

# For a dynamic riverscape



The Elbe Habitat Foundation –  
a Purposeful Communication Approach to Managing the Elbe Estuary

- Setting the scene
- Elbe Habitat Foundation
- What we´re doing...
- Forum Tidal Elbe

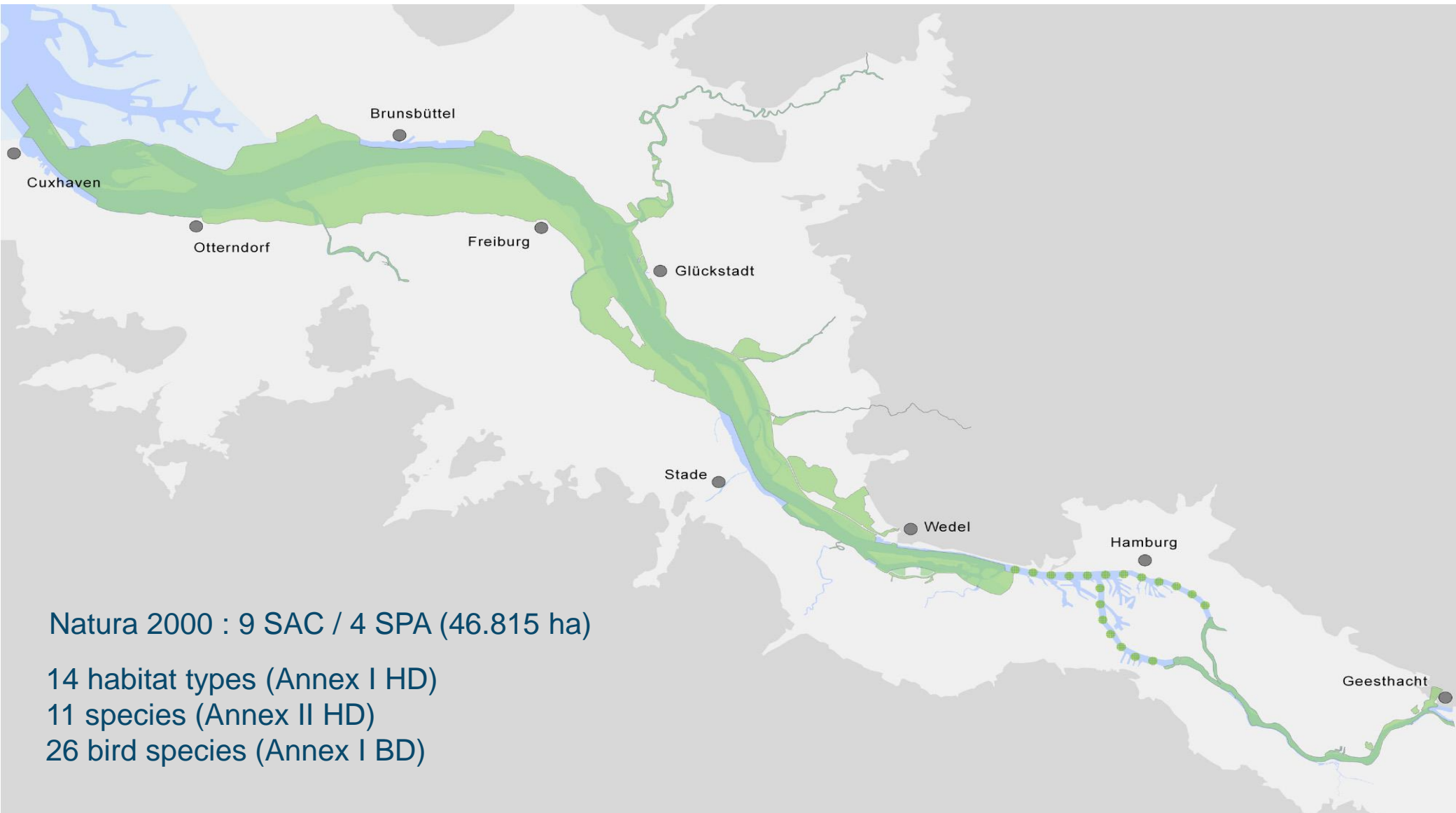




# Setting the Scene



# Setting the scene





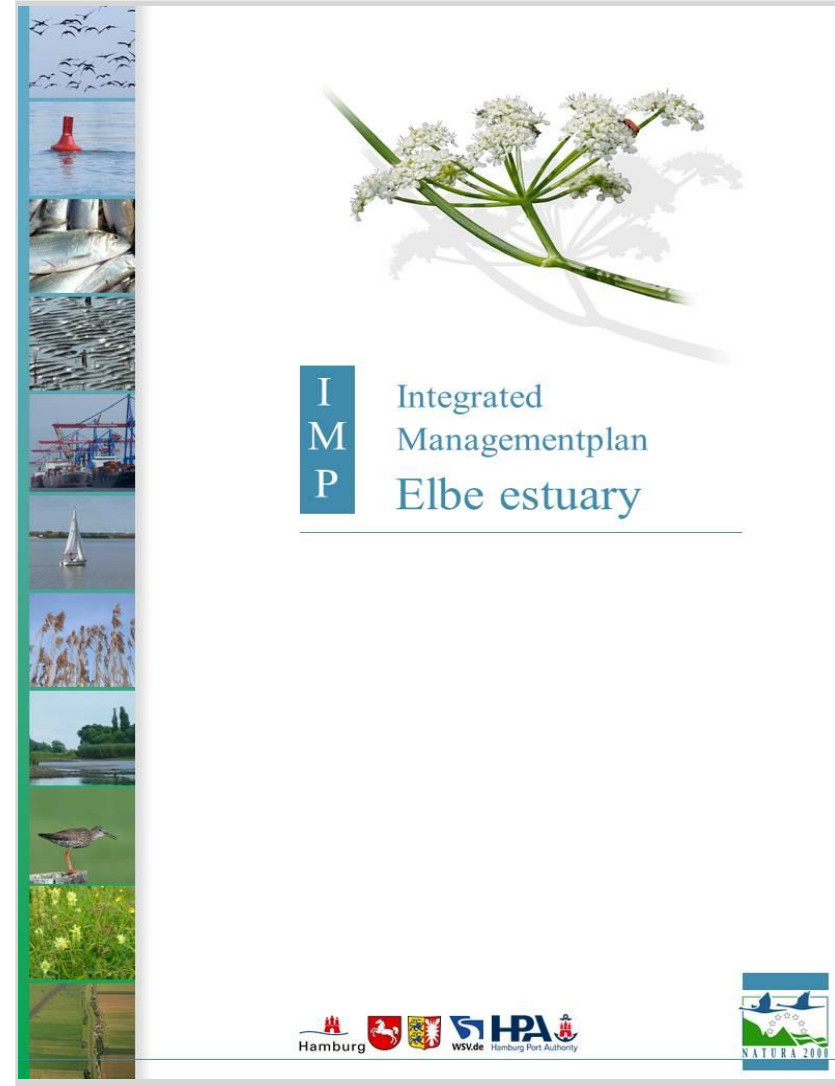
# Integrated management plan

## Goals:

- ✓ proposals for measures to achieve the objectives
- ✓ guidance for projects and measures
- ✓ additional basis for the assessment of plans or projects
- ✓ improvement of planning security

## Legal character:

- ✓ joint, trans-state plan
- ✓ guideline for state actions
- ✓ no legal binding force
- ✓ voluntary commitment of all stakeholders





## 1. Small-area measures on public property go rather well:

- ✓ good viability
- ✓ less financial effort
- ✓ just local effects
- ✓ low third party participation



## 2. Large-scale measures only go well, if:

- ✓ serious political intentions persist
- ✓ impacts as drivers for compensation measures exist
- ✓ availability of land is given
- ✓ other belongings/stakeholders benefit from the measure





## Recipe for successful implementation of measures:

- Have a good hydro-morphological understanding, if regeneration of specific habitats and species is necessary
- Monitor your results and draw your conclusions
- Don't shy away from experiments, the learning success is great
- Size matters: the bigger the scale the merrier
- Look for win-win-situations
- Always buy land, for the long term perspective
- Have some measures ready to launch when the window of opportunity opens
- Share your experiences and knowledge with other groups of players
- Communicate your successes to the public
  
- Have a lot of patience and bring a lot of time!



**Independent foundation under public law (since 2010)**

Founder: Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg

Foundation goal: to enhance the ecological status  
of Tidal Elbe

Capital: EUR 27 million (2017)

Statutory bodies of the foundation: Board of Trustees,  
Managing Director



## Financing the Elbe Habitat Foundation

Capital Stock: EUR 12 mio

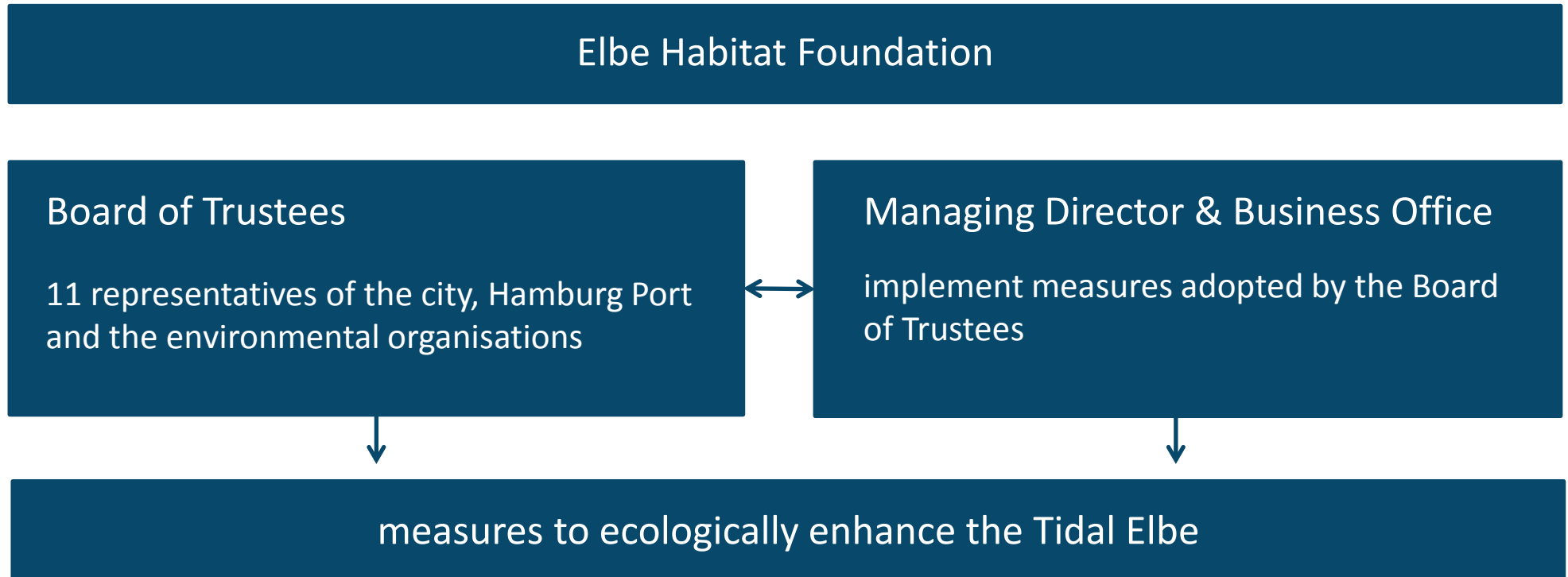
coming from flood defence budget  
and port fees

Additional resources: EUR 2,5 mio /year

coming from port fees







## Board of Trustees:

Representatives of the State: 5 (Port, Chamber of Commerce, Port Economy, Ministry of Environment)

Representatives of the NGOs: 5 (most important environmental organisations)

Chair: 1 (does not belong to these groups)



# Foundation Goal

## ENHANCING THE ECOLOGICAL STATUS OF THE TIDAL ELBE

- river banks
- forelands
- tributaries, backwaters
- mudflats
- shallow water zones
- tidal dynamics



- finished
- in process
- in preparation

- educational work
- financing of external projects

9 more trans-state projects  
(data: 31.12.2016)

# Restoring river banks



## Our projects:

- Analysis: Possibilities in Hamburg
- Holzhafen
- Schweenssand
- Juelssand
- Rhinplate
- Lühesand



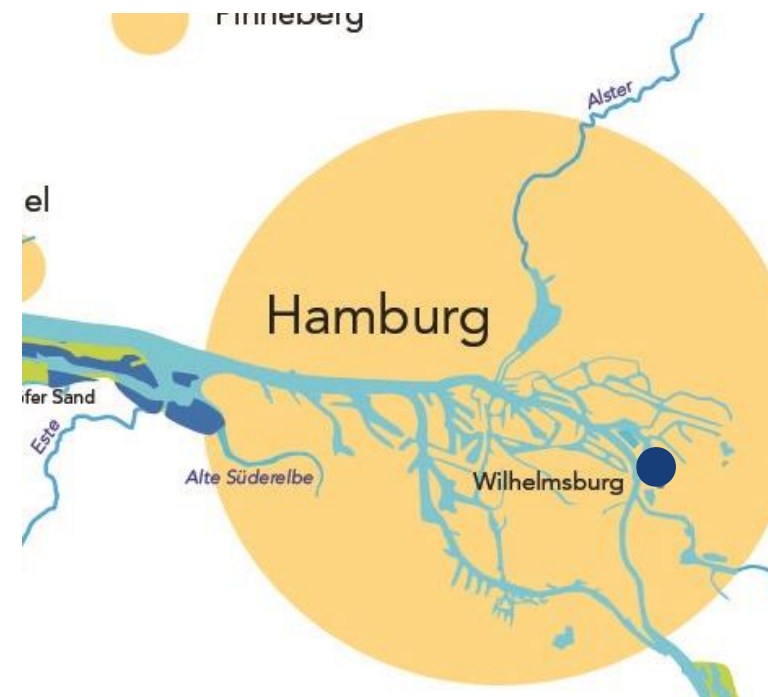


# Project Holzhafen



Goal: restore the river bank

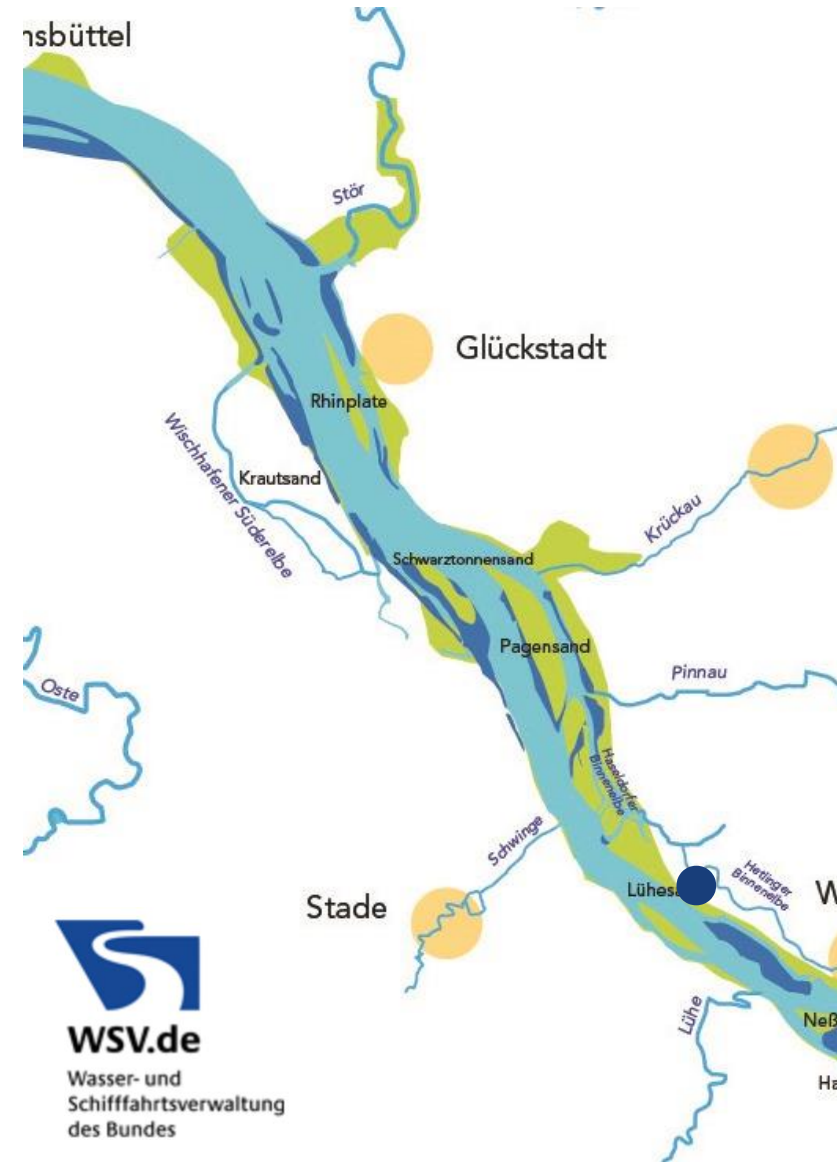
Status: finished



# Project Juelssand

Goal: restore the river bank

Status: finished





# Dismantling of revetments - effects

Hetlingen  
2004



**WSV.de**  
Wasser- und  
Schiffahrtsverwaltung  
des Bundes





# Dismantling of revetments - effects





# Creating tidal habitats



## Our projects:

- Wrauster Bogen
- Wittenbergen
- Obergeorgswerder
- Elbe at Geesthacht
- Neßsand



# Project Wrauster Bogen

## Goals:

- Remove fish-trap
- Enhance the tidal area
- Induce tidal dynamics





# Project Wrauster Bogen





# Project Wrauster Bogen





# Project Wrauster Bogen



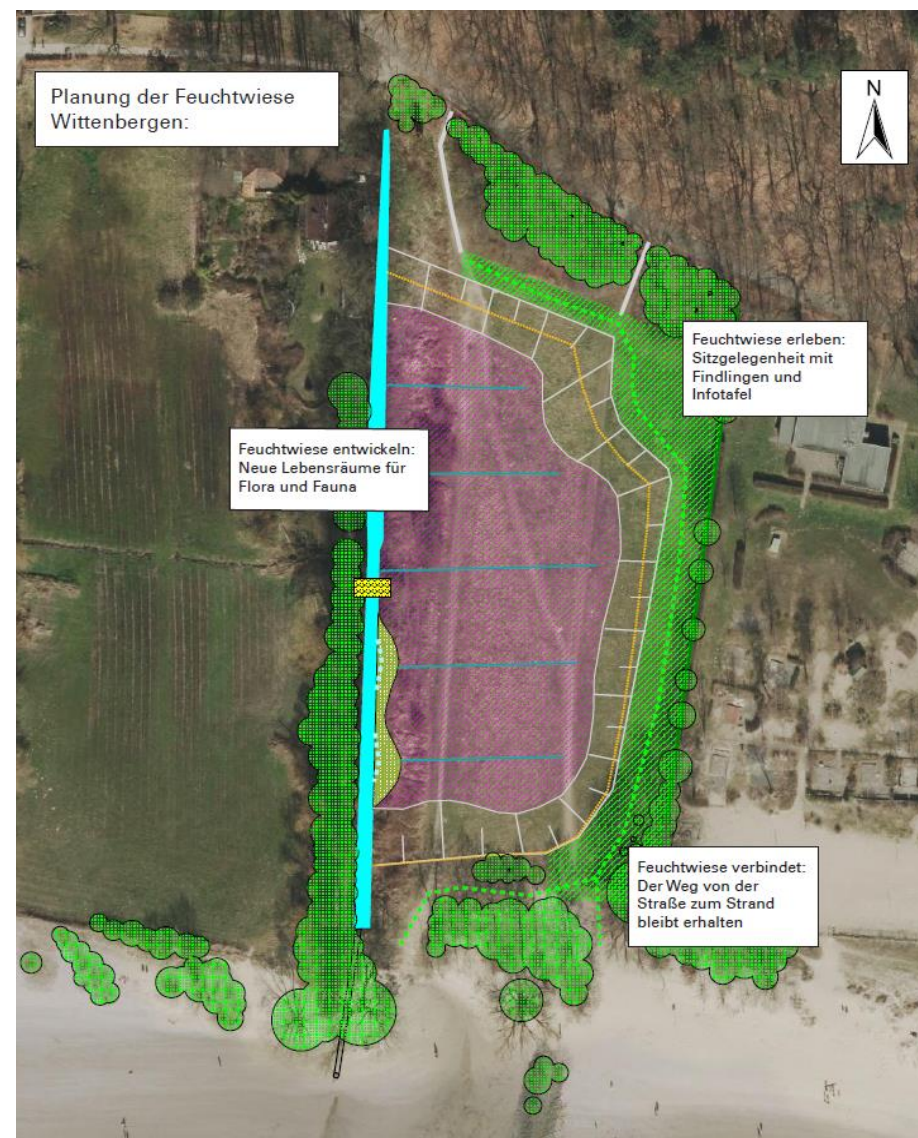


# Project Wittenbergen





# Project Wittenbergen





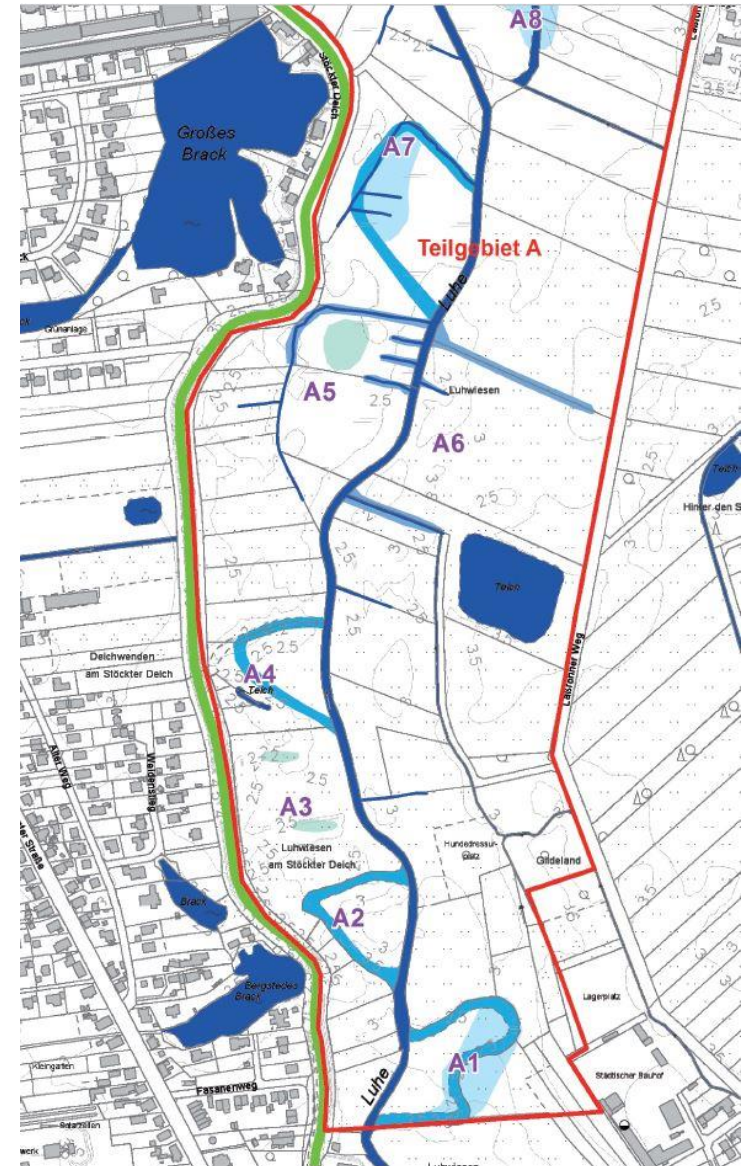
# Restoring Tidal Luhe

## Goals:

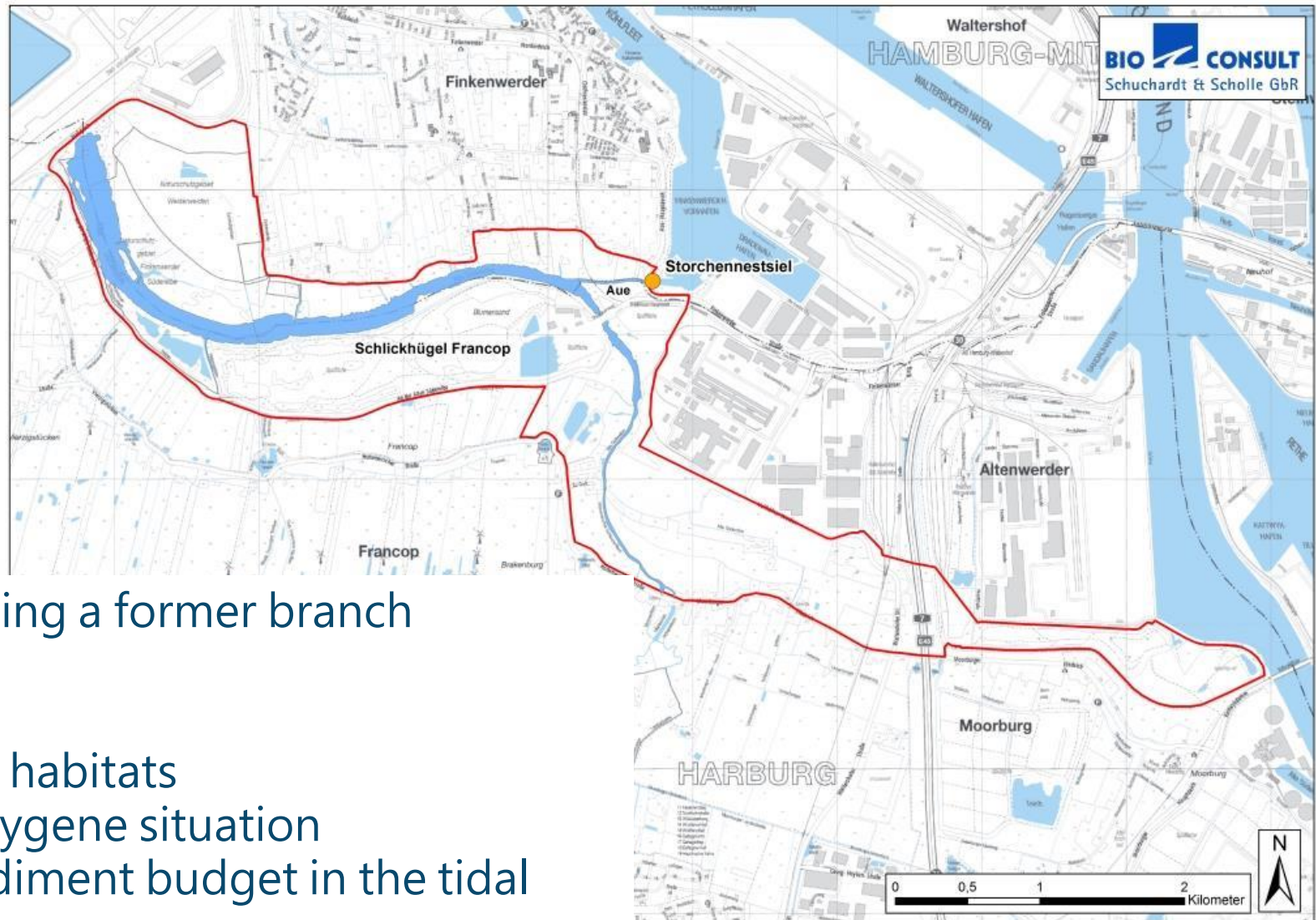
- Lengthening of the river course
- Enhancing the self purification of the river
- Improving the recreation area of the city of Winsen

## Status:

- Land purchase finished
- Planning procedure has been started



# Project: Alte Süderelbe



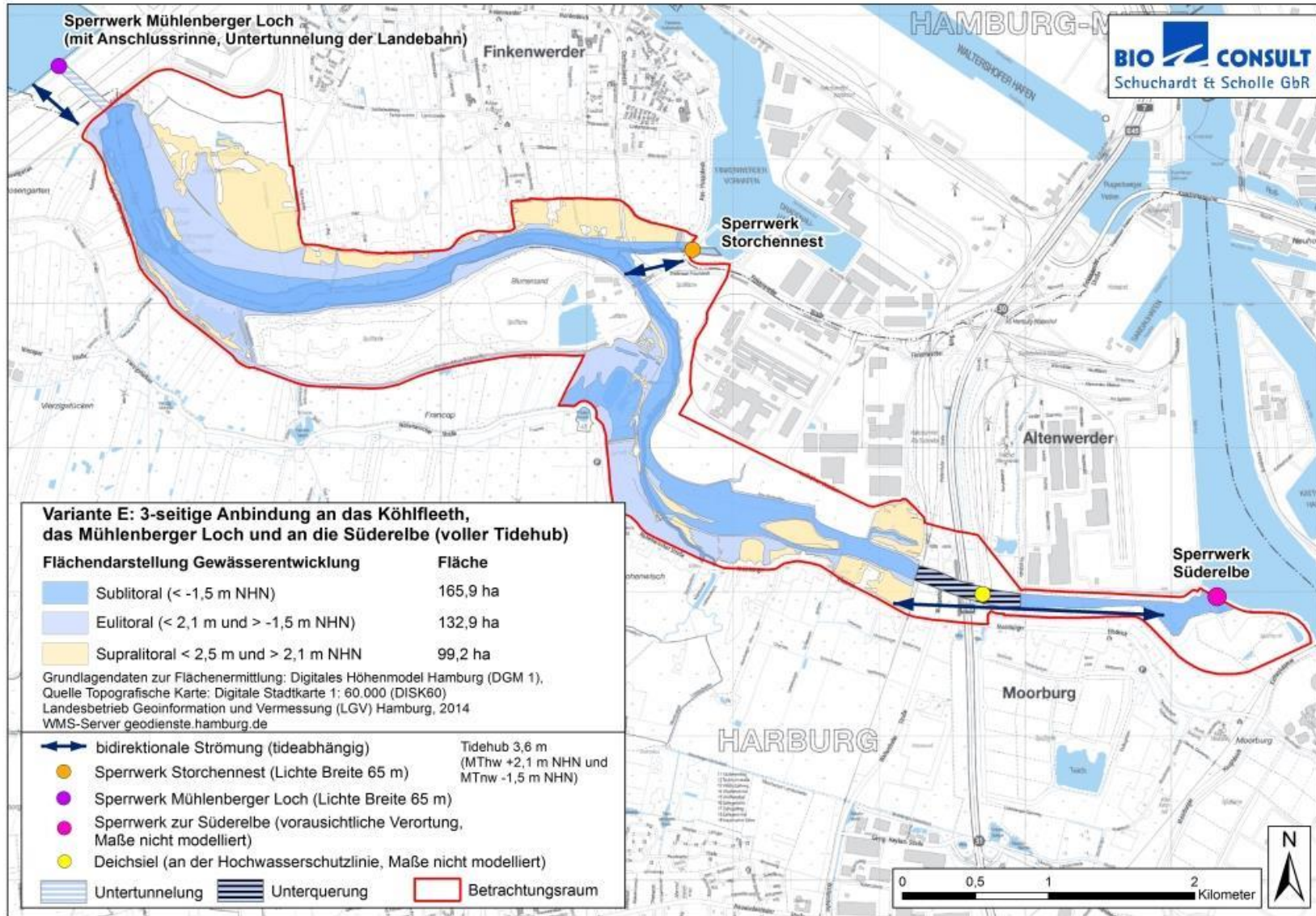
Idea: Reconnecting a former branch

## Goals:

- creating tidal habitats
- improving oxygen situation
- balancing sediment budget in the tidal Elbe



# Project: Alte Süderelbe





# Educational Work



## So far:

- Integrated management plan for the Elbe estuary

→ Lessons learned:

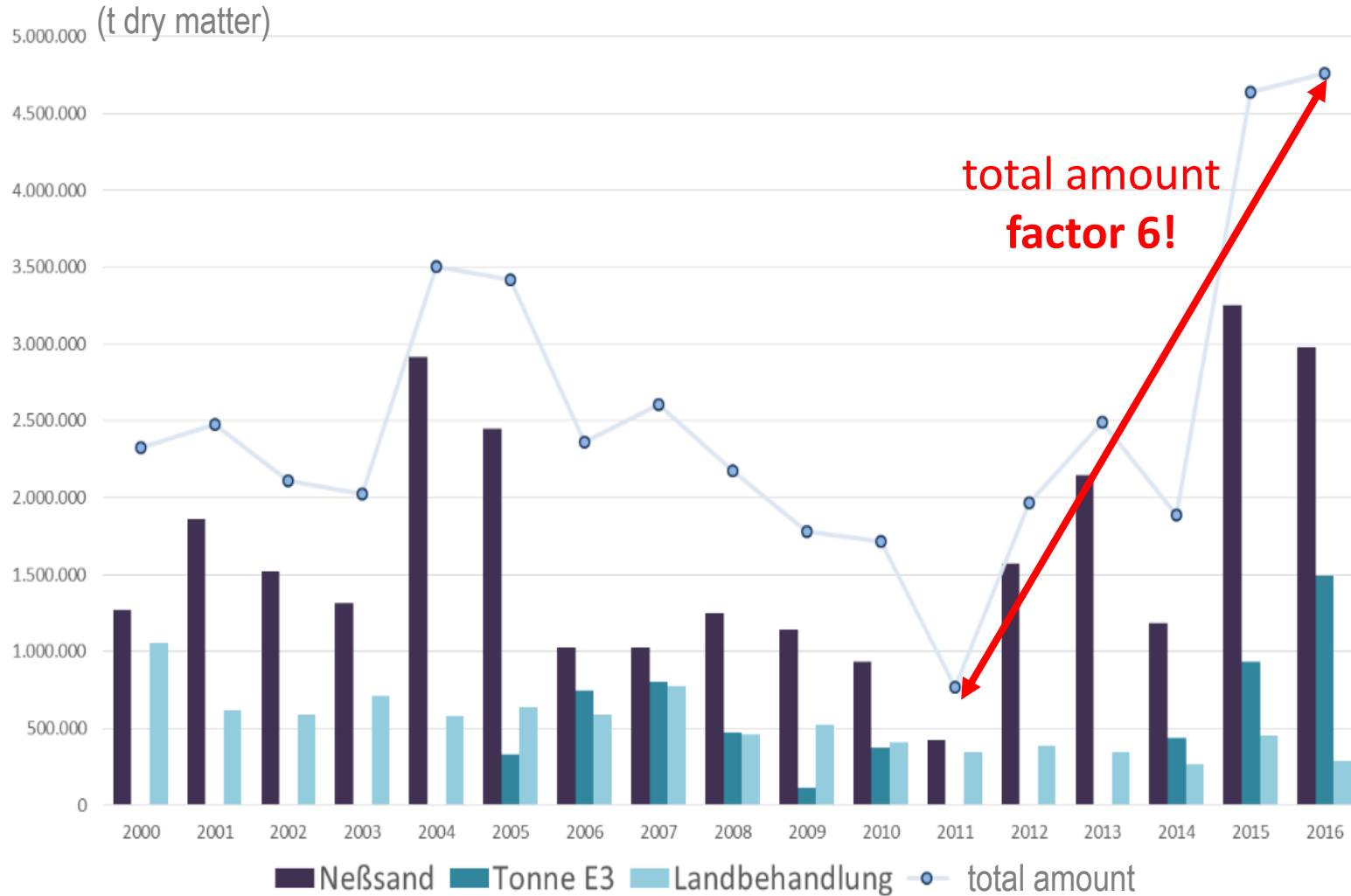
Large-scale measures only go well, if

- ✓ Serious political intentions
- ✓ External drivers (impacts, etc.)
- ✓ Other stakeholders benefit

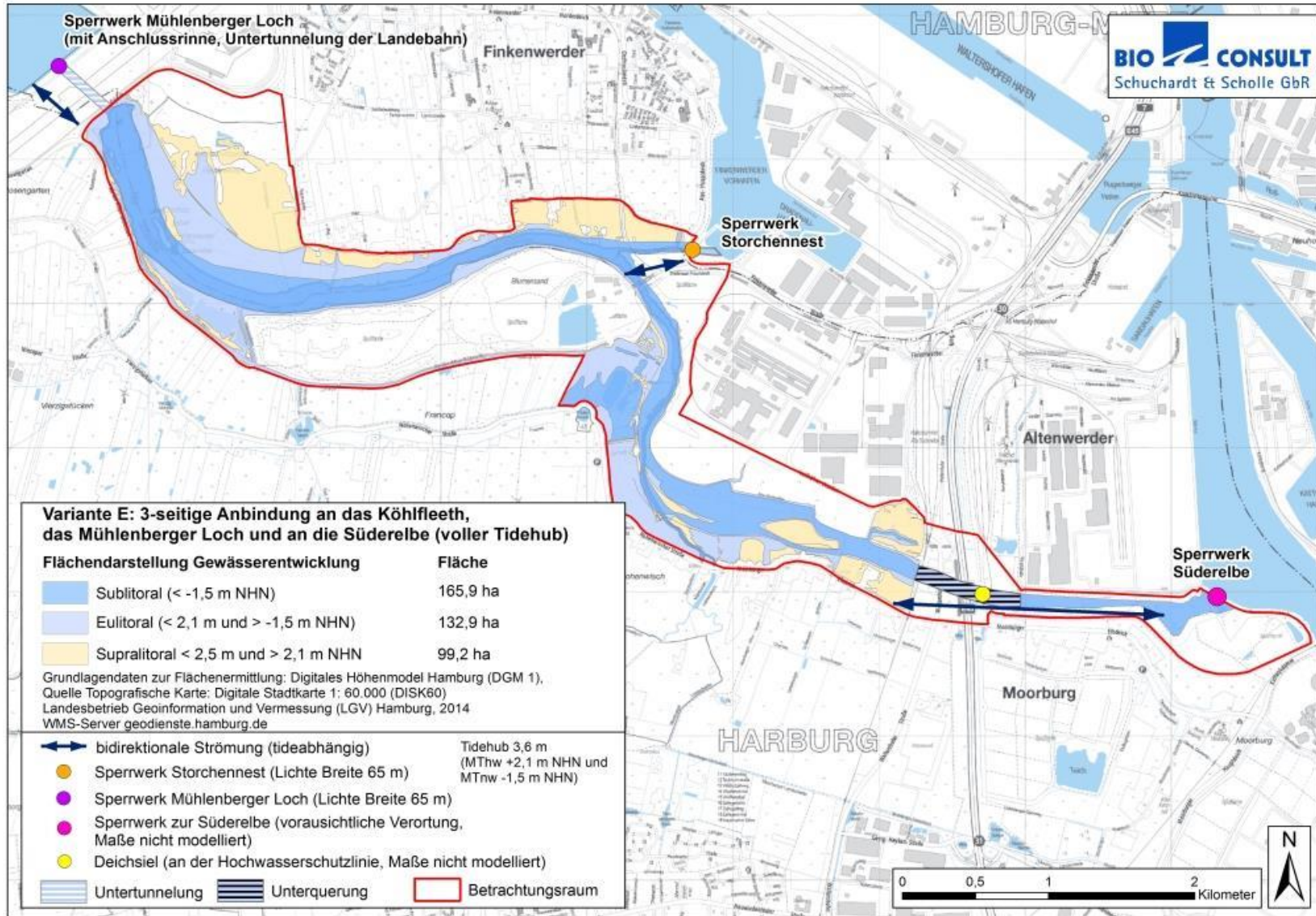




# Dredged Quantities in Hamburg



# Project: Alte Süderelbe





## Goals:

- Institutionalised dialogue
- Knowledge transfer
- Large scale-restoration measures
  
- 2016 - 2020



## Participants (60):

- Port Authorities
- Federal waterways and shipping administration
- State Ministries (environment and economy)
- Administrative districts
- Associations of cities and towns
- Economy associations
- Unions
- Water boards, farmers associations
- NGOs
- Fishing and angling associations
- Sailing associations
- Tourism
- Elbe Habitat Foundation

## So far:

- symposium
- Choice of 5 restoration measures for further assessment ongoing



## Results by 2020:

- Ranking of feasible restoration measures
- Recommendations for action
- Expert reports, assessments
- Final and overall report





# Conclusion



## Elbe Habitat Foundation:

- A communication project
- Restoration measures financed by users
- Continuously growing



# Thank you for your attention!

## For a dynamic riverscape

