



Natural
Environment
Research Council

Scaling up restoration in the Solent Sussex Bay area

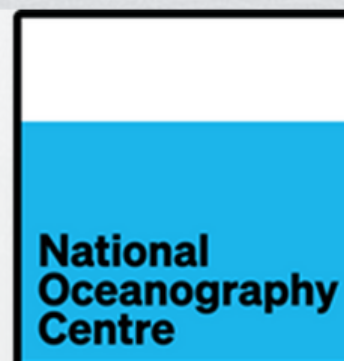
DR KAROLINA SKALSKA, RESEARCH FELLOW (UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH)

SOLENT FORUM, 11/10/2023



SEASCAPE RESTORATION
RESEARCH NETWORK

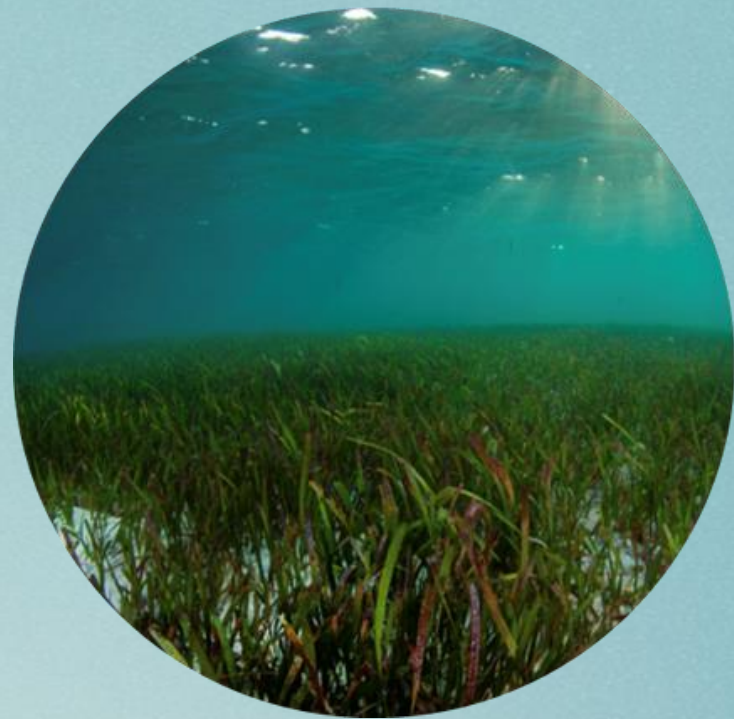
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The Solent to Sussex Bay area: habitats



Seagrass meadows

Down by 90% in the Solent

Blue Marine Foundation, 2022



Kelp forests

Down by 96% in Sussex Bay

Sussex Wildlife Trust, 2023



Saltmarshes

Down by 50% in the Solent

Blue Marine Foundation, 2022

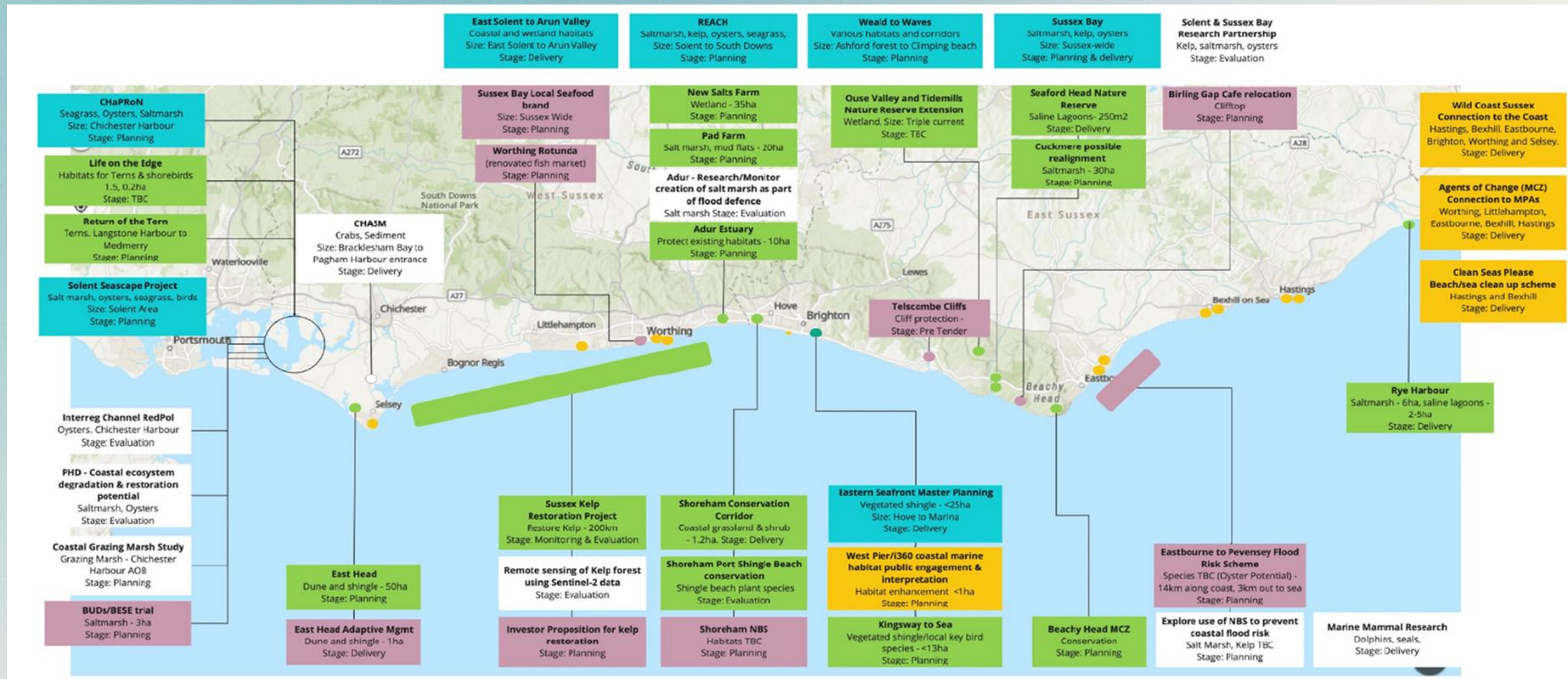


Oyster beds

Down by 95% in the Solent

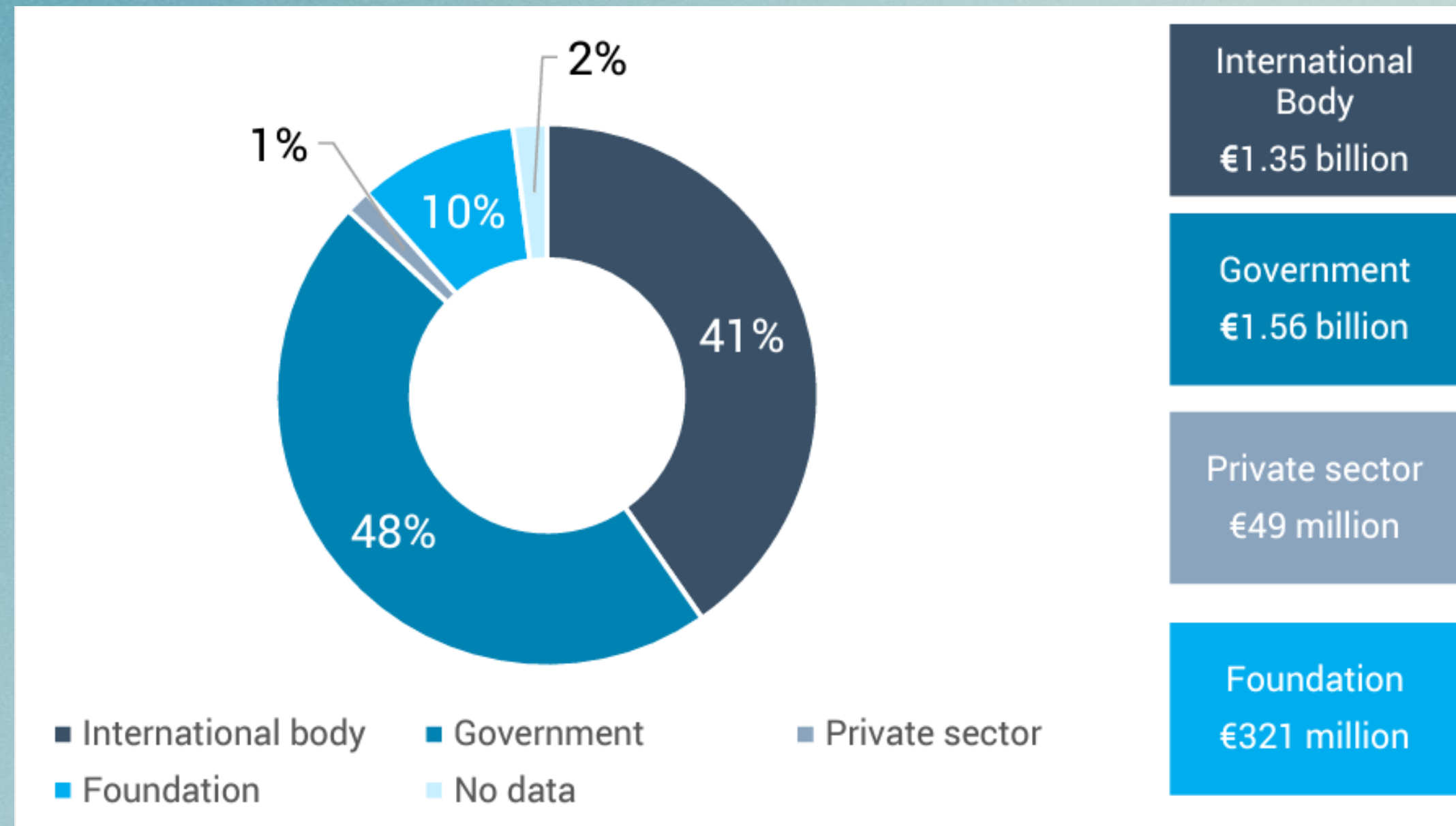
Blue Marine Foundation, 2022

Solent to Sussex Bay area: restoration projects



Solent to Sussex Bay area: restoration funding

- Most local projects funded by philanthropy over 3 - 5 years
- Current way of funding insufficient to address the scale of the challenge
- Few opportunities = competition between local projects



Restoration funding worldwide
(UNEP, 2023)

Coastal restoration: incentives for private investment



SUPPORTING LOCAL ECONOMIES



SAFEGUARDING SUPPLY CHAINS



PUBLIC SCRUTINY



HIGH COST OF INACTION

Seascape Restoration Research Network

Local expertise

A network of over 80 restoration stakeholders

Interviews & workshops

Qualitative data collection

Co-producing a strategy

Integrating private finance into coastal restoration



SEASCAPE RESTORATION
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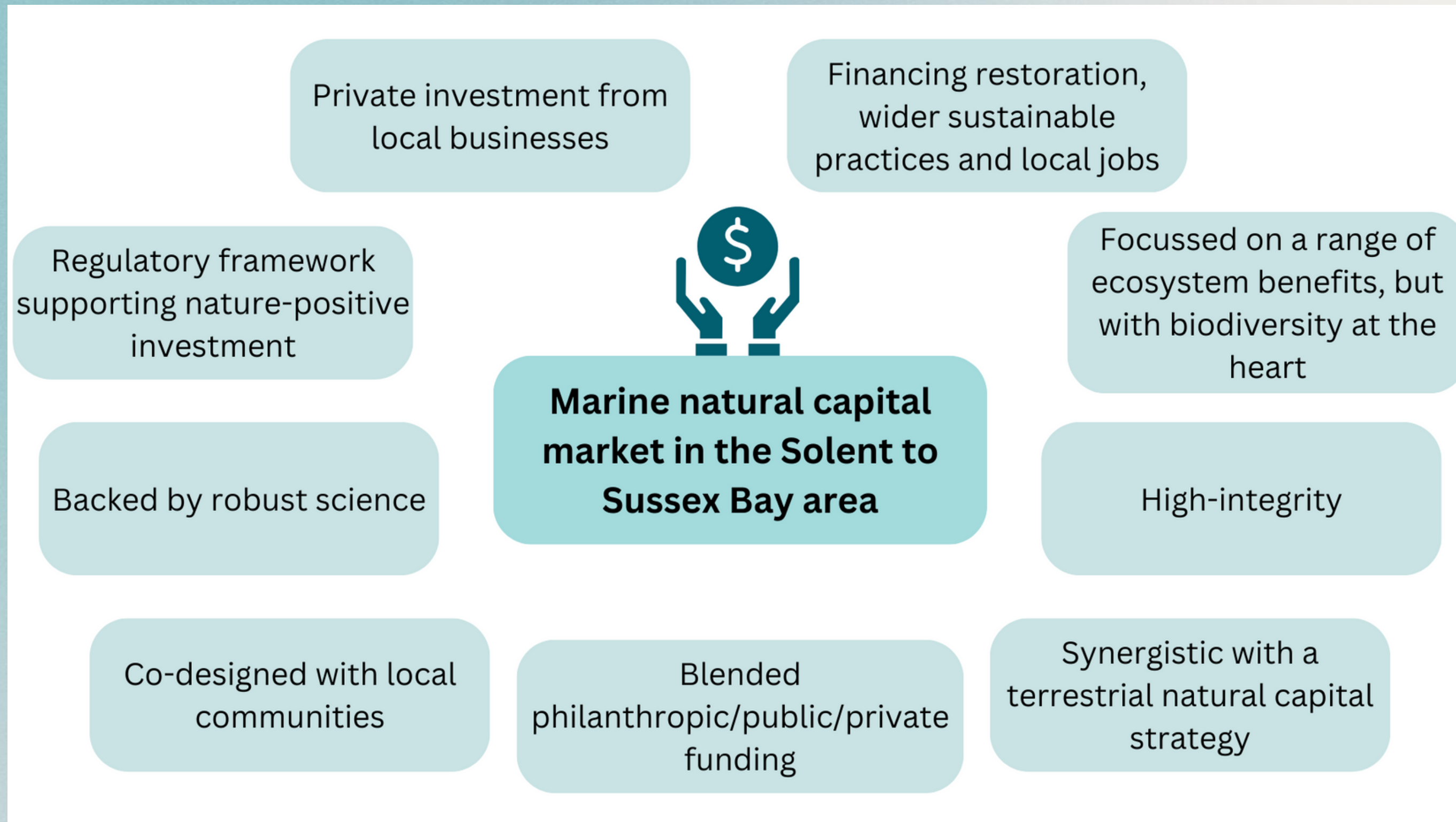
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1. Create a shared vision



2. Improve comms & knowledge sharing



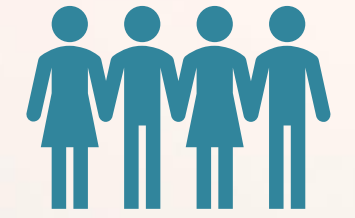
Insufficient communication

- Risk of duplicated efforts
- Competition over funding opportunities



A database of local coastal restoration projects

3. Engage with local communities



Community support:

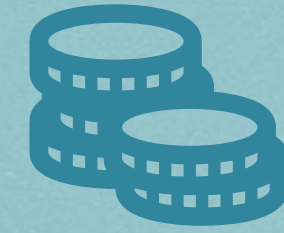
- Citizens = a source of knowledge
- Increased pressure on policymakers and investors
- A way of offsetting the high cost of coastal restoration

Barriers include:

- Poor visibility of marine ecosystems
- Physical access
- Health & safety
- Time & financial constraints
- Perceived victimisation



4. Understand investor needs



UNCERTAINTY OVER THE SUCCESS OF RESTORATION

- No consistent restoration methods
- Influence of natural/human impacts
- Co-produce robust metrics of success

LACK OF COMMERCIAL VIABILITY OF RESTORATION PROJECTS

- Projects too new and too small-scale to be commercially viable
 - Revenue potential not yet demonstrated
- Understand the baseline value of ecosystem services beyond carbon

FEAR OF REPUTATIONAL RISK

- Learn from terrestrial Voluntary Carbon Markets to establish a high integrity marine natural capital market



Compromise, honesty & managing expectations

5. Develop a supportive regulatory framework for coastal restoration



Reform & streamline marine licensing

- designed to *avoid harm* rather than achieve a net environmental benefit
- challenging to navigate, time- and resource-consuming
 - clearer guidelines & multi-agency agreements

Incentivise nature-positive investment

- eliminate subsidies/incentives that harm coastal biodiversity
- make investment into restoration more attractive

6. Bring in innovation



Helps to achieve scale



Forms an attractive 'hook' for investment

Next steps...



SEASCAPE RESTORATION
RESEARCH NETWORK

- Final workshop summary to be shared with Network members
- National workshops
- Scan the QR code to keep up to date



Feedback/questions? Email karolina.skalska@port.ac.uk

Thank you!