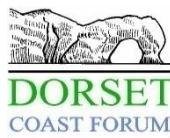




# The changing seabed in Knokke-Heist: involving stakeholders

Sofie Vanhooren  
Coordination centre on ICZM  
Ghent, Belgium      February 18th, 2011





# CONTENT

- Stakeholder participation: why?
- Marine Management Area Heist
- Players in Heist
- Process Heist
- How exactly were stakeholders involved?
- Problems on the road
- Lessons learned



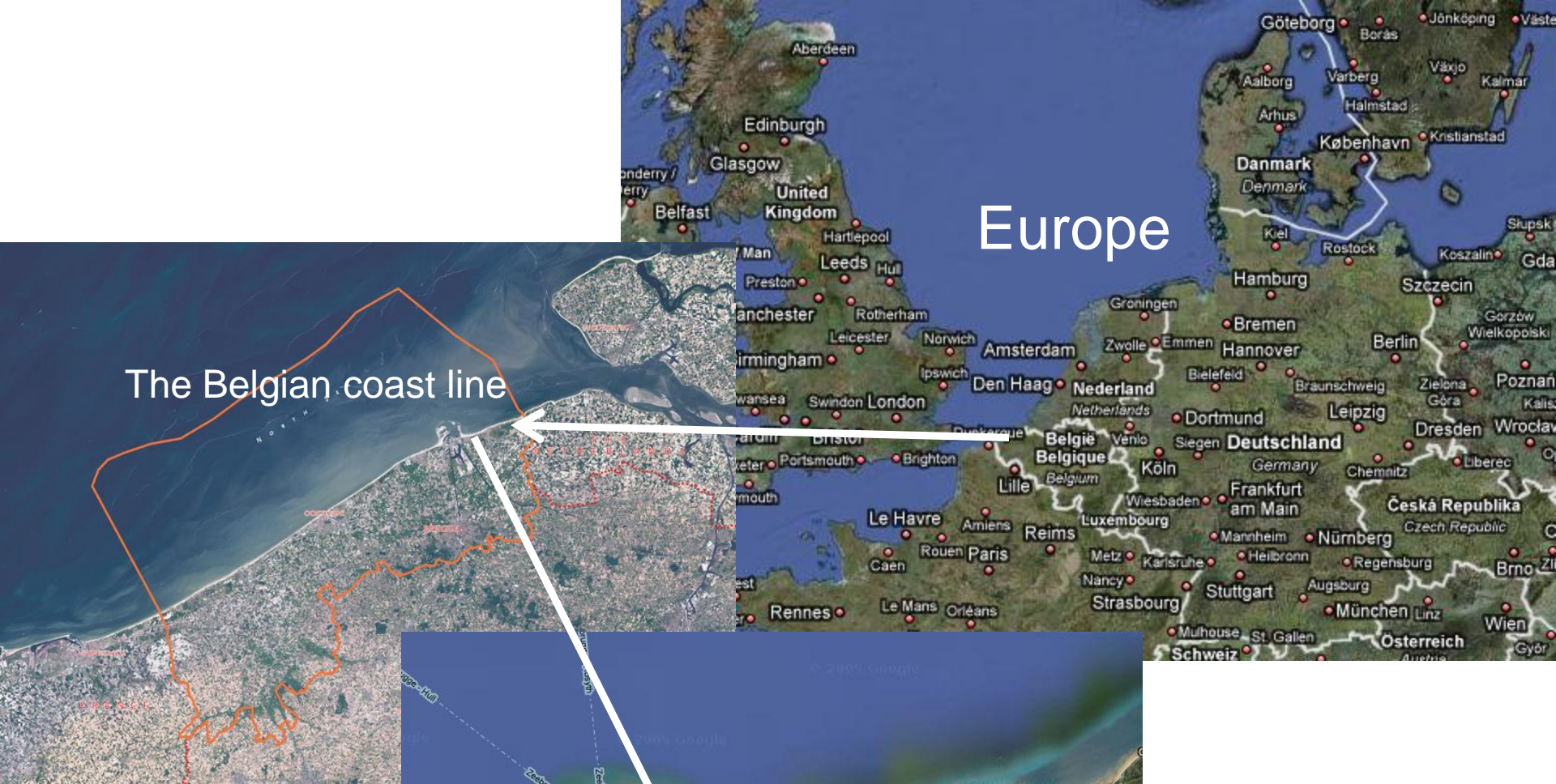


# Why stakeholder engagement?

- Within C-SCOPE the Coordination Centre on ICZM will develop a long-term vision on the Marine Management Area Heist
- Heist MMA: particular area with specific problem (growing sandbank) , mix of very different stakeholders, involved in an early stage
- The long term vision aims to achieve multiple objectives & should reflect expectations, opportunities and conflicts arising in the area
- Important questions to answer:
  - Defining who should be involved in this LT-vision
  - Defining when to involve stakeholders
  - Defining how to involve stakeholders











**Terns refuge  
in harbor**

**Marine  
Protected area**

**Special protection area 3  
Bird directive  
"Zeebrugge - Heist"**

**Fluxys LNG  
terminal**

**Growing  
sandbank**

**Port of  
Zeebrugge**

**SPA  
Habitat directive  
Dune areas (Zwin)**

**Protected  
Beach  
reserve**

**Nature reserve  
"Baai van Heist"**

**VVW Heist  
Water sports centre**







March 2010





# Involving stakeholders through the whole process

- 🌀 Heist MMA: unique and complex area with numerous users
  - ➡ target for this area: a long-term vision for Heist, supported by all stakeholders
  - ➡ Involving these stakeholders is a key element to make the process work
- 🌀 Summary of the process:
  - 🌀 January-July 2010: Basic Analysis of Heist MMA: analysis of the area, actual conflicts, future scenarios
  - 🌀 May 2010: webpage launched within C-SCOPE website on Heist and its sandbank





# Involving stakeholders through the whole process

- 🌀 July 2010: spreading of brochure on Bay of Heist
- 🌀 July 2010 – January 2011: Socio-economic analysis of Heist MMA
- 🌀 April 2011: stakeholder workshop – defining a common future scenario on Heist MMA
- 🌀 April 2011 – June 2011: developing long-term vision on Heist MMA, in close consultation with all stakeholders
- 🌀 Summer 2011: process to confirm the long-term vision by all parties involved & end report
- 🌀 Autumn 2011: presentation report and long-term vision





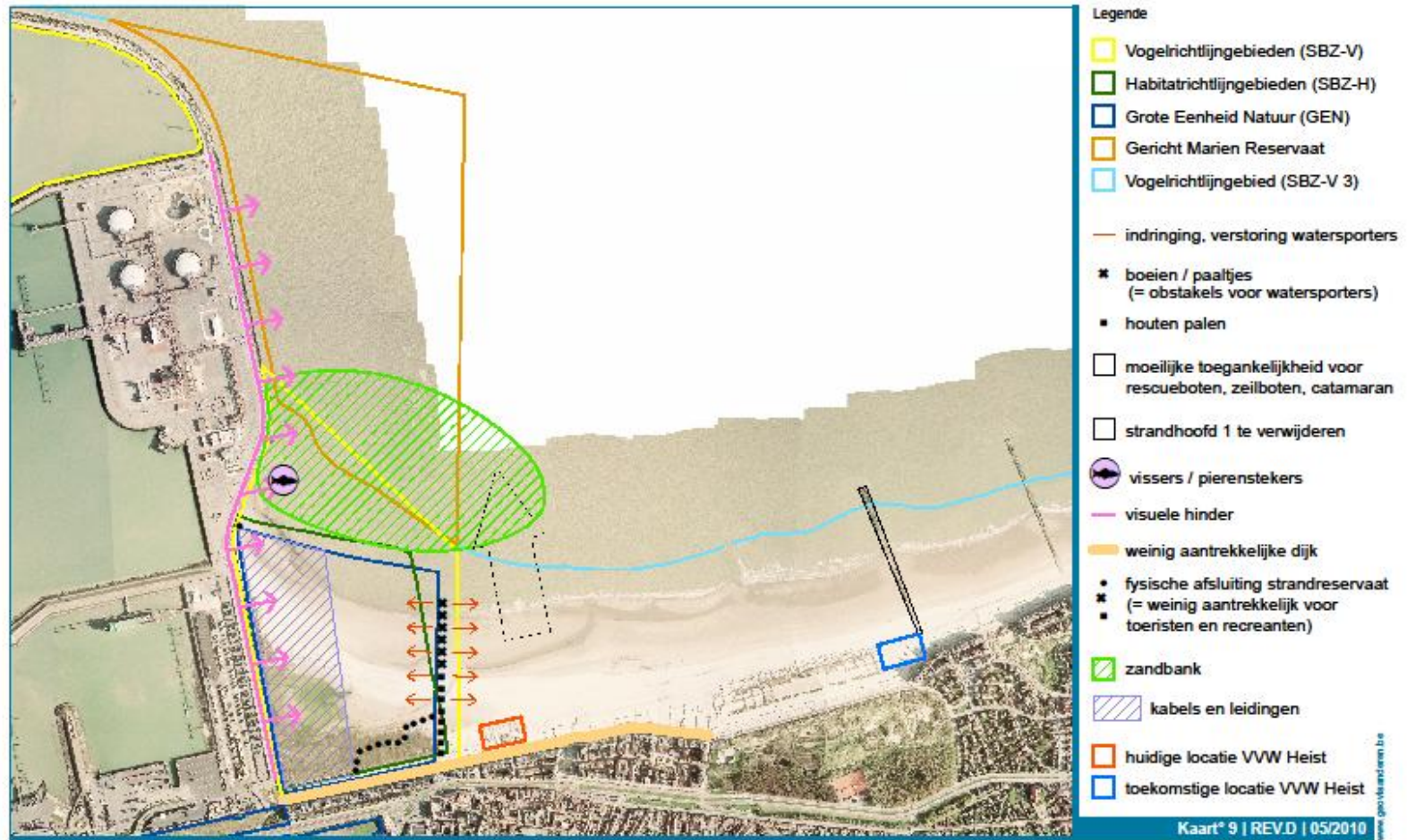
# How exactly were stakeholders involved?

- **Basic Analysis of Heist MMA** (external consultant ARCADIS in collaboration with the T&F Group Knokke-Heist West):
  - Description part (natural, morphological characteristics of the area, historical analysis, juridical and policy boundary conditions)
  - in-depth interviews were held amongst the principal stakeholders of the area:
    - Representatives of inhabitants, tourism & recreation: Stakeholder T&F Group, Agency for Tourism of West-Flanders and Tourism Flanders, Community of Knokke-Heist, Surf Club VVW Heist
    - Harbour of Zeebrugge
    - Representatives for coastal defence and exploitation of the beach: Flemish Agency for Maritime Services & Coast
    - Representatives for nature: Flemish Agency for Nature & Forest , Federal Agency for Public Health, Safety of the Food Chain and Environment, NGO for nature Natuurpunt
- Approach in this Basic Analysis = sectoral approach





# Analysis of Heist MMA: visualising conflicts



Kaart\* 9 | REV.D | 05/2010

Conflictenkaart  
projectnr. 11/005465 - Basisanalyse Baai van Heist

 **ARCADIS**



# Analysis of Heist MMA: visualising conflicts



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Tabel 3: Conflictmatrix beleidsalternatieven

Beleidsalternatieven	Impact op (beleids)doel														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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# Analysis of Heist MMA: future scenarios

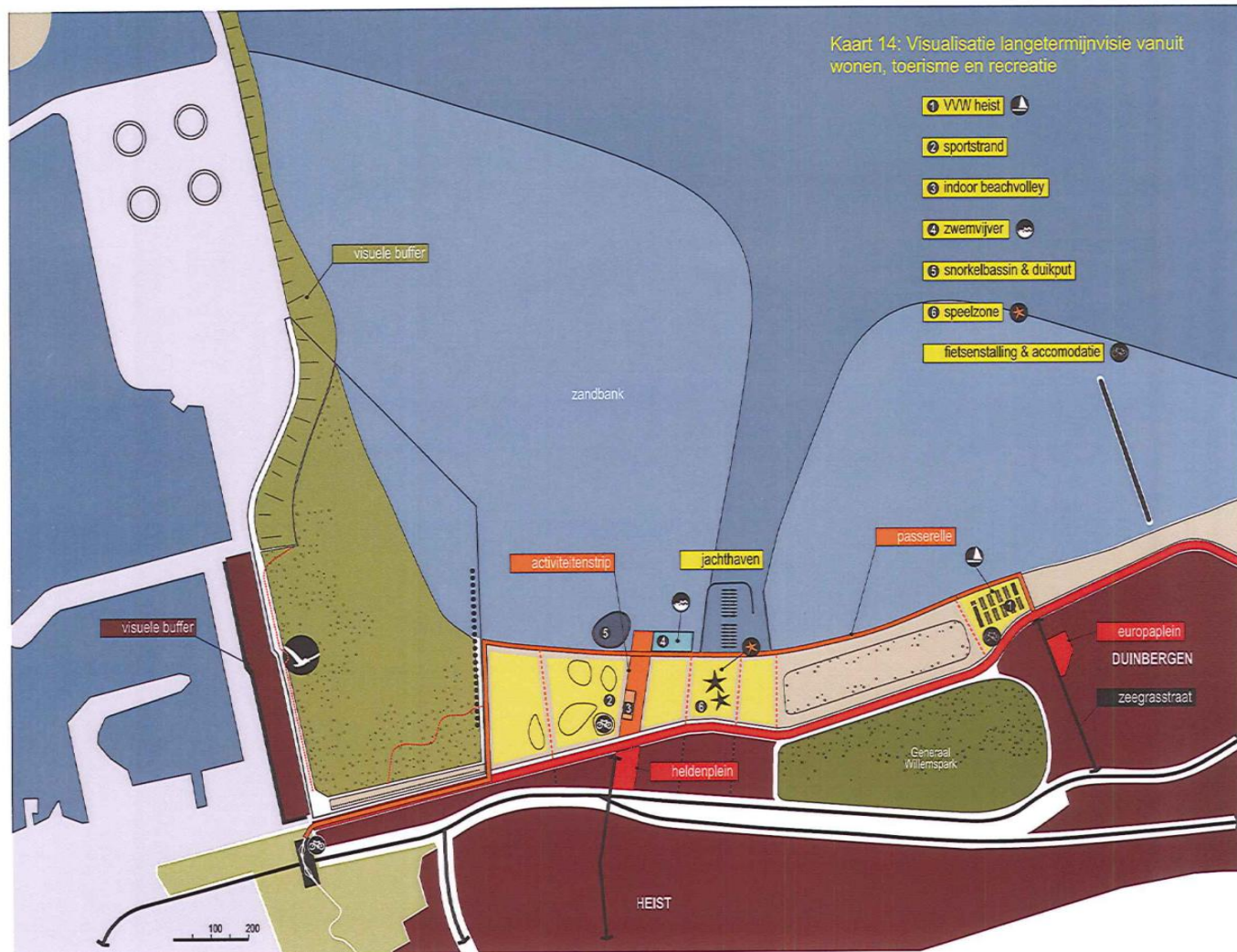
- During the in-depth interviews, interviewees were asked about their future visions
- Vision on short (2010-2015) – mid (2020) – long term (2050)
- All visions were visualised from a sectoral point of view





# Analysis of Heist MMA: future scenarios

## Long term touristical-recreational sector





# Analysis of Heist MMA: future scenarios





# Socio-economic analysis

- By Study office Tritel in collaboration with T&F group Knokke-Heist West
- Interviews & surveys amongst tourists and recreational users of the beaches of Heist and Duinbergen, inhabitants, owners of second residences, local merchants
- There were also in-depth interviews with 'key stakeholders'
- SWOT confrontation matrix for social and economical situation
- Description of similar 'foreign' cases to learn from other examples





# Socio-economic analysis

- The stakeholders in the T&F group were most interested in
  - Economical data: evolution of Heist through the years
  - Is Heist developing in a positive or negative way as regards to tourism, economy?
  - What do our tourists think of our beach and Heist in general?
  - Vision local inhabitants, merchants





# Other ways to involve stakeholders

- Important is to involve stakeholders through the whole process, even if there is not much to communicate:
  - [Webpage](#) on Heist MMA, explaining the challenges and answering FAQ's
  - Brochure on Heist MMA, with same purposes as the webpage, widely spread over all Heist
- T&F group 'Knokke-Heist West' followed the whole process: all relevant stakeholders present.
- Separate stakeholder group active
- Contacts with employer organisation UNIZO resulted in a drawing contest, organized by them
- Workshop to develop a common future scenario on the Bay of Heist





# Problems on the road

- Severe delay in the process because of socio-economical analysis
- Interview part in socio-economical analysis: difficult to involve the local merchants in Heist.
- Dissatisfaction with the outcome of the economical data in the socio-economical analysis
- Restraint of the community of Knokke-Heist to involve many stakeholders
- Unbelief of the community as regards to the results of the socio-economical analysis
- How to reconcile the aims of very different stakeholders? Principal conflicts:
  - Disturbance of protected areas
  - Realisation of a future scenario: calm versus lively?







## Lessons learned

- 🌀 The road towards a long-term vision is difficult in this specific area! Land side and sea side to consider.
- 🌀 All stakeholders need to agree on the approach
- 🌀 Intense stakeholder involvement was necessary to come to a common idea. Importance of participation: creating involvement en awareness raising of the different interests and (potential) conflicts
- 🌀 Take care powerfull stakeholders do not take over!







## Lessons learned

- It will still take a lot of consultation to reach a common long term vision, participation takes time
- Need for policy making after participation – stakeholder engagement alone is not enough
- Marine Spatial Planning: at this moment, stakeholders are not approached in a structural way, need for structural anchoring







With special thanks to our funding partners  
and all our coastal stakeholders

