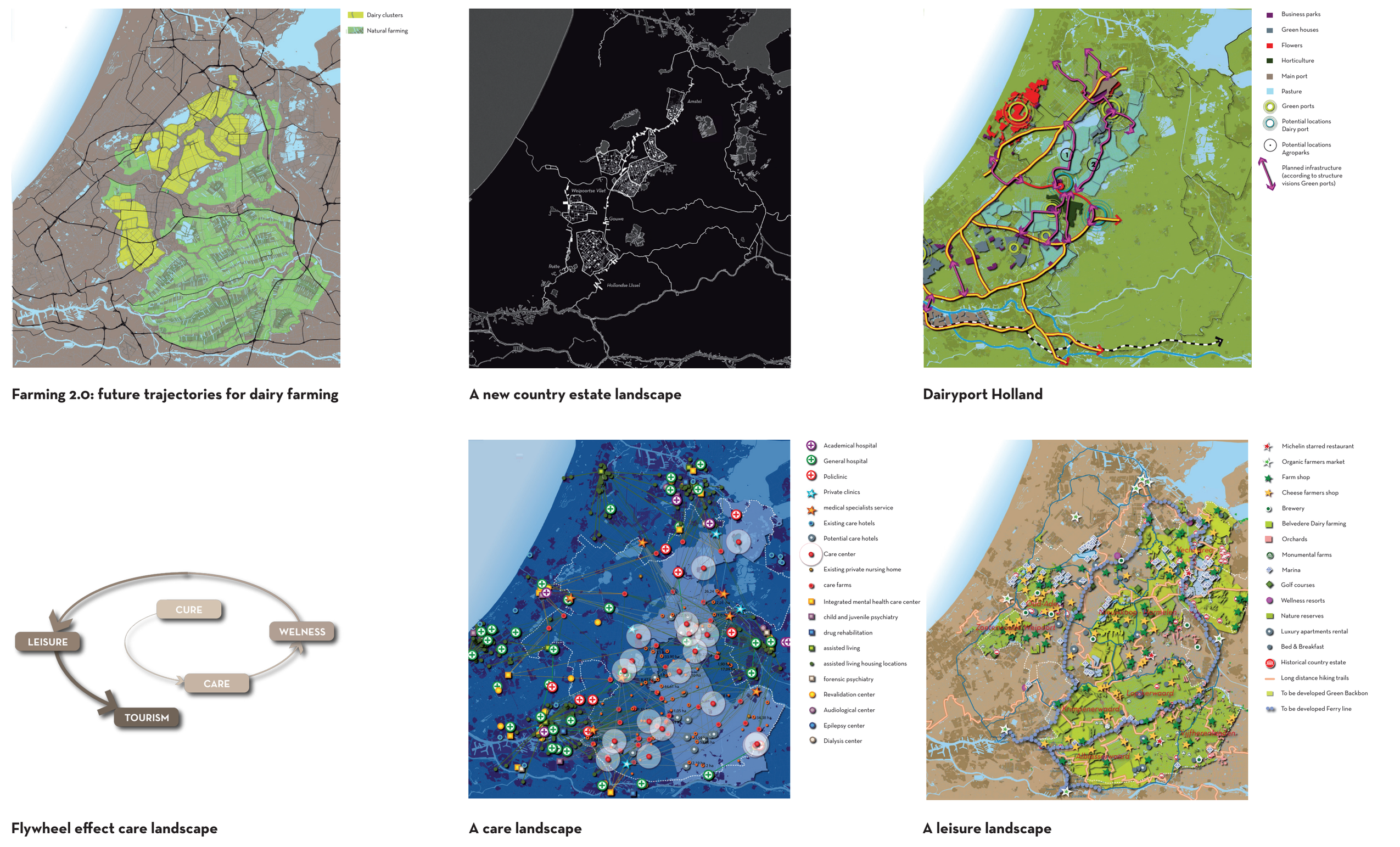
A more distinct palette of cultural landscapes: nearby located pleasure gardens and more distant rough farmlands, will provide the urbanized western part of the Netherlands extra capacity to compete with similar metropolitan regions all around the World.

Holland´s Garden

Holland´s Garden has been developed from the point of view that actor involvement is indispensable for regional spatial planning. It is part of the graduation project 'Green belts Revisited, rethinking and reconfiguring the spatial relationship of city and its adjacent countryside in north west European metropolitan regions: the case of the Randstad's Green Heart' as completed in 2012 at Delft University of Technology by Remco van Dijk, student number: 9209819. First mentor: Roberto Rocco de Campos Pereira, Dr. MSc. R.C., second mentor: Eric Luiten, Prof. ir. E.A.J.



Farming 2.0: future trajectories for dairy farming

A new country estate landscape

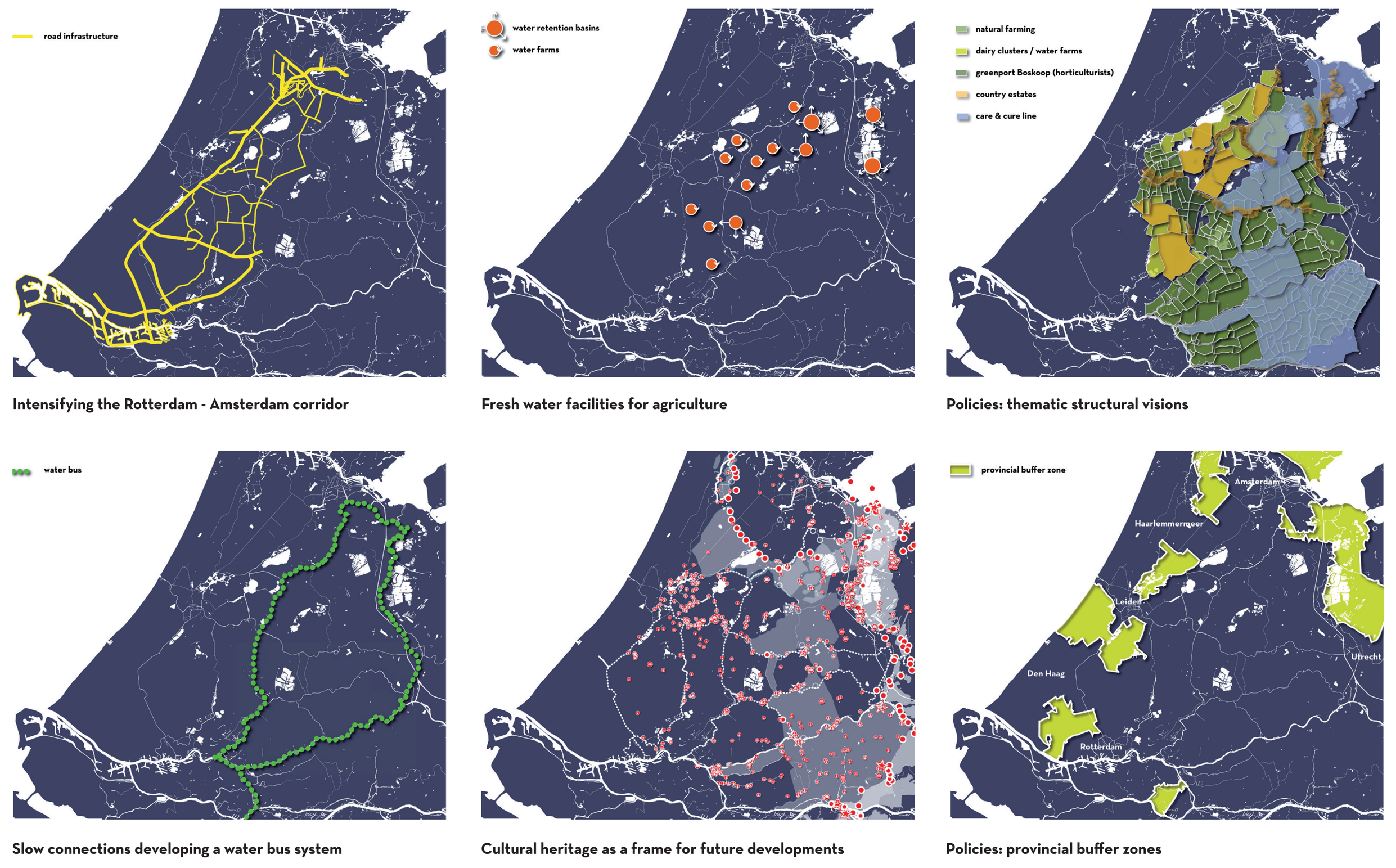
Dairyport Holland

Flywheel effect care landscape

A care landscape

A leisure landscape

POTENTIAL FUTURE DIRECTIONS



Intensifying the Rotterdam - Amsterdam corridor

Fresh water facilities for agriculture

Policies: thematic structural visions

Slow connections developing a water bus system

Cultural heritage as a frame for future developments

Policies: provincial buffer zones

GREEN HEART POLICY UPDATE

GOVERNMENT´S ROLE

Institutions resist change, even when the ideas that where responsible for their constitution are long surpassed. In this case the pursued adaptive spatial regime exist uneasily at best with traditional government. However, change should occur outside but also alongside traditional government activities. The imagined resilient governance system will not replace formal government, but will coexist with it, as a kind of shadow system. It will allow for experiment and select what appears to work, pragmatically combining ideas in various ways. It may provide innovations and ideas that can be taken up by formal government.

The proposed networks however must be enabled by governing institutions that provide incentive structures for participation, technical knowledge, and legitimacy. Supportive frameworks for collaboration include budgets, laws, regulations, and political and financial incentives for participation.

POLICIES

In terms of spatial planning policies successful innovations and ideas can be integrated and institutionalized in so-called structural visions. A structural vision is an overall indicative spatial plan that can be used by all levels of government in the Netherland as a framework to integrate spatially relevant decision-making. Concerning the form of structural visions there is a lot of flexibility. It is also allowed motivation and policy choices to concern issues that go beyond spatial planning, as long as they give enough guidance for the development of the land-use plans. Beside specific territories structural visions can also concern only one specific element, theme or aspect. So for instance it can only concern agriculture development. Land use plans bring in the juridical constraints to what you can and cannot do at a certain plot or piece of land. By changing them in accordance with the proposed policies in the structural visions, they can help to steer future developments in the pursued direction. National government could consider dairy farming as a top sector, in the same manner as the Greenports, and facilitate and stimulate the development of a Dairyport advancing dairy agriculture.

In the process the proposed regime will also gradually change existing practices through the cumulative effect of evolving norms, expectations, and understandings as well as collective learning (Innes and Booher, 2010).

INITIAL INVESTMENTS

As stated above collaboration needs supportive frameworks by governing institutions. Besides this initial investments by government are also regarded a necessity. Provinces of South and North Holland should speed up the intended improvement of relevant provincial roads and speed up the development of the proposed N207 north (connection Aalsmeer – Alphen aan den Rijn). The three Provinces of the Green Heart should start the development of a more extended waterbus system. Starting point is the existing waterbus line between Dordrecht and Rotterdam. The waterbus system will make places more accessible, but in a slow way. Places connected to this system will become a reachable, but far distant destination.

BUFFER ZONES

During the process it became clear that within the region there are two different kinds of reasons to keep space open from urbanisation: at the one hand provision of outdoor recreation and other services to society and at the other hand conservation of natural and cultural values. For the most part within the Green Heart it is about preserving cultural historic landscape, however in the case of the Vechtstreek and the Oude-Ade region recreational uses have become a focus point. This providing for recreational demands requires a complex and diverse open space system to suit the needs of various population groups (different age groups, young parents, handicapped people, cultural differences, etc.). Planning for recreation addresses questions such as how much, what sort and where the open space is needed. They need a high level of intervention. The project therefore proposes to include these areas to the former national buffer zones to make up new provincial buffer zones. A policy instrument that makes the needed high level of intervention possible.

RESILIENT GOVERNANCE

Central to the Holland´s Garden plan are the proposed actor networks. These networks are supposed to connect actors, ideas, and knowledge in changing combinations and across organizations and diverse issues. They make up the core of a pursued adaptive governance regime that is considered to be a crucial precondition for a sustainable future spatial development of the territory.

This adaptive governance regime has been developed in a context in which Dutch national government is retreating from the field of spatial planning (I&M, 2012). A shift that best can be seen as part of a larger global trend that policy, defined as the attempt to achieve a desired outcome, is no longer the result of governing processes that are fully controlled by formal government, but subject to negotiations between a wide range of public, semi-public and private actors (Sörensen and Torfing, 2007). Scholars call this phenomenon 'network governance' (Innes and Booher, 2010).

In order to deal with this new emerging situation the proposed strategic spatial strategy will be focused on employing the power of networks, which connects public, semi-public and private actors. The strategy acknowledges the existence of interdependency among players and the inability of a single actor or organization to make progress working alone. Moreover as the proposed networks are connected to diverse actors around specific problems (for instance land maintenance and water management) and specific geographic areas, (like the lake bed polders and peat lands) these networks will build up a sensitivity to local realities that the centralized government often cannot achieve. They also increase coordination across boundaries such as those between goverment agencies (waterboards, national forest service, etc.) levels of government (municipalities and provinces), experts from different fields (water management experts, ecologists, economists, etc.), and opposing ideological camps (nature preservationists, farmers, etc.).

Ultimately the strategy aims to progress the developed networks into a governance regime. The proposed actor networks will allow for experiment and select what appears to work, combining ideas in various ways in a pragmatic style. Outcomes, innovations, ideas that seem to work will be progressed in a relatively stable pattern of policy making that constitutes a specific form of regulation, or mode of co-ordination (Sörensen and Torfing , 2007).

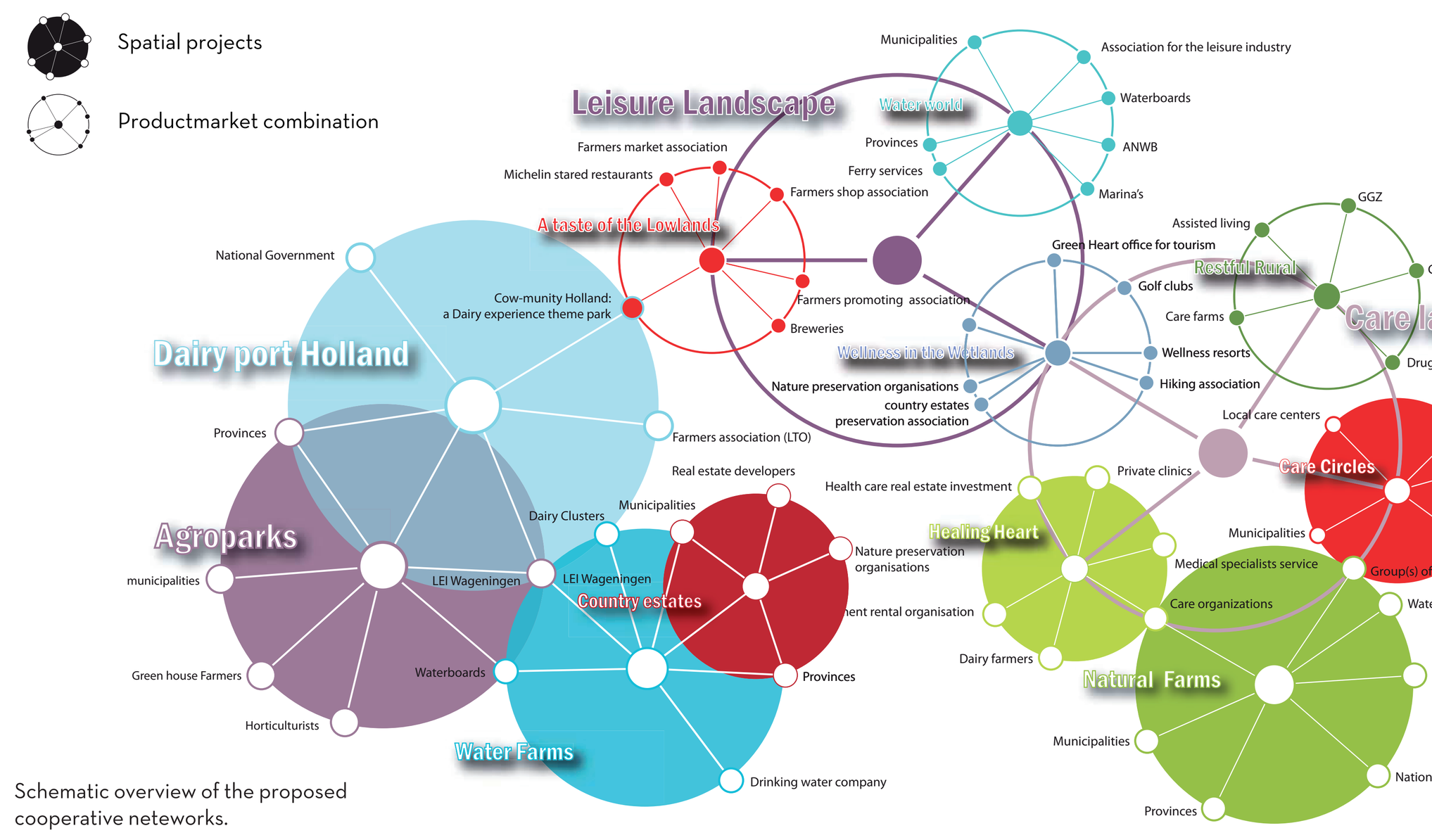
In light of ongoing globalisation and following Innes and Booher (2010) this project considers change to be normal and stability what needs to be understood. In this context sustainability is considered to be a dynamic process rather than an end product. The developed regime is regarded to be able to build capacity to address the various and sometimes contrasting needs of multiple actors in this state of constant change, complexity and fragmentation characterising the process of globalisation.

Resilience is a key concept that can be used to understand how this adaptive governance regime can work. A resilient system is one that can withstand shocks and surprises, absorb extreme stresses, and maintain its core functions, through perhaps in altered form (Innes and Booher, 2010). Resilience refers to three mean features: the amount of change a system can undergo and still retain the same controls on function and structure, or still be in the same state, within the same domain of attraction; the degree to which a system is capable of self-organisation; the ability to build and increase the capacity for learning and adaption in a system.

In order the pursued governance system to become resilient the proposed networks will be built around many type of agents, operating with different perspectives, knowledges, and interests. This diversity is crucial both to assure a wide variety of information is at work and that there will be many options and many players with different capabilities to take actions. These proposed networks need two main feautures to be succesfull (Innes and Booher, 2010). First they need to share and discuss information and experiments in order to develop common understandings.

This interactions need to cross sectors, scales and jurisdictional boundaries, as well as public and private sectors. This interaction needs to be collaborative to assure that listening and mutual learning takes place. They cannot be controlled in detail by a central authority if this is to be an adaptive system. They have to be self-organizing and evolving.
Secondly the proposed networks need informed and effective selection mechanisms. For a system to be productively adaptive it must include a way to eliminate ineffective strategies and agents and to encourage those with more valued outcomes. Unfortunately government often interferes with the natural selection process, as it continues to fund approaches that are ineffective because political preferences or simply because of slowness. A fluid governance system is able to facilitate experimentation and innovation to occur before programs are legislatively designed and institutionalized. The informality of the proposed networks makes it easier to drop failing efforts and built upon the succesfull ones.

TYPE OF NETWORKS



Schematic overview of the proposed cooperative networeks.

GARDEN OF HOLLAND

Holland´s Garden understands the central open area surrounded by the polycentric conurbation of the Randstad Holland, the Green Heart, as a unique region that can measure itself with comparable regions , like the Loire valley in France, Kent in England, Stockholm skärgard and Tuscany in Italy, that are affectionately known as ´gardens of´ because of its quintessential countryside. Within the palette of nature areas around the Randstad it is a completion to areas like the North Sea, the Zeeuwse Delta, the IJsselmeer and the Utrechtse Heuvelrug. The low dynamic polder landscape of the Green Heart can become a region of peace and contemplation in which nature flourishes and the outstretched polders will enable urbanites to forget about their daily problems.

THE URGENCY TO ACT

Central to this new perspective are new concepts that will tackle the urgent water management problems in the region. The in the west located low lake bed polders are dealing with ongoing seepage, causing soil salinisation and further complicating agriculture production ,whereas in the east the peat lands are oxidating rapidly as a result of the for agriculture needed higher groundwater table. If nothing changes the peat will be vanished within 50 years and together with it the typical dense polder structure of the peat lands. Therefore the lake bed polders will become self sufficient in its water supply by means of a shared rain water harvesting facility managed by cooperative water farms. By extensifying the agricultural land use in the peat lands higher groundwater tables are workable, and with it peat oxidation will be stopped.

The context of this new perspective is a time in which the most important landscape forming activity, agriculture, is undergoing dramatic changes as a result of shifting conditions in the world market and therefore will have problems to survive economically in the future. As the characteristics of the Dutch polder landscape is very much related to agricultural activities in the region, the future of this cultural historic landscape is also at risk. Related to the new water management concepts new directions for dairy farming will be developed. In case of the peat lands this entails extensification of the agricultural land use whereas in the eastern lake bed polders agricultural activities become more intensified.

BOSKOOP GREENPORT

The region Boskoop is an important international centre for ornamental trees. Jointly this cluster of production, trade, logistics, supply, services, knowledge and education will develop new sustainable production methods. It is foreseen that in the future this successful historical locally embedded cluster will further expand in the Green Heart region.

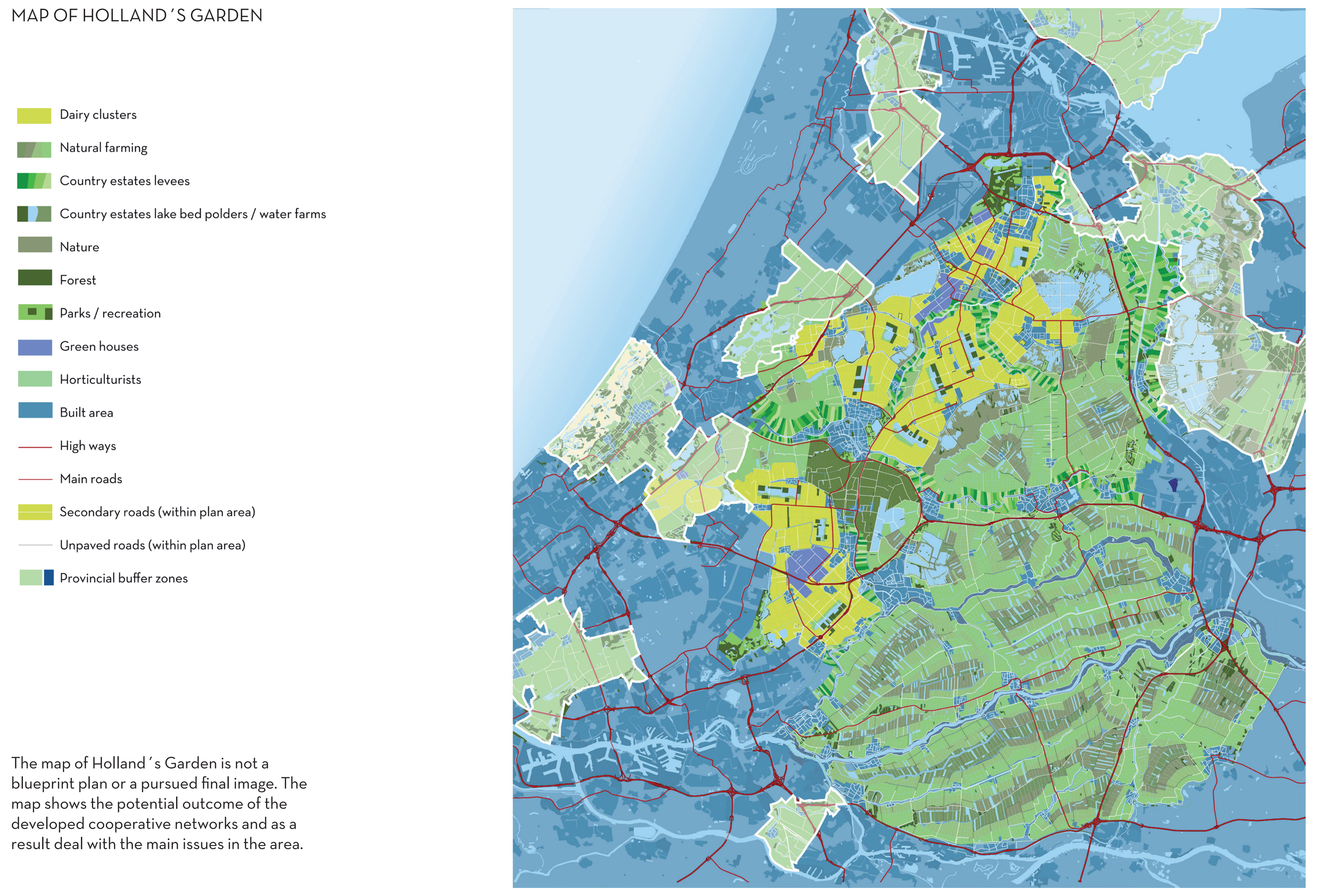
DISTANT PEAT LANDS

The peats lands in the east will give the urbanites of the Randstad the possibility to retreat from civilization. New farm cooperation's will transform the landscape into extensive and differentiated polders. The area will lack accessibility as large parts of the road system in the area will become obsolete and will become reduced to a system of indispensable roads to connect villages and farms. Only the larger cities are relatively well connected to the national network. From out of these cities the peat lands can be entered using the water bus system or the remaining country tracks. The region will incorporate a care landscape employing the green and peace qualities of the region. Here the urbanites can recover from surgery or enjoy retirement in one of the care hotels.

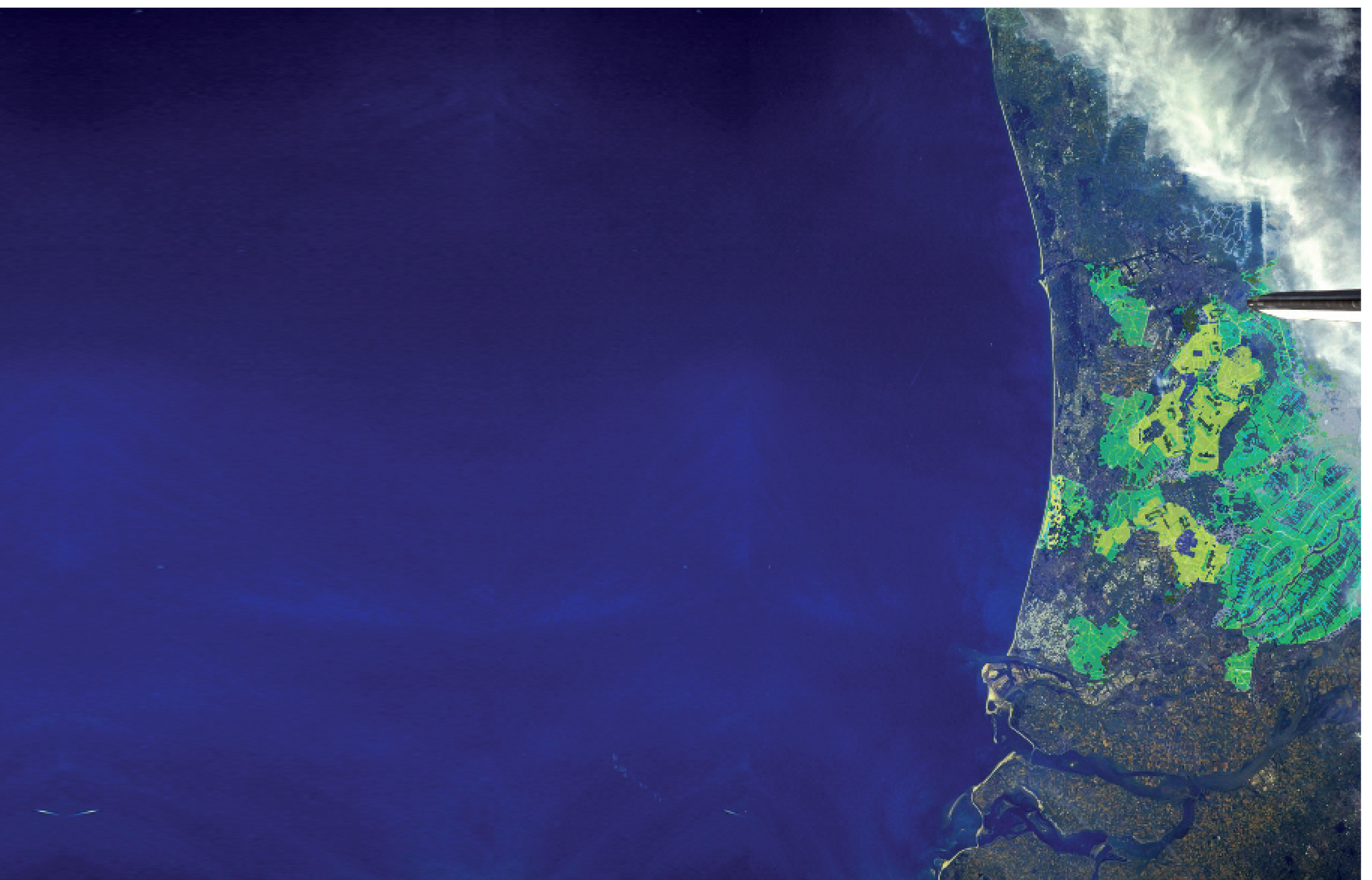
AGRO POLDERS

Farming in the lake bed polders will become a new standard in agriculture. Highly modernised and innovative dairy companies will cluster together into Holland dairy port a worldwide known centre for dairy farming. Parallel to this urbanites will colonize the best parts of the polders and transform them into a linked up system of pleasure gardens and make up a new country estate landscape. Embedded in these country estate landscapes are large water retention areas, water farms, that will be managed by cooperative dairy clusters.

MAP OF HOLLAND´S GARDEN



The map of Holland´s Garden is not a blueprint plan or a pursued final image. The map shows the potential outcome of the developed cooperative networks and as a result deal with the main issues in the area.



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