



Spark the future, **join the Challenge!**

Nature-based **Future** Challenges



SPARK THE FUTURE,
JOIN THE CHALLENGE!



For whom?

BSc, MSc and PhD* students from Universities (of Applied Sciences) **worldwide** from **various backgrounds**, including:

Landscape architecture, Spatial planning, Forestry, (Organic) Agriculture, Nature Conservation, Environmental Sciences, Land, Water, Urban and Marine Resources Management, Sociology etc.

* Max.20% PhD students and fresh graduates in a team



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The Challenge

Develop a vision for a [nature-based future for Mississippi River Delta in 2120](#) that:

- Is **biodiversity positive**
- Ensures **food & water security**
- Enhances **climate adaptability & resilience**
- Has **positive social & socio-economic** impact

Inspired by the project [The Netherlands in 2120](#)





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How does it work?

Duration: **January 2026-June 2026**

Participation in a **multidisciplinary team**

Three rounds:

- Each round ends with selection moment
- Hybrid Studios in each round to get started
- Opportunities to ask feedback



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How does it work?

Selection:

- Landscape planning & local experts score the reports
- International jury selects the winner of the Challenge





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NBF Challenge step-by-step

1

Inspiration Workshop
2 -12 -2025

Get inspired by partners
Meet potential team
members

2

Deadline Team Profile
9-01-2026

Finalize team profile

3

Round 1: Kick-off Event
13-01-2026

Meet other teams & partners
and celebrate the start of the
challenge together

4

Round 1: Studio 1
20-01-2026

Local and WUR experts will
equip you with valuable tools
to achieve your first milestone

5

1st Milestone Deadline
20-02-2026

Submit your vision

6

Round 2: Meet the Coach
12-03-2026

Exclusive one-on-one
coaching session for the top
twenty teams with Challenge
partners.

7

Round 2: Studio 2
17-03-2026

Benefit from the guidance of
WUR experts to enhance your
initial design and understand the
concept of a transition path.

8

2nd Milestone Deadline
17-04-2026

Submit your improved and
validated vision

9

Round 3: Studio 3
7-05-2026

Engage in a storytelling
workshop and collaborate
with your group to refine your
detailed design.

10

Grand Finals
2-06-2026

Present your vision &
celebrate



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ROUND 1

Deliverables:

3

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1st Milestone Deadline
20-02-2026

Submit your idea

- Inventory and analysis of the current situation & future trends
- Description of your vision for nature-positive future
- Identification of an area to design in the second round of the Challenge



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ROUND 2

Deliverables:

- Inventory and analysis of the current situation & future trends for a chosen region
- Translation of your vision into concrete choices, proposals and effects for the chosen area
- Description of the transition pathway



PBL Netherlands Environmental
Assessment Agency



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12-03-2026

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2nd Milestone Deadline
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Submit your improved and
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**PARTNERS
FOR WATER**
CO-CREATING IMPACT



**MOTT
MACDONALD**



**Royal
HaskoningDHV**
Enhancing Society Together



ARCADIS

Witteveen

Bos



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



FFAR



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ROUND 3

9

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7-05-2026

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Grand Finals
2-06-2026

Present your idea & celebrate

Deliverables:

- Improve on your report
- Pitch video
- Poster presentation



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What is there for students?

Learning experience that boosts professional skills

Opportunity to learn from and network with industry leaders

Opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with students from Universities worldwide

Certificate for top 20 teams & finalists of the Challenge

The finalists receive **travel & accommodation budget** to attend the Grand Finals in the Netherlands (not full costs)

The winning team gets **9 000 EUR and exposure**

Representatives of **top 3 teams** go to **Louisiana**





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Interested?

Scan the QR-code to learn more!

