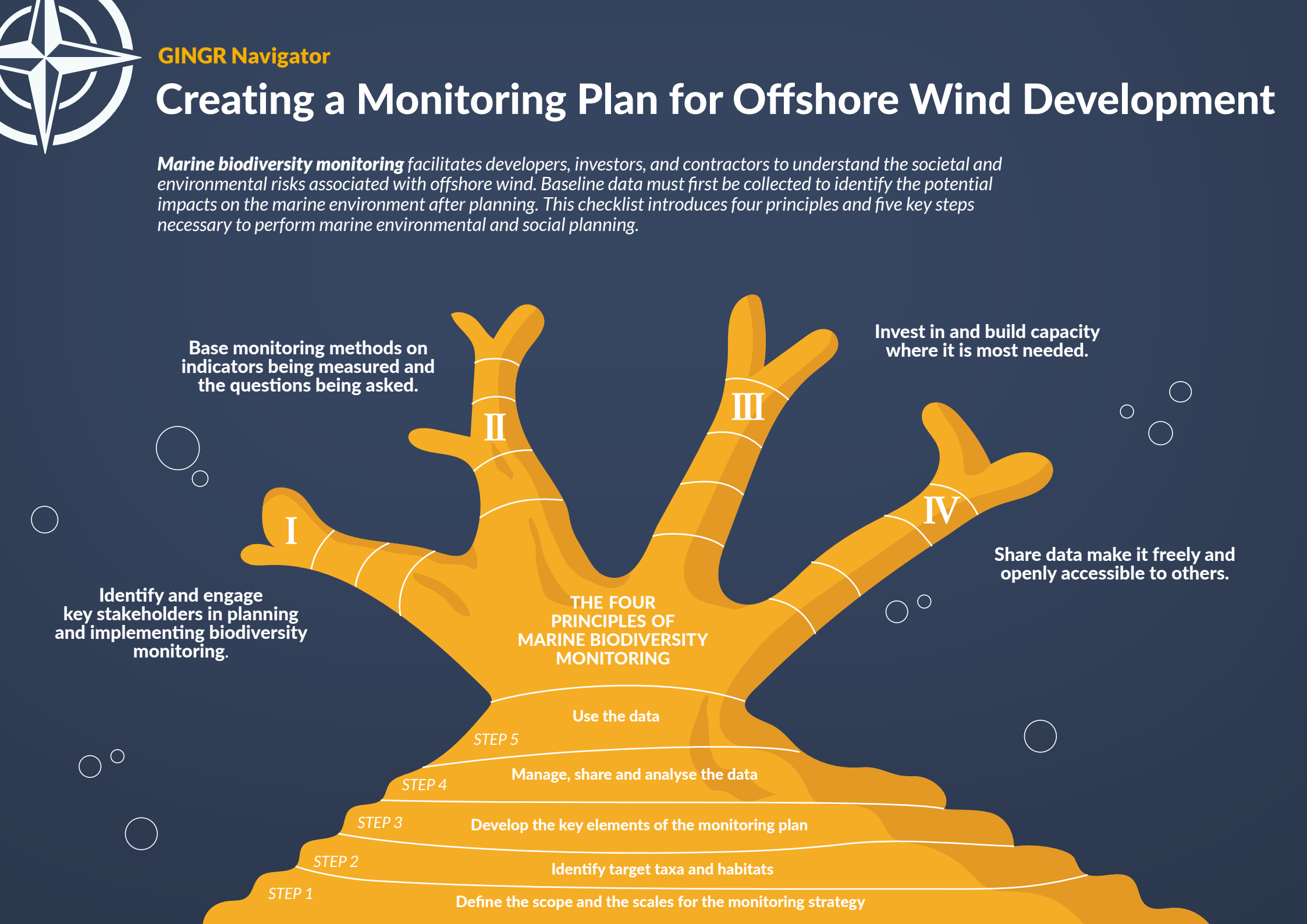
GINGR Navigator

Creating a Monitoring Plan for Offshore Wind Development

Marine biodiversity monitoring *facilitates developers, investors, and contractors to understand the societal and environmental risks associated with offshore wind. Baseline data must first be collected to identify the potential impacts on the marine environment after planning. This checklist introduces four principles and five key steps necessary to perform marine environmental and social planning.*



STEP 1

Define the scope and the scales for the monitoring strategy.

- ☐ Define the scope of the monitoring plan.
- ☐ Define the spatial scale of the monitoring plan.
- ☐ Define the temporal scale of the monitoring plan, including start and end dates.

STEP 2

Identify target taxa and habitats for monitoring and focus on those species most impacted by offshore wind development or associated Nature-Positive action.

- ☐ Identify focal species and habitats for monitoring.

STEP 3

Develop the key elements of a monitoring plan.

- ☐ Answer key monitoring questions using indicators which are:
  - ☐ Scientifically credible (e.g., using methods that have been peer-reviewed in the scientific literature).
  - ☐ Feasible and cost-effective to apply (i.e., data can be collected either directly or by others using identified methods).
  - ☐ Measurable (in quantitative or qualitative terms).
  - ☐ Precise (defined the same way by everyone who uses them).
  - ☐ Consistent (always measuring the same thing).
  - ☐ Understandable (anyone affected by the results can interpret what they mean).
  - ☐ Relevant to a specific offshore wind energy impact, on specific species groups or habitat types, or to a specific Nature-Positive intervention.
  - ☐ Sensitive to changes in the state of biodiversity or the pressures placed upon.
- ☐ Determine the value of the indicators by using a methodology which is:
  - ☐ Accurate (with minimal error).
  - ☐ Reliable (consistently repeatable with minimal variation in results).
  - ☐ Cost-effective.
  - ☐ Feasible to use.
  - ☐ Appropriate (they answer specific questions and are statistically meaningful).
  - ☐ Accurate enough to measure the change being monitored, and to signal any relevant thresholds identified.

STEP 3 (continued)

Develop key elements in the monitoring plan.

- ☐ Identify standardised protocols for the use for each method.
- ☐ Clarify the timing and frequency of every indicator measurement.
- ☐ Assign responsibility for data collection to an individual in a specific organisation.
- ☐ Assign responsibility for data analysis.
- ☐ Identify relevant technical expertise for data collection and analysis.
- ☐ Set aside adequate budget to cover all aspects of monitoring (from collection to analysis to use).
- ☐ Take key design considerations on board.
- ☐ Determine whether it is possible to use a BAG or BACI approach.
- ☐ Establish minimum monitoring requirements for each taxon.

STEP 4

Manage, share, and analyse the data.

- ☐ Identify data standards.
- ☐ Create plans to share data.
- ☐ Identify partners and databases that will receive data.

STEP 5

Use the data.

- ☐ Implement management systems to facilitate the use of data by key stakeholder groups.
- ☐ Ensure buy-in from relevent decision-makers in the monitoring process.
- ☐ Register users accessing these data.