

Comparison from practices of EIA in 4 different Member States focused on Natura 2000 & NL coastal region

Ameland (ECONAT2000)

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Comparison from practices EIA/BHDs in FR, BE, UK & NL



Research was done by EU project 'NEW! Delta': "Ports and Nature, Striking a New Balance"



The screenshot shows a Windows desktop with a browser window open to the NEW! Delta website. The browser toolbar is visible at the top. The website has a dark blue header with the NEW! Delta logo and a navigation menu. The main content area features a green banner with a photo of a field of yellow flowers. Below the banner, the title 'NEW! Delta Themes' is displayed. A central diagram shows a blue oval labeled 'NWE DELTA THEMES' connected to seven green ovals, each representing a theme: 1. Pooling resources for Natura 2000, 2. Ecological goals and indicators, 3. Creation and restoration of habitats, 4. Cross-sectoral long term port and estuary visions, 5. Cause effect relationship, 6. Sustainable dredging strategies, and 7. Coastal defence alternatives. At the bottom of the page, the website URL 'www.newdelta.org' is shown.

new! delta

THEMES:

- Pooling Resources for Natura 2000
- Establishment of Ecological Goals and Indicators
- Creation and Restoration of Coastal and Estuarine
- Cross-Sectoral Long Term Port and Estuary Visions
- Cause Effect Relationship
- Sustainable Dredging Strategies
- Coastal Morphology and Coastal Defences in Vicinit

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Extranet log in

NEW! Delta Themes

NWE DELTA THEMES

1. Pooling resources for Natura 2000
2. Ecological goals and indicators
3. Creation and restoration of habitats
4. Cross-sectoral long term port and estuary visions
5. Cause effect relationship
6. Sustainable dredging strategies
7. Coastal defence alternatives

www.newdelta.org

YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THEME REPO

‘Pooling Resources for Natura 2000’

- Research partner cases EU legislation > Natura 2000
- Question list for NEW! Delta partners
- Individual meeting with partners
- Meeting experts from European Commission
- Meeting experts from National Ministries

Conclusions

Important benchmarks & common practices were:

- 1 Stakeholders involvement
- 2 Significant effects
- 3 Alternative solutions
- 4 MITIGATION
- 5 'IROPI'
- 6 COMPENSATION
- 7 Monitoring

Additional:

External effects, Cumulative effects

1 Stakeholders involvement

- HD 92/43 Art 6§3: opinion of the general public
- Directive 85/337: public consultation is necessary
- Århus Convention 98: public participation in decision-making & access in environmental matters
- EU Water Framework Directive: public participation is identified

2 Significant effects, incl. precautionary principle, cumulative effects

- HD 92/43 Art 6§3
 - objective context
 - coherent network
 - precautionary principle
 - possible cumulative effects
- Directive 85/337
 - likely to have significant effect (depending situation)
5% species loss?
1% area loss?

3 Alternative solutions

- Projects or plans with adverse effects on Natura 2000 site can only proceed, as objectively concluded that no alternative solutions exist
- Alternatives solutions: alternative locations, processes, different scales or designs
- Reference parameters for comparison: integrity of the site, of its ecological functions
- In this phase: economic criteria can not overrule ecological criteria

4 MITIGATION

- Extension Port of Antwerp (BE): ecological connecting zones guaranteeing favourable status of HDprotected Natterjack Toad



Bufo calamita: photograph F. Ottburg

5 'IROPI'

- HD 92/43 Art 6§3: Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
- Member State has the power to elaborate its national policies
- Supported with evidence
 - demonstrable public or environmental need
 - improving public health and safety
 - safeguarding human life and property
- No commonly accepted method



Prioritaire zwakke schakels



Disaster flooding S-W part of The Netherlands, 1953, 1835 casualties
 > coastal defence: 'Deltaplan'
 Climate change > sea level rise > improving coastal defence 2006:
 'Zwakke schakels'

6 COMPENSATION

- Compensation only after 3) Alternative solutions 4) MITIGATION & 5) 'IROPI'
- Overall coherence Natura 2000 network
- As near as possible to original location
- Same biogeographical region
- To be realised before project/plan carried out
- With respect to existing natural values on that new place!
- Better: avoid necessity compensatory measures!

6 Compensation

- Safety as the goal,
Nature as the means
- Natural processes for a
flexible ecosystem
- Habitat development:
sustainable populations
in a dynamic landscape
- An attractive landscape for
tourism and recreational
activities



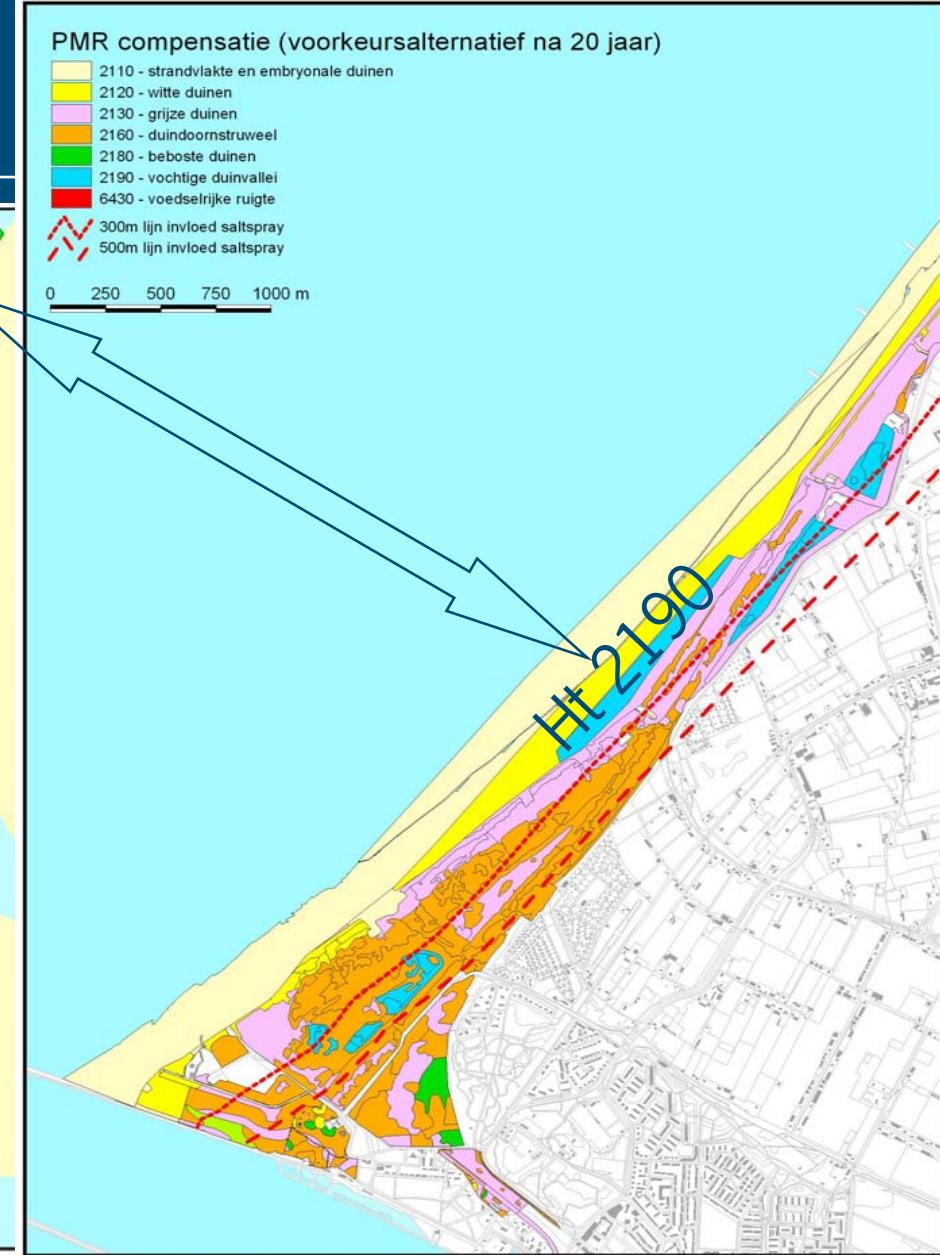
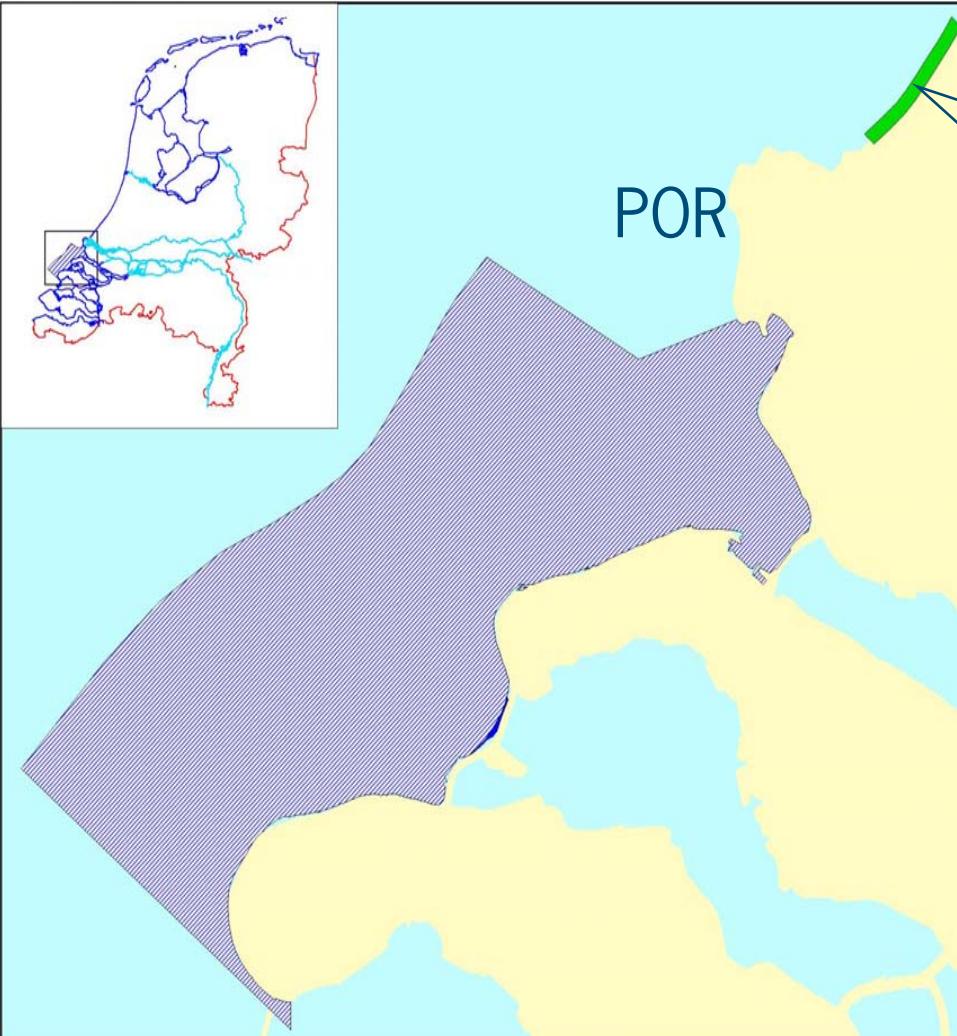
6 Compensation

- With respect to existing natural values on that new place!
- The Sand lizard lives in the most dynamic part of the dunes, was already ones practically wiped out
- Choice: respect actual habitat and create new!



Lacerta agilis: photograph F. Ottburg

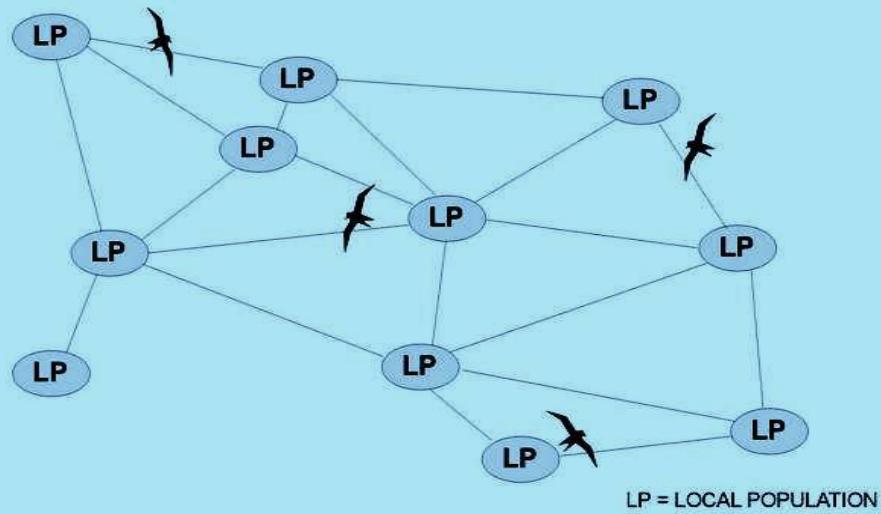
6 Compensation



Compensation dune slacks

6 Compensation

METAPOPULATION



Metapopulation is a set of local populations connected by dispersing animals



Compensation breeding habitat Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*)

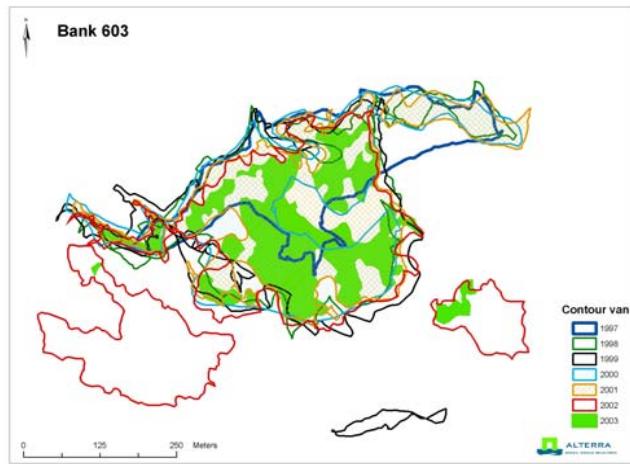
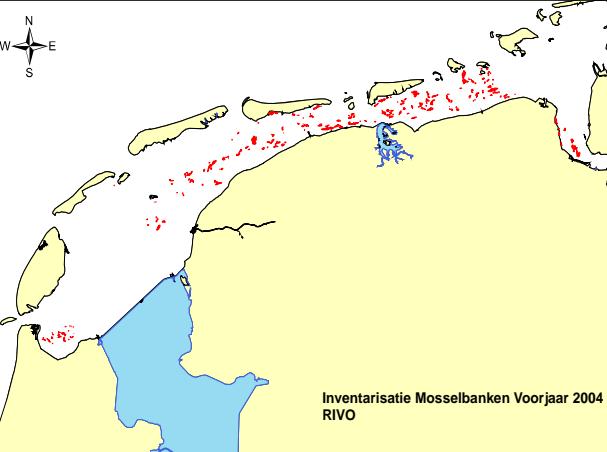
7 Monitoring habitats & species

■ A) Obligation for Favourable status:

- actual conservation status and its trends on various levels
- reported to the Commission to be comparable and compatible for analysis on EU scale
- information available on publicly and easily accessible electronic databases on their own initiative

■ B) Evaluating Mitigation & Compensation

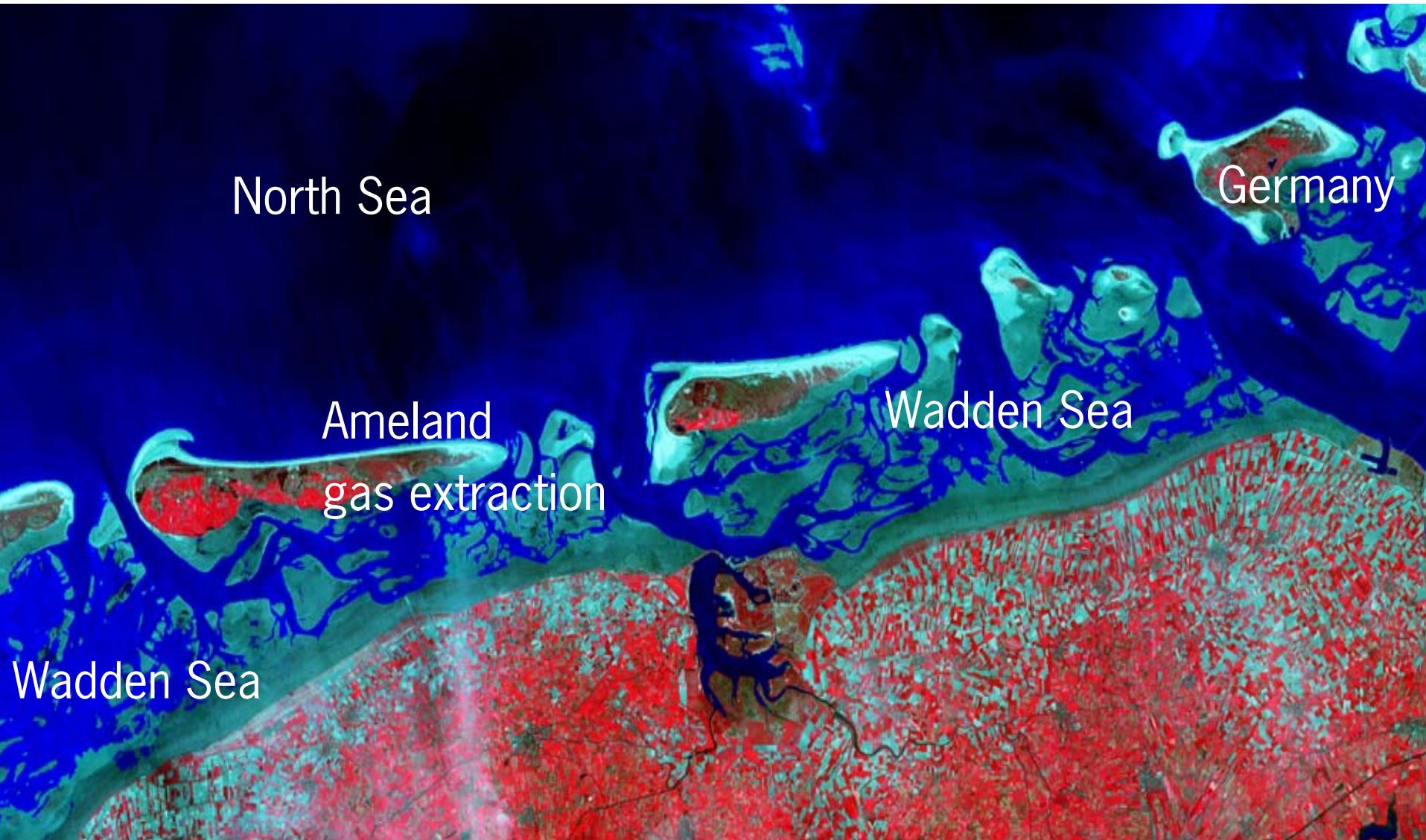
7 Monitoring for A) Favourable status



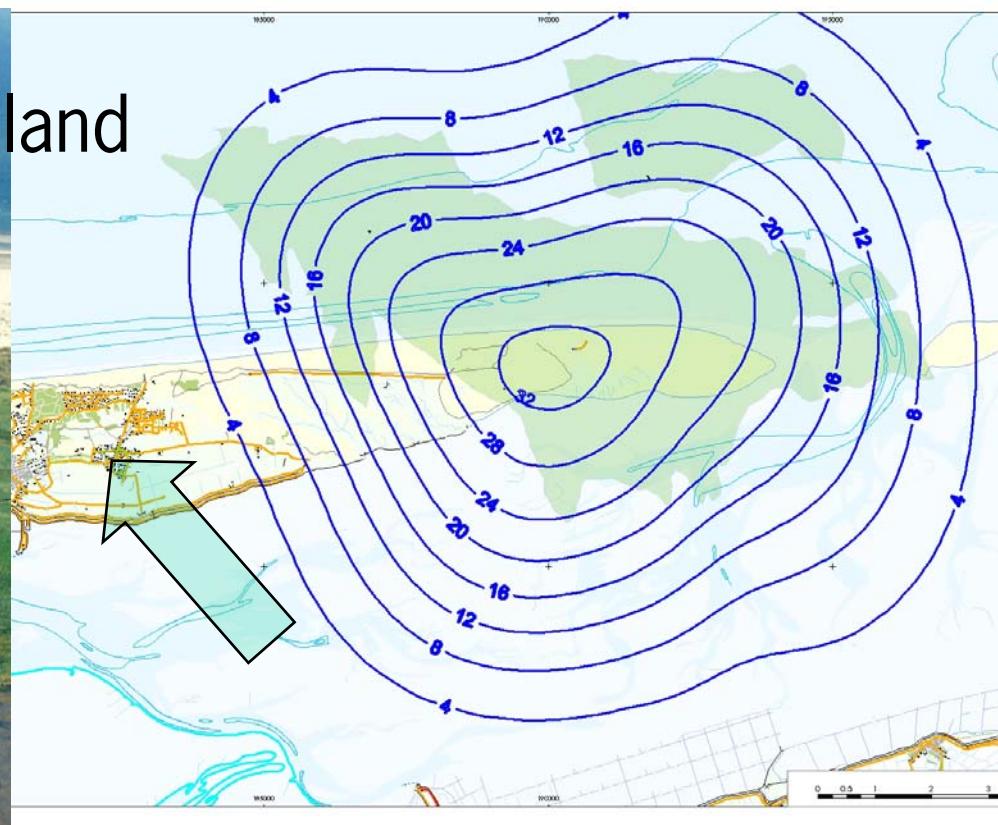
Conservation status of mussel beds favourable:

- Distribution throughout SAC (occurs in all suitable places)
- Minimum area size of habitat type is present or exceeded
- % covered by mussels is average or good
- Natural processes (like spatfall) safeguard occurrence on the long term

7 Monitoring for B) Evaluating Mitigation & Compensation



7 Monitoring for B) Evaluating Mitigation & Compensation



1986 gas extraction started
2003 assessed soil subsidence 27 cm
2020 predicted soil subsidence 31-37 cm

7 Monitoring habitats & species

important rules of thumb

- Permanent programme without additions, persistent, long time series
- Flexibility for new insights, for additional events, etc.
- External supervisors

External effects

Speciale beschermingszones (E.G. Vogelrichtlijn)

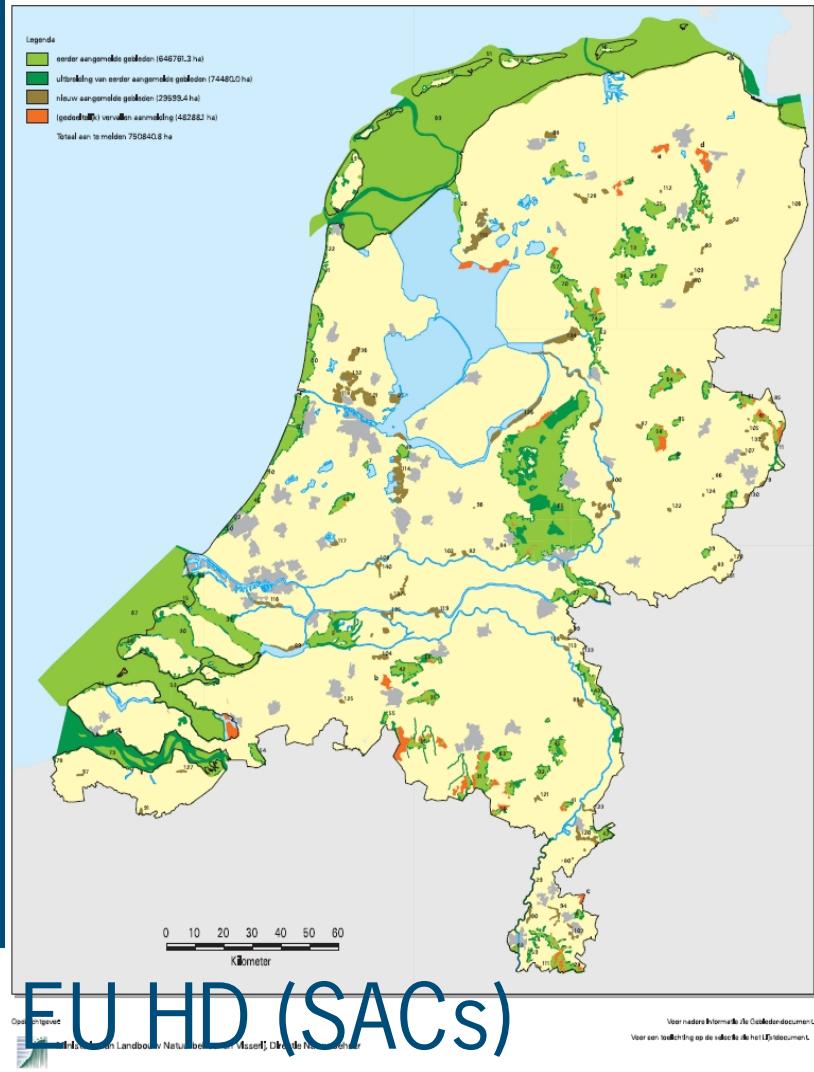
aan deze kaart kunnen geen rechten worden ontleend

- 1 Aals Fennen
- 2 Bargerveen
- 3 Biesbosch
- 4 Delden
- 5 Deurninger Peel
- 6 Drentsche Aa
- 7 Dwingerlaardveld
- 8 Eemmeer, Gooimeer, IJmeer
- 9 Engbertsdijksveen
- 10 Fochtelooeveen
- 11 Friese Jisselmeerdust
- 12 Groot Peel
- 13 Harsen
- 14 Kampina
- 15 Kil van Hurwenen
- 16 Voldaakmeer
- 17 Kwade Hoek
- 18 Lepelaarplassen
- 19 Lutkemeer
- 20 Meijweggebied
- 21 Nieuwkoops Plassen
- 22 Nieuwkoops Plassen
- 23 Oostvaardersplassen
- 24 Oostvaardersplassen
- 25 Vordenkrook, Sand van Saetinge
- 26 Waddenzee
- 27 Weerribben
- 28 Zoutmeelbos
- 29 Zwart Meer
- 30 Zwin



Kaart aangemelde Habitatrichtlijngebieden

schaal 1:1 000 000



EU BD (SPAs)

EU HD (SACs)

External effects

- Possible external effect from extension Port of Rotterdam
> BHDprotected Wadden Sea?
- Court case: research to be done
- Judgement: no external effects

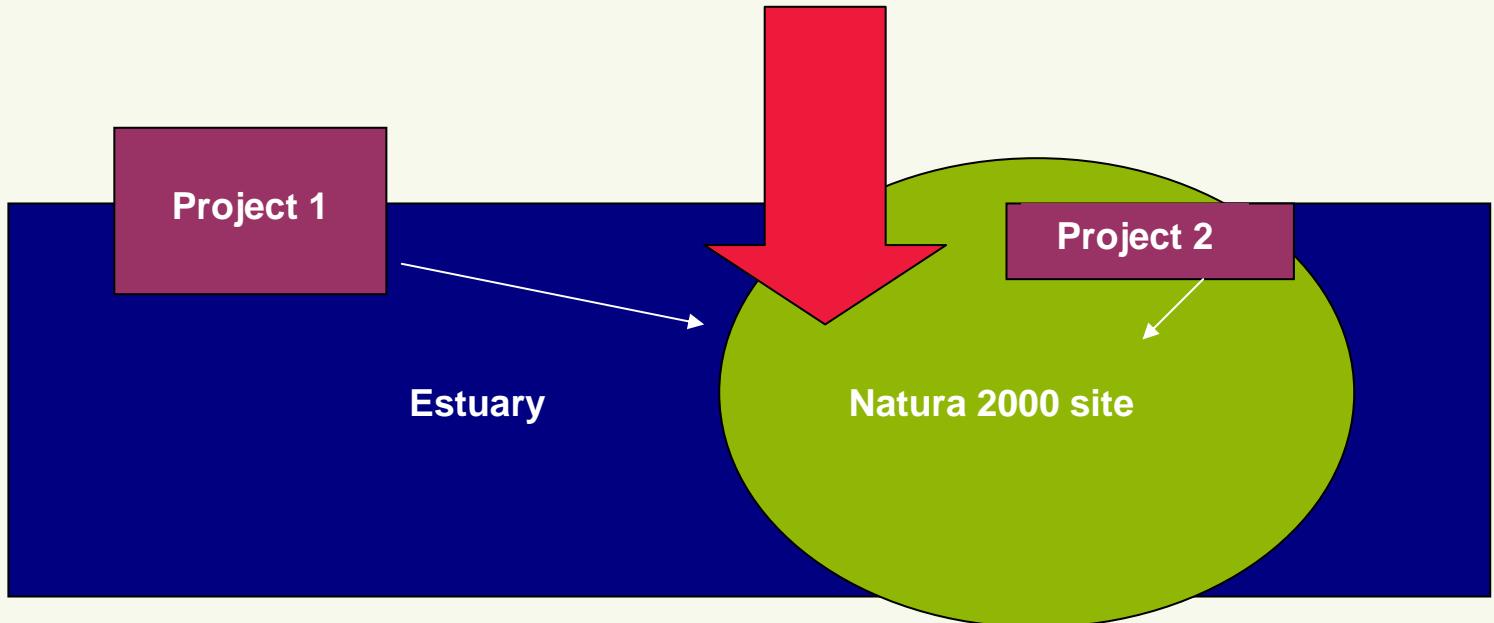


Cumulative effects

- Art. 6 (3) Habitats Directive: 'either individually or in combination with other plans or projects'
- The sum of effects from projects inside or around a Natura 2000 site
- Effects, who combined can result in a significant effect



Cumulation



Single project: NO significant effect

Combined projects: DO have a significant effect



Types of cumulation

- ▼ Cumulation within an activity (several negative impacts inside an activity)
- ▼ Cumulation of space (other activities)

- ▼ Cumulation at points in time

Important issues for cumulation

- ▼ Ecological knowledge
- ▼ Boundaries for the assessment
- ▼ Establishing responsibilities
- ▼ Characterising of potential impacts
- ▼ Mitigation options
- ▼ Registration/ database



Cumulation

- ▼ The sum of effects from projects inside or around a Natura 2000 site.



Cumulative effects

EIA coastal defence (IROPI)

- Coastal defence (CD)
- Enlarging Port of Rotterdam (POR)
- Opening sluices former estuary (HV)



Thank You for Your attention!

Contact Alterra

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