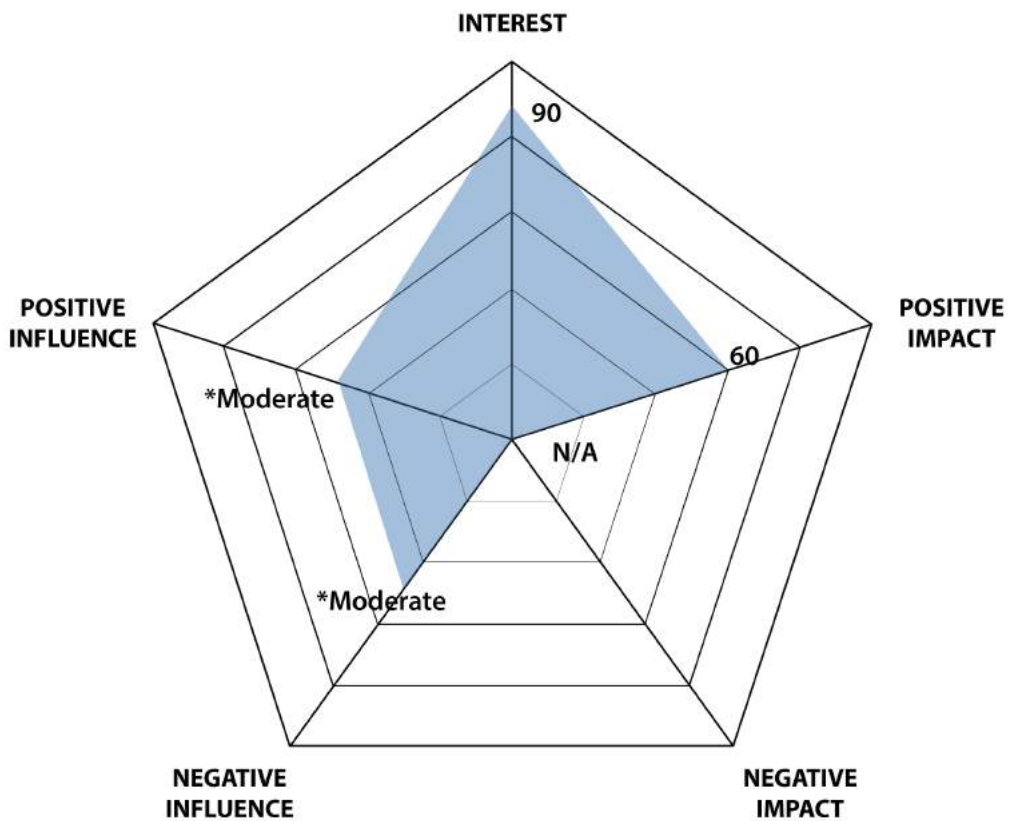
- **Sharing research summaries and papers in the field of NBS:** As BNP implements a range of river and wetland restoration measures and lacks a novel approach based on the NBS, it likely needs solid data and reviews on the efficiency of NBS in managing water resources and environmental restoration.
- **Engaging BNP management in international field visits:** It was documented that issues faced in wetland restoration by BNP are in line with the experience of similar protected area managing authorities, we propose to facilitate the international cooperation of BNP with other similar institutions through the WetHorizons partnership.
- **Implementing ecosystem services-based management schemes:** As BNP is managing large areas of wetlands of very complex land proprietorship structures, it would be wise to implement an ecosystem services-based management model. It would allow the BNP authorities to show other-than-environmental benefits of wise ecosystem management and restoration.

## OTOP/BirdLife Poland - Polish Society for the Protection of Birds



**Overall 3i score: 250**

**Figure 36: Overview of 3i analysis for OTOP/BirdLife Poland - Polish Society for the Protection of Birds<sup>97</sup>**



<sup>97</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 2 survey responses were entered about the OTOP/BirdLife Poland - Polish Society for the Protection of Birds. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below. In the influence (positive) category only one answer was given in the questionnaire. So, for the second response value was assigned based on desk research/interpretation. The influence (negative) category was fully based on desk research/interpretation.

### *3i analysis*

OTOP deals with the protection of wild birds and the places where they live. It conducts activities in the field of monitoring, active protection of nature, and shaping policies affecting the environment and education. Recent wetland conservation projects: LIFE Multi-Peat; "Strengthening of the south-eastern metapopulation of Aquatic Warbler *Acrocephalus paludicola* in Poland"; "Wetland buffer zones". From the beginning of its existence, OTOP has been dealing with the protection of birds found in wetlands and has implemented projects related to the restoration of peatlands. Additionally, OTOP manages three social nature reserves in the BNP buffer zone. Moreover, it cooperates with the national park in the implementation of LIFE projects. OTOP actively cooperates with Ukrainian and German NGOs (Frankfurt Zoological Society). When this was possible before 2020, the OTOP cooperated also with Belorussian stakeholders. Therefore, the outreach of OTOP is considered international.

#### *Interest*

While no quantitative data was given for this category potentially indicating a lack of prior awareness of the project or respondent error, open ended responses for OTOP indicate they are likely to have a **high level of interest in some specific outputs** of the project. As stated in the survey, this institution is generically interested in wise wetland management and restoration. As stated explicitly: "OTOP's mission is to facilitate wetland conservation, not to block it" (OTOP, 3i survey).

#### *Influence*

OTOP was perceived as having a **moderate level of influence to support (50%)** the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes. The respondent reporting on this organisation highlighted that although OTOP deals with the protection of birds associated with wetlands (Aquatic Warbler, meadow plover) and the tasks carried out as part of the WetHorizons in the Narew Catchment may be closely related to OTOP projects, they already have their methods of work. These methods include land purchase and implementation of active protection measures (mowing wetland meadows). The respondent is therefore likely to say that their methods are good enough and in the existing institutional environment they can hardly be improved. Probably, what is relevant to all of the NGOs participating in this survey, the outcomes of WetHorizons (e.g., co-benefits analyses) can be used by this stakeholder to quantify the ecological effects of their prospective new initiatives (like LIFE projects), which can increase their chances of getting proposals funded.

#### *Impact*

OTOP was perceived as likely to receive a **moderate level of benefit** from the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes. The respondent noted that his experience from the other projects implemented so far (such as the peatland restoration project "Chełmskie

Torfowiska Węglanowe<sup>98</sup> implemented in 1995 and a range of managed wetland reserves - Karsiborska Kępa (Delta Świny), Beka (on the Bay of Puck), and Zajki, Mścichy and Szorce in the Biebrza Valley provide them a good field for implementation of modern sustainable practices. With this respect, messages delivered by WetHorizons may improve selected elements of their practice, although they seem not to be the key for their successful actions in the future.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Knowledge transfer from OTOP to WetHorizons:** The respondent for this organisation is an important and skilled environmental manager. Some synergies can likely be found between the developments of WetHorizons and the experience of OTOP, which may benefit other areas of the EU (including Narew Basin).
- **Using the experience of OTOP for calibration of some WetHorizons-developed tools (such as the ServiPeat).** This organisation could be asked to provide some data that would allow the WetHorizons consortium to validate the tools.
- **Sharing digital tools:** This organisation would benefit from the digital tools stemming from WetHorizons.

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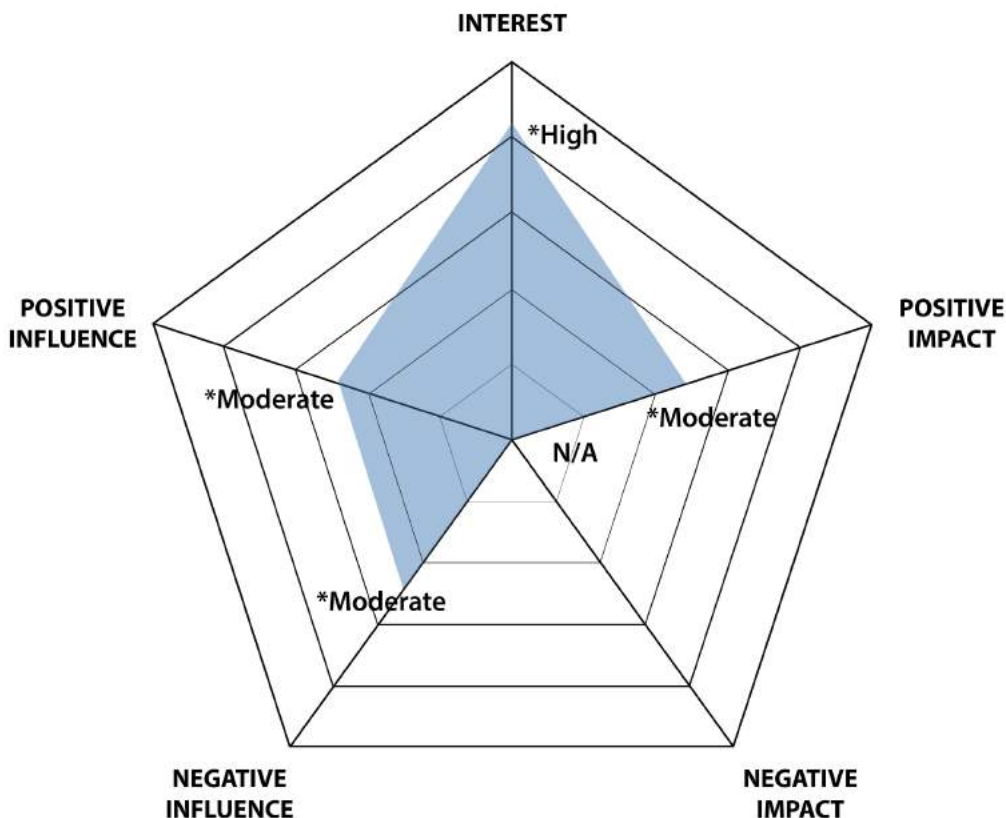
<sup>98</sup> <https://otop.org.pl/naszeprojekty/chronimy/zakonczone-projekty/wodniczka-i-biomasa/lokalizacje-projektu/chelmskie-torfowiska-weglanowe/>

## PTOP - Polish Society for the Protection of Birds



Overall 3i score: 260

Figure 37: Overview of 3i analysis for OTOB/BirdLife Poland - Polish Society for the Protection of Birds<sup>99</sup>



### 3i analysis

<sup>99</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the PTOB - Polish Society for the Protection of Birds. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.



PTOP deals with the protection of birds and their habitats, mainly wetland habitats. PTOP is one of the largest non-governmental entities managing wetlands in the Narew Basin. They lease <1000 ha of wetland meadows in the Supraśl River Valley (Narew Basin) where they implemented sustainable wetland management measures. Members of PTOP also participate in several environmental management boards and councils (Łomża Landscape Park of the Narew Valley; Białowieża National Park). They run wetland restoration projects, also in the Narew Valley, including (when this was possible before 2020) the cooperation with Belorussian stakeholders (the upper part of Narew Basin is located in Belarus). Therefore, the outreach of PTOP is considered international.

### *Interest*

The respondent for PTOP provided no information regarding the extent of interest this organisation might express for the Wet Horizons project. However, based on desk research it can be inferred that PTOP is likely to be **highly interested** in the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes. This is likely to be because they implement a range of actions and NBS that are in line with the scope of our project. Thus, any outputs presenting new or usefully formatted ecological data could be of interest to feed into their existing initiatives in the Narew River Basin and mission relating to the catchment, especially to its part in the Supraśl River Valley. This might include biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services assessments, co-benefit analyses, enhancing climate resilience, guiding habitat restoration, advocating for policy changes, and raising awareness about the importance of wetland conservation in the region.

### *Influence*

PTOP is likely to represent the **moderate level of influence to support** the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes, and a **low level of influence to block** the project. The respondent reporting on this organisation did not provide further details. However, it is likely that due to its extensive activities in the catchment, partner networks, credibility, and unique advocacy function, they have a specific type of power that could be highly useful for impact planning efforts for WetHorizons.

### *Impact*

The respondent for PTOP gave no information regarding the extent to which this organisation might be impacted by the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes. However, it is inferred from open-ended responses and desk research that they are likely to at least **moderately benefit** by a wider evidence base on the state of the Narew River Basin wetlands, and may benefit from a range of output types from the project. Due to a range of their educational and promotional activities<sup>100</sup>, they seem to be an appropriate medium to transfer messages delivered by WetHorizons that – in the vast majority – are in line with their actions. The outcomes of WetHorizons (e.g., co-benefits analyses) could be used by this organisation to quantify the ecological effects of their prospective new initiatives (like LIFE projects), which can increase their chances of getting proposals funded.

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<sup>100</sup> <https://www.ptop.org.pl/dzialania/edukacja.html>

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

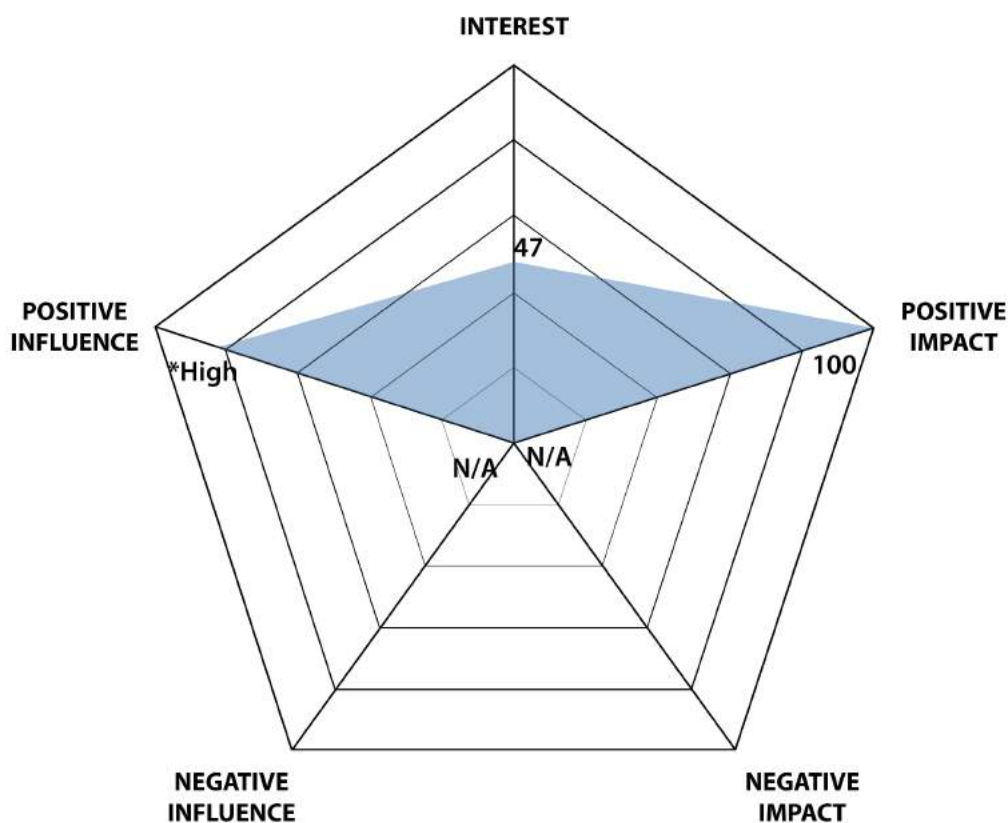
- **Sharing policy recommendations:** Due to PTOP's advocacy function as an eNGO, it may prove useful to engage them in the policy recommendations produced throughout the Wet Horizons project, so they can feed into their campaigning and advocacy activities.
- **Raising public awareness:** Due to PTOP's educational role aiming to raise climate awareness among communities, they will likely be well set up to disseminate information to the local public. Therefore it could be useful to engage PTOP in any impact plans that depend on public or local community engagement.
- **Disseminating outputs with new information on the state of the Narew Basin rivers and wetlands:** This organisation is likely to be interested in outputs that might update their understanding of the state of the Biebrza Valley, Supraśl Valley, Siemianówka Reservoir and Białowieża Forest, and its implications for environmental governance, which could facilitate their work.

## Warsaw University of Life Sciences



**Overall 3i score: 230**

**Figure 38: Overview of 3i analysis for Warsaw University of Life Sciences<sup>101</sup>**



### 3i analysis

<sup>101</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW). Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

Warsaw University of Life Sciences is the oldest natural sciences university in Poland and second the oldest in Europe (after the University of Wageningen). Research conducted at SGGW covers a broad range of issues related to wetland management, hydrology, and agriculture, including ecosystem services and some social sciences insights. The respondent that took part in the survey from SGGW highlighted that the university is dealing with the "investigation of the vegetation of the fen grassland developed under different land uses under different land uses (Biebrza National Park, Poland)"

### *Interest*

SGGW was rated as likely to be **moderately interested** (47%) in the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes. However, since SGGW is a partner in the Wet Horizons project, this is an underestimation. However it could be that this is the likely level of interest from other departments. SGGW is involved in a range of initiatives (including stakeholder involvement) promoting modern approaches to water management both in the EU and abroad.

### *Influence*

No quantitative score was given for SGGW's level of power, but it can be inferred that SGGW was rated as likely to have a **high level of power** to support Wet Horizons or its outcomes. The SGGW was **not rated as likely to have any considerable power** to block Wet Horizons or its outcomes. While this may be true in a direct sense, the university is likely to have **some indirect power to support** the effective dissemination and knowledge exchange of WetHorizons results and outputs within the Polish and European research community.

### *Impact*

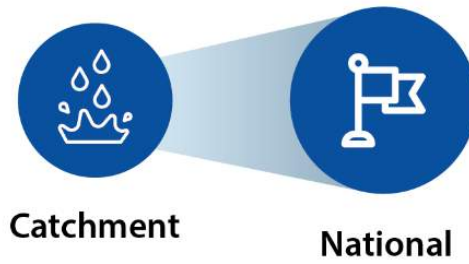
The SGGW was rated as likely to receive a **high level of benefit (100%)** from the WetHorizons and its outcomes. The respondent gave no specific rationale concerning this issue but as SGGW is a partner of Wet Horizons, it is likely that the implementation of the project could increase the international visibility of the SGGW and enhances the research we do in the framework of implementation of NBS and other modern wetland management measures.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing traditional academic outputs:** This organisation is likely to be interested in being notified of any peer-reviewed papers published concerning the state of European wetlands and the implementation of NBS in water management.
- **Identifying current restoration initiatives:** Experts from the SGGW are active in the implementation of wetland and river management projects. They (we) might be of help when such issues in WetHorizons are expected to be discussed.
- **Accessing local authorities:** Experts from SGGW are active in projects implemented alongside local authorities, so may be willing to provide contacts if they are needed for WetHorizons impact or communication activities.

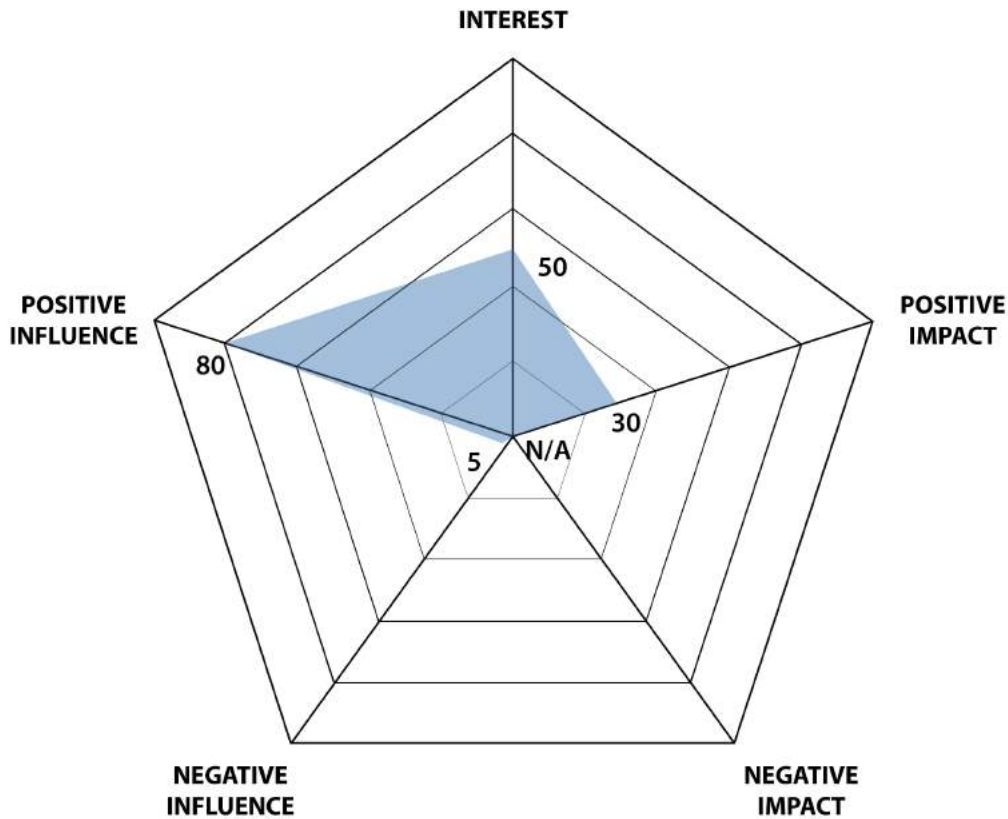


**Office of Forest Management and Forest Geodesy, Branch in Białystok (BUL)**



**Overall 3i score: 227**

**Figure 39: Overview of 3i analysis for Office of Forest Management and Forest Geodesy, Branch in Białystok (BULiGL)<sup>102</sup>**



<sup>102</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the Office of Forest Management and Forest Geodesy, Branch in Białystok (BULiGL). Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### 3i analysis

BULiGL plans the management and protection of nature in over 80% of Poland's forests (approx. 1/4 of the country's area), in addition, it implements projects important from the point of view of the protection of wetlands (including water) throughout Poland. In our survey only the Branch of BULiGL in Białystok (relevant for the Narew river basin) took part, but all of the branches work together, so the probable participation of this institution in receiving some feedback from WetHorizons would most likely result in reaching a wide audience of forest managers.

#### Interest

BULiGL was rated as likely to be **moderately interested (50%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent reporting on behalf of this organisation noted that “Apart from protective functions about water resources, forest areas are also water consumers. They need it to maintain the continuity of existence and functions”. Although BULiGL was not originally involved in water management measures, since 2022 they are a key player in implementing a high-budget wetland restoration project<sup>103</sup>. Thus it is likely, that their indicated level of interest is underestimated and along with the project implementation they will be more and more interested in WetHorizons outputs.

#### Influence

BULiGL was rated as having a **high level of power (80%)** to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent reporting on behalf of this organisation noted that “benefits would result from the synergy effect of many, dispersed activities and staff education”. It is **unlikely (17%) to use power to block** Wet Horizons or the achievement of its outcomes. This could potentially happen if the BULiGL did not manage to convince foresters that modern water management measures (NBS, restoration) do not rely solely on budling new reservoirs and require more restoration.

#### Impact

BULiGL was rated as having a **low impact (30%)** on WetHorizons project. Keeping in mind their involvement in wetlands.pl project is high, it is likely, however, that their findings or implementation hints can make the implementation of WetHorizons findings more effective. That is why we think this impact value given in the survey by the representative of BULiGL is underestimated.

### Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning

- **Finding links to wetlands.pl project:** Cooperation with BULiGL in finding knowledge transfer links from WetHorizons to wetlands.pl project can enhance both projects and find synergies between the two, large EU-funded initiatives.

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<sup>103</sup> <https://wetlands.pl/>

- **Sharing communication channels to reach Polish forests:** BULiGL is the key player in the market of forest management plans preparation in Poland. Hence, they seem useful as a target of WetHorizons information that are produced in various WPs.

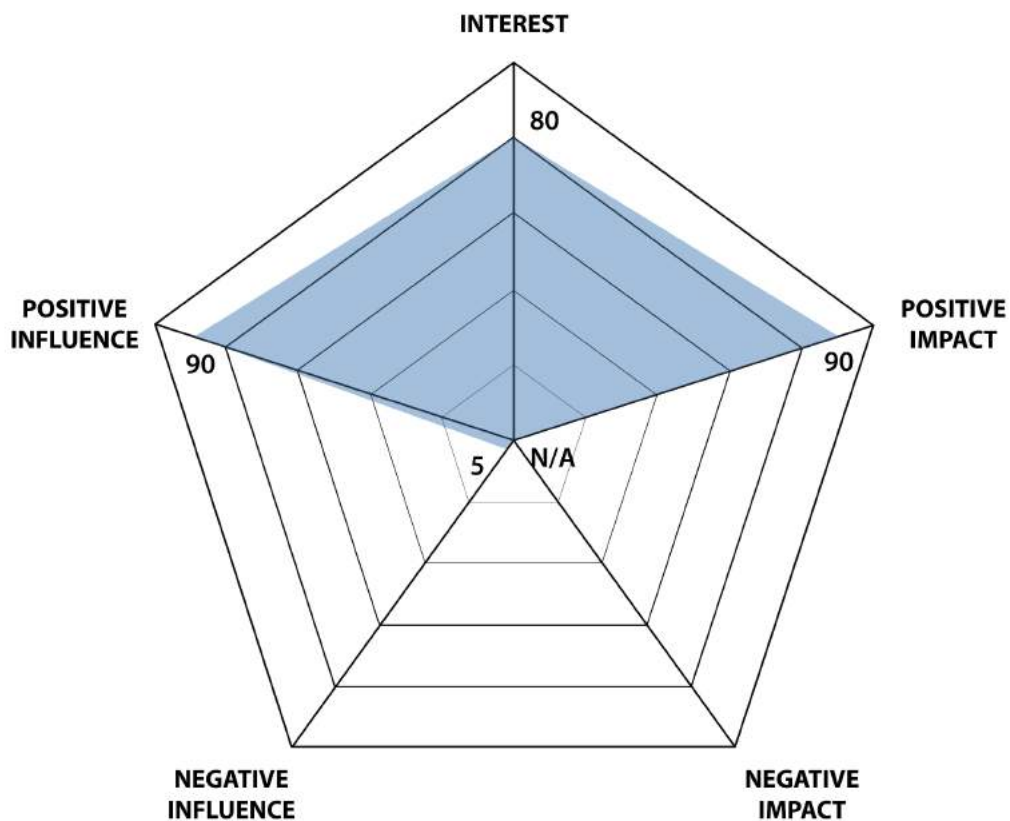
## Prohabitat - Society for the Protection of Habitats



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 265

Figure 40: Overview of 3i analysis for Prohabitat - Society for the Protection of Habitats<sup>104</sup>



### 3i analysis

<sup>104</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the Prohabitat - Society for the Protection of Habitats. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.



ProHabitat is an organisation involved for many years in active wetland conservation. It is the owner of many wetlands in the Biebrza Valley. The main management goal is to preserve the wetlands from the perspective of protecting bird populations. Additional actions of ProHabitat are related to the preparation of management plans, of which the most relevant for WetHorizons seems to be the Management Plan for Biebrza National Park, implemented in the years 2000-2023. Additionally, ProHabitat was also involved in the preparation of several Natura 2000 management plans for nature reserves, Natura 2000 species, and habitats. They only work in the Podlasie region (upper Narew Basin) so their spatial influence is considered to be the catchment.

### *Interest*

ProHabitat was rated as likely to be **highly interested** (80%) in the WetHorizons project at a general level, in the sense that their interest is to promote wetland conservation and restoration. What is more, the continuous work of ProHabitat in the field of management plan preparation is likely to underpin their interest in the most up to date advances in wetlands management.

### *Influence*

ProHabitat was rated as likely to have a **high level of positive influence** (90%) on the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes, and as having no major interest in exerting negative influence. This is because the majority of measures planned in the management plans developed by ProHabitat to several protected areas remain the most up-to-date with knowledge on NBS and sustainable environmental management. Probably, what seems to be relevant to all of the NGOs participating in this survey, the outcomes of WetHorizons (e.g., co-benefits analyses) can be used by this stakeholder to quantify the ecological effects of their prospective new initiatives (like LIFE projects), which can increase their chances of getting proposals funded.

### *Impact*

ProHabitat was rated as likely to receive a **high level of benefit (90%)** from the Wet Horizons project and its outcomes. The respondent explained that the results of this project can be the basis for future wetland restoration implementations and that restoring the environment to a favorable state is a benefit in itself.

### ***Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning***

- **Disseminating outputs to ProHabitat:** This organisation is likely to be interested in wetland restoration outputs, as they seem to act as very important local players in making management plans. New ideas can make them more competitive in the market, especially facing the prospective new expectations of the EU in the field of modern wetland management.
- **Using the experience of ProHabitat in wetlands management:** The Biebrza National Park management plan developed by ProHabitat is a good example of a complete process in setting targets, proposing solutions and consulting them with the relevant local authorities. Prepared documents and procedures can become a specimen of a roadmap in environmental management of wetlands in Central Europe.



## Kokemäenjoki, Finland 3i Analysis Results

This report presents results from the 3i analysis to identify relevant parties for the Wet Horizons research to consider engaging with, in the Kokemäenjoki catchment in Finland.

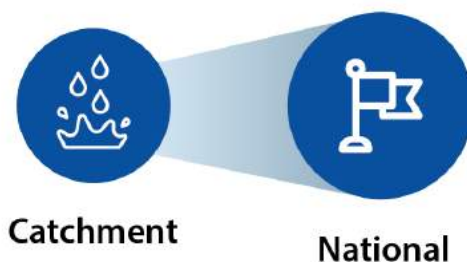
### Sample

A total of 11 organisations were identified with interests in, influence over and/or likely to be impacted positively or negatively by wetland restoration in the Kokemäenjoki catchment. This information was provided by  $n=5$  participants. These were organisations were sorted into the following 5 categories:

**Table 1: Relevant party categories identified**

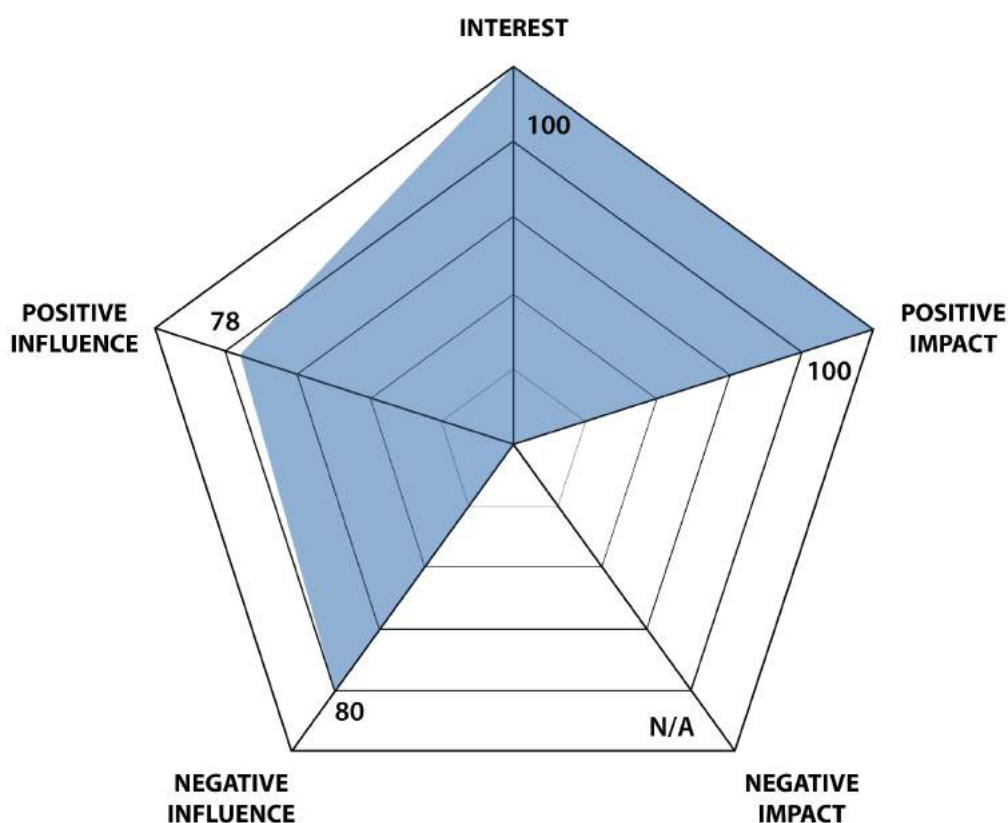
Relevant party category	Category description	Organisations	Number of organisations identified
Research Performing Organisations (RPOs)	Universities, research institutes, research groups or science organisations that carry out research or pilots on topics relating to environmental governance or wetland restoration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lammi Biological Station</li> <li>• University of Turku</li> <li>• Häme University of Applied Science</li> </ul>	3
Government agencies	Government agencies and other bodies with statutory powers responsible for nature conservation or public land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finnish Forest Administration</li> <li>• Finnish Game Center</li> <li>• Finnish Forest Centre</li> <li>• Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center (ELY Centre)</li> </ul>	4
Local authorities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hämeenlinna municipality</li> <li>• Vanajavesi Center</li> </ul>	2
Environmental/sustainability NGOs, thinktanks or representative organisations	Non-governmental organisations working on wetland conservation and management in the Kokemäenjoki catchment, typically with wider national and international interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liesjärvi Protection Association</li> </ul>	1
Local community	Owner occupier farmers, private estates, and other institutional landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local landowners</li> </ul>	1

## Lammi Biological Station



Overall 3i score: 358

Figure 41: Overview of 3i analysis for Lammi Biological Station<sup>105</sup>



<sup>105</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Lammi Biological Station. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

Founded in 1953, Lammi Biological Station (LBS)<sup>106</sup> is a research station located in the lake district of southern Finland, conducting environmental and ecological research and education. It conducts projects with high relevance for wetland restoration, including beaver habitat and mammalian diversity, lake food webs and the brownification of lakes which offer valuable understanding of aquatic ecosystems' responses to environmental changes - directly applicable to wetland management and restoration efforts in the region. It is a part of the University of Helsinki, and maintains a broad network of cooperation both within Finland and internationally. It collaborates with sister stations in Tvärminne and Kilpisjärvi, which are also under the Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences at the University of Helsinki. Additionally, it is part of the HiLIFE research station network and a larger network of all university research stations in Finland<sup>107</sup>.

The respondent reporting about this organisation reported that “LBS carries out research on wetlands in the area. We are collaborating on the topic.” (University of Turku, 3i survey)

#### *Interest*

LBS were rated as likely to have a **high interest (100%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes, due to their ongoing research on wetlands in the Kokemäenjoki catchment and strong relations with other relevant parties in the area identified by other survey respondents (e.g. Vanajavesi Center). The respondent noted that the nature of Wet Horizons project as EU level would be of particular interest to them - “very relevant to collaborate with a EU project” (University of Turku, 3i survey).

#### *Influence*

LBS were rated as likely to have **high influence (78%)** to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This was explained in terms of their practical capacity to support and potentially supplement Wet Horizons research itself - “in collaboration with LBS, we have collected data over a long time period, and still do.” (University of Turku, 3i survey). The survey respondent also highlighted their ability to support relevant party engagement due to the extent of their collaborations and communication activities with those also active in the Kokemäenjoki catchment - “LBS is very well implemented in the area, with a great network of stakeholders” (University of Turku, 3i survey).

For the same reason, LBS were rated as likely to have a **high level of influence (80%)** to block Wet Horizons and its outcomes. In the same way that their relationships could be used to support Wet Horizons, the fact that “LBS is very well implemented in the area, with a great network of stakeholders” (University of Turku, 3i survey) means that a lack of engagement with the project could signal to these parties that it is not relevant for them to engage with either.

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<sup>106</sup> <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/research-stations/lammi-biological-station>

<sup>107</sup> <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/research-stations/lammi-biological-station/about-station/cooperation>

### *Impact*

LBS were rated as likely to receive a **high level of benefit (100%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, this was explained at a general level, with no specific details given regarding the particular benefits they might gain - “collaborating with a EU project would be beneficial” (University of Turku, 3i survey).

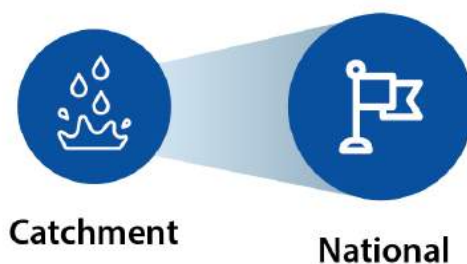
LBS were not rated as likely to experience a negative impact as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing biodiversity outputs:** Due to their expertise on biodiversity in the area (e.g. beaver habitat and mammalian diversity), Wet Horizons’ outputs on biodiversity trade-offs in this area are likely to be worth engaging LBS on with a view to supplement findings or co-create impact at a catchment scale for this topic.
- **Trusted broker for multi-relevant party engagement:** Due to LBS being “very well implemented in the area” (University of Turku, 3i survey), it is likely their buy-in will be necessary for successful engagement with other relevant parties in the area and dissemination of project outputs.
- **Future wetland restoration monitoring capacity:** Due to their research infrastructure, experience and ongoing data collection in the area, particularly on water quality, there could be a potential role for LBS to play a role in future restoration projects and monitoring impacts on water quality.

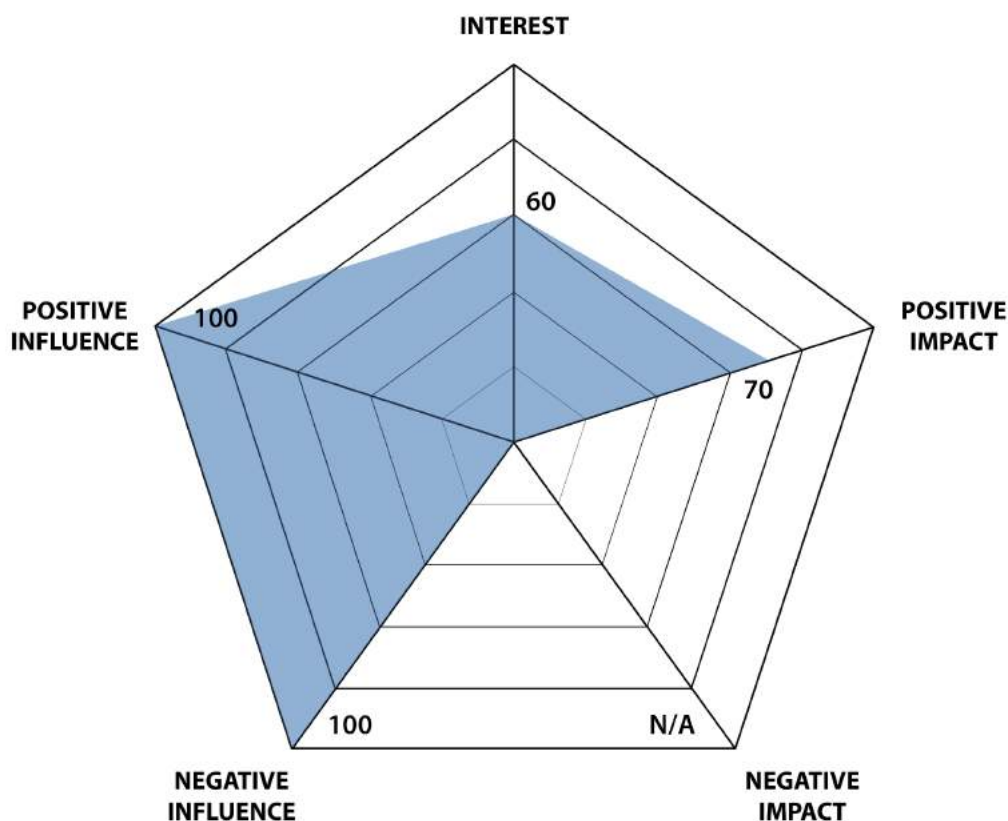
## Finnish Forest Administration (Metsähallitus)

<https://www.metsa.fi/>



Overall 3i score: 330

Figure 42: Overview of 3i analysis for Metsähallitus<sup>108</sup>



<sup>108</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Metsähallitus.

### *3i analysis*

Metsähallitus, the Finnish Forest Administration, is a state-owned enterprise managing about one-third of Finland's surface area, including both land and water. This organisation comprises various units, with the Parks and Wildlife Finland unit responsible for managing the country's nature reserves, including national parks, nature parks, and wilderness areas of Lapland, as well as protecting threatened species like the Saimaa ringed seal and the golden eagle. For Wet Horizons, Metsähallitus' expertise is highly relevant. Their marine team generates crucial species and habitat data for the Baltic Sea's marine and coastal areas, aiding in sustainable management and marine biodiversity protection. Additionally, their contribution to the Finnish Underwater Marine Inventory Programme (VELMU), involvement in international research projects, and roles in planning, monitoring, and implementing EU nature directives, position them as a valuable partner in ecological restoration efforts in the region.

The respondent reporting about this organisation highlighted their land management role as the most important aspect of their work for this project - "Metsähallitus manages state-owned land such as the EVO Natura 2000 area." (University of Turku, 3i survey).

#### *Interest*

Metsähallitus were rated as likely to have **a high interest (80%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This was primarily noted in terms of their propensity to collaborate - "They might be interested to collaborate to a EU project" (University of Turku, 3i survey). However, it is also likely based on their land management responsibilities that they would be interested in modelling scenarios and decision support tools for restoration of land they manage.

#### *Influence*

Metsähallitus were rated as likely to have **high influence (100%)** to both support and block Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This influence manifests in terms of formal power to grant or block access and permission to carry out any type of research or restoration activity on state-owned land - "they provide access to the state-owned land and permission to carry out research activities" (University of Turku, 3i survey).

#### *Impact*

Metsähallitus were rated as likely to receive **a high level of benefit (70%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. No details were given beyond a general level - "collaboration with an EU project could be beneficial to them." (University of Turku, 3i survey). However, it may be that the decision support and digital tools developed by the project could build their capacity to effectively manage the land they have responsibility for in terms of their duties of stewardship and conservation. Metsähallitus were not rated as likely to experience a negative impact as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes.



### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing wetland governance, socio-economic, ecosystem market, and policy outputs:** Wet Horizons could collaborate with Metsähallitus to develop and integrate wetland governance policies that align with EU nature directives, focusing on tailored recommendations and compliance strategies that can be incorporated into national environmental strategies.
- **Sharing biodiversity outputs:** Metsähallitus are likely to be interested in data-driven assessments that illustrate the potential impacts of restoration activities on local and migratory species, particularly those under protection.
- **Sharing digital and decision support tools:** Due to Metsähallitus land management responsibilities, it is possible they may benefit from tools that could build their capacity to effectively manage the land they have responsibility for in terms of their duties of stewardship and conservation.

## Hämeenlinna municipality

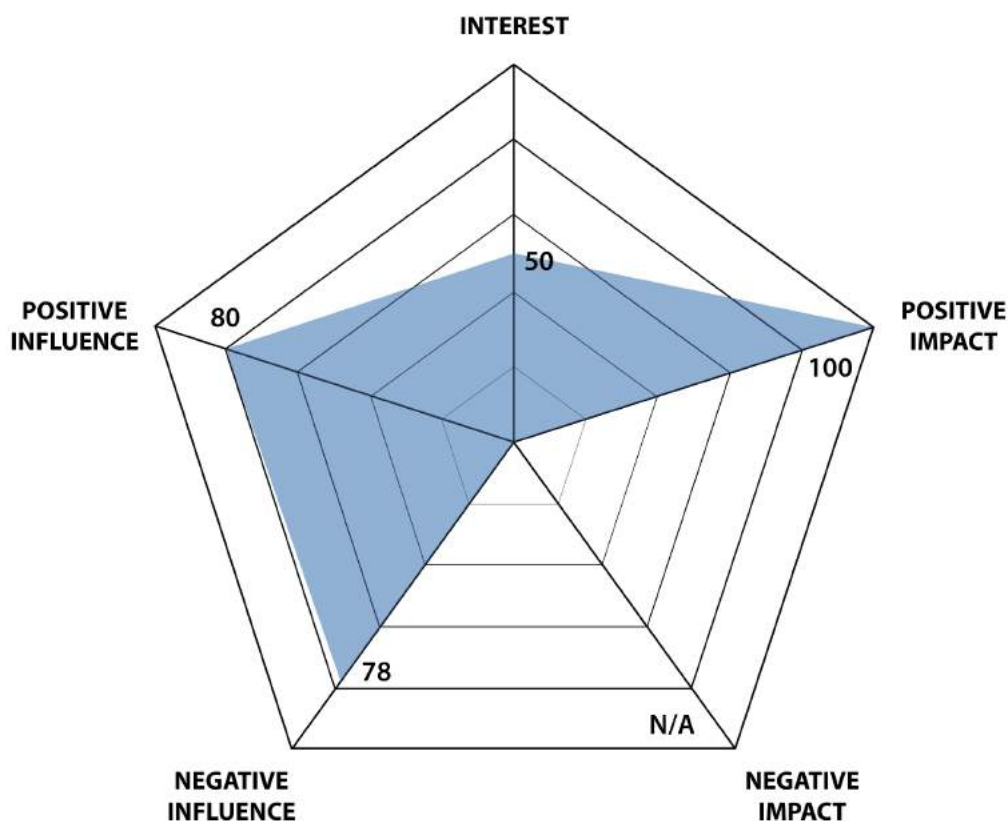
<https://www.hameenlinna.fi/>



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 308

Figure 43: Overview of 3i analysis for Hämeenlinna municipality<sup>109</sup>



<sup>109</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Hämeenlinna municipality.

### *3i analysis*

The Hämeenlinna municipality, actively engaged in environmental and sustainable development initiatives, aligns well with the goals of Wet Horizons in the Kokemäenjoki catchment. Recognizing climate change and biodiversity loss as critical issues, Hämeenlinna prioritises these in its strategic planning, including its "Carbon Neutral Hämeenlinna" program, which could synergize with wetland restoration's aim to mitigate climate impacts and preserve biodiversity. The city's commitment to sustainable development and ecological sustainability, demonstrated through community-focused sustainability practices and adherence to the Green City Accord goals, positions it as a valuable potential impact partner for Wet Horizons. Hämeenlinna's initiatives in monitoring environmental health and encouraging sustainable practices among its residents suggest a strong potential for collaboration and support in projects that enhance ecological well-being, like wetland restoration in the region.

The respondent reporting about this relevant party highlighted that wetland restoration with a view to improve water quality may be a particularly useful angle to engage the city - "Hämeenlinna municipality is engaged in improving the water quality in the area" (University of Turku, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

The Hämeenlinna municipality was rated as likely to have **a moderate interest (50%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent reporting on this organisation noted that this was likely to be in terms of formal validation of the work relevant to its goals - "they could be interested in European project and valorizing the work done locally" (University of Turku, 3i survey).

### *Influence*

The Hämeenlinna municipality was rated as likely to have high influence to both **support (80%) and block (78%)** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Similarly to Metsähallitus, this was explained in terms of ownership of land, and their ability to grant or block access - "they own land on which we are working, so they can facilitate or hinder the access and management in these locations. They are important stakeholders in the area" (University of Turku, 3i survey).

### *Impact*

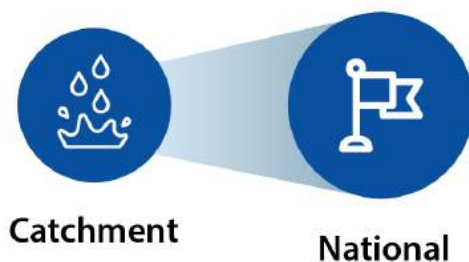
The Hämeenlinna municipality was rated as likely to receive a **high level of benefit (100%) from Wet Horizons** and its outcomes. The respondent reporting about this organisation did not give any explanation beyond "outreach" (University of Turku, 3i survey). This could indicate that the municipality's outreach activities may benefit from utilising outputs or information from the project, or that general benefits may be gleaned through general outreach between the project and the municipality.

The Hämeenlinna municipality was not rated as likely to experience a negative impact as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

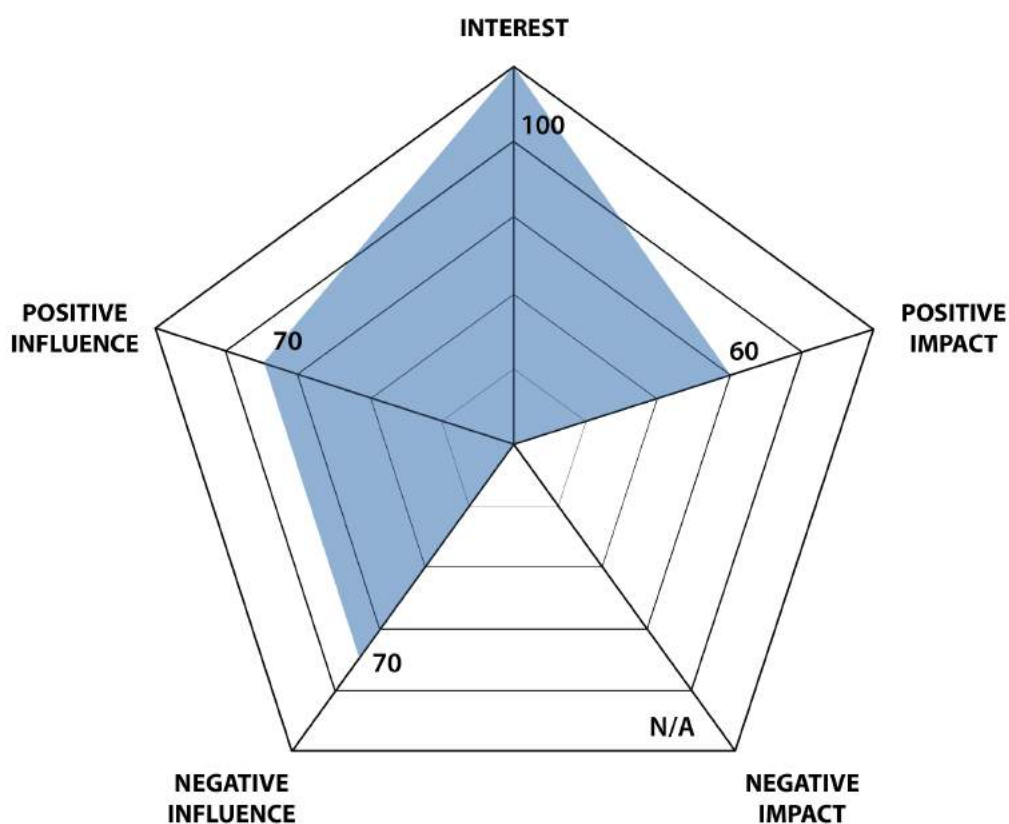
- **Synergy with 'Carbon Neutral Hämeenlinna' Program:** Wet Horizons' emphasis on restoring wetlands could significantly contribute to Hämeenlinna's goal of becoming carbon neutral. The project's research on socio-economic modelling and outcomes can provide valuable insights and methodologies that can be integrated into the city's climate change and regional development strategies, enhancing efforts to mitigate carbon emissions through natural solutions and improve socio-economic outcomes in the region.
- **Influencing Regional Water Quality Initiatives:** With Hämeenlinna's engagement in improving water quality, the project's findings and tools can be instrumental in formulating more effective water management strategies. This can include the development of guidelines and best practices for wetland restoration that directly impact water quality in the region.
- **Exploring Financial Models for Wetland Restoration:** As Wet Horizons explores blending public and private finance for wetland restoration, Hämeenlinna could benefit from these insights to develop innovative financing models for its own sustainability projects, thereby enhancing the feasibility and scope of its environmental initiatives.

## Finnish Wildlife Centre



Overall 3i score: 300

Figure 44: Overview of 3i analysis for Finnish Wildlife Centre<sup>110</sup>



<sup>110</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Finnish Wildlife Centre.

NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 full survey response was entered about the Finnish Wildlife Centre (1 other respondent identified the organisation but did not give any 3i details). Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of opened responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

Finnish Wildlife Centre<sup>111</sup> is a government agency in Finland. It is responsible for the administration of wildlife affairs, promoting sustainable game management, supporting hunting associations, and implementing wildlife policy. Additionally, the Finnish Wildlife Centre manages public administration tasks related to wildlife management that are assigned to it by law. This agency plays a key role in wildlife conservation, game management, and related environmental efforts in Finland. The Centre provides guidance on the complex, multi-stage process of wetland planning and restoration, emphasising the need for expertise, especially in challenging or multi-stakeholder projects. Furthermore, it informs about the availability of financial support for multifunctional wetland projects through agricultural environmental subsidies, underscoring the practical aspects of funding and implementation of such project

The respondents reporting about this organisation highlighted key projects and people that may be relevant for Wet Horizons to collaborate with - "The Finnish Wildlife Centre organises the SOTKA wetlands project, which has already restored or established more than 40 wetlands around Finland. Currently, wetland plans are being produced in the project." (Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center, 3i survey). The Finnish Wildlife Centre's SOTKA-kosteikot project (financed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry) focuses on restoring wetlands using various restoration techniques like damming, water level control, and habitat clearing to support declining waterfowl populations, and bolster wetlands' critical role as natural water filters and flood mitigators. The project involves community engagement, including landowner consent. Another respondent noted a specific individual of note for Wet Horizons to be aware of - "[ANONYMISED] from Finnish Wildlife Centre has led the life project Return to Rural Wetlands. He has coordinated the creation and restoration of many wetlands in the area." (University of Turku, 3i survey).

#### *Interest*

Finnish Wildlife Centre was rated as likely to have a **high interest (100%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This was explained in the context of their past experience supporting similar national projects - "they have contributed to other national projects on the topic so they are likely to be interested" (University of Turku, 3i survey).

#### *Influence*

Finnish Wildlife Centre was rated as likely to have a **high level of influence to both support (70%) and block (70%)** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. One respondent

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<sup>111</sup> [www.kosteikko.fi](http://www.kosteikko.fi)

highlighted the depth of their experience as having resulted in strong practically-oriented relationships and knowledge, which could be significant for Wet Horizons to mobilise: “[ANONYMISED] knows the stakeholders, authorities and regulations” (University of Turku, 3i survey). In terms of power to block the project outcomes, the respondent highlighted that in theory these capacities and relationships could be mobilised against the project, but that they see no reason as to why this would happen: “[ANONYMISED] knows the stakeholders, authorities and regulations. But again, I don't see a conflict of interest.” (University of Turku, 3i survey).

### *Impact*

Finnish Wildlife Centre was rated as likely to receive **a moderate level of benefit (66%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This was explained at a general level, but primarily focused in terms of increased understanding about wetland restoration activity and the variety of impacts it can produce - “we could all benefit from a better understanding of the impact of wetland restoration at different levels” (University of Turku, 3i survey).

Finnish Wildlife Centre was not rated as likely to experience a negative impact as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes.

### *Impact Planning Survey Results*

The staff member at the Wildlife Centre highlighted by the respondent in the 3i survey accepted an invitation to respond to the Wet Horizons impact planning survey, providing details about how they perceive the project and its potential positive impact for their organisation and its wetland restoration activities.

### *Perception of Wetlands and the Importance of Wet Horizons:*

In response to the question ‘What comes to mind when you think of wetland or peatland restoration?’, the respondent emphasised their function in relation to biodiversity, but also their environmental co-benefits: “Wildlife habitat restoration or construction. For example shallow flooded wetlands for waterbirds or restored peatlands for willow grouse. These examples, of course, overlap in real life and have strong connections and win-win opportunities with water protection, flood retention, carbon sequestration and many other ecosystem services provided by the restoration of water-related wet habitats” (Finnish Wildlife Centre, impact planning survey). The Finnish Wildlife Centre respondent rated the project as 89% interesting and 90% important, indicating strong alignment with the project.

### *Challenges in the Kokemäenjoki Catchment Area:*

In terms of challenges, the respondent noted that the “lack of bottom-up landowner based quality wetland planning services and linked restoration resourcing in terms of machine hours and materials” (Finnish Wildlife Centre, impact planning survey) were the main issues in the catchment. In this sense, the recommendation of supporting the organisation with digital tools to help plan restoration could be a valuable angle with which to engage them.

### *Beneficiary Initiatives and Organisations:*

The SOTKA project<sup>112</sup>, initiated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland and co-ordinated by the Finnish Wildlife Centre, focuses on reversing the decline in gamebird populations. Key strategies include building wetlands, creating a network of resting areas, restoring mires and catchments, and controlling small predators. This project is expected to yield results within a few years and is a part of the Helmi habitats restoration programme, which aims to strengthen biodiversity. The respondent noted that within the project, there are “several sites under planning/funding applications for machinery work at the catchment area of Kokonjärvi in Urjala, also at the headwaters of Kokemäenjoki” (Finnish Wildlife Centre, impact planning survey).

### *Benefits Offered by Wet Horizons for the SOTKA project:*

Beyond indicating that the Finnish Wildlife Centre would indeed be likely to benefit from Wet Horizons project outputs, no further information was provided regarding the specific benefits the project could provide, indicating a need for direct engagement for the respondent to help project these.

### *Preferred Communication Methods:*

No information was provided regarding preferred communication methods.

### *Awareness of Negative Effects:*

The respondent stated that they were **unsure** if there were any negative effects that could arise from the project.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Utilising Finnish Wildlife Centre's Influence:** The Centre's strong influence in the field and its positive relationships with various stakeholders could be pivotal for Wet Horizons. Their ability to support and potentially advocate for the project can be a significant asset, considering their high level of influence in both support and potential blockage of projects.
- **Exploring Funding Opportunities:** Finnish Wildlife Centre's experience with agricultural environmental subsidies make it a potential key stakeholder when it comes to inputting on governance and financing models suitable for Finland, e.g. blending public and private finance.
- **Integration of Digital Tools:** Wet Horizons is developing digital tools for upscaling wetland restoration, including apps for visualizing wetland status. The Finnish Wildlife Centre can integrate these tools into their existing projects, like the SOTKA wetlands project, to enhance monitoring and management of wetlands.

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<sup>112</sup> [www.kosteikko.fi](http://www.kosteikko.fi) [https://kosteikko.fi/sotka-kosteikot/valmiit-kosteikot/viinikan-kosteikot-urjala/?doing\\_wp\\_cron=1702299744.6162979602813720703125](https://kosteikko.fi/sotka-kosteikot/valmiit-kosteikot/viinikan-kosteikot-urjala/?doing_wp_cron=1702299744.6162979602813720703125)



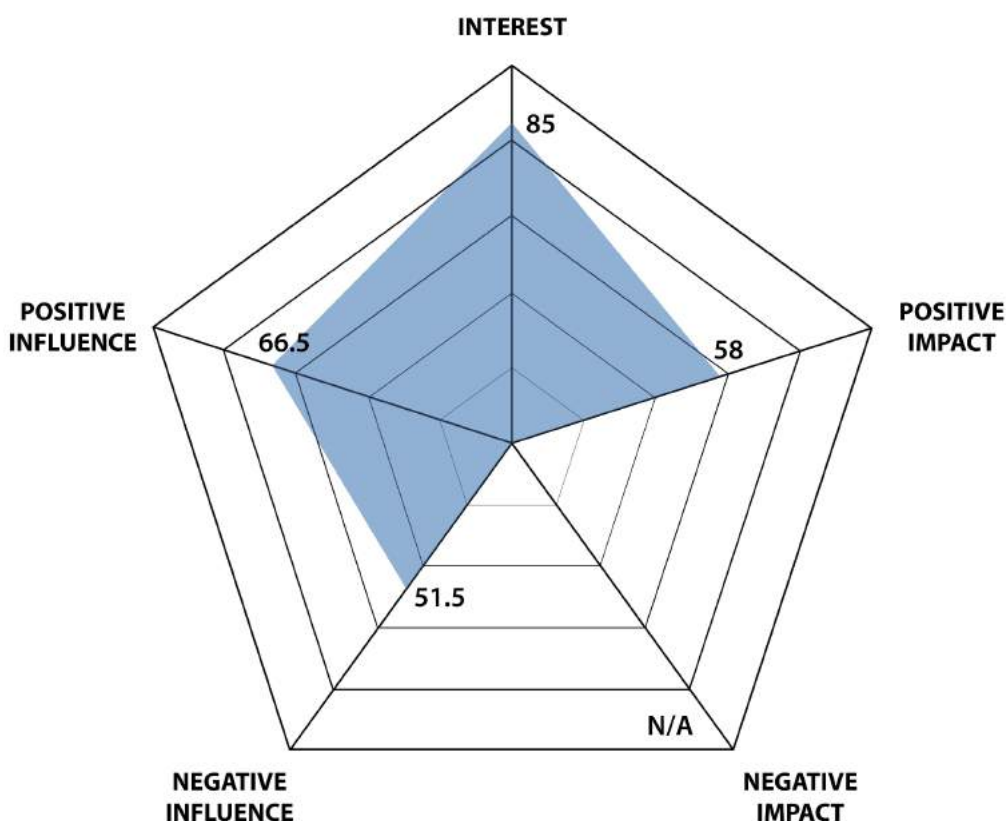
## Vanajavesi Center



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 261

Figure 45: Overview of 3i analysis for Vanajavesi Center<sup>113</sup>



NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 2 survey responses were entered about the Vanajavesi Center. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

<sup>113</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Vanajavesi Center.

### *3i analysis*

The Vanajavesi Center<sup>114</sup> is an organisation that operates as a project under the Regional Council of Häme. It operates as a network and is focused on improving the health of the Hämeen region's water bodies and landscapes, fostering economic vitality, and adapting to climate change. Its extensive network of partners includes NGOs, educational institutions, businesses, authorities, and local governments. The Center's commitment to environmental stewardship, water protection, and regional development makes it a natural collaborator for the Wet Horizons project. Wet Horizons' focus on wetland restoration and sustainable management would align with the Center's goals, providing innovative methodologies and community engagement opportunities to enhance the ecological well-being of the Vanajavesi area.

The respondents reporting about this organisation highlighted the fact that the Center's interest in wetland restoration stems from its goal to improve the status of rivers and lakes in Lake Vanajavesi catchment area, and has a variety of roles - "the Vanajavesikeskus works on water and environmental management in its own projects and tries to advise and support its own stakeholders in implementing projects related to the water environment. In addition, Vanajavesikeskus carries out communication and advocacy work widely within its area of competence and at national level" (Vanajavesikeskus, 3i survey). Another qualitative response underscored this dual practical and communication role of the Center - "they work on wetland creation and restoration in the catchment area. They do lots of educational activities too" (University of Turku, 3i survey).

A different respondent highlighted that they are a central node in the stakeholder network in Häme, and have a comprehensive understanding about the landscape of practical work ongoing in the region: "They are the best linkage to other stakeholders here at Häme Region. They have extensive information and knowledge of the current situation, what has been done before, what is ongoing now - and what [is required] in the future. They work at a practical level - real restoration projects of wetlands / rivers / lakes - also in international projects LIFE etc." (Regional Council of Häme, impact planning survey)

### *Interest*

Vanajavesi Center was rated as likely to have a **high level of interest (85%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This was explained in terms of their identical topic focus - "they work on the same topic and led a life project FRESHABIT." (University of Turku, 3i survey). Due to their role conducting management themselves, supporting other stakeholders and communication and advocacy work, they are likely to have a broad interest in a range of the project's outputs that could benefit the efficiency and effectiveness of wetland restoration work.

### *Influence*

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<sup>114</sup> <https://www.vanajavesi.fi/>

Vanajavesi Center was rated as likely to have **high influence (66.5%) to support** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The Center itself notes that it could support the project “by bringing information about already realised sites, needs and natural conditions, as well as land owner connections” as well as “by communicating about the project and its results either yourself or by providing a platform (websites, social media, newsletter...) for communication on behalf of the project.” (Vanajavesi Center, 3i survey). Their capacity for assisting the project in communication tasks was also highlighted by another respondent in terms of their knowledge of the stakeholder landscape - “they have excellent knowledge of the stakeholders” (University of Turku, 3i survey).

Vanajavesi Center was rated as likely to have a **moderate level of influence (51.5%) to block** Wet Horizons and its outcomes, for similar reasons as their ability to support the project - “because they know the stakeholders” (University of Turku, 3i survey). However their likelihood to exercise this power was perceived as low, as they have largely the same goals as the project - “but I don't see why they would do that since their target is to improve the water quality in the area.” (University of Turku, 3i survey).

“There is no need or reason to hinder the achievement of the project's goals.” (Vanajavesi Center, 3i survey) [...].

### *Impact*

Vanajavesi Center was rated as likely to receive a **moderate level of benefit (58%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The qualitative response from Vanajavesi Center regarding this aspect indicated they have specific priorities they are focused on and have a clear vision of the route that should be taken to create impact - “in principle, Vanajavesikeskus is interested in any means by which wetland work can be made more efficient. However, influencing EU and national level policy in practice is so slow that the most important thing to move the practical work forward is the adequacy of resources at the grassroots level.” (Vanajavesi Center, 3i survey). Another respondent indicated that any engagement between the project and the Center is likely to lead to benefits - “collaboration is beneficial in itself, they participated to the life project FRESHABIT.” (University of Turku, 3i survey).

Vanajavesi Center were not rated as likely to experience a negative impact as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes.

### *Impact Planning Survey Results*

A participant from the Vanajavesi Center accepted an invitation to respond to the Wet Horizons impact planning survey, providing details about how they perceive the project and its potential positive impact for their organisation and its wetland restoration activities. In addition, a participant from the Regional Council of Häme responded and gave some insights about how the project could benefit the Vanajavesi Centre.

### *Perceived Importance of Wet Horizons:*

In response to the question ‘In response to the question ‘What comes to mind when you think of wetland or peatland restoration?’, the Vanajavesi Center identified three

main methods for wetland restoration in Finland, emphasising their practical focus: "restoring the water management of drained bogs, i.e. blocking the ditches, or slowing down the overgrowth of shallow ponds, wetlands or lake bays and expanding and diversifying the open water area, and converting disused peat production areas into wetlands" (Vanajavesi Center, impact planning survey). The project's interest and importance were both rated at 80%, with the respondent emphasising, "the issue is important and the goals are good. There's a lot to do. If the project affects the EU level in such a way that the funding available for restoration increases, the work of the project has a concrete meaning". However, they also indicated some national level barriers that require focused national level work, limiting their perception of how impactful Wet Horizons could be: "national legislation, landowners' opinions and attitudes, and funding sources are the most important factors guiding the work, so pan-European project work may therefore be a slow way to influence the improvement of restoration conditions" (Vanajavesi Center, impact planning survey).

#### *Challenges in the Kokemäenjoki Catchment Area:*

The Center cited a variety of challenges, focusing on both the state of wetlands, attitudinal barriers amongst landowners, land ownership challenges, financial issues, and policy barriers: "The large number of old drained marshlands in Finland, their fragmented land ownership (many private landowners), the landowners' motivation to restore nature; lack of financial incentives/bad conditions. The legislative challenges and the high costs of restoration of peat and silt shores in bay areas of water bodies" (Vanajavesi Center, impact planning survey).

The respondent from the Regional Council of Häme highlighted the funding environment as a key challenge for restoration work: "The operations are funded by municipalities, some companies and other stakeholders. Over the years they have done excellent work - however funding these very important activities remains to be very challenging" (survey).

#### *Beneficiary Initiatives and Organisations:*

The Vanajavesi Center respondent highlighted the initiative "Restoring the swamps of Evo's camping area" (impact planning survey) focused on increasing biodiversity in the Evo area. This initiative focuses on the restoration of a 10-hectare swamp area near Evon Kalliojärvi in Hämeenlinna by Metsähallitus. The project involves blocking about 680 meters of ditches in a wooded swamp to enhance its natural state and biodiversity, which aligns with Metsähallitus' nature management goals and suggestions from the Evo hiking area development team. This restoration is part of the broader Helmi habitats restoration program and aims to improve the condition of the Natura-area. Another participant underscored the work ongoing at the site, highlighting some specific activities and partners: "there are multiple research projects ongoing at Evo Forests by several Finnish universities & research centres. Some of them are directly linked to wetlands, some of them partially e.g. laser scanning and data collection of the area is used for this purpose. There is research related to beaver ecosystems etc. - Hanna Rosti at Helsinki University Lammi Biological Center - knows the current situation in more detail. And it would be good to discuss this theme with her" (Regional Council of Häme, impact planning survey).

### *Benefits Offered by Wet Horizons for the Vanajavesi Center:*

The respondent from the Regional Council of Häme noted that the project could help generate **economic** or **awareness** or **understanding** benefits, particularly in terms of **available technology, tools or data** that could help them to do “to do more practical field work” and “information of the potential international funding & investments available for restorative projects”. They went on to specify that outputs that could lead to a better understanding of ecosystem markets could be useful to meet their funding challenges - “we would need better understanding about these - so that our activities could be connected to ecosystem markets - we are operating in long term development / restoration practices, however new solutions for funding could hopefully benefit the activities and also make it possible to share the findings and results [...] local as well as international investors - it would be great if connections could be made and we could get more investments to our Region” (Regional Council of Häme, impact planning survey).

The respondent also specified the type of outputs they are not interested in: “we could benefit from REAL collaboration, that could help us to do more practical field work - we have enough plans, roadmaps and strategies, guidebooks, websites etc. We would appreciate real concrete field projects, funding for real work, stakeholders that share the passion making the difference in reality - in the ground, in the forests” (Regional Council of Häme, impact planning survey).

### *Preferred Communication Methods:*

The respondent from the Regional Council of Häme noted that a range of communication options could be helpful, with collaboration from specific partners: “A short video (1 -2 minutes) to raise the interest, with links to more detailed materials. A collaborative teams session organised in collaboration with HAMK, Vanajavesi Centre and Regional Council of Häme - to address the themes that are meaningful for us. Involving international students from HAMK working with bio information. Presentation at annual FRUSH - event - focusing on sustainability and circular economy <https://www.frush.fi/en/>” (impact planning survey).

### *Awareness of Negative Effects:*

The respondent was clear that negative effects could arise if they spent time engaging with outputs that were not suited to their activities or that they already had access to: “waste of time and effort / no real results or benefits delivered. Activities focus on higher levels (reports, academic papers etc. ) that have no connection to reality, developing materials, guides - etc. that already exist. Even if the intention is to help at local / regional level, the aim is not reached adequately” (impact planning survey).

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing ecosystem market outputs:** As one of the Vanajavesi Center’s key challenges is new solutions for funding, they highlighted they are likely to benefit from developing their understanding of ecosystem markets, and public-private finance models that Wet Horizons will explore.

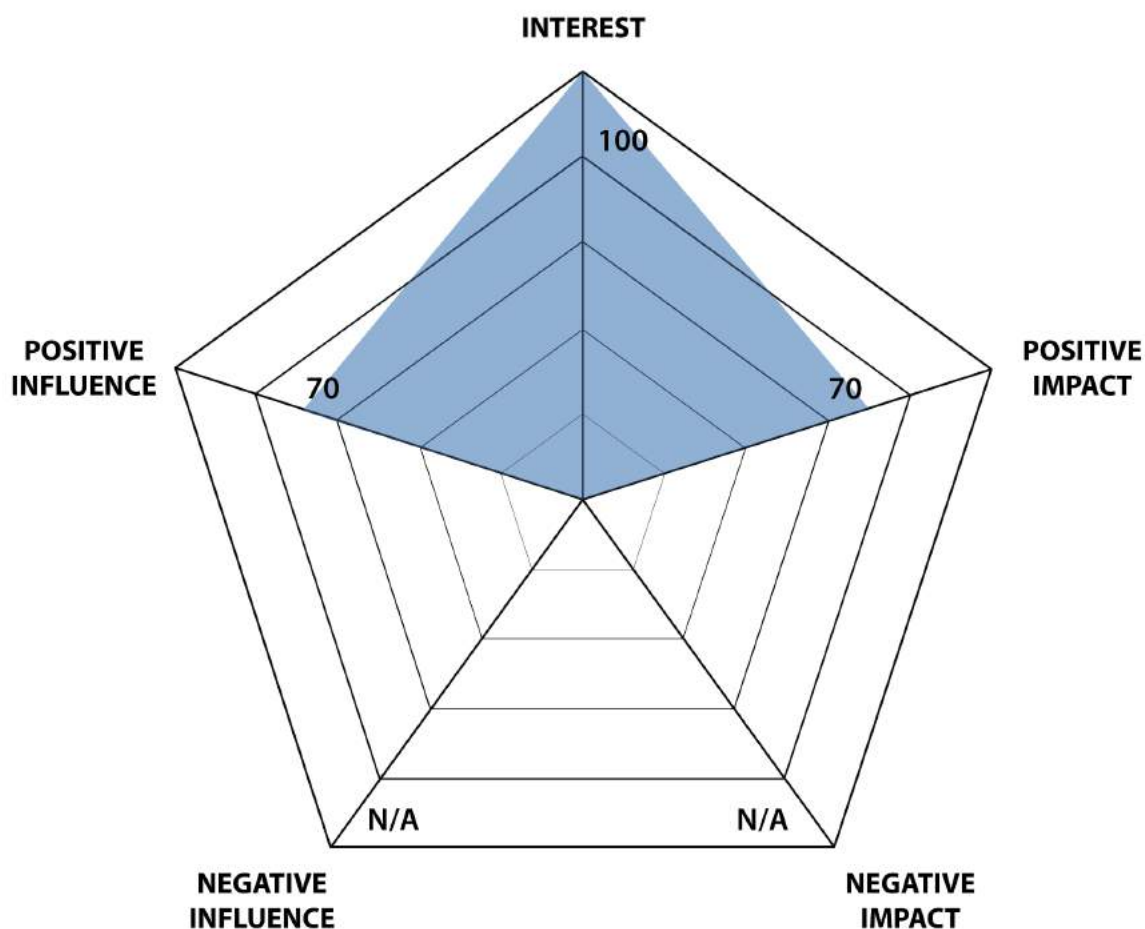
- **Resource Allocation for Practical Impact:** Acknowledging the Center's focus on practical work and grassroots-level resource adequacy, Wet Horizons could share outputs on the use of ecosystem markets to increase private investment in place-based governance of restoration and sustainable wetland management to support the Center's immediate needs, thereby ensuring more effective and impactful wetland restoration activities.
- **Sharing digital tools and models to enhance wetland restoration efficiency:** Given the Vanajavesi Center's focus on improving water bodies and their high interest in Wet Horizons, collaborating with Wet Horizons could enhance their wetland restoration efficiency. Wet Horizons' advanced methodologies and tools including modelling work could be instrumental in supporting the Center's existing projects and initiatives.

## University of Turku



Overall 3i score: 240

Figure 46: Overview of 3i analysis for University of Turku<sup>115</sup>



<sup>115</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about University of Turku.

NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the University of Turku. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

The University of Turku, through its POOL project<sup>116</sup>, focuses on the study of seasonal wetlands in Finnish boreal forest ecosystems. This multidisciplinary initiative combines research, art, and stakeholder involvement to deepen knowledge and raise awareness about these less-known wetlands. The project aims to uncover the role of seasonal wetlands in biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. It also seeks to provide solutions for enhancing the natural management of forestry companies and wetland conservation.

In addition to this project, the University of Turku houses a wetland ecology research group, which also conducts projects on biodiversity in wetland habitats. The respondent from the University of Turku explained that “my group focuses on the impact of anthropogenic activities on wetland habitats (water quality, fauna and flora). We are working on natural, created and restored wetlands in the area” (University of Turku, 3i survey).

#### *Interest*

University of Turku was rated as likely to have a **high interest (100%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. They were reported as having goals aligned with the project - “we have similar targets at local and international scale” (University of Turku, 3i survey), and as a research institution, are likely to be interested in a range of scientific outputs and datasets the project could share.

#### *Influence*

University of Turku was rated as likely to have **high influence (70%) to support** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent from this institution noted that they have strong capabilities in connecting the project to other stakeholders, as well as a willingness to conduct joint impact work - “we can facilitate collaboration for example, or collaborate” (University of Turku, 3i survey). Their capacity for communication and education was also highlighted - “we do lots of communication and education via the POOL project (sites.utu.fi/pool)” and a suggestion was made for collaboration - “your project could benefit from our existing project. We have been planning to extend our work to created and restored wetland in the near future, so this request is very timely” (University of Turku, 3i survey).

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<sup>116</sup> <https://sites.utu.fi/pool>

<https://sites.utu.fi/artzelgroup/> <https://researchportal.helsinki.fi/en/organisations/wetland-ecology-group>





University of Turku was not rated as likely to have power to block Wet Horizons and its outcomes - “none and no interest in doing so. Wetland restoration would benefit from collaborative work” (University of Turku, 3i survey).

### *Impact*

University of Turku was rated as likely to receive **a high level of benefit (70%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes, primarily envisaged as a result of increased knowledge and capacity to create impact by collaborating with the project - “new insights, increase the network and impact of current work” (University of Turku, 3i survey).

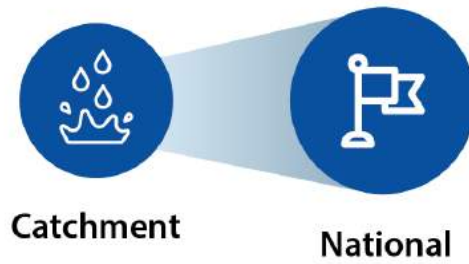
University of Turku was not rated as likely to experience a negative impact as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

Based on the University of Turku's involvement in wetland research and the POOL project, as well as their expressed interest and capabilities, here are the implications and recommendations for supportive engagement and impact planning with the Wet Horizons project:

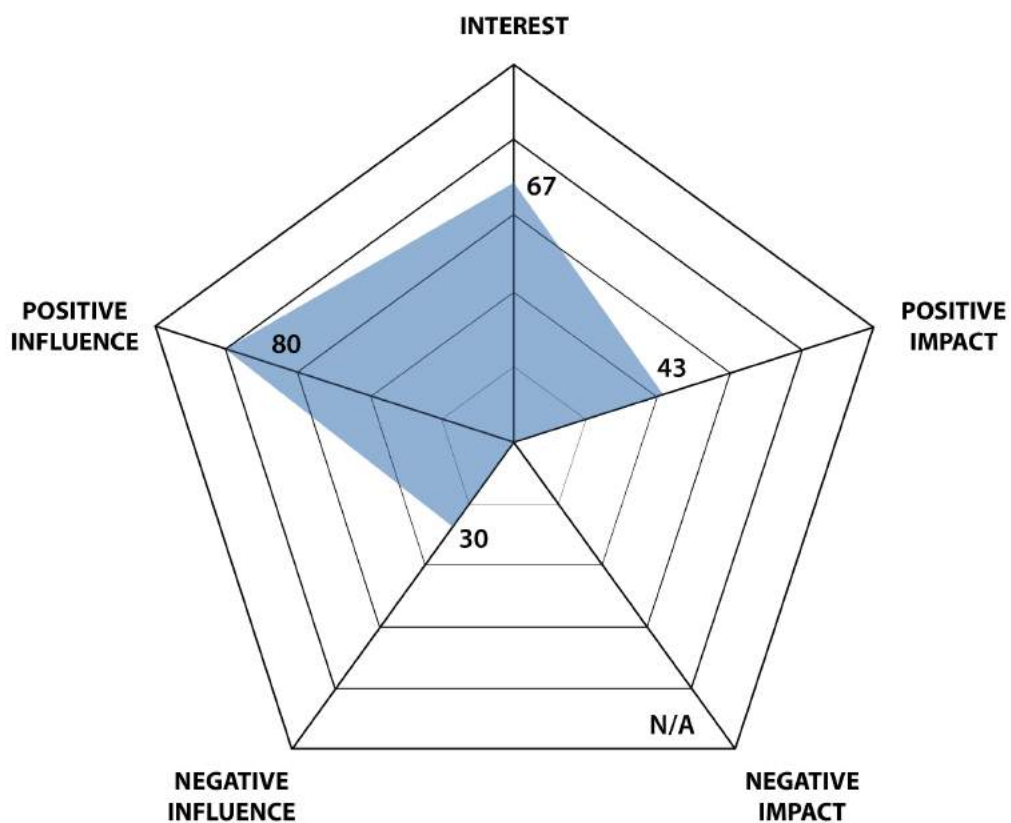
- **Shared Educational and Communication Goals:** Utilize the University's strong communication and educational networks, established through the POOL project, for disseminating Wet Horizons' findings and engaging broader audiences.
- **Sharing biodiversity outputs:** Due to the research group's focus on fauna in wetland ecosystems, there may be interest in the outputs the project produces on biodiversity trade-offs.
- **Sharing insights on land manager governance models:** Given the University of Turku's goal to provide solutions for enhancing the natural management of forestry companies and wetland conservation, there is likely to be interest in the project's insights on new governance models in land manager organisations

## Finnish Forest Centre



**Overall 3i score: 220**

**Figure 47: Overview of 3i analysis for Finnish Forest Centre<sup>117</sup>**



<sup>117</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the Finnish Forest Centre.

### 3i analysis

The Finnish Forest Centre<sup>118</sup> is a government organisation responsible for implementing forest policy, promoting sustainable forestry, and providing guidance to forest owners in Finland. It plays a significant role in wetland restoration, particularly in forested wetlands. The Centre's involvement in wetland restoration includes advising on best practices, monitoring wetland health, and supporting projects that align with Finland's forest and environmental conservation goals. Through its activities, the Finnish Forest Centre contributes to the preservation of biodiversity, enhancement of ecosystem services, and maintenance of water quality, making it a crucial player in the management and restoration of Finland's wetland ecosystems.

The respondent reporting about this organisation highlighted their knowledge-sharing role and decision support role, as well as responsibility for monitoring regulation - "Metsäkeskus offers open forest and nature information and an independent service to support the forest owner's decision-making and for the use of the entire forest sector. We are involved in promoting the overall sustainable use of forests, which takes into account the forest's many values. As a public operator, Finnish Forest Centre is responsible for monitoring forest legislation and grants support for the management of forests and nature. Metsäkeskus wants to help forest owners get both tangible and intangible benefits from their own forests. We bring together different parties to build good forest and nature management." (Liesjärvi Protection Association, 3i survey)

#### Interest

Finnish Forest Centre were rated as likely to have a **high interest (67%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This was explained in terms of their high level of experience and focus on various aspects of restoration, including playing a role within financial mechanisms, valuation, and supporting and coordinating the planning of restoration projects, and stakeholder management - "the Forest Centre is active in restoration of peatland and forest areas, financing on private land and drawing up plans." (Liesjärvi Protection Association, 3i survey).

#### Influence

Finnish Forest Centre was rated as likely to have **high influence (80%)** to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The qualitative response associated with this score indicated they are in a strong position to guide decision-making regarding due to the wide scope of their perspective and specific nature of their insights in terms of the potential for restoration in different areas - "they have a broad understanding of the situation in different areas and are actively involved in the implementation of wetlands in the South-Western Häme region." (Liesjärvi Protection Association, 3i survey).

Finnish Forest Centre was rated as likely to have a low level of influence (30%) to block Wet Horizons and its outcomes. "I don't really know. Only if the objectives were very different." (Liesjärvi Protection Association, 3i survey) [...].

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<sup>118</sup> <https://www.metsakeskus.fi>

## Impact

Finnish Forest Centre was rated as likely to receive a **moderate level of benefit (43%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. While there were limited thoughts regarding the specific ways they could benefit - "it's hard to say. All activities that aim to do the same thing benefit from cooperation" (Liesjärvi Protection Association, 3i survey), it is likely that they are likely to benefit from increased knowledge regarding the use of ecosystem markets and blending public and private finance due to their role in supporting landowners who may be seeking funding for restoration, in addition to increased knowledge on governance models in land manager organisations.

Finnish Forest Centre was not rated as likely to experience a negative impact as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes.

## Impact Planning Survey Results

A participant from the Finnish Forest Centre accepted an invitation to respond to the Wet Horizons impact planning survey, providing details about how they perceive the project and its potential positive impact for their organisation and its wetland restoration activities.

### *Perception of Wetlands and the Importance of Wet Horizons:*

In response to the question 'What comes to mind when you think of wetland or peatland restoration?', they responded "In Finland, there are many drainage areas with low returns for forestry, some of which could be restored" (Finnish Forestry Centre, impact planning survey), indicating alignment with the project goals.

The Finnish Forestry Centre recognizes the significant climate relevance of the Wet Horizons project, especially given Finland's many drained peatlands which present a high potential for restoration. The respondent noted that with respect to the project, "the topic is especially topical from a climate perspective. There are many drained areas of peatlands in Finland, so there is plenty of potential for restoration" (Finnish Forestry Centre, impact planning survey).

### *Challenges in the Kokemäenjoki Catchment Area:*

The Centre highlights specific local challenges, like the scarcity of natural bogs and the high nutrient load from agriculture and forestry, which are crucial factors that Wet Horizons could address in its restoration efforts. The respondent from the Centre explained that "there are few natural bogs, the nutrient load caused by agriculture and forestry is high." (Finnish Forestry Centre, impact planning survey).

### *Beneficiary Initiatives and Organisations:*

The "Vesien palauttaminen suojeleusoille"<sup>119</sup> or "Vespa-hanke" (Finnish Forestry Centre, impact planning survey) project aims to restore water to protected swamps in Finland. The project, part of the Helmi Habitat Program 2021-2030, focuses on

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<sup>119</sup> <https://tapio.fi/projektit/vesien-palauttaminen-suojeleusoille/>

enhancing the water management of swamps to improve their natural state and biodiversity. Over half of Finland's swamps have been drained, and this initiative seeks to reverse some of that impact by redirecting water flow back to these areas. The project involves identifying suitable swamp areas for water restoration, collaborating with various stakeholders, and implementing practical measures to ensure effective water redirection and swamp restoration. The project is supported by the Ministry of the Environment and involves various partners for execution and coordination.

#### *Benefits Offered by Wet Horizons for Vespa-hanke:*

The Centre noted that the kinds of Wet Horizon outputs they could benefit from included: **information, access to research data, access to technology/software, toolkits, frameworks or practical guidance, a mobile app, and analytic software/methods**, which could significantly support their restoration activities, particularly in the context of the Vespa-hanke project - "concrete tools are needed to support practical activities. For example, a calculator suitable for determining water and climate effects" (Finnish Forestry Centre, impact planning survey).

The Centre envisions that Wet Horizons will aid in fostering sustainable solutions in wetland management, a key objective of both the Wet Horizons and Vespa-hanke projects - "helps to make sustainable solutions." (Finnish Forestry Centre, impact planning survey)

#### *Preferred Communication Methods:*

Emphasising the need for effective communication, they suggest **formal channels for sharing project outputs**, which is vital for the successful implementation and outreach of such a large-scale project.

#### *Awareness of Negative Effects:*

No negative impacts were identified by the respondent, indicating a positive outlook towards the project's potential outcomes.

#### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Knowledge Sharing on Restoration Best Practices:** The Finnish Forest Centre can greatly benefit from Wet Horizons' research on wetland restoration, particularly in forested areas. Sharing best practices and monitoring techniques could enhance their advisory role.
- **Sharing digital tools:** For the Finnish Forest Centre, "concrete tools are needed to support practical activities. For example, a calculator suitable for determining water and climate effects" (Finnish Forestry Centre, impact planning survey). As such, the digital tools the project will create are likely to be useful.
- **Guidance in Financial Mechanisms for Restoration:** Wet Horizons' exploration of ecosystem markets and blending finance could provide valuable

insights for the Finnish Forest Centre, especially in supporting forest owners seeking funding for restoration.

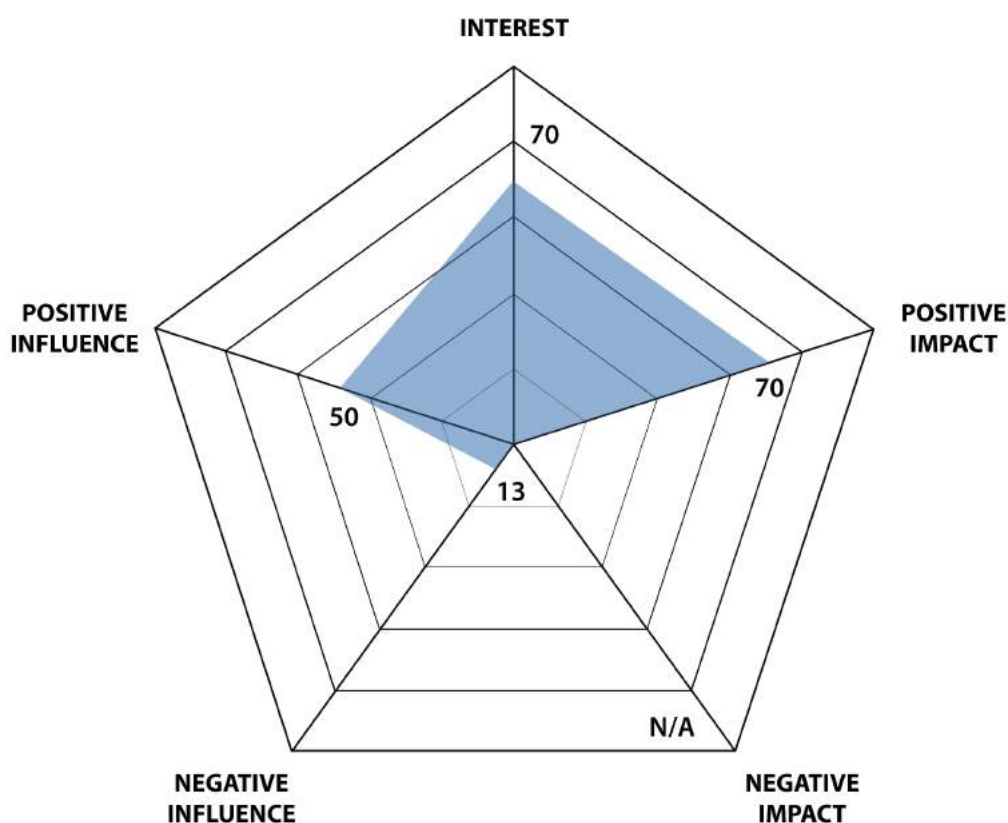
## Liesjärvi Protection Association



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 203

Figure 48: Overview of 3i analysis for Liesjärvi Protection Association<sup>120</sup>



<sup>120</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the Liesjärvi Protection Association. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

Liesjärvi Protection Association<sup>121</sup>, established in 1971 in Tammela municipality, focuses on the conservation and improvement of water bodies in the Kokemäenjoki watershed. The organisation aims to maintain clean and refreshing waters through pollution prevention and collaboration with local stakeholders. Its activities emphasise sustainable practices in area planning, land use, business, forestry, farming, and recreation, prioritising nutrient and sediment control. The association also encourages residents to maintain efficient wastewater treatment systems. These goals and activities suggest a potential interest in an interest in integrating wetland restoration as a natural solution for maintaining the ecological balance and water purity in the region.

The respondent reporting about this organisation noted that “Liesjärvi Protection Association's goal is to prevent the pollution of waterways together with other operators in the area. Cooperation is carried out with, for example, landowners, leisure residents, Metsähallitus, Recreational fishermen, Metsäkeskus, water cooperatives and the municipality of Tammela. Liesjärvi Conservancy has had a 2021 - 2022 Liesjärvi clear waters project, in which the construction of wetlands in the catchment area by KVVY's experts has been investigated” (Liesjärvi Protection Association, 3i survey).

#### *Interest*

Liesjärvi Protection Association was rated as likely to have **a high level of interest (70%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This was explained in terms of the association's own members' motivations and duties to protect their environment - “the members are interested in improving and maintaining their own activities and living environment. As a rule, they have land in the area” (Liesjärvi Protection Association, 3i survey).

#### *Influence*

Liesjärvi Protection Association were rated as likely to have **a moderate level of influence (50%)** to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes, primarily in terms of publication and communication of the project outputs and facilitating awareness raising locally - “by keeping the project and its possible benefits on display regionally in the media and through contacts.” (Liesjärvi Protection Association, 3i survey).

The Liesjärvi Protection Association was rated as likely to have low influence (13%) to block Wet Horizons and its outcomes - “fairly small, although it might be difficult to estimate. If the project is considered to be harmful to the area, one could try to influence the above methods.” (Liesjärvi Protection Association, 3i survey).

#### *Impact*

Liesjärvi Protection Association were rated as likely to receive **a high level of benefit (70%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This was explained in terms of the possible financial benefits for the association as a result of collaboration and promotion

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<sup>121</sup> <https://www.liesjarvensuojelury.fi>



of their work, in terms of attracting more funding or members - “when the project supports the organization's goals, there is an opportunity to get more publicity, possibly funding and new members when the effectiveness of the cooperation can be brought to the fore. In this way, the organization's own effectiveness can be promoted regionally and perhaps even more widely.” (Liesjärvi Protection Association, 3i survey).

Liesjärvi Protection Association were not rated as likely to experience a negative impact as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes.

### *Impact Planning Survey Results*

A participant from the Liesjärvi Protection Association accepted an invitation to respond to the Wet Horizons impact planning survey, providing details about how they perceive the project and its potential positive impact for their organisation and its wetland restoration activities.

#### *Perception of Wetlands and Importance of Wet Horizons:*

The respondent reflected on the historical impact of swamp drainage in Finland for afforestation and field clearing, causing problems in waterways. They noted, “In Finland, many swamps have been drained... a lot of humus comes into the waterways along with the water.” The project's interest and importance were both rated at 98%, with the respondent stating that “the project helps preserve clean water for future generations as well. Broadly, it produces information about different environments, the importance of water, and produces information to increase understanding” (Liesjärvi Protection Association, 3i survey), indicating clear support for water quality benefits of restoration.

#### *Challenges in the Kokemäenjoki Catchment Area:*

Challenges mentioned included attitudes of private landowners, in terms of their “lack of understanding and lack of information”. They noted that “the cost [of restoration] also scares many. They need more information and support to see that they benefit from the investment themselves” (Liesjärvi Protection Association, 3i survey). The respondent also highlighted challenges at the national scale interacting with these local level attitudes - “the state has taken a commendable step back” (Liesjärvi Protection Association, 3i survey).

#### *Beneficiary Initiatives and Organisations:*

The Liesjärvi Protection Association's initiative, “Liesjärven kirkkaat vedet,” or “The clear waters of Liesjärvi” is aimed at improving local water quality. Their website states that a planning process has been completed, and action proposals have been developed, presumably aimed at restoration of two viable wetland sites.<sup>122</sup>

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<sup>122</sup> <https://www.liesjarvensuojelury.fi/blogi/2023/01/06/43003>

### *Benefits Offered by Wet Horizons for Vespa-hanke:*

The respondent believed that Wet Horizons could benefit their organisation, indicating a positive outlook for collaboration and support. However, no further information was provided regarding the specific benefits the project could provide, indicating a need for direct engagement for the respondent to help project these.

### *Preferred Communication Methods:*

No information was provided regarding preferred communication methods.

### *Awareness of Negative Effects:*

The respondent did not indicate any negative effects that could arise from the project.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Engaging smaller landowners:** As some members of the Liesjärvi Protection Association own land, the association may be a useful partner to access these kinds of stakeholders if necessary for any impact efforts.
- **Sharing ecosystem market outputs for revenue assurance strategies:** Outputs that could help this organisation support and persuade landowners to look into restoring their land, particularly in terms of addressing the cost through ecosystem markets and the potential benefits are likely to be useful.
- **Communication and Awareness Campaigns:** Wet Horizons could utilise the Association's moderate influence in local media and community connections to promote Wet Horizons' objectives and raise awareness about wetland conservation.

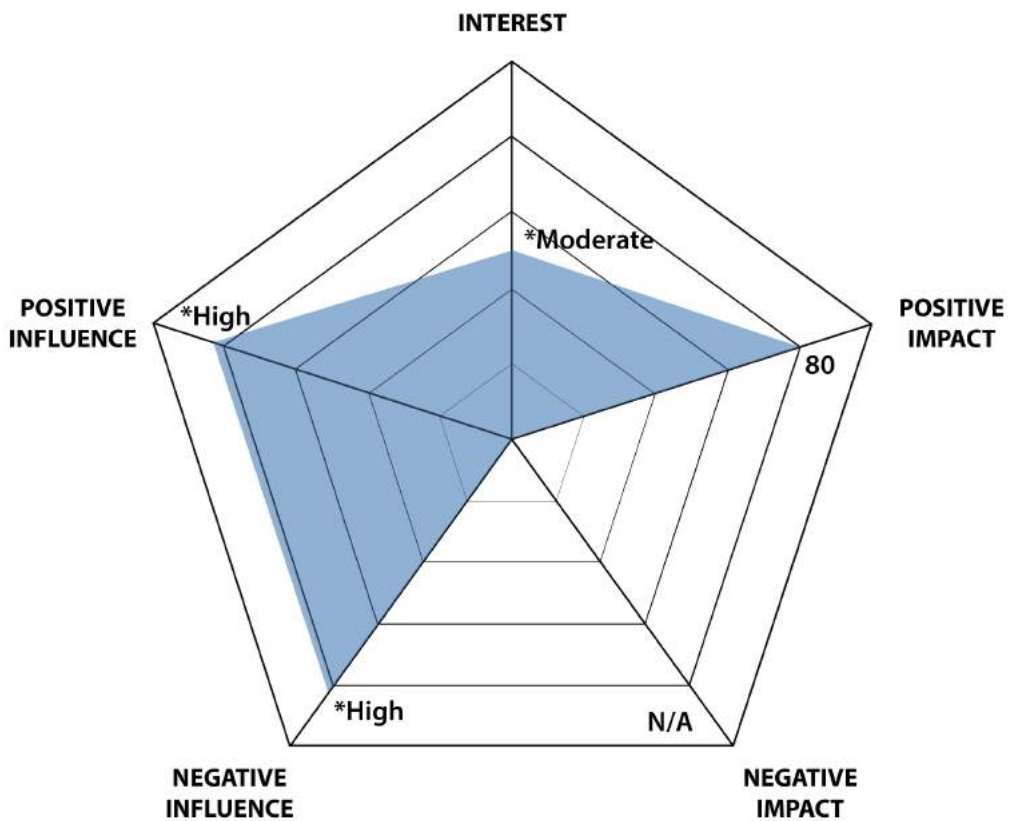
## Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center



### National

Overall 3i score: 297

Figure 49: Overview of 3i analysis for Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center<sup>123</sup>



<sup>123</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

The Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center (ELY Centre)<sup>124</sup> is a regional Finnish government body responsible for a wide range of developmental tasks, including environment and natural resources management. Part of a network of 15 ELY Centres in Finland, it plays a key role in promoting regional sustainability and climate change mitigation. Given its mandate, the Häme ELY Centre likely has a significant interest and role in wetland restoration within its jurisdiction. This would involve environmental management, including the oversight of natural resources and initiatives to support ecological sustainability. The Centre's activities in managing environment and natural resources suggest an alignment with the goals of wetland restoration, such as biodiversity conservation and water quality improvement.

The respondent reporting about this organisation highlighted the diversity of their capacities in the wetland restoration process across policy, finance and planning - “monitoring authority, potential funder, as well as supervisor, mapping and promoter of the measures. Due to its statutory tasks, water management, for example, is the responsibility of the Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center” (Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center, 3i survey)

#### *Interest*

There was no quantitative score given for Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center regarding how interested they are likely to be in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, due to their multifunctional role as a government body, there are likely to be a variety of outputs of interest to their work. However, their position as a high level authority with a range of duties outside of wetland management means they may be time-poor, and so these outputs are likely to need to be tailored well to their specific needs for this interest to convert into engagement. As such, they are likely to have a **moderate interest** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes.

#### *Influence*

No qualitative score was given for Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center's level of likely influence in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, their position as a government authority and their multifunctional role in wetland restoration as a funder, coordinator and planner of projects, policy implementer and regulatory monitor in addition to its high level of credibility means it is likely to have a very **high level of influence** to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. In addition, one respondent noted that “The Häme Environment Centre in particular has increased its expertise in wetlands. This is worth taking advantage of.” (Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center, 3i survey), indicating they may be able to support in feeding back on Wet Horizons outputs tailored specifically to the Kokemäenjoki region, or engage in policy development processes.

No quantitative score was given for Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center in terms of their level of power to block Wet Horizons and its outcomes.

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<sup>124</sup> <https://www.ely-keskus.fi/ely-hame>

However, for the same reasons described previously in terms of their level of formal and practical power in wetland management, this is **likely to be high**. The extent to which they are likely to utilise this power however is likely to be low.

### *Impact*

Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center were rated as likely to receive a **high level of benefit (80%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This benefit was explained as likely to be realised if the Center engaged “by sharing researched knowledge in their own area” with their stakeholder network as well as “increasing the promotion of potential wetland sites based on the good results of the research” (Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center, 3i survey).

Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center were not rated as likely to experience a negative impact as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes.

### *Impact Planning Survey Results*

A participant from the Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center accepted an invitation to respond to the Wet Horizons impact planning survey, providing details about how they perceive the project and its potential positive impact for their organisation and its wetland restoration activities.

#### *Perception of Wetlands and the Importance of Wet Horizons:*

The respondent viewed wetland or peatland restoration as crucial for biodiversity and recreation, highlighting that what came to mind for them upon considering the concept was “A habitat for many different species, increasing biodiversity, recreation” (Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center, 3i survey). They emphasise its significance, rating the project as **90% interesting** and **60% important**. “Everything that we can do to promote the restoration of Finland's wetlands is important work, both from my point of view and from the point of view of others like me. We also need more data to convince decision makers that this work is very important” (Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center, 3i survey).

#### *Challenges in the Kokemäenjoki Catchment Area:*

Key challenges identified included “Fragmented land ownership, lack of information and funding” (Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center, 3i survey).

#### *Beneficiary Initiatives and Organisations:*

The Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center and the Ministry of Environment were seen as organisations that could greatly benefit from the project.

#### *Benefits Offered by Wet Horizons for Vespa-hanke:*

The respondent noted that the kinds of Wet Horizon outputs they could benefit from included: **information** and **toolkits, frameworks or practical guidance**, noting that the format that these outputs take are important to consider: “A clear, simple, short



summary of concrete results/follow-up actions” (Häme Business, Transport and Environmental Center, 3i survey).

#### *Preferred Communication Methods:*

The need for clear, simple communication was highlighted, suggesting a preference for straightforward and actionable information dissemination.

#### *Awareness of Negative Effects:*

The respondent stated that they were **unsure** if there were any likely negative effects that could arise from the project.

#### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

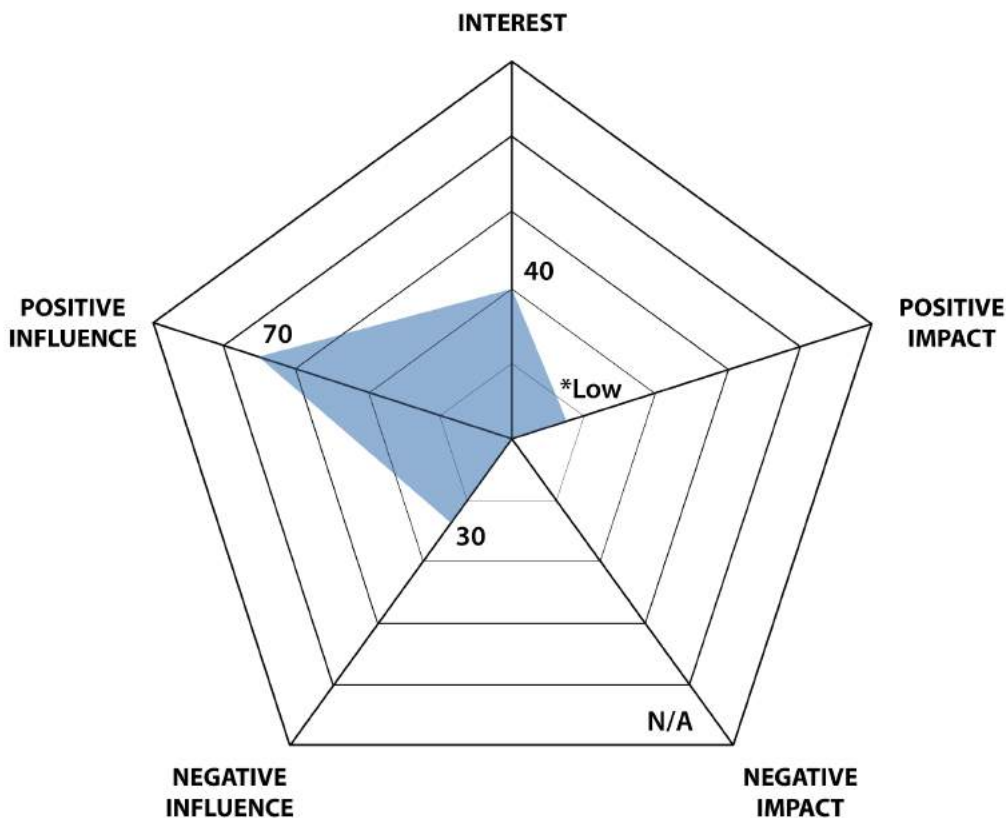
- **Sharing traditional academic outputs:** This organisation is likely to be interested in being notified of research summaries published with reference to the state of the Kokemäenjoki catchment, and its implications for environmental governance.
- **Policy Development Support:** The Center’s expertise could be used to refine policy recommendations, especially those related to wetland management, to ensure regional applicability and effectiveness.
- **Collaboration in Identifying Potential Wetland Sites:** Wet Horizons could partner with the Center to identify and promote potential wetland restoration sites, benefiting from their extensive network and credibility.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Promotion:** Leverage the Center’s influence to disseminate Wet Horizons’ findings, potentially enhancing wetland restoration practices across the Häme region.

## Häme University of Applied Science



Overall 3i score: 157

Figure 50: Overview of 3i analysis for Häme University of Applied Science<sup>125</sup>



<sup>125</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the Häme University of Applied Science. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### 3i analysis

Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK)<sup>126</sup> is a multidisciplinary educational institution in Finland. Its wide range of study fields including bioeconomy, sustainable development, and technology suggests potential interest and capability in wetland restoration. Given its commitment to research, development, and innovation, HAMK may engage in or support wetland restoration projects through applied research or educational programs, contributing to regional sustainability efforts.

The respondent reporting about this organisation noted that they “collaborate with HAMK which is in charge of the forest management in my study area” (University of Turku, 3i survey), indicating particular expertise on wetlands in forest areas.

#### Interest

Häme University of Applied Science was rated as likely to have a **moderate interest (40%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The fact that it is an EU project was noted as particularly important for their level of interest - “they could benefit from a EU collaboration” (University of Turku, 3i survey), potentially due to its geographical scope and potential to gain knowledge from other regions or international partners with specific academic expertise and incorporate this into their work.

#### Influence

Häme University of Applied Science was rated as likely to have a **high level of influence (70%)** to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. One respondent noted that they have a “good connection, they could collaborate to devise restoration tools in their area” (University of Turku, 3i survey). This indicates that they could be a useful stakeholder to present recommendations for further development or tailoring of restoration tools developed by the Wet Horizons project for the Kokemäenjoki region.

Häme University of Applied Science were rated as likely to have **low influence (30%) to block** Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This influence seemed to manifest in terms of their networking power and potential to act as a gateway to other important organisations - “good connection with local stakeholders.” (University of Turku).

#### Impact

Häme University of Applied Science were not given a quantitative score for the level of benefit they could receive from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, the qualitative response “new knowledge, new collaboration” (University of Turku, 3i survey) indicates there may be at least a low level of benefit in terms of further direction for their work. Häme University of Applied Science were not rated as likely to experience a negative impact as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes.

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<sup>126</sup> <https://www.hamk.fi/>



### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing datasets and digital tools:** As a research organisation, it is likely that the datasets and digital tools resulting from the project will be of interest for HAMK, as they may be able to utilise them to bolster or expand their own research.
- **Development of wetland restoration tools:** Wet Horizons could utilise HAMK's expertise in forestry management to contribute to the development or tailoring of restoration tools specific to the Kokemäenjoki region.
- **Leveraging networking power:** HAMK's connections with local stakeholders could be instrumental in disseminating Wet Horizons' findings and integrating them into regional sustainability efforts.

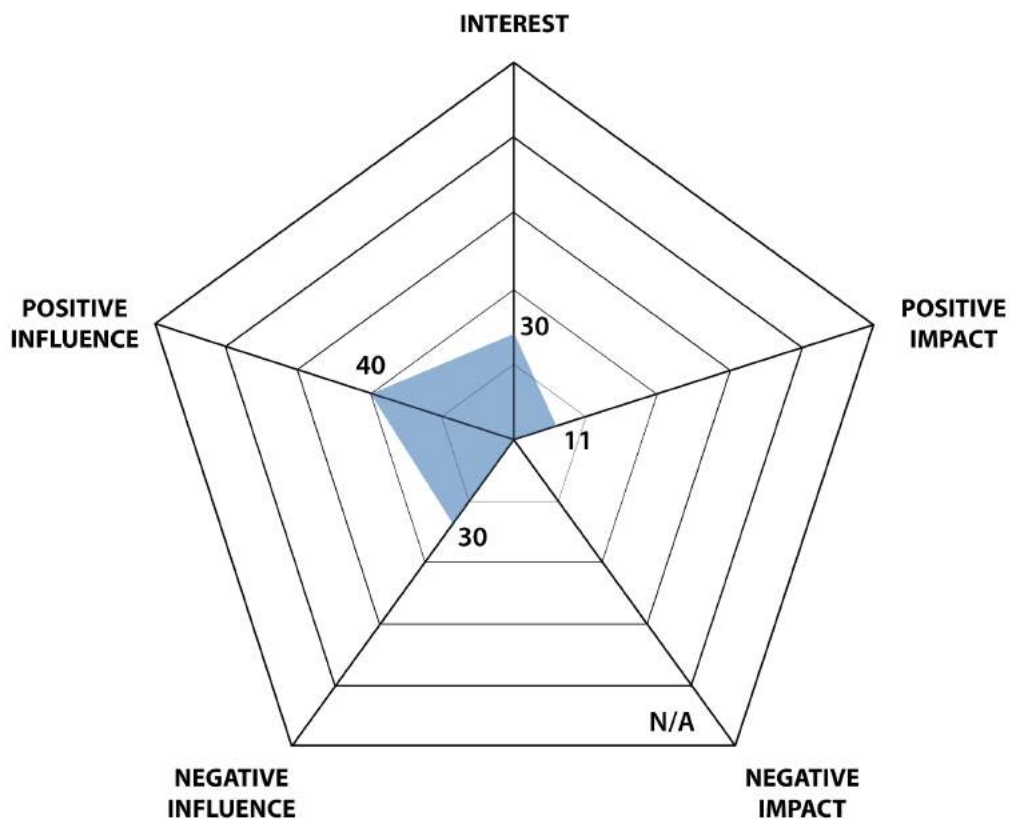
## Local landowners



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 111

Figure 51: Overview of 3i analysis for Häme University of Applied Science<sup>127</sup>



<sup>127</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about local landowners.

### *3i analysis*

In the Kokemäenjoki catchment area, private landowners have been actively involved in catchment-wide restoration efforts. Land ownership in the area is diverse, involving private owners, local organisations, and possibly governmental bodies, all contributing to the region's environmental management, including forest ditching, erosion control, peat mining, and nutrient management from farmlands.

There is evidence from one respondent that some local landowners are active in successful restoration efforts - "I collaborate with local landowners who have created or restored wetlands" (University of Turku, 3i survey).

#### *Interest*

Local landowners were rated as likely to have **a low interest (30%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The qualitative response associated with this score indicated this interest may be in the context of their own initiatives being studied or used as case studies - "they might be interested to see their personal initiatives valued at the EU level" (University of Turku, 3i survey).

#### *Influence*

Local landowners were rated as likely to have **a moderate level of influence (40%)** to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This was explained in terms of the connections they have with each other and other important stakeholders in the area, and potential to influence others' perception of the benefits of engaging with the project - "networking is very important in Finland. If they are satisfied with the collaboration, it could lead to further contacts" (University of Turku, 3i survey). Local landowners were rated as likely to have low influence (30%) to block Wet Horizons and its outcomes, with the same reason given for their power to support the project - "networking is very important in Finland. If they are not satisfied with the collaboration, it could lead to decreased involvement of stakeholders" (University of Turku, 3i survey).

#### *Impact*

Local landowners were rated as likely to receive **a low level of benefit (11%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This benefit was only seen as likely to manifest in terms of a sense of pride in seeing their own existing restoration initiatives studied - "some of them could find satisfaction to see their work valued at the EU scale" (University of Turku, 3i survey). This indicates there is a limited sense of the level of practical value the project could bring to local landowners in terms of improving land management practices.

Local landowners were not rated as likely to experience a negative impact as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*



- **Networking and Influence:** With moderate influence through networking, landowners can impact the perception and engagement of other stakeholders in the project. Positive collaboration could lead to more extensive stakeholder involvement.
- **Personal Satisfaction and Pride:** While the benefit for local landowners from Wet Horizons is perceived as low, there is potential to engage and motivate them to collaborate with more impact efforts primarily by providing satisfaction in having their efforts recognized on a larger scale.

## Kemi, Finland 3i Analysis Results

This report presents results from the 3i analysis to identify relevant parties for the Wet Horizons research to consider engaging with, in the Kemi catchment, Finland.

### Sample

A total of 8 organisations were identified with interests in, influence over and/or likely to be impacted positively or negatively by wetland restoration in the Kemi catchment. This information was provided by  $n=4$  participants. These were organisations were sorted into the following 3 categories:

**Table 1: Relevant party categories identified**

Relevant party category	Category description	Organisations	Number of organisations identified
Government agencies	Government agencies and other bodies with statutory powers responsible for nature conservation or public land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finnish Forest Administration / Metsähallitus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Nature Services</li> <li>◦ Forestry Services</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lapland Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment</li> <li>• Finnish Forestry Center / Suomen Metsäkeskus</li> </ul>	5
Local community	Owner occupier farmers, private estates, and other institutional landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Reindeer Herders' Association (Kyrön paliskunta)</li> <li>• Rauhala Village Association / Rauhalan Kyläyhdistys Ry</li> </ul>	2
Established domestic voluntary carbon market	Finnish carbon offsetting scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiilipörssi (Finnish Nature League)</li> </ul>	1

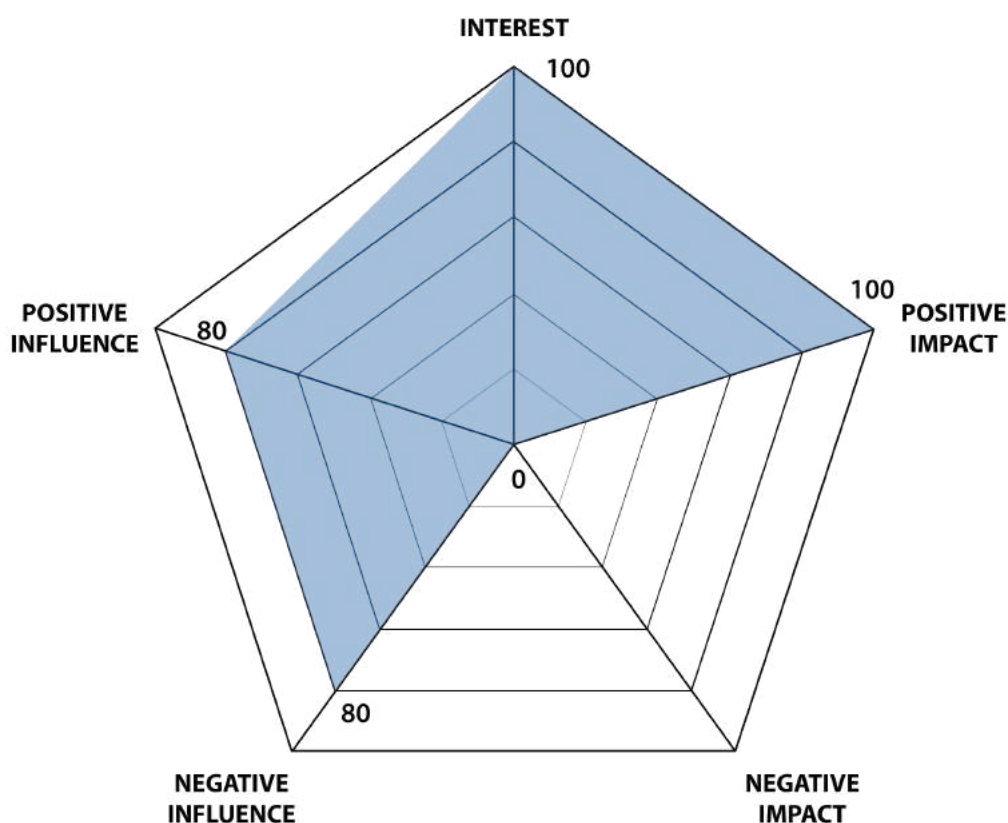
## Rauhala Village Association / Rauhalan Kyläyhdistys Ry



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 360

Figure 52: Overview of 3i analysis for Rauhalan Kyläyhdistys Ry<sup>128</sup>



### 3i analysis

Rauhala Village Association comprises local residents, many of whom are landowners in the area. The association plays a key role in community engagement and local environmental stewardship. Given that many members own significant land parcels,

<sup>128</sup> NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Rauhalan Kyläyhdistys Ry.

their involvement is crucial in regional environmental projects like Wet Horizons. Their interest in local ecological projects, combined with a willingness to volunteer, positions them as vital stakeholders in initiatives aimed at improving local environmental conditions, such as enhanced opportunities for cloudberry gathering and hunting, and indirect benefits like better water quality.

The respondent for this organisation stated that “The local Rauhala village association consists of local people in the area. Many of these people own lands in the area [and] are highly curious [about] these kinds of projects. Plenty of them would probably be interested in participating in the project in the form of volunteering and such” (Municipality of Kittilä, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

The association was rated as **highly interested (100%)** in Wet Horizons. This strong interest is likely driven by the local community's connection to their land and environment, with many members keen on participating in projects that directly affect their surroundings.

### *Influence*

Rauhala Village Association was rated as having a **high level of positive influence (80%)** on the project. This influence stems from the land ownership by many of its members, giving them direct power in the management and outcome of environmental initiatives in the area and whether they choose to restore their land.

The potential for negative influence was also rated at 80%. As landowners and key community members, their perspectives and attitudes towards the project could significantly sway local opinions and potentially impact the project's implementation and success, particularly as many are landowners.

### *Impact*

The association was rated as **highly likely to benefit (100%)** from Wet Horizons. As per the respondent, it was suggested that through restoration, they could gain from "better possibility of cloudberry gathering (very popular locally), better hunting areas (also very popular) and from indirect positive environmental impacts such as better water quality etc" (Municipality of Kittilä, 3i survey). This suggests that the project's outcomes could enhance both the ecological and recreational value of the area, directly benefiting local residents.

There was no assessment available regarding the potential negative impact of Wet Horizons on Rauhala Village Association.

## ***Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning***



- **Promote Volunteer Participation in Citizen Science:** This group could be involved in the citizen science tasks within the project, harnessing their enthusiasm and local insights for more impactful outcomes.
- **Align Project Outputs with Local Interests:** Ensure that Wet Horizons' outputs account for effects of restoration on local community's interests, such as enhancing cloudberry gathering areas and hunting grounds, to foster widespread engagement, support and participation.

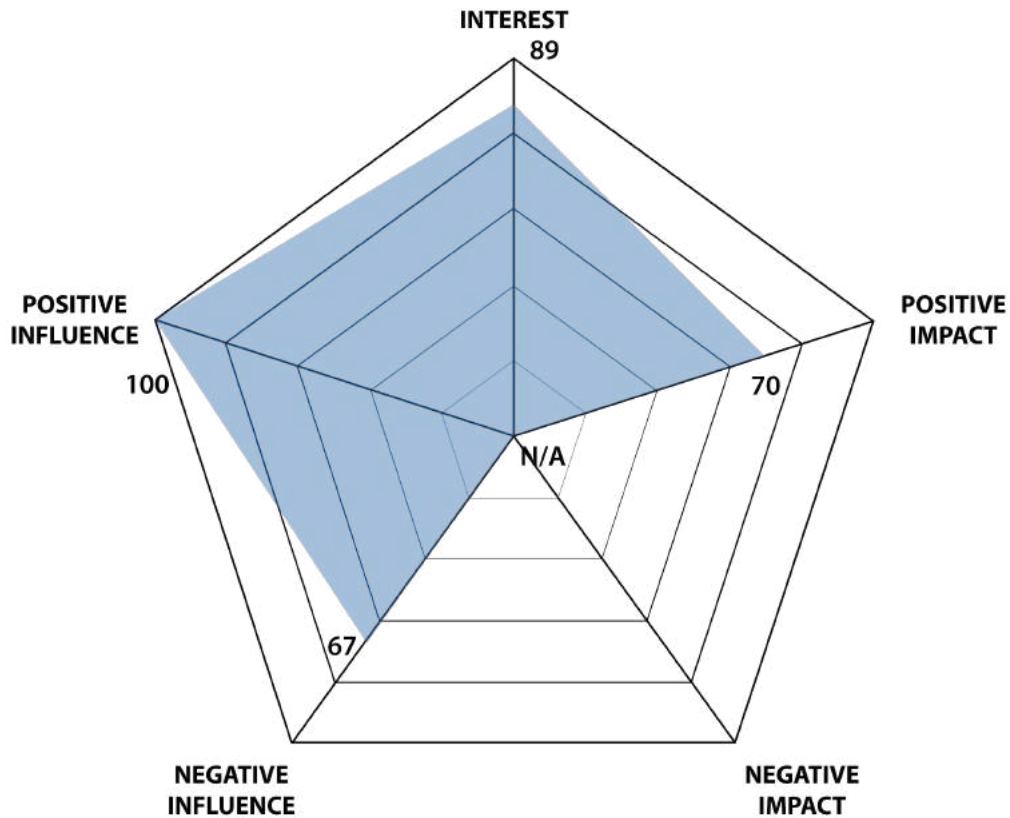


### Finnish Forest Administration / Metsähallitus (Nature Services & Forest Services Departments)



Overall 3i score: 327

Figure 53: Overview of 3i analysis for Metsähallitus<sup>129</sup>



<sup>129</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 4 survey responses were entered about Metsähallitus. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### 3i analysis

Metsähallitus, a state-owned enterprise in Finland, operates as the Finnish Forest Administration. It manages and protects approximately 35% of Finland's total surface area, comprising state-owned land and water areas. Its primary roles are divided into managing most of Finland's protected areas through Parks & Wildlife Finland and supplying wood to the forest industry through its forestry operations. Metsähallitus plays a critical role in environmental conservation and resource management, making it an integral partner in large-scale environmental projects like Wet Horizons.

One respondent for this organisation highlighted their role as a public authority and their connection to the government: “Metsähallitus is a state enterprise. Metsähallitus operates under the steering and in the administrative sector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The Ministry of the Environment steers Metsähallitus for the part of the public administration duties within this ministry’s remit. Metsähallitus is the steward of the land and water areas under the direct ownership of the state” (Municipality of Kittilä, 3i survey). They also emphasised that the fact they protect such a large percentage of Finland’s surface area means they have to take a big picture approach to environmental management, and must take into account multiple kinds of impacts, but that this affords them a valuable perspective when it comes to restoration: “The state’s land and water areas Metsähallitus cares for are managed as a whole. Thus Metsähallitus is the best partner in planning and conducting wetland restorations on a wider scale” (Municipality of Kittilä, 3i survey).

Another respondent underscored this, emphasising their experience: “land owner, conducted many restoration projects” (Finnish Meteorological Institute, 3i survey).

A different respondent distinguished two different departments within the organisation - the Metsähallitus Luontopalvelut or ‘Nature Services’ department, and the Metsähallitus Metsätalous or ‘Forestry’ department. They explained that “Nature services are responsible for the use and management of Finland's network of protected areas. The goal of nature services is to improve the condition of habitat types and species located in protected areas and to prevent/stop the deterioration of biodiversity. The condition of swamps and wetlands has deteriorated through drainage activities, and our purpose is to restore the drainage areas located in protected areas.” (Metsähallitus/ LP lappi, 3i survey).

In terms of the Forestry department, the respondent noted that “Metsähallitus Metsätalous manages the state's multi-use forests and is responsible for managing their diversity” (Metsähallitus/ LP lappi, 3i survey).

### Interest

Metsähallitus was rated as, on average, **highly interested (89%)** in the Wet Horizons project. This strong interest is attributed to their existing restoration projects and programs, indicating that Wet Horizons aligns closely with their ongoing conservation efforts and objectives - “Restoration (is a) part of Metsähallitus activities” (Finnish Meteorological Institute, 3i survey). Another participant’s response indicated they have a programme of restoration, suggesting a long term strategy: “Metsähallitus

has various restoration projects and a restorative program of its own" (Municipality of Kittilä, 3i survey).

### *Influence*

The organisation was rated as having a **significant positive influence (100%)** on Wet Horizons. One respondent mentioned, "Metsähallitus manages state-owned land and water areas, thus they are an excellent partner." This highlights Metsähallitus's substantial power, role and influence in environmental policy and practice across Finland. Their specific ability to expedite and potentially spearhead Wet Horizons' project impact was also specifically highlighted: "they are conducting restoration in many sites also listed in Wet Horizon as landowners and managers" (Finnish Meteorological Institute, 3i survey).

Similarly, Metsähallitus was rated as having a **high potential for negative influence (67%)**, primarily because, as stated, "Metsähallitus manages state-owned land and water areas" (Finnish Meteorological Institute, 3i survey). Their extensive control over these resources means that their policies or decisions could significantly impact the Wet Horizons project's direction and success.

### *Impact*

Metsähallitus was rated as likely to **benefit highly (70%)** from Wet Horizons. As one respondent put it, "The project would support Metsähallitus's own goals as its restoration programs' goals" (Municipality of Kittilä, 3i survey). This indicates that the project's outcomes could provide significant contributions to their conservation and resource management initiatives. Another respondent noted that specifically, they could benefit from collaboration with similar partners and the public education role the project could play: "sharing experiences, public awareness" (Finnish Meteorological Institute, 3i survey).

However, one respondent perceived that with regards to the Nature Services department specifically there would only expect a **low (11%) level of benefit**, seemingly seeing little way the project could facilitate their already successful restoration work: "in the area of Kittilä, Muonio and Enontekiö, there is a very small number of drains within the protected area network. We have gone through the drainage areas in the area and restored the existing drainage areas. We will continue to restore the sites where the work is in progress" (Metsähallitus/ LP lappi, 3i survey).

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Collaboration for Restoration Initiatives:** Utilise Metsähallitus's extensive reach and expertise in land management for the widespread implementation of Wet Horizons' restoration techniques.
- **Data Sharing and Scientific Approach:** Share Wet Horizons' data and findings with Metsähallitus to aid in informed decision-making and policy development, aligning with their scientific approach to land management.

- **Aligning Restoration with Forestry Management:** Ensure that Wet Horizons' objectives are in harmony with Metsähallitus's forestry management, contributing to the overall health of Finland's forests and wetlands.

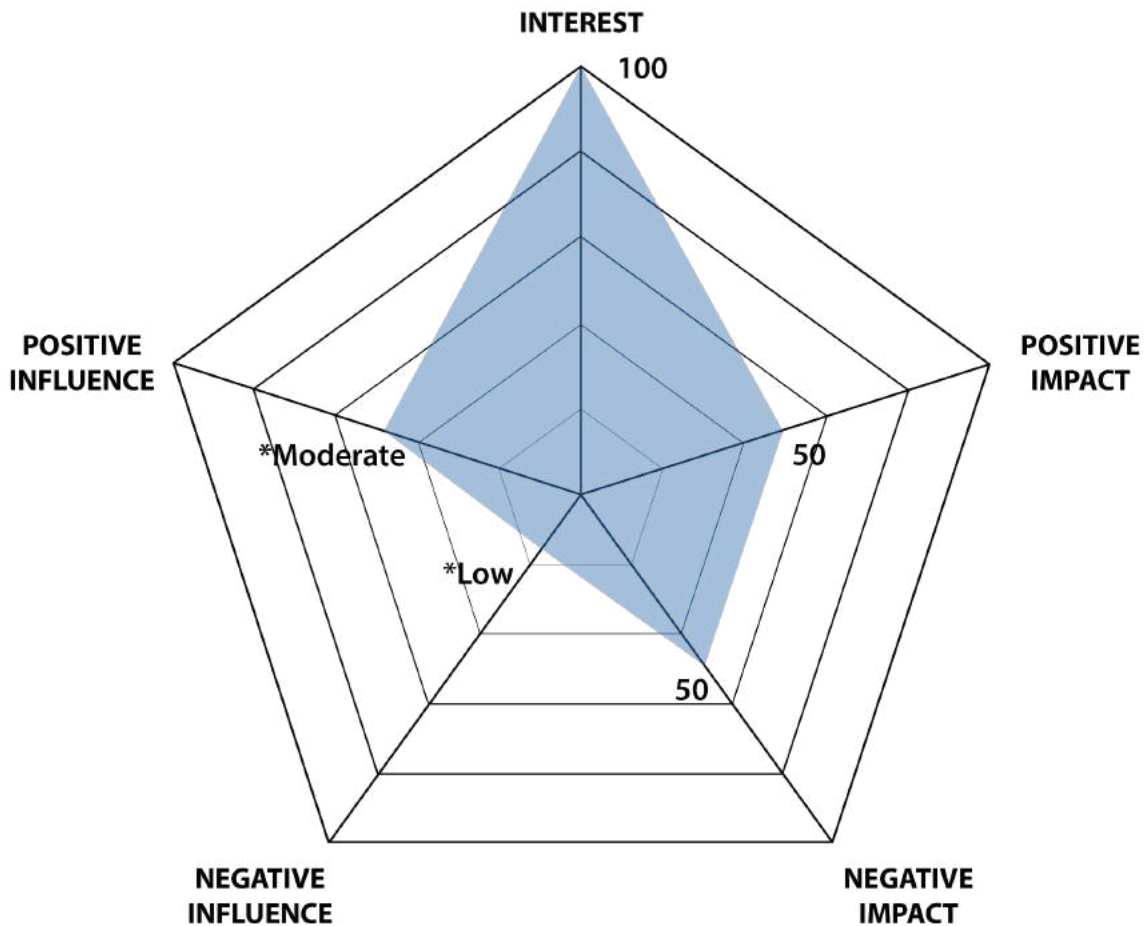
Local Reindeer Herders' Association / Kyrön Paliskunta



Catchment

Overall 3i score: 267

Figure 54: Overview of 3i analysis for Local Reindeer Herders' Association<sup>130</sup>



<sup>130</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Kyrön Paliskunta. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

The Local Reindeer Herders' Association (Kyrön Paliskunta) is a collective of reindeer owners in Finland, dedicated to preserving the traditional and culturally significant practice of reindeer herding. This association is crucial in managing the well-being of reindeer, which are highly dependent on the natural environment, including wetlands, for their grazing and migration. In the context of wetland restoration in the Kemi catchment area, the association's role becomes particularly significant. The health and sustainability of these wetlands directly impact the reindeer herding activities, as changes in the ecosystem can affect the availability of food and the safety of migration routes for the reindeer. Therefore, the association's insights and cooperation are vital in ensuring that wetland restoration efforts align with the needs of both the environment and the reindeer herding community.

The respondent reporting about this organisation underscored the serious level at which the project should consider their influence, considering the legal prioritisation of reindeer herding: "They have a legal right to practise this culturally significant old source of livelihood. Other land users in the reindeer herding area are obligated to ensure their actions cause no harm to reindeer herding" (Municipality of Kittilä, 3i survey), implying that wetland restoration plans in this area must consider this additional factor. They also noted their environmental expertise with regards to the local environment: "local herders have very detailed practical knowledge of the local environment and long term observations of development trends in the surrounding environment and its state" (Municipality of Kittilä, 3i survey).

#### *Interest*

The association was rated as **highly interested (100%)** in Wet Horizons. As expressed by the respondent, "Reindeer herding is very dependent on the surrounding environment, and reindeer have very specific annual 'paddock' areas and migration routes" (Municipality of Kittilä, 3i survey). This high level of interest stems from the direct impact environmental changes that Wet Horizons is modelling for the area - i.e. restoration of wetlands - have on reindeer herding practices.

#### *Influence*

While specific data on positive influence was not provided, it can be inferred that the association could have a **moderate positive influence** on the project. Their in-depth knowledge of the local environment and vested interest in maintaining viable herding conditions could contribute significantly to Wet Horizons' success, particularly in tailoring restoration efforts to accommodate traditional reindeer herding patterns.

The potential for negative influence is not explicitly mentioned, but considering the association's vested interest in protecting traditional herding practices, any significant changes proposed by Wet Horizons that adversely affect herding areas or migration routes could lead to opposition or challenges from the association. However, their level of power is likely to be indirect, indicating a **low level of likely negative influence**.

### *Impact*

The association was rated as likely to **benefit moderately (50%)** from Wet Horizons. According to a respondent, "Environmental restoration might benefit their source of livelihood in the area" (Municipality of Kittilä, 3i survey). This suggests that if the project's outcomes align with the needs of reindeer herding, it could enhance the sustainability and viability of their traditional livelihood.

Conversely, the association was rated as having a moderate risk (50%) of negative impact from Wet Horizons. It was noted, "The project might change some of the important paddock areas significantly or move some of the annual migration routes" (Municipality of Kittilä, 3i survey). This indicates potential conflicts between the project's goals and the traditional practices of reindeer herding.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Incorporate Herders' Knowledge in Restoration Plans:** Engage with the Local Reindeer Herders' Association to integrate their detailed environmental knowledge into the planning and execution of Wet Horizons, ensuring that restoration efforts complement traditional reindeer herding practices.
- **Monitor Impact on Herding Areas and Routes:** Continuously assess and adapt restoration strategies to minimise disruptions to key paddock areas and migration routes, maintaining a balance between environmental restoration and the sustainability of reindeer herding.
- **Emphasise Co-benefits, Collaboration and Communication:** Maintain open communication with the association to understand and address their concerns, fostering a collaborative approach that respects and preserves the cultural significance and practical needs of reindeer herding.

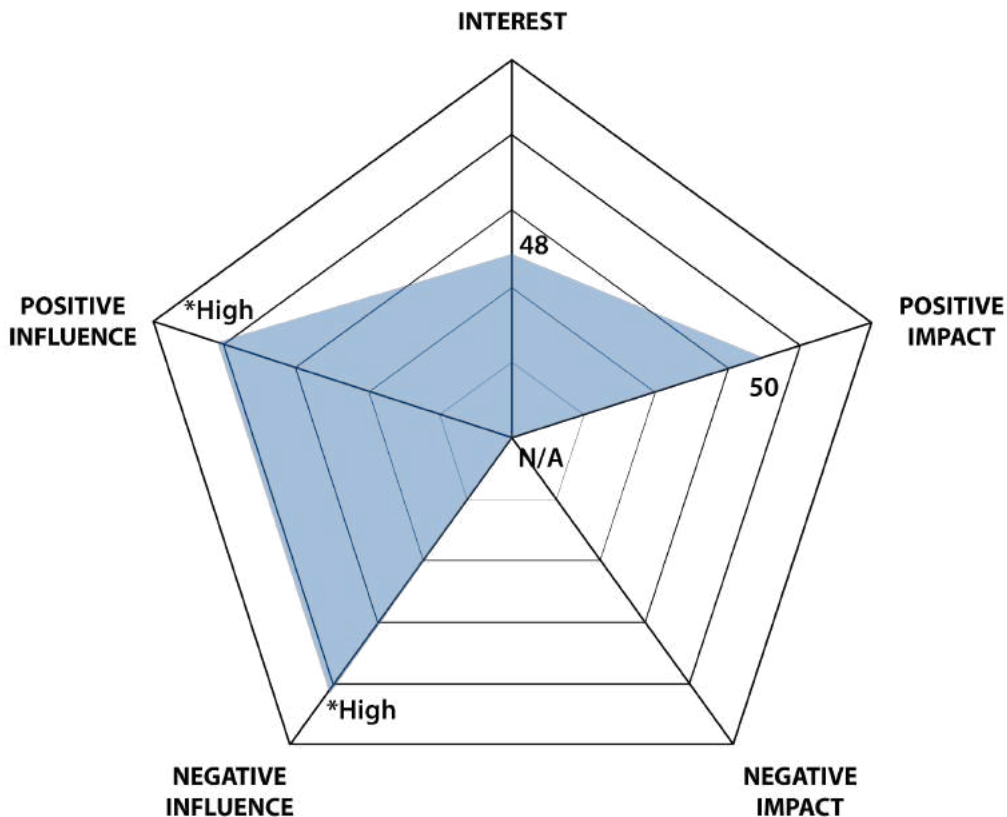
## Lapland Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 264

Figure 55: Overview of 3i analysis for Lapland Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment<sup>131</sup>



<sup>131</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the Lapland Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.



### *3i analysis*

The Finnish Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment (ELY Centres) are key regional units responsible for implementing and developing the central government's tasks in Finland. These centers, numbering 15, are dedicated to promoting regional competitiveness, well-being, sustainable development, and addressing climate change challenges. Their activities span across various domains, including environment and natural resources, making them pivotal in supervising and guiding environmental initiatives and policies, particularly relevant to projects like Wet Horizons. The most relevant ELY Centre for this catchment is likely to be Lapland.

#### *Interest*

ELY Centres were rated as having **moderate interest (48%)** in the Wet Horizons project, with a respondent noting they would be particularly interested in "supervising that Finnish law is followed." (Lapland Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment). This interest likely stems from their responsibility to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and their commitment to sustainable development and environmental protection.

#### *Influence*

While the specific positive influence of ELY Centres on Wet Horizons is not quantified, it can be **inferred as high** due to their regional authority and role in environmental governance. Their influence would be crucial in facilitating stakeholder connections, compliance with environmental standards and promoting best practices in wetland restoration.

The potential negative influence of ELY Centres was not explicitly rated, but considering their regulatory role, they could have **moderate influence** if there are conflicts between Wet Horizons' activities and Finnish environmental laws or policies.

#### *Impact*

The positive impact on ELY Centres from Wet Horizons was not quantified. However, given their focus on environmental protection and sustainable development, the outcomes of Wet Horizons are likely to align with their objectives and could aid in their mission to promote environmental well-being and compliance, indicating the **level of positive impact is likely to be moderate**.

The potential negative impact was not assessed either. However, any strategies or findings from Wet Horizons that conflict with the ELY Centres' mandates or policies could pose challenges or necessitate adjustments in their operations or regulatory approaches.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Ensure Regulatory Compliance:** Collaborate closely with Lapland ELY Centre to ensure that Wet Horizons' impact plans comply with Finnish environmental laws and regulations.

- **Leverage Lapland ELY Centres' Expertise:** Utilise their expertise in environmental governance to guide Wet Horizons' approaches to wetland restoration, ensuring alignment with regional and national environmental goals.
- **Engage in Knowledge Sharing:** Share Wet Horizons' findings and best practices with ELY Centres, contributing to their body of knowledge and aiding in their environmental monitoring and policy-making efforts.

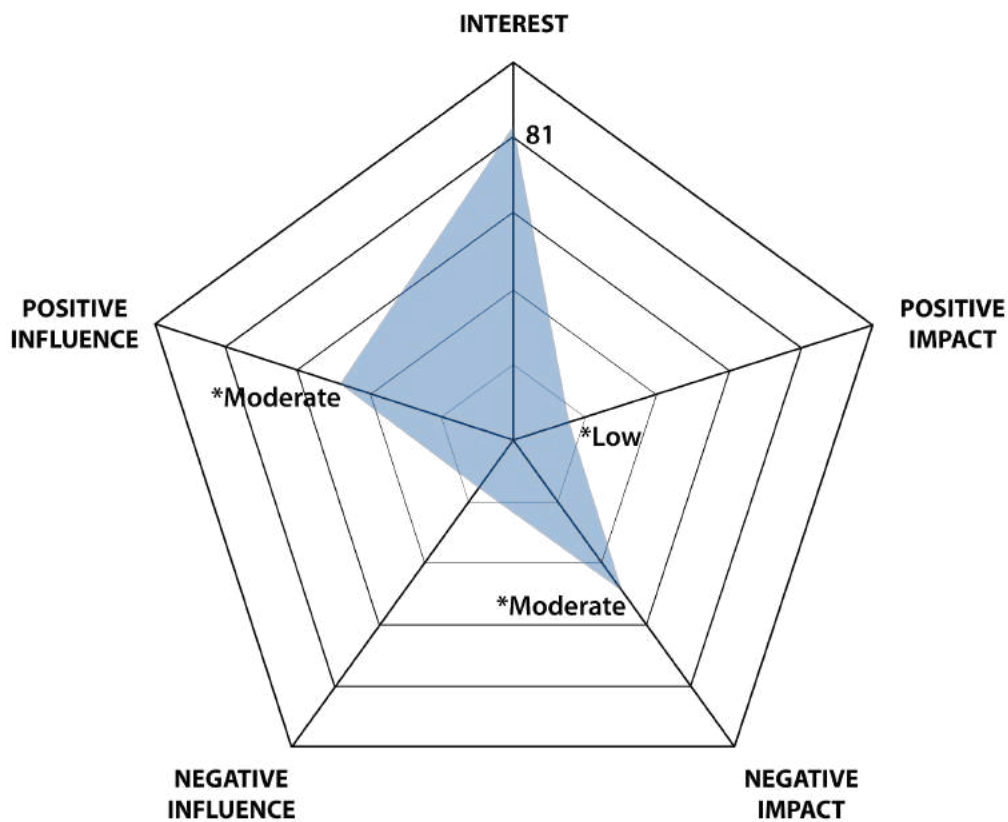
Hiilipörssi (Finnish Nature League)



National

Overall 3i score: 198

Figure 56: Overview of 3i analysis for Hiilipörssi<sup>132</sup>



3i analysis

<sup>132</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Hiilipörssi (Finnish Nature League). Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

Hiilipörssi<sup>133</sup>, initiated by the Finnish Nature League, is a carbon market platform aimed at restoring privately-owned peatlands in Finland. In addition to running this platform, Hiilipörssi conducts restoration itself, and currently have restoration contracts for more than 400 hectares of marshland. They are also developing a map-based and digital marketplace where landowners interested in restoring their bogs and companies interested in carbon compensation could meet. This initiative is designed to attract funding to return Finnish peatlands to their natural state, enhancing biodiversity, purifying water systems, and balancing the climate by storing carbon. Companies and organisations are currently able to invest in the restoration of two sites - the Viitalampi Swamp, and the Big and Little Piitsonsuo - in the form of hectares (10,000 m<sup>2</sup>) or CO<sub>2</sub> tons (t CO<sub>2</sub>). Hiilipörssi's role is significant in peatland conservation, making it an influential player in environmental restoration projects like Wet Horizons. Their work not only supports ecological recovery but also contributes to the reduction of carbon emissions and the protection of Finnish natural heritage.

The respondent reporting about this organisation highlighted that they specifically target restoration of wetlands not owned or managed by the state: "a compensation organisation that restores privately owned peatlands" (Finnish Meteorological Institute, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

Hiilipörssi was rated as having a **high level of interest (81%)** in Wet Horizons. This interest is likely due to the fact that the project is specifically focusing on providing tools and models that could benefit their activities as both an intermediary and ecosystem marketplace (e.g. governance models, ecosystem market insights), tools that could support restoration planning itself (modelling, digital tools), and policy work that could increase the likelihood of landowners engagement with their service.

### *Influence*

While specific positive influence data is not provided, Hiilipörssi can be inferred to have a **moderate positive influence on Wet Horizons**. They are arguably a key end user for Wet Horizons outputs, indicating the potential for project impact to flow out from their usage of outputs and engagement with the project. In addition, their expertise in peatland restoration and the successful implementation of similar initiatives indicate their potential to contribute positively to the project.

The potential for negative influence was not specified, but given Hiilipörssi's focus on ecological restoration, a **low level of negative influence** might arise from differing methodologies or priorities between their projects and Wet Horizons.

### *Impact*

The positive impact on Hiilipörssi from Wet Horizons was not quantified. However, the respondent for this organisation stated that they **could benefit to a moderate extent** from "experiences, contacts, and publicity" (Finnish Meteorological Institute, 3i survey), gained through collaboration with Wet Horizons, furthering their objectives in peatland restoration.

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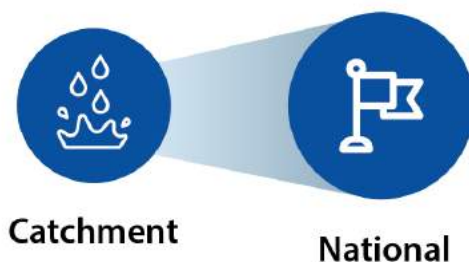
<sup>133</sup> <https://hiiliporssi.fi/>

The potential negative impact on Hiilipörssi from Wet Horizons was not quantified. However, considering their aligned goals in environmental restoration, significant negative impacts seem unlikely.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

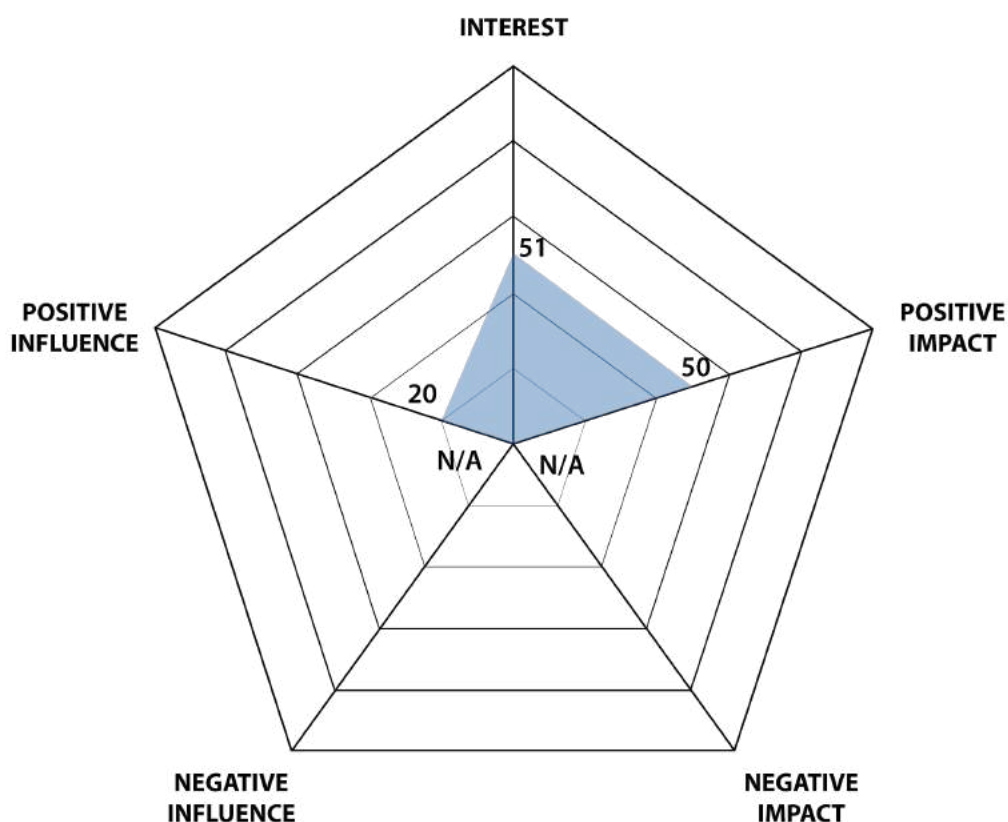
- **Collaboration on Peatland Restoration:** Partner with Hiilipörssi to leverage their expertise in restoring peatlands, enhancing the effectiveness of Wet Horizons in similar environments.
- **Exchange of Restoration Techniques and Knowledge:** Share insights and methodologies between Wet Horizons and Hiilipörssi, fostering a mutual learning environment that benefits both initiatives.
- **Maximize Publicity and Networking Opportunities:** Utilize the project's platform to increase awareness of Hiilipörssi's efforts, potentially attracting more participants and investors to their cause.

## Finnish Forestry Center / Suomen Metsäkeskus



Overall 3i score: 121

Figure 57: Overview of 3i analysis for Suomen Metsäkeskus<sup>134</sup>



### 3i analysis

<sup>134</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Suomen Metsäkeskus. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

The Finnish Forest Centre is a government organisation responsible for implementing forest policy, promoting sustainable forestry, and providing guidance to forest owners in Finland. It plays a significant role in wetland restoration, particularly in forested wetlands. The Centre's involvement in wetland restoration includes advising on best practices, monitoring wetland health, and supporting projects that align with Finland's forest and environmental conservation goals. Through its activities, the Finnish Forest Centre contributes to the preservation of biodiversity, enhancement of ecosystem services, and maintenance of water quality, making it a crucial player in the management and restoration of Finland's wetland ecosystems.

The respondent reporting about this organisation highlighted their multi-faceted roles in information-sharing, regulation, and financing, underscoring their layered stake in Wet Horizons and its outcomes: “Finnish Forestry Center collects and shares information about Finnish forests. It advises and trains forest owners in the management, sustainable utilisation and protection of forests. In addition, Metsäkeskus monitors that companies and individuals comply with forest laws. Metsäkeskus finances nature management works on private lands” (Metsähallitus/ LP lappi, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

Finnish Forestry Center was rated as having a **moderate level of interest (51%)** in Wet Horizons. This interest likely stems from their role in forest management and conservation, areas where Wet Horizons' objectives intersect with their mandate. The respondent reporting about this organisation highlighted their particular interest in gathering new knowledge: “Metsäkeskus does a lot of nature management work and is interested in the latest information and research” (Metsähallitus/ LP lappi, 3i survey).

### *Influence*

The organisation was rated as having a **low level of positive influence (20%)** on the project. While Finnish Forestry Center has expertise and plays an advisory role in forest management, its influence in the specific area of wetland restoration, as envisioned by Wet Horizons, might be relatively minimal, as “on private lands, the landowner makes the decision on the measures to be taken in the area” (Metsähallitus/ LP lappi, 3i survey), which explains why they were rated as having no negative influence on Wet Horizons (in addition to the fact that their activities and objectives are not expected to conflict with the goals of the Wet Horizons project). However, they were expected to have some positive influence in terms of providing guidance to landowners: “if the objects are located on private land, Metsäkeskus is a natural entity to guide the actions to be taken on the object” (Metsähallitus/ LP lappi, 3i survey).

### *Impact*

The positive impact of Wet Horizons on Finnish Forestry Center was not assessed. However, given their focus on forest management and conservation, it's likely that positive outcomes of Wet Horizons in these areas could align with their objectives, and

they could **moderately benefit** from reading scientific outputs from the project relevant to Finland.

Likewise, there was no assessment of the potential negative impact of Wet Horizons on Finnish Forestry Center.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Knowledge Sharing on Restoration Best Practices:** The Finnish Forest Centre can greatly benefit from Wet Horizons' research on wetland restoration, particularly in forested areas. Sharing best practices and monitoring techniques could enhance their advisory role.
- **Guidance in Financial Mechanisms for Restoration:** Wet Horizons' exploration of ecosystem markets and blending finance could provide valuable insights for the Finnish Forest Centre, especially in supporting forest owners seeking funding for restoration.
- **Cooperative Stakeholder Management:** The Centre's experience in coordinating restoration projects and stakeholder management aligns with Wet Horizons' objectives, offering opportunities for collaborative efforts in wetland restoration initiatives.



## Kattegat, Denmark 3i Analysis Results

This report presents results from the 3i analysis to identify relevant parties for the Wet Horizons research to consider engaging with, in Denmark.

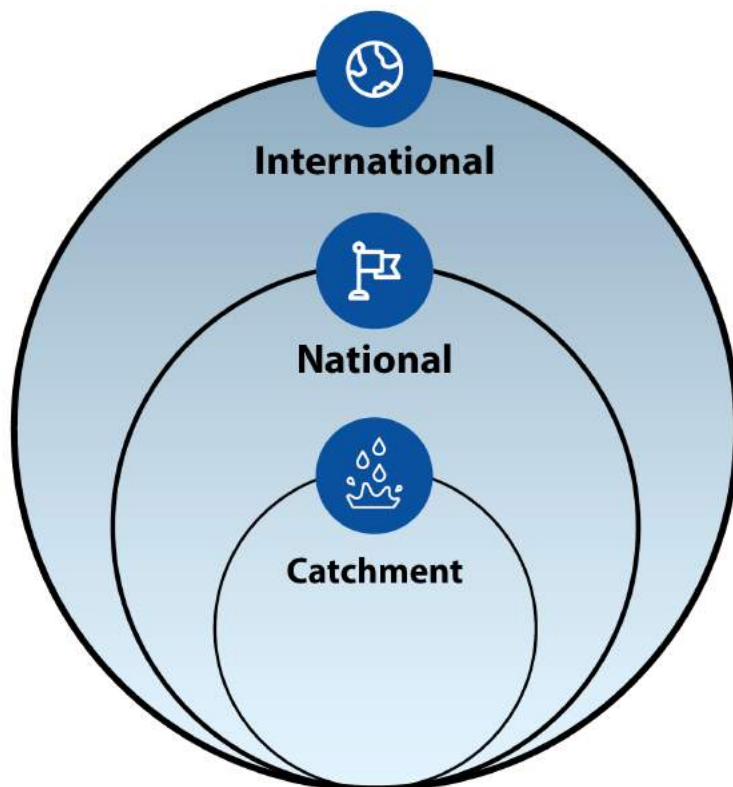
### Sample

A total of 11 organisations were identified with interests in, influence over and/or likely to be impacted positively or negatively by wetland restoration in different Danish catchments. This information was provided by  $n=21$  participants. These organisations were sorted into the following 6 categories:

**Table 1: Relevant party categories identified**

Relevant party category	Category description	Organisations	Number of organisations identified
Regulatory and policy	Municipalities and environmental agencies, having significant influence on issues for which there is existing legislation e.g. protected areas and planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Viborg municipality</li> <li>• Naturstyrelsen</li> <li>• Gudenåkomitéen</li> </ul>	3
Company	Consulting company delivering expertise and sustainable solutions to customers and partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rambøll</li> </ul>	1
Agricultural consultancies	Specialised company providing guidance, advice, and solutions to individuals, businesses, or government agencies involved in agriculture and related industries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEGES Innovation</li> </ul>	1
Landowner/ farmer union organisations	Association of land-owners working to create better framework conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bæredygtigt Landbrug</li> </ul>	1
Union organisations	Association of individuals sharing a common passion for nature, hunting, environmental protection, and the conservation of natural habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fri Nature</li> <li>• DM BIO</li> <li>• Danmarks Jaegerforbund</li> </ul>	3
Conservation nature funds	Associations, institutions or organisations raising and managing funds for nature, environmental protection, and the conservation of natural habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Klimaskovfonden</li> <li>• Global nature Fund</li> </ul>	2

Each organisation was assessed by the respondents based on its relevance to the research at the catchment, national or international level. These categories are symbolised with the following icons:



## Organisation-level 3i analysis

Here, we present the survey results for each organisation identified by respondents. Organisations are presented in order of their **aggregate 3i scores** (i.e., scores across interest, influence and impact) from high to low. As such, results are presented first for the organisations with the highest interest, influence and impact, then for the relevant parties that respondents scored lower on the 3i survey. In some cases, respondents indicated there would be some level of interest, influence or impact for the organisation, but did not provide a score indicating the extent. In these cases, desk research and interpretation of open-ended responses were used to infer an appropriate level (low, medium or high).

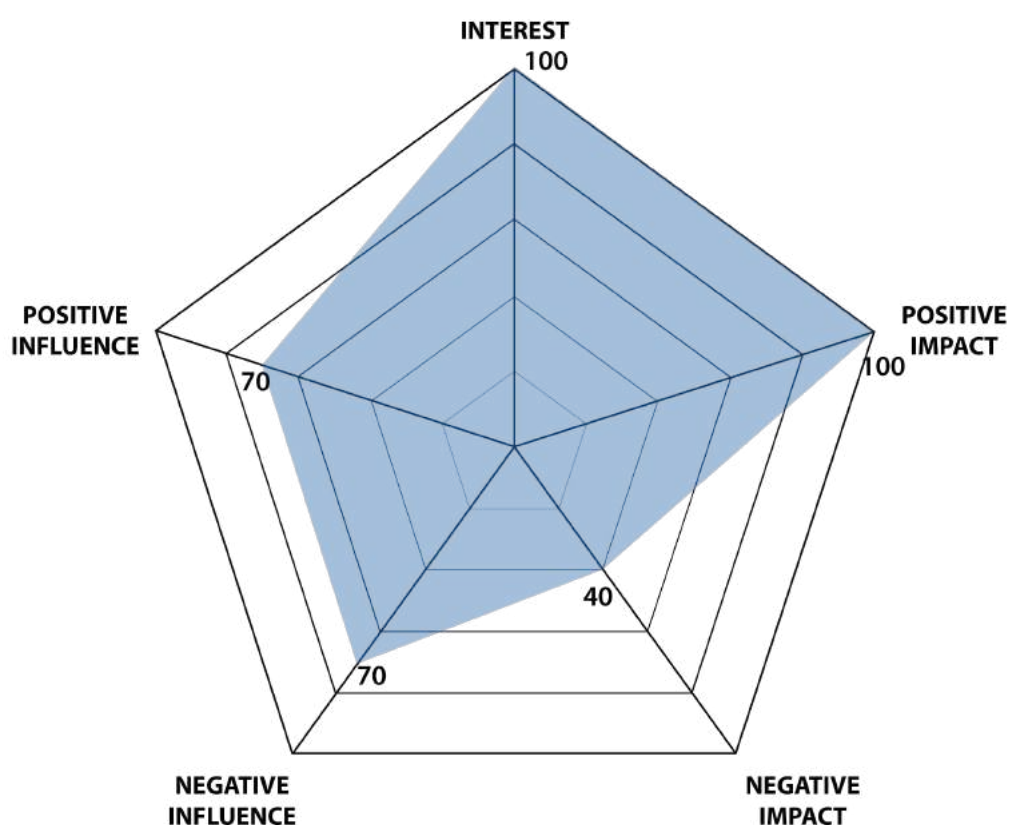
## Danmarks Jægerforbund



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 380

Figure 58: Overview of 3i analysis for Danmarks Jægerforbund<sup>135</sup>



### 3i analysis

Danmarks Jægerforbund is a member organisation dedicated to enhancing biodiversity, expanding natural spaces, and creating habitats essential for sustainable

<sup>135</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Danmarks Jægerforbund.

hunting<sup>136</sup>. Hunters play a pivotal role in nature and game management. As described by the organisation, "Jægerforbundet is a member organisation that works for increased biodiversity, more nature and more habitats, which are the basis for the sustainability of hunting. The hunters are key stakeholders in relation to nature and game management, including as an active stakeholder group that, among other things, already contributes with data collection and likes to participate in practical nature projects. as well as combating invasive species" (Danmarks Jægerforbund, 3i survey). This highlights the hunters' active contributions to data collection, their eagerness to participate in practical conservation projects, and their efforts in combating invasive species, marking them as valuable stakeholders deeply committed to the welfare of both the environment and wildlife.

### *Interest*

Danmarks Jægerforbund was rated as likely to be **highly interested (100%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This interest is rooted in the association's commitment to habitat conservation, with the respondent stating "The Hunters' Association works for more habitats, which restored wetlands contribute to" (Danmarks Jægerforbund, 3i survey). Wetlands play a crucial role in supporting diverse ecosystems, which directly aligns with Danmarks Jægerforbund's mission. The restored wetlands not only enhance biodiversity but also provide essential habitats for various game species, contributing to the sustainability of hunting.

### *Influence*

Danmarks Jægerforbund was rated as having a **high level of power (70%)** to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This high level of power stems from the association's significant reach and influence within Denmark's nature and hunting communities - "The Jægerforbundet represents around 90,000 memberships and thus the largest group of active nature users in Denmark (Danmarks Jægerforbund, 3i survey). This extensive network and membership base provides Danmarks Jægerforbund with a unique capacity to mobilise resources, raise awareness, and engage with a broad audience of individuals passionate about nature and wildlife. The respondent further rated the association as having a **high level of power (70%) to block** the project's goals. This influence arises from the fact that The hunters are a significant stakeholder group who, as active users of nature, should always be involved prior to the initiation of nature projects, as these can have a major impact on the interests of both the hunters, but also the individual hunter. Early involvement is crucial for the Hunters' positive participation, both as users but also as voluntary data collectors" (Danmarks Jægerforbund, 3i survey). Their involvement is considered essential before the commencement of any nature-related projects, given that such initiatives can significantly affect not only the collective interests of hunters but also those of individual hunters. Therefore, early engagement and consultation with hunters are crucial for fostering their positive participation in the project. As active users of natural environments, hunters play a vital role, not only as enthusiasts but also as voluntary data collectors.

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<sup>136</sup> <https://www.jaegerforbundet.dk/#>

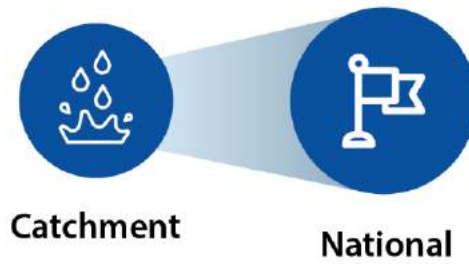
## *Impact*

Danmarks Jægerforbund was rated as likely to receive a **high level of benefit (100%)** from Wet Horizons and its project outcomes. This stems from the association's core mission, which focuses on promoting and conserving habitats. Thus, wetland restoration aligns seamlessly with the objectives of Danmarks Jægerforbund. Simultaneously, the association was rated as likely to receive a **moderate negative impact (40%)** from Wet Horizons and its project outcomes. This potential negative impact hinges on a crucial factor: "It depends on whether the hunters are consistently excluded as a user group from the wetlands that are restored in the future" (Danmarks Jægerforbund, 3i survey). If hunters find themselves consistently excluded from these restored wetlands, it could have adverse consequences for both the association and individual hunters. Such exclusions might limit access to favoured hunting grounds, reduce the availability of game species, and impact the overall hunting experience.

## *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

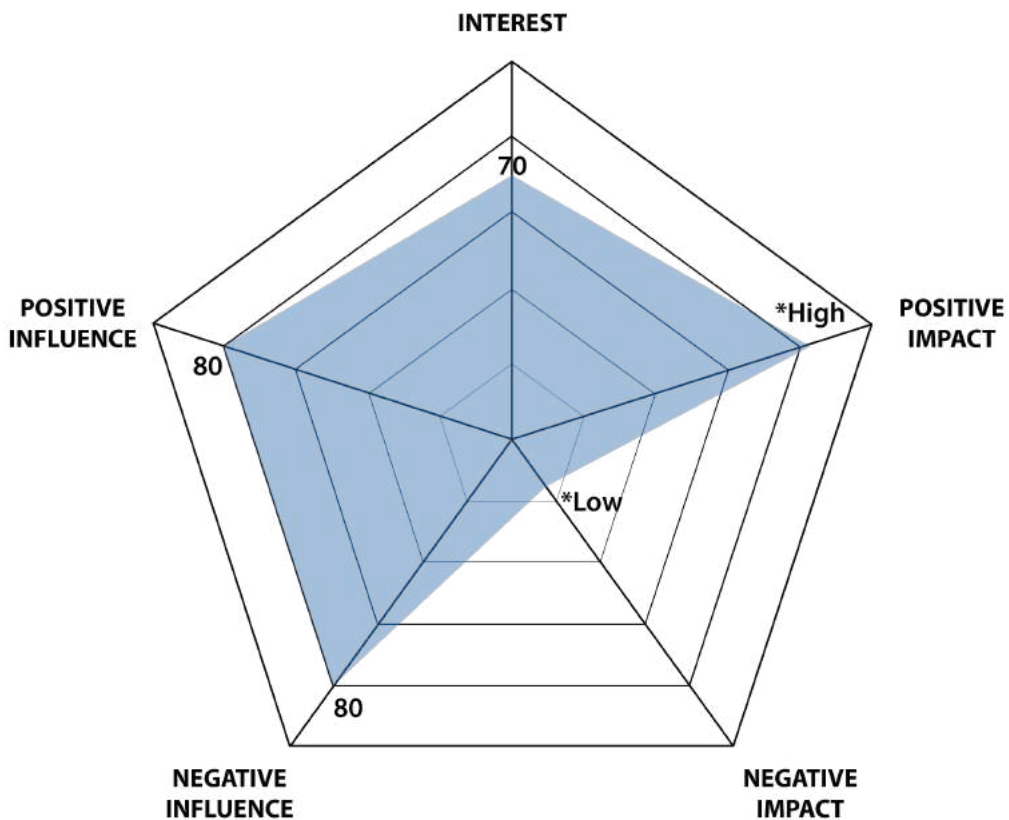
- **Inclusivity:** Wet Horizons should prioritise involving Danmarks Jægerforbund in the planning and management of wetland restoration projects. Ensuring that hunters are consistently included as a user group is crucial to prevent negative impacts and foster collaboration.
- **Early Engagement:** Recognizing the association's high level of power, early engagement and consultation with Danmarks Jægerforbund are essential. This ensures that hunters' interests and perspectives are considered before project initiation.
- **Data Sharing:** Collaborate with the association on data collection and research related to hunting and wildlife. Providing access to research outcomes can be mutually beneficial.
- **Communication:** Leverage the association's extensive network and credibility within the hunting and nature communities for project promotion and advocacy.

## SEGES Innovation



Overall 3i score: 310

Figure 59: Overview of 3i analysis for SEGES Innovation<sup>137</sup>



### 3i analysis

SEGES Innovation is an independent innovation company which for more than 50 years has developed new knowledge and concrete solutions for sustainable

<sup>137</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 3 survey responses were entered about SEGES. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

production. The deep knowledge of agriculture and food is also used for advanced software that shows new paths. Their website states that “Ensuring a balance between using and protecting the earth's resources for the benefit of current and future generations is a challenge that calls for innovation. We realise solutions for the sustainable agricultural and food production of the future - both in Denmark and internationally. We connect professional insights with digital competences and technologies, so that knowledge comes to work in the stable, in the field, at the desk and in the entire value chain.”<sup>138</sup>

The respondent reporting about this organisation highlighted their particular expertise in landowner perspectives - “SEGES Innovation is a private, independent, non-profit research and development organisation and is the leading agricultural knowledge and innovation centre in Denmark - so it's knowledge etc from many landowners' perspectives” (Norddjurs Municipality, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

SEGES Innovation was rated as likely to be **highly interested (70%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent for this organisation stated, “As an agricultural developer, SEGES also embraces new uses of agricultural land. Agriculture is aware that it is part of the problem and the solution in relation to wetlands. The more robust solutions SEGES can contribute to (area-wise and financially for the individual) the better. As long as they can see themselves as part of the concrete solutions. Definitely also a 'gray eminence'” (Norddjurs Municipality, 3i survey). This encapsulates SEGES's commitment to innovative and sustainable agricultural practices that acknowledge and mitigate the challenges facing wetlands. This interest stems from the company's role as an agricultural developer with a progressive approach. SEGES recognizes the intricate relationship between agriculture and wetlands, acknowledging that wetlands contribute to and mitigate agricultural challenges.

### *Influence*

SEGES Innovation was rated as having a **high level of power (80%)** to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The high rate is rooted in their exceptional capacity and extensive experience in engaging with farmers and agricultural associations. Their unique skill set and long history of collaboration with these stakeholders positions them as a pivotal player in driving the success of Wet Horizons, but only if they see a place for themselves, as noted by the respondent: “If SEGES can see themselves in the project, then they will be able to roll out knowledge to agricultural associations in a different way than environmental scientists” (Norddjurs Municipality, 3i survey). Similarly, the company was also rated as having a **high level of power (80%)** to block Wet Horizons and its outcomes - “If SEGES cannot see themselves in the project, then they will also be able to roll out knowledge to agricultural associations in a different way than environmental scientists. Or simply not address the subject in favoUr of the Wet Horizon-projects” (Norddjurs Municipality, 3i survey). This influential standing

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<sup>138</sup> <https://segessinovation.dk/om-os/vores-virksomhed/>



reflects the fact that if SEGES does not perceive the value or validity of Wet Horizons' outcomes, they possess the capability to redirect their knowledge dissemination strategies to farmers and within the agricultural associations.

### *Impact*

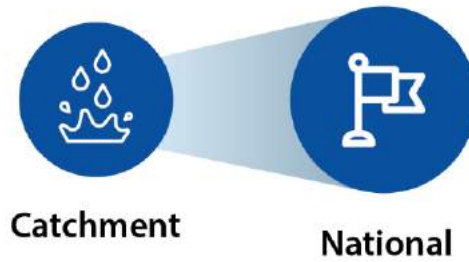
The respondent did not define SEGES Innovation's level of benefit from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, a **high level of benefit** is expected due to enhanced knowledge exchange enabling the company to stay at the forefront of industry trends and best practice - "If Danish agriculture can contribute to robust solutions, then it will be better regarded by the general public - and SEGES will have contributed to this" (Norddjurs Municipality, 3i survey). This can open up new opportunities for SEGES, including potential partnerships, joint ventures, new innovation and research opportunities, access to a broader network of industry professionals.

In terms of negative impact, the respondent did not specify a quantitative level of possible adverse impacts, but did explain that "there can be/come some inconvenient measures for Danish agriculture. And if SEGES enters Wet Horizon, they are the mediators of inconvenient initiatives and knowledge" (Norddjurs Municipality, 3i survey), indicating a potential **low level of negative impact**.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

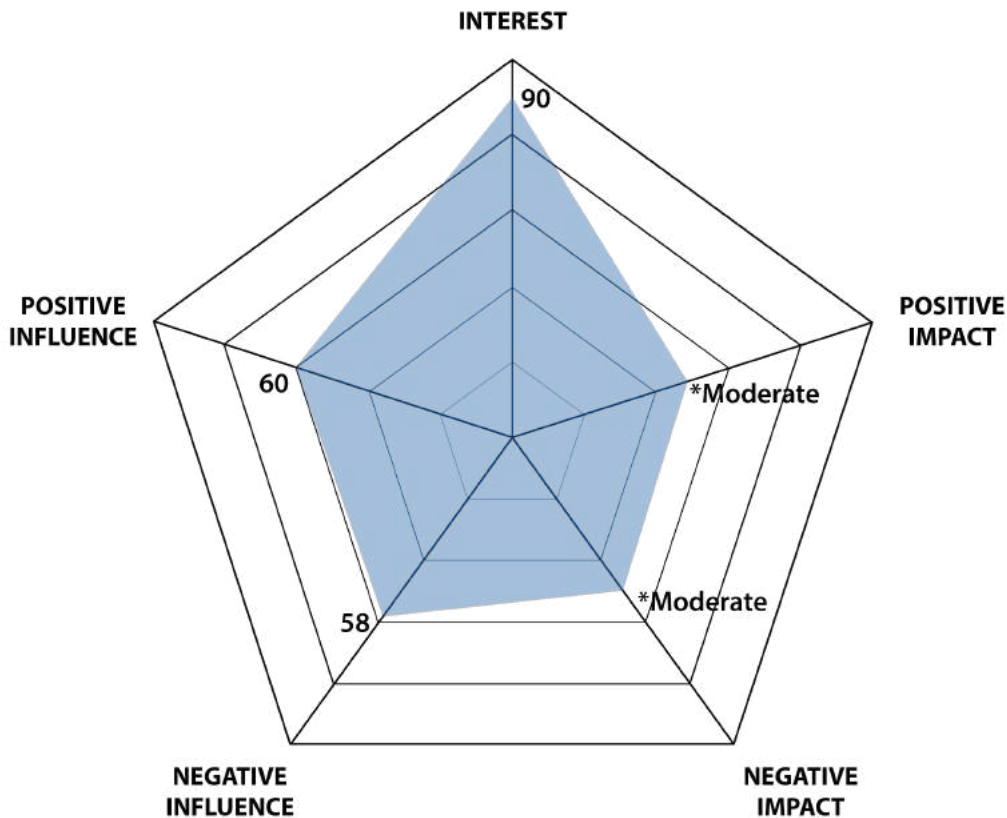
- **Engagement and Collaboration:** Given SEGES' high level of interest (70%) in Wet Horizons and its recognition of the importance of wetlands in agriculture, it is recommended that the project actively engages SEGES in collaborative efforts. This could involve joint research initiatives, knowledge-sharing forums, and partnership opportunities.
- **Stakeholder Communication:** Recognizing SEGES' influential standing (80%) in both supporting and potentially blocking Wet Horizons, it is crucial to maintain open and transparent communication channels with the company. Addressing any concerns or doubts promptly is also advisable to mitigate the risk of obstruction.
- **Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building:** SEGES is expected to benefit significantly from knowledge exchange within Wet Horizons. To maximize this benefit, the project should focus on delivering relevant and cutting-edge information that aligns with SEGES' desire to stay at the forefront of industry trends and best practices. Tailored workshops, reports, and collaborative research opportunities can help strengthen SEGES' capacity and expertise.

## DM BIO



Overall 3i score: 298

Figure 60: Overview of 3i analysis for DM BIO<sup>139</sup>



### 3i analysis

<sup>139</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about DM BIO. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

DM BIO is a professional community for those who study or work in green sectors, including areas related to nature, climate, the environment, sustainability, urban planning, technology, and food production. It's a space designed to broaden horizons by enabling members to meet, share knowledge, and engage in debates around these critical subjects. DM BIO is described by the Norddjurs Municipality 3i survey as "an association of trade unions with a focus on the environment, serving as a professional community for those who work with, for, or in nature and the environment. It is an interdisciplinary community where high-quality knowledge is disseminated. Societally more unpleasant/inconvenient discussions are also brought up." This encapsulates DM BIO's role as a pivotal interdisciplinary hub that not only fosters the dissemination of high-quality knowledge but also courageously engages in challenging societal discussions related to environmental issues.<sup>140</sup>

### *Interest*

DM BIO was rated as likely to be **highly interested (90%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This high interest arises from the fact that DM BIO is a professional association comprising diverse trade unions, all excelling in facilitating high-quality mediation and debates. The respondent noted that "since there are several different trade unions involved, far more different positions are also affected by the debate. The association is also happy to take up topics that may be inconvenient for society to decide on. The debates can then be taken out by the respective members in their own organisation, private and public" (Norddjurs Municipality, 3i survey). As such, the association is likely to be interested in controversial issues arising from the project, such as policy changes surrounding ecosystem markets.

### *Influence*

DM BIO was rated as having a **moderate level of power (60%)** to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. This high level of power arises from DM BIO's unique capability "to reach a wide group of disciplines all in environmental issues" (Norddjurs Municipality, 3i survey). Furthermore, the association possesses the capacity to actively participate in dialogues within both private and public organisations. The respondent stated that "one of the difficult things in restoring wet areas, most of all, is the awareness of the necessity and the courage to do it properly, and on a proper scale. I think that DM BIO can push for that courage and debate" (Norddjurs Municipality, 3i survey). Through their extensive interdisciplinary network and engagement with various sectors, DM BIO can play a pivotal role in driving the discussion around wetland restoration, ultimately contributing to more informed decision-making and broader support for these initiatives.

The respondent further rated the association as having a **moderate level of power (58%)** to block the project's goals. Their capacity to engage in debates and discussions extends to matters that could affect the trajectory of projects like Wet Horizons. Nevertheless, the respondent emphasised that they are "pretty sure it is NOT in DM BIO's interest" (Norddjurs Municipality, 3i survey) to block the project. Instead, their

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<sup>140</sup> <https://dm.dk/bio/>

primary goal is to actively support and advocate for projects that align with their mission and objectives.

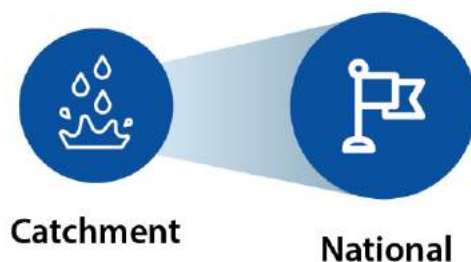
### *Impact*

The respondent did not define DM BIO's level of benefit from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, it is reasonable to assume that the **level of benefit is moderate** due to their interest in interdisciplinary collaboration, increased awareness, and alignment with their environmental goals. It is further assumed that the project's activities and results may exert **moderate adverse impact (50%)**. This may arise from potential challenges and trade-offs associated with engaging with a multifaceted project like Wet Horizons.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

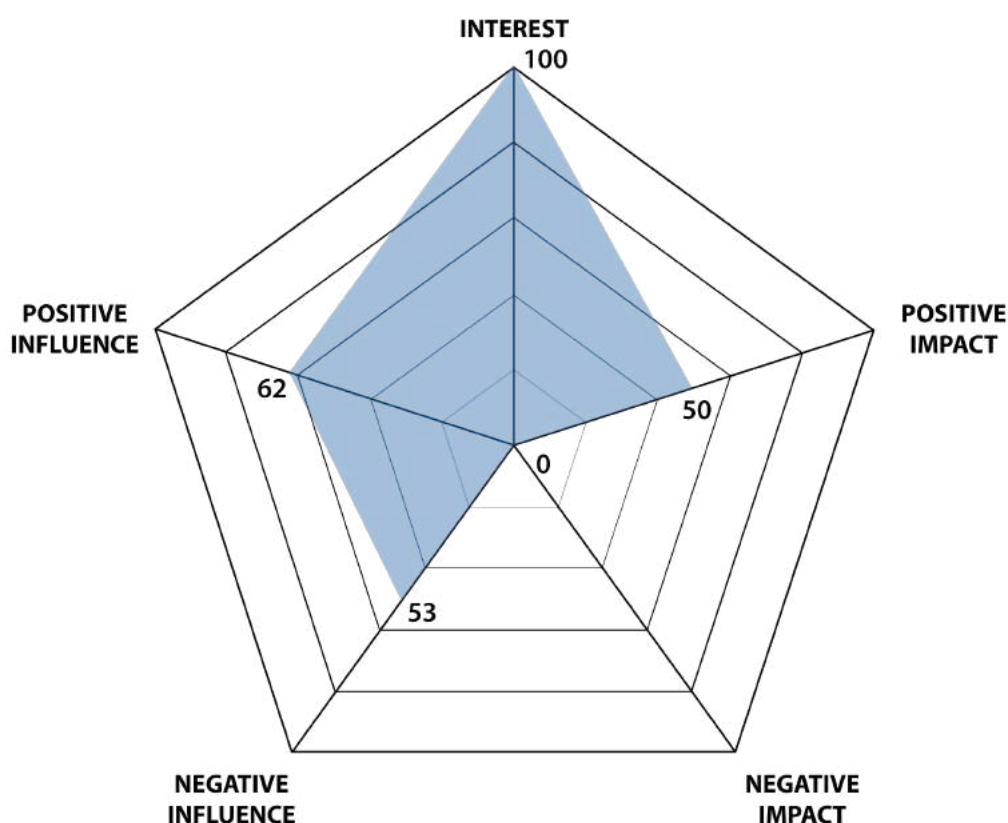
- **Leveraging Interdisciplinary Influence:** DM BIO's unique composition, with diverse trade unions focused on environmental issues, positions them as a powerful advocate for initiatives like Wet Horizons. They should strategically leverage their interdisciplinary influence to support and promote the project's objectives, emphasising the importance of wetland restoration from various perspectives.
- **Collaborative Outreach:** To maximise their influence and support for Wet Horizons, DM BIO should proactively engage with private and public organisations. Collaborative efforts and partnerships with these entities can help drive awareness, funding, and policy changes necessary for the project's success.
- **Advocacy for Courageous Initiatives:** Given their inclination to support projects aligned with their mission, DM BIO should actively advocate for the courage required to undertake wetland restoration comprehensively. They can emphasise the long-term benefits of such initiatives, both for biodiversity and sustainable environmental practices.
- **Enhancing Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** DM BIO's moderate interest in interdisciplinary collaboration indicates a willingness to engage in projects that align with their goals. Wet Horizons should emphasise its potential for interdisciplinary knowledge exchange and collaboration as a way to attract DM BIO's active participation.

## Fri Natur



Overall 3i score: 275

Figure 61: Overview of 3i analysis for Fri Natur<sup>141</sup>



### 3i analysis

Fri Natur is a nationwide association that works for free, varied and accessible nature without fences<sup>142</sup>. Fri Natur contributes to the future of our shared nature with lecture

<sup>141</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Fri Natur.

<sup>142</sup> <https://frinaturdanmark.dk/om-os/>

series, citizen meetings, consultation responses, debate submissions, contact with decision-makers, etc.

Fri Natur has the right to appeal in environmental cases - i.e. matters relating to nature. If Fri Natur finds that plans and projects can cause lasting damage to nature, Fri Natur can choose to complain to the relevant authorities. This also applies if Fri Natur finds that access to nature is unnecessarily hindered or is associated with danger. Fri Natur will work to create larger contiguous natural areas that are accessible for outdoor life and with free movement for game. Fri Natur is currently working to organise relevant professional groups that can provide professional input to municipalities and the state - and be a knowledge bank for the local groups.

### *Interest*

Fri Natur was rated as likely to be **highly interested (100%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The association is specifically interested in any change and improvement of streams for the benefit of nature, stating “Any change and improvement of streams for the benefit of nature is of interest to the association” (Fri Natur, 3i survey). Fri Natur recognizes the ecological significance of streams as vital components of ecosystems, contributing to biodiversity, water quality, and overall ecosystem health. This alignment of objectives between Fri Natur and Wet Horizons creates a strong foundation for collaboration, as both entities share a common goal of enhancing natural landscapes and promoting ecological sustainability.

### *Influence*

Fri Natur was rated as having a **moderate level of power (62%)** to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent stated they could “support by advertising the project” (Fri Natur, 3i survey). Given their high level of interest and their specific focus on stream improvement for the benefit of nature, Fri Natur could serve as a valuable advocate and supporter. Their ability to raise awareness, mobilise resources, and engage with a wider community of environmental enthusiasts can greatly contribute to Wet Horizons' success. Their network and credibility within the conservation community may also facilitate collaboration with other organisations and stakeholders. Similarly, Fri Natur was rated as having a **moderate level of power (53%)** to block Wet Horizons and its outcomes as it is “entitled to appeal according to the Aarhus Convention” (Fri Natur, 3i survey)<sup>143</sup>. The Aarhus Convention grants environmental organisations like Fri Natur the legal right to challenge decisions or projects that they believe could have adverse environmental impacts. This power rating reflects the ability of Fri Natur to raise concerns, legally challenge decisions, and seek judicial remedies if they perceive that Wet Horizons' activities may have detrimental effects on the environment, particularly in the context of stream improvement and nature conservation. Their role as environmental advocates and protectors gives them a strong legal standing to influence project outcomes.

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<sup>143</sup> [https://environment.ec.europa.eu/law-and-governance/aarhus\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/law-and-governance/aarhus_en)

### *Impact*

The respondent did not define Fri Nature's level of benefit from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Nevertheless, given the wide array of activities undertaken by the association, a **moderate level of benefit** can be reasonably inferred. This moderate interest can be attributed to the potential benefits derived from sharing results and best practices, which, in turn, would positively impact the association's initiatives. This knowledge exchange could (i) enhance Fri Nature's ability to make informed and effective decisions in their conservation endeavours, (ii) enable to allocate their resources more efficiently, maximising the impact of their conservation projects, (iii) boost their credibility as a conservation organisation, grounding their work in evidence-based practices and (iv) refine the ability to raise awareness and influence policy decisions in favour of nature conservation. It is further assumed that the project's activities and results are **not likely to exert any adverse impact** on the organisation.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

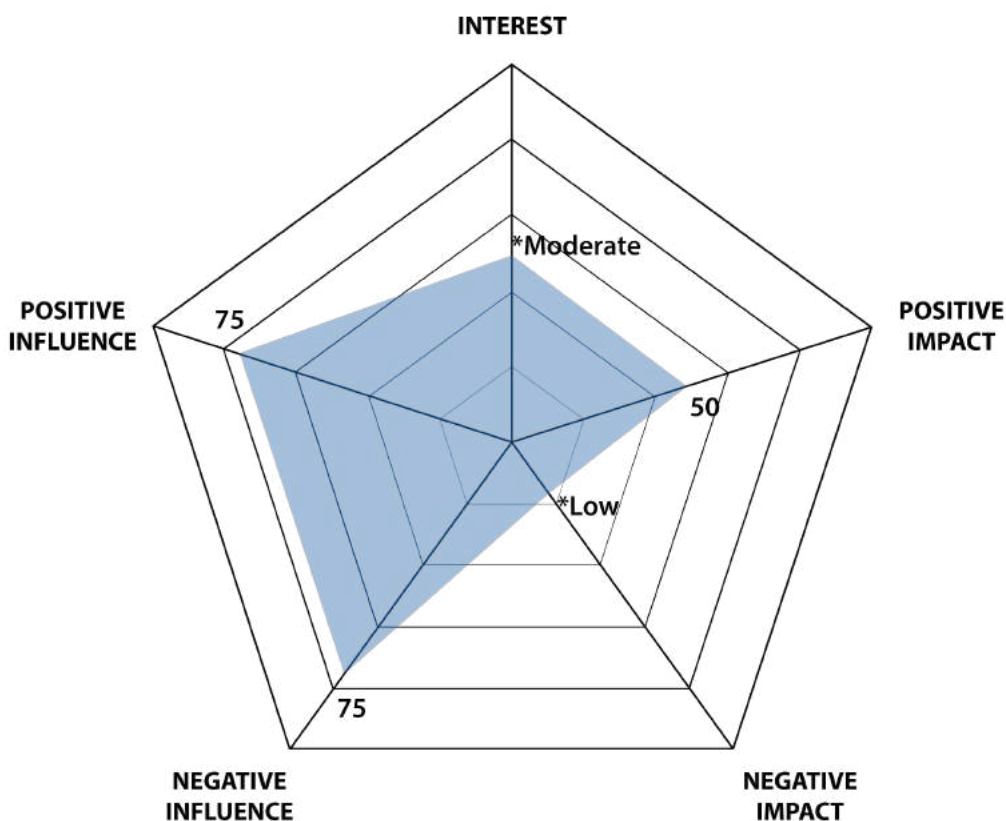
- **Support:** Wet Horizons should leverage Fri Natur's influence to raise awareness, mobilise resources, and engage with a wider community of environmental enthusiasts. Collaborating with Fri Natur can enhance project visibility and credibility within the conservation community.
- **Knowledge Sharing:** Wet Horizons should prioritise sharing project results and best practices. This can benefit both organisations by enhancing Fri Natur's conservation efforts and potentially expanding the reach of Wet Horizons' research findings.
- **Collaborative Initiatives:** Joint projects or advocacy efforts can amplify the impact of both organisations in promoting ecological sustainability.
- **Communication:** To maximise the positive impact, Wet Horizons could maintain regular communication with Fri Natur. This ensures that knowledge exchange and potential collaborative activities are effectively coordinated and aligned with both organisations' objectives.

## Naturstyrelsen



Overall 3i score: 270

Figure 62: Overview of 3i analysis for Fri Natur<sup>144</sup>



### 3i analysis

<sup>144</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Naturstyrelsen. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.



Naturstyrelsen is the agency of the Ministry of the Environment that handles tasks in forests, natural areas and along the coasts in Denmark<sup>145</sup>. The Agency manages approximately 200,000 hectares of state forests and natural areas, so that the greatest possible value is created for society in the form of a good framework for outdoor life, protection of nature and efficient operation of the agency's forests and other natural areas.

Naturstyrelsen places a strong emphasis on nature and wetlands conservation. It is dedicated to the protection and restoration of natural ecosystems, particularly wetlands, recognizing their critical role in biodiversity and water management.

### *Interest*

The respondent did not define the level of interest in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, Naturstyrelsen may have a **moderate interest** in Wet Horizons projects due to its overarching commitment to nature conservation and wetland preservation. Given its expertise in these areas, the agency is likely to find common ground with Wet Horizons' objectives, which align with the restoration and sustainable management of wetlands. Collaboration between Wet Horizons and Naturstyrelsen could result in a powerful synergy, combining their knowledge, resources, and dedication to fostering healthy wetland ecosystems. This partnership has the potential to contribute significantly to the broader goals of environmental conservation and the promotion of wetland biodiversity.

### *Influence*

Naturstyrelsen was rated as having a relatively **high level of power (75%)** to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though no further explanation was given, this is likely due to the agency's authority and influence within the realm of nature conservation and environmental management in Denmark. With its extensive knowledge, resources, and regulatory capacity, Naturstyrelsen can play a pivotal role in championing and implementing the objectives of Wet Horizons. Leveraging its power, the agency can facilitate effective collaboration, drive policy changes, and mobilize necessary support to ensure the success of Wet Horizons' initiatives, ultimately advancing wetland conservation and ecological sustainability in the region. At the same time, Naturstyrelsen was rated as having a relatively **high level of power (75%)** to potentially obstruct the project from achieving its goals. Although no specific explanation was provided, this rating likely stems from the agency's regulatory authority and capacity to enforce environmental standards and policies. Any misalignment or conflicts with Wet Horizons' outcomes could potentially be significant obstacles.

### *Impact*

Naturstyrelsen was rated as having a **moderate level of benefit (50%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Though no further explanation was given, this rating likely reflects the potential advantages that Naturstyrelsen can derive from the project. It is

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<sup>145</sup> <https://naturstyrelsen.dk/>

plausible that the agency anticipates gaining valuable insights, data, or research findings from Wet Horizons that can inform and enhance its own wetland conservation and nature management efforts. Furthermore, while no information was given on the extent of the potential negative impact of the project on Naturstyrelsen, it is plausible that new information could disrupt or challenge their ongoing initiatives or existing knowledge base. This, in turn, might introduce heightened uncertainty and result in a **low level negative impact**.

### *Impact Planning Survey Results*

A participant from the Naturstyrelsen accepted an invitation to respond to the Wet Horizons impact planning survey, providing details about how they perceive the project and its potential positive impact for their organisation and its wetland restoration activities.

#### *Perception of Wetlands and the Importance of Wet Horizons:*

The respondent from the agency rated the project as **79% interesting** and **80% important**, noting the European scale as a particularly interesting element: "it is interesting to help and develop these topics in a European context. In Denmark we have worked with restoration of wetland [over] 35 years, and we have already worked with these topics [for] a long time" (Naturstyrelsen, impact planning survey).

In response to the question 'What comes to mind when you think of wetland or peatland restoration?', the respondent emphasised a sense of urgency in terms of the climate and biodiversity crises: "It only can go too slow with restoration of our wetland and peatland in Denmark. We have to work hard and fast to contribute to reducing the discharge of CO<sub>2</sub> from the peatland areas and in the river valley to restore and stop intensive agriculture to save biodiversity" (Naturstyrelsen, impact planning survey).

#### *Challenges in the Kokemäenjoki Catchment Area:*

The respondent did not give any detail regarding specific challenges they were facing, but did specify personnel: "we have a national expert group and a taskforce working with the challenges<sup>146</sup>" (Naturstyrelsen, impact planning survey).

#### *Beneficiary Initiatives and Organisations:*

The respondent stated that the project would be most relevant to direct outputs towards the 'Working groups in the effort to extract low-lying soils', and provided their webpage<sup>147</sup>. They noted that Wet Horizons could contribute to benefits for organisations within **government or policy, carbon or other ecosystem markets**,

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<sup>146</sup><https://lbst.dk/tvaergaaende/udtagning-af-lavbundsjord/arbejdsgrupper-i-indsatsen-for-udtagning-af-lavbundsjord>

<sup>147</sup><https://lbst.dk/tvaergaaende/udtagning-af-lavbundsjord/arbejdsgrupper-i-indsatsen-for-udtagning-af-lavbundsjord>

**commercial business, landowner/manager community and their suppliers, or landowner/manager NGOs.**

*Benefits Offered by Wet Horizons for the Naturstyrelsen working groups:*

The respondent from the Naturstyrelsen noted that the project could benefit the working groups and other organisations through providing **information** in the form of **videos** and **policy note/briefs**.

*Preferred Communication Methods:*

The respondent stated that the best way to communicate with them would be through **Informal sharing of project outputs (e.g., a social media post or sending an email with relevant information)** or **formal sharing of project outputs (e.g., a scheduled event)**.

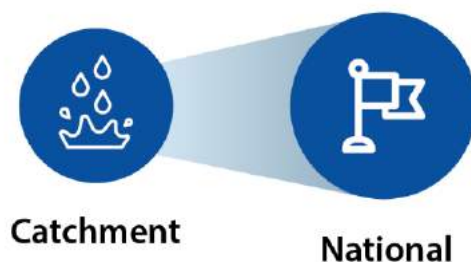
*Awareness of Negative Effects:*

The respondent stated that they were **unsure** if there were any likely negative effects that could arise from the project.

*Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

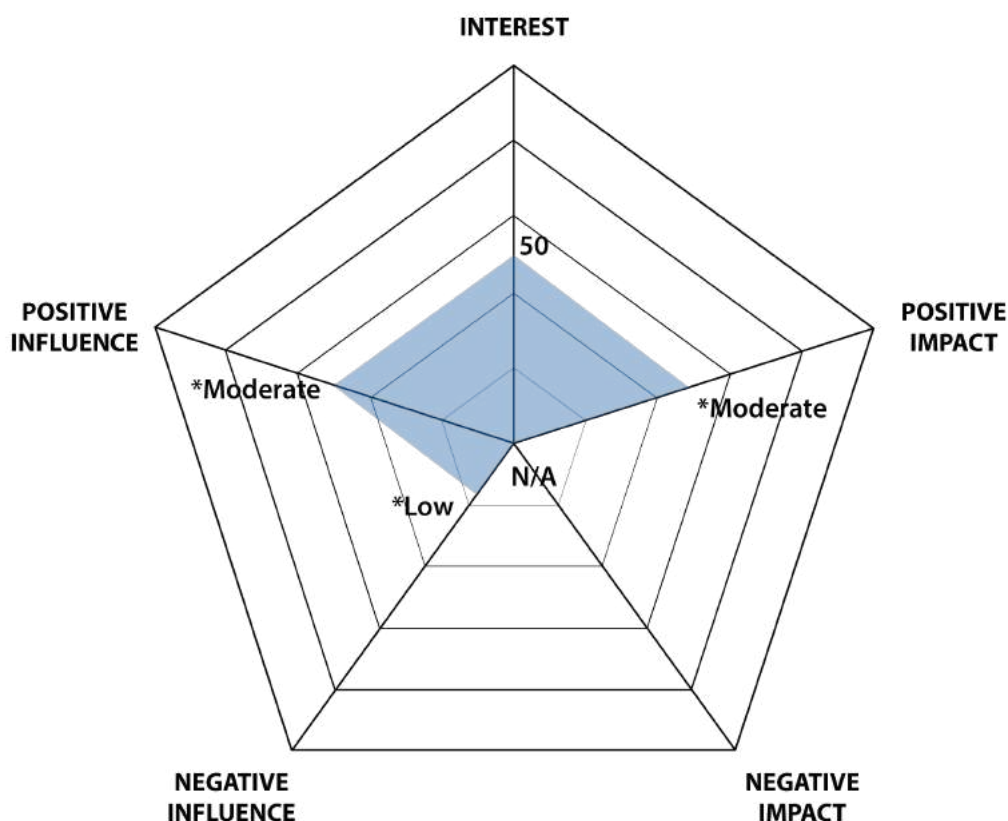
- **Sharing policy recommendations:** As Naturstyrelsen is a government agency, they stated interest in receiving policy note/briefs produced throughout the Wet Horizons project,
- **Sharing ecosystem market outputs:** Naturstyrelsen have a section on their website sharing 'Subsidy schemes for the extraction of low-lying soils'. They are likely to benefit from developing their understanding of ecosystem markets, and public-private finance models that Wet Horizons will explore, with particular focus on how government agencies can implement them for different project types.

## Bæredygtigt Landbrug



Overall 3i score: 160

Figure 63: Overview of 3i analysis for Bæredygtigt Landbrug<sup>148</sup>



### 3i analysis

Bæredygtigt Landbrug represents conventional and organic primary farmers who together cultivate over 1 million ha. Their goal is to create better framework conditions

<sup>148</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Bæredygtigt Landbrug. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

for farming families<sup>149</sup>. The association's initiatives aim to (i) promote sustainable agricultural production in harmony with and to the benefit of both the production and the climate, nature and environment, (ii) ensure competitive framework conditions, so that agriculture can produce for the joy of the farming families and for the benefit of society, (iii) ensure professional and legally correct regulation of agriculture, (iv) ensure equality of Danish farmers' production conditions with the conditions that apply to farmers in the rest of the EU, (v) ensure the inviolability of property rights and that restrictions on property rights only take place with proper legal authority and against full compensation, (vi) inform the population about what intensive sustainable agriculture is, and about the real state of the Danish climate, nature and environment.

### *Interest*

Bæredygtigt Landbrug was rated as likely to be **moderately interested (50%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Their moderate interest in Wet Horizons might stem from the need to balance the varied interests and preferences of their members. Striking this balance is often crucial for an association that aims to advocate for the entire farming community, as different farmers may have differing views on wetland-related initiatives. As noted by the respondent for this organisation, "Bæredygtigt Landbrug represents the interests of farmers and thus the landowners. It is the farmers' land that is affected" (Bæredygtigt Landbrug, 3i survey), clearly indicating their stake.

### *Influence*

The respondent did not define Bæredygtigt Landbrug's level of support for Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, a **moderate level of power to support** is expected which may reflect the need to balance the interests and concerns of various farmer groups while also considering broader societal and environmental factors. In contrast, a **low level of power** to block Wet Horizons and its outcomes may be given to the association, which appears to be mostly aligned with the mission of advocating for the interests of the farming community. In fact, while they may have reservations or concerns, outright obstruction is not their expected course of action.

### *Impact*

The respondent did not define Bæredygtigt Landbrug's level of benefit to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, a **moderate level of benefit** is expected due to their influence, resource mobilisation capabilities, willingness to engage, and the potential for growing alignment over time as the project unfolds. Building a constructive relationship with Bæredygtigt Landbrug could lead to a more substantial level of support in the future. It is further inferred that the project's activities and results would **not exert any adverse impact on the organisation.**

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<sup>149</sup> <https://blb.dk/>

## *Impact Planning Survey Results*

A participant from the Naturstyrelsen accepted an invitation to respond to the Wet Horizons impact planning survey, providing details about how they perceive the project and its potential positive impact for their organisation and its wetland restoration activities.

### *Perception of Wetlands and the Importance of Wet Horizons:*

The respondent from the agency rated the project as **80% interesting** and **90% important**, noting “I think it is a very interesting project, because there is generally a lack of knowledge about which areas should be sampled in order to achieve the desired climate effect, and because the climate is not only something we have in DK, it is important to look at much larger areas, such as the whole EU. It is important because we represent the landowners” (Bæredygtigt Landbrug, impact planning survey). In response to the question ‘What comes to mind when you think of wetland or peatland restoration?’, the respondent highlighted their scepticism about the effectiveness of converting agricultural land into wetland, highlighting that simply not cultivating land and flooding it does not guarantee positive outcomes for climate and biodiversity: “I’m thinking of taking out agricultural land, which does not necessarily provide the desired climate and biodiversity effect that many talk about. A lot has to be done to achieve the desired effects and right now it seems that many people think that as long as you don’t cultivate the land and put it under water then all is well.” (Bæredygtigt Landbrug, impact planning survey).

### *Challenges in the Kokemäenjoki Catchment Area:*

The respondent considered the key challenges in the catchment to be the conflation of climate and nitrogen reduction goals, managing variable water levels, and the need for additional measures beyond flooding to enhance biodiversity: “in DK, climate and nitrogen reductions on these areas are mixed together - this is a problem. A challenge is to manage the water level in these areas, where it can be dry in summer or very wet in winter (although a minor problem in winter). Something more must be done to the areas to achieve the higher biodiversity that is also desired - it is not enough to simply flood them” (Bæredygtigt Landbrug, impact planning survey).

### *Beneficiary Initiatives and Organisations:*

The respondent stated that they were not aware of any initiatives the project could connect with to provide indirect benefits.

### *Benefits Offered by Wet Horizons:*

Despite being unaware of specific initiatives the project could contribute to, the respondent indicated that the project could generate direct benefits in the form of improved **awareness or understanding of a problem, of potential solutions to a problem** and **of available technology, tools or data**, improved **ecosystem services**, and **government policy**. Specifically, the respondent felt that positive changes could be made in terms of helping other parties make the case for restoration:

“I very much hope that you can contribute to it being a professional justification for taking out the land, which also gives the most optimal effect” (Bæredygtigt Landbrug, impact planning survey).

In terms of the benefits for Bæredygtigt Landbrug specifically, the respondent stated that they could benefit from **information, access to research data, access to technology/software**, in the form of a **database, report, or research summary**. They indicated that “it would be very nice to have data, but it can be a lot of work to understand and interpret it, so it is good to have reports and summaries” (Bæredygtigt Landbrug, impact planning survey).

#### *Preferred Communication Methods:*

The respondent stated that the best way to communicate with them would be through **informal communication of personally summarised project findings (e.g., a casual chat or meeting), formal sharing of project outputs (e.g., a scheduled event), or formal communication of personally summarised project findings (e.g., a report)**

#### *Awareness of Negative Effects:*

As evident in their survey responses, the respondent from Bæredygtigt Landbrug expressed concerns over the potential inability to control water levels, which hinders the transformation of agricultural land into wetlands that provide climate benefits. They stated, “If agricultural land is converted, and it then becomes apparent that water levels cannot be controlled in a way that produces the desired climate effect—thereby reducing the area available for growing good food—I believe it poses a problem” (Bæredygtigt Landbrug, impact planning survey).

#### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing research summaries and data that make the case for restoration:** Bæredygtigt Landbrug stated they hoped the project could provide “professional justification for taking out the land [from agricultural use], which also gives the most optimal effect” (Bæredygtigt Landbrug, impact planning survey). As such, they would value outputs that showcase the ecosystem services that healthy wetlands provide, particularly in terms of the value of restored peatlands for farmers, and how they could benefit from restoring their land.
- **Sharing traditional academic outputs:** This organisation is likely to be interested in being notified of any peer-reviewed papers published concerning the state of Danish wetlands and the implementation of NBS in water management, and their effects on biodiversity.

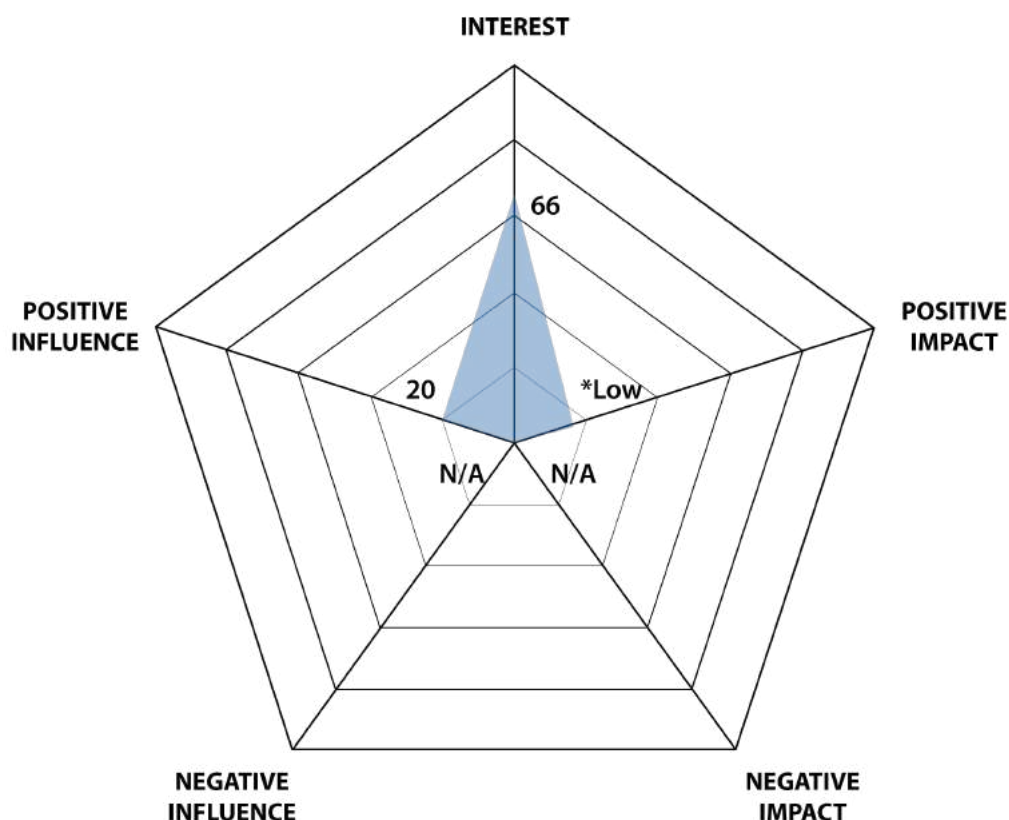
## Gudenå committee



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 116

Figure 64: Overview of 3i analysis for Gudenå committee<sup>150</sup>



### 3i analysis

The Gudenå Committee in Denmark is responsible for the management and oversight of the Gudenå River, Denmark's longest river, with representation from the Randers,

<sup>150</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 2 survey responses were entered about the Gudenå committee. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.



Horsens, Viborg, Favrskov, Silkeborg, Skandeborg, and Hedensted municipalities. This committee plays a crucial role in the planning and implementation of various initiatives related to the river's environmental protection, water resource management, and recreational use. The Gudenå River is an important natural resource, and its management involves balancing ecological sustainability with the needs of agriculture, industry, and tourism.

The respondent reporting about this committee highlighted its unique composition: "The Gudenå committee consists of representatives from all municipalities along the Gudenå. The representatives are both politicians and civil servants from the individual municipalities who collaborate to create more nature along the Gudenå and at the same time try to solve the increased water volumes of the climate challenges, by e.g. to establish wetlands or reinvigorate streams" (Horsens Kommune, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

The Gudenå committee was rated as likely to be **moderately interested (66%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. While no specific details were provided, it is reasonable to assume that the Gudenå committee could potentially be highly interested in Wet Horizons projects. This interest could stem from their established track record of coordinating extensive efforts aimed at improving the water environment and promoting recreational activities that transcend municipal boundaries.

### *Influence*

The Gudenå committee was rated as having a **low level of power (20%)** to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. While no specific details were provided, it is reasonable to assume that the project's actions and outcomes can influence various stakeholders, distributed across the different municipalities. It is further assumed that the project's activities and results do not exert any adverse influence (0%).

### *Impact*

The respondent did not define the level of benefit from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The Gudenå committee may however use project results to enhance and fine-tune strategic planning at the municipality level and within the river catchment area, thereby driving differentiation and optimization. As a result, a relatively **low level of benefit** is foreseen. It is also inferred that there is no negative impact likely to arise from the project's actions and outcomes.

### ***Impact Planning Survey Results***

A participant from the Gudenå Committee accepted an invitation to respond to the Wet Horizons impact planning survey, providing details about how they perceive the project and its potential positive impact for their organisation and its wetland restoration activities.

### *Perception of Wetlands and the Importance of Wet Horizons:*

The respondent from the Committee rated the project as **85% interesting** and **85% important**, and noted that “the perspective along the River Gudenå has changed. Therefore is there a broader perspective which includes an integrated solution - a wetlands is at part in that vision” (Gudenå Committee, impact planning survey), indicating alignment with the project.

### *Challenges in the Kokemäenjoki Catchment Area:*

In terms of challenges, the respondent noted that “landowner willingness” (Gudenå Committee, impact planning survey) was the key issue.

### *Beneficiary Initiatives and Organisations:*

The respondent stated that the project would be most relevant to involve within the ‘Vandområdeplaner’ or ‘river basin management plans’ coordinated by the committee.

### *Benefits Offered by Wet Horizons for Gudenå:*

The respondent from the Gudenå noted that the project could benefit them and their river basin management plans by providing “inspiration and knowledge in relation to other similar initiatives” (Gudenå committee, impact planning survey). Specifically, they thought this could be provided through Information provided within a **policy note/brief** or a **video**.

### *Preferred Communication Methods:*

The respondent stated that the best way to communicate with them would be through **Informal sharing of project outputs (e.g., a social media post or sending an email with relevant information)**.

### *Awareness of Negative Effects:*

The respondent stated that they were **unsure** if there were any likely negative effects that could arise from the project.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** recognize that the Gudenå committee may serve as a conduit to influence various stakeholders (even with a low power rating of 20%). Engage with them to build relationships and garner support.
- **Governance model outputs:** Given the committee's potential use of project results in strategic planning, Wet Horizons could proactively offer insights and data that can assist in their municipality-level planning efforts, particularly in terms of governance models.
- **Disseminating best practice in wetland restoration outputs:** Given their interest in “inspiration and knowledge in relation to other similar initiatives” (Gudenå committee, impact planning survey), this organisation is likely to be

interested in wetland restoration outputs, as they seem to act as very important local players in making management plans. New ideas can make them more competitive in the market, especially facing the prospective new expectations of the EU in the field of modern wetland management.

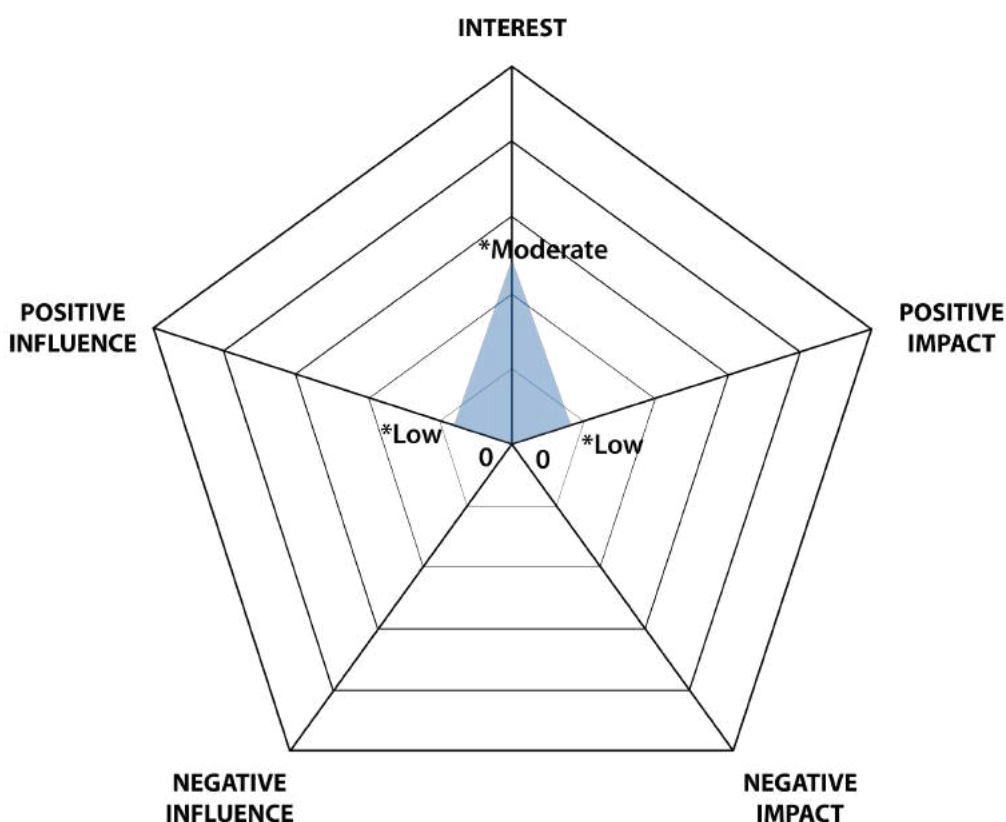
## Viborg municipality



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 90

Figure 65: Overview of 3i analysis for Viborg municipality<sup>151</sup>



NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this

<sup>151</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Viborg municipality. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

category, 1 survey response was entered about Viborg municipality. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### 3i analysis

Viborg municipality actively engages in wetland restoration and habitat protection initiatives, ensuring the long-term health of these areas<sup>152</sup>. Vibrant recreational opportunities are offered within these natural spaces, fostering a strong connection between the community and its environment. Viborg's commitment to sustainability and green initiatives underscores its dedication to creating a harmonious and eco-friendly living environment for residents and visitors alike.

The respondent affirmed that “Viborg Municipality works with realisation of wetlands and low-lying projects” (Viborg Municipality, 3i survey).

#### Interest

The respondent did not define the level of interest in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, Viborg municipality may have a **moderate interest** in Wet Horizons projects due to a potential alignment with existing legislation, particularly in areas concerning the preservation of natural landscapes and urban planning. The municipality may actively seek opportunities to collaborate on initiatives that focus on wetland conservation, recognizing their ecological significance.

#### Influence

The respondent did not define the level of power to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, it can be inferred that considering that the municipality is actively involved in restoration in the region, they could have a **moderate level of power** to support the project. It is inferred that as the municipality lacks the concrete authority to impede the project's potential impacts, they are likely to have a **low level of power** to block the project.

#### Impact

The respondent did not define the level of benefit from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Viborg municipality may use project results to enhance and fine-tune its local planning strategies, thereby driving differentiation and optimization. As a result, a relatively **low level of benefit** is foreseen. It is also assumed that there is no negative impact (0%) from the project's actions and outcomes.

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<sup>152</sup> <https://viborg.dk/service-og-selvbetjening/klima-og-naturbeskyttelse/>

## *Impact Planning Survey Results*

A participant from the Viborg municipality accepted an invitation to respond to the Wet Horizons impact planning survey, providing details about how they perceive the project and its potential positive impact for their organisation and its wetland restoration activities.

### *Perception of Wetlands and the Importance of Wet Horizons:*

The respondent from the municipality stated that what came to mind for them when considering the concepts of wetland/peatland restoration was “Environmental restoration and climate change mitigation. Biodiversity conservation” (impact planning survey), indicating a high alignment with the project goals. They rated the project as **50% interesting and 50% important**, and noted that “the project is interesting in the sense that it focuses on nature types and governance issues I am already working with. Danish policy makers at Government level have already decided to restore and rewet as many wetlands and peat-rich soils as possible, so the interest and importance is mainly directed towards tools which can assist in reaching this goal” (Viborg municipality, impact planning survey).

### *Challenges in the Catchment Area:*

In terms of challenges, the respondent noted that economic considerations relating to landowners and speed of implementation were key: “uncertainty regarding compensation to landowners. The speed of implementation of national plans and programmes is hampered by frequent changes in compensation levels and methods. Uncertainty regarding future taxation of carbon emissions” (Viborg municipality, impact planning survey).

### *Beneficiary Initiatives and Organisations:*

The respondent stated that the project would be most relevant to engage with them to create benefits through work on the National Action Plan for the Aquatic Environment III. The respondent explained that “It is the national plan for implementing the EU Water Framework Directive, ending in 2027. Municipalities are tasked with implementing several aspects of the plan, using Government and EU funding. The plan is revisited in 2024” (Viborg municipality, impact planning survey).

The respondent from the Viborg municipality noted that the project could benefit a range of organisations by contributing to the plan, including organisations from government or policy, commercial businesses, organisations in the landowner/manager community and their suppliers, advisor or intermediaries, infrastructure providers, and networks and professional bodies.

### *Benefits Offered by Wet Horizons for Viborg municipality:*

The respondent from the Viborg municipality noted that the project could benefit work within the action plan by providing **information** in the form of **toolkit, framework or practical guidance**, or a **research summary**. The types of benefits the respondent

thought the project could contribute towards included benefits for **government policy, government efficiency or effectiveness, awareness or understanding of potential solutions to a problem** and of **available technology, tools or data**.

#### *Preferred Communication Methods:*

The respondent stated that the best way to communicate with them would be through **Formal sharing of project outputs (e.g., a scheduled event)** and **informal sharing of project outputs (e.g., a social media post or sending an email with relevant information)**.

#### *Awareness of Negative Effects:*

The respondent stated that they were not aware of any likely negative effects that could arise from the project.

#### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

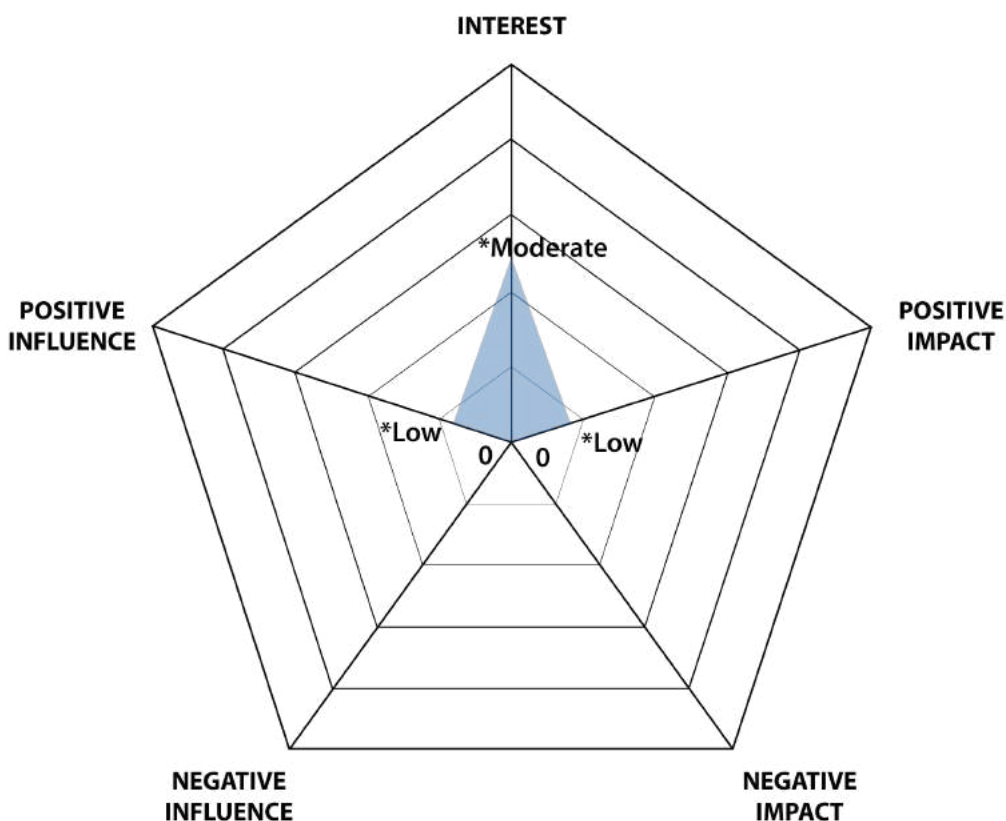
- **Sharing digital tools:** As Danish policymakers “have already decided to restore and rewet as many wetlands and peat-rich soils as possible” (Viborg municipality, impact planning survey), it was identified that tools to implement and increase the efficiency of this are of the most interest.
- **Sharing modelling datasets:** It is likely that the modelling results and datasets resulting from the project will be of interest for the municipality, as they may be able to utilise them in their restoration projects.
- **Sharing ecosystem markets outputs for revenue assurance strategies:** As “uncertainty regarding compensation to landowners” (Viborg municipality, impact planning survey) was noted as a key barrier, the municipality may benefit from an increased understanding of how ecosystem markets could address landowners concerns.

## Rambøll



Overall 3i score: 80

Figure 66: Overview of 3i analysis for Rambøll<sup>153</sup>



### 3i analysis

<sup>153</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Rambøll. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.



Rambøll is a global engineering, architectural and consulting company, creating sustainable solutions for authorities and companies worldwide<sup>154</sup>. The company actively engages in projects aimed at preserving and restoring natural ecosystems, with a particular focus on wetlands. Their expertise lies in providing innovative solutions that balance human development with environmental conservation, making them a valuable player in wetland restoration efforts. Rambøll's dedication to sustainable development aligns with the broader goal of safeguarding wetland biodiversity and ecosystem health.

The respondent for this organisation underscored their practical scientific expertise: “consulting engineers with a focus on nature restoration, i.a. establishment of wetlands” (Environmental Protection Agency, 3i survey).

### *Interest*

The respondent did not define Rambøll's level of interest in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, Rambøll may have a **moderate interest** in Wet Horizons projects due to the company's reputation as a global engineering and consulting firm with a strong environmental focus and due to their commitment to responsible and innovative environmental solutions.

### *Influence*

The respondent did not define Rambøll's level of power to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, it is reasonable to assume that the company has a **low level of power** due to its primarily consultative and advisory role in environmental projects. While Rambøll possesses considerable expertise and can provide valuable insights and recommendations, their direct influence on project implementation and policy changes may be limited compared to regulatory bodies or government agencies. It is further assumed that they would **not be likely to exert any adverse influence on the project**.

### *Impact*

The respondent did not define Rambøll's level of benefit from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, it is reasonable to assume that the company has a **low level of benefit** due to the fact that the focus may lean more towards providing expertise and solutions to clients rather than seeking direct benefits from specific initiatives. While they certainly value positive project outcomes, their primary interest lies in contributing to broader environmental sustainability goals and advancing their reputation as an industry leader in sustainable solutions. It is further assumed that the project's activities and results **would not exert any adverse impact on the organisation**.

## ***Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning***

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<sup>154</sup> <https://www.ramboll.com/da-dk>

- **Alignment of Values:** Highlight the alignment of values between Wet Horizons and Rambøll in terms of environmental stewardship and sustainable practices. This can serve as a foundation for collaboration.
- **Recognize Consultative Role:** Acknowledge that Rambøll may have a limited direct influence on project implementation and policy changes. However, their expertise in environmental matters can significantly impact decision-making and project quality.
- **Utilise Advisory Capacity:** Engage Rambøll as valuable advisors and consultants, leveraging their insights to ensure that the project aligns with best environmental practices.

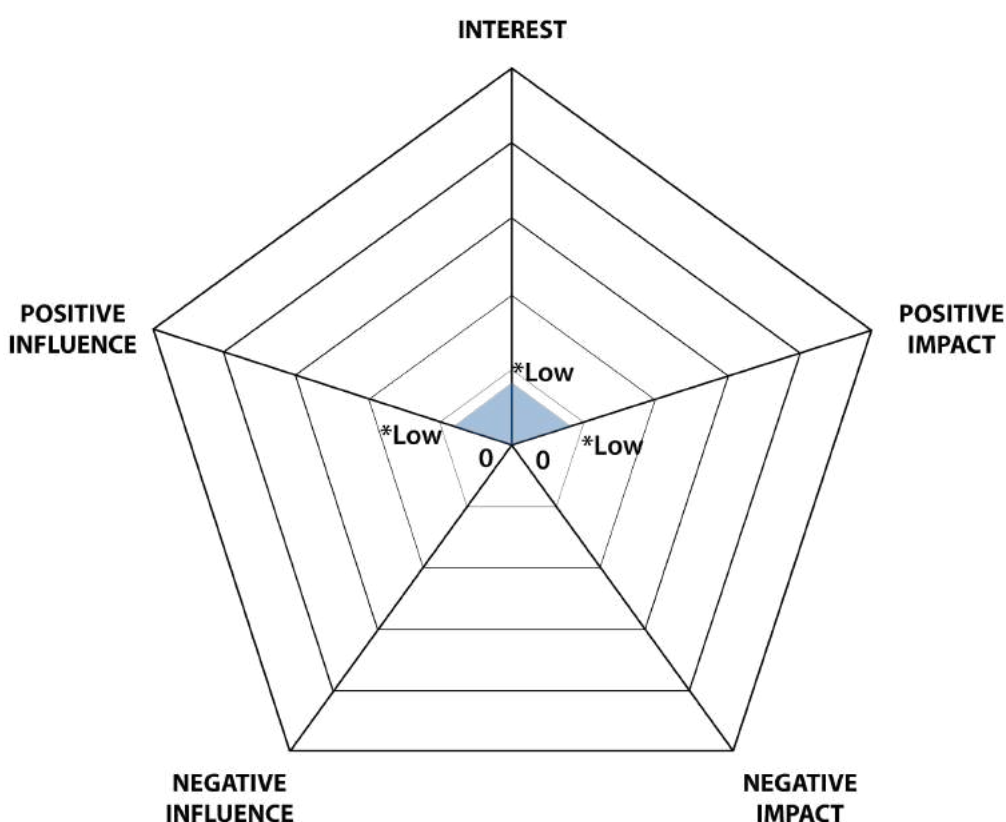
Climate Forest Foundation / Klimaskovfonden



Catchment

Overall 3i score: 40

Figure 67: Overview of 3i analysis for Klimaskovfonden<sup>155</sup>



3i analysis

<sup>155</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Klimaskovfonden. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

The Klimaskovfonden is an independent, state management unit under the Ministry of the Environment, which is led by an independent board, and which is run on a daily basis by a secretariat and a director who is employed by the board<sup>156</sup>. The foundation promotes and finances cost-effective afforestation with the establishment of forest edges and removal of low-lying soils, primarily within the LULUCF sector, with a view to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In other words, the Klimaskovfonden aims at accelerating nature's own methods for capturing and storing greenhouse gases - thus supporting Denmark's climate goals. In addition, the foundation's task is to take into account synergy effects in its climate projects, e.g. biodiversity, drinking water, nature, environment, outdoor life and cultural heritage.

The Klimaskovfonden thus gives Danes the opportunity for climate action through contributions to the fund, and it works purposefully to lift the green agenda through forest and lowland projects across Denmark, where everyone can enjoy more nature, better biodiversity and cleaner drinking water - in addition to a measurable reduction of greenhouse gases.

### *Interest*

The respondent did not define Klimaskovfonden's interests in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, it is reasonable to assume that the association may have a **low interest**. This assumption is based on the foundation's likely primary focus on afforestation and terrestrial climate solutions, as well as considerations related to their mission alignment, operational scope, resource allocation, and expertise. To engage Klimaskovfonden effectively, it may be necessary for Wet Horizons to emphasise the broader environmental and climate benefits that can result from wetland conservation and restoration, demonstrating how these align with the foundation's broader goals and objectives.

### *Influence*

The respondent did not define Klimaskovfonden's level of power to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. It is inferred that there is **low power to support** the project due to the fact that the foundation's primary expertise and resources may be channelled toward projects that directly align with afforestation and land-based climate initiatives. It is further assumed that the project's activities and results do not exert any adverse influence (0%).

### *Impact*

The respondent did not define Klimaskovfonden's level of benefit from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, it is reasonable to infer that the **level of benefit is low** due to the foundation's mission focus. Klimaskovfonden's central mission, as discerned from the available information, appears to revolve around afforestation, carbon sequestration, and climate action, primarily within Denmark. Therefore, their core expertise and resource allocation strategies benefit primarily from projects that

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<sup>156</sup> <https://www.klimaskovfonden.dk/>

directly align with these specific objectives. It is further assumed that the project's activities and results do not exert any adverse impact (0%).

### *Impact Planning Survey Results*

A participant from the accepted an invitation to respond to the Wet Horizons impact planning survey, providing details about how they perceive the project and its potential positive impact for their organisation and its wetland restoration activities.

#### *Perception of Wetlands and the Importance of Wet Horizons:*

In response to the question 'What comes to mind when you think of wetland or peatland restoration?', the respondent focused on the physical characteristics of a wetland: "natural site with waterlogged land" (Klimaskovfonden, impact planning survey). They rated the project as **49% interesting** and **60% important**.

#### *Challenges in the Kokemäenjoki Catchment Area:*

In terms of challenges, the respondent noted that the "slow pace for making projects. Economy for farmers." (Klimaskovfonden, impact planning survey) were key issues.

#### *Beneficiary Initiatives and Organisations:*

The respondent stated that the Klimaskovfonden itself could benefit from Wet Horizons, as well as a the full range of other types of relevant parties in the region listed in the sample for the 3i survey.

#### *Benefits Offered by Wet Horizons for Klimaskovfonden:*

The respondent from Klimaskovfonden noted that they and other organisations in the region could benefit from **information** and **access to research data** in the form of a **report, research summary, or toolkit, framework or practical guidance**.

#### *Preferred Communication Methods:*

The respondent stated that the best way to communicate with them would be through **formally sharing project outputs (e.g., a scheduled event)** for both their own and other organisations in the region.

#### *Awareness of Negative Effects:*

The respondent stated that they were **unsure** if there were any likely negative effects that could arise from the project.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing ecosystem market outputs:** Given Klimaskovfonden's concern around the economics of restoration for farmers and their focus on promoting and financing cost-effective restoration solutions, they are likely to benefit

from developing their understanding of ecosystem markets, and public-private finance models that Wet Horizons will explore.

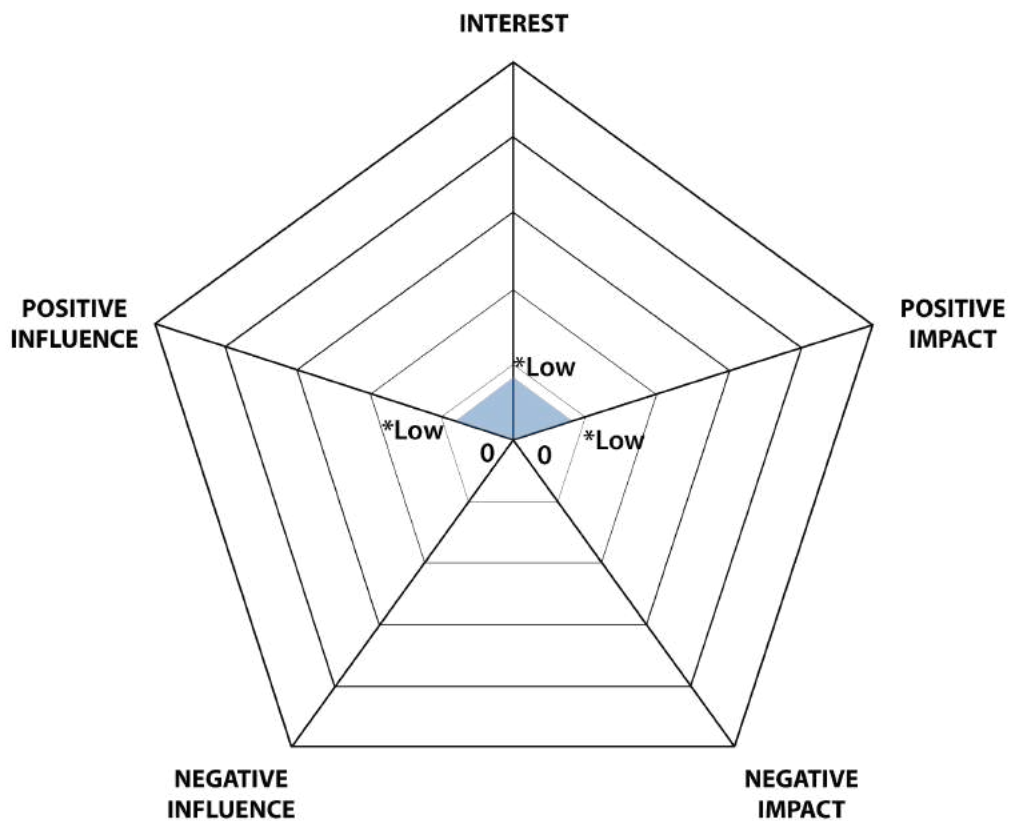
- **Providing access to the digital support system and modelling data:** Klimaskovfonden noted that they would be interested in access to research data, and as a key concern is the slow rate at which projects progress, the decision-support system may be of benefit to them.

## Global Nature Fund



Overall 3i score: 35

Figure 68: Overview of 3i analysis for Global Nature Fund<sup>157</sup>



### 3i analysis

<sup>157</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Global Nature Fund. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

Global Nature Fund (GNF) is a non-profit, private, independent international foundation for the protection of environment and nature<sup>158</sup>. GNF's work consists mainly of:

- the implementation of development cooperation projects worldwide;
- initiating and carrying out nature & environmental protection projects to preserve the animal world, their habitats and migratory routes;
- the development of model projects for the promotion of a sustainable economy;
- publications and organisation of events dealing with the protection of nature and environment;
- supporting and promoting international conventions.

The respondent reporting about this organisation noted that they “Works a lot with the restoration of lakes and the conservation of lakes”

### *Interest*

The respondent did not define GNF's interests in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, it is reasonable to assume that the association may have a **low interest**. This assumption is grounded in considerations related to mission alignment, resource allocation, operational scope, expertise, and competing priorities. To engage GNF effectively, it may be necessary for Wet Horizons to demonstrate how wetland conservation aligns with broader environmental protection and nature preservation goals, highlighting the potential synergies between the project and GNF's mission.

### *Influence*

The respondent did not define GNF's level of power to support Wet Horizons and its outcomes. It is assumed that there is **low power to support** the project due to the fact that GNF's core mission is centered on environmental protection and the preservation of nature. As such, the foundation's influence and power are likely concentrated within this domain. Wet Horizons, focusing on wetland conservation, may not be an area where GNF wields significant influence or resources. In addition, GNF's operational expertise and knowledge may primarily pertain to terrestrial ecosystems and environmental protection. Wetland conservation, which can involve specialized considerations and expertise in aquatic ecology, may not be their primary area of influence. It is further assumed that GNF would not exert any adverse influence on the project's activities and results.

### *Impact*

The respondent did not define GNF's level of benefit from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. However, it is reasonable that the **level of benefit is low** due to the foundation's mission focus, expertise, but also resource allocation and operational scope. It is further assumed that the project's activities and results do not exert any adverse impact (0%).

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<sup>158</sup> <https://www.globalnature.org/en/home>



### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Strategic Alignment:** To engage GNF effectively, Wet Horizons should place a strong emphasis on demonstrating how wetland conservation aligns harmoniously with GNF's core mission of environmental protection and nature preservation. Highlighting the interconnectedness of wetland ecosystems with broader environmental goals can enhance GNF's interest and willingness to collaborate.
- **Targeted Engagement:** Given the assumed low levels of interest, power, and benefit, Wet Horizons should engage GNF selectively and strategically. Focus on aspects of the project that align most closely with GNF's expertise and priorities, ensuring that engagement efforts are efficient and purposeful.
- **Demonstrating Mutual Benefits:** Showcasing how wetland conservation can contribute to broader environmental protection and nature preservation goals can resonate with GNF's mission.

## Peene River, Germany 3i Analysis Results

This report presents results from the 3i analysis to identify relevant parties for the Wet Horizons research to consider engaging with, in the Peene River Valley catchment, Germany.

### Sample

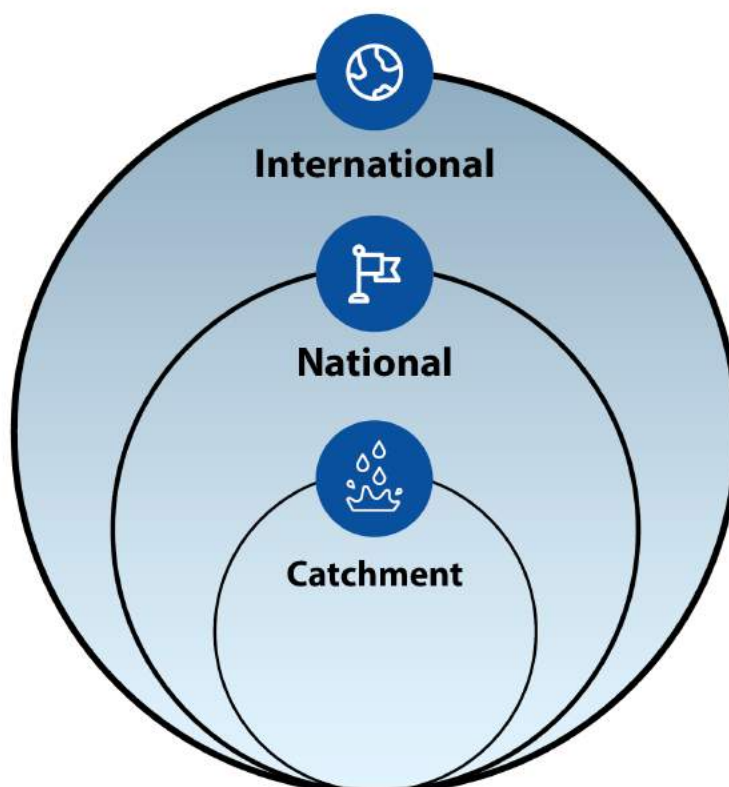
A total of 9 organisations were identified with interests in, influence over and/or likely to be impacted positively or negatively by wetland restoration in the [...] catchment. This information was provided by  $n=5$  participants. These were organisations were sorted into the following 6 categories (with one organisation fitting into two categories):

**Table 1: Relevant party categories identified**

Relevant party category	Category description	Organisations	Number of organisations identified
Environmental/sustainability NGOs, thinktanks or representative organisations	Non-governmental organisations working on wetland conservation and management in the Danube catchment, typically with wider national and international interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baltic Sea Foundation</li> <li>Friends of Nature Conservation in the Peene Valley e.V</li> </ul>	2
Local authority	Local government bodies with statutory powers responsible for nature conservation or public land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eco-Securities Office of the Ministry for Climate Protection, Agriculture and the Environment</li> </ul>	1
Government agency	Government agencies and other bodies with statutory powers responsible for nature conservation or public land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peene Valley River Landscape Nature Park</li> <li>Nature Conservation and Water Administration of Landkreis Vorpommern-Greifswald</li> <li>Lower Peene Water-Soil Association (WBV UP)</li> <li>Upper Peene Water Soil Association (WBV OP)</li> </ul>	4

Established domestic voluntary carbon market	German carbon offsetting schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoorFutures (Eco-Securities Office of the Ministry for Climate Protection, Agriculture and the Environment)</li> </ul>	1
Landowner/manager NGOs, thinktanks and representative organisations	Organisations representing the interests of landowners and managers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Farmers Association of East Western Pommern E.V</li> </ul>	1
Suppliers to nature-based solutions projects	Companies supplying landowners and managers delivering services to ecosystem markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land Company Mecklenburg-Vorpommern mbH</li> </ul>	1

Each organisation was assessed by the respondents based on its relevance to the research at the catchment, national or international level. These categories are symbolised with the following icons:





## Organisation-level 3i analysis

Here, we present the survey results for each organisation identified by respondents. Organisations are presented in order of their **aggregate 3i scores** (i.e., scores across interest, influence and impact) from high to low. As such, results are presented first for the organisations with the highest interest, influence and impact, then for the relevant parties that respondents scored lower on the 3i survey. In some cases, respondents indicated there would be some level of interest, influence or impact for the organisation, but did not provide a score indicating the extent. In these cases, desk research and interpretation of open-ended responses were used to infer an appropriate level (low, medium or high).

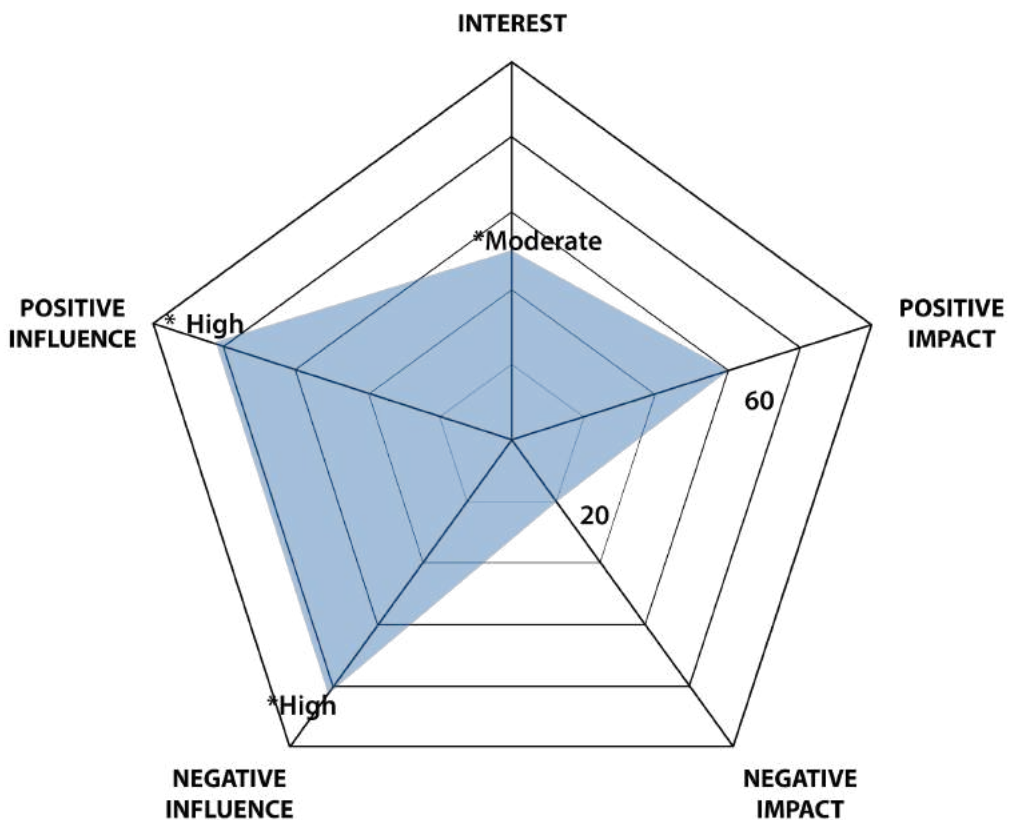
Eco-Securities Office of the Ministry for Climate Protection, Agriculture and the Environment / Geschäftsstelle Ökowertpapiere des Ministerium für Klimaschutz, Landwirtschaft, Umwelt



Catchment

Overall 3i score: 297

Figure 69: Overview of 3i analysis for Geschäftsstelle Ökowertpapiere des Ministerium für Klimaschutz, Landwirtschaft, Umwelt<sup>159</sup>



<sup>159</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Geschäftsstelle Ökowertpapiere des Ministerium für Klimaschutz, Landwirtschaft, Umwelt. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### 3i analysis

The Eco-Securities Office, part of the Ministry for Climate Protection, Agriculture, Rural Areas, and Environment in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, focuses on ecological securities since October 2021. It coordinates all activities related to ecological securities in the region and is deeply involved in environmental initiatives, such as the MoorFutures project. MoorFutures is a carbon market platform that aims to protect moorlands by selling carbon credits, effectively reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through moorland restoration. Their work is critical for achieving climate neutrality in the region, particularly given the significant greenhouse gas emissions from dry moors in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

The respondent for this organisation captured these responsibilities in their description of the organisation - “The office sells emission certificates on the voluntary certificate market to reduce GHG emissions generated by peatland protection measures” (University of Greifswald, 3i survey).

#### Interest

While specific interest in Wet Horizons is not stated, the Eco-Securities Office's commitment to climate protection, sustainable land management and carbon suggests a strong alignment with the goals and intended outputs of Wet Horizons. Their focus on moorland conservation and carbon credits generated from wetland restoration likely translates into a **moderate interest** in the project's aim to upscale this activity.

#### Influence

The **positive influence** of the Eco-Securities Office on Wet Horizons, though not quantified, can be **inferred as high**. Their role in ecological securities and moorland protection projects positions them as influential in shaping policies and practices related to environmental conservation and sustainable land use in the region.

Similarly, the potential for **negative influence** is not explicitly mentioned but could be **high too**, especially if the goals of Wet Horizons diverge from the Ministry's strategies or conflict with local conservation efforts.

#### Impact

The organisation was rated as likely to **benefit moderately (60%)** from Wet Horizons, particularly if Wet Horizons recommendations led to the expansion of areas available for restoration or protection and the generation of more carbon credits that the Office could sell. This is an evident need as at the time of writing, the MoorFutures website indicates all credits from the restoration projects ongoing are sold out. This suggests that successful wetland restoration efforts could contribute to their objectives and bolster their conservation initiatives, as indicated by the respondent - “more areas will

be made available for moor protection on which ‘moor futures’ [carbon credits] could be generated” (University of Greifswald, 3i survey).

The potential negative impact was rated low (20%), with concerns that if Wet Horizons is perceived negatively, it could adversely affect local perceptions of MoorFutures and related conservation efforts - “if the project is perceived as negative, this also affects Moorfutures in the local perception” (University of Greifswald, 3i survey).

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing ecosystem market outputs:** As the Eco-Securities Office is a player in carbon markets, they are likely to benefit from developing their understanding of the new ecosystem market governance frameworks that the project is developing, and public-private finance models that Wet Horizons will explore.
- **Sharing modelling datasets and digital tools:** It is likely that the datasets and digital tools resulting from the project will be of interest for the Office, as they may be able to utilise them in the MoorFutures initiative.
- **Support in Policy Development:** Utilise the expertise of the Eco-Securities Office in policy-making processes, especially in developing tailored guidelines for sustainable land management and moorland conservation in the region.
- **Exchange of Best Practices:** Share insights and successful strategies from Wet Horizons with the Geschäftsstelle, contributing to their ongoing and future projects in moorland conservation and ecological securities.



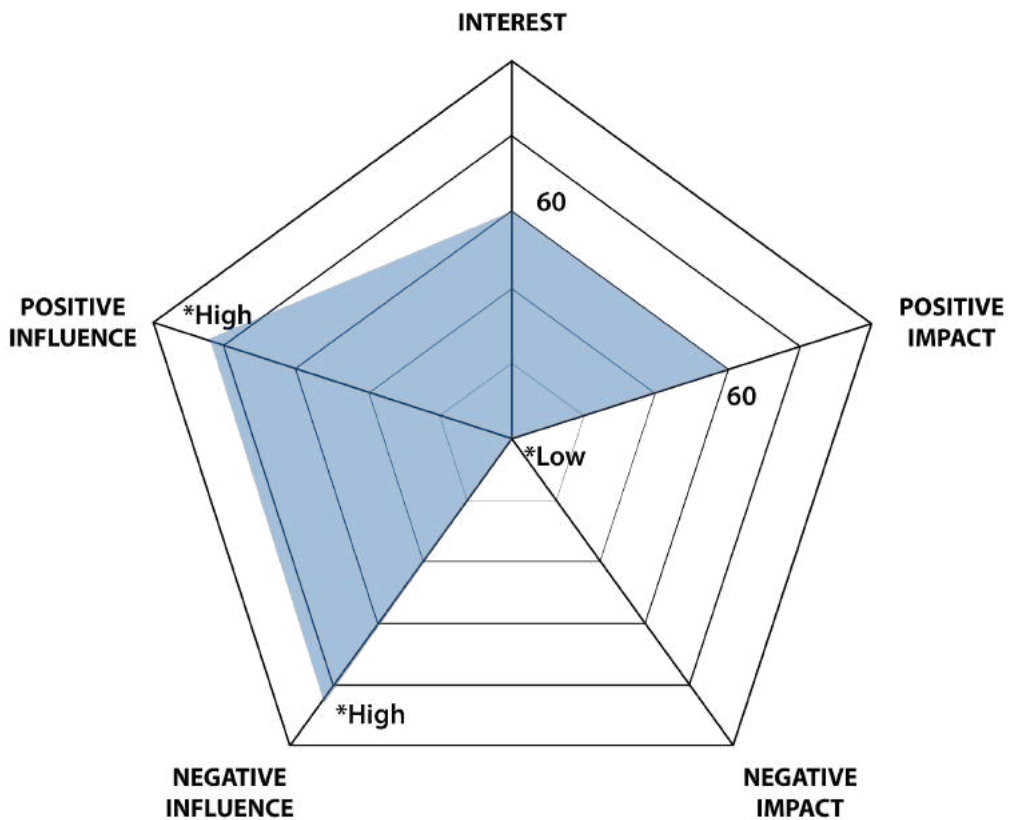
Peene Valley River Landscape Nature Park / Naturpark  
Flusslandschaft Peenetal



Catchment

Overall 3i score: 287

Figure 70: Overview of 3i analysis for Geschäftsstelle Ökowerkpapiere des  
Ministerium für Klimaschutz, Landwirtschaft, Umwelt<sup>160</sup>



<sup>160</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Naturpark Flusslandschaft Peenetal. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### 3i analysis

Peene Valley River Landscape Nature Park, located in the eastern part of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany, was established in 2011 and covers approximately 33,390 hectares. The park is known for its extensive fish otter and beaver populations, as well as a diverse range of flora and fauna. It boasts one of the largest contiguous lowland moor areas in Central and Western Europe. The park's focus on preserving and showcasing natural habitats, including its significant wetland areas, makes it highly relevant to the goals of the Wet Horizons project.

The respondent for this organisation highlighted there is a goal for nature parks in the region “to develop - also with scientific support - into ‘large-scale model landscapes’ and become regions for sustainable development of rural areas,” which involves the combination of “nature conservation and recreational provision” ( ). As such, they are focused on ensuring a balance of “environmentally and nature-compatible land use and economic development as well as the careful and sustainable management of natural resources” (Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research [ZALF], 3i survey). They also highlighted that the boundaries of the Peene Valley River Landscape Nature Park was itself borne out of a nature conservation project with follow-up obligations shared between “the state of M-V and for the municipal project sponsor (Zweckverband Peenetal-Landschaft)” (Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF), 3i survey), with all parties recognising the efficiency of managing these obligations if the management of the land was shared.

#### Interest

Peene Valley River Landscape Nature Park was rated as having a **moderate interest (60%)** in Wet Horizons. The survey respondent mentioned, “People could have access to experience gained in other countries in similar contexts” (ZALF, 3i survey). This suggests that the park values the exchange of knowledge and practices in wetland restoration, which aligns with their mission of preserving and enhancing natural habitats.

#### Influence

While specific data on positive influence is not provided, it can be inferred that the park could have a **high positive influence** on the project, given the park's management involves several stakeholders, including governmental and non-governmental organisations. Given its status as a quality nature park and its focus on sustainable land use and conservation, Peene Valley River Landscape Nature Park is likely to have valuable expertise and influence in the realm of wetland restoration and management.

Similarly, no specific data on negative influence is available, but its land management responsibilities indicate that if there are differences in conservation priorities or approaches to wetland management they could exert a **high level of negative influence**. However, considering the park's commitment to environmental protection and its role in promoting sustainable practices, it is unlikely to exert this power.

### *Impact*

The park was rated as **likely to benefit significantly (60%) from Wet Horizons**. As per the respondent, “increasing the visibility and value of the nature park in the national and international context, increasing the number of expert visitors” (ZALF, 3i survey). This suggests that the project's outcomes could enhance the park's profile and attract more attention and expertise to its conservation efforts.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing insights on land manager governance models:** Due to the park's unique governance history, there is likely to be interest in the project's insights on new governance models in land manager organisations.
- **Knowledge Exchange:** Encourage the sharing of experiences and best practices in wetland restoration between Wet Horizons and Peene Valley River Landscape Nature Park, benefiting both the project and the park.
- **Promote International Collaboration:** Utilise the park's interest in international experiences to foster collaborations, for example by engaging them in international field visits coordinated by Wet Horizons that could enhance the park's conservation strategies and wetland management practices.

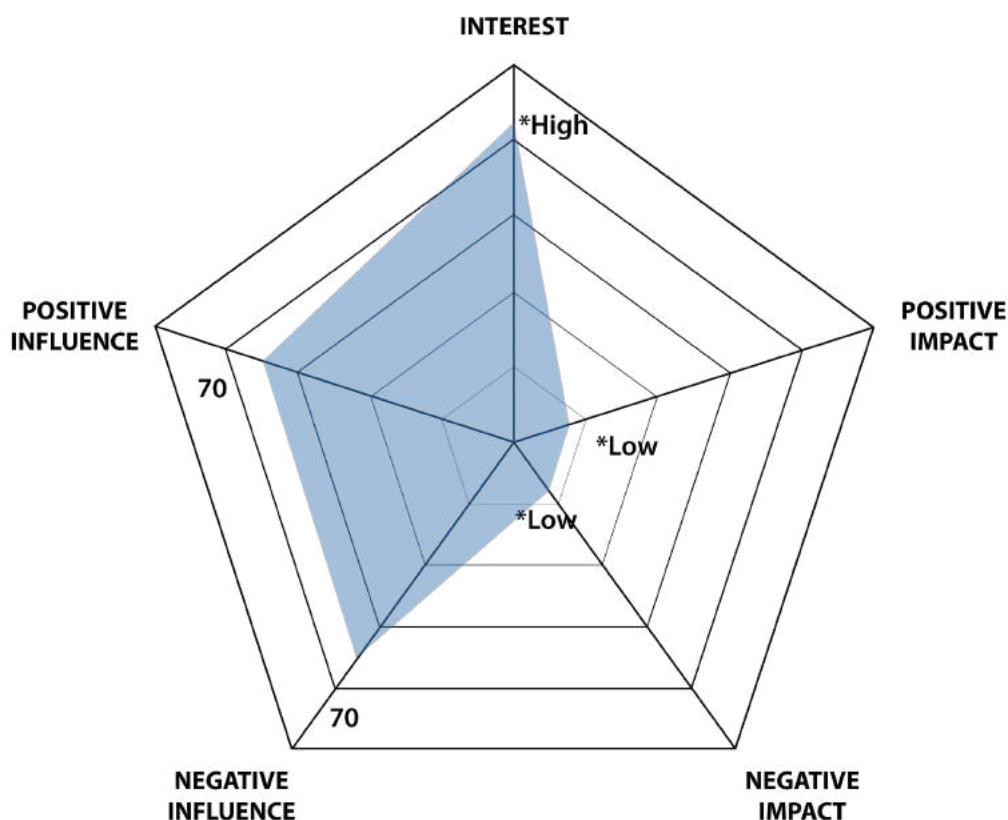
## Nature Conservation and Water Administration of Landkreis Vorpommern-Greifswald



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 257

Figure 71: Overview of 3i analysis for Nature Conservation and Water Administration of Landkreis Vorpommern-Greifswald<sup>161</sup>



<sup>161</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Nature Conservation and Water Administration of Landkreis Vorpommern-Greifswald. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### 3i analysis

The Nature Conservation and Water Administration of Landkreis Vorpommern-Greifswald is responsible for the northeastern region of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany. This area encompasses a diverse landscape including the Peene River, stretching from Greifswalder Bodden in the northwest, across the island of Usedom and Ueckermünder Heide in the east, to Großer Landgraben and Uckermark in the south. Their focus on nature conservation and water management within this varied terrain makes them a key player in wetland restoration, aligning with projects like Wet Horizons that emphasize ecosystem conservation and sustainable management of natural resources.<sup>162</sup>

The respondent reporting about this organisation highlighted their formal bureaucratic and regulatory responsibilities in granting licences for restoration - “the lower nature conservation authority as well as the lower water authority hand out the permission for peatland restoration measures and indicate which documents are needed in each specific project to be audited / inspected in order to give a legal permission for restoration measures” (University of Greifswald, 3i survey).

#### Interest

The Nature Conservation and Water Administration of Landkreis Vorpommern-Greifswald's interest in Wet Horizons is not explicitly known. However, given their mandate and the regional importance of wetlands in their jurisdiction, it can be inferred that they would have a **high vested interest** in the project, especially regarding its implications for local biodiversity and water management.

#### Influence

The organisation was rated as having a **high level of positive influence (70%)** on Wet Horizons. As per the survey respondent, “They are essential to allow large scale peatland restoration, i.e., through transparent communication with the administration from the beginning of the project idea to its end” (University of Greifswald, 3i survey). This rating reflects their significant regulatory and administrative role in facilitating large-scale environmental projects in their region.

Conversely, they were also rated as having a potential for a **high level of negative influence (70%)** on the project. The respondent noted, “Blocking could be through denying permission or demanding further and extensive surveys etc. Another potential to block the project is through capacity constraints within the authority - not enough staff to handle all requests for permissions” (University of Greifswald, 3i survey). This highlights the bureaucratic challenges and resource limitations that could hinder project implementation.

#### Impact

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<sup>162</sup> <https://www.kreis-vg.de/Landkreis/Naturschutz>

The positive impact on the Nature Conservation and Water Administration from Wet Horizons was not quantified. However, considering their reported limitations in capacity and role in environmental stewardship, the project's tools and methodologies could generate productivity benefits for the organisation if sufficiently integrated into their operations, indicating at least a **moderate level of potential positive impact**.

The potential negative impact was also not quantified. However, any misalignment between the project's outcomes and the administration's policies or capacity limitations could lead to challenges in implementation or adaptation of new practices, meaning there could be at least a **low level of potential negative impact**.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Sharing Decision-Support-System outputs:** As the Nature Conservation and Water Administration is the authority responsible for granting permissions for restoration projects, they may be interested in Wet Horizons tools that facilitate these decision-making processes, particularly if they have potential to enhance efficiency (due to capacity constraints).
- **Collaborating on regional policy work:** Nature Conservation and Water Administration's role in implementing regional water management and conservation goals of the Landkreis Vorpommern-Greifswald region and restoration permissions mean they are likely to have significant knowledge on current regional policies and agendas, meaning they could benefit from any regional policy work Wet Horizons develops.

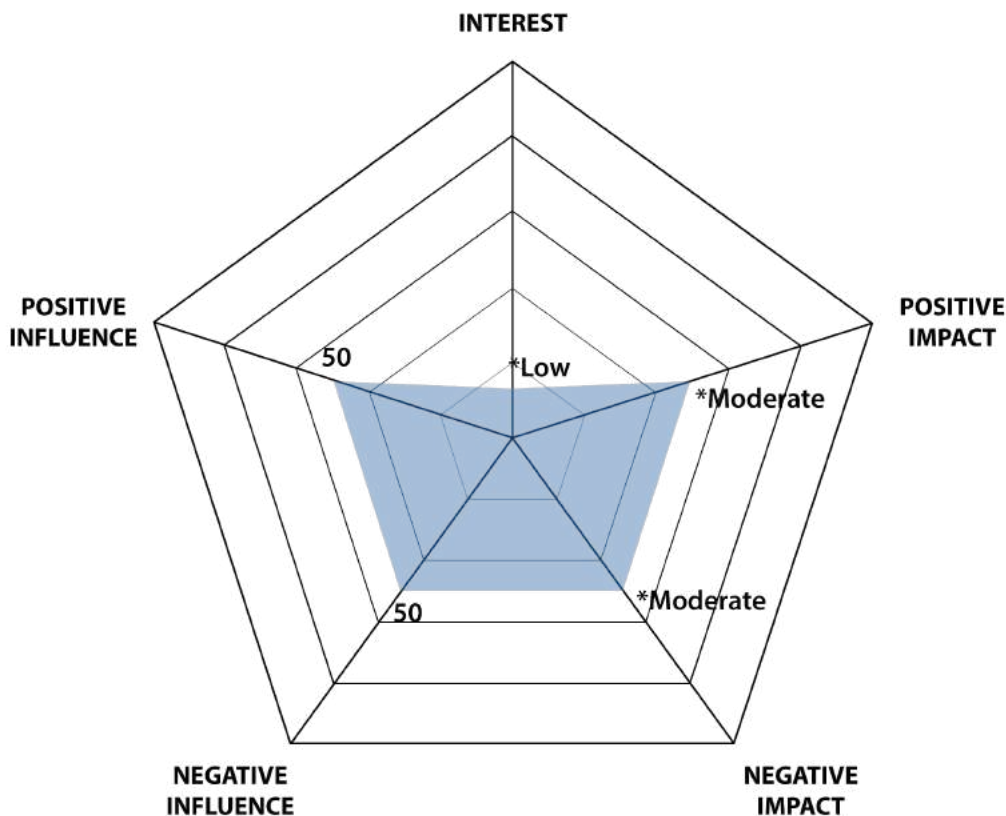
Farmers Association of East Western Pommern E.V /  
 Bauernverband Ostvorpommern E.V



Catchment

Overall 3i score: 200

Figure 72: Overview of 3i analysis for Bauernverband Ostvorpommern E.V<sup>163</sup>



<sup>163</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Bauernverband Ostvorpommern E.V. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### 3i analysis

Farmers Association of East Western Pommern E.V, a part of the Bauernverband Mecklenburg-Vorpommern e.V., represents agricultural interests in the Ostvorpommern region of Germany. Established in 1991 and later merged in 2002, the association plays a significant role in political advocacy, training, and support for farmers in the region. Their activities include influencing agricultural policy, promoting agrarian professions, and engaging in local environmental initiatives like the LEADER working group for the Peenetal river landscape. This involvement aligns them with environmental and agricultural interests, potentially intersecting with projects like Wet Horizons.

The respondent for this organisation highlighted their key stake in the Wet Horizons project in terms of land ownership - "farmers and landowners are central to provide their land for peatland restoration or agree with restoration measures on their land" (University of Greifswald, 3i survey).

#### Interest

A specific quantitative interest level in Wet Horizons was not assessed, indicating they are unlikely to have an interest in wetland restoration *per se*. However, given their active role in agricultural advocacy, the association is likely to have an inherent **low level of interest** in potential restoration initiatives that would impact land use and agricultural practices in their region,

#### Influence

The association was rated as having **moderate positive influence (50%)**. Their position as a key voice in agricultural issues means they can potentially influence the adoption of Wet Horizons' findings and recommendations within the farming community, especially regarding sustainable land use and wetland management.

Similarly, their **negative influence was rated as moderate (50%)**. As a representative body, the association's stance can significantly sway opinions and practices among its members. If their views conflict with Wet Horizons' approaches, this could pose challenges to the project's implementation in agricultural settings.

#### Impact

Both positive and negative impacts of Wet Horizons on the Farmers Association of East Western Pommern E.V were not quantitatively scored. However, any changes in agricultural policies, land use practices, or environmental conservation strategies resulting from the project could **moderately impact** the association's members and their operations.

### Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning





- **Facilitate Dialogue on Sustainable Practices Balancing Agricultural Practices and Wetland Restoration:** Wet Horizons could engage with the Farmers Association of East Western Pommern E.V. to discuss sustainable agricultural practices and wetland management, leveraging their influence to promote environmentally friendly farming methods.
- **Involve in Policy Development:** Include the association in the development of policy recommendations for wetland restoration to ensure that the interests and concerns of the agricultural community are addressed.

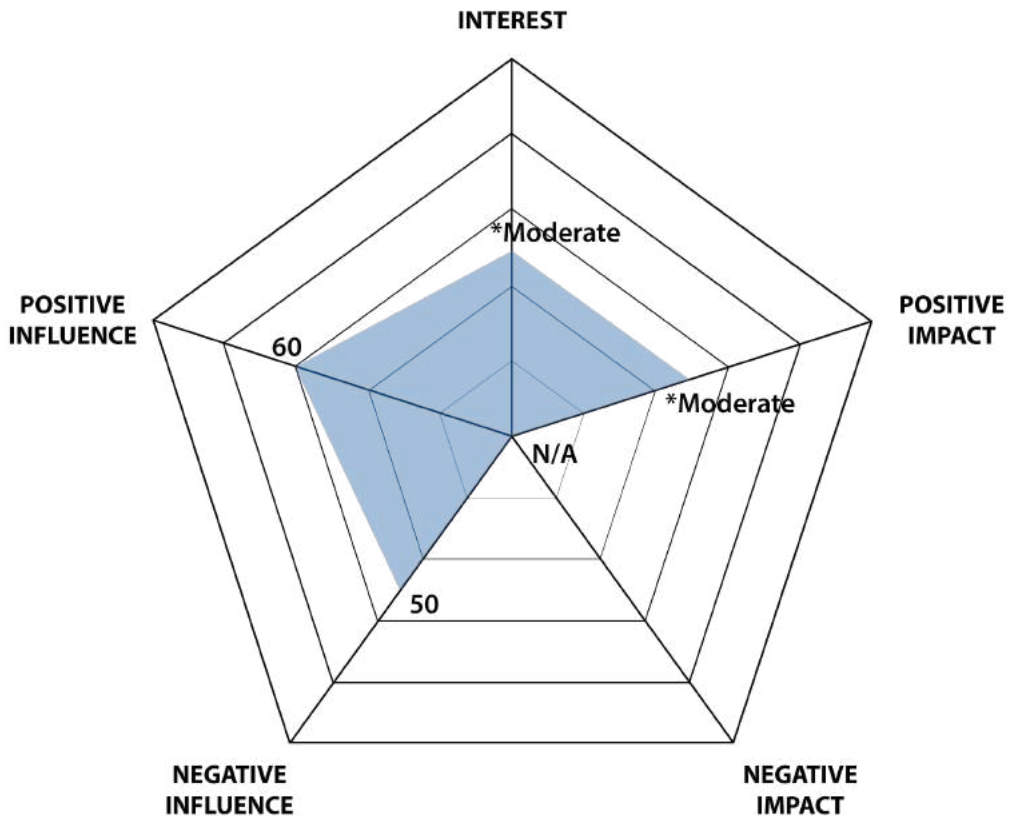
## Lower Peene Water-Soil Association / Wasser-Boden-Verband Untere Peene (WBV)



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 210

Figure 73: Overview of 3i analysis for Wasser-Boden-Verband Untere Peene (WBV)<sup>164</sup>



<sup>164</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Wasser-Boden-Verband Untere Peene (WBV). Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

Lower Peene Water-Soil Association (WBV UP), established in 1992, is a public-law corporation based in Anklam, Germany and one of Germany's numerous Water Soil Associations (WaSAs). It is responsible for maintaining and caring for water bodies in its area, including tasks like watercourse maintenance, dike maintenance, and beaver management. The organisation operates within legal frameworks, focusing on serving the public good of its members, primarily comprising local communities and property owners. The nature of WBV UP's activities, particularly in water management and conservation, makes it significantly relevant to wetland restoration projects like Wet Horizons

The respondent for this organisation underscored the responsibilities of the association relevant to wetland management practices: "the water-soil association with the Lower Peene association area maintains the ditches and drainage facilities, dams, pumping stations and dikes" (University of Greifswald, 3i survey).

#### *Interest*

The specific level of interest of WBV UP in Wet Horizons is not explicitly known. However, given their focus on watercourse maintenance and environmental management, it is reasonable to infer that they would have a **moderate vested interest** in the project. Their expertise and responsibilities in managing water bodies and related ecosystems align with the objectives of Wet Horizons, particularly in restoring and preserving wetland areas.

#### *Influence*

WBV UP was rated as having a **moderate positive influence** (60%) on Wet Horizons. The survey respondent noted, "the WBV has local knowledge of the moor conditions and hydraulic engineering systems. The WBV could actively advocate for more water retention if this is permitted by the rules of procedure." This highlights their potential role in supporting the project through their expertise in local environmental conditions and water management practices.

The organisation was also seen as having a **moderate potential for negative influence** (50%). As per the survey, "The WBV is a membership association. If it sees itself as a pure service provider that works for its members and the members continue to demand (strong) drainage, then carry out the farmers' wishes and continue to drain the areas." This suggests a potential conflict between the interests of its members and the conservation goals of Wet Horizons, especially in scenarios where members prioritise agricultural drainage over wetland conservation.

#### *Impact*

The positive impact on WBV UP from Wet Horizons was not quantified. However, considering their role in water management and conservation, the project's outcomes could provide them with **moderate benefit**, including valuable insights and

methodologies for enhancing their water conservation efforts in wetland areas if their membership advocated for it.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Leverage Local Expertise:** Utilise WBV's knowledge and experience in moor conditions and hydraulic systems to enhance Wet Horizons' guidelines for strategies in wetland restoration in the Peene River area.
- **Implementing ecosystem services-based management schemes:** As WBV manages wetland areas for the benefit of its members including local communities and property owners, it could find benefit in implementing an ecosystem services-based management model that captures the range of benefits restored wetlands can provide. It would allow the WBV authorities to show other-than-environmental benefits of wise ecosystem management and restoration.
- **Balance Agricultural Member Interests:** Acknowledge and address the potential conflicts between the conservation goals of Wet Horizons and the agricultural interests of WBV Untere Peene's members to find a sustainable middle ground.

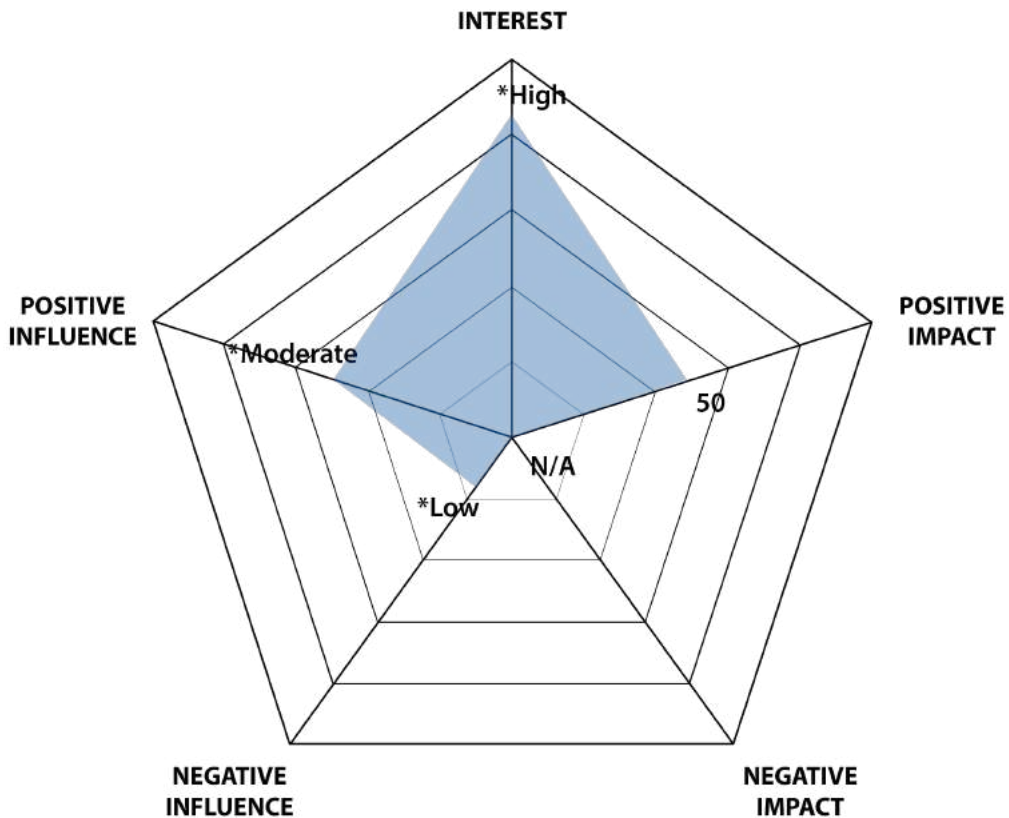
Land Company Mecklenburg-Vorpommern mbH / Landgesellschaft Mecklenburg-Vorpommern



Catchment

Overall 3i score: 167

Figure 74: Overview of 3i analysis for Landgesellschaft Mecklenburg-Vorpommern<sup>165</sup>



<sup>165</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Landgesellschaft Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

Land Company Mecklenburg-Vorpommern mbH (Land Company MV mbH), a non-profit settlement company in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, focuses on improving agricultural structures and regional development since 1991. Their services include land procurement/management, moor protection, urban and regional development, renewable energy, and implementing the European Water Framework Directive. Their involvement in moor protection and ecological compensation, as well as their experience in sustainable development of water bodies and wetlands, aligns them closely with the objectives of wetland restoration projects like Wet Horizons

“Land Company MV mbH is a peatland restoration implementation body, with long experience in restoration projects in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern” (University of Greifswald, 3i survey)

#### *Interest*

While a specific interest level in Wet Horizons was not provided, Land Company MV mbH's dedication and experience in moor protection and ecological land management suggests a probable **high level of interest** in the project. Their focus on sustainable land and water resource management aligns with the goals of wetland restoration and conservation.

#### *Influence*

Their positive influence on Wet Horizons, though not quantified, can be inferred as **moderate**. Given their crucial role as an intermediary in wetland restoration and expertise in land management and development, they could significantly contribute to and support the objectives of Wet Horizons, particularly in areas related to land procurement and ecological compensation.

The potential for negative influence is not specified. However, considering their commitment to environmental sustainability, any **negative influence is likely low**, unless there are conflicting interests or priorities in specific projects or initiatives.

#### *Impact*

Land Company MV mbH was rated as potentially likely to experience a **moderate positive impact (50%)** from Wet Horizons. The respondent noted that “if there would be an overall approval across the different stakeholder groups, peatland restoration projects would be easier / quicker to facilitate and implement” (University of Greifswald, 3i survey). This suggests that the organisation's primary benefit from the project would be in terms of its impacts on the stakeholders it interacts with, with regards to reducing barriers they currently experience it led to in terms of easier facilitation and quicker implementation of such initiatives.

Land Company MV mbH was not rated as likely to experience any negative impact from the project or its outcomes. Any adverse impact might arise from possible conflicts between the project's outcomes and the organisation's ongoing initiatives or strategies.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Leverage Expertise in Sustainable Land Management:** Utilise their knowledge and experience in peatland restoration to develop guidelines for wetland restoration that align with regional development goals.
- **Identifying current restoration initiatives:** Experts from and Company MV mbH are likely to be active in wetland restoration initiatives, and are likely to have a broad awareness of current restoration initiatives that could be mapped by Wet Horizons.
- **Sharing wetland governance, socio-economic, ecosystem market, and policy outputs:** Wet Horizons could collaborate with Land Company MV mbH to develop wetland governance policies that both align with EU water directives and are realistic for the region, focusing on tailored recommendations and compliance strategies that can be incorporated into regional development initiatives.

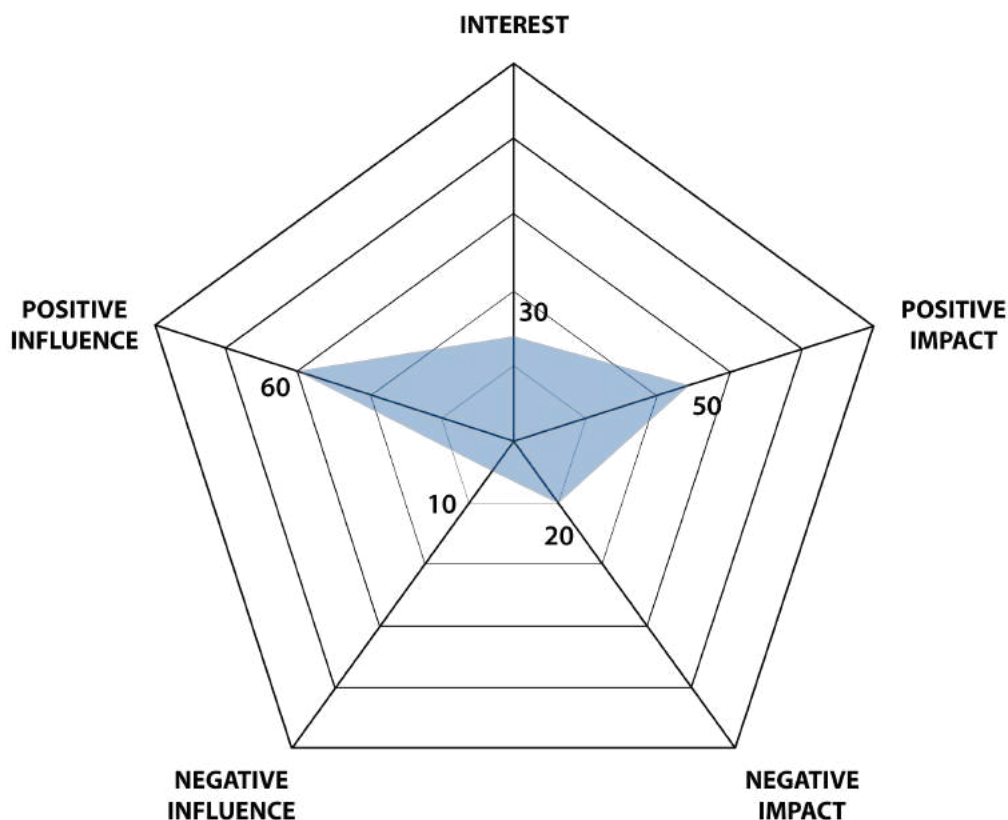
Baltic Sea Foundation / Ostseestiftung



Catchment

Overall 3i score: 170

Figure 75: Overview of 3i analysis for Ostseestiftung<sup>166</sup>



3i analysis

<sup>166</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the Baltic Sea Foundation.



Ostseestiftung, or Baltic Sea Foundation, established in 2011, is a German foundation dedicated to enhancing the ecological situation of the Baltic Sea. It supports projects at non-profit or public institutions focusing on securing, extending, and developing protected areas, and safeguarding rare species and habitats in the sea and coastal areas, which makes them relevant to wetland restoration. Ostseestiftung also aims to reduce nutrient and pollutant input into the Baltic Sea and enhance the ecosystem's performance and stability, aligning with the goals of wetland restoration projects like Wet Horizons

In addition, the respondent for this organisation noted they are active partners in wetland restoration projects: "The Baltic Sea Foundation implements restoration projects" (University of Greifswald, 3i survey). Key projects include habitat restoration and protection, such as the Renaturierung Marlower Bach and Natur- und Erlebnisraum Warnow-Ästuar, focusing on wetland and waterway restoration. These initiatives aim to enhance biodiversity, reduce pollutants, and restore natural habitats in the region.<sup>167</sup>

### *Interest*

Baltic Sea Foundation was rated as having a **low interest (30%)** in Wet Horizons. The respondent stated, "Is already busy with my own projects," (University of Greifswald, 3i survey) suggesting that their current commitments to similar goals may limit their interest in external projects like Wet Horizons. However, there may be potential for piqued interest if Wet Horizons outputs or tools could add value or efficiency to their existing initiatives.

### *Influence*

Baltic Sea Foundation was rated as having a **moderate level of power to support (60%)** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Their expertise and experience in engaging with local stakeholders for restoration projects, as indicated by the quote "Good expertise and experience in working with local stakeholders to implement restoration projects," (University of Greifswald, 3i survey) shows their potential to contribute to and advocate for Wet Horizons' objectives.

Baltic Sea Foundation were rated as likely to have a **low level of influence (10%)** to negatively influence Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The quote "probably not interested in hindering the project" (University of Greifswald, 3i survey) reflects their neutral or slightly positive stance towards similar environmental initiatives.

### *Impact*

Baltic Sea Foundation were rated as likely to receive a **moderate level of benefit (50%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent noted, "General attention to moorland protection and restoration is increasing," (University of Greifswald, 3i survey) indicating that Wet Horizons' focus on the Peene River wetland restoration

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<sup>167</sup> [www.ostseestiftung.de](http://www.ostseestiftung.de).

may continue to facilitate this rise in interest and indirectly support their advocacy for restoration.

Baltic Sea Foundation were rated as likely to experience a **low level of negative impact (20%)** as a result of Wet Horizons and its outcomes. The respondent indicated, "Negative impact only if the project 'fails'," (University of Greifswald, 3i survey) suggesting that adverse effects are contingent on the unlikely event of the project's failure which might be used as evidence against the potential for wetland restoration in the area.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

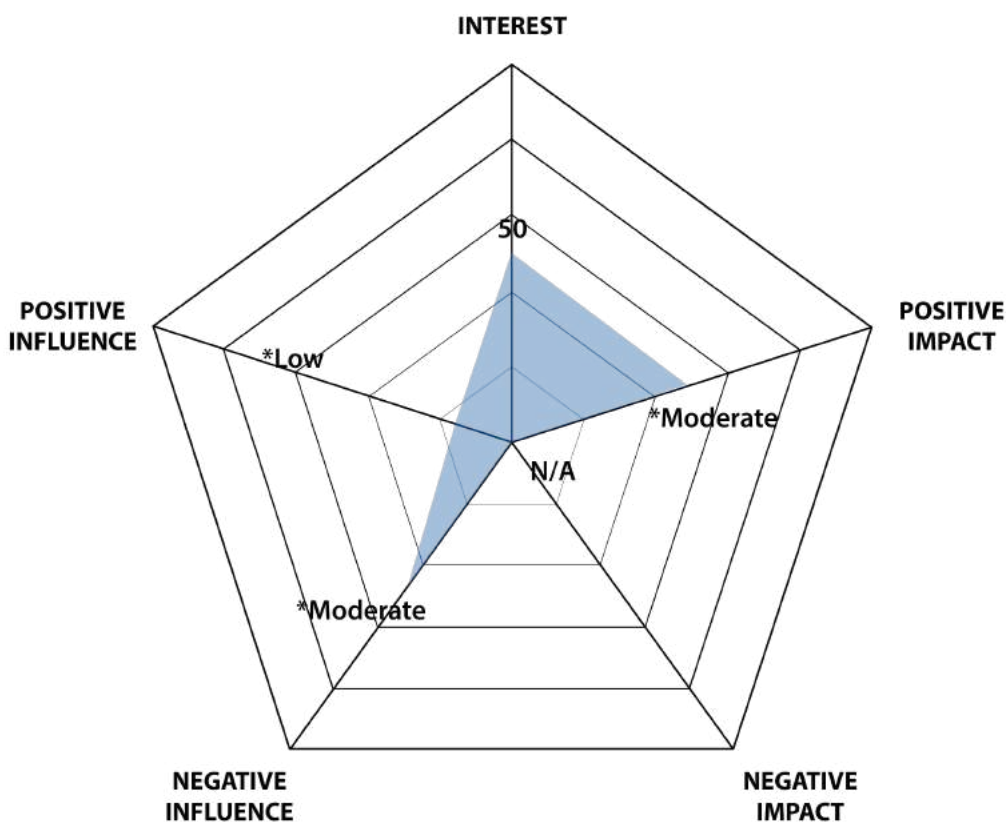
- **Engage with Digital Tools:** Ostseestiftung might find the digital tools developed by Wet Horizons, such as the wetland visualization app and decision support systems, highly useful for their conservation efforts. These tools could enhance their capabilities in monitoring and managing the Baltic Sea's ecological status.
- **Collaboration on Policy Recommendations:** As Wet Horizons develops policy recommendations for wetland protection across Europe, Baltic Sea Foundation, with its focus on the Baltic Sea region, could be an important stakeholder in adapting these guidelines to the Peene River context.
- **Share Insights on Ecosystem Markets:** Given Baltic Sea Foundation's role in funding environmental projects, insights from Wet Horizons on ecosystem markets and blending public-private finance for restoration could be beneficial. This knowledge could help Baltic Sea Foundation in attracting more investment and implementing innovative finance models for their projects.

## Friends of Nature Conservation in the Peene Valley e.V / Förderverein Naturschutz im Peenetal e.V



Overall 3i score: 167

Figure 76: Overview of 3i analysis for Förderverein Naturschutz im Peenetal e.V.<sup>168</sup>



<sup>168</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the Förderverein Naturschutz im Peenetal e.V. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

Friends of Nature Conservation in the Peene Valley e.V is a conservation group dedicated to preserving the unique beauty and ecological importance of the Peenetal area. The organisation is composed of a diverse group of individuals from all over Vorpommern, united by their desire to protect this extraordinary river landscape. Their activities likely include raising awareness about the ecological significance of the area, which suggests a strong alignment with the objectives of wetland and moorland restoration projects such as Wet Horizons.

The respondent highlighted their membership's practical approach within wetland restoration initiatives - "this is a society of volunteers that not only provides recommendations about wetland restoration but also does practical management of wetland habitats and was/is partner in wetland restoration projects" (BNL - Vegelin, 3i survey).

#### *Interest*

The organisation was rated as having a **moderate level of interest (50%)** in Wet Horizons, likely due to its international network and contacts that may be interested in an EU level project that focuses on their local area. This suggests that the society values the exchange of knowledge and practices in wetland restoration.

#### *Influence*

While the specific positive influence of Friends of Nature Conservation in the Peene Valley e.V on Wet Horizons is not quantified, it can be inferred as **moderate**. Given their focus on conservation and public engagement, they could play a role in raising awareness and motivating stakeholders for moorland restoration, but this influence is arguably only likely to be indirect in nature. However, they could be a useful and keen partner in terms of tailoring and promoting restoration recommendations to their local context, and implementing them in projects they get involved in.

The potential for negative influence is not specified. However, considering their commitment to environmental protection, any negative influence is likely **low** unless there are conflicting interests in specific conservation approaches.

#### *Impact*

The positive impact on Friends of Nature Conservation in the Peene Valley e.V. from Wet Horizons was not quantified. However, considering their role in conservation, the project's outcomes could provide them with a **moderate level of positive impact** in the form of valuable insights and methodologies for enhancing their conservation efforts in wetland areas.

There was no assessment available regarding the potential negative impact of Wet Horizons on Friends of Nature Conservation in the Peene Valley e.V.



### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Engaging the Membership in Citizen Science Initiatives:** Due to the organisation being constructed of individual volunteers, this organisation may represent a good starting point to identify citizen scientists to participate in the project for the Peene River region.
- **Knowledge and Network Exchange:** Encourage the sharing of experiences and best practices in wetland restoration between Wet Horizons and Friends of Nature Conservation in the Peene Valley e.V., benefiting both the project and the organisation.
- **Raise Awareness and Advocate for Wetland Restoration:** Due to the organisation being constructed of individual volunteers, Wet Horizons could leverage the organisation's platform and community engagement to promote wetland restoration initiatives and engage them in any impact plans that depend on public or local community engagement.

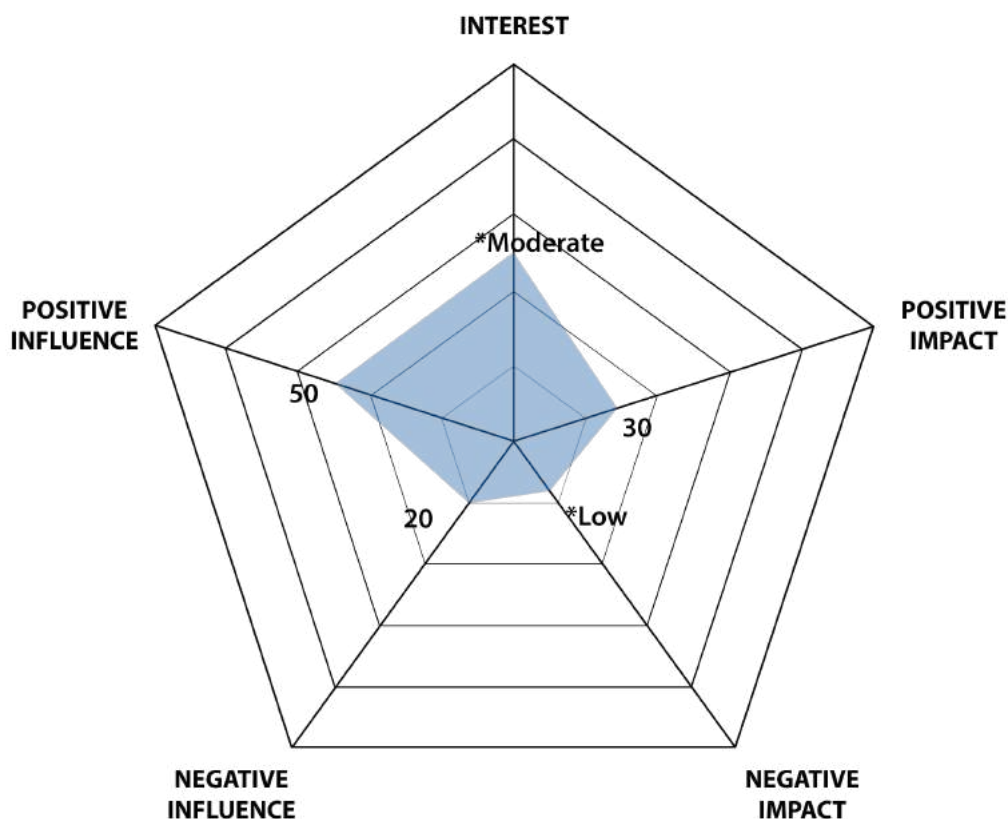
## Upper Peene Water Soil Association / Wasser Boden Verband Obere Peene (WBV OP)



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 167

Figure 77: Overview of 3i analysis for Wasser Boden Verband Obere Peene (WBV OP)<sup>169</sup>



<sup>169</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the Wasser Boden Verband Obere Peene (WBV OP). Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

The Upper Peene Water Soil Association (WBV OP), a public-law corporation, is responsible for managing water bodies and the associated land in the Obere Peene area. The Water Association Act (WVG) is the legal basis for these organisations, allowing them to adjust to regional needs and traditions while providing a framework for their establishment, tasks, membership, and governance structure. The organisation's responsibilities mirror that of the WBV UP, including maintenance and care of watercourses, flood protection, and ecological water management. The organisation plays a crucial role in managing local water resources, which is inherently linked to wetland conservation and restoration efforts like those of Wet Horizons

The respondent for this organisation explained their water management responsibilities - "Water Soil Association, which manages and maintains the hydraulic engineering facilities in the "Obere Peene" association area and ensures drainage (in principle, water retention in the association area is or would be the responsibility of the WBV)." (Water Soil Association Upper Peene, 3i survey)

#### *Interest*

While specific interest in Wet Horizons is not explicitly mentioned, given the organisation's focus on water management and ecological conservation, it's reasonable to infer a **moderate interest** in Wet Horizons and its outcomes. Their involvement in such projects could directly impact their water management strategies and conservation goals.

#### *Influence*

The **positive influence** of WBV OP on Wet Horizons is estimated to be **moderate (50%)**. They have the potential to inform and raise awareness among their members about moorland restoration, which could encourage support for Wet Horizons initiatives.

Their **negative influence is considered to be low (20%)**, suggesting that their opinions may shape the attitudes of their members towards moorland protection measures, potentially leading to resistance against such conservation efforts.

#### *Impact*

WBV OP was rated as having a **low positive impact (30%)** from Wet Horizons and its outcomes, with an interest in increasing moor protection activities. This indicates that the organization's activities and goals could be furthered by the outcomes of Wet Horizons e.g. if restoration led to flood risk alleviation.

The potential negative impact is not explicitly provided but can be inferred as **low**. Any misalignment with Wet Horizons' approaches could potentially cause some resistance or challenges in implementing new conservation strategies within their jurisdiction.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Leverage Local Expertise:** Utilise WBV OP's knowledge and experience in moor conditions and hydraulic systems to enhance Wet Horizons' guidelines for strategies in wetland restoration in the Peene River area.
- **Implementing ecosystem services-based management schemes:** As WBV OP manages wetland areas for the benefit of its members including local communities and property owners, it could find benefit in implementing an ecosystem services-based management model that captures the range of benefits restored wetlands can provide. It would allow the WBV authorities to show other-than-environmental benefits of wise ecosystem management and restoration.



## Garonne, France 3i Analysis Results

This report presents results from the 3i analysis to identify relevant parties for the Wet Horizons research to consider engaging with, in the Garonne catchment, France.

### Sample

A total of 7 organisations were identified with interests in, influence over and/or likely to be impacted positively or negatively by wetland restoration in the Garonne catchment. This information was provided by  $n=6$  participants. These were organisations were sorted into the following 3 categories:

**Table 1: Relevant party categories identified**

Relevant party category	Category description	Organisations	Number of organisations identified
Government agency	Government agencies and other bodies with statutory powers responsible for nature conservation or public land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SMEAG (Syndicat Mixte d'Études et d'Aménagement de la Garonne/Joint Union of Studies and Development of the Garonne)</li> <li>Agence de l'eau Adour Garonne</li> <li>Conseil Départemental du 82</li> </ul>	3
Research Performing Organisations (RPOs)	Universities, research institutes, research groups or science organisations that carry out research on topics relating to environmental governance or wetland restoration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>University of Franche-Comté (Laboratoire Théma, CNRS)</li> <li>University of Grenoble - CERMOSEM</li> <li>Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique / French Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)</li> </ul>	3
Environmental/sustainability NGOs, thinktanks or representative organisations	Non-governmental organisations working on wetland conservation and management in the Garonne catchment, typically with wider national and international interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ariège Nature Association (ANA)</li> </ul>	1



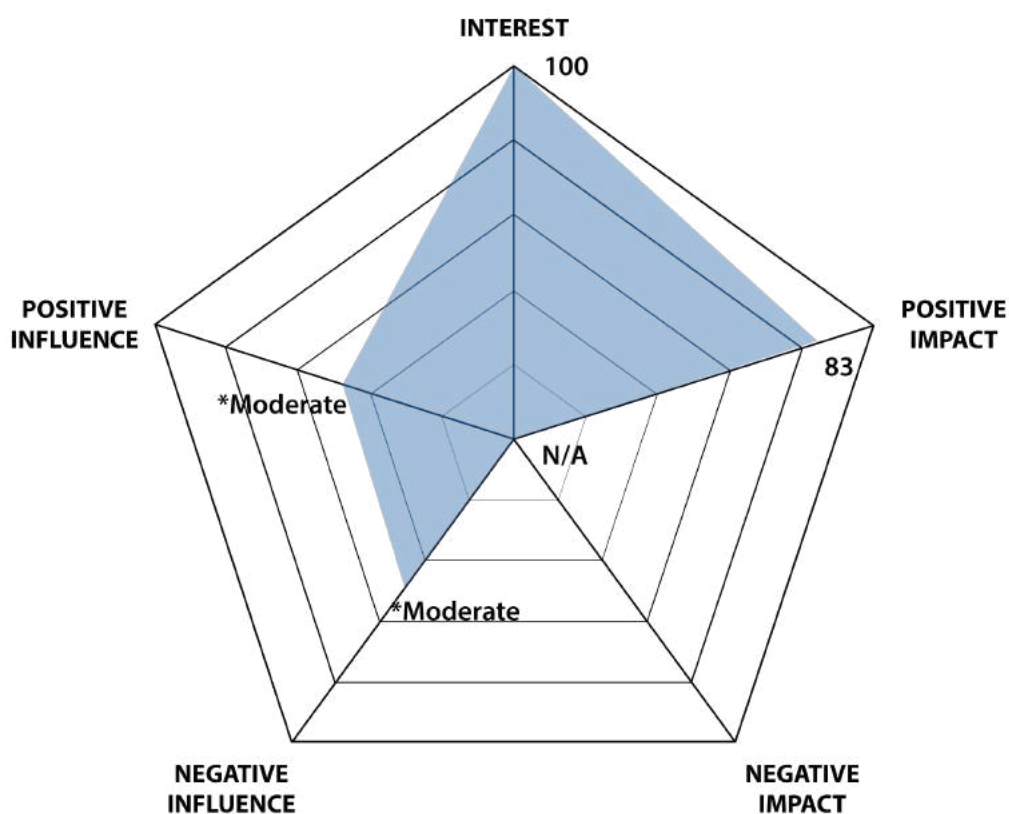
## Conseil Départemental du 82



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 283

Figure 77: Overview of 3i analysis for Conseil Départemental du 82<sup>170</sup>



<sup>170</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Conseil Départemental du 82. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, [...] survey response was entered about [...]. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

The Conseil Départemental du 82, representing the Tarn-et-Garonne department in France, is a local governmental body responsible for various administrative and developmental functions within the department. As a key regional authority, it oversees aspects of territorial planning, environmental conservation, and regional development. Its involvement in initiatives like Wet Horizons is crucial, given its administrative authority and ability to influence regional policy and resource allocation. The Conseil Départemental's role in environmental stewardship and community development positions it as a significant stakeholder in projects aimed at ecological restoration and sustainable land use.

The respondent reporting about this organisation did not provide a subjective qualitative description about their potential relation to the project.

#### *Interest*

The Conseil Départemental du 82 was rated as **highly interested (100%)** in Wet Horizons. This strong interest is likely driven by the project's potential to enhance the department's environmental health and contribute to sustainable regional development, aligning with the council's objectives in environmental and territorial management.

#### *Influence*

While a specific rating for positive influence was not provided, the council's role as a local governmental body suggests it could have a **moderate positive influence** on Wet Horizons. Their ability to enact policies, allocate resources, and guide local development projects could be instrumental in the successful implementation and scaling of Wet Horizons' initiatives in the Tarn-et-Garonne department.

No specific information was provided regarding the potential negative influence. However, as a key regional authority, their decisions or policy directions that might not align with the Wet Horizons project could influence its outcomes or scope of implementation. As such, they could have a **moderate power to block** the outcomes of Wet Horizons.

#### *Impact*

The positive impact of Wet Horizons on the Conseil Départemental du 82 was not quantified. Nevertheless, given their high interest and the project's objectives, it can be inferred that successful outcomes from Wet Horizons could significantly support

the council's goals in environmental conservation and regional development, indicating a **high potential level of benefit**.

No assessment was provided for the potential negative impact of Wet Horizons on the Conseil Départemental du 82.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Engage in Policy Collaboration:** Collaborate with the Conseil Départemental du 82 to ensure that Wet Horizons' outputs are well aligned with local environmental and development policies.
- **Leverage Local Government Support:** Utilise the council's resources and influence to facilitate the implementation of Wet Horizons, particularly in areas of funding, community engagement, and regional planning.
- **Disseminating outputs with new information on the state of the Garonne wetlands:** This organisation is likely to be interested in outputs that might update their understanding of the state of the Tarn-et-Garonne, and its implications for environmental governance, which could facilitate their work.



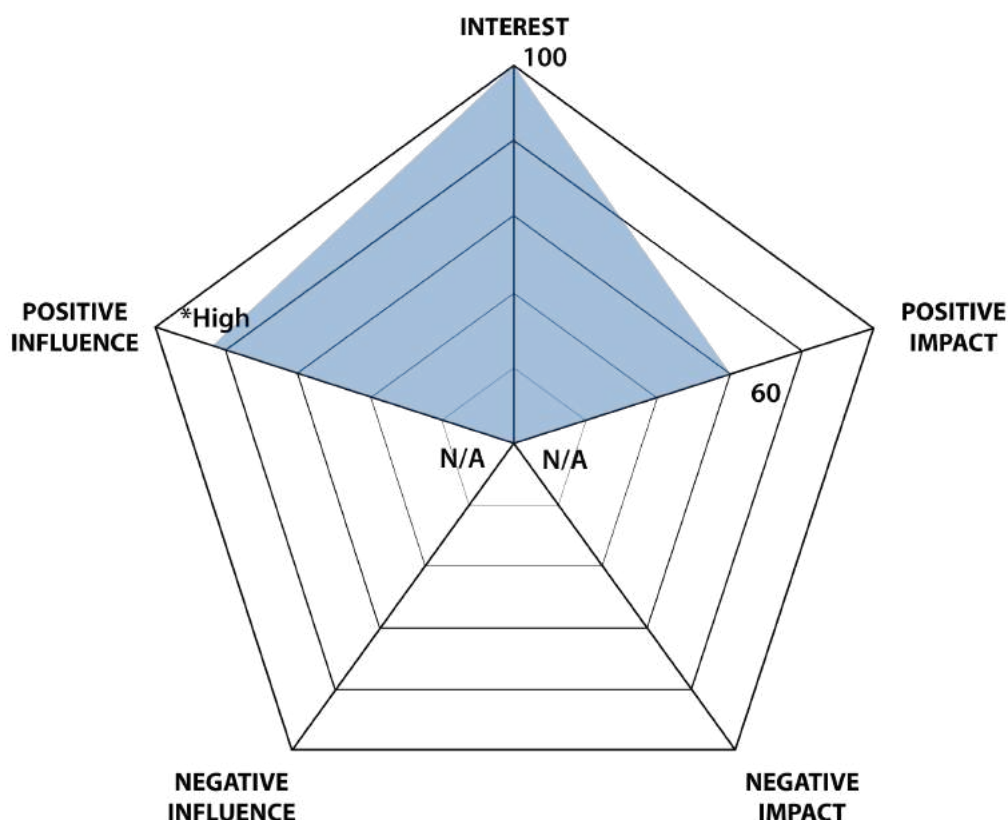
## SMEAG / SAGE vallée de la Garonne



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 243

Figure 77: Overview of 3i analysis for SAGE vallée de la Garonne<sup>171</sup>



NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this

<sup>171</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about SAGE vallée de la Garonne. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

category, [...] survey response was entered about [...]. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### 3i analysis

SMEAG (Syndicat Mixte d'Études et d'Aménagement de la Garonne/Joint Union of Studies and Development of the Garonne) is a public body that brings together six regional and general councils bordering the river: Midi-Pyrénées and Aquitaine, Haute-Garonne, Tarn-et-Garonne, Lot-et-Garonne and Gironde for balanced management of resources, water and ecosystems within the catchment. It plays a crucial role in managing and restoring wetlands as part of the Garonne Valley SAGE (Schéma d'Aménagement et de Gestion des Eaux/Water Development and Management Scheme). They play a variety of roles in the conservation and the coordinated sustainable management of wetlands, including stakeholder engagement and management, research, tool deployment, and knowledge exchange.

The respondent reporting about this organisation specified the specific activities they work on with regards to wetland restoration: "Work on the wetlands component as part of the Garonne Valley SAGE approved in July 2020, with the application of a wetland protection rule and 8 wetland provisions. Strong links with Natura 2000 activities coordinated by SMEAG in the Garonne valley (Occitanie and New Aquitaine) and local policies (ENS, CATEZH, etc.)" (SMEAG, 3i survey). Natura 2000<sup>172</sup> is a network of protected areas covering Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats, while the local policies specified stand for Espaces Naturels Sensibles/Sensitive Natural Area Contrats d'Aménagement Territorial Eau Zones Humides/Territorial Development Contracts Water Wetlands.

#### Interest

SMEAG was rated as **highly interested (100%)** in Wet Horizons. This is reflected in their ongoing discussions about studies on wetlands on their website, particularly regarding the services provided by these ecosystems, in connection with the Nature-Based Solutions network of the Adour-Garonne Water Agency. As the respondent from SMEAG mentioned, "We monitor wetland restoration projects across the Garonne, and as part of the SAGE we have established a wetlands strategy to define the priorities for the animation and management of ZH (Zone Humide - Wetlands)" (SMEAG, 3i survey). This response indicates they would be an ideal impact planning partner for Wet Horizons to engage.

#### Influence

While a specific rating for positive influence was not given, it can be inferred from their qualitative responses and the content on their website that SMEAG could significantly positively influence Wet Horizons. Their offer for discussion, "We offer you a time for discussion to better discern the objectives of your project and the links with our missions," (SMEAG, 3i survey) suggests their readiness to engage constructively and

<sup>172</sup>[https://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/?data\\_id=dataSource\\_7-Layman\\_Sites\\_4270%3A16643&page=Page-1&sitecode=FR7300883&views=Sites\\_View\\_Habitats](https://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/?data_id=dataSource_7-Layman_Sites_4270%3A16643&page=Page-1&sitecode=FR7300883&views=Sites_View_Habitats)



align Wet Horizons' goals with their extensive wetland management and conservation activities. As such, they could have a **high level of influence to support** the project.

No quantitative rating or information was provided for negative influence. However, given their alignment and interest in wetland restoration, it's likely that their influence would be predominantly positive, or at least neutral, towards the project.

### *Impact*

SMEAG was rated as likely to receive a **moderate positive impact (60%)** from Wet Horizons. As stated by the respondent, there could be a "possible linkage with ongoing projects and experiments in the Garonne valley. Possibility of co-financing," indicating that Wet Horizons could complement and enhance their current projects, with potential financial collaboration for future impact plans.

No assessment of the potential negative impact of Wet Horizons on SMEAG was provided.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Finding links to SMEAG initiatives:** Cooperation with SMEAG in finding knowledge transfer links from WetHorizons to their project can enhance both projects and find synergies between them.
- **Sharing datasets and digital tools:** As an organisation that both conducts and monitors research, it is likely that the datasets and digital tools resulting from the project will be of interest, as they may be able to utilise them to bolster or expand their own research
- **Explore Co-financing Opportunities:** Investigate potential co-financing opportunities with SMEAG, leveraging shared interests in wetland restoration to enhance the scope and impact of both parties' efforts.
- **Integrate Wet Horizons with Local and Regional Wetland Policies:** With regards to the policy briefs to be developed by the project, SMEAG could help ensure that recommendations are compatible with and complementary to the local and regional policies and strategies managed by SMEAG, particularly those related to Natura 2000 and SAGE.

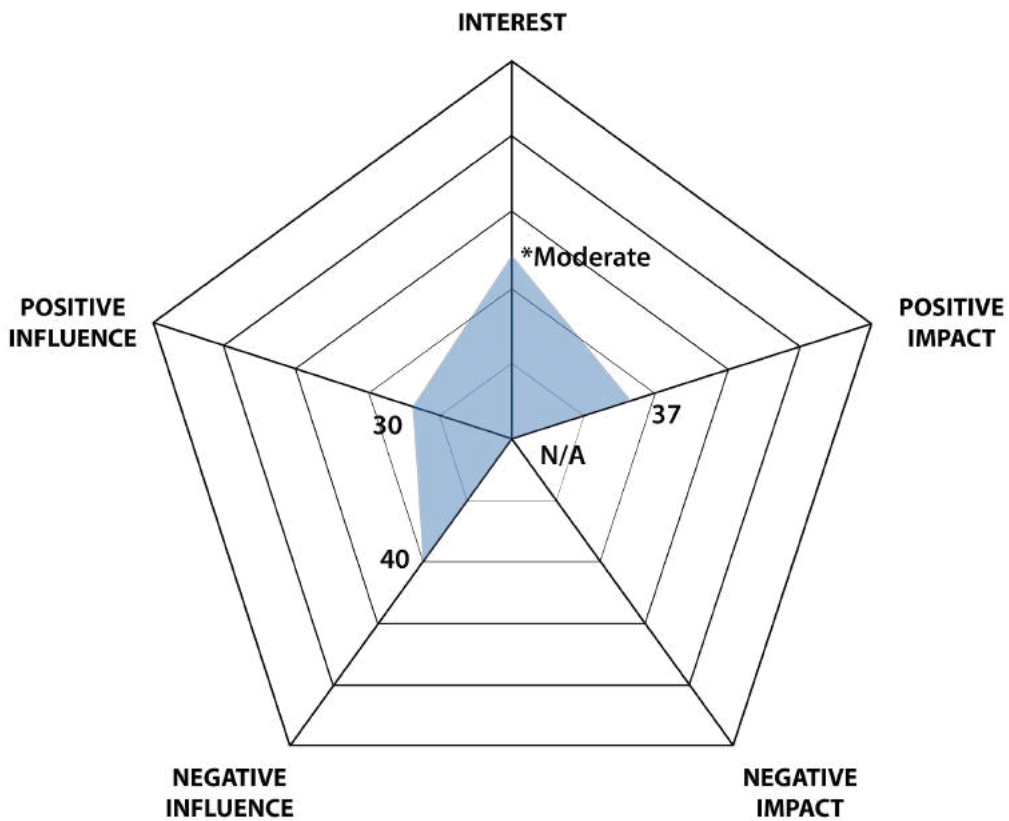
Agence de l'eau Adour Garonne



Catchment

Overall 3i score: 157

Figure 77: Overview of 3i analysis for Agence de l'eau Adour Garonne<sup>173</sup>



<sup>173</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about Agence de l'eau Adour Garonne. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, [...] survey response was entered about [...]. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of opened responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

Agence de l'eau Adour Garonne<sup>174</sup> is a French public administrative institution established in 1964, tasked with combating pollution and protecting aquatic environments within the Adour-Garonne watershed. It operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Ecological Transition and has financial autonomy and legal personality. The agency is one of six similar institutions in France, focused on water management and environmental protection. It is a key funding agency in France, and plays a vital role in supporting environmental initiatives, particularly those focused on water management and ecosystem conservation. Their dedicated efforts towards supporting wetland restoration projects make them an important stakeholder in impact planning for projects like Wet Horizons. This agency's involvement is crucial for financing and guiding restoration projects, contributing significantly to the preservation and enhancement of wetland ecosystems in the region of Nouvelle-Aquitaine and beyond.

The respondent for this organisation highlighted a specific call for projects to accelerate restoration of the wetlands in the region: “funding Agency with calls dedicated to wetland restoration (see web site)” (Agence de l'eau Adour Garonne, 3i survey) including projects to restore the hydrological functionality of wetlands, projects to restore peatland functionality, and projects to create or restore the urban or peri-urban multifunctionalities of wetlands.

#### *Interest*

Specific interest in Wet Horizons was not quantified, but given their focus on wetland restoration, Agence de l'eau Adour Garonne likely has a **moderate vested interest** in such projects, at least in terms of having a basic awareness about the network of projects ongoing with a focus on their region. Their commitment to funding and supporting wetland initiatives suggests an alignment with the objectives of Wet Horizons.

#### *Influence*

The agency was rated as having a **low positive influence (30%)** on Wet Horizons. While they have the capability to fund and support wetland restoration projects, their direct influence on specific projects like Wet Horizons may be limited compared to other stakeholders with more direct management or operational roles. However, as a central stakeholder for many restoration projects in term of funding, they could play a significant knowledge exchange role in partnership with other parties.

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<sup>174</sup> <https://eau-grandsudouest.fr/actualites/appel-projets-accelerer-restauration-zones-humides-nouvelle-aquitaine>

Their **potential negative influence was rated as moderate (40%)**. This rating might reflect the agency's role in funding decisions, where choosing not to support a project like Wet Horizons could impact its implementation or scope.

### *Impact*

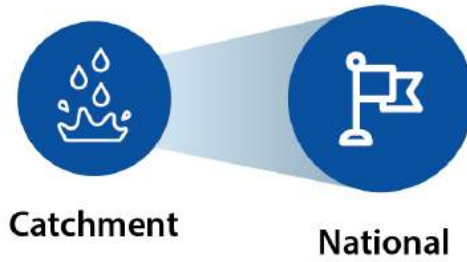
Agence de l'eau Adour Garonne was rated as having a **moderate positive impact (37%)** from Wet Horizons. This suggests that successful outcomes from Wet Horizons could align with the agency's goals and enhance their portfolio of supported wetland restoration projects.

No assessment was provided regarding the potential negative impact of Wet Horizons on Agence de l'eau Adour Garonne.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

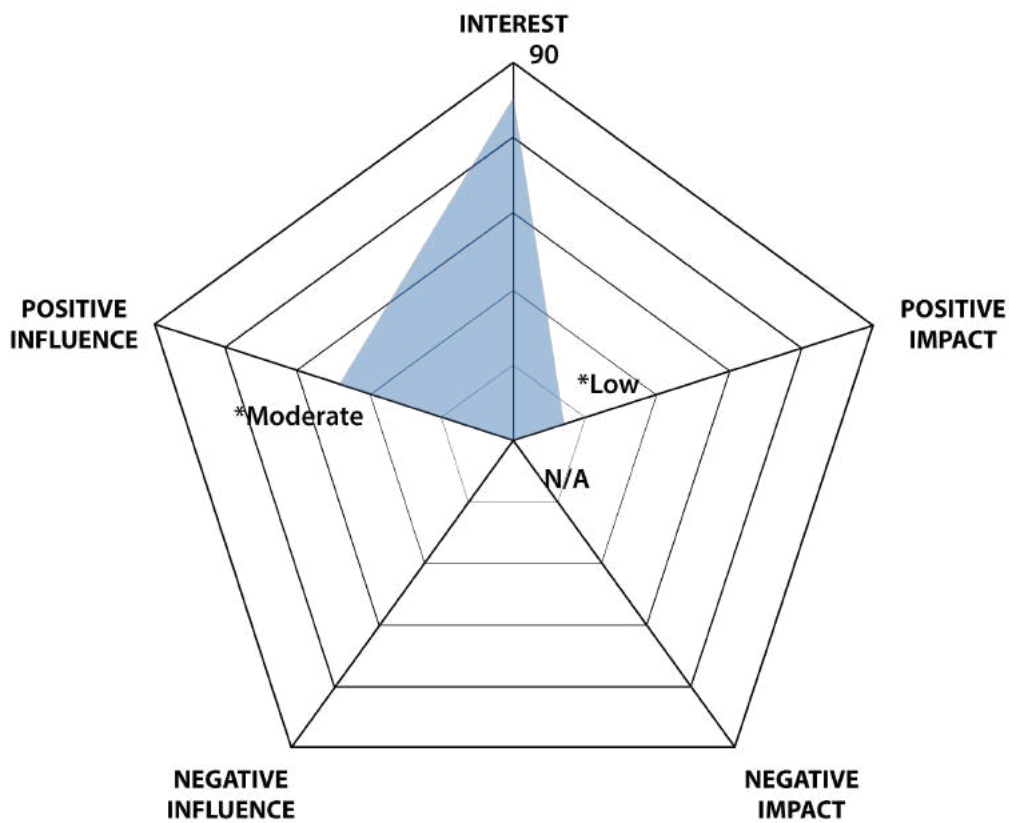
- **Seek Funding and Support:** Engage with Agence de l'eau Adour Garonne to explore funding opportunities for Wet Horizons impact plans, leveraging their commitment to wetland restoration.
- **Sharing traditional academic outputs and research summaries:** This organisation is likely to be interested in being notified of any peer-reviewed papers published with reference to the state of the Danube Delta, and its implications for environmental governance that might implicate the strategic angle of future funding calls they put out.
- **Monitor and Communicate Project Progress:** Maintain transparent communication with the agency about the progress and outcomes of Wet Horizons to ensure it is aware of the research landscape.

University of Franche-Comté (Laboratoire Théma, CNRS)



Overall 3i score: 157

Figure 77: Overview of 3i analysis for University of Franche-Comté (Laboratoire Théma, CNRS)<sup>175</sup>



<sup>175</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about University of Franche-Comté (Laboratoire Théma, CNRS). Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, [...] survey response was entered about [...]. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

The University of Franche-Comté, specifically its Laboratoire Théma associated with CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique/Scientific Research National Center), is a leading academic institution in France. ThéMA is a research laboratory specialising in theoretical and quantitative geography.

The respondent for this organisation provided some specific details on their expertise, indicating how specific research teams within the university might be related to the Wet Horizons project: "The ThéMA laboratory provides expertise on spatialization, landscape ecology and restoration ecology" (Universities of Grenoble and Caen, 3i survey)

#### *Interest*

The university was rated as **highly interested (90%)** in Wet Horizons. This keen interest is attributed to their capability to provide expertise in advanced GIS and LECOS software, as stated: "They could provide an expertise in the advanced use of GIS and LECOS software" (Universities of Grenoble and Caen, 3i survey). Additionally, a specific colleague, Prof. Damien Marage, was named as potentially interested in the project, suggesting a direct link and individual engagement within the university.

#### *Influence*

While a specific score for positive influence was not provided, the university's expertise in spatialization and restoration ecology suggests that it could have a **moderate positive influence** on Wet Horizons. Their academic and research capabilities, especially in GIS and ecological analysis means that they may have capacity to be a scientific partner in future restoration projects using Wet Horizons tools and outputs.

No information or rating was provided regarding the potential negative influence. Given the university's academic focus and interest in the project, their influence is likely to be predominantly positive or neutral.

#### *Impact*

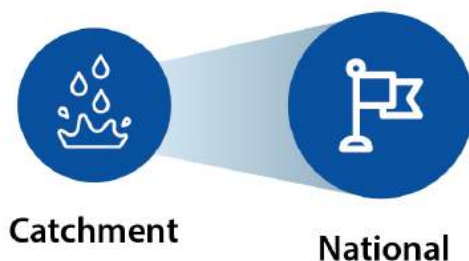
The potential positive impact of Wet Horizons on the University of Franche-Comté, specifically Laboratoire Théma, was not quantified. However, given their focus and interest, the project could provide valuable data and research opportunities, enhancing their academic and research endeavours in landscape and restoration ecology, indicating at least a **low level of benefit**.

There was no assessment provided for the potential negative impact of Wet Horizons on the university.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

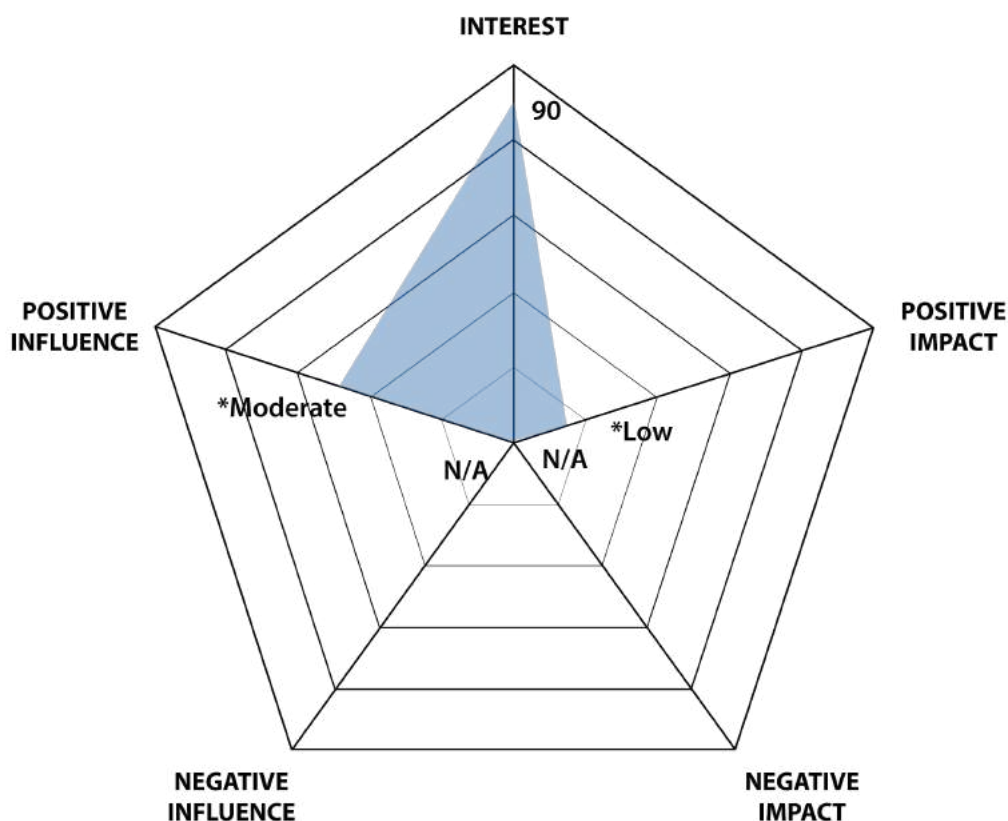
- **Sharing datasets and digital tools:** As a research organisation, it is likely that the datasets and digital tools resulting from the project could be of interest for the university, as they may be able to utilise them to bolster or expand their own research.
- **Collaborate on Advanced GIS and Ecological Analysis:** Engage with Prof. Damien Marage and the university's team for advanced GIS and LECOS software analysis, to scope opportunities for collaboration on specific modelling projects.
- **Facilitate Research and Data Sharing:** Foster a collaborative research environment where data and findings from Wet Horizons can be shared with the university, contributing to academic research and offering practical insights for ecological restoration.

## University of Grenoble - CERMOSEM



Overall 3i score: 157

Figure 77: Overview of 3i analysis for University of Grenoble - CERMOSEM<sup>176</sup>



<sup>176</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the University of Grenoble - CERMOSEM. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.



### *3i analysis*

The University of Grenoble, particularly its research centre CERMOSEM associated with CNRS, is an esteemed academic institution in France. Based at the Olivier de Serres site in Ardèche mainly conducts its research on the territorial dynamics of rural areas around the Mediterranean, with a focus on action research. This positions it as an organisation that may have interest in the impact planning angle of environmental management and ecological studies, such as Wet Horizons.

The respondent reporting about this organisation noted that specifically, “The research centre [...] has strong skills in landscape ecology and GIS”, and that it has experience in the field of wetland management: “the lab has worked on several projects related with watershed management in the Rhône Alpes region and on the Garonne” (Universities of Grenoble and Caen, 3i survey).

#### *Interest*

The university was rated as **highly interested (90%)** in Wet Horizons. This interest is likely due to the project's alignment with their expertise in landscape ecology and GIS. Their previous work on projects related to watershed management in regions similar to those targeted by Wet Horizons could make them a valuable academic and research relevant party for the project.

#### *Influence*

While a specific rating for positive influence was not provided, it can be inferred that the university could have a **moderate positive influence** on Wet Horizons. Their academic and research capabilities, especially in the fields of landscape ecology and GIS, could contribute to the scientific foundation and methodologies employed in the project, if external validation is needed.

No specific information was provided regarding potential negative influence. Given the university's academic focus and strong interest in the project, their influence is likely to be predominantly positive or neutral.

#### *Impact*

The potential positive impact of Wet Horizons on the University of Grenoble's CERMOSEM was not quantified. However, given their focus and high interest, the project could provide valuable data and research opportunities, enhancing their academic and research endeavours in landscape and watershed management. As such, they could receive at least a **low level of positive impact**.

No assessment was provided for the potential negative impact of Wet Horizons on the university.

*Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Leverage Academic Expertise in Landscape Ecology and GIS to Bolster Tools:** Utilise the university's specialised knowledge in landscape ecology and GIS to enhance the scientific understanding and methodologies employed in Wet Horizons.
- **Sharing datasets and digital tools:** As a research organisation, it is likely that the datasets and digital tools resulting from the project could be of interest for the university, as they may be able to utilise them to bolster or expand their own research.

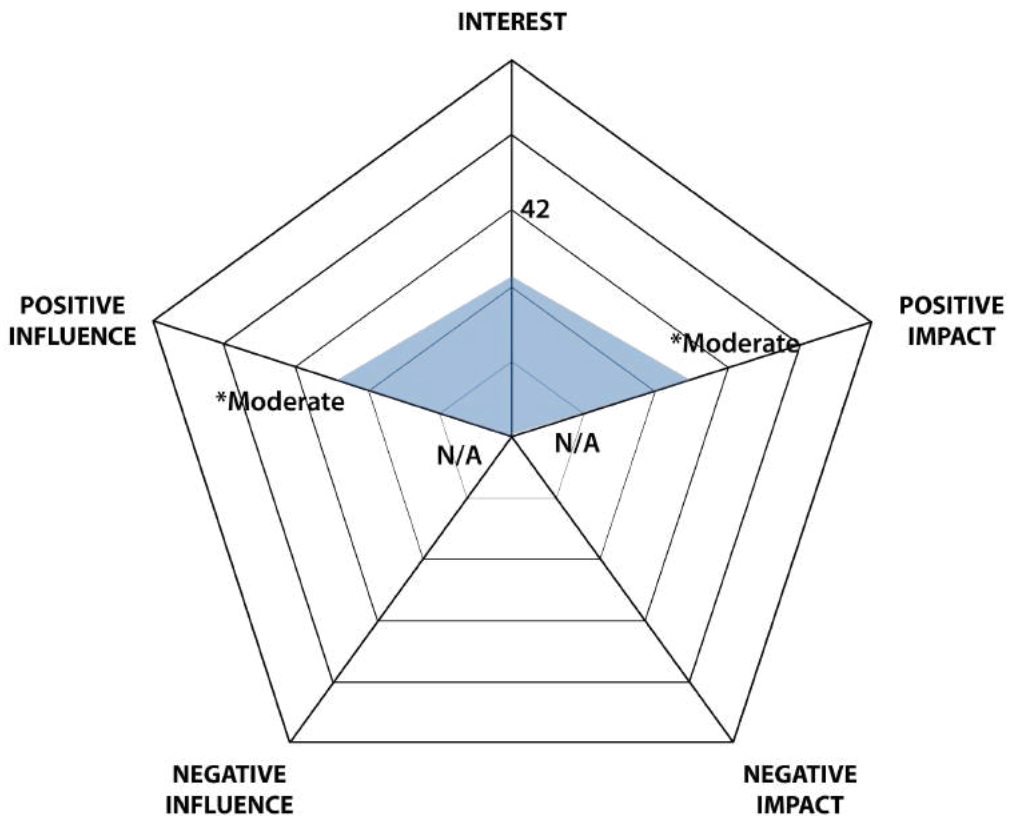
## Ariège Nature Association (ANA)



### Catchment

Overall 3i score: 142

Figure 77: Overview of 3i analysis for Ariège Nature Association (ANA)<sup>177</sup>



### 3i analysis

<sup>177</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the Ariège Nature Association (ANA). Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

ANA (Ariège Nature Association), also known as ANA-CEN Ariège, is an NGO involved in biodiversity conservation and natural sciences in the Ariège region of France. Their work is structured around four key areas: studies and expertise to develop knowledge in natural sciences; managing species and natural spaces to balance ecological needs with human activities; raising awareness, education, and training for environmental preservation - including amongst the local community, with a network 500 voluntary members; and supporting local stakeholders to integrate environmental considerations into territorial policies. Their commitment to these four axes makes them integral to environmental initiatives, especially those focusing on wetland restoration and management like Wet Horizons.

### *Interest*

ANA was rated as **moderately interested (42%)** in Wet Horizons. This interest is likely rooted in their dedication to enriching knowledge in natural sciences and preserving environments and species, particularly in the context of the complex interactions between wetlands and human activities.

### *Influence*

While a specific score for positive influence was not provided, it's inferred that ANA could have a **moderate positive influence** on Wet Horizons. Their expertise in wetland ecosystems and involvement in local environmental initiatives could contribute valuable insights and support to the project, particularly in terms of community engagement and ecological research.

No specific information was provided regarding ANA's potential negative influence. However, given their commitment to wetland conservation, any influence they exert is likely to align with the goals of Wet Horizons or be neutral.

### *Impact*

The positive impact of Wet Horizons on ANA was not quantified. However, the project aligns with their activities in raising awareness and supporting biodiversity, suggesting that successful outcomes from Wet Horizons could enhance ANA's objectives in environmental education and regional biodiversity promotion, indicating that ANA could experience a **moderate positive impact** from the project.

No assessment was provided for the potential negative impact of Wet Horizons on ANA.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Collaboration on Wetland Conservation Efforts:** Work with ANA to align Wet Horizons' restoration activities with their ongoing wetland conservation efforts, leveraging their expertise and regional knowledge.
- **Community Engagement and Awareness:** Utilise ANA's network and community connections to raise awareness about the importance of wetland restoration and to engage local stakeholders in the Wet Horizons project.

- **Data Sharing and Joint Research Initiatives:** Share data and research findings with ANA to enrich their conservation work and explore opportunities for joint research initiatives that can further wetland conservation in the Ariège region.

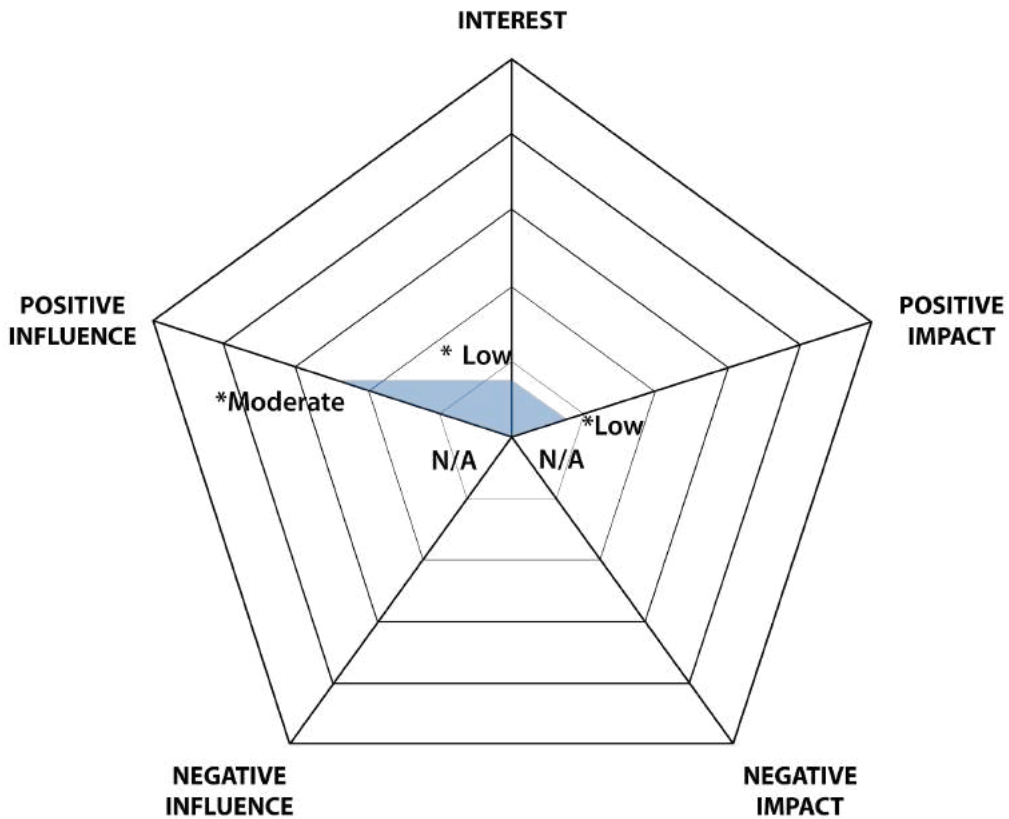
**Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique / French Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)**



**Catchment**

**Overall 3i score: 83**

**Figure 77: Overview of 3i analysis for French Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)<sup>178</sup>**



<sup>178</sup>NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents’ assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, 1 survey response was entered about the French Center for Scientific Research (CNRS). Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

NOTE: Scores are based on an average of respondents' assessments of the identified relevant organisations in this category using a scale ranging from 0 (Not at all) to 100 (Extremely). For this category, [...] survey response was entered about [...]. Where no survey data was provided, interest/influence/impact levels were identified through desk research and/or interpretation of open-ended responses, are indicated by an asterisk (\*), and are explained fully below.

### *3i analysis*

The Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) is one of France's most prestigious and influential research institutions. As a leading organisation in scientific research, CNRS covers a broad spectrum of disciplines, including environmental science, ecology, and geography, and is connected to a number of smaller research labs situated in universities across the country. This makes it an organisation with a broad awareness of different research efforts focusing on environmental management of the Garonne and other wetlands in France.

#### *Interest*

Specific interest in Wet Horizons was not quantified for CNRS. However, given their wide range of scientific research disciplines and the importance of the Garonne River in environmental studies in France, it's likely that CNRS would have an inherent **low level interest** in a project like Wet Horizons, especially if it includes research components relevant to their expertise.

#### *Influence*

While a specific rating for positive influence was not provided, CNRS's potential **positive influence on Wet Horizons could be at least moderate**, if additional scientific skills were required for impact efforts within the Garonne catchment. Their involvement in the spin-off initiatives from the project could bring cutting-edge scientific research and credibility, thereby enhancing the project's scope and impact - "French researchers are missing if you want to work on the Garonne River" (University of Toulouse, 3i survey).

No specific information was provided regarding CNRS's potential negative influence. However, as a research-focused organisation, any influence they exert is likely to be primarily academic and constructive in nature.

#### *Impact*

The potential positive impact of Wet Horizons on CNRS was not quantified. However, collaboration with the project could provide CNRS researchers with valuable field data and research opportunities, contributing to the scientific community's understanding of river and wetland ecosystems. This could amount to at least a **low level of benefit**.

No assessment was provided for the potential negative impact of Wet Horizons on CNRS.

### *Implications and Recommendations for Impact Planning*

- **Engage CNRS Researchers in Collaborative Studies:** Involve CNRS' wide base of researchers in key aspects of Wet Horizons impact plans, particularly if there is additional research required to execute them related to river ecology and wetland restoration.
- **Data Sharing and Joint Publications:** Facilitate the sharing of data and findings between Wet Horizons and CNRS, potentially leading to joint publications and wider dissemination of research outcomes.



## Appendix 4: Full notes from international advisory panel

### Private finance for restoration:

- Current work:
  - Some of our colleagues in Wetlands International are working on such criteria for NBS offsets, but not specifically for peatlands (see their Guidance on responsible use of NBS offsets within corporate climate action)
  - IPS using NbS to upscale restoration in the Merlin project
- Opportunities:
  - Inform criteria and standards for peatlands investment in collaboration with GPI, drawing on synergies across the EU Horizon projects and build on the tools already out there e.g., Investment in Peatlands, Business Guide for Peatlands, Economics of Peatlands report. Feedback on and contribute to recommendations for policy and practice emerging from each of these projects

### Value chains:

- Current work:
  - Succow Foundation and Grieswald Mires Centre (SF/GMC) are supporting peatland, wetland and paludiculture start-ups to build and implement business cases
  - SF/GMC involving businesses in paludiculture value chains in Germany, with plans to extend this to the EU
- Future work:
  - Work is needed to explore how European restoration policy and activity interacts with global peatland supply chains, policies etc
- Opportunity:
  - Build synergies between businesses from different sectors and countries to support the development of paludiculture value chains

### Policy:

- Current work:
  - The European Peatlands Initiative is developing in collaboration with the Irish Government, EuroSite and other EU governments
  - SF/GMC are informing the forthcoming EU Nature Restoration Law (NRL) and helping implement it at National level in EU states
  - SF/GMC are bringing smaller European countries like the Baltics more into the debate
  - Scottish Government are developing a range of peatland policies that may be of wider interest across Europe, including its climate mitigation and adaptation plans (which focus significantly on peatlands, including a commitment to restore 250,000 ha peatland by 2030), and the integration of peatlands in agricultural and land reform and biodiversity strategy
- Future work:

- Work has been commissioned to resolve the tension between windfarm development and peat in Scotland
- The UK retail sector is fully transitioning away from horticultural peat, but this is more difficult in the professional sector with a need for exemptions (either permanent or time limited)
- A pan-European approach is needed to phase out of peat extraction as a fossil resource and develop substitutes
- Need to get involved in CAP early in the process
- Need to assess implementation gaps for the NRL
- New fiscal measures are being explored in Scotland e.g. land tax to incentivise restoration
- As part of a just transition, work needs to be done to consider ways of rewarding good stewardship of peatlands, perhaps re-prioritising public funding as private finance grows, given the focus of private finance on degraded land
- Work is needed to investigate the potential of solar panels on rewetted peatlands
- Opportunities:
  - Wetlands International Europe will raise awareness on topic of peat-free horticulture (alternative providers) throughout 2024
  - CAP, NRL upcoming crunch moments - key for Wet Horizons outputs (data/mapping)

#### Outreach:

- Current work:
  - SF/GMC facilitating transformative stakeholder process in different peatland regions (co-creation, living labs) with EU-funded projects
  - IPS are facilitating expert groups on peatlands and agriculture, forestry and other topics, and knowledge and technology transfer on peatland restoration and paludiculture
- Opportunity:
  - Integrated European communication campaign on peatlands exploiting synergies between outreach/communications of EU projects and key partners, e.g., those represented on this advisory group and Climate Catalyst (building on German experience in developing integrated comms campaigns)

#### Knowledge exchange and research:

- Current work:
  - IMCG Field Symposium in Germany
- Future work:
  - Harmonising European peatland related data
  - International Peat Congress in China in the beginning of August
  - Review emissions factors & inform/request an update of the wetlands supplement
  - IPS distributing information on canadian research regarding what to do after peat extraction - e.g. how to get sphagnum back to these sections?
- Opportunity:

- Gain momentum for standardising peatland data collection/reporting through the commissioning of evidence syntheses to update emissions factors in collaboration with UNEP and GMC
- Work with UNEP on new British Academy collaboration to commission other policy-relevant evidence syntheses whilst building capacity for evidence synthesis across the peatland/wetland research community



## Appendix 5: Analysis of impact synergies between wetland/peatland Horizon Europe projects

### Wet Horizons Sister Projects:

- RESTORE4Cs – Modelling RESTORation of wEtlands for Carbon pathways, Climate Change mitigation and adaptation, ecosystem services, and biodiversity, Co-benefits
- REWET – REStoration of WETlands to minimise emissions and maximise carbon uptake – a strategy for long term climate mitigation
- ALFAwetlands – Wetland restoration for the future
- LIFE PeatCarbon – Peatland restoration for greenhouse gas emission reduction and carbon sequestration in the Baltic Sea region
- GO-GRASS – Grass-based circular business models for rural agri-food value chains
- MARGINUP! – Raising the bio-based industrial feedstock capacity of Marginal Lands

### Other EU-funded peatland/wetland-related projects:

- WaterLANDS
- MERLIN Project: Mainstreaming Ecological Restoration of freshwater-related ecosystems in a Landscape context: INnovation, upscaling and transformation
- REST-COAST: Large scale RESTORation of COASTal ecosystems through rivers to sea connectivity
- SUBERB: Systemic solutions for upscaling of urgent ecosystem restoration for forest-related biodiversity and ecosystem services

### Key synergies identified:

- There are a lot of similarities between different projects funded by Horizon Europe. Some objectives and activities align and complement with those of Wet Horizons. Most projects focus on peatland knowledge generation aimed at providing policy recommendations but through different approaches. Below some general similarities:
- RESTORE4Cs: gather data on restoration and land-use management actions to upscale models and integrative assessment tools.
  - REWET: develop fit-to-purpose technologies to monitor greenhouse gas emissions and deliver policy recommendations.
- ALFAWetlands: improve geospatial knowledge base of wetlands, create sustainability indicators based on wetlands, and evaluate pathways of wetland restoration that incorporate a co-creation process.
- LIFE PeatCarbon: test innovative GHG monitoring methods, demonstrate replicable Climate Change Mitigation technologies, translate results for policymakers and general public.
- GO-GRASS: main objectives NOT related to Wet Horizons (more focused on sustainable circular business model)
- MARGINUP!: main objectives NOT related to Wet Horizons (more focused on sustainable and circular value chains)

- WaterLANDS: create guidelines, tools, information, knowledge, and facilities to support wetland restoration at a continental scale.
- MERLIN Project: share knowledge from the 17 case studies, develop clear guidance and standardized indicators to monitor impact of freshwater ecosystems restoration
- REST-COAST: generate new tools and data, but focuses on coastal ecosystem restoration.
- SUBERB: deliver a multi-language Forest Ecosystems Restoration Gateway (central knowledge platform with restoration-support tools, manuals, and guidelines).
- Several partners from Wet Horizons are currently involved in other projects:
  - WI: involved in REWET, ALFAWetlands, and WaterLANDS.
  - Radboud University: involved in WaterLANDS.
  - SF/GMC: involved in WaterLANDS.
  - Finnish Meteorological Institute: involved in ALFAWetlands
  - European Science Communication Institute (ESCI): Involved in GO-GRASS.
- Most projects involve the same European countries (mainly Germany, UK, Netherlands, Finland, Denmark). Only MARGINUP! involves non-EU countries (Argentina and South Africa).
- All projects use different names for their project sites, but share similar characteristics as test sites for peatland restoration and sustainable management: case pilots, open labs, living labs, action sites, case studies, pilot sites, demo areas.
- We should identify the members of other advisory boards and steering committees. On the project websites, this information is not usually included. Dianna Kopansky is currently involved as a member of the advisory boards of RESTORE4Cs, REWET, and WaterLANDS.
- The duration of these projects varies from 2 to 5 years, with budget ranging from 4 to 24 million Euros. While not all projects disclose their budgets, among the 6 projects that do, the total budget rises to 70 million Euros.
- Even though there are several similarities between projects, it looks like Wet Horizons is the only project that involves citizen science and the development of an app.

The full matrix is available [here](#).