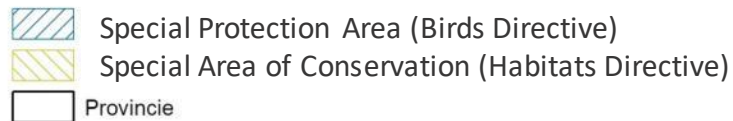
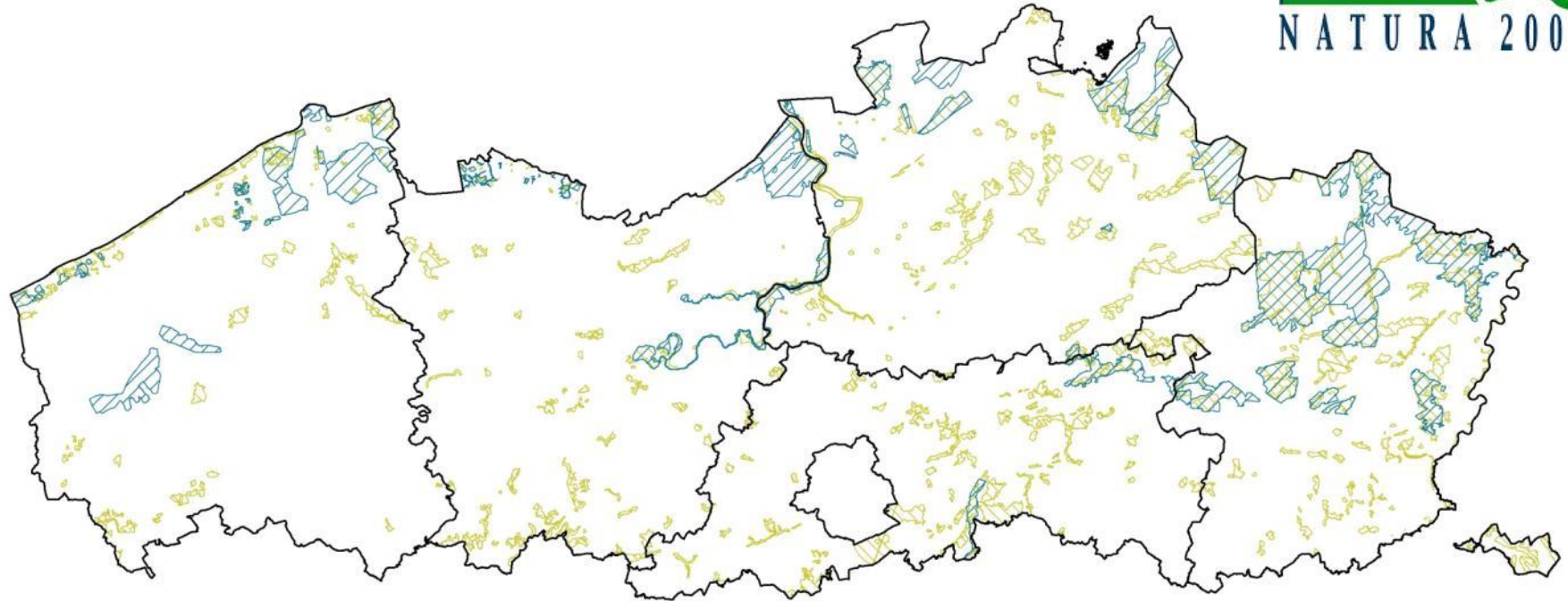


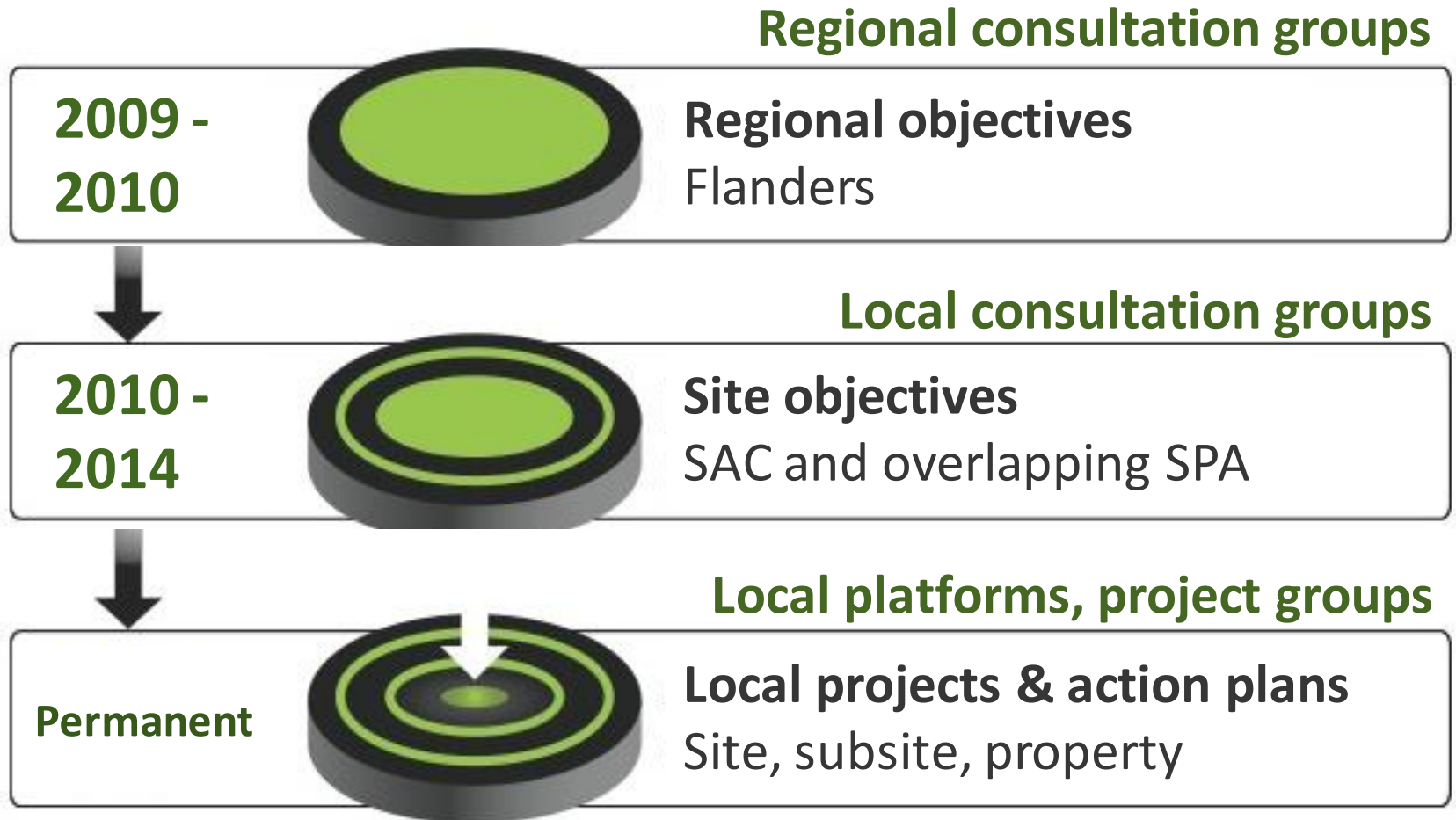
# Setting conservation objectives in Flanders

# Natura 2000 in Flanders



- SCI 2004
- SAC 105.022 ha, 7,8% of land surface
- N2000 166.322 ha, 12,3% of land surface
- 38 SAC, 455 subsites
- Highly fragmented
- High environmental pressures
- 3/44 habitats in favourable status

# Process



# Stakeholder consultation and participation



Unie van Zelfstandige Ondernemers



toerisme  
vlaanderen



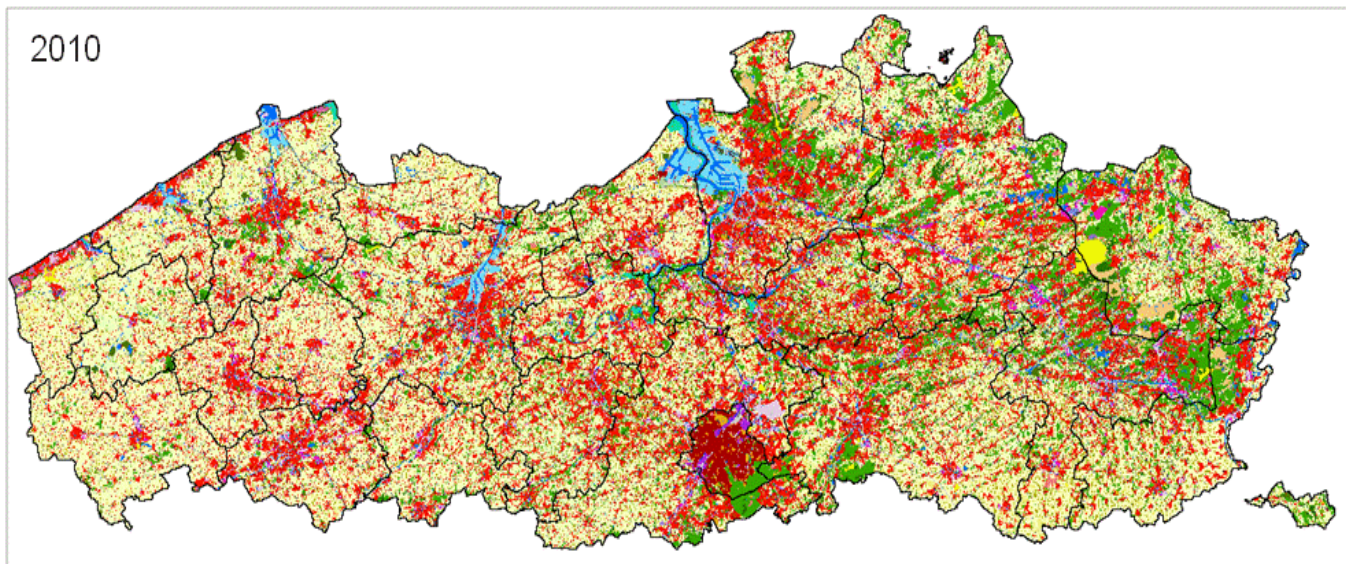
departement  
Mobiliteit en  
Openbare Werken



... and  
collaboration,  
regional  
and  
local

# From regional to site objectives

- ▶ Quantity and quality objectives, describing favourable conservation status → surface (account of land use)
- ▶ Need for a balanced, objective and transparent distribution
- ▶ Approach
  - Maximize ecologic quality and potential (scientific basis)
    - × Current habitat, potential habitat, surface, connectivity, ...
      - Local Favourable Reference Values (2009)
  - Socio-economic optimisation
    - × Current land use, distances, ground water extraction, ...
      - Consultation on criteria (invitation to stakeholders)
  - Spatial model as a tool for regional → site objectives



# 'Calibration model'

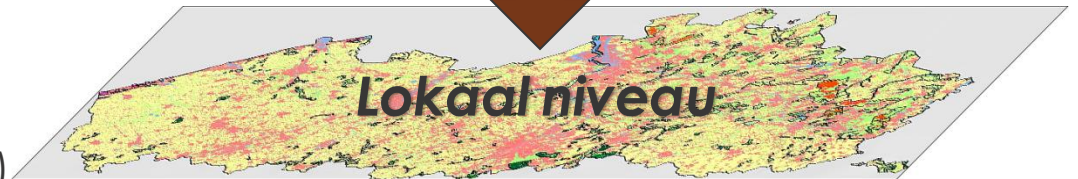
Te optimaliseren: Habitattypes per SBZ

	HT 1	HT 2	HT 3	HT 4	...	HT m	Som
SBZ 1							
SBZ 2							
SBZ 4							
...							
SBZ n							
Som							



## Cellular Automata

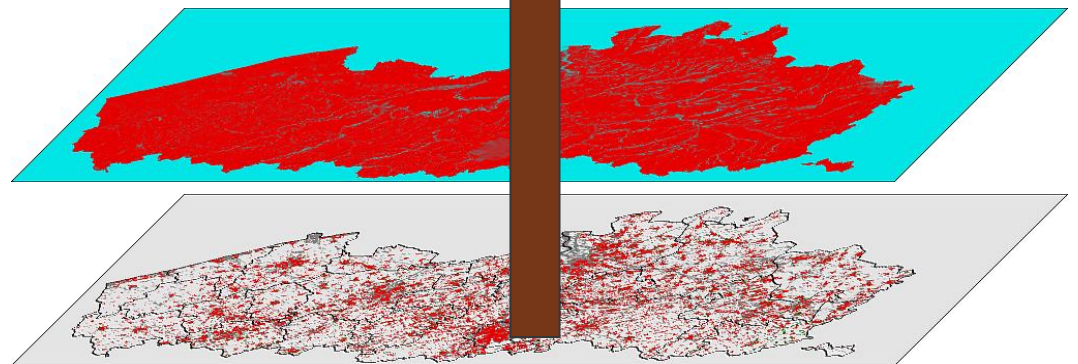
Landgebruikveranderingen  
op niveau van cel 1 ha (1,375,000)



## Quasi-statische karakteristieken

Fysische geschiktheid

Beleid en wetgeving



## Regional objective HT 4030 - European dry heaths



Theme	Objective	Description objective
Area	=	Conservation current area
Surface	↑	Extension with 640 – 840 hectares
Quality	↑	Resolving eutrophication/acidification, inappropriate land use, vegetation changes

Site objective  
4030 - European dry heaths  
SAC – SPA Zwarte beek



**Landscape of  
heath, fens and  
forests in and  
around 'Kamp of  
Beverlo'**

Following habitat types and species can be found here, making this SAC-SPA at a Flemish level essential to very important:

- Inland dune habitats: 2310 and 2330
- Transitions from dry to wet heath: 4030, 4010, 7140, 7150
- Semi-natural grasslands: 6230
- Dystrophic water habitats: 3160
- Amphibians such as Natterjack Toad and Moor Frog
- Reptiles such as Smooth Snake
- Breeding birds such as Woodlark, Nightjar
- Deciduous forest: acidophilous forests, composed of *Quercus robur*, *Betula pendula* and *Betula pubescens* (9190)



Site objective  
4030 - European dry heaths  
SAC – SPA Zwarte beek



4030 – European dry heath	Surface objective	Quality objective
↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Actual: 1672 hectares</li><li>• Conservation current surface and extension with 202 hectares through transformation</li><li>• Final objective: 1874 hectares</li></ul>	<p>↑ Well-developed dry heath vegetation with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presence of all age stages of common heather</li><li>• Limited tree cover (&lt; 20%)</li><li>• Limited grass cover of Purple Moor-grass and Tufted Hairgrass (&lt; 30%)</li><li>• High species diversity</li></ul>

## Regional objective Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Theme	Objective	Description objective
Area	↑	Doubling the current area to 550 sq km
Population	↑	Extension of the population to 75 breeding pairs with 2 core populations of minimum 20 breeding pairs and a number of satellite populations of 3 to 5 pairs
Quality	↑	Resolving disturbance of the hydrology, shortage of habitat quality habitat  Extending the current habitat with 1,390 to 2,140 hectares open water (30 to 35%) and marsh (water reed vegetation with a water level of 10 to 30 cm), next to the predefined extra surface area of EU habitat and of habitat of other EU species, next to a general quality improvement as a result of the current environmental policy.



Site objective

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

SAC – SPA

Lake District Midden Limburg



**Lake and marsh  
landscape**

The lake and marsh landscape is important for a large number of species and habitat types including:

- Breeding birds Great Bittern, Little Bittern, Western Marsh Harrier and Bluethroat
- Other bird species such as Great Egret, Gadwall and Northern Shoveler
- Amphibians including European Tree Frog, Common Spadefoot, Moor Frog, Pool Frog and Northern Crested Newt
- Invertebrates such as the Large White-faced Darter
- Fish such as European Weatherfish and European Bitterling
- Plants such as Floating Water-plantain
- Bats including Common Noctule, Daubenton's Bat, Nathusius' Pipistrelle
- Oligotrophic to more eutrophic water habitats: 3110, 3130, 3150
- Grassland habitat: 6430



# Site objective

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

SAC – SPA

Lake District Midden Limburg



Species	Population objective	Habitat quality objective
Great Bittern	<p>↑ Population of <b>minimum 15</b> breeding pairs of which 12 breeding pairs in the lake district 'Midden-Limburg' and 3 breeding pairs in 'Bokrijk – Het Wik'. This requires a minimum habitat area of respectively 360 and 90 hectares in the lake district Midden-Limburg and Bokrijk – Het Wik.</p> <p>In total this amounts to an extra habitat area of 205 <b>hectares</b> of which 138 hectares is realised through extension and 67 hectares through transformation.</p>	<p>↑ Quality demands with regards to the intended number of breeding pairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suitable habitat, consisting of reed-land, marsh vegetation (&gt; 50%) and open water (&gt; 30%)</li><li>• Clear water of excellent quality and high food supply (fish, invertebrates, amphibians)</li><li>• Sufficient rest areas and where possible the creation of predator-free breeding ground during the breeding period</li><li>• Open lake landscape</li><li>• Varied age structure of reed vegetation: each breeding pair needs 0.5 to 2 hectares of reed or reed-mace older than one year with sufficient amount of reed litter</li><li>• Presence of submerged and floating water vegetation</li><li>• High water level in the habitats during the breeding season</li></ul>



# Natura 2000 in Flanders

Given the specific Flemish context

- ▶ Participation process has lead to
  - Acceptance of conservation objectives
  - A renewal of the approach and instruments of implementation
  - But not necessarily to support of implementation in the field
- ▶ Quantitative approach and transparence on criteria and data has lead to acceptance
  - But also to high complexity and detail

[www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be](http://www.natura2000.vlaanderen.be)