



Rijksoverheid

# Benefits for Nature plan Dutch large water areas



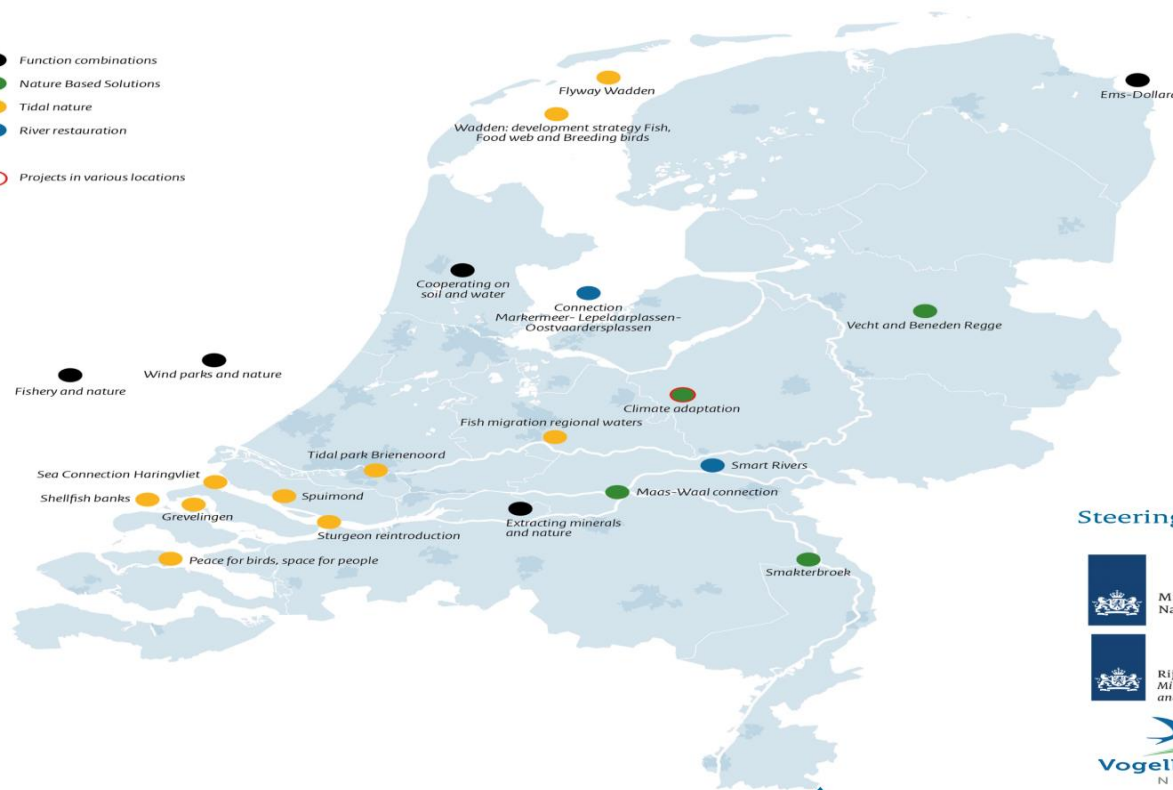
**LIFE IP**  
} Deltanatuur



# LIFE IP Deltanatuur

Seeks benefits for nature by finding integrated cooperation solutions for large water areas, maintaining the principles of the mutual gains approach and making impeding undercurrents visible.

- Function combinations
- Nature Based Solutions
- Tidal nature
- River restoration
- Projects in various locations



23  
Partner  
Organizations

24  
Field  
Projects

25  
Action  
Holders

17,5  
Milion  
Euro

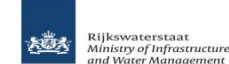
1  
Program  
Manager

5  
Program  
Actions

22  
Complementary  
Actions

2016  
|  
2022

## Steering Committee



## Objectives

Improve cooperation and ownership in the Dutch large water areas  
 Increase synergy between the relevant executive programs  
 Start new forms of collaboration in delta nature development  
 Disclose knowledge regarding delta nature development  
 Develop a strategy for robust Dutch delta nature development

## Activities

Monitoring  
 Social economic impact of  
 environmental restoration  
 National Nature Thermometer  
 Public communication

## Products

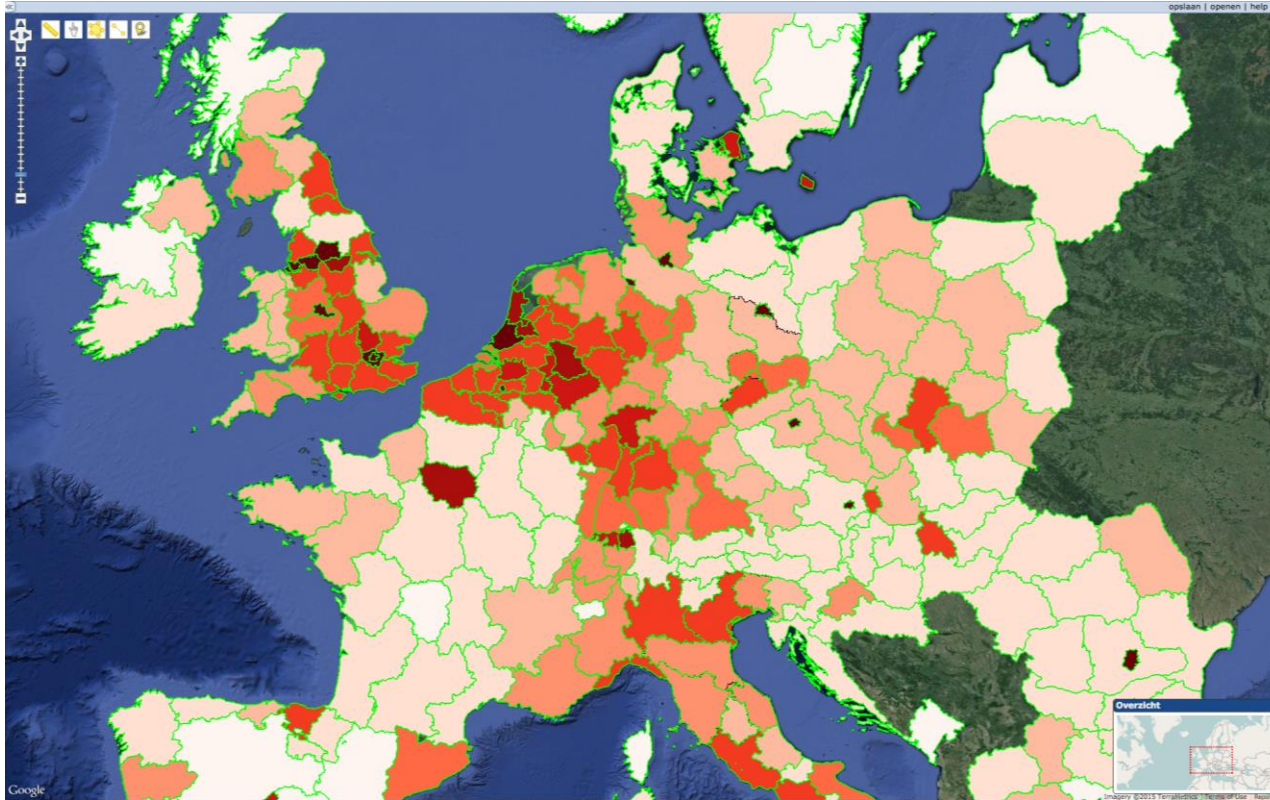
Integrated Nature Governance Approach  
 Nature Benefits Plan  
 Strategy for a robust Dutch delta nature  
 Shared knowledge base  
 Financing model

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# Netherlands

Densely populated



Water safety



Economic activities



Recreation

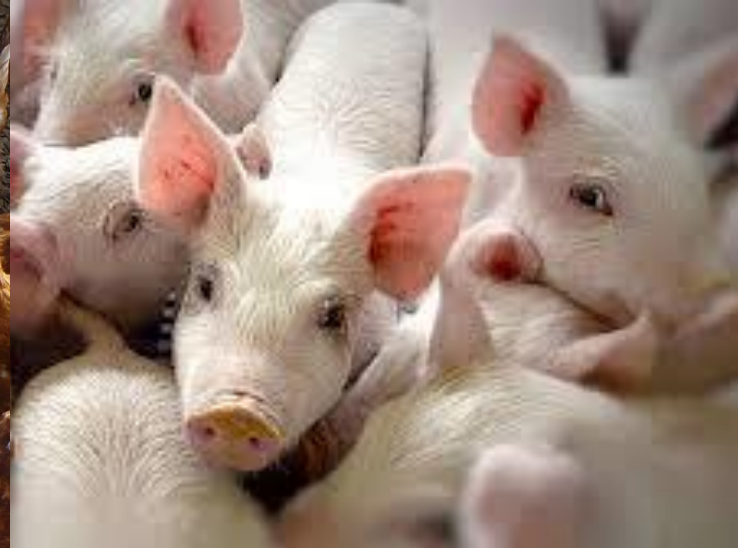


Nature





# Netherlands second!



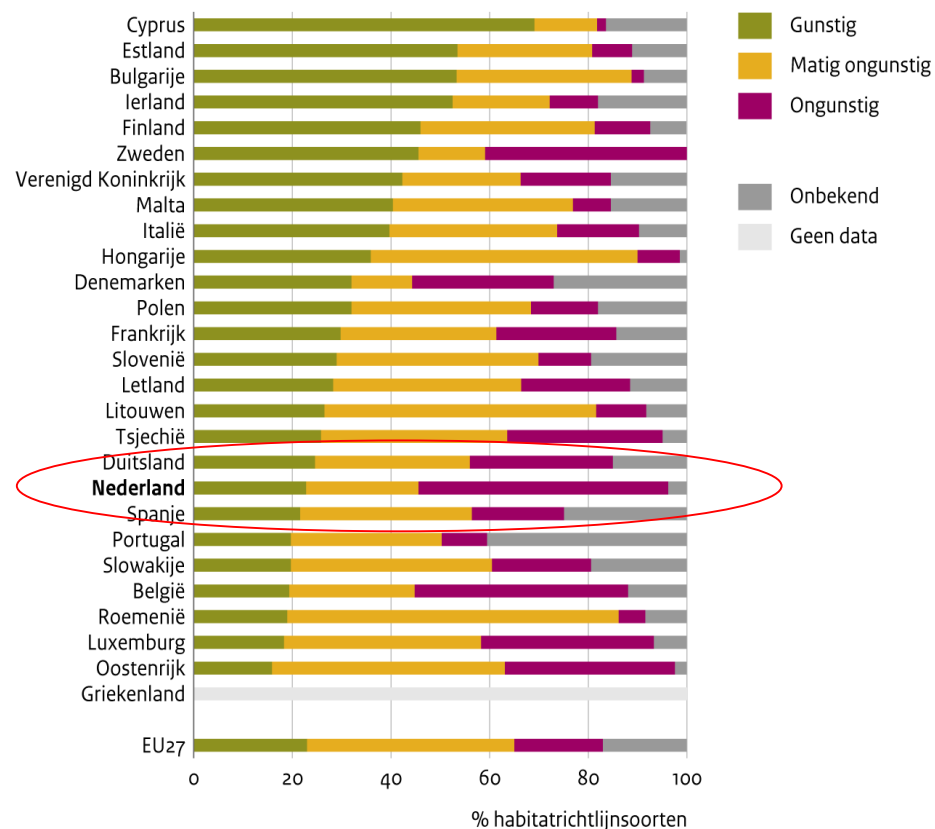


# Water: Friend or Foe?



Water management projects such as dikes, dams, polders and seaways made the Netherlands safe and prosperous, but .....

Staat van instandhouding van habitatrichtlijnsoorten in EU27, 2007 – 2012



Bron: Annexes State of Nature report

PBL/aug16  
www.clo.nl/nh148304

... caused disturbance of the natural dynamics of water and sediment

... and therefore the ecological quality of water and nature

... commissioned by the ministries of *Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality* and *Infrastructure and Water Management* an exploration was made of what is needed for more sustainable management of the large waters

[illegible]

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# What are the first plans?



## First tranche Programmatic Approach Large Waters (PAGW):

- Plan development and start of the accomplishment of a connection between the North Sea and the Lake Grevelingen (South West Delta)
- Plan development and realisation of mud sedimentation in the Ems-Dollard estuaria (North East, at the German border)
- Research and exploration of other areas:

The connection between Wadden Sea-IJsselmeer

The connection between Markermeer-Oostvaardersplassen

Working out the ambitions for the ecological and nature goals for the river-areas (IRM)

Pre-exploration for easing the borders of the Wadden area



## But?



- Bring back the tide in the Grevelingen lake leads to reduction of some Natura 2000 species
- Development and realisation of mud sedimentation in the Ems-Dollard estuaria leads to reduction of H1130
- Is that allowed under the Habitat and Birds Directives?
- How can the development of nature go hand in hand with its conservation?

# Benefits for Nature Plan

- **Decline of biodiversity and climate change causes shifts of habitats and decline of species.**
- **Despite programmes concerning the Water Framework Directive (KRW) and Natura 2000, it shows to be difficult to achieve the goals.**
- **In order to face the challenges, sometimes large scale system interventions are necessary**
- **Therefore, the Ministries of I&W and LNV are taking steps in taking measures to make the main waters future proof,**
- **The challenge for the Benefits for Nature plan is to combine the conservation of nature with improving the ecological water quality**



# Ambition

The 'Benefits for Nature Plan' strives to combine the objectives of nature conservation with the development of ecological water quality by:

1. Basing the goals for habitat types and species in the main watersystems not only on references of the past, but also ecological potential in the future (2050)
2. Step by step considering which habitat type and which species best suits in which area in the Netherlands

# The 'Benefits for Nature' plan consists of

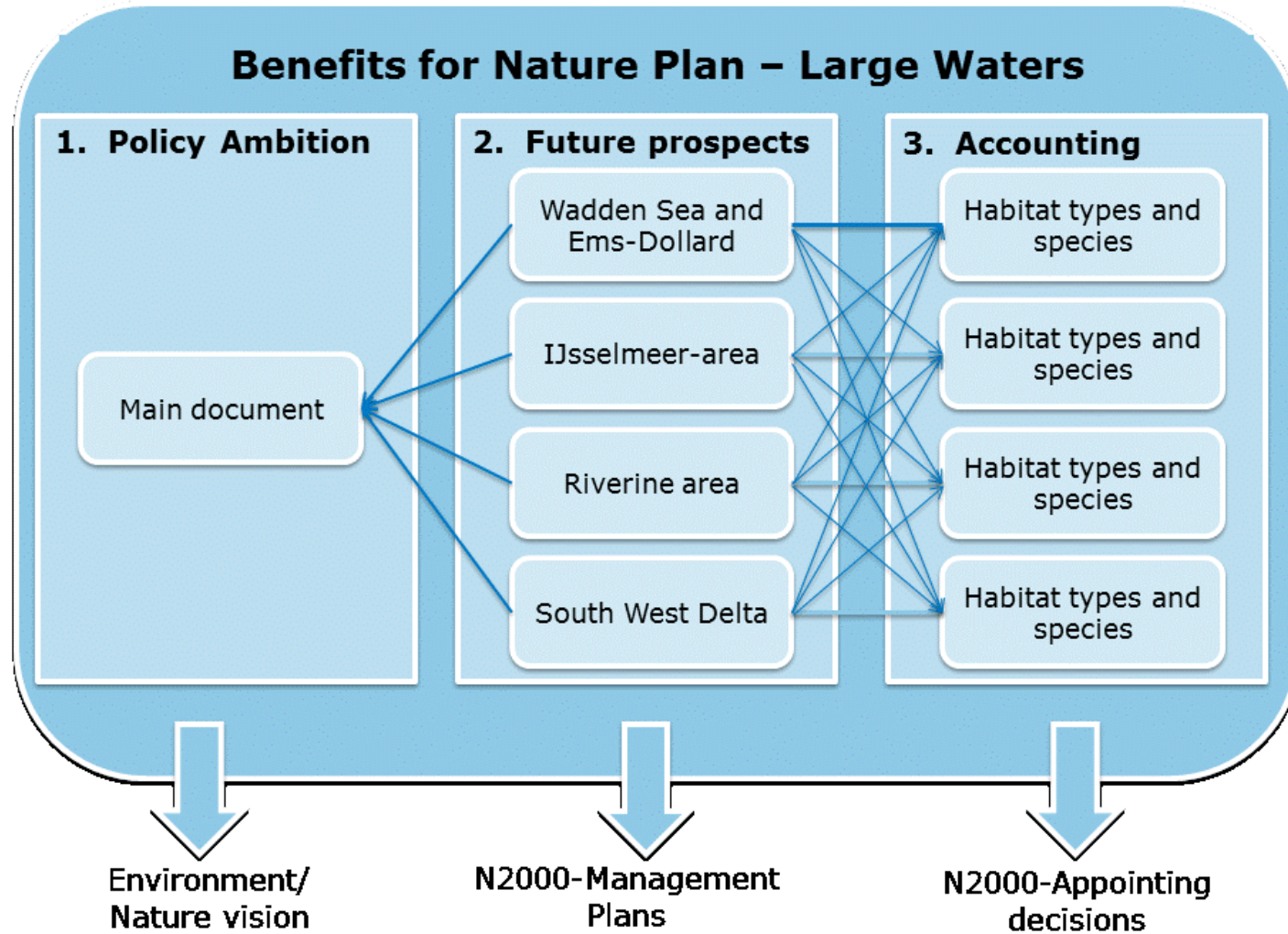
- An ecological potential (2050) for each main water area in terms of habitat type and species
- Starting point is a vision on a resilient and robust ecosystem, where natural processes can evolve, more than we are used to now
- Considers autonomous developments, such as climate change and natural trends



# Policy Framework and geographical framework

- The Benefits for Nature plan builds on several other Dutch policies
- The plan area stretches over the large waters of the Dutch Delta (Wadden Sea and Ems-Dollard, IJsselmeerarea, Riverine areas and Southwest delta), but the areas studied are broader and also involve boarder regions

# The Benefits for Nature Plan





# Adaptive approach

- The ambition of the Central Government is reaching the current Natura-2000 goals for the large waters (in a cost effective manner) through the Benefits for Nature plan (in 2050)
- The preposition is to re-determine the Benefits for Nature Plan every six years, and to make it to correspond with the cycles of the National Water Programme, the Delta Programme and Natura-2000 management plans
- This cycle-approach offers the possibility to re-evaluate the distribution of the national preservation goals between the large waters

# Parties involved

- The Benefits for Nature plan is being developed under the responsibility of the Steering Committee LIFE IP Delta Nature
- The nature vision and ecological potential is being determined by an independent expert group, composed of scientists
- Developing the plan/strategy is an adaptive process with all parties concerned (public authorities, NGO's, etc)



# Questions and statements

- **Do you also have to deal with static objectives in dynamic systems? What are your experience?**
- **it's better to base your goals on ecological potential than on historical occurrence**
- **Is it allowed (under the directives) to reduce objectives in an area, if you can substantiate that another area has more potential? (even if that habitats or species have an unfavourable conservation status)?**



Rijksoverheid

*Together with all its partners LIFE IP Delta Nature gives an impulse to the development of valuable delta nature in the Netherlands.*

[www.life-ip-deltanatuur.nl](http://www.life-ip-deltanatuur.nl)

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