



Ministerie van Economische Zaken

The Integral Management Plan for the Ems Estuary

The Dutch-German challenge
to work together to protect
the Natura 2000 values in
the Ems estuary

Marjan Datema

Hamburg, 15 september 2016

13 september 2016



The Integral Management Plan for the Ems estuary

A coöperation between

- NLWKN (Lower Saxony Water Management, Coastal Defence and Nature Conservation Agency)
and
- Ministry of Economic Affairs together with Rijkswaterstaat and province of Groningen

- The Dutch-German challenge to work together to protect the Natura 2000 values in the Ems estuary
The Integral Management Plan for the Ems Estuary



How do the Netherlands and Germany protect estuaries that are Natura 2000 areas?

The Netherlands

- Designation as Natura 2000 area
- Developing a management plan
- First: establishing legal status, then: in the management plan, record agreements on the maintenance desired in the framework of Natura 2000

Germany

- Developing an integral management plan
- Designation as Naturschutzgebiet
- First: intensive consultations about the measures desired in the framework of Natura 2000, then establishing legal status



The Integral Management Plan for the Emsestuary

- Why is there a joint Dutch-German IMP?
- Which area does the IMP cover?
- The approach taken
- How did the process go?
- Conclusions





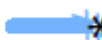
Why is there a joint Dutch-German IMP?

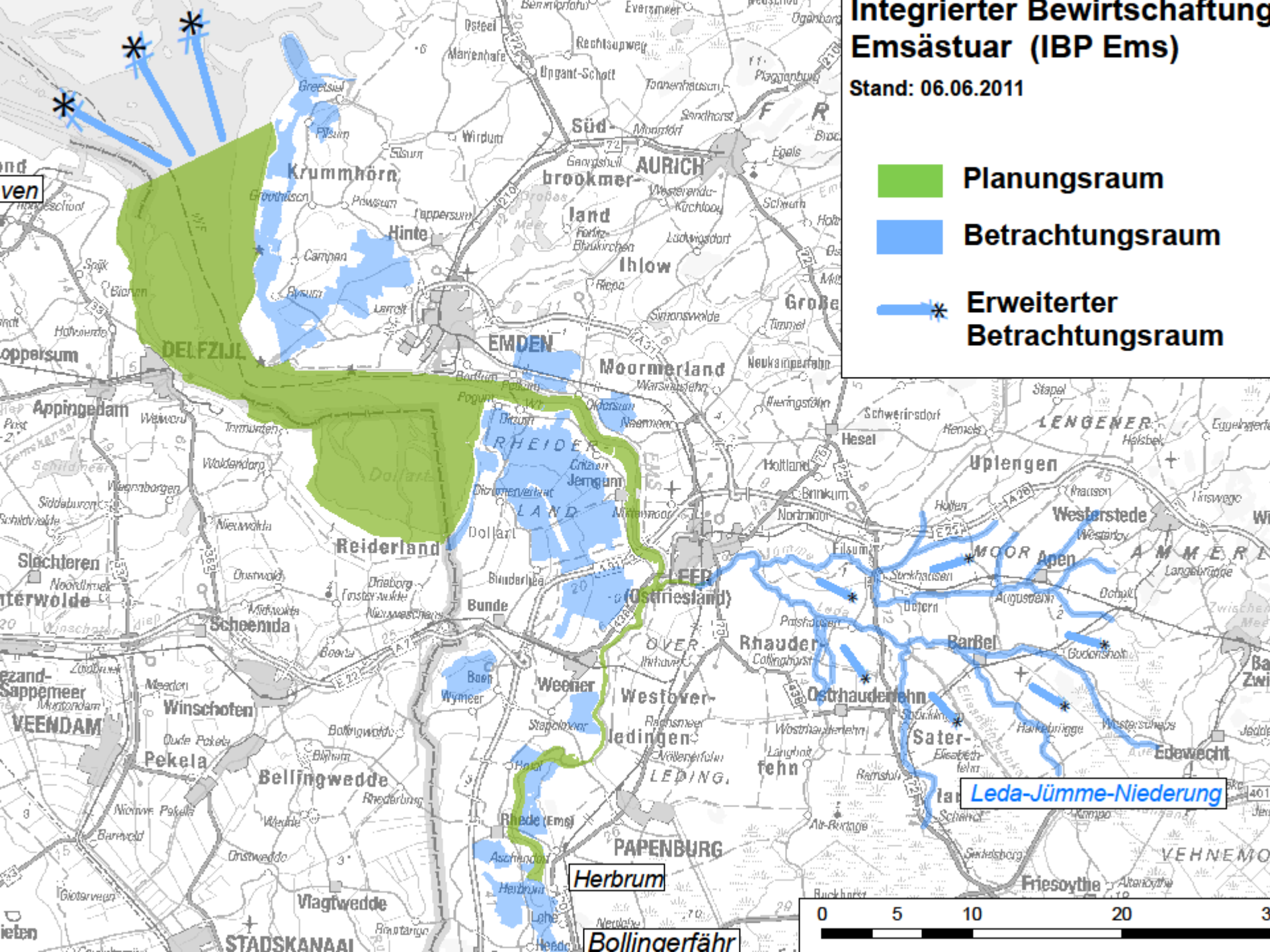
- The Ems estuary is a cross-border estuary
- Both in the Netherlands and Germany, there are significant economic interests in and around the estuary
- The planned structure of the IMP provides for an intensive process involving the stakeholders Positive experiences along the Elbe and Weser
- Challenge to create a Dutch-German IMP together



Integrierter Bewirtschaftungsplan Emsästuar (IBP Ems)

Stand: 06.06.2011

-  Planungsraum
-  Betrachtungsraum
-  Erweiterter Betrachtungsraum





The approach taken

- Drawing up “professional input ”for Natura 2000 and other interests
- Making “conflict analyses”
- Discussion round about the “conflict analyses ”
- Drawing up the IMP including 51 suggested measures



How did the process go?

- The Natura 2000 professional input took considerable time, but we do now have an assessment of the Nature 2000 values which is jointly supported by the Netherlands and Germany.
- The many discussions that were held have contributed to a greater understanding of each other's interests.
- The cooperation between Dutch and German authorities and stakeholders was a huge challenge for all involved. Cultural differences should not be underestimated. The IMP required a lot of time and energy from all parties.



In closing

- The effort to uphold Natura 2000 values in an estuary area requires a continued focus on the balance between natural and economic interests.
- The IMP process proved challenging for all parties involved. The cooperation process was not always easy due to cultural differences. Although it took a lot of time to prepare the IMP, we achieved excellent results that we can take pride in!
- The Netherlands and Germany will be further intensifying their cooperation around the Ems Dollart region in the years ahead.