ReMeMaRe

National Estuarine and Coastal Restoration Strategy:
Delivery Plan

1   Introduction

The purpose of the "Restoring Meadow, Marsh and Reef (ReMeMaRe)" National Action Planning (NAP) workshop, held in May 2022, was to identify and discuss the next steps that ReMeMaRe should take, in order to develop and implement a national strategy that best supports and enables estuarine and coastal (E&C) restoration. It was an opportunity for ReMeMaRe partners to 'sign up' to leading or contributing towards those next steps, based on what best fits their knowledge, experience and future work plans, so that ReMeMaRe is delivered in a collaborative manner.

The outputs from the workshop were recorded in a word for word document, which was then condensed into an executive summary. The latter contained extended details of the top 8 pathways, considered by partners at the workshop, to be the most important for moving E&C restoration forward.

- "**2022_08_09_ReMeMaRe NAP_Executive Summary_v1.00.pdf**"
- "**2022_08_09_ReMeMaRe NAP_Word for Word_v1.00.pdf**"

A number of key themes and actions were identified during the workshop. Discussions held during ReMeMaRe Steering and Partnership Group meetings and in personal communications between partners over recent years, have also identified similar or additional themes and deliverables that are considered important to develop, enable and deliver an E&C restoration strategy, from a project- to national- scale.

Building on the NAP and other ReMeMaRe discussions, this document sets out the proposed structure of a series of Working Groups (WGs) (Figure 1) and suggested key deliverables. It is proposed that:

- WGs will each focus on addressing key themes, achieved by targeting the key deliverables identified and which are of primary relevance to that theme. This will be detailed in a Terms of Reference (ToR) document that summarises this overall WG structure for ReMeMaRe (detailed herein) and clearly defines the remit for each WG;
- WGs will be led and contributed to by those ReMeMaRe partner organisations or individuals that have resource and particular enthusiasm and expertise in the WG themes and/or associated deliverables;
- WGs will be responsible for their own delivery (e.g., convening meetings, assigning tasks to WG members, etc.) and will be expected to report progress updates to the ReMeMaRe partnership in a timely manner that best suits the speed at which each theme and/or deliverable would be expected to progress.;
- Progress updates will form part of future ReMeMaRe Partnership and Steering Group meetings to facilitate knowledge sharing and support collaboration. It will also allow WG's to use feedback received from the wider partnership as a sound board to help continually develop and steer the direction of their work; and
- WG support will be provided from the wider partnership where possible (e.g., resource dependent).

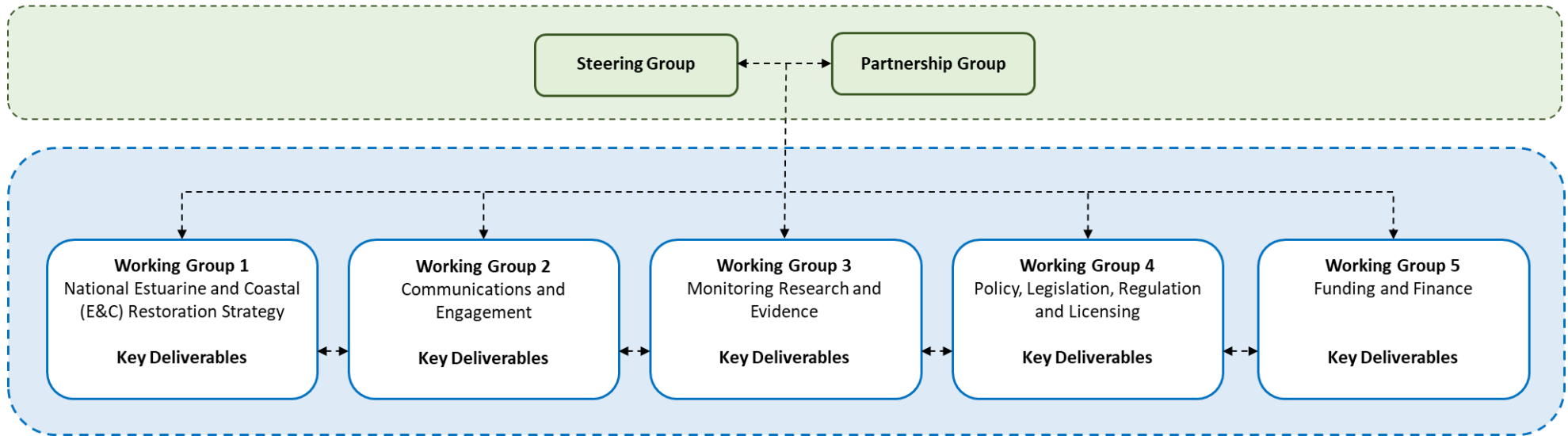# Restoring Meadow, Marsh and Reef (ReMeMaRe)

Figure 1: ReMeMaRe organogram, showing the structure of the existing partnership and the proposed Working Groups (WGs). Arrows indicate knowledge exchange and collaboration.

2   Working Groups and Key Deliverables

The proposed WGs, deliverables and 'sub-deliverables' are described in the following pages and summarised in the list below[1]. As the Delivery Plan is taken forward, the current structuring may be periodically updated (e.g., changes to the scope of key deliverables, addition or removal of deliverables, key deliverables sitting under different WGs, etc.).

Many of the proposed deliverables overlap or support other areas of work across ReMeMaRe, to a greater or lesser degree. During delivery, effort and resource will be prioritised based on the relative importance of each deliverable (e.g., based on its role or function, and the strength of its links to, or dependence, on other deliverables), whilst seeking to avoid inefficiencies (e.g., duplication of effort).

WG1:   National Estuarine and Coastal (E&C) Restoration Strategy

D1:   Strategic Goals and Objectives*

D2:   Seascape Statement*

D3:   Project Database*

D4:   Tools and Guidance:

    i.   Restoration Handbooks

    ii.   Restoration Potential Maps*

    iii.   Restoration Principles*

    iv.   Decision Support Tools

WG2:   Communications and Engagement

D1:   ReMeMaRe Brand*

D2:   Internal Agreements

D3:   Internal Communications Plan*

D4:   External Communications Plan*

    i.   ReMeMaRe Website

    ii.   Ocean Literacy Programme

    iii.   Social Media Plan

    iv.   Community Engagement Resources

    v.   Citizen Science Programmes

    vi.   ReMeMaRe Ambassador Group

WG3:   Monitoring, Research and Evidence

D1:   ConnECTER SIG*

    i.   Estuarine and Coastal (E&C) Research Questions Paper

    ii.   E&C Restoration Studentships

D2:   Restoration Monitoring Database*

D3:   Monitoring and Evaluation Standards and Templates*

D4:   Scoping and Feasibility Reports

    i.   Aquaculture and Nursery Facilities: Scoping Report

    ii.   Estuarine and Coastal Restoration and Agriculture (D4ii)

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[1] Deliverables have been marked with an asterisk (*) to identify those topics (either the deliverable itself, or the general ethos of the deliverable) that featured in discussions during the ReMeMaRe NAP workshop, based on the word for word and executive summary documents produced.

2.1 National Estuarine and Coastal (E&C) Restoration Strategy (WG1)

The National E&C Restoration Strategy WG will be responsible for developing and maintaining the overall focus, support and delivery of ReMeMaRe.

Potential deliverables include:

1. Strategic Goals and Objectives
2. Seascape Statement
3. Project Database
4. Tools and Guidance
    i. Restoration Handbooks
    ii. Restoration Potential Maps
    iii. Restoration Principles
    iv. Decision Support Tools

2.1.1 Strategic Goals and Objectives (D1)

There is a requirement for the Strategic Goals (SGs) and Objectives of ReMeMaRe to be refined so that 'success' can be measured and reported more accurately (e.g., using SMART objectives, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), etc.). Ideally, this should also tie in with existing targets, indicators and/or goals (e.g., Good Environmental Status (GES), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), etc.). This should also relate to the Seascape Statement deliverable to frame the ReMeMaRe Vision and Mission statements and to provide answers to questions such as "what are we restoring back to?", which frequently arise when discussing E&C restoration.

Measures of 'success' or 'impact' should equally be developed for the Delivery Plan and the Key Deliverables described herein. This will help ensure that resources available to ReMeMaRe (e.g., financial and time) are spent in the most effective manner.

2.1.2 Seascape Statement (D2)

A Seascape Statement needs to be produced, encompassing the existing habitat restoration work undertaken by ReMeMaRe to date, but developed to include ecosystem restoration approaches. This should include the wider context of natural processes such as hydrodynamics, sedimentary systems and other energy and matter flows, also taking into account factors such as baseline shifts and future pressures (e.g., climate change and sea-level rise (SLR)). The Seascape Statement will also help frame the ReMeMaRe Vision and Mission statements and will underpin the overall National E&C Restoration Strategy.

Future work will also look to further develop and connect the Seascape Statement with similar approaches taken across land and freshwater systems (e.g., Catchment Based Approach (CaBA)) (i.e., collaborate between land and sea), in order to move towards wholescape approaches, 'Catchment to Coast', 'Source to Sea'.

2.1.3 Project Database (D3)

One of the key deliverables within Internal Communications Plan will be the development of a project database. It is anticipated that this database will provide a platform to share information regarding E&C restoration project information and will be heavily supported by the more detailed restoration project and other data managed under the Restoration Data Repository deliverable. The project database would essentially provide a 'front end' display to the detailed background data, but in an easily accessible format for use by the partnership. It will also be used to support the External Communications Plan deliverable.

2.1.4   Tools and Guidance (D4)

Focussed on user needs, tools and guidance should be produced that can be adopted at a national level and used to support and enable E&C restoration at the individual project level. ReMeMaRe partners should continue to identify and request new tools and guidance that could be subsequently developed, as and when data and suitable resourcing becomes available.

2.1.4.1   Restoration Handbooks (D4i)

The Restoration Handbooks have been produced, to provide practical guidance on how to restore each of the priority habitats, as well as an additional handbook on how to beneficially use dredged sediment to support E&C restoration more broadly. They were developed to provide UK-wide guidance in order to improve consistency in approaches and reduce regulatory uncertainty and associated issues, based on current knowledge, understanding and best practice.

Each are similar in terms of content, structure and design, particularly the habitat specific handbooks, covering: habitat specific details, historic trends, outlining the context and need for restoration; information on how to get started on a restoration project, including project design, planning, permitting and licensing; examples of restoration in practice and associated monitoring; and advice on communication and engagement strategies. They may also be updated periodically, as required due to developments in science, practice or regulation and policy.

2.1.4.2   Restoration Potential Maps (D4ii)

The Restoration Potential Maps for the priority habitats initially produced are currently being refined at a local to area level by Natural England and Environment Agency. These will provide guidance on where restoration of each of the priority habitats could be successful and will include a shortlist of priority restoration sites in England, based on the level of potential benefit for both people and nature. This work will be completed by the end of the 2022/23FY.

Comparison of these maps with similar plans of ReMeMaRe partners who have significant land holdings will also be undertaken. However, due to potential conflicts and issues associated with land ownership and 'land grabbing', the most appropriate way of sharing the finalised data layers more widely will require careful consideration.

Similar to the habitat specific restoration potential maps, a Sediment Resource Database (SRD) proposal is currently being developed between the Beneficial Use Working Group (BUWG) and the Central Dredging Association (CEDA) UK Beneficial Use Liaison Group (industry partners). This collaboration aims to produce an open access UK web portal with regional breakdowns, to help co-ordinate the potential sediment resource supply (i.e., dredging operations) and demand (i.e., beneficial use of dredged sediment for the purposes of E&C restoration) to support restoration projects that may require additional sediments for land- and/or sea- scaping (e.g., large-scale managed realignments, sand dune replenishment, etc.).

2.1.4.3   Restoration Principles (D4iii)

An Restoration Principles document is being developed between Natural England and the Environment Agency. The aim of this document is to provide a description of what is meant by restoration, including more consistent advice for restoration activities that interact with MPAs in some manner (e.g., restoration within an MPA, the collection of seagrass seed from within an MPA to restore elsewhere, etc.). This work is due to complete by the end of the 2022/23FY.

2.1.4.4   Decision Support Tools (D4iv)

To support more active application of the evidence and guidance gathered and produced by ReMeMaRe, it is proposed that where appropriate and sufficient data exists (e.g., ecosystem service values), a series of Decision Support Tools should be produced. Such tools can support the development of local, place-based restoration targets, valuation and subsequent delivery of E&C restoration.

2.2   Communications and Engagement (WG2)

The Communications and Engagement WG will be responsible for the communication, promotion and advocacy of ReMeMaRe and the importance of E&C ecosystems generally. This will include both internal and external communications.

Potential deliverables include:

1. ReMeMaRe Brand
2. Internal Agreements
3. Internal Communications Plan
4. External Communications Plan
    i. ReMeMaRe Website
    ii. Ocean Literacy Programme
    iii. Social Media Plan
    iv. Community Engagement Resources
    v. Citizen Science Programmes
    vi. ReMeMaRe Ambassador Group

2.2.1   ReMeMaRe Brand (D1)

To improve the recognition and communication of ReMeMaRe, it is important to develop a recognisable brand. It is recommended that this includes, but is not limited to the creation of a logo, improvements to the existing website and development of a social media presence. The purpose of these general branding deliverables would be to improve and streamline co-ordination between partners and their respective communications and messaging relating to ReMeMaRe and E&C restoration.

2.2.2   Internal Agreements (D2)

Recognising the importance of a brand, this WG will also provide a forum for ReMeMaRe partners to discuss potential overlap with their organisations own brand and work, which is acknowledged as a potential conflict in some instances. Accordingly, an aspect of this deliverable would be to develop agreements between partners relating to the use of the ReMeMaRe Brand, sharing of information between partners and other related activities. As well as addressing potential issues (e.g., GDPR, commercial sensitivities, etc.), it is anticipated that such agreements could also help create efficiencies in collaborative working (e.g., simplify the processes for sharing resources and co-ordinating efforts such as funding bids).

2.2.3   Internal Communications Plan (D3)

To support knowledge sharing, reporting on progress, project collaboration and other related activities across the ReMeMaRe partnership, this deliverable will develop an internal communications plan. This will incorporate the existing Steering and Partnership Group quarterly meetings, future WG progress updates, specialist group meeting minutes (e.g., ConnECTER SIG and the Beneficial Use Working Group (BUWG)) and the annual "Restoring Estuarine and Coastal Habitats (REACH)" conference. This deliverable will also maintain administrative aspects of ReMeMaRe, such as active membership and contact details (pending Internal Agreements).

2.2.4   External Communications Plan (D4)

This deliverable will aim to widen the sphere of influence of ReMeMaRe, improve recognition of E&C, support collaboration (e.g., partnerships working at the wholescape approach) and increase resourcing to deliver the ReMeMaRe Vision and Mission. The ReMeMaRe partnership will achieve this by providing a powerful and unified voice for E&C across the regulatory, local government, nature conservation, university, research and industrial organisations and sectors that currently comprise the partnership.

The External Communications Plan will be developed with the support of professional marketing and engagement partner(s). Through this process, it is expected that a number of sub-deliverables (such as those examples proposed below) will be developed, building in aspects of the ReMeMaRe Brand and Internal Communications Plan deliverables, as well as other ReMeMaRe outputs, such as the Policy Document deliverable. As part of this wide brief, the outputs from this deliverable will be developed to target different audiences, such as the public, policy makers, investors, industry, education and other Government Departments whose activities influence E&C.

2.2.4.1   ReMeMaRe Website (D4i)

A dedicated ReMeMaRe Website will be developed to support all aspects of external communications and outreach. It will also provide a central platform for the delivery of other activities, such as: a submissions portal linked to the Project Database, publication of research papers authored by the ConnECTER SIG, hosting Tools and Guidance developed by ReMeMaRe, etc..

2.2.4.2   Ocean Literacy Programme (D4ii)

A programme of Ocean Literacy (OL) will be developed with a focus on E&C, based on the framework and 10x OL dimensions described in McKinley et al. (2023). This will be hosted on the ReMeMaRe Website and also support the development and delivery of the Social Media Plan, Community Engagement Resources and Citizen Science communications.

2.2.4.3   Social Media Plan (D4iii)

This deliverable will help to spread awareness of E&C issues and restoration through a co-ordinated social media campaign. One example of a potential output, would be the use of the Project Database deliverable to produce communications (e.g., based on restoration case studies or recent project milestones, etc.) that all partners can use to celebrate each other's successes, as well as championing the progress made by ReMeMaRe generally through inclusion of the ReMeMaRe Brand. Also, an 'environmental calendar' (e.g., World Ocean's Day, etc.), may be used to co-ordinate messaging.

2.2.4.4   Community Engagement Resources (D4iv)

This deliverable will produce a range of resources that can be used to support both awareness raising generally and/or more specifically, by those developing restoration projects and plans. This may include information on needs, benefits, examples, etc., associated with E&C restoration and range from infographics, posters and standardised slide packs to educational tools, to story maps and videos and imagery.

2.2.4.5   Citizen Science Programmes (D4v)

This deliverable will develop a structured portfolio of citizen science projects. These can be developed to strategically supplement existing monitoring programmes (e.g., Natural Capital Ecosystem Assessment Programme (NCEAP)), fill data and evidence gaps (e.g., blue carbon) and support research needs. In doing so, this deliverable will provide opportunities for interested stakeholders (e.g., coastal communities and groups) to be more tangibly linked to E&C restoration and the National E&C Restoration Strategy and supporting aspects such as ocean literacy, raising awareness, community ownership and sense of place. The development and management of this deliverable could support or be supported by the Monitoring and Evaluation Standards and Templates, External Communications Plan, ConnECTER SIG and Restoration Data Repository deliverables.

2.2.4.6   ReMeMaRe Ambassador Group (D4vi)

To support engagement from a wider audience across the general public and in connection with the E&C Restoration Fund deliverable, it is recommended that a group of respected and high-profile public figures with an interest in E&C restoration and wider environmental issues is formed to act as an "Ambassador Group" for ReMeMaRe. It is anticipated that such a group would help with the championing and recognition of E&C, thereby supporting a wider a reach of the ReMeMaRe messaging.

2.3   Monitoring, Research and Evidence (WG3)

The Monitoring, Research and Evidence WG will be responsible for providing the evidence to support the appropriate development of ReMeMaRe. It will identify knowledge gaps in E&C science generally, but will have a particular focus on restoration and will address these gaps through targeted research. It will also collate and manage monitoring and other data of relevance to E&C restoration, gained at an individual project level or as part of other national monitoring campaigns (e.g., NCEAP).

Potential deliverables include:

1. ConnECTER SIG
    i.   Estuarine and Coastal (E&C) Research Questions Papers
    ii.   E&C Restoration Studentships
2. Restoration Monitoring Database
3. Monitoring and Evaluation Standards and Templates
4. Scoping and Feasibility Reports
    i.   Aquaculture and Nursery Facilities: Scoping Report
    ii.   Estuarine and Coastal Restoration and Agriculture (D4ii)

2.3.1   ConnECTER SIG (D1)

The "Connectivity in Estuarine, Coastal and Transitional Ecosystem Restoration (ConnECTER) Special Interest Group (SIG)" is now largely established. The SIG will support networking and collaboration between academics and research organisations working in the field of E&C restoration (nationally and internationally). With support from ReMeMaRe partners, it will also connect this community more widely to other stakeholders involved in practical implementation across the UK (e.g., to support E&C restoration monitoring and 'learning by doing'). As well as supporting habitat and ecosystem restoration and the application of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) generally, the SIG will also promote and facilitate scientific research that targets knowledge gaps and improves understanding of E&C topics (e.g., ecosystem service provision and valuation data). This will include liaison and working with other key groups, such as the Estuarine and Coastal Sciences Association (ECSA). More information about the SIG, including the agreed Terms of Reference (ToR), can be found on the ReMeMaRe website via the link above.

As well as the environmental sciences perspective of the habitat-specific Networks that comprise the SIG, a "Social, Culture and Heritage Network" will also be established. This will provide an avenue for social sciences and culture and heritage aspects to be more embedded in the work of ReMeMaRe, with potential links to and support of further outreach through the External Communications Plan.

2.3.1.1   Estuarine and Coastal (E&C) Research Questions Papers (D1i)

One of the key deliverables for the ConnECTER SIG, is for each Habitat Network and for the Ecosystem Network to develop a Research Questions paper. These will be a summary of research questions, which if answered, would best fill existing evidence gaps, thereby enabling the upscaled restoration and future conservation and management of that habitat. Producing this series of research questions as papers in peer-reviewed journals, aims to engage the wider scientific community, contribute to academic publication targets and help focus future funding and research. A native oyster research questions paper has been published (zu Ermgassen *et al.*, 2019), whilst the other Habitat Networks have also progressed this deliverable to varying degrees. It is anticipated that the Ecosystem Network paper and outputs will be strongly linked to the Seascape Statement.

2.3.1.2   E&C Restoration Studentships (D1ii)

Education, training, experience, and improving employability in the field of E&C restoration is required to support a long-term National E&C Restoration Strategy. Through its academic focus, the ConnECTER SIG will, through collaboration with universities, ReMeMaRe partners and others involved in undertaking E&C restoration, develop structured E&C Research Studentships and training programmes to support graduate and post-graduate inclusion (e.g., fish survey methods delivered by

the Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM)). This will help develop a wider skills base within the E&C restoration sector, whilst also helping to address other deliverables, such as undertaking the research identified through the E&C Research Questions Papers and supporting Citizen Science.

2.3.2 Restoration Monitoring Database (D2)

The Restoration Monitoring Database deliverable will help collate, manage and improve access to detailed monitoring data, as well as linking to other data of relevance to E&C science such as ecosystem service valuations, gained at an individual project level or as part of monitoring campaigns delivered outside of the ReMeMaRe partnership (e.g., NCEAP). This will be achieved by developing new or building on existing data repositories (i.e., avoiding duplication wherever possible through appropriate signposting and links) and sharing information collected by ReMeMaRe partners. This will help ensure that data collected and/or used to support E&C restoration is robust in terms of method standards, data quality and consistency (e.g., using Monitoring and Evaluation Standards and Templates). It will also feed into other deliverables that are based on the underlying evidence (e.g., Decision Support Tools, Project Database and Policy Document).

2.3.3 Monitoring and Evaluation Standards and Templates (D3)

Although the restoration handbooks and additional guidance published by ReMeMaRe and partners contain information on restoration monitoring and evaluation methods (e.g., Hudson *et al.*, 2021 (Appendix I); zu Ermgassen *et al.*, 2021), restoration data currently tends to be project specific and therefore variable. Minimum monitoring and evaluation standards and templates should be produced and adopted nationally. This should also link to a central open access repository that can collate monitoring data associated with restoration activity, such as that detailed under Restoration Monitoring Database. It is anticipated that this will help ensure that restoration monitoring data is streamlined, comparable, supports data collation and access, helps address key evidence gaps and enables more consistent licensing advice regarding monitoring conditions (with associated benefits to costs and expectations).

2.3.4 Scoping and Feasibility Reports (D4)

In addition scientific research, more general technical studies may be required to support a wider understanding of factors influencing E&C restoration (e.g., feasibility studies, scoping reports, literature reviews, etc.). Where needed, Scoping and Feasibility Reports may be produced or commissioned in order to build a shared inventory of grey literature.

2.3.4.1 *Aquaculture and Nursery Facilities: Scoping Report (D4i)*

Of particular relevance to seagrass and native oyster, the potential for the required future upscaling of restoration efforts is limited, due primarily to historic losses and consequently, an associated lack of seed/seedling and spat/cultch stock available for restoration. To address this, aquaculture and nursery facilities have been developed, but there is not yet an agreed 'best practice' or co-ordinated approach to managing such facilities and their potential to support restoration, as well as other benefits (e.g., potential job creation, research and outreach). This Scoping Report will summarise existing aquaculture and nursery facilities, both in the UK and internationally (where relevant) that could support the upscaling of seagrass, saltmarsh and native oyster habitat in the UK, including where possible, providing a more precise understanding of facility costs and output.

2.3.4.2 *Estuarine and Coastal Restoration and Agriculture (D4ii)*

Due to predicted sea-level rise (SLR), sustainable saltmarsh restoration will require managed realignment (MR) and regulated tidal exchange (RTE) approaches. These methods reintroduce tidal waters to low lying areas of the hinterland that have been reclaimed at some time in human history and in the present day, land use is often agricultural. A common counterargument to these restoration approaches are the potential impacts on food production and security. This Scoping Report will seek to quantify the potential impacts of MR and RTE approaches on the agricultural sector to build the evidence base and inform discussions.

2.4   Policy, Legislation, Regulation and Licensing (WG4)

The Policy, Legislation, Regulation and Licensing WG will be responsible for helping to embed the ReMeMaRe National E&C Restoration Strategy in any future developments of policy, legislation and regulation that may influence E&C (e.g., Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) refresh, National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM), Strategy, etc.).

Potential deliverables include:

1. Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Developments
     i.   Policy Document
2. Streamlined Licensing
     i.   Restoration Desk Notes
    ii.   Restoration Training Webinar Series
   iii.   Streamlined Licensing Pilots
    iv.   Byelaw Case Studies

2.4.1   Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Developments (D1)

This deliverable will aim to continually monitor policy, legislative and regulatory developments (e.g., BNG, MNG, ELM and LNRS[2]). Where appropriate, these will be communicated across the ReMeMaRe partnership to ensure that relevant partners are able to provide input that is consistent across organisations and supportive of the overall aims of ReMeMaRe (e.g., coordinate responses to relevant consultations). To support this, a short summary document will be maintained that provides key information to help co-ordinate responses, including details such as a summary of the scope of any development, the schedule of known consultation periods and when any changes would come into effect. This will, where appropriate, help embed the ReMeMaRe National E&C Restoration Strategy within the changing policy, legislative and regulatory landscape, whilst incorporating the ethos of the Seascape Statement and supporting with the various underlying tools, guidance, standards and evidence developed by ReMeMaRe.

2.4.1.1   Policy Document (D1i)

Linked to the Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Developments and Restoration Data Repository deliverables, supported by the Connecter SIG and feeding into the External Communications Plan, this deliverable will produce a short document aimed at policy and decision makers. It will maintain a succinct summary for E&C, including key up to date information relating to their economic, social, cultural and environmental importance, condition and trend, their natural capital value, key E&C restoration case studies and the work of ReMeMaRe. This information will be presented concisely (e.g., 'sound bites' and tables of ecosystem service values and restoration costs) and used to engage and brief relevant policy and decision makers, ensuring that the political and financial links to E&C are made clear and understood. The aim of the deliverable is to improve recognition of the importance of E&C, resulting in greater support, resourcing and financial investment in achieving the ReMeMaRe Vision and Mission.

2.4.2   Streamlined Licensing (D2)

This deliverable will aim to developing licensing processes and other options that streamline E&C restoration and associated efforts. This will be informed by the Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Developments deliverable and other related work (e.g., ensuring ReMeMaRe is aware of potential developments arising from the Offshore Wind Enabling Action Programme (OWEAP), which is currently investigating such options). It will also identify and target the key issues that currently inhibit E&C restoration through collaboration with ReMeMaRe partners, others undertaking practical restoration and industry who may be reliant on restoration, according to developments such as BNG.

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[2] Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), Marine Net Gain (MNG), Environmental Land Management (ELM) and Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS).

2.4.2.1   Restoration Desk Notes (D2i)

In contributing to the [Streamlined Licensing](#) deliverable, restoration desk notes could be developed to support case officers within relevant regulatory organisations who provide day-to-day licensing decisions on E&C restoration applications. These desk notes would synthesise much of the information already provided in the restoration handbooks, as well as guidance that may be produced through other deliverables (e.g., [MPA Principles](#) and [Monitoring and Evaluation Standards and Templates](#)). It is anticipated that this would support common understanding and improve the consistency of advice provided in response to E&C restoration licence applications (e.g., level of monitoring expected as part of licence conditions) and create overall efficiencies in the licensing process.

2.4.2.2   Restoration Training Webinar Series (D2ii)

Alongside the [Restoration Desk Notes](#) deliverable, a series of training webinars could be developed that provide similar information and guidance to case officers within relevant regulatory organisations and who provide day-to-day licensing decisions on E&C restoration applications. This training would provide a more interactive mechanism for training and receiving feedback from staff, thereby helping to identify and address potential issues or improvements. Again, it is anticipated that this would improve the consistency of advice provided and create overall efficiencies in the licensing process for E&C restoration applicants.

2.4.2.3   Streamlined Licensing Pilots (D2iii)

Where appropriate or where opportunities arise, potential options for changes to the licensing process that may better enable E&C restoration could be piloted (e.g., mechanisms to support reduced fees for restoration, accelerated licensing, etc.). The initial identification and development of potential options, including aspects such as feasibility, financing and proportionality, requires continued discussion between ReMeMaRe partners. These discussions could be further informed by discussion with other key stakeholders and work ongoing outside of ReMeMaRe (e.g., OWEAP). Once identified, developed and agreed and where appropriate, new potential licensing options identified could be piloted through existing mechanisms, such as regulatory sandboxing.

2.4.2.4   Byelaw Case Studies (D2iv)

In the interim and to support working within the current regulatory and licensing system, specific case study examples, where allowances have been made to enable a particular restoration project to proceed (e.g., byelaws), should also be collated and communicated across the ReMeMaRe partnership and externally in order to support E&C restoration efforts.

2.5   Funding and Finance (WG5)

The Funding and Finance WG will be responsible for identifying and communicating potential sources of funding for E&C restoration, including the development of innovative sustainable finance, in order to support the leveraging of funds and cost savings that may be achievable through collaborative project delivery.

Potential deliverables include:

1. Funding and Finance Document
2. Estuarine and Coastal (E&C) Restoration Fund

2.5.1   Funding and Finance Document (D1)

Similar to the Policy, Legislative and Regulatory Development deliverable, this deliverable will monitor funding and finance developments (e.g., new funds, outputs from projects trialling new financing approaches, etc.). Where appropriate, these will be communicated across ReMeMaRe partners to support opportunities for collaboration and submitting bids that would contribute to the delivery of ReMeMaRe. To support this, a short summary document will be maintained that provides key information to help co-ordinate bids, including details such as a summary of the scope of the fund, the source of funding (e.g., Government grant, organisational underspend, research fund, industry investment, etc.), the amounts available and the schedule of the application and associated fund.

2.5.2   Estuarine and Coastal (E&C) Restoration Fund (D2)

To achieve the ReMeMaRe Vision and Mission, both at the individual theme and deliverable level described herein and at a restoration project level, ReMeMaRe requires a sustainable source of funding. Through appropriate seed funding from ReMeMaRe partners (and/or other potential sources), an E&C Restoration Fund could be developed that would specifically fund ReMeMaRe and associated activities delivered by partners that adhere to the guidance, principles and overall National E&C Restoration Strategy (e.g., practical restoration, research, education). This would be akin to the "Earthshot Prize" but reduced in scope to focus on UK E&C. Coupled with and supported by the External Communications Plan, this could also provide an opportunity for investment and voluntary donation from other stakeholders (e.g., philanthropic donations, including from members of the general public (i.e., crowd funding)) that wish to support E&C restoration, but not necessarily in a practical sense. Communication through co-ordinated messaging and the ReMeMaRe Ambassador Group would help celebrate E&C successes delivered through this fund and would provide donors with a sense of reward and reassurance that their donations were making a difference for E&C.

3   Summary

The Delivery Plan, agreed by the ReMeMaRe partnership, will set the direction of travel for the next phase of ReMeMaRe and help all of us move forward together in the most efficient and impactful way to develop, enable and deliver a National Estuarine and Coastal (E&C) Strategy.

As a collaboration, it is important that ReMeMaRe partners are in general agreement with the proposed direction of work. Accordingly, we welcome comments and feedback from the ReMeMaRe partners on the contents of this Delivery Plan at any time.

The Delivery Plan will be maintained as a semi-live document, being periodically updated to reflect feedback received from partners and/or general progress on the work of ReMeMaRe more broadly, with future ReMeMaRe work implemented through the structures described above and agreed.

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