





Universiteit Gent  
Maritiem Instituut







**SCIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE  
MANAGEMENT OF THE  
NORTH SEA  
BELGIAN CASE STUDIES**

SUMANOS workshop 23-24/11/2006  
Introduction to the cluster & projects  
Sustainable Management of the North Sea



**Introduction to the cluster & projects**



A. SUMANOS?

B. Antecedents

- i. SUMANOS first workshop
- ii. Preparation SUMANOS book

C. SUMANOS projects

D. What now? This workshop?



## A. SUMANOS ?

SUMANOS



- = Belgian Science Policy cluster
- = GOAL:
  - Integration and valorisation
  - Dialogue and communication
- Clusters 4 Belspo projects
  - TROPHOS
  - MAREBASSE
  - GAUFRE
  - BALANS
- Timing
  - Too late for actual integration



## B.i. First SUMANOS workshop

SUMANOS



- When? January 2006
- Who?
  - All core project partners and ‘end-users groups’
  - Partners from selected ‘related’ projects
- What?
  - Presentations content & status of the projects
  - End-user reactions and discussions
  - Structured discussions in thematic groups
  - ➔ identification of relevant issues and opinions
  - ➔ basis for further realisations in SUMANOS



## First Workshop: Central themes



- **Two central theme's**
  1. Interdisciplinary research and integration of project results
  2. Marine sciences and policy
- **Several subthemes**








## Some identified needs






- Clear guidelines for sustainable management (eg s&g)
- Improving communication/cooperation
  - amongst marine scientists
  - between scientists, administrations and policymakers
- Translate and communicate research results to policy (diff levels), users and public
- Scientifically based decisions
  - better decisions
  - Easier to explain and create a public support
- Tackle some problems on a European or International scale (e.g. nursery areas)
- Fine-tuning different funding mechanisms











## General remarks


- Since SPSD II (2002), interaction with end-users and stakeholders was improved through ‘end-user committees’
  - Sometimes very positive and active participation (e.g. GAUFRE)
  - Sometimes less successful (e.g. BALANS)
- Translation to policy/public not always possible
- Belspo’s role could be improved (e.g. website)



## Pos. examples communication to public and users in existing projects


- Webcams ‘sternen eiland’ → tern colonies
- GAUFRE exhibition and publication
- DVD maps MAREBASSE
- Movies (VLIZ) and TROPHOS posters biodiversity
- GAME interface BALANS




## Interaction Marine Science & Policy


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**SUMANOS**





- Importance generally accepted
- Various obstacles:
  - Variable landscape → need for continuity
    - Political and Institutional changes
    - Legal changes
    - Flow of researchers / fluctuating funds
  - Difference in time scales
  - Unrealistic expectations
  - Priorities (policy support often secondary for researchers)
  - Independence of researchers
  - Flexibility
  - Unclear communication channels or interfaces
  - Language
  - Translation needs
  - Tasks (too much work) and means (too little money)
  - Visibility of study results




## GROUP discussions - groups

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**SUMANOS**






- Group 1 & 2 ~ scientific integration
- Group 3 ~ data management & exchange,  
...
- Group 4 ~ interaction science <-> policy
- Group 5 ~ decision support instruments
- Group 6 ~ comm. and public participation




## GROUP discussions – output

**SUMANOS**








- Full integration in SUMANOS not possible ~ timing
  - recommendations are followed by Belspo for the new clusters
- Importance fundamental scientific research
- Importance of base-funding and continuity
- Importance of data management
- Interdisciplinary research
  - Added value for scientists (and policy) recognized
  - How to approach not always that clear... - needs more time
- More cooperation between social and natural scientists
- Importance of visibility of study results
  - can be improved a lot!
  - broader reporting to scientists, stakeholders, policy and public



## B.ii. SUMANOS publication

**SUMANOS**

- Valorisation of project results
- context of relevance towards policy
  - scientifically sound but accessible
  - Towards marine scientists, end-users and policy
  - As input for the workshop
- **STATUS**
  - 6 chapters drafted - under revision
    - Language proofing
    - Graphical improvement and lay out
  - Concluding chapter remaining
    - should include workshop output



## C. SUMANOS projects

SUMANOS

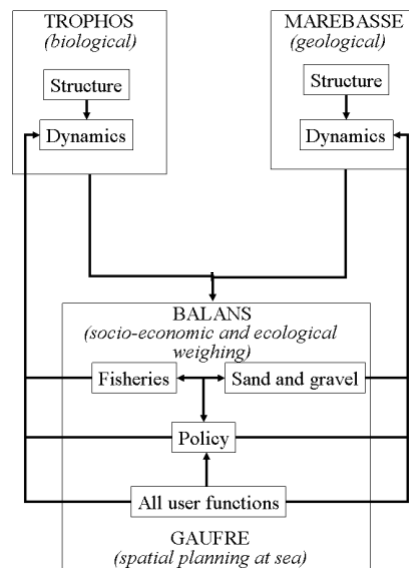


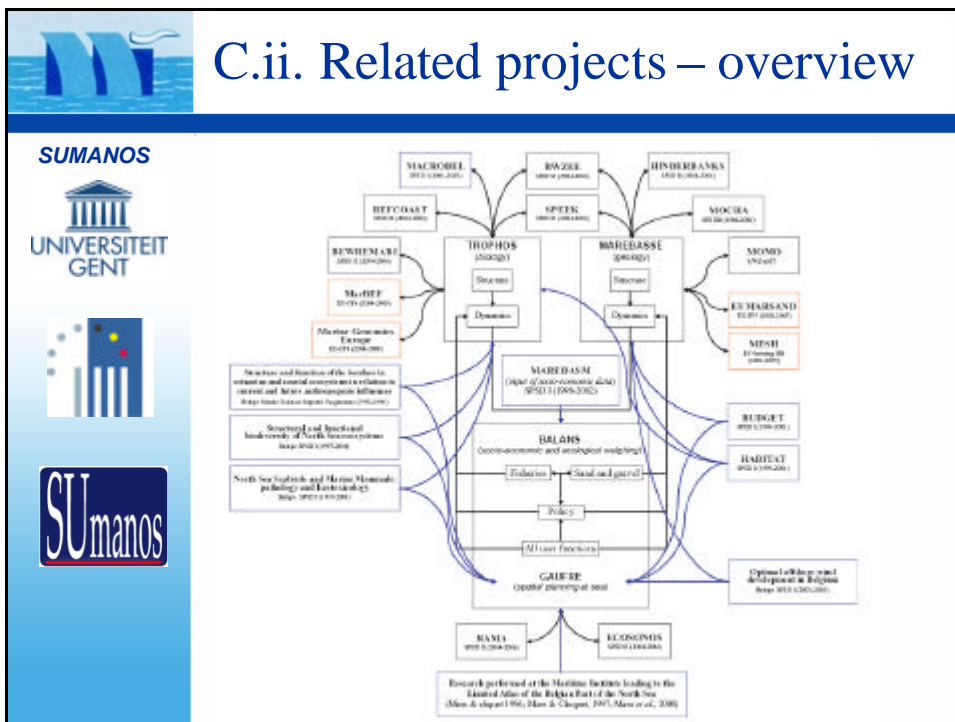
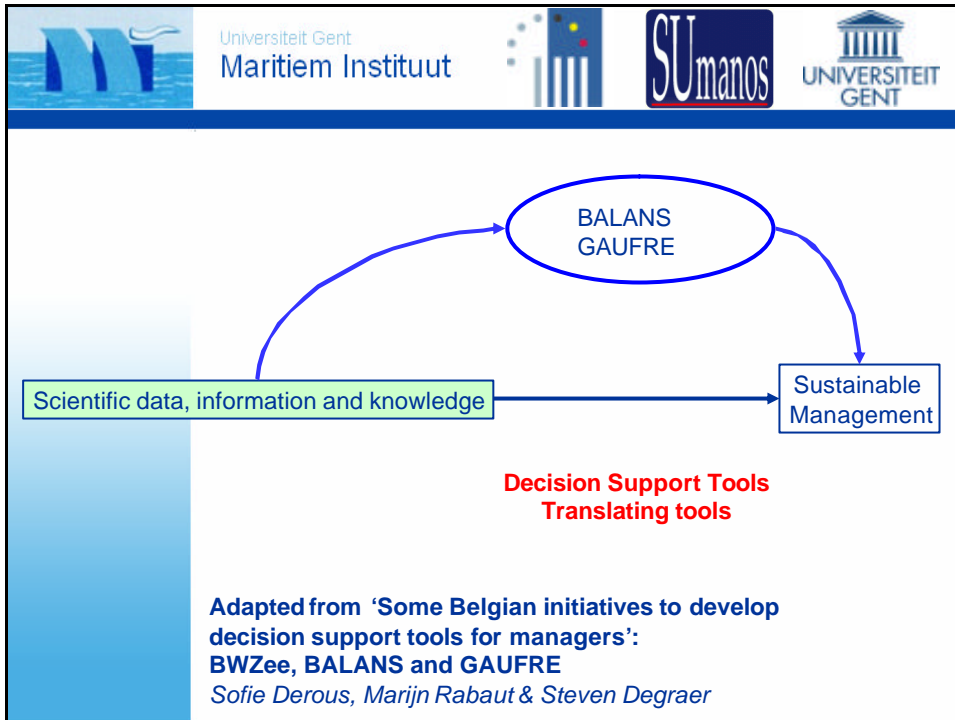
- BE → rich and diverse set of ongoing (North Sea) marine research projects in
  - Other Belspo projects
  - Other clusters
  - European and regionally funded projects




## C.i. SUMANOS core-projects

SUMANOS










## D. So what now? This Workshop?

**SUMANOS**

What do we want to achieve?

1. Evaluate and discuss SUMANOS-projects
  - ~ value/contribution to sustainable management and policy for the Belgian Part of the North Sea
  - ~ recent/ongoing research efforts Europe/Intern.
2. Formulate conclusions and a common vision → setting guiding principles
  - future cooperation in support of management and policy
  - use project results in a sustainable management context



## SESSION FOCUS - TROPHOS

**SUMANOS**





- How to transfer/translate fundamental research to policy ?
- Vice versa: how to get policy interested and involved in fundamental research ?
- How to cooperate with other scientific research groups?



## SESSION FOCUS - MAREBASSE

SUMANOS



- Bridging towards management and policy – supporting tools
- End-user interactions & user groups
- Interactions with industry
- Longevity of the project results




## SESSION FOCUS - BALANS

SUMANOS






- Importance of decision support systems?
- What do you aim to achieve with decision support systems?
- How to make them to be used ?
- If they are used, are they used for the right reasons ?



## SESSION FOCUS - GAUFRE

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- Usefulness and willingness to use the results of this kind of projects by policy?
- Outreach
- International cooperation
- Independency of researcher



## CROSS CUTTING THEMES

**SUMANOS**

- Transparency
- Continuity & funding
- Communication
  - Amongst research groups
  - Between marine sciences and policy
  - Amongst policy makers and advisors
  - Between public and private entities
- Framework for interactions?



Thanks!!

SUMANOS



- Belpo
- SUMANOS partners



- End-users
- Experts