

Sustainable finance for marine management



Penny Nelson, WWF UK



Working together to safeguard
Marine Protected Areas

UK SEAS Project

- 5 year programme of work led by WWF
- Aim: improve effectiveness and sustainable management of Marine Protected Areas in case study areas, and develop tools and approaches for sharing
- Work areas:
 - Engaging communities
 - MPA governance
 - Sustainable funding



Working together to safeguard
Marine Protected Areas

Why work on sustainable finance?

The problem:

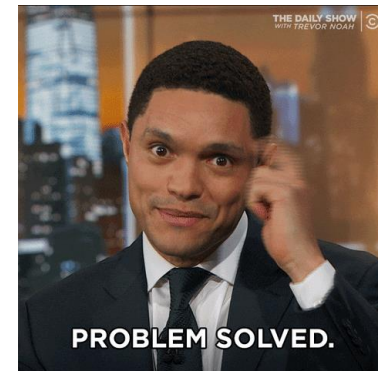
Dependence on dwindling government resource and short-term grants to support environmental management and monitoring

The principle:

Benefits (environmental, financial, social) can be gained from investment in improving environmental assets

The solution:

Develop innovative long-term finance mechanisms to tap into alternative sources of finance including private sector



Working together to safeguard
Marine Protected Areas

Sustainable finance project

Vision:

A proven model for sustainable financing of MPA management systems is made available to MPAs throughout the UK and globally, ensuring the long-term viability and success of protected marine ecosystems, and encouraging the uptake of MPA designation.



Environmental Finance

Enabling investment into conservation,
the environment and communities at
scale



Working together to safeguard
Marine Protected Areas

North Devon's MPA funding gap

£200k

Average cost of a well-managed North Devon MPA per annum

£44k







Current average cost of a North Devon MPA per annum

7

Number of North Devon MPAs

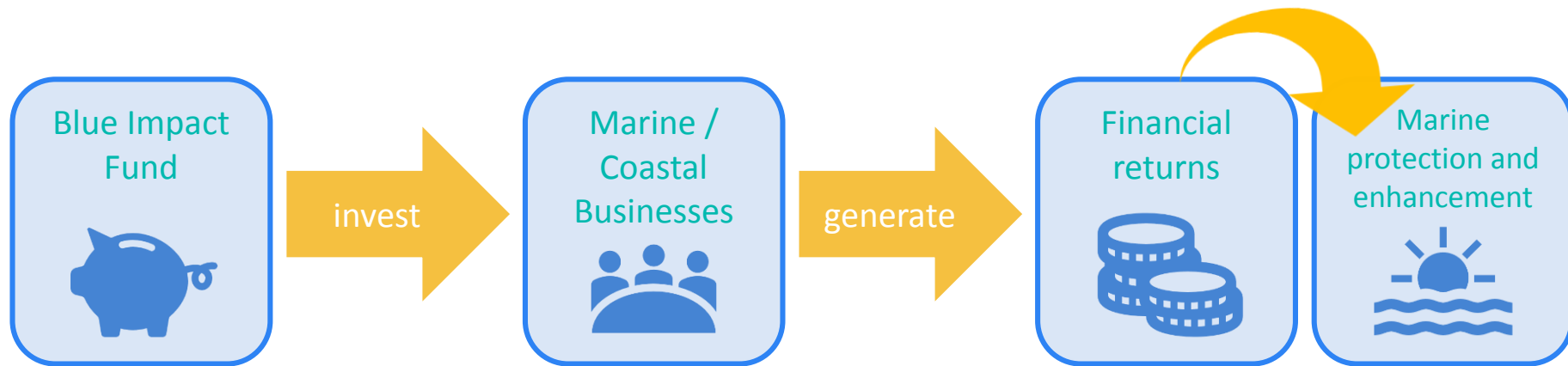
£1.1m

Total funding gap (p.a.)

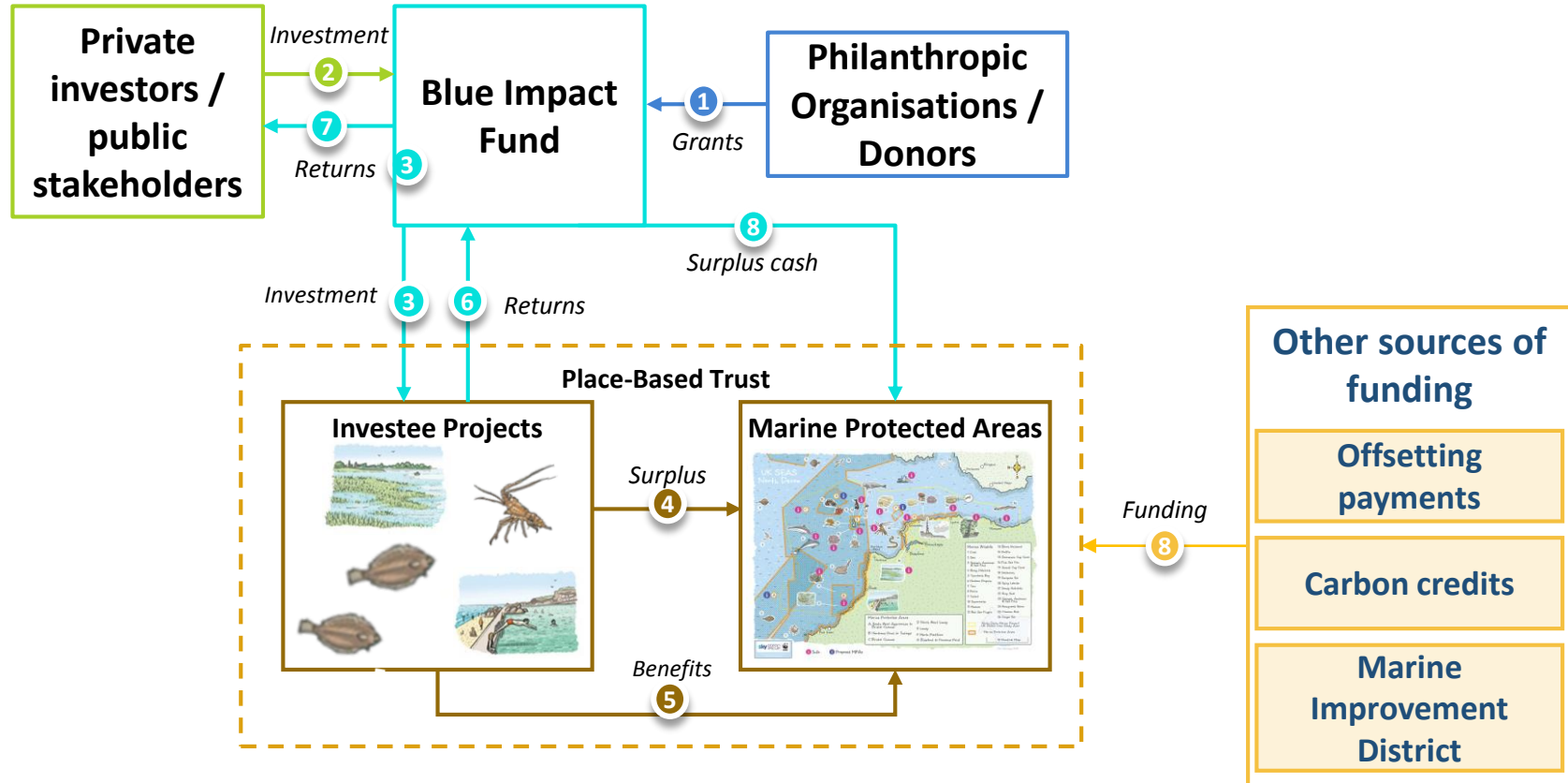
Place-based portfolio	MPAs are governed by a charitable trust, with funds generated through an endowment	Being tested as part of the North Devon Biosphere	
Marine biodiversity net gain fund	Proceeds from mitigation payments obtained from planning obligations are invested in MPA management	Requires policy change	
Blue carbon fund	Sale of blue carbon credits generates revenues for MPAs	Undeveloped blue carbon market	
Nutrient offsetting scheme	Establishing a market for “nutrient credits” would enable water quality improvement for MPAs	Complex delivery	
Marine improvement district	A voluntary levy from businesses operating in the local area would be earmarked for MPAs	Could be implemented as part of a place-based trust structure	
Blue impact fund	Investment in environmentally sustainable marine and coastal businesses will generate financial and environmental benefits for MPAs.	Highly replicable, scalable, and enhances local economies	

Blue Impact Fund

Strategic investment in environmentally sustainable marine and coastal businesses will generate both financial and environmental benefits for MPAs.



Illustrative Blue Impact Fund Structure



Investable projects

Suited to purely philanthropical capital

- ✓ Environmental benefit
- ✓ Financial returns

Suited to purely commercial capital

Environmental focus

Commercial focus



Working together to safeguard
Marine Protected Areas

Examples of investable projects

- Eco friendly wildlife tours
- Citizen science diving to support MPA management
- Offshore mussel farm
- Recycling plastic from used fishing nets
- Installing sails on shipping vessels
- Seaweed production



Project progress



Working together to safeguard
Marine Protected Areas

Thanks for listening!

ukseasproject.org.uk/



@UKSEAS_project

Penny Nelson

pnelson@wwf.org.uk



Working together to safeguard
Marine Protected Areas