

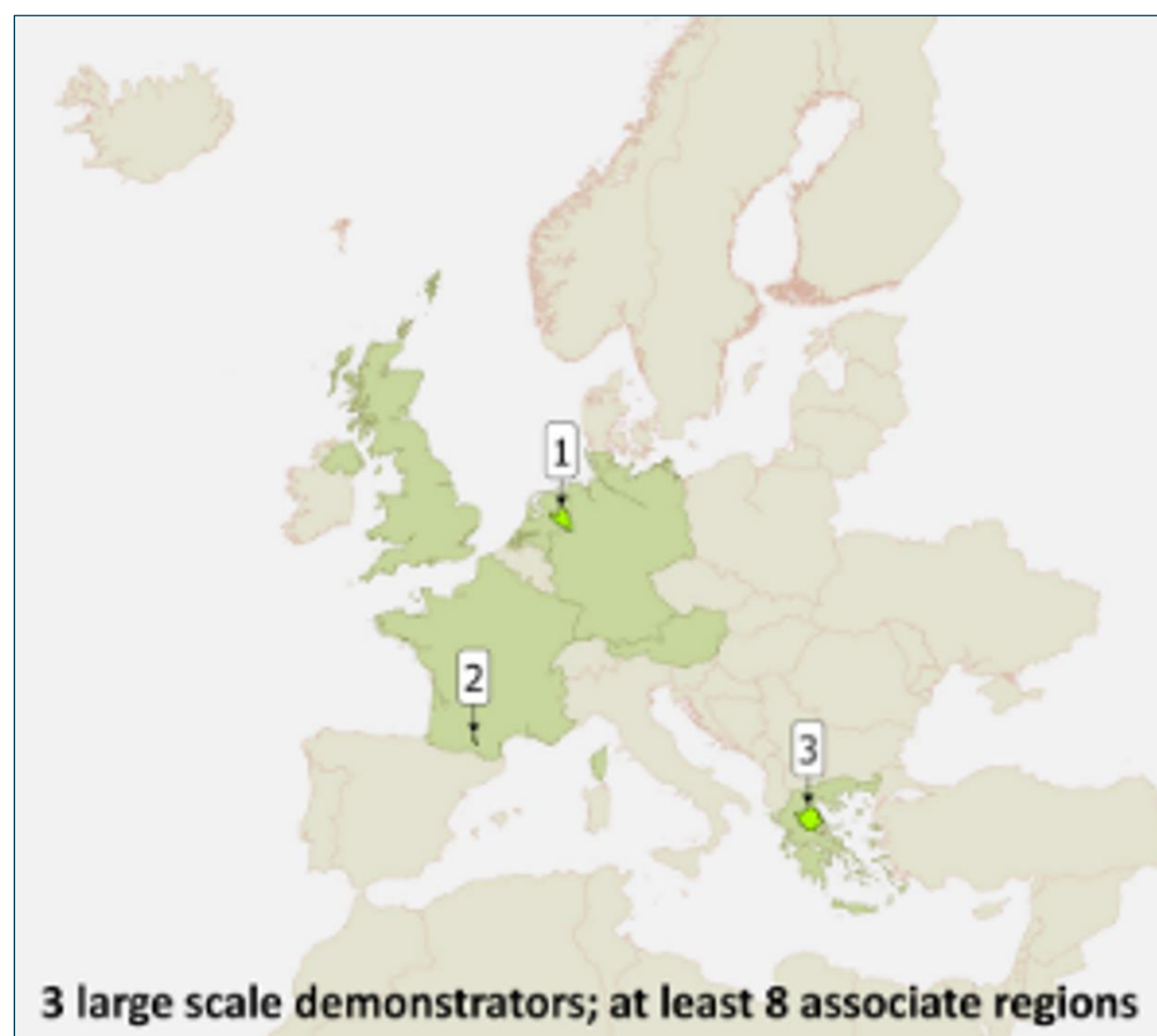
How can we co-create river restoration solutions with and for nature and humans?



Introduction: Climate change means our watersheds face unpredictable and unprecedented fluctuations in precipitation and water levels. Collaboration by means of co-creating sponge measures is expected to lead to solutions that are socially accepted and that fit the local context. To that end, this project explores how we can learn from and work with people (including those who are not the “usual suspects”) and nature to restore river basin capacity to absorb and retain water, while providing habitat for river and riparian creatures.

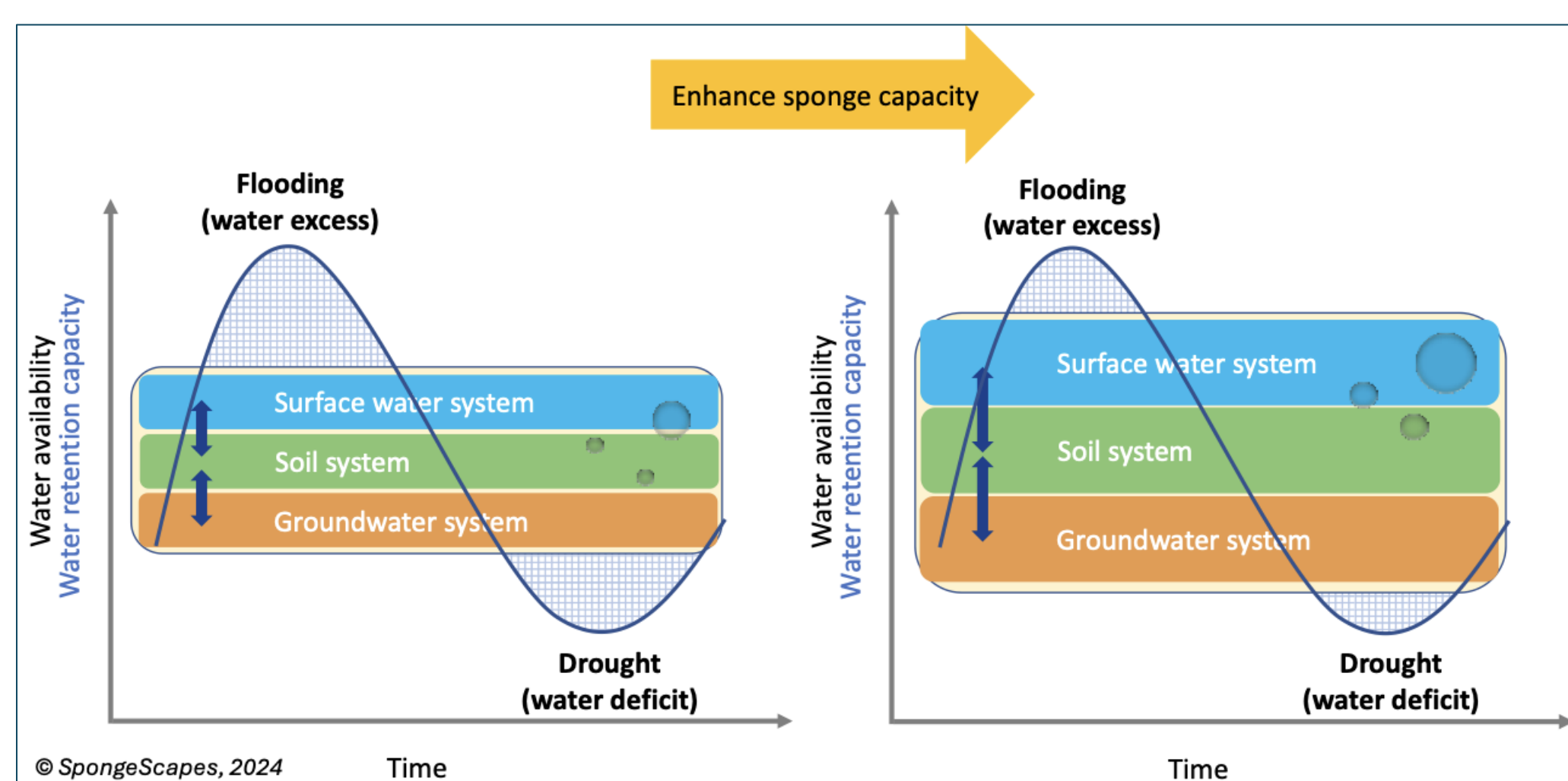
Background

Where?



The Vecht, Lèze and Pinios Rivers serve as demonstrator river basins, providing a diversity of social & ecological contexts in which to implement and evaluate sponge measures.

How?



Just like your kitchen sponge, this type of nature-based solution works to absorb water (during floods) and slowly release water (during droughts) through a combination of grey and green infrastructure.

Who?

Target Groups	
	National governmental bodies / Ministries
	Provincial/regional governments
	Municipalities
	Regional environment/water management agencies
	Public technical bodies (e.g. geological survey)
	Farmers associations
	Farmers/ landowners
	Energy industry
	Food industry
	Other industry
	Drinking water/wastewater utilities
	Finance/investment/insurance
	Nature associations
	Other focus associations
	Education
	Universities/research centers
	Educational institutes

Designing measures collaboratively is critical for enhancing the sustainability of the measures. This project aims to identify and apply methods of co-creation that are inclusive and just.

Guiding Questions:

- In what ways does the framing of sponge measures make space (or not) for just and inclusive collaboration?
- What do justice and inclusiveness mean in co-creation of sponge measures, and according to whom/what?
- How can marginalized and “voiceless” (nature, future generations) stakeholders participate in collaborative decision-making and design of sponge measures?

Next Steps

1



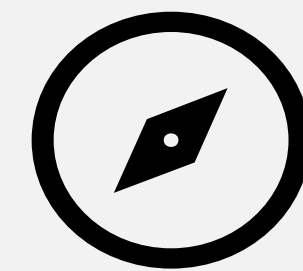
Identify approaches for collaborative decision-making in restoration that are inclusive and just

2



Engage with stakeholders to assess and validate approaches and tools for co-creation

3



Produce **guidance** for knowledge co-creation in the project context



Funded by
the European Union

Kelsey Wentling* (*she/her*), Joanne Vinke-de Kruijf, Beau Warbroek, Robert-Jan den Haan,
Leentje Volker
Contact: Kelsey.Wentling@utwente.nl

UNIVERSITY
OF TWENTE.