Energy & Marine Spatial Planning in the North Sea

January 2015

rspb

giving nature a home

The RSPB

The UK’s **largest** nature conservation charity, inspiring everyone to give nature a home.

Together with our partners, we **protect** threatened **birds** and **wildlife**.

RSPB plays a **leading** role in BirdLife International, a worldwide partnership of nature conservation organisations.

Our Engagement

Offshore renewables

Oil and gas

Marine protected areas

Sustainable fisheries

Marine Spatial Planning:

Scotland's National Marine Plan & England Marine Plans

Europe’s Seabirds

Ensuring Co-Existence

Aim: Natural marine populations and habitats are **protected, restored** and **enhanced** for the long-term.

Requires at a North Sea scale:

- Enhanced baseline – fill the gaps.
- Empirical evidence – develop understanding.
- Building on experience – don’t re-invent the wheel.
- Taking a strategic approach – collaboration & consistency.

Benefits of getting it right…

Better understanding of **environmental capacities** through improved evidence can lead to more **development opportunities** for the long-term.

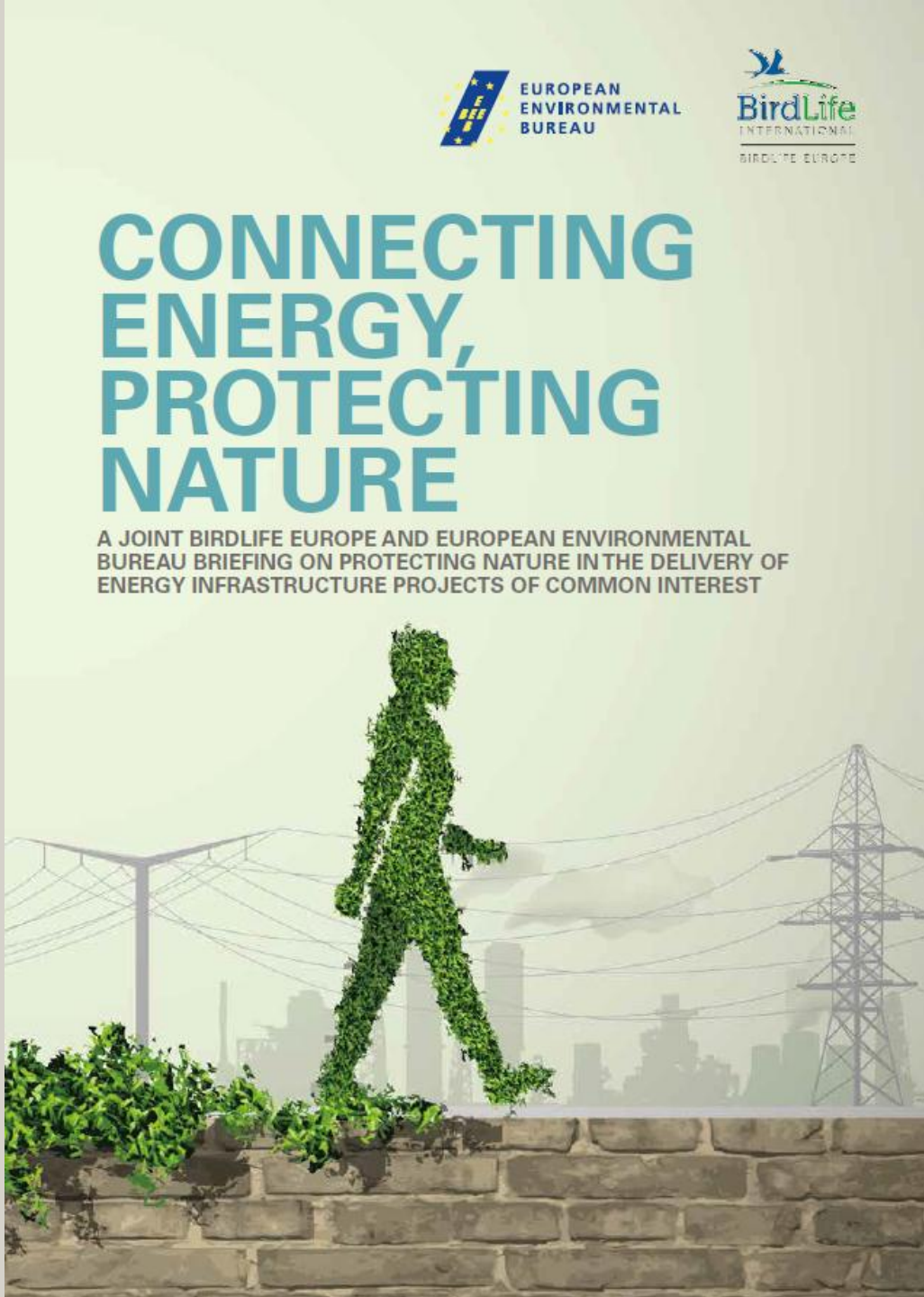
Reduced project **costs** to industry

Improved public perception and buy-in to offshore industries including renewables – increases **political will**.

Achieve greatest renewable **energy capacity** for least **environmental effect** allowing long-term protection and enhancement of the natural marine environment.

Our contribution

- FAME/ STAR



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