

# The implementation processes of the European Water Framework Directive and Natura 2000 in the Netherlands

## A Public policy analysis

Alwin Gerritsen, NCR Days, November 3th, 2006



# Structure of the presentation

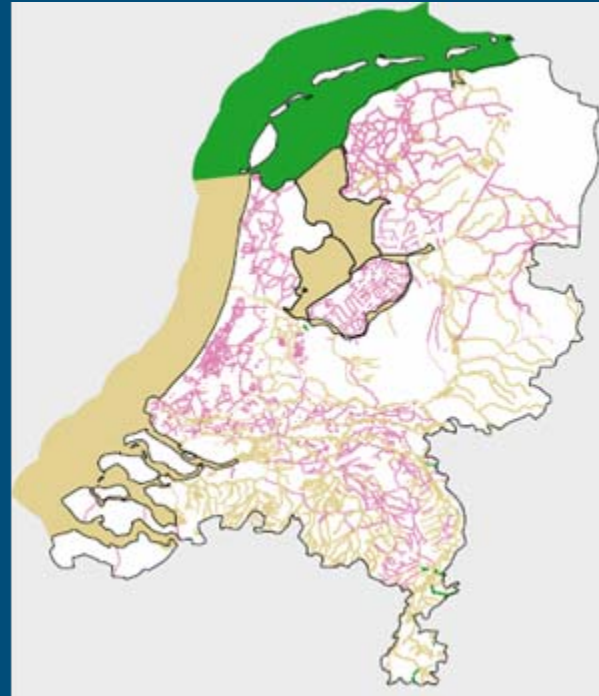
- Introduction
- Research method
- Results
- Conclusions

# Introduction

- Natura 2000 (Birds and Habitat Directive) and the Water Framework Directive both concern water dependant ecological values
- Netherlands Environmental Agency (MNP):

How likely is it that ecological win-win situations will be reached?

# Natura 2000 and the EWFD



# Two quick-scan studies

- An ecological analysis of possible water measures and N2000 policy goals (Paulissen, Ottburg & Wolfert 2006)

In general: potential measures of the EWFD have a positive influence on N2000 species and habitat goals

- A public policy analysis of the two implementation processes in the Netherlands (Gerritsen, 2006)

# Research method

- What are the characteristics of the two implementation processes and how do they interact?
- Policy Arrangements Approach (Leroy, Van Tatenhove & Arts, 2001)
  - Actors and coalitions
  - Power and resources
  - Rules of the game
  - Policy discourse

# Sources of information

- Policy documents, research reports, websites
- Explorative interviews

# Results (1)

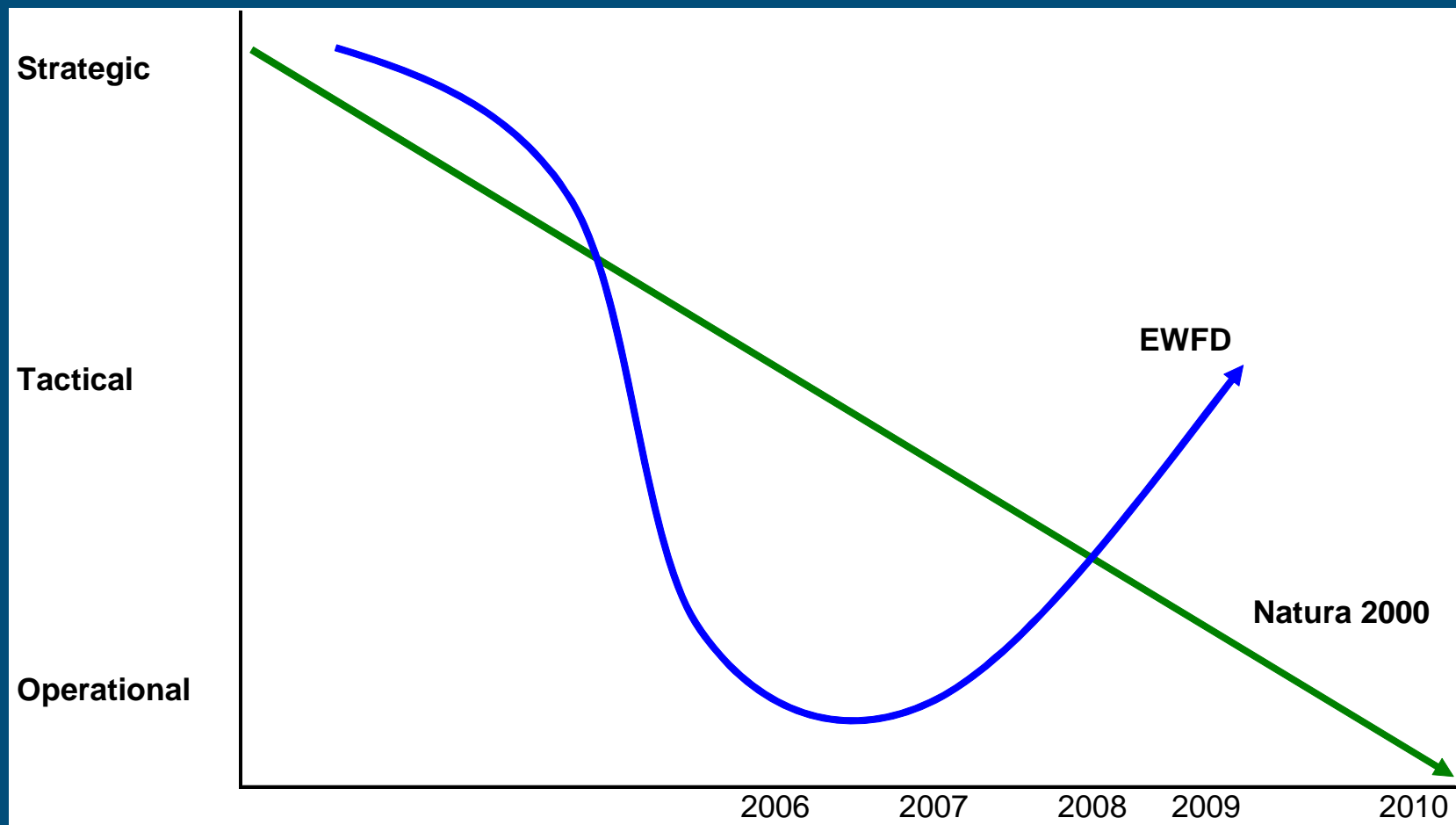
- Until December 2005 the two processes, and the persons active in them, had little connections with each other
- Other discourse coalitions prevail:
  - EWFD: formulating affordable and accomplishable goals and limiting the risks for the economy
  - N2000: more attention on ecological goals in the early stages of the implementation process



# Results (2)

- The two implementation processes are organized differently
- The actors in the two processes are, at the same time, working on different kinds of goals:
  - EWFD: exploring the possible measures on the operational level and deriving tactical goals from that  
  
(concerning ecological goals for non-natural water types)
  - N2000: designating areas and defining tactical goals

# Two implementation methods



# Conclusions

- If the two implementation processes do not converge more, opportunities for win-win situations could be missed, such as ecologic gains
- The risk exists that one process has to adapt to the other
- N2000 areas should be formally designated soon, without causing problems for the EWFD-process
- The operational level appears to be the most promising one from an ecological point of view

# Questions?

© Wageningen UR

