



EU MISSIONS

RESTORE OUR OCEAN AND WATERS



BACKGROUND

DEME Group, a Belgium-based dredging and marine engineering leader, integrates Nature-based Solutions into coastal protection and aquatic ecosystem restoration.

Through projects like [Dunefront](#) and [Coastbusters](#) (coastal protection), [Bankbusters](#) (flood prevention), and Reefcovery (environmental restoration), DEME addresses biodiversity loss and climate-related coastal challenges.



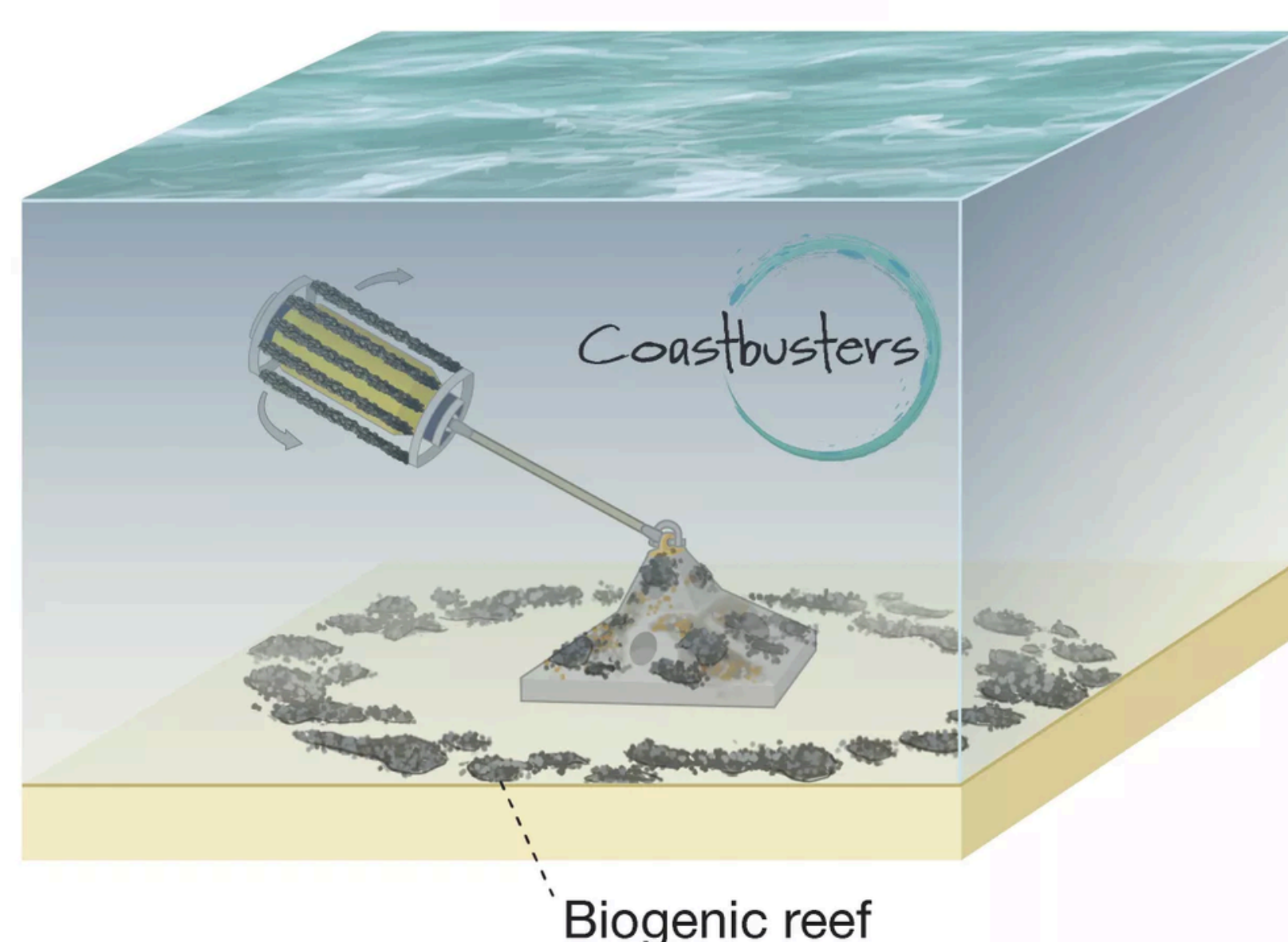
DEME

Dredging, Environmental & Marine Engineering

MOTIVATION

The urgent need for sustainable coastal defence and biodiversity conservation drives DEME. As traditional complex infrastructure solutions become increasingly expensive and unsustainable, the company explores nature-based alternatives that offer long-term cost efficiency while delivering ecosystem services. Recognising the growing demand for sustainable solutions, DEME aligns its projects with societal needs and business opportunities, reinforcing its role in the global transition to a circular blue economy.

MUSSELSHAKER



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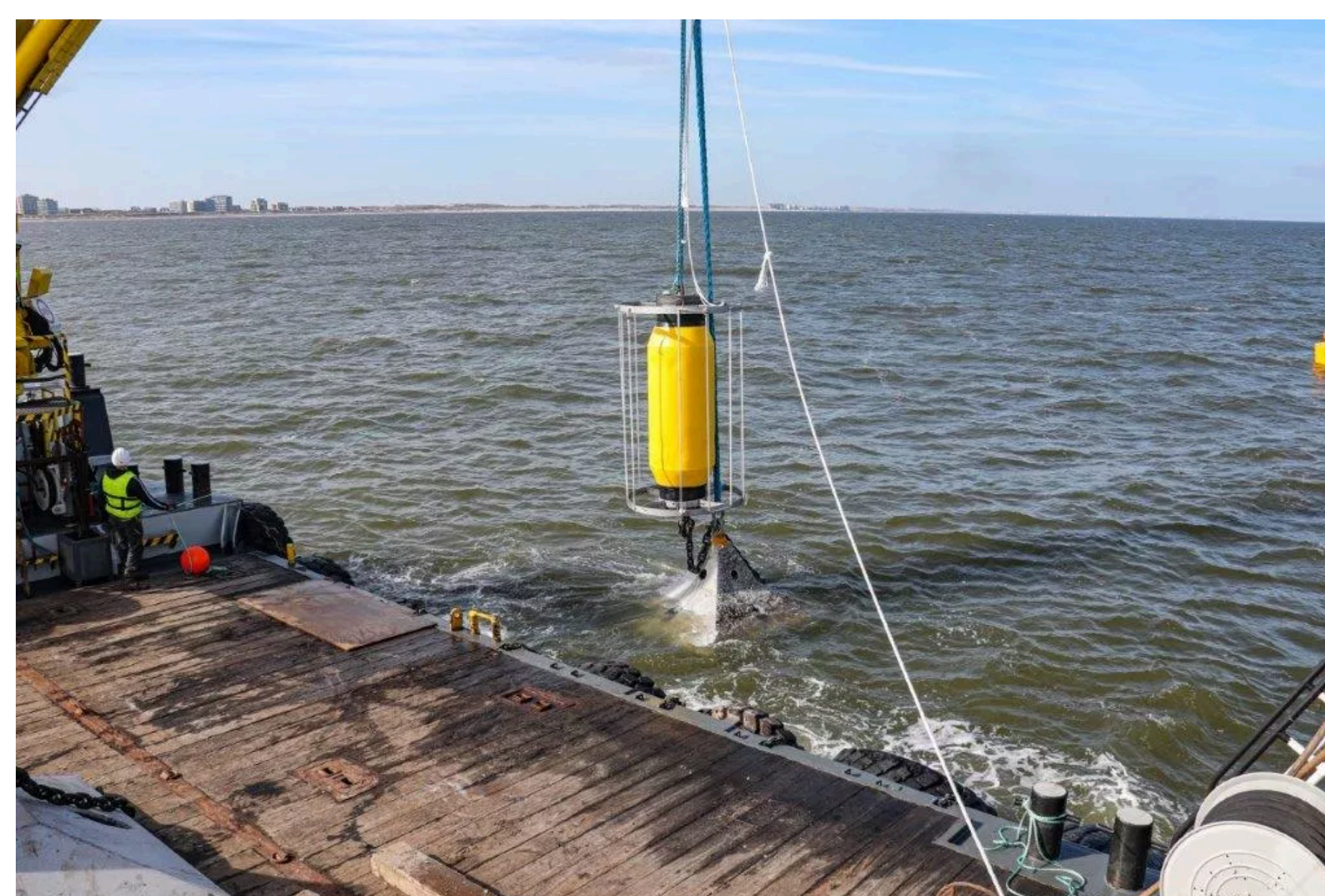
COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Key research partners include the [Flanders Marine Institute \(VLIZ\)](#), [Flemish Fisheries Institute \(ILVO\)](#), and the [University of Antwerp](#) who provide scientific expertise to develop Nature-based Solutions. Government authorities are also closely involved, particularly in securing permits.

Additionally, DEME was a founding member of [Blue Cluster](#), a cluster organisation that fosters cross-sector collaboration in Belgium's North Sea economy. The company also engages local fishermen, who help monitor infrastructure and detect potential issues.

OUTCOMES

The group's projects have successfully demonstrated the viability of Nature-based Solutions for coastal protection and biodiversity restoration. A key challenge remains in quantifying their societal and environmental benefits within traditional economic frameworks. It is often difficult to monetise the projects' financial returns, highlighting the need for economic models that better account for environmental gains.



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