



# Planning the Belgian Part of the North Sea

Analyse of the current situation based on UNESCO's 10 steps

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# The Belgian part of the North Sea: negligible...?

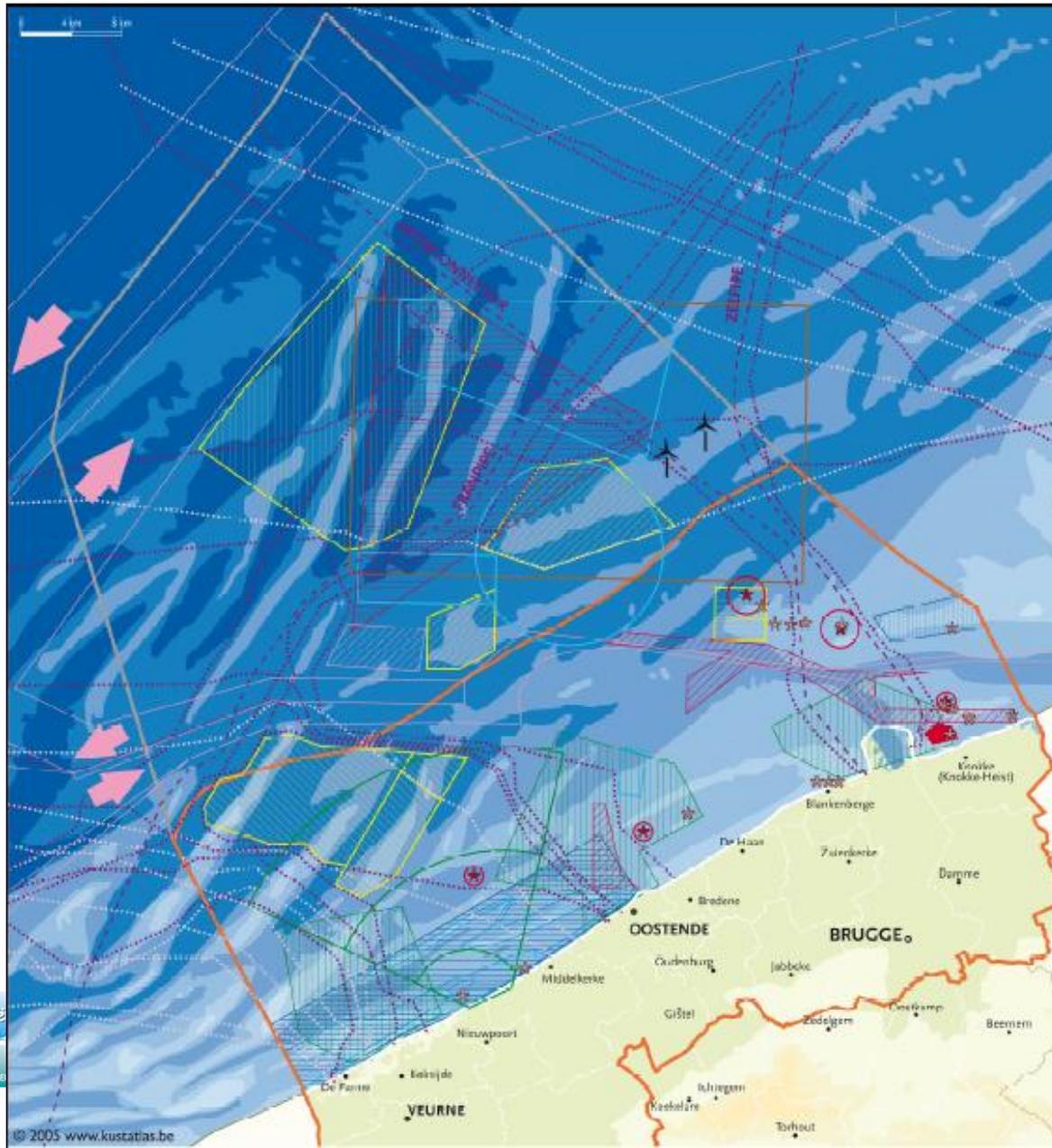


CENTRALE LIGGING IN HET EUROPEES KERNGEBIED

Algemene situering - Ligging in Europa



# Or dramatically underrated?



# Framework for Integrated Terrestrial and Marine Planning

## C-SCOPE project

- ④ Theoretical and conceptual approach: expert team
- ④ Practical approach: Heist Marine Management Area



# Theoretical and conceptual approach

## End products

-  Analyse and inventory of the Belgian situation

-  Position paper

-  Background information

## MSP Expert team, Chair: Fanny Douvere

 Experts on: spatial planning, marine law, architects, policy experts...



# Masterplan for the North Sea

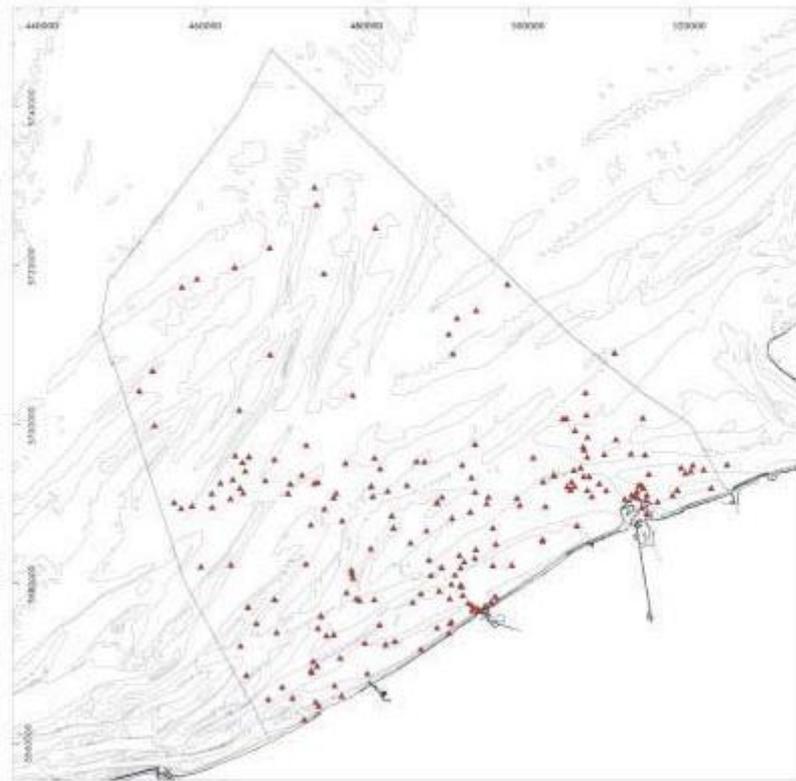
- Phase I (2003/2004):  
sand and gravel  
extraction  
zones/windmill zone
- Phase II (2005/2006):  
marine protected areas



Fig. 1. Phases 1 and 2 of the sustainable Master Plan for the BPNS.

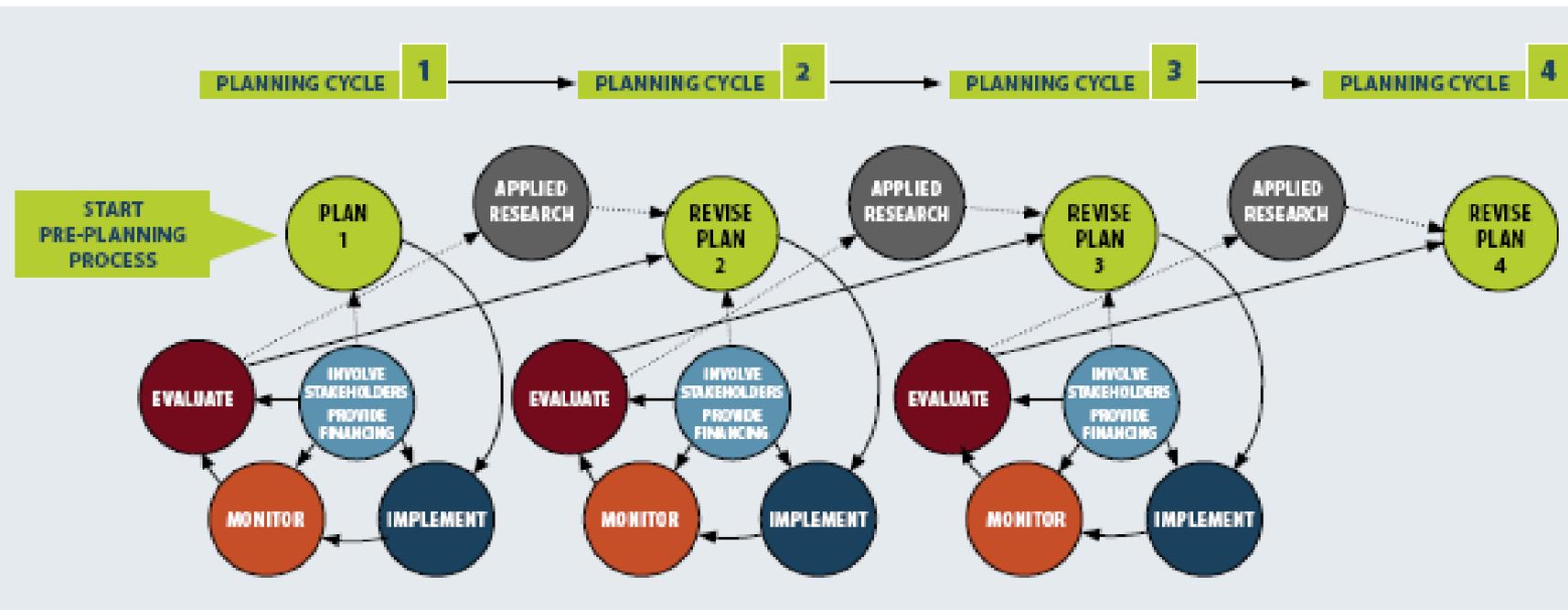


# Scientific: GAUFRE

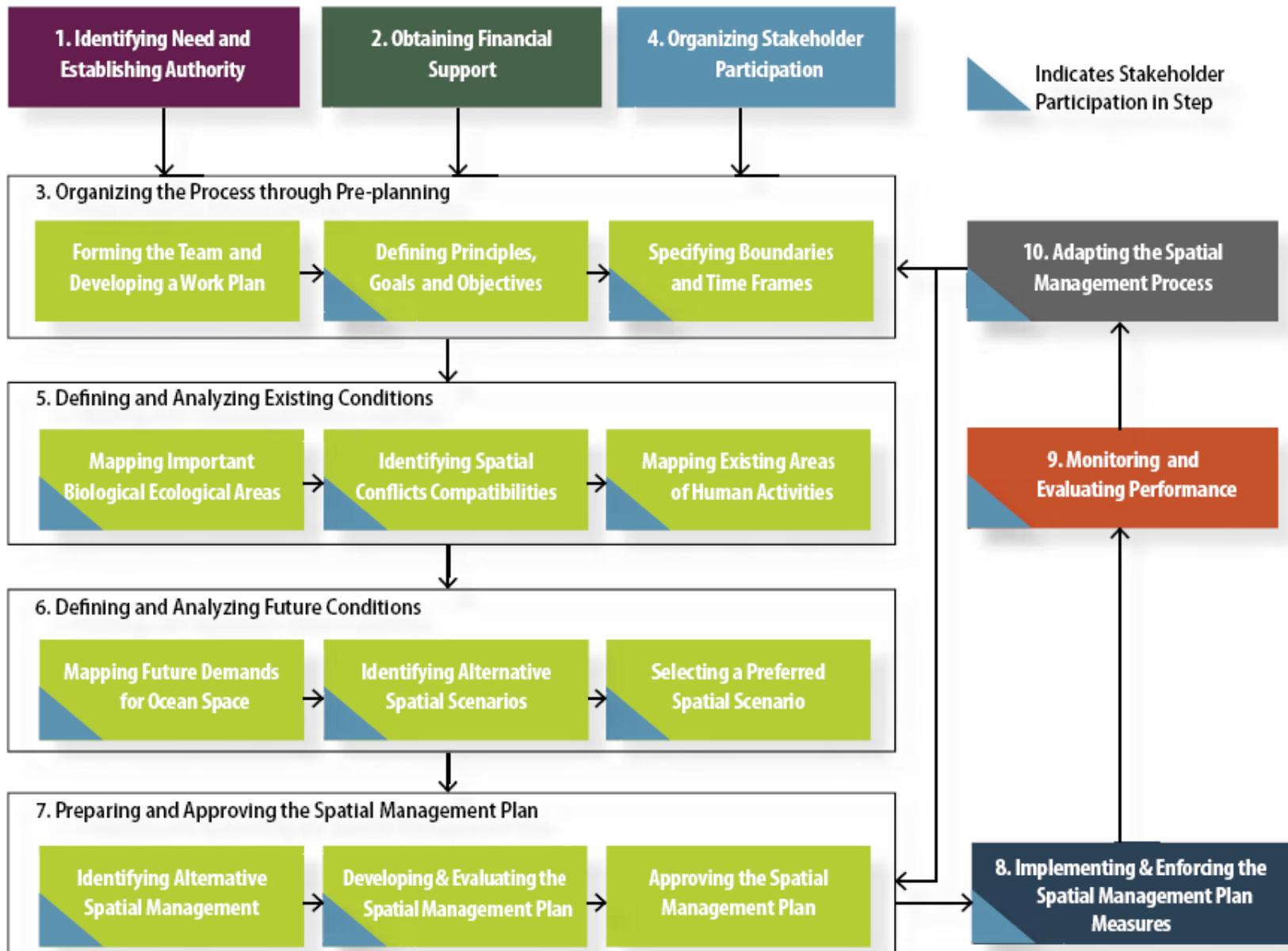


# Analyse of the Belgian Situation

## Methode: Unesco 10 steps



# Method: Unesco 10 steps



# Step 1: Identifying need and establishing authority

## 🌀 Identifying the need:

### 🌀 First MSP Attempt:

- Bottom-up: Need for offshore energy production
- Top-Down : European network of protected areas

### 🌀 Current situation:

- European Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Integrated Maritime Policy, Roadmap MSP,...
- Federal policy note ' Marine Environment'
- Local actions: C-scope project, questions of stakeholders (Vlaamse Baaien), aquaculture,...



# Step 1: Identifying need and establishing authority

## Establishing authority:

### First MSP attempt:

- Minister of the North Sea: first federal minister responsible for the BNPS
- Still authorities are divided between ministers

### New process:

- Challenge: bringing together all responsible authorities.



# Step 2: Obtaining financial support

## 🌀 Financing mechanisms

🌀 Different governments that undertake parts of the MSP process rely on direct allocations from general tax revenues

⇒ No budget specific allocated for MSP

⇒ Natural resources (wind, sand & gravel): retribution system, used for carrying out research.



# Step 3: Organizing the process through pre-planning

Tasks:	Task 1: Creating a spatial planning team	Task 2: Developing a work plan	Task 3: Defining boundaries and timeframe	Task 4: Defining principles	Task 5: Defining goals and objectives	Task 6: Identifying risks and developing contingency plans
1st MSP attempt  (2003- 2006)	?	√	?	?	√	?
Spatial Structure Plan Flanders	√	√	√	√	√	√

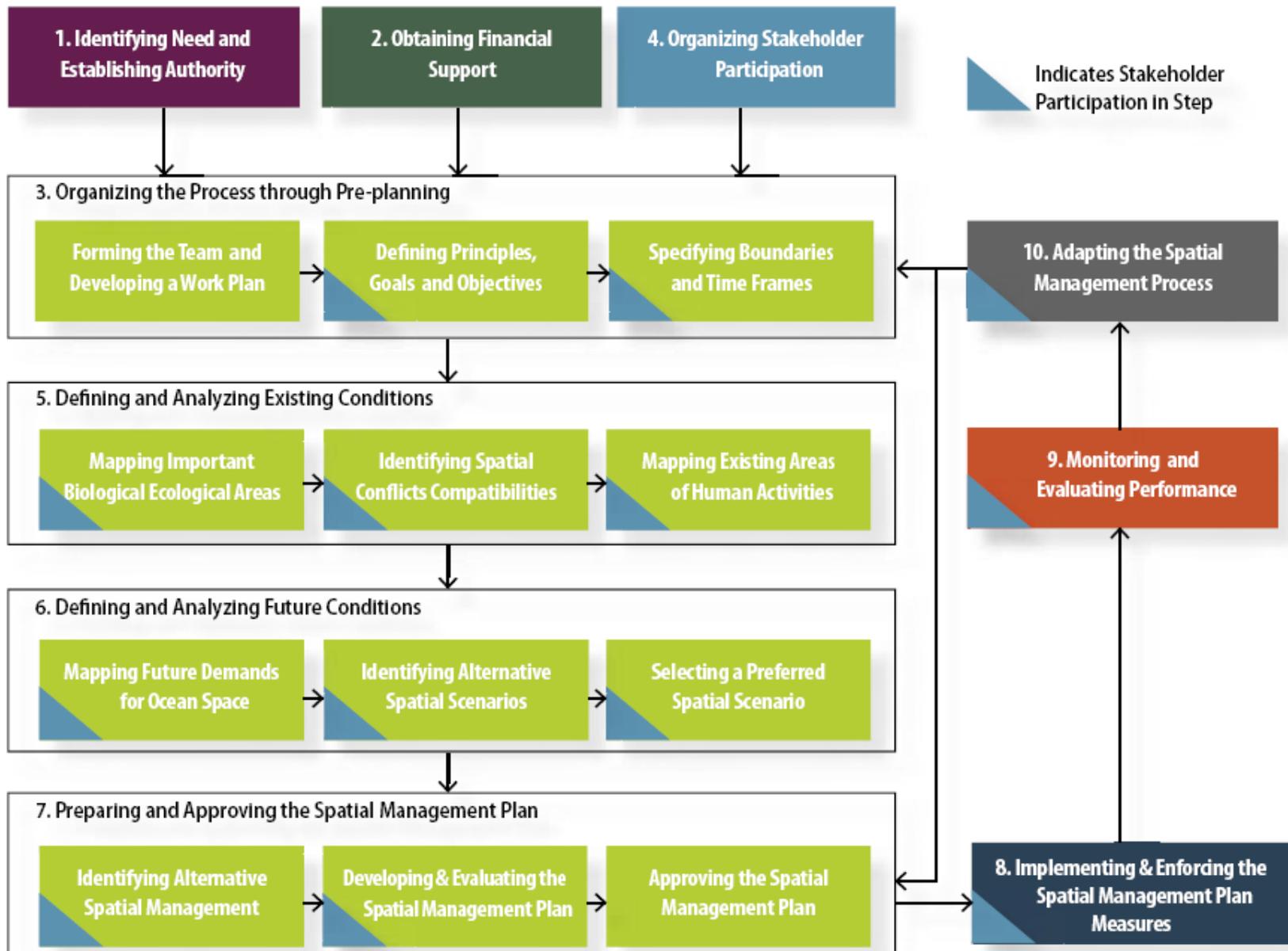


## Step 4: Organizing stakeholder participation

- Who, when, how involving stakeholders (First MSP cycle)
  - Different processes (designation MPA's, Spatial implementation plans for Beaches and Dykes,...) involving stakeholders in different way
    - ⇒ No framework for participation
- Federal government: first steps for a socio-economical advisory body, for structural advices regarding the North sea.



# Method: Unesco 10 steps

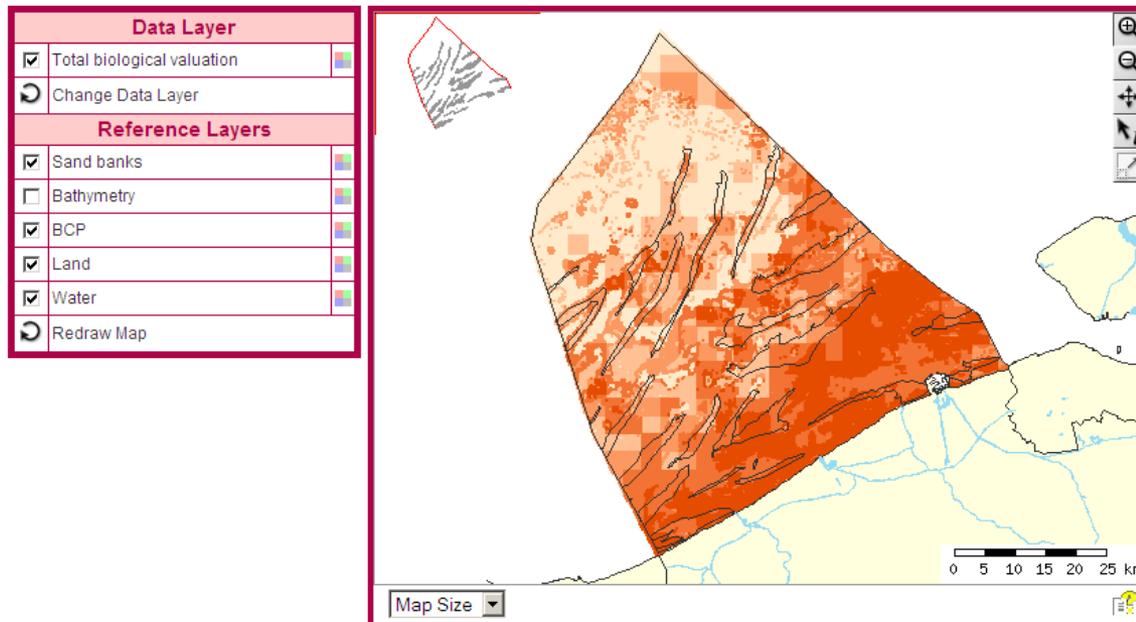


# Step 5: Defining and analyzing existing conditions

- Collecting and mapping info about ecological, environmental and oceanographic conditions

## BWZee

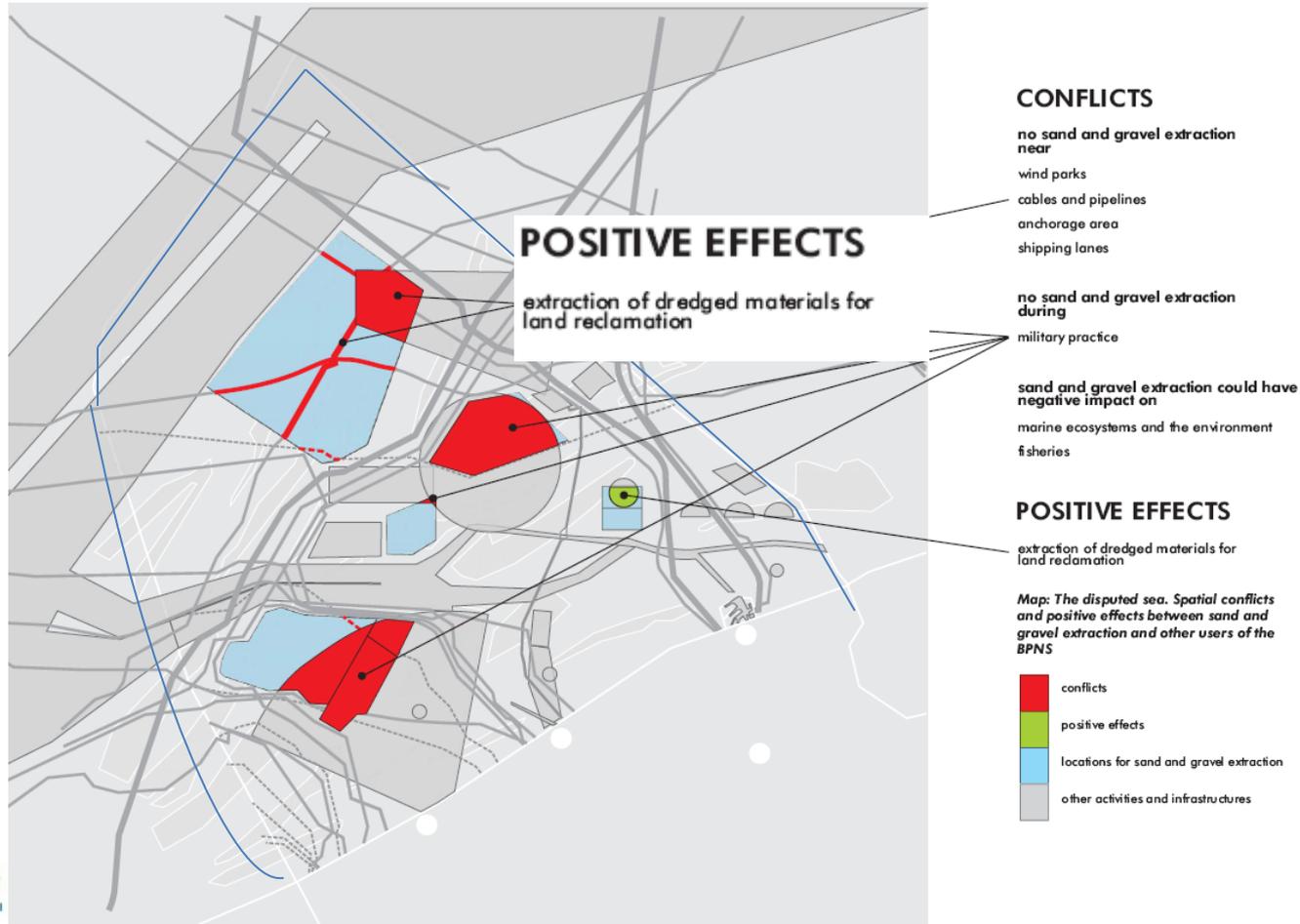
A Biological Valuation Map for the Belgian Continental Shelf





# Step 5: Defining and analyzing existing conditions

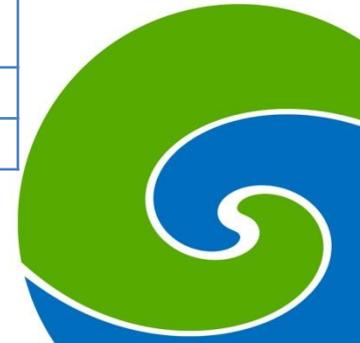
## Identifying current conflicts and compatibilities



## Step 6: Defining and analyzing future

- ④ Project current trends
- ④ Estimated new demands
- ④ Identify alternative futures
- ④ Select scenarios

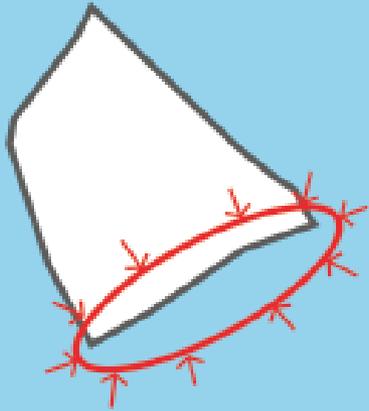
	LAND/SEA	T1: Projecting Current Trends	T2: Estimating new demands	T3: Alternative futures	T4: Selecting Scenario
1ste MSP attempt	SEA				
MIRA	LAND	√	√	√	
GAUFRE	SEA	√	√	√	
VLAAMSE BAAIEN (private)	LAND/SEA	√	√	√	
MAGNICANT SURROUNDINGS #* (private)	LAND/SEA			√	
M .U.D.	LAND/SEA			√	
RSV	LAND	√	√	√	√



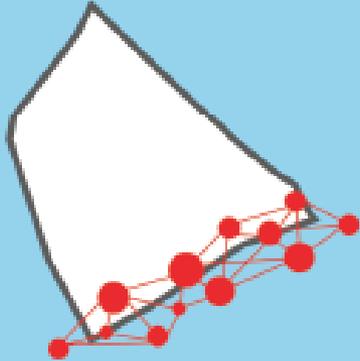


ontspannen zee

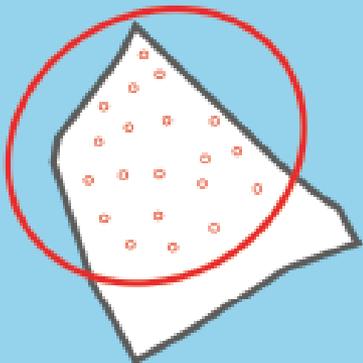
# the relaxed sea



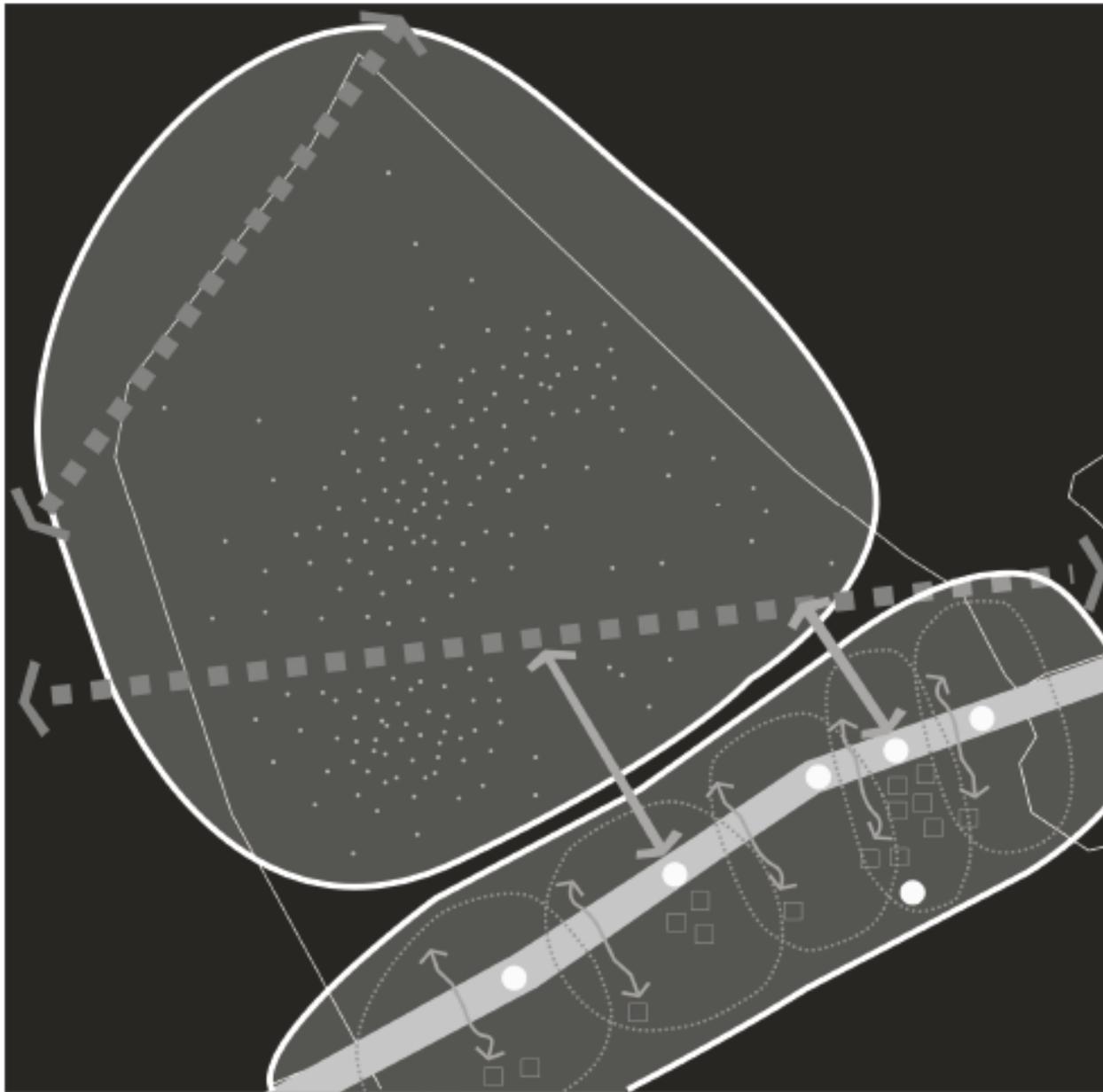
concentration and intensification  
of activities in the coastal  
area (seaside and landside)



coastal area as a network of  
complementary activities  
(tourism - marine land  
development - ...)

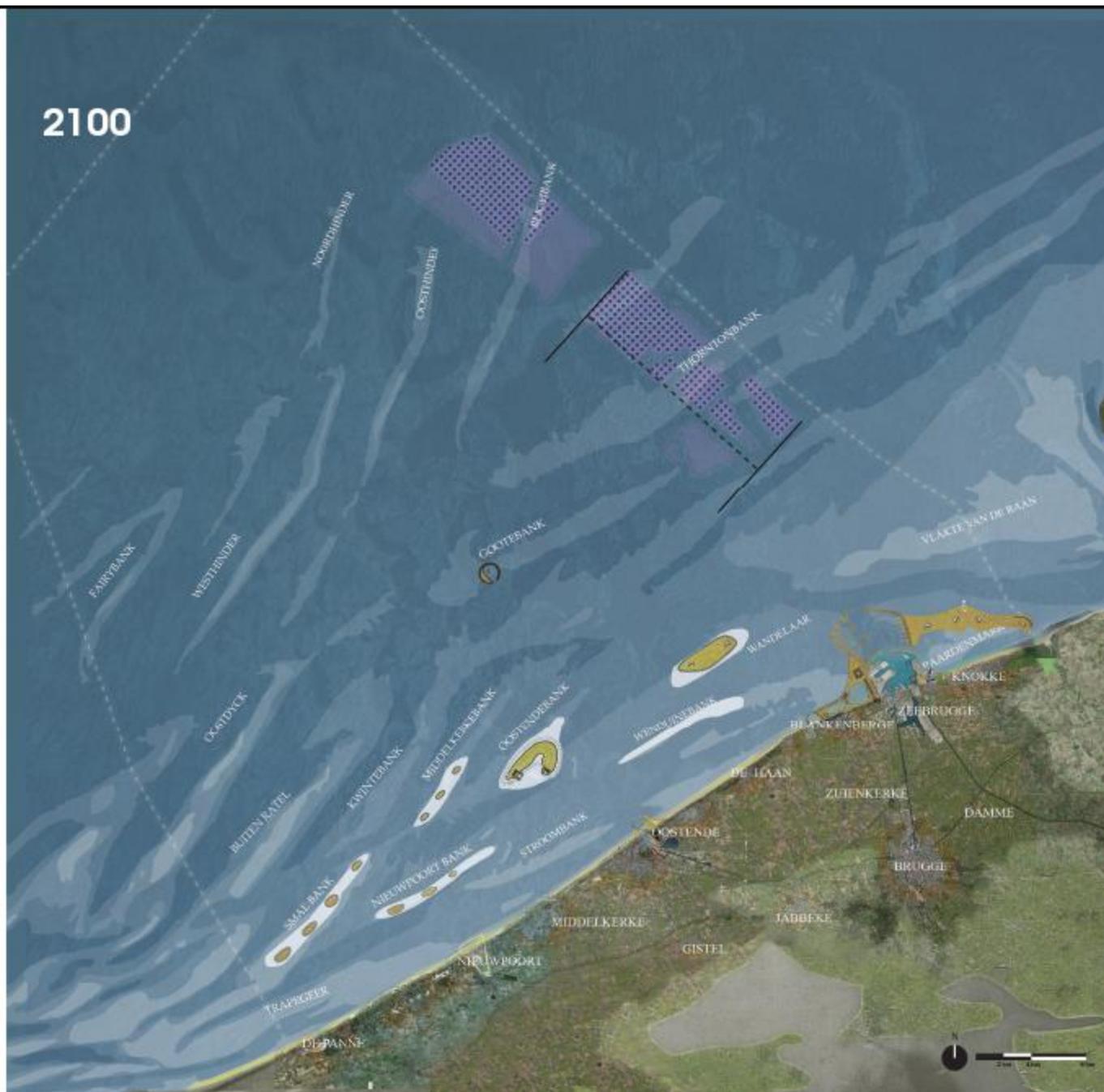


activities that cause disturbance  
to tourism and recreation  
are located in the deep sea



**Map III.1.4.2d. Scenario 1: The Relaxed Sea - spatial structure plan**  
(Structure map: Maritime Institute - Gent University)

2100





# Step 6: Defining and analyzing future

## Conclusion

-  First MSP attempt: steps lacking,...
-  Task of the authorities to take the lead in selecting the scenarios, and developing an integrated approach
-  New demands are not mapped for BPNS



# Step 7: Preparing and approving the spatial management plan

Project	T1: Identify spatial and temporal measures and institutional arrangements	T2: Specify criteria for selecting management measures	T3: Developing the zoning plan	T4: Evaluating the spatial management plan	T5: Approving the spatial management plan
GAUFRE	√	√			
1st MSP cycle	√	?	√	?	?
Spatial Structure Plan	√	√	√	?	√



# Step 8: Implementing and enforcing the spatial management plan

## Implementing

- 1969: Continental shelf Act: rules for the exploration and exploitation of non living resources
- 1999: Act on EEZ and Act on protection of the marine environment. 2 Royal Decrees for implementing the act
  - Marine protection act: licence requirements and environmental impact.
  - Concessions granted under the Continental Shelf Act are excluded from the Marine Protection Act.



# Step 9: Monitoring and evaluating performance

- ④ There are clear monitoring and evaluation processes for certain activities
- ④ Monitoring is divers
- ④ Link with policies evaluation often lacks



# Step 10: Adapting the spatial management process

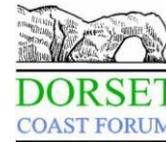
- 🌀 New process is starting
  - 🌀 New initiatives are coming
  - 🌀 Communication of the Expert group
  - 🌀 Private questions
  - 🌀 ...



# Recommendations for the future:

- New process is starting
  - Establish authority between all govern levels,  
Coordination within Belgian state structure
  - Definition of objectives, work plan, principles,...
  - Coherence terrestrial-maritime spatial planning
  - Transparency and structural stakeholder participation
  - Data and knowledge based (possible to trace back)
  - Incorporate monitoring and evaluation in planning  
process





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



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