

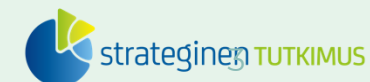
# Nature-Based Solutions and Governance Case: Multispecies Transition in Finnish Cities

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- Introduction of the MUST-Project (SRC)
- NBS in Urban Governance
- Cities' biodiversity (LUMO) programs
- Productive dialogues with cities and their stakeholders
- From managerial productivism to stewardship in governance models

# Partners



# Enabling multispecies transitions of cities and regions (MUST)



Source: Rautio

- Our vision is to enable multispecies transitions in which **humans and other species can adapt to a new way of life that supports their mutual well-being.**
- We combine research with stakeholder interactions to push for a fundamental change in biodiversity management.
- Substantial efforts to co-create nature-based solutions (NBS) with human communities.
- Funded by the Finnish Strategic Research Council.



# What are multispecies transitions?



## MULTISPECIES TRANSITIONS

Representation in NBS Processes

Distribution in NBS Structures

Agency in NBS Practices

### REPRESENTATION

Opportunity for meaningful involvement; recognising diverse identities and needs

### DISTRIBUTION

Ensuring fair allocation of costs and benefits

### MULTISPECIES JUSTICE

### AGENCY

Making space for multiple voices to act

### SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE

Spatial connectivity; cross-sectoral governance; new ways to assess the costs and benefits of NBS

### STRUCTURES

Systems thinking, new ways of representing diverse values of nature in NBS planning

### PROCESSES

Building skills, confidence, power, relationships and courage to change

### PRACTICES

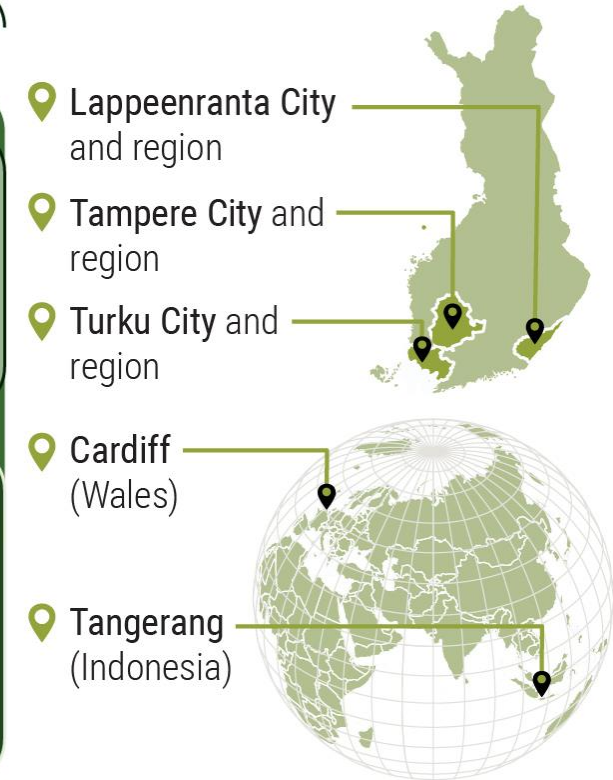


Fig. 1. MUST's novel concept and study areas



# Context:

## Three core components

### ○ 1. EU Biodiversity Strategy

- Outlines a path to biodiversity recovery by 2030 for the benefit of nature, people and the climate
- Protects at least 30% of the EU's land area and 30% of its sea area, & integrates ecological corridors
- Strictly protects at least 30% of the EU's protected areas, inc. all primary and old-growth forests

### ○ 2. European Climate Law

- Writes into law the goal set out in the European Green Deal for Europe's economy and society to become climate neutral by 2050.
- Sets the intermediate target of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels

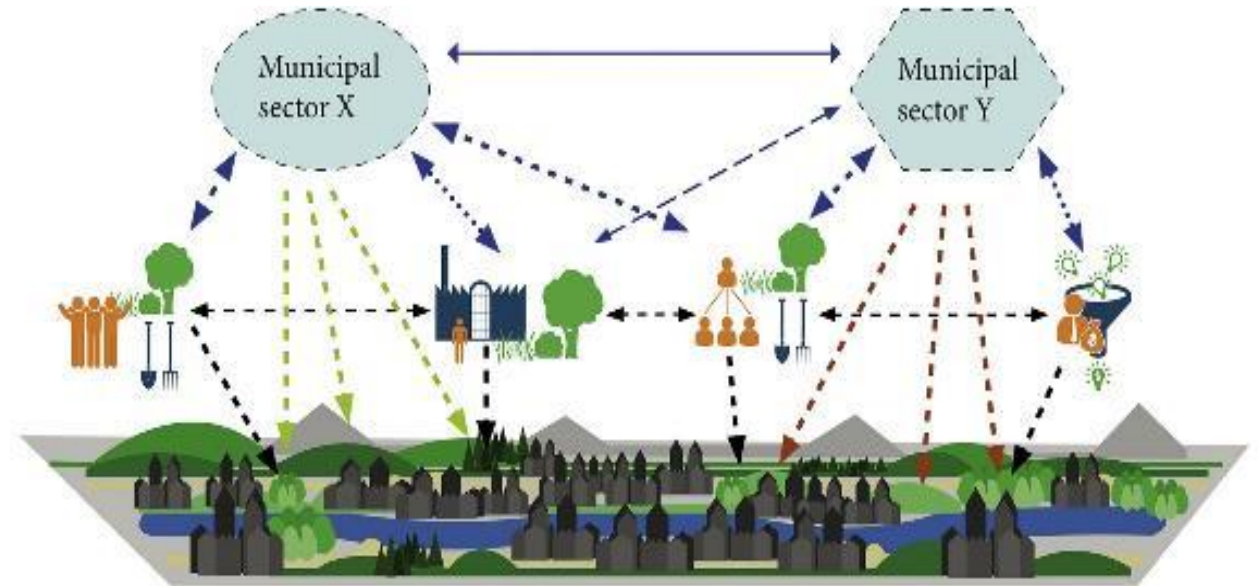
### ○ 3. Nature Restoration Law

- Sets binding target at EU level for member states
- Effective restoration measures to cover at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030

# MUST WP6 - Building cross-sectoral, nature inclusive governance models



- Doing **a document analysis**, organising a Delphi-survey (in progress), bilateral and **multi-actor dialogues** and attending actor meetings in **Turku, Tampere** and **Lappeenranta** investigating how other species have been addressed in past and current policy and projects.
- *What are the cities' current situations, issues and possibilities in terms of NBS and multispecies transition?*
- *How to support and enable NBS and multispecies transition in cities governance?*



[Buijs et al. \(2016\)](#)



# Governance and NBS

## Governance

... refers to how

“an organization is managed at the highest level, and the systems for doing this.”  
(Cambridge dictionary)

## NBS in governance?

- Limited by rigid governance structures, mismatch in funding prioritization and fragmented and narrow sectoral application practices.
- NBS requires **stewardship**, reflexivity, **dialogue**, and long-term commitment in governance practices.
  - Hölscher, K., Frantzeskaki, N., Collier, M.J. et al. (2023). Strategies for mainstreaming nature-based solutions in urban governance capacities in ten European cities. *npj Urban Sustain* 3, 54. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s42949-023-00134-9>

# Case: Nature-based / Multispecies? examples in the City of New York



The Central Park, NY



The High line, NY



Wall Street, NY

Source:  
Aaltonen, 2024



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***What are the cities' current situations, issues and possibilities in terms of NBS and multispecies transition? 1/2***

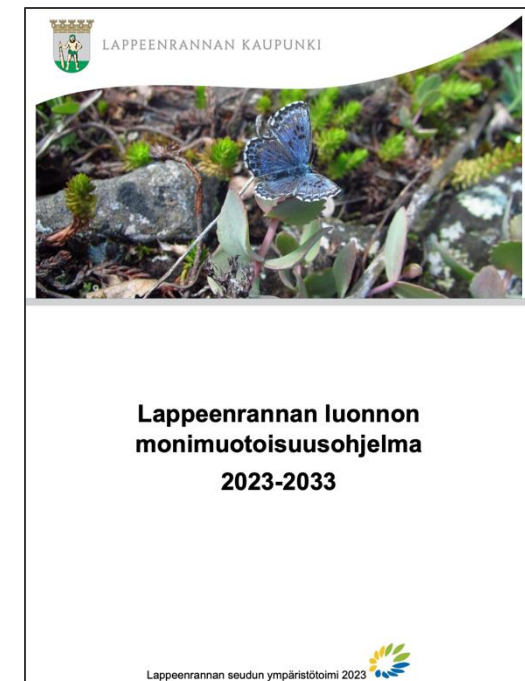
Document analysis of cities' biodiversity (LUMO) programs (+Delphi-survey in progress)



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# NBS in Finnish Cities' Governance. Analysis of Biodiversity (LUMO) programs

Luontokunnat provides instructions (FIN) for writing municipality's LUMO program:  
<https://luontokunnat.syke.fi/ohjeet-kunnan-lumo-ohjelman-tekemiseksi/>



# Preliminary findings from 'LUMO' programs



## How the need for LUMO program is introduced in the document?

- Cities are presented as localities with ecosystems in and surrounding them – connectedness.
- Reasons to act: international regulation and comparison to other cities + citizens' interest in nature restoration and climate action.
- General issues: communication and responsibilities in setting up cross-sectoral LUMO-team and in implementations in all needed fields

## What are the LUMO actions?

- Programs consist of targets ranging from strategic governance initiatives and indicators in town planning and master plans to training and instructions on urban greening, protecting nature sites, ecological networks and stormwater management systems.
- Variations based on cities and local conditions.

## How is the multispecies well-being framed in the document?

- The approach is often human-centered but especially local endangered species are looked after. Other indirect multispecies focus features [everyday \(local\) green](#) and storm water management with suitable NBS providing also habitats for various lifeforms.
- Invasive species (plants and animals) are framed often as an issue that needs more attention.



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***What are the cities' current situations, issues and possibilities in terms of NBS and multispecies transition? 2/2***

Dialogues with cities and their stakeholders

# Dialogue as a theory and method in MUST governance work



- In dialogic situation members of the dialogue have mutual respect and trust (see [Timeout principles](#))
  - Dialogue is **the skill of disagreement**; disagreement is the starting point for co-learning.
  - In constructive dialogue, “mutually experienced **strangeness** fuels the search for **understanding**, conceptual **change**, and potentially **new distinctions**.” ([Tsoukas, 2009](#))
- Co-learning about the situations in dialogues with cities and their stakeholders (in Turku, Tampere and Lappeenranta).
  - Extending the capacities of participants for action – **via multi-actor dialogues with cities’ stakeholders, such as NGOs, businesses and other local actors**
  - Approaching a novel topic – **creating meaningful connections with biodiversity**
  - Engaging with new voices and perspectives – **granting voice to nature**
- Limitations of dialogue
  - The ‘dialogic moment’ with shared understanding may be cathartic, but will it change how decisions are made?



# First results from multi-actor dialogues



1. **Who has the 'access' to the multispecies discussion?**
  - **Turku:** Conceptual challenges – unclear meaning and possibility to apply in various contexts.
  - How to care, look after, for the other-than-human needs – when there are issues even in looking after the human needs.
2. **Mainstreaming LUMO and reconciliation of various interest (legal, political cycles, construction, forestry, residents...) or experimenting with clearly set rules and boundaries for eco-centric planning practices?**
3. **City officials are overburdened in the process of reconciliation of the interests of the politicians and various stakeholders of cities.**
  - **What alternatives governance models there could be?**

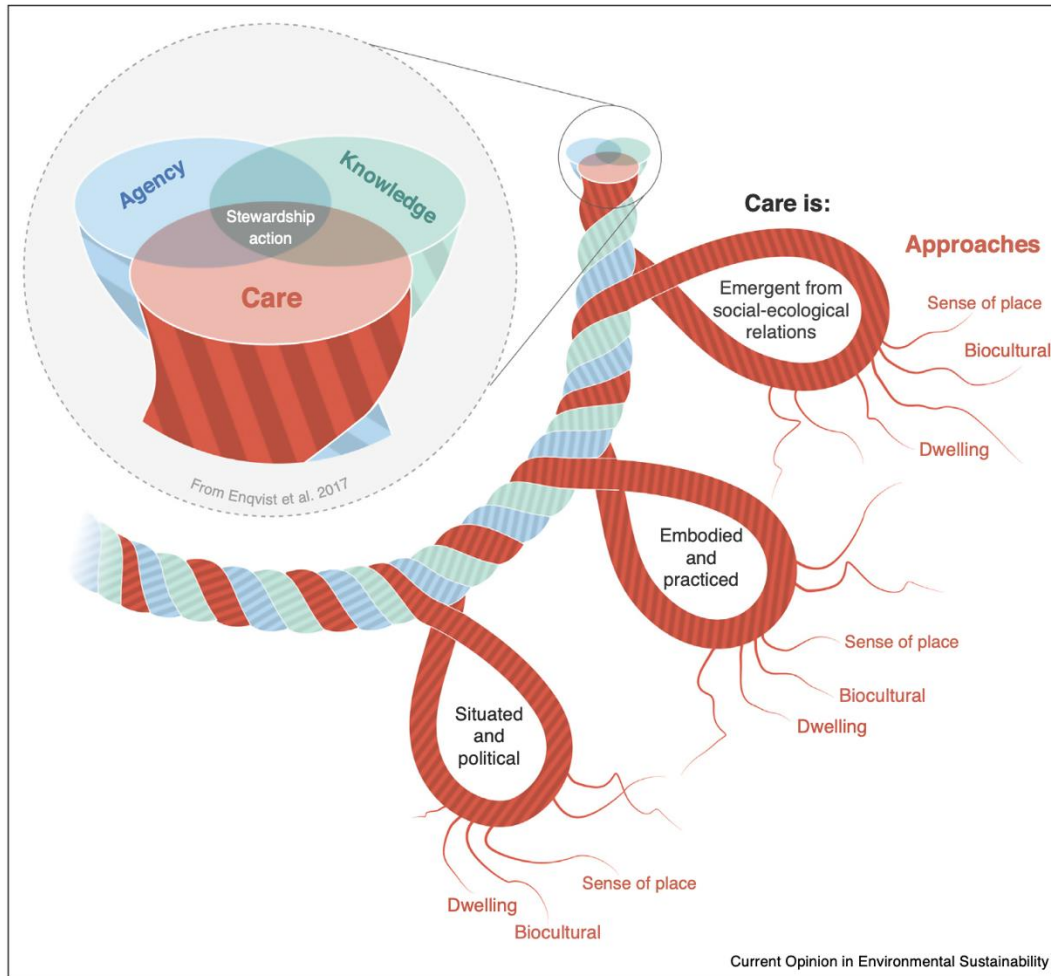


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## ***How to support and enable NBS and multispecies transition in cities governance?***

From managerial productivity principle to stewardship approach providing space for NBS and multispecies transition

# Transition from productivism to stewardship perspective in governance models



- **Current models of governance aiming to productivity in management typically result detrimental social and environmental outcomes (see [Heikkurinen et al., 2021](#)).**
- **Stewardship perspective, focusing on care, knowledge and agency (see figure – [West et al., 2018](#)), in governance context is aligned with the need to have relationality to both habitats, the ecosystems and landscapes, and various forms of life that multispecies just transition implies and NBSs could provide in urban context (see also [Hölscher et al., 2023](#)).**



**Thank you!**

**Join the movement and follow us in LinkedIn**



<https://must-project.fi/>



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