

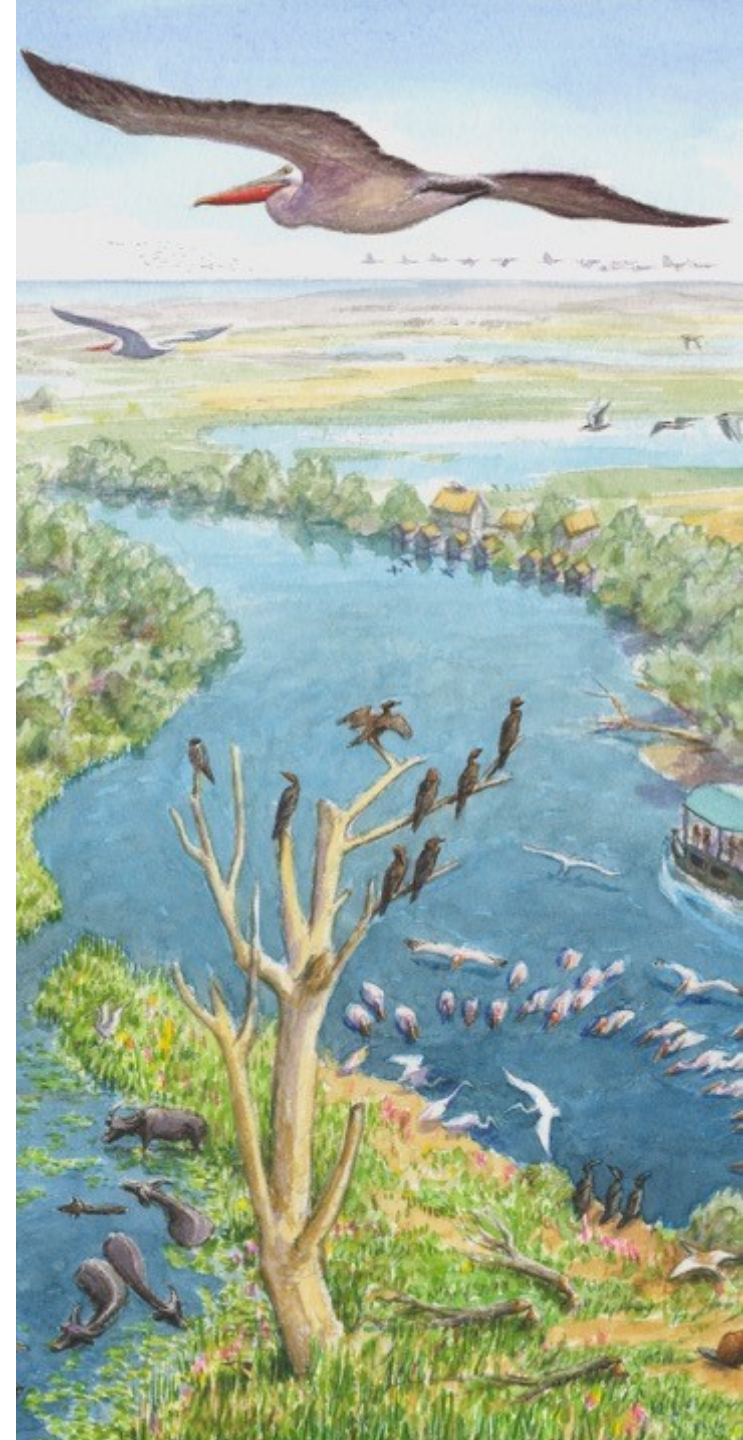
# Financial mechanisms to support dam removal

Helena Newell, Dam Removal Conference, May 2022



# AGENDA

1. Introduction to Rewilding Europe
2. RE's Dam Removal work
3. How to pay for dam removal?
4. Financial mechanisms
5. Policies, Legislation and Financial Arrangements
6. Testing financial mechanisms
7. Open Invitation
8. Questions



# 1. INTRODUCTION TO REWILDING EUROPE

- 9 Rewilding Landscapes
- >10 years of unique rewilding experience
- European team of > 160 people in > 17 countries, 8 local organisations set up
- Rewilding principles and models developed and rolled out
- European Rewilding Network with 77 members in 27 countries



**ADVANCING  
REWILDING  
IN EUROPE**

*Rewilding Europe's Strategic Plan for 2021–2030*

# 1. REWILDING: WHAT'S DIFFERENT?

- A new and positive appreciation of wild nature
- Biodiversity derived from natural processes
- Future oriented, learning from the past
- Huge potential to capture carbon and adapt through large-scale nature recovery
- Much more cost-effective, compared to recurrent management
- Progressive, moving up a scale of wildness



## 2. RE'S DAM REMOVAL FOCUS AREAS

### Across Europe

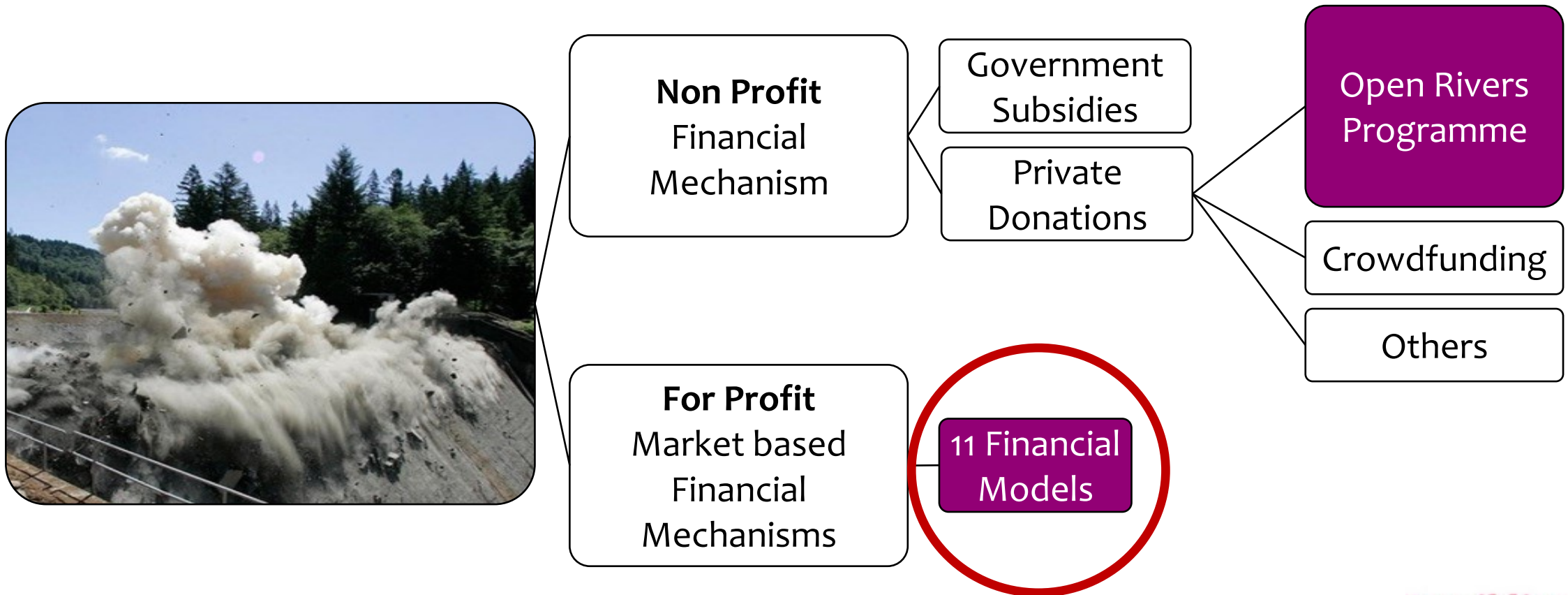
1. Development of Financial Mechanism for dam removal
2. Screening of Policy and Financial mechanism by country
3. Testing of financial models – ongoing work
  - a) Revolving Fund in Sweden
  - b) Searching for opportunities to test / refine models

### In Rewilding Landscapes

4. Identification and preparation of dams for removal
5. Removal of dams



### 3. DAM REMOVAL – HOW TO PAY FOR IT?



## 4. FINANCIAL MECHANISMS

1. Revolving Fund
2. Hydropower offsetting
3. Sediment solutions
4. The sand engine
5. Buying/obtaining dams/rights
6. Support specialized dam removal company
7. New fish economies
8. Biodiversity offsets
9. Small hydropower to wind conversion
10. Improving water quality
11. Sales of land after dam removal

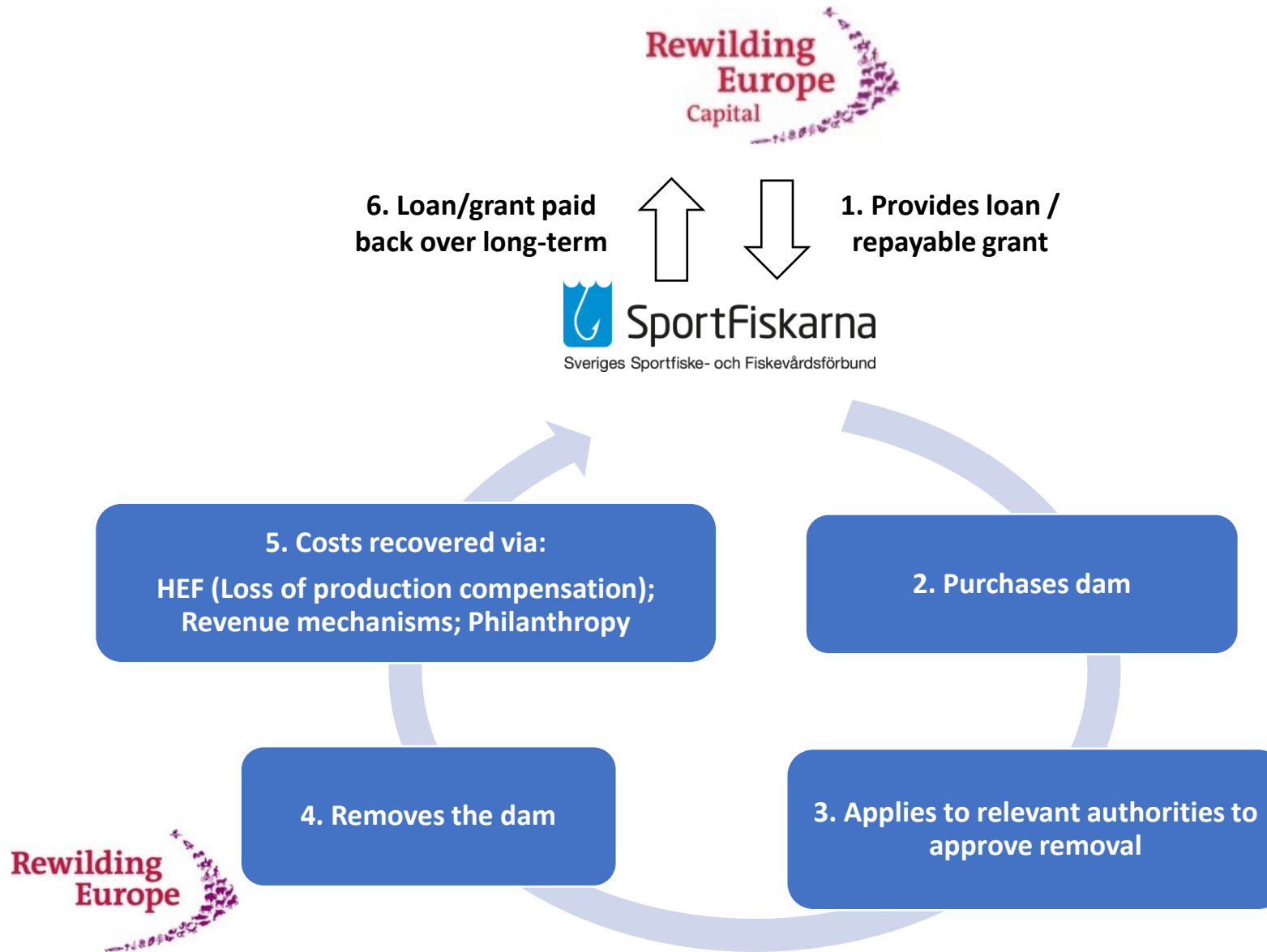


## 5. POLICIES, LEGISLATION AND FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- An overview on a country-by-country basis has been created for relevant policies, legislation and financial arrangements for dam removal across European Countries.
- The overview includes a qualitative description as well as a rating (from very supportive to very counterproductive) to each country.
- Denmark, Finland, Lithuania and Sweden are among those rated very supportive. Greece, Norway and Slovenia were identified as those with counter-productive policies.



## 6a. REVOLVING FUND (TEST CASE SWEDEN)



1. Resolves upfront **cashflow issues** of implementing entity
2. Loan conditions are **aligned with business plan** for the removal and associated sources of revenue (e.g. repayment period of 5 years or more)
3. Allows partners to **carry financial risk jointly** but this sharing is aligned with business model of each entity (NGO, Company, government entity, etc)
4. Revolving fund creates an **incentive** for implementing parties to **diversify sources of revenues** linked to, or arising from dam removal
5. RE working with SportFiskarna in the establishment of additional revenue streams, based on the 11 concepts

## 6a. CALL FOR PARTNERS TO INVESTIGATE REVOLVING FUND FURTHER

- We are investigating the potential to create a revolving fund to support dam removal across Europe.
- We want to understand:
  - Countries / regions where this could work
  - Demand for such a structure
  - Revenue / repayment mechanisms
  - Impact
- The aim is to ensure that any fund created directly addresses the requirements needed to support dam removals.

QUESTION: ARE YOU INTERESTED TO DISCUSS THIS IDEA FURTHER WITH US?

## 6b. Testing financial mechanisms

1. Revolving Fund
2. Hydropower offsetting
3. Sediment solutions
4. The sand engine
5. Buying/obtaining dams/rights
6. Support specialized dam removal company
7. New fish economies
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## 6b. CALL FOR PARTNERS

Do you have a dam you want to remove and don't know how to pay for it?

We are searching for partners:

- Identified dams for removal to investigate with us investigate if these financial models can work.
- Interested to invest / co-fund with grants.

Need for pre-finance?

(e.g. are there subsidies in place but payments only in arrears?)

Are there local offsetting needs?

Who will benefit from the dam removal?

Will they contribute?

Who is liable for the of dam?

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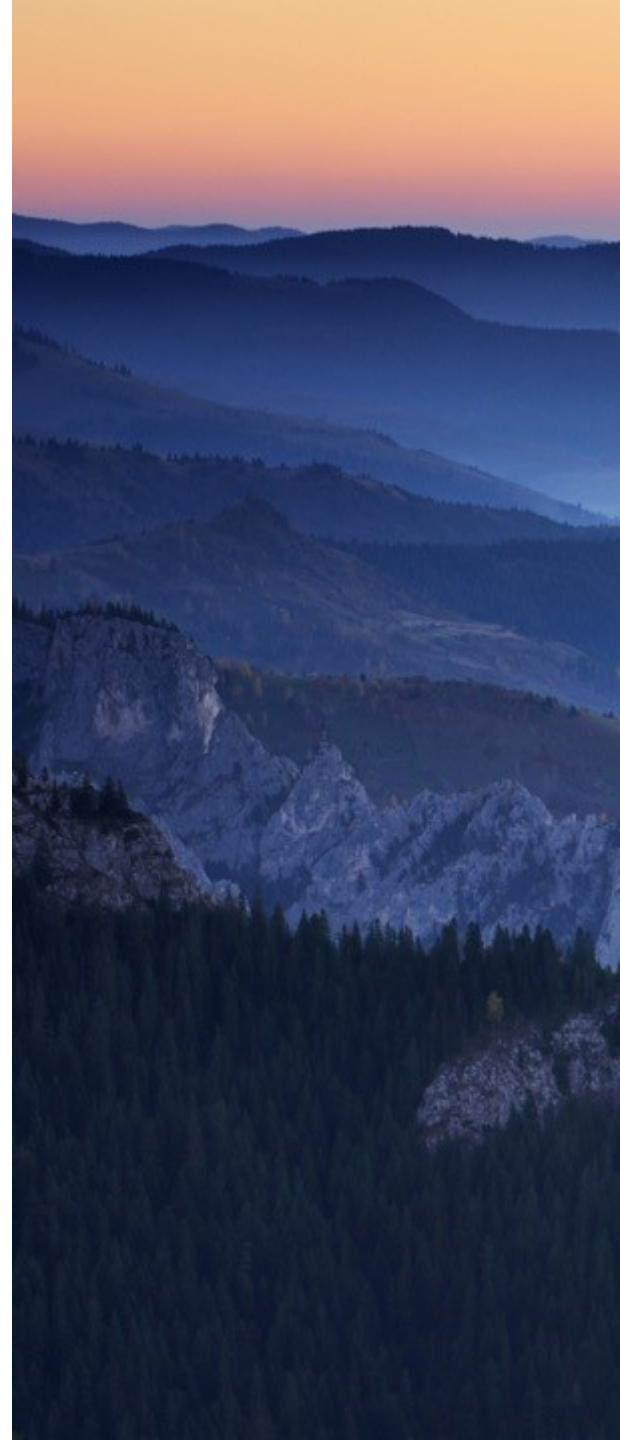
More cost effective to remove?

Are there circular economy opportunities from the removal?

## 7.OPEN INVITATION FOR COLLABORATION

- Rewilding Europe wants to collaborate to take forward and scale up dam removal.
- Please get in touch if you want to discuss further.

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Thank you