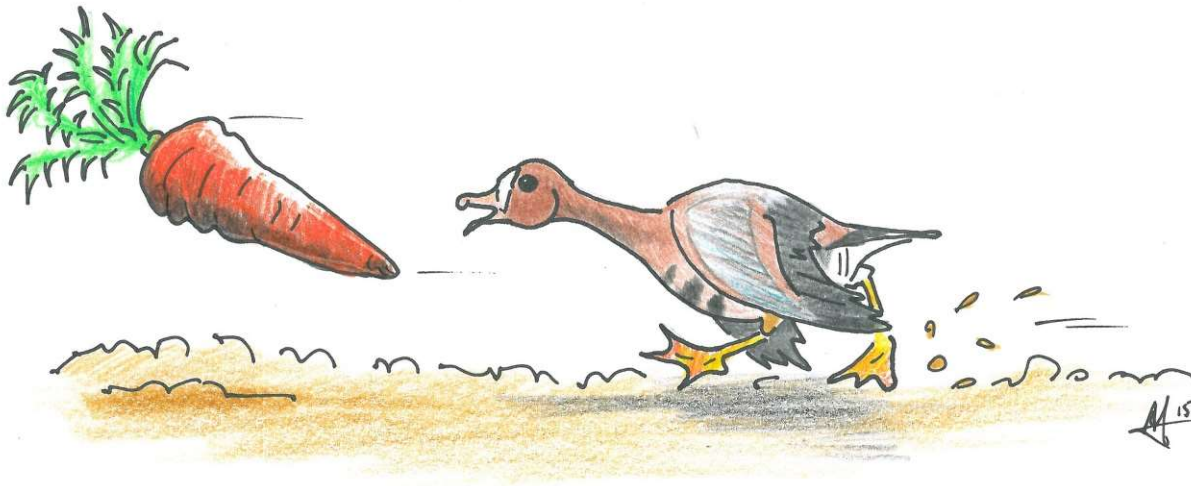




Responses of wintering geese to the designation of goose foraging areas in The Netherlands and implications for cost-effectiveness

Kees Koffijberg, Sovon Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology

How it got started



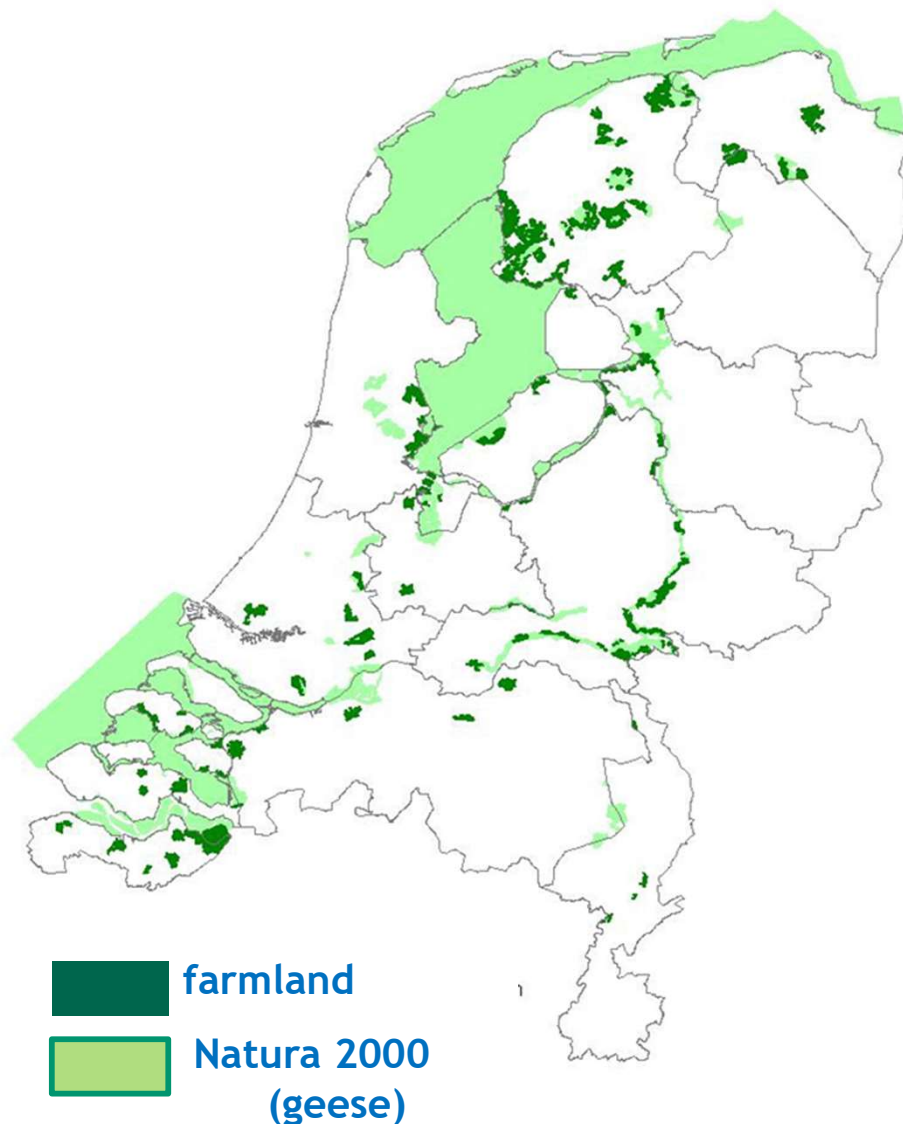
2005/06 - 2013/14:

Main aim (initially): accommodate geese in specific areas and disturb them (incl. lethal scaring/derogations) outside those areas. In addition: safeguard favourable conservation status of species affected.

→ Transfer from a system of only compensation payments for crop-damage into a more “durable” system with agri-environmental schemes and payments per hectare

Focus species by that time: Greater White-fronted Goose, Greylag Goose, (Barnacle Goose, Pink-footed Goose), Wigeon

Set-up of goose accommodation areas



Σ 80.000 ha, consisting of:

65.000 ha (81 %) farmland - mainly grassland (arable only as supplementary pilots)

15.000 ha (19 %) grassland managed by nature conservation bodies

Size area from calculations of carrying capacity of grassland in NL (Ebbinge & van der Grefte 2004, ~75.000 ha)

Quota per province from recorded goose distribution; mainly voluntary participation farmers

On top of that: nature reserves, e.g. salt marshes, regarded as accommodation area as well

How it was implemented

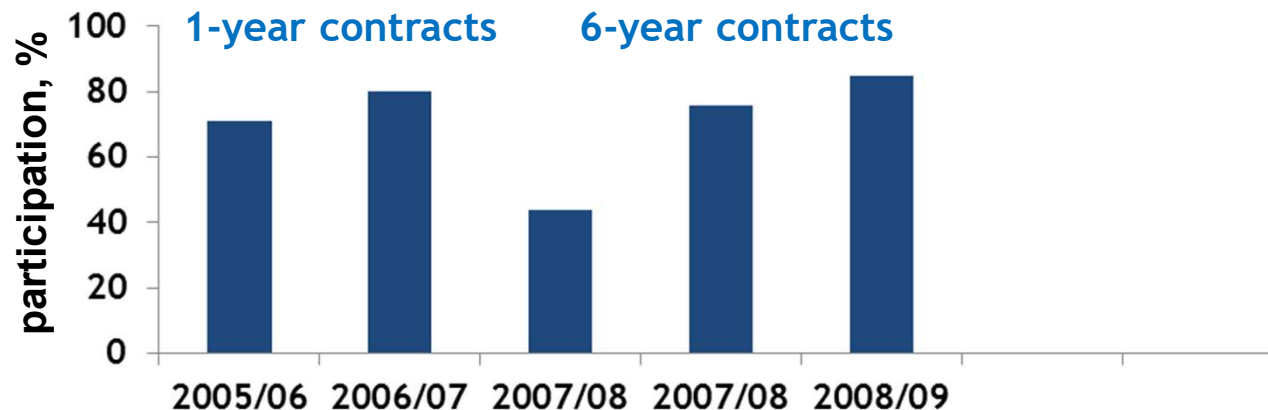
Agri-environment schemes:

6-year contracts

Fixed payment per hectare

but...

Implementation progressing slowly, never reaching full implementation



Compensation damage:

Initially not planned, but compromises:

Payment for farmers that had not agreed on AE-scheme, inside accommodation areas

Payment for farmers outside accommodation areas

→ issue with clear delineation of accommodation areas

→ issue with incentives

How did it work out?



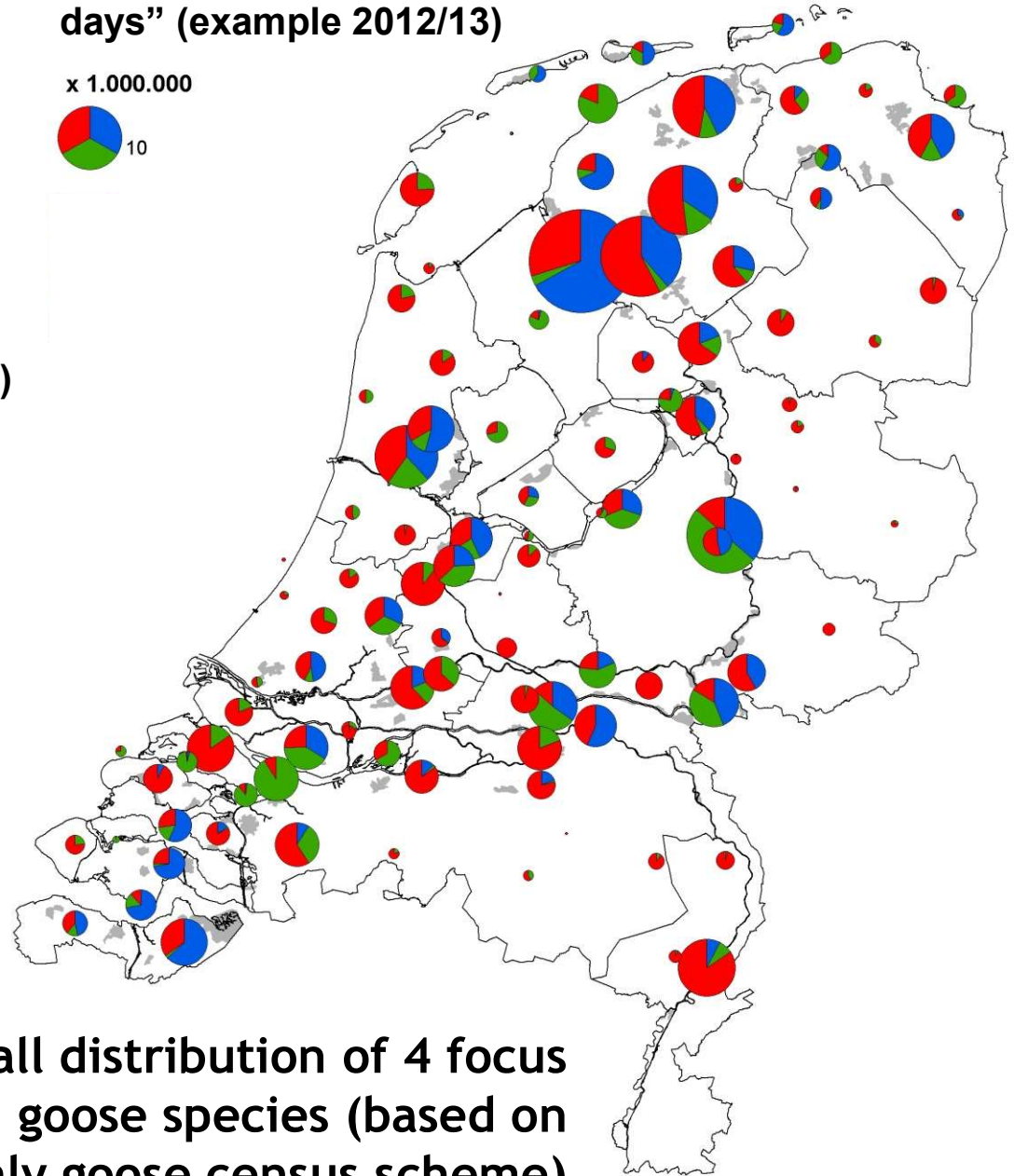
Example 2012/13, national
scale:

267.000.000 WFG-days

55% accommodation areas
45% regular farmland

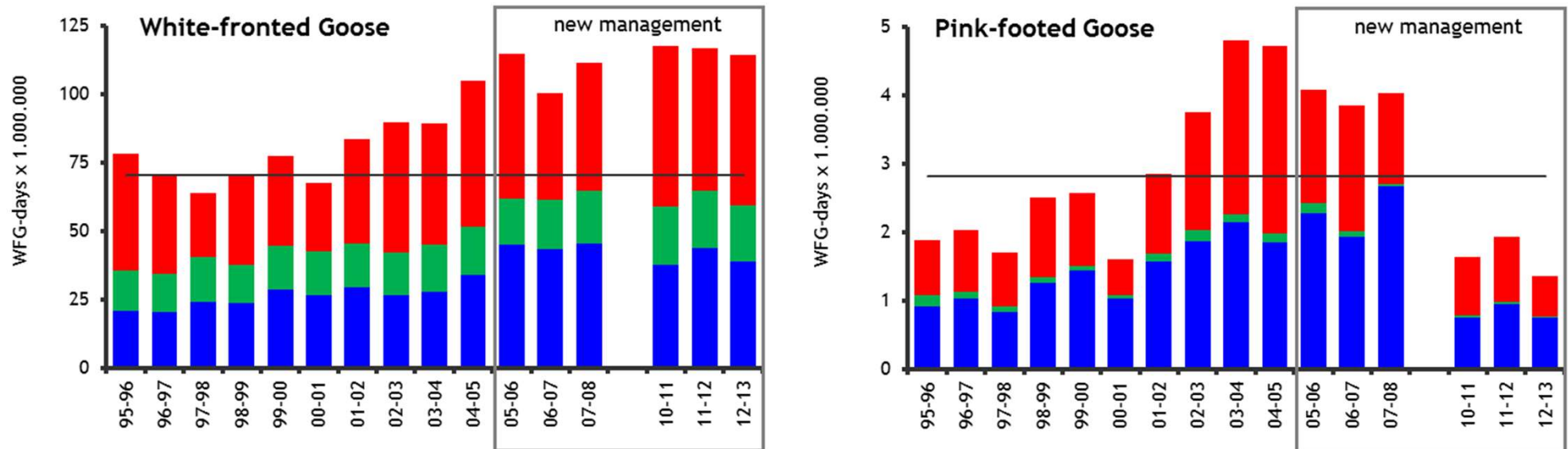
“white-fronted goose
days” (example 2012/13)

x 1.000.000



Overall distribution of 4 focus
goose species (based on
monthly goose census scheme)

No significant trend in use of accommodation areas (for WfG confirmed by analysis of distribution of neckbanded birds)



Legend as in previous slide - line denotes calculated capacity needed to accommodate geese

Species	1995/1996–2004/2005		2005/2006–2012/2013						
	Prop. ass.		Prop. ass.		Mapping		Trend		
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	%/year	SE	<i>P</i>
Pink-footed goose	54.8	6.8	43.6	7.0	55.6	7.0	−0.028	0.313	0.97
White-fronted goose	53.2	6.4	48.6	4.1	55.1	4.1	−0.003	0.312	1.00
Greylag goose	57.2	5.4	47.6	3.2	49.6	3.2	0.009	0.311	0.98
Barnacle goose	65.3	3.9	67.3	3.8	73.8	3.8	0.009	0.353	0.98
All 4 species	56.6	4.5	52.1	2.2	57.4	2.2	0.008	0.313	0.98

The initial aim did not quite work

- Still large number of geese outside accommodation areas
- No trend in time in use of accommodation areas
- No reduction in cost, as damage compensation and agri-environmental schemes (payment/hectare) multiplied overall payments

Mainly because:

- Implementation confounded and compromised by multiple factors - slow progress implementation, irregularly shaped accommodation areas, uncoordinated scaring regimes (in combination with highly mobile geese), no optimal incentives for farmers
- → from a goose perspective rather weak difference between accommodation areas and regular farmland with scaring



Main conclusions

How it ended...



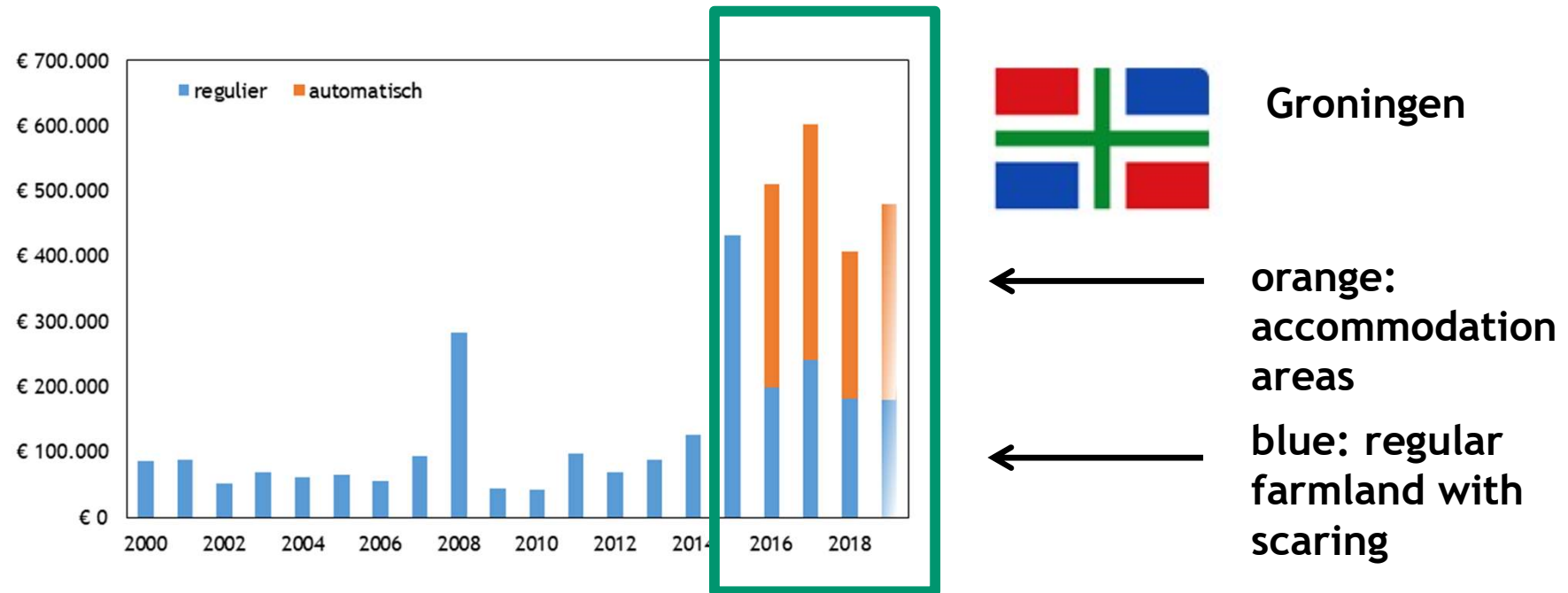
Transfer from management
at national scale to
provincial scale (12
provinces)



“12 provinces ~ 12 management regulations”

- 2005-2013 Experiment with goose accommodation areas was commonly considered not successful (but... some of it's basic considerations were also violated)
- Some provinces continued, mainly from a conservation perspective (balance conservation vs. disturbance and (lethal) scaring - usually set in multiple-year management plans
- Usually accommodation areas (much) smaller in size - determined by financial constraints and not after calculated capacity for geese.
- Compensation payments continue, with small differences between the provinces (conditions, amount of payment). Sometimes different compensation payment regimes for inside and outside accommodation areas
- Currently: initiative to achieve more coordination among the provinces

Some examples from provincial evaluations

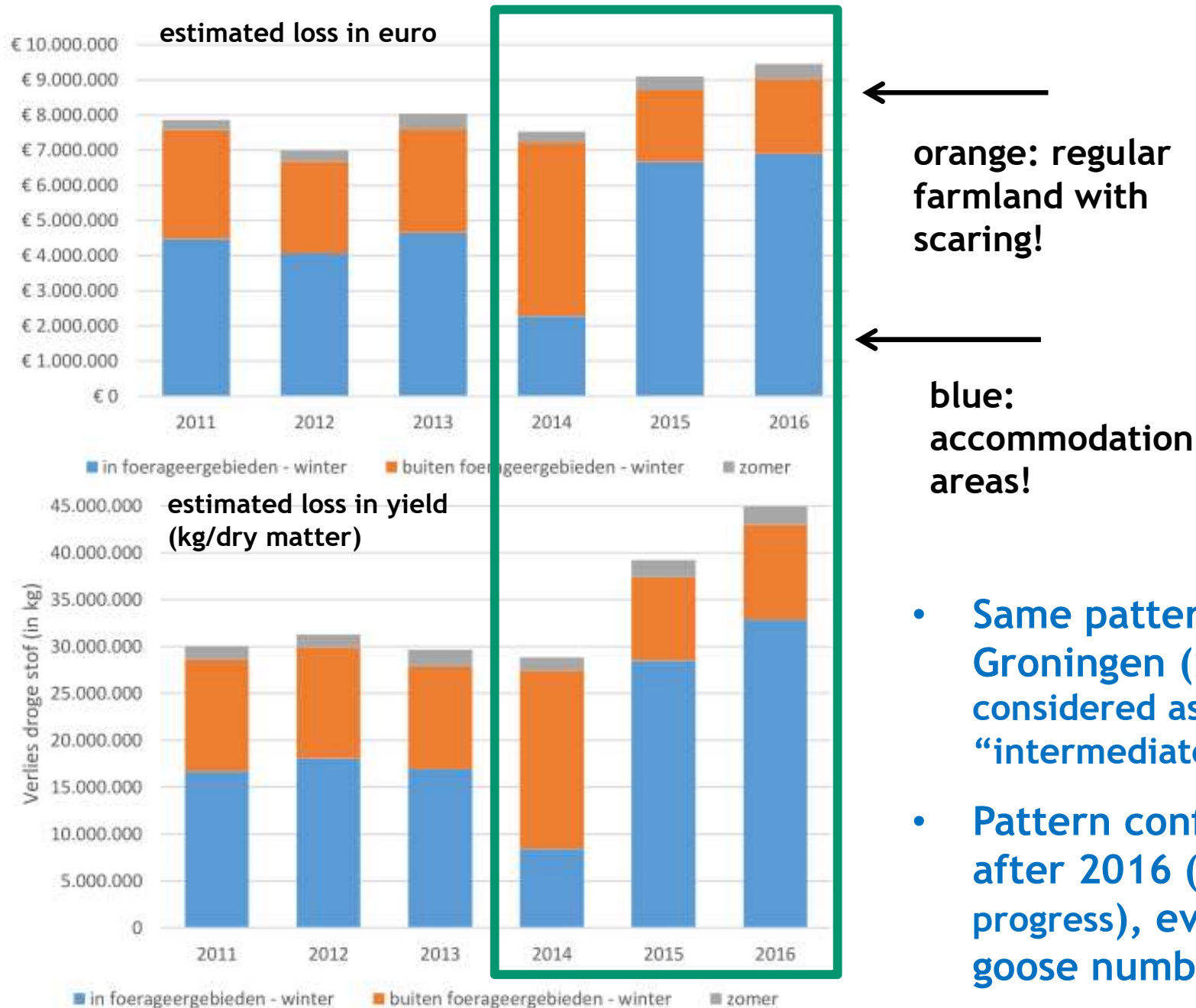


- Strong increase in compensation payments (euro) after new management scheme was introduced in 2014/15 (2015 considered “intermediate year”)
- → In accommodation areas automatic estimates of damage (independ from if farmers claim damage). Outside: only estimates when farmer starts routine for damage-recording

Some examples from provincial evaluations



Fryslân



- Same pattern as Groningen (2014 considered as “intermediate year”)
- Pattern confirmed after 2016 (analysis in progress), even when goose numbers stable

Lessons learned

- Introduction of goose accommodation areas need:
 1. clear goals what to achieve: balance payments/ budget planning, overall managing of conflict, conservation purpose, how many geese should be accommodated (model approach)
 2. clear difference in “safety perception” between accommodation areas and regular farmland with scaring, from a goose perspective
 3. clear incentives and coordination of scaring
- Further considerations:
 1. set up facilitating certain species may confound use by other species (e.g. heavily grazed areas by Barnacle Goose may not be beneficial to others)
 2. Estimation of damage should follow similar routines

Questions?

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