INTERNATIONAL MEUSE SYMPOSIUM

Interreg

Co-funded by the European Union

Meuse – Rhine (NL – BE – DE)

Flood Wisdom

Drivers in vegetation management and flood control: the crossborder Meuse case in Flood Wisdom project

Alexander Van Braeckel, Merlijn Jocque & Hanne Van Gompel

FloodWisdom is supported by the European Union and the Interreg Meuse-Rhine (NL-BE-DE) programme

co-financed by Wallonie

Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Industrie, Klimaschutz und Energie des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen

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In this presentation

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1. River ecosystem restoration of the Common Meuse
2. Decision support tool (DST)
3. Towards a cross-border vegetation management plan, first steps
   a. Methods & timeline
   b. Common Meuse Vegetation Management: current status & stakeholders
   c. From the Border Meuse towards Common Meuse in Vegetation Management
4. Conclusions & future steps

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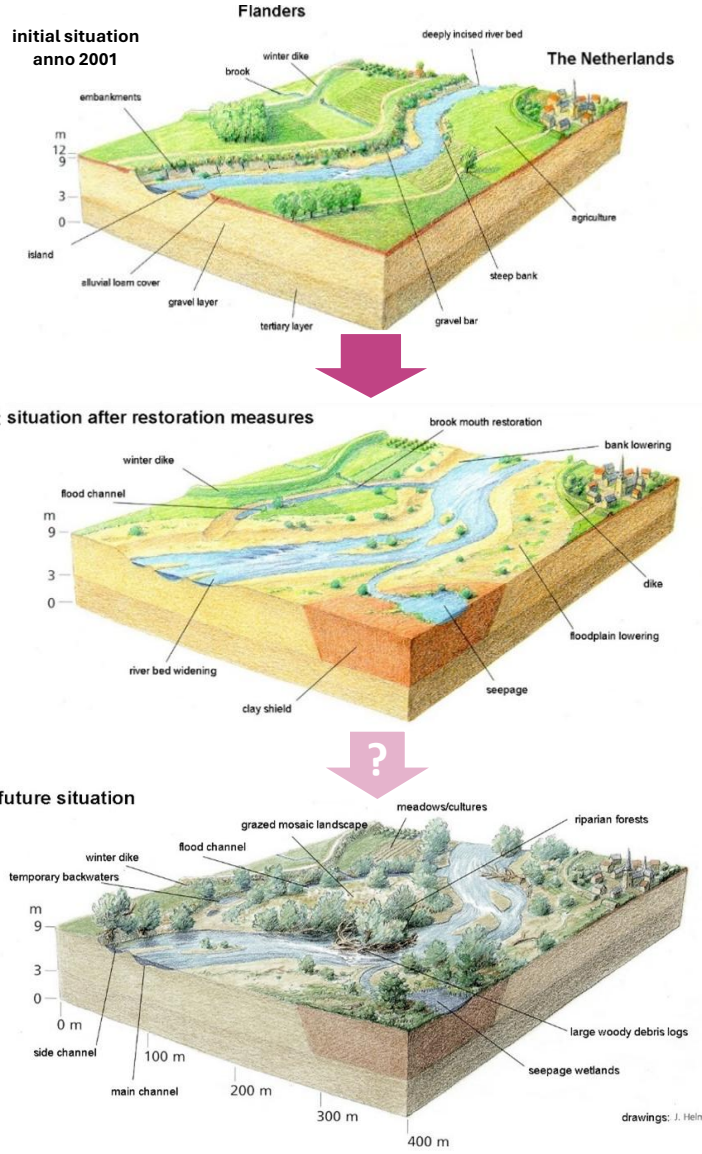
River Ecosystem Restoration

Border Meuse

Common Meuse



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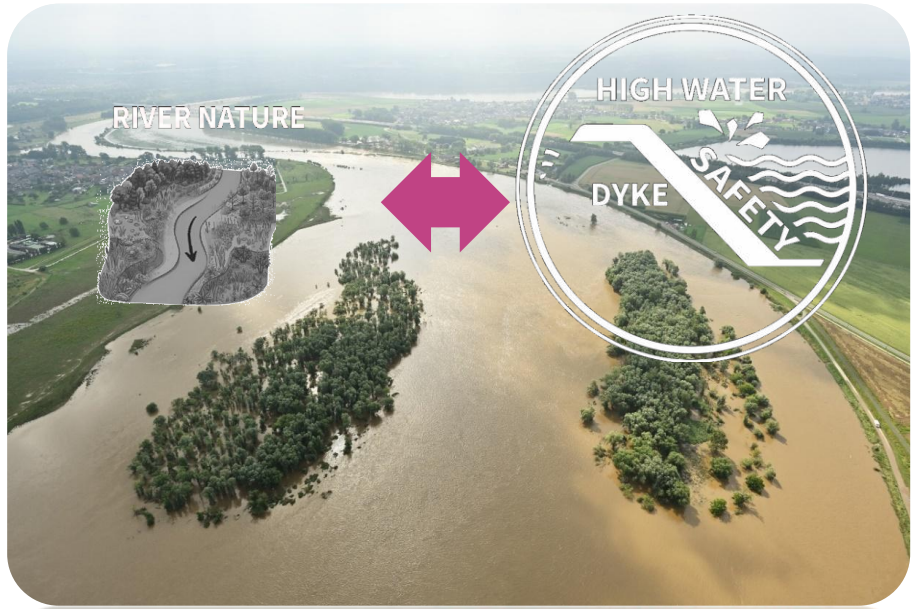

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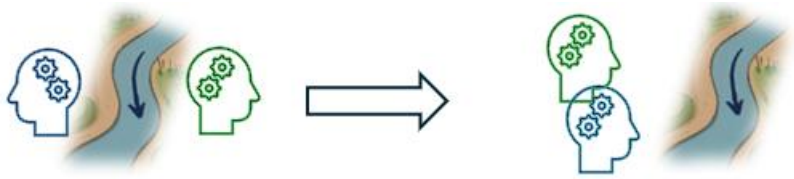
https://www.interregmeuserhine.eu/en/projects/flood-wisdom/

Decision Support Tool (DST) Common Meuse



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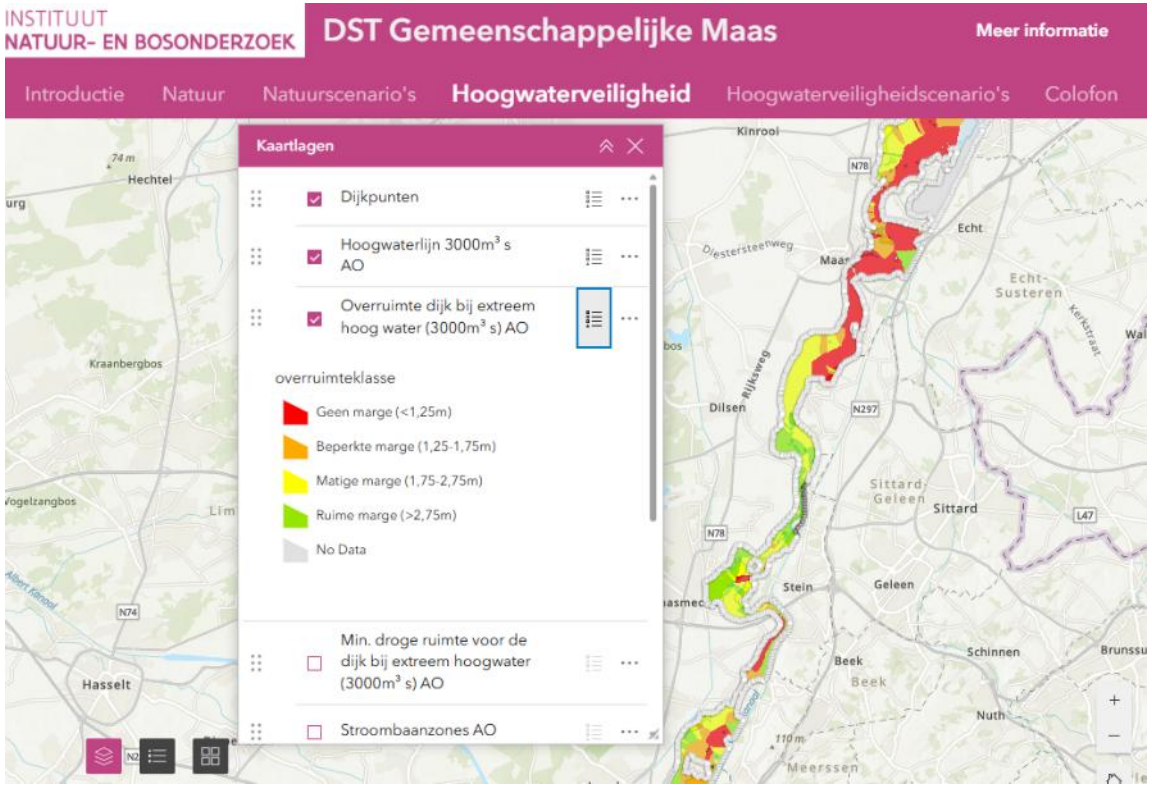
geo.inbo.be/dst_Maasbenl

online since July 2025



Combination of:

- Integrating existing data
- Newly generated *cross-border data*

Content

- Nature policy/value
- Nature (forest) scenarios
- Flood protection
- Flood protection scenarios
  (incl. NbS-functions of forest)

Wide launch of improved DST: 2027

- Feedback report on DST GM 1.0 version (Van Gompel et al., 2026)
- Wide launch of improved DST: beginning of 2027

Van Gompel, H., Jocque, M. en Van Braeckel A. (2026). DECISION SUPPORT TOOL GEMEENSCHAPPELIJKE MAAS 1.0
INBOreport 2026 (57). DOI: 10.21436/inbor.152719445

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Towards a cross-border vegetation management plan

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Understanding the mechanisms

1. Interviews with different stakeholders

De Vlaamse Waterweg nv

Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

Limburgs Landschap vzw

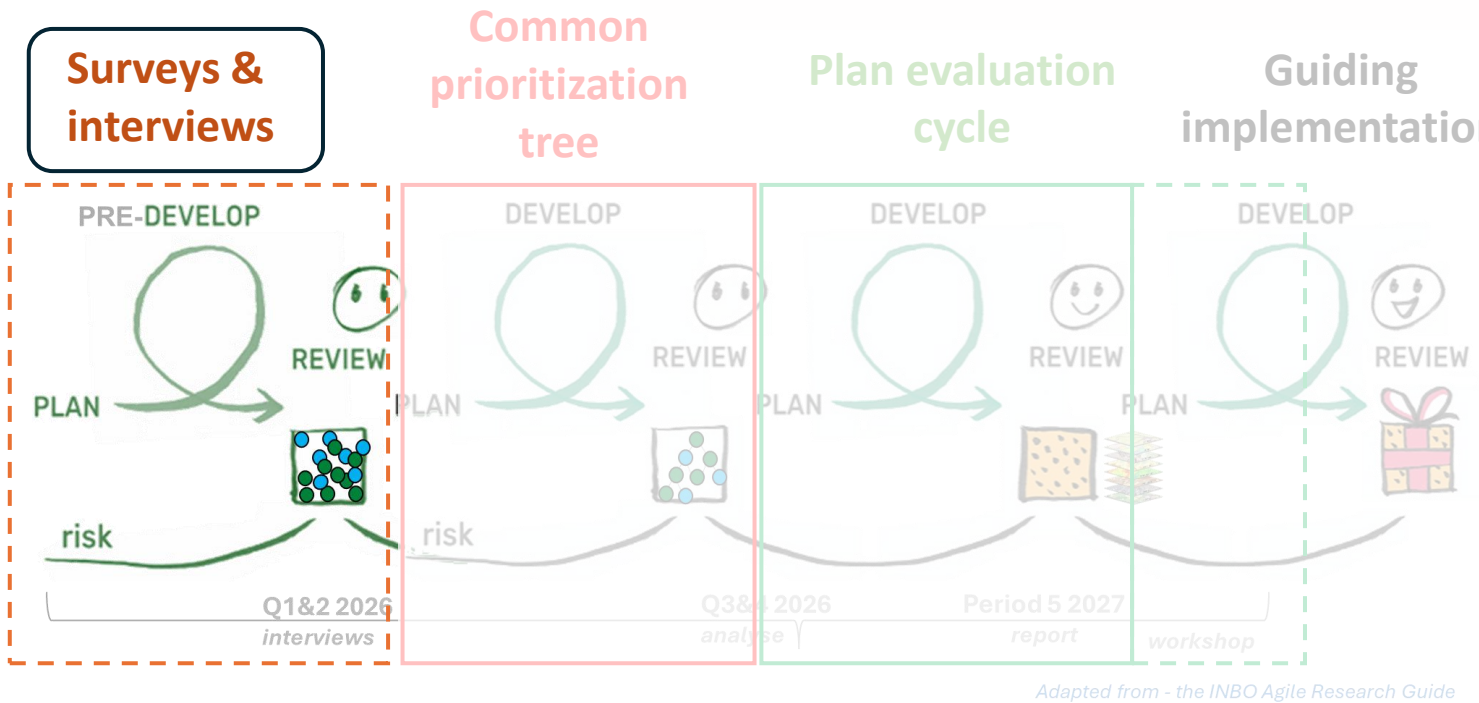
AGENTSCHAP NATUUR & BOS

natuurpunt

staatsbosbeheer

Natuurmonumenten

2. Summarize information
   - Criteria
   - Mechanisms
   - Partners involved
   - Barriers / challenges
   - …



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Understanding the mechanisms

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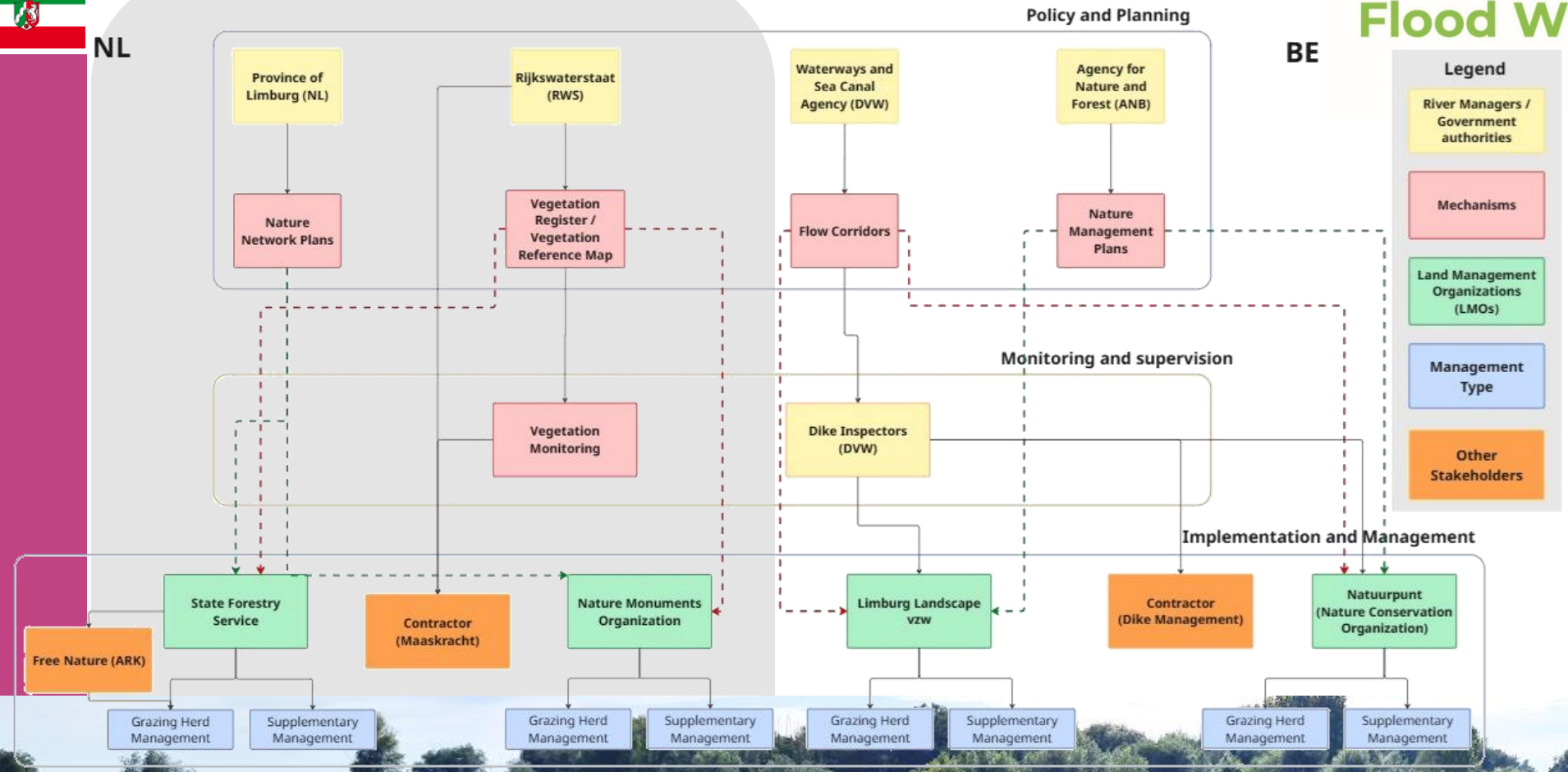
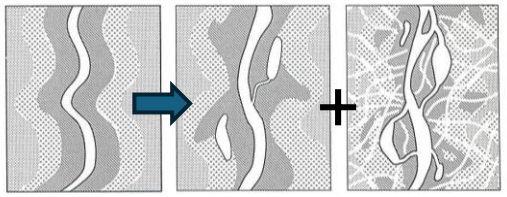
Stakeholders involved in Vegetation Management of the Common Meuse



- River matrix
- Grazing matrix



Vegetation Management

➥ Flood protection

&

➥ Nature goals

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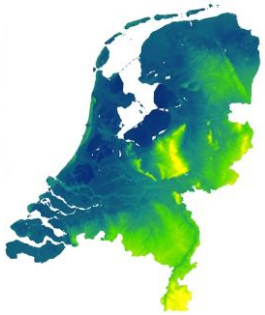
https://www.interregmeuserhine.eu/en/projects/flood-wisdom/

From Border Meuse towards Common Meuse in Vegetation Management

From Border Meuse

NL



National Water Act

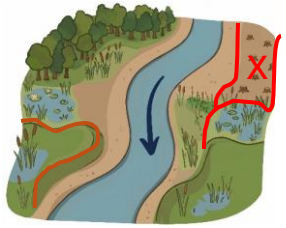
Parcel-level (Vegetation Register)

Provincial nature policy

Mosaic level (rewilding)

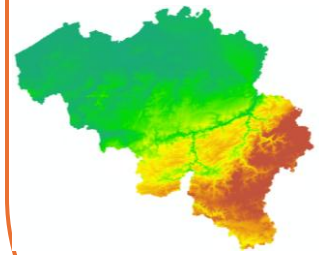
Focus: water level effect

'Target' state



Parcel-level Flood protection > Nature goals

BE

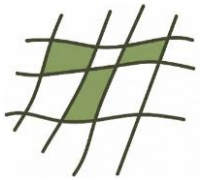


National ~~Water Act~~

National nature policy & European nature goals

(near) Parcel-level

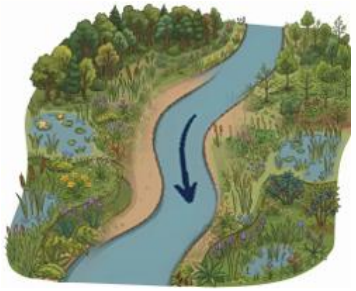
Focus: flow corridors



'Target' state

Flood protection ≈< Parcel-level nature goals

Common Meuse



Flood protection & Nature goals

Cross-border vegetation management plan

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Towards a cross-border vegetation management plan

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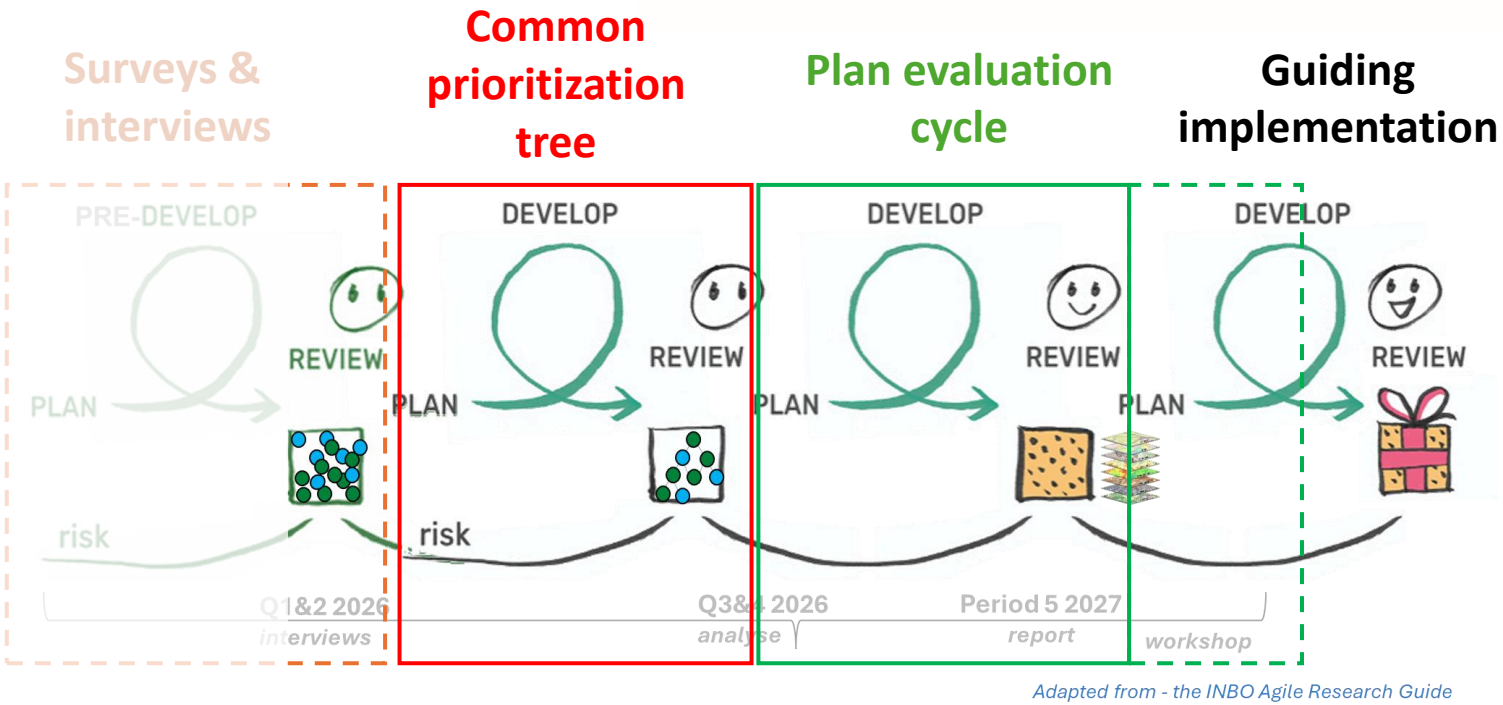

Adapted from - the INBO Agile Research Guide

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Questions always welcome!

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