

# A sneak peak of tomorrow's field visit

*Jeroen De Waegemaeker (ILVO)*

**CLIMAPOLDER conference**

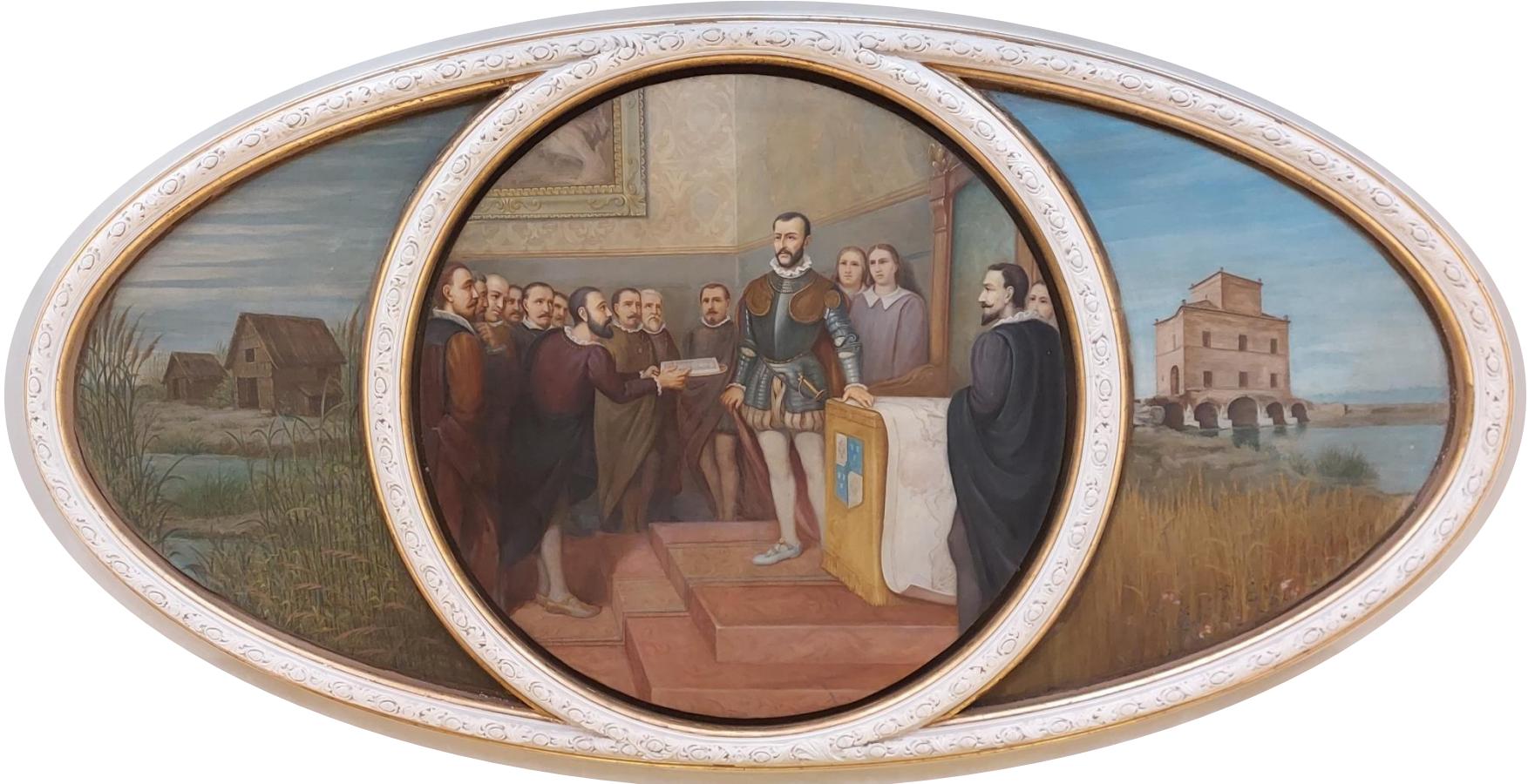
11th of March 2024, Bruges (Belgium)

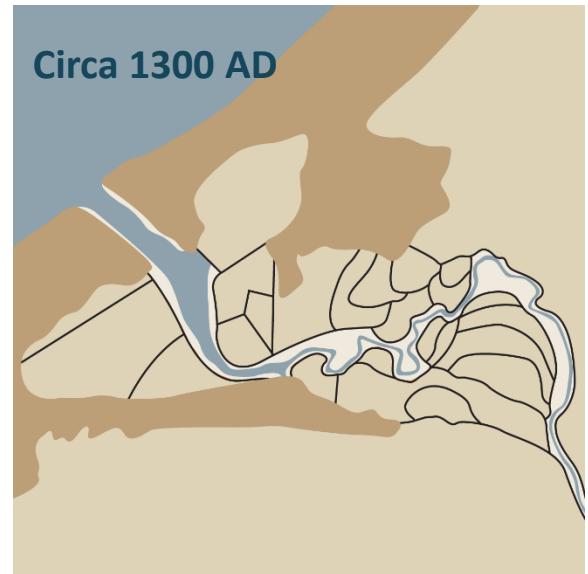
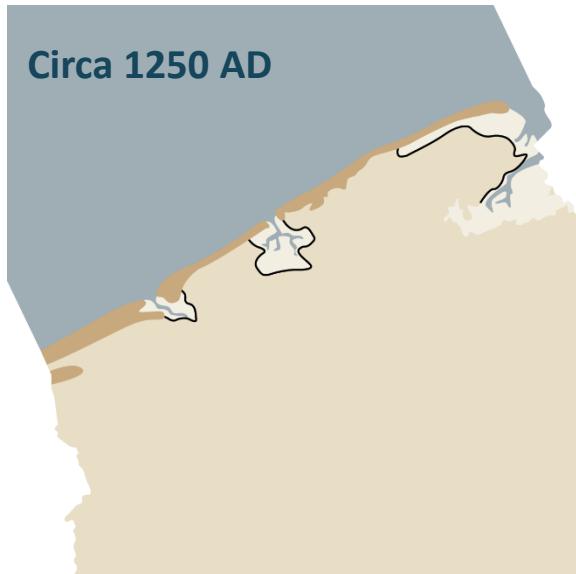
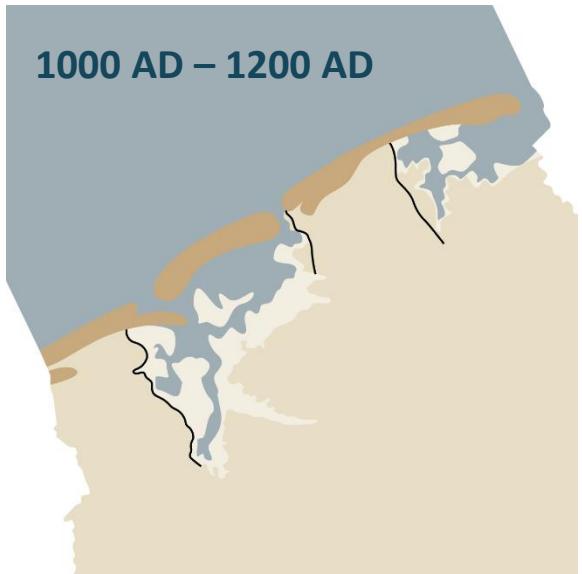
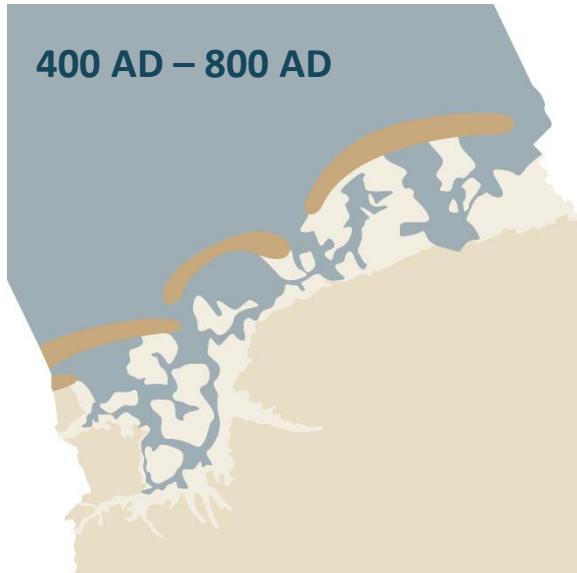
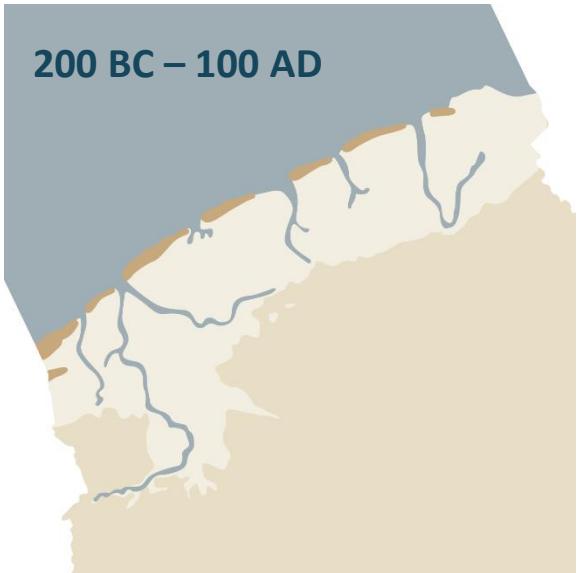






- 0** Bus leaves from Bargeplein, Bruges
- 1** Gravitational drainage at Maartensas
- 2** Pumping station at Kwetshage
- 3** Automated weirs at Oosternieuwweg
- 4** History of pumping infrastructure at Meetkerke
- 5** Lunch + pumping station at Rontselare
- 6** De-poldering and counteracting salinization at Zwin
- 7** Water treatment infrastructure at Knokke-Heist





# Site n°4: History of pumping infrastructure (Meetkerke)

Guide: Tom Vermeersch (Provincie West-Vlaanderen)



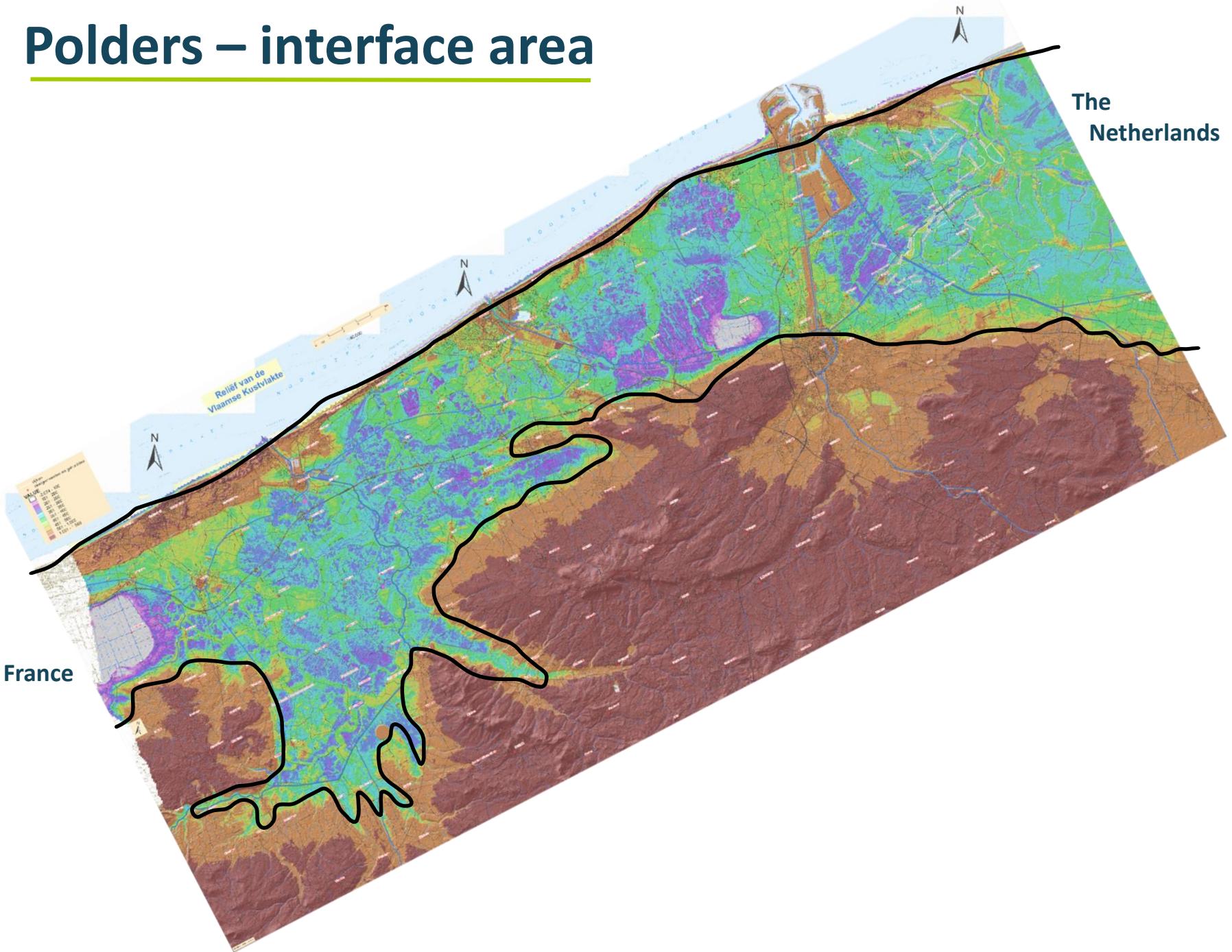


Why? <> Who? <> What?

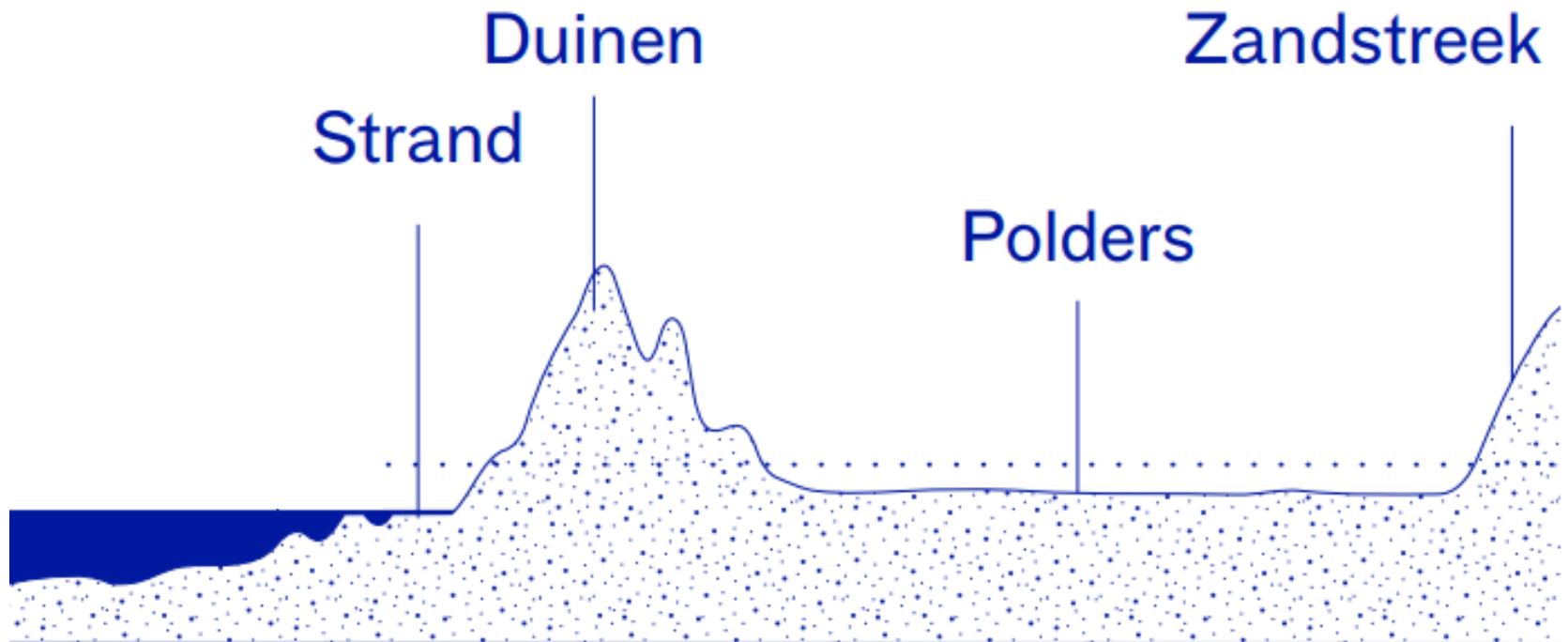
I DON'T BELIEVE IN  
GLOBAL WARMING

I DON'T BELIEVE IN

# Polders – interface area

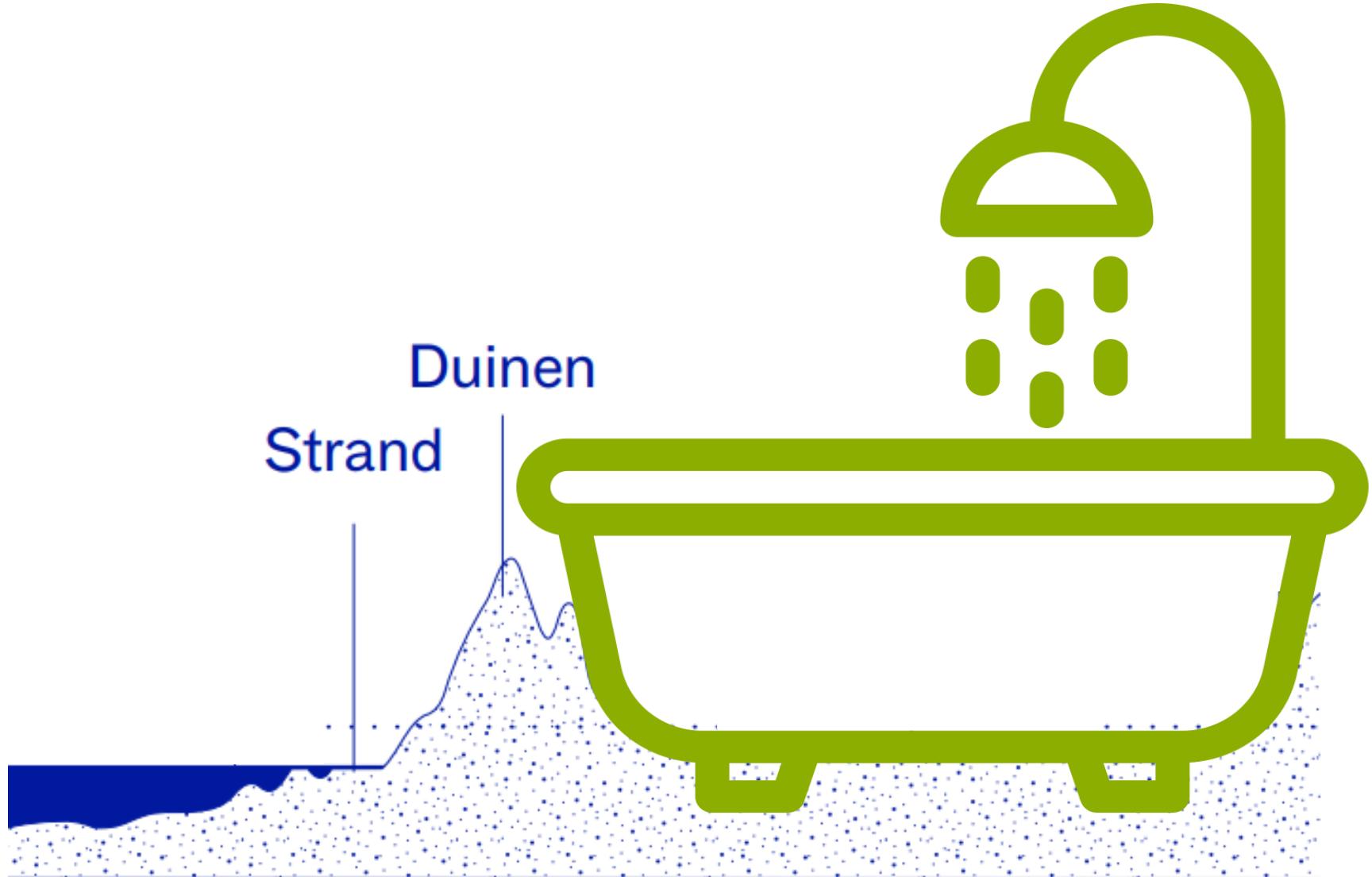


# Polders – interface area

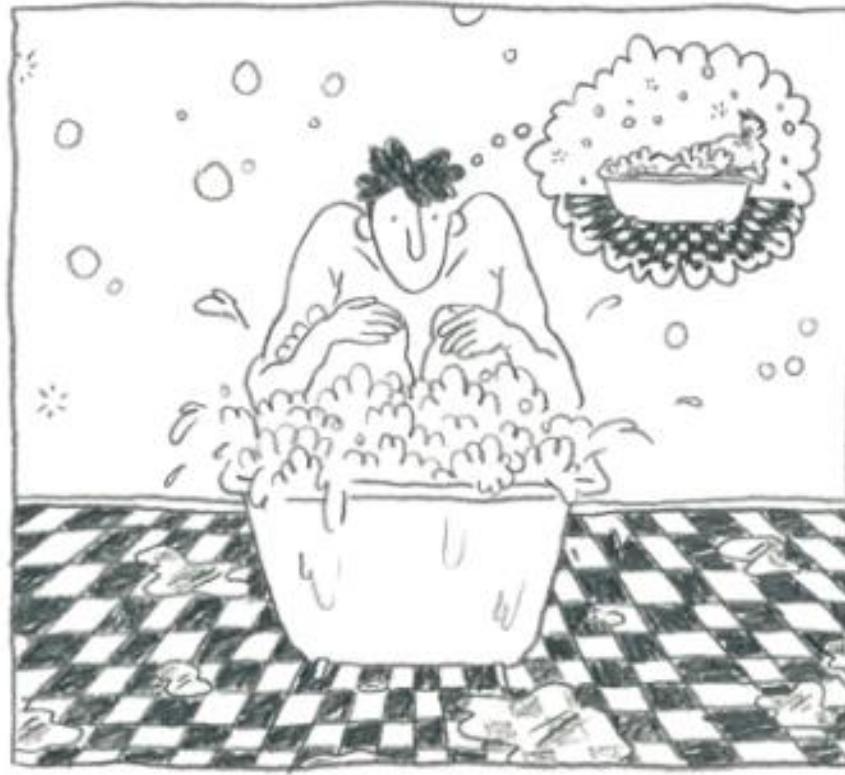


(source: Kust en klimaat. Gids voor een gebiedsgerichte aanpak.)

# Polders – interface area



(source: Kust en klimaat. Gids voor een gebiedsgerichte aanpak.)



# Climate impacts in the polders

Too much water



Too little water



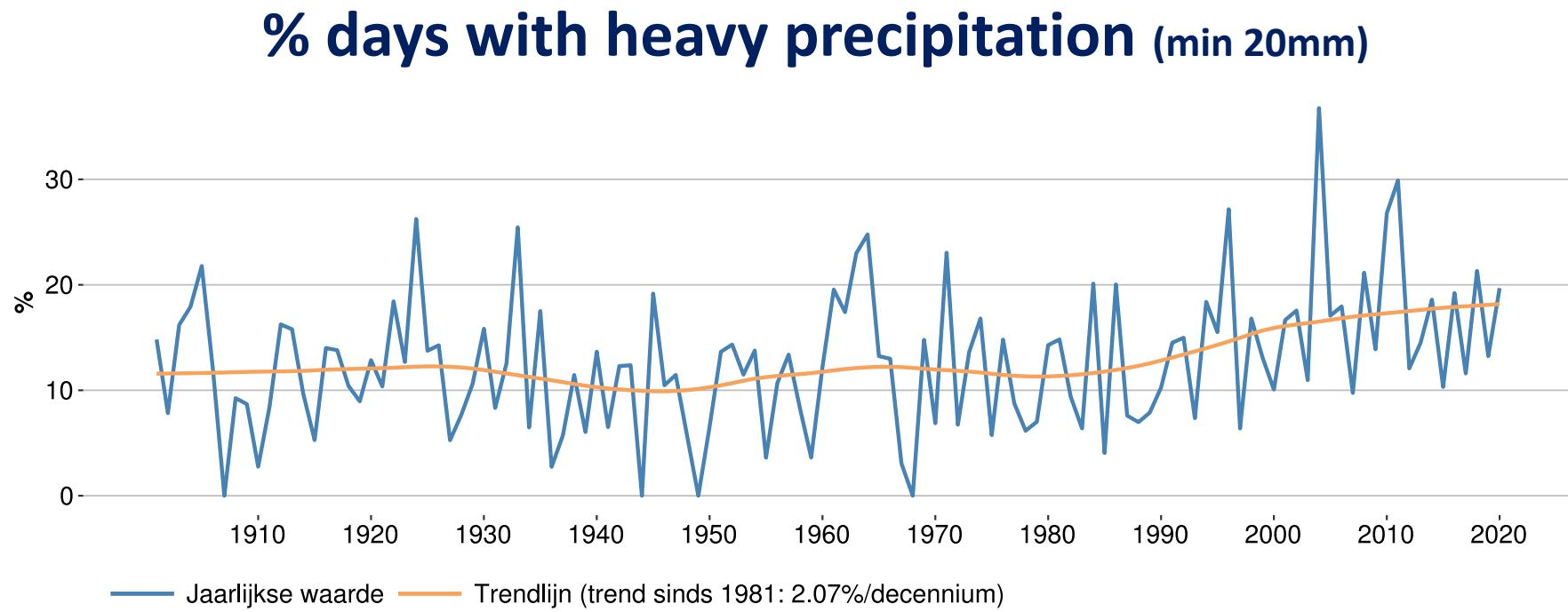
Too saline water



# Too much water in the polders

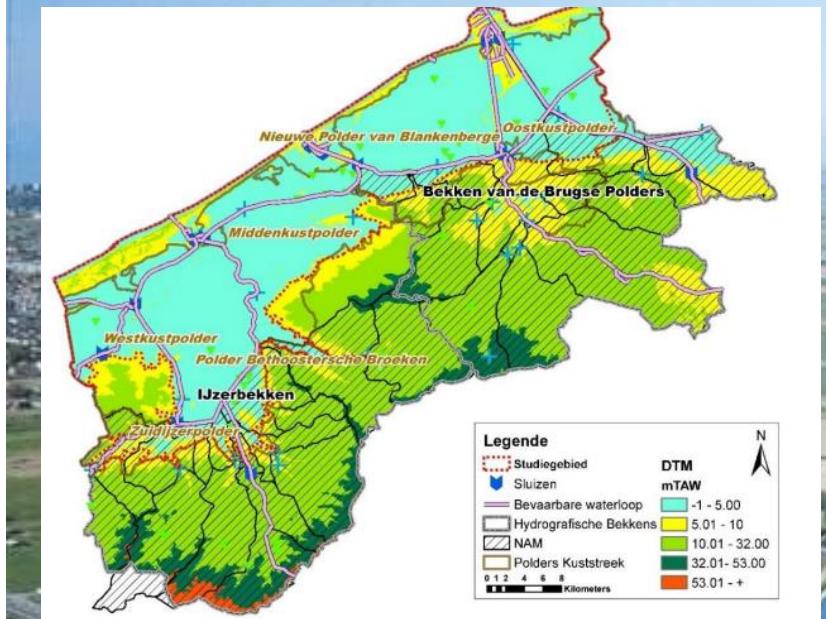


# Too much water in the polders



(Source: KMI website)

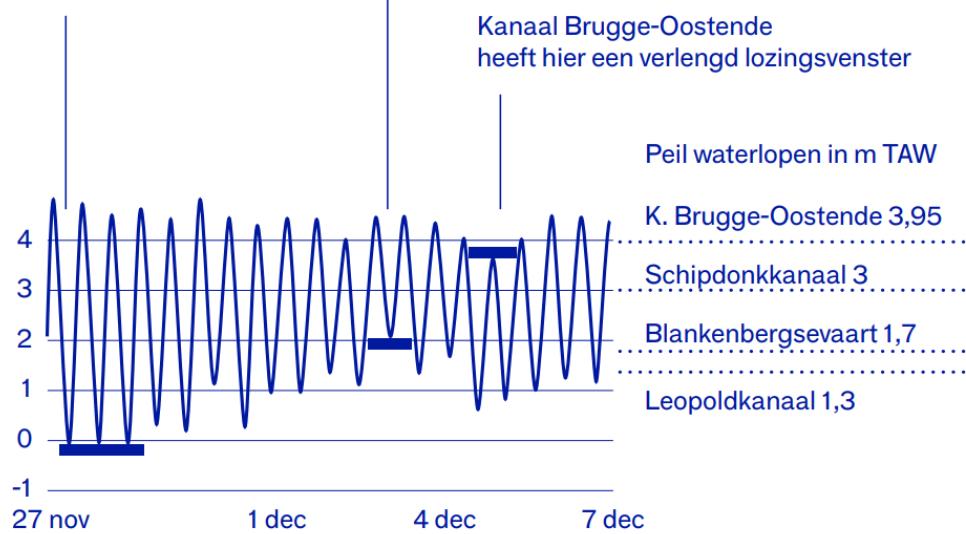




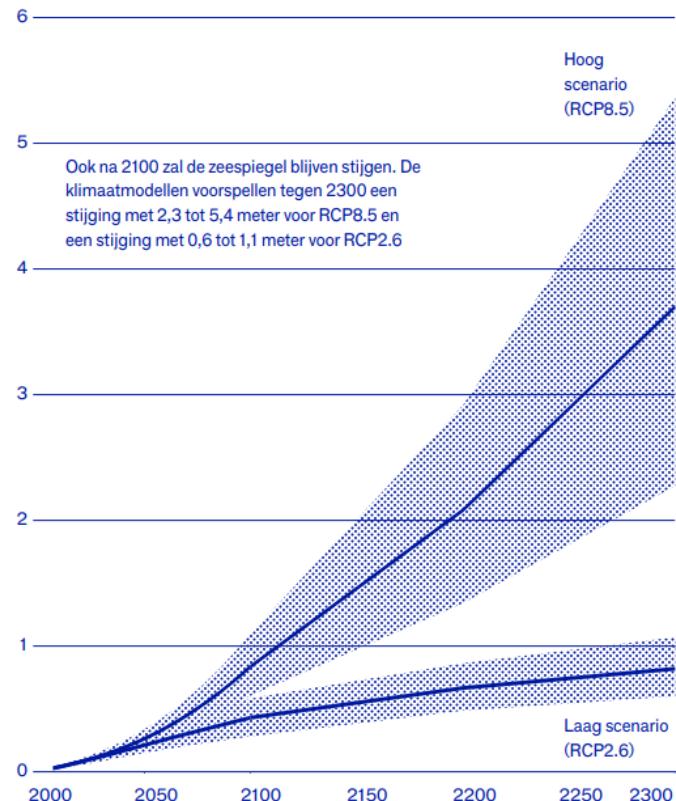


# Too much water in the polders

**Springtij**  
Eb is extreem laag,  
Alle waterlopen  
kunnen nu een  
korte tijd water lozen



**Doodtij**  
Eb is extreem hoog.  
De twee laagste waterlopen  
kunnen niet lozen



Bron: IPCC

(bron: Kust en klimaat. Gids voor een gebiedsgerichte aanpak.)

Site n°1: **Maartensas** (Bredene)

Guide: **Ben Demeyere** (Nieuwe Polder van Blankenberge)

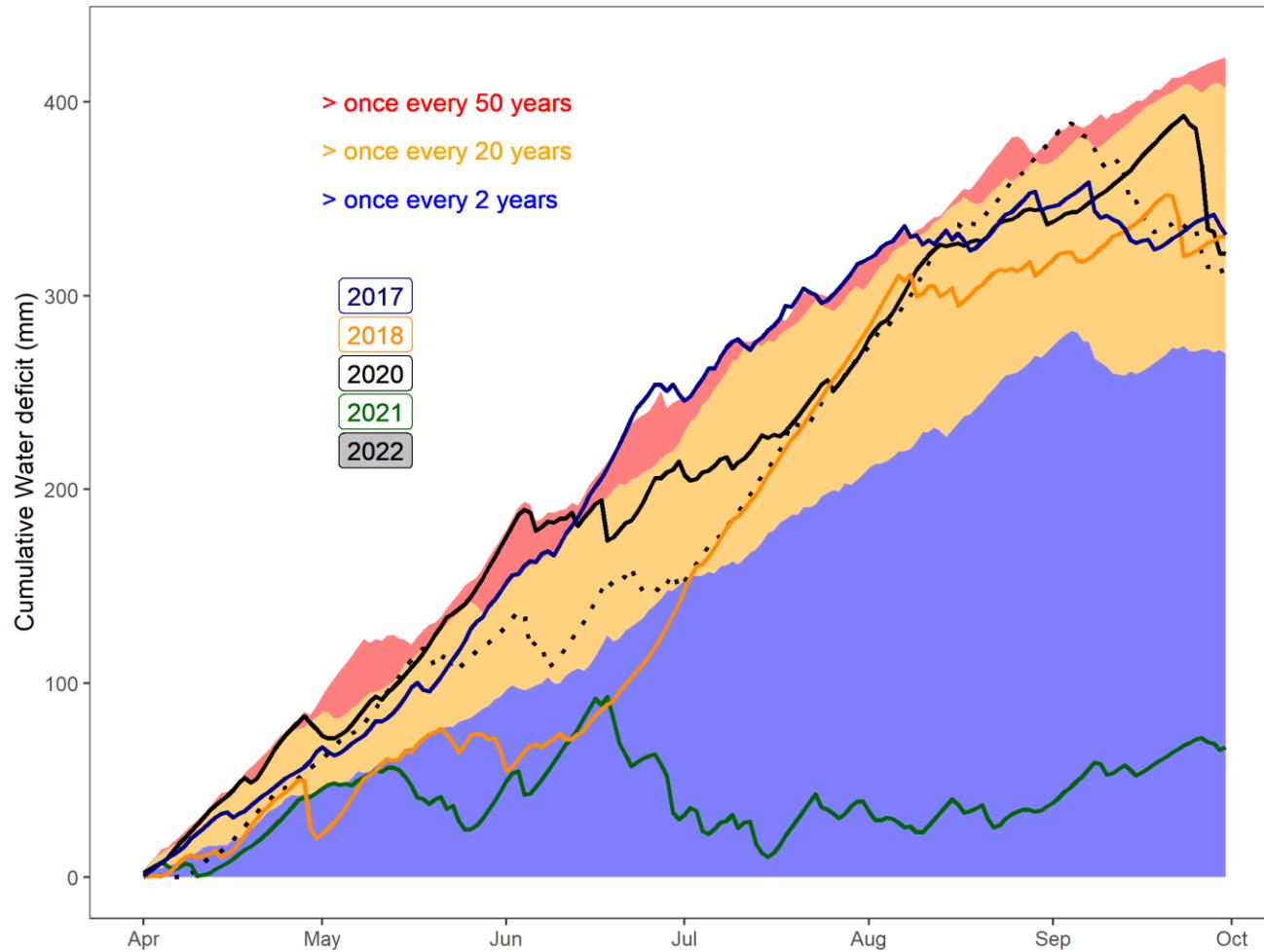


# Too little water in the polders



# Too little water in the polders

The droughts of 1976/ 2018 had a return period of 90 years, but by the end of the century, they will occur every 5 years





PRENDERSI CURA  
DEL TERRITORIO  
**LASCIA IL SEGNO.**



**IL CONSORZIO**  
acqua per il futuro

PRENDERSI CURA  
DEL TERRITORIO  
**LASCIA IL SEGNO.**

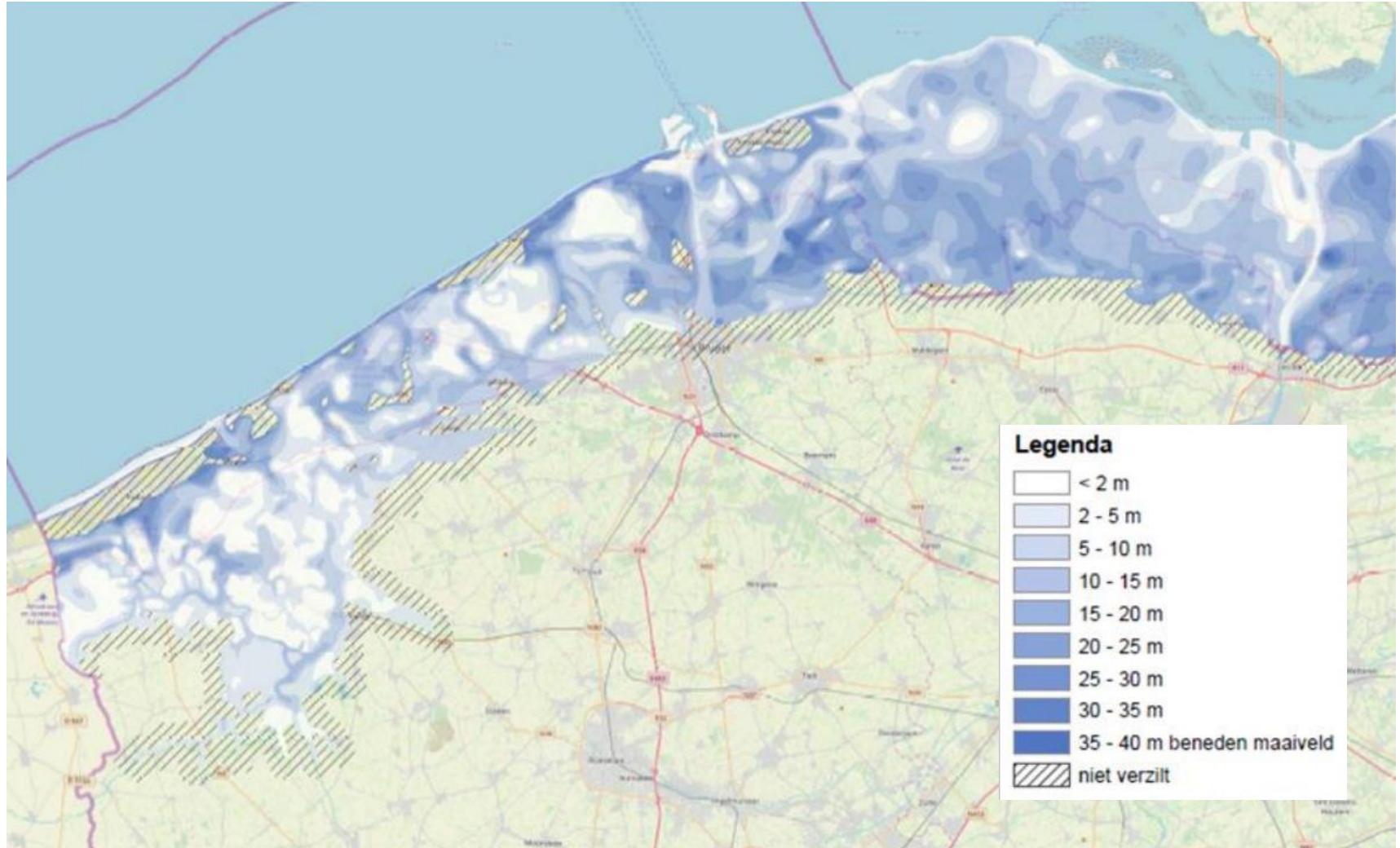


# Too saline water in the polders





# Too saline water in the polders

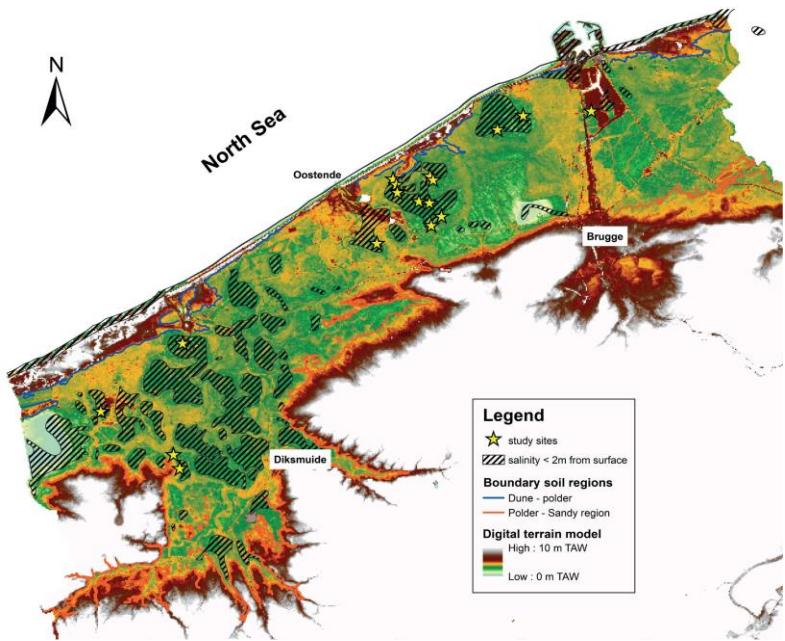


Site n°5: Extension of the Zwin tidal reserve

Guide: Wim Van Isacker (VLM)



# Too saline water in the polders



Surface water for drinking water for livestock (Watertool, INAGRO)	
µS/cm	class
< 700	very suitable
700-2100	suitable
2100-3500	minor restrictions
3500-5000	moderate restrictions
5000-7000	severe restrictions – to be avoided
>7000	not suitable

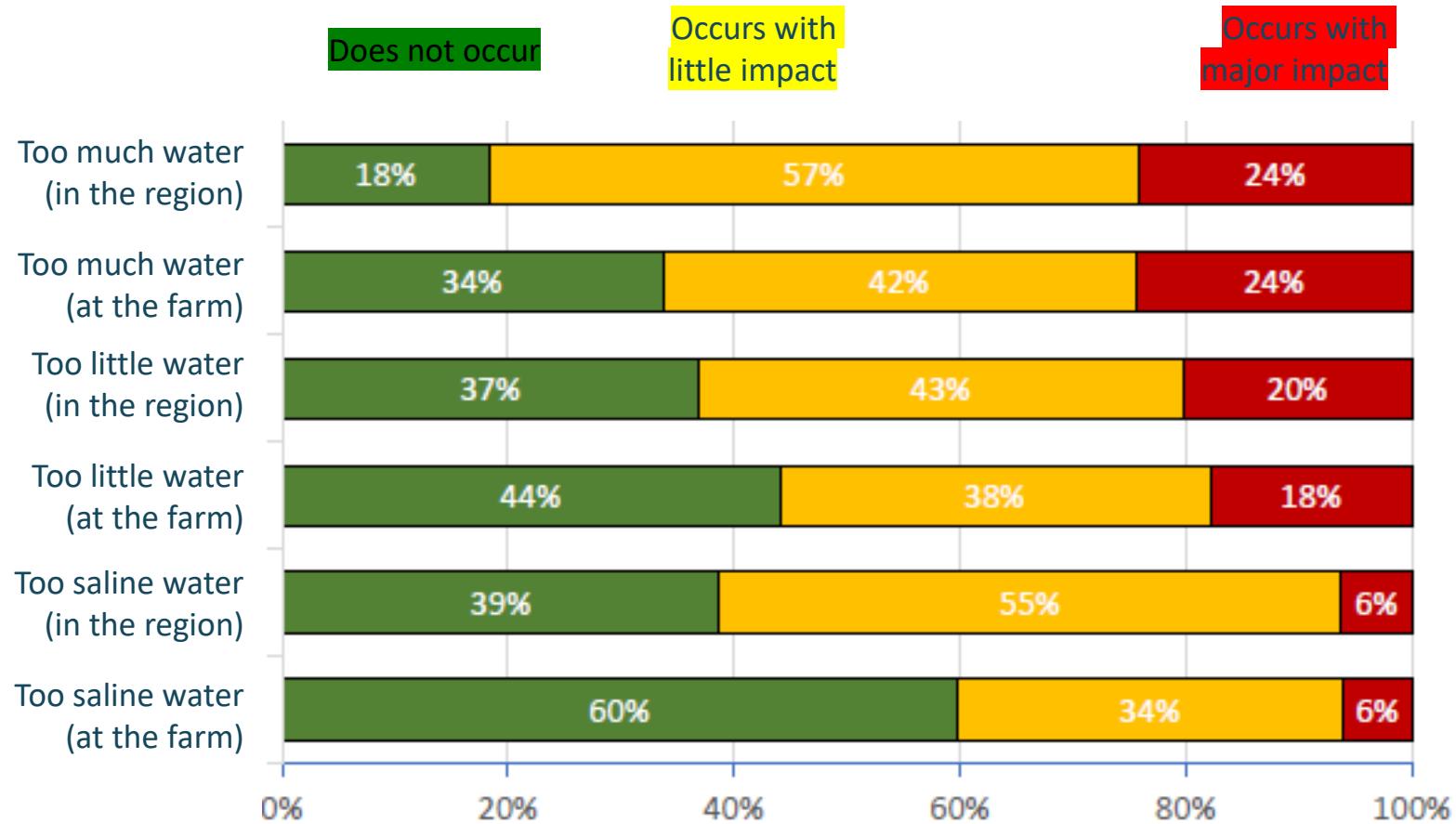
Soil (Province of Noord-Holland, Salfar)	
µS/cm	class
<1000	low salinity
1000-2000	moderate salinity
2000-3000	high salinity
>3000	very high salinity

Groundwater quality (De Moor & De Breuck, 1969)	
µS/cm	class
< 1800	very fresh to weakly fresh
1800-15000	brackish
15000-30000	moderately salt
>30000	salt

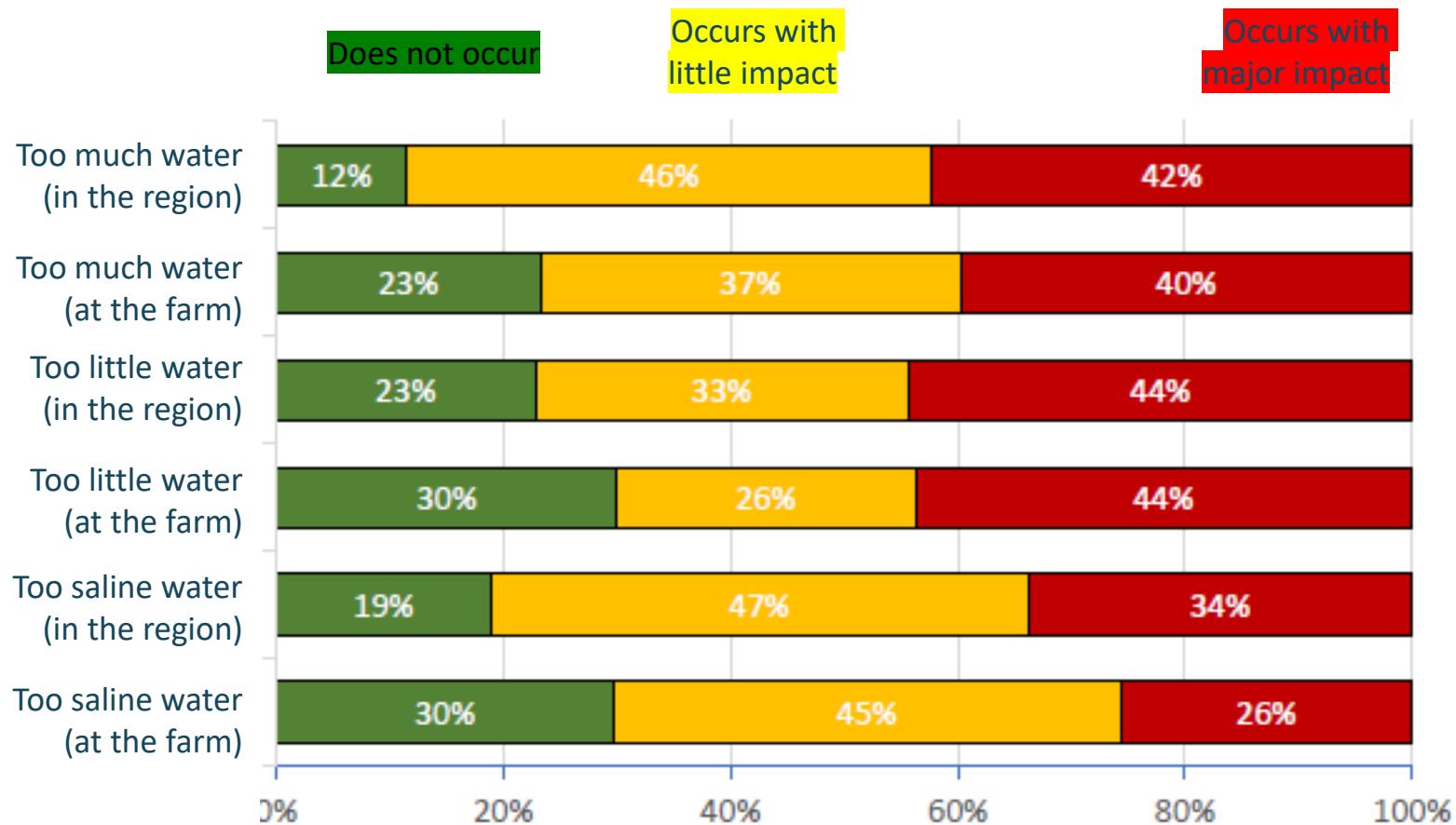
	plot	salf1	salf-2	salf-3	salf-4	salf-5	salf-6	salf-7	salf-8	salf-9	salf-10	salf-11	salf-12	salf-13	salf-14	salf-15	salf-16	salf-17	salf-18	
HEIGHT	m TAW	2,9-3,0	3,1-3,4	2,3-2,6	2,15-2,35	3,35-3,65	2,6-2,75	3,0-3,2	2,6-2,7	1,9-2,0	3,5-3,6	3,05-3,25	2,55-2,7	2,5-2,65	2,4-2,55	1,9-2,15	1,75-2,0	1,9-2,15	2,5-2,6	
LAND USE		grazing	grassland	winter barley	grassland	wheat	potato	maize	extensize grazing	extensive grassland	wheat	grassland	grazing	grazing	extensive	mowing+	extensive	extensive		
SOIL		o.C2/o.C3	o.A5	o.C2	OU2	o.A5	OU2	o.C1	o.OG1	OU2	h.K2	o.B1	OU2	OU2	OG1	OU1	OU2	OU2		
pH-KCl 0-30	cm	5,5	6,7	7,2	7,2	7,3	7,3	5,9	6,8	6,9	7,1	7,0	6,3	7,0	6,2	7,3	7,6	7,6	7,2	
pH-H <sub>2</sub> O 1:50-30	cm	6,8	7,5	7,8	7,8	8,0	7,9	7,1	7,7	7,9	7,9	7,9	7,6	7,6	7,5	7,5	8,3	7,7		
30-60	cm	8,2	8,1	8,1	8,0	8,4	8,0	7,9	8,1	8,2	8,2	8,0	8,1	8,0	7,8	7,4	8,1	8,3	8,0	
60-90	cm	8,1	8,2	8,1	8,2	8,5	8,0	8,2	8,0	8,3	8,2	8,1	8,0	8,0	8,0	7,5	8,1	8,0	7,9	
EC 1:2	0-30	µS/cm	272	371	362	1085	418	307	528	722	1197	404	490	759	1000	815	2810	3090	2260	10890
	30-60	µS/cm	465	311	416	2190	286	395	483	457	1176	287	433	739	934	1019	2890	4110	2870	7240
	60-90	µS/cm	436	228	706	3230	223	563	428	596	1666	271	425	956	1176	1457	2780	5730	4110	8850
EC SURFACE WATER (June)	µS/cm	2110		2130					1280	5600	2330	2800	1690	2200*		1790*	3590	5960	12910	
EC GROUND WATER (July)	µS/cm	9300		2990	29900	2480		30000	23000	30900	1033	10550	10290	17200	8610	15100	24900	41100		

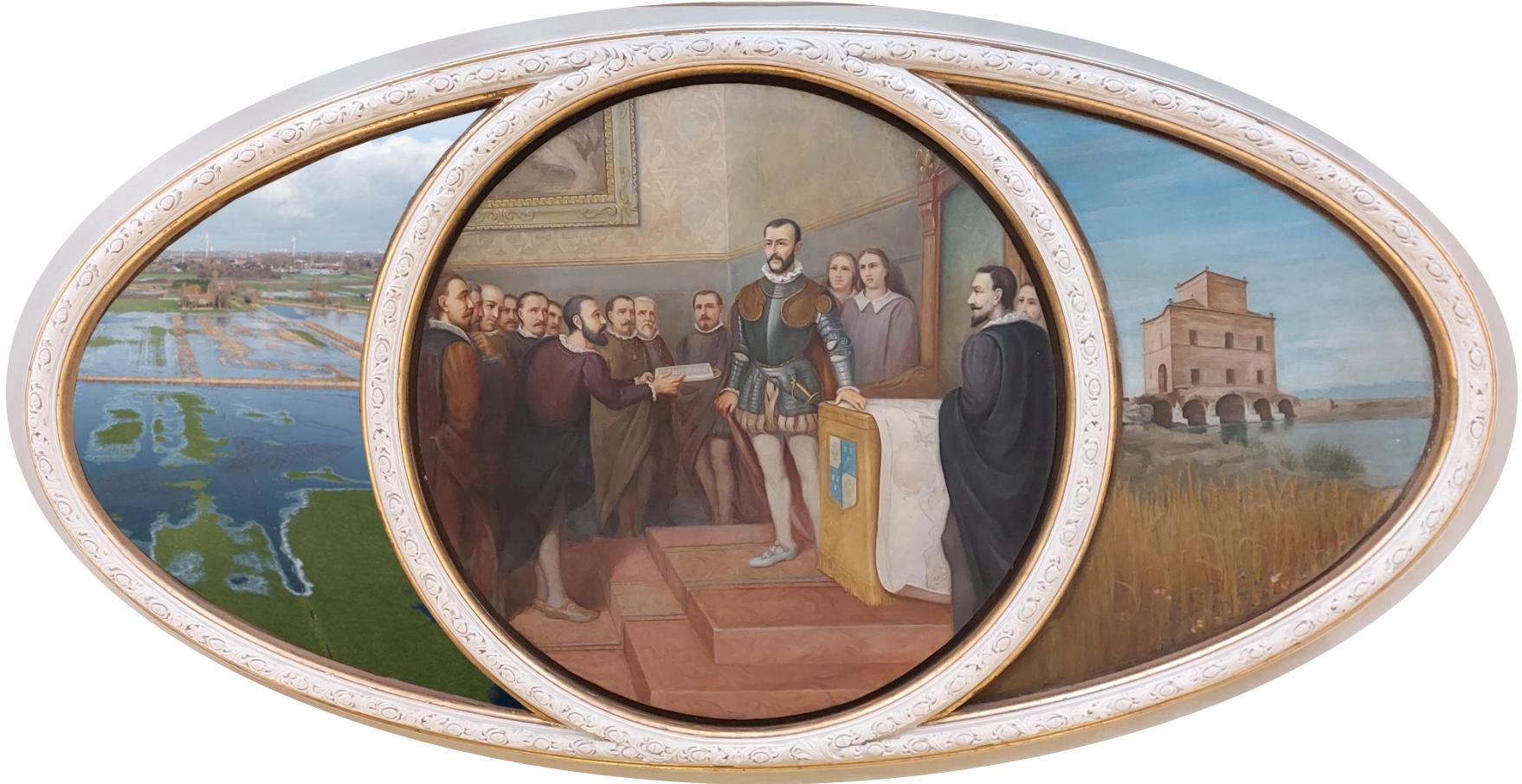
Ampe, C., et al. (2019) Soil salinity in the Flanders coastal area. The perception of farmers compared to field measurements, poster for the Saline Futures conference in Leeuwarden (the Netherlands)

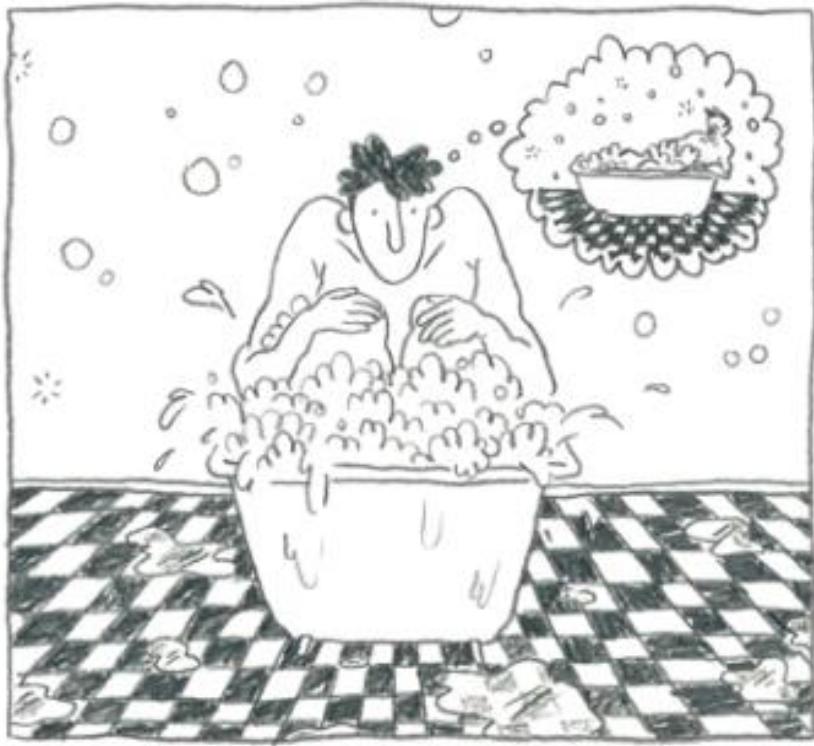
# Do farmers experiences the challenges today?



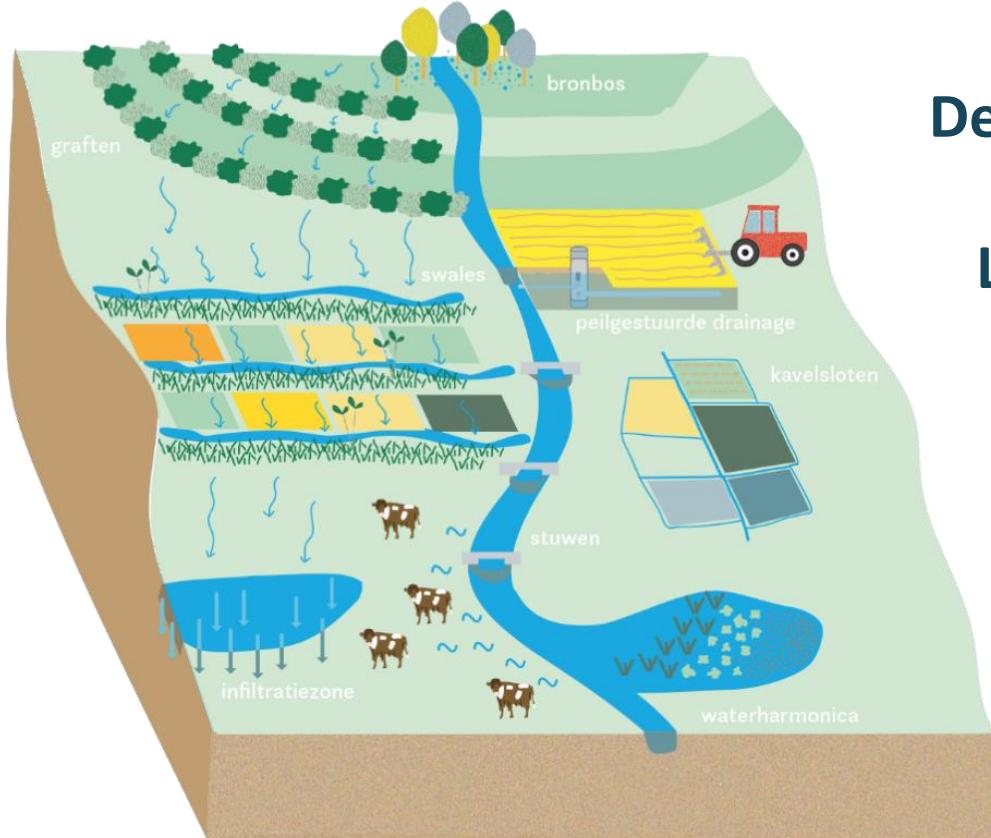
# Do farmers expect the challenges in the future?







# Solutions upstreams



**De-sealing**

**Less/smarter drainage**

**Space for water**

**Healthy soils**

Site n°2: Kwetshage

Guide: Wim Van Isacker (Flemish Land Agency)



# More space for water



## **WINTER:**

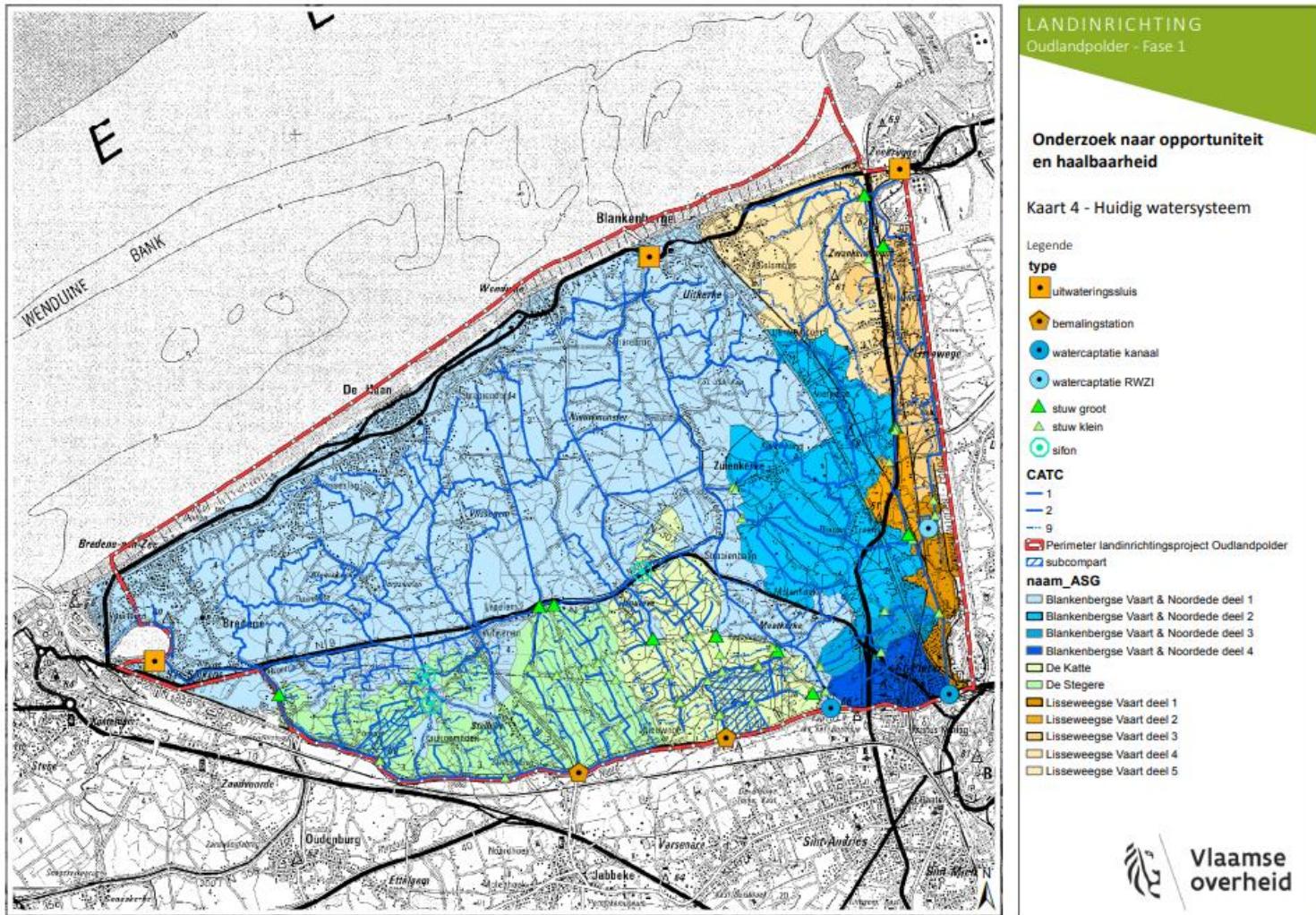
**Lower the water level for  
water safety and farming  
workability**

## **SUMMER:**

**Raise the water level for  
agricultural production**



# Water levels follows land use? And vice versa?



(bron: kaartenbundel landinrichtingsproject Oudlandpolder)



# Site n°3: Automated weirs Oosternieuwweg

Guide: **Ben Demeyere** (Nieuwe Polder van Blankenberge)



Pumping capacity is  
part of the debate on  
water levels



Site n°5: Pumping station Ronselaere

Guide: Johan Martens (Oostkustpolder)



# Water circularity

**"Waarom laat de overheid zomaar begaan?" Onbegrip over duizenden liters gezuiverd water die dagelijks de zee instromen**



"Why does the government let it go unchecked?"

Incomprehension about thousands of liters of treated water flowing into the sea every day.



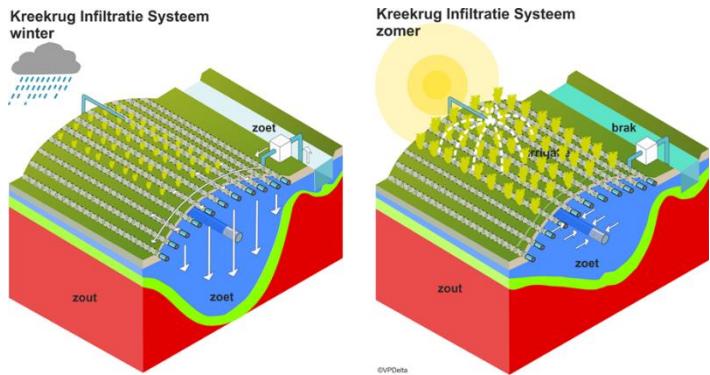
Site n°7: Water treatment plant (Knokke)

Guide: Wim Van Isacker (Vlaamse Landmaatschappij)



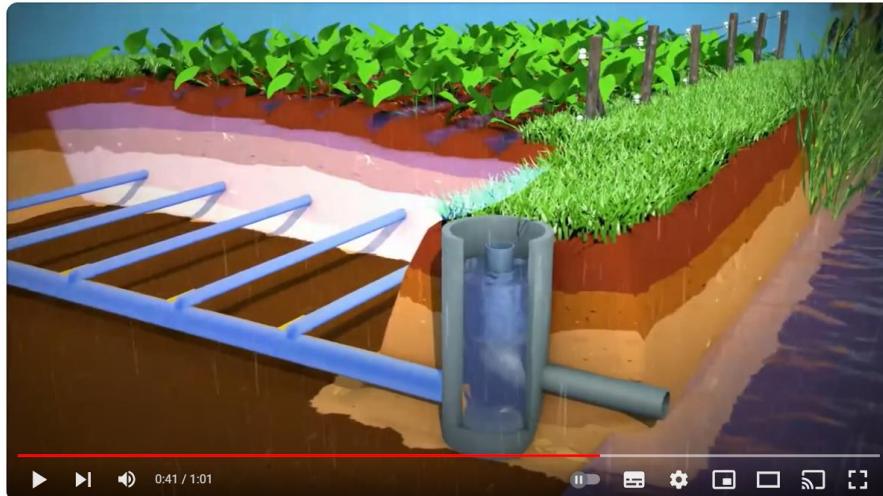
# Ongoing research projects on climate adaptation

## Optimalizing use of water storage in sandy ridges

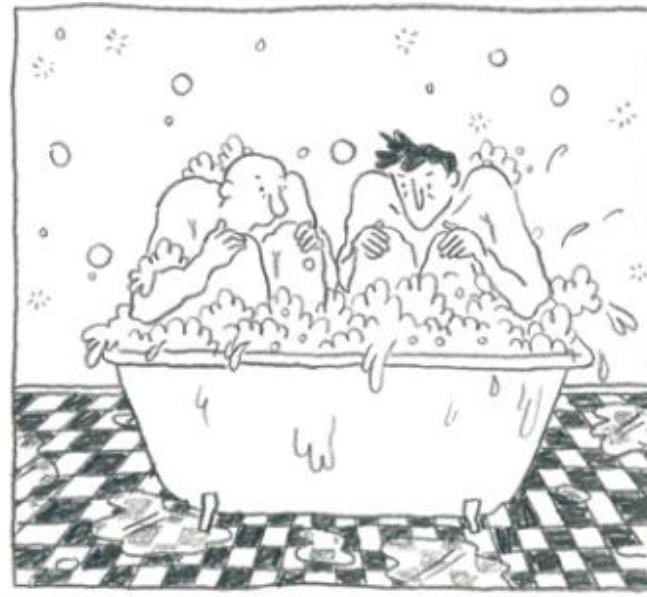
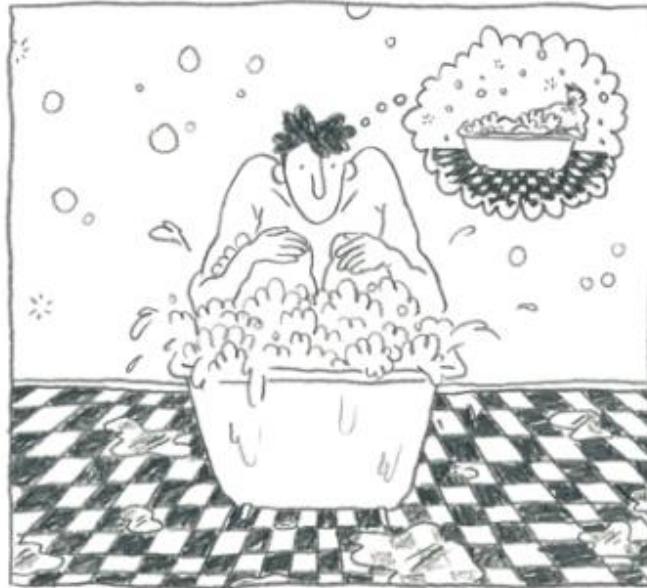


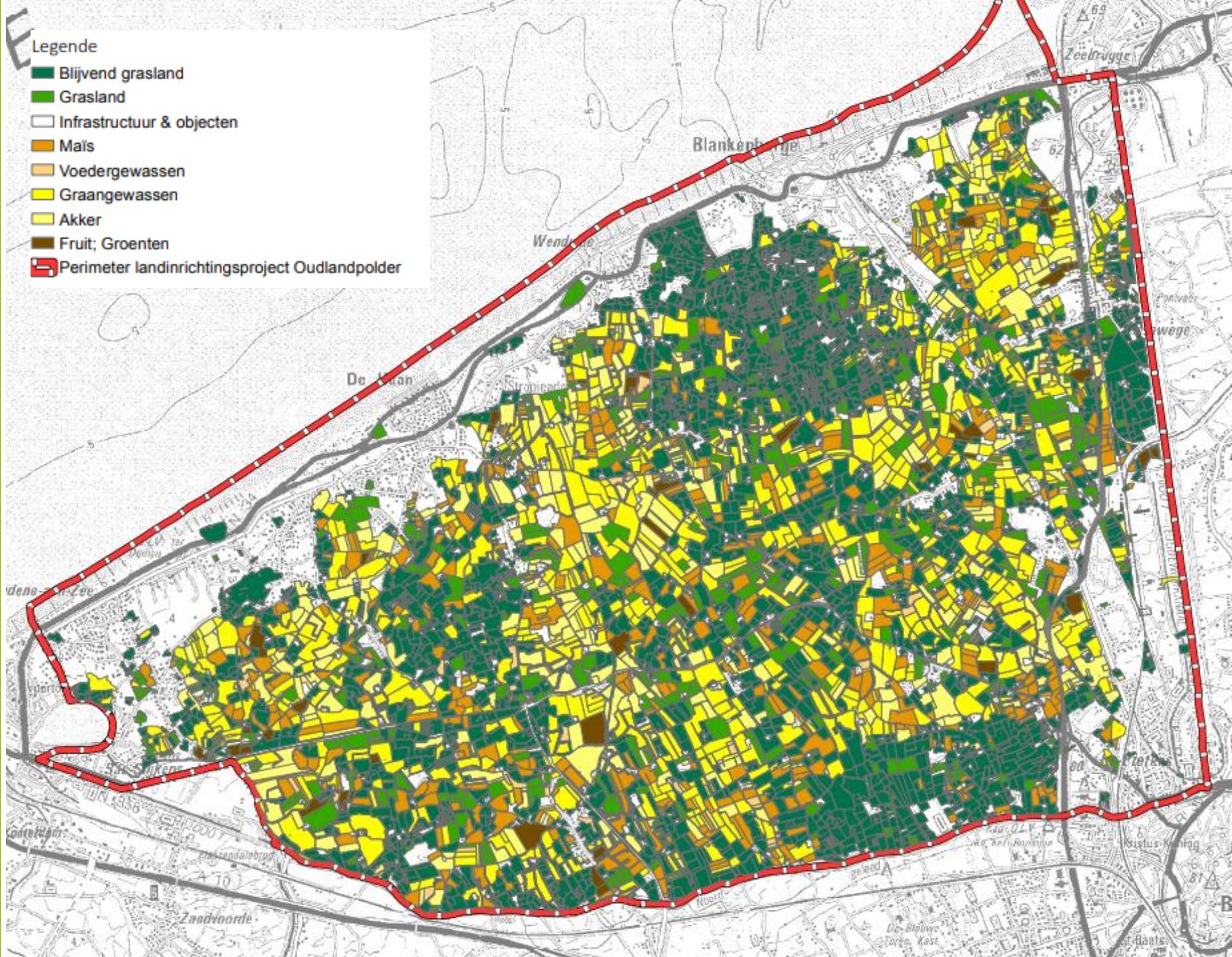
Want to know more?  
Dominique Huits (INAGRO)

## Controlled drainage in the polders

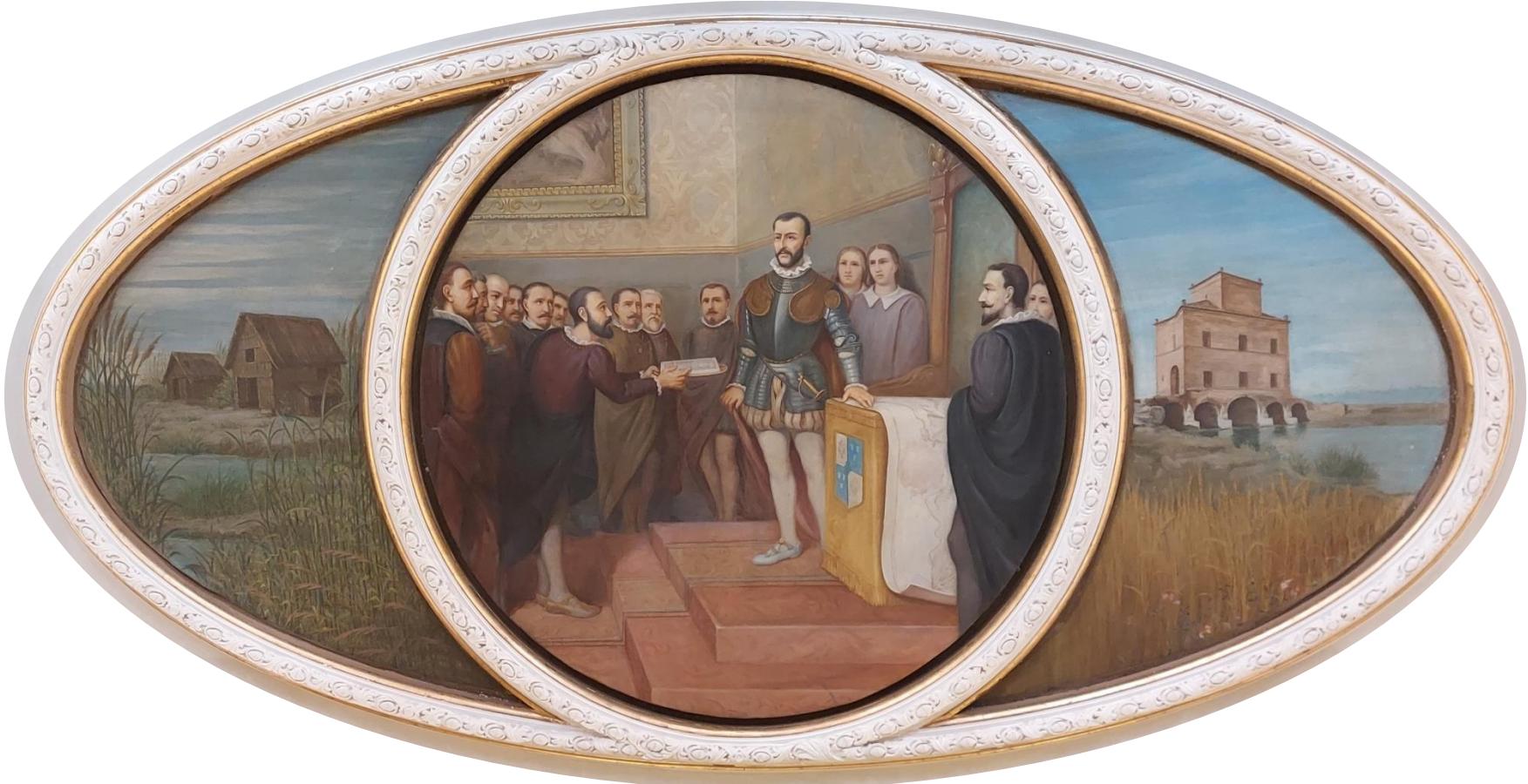


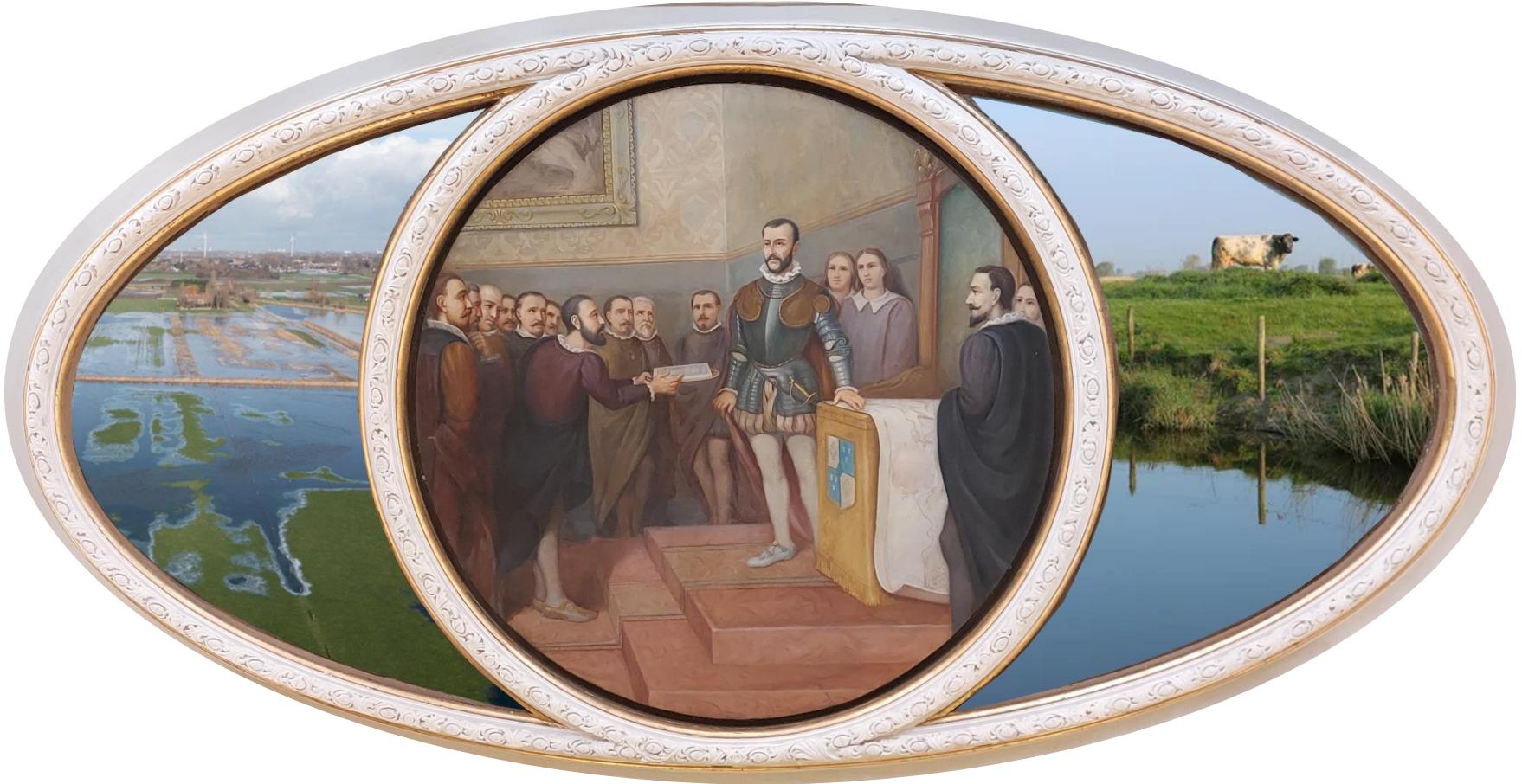
Want to know more?  
Sarah Garré (ILVO)













# Thanks for your attention.

