



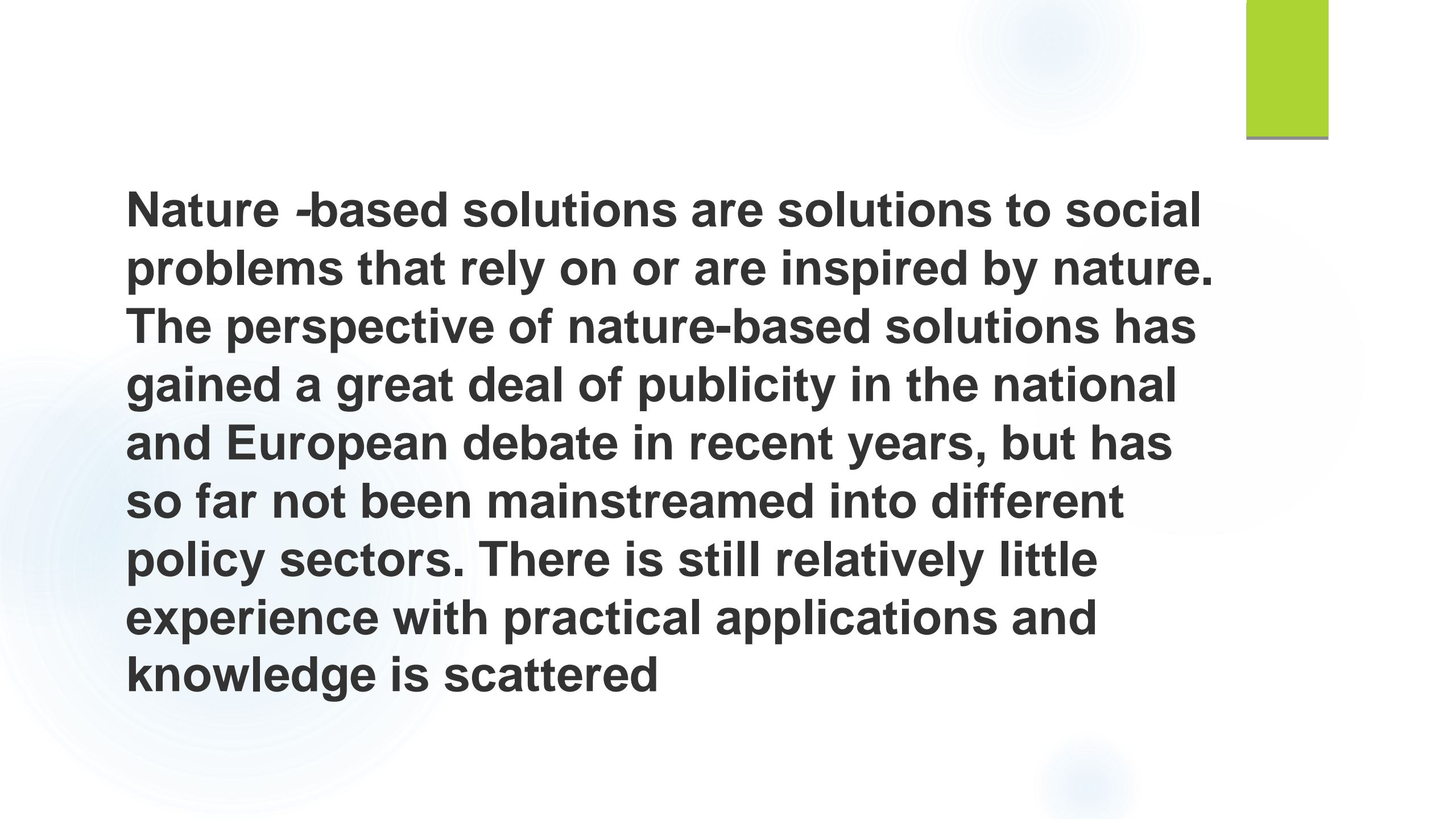
# CROSS-SECTORAL COLLABORATION HOW TO INTEGRATE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS INTO POLICY PROCESSES IN FINLAND?

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**Nature -based solutions are solutions to social problems that rely on or are inspired by nature. The perspective of nature-based solutions has gained a great deal of publicity in the national and European debate in recent years, but has so far not been mainstreamed into different policy sectors. There is still relatively little experience with practical applications and knowledge is scattered**

**More than 72 per cent of Finns live in cities.  
More than half of the world's population lives in cities. Urbanization is continuing both in Finland and in the world.**

**Urban nature plays an important role in the health and well-being of residents of different ages and situations living in different life situations.**

**For all cities at least 20 000 inhabitants greening an ambitious greening plan ( EU biodiversity strategy 2030)**

# Rural areas

- ▶ Solutions to agricultural problems have been discussed - for example, nature-based pest control and the use of vegetation-protected protection zones to control surface runoff in fields
- ▶ The solution simultaneously strengthens biodiversity and responds to the challenges posed by for example climate change

# Questions ? Have we answers?

- ▶ **How to guide the legislation (and otherwise) the introduction of nature based solutions?**
- ▶ **How urban areas can be promoted and directed towards the introduction of nature-based solutions,**
- ▶ **What is the role of spatial planning and land use?**
- ▶ **How goes cross-sectoral cooperation between ministries, between the state and cities, between ministries, cities and business, between different units in the Ministry, between different sectors in city administration?**

# City plan, zoning plan, provincial plan, national land use targets

- city council, regional council,  
Finnish Government
- stakeholders, authorities,  
business etc.
- a lot of planning levels,  
but the main operator is the  
city or local municipality







# CITY PLAN

**WHO wants to influence city planning?**

- Enterprises, construction branch, architects, ELY-centers, citizens, environmental organisations, other interest groups etc.
- Inside the City: various units in the city administration

Housing, service, jobs, traffic protected areas, urban runoff, parks and other green areas

# City action plans - Cooperation between ministries ?

- ▶ **Sustainable urban development programme**

(Ministry of the Environment)

- ▶ **Regional city programme**

(Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment)

- ▶ **City Programme 2018-2022**

(Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment)

- ▶ **National Urban Strategy 2020-2030**

(Ministry of Finance)

- ▶ **National Urban Strategy :**

- ▶ Ministry of finance, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Ministry of Education and Culture and Ministry of the Environment

- ▶ And 80 cities and municipalities of different sizes.



# National Urban Strategy

- ▶ Priorities: carbon neutral cities, healthy cities, well-being for everyone, functional traffic communications
- ▶ The urban strategy will be implemented in state-to-city development programmes and agreements, as well as in legislative projects on the strategy's priorities.



## Land use, housing and transport agreements 2020- 2032

- ▶ On behalf of cities: Helsinki, Tampere, Turku and Oulu
- ▶ More contracts this year :  
Kuopio, Jyväskylä, Lahti
- ▶ On behalf of the State, the parties are the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, the Ministry of Finance

# Land use, housing and transport agreements 2020-2032

Land use, housing and transport (MAL) agreements are agreements concluded by the state with the largest urban areas. The agreements support cooperation between municipalities in urban areas and municipalities and the state in the management of the urban structure and in the coordination of land use, housing and transport.



# Land use, housing and transport agreements 2020-2032

- ▶ Objective of the agreement: a low-carbon and sustainable urban structure, a smooth everyday life, the functioning of the labour market, the viability of the economy, the diversity of residential areas, the fight against segregation and homelessness
- ▶ Practical measures: housing production, transport investment, the state`s financial support for these
- ▶ Biodiversity (or nature based solutions) not mentioned in these agreements

# Land Use and Building Act (132/1999)

The aim of the Act is to organise the use and construction of areas in such a way as to create the conditions for a good living environment and to promote ecologically, economically, socially and culturally sustainable development.  
(Article 1)

The spatial planning shall take into account, i.e.

- ▶ the beauty of the built environment and taking care of cultural values
- ▶ the preservation of biodiversity and other natural values
- ▶ environmental protection and the prevention of environmental damage
- ▶ the sparing use of natural resources (Article 5)

# Reform of the Land Use and Building Act

- ▶ The main objectives of the reform are a **carbon-neutral society**, strengthening **biodiversity**, improving the **quality of construction** and promoting **digitalisation**
- ▶ The aim is that new Land Use and Building Act will be completed by the end of 2021
- ▶ Attention is paid to preparing for climate change both in the planning and construction of areas.
- ▶ Could the nature-based solutions be part of this preparing?



# My conclusion

- ▶ **Cities and their development is a top priority in national programs**
- ▶ **Environment and climate are always mentioned in those programs**
- ▶ **And also in legislation**
- ▶ **But nature-based solutions are not an issue. Yet**
- ▶ **The concept needs clarification – what do we mean when we speak about nature-based solution?**
- ▶ **We need a network between scientists, decision-makers and stakeholders like ministries, cities, research organizations, resident`s associations, environmental organizations, ELY centres, Sitra, FIBS (Finnish Business Society)**
- ▶ **Parliament (Committee for the Future) approach?**