

# Promoting the manifold benefits of floodplain restoration for society

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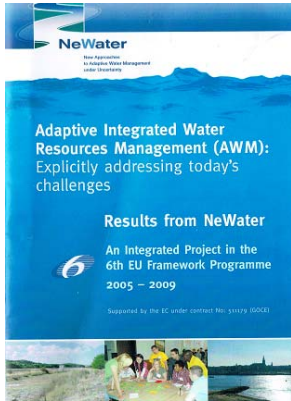
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Rijksoverheid



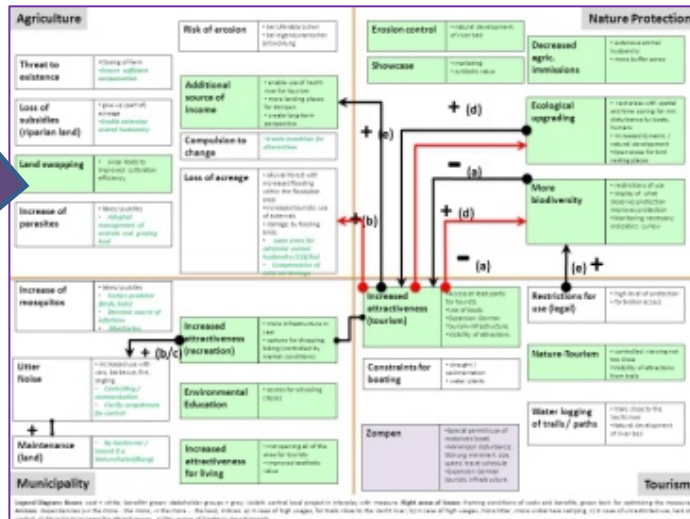
# synthesizing results

# facilitating the link to stakeholders



# structuring information

# implementing successful discussions



Promoting the manifold benefits of floodplain restoration for society:

Opportunities and challenges for implementing the concept of ecosystem services in transboundary river basin management

Results of the VechtPES Project

- Initiated in the context of UN ECE- Transboundary Water Convention (NL / D activities)-

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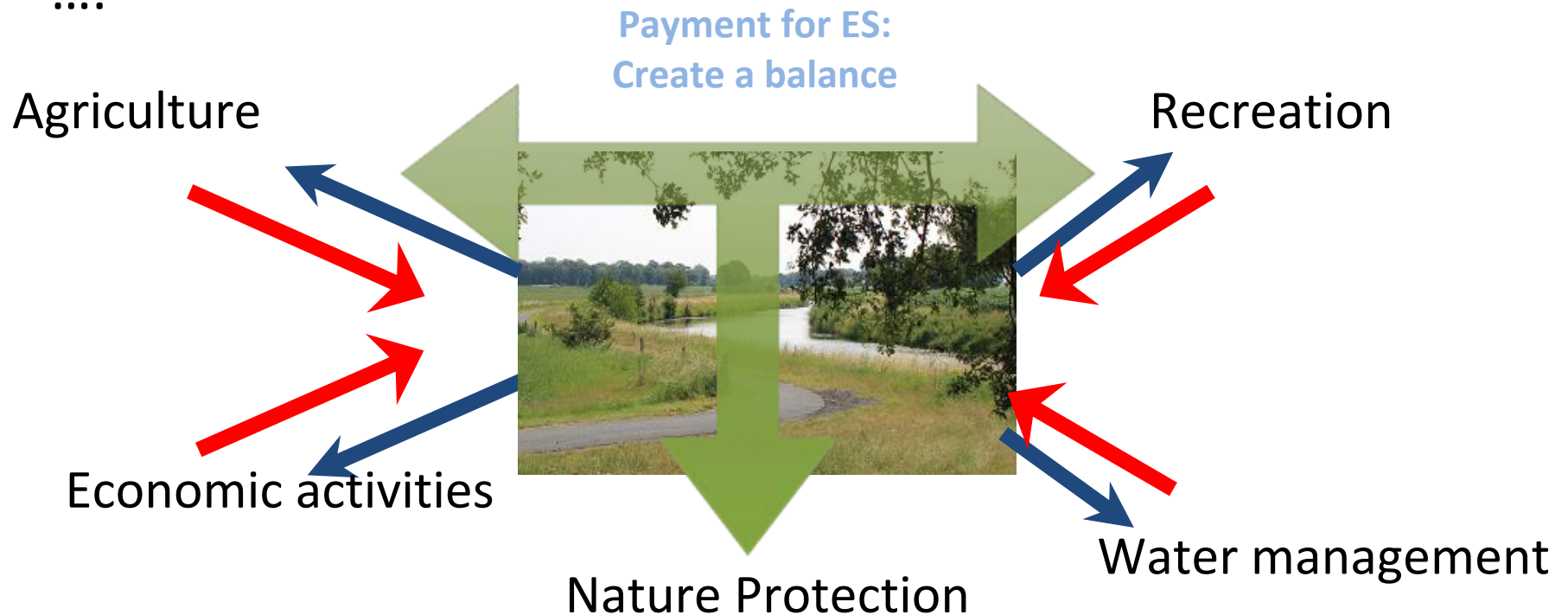


Rijksoverheid

# Ecosystem Services Approach: Emphasizing the benefits of a ecological sound Vecht valley

from „ecosystems are victims of anthropogenic activities“

....



... towards the Vecht valley as a source for benefits

## The project: Vecht PES case study (2011-2015)

- *Is ESA applicable in practical water resources management? Does it provide added value?*
- *Can a PES be implemented in such a transboundary setting beyond the project?*

*1) Ask stakeholders about value of Vecht valley*

*2) Assess costs & benefits of a floodplain restoration*

*3) Negotiate „Payment for Ecosystems Services“*



# Floodplain Restoration Measure

Deichrückverlegung und  
Auenentwicklung an der Vechte bei Laar

Realignment of flood  
protection bank

Lowering of soil level  
through didgging.  
Creation of soft / hard  
wood wetland

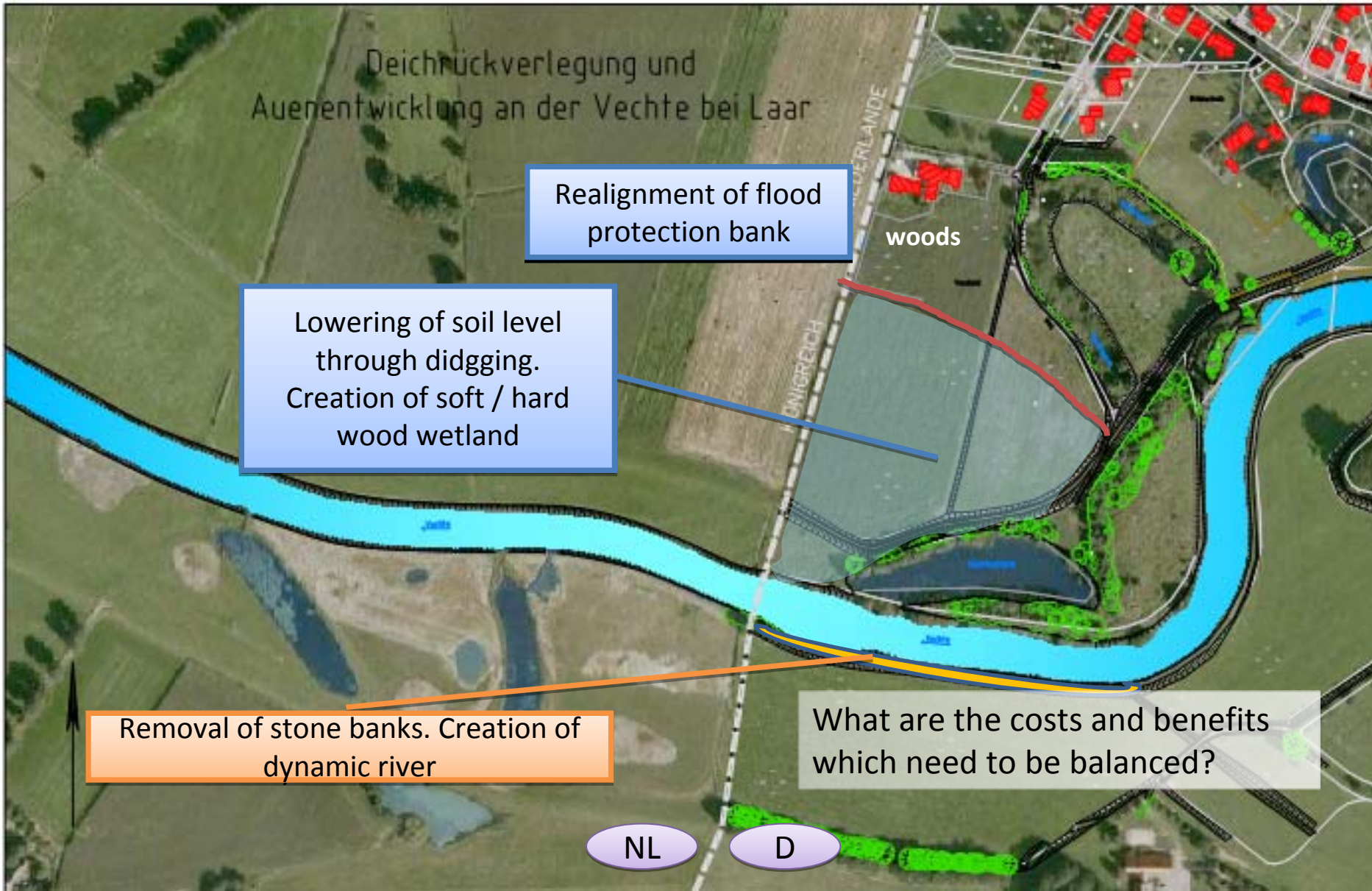
woods

Removal of stone banks. Creation of  
dynamic river

What are the costs and benefits  
which need to be balanced?

NL

D



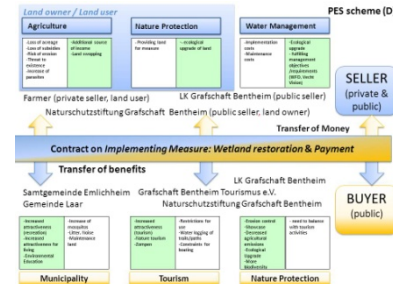
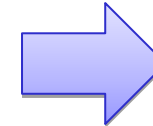
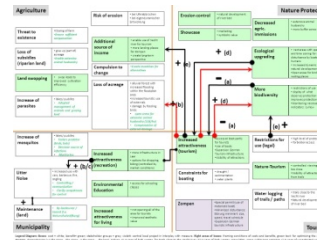
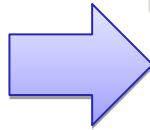
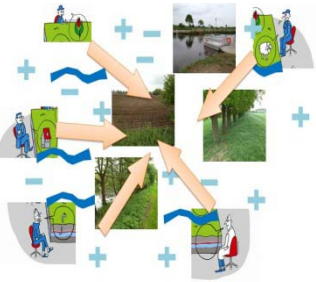
# Local participatory process: What are the costs & benefits?

11 interviews  
with local  
experts

2 transboundary  
workshops

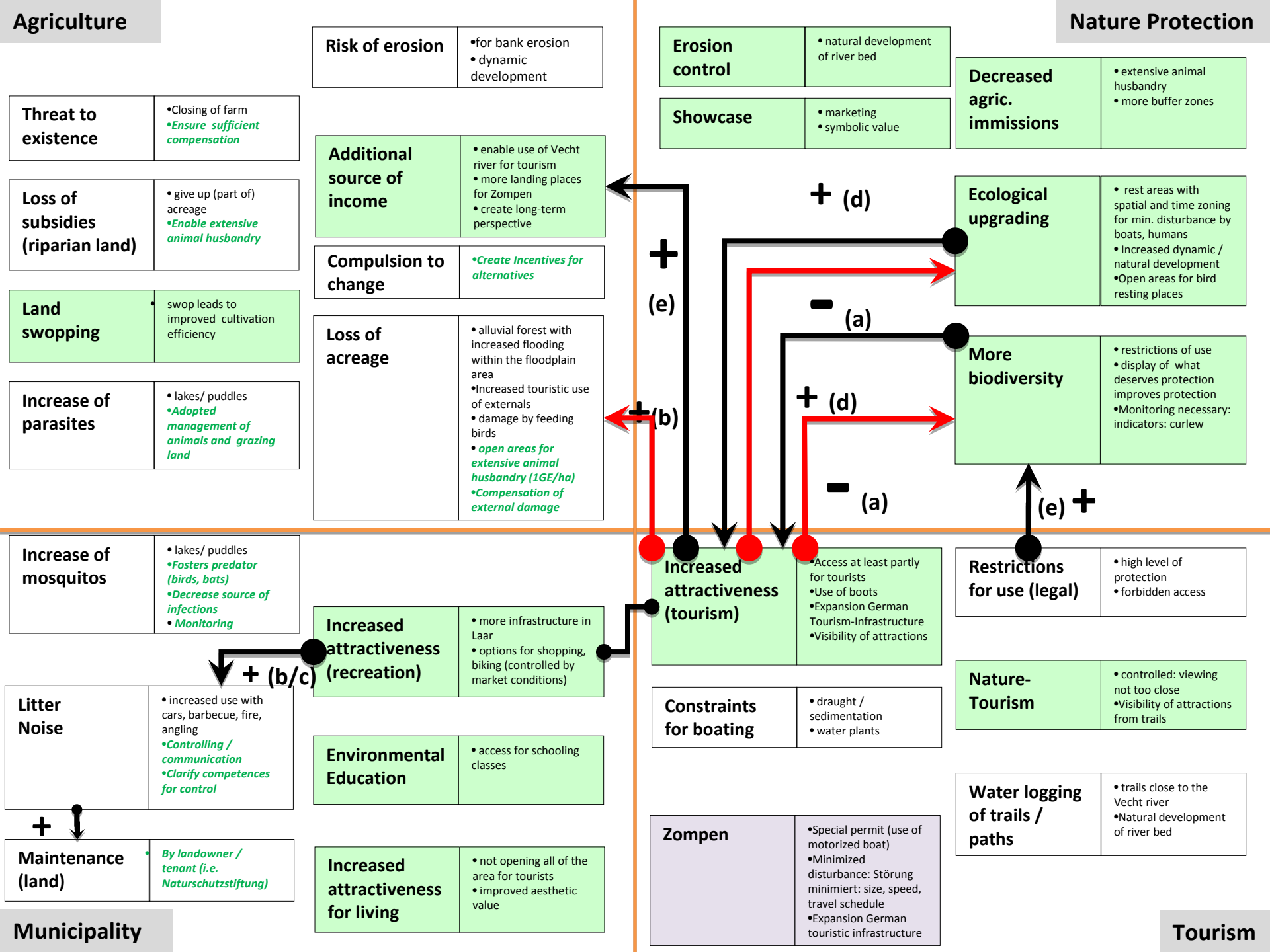
structuring costs &  
benefits of wetland  
restoration

proposal for a  
transboundary  
PES Scheme

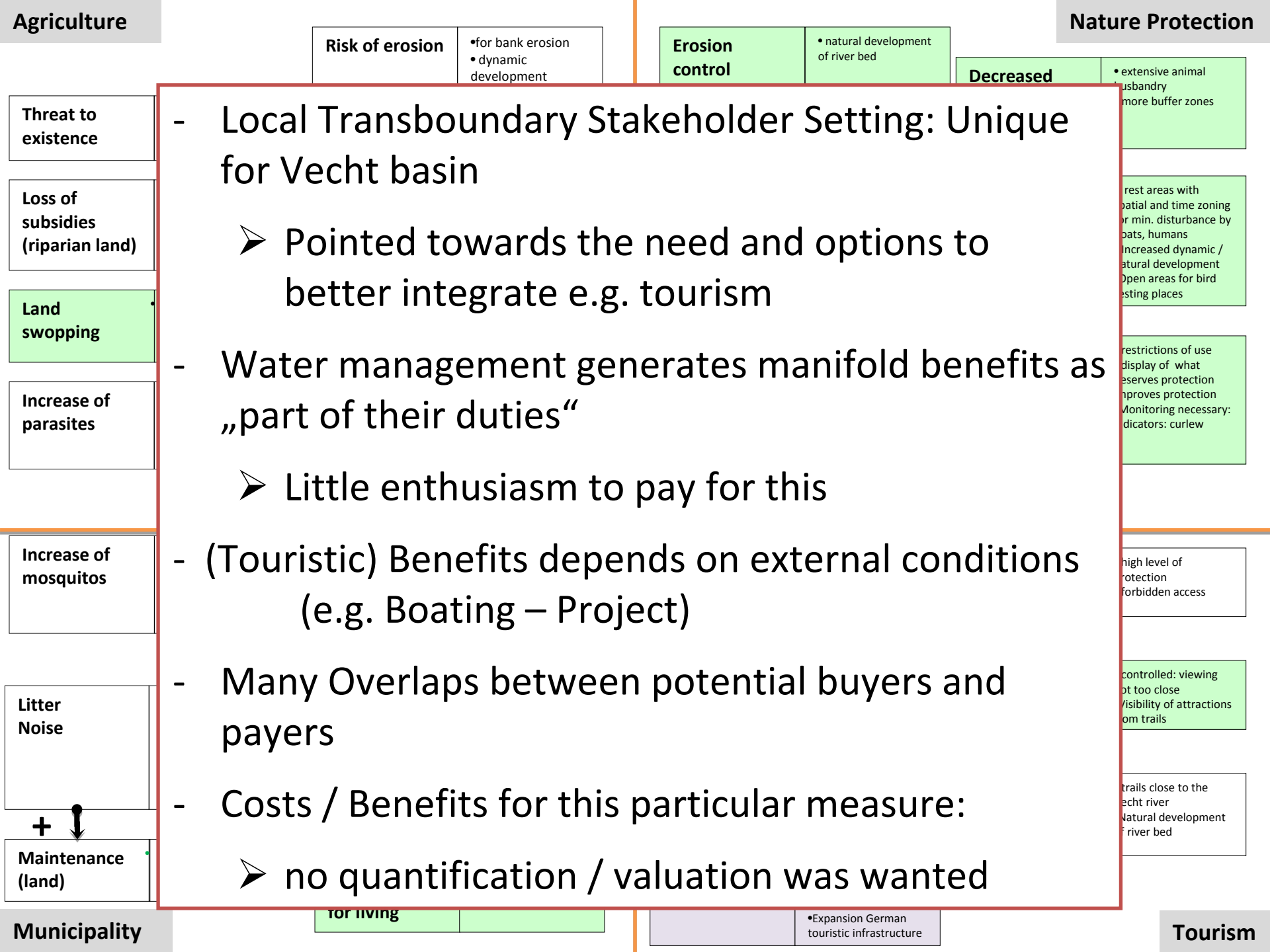


simulated  
negotiation Process









- Local Transboundary Stakeholder Setting: Unique for Vecht basin
  - Pointed towards the need and options to better integrate e.g. tourism
- Water management generates manifold benefits as „part of their duties“
  - Little enthusiasm to pay for this
- (Touristic) Benefits depends on external conditions (e.g. Boating – Project)
- Many Overlaps between potential buyers and payers
- Costs / Benefits for this particular measure:
  - no quantification / valuation was wanted

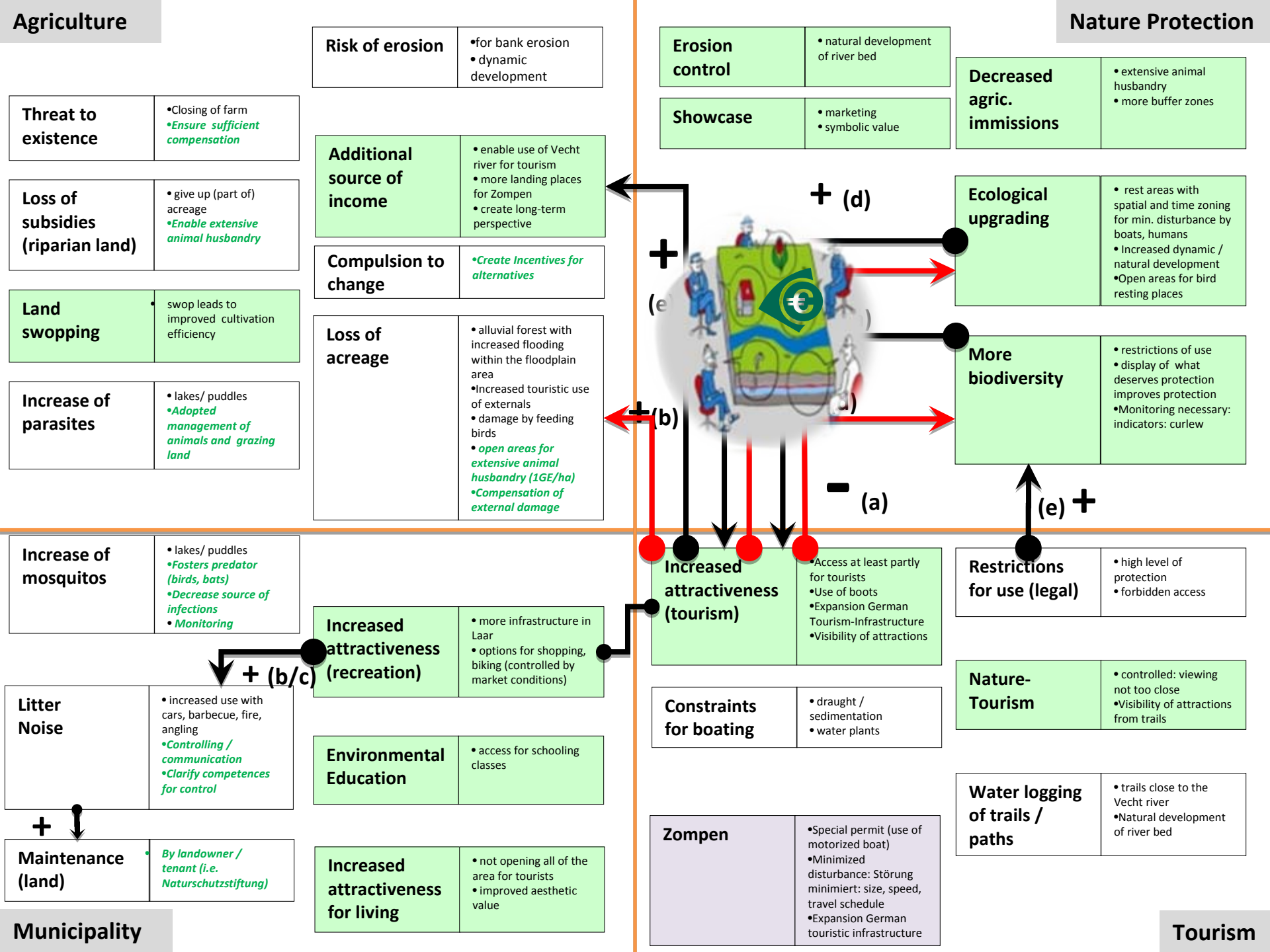
rest areas with spatial and time zoning or min. disturbance by boats, humans  
Increased dynamic / natural development  
Open areas for bird resting places

restrictions of use display of what deserves protection improves protection  
Monitoring necessary: indicators: curlew

high level of protection  
forbidden access

controlled: viewing not too close  
visibility of attractions from trails

trails close to the Vecht river  
natural development of river bed



*Landowner / - user*

**Agriculture**

4.000 €/yr

**Nature Protection**

**Water Management**

**Provider**

**“Contract on 90.000€ (of 2 Mio) for implementing measure)”**

**Buyers**  
(\*private & public)

22.500 €/yr

0 €/yr

0 €/yr

**Municipality**

**Tourism**

**Nature Protection**

# (Selected) Lessons Learnt

- ❑ If a measure will be implemented anyhow, generating additional funds with PES will not work as long as the potential buyers get their benefits without paying for them.
  - This constraints application of PES in WFD context.
  - The initiator for a PES may better be the beneficiary.
- ❑ A local wetland restoration may not generate sufficient benefits for stakeholders to engage in a PES.
- ❑ A detailed design of the water management measure is necessary to assess costs and benefits resulting from this measure.
  - The design needs to include adaptations from the stakeholders.
- ❑ A joined, structured assessment of changes in ES provision reveals to the stakeholders that ES are interdependent and thus it reveals to them where 'trade-offs' between ES need to be discussed and negotiated.





Thank you for your attention.

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