

EU H2020 'Green Deal' innovation project MERLIN

Building Blocks for Upscaling Freshwater Nature-Based Solutions in Europe

Sebastian Birk

University of Duisburg-Essen (DE)
Coordinator project MERLIN

www.project-merlin.eu



Climate change and biodiversity loss

Climate change and biodiversity loss

Super wicked problem (Levin et al. 2012)

- Urgent time limit
- Lack of authority
- Problem-solving paradox
- Irrational political short-sightedness

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“Societal change”

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“Societal change”

Practical application of theoretical concept:
Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) / Restoration

Ambition:
“Societal
Change”

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Change”

SCIENCE

- Data and indicators
 - Certain uncertainties
 - Interpretation w/ context
- **Evidence**

Ambition: “Societal Change”

SOCIETY

- Values and beliefs
- Perceptions and opinions
- Interests and power-patterns
- “Winners” and “losers”

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Ambition: “Societal Change”

→ Actionable and
robust knowledge
production

Funtowicz & Ravetz (2020)

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MERLIN

Building Blocks for Upscaling
Freshwater
NBS/ Restoration in Europe



The MERLIN project (<https://project-merlin.eu>) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101036337.



FULL REVIEW OF STATUS

1

Complete picture of
socio-ecological system



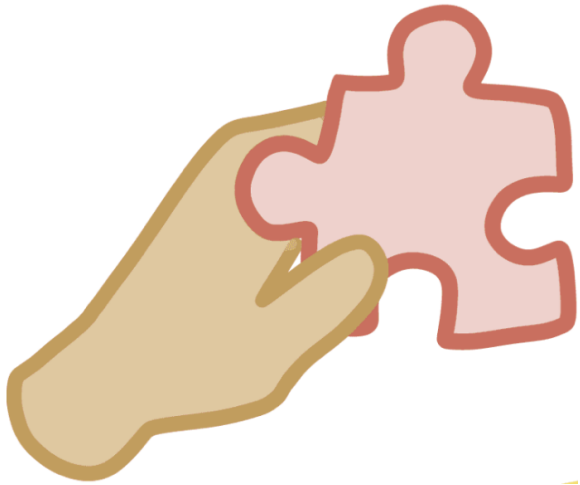
FULL REVIEW OF STATUS

1

Complete picture of
socio-ecological system

Ideal focus:

**Common goods and welfare
(Whole-of-Society approach)**



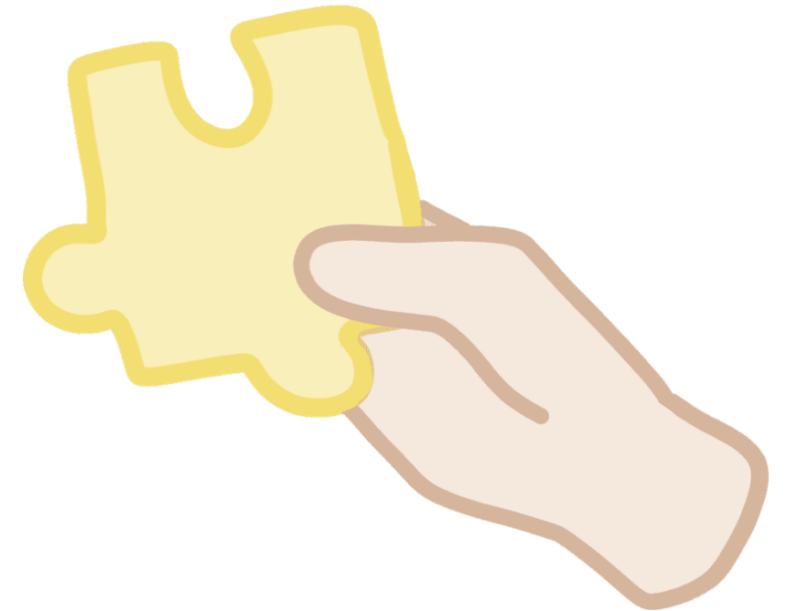
Analysing the interests

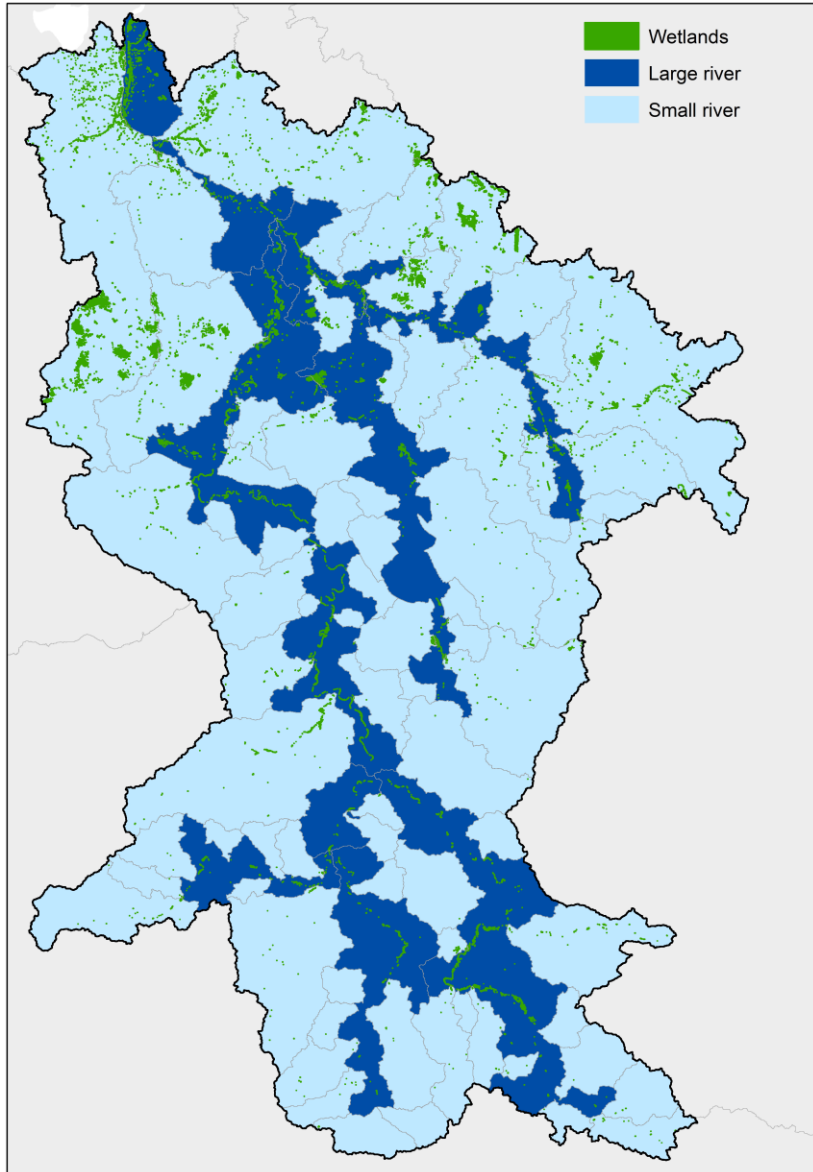
- Who benefits?
- Who loses?
- Who has the power?

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Complete picture of
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FULL REVIEW OF STATUS

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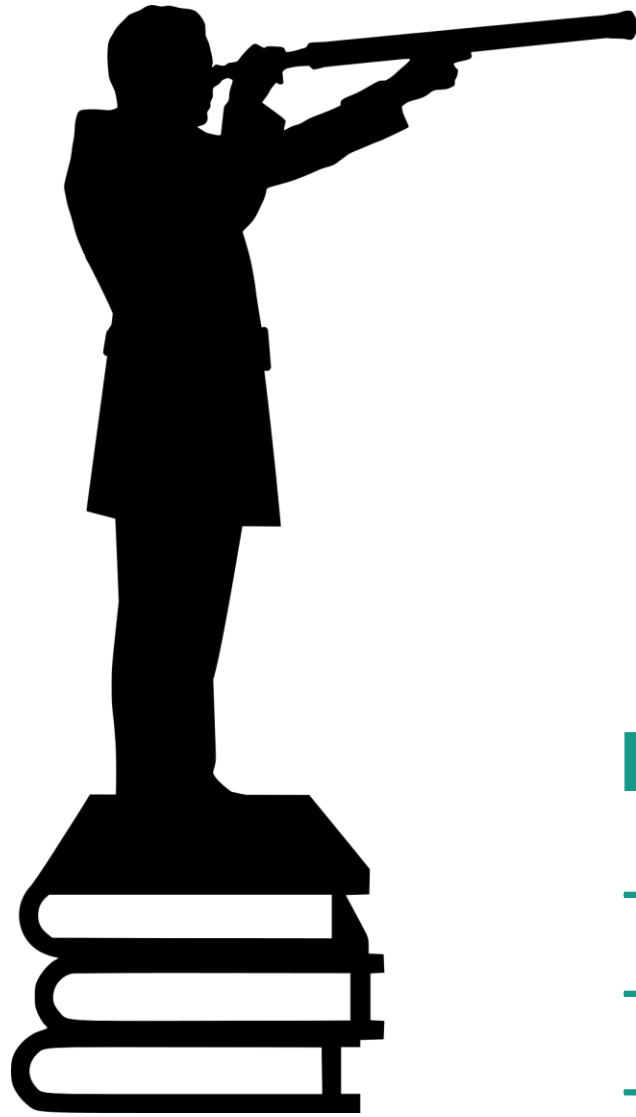
Landscape-scale
perspective



NARRATIVE OF THE FUTURE

2

Nature-based
solutions and co-benefits



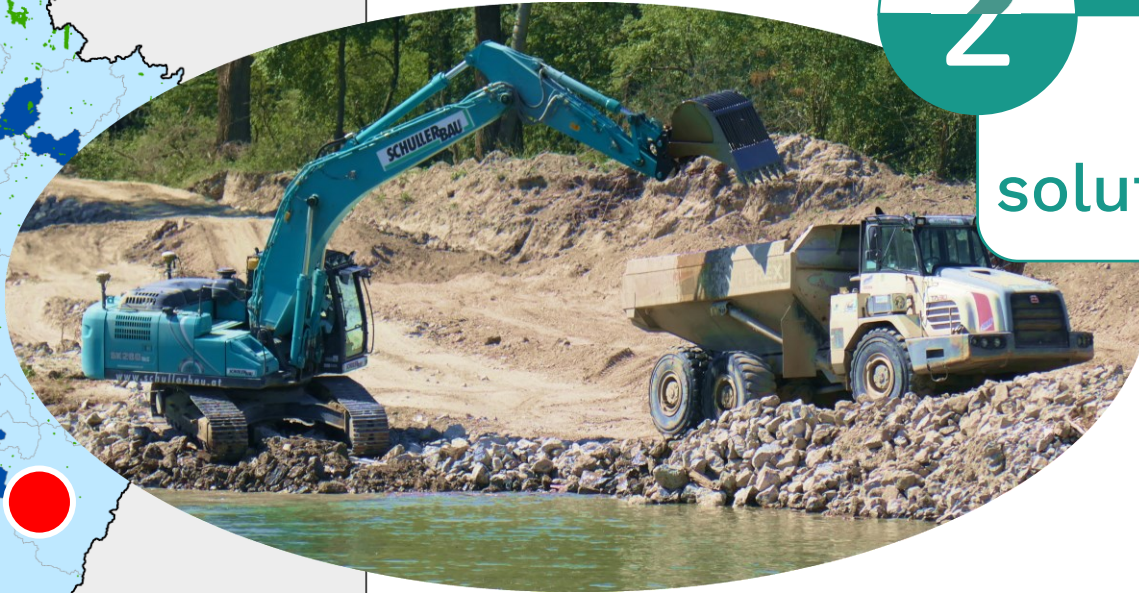
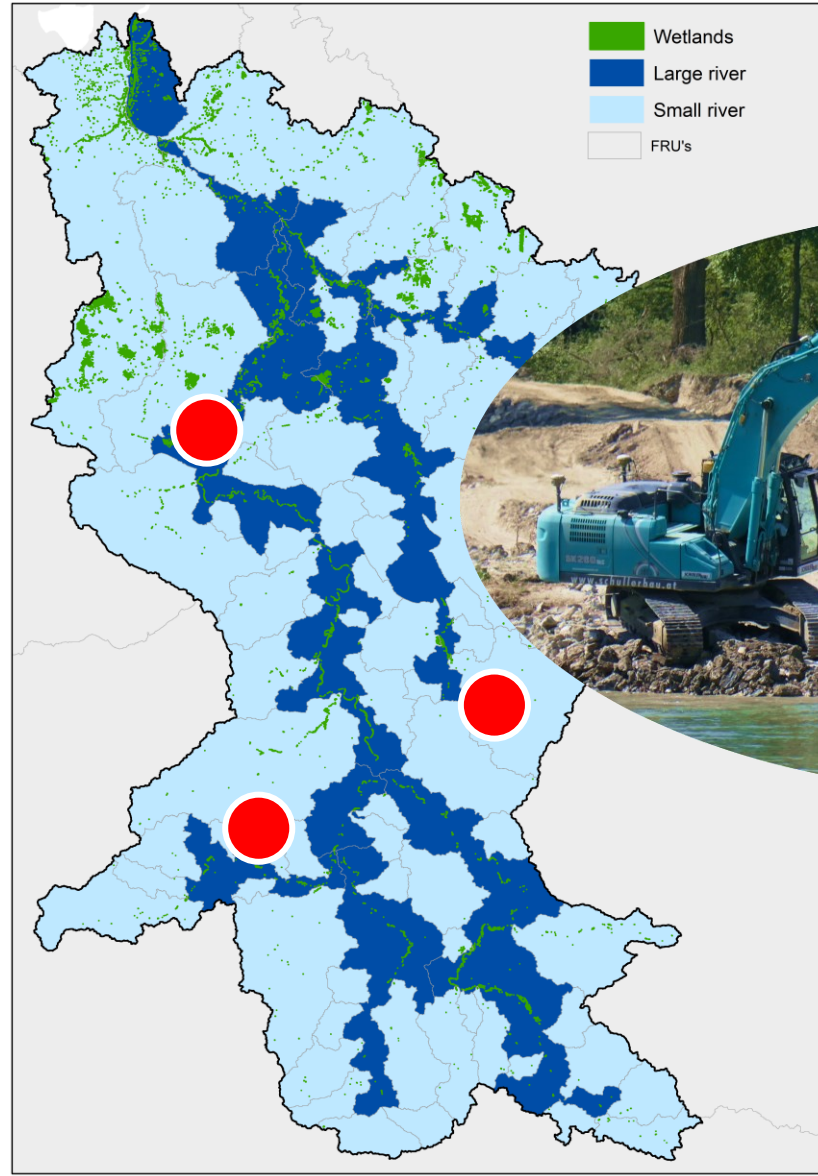
NARRATIVE OF THE FUTURE

2

Nature-based
solutions and co-benefits

How to initialise change?

- Creating a vision
- Drafting a plan
- Winning support



2

NARRATIVE OF THE FUTURE

Nature-based solutions and co-benefits



Modelling scenarios



EVIDENCE- BASE

3

Use of verifiable
information and data

EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL



3

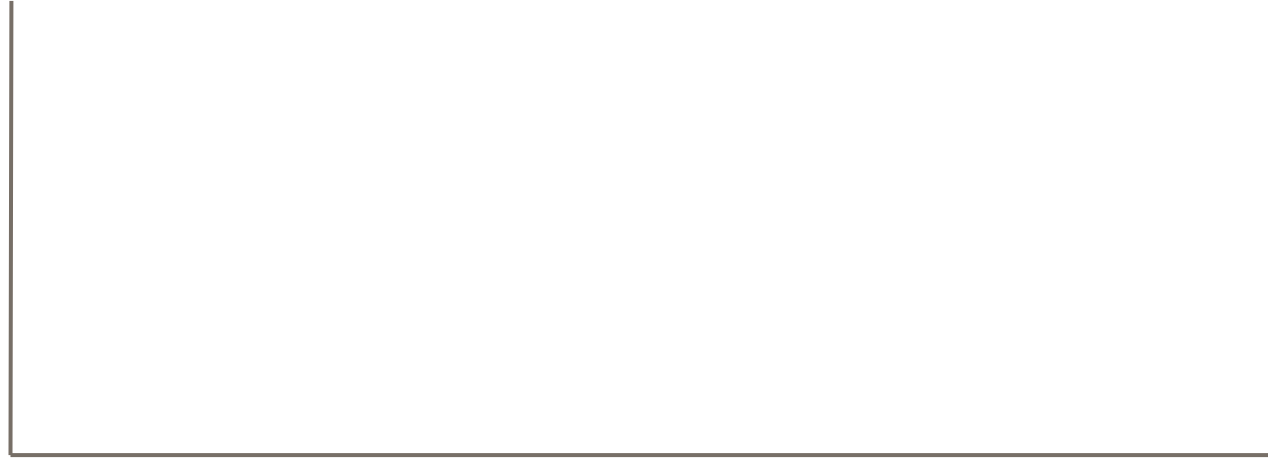
EVIDENCE-
BASE

Use of verifiable
information and data

Comprehensive
monitoring of
European Green
Deal goals

BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION ►► MATURATION

TARGET



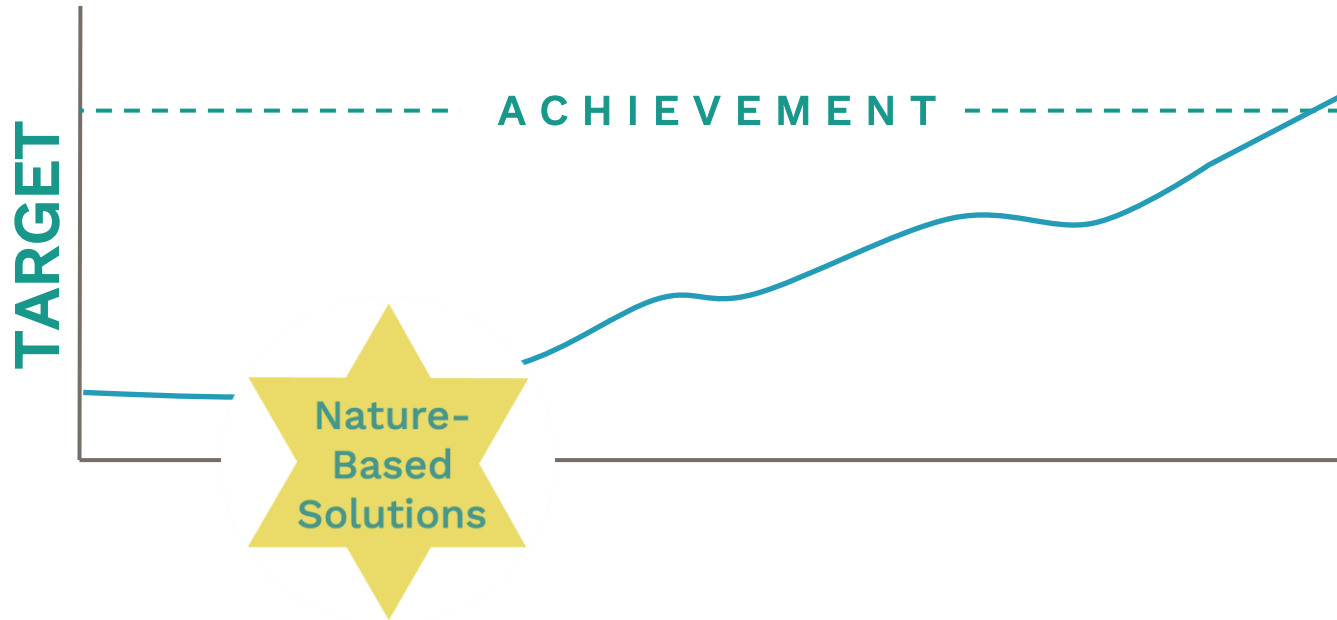
3

EVIDENCE-BASE

Use of verifiable information and data

Coverage of multiple benefits

BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION ►► MATURATION

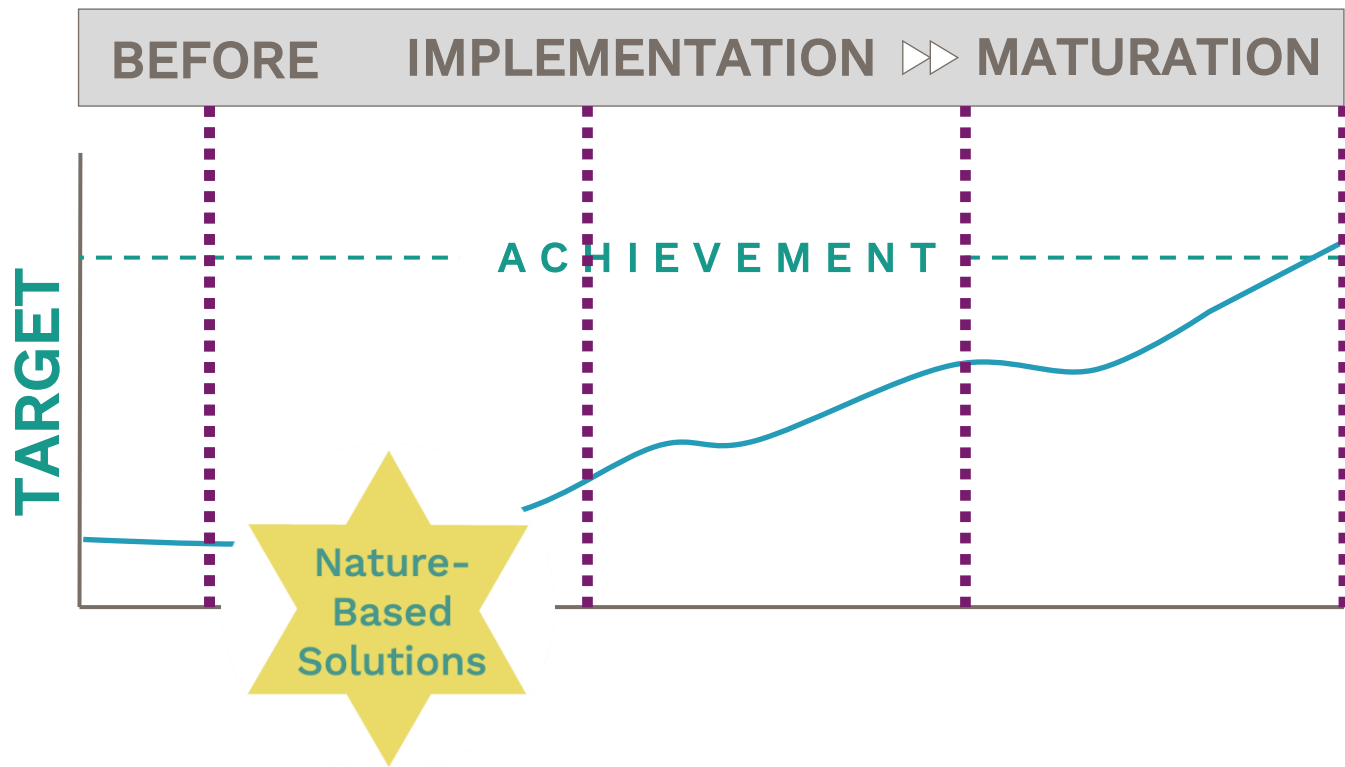


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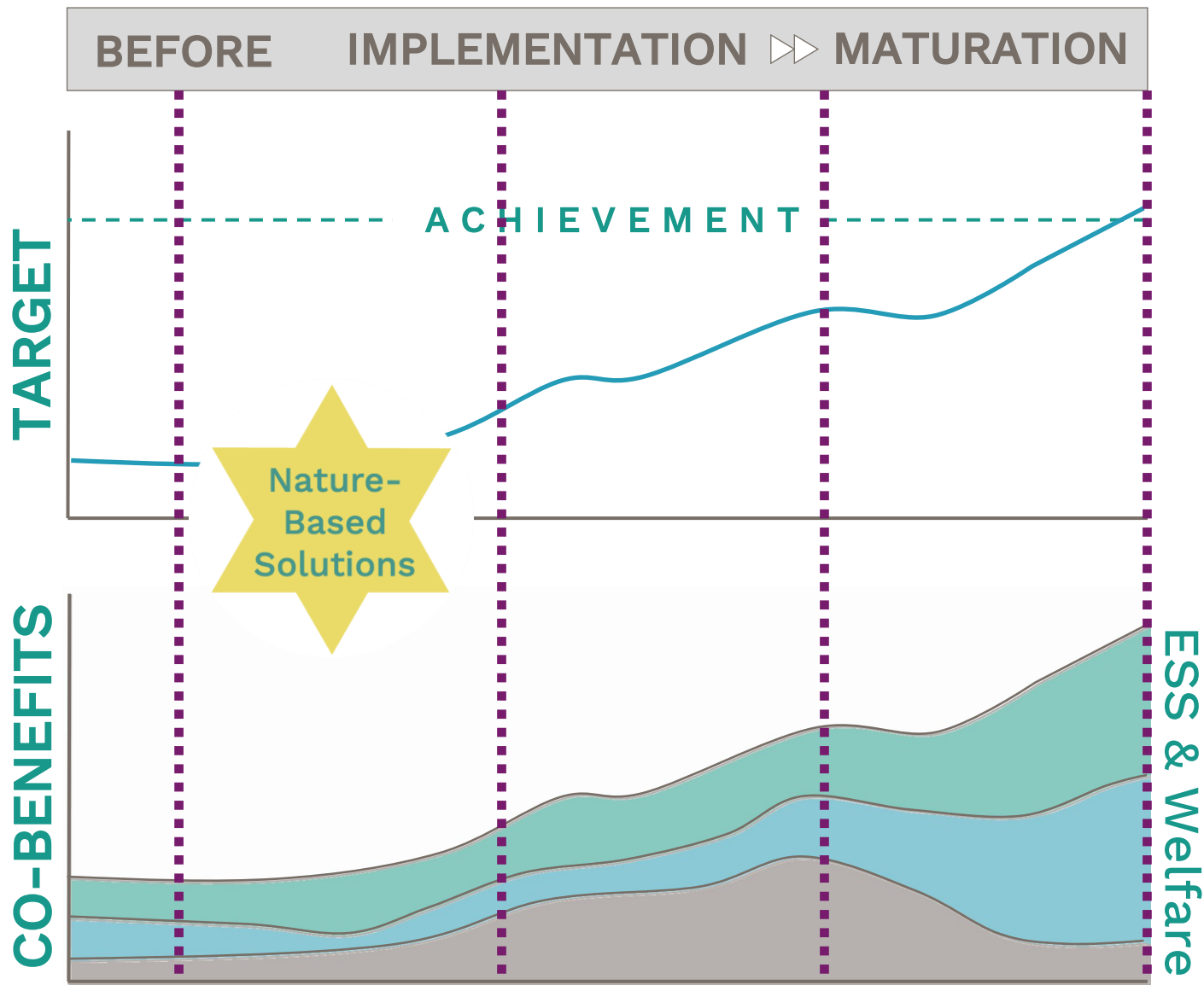


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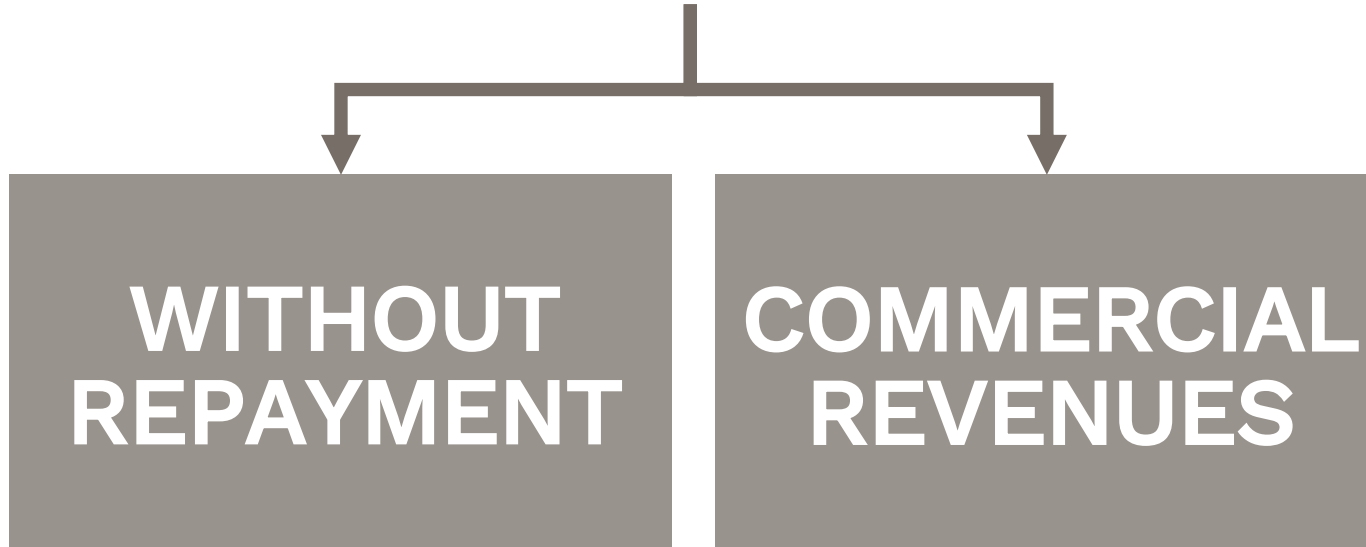


RESOURCES

4

Funding and other
implementation means

Project funding



**WITHOUT
REPAYMENT**

Public grants
Private donations
Crowdfunding

**COMMERCIAL
REVENUES**

Marketable products
Payment for
Ecosystem Services

4

RESOURCES

Funding and other
implementation means

**Financial planning
beyond public
grants**



PARTICIPATION/ INCLUSION

5

Whole-of-society
approach



PARTICIPATION/ INCLUSION

5

Whole-of-society
approach

**Participation of
relevant interest
groups/local
communities**



PARTICIPATION/ INCLUSION

5

Whole-of-society
approach

Cooperation with
relevant economic
sectors

Building Blocks for Upscaling Freshwater Restoration at Regional Scale

PRESSING SOCIO-
ECOLOGICAL PROBLEM

TRIGGER



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TRIGGER

PLANNING



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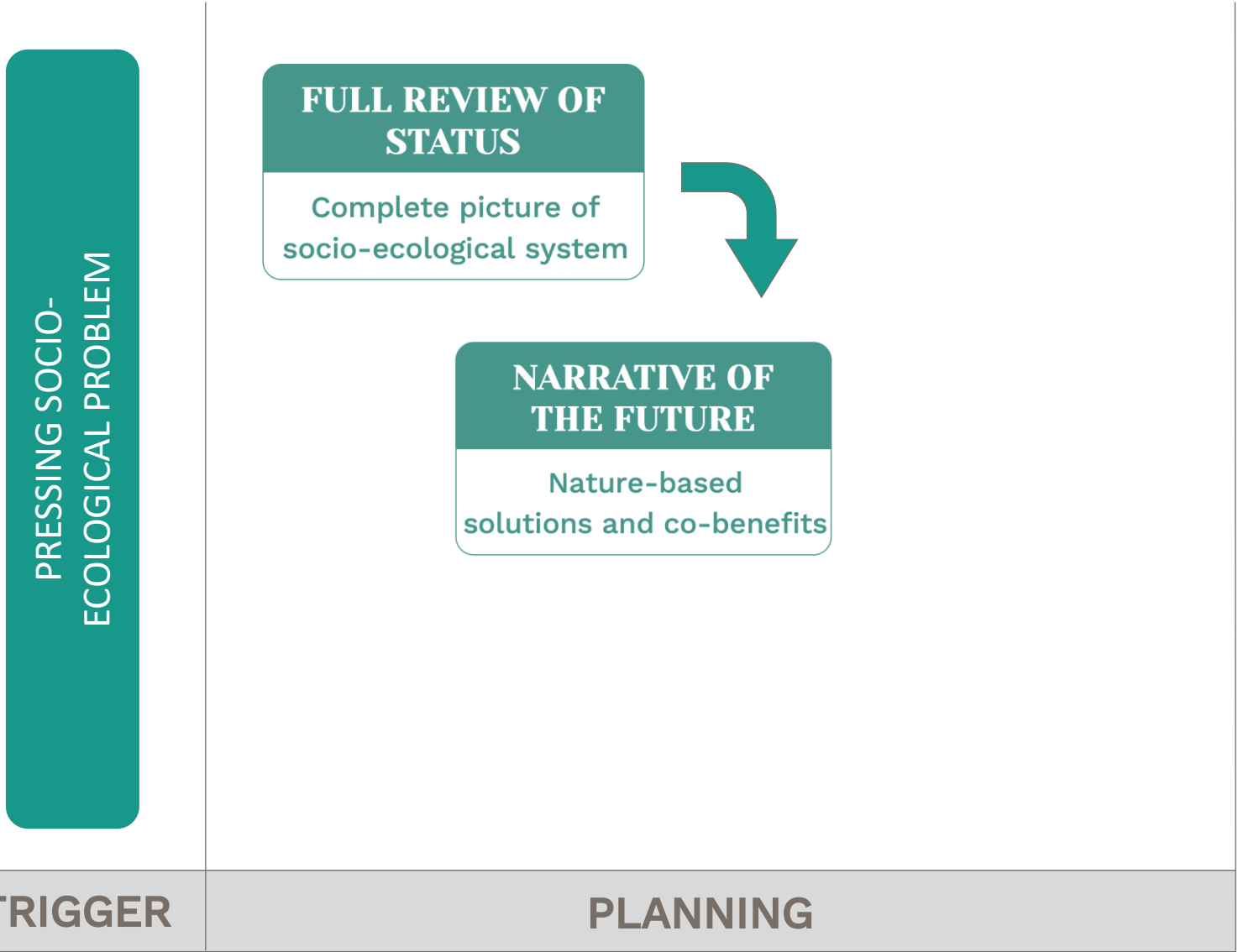
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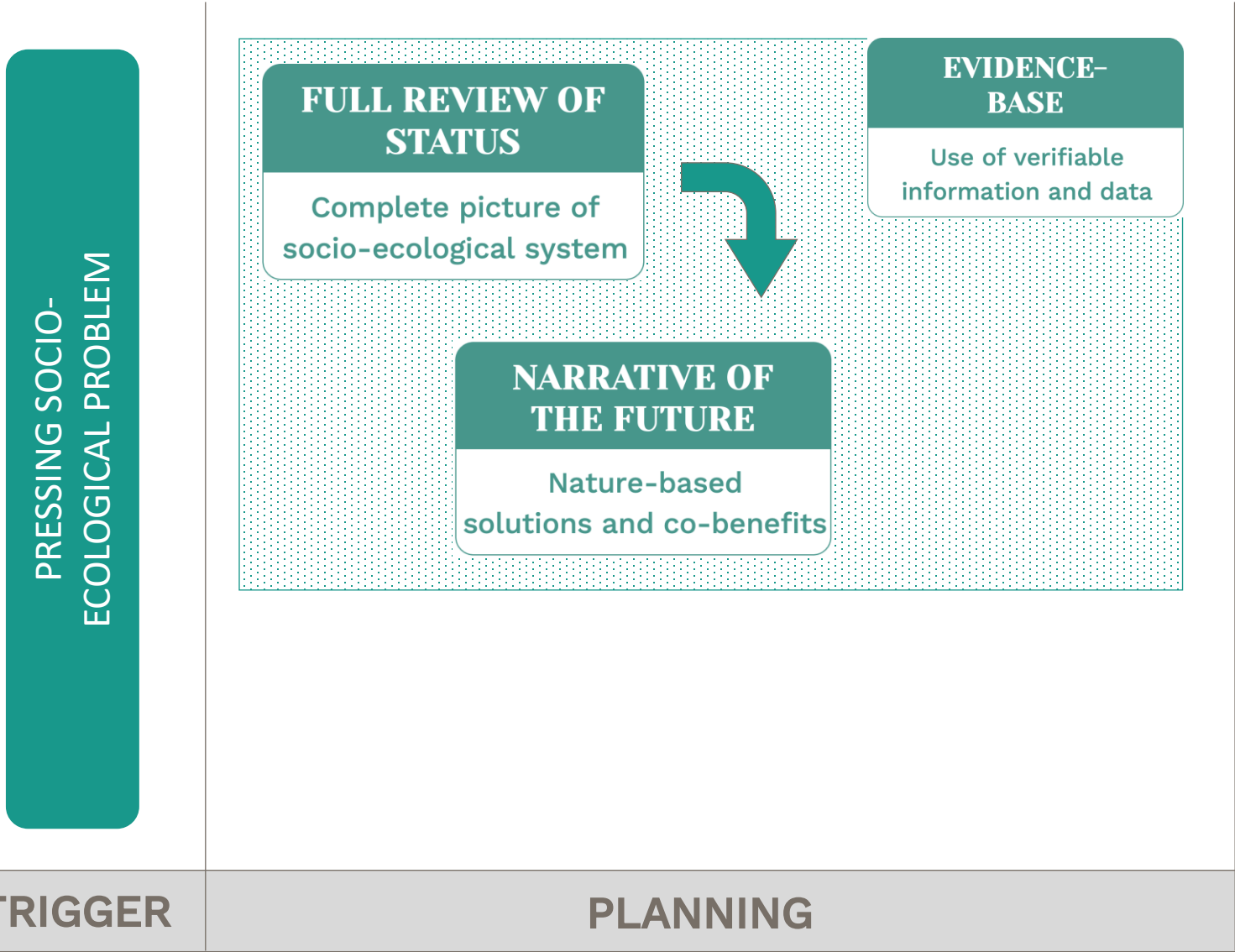
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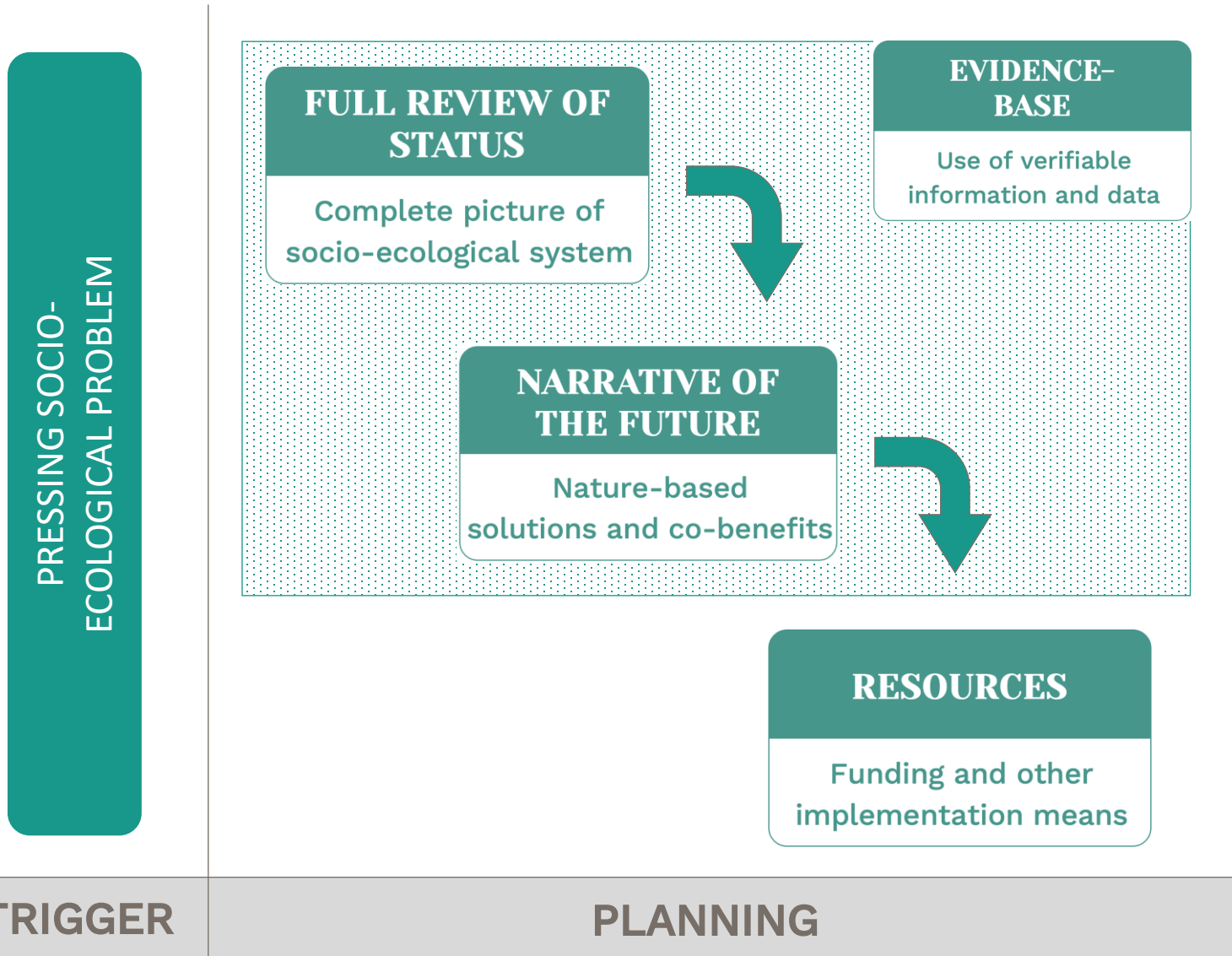
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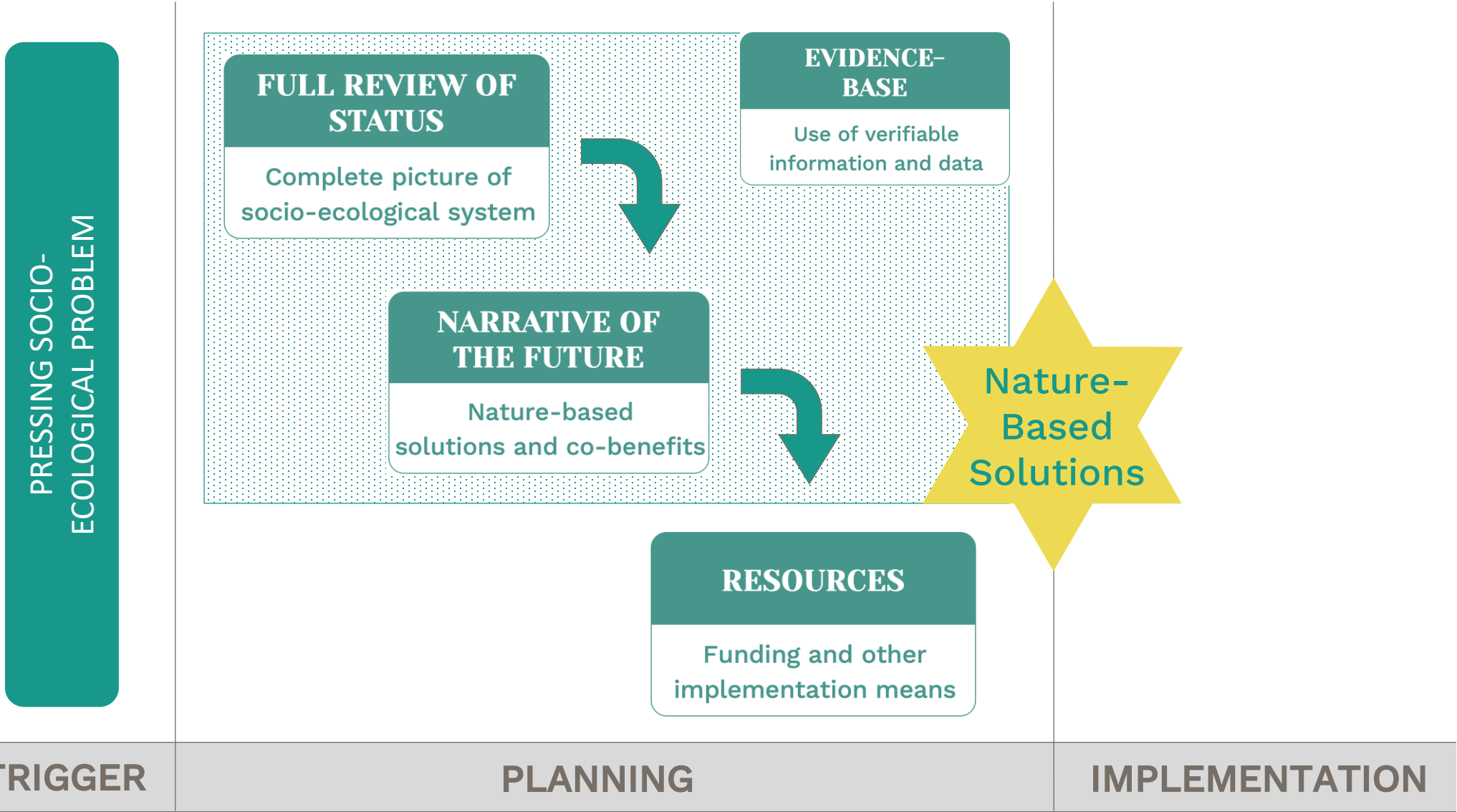
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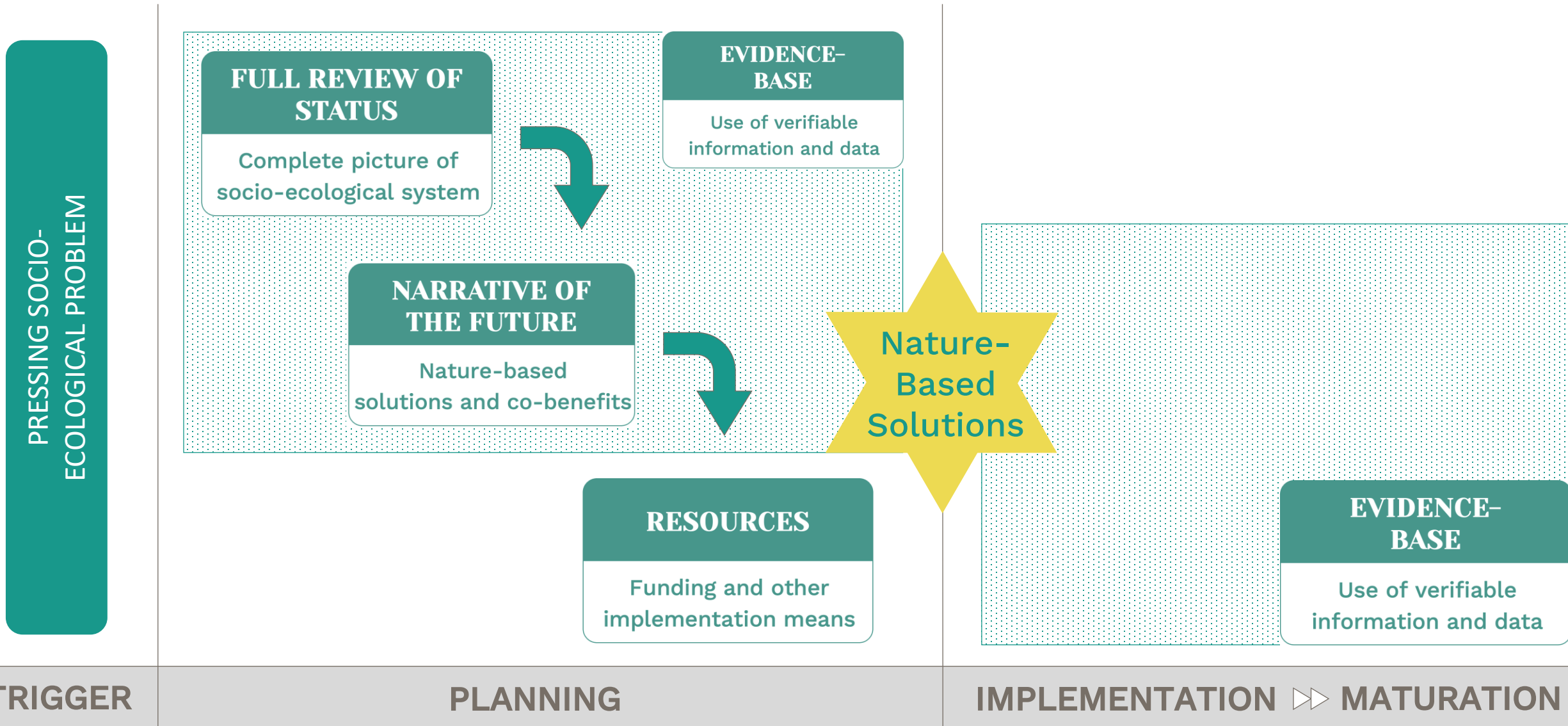
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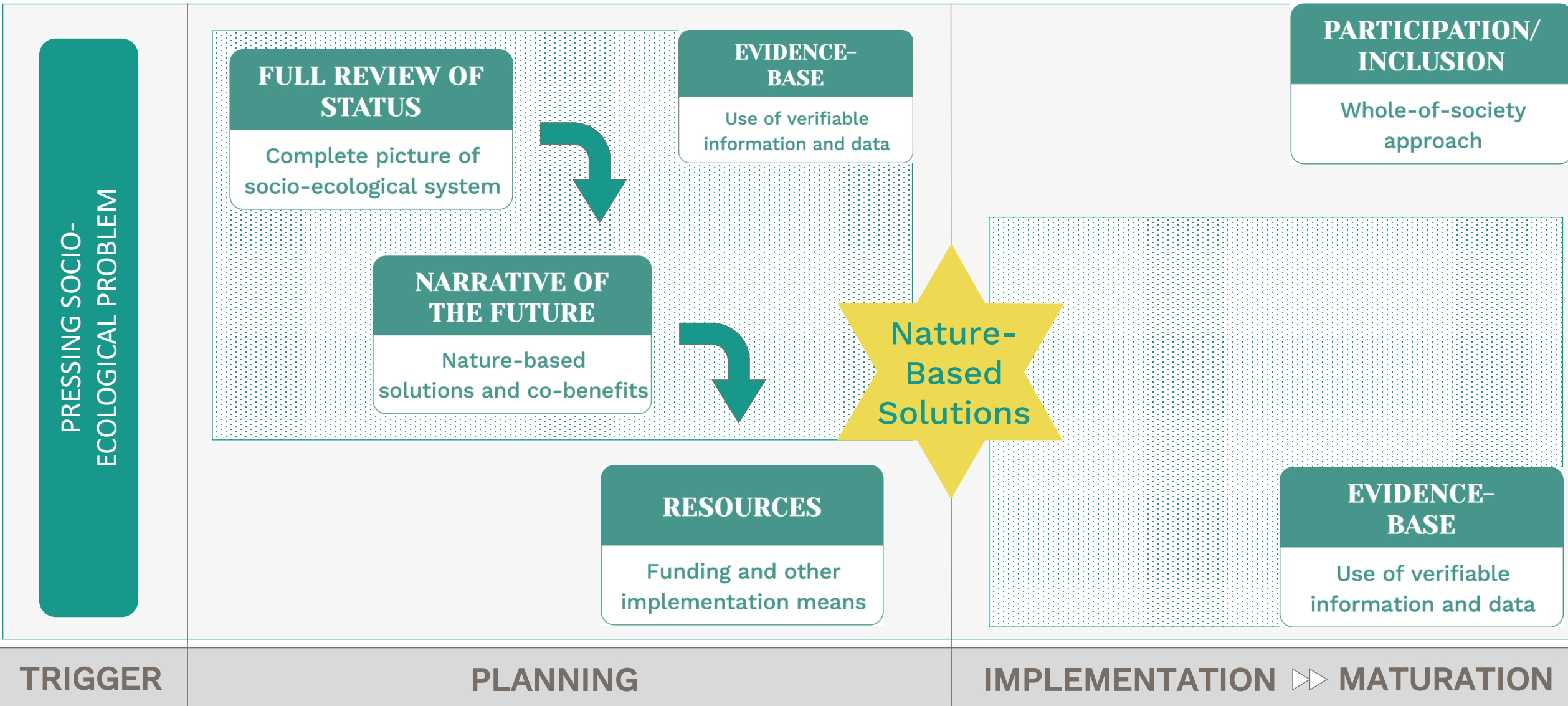
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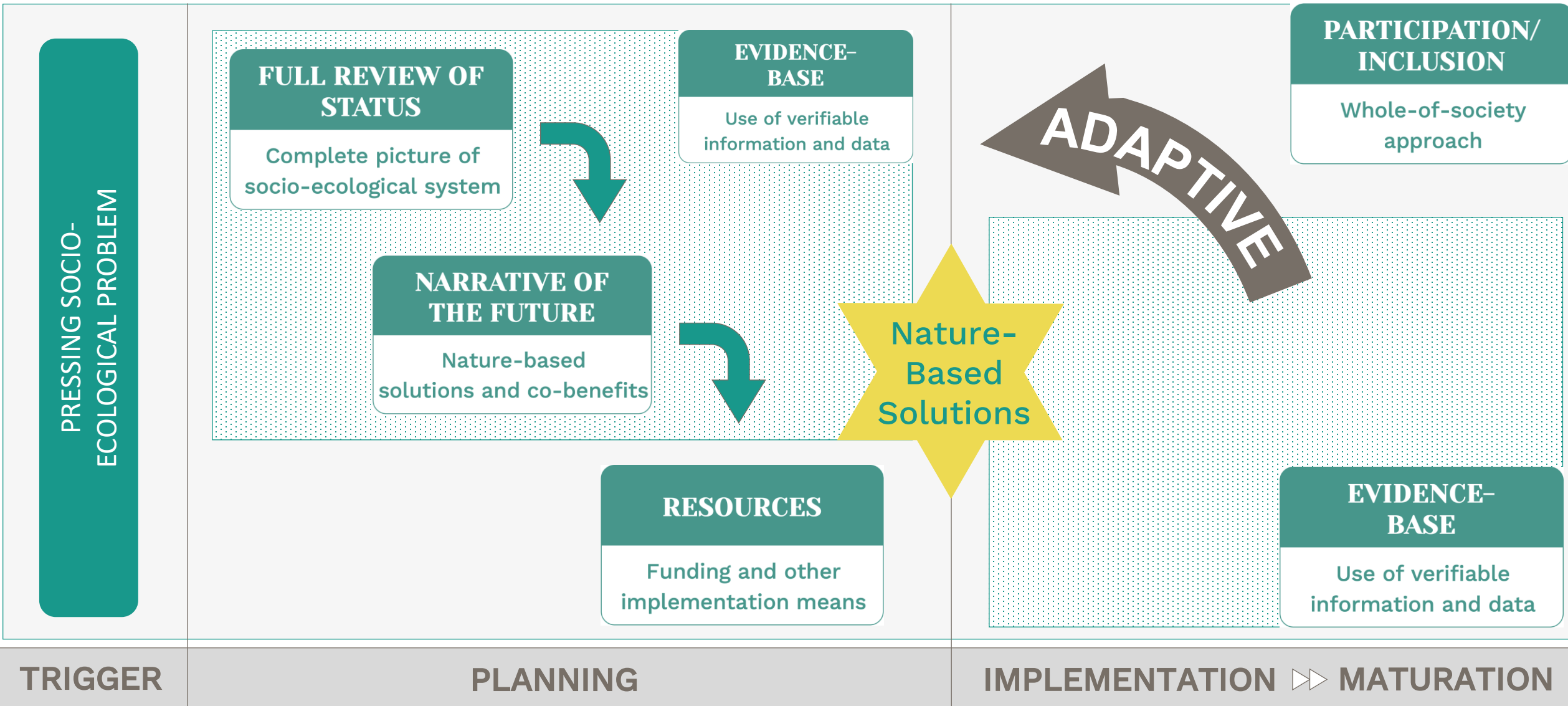
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TRANS-DISCIPLINARITY