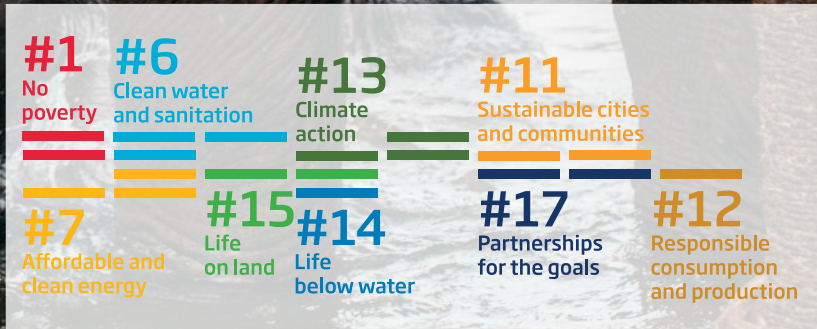


Using natural capital to address social and environmental challenges

Nature-Based Solutions CAPABILITY STATEMENT



NIRAS – A Nordic multi-disciplinary planning and engineering firm

With over 2400 employees, NIRAS is a leading international consulting and engineering company with offices in Europe, Africa, and Asia. We are one of the leading European consulting companies within development cooperation, providing technical expertise and results-oriented project management services to clients worldwide. Our work is far-reaching, building skills and capacity in support of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **We help our clients and partners deliver solutions which benefit people and planet - nature-based solutions (NbS).**

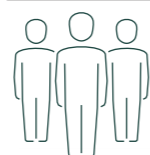
NIRAS has an extensive track record over the past 45 years in designing and implementing complex development assistance projects worldwide, promoting the most innovative and tailored solutions in pro-poor development. Today, NIRAS offers solutions to reduce poverty, increase resilience to climate change, implement low carbon development strategies, strengthen food security, facilitate inclusive economic growth, and promote equitable societies.

Our mission is to deliver financially, socially and environmentally sustainable solutions to our clients. In 2017, NIRAS incorporated the SDGs in our corporate strategy across all countries and markets. We nowadays view and contextualise our work through the SDGs, planning, reporting and monitoring how our projects contribute to them. With the ambition to be a driver for positive change, as a group NIRAS has adopted the policy and practice of exploring ways and introducing new services to enhance attainment of the SDGs in all our projects.

In the last 15 years, NIRAS has carried out over 100 assignments in nature-based solutions (NbS).

Implementing more than 300 assignments annually in more than 100 countries, the NIRAS business unit for International Consulting ranks among the largest development consultancy businesses in Europe. We have over 350 full-time permanent staff across 51 offices in 32 countries, including in our main offices in the UK, Denmark, Finland, Kenya, the Philippines, Sweden, Serbia, Germany, and Poland, and our country offices across Europe, Africa, South America and Asia Pacific. We have a pool of more than 25,000 development cooperation professionals we tap into for projects around the world.

NIRAS quick facts



2,400
Professionals



7,000
Projects
Delivered



51
Offices
Worldwide

Most of our work involves implementing large, long-term, multidisciplinary development programmes, often in challenging environments. With our in-house expertise and extensive network of experts, we provide high quality project management and technical assistance services, covering the entire project cycle, from project design to implementation and evaluation.

Nature-based solutions – What does it mean? What does NIRAS offer?

NIRAS adopts the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) definition of NbS – in other words: initiatives that use and enhance natural capital and also deliver benefits to people, taking into account the needs of women and men. Simple examples of NbS include watershed protection programmes that generate incomes for local communities; restoring mangroves and supporting local fishing communities; restoring degraded land and improving land rights while targeting women as future land owners.

NIRAS believes NbS and the SDGs are inextricably linked. NbS is just one way of delivering the intended outcomes of SDGs – benefitting the environment and people. We pride ourselves on integrating SDGs into the way we work.

“ Actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits. ”

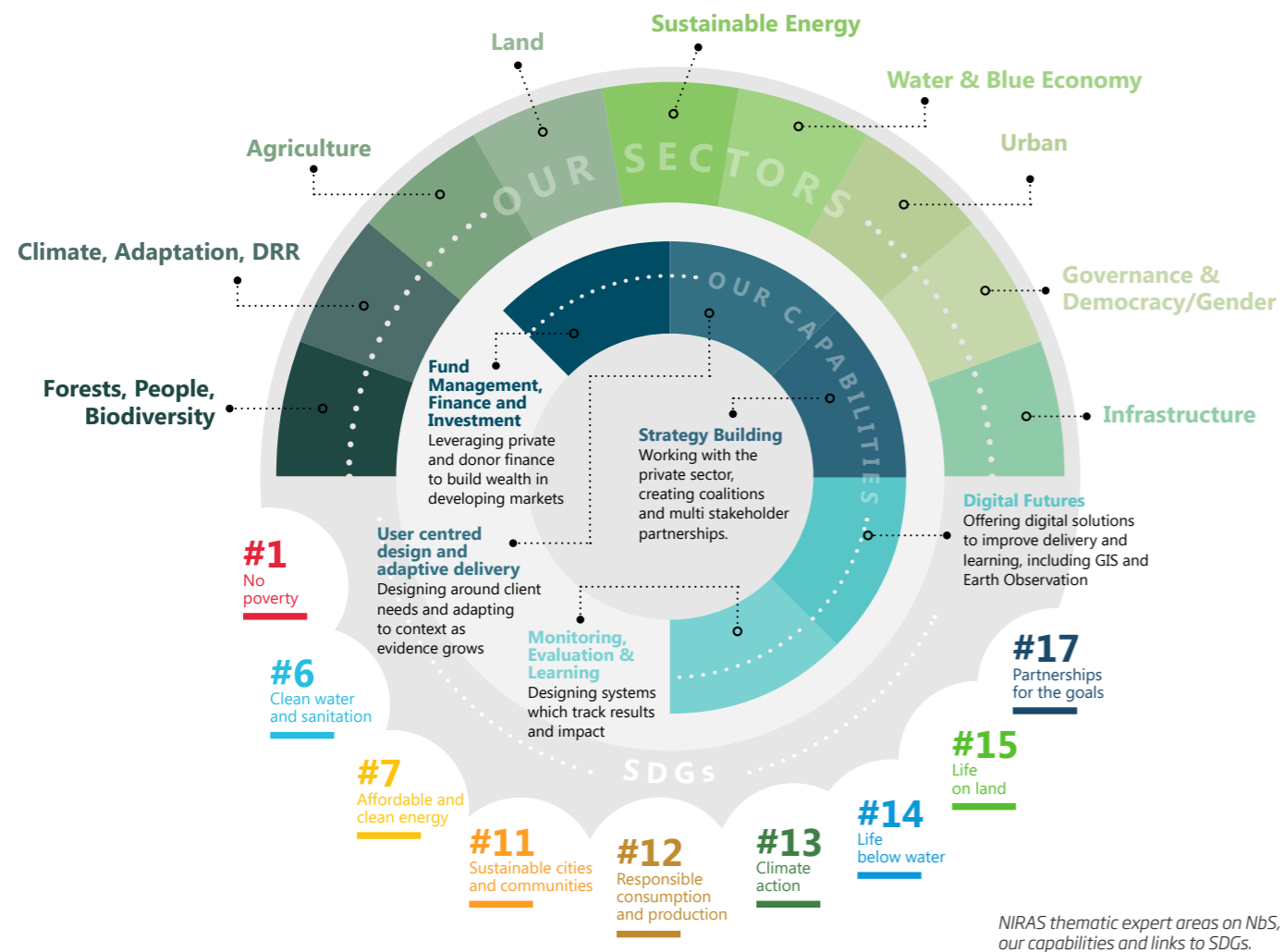
IUCN

NIRAS and the Sustainable Development Goals



NIRAS has been at the forefront of working with the SDGs for our clients. We have developed and tested various SDG tools in support of making sustainability measurable in every conceivable project within municipalities, regions, industries, health-care, supply, transport and construction. We have developed four SDG tools to help our clients – be they companies, organisations or public authorities – realise their investments in sustainable solutions. Apart from the NIRAS *SDG Capture* tool that allows for preliminary assessment of infrastructure solutions and how these impact the SDGs, we have also developed *SDG Measure*, *SDG Initiator* and *SDG Sustain* – tools that our project teams have full access to with NIRAS in-house backstopping. Furthermore, our digital project management, reporting, monitoring and impact tracking system SmartME is designed to integrate the SDGs in the assessment of investments and monitoring of progress.

SDG INITIATOR SDG MEASURE SDG SUSTAIN



NIRAS thematic expert areas on NbS, our capabilities and links to SDGs.

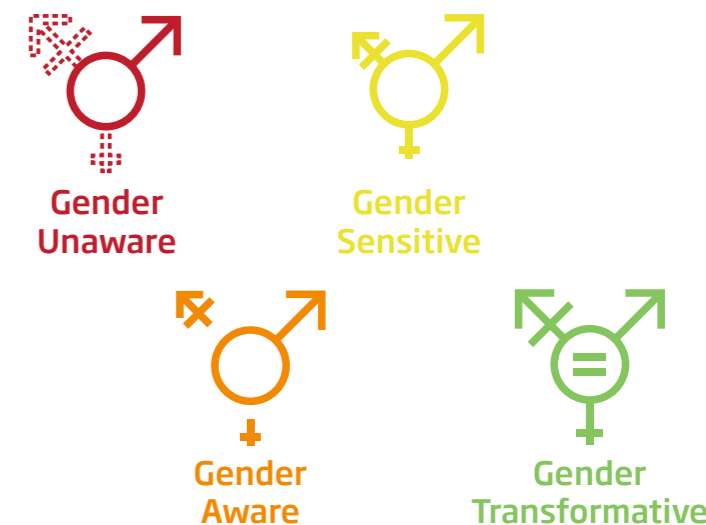
The NIRAS NbS offer

NIRAS in house technical teams hold a broad range of expertise in NbS covering multiple sectors and thematic areas. In addition, we offer core capabilities in fund management, user-centred design, strategy building and monitoring, evaluation and learning.

We aim to always be nature- and people-positive in the work we do.

NbS and gender

All of our work at NIRAS aims to mainstream gender and apply a rights-based approach to ensure women and disadvantaged groups gain access to natural capital and benefit equitably from it. Gender analysis helps to better understand the needs of different groups of beneficiaries and identify women and men's positions in the systems in which they live. We know that climate change affects women and girls most acutely because it exacerbates existing entrenched gender inequality. Climate change has different impact on women and men's daily lives and livelihoods. We invest time in understanding these differentiated impacts and designing gender-transformative solutions. Women's empowerment is essential for inclusive development. Women should be seen as actors and active leaders and participants in solutions and responses.



NbS global standards

We are committed to integrating the IUCN Global Standards for NbS into our work.

NbS Project Criteria:

1. NbS effectively addresses **societal challenges**
2. Design of NbS is **informed by scale**
3. NbS result in a net gain to **biodiversity and ecosystem integrity**
4. NbS are **economically viable**
5. NbS are based on inclusive, transparent and empowering **governance processes**
6. NbS equitably **balance trade-offs** between achievement of their primary goal(s) and the continued provision of multiple benefits
7. NbS are **managed adaptively**, based on evidence
8. NbS are **sustainable and mainstreamed** within an appropriate jurisdictional context



Our main NbS service areas



Institutional consultancy and advisory services across all thematic areas of NbS

Policy analysis and formulation, strategy development, gender impact assessment, coordination mechanisms, operational processes



Programme and fund management services

Project(s) assessment, selection, design, planning, implementation



Programme monitoring and evaluation services

Appraisal, monitoring, evaluation, review, learning



Training, capacity development, and awareness services

Training (needs-assessment, design, learning material, facilitation, course management, field trips, training-of-trainers), awareness, knowledge management, communications



NbS project highlights

Our NbS work protects, restores and/or sustainably manages natural resources and ecosystems while also delivering benefits to local communities - nature and people positive. Our projects are diverse in nature, operating at the local, regional, national, and global level across multiple stakeholders and with wide-ranging objectives and mechanisms.



Integrated assessment of land-use options for climate change adaptation and mitigation

- PROJECT SCOPE**
- + Sustainable land use planning
 - + Carbon finance management
 - + Investment policy-making support

From 2011-2013, the World Bank, through NIRAS International Consulting supported the Government of Malawi with an integrated assessment of land use options to strengthen integrated land use planning in response to the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change. NIRAS analysis systematically explored land use management options for climate financing in Malawi to deliver both climate (adaptation/mitigation) as well as development (e.g. environmental, economic, social) co-benefits. The NIRAS outputs were clustered around two areas: (i) technical assessment of land use management options to inform carbon finance investments and sustainable land use management, and (ii) supporting a government-led process for the preparation of key watershed investments.



Partnerships for Forests (P4F) evaluation management

- PROJECT SCOPE**
- + Assessment of non-state market mechanisms
 - + Created an evaluative learning framework

The Partnerships for Forests (P4F) by UK DFID & BEIS is a £60 million programme that aims to catalyse increased private investment in sustainable forestry and 'zero-deforestation' agriculture. It focuses on convening companies and governments, building support for demand-side measures and generating momentum for improved enabling conditions across a wide range of supply chains.

Through a £977,000 multi-year contract as "Evaluation Manager for P4F" NIRAS brings substantial experience in assessing the performance and impact of non-state market mechanisms for sustainability in global forestry and agriculture value chains. NIRAS works with P4F, DFID, BEIS and relevant actors and stakeholders to create a fully coherent, overarching evaluative learning framework, in which the programme outcomes of investment and replication of business models that support efforts that seek to reduce deforestation are translated - through a theory of change - into a validated planning and reporting structure

The P4F program impacts included

- mobilisation of
£244 million
 in private investments **over 3 years**

- facilitation of
67 forest-focused
 partnerships
in 17 countries

Source: partnershipsforforests.com/our-impact-in-numbers/



Management of the Darwin Initiative and Overseas Territories Climate Fund

PROJECT SCOPE | + Global fund management
+ Results monitoring and evaluation
+ Field evaluations

Since 2003, NIRAS has been contracted by the UK Defra to support the "Management of the Darwin Initiative and Overseas Territories Climate Fund." The fund provides £7-million-worth of funds per annum to projects carried out in partnership between UK institutions and developing countries, Overseas Territories of the United Kingdom, and countries whose economies are in transition. Our services include management (applications process, financial administration of all projects, project management support services including secretariat functions) and delivery of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) programme.

Since 1993, the initiative has awarded £140 million to approximately 1,055 projects in over 159 countries. NIRAS has provided hands-on technical support and field evaluations in a range of geographies and technical specialisations, including protected areas in Uganda, sustainable livelihoods and forest conservation in Cambodia, and ivory consumption reduction in China.



awarded
£140 million
to approximately
1,055 projects

Photo courtesy of Darwin Initiative.



Strategic mainstreaming of ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) in Viet Nam

PROJECT SCOPE | + Strategy development
+ Training of key planning stakeholders

The overall project goal of the GiZ-funded "Strategic Mainstreaming of Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) in Viet Nam" project is the integration of EbA into land use and development planning in Viet Nam.

The two-year €121,000 project focuses on awareness and capacity of stakeholders at the national and provincial level to ensure they recognise the importance, potentials and comparative advantages of EbA and have capacities for the mainstreaming and implementation. Within the scope of this consultancy, a *Capacity Development Strategy* for mainstreaming adaptation with a focus on EbA has been developed in close cooperation with the Vietnamese Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) and other partners. By integrating the concept of EbA in trainings and supporting the institutionalisation of these trainings in already existing training institutions in Viet Nam, the key stakeholders' capacities to take effective and, if possible, EbA measures in planning processes is increased.

NIRAS assisted the Government of Indonesia to enhance conservation and sustainable forest and biodiversity management in the "Heart of Borneo" through the ADB-funded "Sustainable Forest and Biodiversity Management in Borneo" project. The US\$3.5 million project helped strengthen capacity in relation to sustainable forest and biodiversity management planning and implementation at the national and selected district levels. NIRAS was the project management consultant, providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to help achieve the overall project objectives. Through fieldwork in Kalimantan and remote support, NIRAS supported sustainable forest and biodiversity management planning and implementation through Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) and payments for environmental services (PES) models for community forest management employing the Plan Vivo framework.

Sustainable Forest and Biodiversity Management in Borneo

PROJECT SCOPE | + Biodiversity planning & management
+ Multi-level onsite technical assistance

Planning for resilience in East Africa through policy, adaptation, research, and economic development (PREPARED)

PROJECT SCOPE | + Resilient development planning
+ Conservation assesment and support

The overall goal of the USAID "Planning for Resilience in East Africa through Policy, Adaptation, Research, and Economic Development (PREPARED)" programme was to strengthen the resiliency and sustainability of East African economies, transboundary freshwater ecosystems, and communities with a focus on climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) components.

Its aim was to mainstream integrated, multi-sectoral, evidence-based, climate-resilient development planning and programme implementation into the East Africa Community (EAC) and its Partner States' development agendas. NIRAS led the US\$2 million biodiversity conservation component using its regional knowledge and decades of experience in transboundary biodiversity conservation in East Africa to provide targeted support by conducting key ecosystem and biodiversity assessments over a 5-year period from 2013 to 2018.



Carbon market access for rural smallholders

PROJECT SCOPE | + Poverty alleviation assesment
+ Testing and verification study

Through the "Carbon Market Access for Rural Smallholders" project, NIRAS was commissioned to assess opportunities for OAF to engage with the carbon market on behalf of smallholder farmers. Since 2006, OAF has been providing an innovative "market bundle" credit and repayment model to support smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa (and more recently India) to improve productivity, strengthen climate change resilience and escape from poverty. Many of OAF's interventions have the potential to sequester significant amounts of carbon, which represents a valuable opportunity to generate a new revenue stream for farmers and increase OAF operational sustainability. The project therefore sought to understand whether OAF's decentralised smallholder farm production model was an appropriate fit for carbon market structures. It also sought to clarify the testing burden and costs of ongoing verification to ensure that the benefit of participation in carbon markets will outweigh the added complexity and expense.



M&E Technical Agency for the Enhancing Community Resilience Programme (ECRP)

PROJECT SCOPE | + M&E framework design
+ Learning and communications support

The Enhancing Community Resilience Programme (ECRP) was a £30 million programme by UK DFID that provided support to over 1.5 million people in vulnerable Malawian communities to manage, cope with and recover from the impact of both current and future changes in weather patterns, including through adaptation practices such as crop diversification, soil fertility management, agroforestry and irrigation.

As the “M&E Technical Agency for ECRP,” NIRAS designed the theory of change, M&E frameworks and learning and communications strategies and worked with the NGO consortia to implement them. NIRAS developed an online monitoring, information system to store programme monitoring data and carried out technical research to support learning and advocacy. The final evaluation used a quasi-experimental impact assessment approach using recall responses from beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries to attribute statistically significant improvements in climate resilience and asset values to the programme interventions.



Innovative climate adaptation in Gedvad residential area



PROJECT SCOPE | + Flood mitigation engineering
+ Hydraulic modelling

In an ordinary residential area of Bagsværd, Denmark lies an advanced and tailored climate protection system hidden underground. Under road beds, parking lots and a small playing field, a strip of seepage systems has been installed to ensure that rainwater does not cause problems for the area's sewer system. An important part of creating a smart climate protection system is to adapt it to the physical environment.

Gedvad consists of both high and low-lying terrain. In some places, the soil easily allows rainwater seepage, while conditions for seepage in other areas are poor. On behalf of Novafos A/S, NIRAS installed a giant fascine of 800m³ underground. In addition, the basin with the stepping stones has a volume of 1,000 m³, where rainwater can be retained in case of heavy rain. To identify the fascines optimal locations and sizes, NIRAS performed detailed hydraulic modelling and preliminary studies to document soil capacity of seepage.



Valby and Kalvebod Brygge cloudburst

PROJECT SCOPE | + Flood mitigation
+ Tunnel engineering

Two new 'highways for rainwater' will be drilled in the Copenhagen underground. Denmark's largest utility company, HOFOR, has hired consultants with NIRAS in the lead to solve the complicated "Valby and Kalvebod Brygge Cloudburst" projects. The project is supporting climate change adaptation by managing flooding from cloudbursts, which are extreme events threatening entire neighbourhoods with sudden flooding.

The tunnels will cost 300 million DKK and 320 million DKK, respectively, and the main purpose is to prepare the city for rare extreme rainfall events - defined as 15mm of rain in a 30-minute period. At the same time, the two tunnels will also have a climate protection effect on the increased amounts of everyday rain. Cloudburst tunnels lead the water from the lower areas of the city into the ocean. The construction of these tunnels is complex because they run under roads, buildings, railways and in the current projects also cross the metro.

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NIRAS offices around the world

Our decentralised structure ensures that we are always close to our projects. With 51 offices in 31 countries worldwide, we maintain strong local ties to clients, experts, and organisations in all of our key markets. Building on our motto "we listen, we learn, we deliver", NIRAS is proud to be a long-term partner in the pursuit of growth and prosperity for the countries in which we work. Our representations are staffed by professionals committed to building partnerships with local service providers, and we train and recruit local talent beyond the lifespan of individual projects. NIRAS sees this as a contribution to building sustainable and equitable future societies wherever we work. Contact our representatives to see how we can support your needs.

For a complete list of NIRAS country offices, visit our website: niras.com/locations

■ The next generation consultancy

Owned by a foundation and a percentage of its employees, NIRAS is an international multi-disciplinary consultancy firm with Nordic roots and values creating sustainable development solutions for a better, more equal, and stable world. We have about 2300 employees worldwide and implement projects in over 100 countries. We work across a broad spectrum of areas including construction, energy, water, climate change resilience, and infrastructure to rural development, the process industry, economic development, geodata, as well as urban planning. Our mission is to deliver tailored, innovative, value-creating, and results-driven solutions to enable our clients and partners achieve their goals. We do this by providing transformative support for positive change, addressing root causes, and magnifying impact through flexibility in implementation, capturing SDG-linked results, and celebrating successes.

Ethics and Sustainability

Through the more than 7000 projects NIRAS implements around the globe, we are doing our part to contribute to sustainable societies by meeting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). All NIRAS results are linked to

their contributions to one or several of the SDGs. In our own practice, we emphasise accountability and ethics. NIRAS is a signatory to the UN Global Compact and member of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC). Through these, we have committed to uphold a number of international principles.

International Consulting

A key business unit, NIRAS International Consulting collaborates with development organisations, donors, governments, institutional investors, and the private sector to design, manage, and evaluate projects and services that create opportunities for people to improve their lives and live in safe, equal, well-governed, and climate-resilient societies. We do this in partnership with our country offices and our extensive network of experts to ensure a comprehensive, results-driven approach that is both contextually sensitive and produces innovative outcomes for maximum value. We pride ourselves on efficient and effective results-based management.

**Join our team of development practitioners in our goal to alleviate global poverty.
Register your CV on our database: cv.niras.com**

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