



European Dredging Association
25th Anniversary Conference
Bibliothèque Solvay
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Sigmaplan 

ir. Wim Dauwe
Flemish Waterways plc

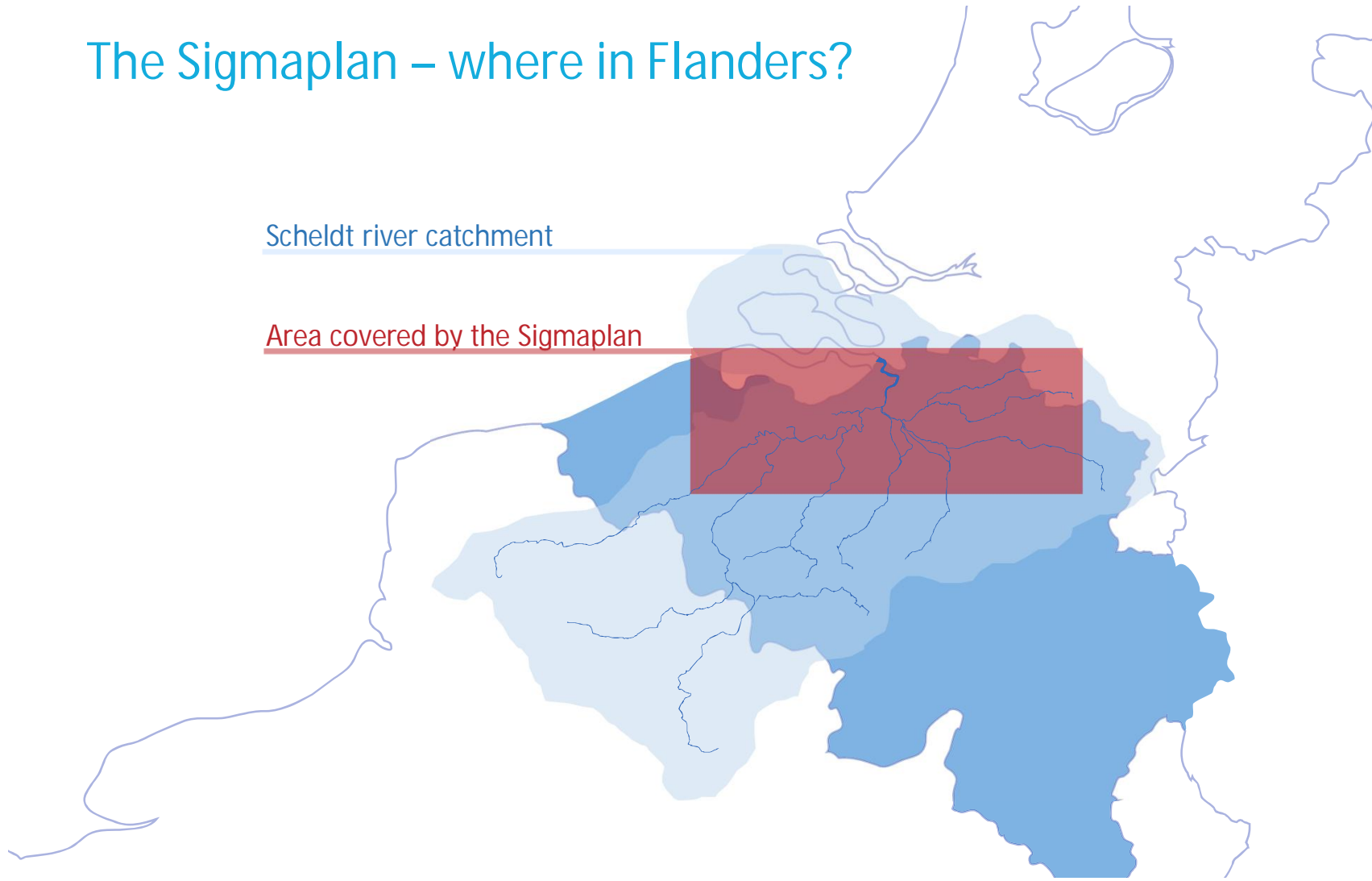
Flemish Waterways plc (De Vlaamse Waterweg nv)



The Sigmoidplan – where in Flanders?

Scheldt river catchment

Area covered by the Sigmoidplan





Reason for the original Sigmaplan
Storm tides and serious flooding in the past (1953 and 1976)

Sigmaplan by analogy with the Deltaplan in the Netherlands



Bewust van het belang en de dringende noodzaak passende maatregelen te treffen, heb ik het Bestuur de opdracht gegeven dit plan, goedgekeurd door de Ministerraad op 18 februari 1977, spoedig te verwezenlijken

J. Olivier

1976

Again a lot of damage and victims by floodings in the provinces of East Flanders and Antwerp

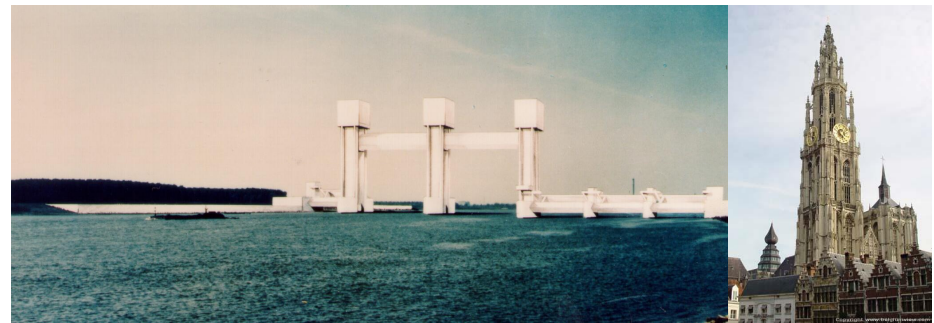


“Doing nothing is not an option”
Belgium launches the Sigmaplan
Decision by the Belgian government
on 18 February 1977



The original Sigmoplan

- Three measures for a better protection against storm floods
 - Raising and strengthening 500 km of embankments
 - Building of 13 flood control areas (1,130 ha)
 - Building of a storm surge barrier in Antwerp



Sigmoplan



The original Sigmoplan

- Three measures for a better protection against storm floods
 - Stronger and higher of 500 km embankments
Mostly finished
 - Building of 13 flood control areas (1,130 ha)
Finished (last one in 2015)
 - ~~Building of a storm surge barrier in Antwerp~~
Construction of the barrier was postponed

Sigmoplan 



Polders van Kruibeke - inauguration



Controlled Flood Area (Tielrodebroek, Hamme)



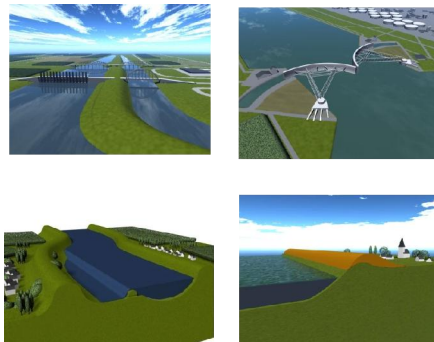
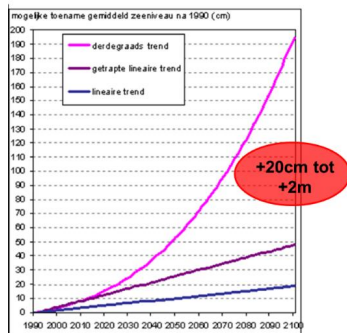
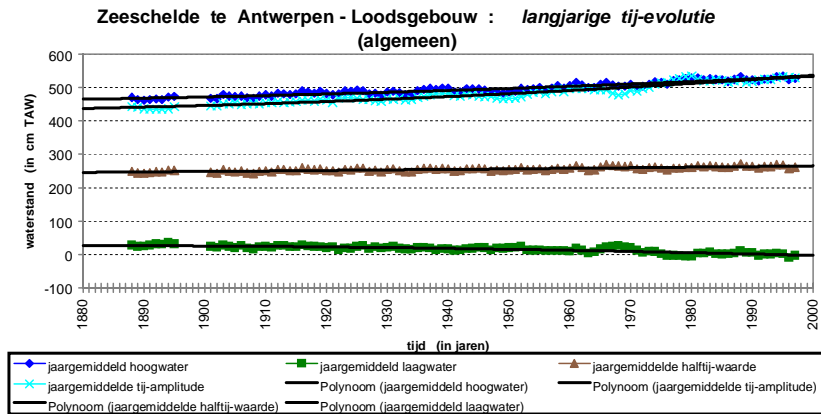
Controlled Flood Area (Tielrodebroek, Hamme)



Controlled Flood Area (Tielrodebroek, Hamme)



Controlled Flood Area (Zennegat, Mechelen)



The updated Sigmoplan

Why the plan needed updating?

- New insights and developments
 - The original Sigmoplan was not yet completed
 - Vision on water management: more room for the river
 - Effects of climate change (sea level rise)
 - Implementation of nature conservation objectives
 - Natura 2000
 - Water Framework Directive
 - Long-term vision for the Scheldt Estuary
 - Flemish nature preservation laws
- An update for the Sigmoplan was necessary
 - Decision was taken by the Flemish government on 22 July 2005

Sigmoplan



The updated Sigmoplan Some figures

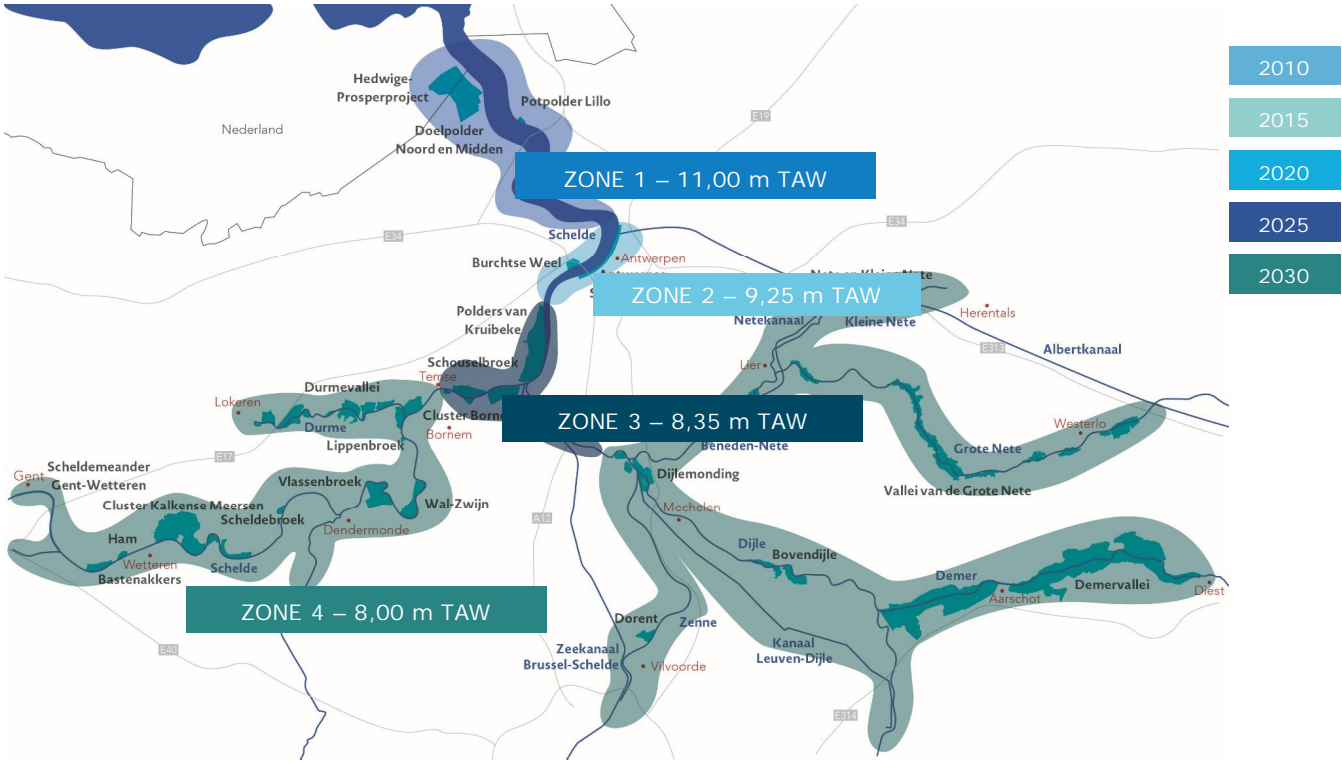
- Several project areas
 - 645 km of dikes and quays
 - 2,500 ha of controlled flood areas
 - 5,100 ha of nature development
- Budget: 1 billion €
- Phased implementation between 2005 and 2030

Sigmoplan 

The updated Sigmoplan Phased implementation

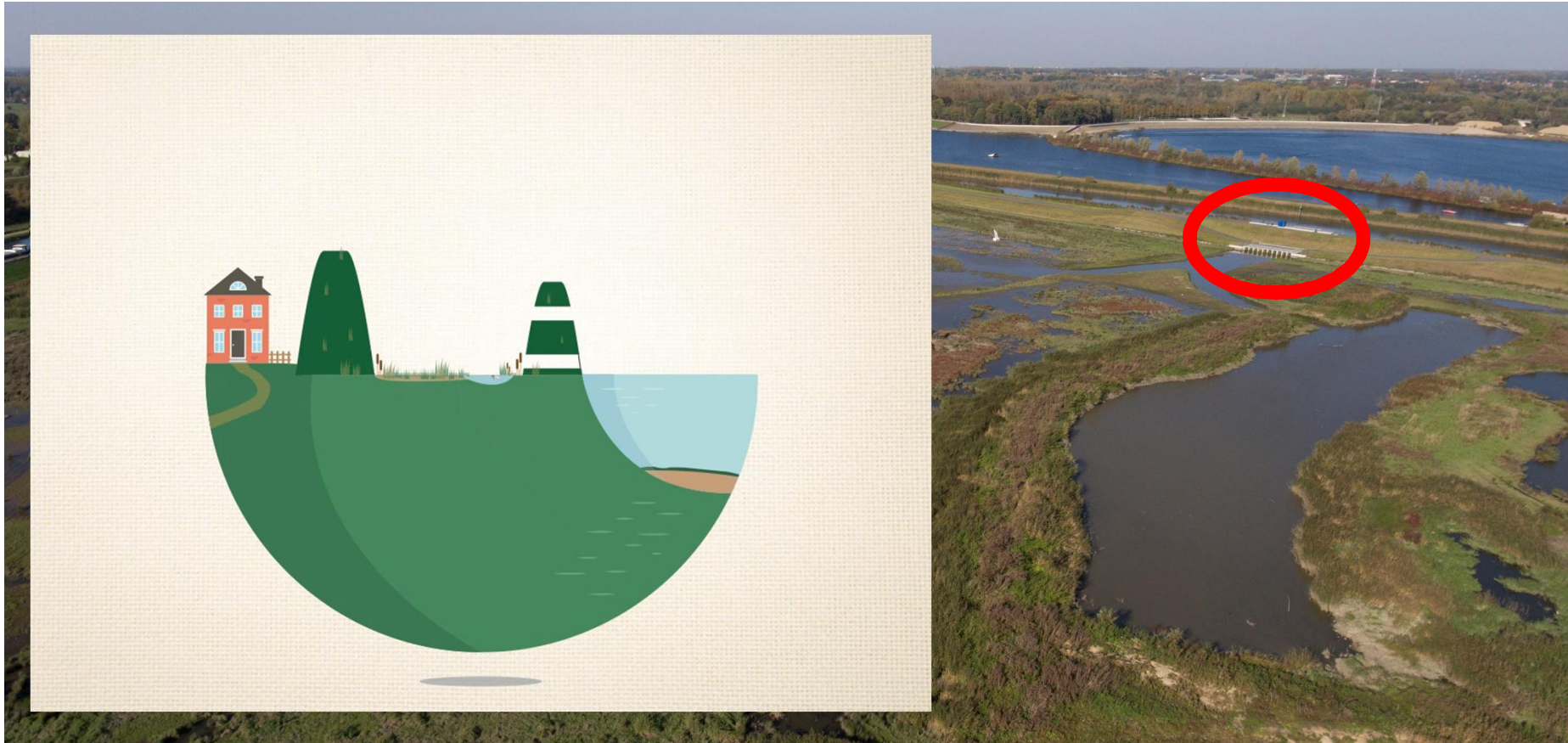


The updated Sigmoplan Phased implementation





Innovative approach
Controlled flood areas with reduced tides – Zennegat (Mechelen)



Innovative approach
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Innovative approach
Controlled flood areas with reduced tides – Zennegat (Mechelen)



Innovative approach
Stabilisation techniques of the quays in Antwerp

- Reuse of 500.000 m³ of river sediment
- Building of embankments
- With European support via PRISMA-project



Innovative approach
Building dikes with reuse of sediments



Beneficial sediment reuse to improve flood defense

- Implementation of the Sigmaplan entails a lot of construction material
- Maintenance dredging works are necessary (Durme, Upper Sea Scheldt)
- Combination of dredging and embankment construction works has many advantages

Sigmaplan 



Beneficial sediment reuse to improve flood defense

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Sigmaplan 



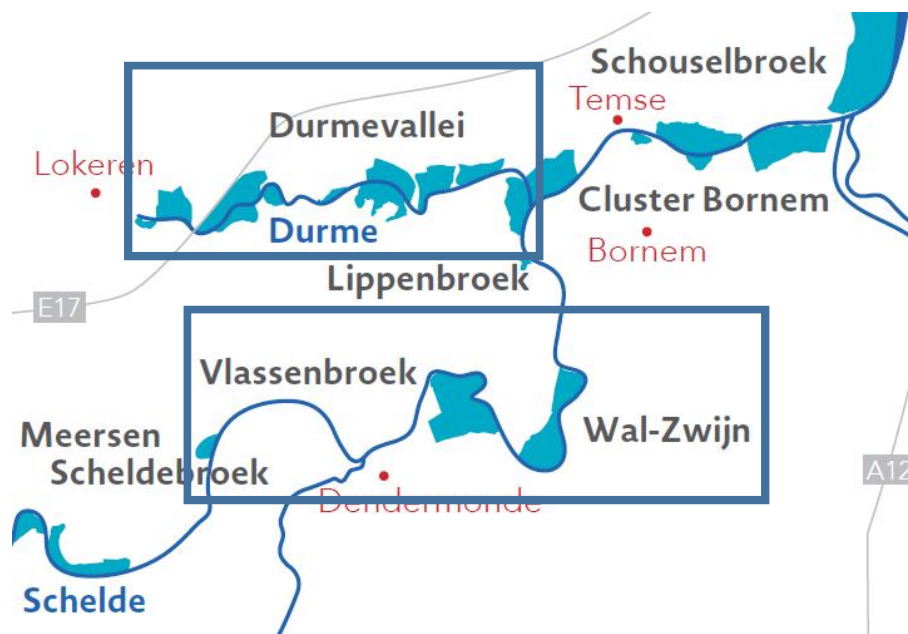
Beneficial sediment reuse to improve flood defense

- Reuse of sediments as core material and cover material is an opportunity
 - Case 1: Common reuse of river sediment in embankment construction



Beneficial sediment reuse to improve flood defense

- Reuse of sediments as core material and cover material is an opportunity
 - Case 1: Common reuse of river sediment in embankment construction
 - Case 2: Reuse of fine grained sediments



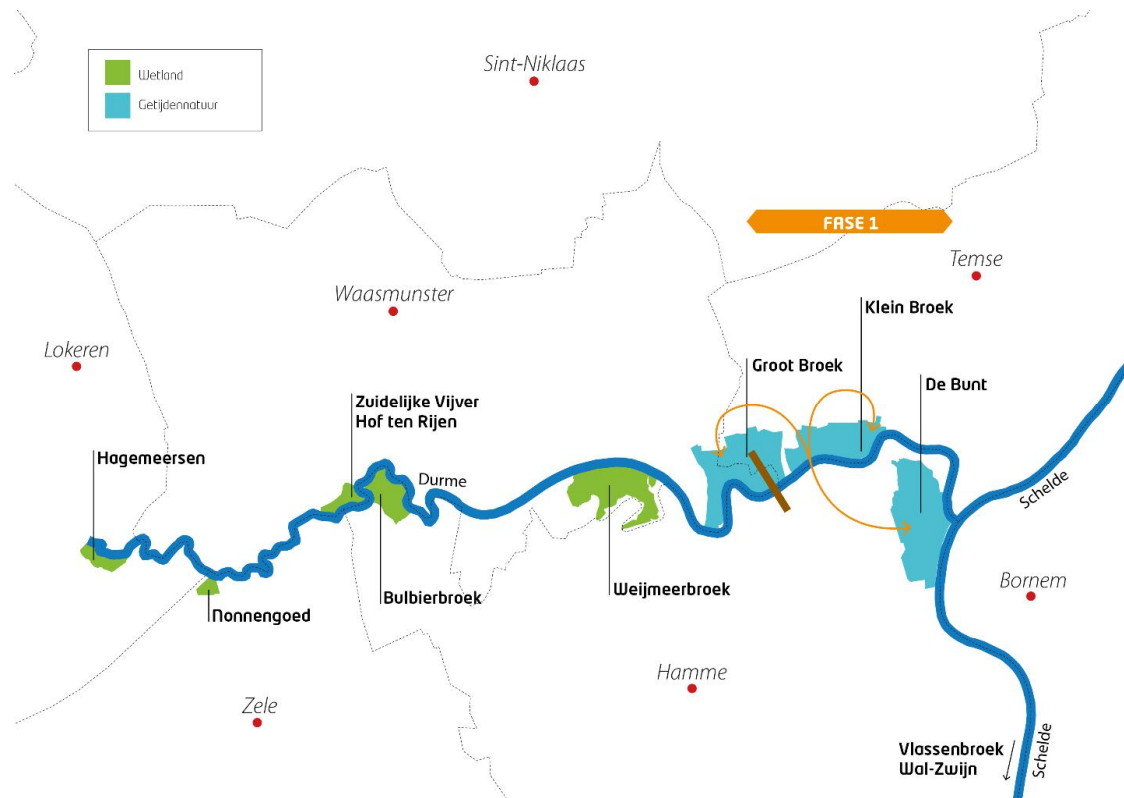
Beneficial sediment reuse to improve flood defense

- Reuse of sediments as core material and cover material is an opportunity
 - Case 1: Common reuse of river sediment in embankment construction
 - Case 2: Reuse of fine grained sediments
- Involvement in several project areas
 - Durme: De Bunt, Klein en Groot Broek en Potpolder IV
 - Vlassenbroek en Wal-Zwijn

Beneficial sediment reuse to improve flood defense

Case 1: Common reuse of river sediment in embankment construction

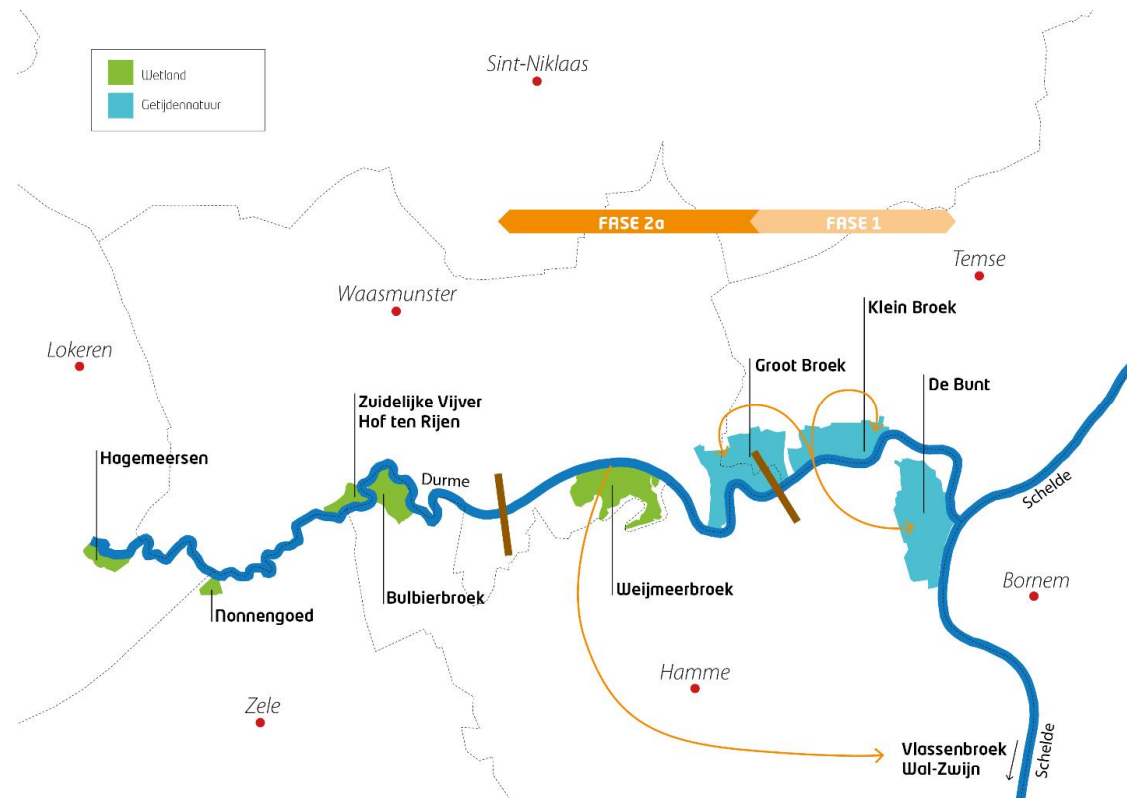
- Dredging works are part of the Durme river restoration plan
- Dredging in several phases
- Phase 1:
 - 2012-2013
 - Trajectory 4,5 km
 - Volume 410,000 m³



Beneficial sediment reuse to improve flood defense

Case 1: Common reuse of river sediment in embankment construction

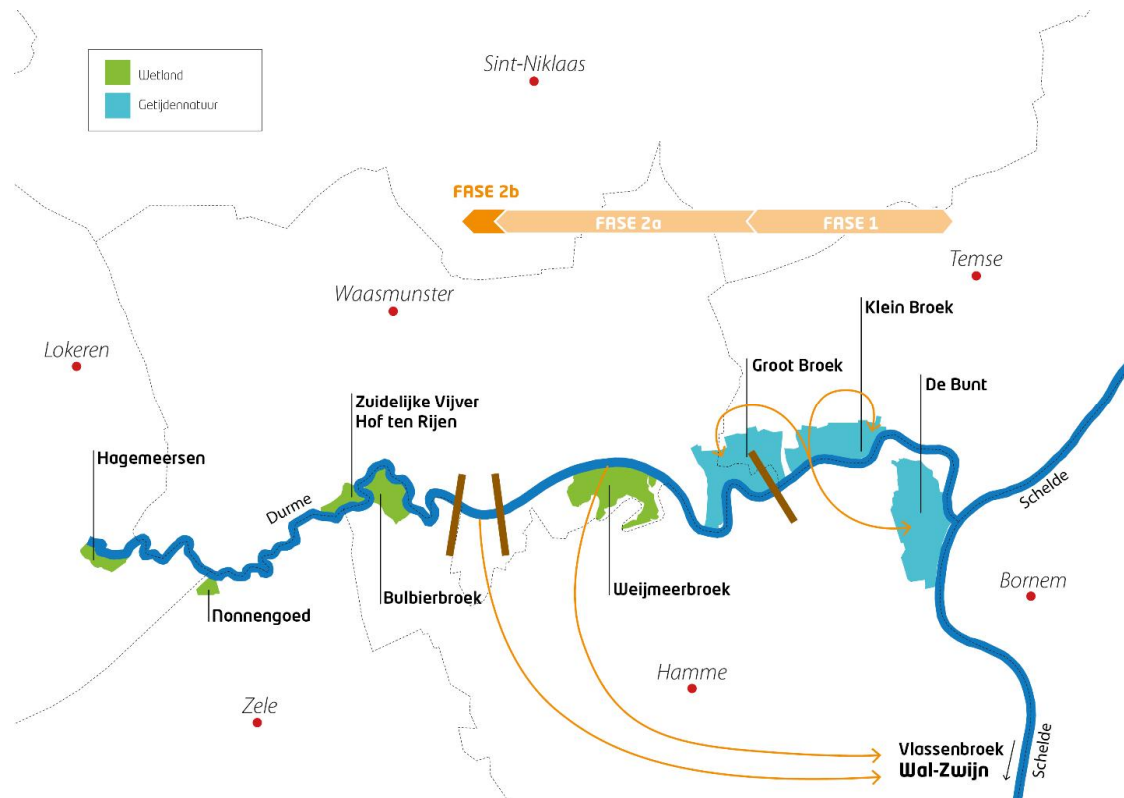
- Dredging works are part of the Durme river restoration plan
- Dredging in several phases
- Phase 2:
 - 2013-2015
 - Trajectory 4,5 km
 - Volume 450,000 m³



Beneficial sediment reuse to improve flood defense

Case 1: Common reuse of river sediment in embankment construction

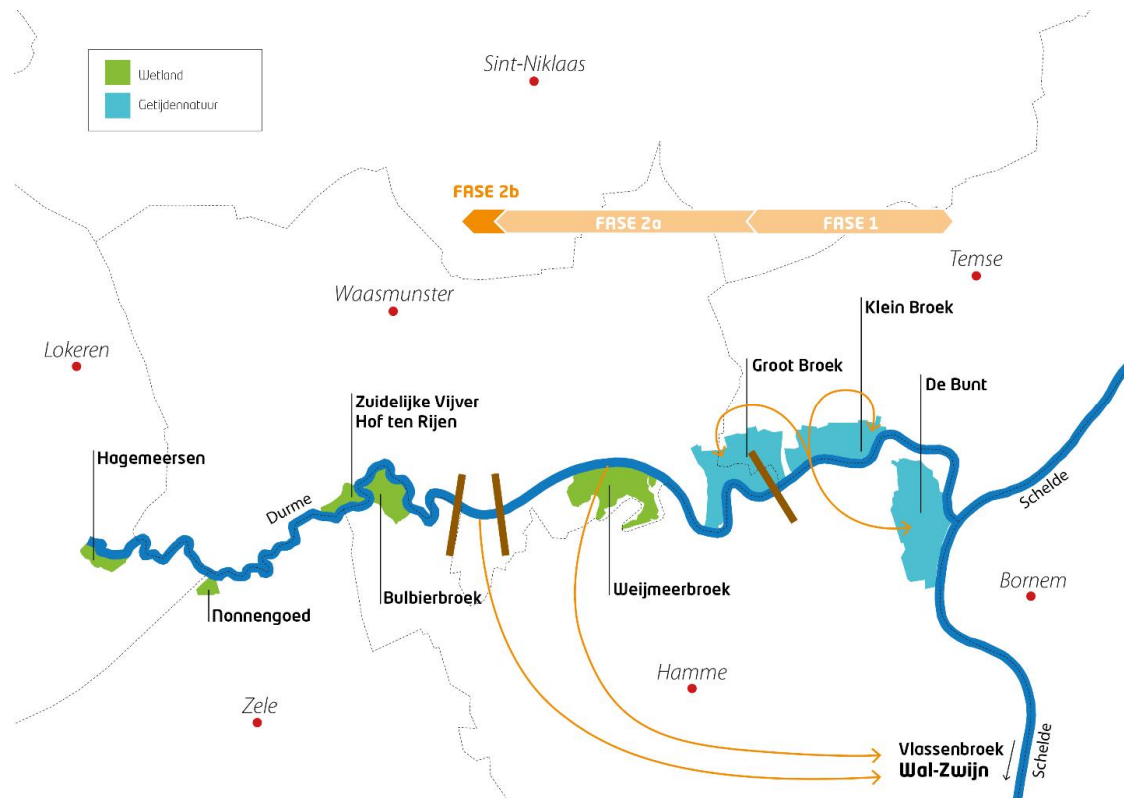
- Dredging works are part of the Durme river restoration plan
- Dredging in several phases
- Phase 2b:
 - 2015-2016
 - Trajectory 1 km
 - Volume 70,000 m³



Beneficial sediment reuse to improve flood defense

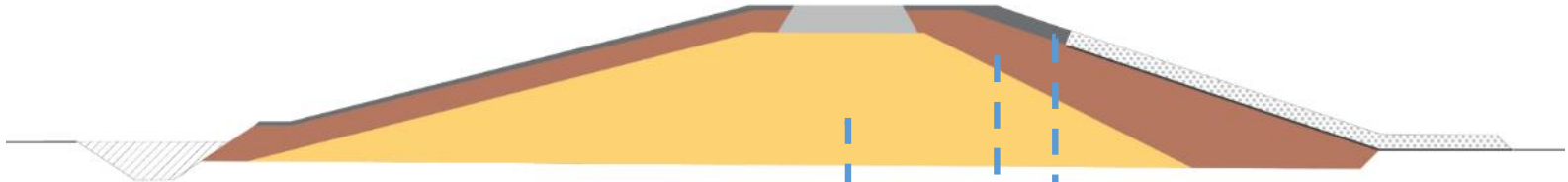
Case 1: Common reuse of river sediment in embankment construction

- Dredging works are part of the Durme river restoration plan
- Dredging in several phases
- Phase 2b:
 - 2015-2016
 - Trajectory 1 km
 - Volume 70,000 m³
- In total +/- 1,000,000 m³



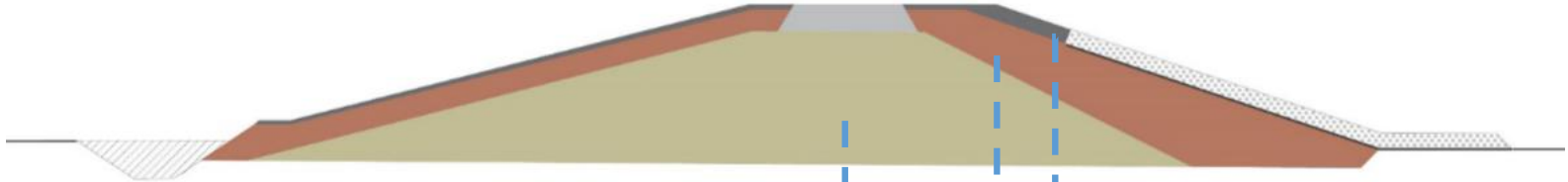
Beneficial sediment reuse to improve flood defense

Case 1: Common reuse of river sediment in embankment construction



- Core material (sand): stability
- Cover material (clay): impermeability
- Arable soil: vegetation

Beneficial sediment reuse to improve flood defense
Case 1: Common reuse of river sediment in embankment construction



- Core material (sandy sediment): stability
- Cover material (clay): impermeability
- Arable soil: vegetation



De Bunt



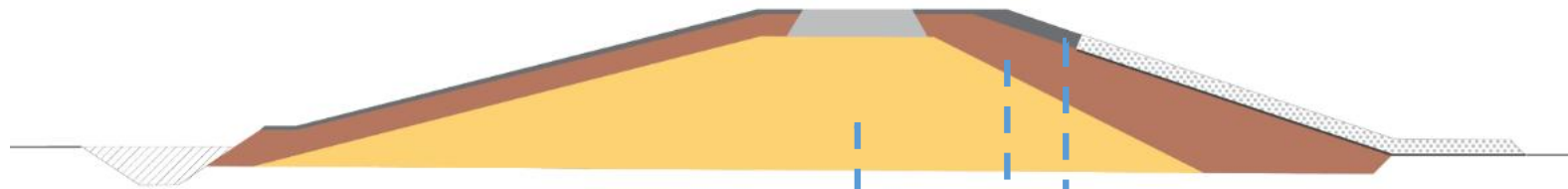
De Bunt



De Bunt

Beneficial sediment reuse to improve flood defense

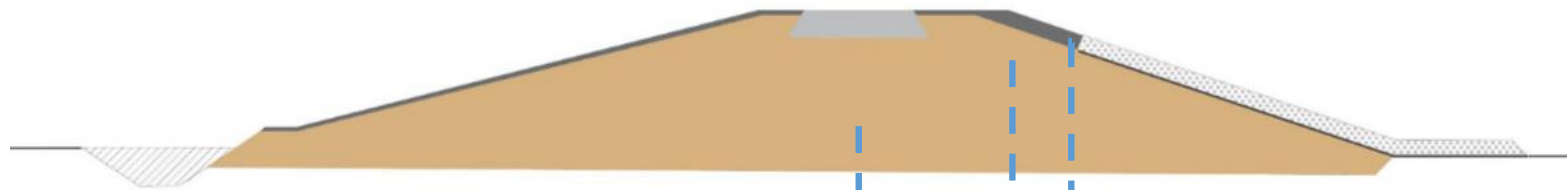
Case 2: Reuse of fine grained sediments without intermediate storage



- Core material (sand): stability
- Cover material (clay): impermeability
- Arable soil: vegetation

Beneficial sediment reuse to improve flood defense

Case 2: Reuse of fine grained sediments without intermediate storage



- Core material (silty sediment): stability
- Cover material (silty sediment): impermeability
- Arable soil: vegetation

Vlassenbroek

Innovative construction method in a European framework



Transport fine grained sediments



Transport through pipelines



Vlassenbroek

Innovative construction method in a European framework



Adding additives



Building the floodbank instantly



Vlassenbroek Result



200.000 m³ sediments used for a 2 km long floodbank

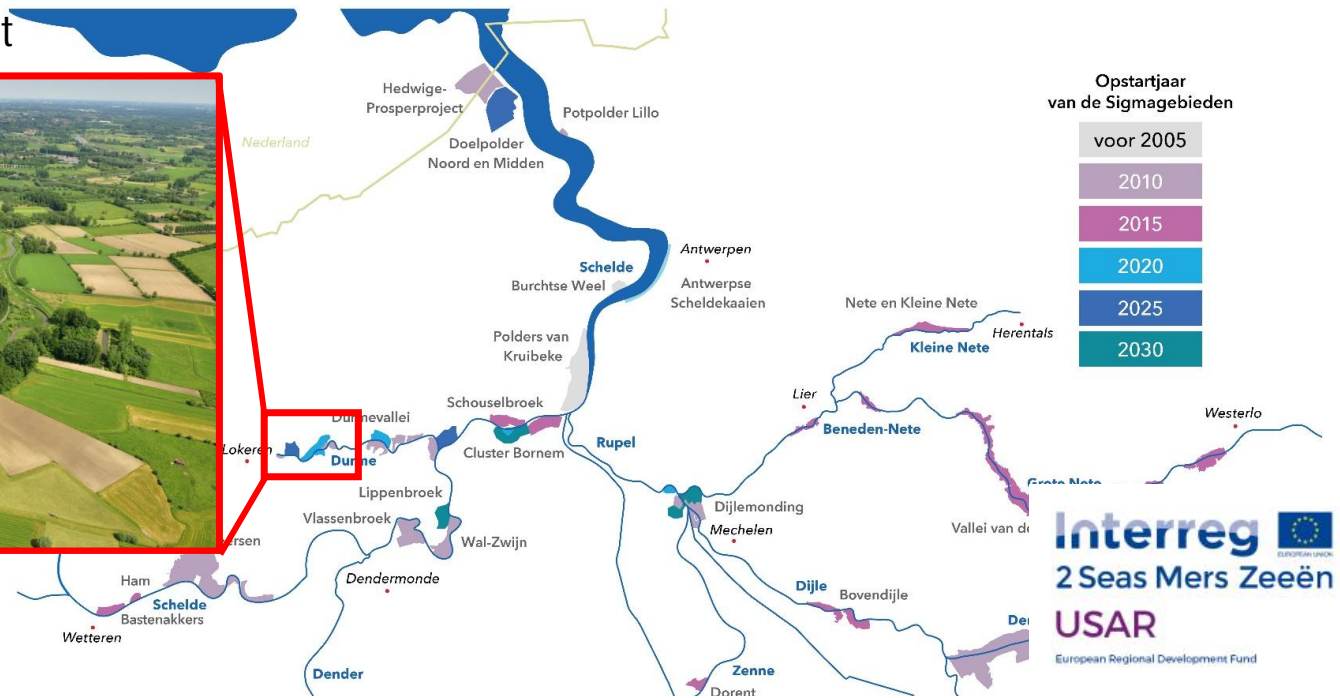


Potpolder IV in a European framework: USAR 'Using Sediments as a resource'

- Renovation of a flood area; constructed in the '40s
- River Durme; a tributary of the River Scheldt
- Prone to tidal movement



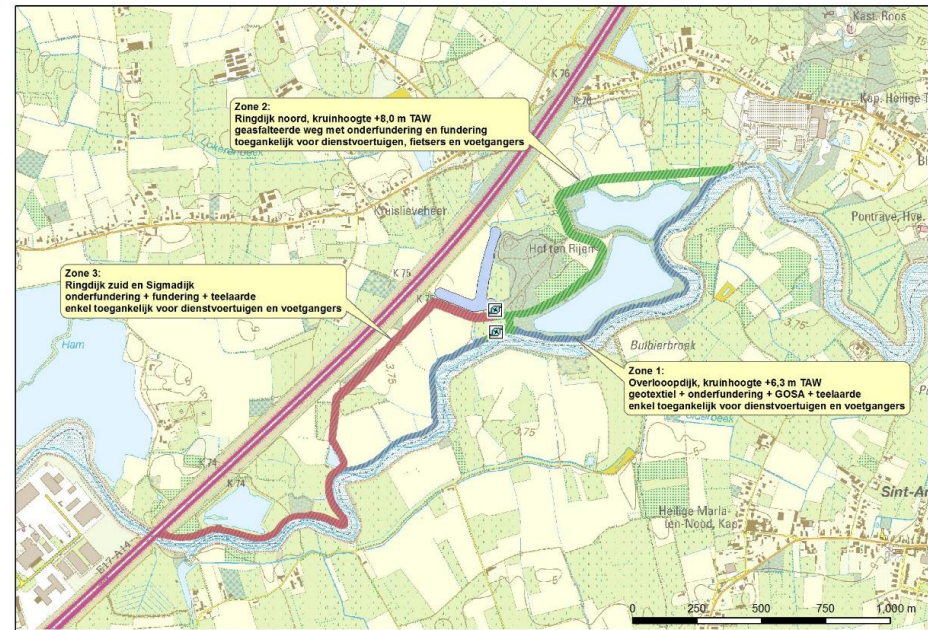
Sigmaplan



Potpolder IV

in a European framework: USAR 'Using Sediments as a resource'

- Renovation of a flood area
 - Design of new ringdyke
 - Design of overflow dyke
 - Design of new pumping stations
 - Final surface of renovated flood area: 60 hectares



Potpolder IV in a European framework: USAR 'Using Sediments as a resource'

- Maintenance dredging works upstream





www.sigmaplan.be

Thank you for your attention!