

# Project: Yggdrasil - The Living Nordic City

## 1. Project name

### Project Name

Yggdrasil – The Living Nordic City

## 2. Participants

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### 3. Summary of the Project

The Nordic Cities Nature-Based Solutions Project is a pivotal initiative within the Nordic Council of Ministers' comprehensive program to achieve Vision 2030 – making the Nordic Region the most sustainable and integrated region in the World. Focused on promoting nature-based solutions in Nordic cities, the project centers on the 3-30-300 principle, which is a rule of thumb for urban trees and greening, emphasizing biodiversity, climate adaptation, and public health. As the final phase of a thematic program, it follows literature synthesis, pilot projects, and guidelines for implementation.

The 3-30-300 principle provides clear criteria for the minimum provision of urban trees in our urban communities: all citizens shall be able to see 3 trees from their home; there should be 30 percent tree canopy cover in every neighbourhood; there should be 300 metres from the nearest public park or green space.

This project aims to evaluate the 3-30-300 principle's effectiveness in enhancing biological diversity, climate resilience, and public health, with a specific focus on native tree species. A key objective is to establish a collaborative network among Nordic cities, fostering the preservation and expansion of local tree populations. This collaboration is integral to achieving the overarching goals of Vision 2030, contributing to the region's sustainability and resilience.

In countries where the 3-30-300 principle might not be relevant to implement (e.g. Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland) due to lack of native tree species, the aim should be to assess native shrub species in urban green areas.

The project's timeline extends until December 2024, aligning with the broader initiative's commitment to creating more resilient and healthier cities through nature-based solutions.

### 4. Commission

<b>Purpose</b>
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This project is intended to promote and support nature-based solutions in Nordic cities. It will contribute to making the case for more resilient and healthy cities with more nature-based solutions that address both biodiversity, climate change, health and equality in the same measures. The project must also contribute to forming a network of cities that collaborate to preserve and increase the proportion of local native trees.

The project is intended to guide the Nordic Countries in their implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 12 on green cities ([Target 12 \(cbd.int\)](#)) and support their work on targets 8 and 11 on climate change, nature-based solutions and ecosystem services.

### **Background**

Nature-based solutions were defined by the United Nations Environment Assembly on 2 March 2022 "actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits." Nature-based solutions should have positive impacts on biodiversity while simultaneously contribute to solve one or more societal challenges.

This project is the last part of a thematic programme with six projects on nature-based solutions in the Nordic Region. Read more about the other projects in the programme here:

[Nordicsituation.com](http://Nordicsituation.com)

The changing climate brings about a heightened occurrence and severity of extreme heat in urban areas, leading to increased temperature-related mortality and health issues. The Public Health Agency in Sweden, in its national climate and vulnerability analysis, recognizes this as the most significant influencing factor on the population's health. The primary objective of Swedish public health policy is to establish conditions for optimal health for all citizens. Consequently, prioritizing the adaptation of the city to extreme heat waves becomes imperative, with trees and green spaces emerging as integral components of the solution. However, selecting trees capable of withstanding the city's exposed environment poses a challenge. Exotic trees are frequently favored over native species, justified by the argument that there is a limited variety among native trees, and they exhibit poorer adaptability. Ongoing research, including [studies at Gothenburg's Botanical Garden](#), aims to address this issue. Nevertheless, the use of alien tree species fails to contribute to the city's biodiversity.

In the previously mentioned synthesis on Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) in the Nordics, the importance of addressing climate and biodiversity challenges in an integrated manner is emphasized. However, this is hindered by knowledge gaps regarding the various benefits derived from nature-based solutions. The existing follow-up and evaluations have predominantly focused on environmental aspects, neglecting social, economic, health, and justice dimensions. This oversight is unfortunate because nature-based solutions not only address specific problems, but also contribute to resolving other challenges. For instance, urban green spaces play a crucial role in mitigating flooding by slowing down water flow, while trees simultaneously purify the air, mitigate noise pollution from traffic and industries, and provide spaces for biodiversity and recreational activities for city dwellers.

The Nordic working group for sustainable cities has produced [a vision paper](#) for how a greener societal development could be achieved in the Nordic countries. This shows, among other things, that the 3-30-300 principle could serve as a guide to reach green, resilient and healthy Nordic cities. This principle means that every individual in the city should be able to see 3 trees outside their home; that there must be 30 % crown coverage in each residential area; and that it should be at most 300 meters to the nearest larger green area. The uniqueness of this principle is that all the citizens of the city benefit from the healthy effects of green environments because the principle ensures that the green is distributed across the city in an equal and fair way.

### **Description of the need**

This sixth project is expected to build upon the findings derived from the synthesis and the forthcoming report from the second project, which features pilot projects (accessible through the designated contact person in section 2). The successful tender winner is tasked with conducting an analysis of multiple Nordic cities, with a specific focus on the 3-30-300 principle. The first step involves a map analysis to the current adherence of these cities to the principle, including the verification of any city meeting the 3-30-300 criteria. Subsequently, a gap analysis is required to pinpoint areas with less than 30% canopy cover. The examination of socio-economic parameters related to green space accessibility is imperative, with a particular emphasis on vulnerable demographic groups, such as children, the elderly, and individuals with health issues, and areas with socio-economic vulnerability (if possible). Additionally, the inclusion of data on noise levels, air quality, and climate-related parameters, such as heat mapping, is essential if available. Post-analysis, the supplier must develop scenarios illustrating the potential transformation of these cities if the 3-30-300 principle were fully implemented. The exploration of impacts on climate adaptation, including considerations for heatwaves, contributions to biodiversity, and the justice

perspective, is mandatory. An evaluation of how vulnerable populations would be influenced is also integral. To enhance the project, villages renowned for their profound understanding of their tree population, exemplified by locales like Umeå and Oslo, can be invited to participate. Furthermore, the establishment of a network comprising tree-focused villages willing to experiment with the 3-30-300 principle is encouraged. A detailed mapping of tree species within the cities, incorporating an assessment of the proportion of native and exotic species, must be conducted. Utilization of aerial image interpretation or databases for gathering this information is imperative, offering valuable insights into the composition of the urban tree canopy.

### **Requirements**

- Broad participation across Nordic countries
- Co-ordination with NordGen on their work on crop-wild relatives (project 5 in the nbs programme) is required.

### **Deliverables**

- A report that provides specific recommendations customized for urban nature-based solutions (NBS) in the Nordic region, with a particular emphasis on the use of native tree species within city environments.
- Specific advice regarding how the Nordic countries can fulfill the 3-30-300 principle.
- Develop policies to include and support nature-based solutions through [3-30-300 principle](#) in the Nordic countries follow-up and implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), how it may be included in countries nationally determined contributions: NDCs under the Paris Agreement, in implementation of the global Sustainability Goal (SDG) 11. "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" and in the implementation of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) like the Ramsar convention, and in the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program.
- A short video and story maps, podcasts or similar communication material describing guidelines to facilitating and implementing nature-based solutions in the Nordics, preferably targeting policymakers and decisionmakers.
- Communication materials for use at events, COP etc. such as posters.
- The report must be delivered electronically and published as a [TemaNord](#) report. Some printed copies should be made available in cooperation with the Nordic project coordinator, who also coordinates the communication plan for the programme.

Production of the report will require collaboration across different Nordic countries and result in knowledge-sharing both within and outside the Nordics. The work should welcome input from an extended reference group with relevant expertise included.

Communication material such as podcasts, posters or story-maps, workshops, and a short video is part of the project to provide information dissemination.

Contacts and links to relevant documents can be provided through the project coordinator.

**What should be delivered (in which form, format, and language)**

The report must be written in English and two Nordic languages with additional summary in at least Finnish and Icelandic. The reason for this is that one of the main success criteria of the project is that information material is easily accessible and widely distributed.

Factsheets, posters, or other communication material should include relevant logos and acknowledgement of the Nordic Council of Ministers (agreed with the project coordinator).

Other electronic communications for social media have to be in Finnish, Icelandic and at least two Nordic languages and can be in accessible electronic file format (English).

**Time of delivery**

Project deadline December 2024

**The timing of the contract**

April 2024 – December 2024

**Budget**

2024: DKK 2.000.000

**5. Eligibility Requirements**

**These are absolute requirements that must be met in order to proceed in the tendering process**

The supplier must be a legally established company (company certificate required) and have experience in carrying out projects.

The project is financed with funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers and must have relevance and value for at least three of the Nordic countries including Greenland, Åland and the Faroe Islands.

### **Further proposals**

- The supplier should possess relevant experience in comparable projects.
- The supplier should have sufficient execution capacity.

### **6. Assessment Criteria**

**The assessment will be based on a holistic evaluation in which the offers are assessed based on the following objective criteria:**

- 1) Understanding on the assignment (25 %)
- 2) Competence and experience (25 %)
- 3) Offered price (50 %)

### **7. Schedule**

Dates for:

- **Announcement:**  
January 2024
- **Deadline for questions:**  
2 weeks after announcement
- **Providing the offers:**  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- **Choosing the supplier:**  
22<sup>th</sup> of March 2024
- **Signing the contract:**  
March 2024

## 8. Guidelines and templates

For guidelines and templates visit Norden.org: <https://www.norden.org/en/information/about-funding-nordic-council-ministers>

Read more about the programme: [us.fo/nbs](https://us.fo/nbs) and [nordicsituation.com](https://nordicsituation.com)