Enabling agroecology through policy:
Different pathways towards the same objective?

Charlotte Pavageau

Biovision Foundation



From Policy Development to Practice for Impact:
Reflections for a Successful Implementation of National Agroecology Strategies
– Lessons from frontline actors in Africa

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FROM POLICY DEVELOPMENT TO PRACTICE FOR IMPACT

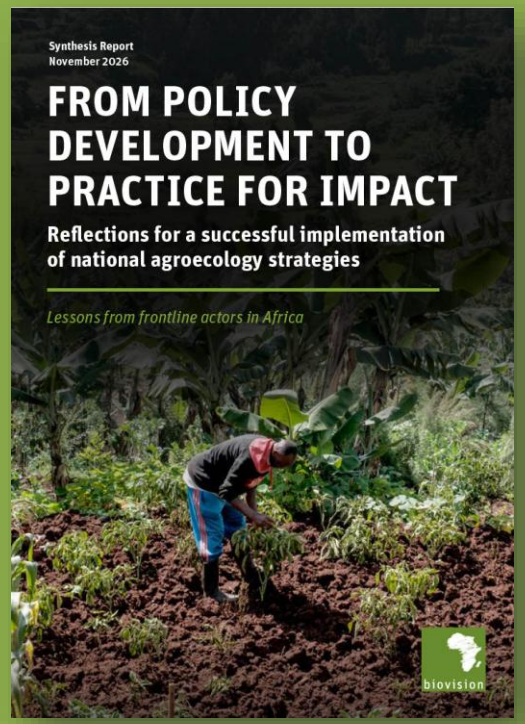
Reflections for a successful implementation of national agroecology strategies

Lessons from frontline actors in Africa



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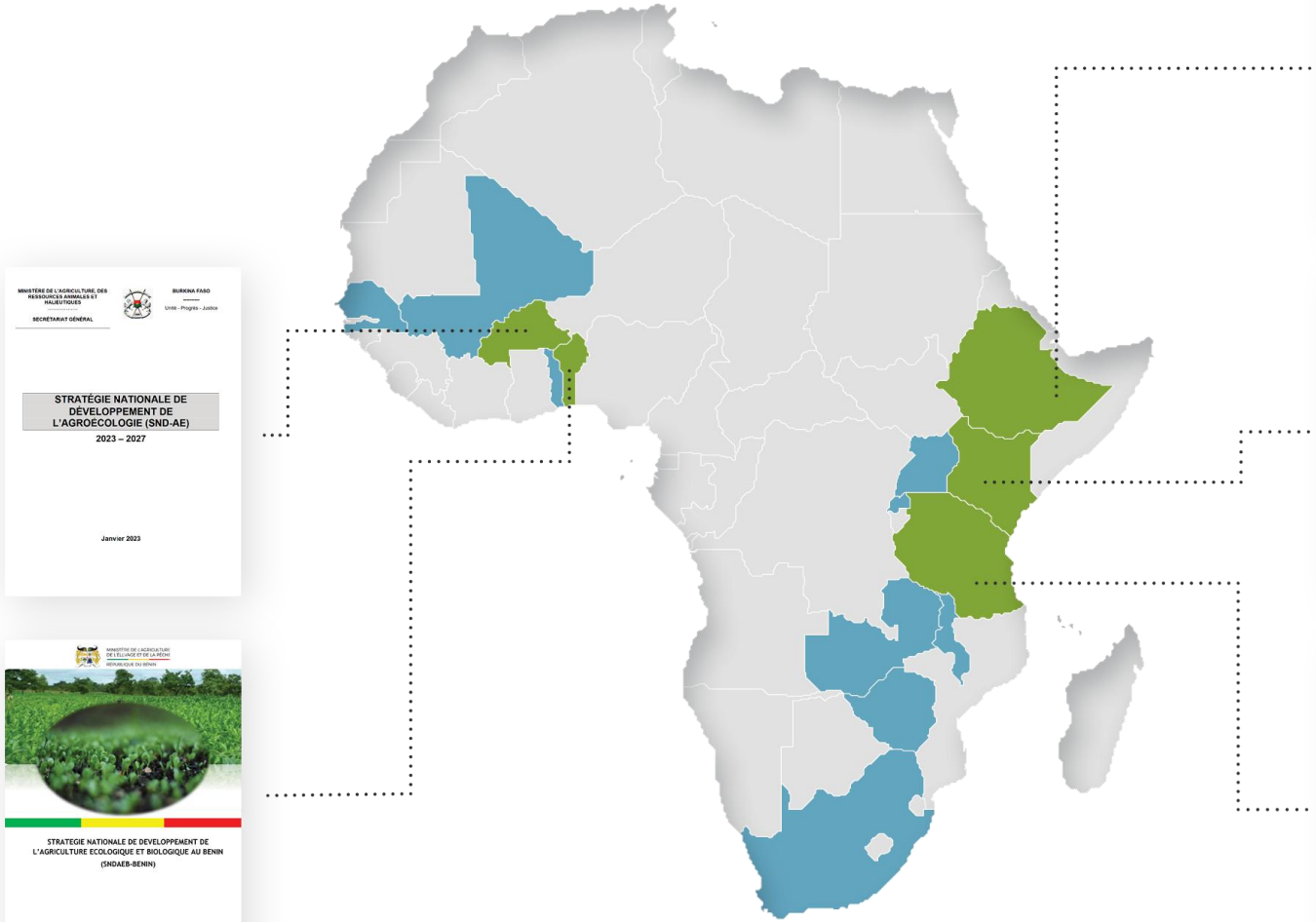
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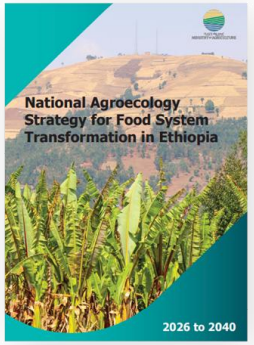
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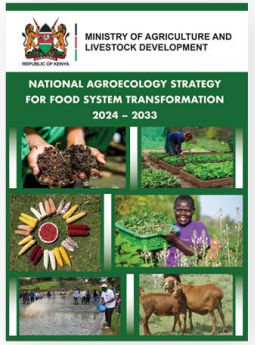
A GROWING MOVEMENT: NATIONAL AGROECOLOGY STRATEGIES GAINING MOMENTUM

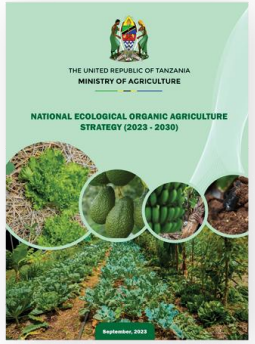
NAS developments across Western, Eastern and Southern Africa as of August 2026

- NAS approved and under implementation
- NAS in development





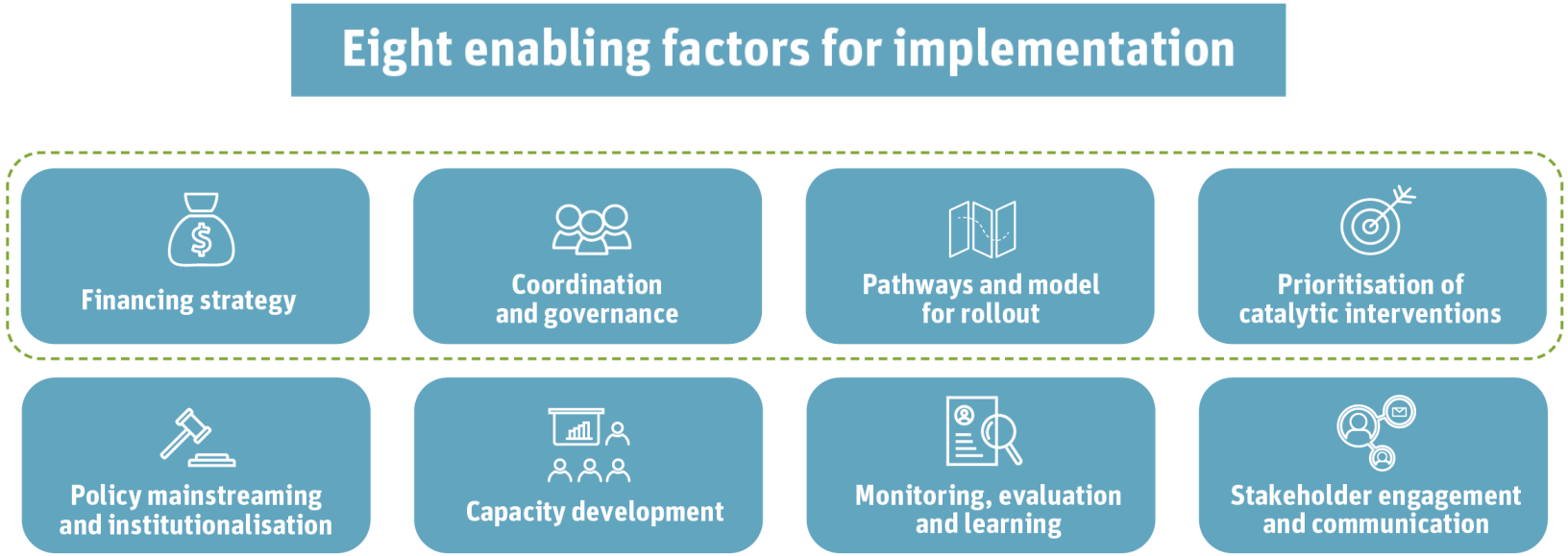






FROM STRATEGY TO ACTION: LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION

FROM STRATEGY TO ACTION: LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION



Key processes that enable NAS implementation

Strategic prioritisation

- Agree on transparent criteria and identify interventions with the greatest strategic value.
- Shape priorities into a coherent and manageable portfolio.
- Sequence interventions so enabling steps create conditions for later action.



Key processes that enable NAS implementation

Coordination and governance

- Identify the coordination functions required and assign clear responsibility for them.
- Connect actors across ministries and stakeholder groups, and link national and subnational implementation.
- Facilitate joint decisions, prioritisation and resource mobilisation.
- Track implementation progress and emerging bottlenecks.

Key enablers

- Clear mandates, transparent roles and decision-making, and shared ownership
- Government and non-government leadership with strong institutional anchoring
- Sufficient resources and coordination capacity



Key processes that enable NAS implementation



Financing aligned with priorities

Financing for implementation

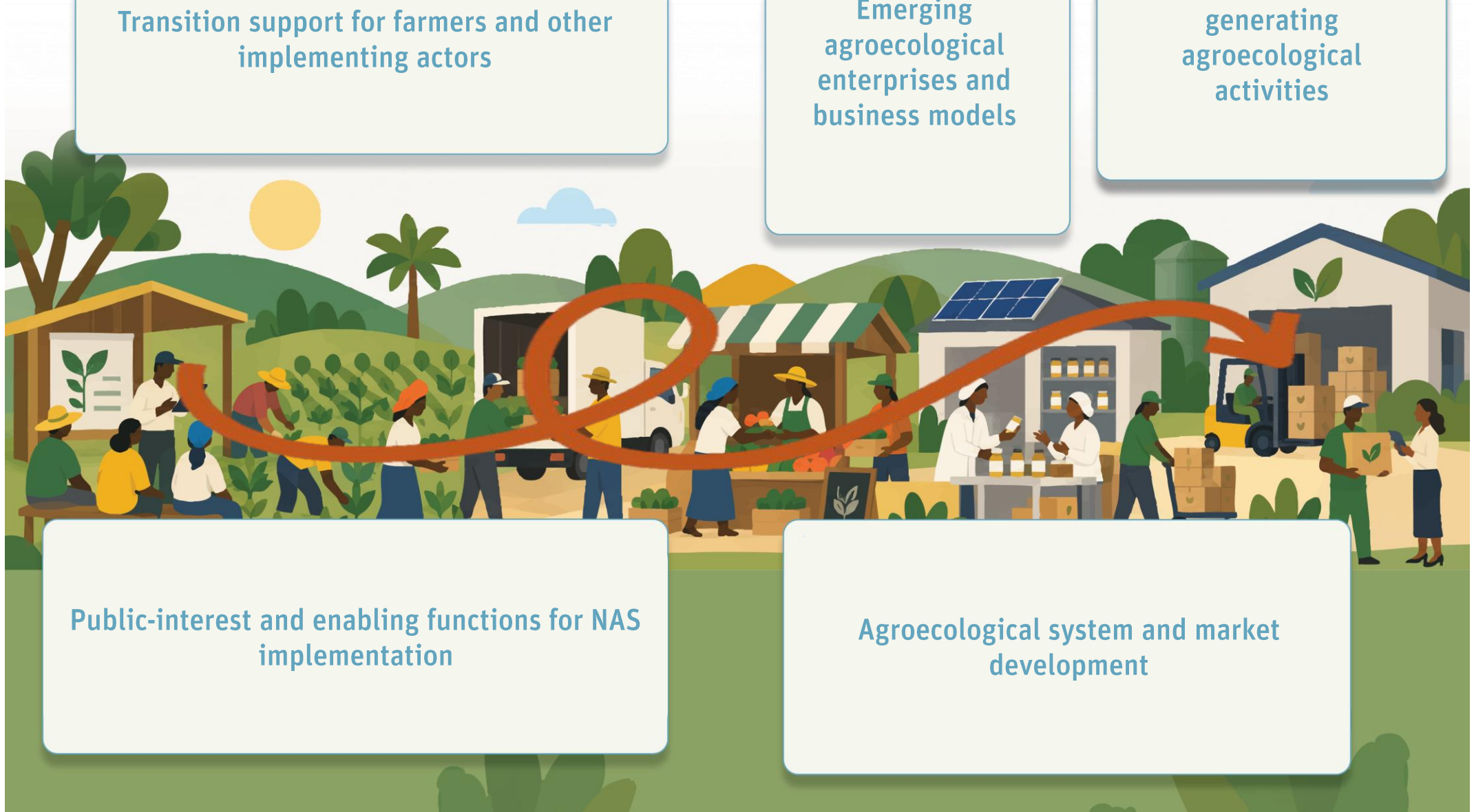
- Sequence finance so early catalytic investments build conditions for later investment.
- Match sources and instruments to revenue potential, risk, implementer capacity and public benefits.
- Coordinate public, development, philanthropic and private finance around NAS priorities as a coherent portfolio.
- Fund essential public-interest and enabling functions with broad public benefits but limited direct financial returns.

Financing needs along the agroecological transition journey

Transition support for farmers and other implementing actors

Emerging agroecological enterprises and business models

Established revenue-generating agroecological activities



Public-interest and enabling functions for NAS implementation

Agroecological system and market development

Financing needs along the agroecological transition journey

Transition support for farmers and other implementing actors

Important characteristics

- Supports actors facing temporary costs, risks or income fluctuations while shifting practices, reorganising production or developing new market relationships
- Strong local knowledge and stewardship
- Diverse smallholders and producer groups
- Need for inputs, tools, and productive assets

Options for financing approach

- Concessional loans and grants
- Grants, targeted subsidies, concessional finance, guarantees or income-support mechanisms
- Input and asset financing
- Savings, group finance and guarantees

Emerging agroecological enterprises and business models

Important characteristics

- Early-stage, innovative and higher risk
- Agroecological enterprises may generate revenue while delivering environmental and social value, but early-stage businesses can face uncertain demand, limited collateral, high initial costs or long pathways to profitability
- Needs patient and catalytic capital
- Test, learn and scale

Options for financing approach

- Philanthropic and catalytic funding
- Grants or seed finance initially, followed where appropriate by guarantees, concessional debt, patient equity or other risk-sharing mechanisms
- Blended finance and guarantees
- Impact investment (early-stage)

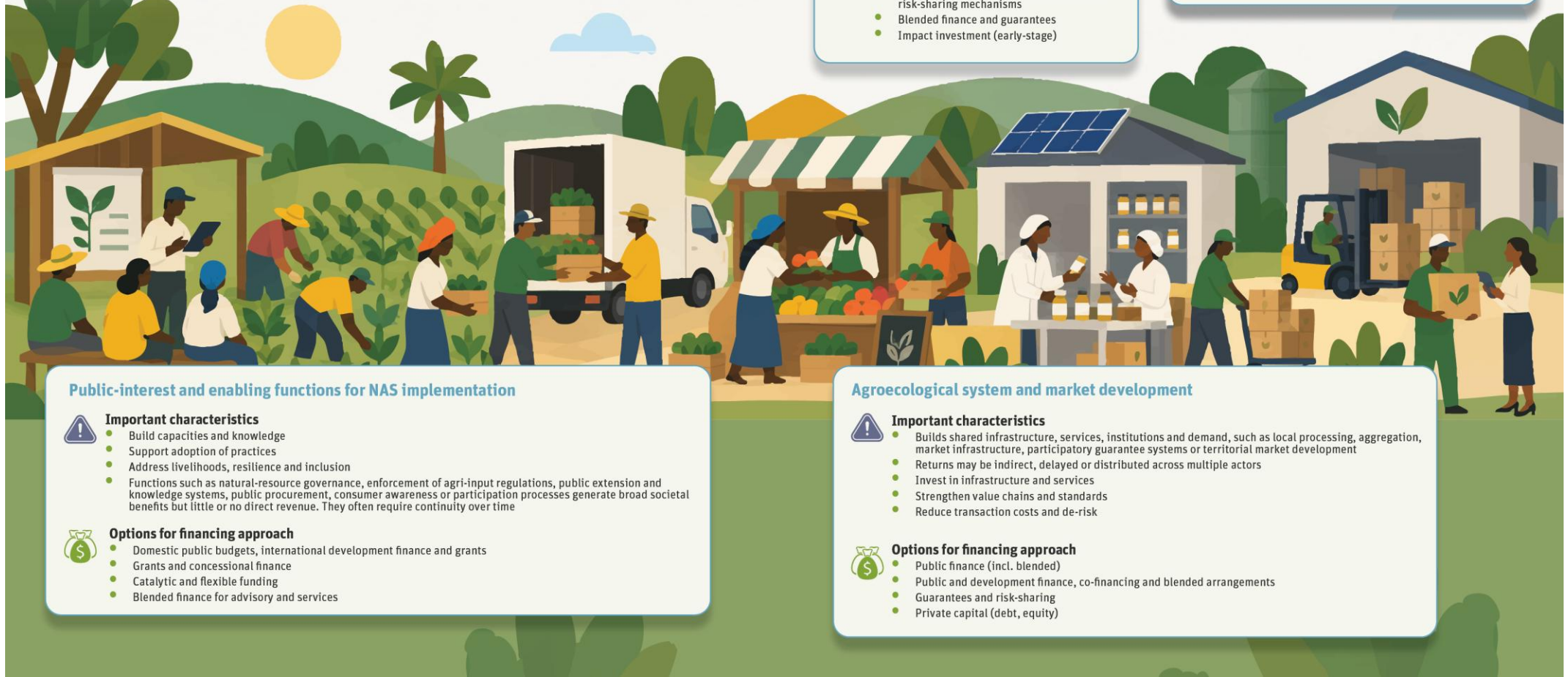
Established revenue-generating agroecological activities

Important characteristics

- Proven models and cash flows
- Activities with viable business models, sufficiently predictable cash flows and the capacity to repay or provide returns – for example, established input, processing, service or distribution businesses aligned with agroecological principles
- Lower risk and scalable
- Strong market linkages

Options for financing approach

- Commercial finance and equity
- Commercial debt, equity and other repayable finance
- Debt and working capital



Public-interest and enabling functions for NAS implementation

Important characteristics

- Build capacities and knowledge
- Support adoption of practices
- Address livelihoods, resilience and inclusion
- Functions such as natural-resource governance, enforcement of agri-input regulations, public extension and knowledge systems, public procurement, consumer awareness or participation processes generate broad societal benefits but little or no direct revenue. They often require continuity over time

Options for financing approach

- Domestic public budgets, international development finance and grants
- Grants and concessional finance
- Catalytic and flexible funding
- Blended finance for advisory and services

Agroecological system and market development

Important characteristics

- Builds shared infrastructure, services, institutions and demand, such as local processing, aggregation, market infrastructure, participatory guarantee systems or territorial market development
- Returns may be indirect, delayed or distributed across multiple actors
- Invest in infrastructure and services
- Strengthen value chains and standards
- Reduce transaction costs and de-risk

Options for financing approach

- Public finance (incl. blended)
- Public and development finance, co-financing and blended arrangements
- Guarantees and risk-sharing
- Private capital (debt, equity)

Key processes that enable NAS implementation



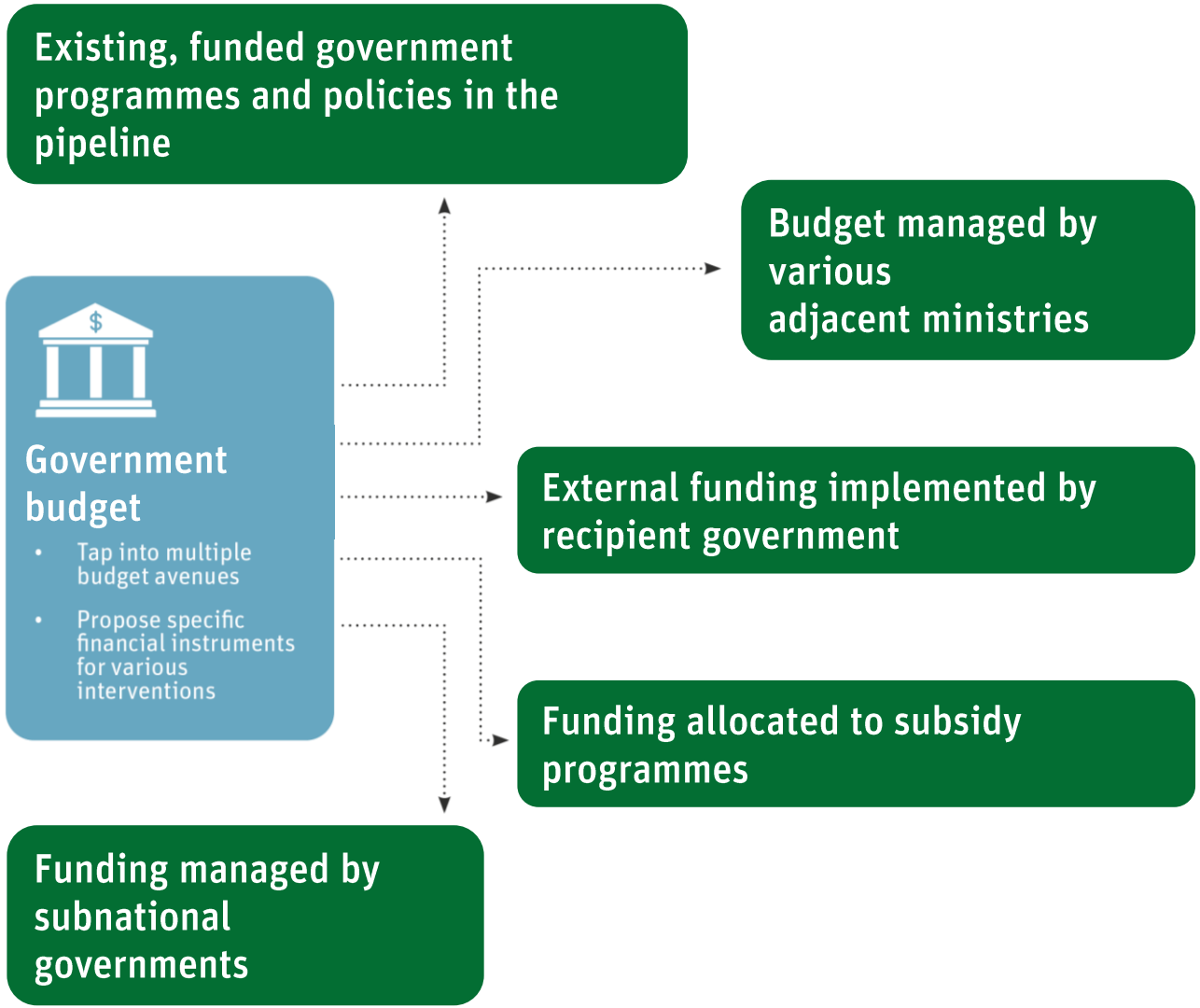
Links to government planning and budget processes

Mobilising domestic public resources

- Connect NAS priorities to existing government priorities and budget processes.
- Engage early with ministries of finance and planning.
- Identify multiple budget entry points across government, including existing plans and programmes, subsidies, subnational budgets and externally financed programmes implemented through government.
- Develop credible costings and frame proposals around government objectives.
- Align timing with budget cycles and decision points.

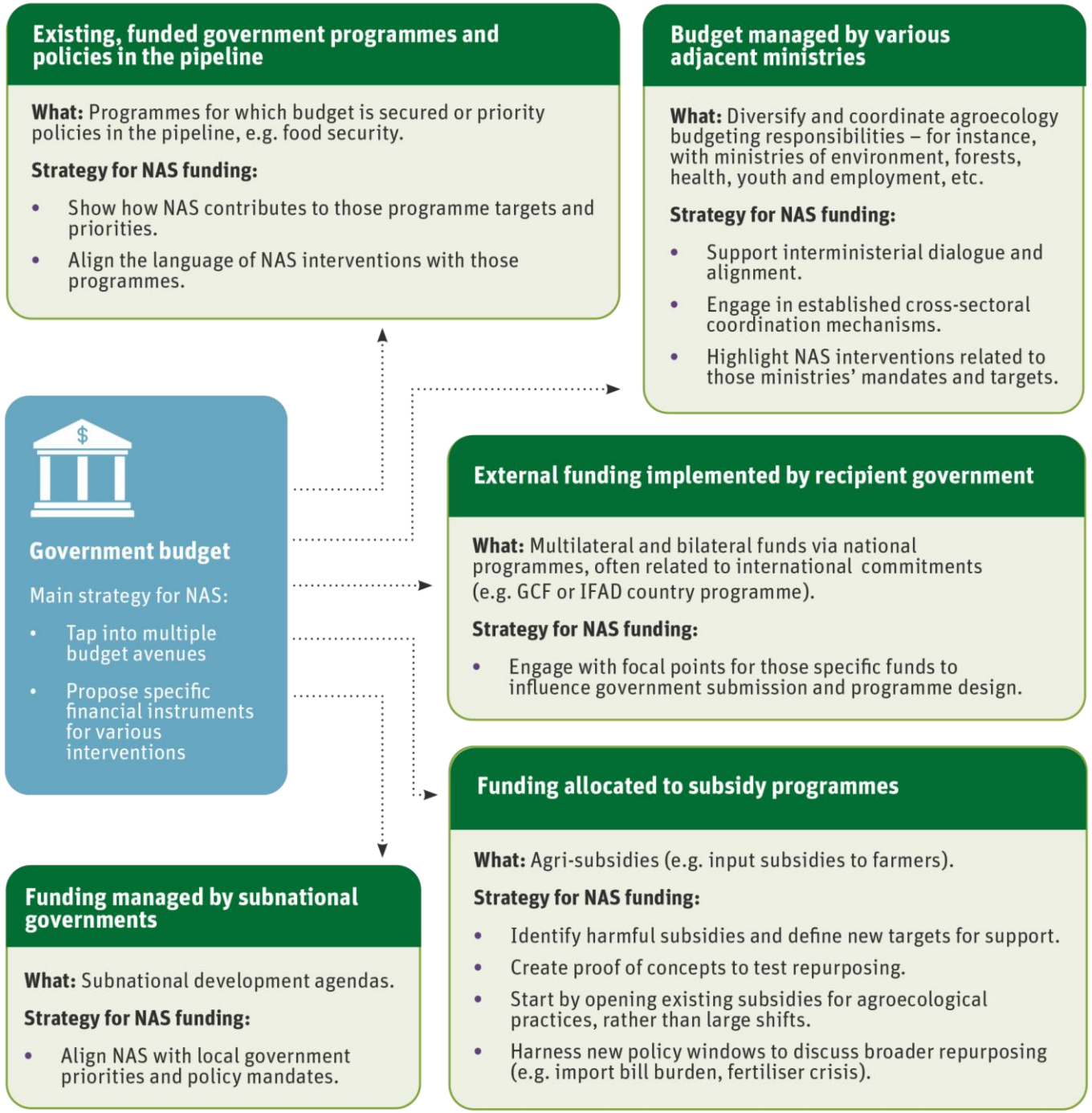
MOBILISING DOMESTIC PUBLIC RESOURCES FOR AGROECOLOGY

MULTIPLE BUDGET PATHWAYS FOR AGROECOLOGY



MOBILISING DOMESTIC PUBLIC RESOURCES FOR AGROECOLOGY

MULTIPLE BUDGET PATHWAYS FOR AGROECOLOGY



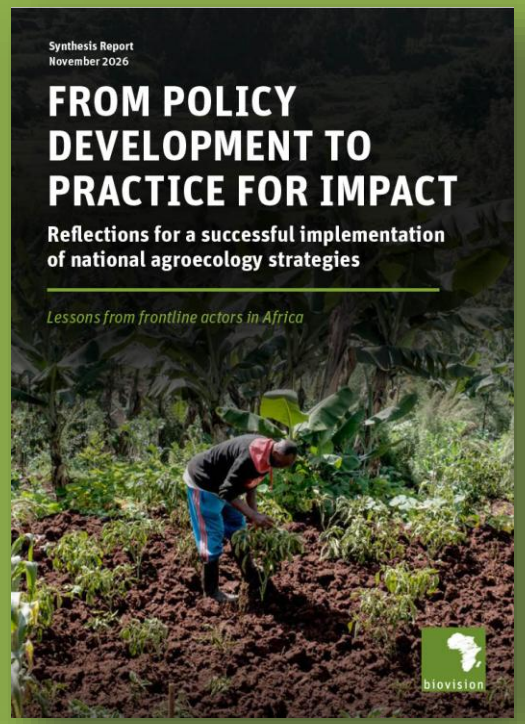


Key messages from the NAS Community of Practice (CoP)

- **Collaborative prioritisation is not simply about ranking interventions**. It can help stakeholders agree where to focus, coordinate responsibilities and sequence actions and investments more effectively.
- **The coordination ecosystem relies on trust, not procedures alone**. Effective implementation platforms must also build shared ownership, transparency, collaboration, adaptive learning and collective accountability across the agroecology movement.
- **Investment sequencing** should be deliberate, balancing short-term results, medium-term system building and long-term transition goals.
- **Budget advocacy should extend beyond agriculture ministries** to engage finance ministries and other ministries where agroecology delivers on key objectives.



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