

## **NbS Examples Submitted by WWF European Policy Office to the Intergovernmental Consultations on Nature-based Solutions**

Marine Protected Areas in Spain: In just one decade following its creation in 1983, Spain's Medes Islands Marine Reserve successfully saw fish biomass (the mass of living biological organisms in a given area or ecosystem) recover by some 500% in comparison to nearby unprotected areas. By 1991, the total annual profit from fishing and tourism was 13 times higher than before the reserve was established. The reserve has also had a positive spillover effect, where more fish are found outside of the no-take zone, benefiting local fishers.

Another example concerns the use of NbS to prevent flooding of the Elbe river, which has experienced extreme flooding several times this century despite an array of dikes and floodwalls. The restoration of around 600 hectares of the most important floodplain habitat in Central Europe in the Lodderitzer oak forest is expected to reduce flood levels by nearly 30cm for a 100-year flood for 8km upstream of the project site, providing a considerable reduction in flood risk for the city of Aken.