



# Co-creation: Inclusive Processes for Collaborative Actions

ALFAwetlands training course March 2026

Maria Tengö, Stockholm University/Wageningen University

Erik Andersson, Stockholm University/University of Helsinki

Iryna Shchoka, European Wilderness Society

Marie Lorenz & Sophie Hirschelmann, Michael Succow Foundation

# Basic session rules

- **Session is being recorded**
- *Start/stop your camera at your convenience*
- Rename yourself for Certification tracking
- Keep your microphones muted unless invited to speak
- Only trainer/host/group leader is sharing screen
- Stay on topic - keep chat messages relevant to the session
- Contribute to Padlet during Homework
- Write your questions or comments in the chat – we will address them according to Agenda



**Thank you!**

# Training overview



## Three sessions:

1: Setting up a living lab	March 12 <sup>th</sup>	09.00 – 12.00 , CET
<b>2: Bringing plural actors together</b>	<b>March 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>13.00 – 16.00, CET</b>
3: Inclusive integrated strategies for action	March 26 <sup>th</sup>	13.00 – 16.00, CET

# Session structure



Re-cap and introduction of the day	13.00-13.10
Break out group discussions - homework	13.10-14.00
Some theory with Q&A	14.00-14.30
<b>Break</b>	<b>14.30-14.45</b>
Practice – intro	14.45-15.05
Practice – questions and discussion	15.05-15.40
Introduce homework	15.40-15.50
Wrap up and reflection exercise	15.50-16.00

# Co-creation: Inclusive Processes for Collaborative Actions

## Session 2: Bringing plural actors together

ALFAwetlands training session 2

# Goal of today



- Joint reflection on actors and “coalition for change”
- Introduction to theory on bringing actors, knowledge and values together
- Relating together
- “Walking workshops” as a tool – design and practice

# Recap: Theory

- Co-creation and Living Labs
- Landscape/social-ecological systems perspective
- Systems thinking for pluralism – actors, knowledge, values

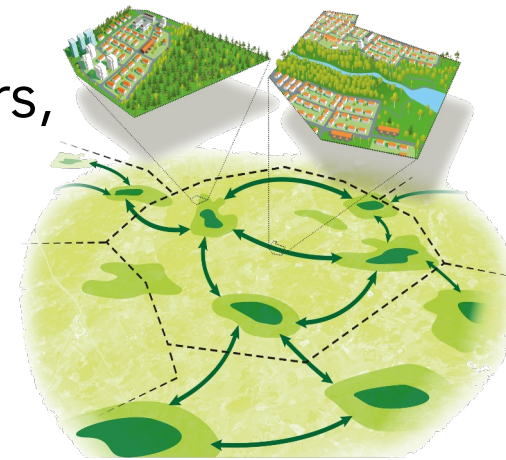
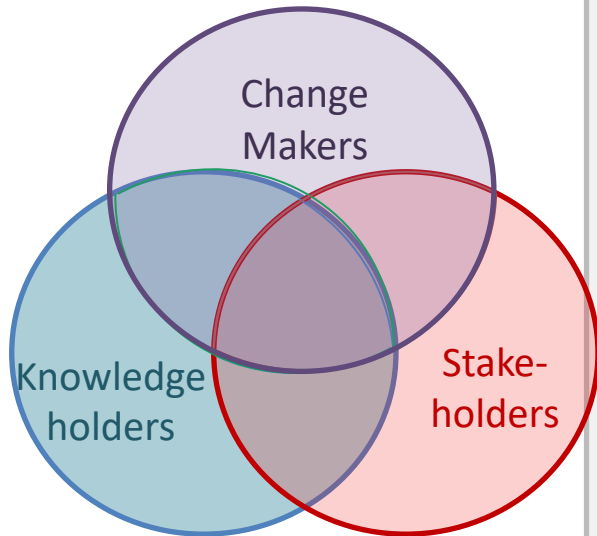


Illustration Jakob Robertsson,  
Swedish EPA



# Recap: Design



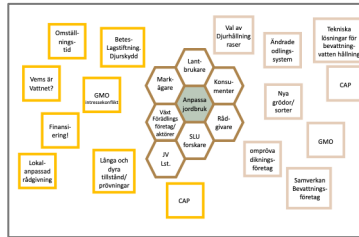
## PREPARATION

Baseline mapping of actors and their respective knowledges



“Coalition for change”

### Workshop 1: Social-ecological systems mapping



## IMPLEMENTATION

Broad knowledge base

Place-based encounters and stories

Collective action

Individual and collective change-making

### Workshop 2: Field visits and landscape walks

### Workshop 3: Scenario thinking and strategies development

## EVALUATION

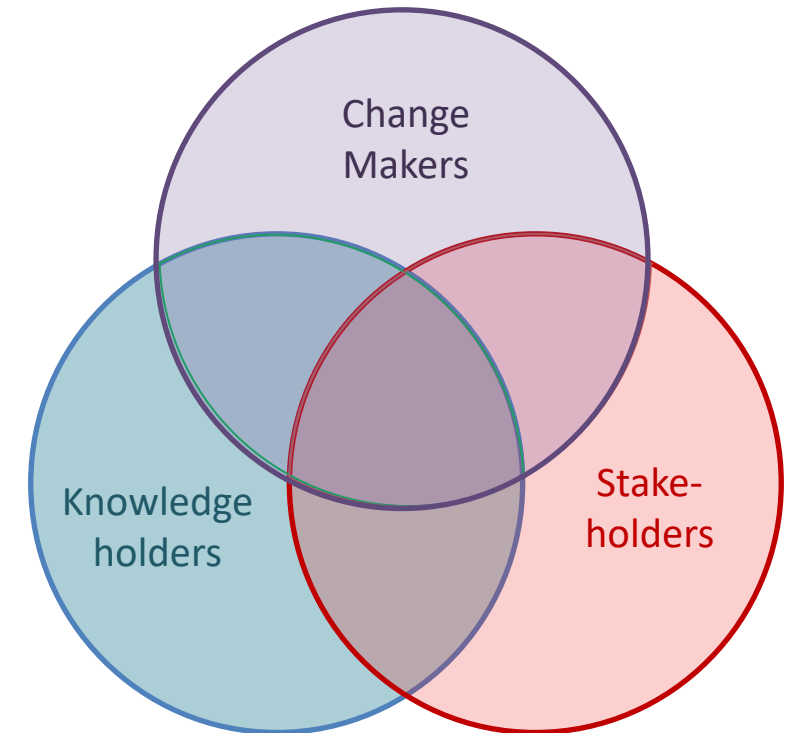
Process-embedded, reflexive evaluation

# Break-out group discussion on homework: "coalition for change"

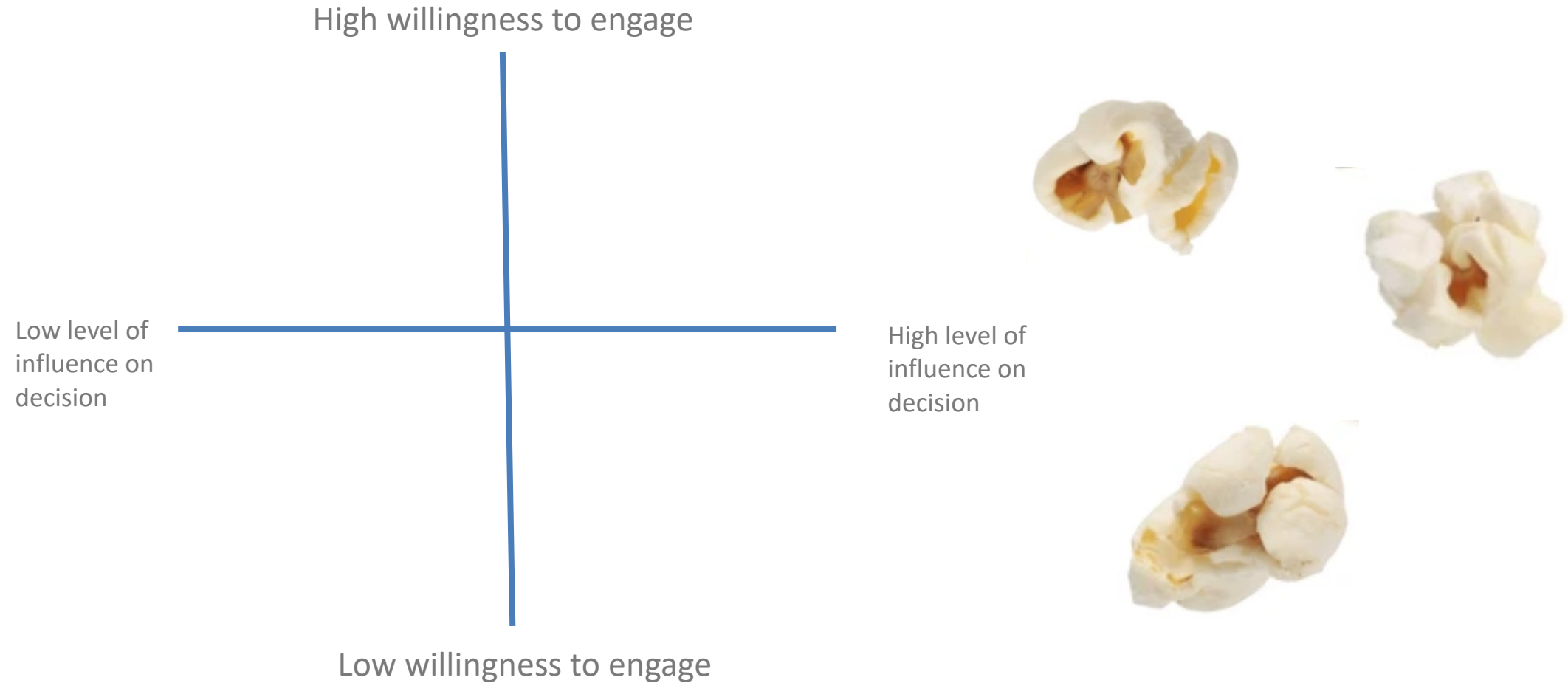
Instruction:

In break-out groups.

1. Briefly present your "coalition" and motivate how it will contribute to action/change. Make a round of 2-3 min per person – without comments!  
Decide on one person to be in charge of timing!  
(15 min)
2. Open discussion – reflect on how you have been using the three ways of thinking about actors  
(15 min)
3. Share reflections in plenary (10 min)



# Popcorn sharing



# Theory: Bringing plural actors together



- Modes and purpose of knowledge co-production
- Systems, target, operational knowledge
- The role of the landscape

# What is the focus in your living lab/process?

- Generating knowledge vs. democratic participation?
- Securing support for specific interventions vs. open ended engagement?



(Chambers et al. 2021)

# Plural knowledge for action

**Systems knowledge:** about ecological and social factors and their interactions

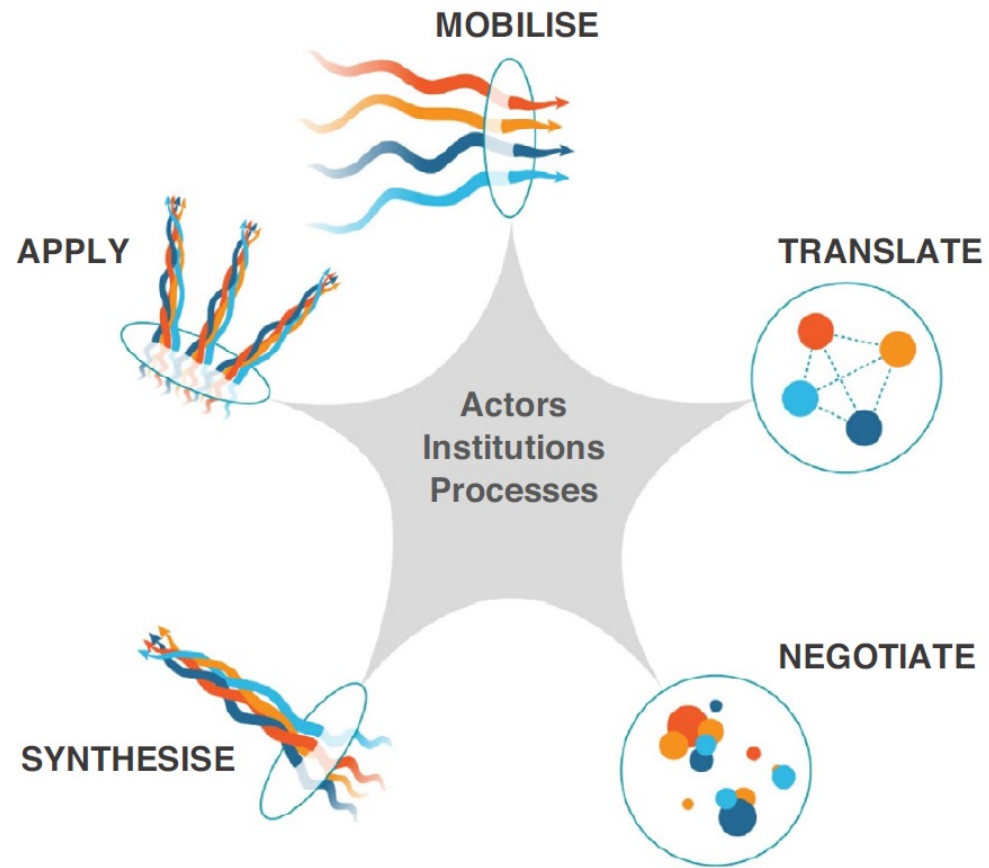
**Target knowledge:** about different aspirations and perceptions of what are desired goals

**Operational knowledge:** how to implement, influence and contribute to change

(Hadorn et al. 2006, Jerneck et al. 2010, Brandt et al. 2013)



# Tasks for harnessing pluralism



Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability



Tengö et al 2017

# Nature/landscape as an actor?

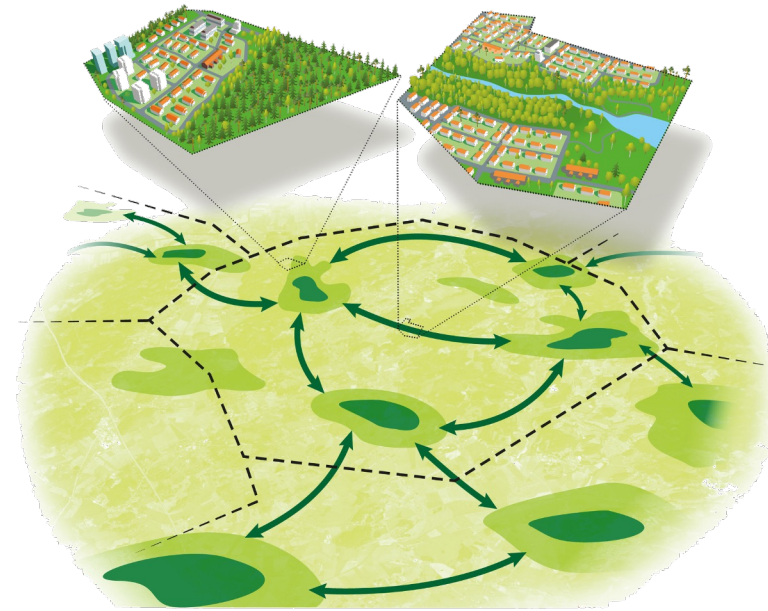


Illustration Jakob Robertsson, Swedish EPA



# Questions or comments!



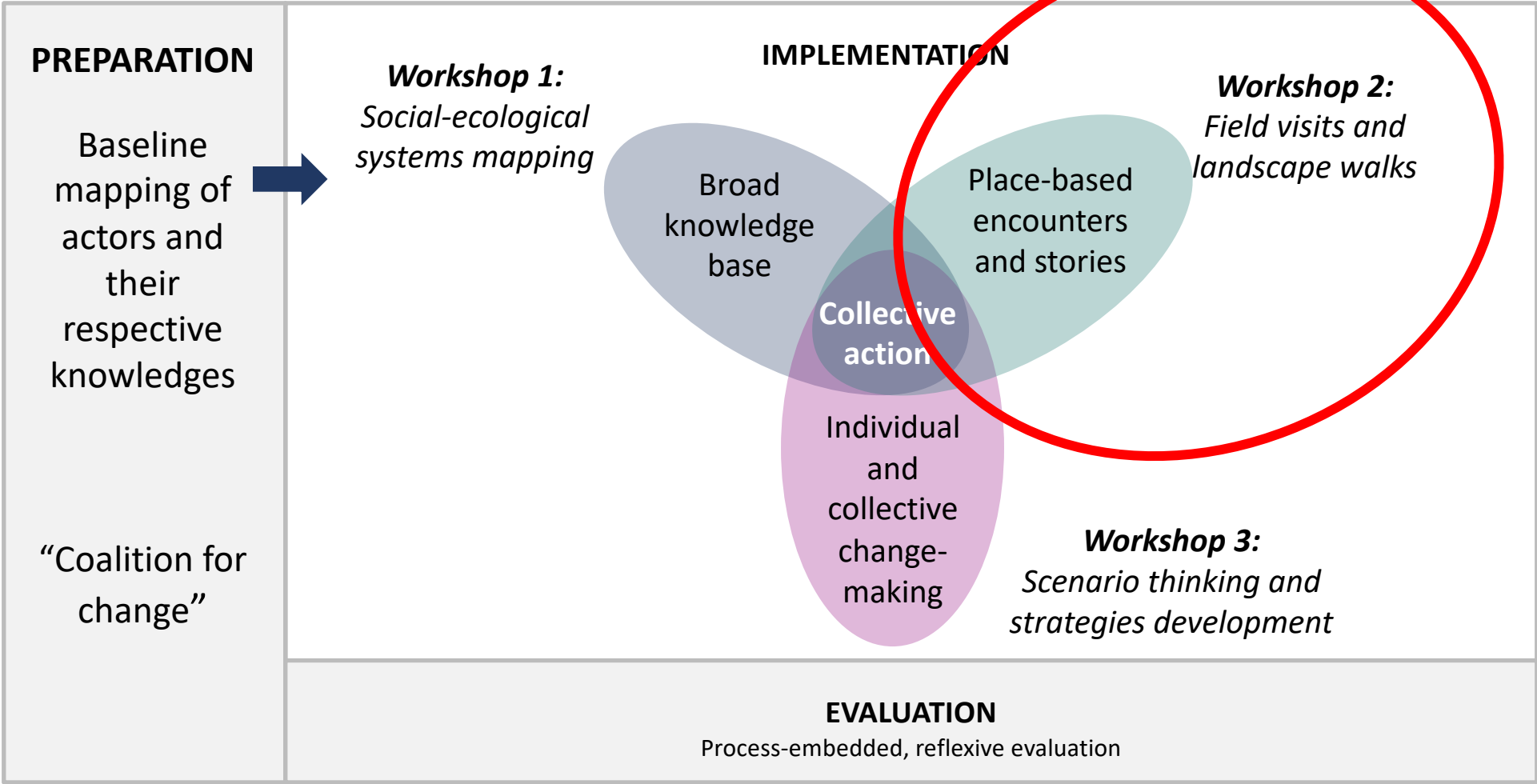
# 15 min break!



# Practice

- Process design for connecting plural actors and knowledges
- Design and implementation of walking workshop
- Discuss experiences

# Process design for connecting plural actors and knowledge



Seiferth et al. 2024

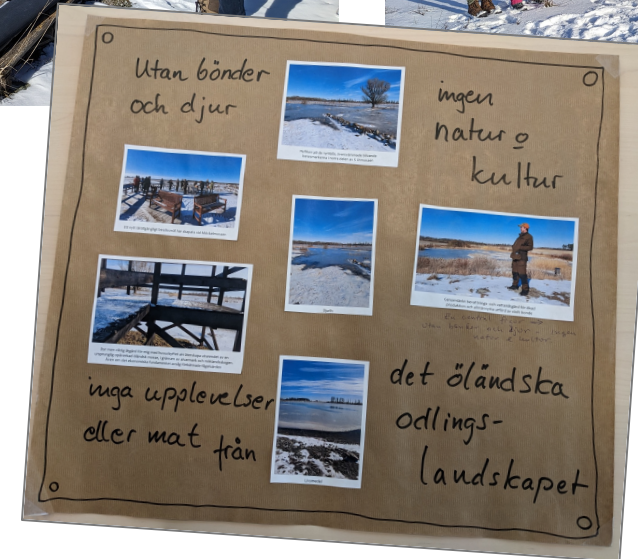
# Process design: Workshop 2

Field visits and landscape walks

## Goals:

- (1) weaving different knowledges
- (2) mobilizing care, and
- (3) mobilizing (perceived) individual and collective agency

Seiferth et al. 2024, 2025



# Case example Upper Peene Valley

A closer look onto walking workshops

↙ Landscape  
Walks

brought to you by...



Marie Lorenz



Sophie  
Hirschelmann



Partner im

GREIFSWALD  
MOOR  
CENTRUM

Based on project results of MoKli & ALFAwetlands. In collaboration with model and demonstration project MOOReturn

Gefördert durch:



aufgrund eines Beschlusses des Deutschen Bundestages





Where is the Peene Valley?



Key Stakeholders & participatory formats



Landscape walks



Q & A



Reflection on the format

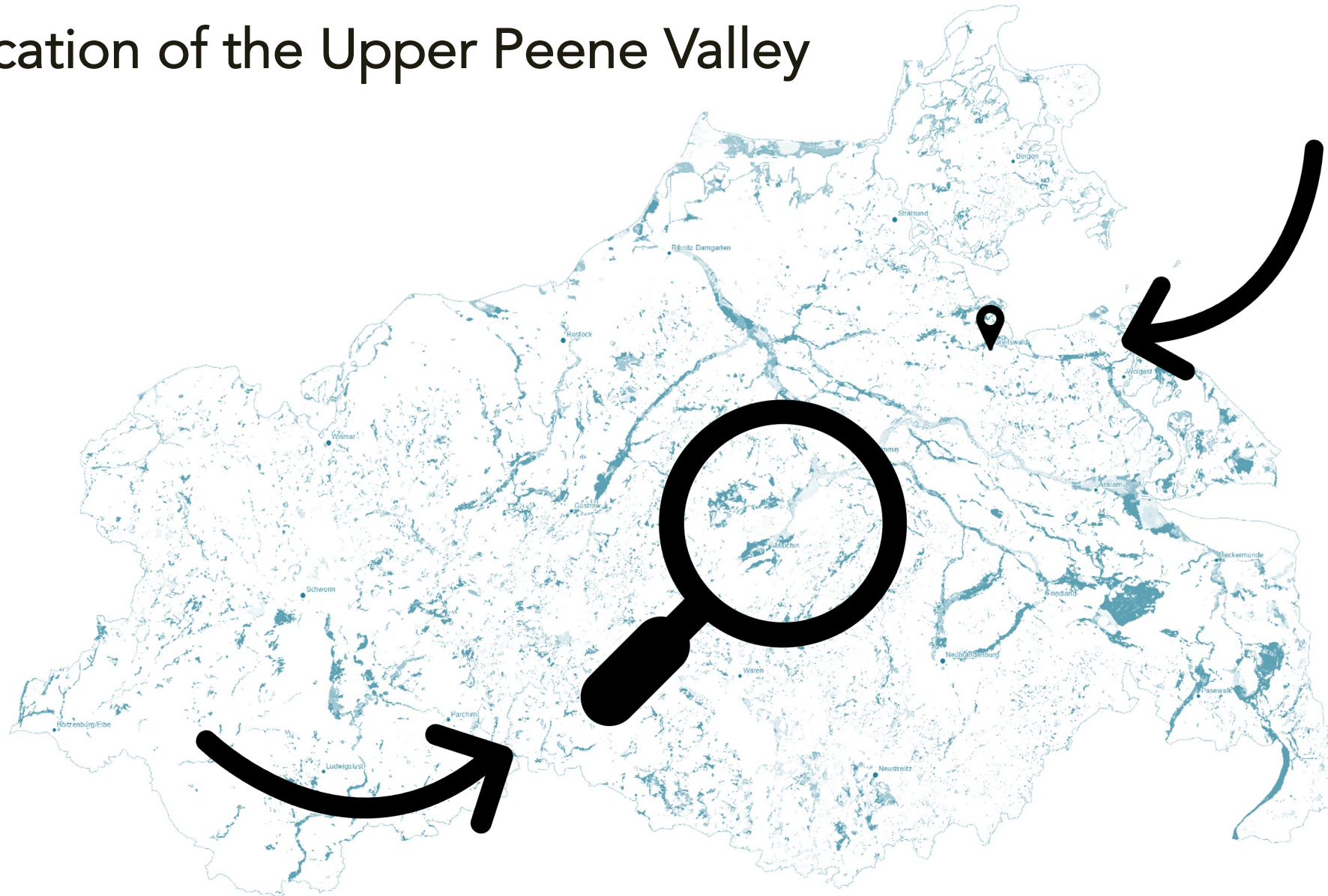


# peatland-rich north of Germany...

■ Peatlands



# Location of the Upper Peene Valley



Geodatengrundlage:  
Moore laut KBK25 (moore\_kbk25) (Stand: 11/2016), LUNG.  
Küstenüberflutungsmoore in M-V (kuemo17\_f) (Stand: 11/2017), LUNG.  
Biototypenkartierung 2013-15 (bk\_kart1315) (Stand: 08/2017), LUNG.  
Gesetzlich geschützte Biotope (bk1\_mv15) (Stand: 2015), LUNG.  
Biotop- und Nutzungstypenkartierung (Basis: CIR 1991) (bnk\_f) (Stand: 01/2012), LUNG.  
Digitale Verwaltungsgrenzen Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (DVG) (09/2015), LaiV.  
Wiedervermessungskulisse M-V (moore\_wv) (Stand: 12/2016), GMC.

 0 25 50 100 Kilometer



ca. 15.000 ha fen complexes

S. Hirschelmann

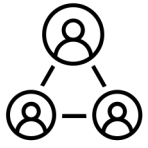


predominantly meadows, often drained

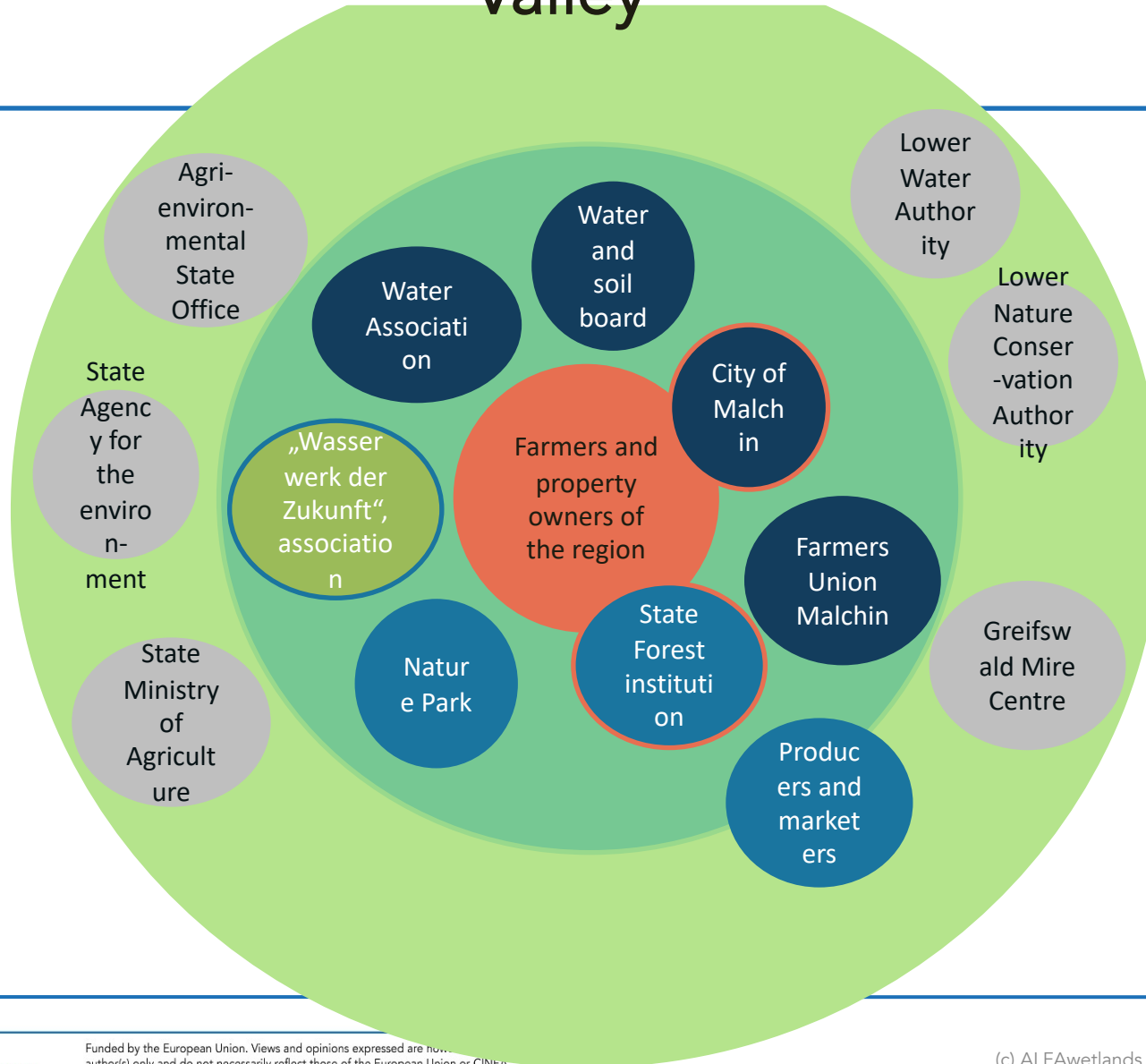


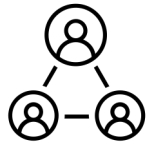
wet meadow use at Lake Kummerow





# Key stakeholders in the Upper Peene Valley





# Long-term commitment to the region since 2019



- Support of local strategy development and policy-making
  - Future scenario workshop
  - Feasibility studies for rewetting of sites
- Awareness raising and dialogue
  - Capacity building, e.g. for local peatland managers
  - Organisation of „Landscape walks“ (trust-building and cooperation)
  - Public information and cultural events related to peatlands
- Bring decision makers to the field
  - Field days on rewetted and paludiculture sites with practitioners and decision makers from different levels
  - Guided visits of members of EU and German parliament





Walking the landscape



# The “landscape walk” as a dialogue format

- diverse group of landscape actors with different positions, perspectives & demands on the landscape comes together locally to address a specific issue
- typical issues: e.g. groundwater protection, climate and peatland protection, regenerative agriculture, water retention in agriculture and forestry
- proved in practice to be one way of highlighting and questioning different aims and objectives together, focusing on a specific landscape section
- Walking is a shared experience, a joint undertaking: “melt the ice” between people and strengthen relationships
  - enables to engage with “the others” in a different way and become willing to listen to their views, needs and wishes
- → creates a space in which new possibilities for action can open up

*Berghöfer (2025): “How do we talk and negotiate with each other?”*

→ DOI: <https://doi.org/10.14512/9783987264795> (in German)



**Dr. Uta Berghöfer**  
(c) ALFAwetlands – [www.alfawetlands.eu](http://www.alfawetlands.eu)



# Organization & Structure I



## Group

- composition of the group: relevant landscape stakeholders; broad spectrum of positions; conflict & “uncomfortable” voices
- tactical decision: Who will invite attendees? At best, a neutral party
- size of the group: must be large enough, but at the same time not too large: to ensure that each participant has sufficient opportunity to speak and be heard
- → group size of around 20 people proves feasible

## Route

- covers various aspects of the landscape
- pre-selected stations for stops
- should not be too short, to get moving and go through different phases of conversation; enough variety to provide different conversation starters
- → total length of ~ 4 km, about 3 hours to walk has proven successful



# Organization & Structure II



## Facilitation and flow

- moderation team: accompanies walk & ensures quality of discussions
- before the walk: round of introductions
- on the way: discussion groups form spontaneously and informally; flexibility to choose one's own discussion partners & to enter into and end dialogues on one's own terms creates liveliness
- at several stations: input statements from different perspectives with the opportunity to ask questions and discuss
- → lively, informal and relaxed conversation is repeatedly highlighted as a positive feature – compared to conferences, etc. in closed rooms





# Organization & Structure III



## Closing

- wrap up the event together: asking a question that summarises the day, e.g.:
  - What was your key insight of the day?
  - What will you take away from today's walk?
- end a walk: a small meal together, for example soup or coffee, rounds off the walk
  - way to warm up in cold weather
  - enhances interpersonal encounters and provides additional opportunities for conversations



# Time for questions





# Reflection on the format

I



## Connection & openness

- connection to your “travel companions” – having common goal
- can foster willingness to listen to other perspectives and different positions
- acknowledge gaps in your own thinking and knowledge more consciously

## Concreteness

- different quality of conversation emerges via concrete observation on site: all contribute different but complementary perspectives to the discussion, including technical and factual input
- arising questions can be addressed immediately on the spot
- abstract goals (nature conservation, climate protection, water retention, etc.) are “grounded”, “localized” and discussed in a very concrete way in the local context
- concrete phenomena can also be used to perform a “reality check”: entire landscape is viewed across sectors, reflecting various interests involved
- controversies are not avoided, but accepted as a part of the process



# Reflection on the format II



## Basic attitude for joint knowledge production on equal terms

- not one expert teaching the others – everyone is an expert in their own perspective & equally valued
- no one can claim sole authority to interpret what they see
- practical knowledge and hands-on experience is just as important as theoretical, official or academic knowledge
- joint learning and appreciative attitude towards different areas of expertise

## Cooperation and mutual appreciation

- willingness to act cooperatively can rise: finding solutions can become more multi-layered if we learn about and from each other during concrete discussions and negotiations
- walking together also helps people to encounter each other as whole human beings: experience new facets of each other beyond their roles and functions.
- casual and informal format promotes curiosity and flexibility: new space of possibilities emerges in which everyone does not necessarily abandon their point of view but approaches the others as far as possible
- → joint solutions can be searched for that can create sustainable, multifunctional landscapes

Marie Lorenz

[marie.lorenz@succow-stiftung.de](mailto:marie.lorenz@succow-stiftung.de)

Sophie Hirschelmann

[sophie.hirschelmann@succow-stiftung.de](mailto:sophie.hirschelmann@succow-stiftung.de)

Michael Succow Foundation

Partner in the Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC)

[www.greifswaldmoor.de](http://www.greifswaldmoor.de)

Living Lab Upper Peene Valley



# Questions or comments!

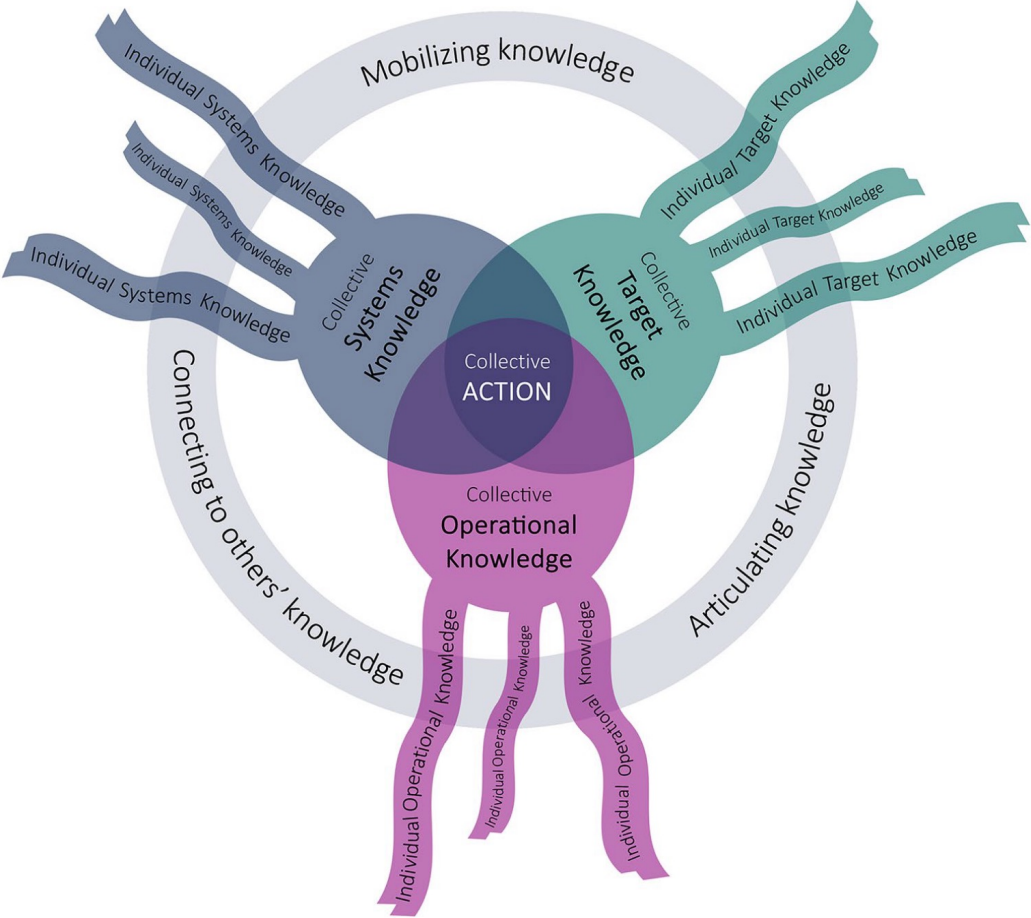




# Reflections



# Landscape for mobilizing, articulating, connecting



Seiferth et al. 2024

# Homework: place visit

If possible: visit a site that could be relevant for a walking workshop!

If not: visit a place with nature.

Reflect and journal.

Take pictures.



# Homework: place visit

## Task 1:

In that place, walk around in silence. Reflect and write down:

- What does this place mean to you?
- What happens to you when you are here? What do you feel?
- Who has been involved in care and management of this place?



## Task 2:

Take a photo that represents what the place means to you. Paste on padlet together with a caption and a motivation of why you chose this picture <https://padlet.com/appelkindad/alfa-wetlands-online-training-homework-session-2-txzevt8h30ayribx>

Note: no need to describe the place or give location. Focus on meaning and emotions.

# Wrap up: Bringing plural actors together



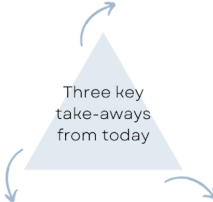
- Walking in place together as a useful approach
- Values of listening to other stories – shifting perspectives on each other
- Knowledge + values/emotions/meaning → exploring shared agency for action

# Reflection exercise

- Three key take-aways from today
- What still spins around in your head
- What is now really squared away

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Three key take-aways from today



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

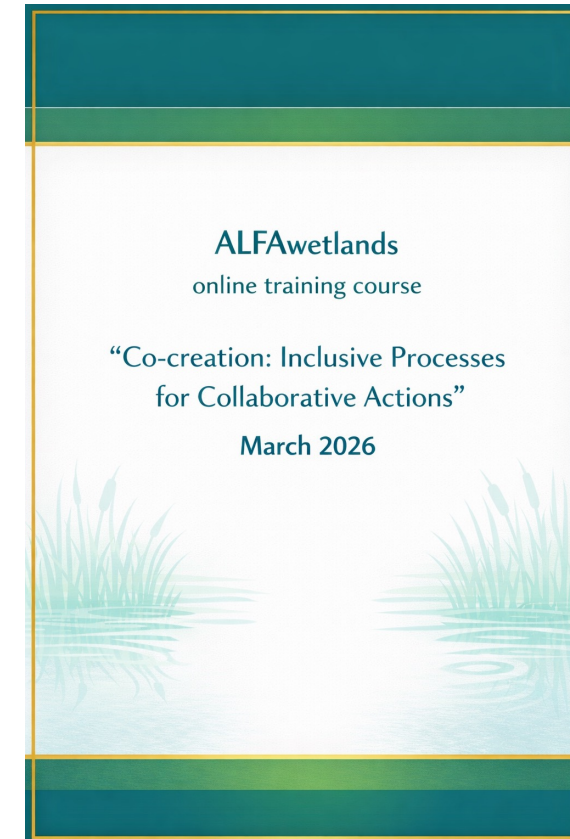
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What still spins around in your head?

What is now really squared away?

# Certificate of Attendance

- Participants who attend all three sessions and
- Complete the required homework



# Key resources

The ALFAwetlands co-creation workbook:



New website page:

## ALFAwetlands Co-creation training course

Within ALFAwetlands, we developed and launched the online training course "Inclusive processes for collaborative actions." The course is led by Stockholm University, ALFAwetlands partner and Work Package 2 leader, with contributions from another ALFAwetlands partner – Michael Succow Foundation. Its overall organisation and communication are coordinated by the European Wilderness Society, leader of ALFAwetlands Work Package 6. The training course incorporates also highlights from the ALFAwetlands [Living Labs](#).



The Course consists of three sessions:

### Session 1, Setting up a Living Lab

This session focused on the introduction to co-creation and inclusive wetland restoration, context of the "Living Lab", and practice of knowledge co-creation. The session began with participant introductions through a Padlet wall, followed by presentations on co-creation theory and practice using a social-ecological systems approach. The trainers explained their methodology of organizing three workshops focusing on socio-ecological systems mapping, landscape walks, and action planning, using the case study of [Living Lab, Öland in Sweden](#). The session concluded with plans for participants to practice the system mapping exercise in breakout rooms, with group leaders facilitating using Miro boards. Participants were also encouraged to further develop their skills through homework assignments.



### Session 2, Bringing plural actors together

# Thank you for today!

See you next week: March 26<sup>th</sup> at 13.00 – 16.00 !

# Join ALFAwetlands



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