



Natural Water Retention Measures

Web-based knowledge
Community of practice
NWRM practical guide



Pilot Project - Atmospheric Precipitation - Protection and efficient use of Fresh Water: Integration of Natural Water Retention Measures in River basin management

Service contract n°ENV.D.1/SER/2013/0010

NWRM Tools *The Knowledge Base* *The Practical Guide*

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Outline

- **The Knowledge Base**

- Principles
- End-user' perspective
- Structure
- Content & Outputs
- Lesson learned

- **The practical Guide**

- Objectives
- Structure & Content



Principles

The challenge...

- NWRM are multi-purpose measures, targeting multiple policy objectives
- Wide range of applications, wide range of impacts and benefits, often context specific
- Multiple sources and information flow paths (not harmonised)
- Grouping & “parametrisation” into a DB structure is a major challenge

A knowledge base in this sense is defined as a wider system, **grouping & conveying** information in an organised manner and **targeting multiple end-users’** needs.

Capacity to **access information on different levels** (synthetic, analytical, queries, etc.) is a **seamless and transparent** way.



End-users (1)

- **Design Practitioner (DP)**

DP need, first of, a **Set of Principles** that will allow them to correctly identify options and design that “qualify” under NWRM

Evidence base of the available options (i.e. detailed for **each measure**). More technical than the ones intended for the policy audience:

- application/function
- intended primary and secondary purposes of each NWRM
- operational risks
- design considerations
- adaptability
- maintenance requirements
- impact to public perception, etc.

Clear references to existing guidelines and engineering standards are also very useful to be included in these Factsheets.

Links to incentives (direct and indirect subsidies) are also very useful to DP



End-users (1)

- **Design Practitioner (DP)**

Yet..... **to guide their selection among the options, the CS** (which give the specificities and feedback of actual applications) **is the real supporting knowledge.**

The CS can provide the practitioners **feedback on** the range of potential impacts (biophysical) across a variety of conditions and under different context, info on the design implications, real costs, social acceptability, enabling factors, constraints and preconditions.

- **Application (CS) DB** relevant to the DP should contain:
 - (i) descriptive info
 - (ii) technical info on the main **design parameters** and **monitoring requirements** (to allow the practitioner identify similarities and/or discrepancies as compared to his candidate site/environment),
 - (iii) quantifiable **indicators** (especially with regards to **the biophysical impacts** and **economic info**, along with **possible performance metrics**) to help them grasp the range of costs and benefits and the overall performance/effectiveness,
 - (iv) lessons-learned to highlight the **main risks, implications, enabling factors** and **preconditions.**



End-users (2 & 3)

- **Policy community**

Answers to key policy questions

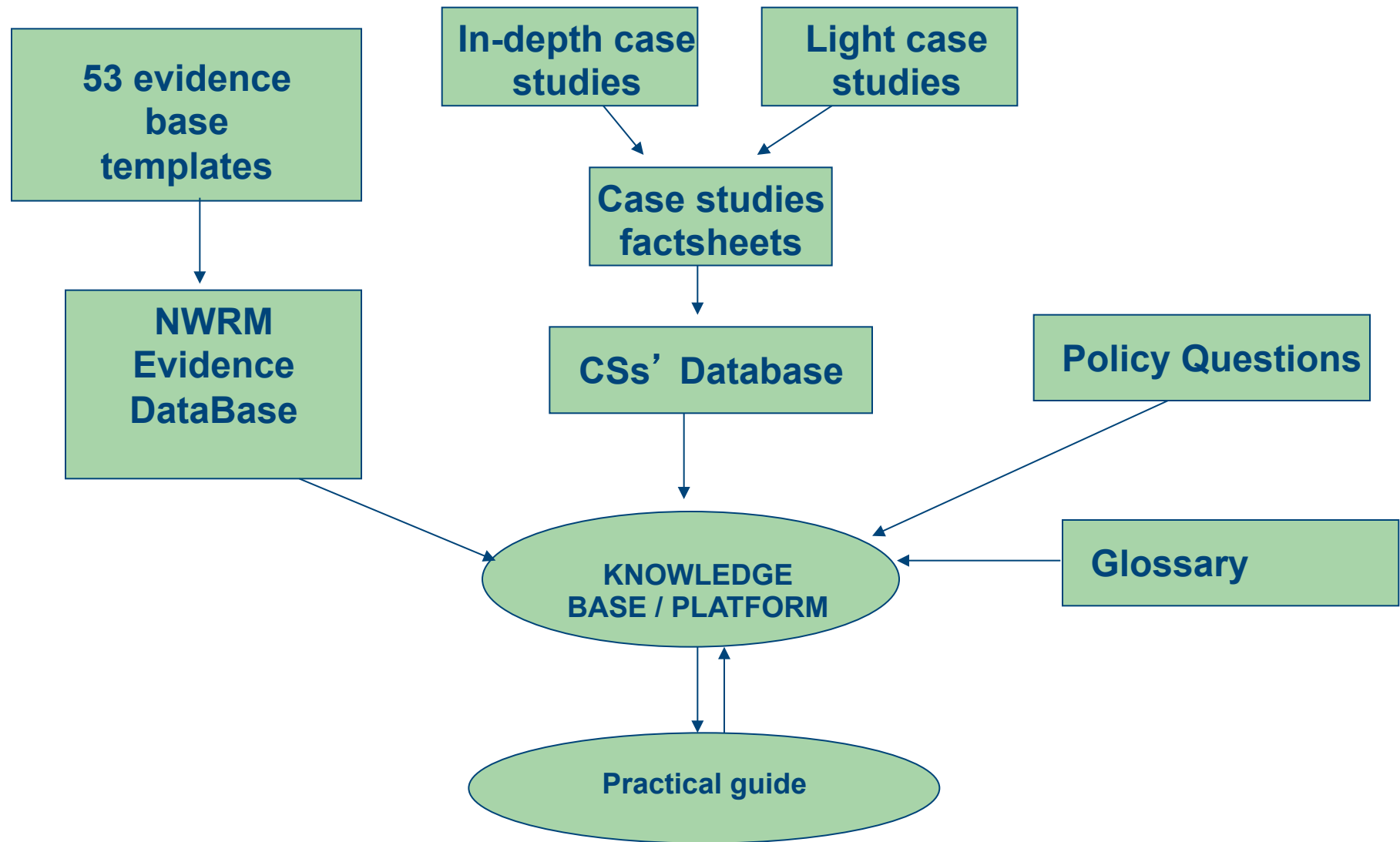
- *What are the most effective NWRM's (or combinations of NWRM's) - and for which (biophysical) circumstances? What evidence exists on NWRM effectiveness?*
- *Which assessment methods and practices are used for NWRM's?*
- *What is the contribution of NWRMs to reaching EU Directives' objectives?*
- *What are the benefits and co-benefits of NWRMs?*
- *"Better" option than the "traditional" measures?*
- *What are the main barriers and success factors for implementing NWRMs? (public awareness, perception, public investment, etc.)*

- **Research community**

Input to modelling, simulations, comparative studies

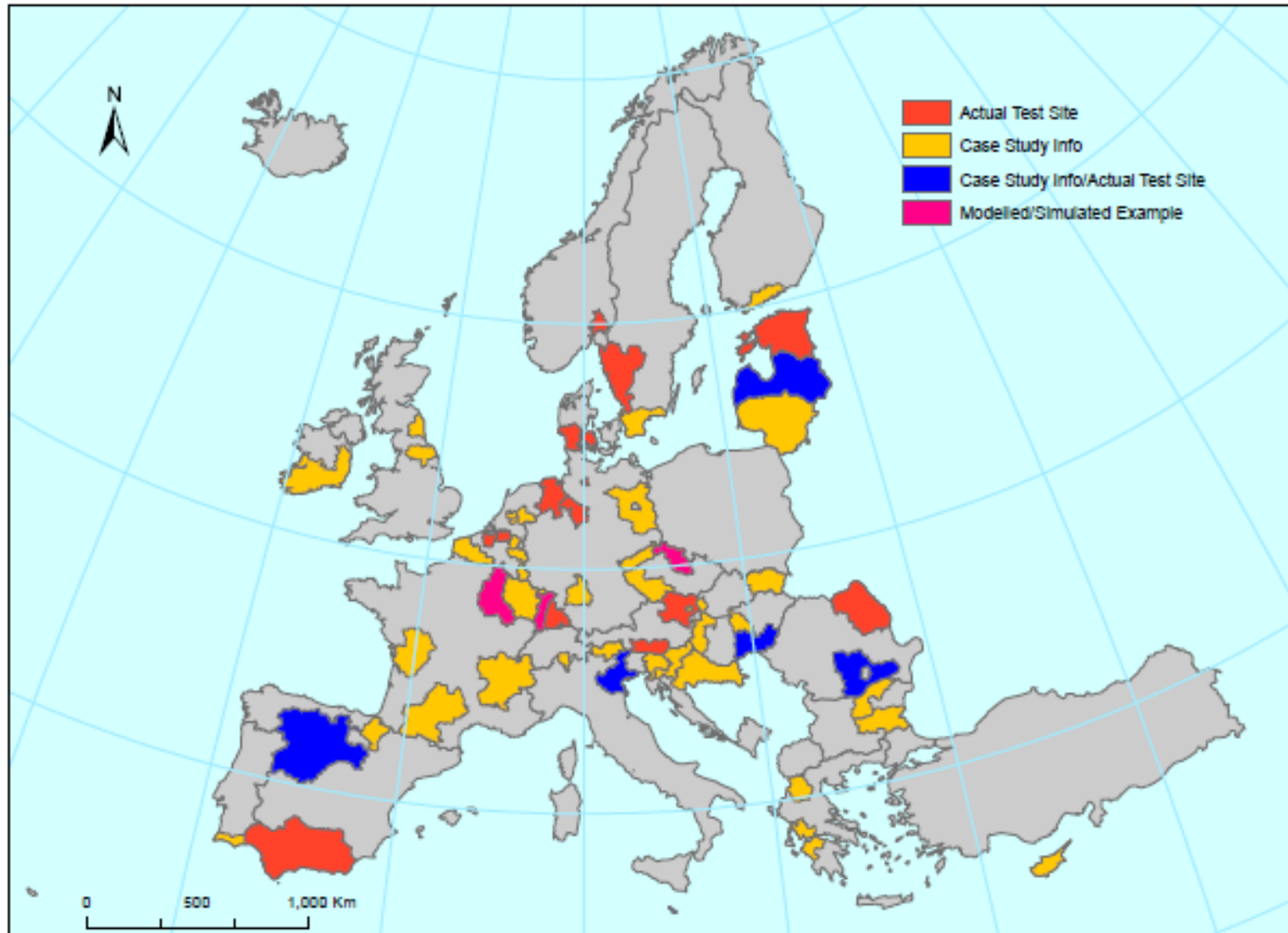
Quantified parameters mainly on biophysical impacts and costs

Structure of an Integrated Knowledge Base



The Case Studies' Database

A selection of 80 applications
(actual test sites, case studies, modelled/simulated example)





CSs DB: Data Model Characteristics

Main Entities:

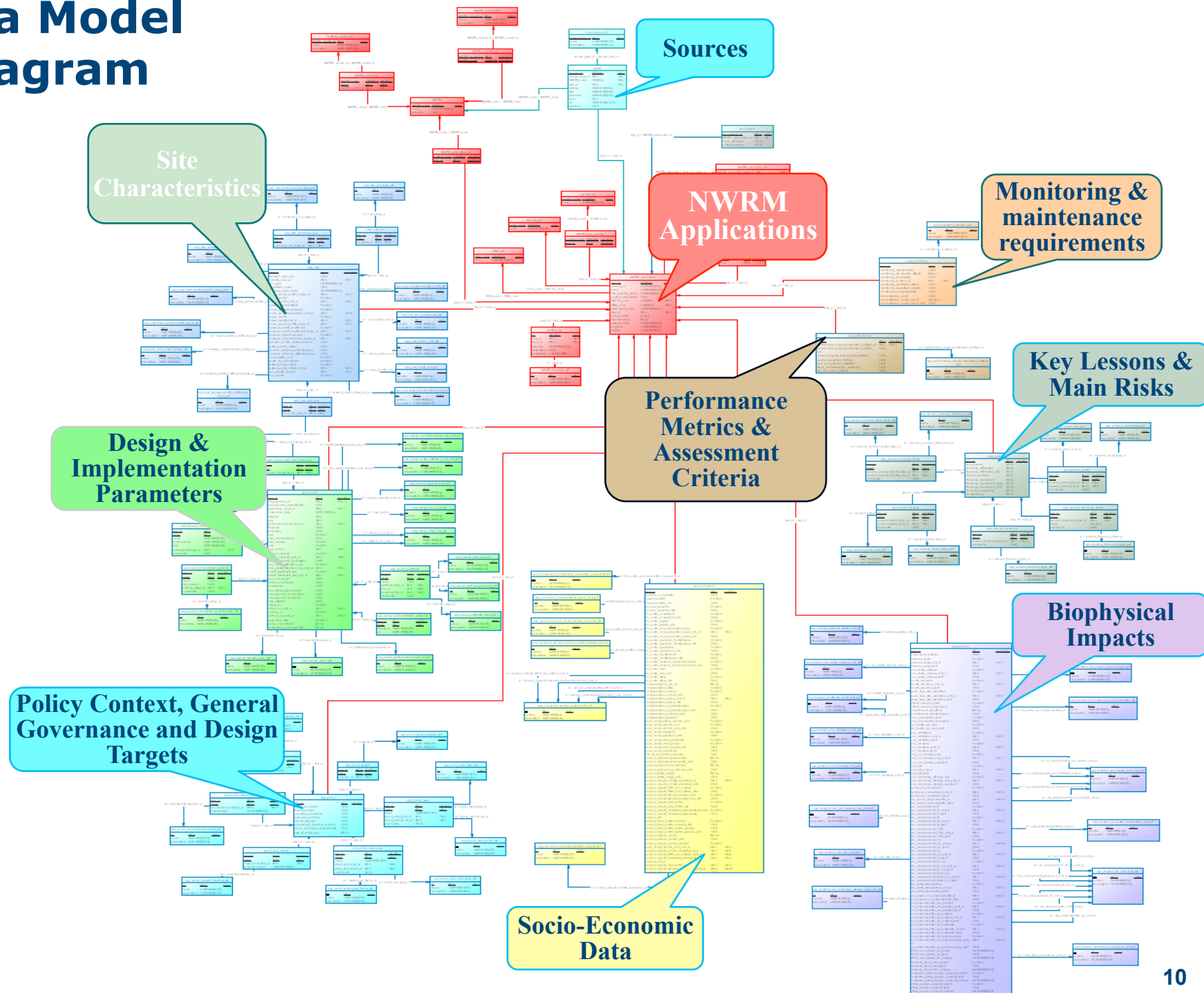
- NWRM applications of any kind e.g. test site, a case study or even modeled results documented in research studies
- NWRM types grouped in more general categories, NWRM sectors, e.g. forest measures, urban measures, agricultural measures
- Sources (references) that have been used to document NWRM applications or NWRM types
- Parameters divided in categories (design, biophysical impacts, socio-economic, governance, policy, etc.)

Normalized database design

DB ensures referential integrity

Object-Relational Database Management System (PostgreSQL)

Data Model Diagram



Some statistics....

| NWRM | # |
|-----------|----------|
| A1 | 7 |
| A11 | 1 |
| A12 | 1 |
| A2 | 1 |
| A3 | 1 |
| A6 | 2 |
| A7 | 2 |
| A8 | 3 |

| NWRM | # |
|-----------|----------|
| F1 | 8 |
| F2 | 2 |
| F4 | 1 |
| F5 | 1 |
| F9 | 2 |
| F10 | 2 |
| F11 | 2 |
| F13 | 1 |

| NWRM | # |
|-----------|-----------|
| N1 | 9 |
| N2 | 26 |
| N3 | 20 |
| N4 | 14 |
| N5 | 11 |
| N6 | 1 |
| N7 | 4 |
| N8 | 9 |
| N9 | 4 |
| N10 | 8 |
| N11 | 2 |
| N12 | 4 |
| N13 | 4 |

| NWRM | # |
|------------|----------|
| U1 | 2 |
| U2 | 1 |
| U3 | 2 |
| U4 | 2 |
| U5 | 1 |
| U6 | 3 |
| U7 | 1 |
| U8 | 1 |
| U10 | 2 |
| U11 | 7 |
| U12 | 1 |

A1 = meadows & pastures

F1 = riparian buffers

N1 = basins & ponds

N2 = wetlands

N3 = floodplain

N4 = re-meandering

N5 = Revitalisation of flowing waters

U11 = retention ponds



NWRMs' Evidence Base

- NWRM description
- *Geographic applicability (land use, region)*
- *Scale*
- *Biophysical impacts (slowing & storing runoff, reducing pollution, soil conservation, creating habitat, climate alteration)*
- *Ecosystem Services benefits (provisioning, regulatory & maintenance, cultural, abiotic)*
- *Policy objective (WFD, FD, Habitats, 2020 Biod.Strategy)*
- *Design guidance (parameters)*
- *Costs*
- *Governance & implementation*
- *Incentives*
- *References*



| | | Mechanisms of Water Retention | | | | | | | Biophysical Impacts Resulting from Water Retention | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | Slowing and Storing Runoff | | | | Reducing Runoff | | | Reducing Pollution | | Soil Conservation | | Creating Habitat | | | Climate Alteration | | |
| | | BP1 | BP2 | BP3 | BP4 | BP5 | BP6 | BP7 | BP8 | BP9 | BP10 | BP11 | BP12 | BP13 | BP14 | BP15 | BP16 | BP17 |
| | | Store runoff | Slow runoff | Store river water | Slow river water | Increase evapotranspiration | Increase infiltration and/or recharge | Increase soil water retention | Reduce Pollutant Sources | Intercept Pollution Pathways | Reduce Erosion and/or Sediment Delivery | Improve Soils | Create Aquatic Habitat | Create Riparian Habitat | Create Terrestrial Habitat | Enhance Precipitation | Reduce Peak Temperature | Absorb and/or Retain CO ₂ |
| A1 | Meadows and Pastures | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A2 | Buffer Strips and Shelter Belts | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A3 | Crop Rotation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A4 | Strip Cropping | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A5 | Intercropping | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A6 | No Tillage | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A7 | Reduced or Conservation Tillage | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A8 | Green Cover | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A9 | Early Sowing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A10 | Traditional Terracing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A11 | Controlled Traffic Farming | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A12 | Reduced Stocking Density | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| A13 | Mulching | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N1 | Basins and Ponds | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N2 | Wetlands | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N3 | Floodplain Reconnection | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N4 | Re-Meandering | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N5 | Revitalisation of Flowing Waters | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N6 | Temporary Tributaries | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N7 | Hydraulic Annexes | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N8 | Riverbed - Alluvial Mattress | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N9 | Levelling of Dams and Longitudinal Barriers | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N10 | Natural Bank Stabilisation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N11 | Elimination of Riverbank Protection | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N12 | Lake Restoration | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N13 | Aquifer Restoration | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| N14 | Floodplain Restoration | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

**NWRM to
Biophysical
Impacts**

... to Benefits

**... to Policy
Objectives**



| | | Mechanisms of Water Retention | | | | | | | Biophysical Impacts Resulting from Water Retention | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | Slowing and Storing Runoff | | | | Reducing Runoff | | | Reducing Pollution | | Soil Conservation | | Creating Habitat | | | Climate Alteration | | |
| | | BP1 | BP2 | BP3 | BP4 | BP5 | BP6 | BP7 | BP8 | BP9 | BP10 | BP11 | BP12 | BP13 | BP14 | BP15 | BP16 | BP17 |
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| U1 | Green Roofs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U2 | Rainwater Harvesting | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U3 | Permeable Paving and other permeable surfaces | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U4 | Swales | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U5 | Channels and Rills | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U6 | Filter Strips | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U7 | Soakaways | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U8 | Infiltration Trenches | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U9 | Rain Gardens | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U10 | Detention Basins | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U11 | Retention Ponds | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U12 | Infiltration Basins | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| U13 | Managed Aquifer Recharge | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F1 | Riparian Buffers | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F2 | Headwater Areas | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F3 | Reservoir Catchments | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F4 | Targeted Planting for Catching Precipitation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F5 | Land Use Conversion | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F6 | Continuous Cover Forestry | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F7 | Water Sensitive Driving | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F8 | Appropriate Design of Roads and Stream Crossings | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F9 | Sediment Capture Ponds | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F10 | Coarse Woody Debris | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F11 | Urban Forest Parks | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F12 | Trees in Urban Areas | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F13 | Overland Flow Areas | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F14 | Peak Flow Control Structures | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



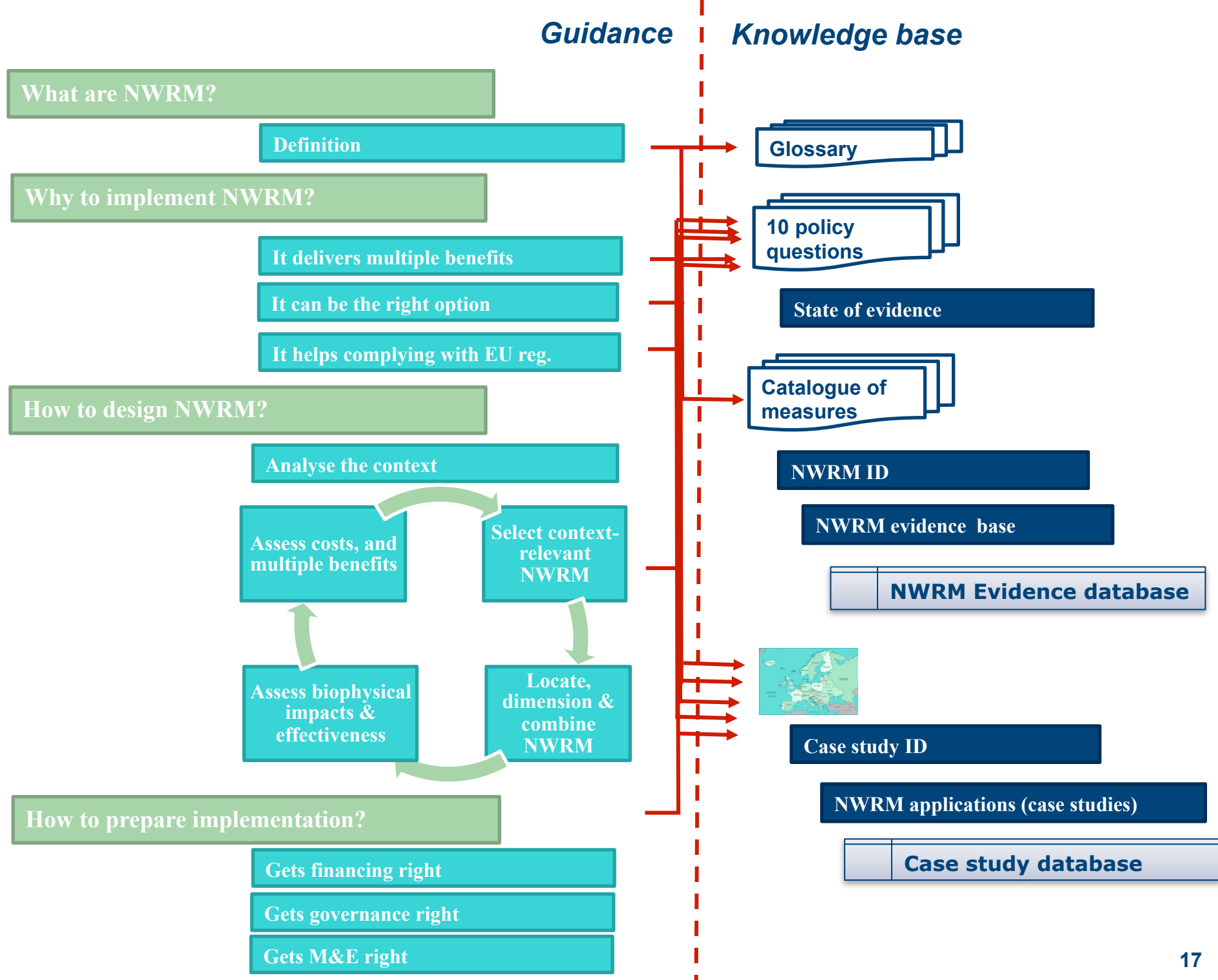
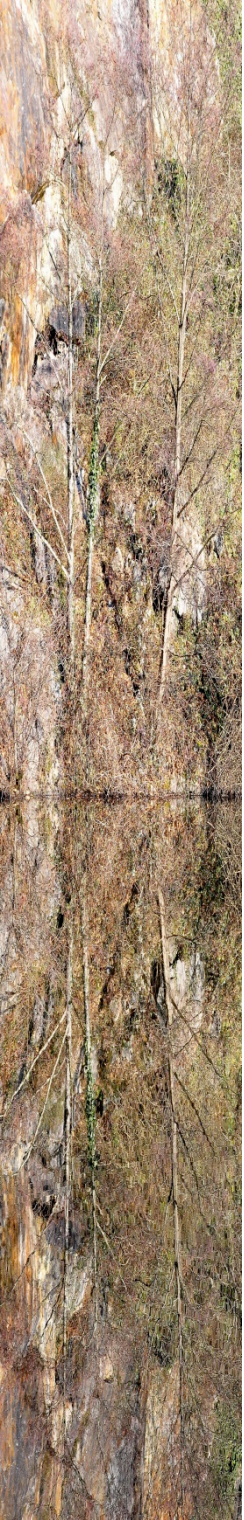
Lessons learned:

- Very diverse cases/applications, often using a bundle of NWRM: thus, 1-1 allocation of impacts & benefits is not always feasible
- EU-level info on NWRM CSs is piecemeal, often lacking quantified data. There is more focus on some NWRM applications than others
- Harmonisation of info is difficult (different objectives, context,..). Not all parameters are applicable for all NWRMs.
- DB not for the purpose of just having a collection of info, but from a users' perspective
- Evidence is important !
- Mix of "DB products" and tailored outputs (pre-formated) to accommodate needs and facilitate access to info.
- Expandable and adoptable to new knowledge and evidence



A Practical Guidance: what for?

- To support the design and the implementation of NWRM at the catchment scale in Europe and contribute to the achievement of EU (water) policy objectives
- A guidance targeting partitionners, water managers, (urban/land/sector planners)
- A guidance developed in both paper and web-based format, interacting with the NWRM Knowledge base





Thank you !

Visit our webpage: www.nwrm.eu