



Mainstreaming Nature-based Solutions

To deliver greater value for society and the environment

Programme Briefing

MNbS



An Ofwat Innovation funded programme of 22 multi-disciplinary partners



Jacobs



ARUP



RSK



The water environment is facing ever-growing stress from:

- Climate change
- Population growth
- Biodiversity crisis
- Societal pressures e.g. affordability
- Ageing infrastructure
- Biodiversity and nature loss

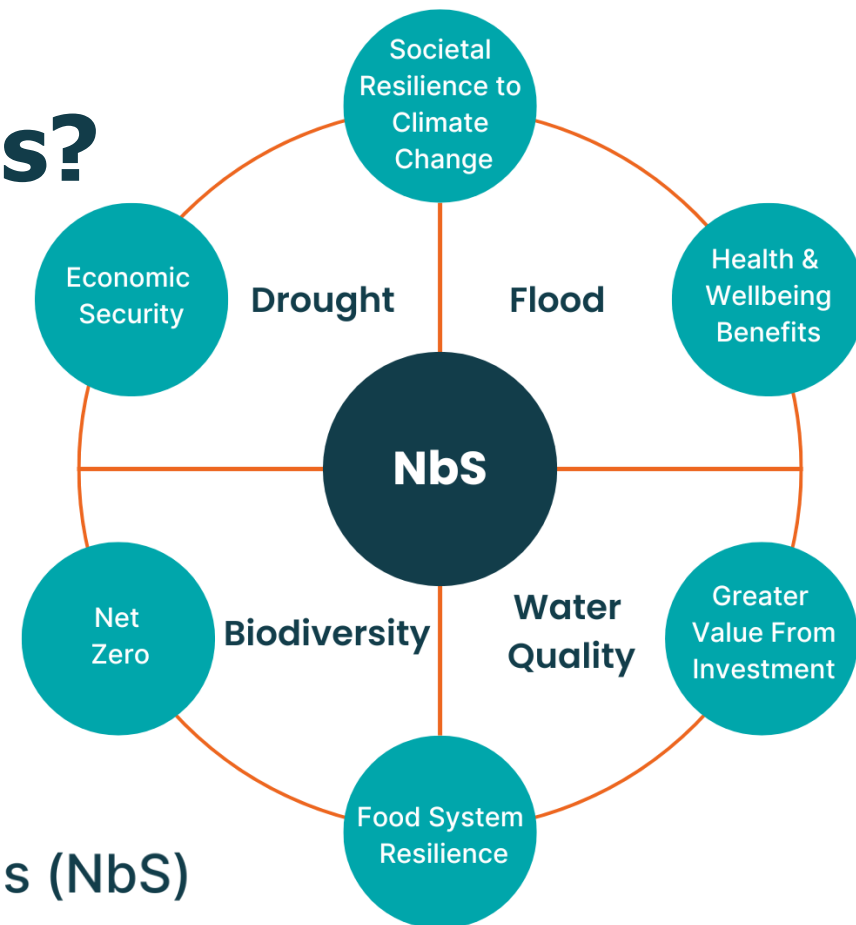
Unlike traditional engineered approaches, **nature-based solutions are multi-functional and can help resolve multiple pressures whilst delivering social and environmental benefits** however barriers prevent their large-scale adoption.



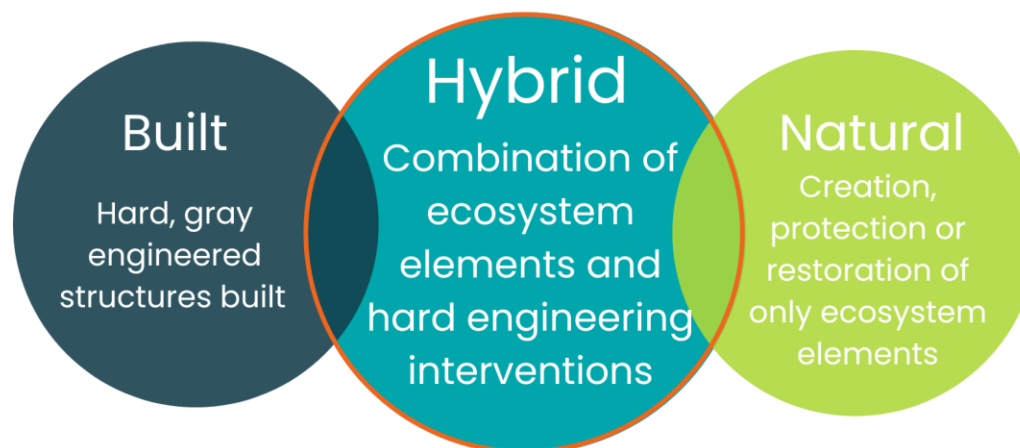


Why nature-based solutions?

- **They deliver a multi-functional purpose:** one NBS can deliver multiple improvements at the same time for e.g., water quality, flood reduction, biodiversity and therefore provide a multitude of social, environmental and economic benefits
- **Integrated with engineered solutions:** synergies and trade-offs are optimised with traditional infrastructure, to reduce impact on carbon-intensive measures, and provide hybrid or integrated solutions that can be not only cost-effective, but also more resilient
- **Driven through collaboration** in planning and delivery and much better coordination at landscape scale
- **Incentivised through multiple investment and joined-up funding:** by aggregating their diverse benefits and functions, NBS can become an attractive proposition to a number of investors and funding mechanisms (for every \$1 invested in NBS, up to \$30 dollars is created in economic benefits) and unlocking investment



Nature-based Solutions (NbS)





Mainstreaming Nature-based Solutions

MNbS is working to deliver greater value for society, economy, and the environment by enabling implementation of nature-based solutions at scale

Nature-based solutions definition

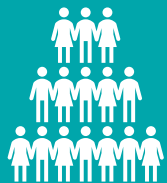
"Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously benefiting people and nature."

Source: IUCN

Programme outcomes

- ✓ Greater adoption and transition of NbS into business as usual
- ✓ Maximising multiple benefits
- ✓ Driving multi-£m investment pipeline
- ✓ Creating a common value framework
- ✓ Changes enabled and accelerated through policy and regulation
- ✓ Standardised tools and processes
- ✓ Wide dissemination and engagement

Multi – sectoral expertise



Overcoming the barriers to NbS delivery



Real-life implementation through regional tests





Key barriers to nature-based solutions



Uncertainty around implementation, maintenance, effectiveness and valuation of NBS



Siloed ways of working, complexities around risk and ownership, competing pressures



Inadequate and conflicting policy and regulation



Limited financial incentives to attract investment and revenue streams at scale



Enablers of nature-based solutions



Partnership working and collaboration



Policy and regulatory incentives



Standardisation and capability building



Joined up planning, delivery and resourcing

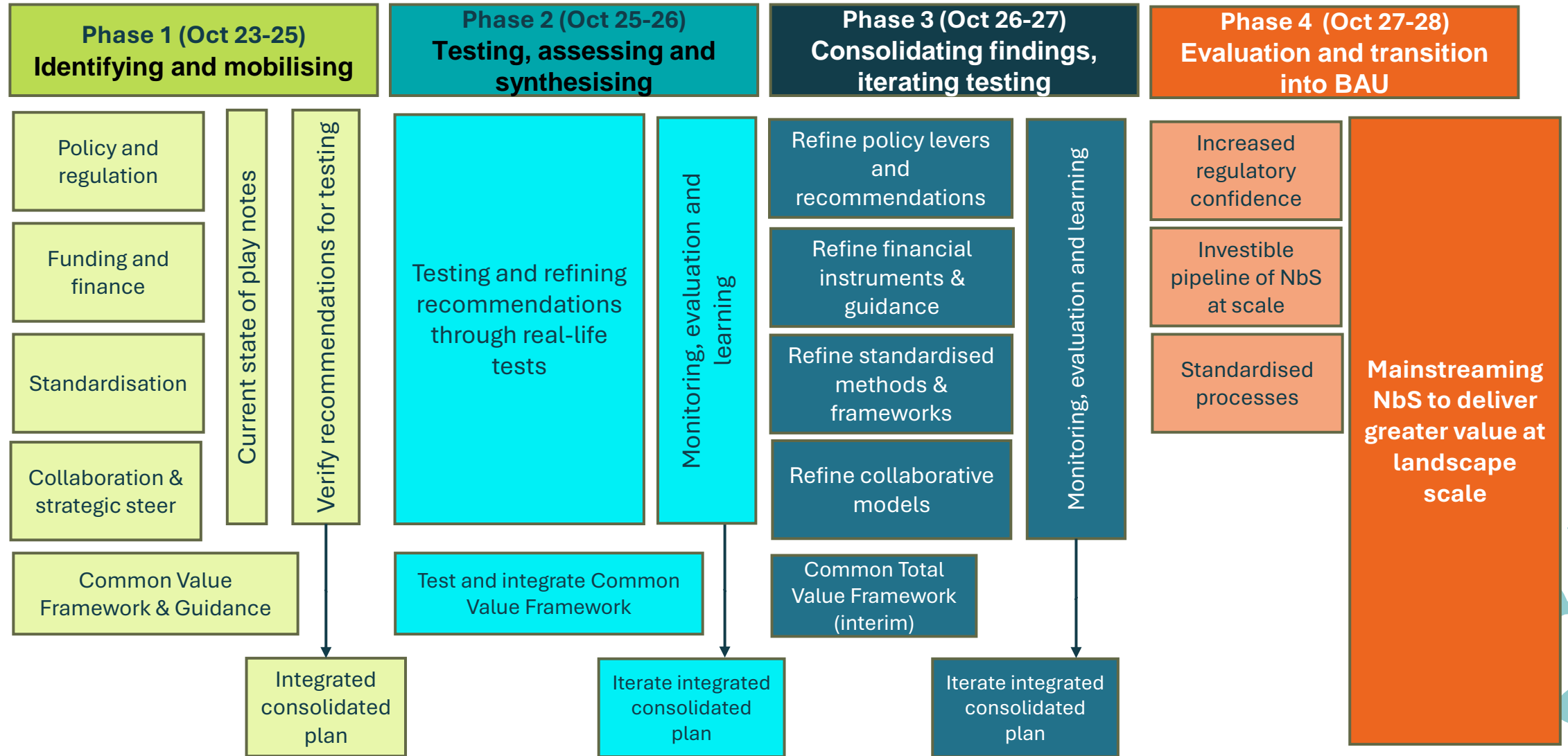


Systematic knowledge sharing and value tracking

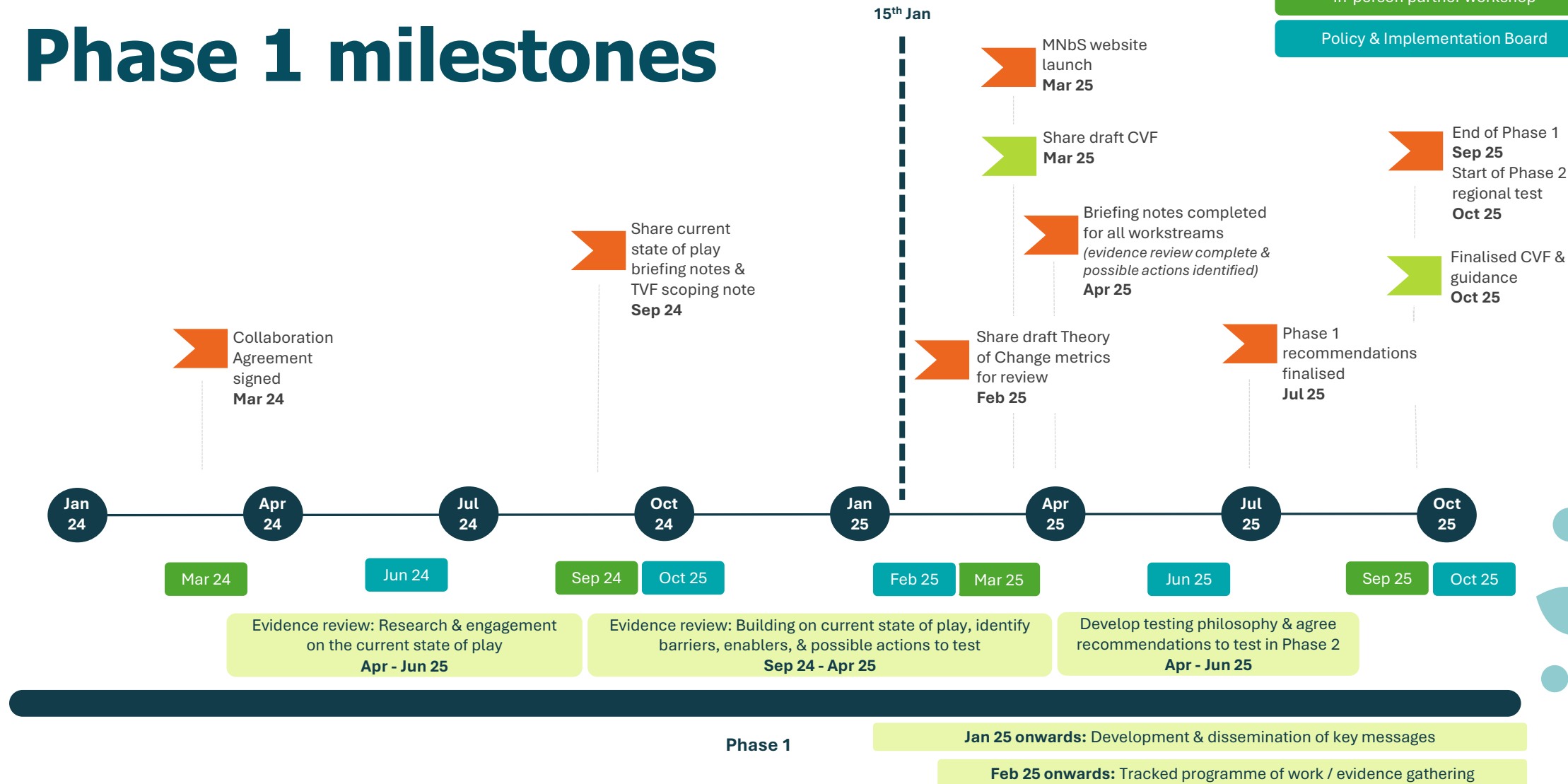
**We are delivering these enablers through
the Mainstreaming NbS programme**



MNbS Programme



Phase 1 milestones





Programme workstreams

Collaborating within six workstreams, creating enablers to overcome barriers



Strategic steer, collaboration and aligned planning and value including a **Common Value Framework** for NbS



Working with regulators and policymakers including influencing industry reviews and developing regulatory incentives



Aligned investment and delivery at scale in NbS including developing an investible pipeline of projects and unlocking institutional finance



Standardisation of NbS including taxonomy, risk sharing framework and monitoring and evaluation



Real-life tests across 8 regions



Workstream insights

Policy & Regulation

- Enablers survey and initial ideas for enablers, including identification of stakeholders, challenges, programme actions/next steps
- Draft prioritisation of enablers/ recommendations
- Review with T&F group planned for late Jan 2025, followed by deep dives
- Deliverable: concise document summarising each enabler and prioritisation, recommendations/ next steps

Standardisation

- Have developed a set of categorisations of NbS mapped to ecosystem benefits
- Developing Risk framework update for PIB
- Reviewing the evidence baseline and approach to underpin the proposed tracked programme of works

Funding & Finance

- Currently developing review of barriers and recommendations for the Regional Tests in terms of funding and finance
- Review of barriers and recommendations with T&F Group planned for February
- Further development of offering to Connectors through discussion of Regional Test ideas

Common Value Framework

- Great progress so far, wide-reaching engagement
- Alignment with other ongoing approaches to valuing benefits (eg EA's natural capital projects & NWEBS)
- Currently developing the detail with a practitioner group made up of SMEs across a range of companies & regulators
- First draft by Mar/Apr, then 6 month testing and engagement phase building towards final in Sep/Oct

Collaboration

- Action area updates:
- Cultural Shift: analyse the end-to-end decision-making processes of organisations to understand where biases against NbS exist
 - Tailor ways of working to circumstances: considering a tool / guidance aligned to the risk sharing framework
 - Regional governance: development of the regional coordinator concept

Regional Tests

- Calls being scheduled with task leads & each regional connector to discuss possible tests
- Developing testing philosophy

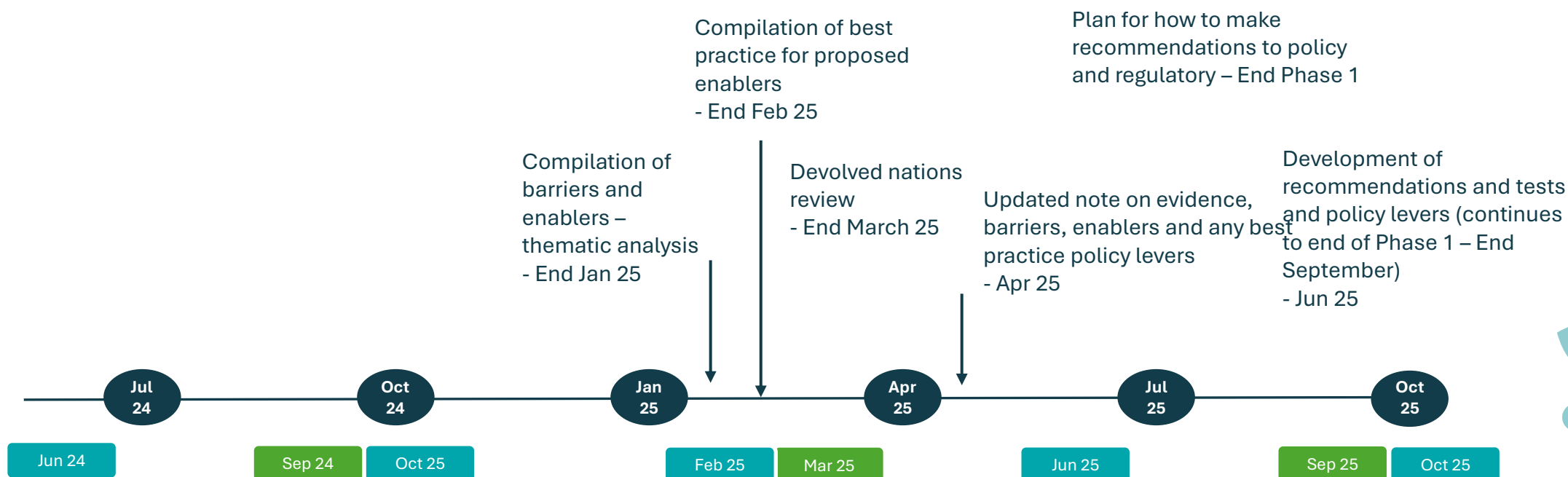
Policy and regulation

Increasing regulatory confidence in nature-based solutions and recommending regulatory enablers and levers



Including:

- Inputting into industry reviews – draft determination, Defra Water Commission etc





Standardisation

Creating standardised approaches to the planning and management of NbS projects that will facilitate collaboration and reduce project transaction costs.



Including:

- Standardised frameworks including risk sharing frameworks, schedules of assumptions and categorisation of NbS interventions and ecosystem services
- Mapping the evidence base for NbS and co-designing a programme to increase this through the tracked programme of work

Evidence review to form the baseline for tracked programme of work including detailing lack of evidence as a barrier and potential enablers – starting with NFM and catchment measures – end Feb 25

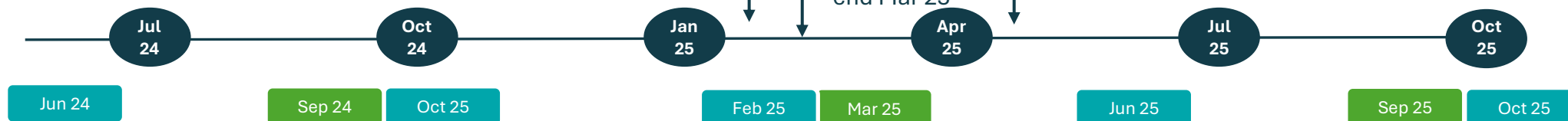
Initial risk-sharing framework developed – end Feb 25

Categorisation of NbS – end Jan 25

First phase of Tracked programme of work to build up the evidence base – Feb 25 – Aug 26

Schedule of assumptions evidence gathering and draft schedule – end Mar 25

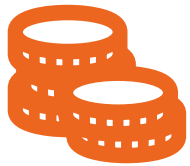
Evidence gathering and review of case studies for risk framework – to feed into Apr note 25





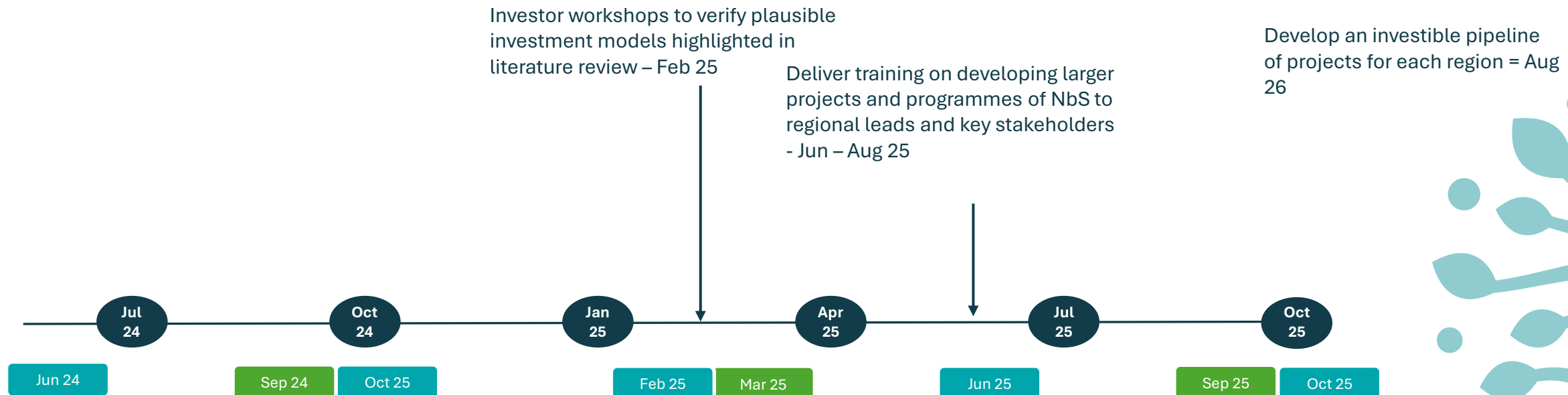
Funding and finance

Identifying solutions for aligning NbS with mainstream finance



Including:

- Exploring how NBS projects fit within mainstream finance constructs
- Exploring different models to integrate NBS investment opportunities into investible solutions across specific landscapes
- Testing solutions with projects, leading to a pipeline of investible opportunities.





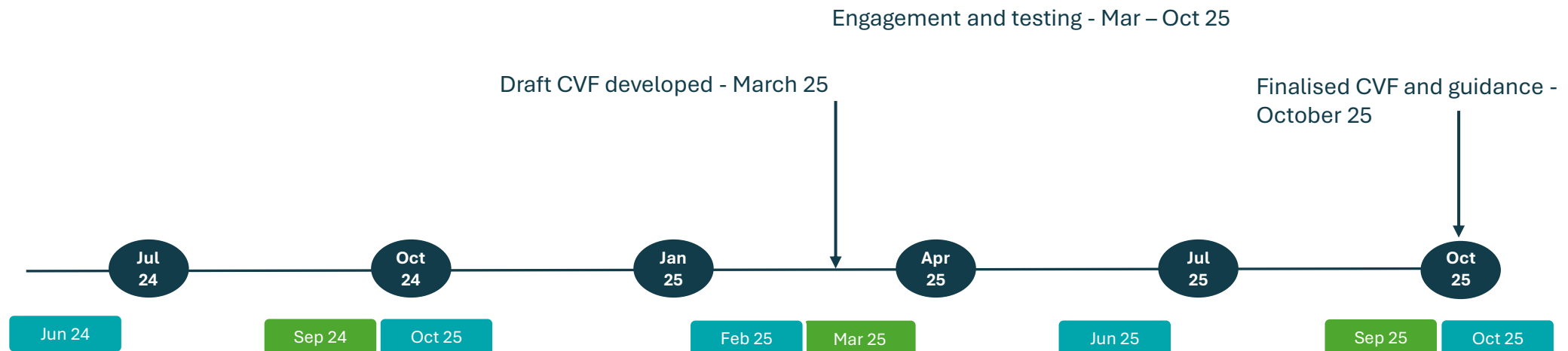
Common Value Framework

Capturing and valuing the benefits of NbS in a robust, consistent and comparable way



The Common Value Framework is a decision-support tool, enabling the assessment of different forms of value to ensure that broader impacts and opportunities are accounted for.

It can help promote nature-based or societally beneficial solutions – enabling more sustainable and better value investments





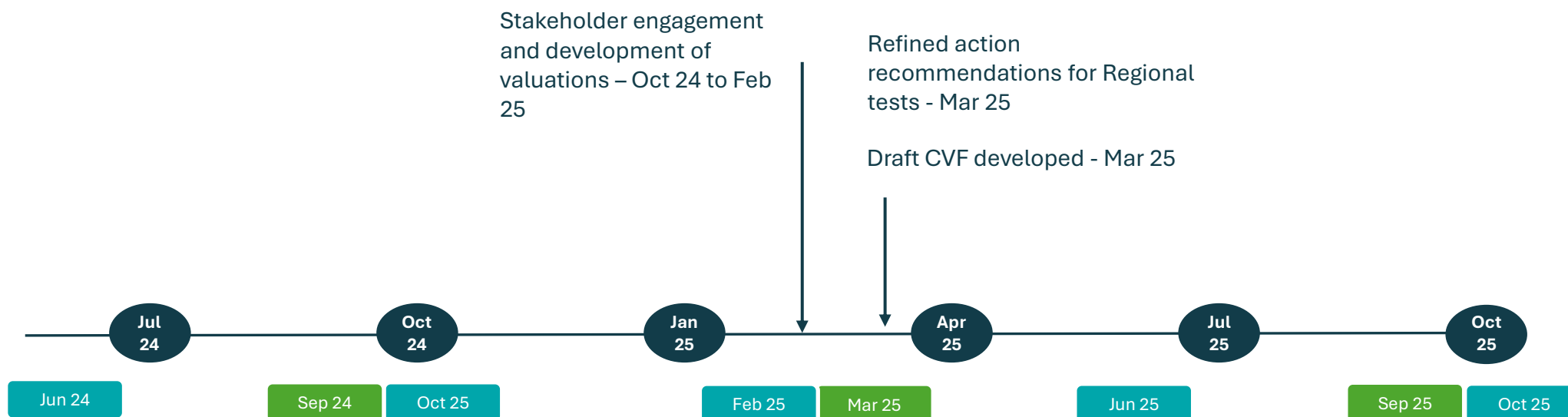
Collaboration

Enabling effective collaboration and engagement to ensure the programme can facilitate the mainstreaming of NbS.



Including:

- Consolidating efforts across all workstreams and identifying additional actions needed to achieve programme outcomes
- Forming and sustaining collaborative partnerships
- Fostering a cultural shift in support of NbS
- Engaging stakeholders through communication and dissemination



Programme stream map

