

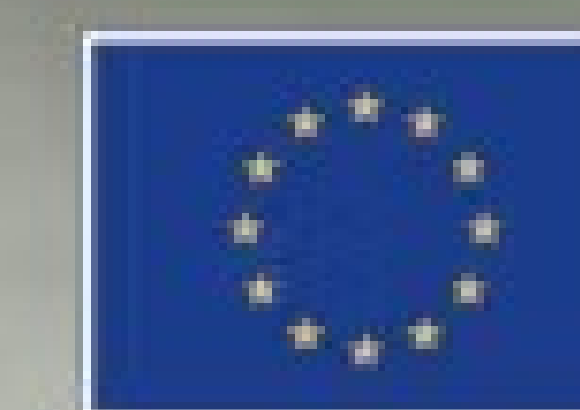


RESTORATION ACADEMY WEBINAR

Empower Youth Participation in Nature Restoration



NUORTEN
AKATEMIA



Funded by
the European Union

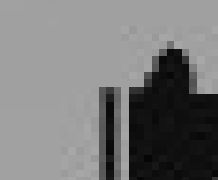
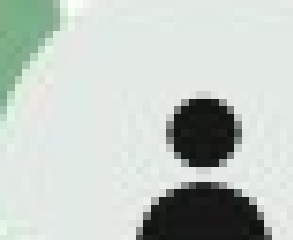


Photo: Martin Sopinec



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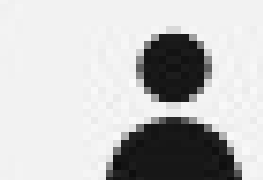
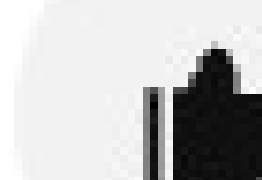
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Webinar contents (1-3pm CET/2-4pm EET)

- Introduction to the Restoration Academy project (10 mins)
- Guest speaker on nature restoration: Outi Silfverberg, Finnish Nature Panel (20 mins)
- Experiences from Restoration Academy's restoration camps (15 mins)
- Opportunities for young people in restoration work (15 mins)
 - Where and how to organize youth-friendly nature restoration activities?
 - Easy do-it-yourself nature restoration activities with youth
- How to organize youth-friendly restoration activities? (15 mins)
 - Steps to organize a nature restoration camp
 - Nature restoration as a form of youth work
- Funding and networking (15 mins)
- Q&A, next steps and closing (30 mins)
- Break before the breakout rooms

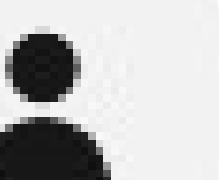


Breakout rooms (3.15-4pm CET/4.15-5pm EET)



Optional peer-to-peer sessions after the webinar.

- Finding locations and experts for youth restoration activities
- Engaging youth and ensuring accessibility in youth restoration activities
- Preparing for unexpected and emergency situations during youth restoration activities
- Funding of youth restoration activities





Technical info and practicalities

- **Teams**
 - Microphones are off during the first two hours, but you can use your cameras.
 - Use the chat for general discussion and networking.
 - Use the Q&A forum for questions and answers. Please specify if your question is for a specific person. We can answer some of the questions also after the webinar, if needed.
- **Mentimeter**
 - We will use Mentimeter during the webinar
 - Go to menti.com and use the code **13097751**
- The webinar will be recorded, but not the breakout rooms.

About the project



- **Restoration Academy: Empowering Youth Participation in Nature Restoration**
- **Project Type:** Erasmus+ KA220-YOUTH (400,000 €)
- **Duration:** Sept 2023–Aug 2026 (36 months)
- **Goal:** Develop tools for organizing youth-oriented restoration activities and inspire youth workers and young people across Europe to restore nature.
- **Partners:**
 - Nuorten Akatemia (FI)
 - Luontoliitto (FI)
 - Strom Zivota (SK)
 - RE-PEAT (NL)
 - KMOP (GR)





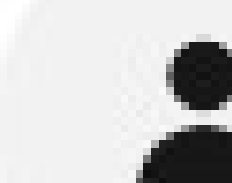
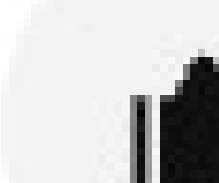
Project activities and results

The main project activities include:

- examining the state of nature-based environmental education
- organizing three nature restoration training camps
- creating an operations model and a tool pack to promote youth participation in nature restoration
- creating three demonstration videos on nature restoration, and an animation on the operations model
- training sessions for youth workers and other educators from the youth, environment, and education and training sectors interested in the topic.

The main results include:

- report on nature-based environmental education
- tool pack and an operations model, plus an animated video presenting the operations model
- three demonstration videos on nature restoration targeted for youth
- communication materials on the topic addressed
- training model on the topic addressed



GUIDE
FOR ORGANIZING
YOUTH NATURE
RESTORATION CAMPS



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Where do you come from?



What does nature restoration mean, and why is it especially important now?

11.3.2026

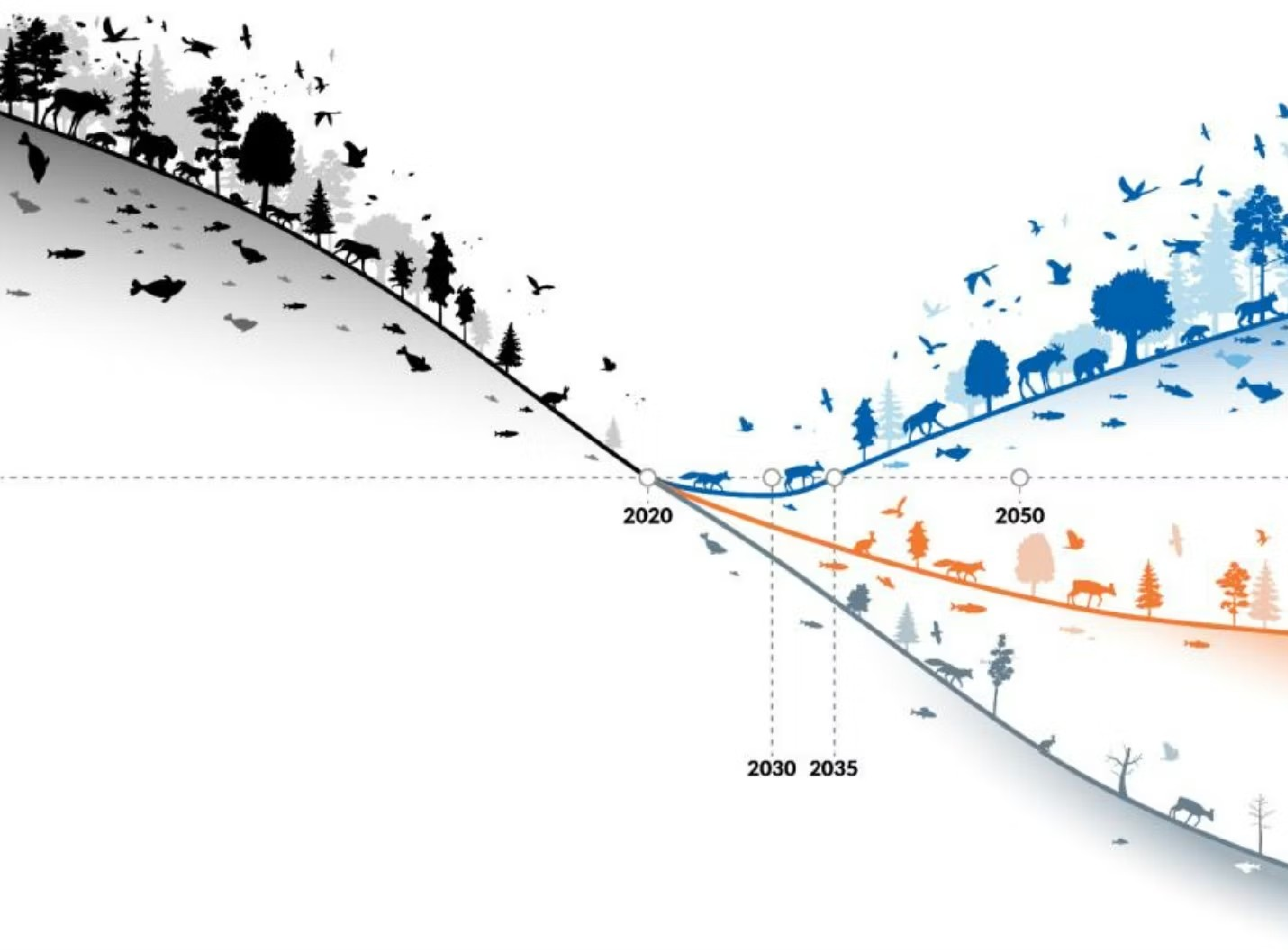
Outi Silfverberg

The Finnish Nature Panel

The Finnish Nature Panel

- Independent panel of 15 scientific experts
- Supports nature and biodiversity policy planning and decision-making
- The tasks are defined in the Nature Conservation Act
- The panel is providing scientific support for the development of the national restoration plan

Halting biodiversity loss requires both protection and restoration



Halting biodiversity loss requires both protection and restoration

- Expanding nature protection remains a prerequisite for stopping biodiversity loss.
- Protection alone is not enough
 - E.g. a total of 68 percent of Finland's habitats natural state has been destroyed before the year 2000 (Luontopaneeli 2023)
- In order to recover nature needs space, suitable habitats for different species
- Halting biodiversity loss requires restoring degraded nature **AND stopping the degradation**

What is nature restoration?

- Helping degraded or destroyed ecosystems to recover
- Passive restoration = protection
- Active restoration = actions improving the state of degraded nature

Environment	Examples	Key Restoration Actions
Forests	Boreal, temperate, Mediterranean forests	• Protect, increase the connectivity • Mimic natural disturbances (e.g., controlled burns, deadwood) • Remove invasive species
Wetlands	Mires, marshes, bogs	• Rewet drained peatlands (e.g. used by agriculture) • Build barriers to slow water • Create mosaic habitats • Plant native species
Open/Semi-open	Rural biotopes, steppes, heaths	• Prevent overgrowth (grazing, mowing) • Remove trees/shrubs • Plant/reintroduce native species
Freshwaters	Streams, lakes, shorelines	• Protect • Manage nutrients (buffer zones, removal fishing) • Remove dams/barriers • Modify streambeds • Plant native species
Seas & Brackwaters	Shorelines, gulfs, seabeds, tidal zones	• Protect • Manage nutrients (buffer zones, removal fishing) • Restore seabed structure • Plant native species



EU NATURE RESTORATION LAW

- First time ever binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems
 - Covers terrestrial, marine, freshwater and urban ecosystems
- Restoration measures should cover at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030
- All ecosystems in need of restoration under restoration measures by 2050
- Supports climate mitigation and adaptation
- National restoration plans specify the means to reach the targets

Voting result



Final result

Approved

[Download results as pdf](#)

27

member states

Minimum "Yes" required for adoption: (55%) 15



20

Yes

5

No

2

Abstain

%

Population

Minimum "Yes" required for adoption: 65%



66.13

Yes

29.27

No

4.60

Abstain



Non-deterioration requirement:

- No significant deterioration of
 1. habitats where restoration measures are implemented
 2. that are in good condition
- Member states must take action to prevent the deterioration
- In practice, ecological compensation is required, because degradation cannot be stopped everywhere

Actions are needed now

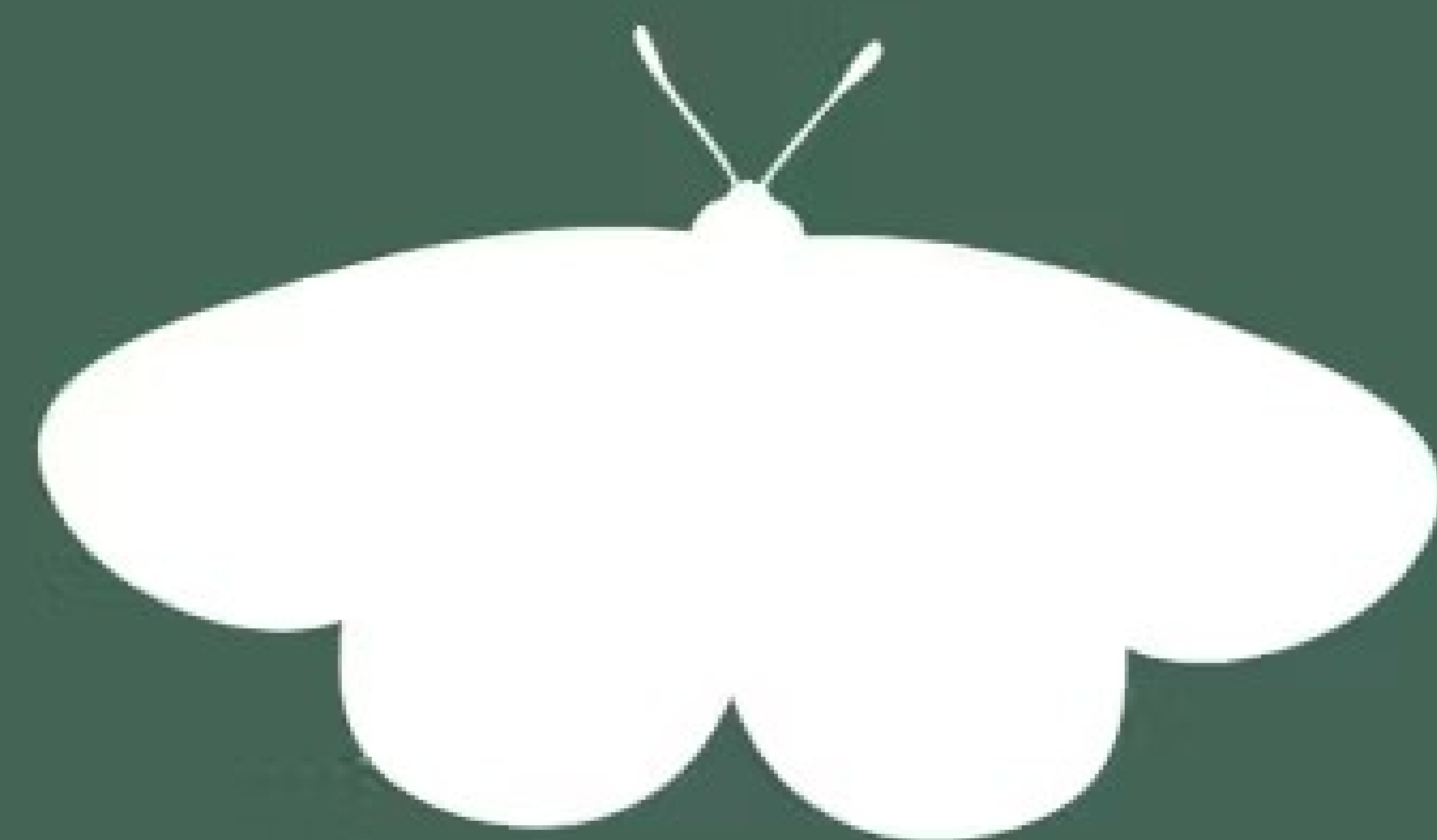
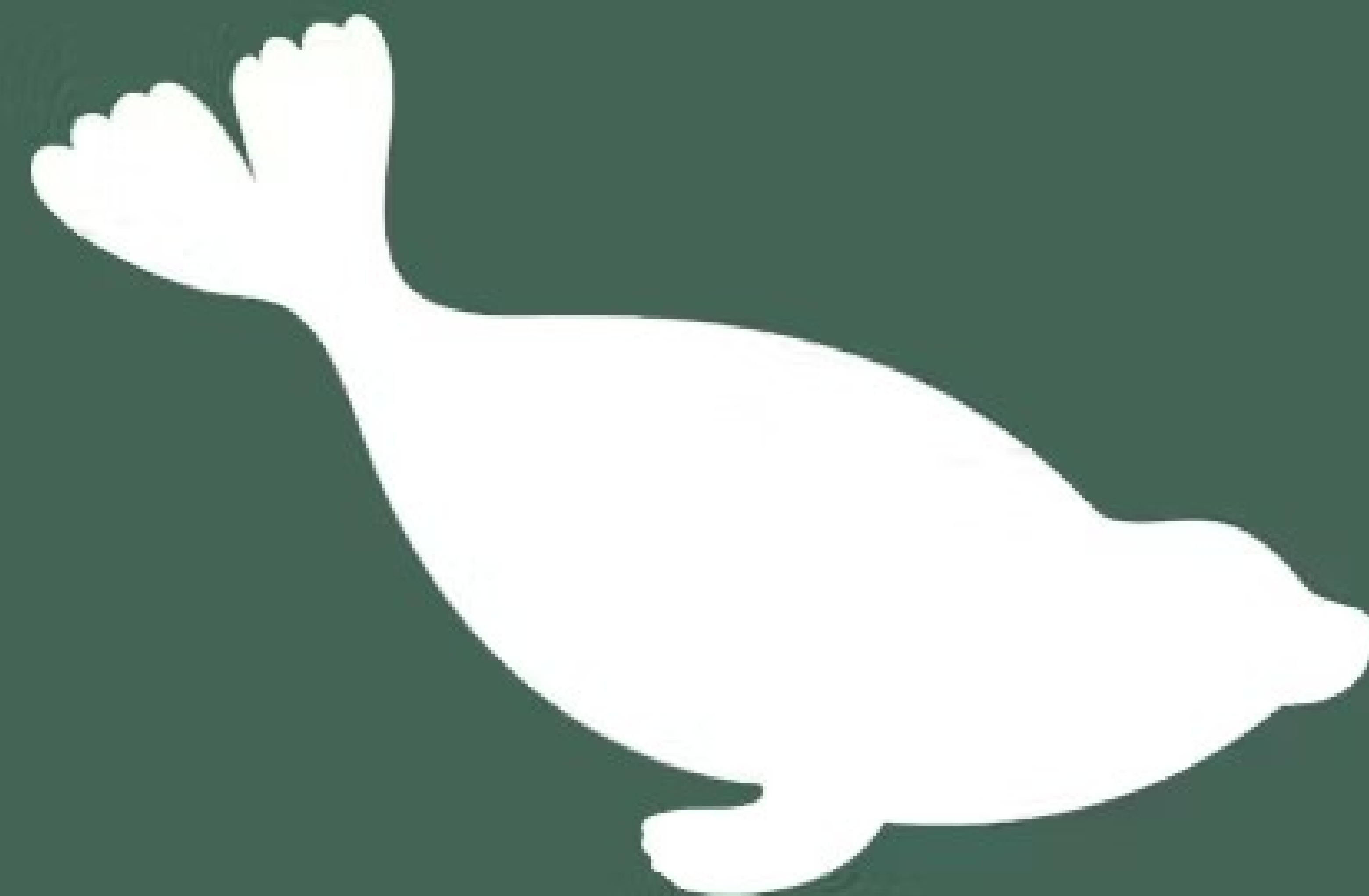
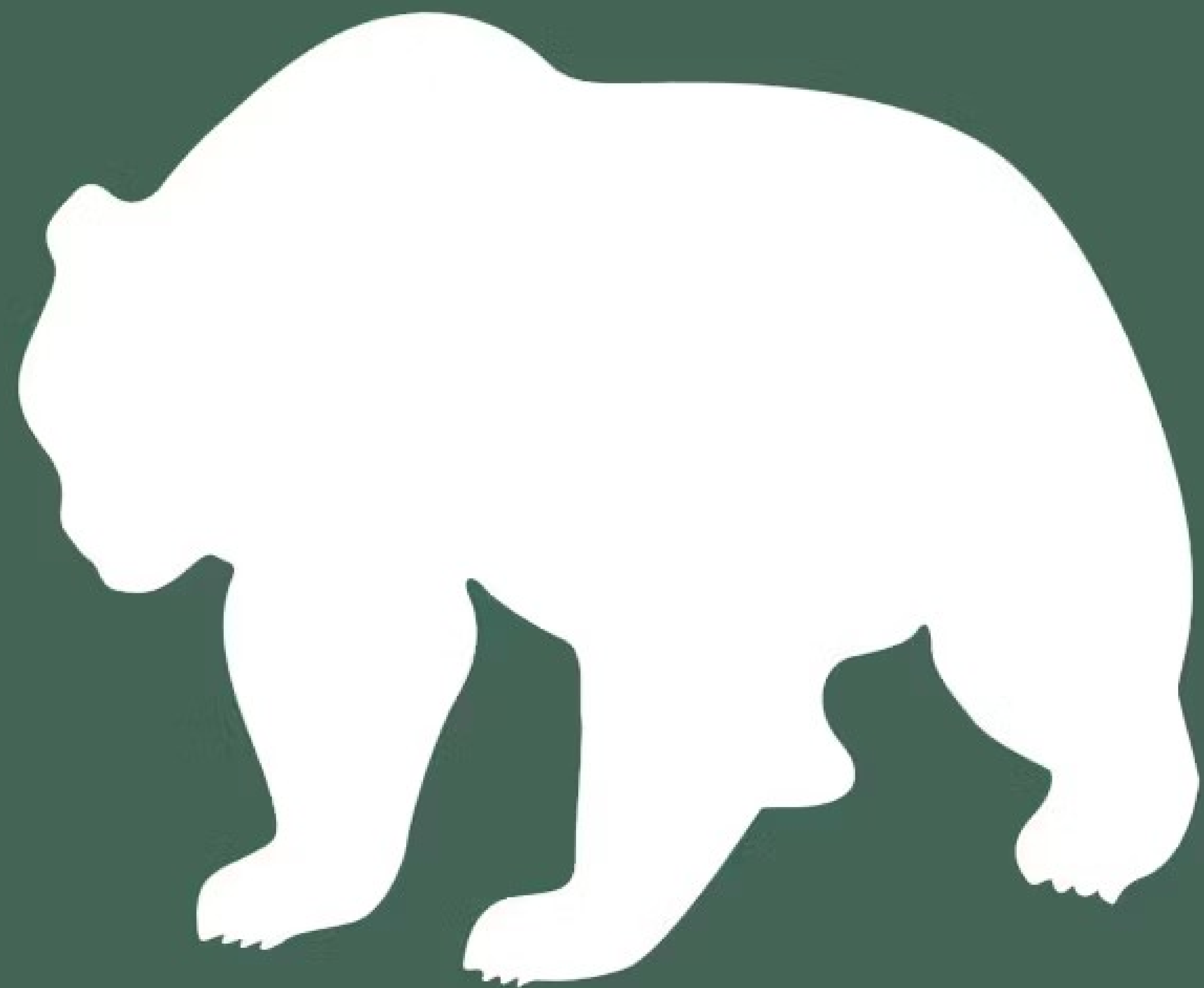
- The longer the deterioration continues, the harder it is to repair.
- It is expected that the EU will provide significant support for restoration projects.
- Vote on EU Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) last week: The climate and environment funding target will be increased to at least 35% of the total budget.
 - biodiversity conservation should be clearly allocated its own, sufficient funding.
- At the same time, efforts are being made to weaken EU environmental legislation.
 - Pressure is needed to ensure that commitments are kept.

WHO WILL IMPLEMENT?

- Biodiversity loss appears locally as a narrowing of species ranges and declines in populations.
- Through restoration measures it is possible to return nature to local communities — nature that is familiar to people, especially to previous generations.
- Restoration projects can also support local community cohesion and identity.
- Employment benefits in regions can be realized only if expertise already exists locally or is created by training people
- Required skills include, for example:
 - identifying habitat types and assessing their condition
 - the skills of planners and restoration implementers (including catchment-scale restoration)
 - advisory and communication skills among sector actors (e.g. forestry associations)
 - land-use and construction sector knowledge and understanding

**Examples and experiences from
restoration projects are now needed —
to be carried forward and shared more
widely**

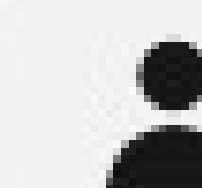
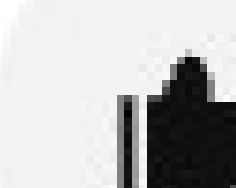
THANK YOU!





YOUTH TESTIMONIALS:

Experiences from Restoration Academy's Restoration Camps





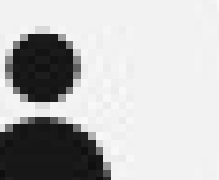
Holly, Finland, 2024



Martin, Slovakia, 2024



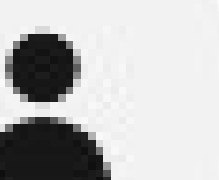
Anna, Netherlands, 2025





Camp in Finland

- **Location:** Norstö and Örö islands, Taalintehdas village
- **Participants:** 40 (bigger than usual camps)
- **Focus:** sun-lit habitats and semi-natural grasslands at various restoration stages
- **Key details:**
 - Public land managed by Metsähallitus (Parks and Wildlife Finland)
 - Linked to CoastNet LIFE Project (Natura 2000 coastal conservation)
 - Accommodation: hostel on Örö island
 - Meals: camp cook and local restaurant
 - Partners: Metsähallitus, logistics companies (bus and ferry)





Before Finland, I had never truly dug my hands into nature — ripping junipers and stepping off a boat onto a remote island was a life-changing experience that gave me the confidence to step outside my comfort zone. I realised that why I felt so comfortable was because we did it as a big group. For the first time, I felt truly part of nature: stepping on the earth without worrying about destroying it, learning that the disturbance of my footsteps can actually give buried seeds the chance to see the light.

Holly, Finnish camp 2024



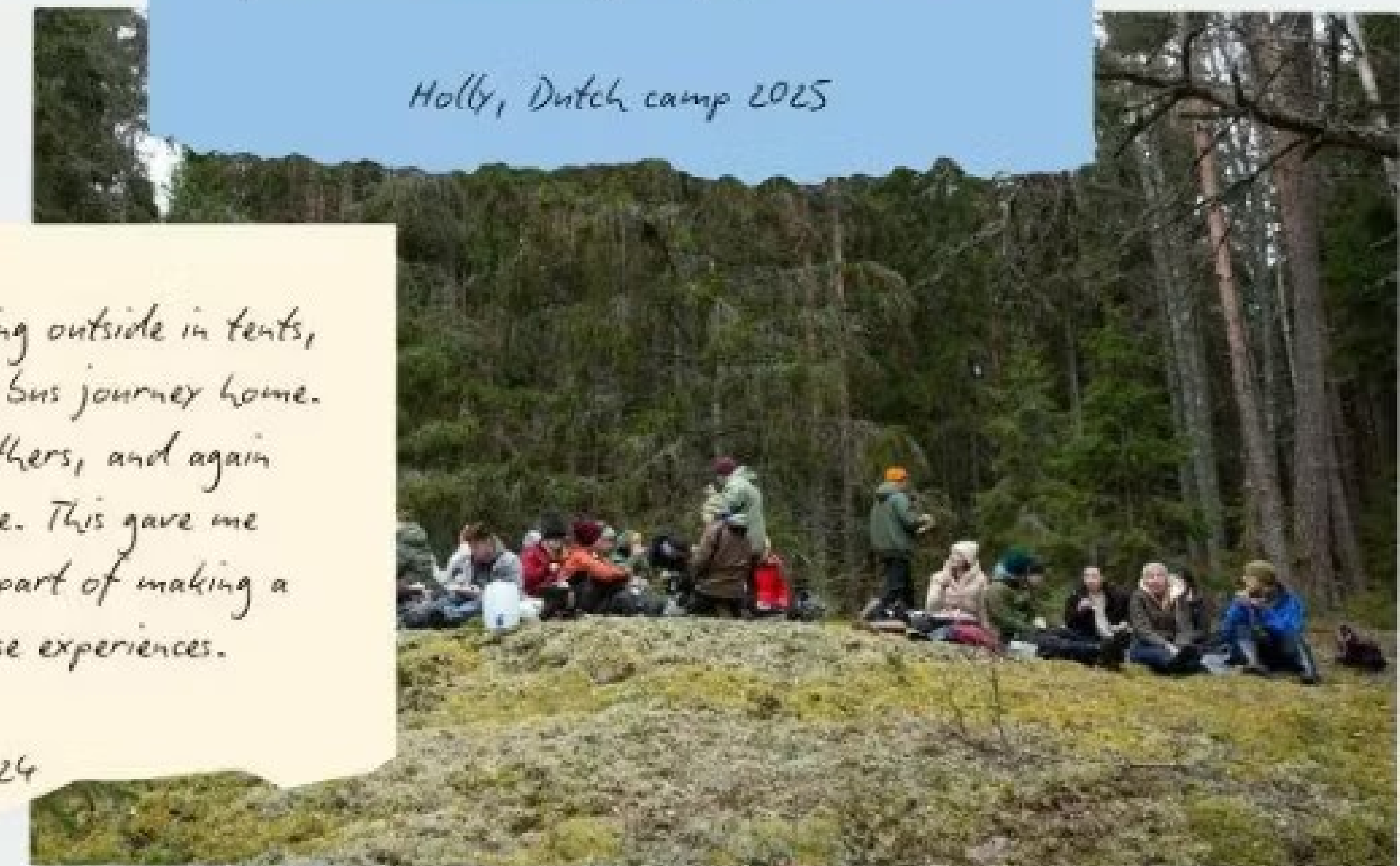
Being an organiser for final camp in the Netherlands allowed me to use my lived experience to offer others a life-changing moment and memory to hold onto, while bringing awareness to peatlands. It was the best gift to be trusted and empowered to give back. These experiences have inspired me to continue building this movement so more young people can experience caring for landscapes together, and this has encouraged RE-PEAT to engage with peatland restoration for the years to come.

Holly, Dutch camp 2025

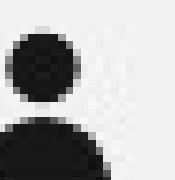


The camp in Slovakia was raw — sleeping outside in tents, stargazing, and ending with a 23-hour bus journey home. It taught me patience, openness to others, and again pushed me beyond my comfort zone. This gave me confidence that I and anyone can be part of making a difference. I truly grew from these experiences.

Holly, Finnish camp 2024

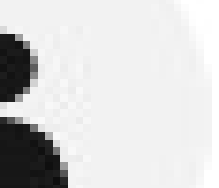
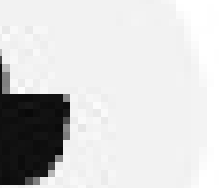


FINLAND CAMP



Camp in Slovakia

- **Location:** Smolenice, Little Carpathians
- **Participants:** 30+
- **Focus:** practical demonstrations of meadow restoration to protect rare species
 - Former grazing land → meadow ecosystem with orchids and clouded apollo butterfly
 - Grazing stopped → invasive shrubs/trees overtook >50% of area
 - Rare species: purple orchid, red steppe spider, old-world swallowtail
 - **Volunteer actions:** remove invasive plants and trees; mow, clear, build enclosures for goat grazing; thin forest edges to support butterflies
- **Key details:**
 - Partners: BROZ + municipality, supervised by State Nature Protection Agency
 - Funded by LIFE Programme (LIFE23 NAT/SK/101148306)
 - Timeline: June 2024 – Sept 2031



I never expected that a simple coincidence could change the direction of my life....



I wasn't even supposed to be at that camp. Camps never really felt like my thing. But one day I saw a last-minute call for volunteers online, and on impulse I signed up. The next day I was sitting on a bus with thirty strangers heading toward a small village near Smolenice. I had no idea what to expect.

Martin, Slovak camp 2024

The group itself felt like a small international community. Volunteers came from Slovakia, Greece, Finland, the Netherlands and other countries. We lived simply—sleeping in tents and eating vegan meals together every day. For me it was the first time eating vegan food for more than a day or two, and to my surprise it was genuinely delicious. It completely changed my perspective. It may have been affected due to us eating our meals at a castle's dining hall like royalty.

Martin, Slovak camp 2024



During the days we worked on restoring a beautiful meadow that was slowly being taken over by invasive species. Our task was to prepare the area for natural grazing by goats—building fences, clearing paths, and spending long hours raking grass under the sun. It was tough work, but it felt meaningful. Seeing the landscape slowly change because of our effort made every sore muscle worth it.



Before this camp, I had almost no experience with nature restoration. But the community, the international friendships, and the feeling that our work truly mattered sparked something in me. When the camp ended, I didn't want that experience to stop. What started as a spontaneous decision slowly turned into a new direction in my life. Soon after the camp, I left my job in order to work in the environmental field — A path that eventually also shaped my choice of studies.

Martin, Slovak camp 2024



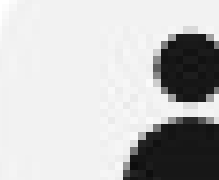
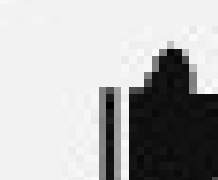
When we arrived at the campsite on the outskirts of the village, we were welcomed not by people, but by goats and cows. Our tents stood inside a fenced area to keep the animals out, but they were always nearby. Waking up to cows mooing or goats curiously staring at our tents quickly became part of everyday life, and those small moments are memories that stayed with me long after the camp ended.

Martin, Slovak camp 2024



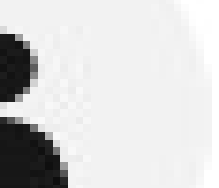
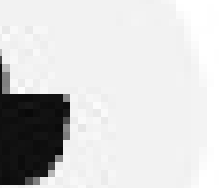
Looking back, that one random poster online didn't just lead me to a summer camp. It led me to a path I never expected to take.

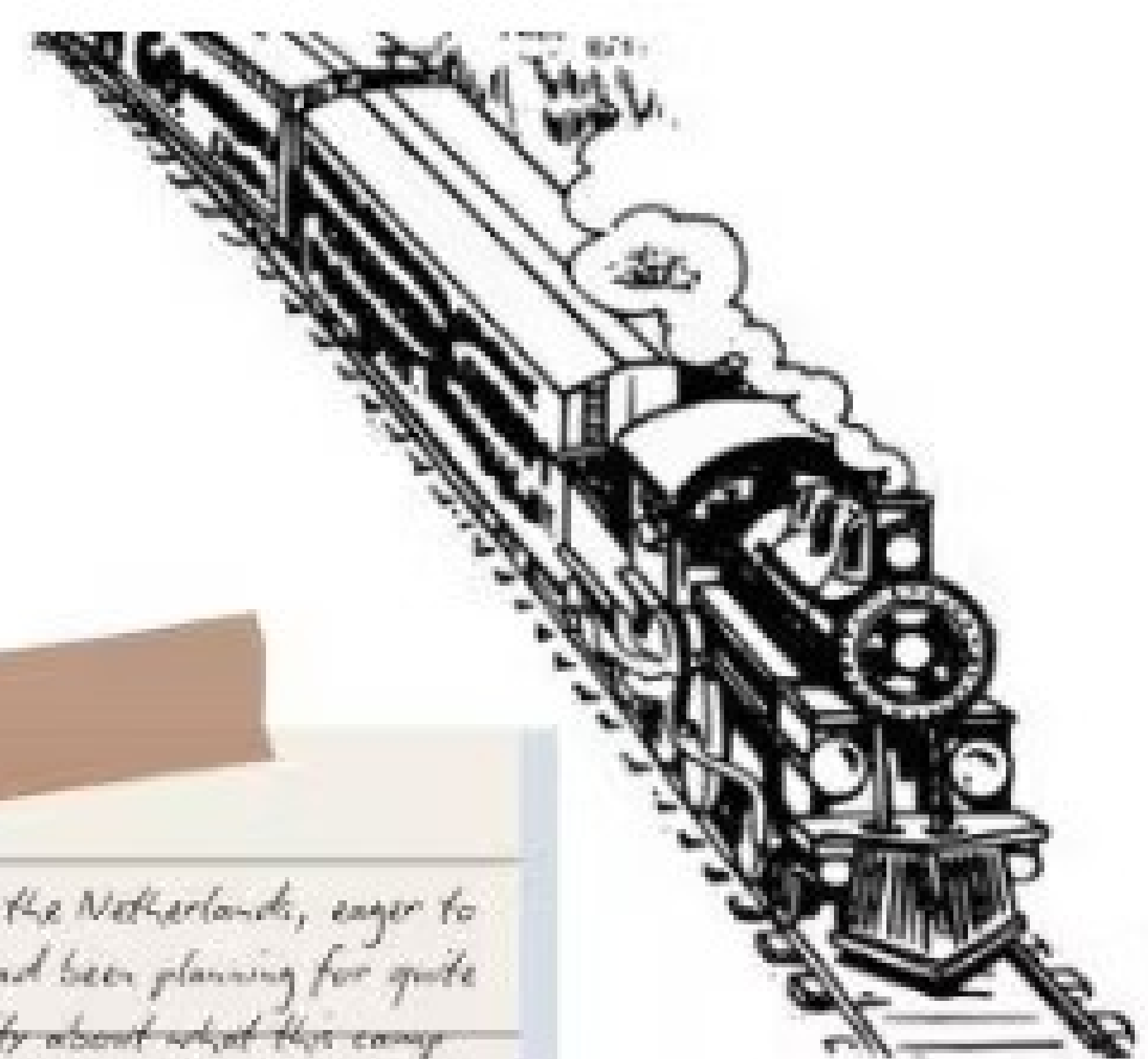
SLOVAKIA CAMP



Camp in the Netherlands

- **Objective:** Showcase peatland restoration stages and link nature restoration with wet farming
- **Key Activities:**
 - Hands-on: sowing and planting *typha* at Hegewaren paludiculture farm (Friesland)
 - Visits: Westzaan Polder, Alde Feanen Nature Reserve, dairy farm transitioning to wet cultivation (Amsterdam and Friesland)
- **Benefits of typha cultivation:** maintains peat soil, habitat for wading birds, cuts greenhouse gas emissions, alternative income for landowners
- **Participants and logistics:**
 - 35 attendees (partners included)
 - Travel: bike, boat, bus, train
 - Accommodation: campsite near farm
 - Meals: community kitchen and volunteer cooks
- **Note:** Extensive travel required higher budget





I traveled from Finland to the Netherlands, eager to visit restoration camp we had been planning for quite some time. With a curiosity about what this camp might become and a long-held passion for restoration, I carried my notebook and waterproof boots, ready for an adventure. As I arrived I had a pretty clear idea what restoration was, but I was also open to discovering something new. This was my journey into a place where learning, hands-on practice and teamwork blended together like chapters in a story.

Anna, Dutch camp 2025



From the very first day, the camp felt rooted in its surroundings. We weren't working in a distant, empty landscape but in a real place shaped by people and nature alike. For the first time in my own restoration journey, I saw work happening side by side with a farmer, focused on paludiculture. Watching restoration grow—not in opposition to land use but alongside it—was like discovering a new way to see the world. It challenged simple tales and showed me that restoration can be a shared adventure, shaped by many hands and minds.

Anna, Dutch camp 2025



Restoration wasn't just about fixing ecosystems; it was about conversations, choices, and shared responsibility. Standing in the field, I realized that it's not only nature that matters but also the people. It's about listening, making decisions together, and accepting that sometimes, the path isn't straight, and outcomes are uncertain.

Anna, Dutch camp 2025



One moment remains especially vivid in my memory. On hands and knees, waders soaked and muddy, I planted cattails into the wet soil. The sun baked in for days, warming our backs until the air felt heavy and pleasantly sweet. There was something deeply grounding about that posture — close to the earth, moving slowly, pressing each plant into place with care. It was simple, repetitive work, yet it carried quiet meaning. In those hours, restoration was no longer an abstract idea or a concept discussed in workshops. It was mud on my gloves, water seeping around my boots, shared laughter drifting across the field, and the steady rhythm of planting life back into the landscape.

Anna, Dutch camp 2025



Much of what I learned happened outside formal sessions, through conversations in the field and in late-night reflections shared among friends. Participants came from different places and backgrounds, each bringing their own stories and perspectives. Over time, these stories intertwined, forming bonds I believe will last long after the camp ended.

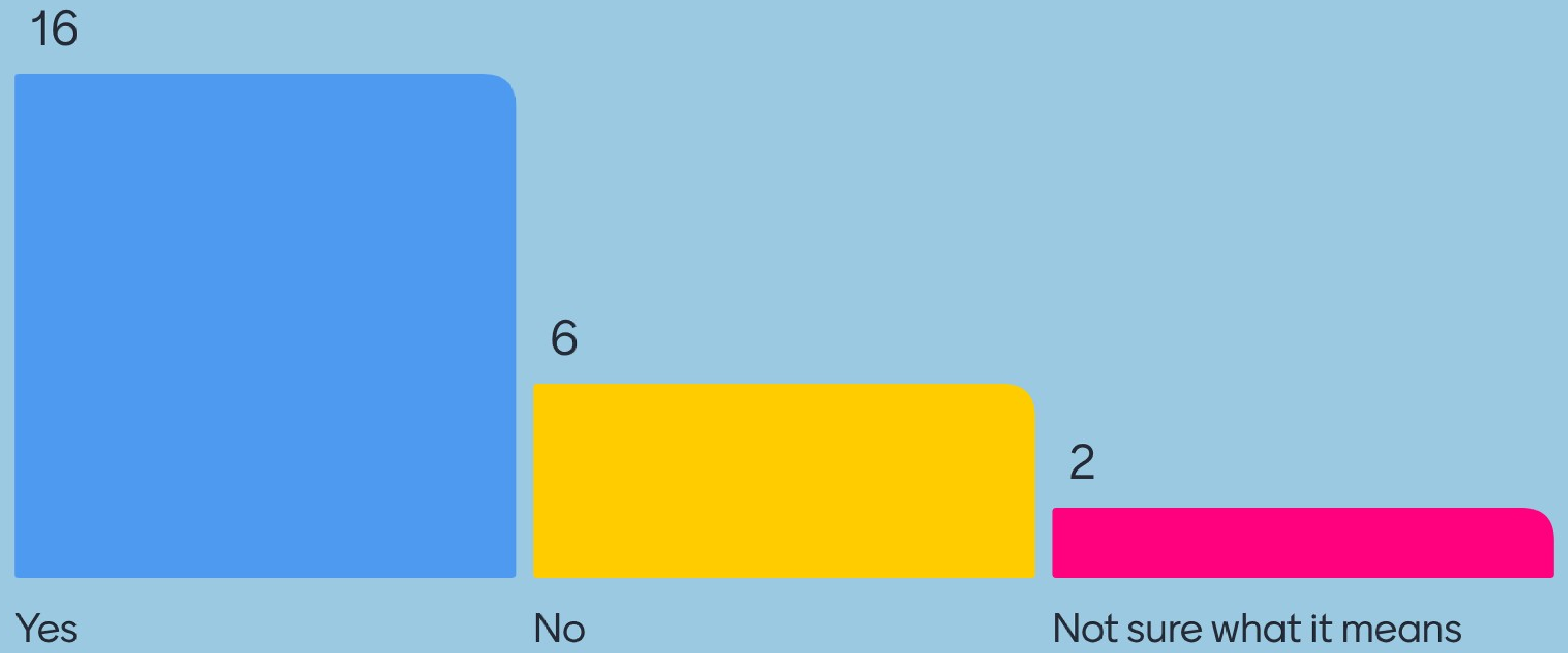
Anna, Dutch camp 2025



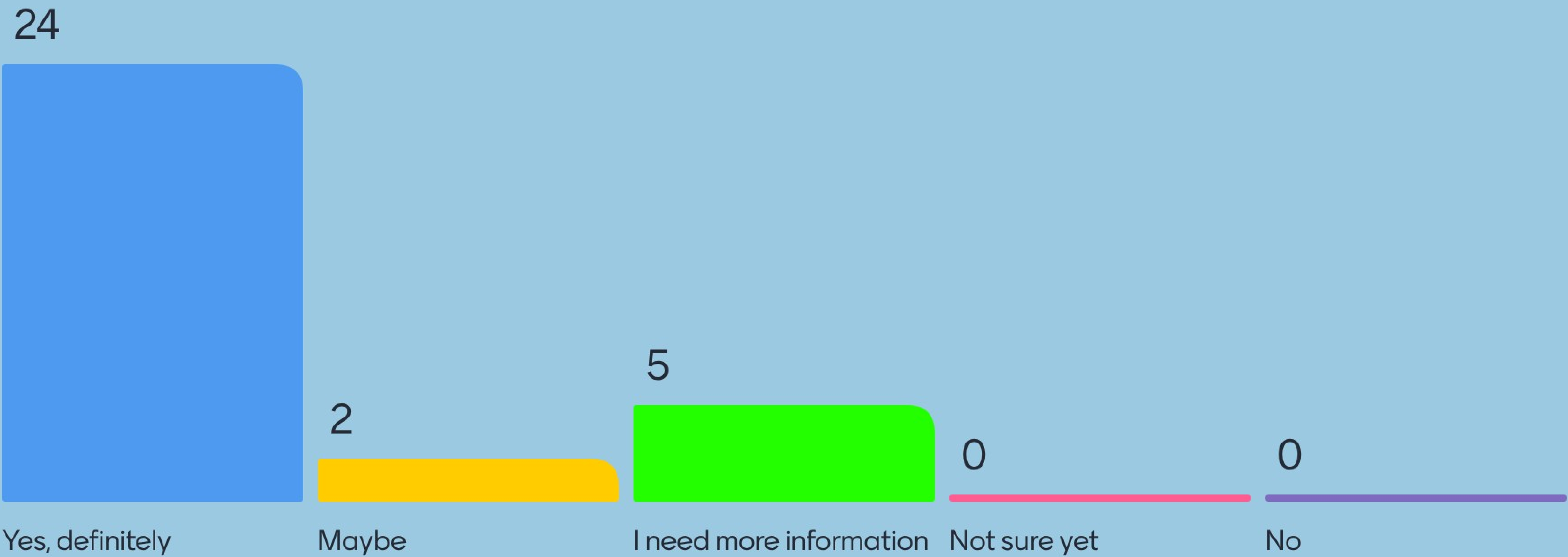


WHERE AND HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUTH-FRIENDLY NATURE RESTORATION ACTIVITIES?

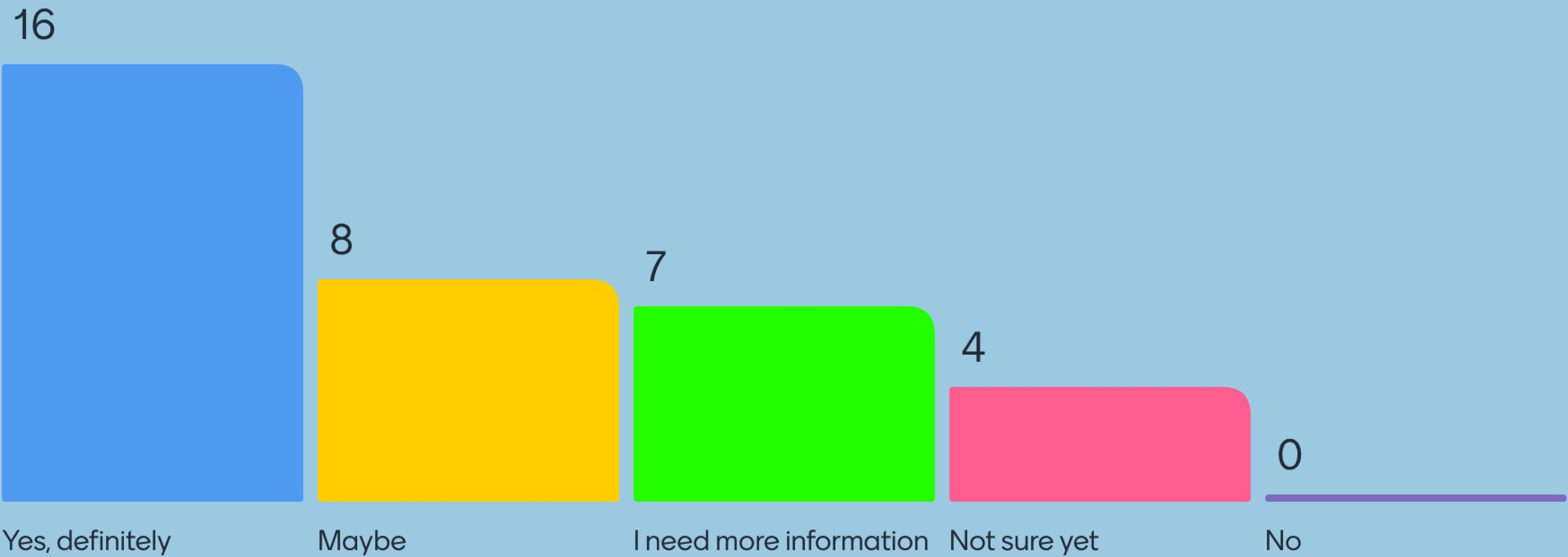
Have you ever participated in nature restoration?



Would you like to join a restoration youth camp?



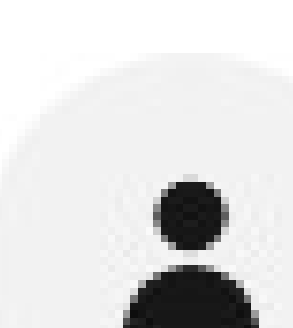
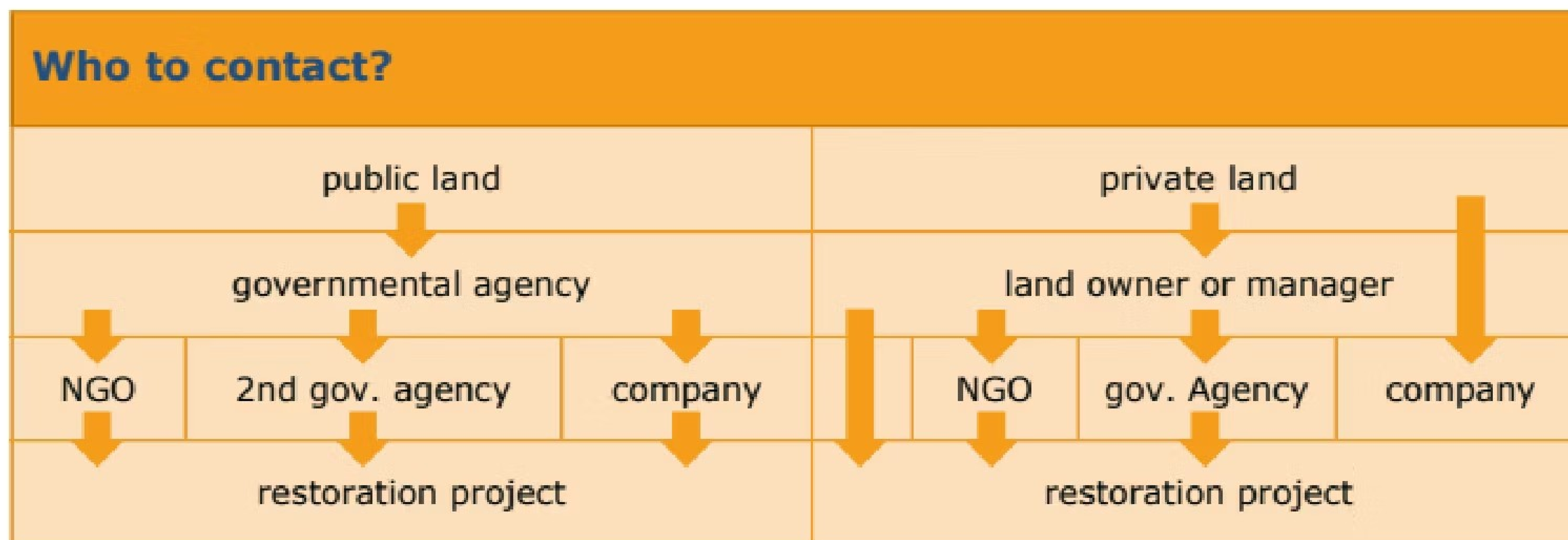
Would you like to organize a restoration youth camp?





Locations for nature restoration

- Basically nature restoration can take place anywhere, if the landowner allows it.





Potential partners

Municipalities and regional authorities

National parks and protected area managers

State- or EU-funded projects

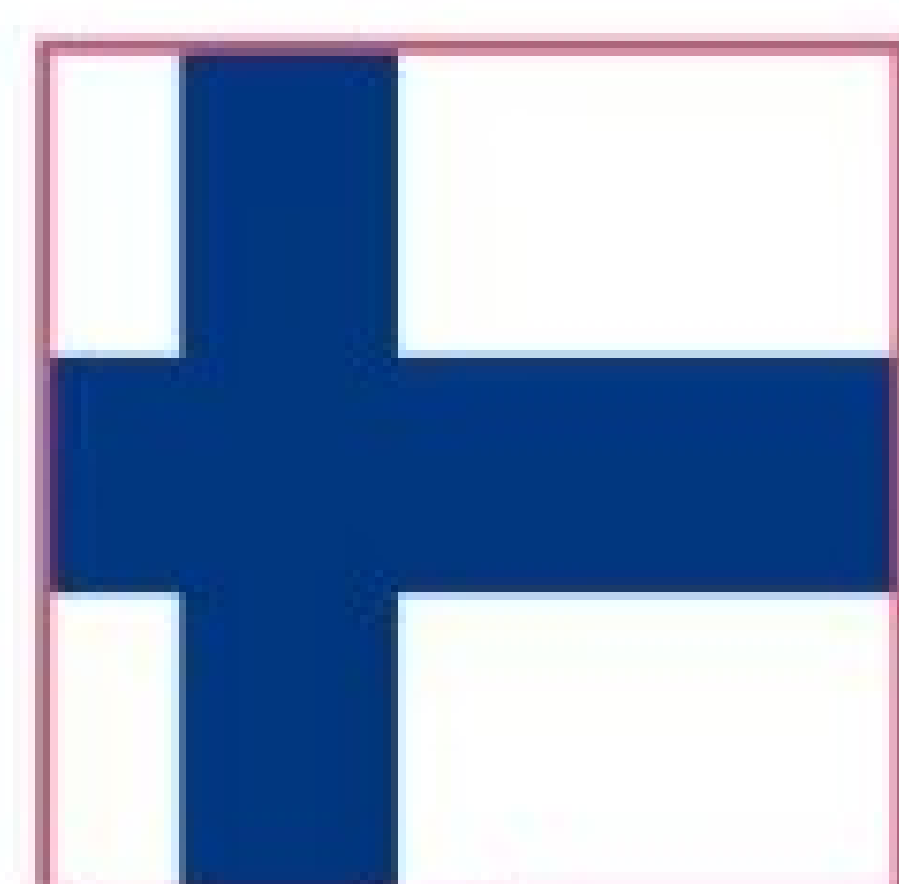
Environmental NGOs

Youth environmental networks

Neighbourhood associations



Country-specific tips: partners



Finland

- Contact *Metsähallitus* (Parks & Wildlife Finland), which manages state-owned conservation areas and coordinates many restoration projects.
- Restoration work often takes place in national parks or Natura 2000 sites, and permissions are typically well-structured.



Slovakia

- Care programmes for protected areas are developed by the *State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic*, which operates regional branches across the entire country.
- Restoration camps require coordination with local municipalities or landowners.



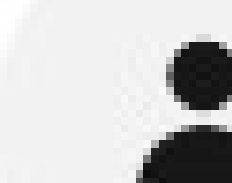
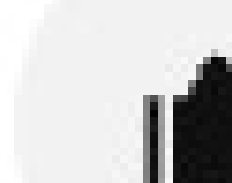
Greece

- Contact the *Ministry of Environment and Energy*, which oversees national restoration strategies.
- Restoration work may be more feasible in Natura 2000 areas or through EU-funded projects due to stricter land-use regulations.



The Netherlands

- Restoration is often coordinated by *provincial governments* and *Natuurmonumenten* or *Staatsbosbeheer*.
- Land use is very specific in the Netherlands, which means that restoration sites are often small but highly strategic in focus.



Youth-suitable ecosystems for nature restoration

A photograph of a forest restoration site. A path covered in brown pine needles and patches of snow leads through a forest of tall, thin trees. A large pink decorative shape is on the left side of the image.

Forests

A photograph of a young person wearing a grey cap, a white t-shirt, and grey waders, standing in shallow water in a wetland. They are holding a small shovel. Tall green reeds are in the background.

Wetlands

A photograph of two young people working in a field of tall, dry grass. One person is in the foreground, wearing a white t-shirt and grey leggings, using a rake. Another person is behind them, wearing a black t-shirt and skirt, also holding a rake.

**Open/
Semi-Open Areas**

A photograph of a young person wearing a dark blue hoodie, dark pants, and waders, standing in a body of water. They are holding a long pole or stick. The background shows trees and a body of water.

**Fresh water,
brackish water
and marine**

Forests

Planting trees, increasing deadwood to accelerate natural processes, removing invasive species, creating firebreaks to prevent wildfires or in some cases imitate them.



Wetlands

Rewetting drained peatlands by building barriers to block drainage channels or slow down water flows.





Open/Semi-Open Areas

Grazing, mowing and removing trees and shrubs to prevent overgrowth; reintroducing native plants/animals.



Freshwaters, Seas and Brackish waters

Creating buffer
zones to prevent
nutrient runoff from
land areas; removal
fishing.

Which activity would YOU enjoy the most during a restoration camp?



A large crowd of people, mostly young adults, are gathered on a city street for a climate protest. They are holding numerous handmade signs with messages such as "Capitalism kills our future!", "Burn capitalism, not fossil fuels!", "REF+TET", "It is an EMERGENCY", "LOVE IS IN THE ERDE genommen", "SWITCH TO A PLANT-BASED DIET", and "ACT NOW OR SWIM LATER". The background shows urban buildings and trees with autumn foliage. A red prohibition sign is visible on the right side of the crowd.

Easy do-it-yourself nature restoration activities with youth

Photo: Pixabay

Visit Restoration Sites



A close-up photograph of a pink orchid flower. The flower has large, rounded petals with a vibrant pink color. The center of the flower is dark and recessed, showing some internal structure. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting foliage. The overall image has a slightly grainy texture and a warm, natural lighting.

Remove Invasive Species

Rewilding



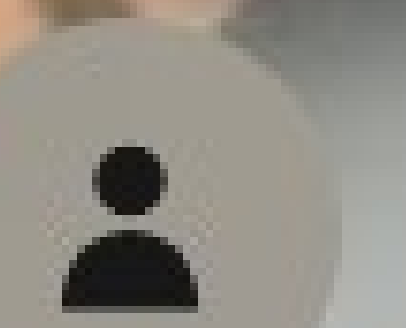


Guerrilla Gardening

Photo: Caroline Moinel / Dodo ry

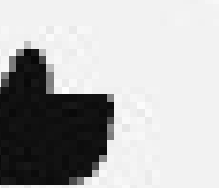
Your Family Garden



[illegible][illegible]



Take a moment to think about natural areas, parks, or sites in your region that have been restored, are being restored, or could benefit from restoration.





STEPS TO ORGANIZE A NATURE RESTORATION CAMP

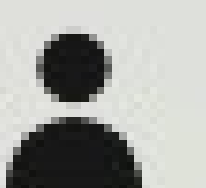
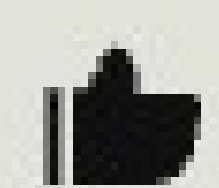
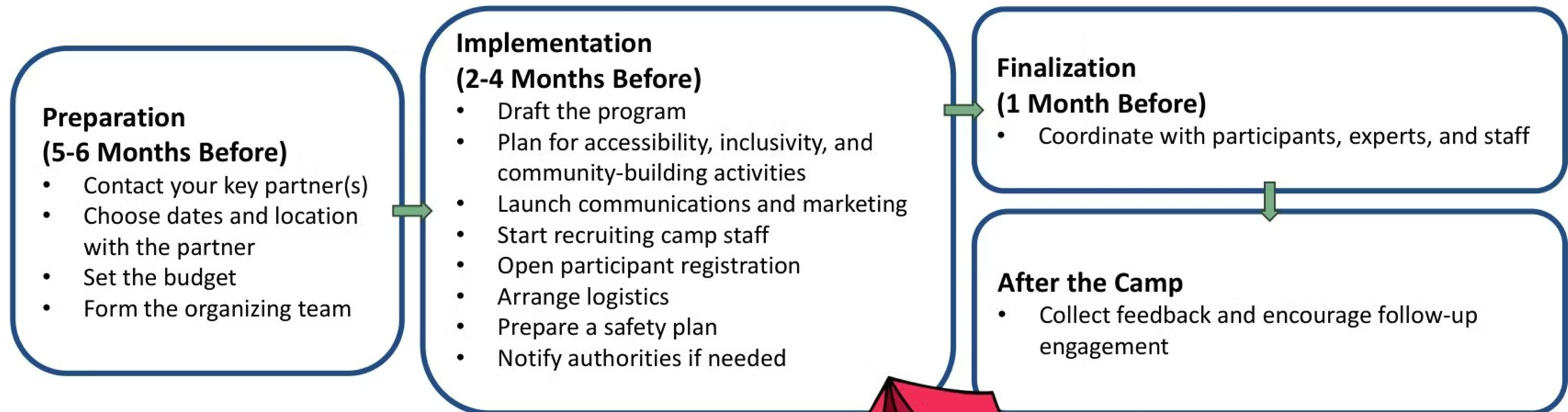


Photo: Anja Matthes

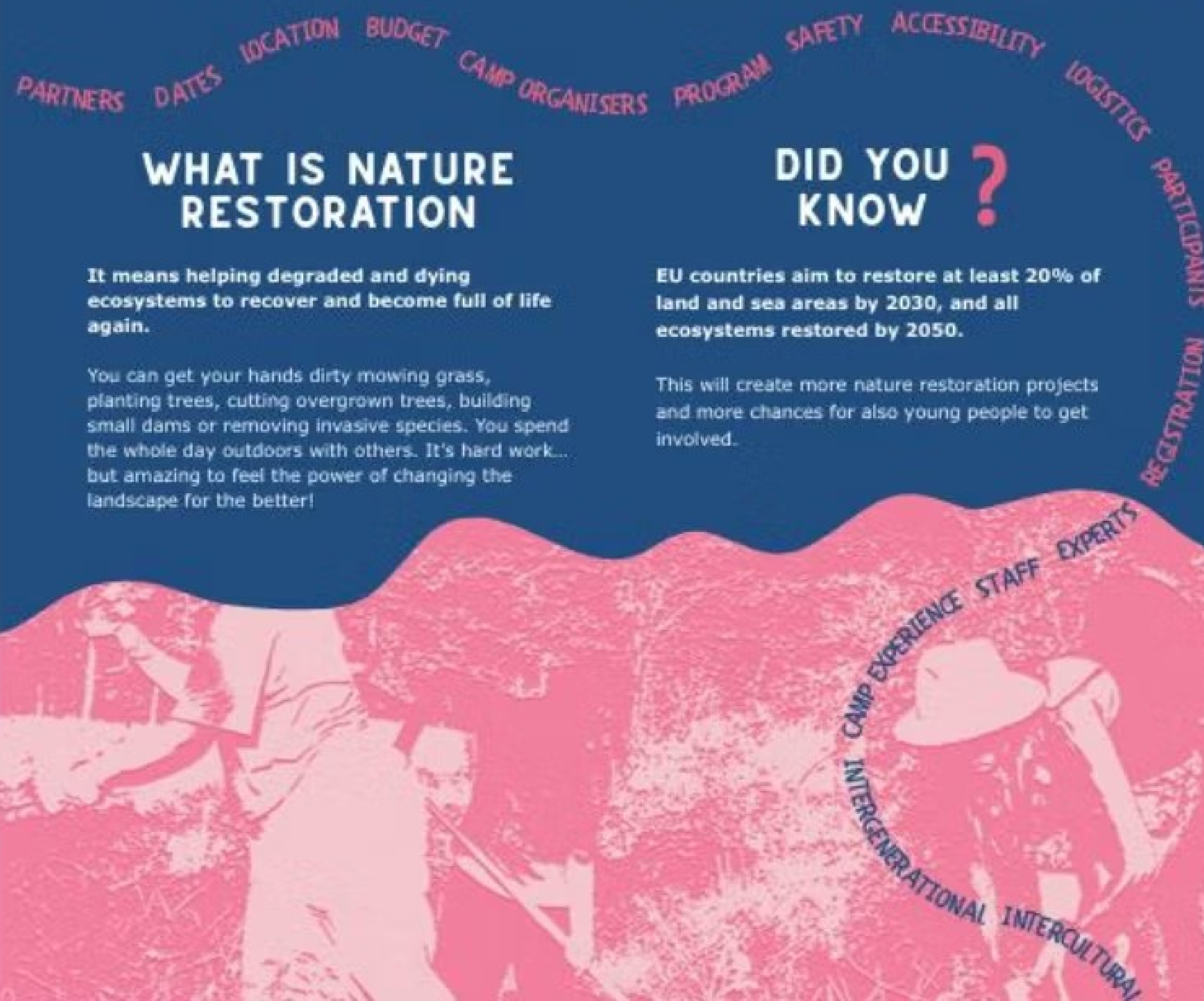


How to organize a nature restoration camp?



HOW TO START GETTING INVOLVED IN NATURE RESTORATION

CAMPS
CAN BE A
WAY!



WHAT IS NATURE RESTORATION

It means helping degraded and dying ecosystems to recover and become full of life again.

You can get your hands dirty mowing grass, planting trees, cutting overgrown trees, building small dams or removing invasive species. You spend the whole day outdoors with others. It's hard work... but amazing to feel the power of changing the landscape for the better!

DID YOU KNOW ?

EU countries aim to restore at least 20% of land and sea areas by 2030, and all ecosystems restored by 2050.

This will create more nature restoration projects and more chances for also young people to get involved.

1. Preparation (5-6 months before)

1. Contact your key partner(s)

Governmental agency, NGO, private company, landowner, or restoration project, for example, under the LIFE Programme.

2. Choose dates and location with the partner

Be aware of potential restrictions such as bird breeding seasons or landownership practices—your partner should advise on these. Remember to check the logistics of setting up a camp in the suggested location!

3. Set the budget

Will you opt for low-cost camping with camp stoves and tents, or higher-cost indoor accommodation and meals? Consider whether you need to apply for funding.

4. Form the organizing team

Assistant coordinator(s), restoration specialist(s). Think about how (other) young people can actively contribute to shaping the camp.

2. Implementation (2-4 months before)

1. Draft the program

How many hours can be dedicated to the restoration work? What is a realistic goal for both your group and the site? What other creative or cultural activities might be meaningful to do together?

2. Plan for accessibility, inclusivity, and community-building activities

Design tasks together with your partner to suit your group's abilities and interests.

3. Launch communications and marketing

Define channels and messages to contact the participants and stakeholders. Communicate clearly the nature and environment of your camp and activities.

4. Start recruiting camp staff

Instructor(s) for the camp, cook(s), safety representative and (potentially) photographer. Usually also the restoration expert participates at least the first day of the camp.

5. Open participant registration

Remember to collect:

- Permissions for participants under 18
- Equipment needs (e.g., rubber boots)
- Dietary restrictions
- Health information and any special needs
- Contact details in case of emergency
- Insurance information (provided by the organizer or participants)

6. Arrange logistics

Accommodation, meals, and transport to the location and during the camp.

7. Prepare a safety plan

Consider terrain, tools, weather conditions, and access to medical services.

8. Notify authorities if needed

For example, if the camp is in a very rural and disconnected zone, it might be worth letting local authorities know about it, in case of emergency.

3. Finalization (1 month before)

Coordinate with participants, experts, and staff

Finalize schedules, roles, and expectations. Share practical information and ensure everyone is prepared.

4. At the camp

Enjoy restoring nature, working together with others and participating in the camp's side activities.

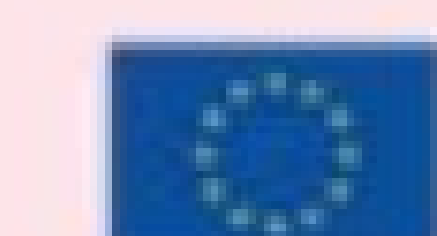
5. After the camp

Collect feedback and encourage follow-up engagement

Gather insights and inspire continued involvement in nature restoration.



All project materials:



Co-funded by
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RESTORATION
Academy

NATURE RESTORATION AS A FORM OF YOUTH WORK

Photo: Frankie Turk

Baseline report and surveys about restoration and nature-based environmental education (NBEE) in EU



Restoration activities can and should be seen as a form of nature-based environmental education (NBEE)

- Nature-based environmental education in the EU
 - EU promotes environmental education through initiatives: green transition education and programmes like Erasmus+ and EU LIFE
 - This can and should be integrated more into restoration activities!
- Benefits of NBEE
 - Improves wellbeing, supports personal development, strengthens connection to nature -> long-term pro-environmental attitudes.
 - Helps bridge social and cultural differences through shared outdoor experiences.

Youth workers perspectives

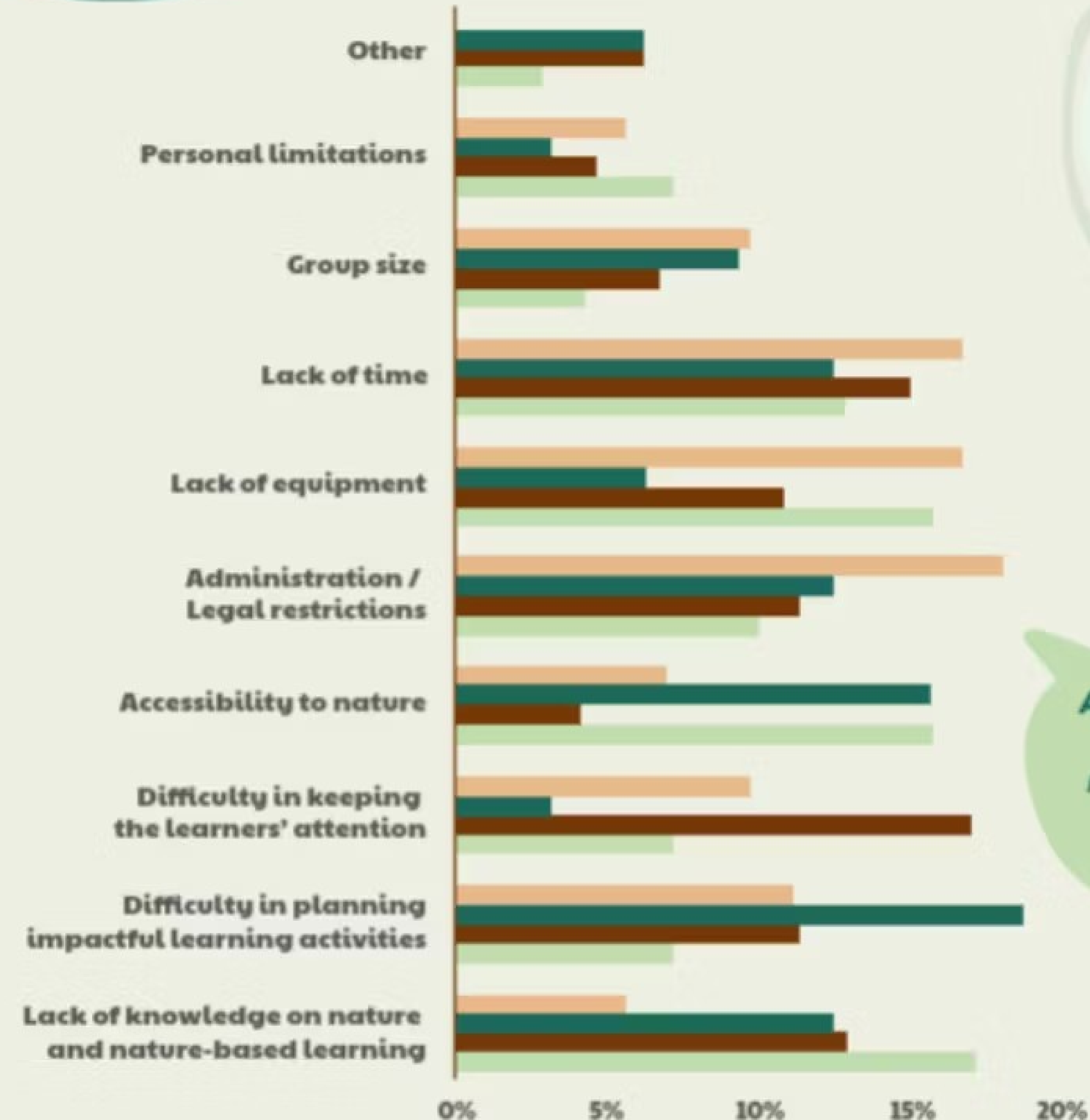
Benefits

- Hands-on activities are seen as engaging and memorable
- Wellbeing effects

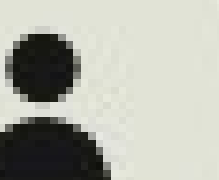
Barriers

Lack of time poses a problem in nature restoration activities in Finland and Slovakia.

When implementing a nature restoration activity which are the main challenges you were able to identify?



Accessibility to nature restrains nature restoration activities in Greece and The Netherlands.



Youth workers perspectives

Benefits

Hands-on activities are seen as engaging and memorable

Wellbeing effects

Barriers

Lack of time

Organisational support

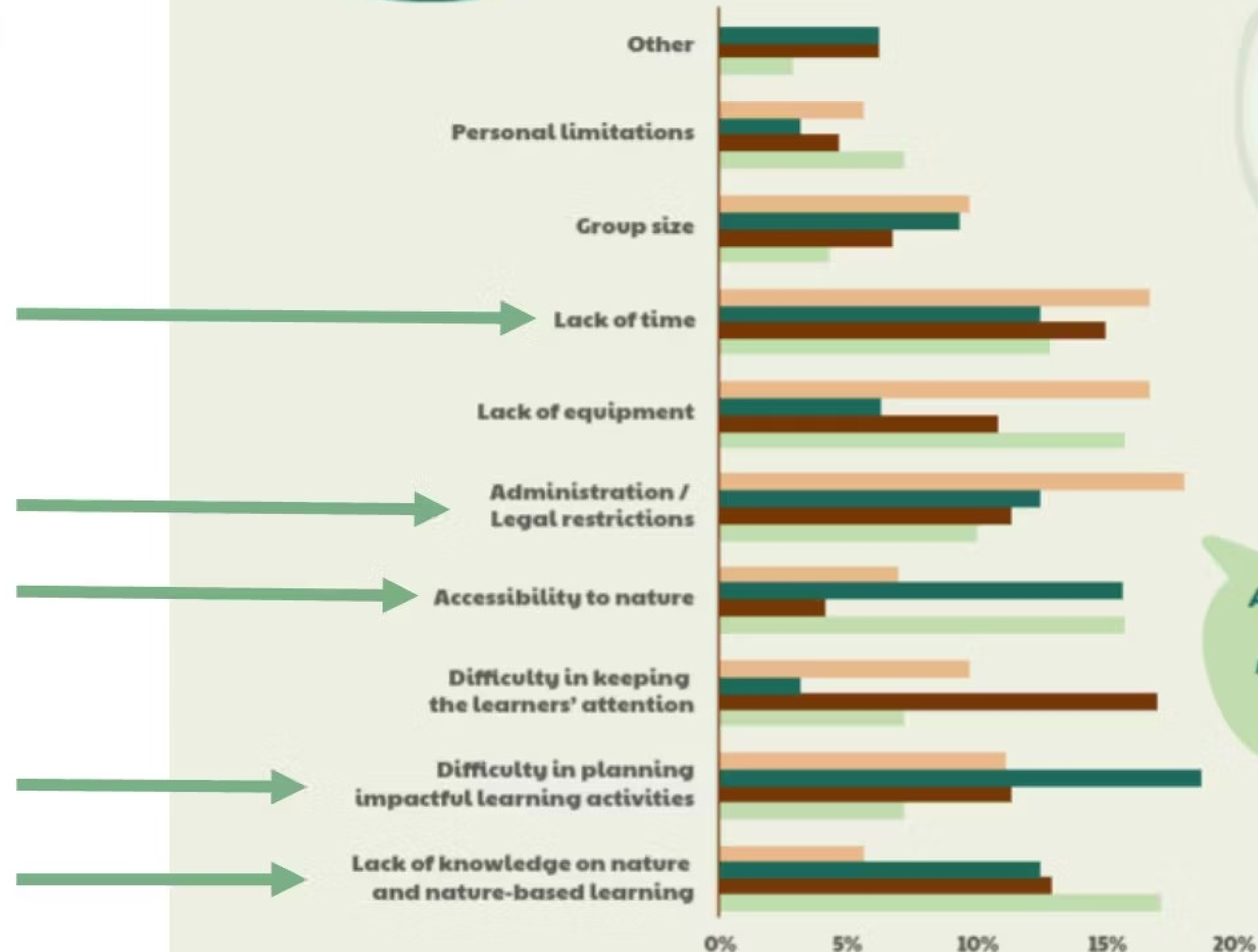
Accessibility to nature

Lack of skills

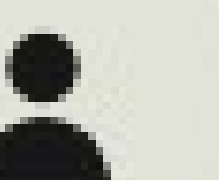
Lack of knowledge

Lack of time poses a problem in nature restoration activities in Finland and Slovakia.

When implementing a nature restoration activity which are the main challenges you were able to identify?



Accessibility to nature restrains nature restoration activities in Greece and The Netherlands.



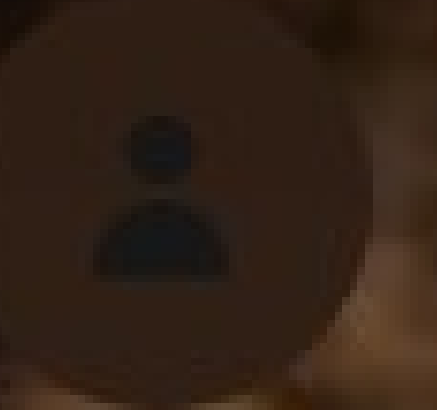
Benefits for young people

- **Inclusion:** Young people can influence their environment and community.
- **Community building:** Working together strengthens social skills and a sense of belonging.
- **Well-being:** Being in nature supports well-being and creates experiences of meaning.
- **Learning by doing:** Enhancing understanding and skills through practical action.



Youth worker's role

- Planning, together with ecological experts
- Connecting young people with organizations carrying out restoration
- Coordinating practical arrangements
- Guiding learning processes
- Facilitating group cohesion
- Creating a supportive learning atmosphere

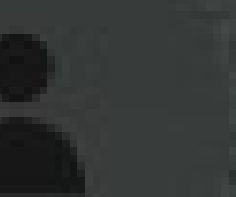




AFTER WORK ACTIVITIES



RELAX AND BOND OVER DINNER





WALKS OR OTHER KINDS OF NATURE MOMENTS

Photo: Frankie Turk

REFLECTIONS





ART, GAMES, MUSIC, STORYTELLING



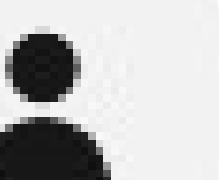
FUNDING AND NETWORKING



Why funding and networking matter

- **Nature restoration camps require:**
 - Collaboration
 - Diverse resources
 - Long-term engagement
- **Networking helps you:**
 - find partners
 - access expertise
 - increase funding opportunities
- **Funding helps you:**
 - cover operational costs
 - ensure inclusivity
 - scale restoration impact

Networks often lead to ***funding opportunities***.



Building networks for nature restoration activities



- **Potential partners:**
 - Environmental NGOs
 - Local municipalities
 - Protected area managers
 - Universities & research institutes
 - Youth organisations
 - Volunteer networks
 - Private sectors (CSR programmes)

*Strong partnerships increase **credibility** in funding applications.*

Stakeholder engagement – examples of roles:

Stakeholder	Possible contribution
• Ecologists	Restoration expertise
• Local authorities	Permits, infrastructure
• NGOs	Coordination
• Schools & youth	Participants
• Local businesses	Sponsorship

Funding sources

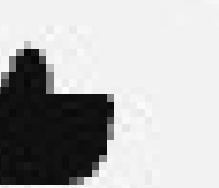
Funding source	Description
EU funding programmes	
Erasmus+ (Youth and European Solidarity Corps) LIFE Program	Youth exchanges enable the organization of international camps for young people from different countries. European Solidarity Corps provides funding for voluntary projects, which can focus on nature restoration. The EU's funding program for environmental and climate action, supporting nature restoration projects.
National and local funding sources	
Ministries and environmental authorities Regional and municipal grants National youth organizations and funds	Often support restoration initiatives and may provide funding for youth activities. Many cities and regions support environmental projects and youth initiatives. These organizations may offer grants or support for many kinds youth-led activities.
Foundation and funds	
National and European environmental foundations Environmental organizations (such as WWF)	Provide grants for different kinds of environmental projects. Many international and national conservation organizations provide grants for environmental education and youth engagement.
Corporate partnerships and sponsorships	
Corporate social responsibility(CSR) programs Tourism and outdoor industry companies	Many companies, particularly in the green transition sector, may support environmental initiatives as part of their sustainability efforts. Ecotourism and nature travel companies may be interested in supporting carbon exchange for collaboration.





EU youth funding opportunities

- **Erasmus KA1: Mobility of Individuals**
 - Supports youth exchanges, youth worker mobilities, youth participation projects.
- **Erasmus KA2: Cooperation Among Organizations and Institutions**
 - Strategic partnerships for innovation and capacity building
- **European Youth Together**
 - Larger-scale projects fostering European networks of youth organizations.
- **European Solidarity Corps**
 - Volunteering opportunities and grants for projects that promote solidarity and address societal challenges across Europe.





Where to find open EU calls

- Contact your [country-specific national agency](#) for more information
- On EU Funding & Tenders Portal: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders>
- On European Solidarity Corps portal: https://youth.europa.eu/solidarity_en
- On SALTO Youth Training calendar: <https://www.salto-youth.net/tools/european-training-calendar/>
- On LIFE Programme website: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en

!!!Tip:

Set alerts for keywords such as: biodiversity, ecosystem restoration, citizen science, nature-based solutions



Budget planning for restoration camps

Budget planning should cover:

- Travel & accommodation
- Food allowances
- Equipment & safety materials
- Expert fees
- Insurance
- Coordination & communication

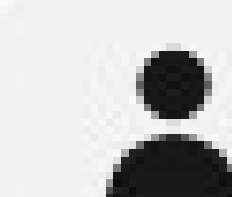
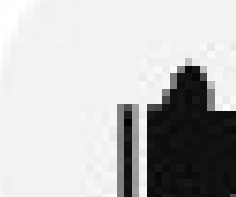
Plan realistically and include contingency costs.

Benefits of youth involvement in budget planning:

- Increases ownership of activities
- Improves transparency
- Builds financial literacy

Examples of youth roles:

- Co-designing camp activities
- Identifying local funding sources
- Supporting fundraising





Budget planning for restoration camps

- **No-budget or minimal-cost camps:**
 - Activities like invasive species removal can be organized locally with little or no budget.
 - Participants bring their own food, gear, and tools (which may also be borrowed for free).
 - Quick and effective, but not always inclusive or accessible.
- **Low-cost camps:**
 - Use tents for accommodation and camp stoves for cooking.
 - Participants may bring their own gear and food.
 - Easy to organize and may not require external funding, but inclusivity is limited.
- **Higher-cost camps:**
 - Providing accommodation, meals, and travel support lowers barriers and increases inclusivity.
 - Significantly higher costs - external funding is often needed.

Budgeting estimations

Category	Description	Minimal-cost camp (EUR/person)	Low-cost camp (EUR/person)	Higher-cost camp (EUR/person)
Accommodation	tent, cabins, or other lodging	0 € tents, own or sponsored, self-paid	10-30 €/Day	30-100 €/Day
Food	meals and snack for participants	0€ own food	10-20 €/Day full meals, own food	20-50 €/Day full meals, catering, ordered
Transportation	travel expenses to and from the site	0€ self-paid, easy access to the site	10-20€ public transportation, easy access to the site	30-150 € depends on the location and the means of transport
Tools and materials	equipment and supplies for restoration work	0€ loaned or partners own	10-50€ mostly loaned	100-500€ buy new, serves also for future activities
Insurance	insurance for participants and activities	0€ everyone's own responsibility	50-100€ normal volunteer insurance	200-500€ for long time and big group
Staff/ coordination	salaries or stipends for camp staff and coordinators	0-200€ all or mostly volunteer	300-1000€ paid camp leader + assistant, also per diems	1000-5000€ planning, management, camp leader, assistant, cooks, experts
Contingency	extra funds for unexpected expenses	0€	10-150 €	150-1000 €
Total		0-200€	400-1370 €	1530-7000 €



Guest organisation: Common Nature social cooperative

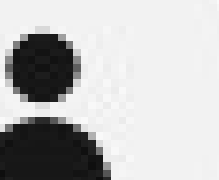


Local environmental organisation based in Rhodes, Greece.

Founded in 2019 by local residents and works under the supervision of the Greek Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family.

Mission:

- Protect and restore the natural environment of Rhodes
- Expand restoration work across the Dodecanese islands





Main environmental activities

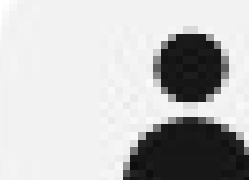
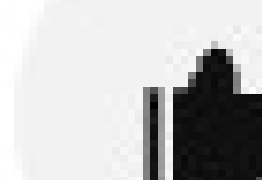
The organisation carries out multiple **nature restoration and monitoring actions**:

- Reforestation projects in burned forest areas
- Collection of seeds from native forest species
- Biodiversity recording and monitoring
- Protection of marine life on tourist beaches
- Environmental education and awareness

Goal:

Create a sustainable model connecting

People – Business – Natural Environment



Restoration work after the Rhodes wildfire (2023)



Following the major wildfire in Rhodes (2023), the organisation developed **two large restoration initiatives:**

- **Panagia Ypseni Monastery Area**

184 hectares of double-burned forest

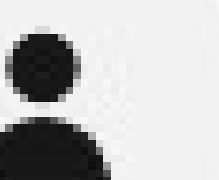
Approved by Ministry of Environment

Currently under implementation

- **Gadouras Dam Area**

6.400 hectares of double and triple burned forest

Study under review by the Ministry of Environment



Partnerships, volunteers and community engagement



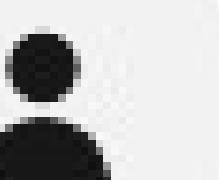
"Common Nature" works closely with:

- 4 Greek universities
- Dodecanese Forest Directorate
- Hydrobiological Station of Rhodes (HCMR)

Private sector engagement regards a large number of hotels, travel agencies and local businesses.

Trained volunteers **monitor 84km of coastline for marine megafauna**, such as sea turtles, dolphins and seals.

Volunteers include employees from coastal hotels, trained by scientists.





QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING



All project materials:



You will get a YouthPass certificate by email after some time.



THANK YOU

**Restoration Academy
Erasmus+ KA220-YOUTH 2023-2026**



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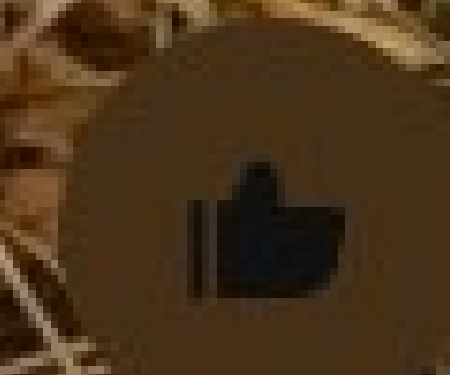


Photo: Frankie Turk



BREAKOUT ROOMS

- Finding locations and experts for youth restoration activities
- Engaging youth and ensuring accessibility in youth restoration activities
- Tackling challenges in youth restoration activities
- Funding of youth restoration activities

