## Models + Games in policy processes: some experiences

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## A Dutch experience: DuBes

- Restructuring post-WW2 neighbourhoods
  - sustainable building
  - social-economical vitality
- Direct decisionmaking to sustainability
  - what constitutes a sustainable neighbourhood?
  - what decisions contribute most to sustainability?
  - how can decisionmaking be directed?
- Approach
  - substantive analysis with MEDIA
  - process design and process management

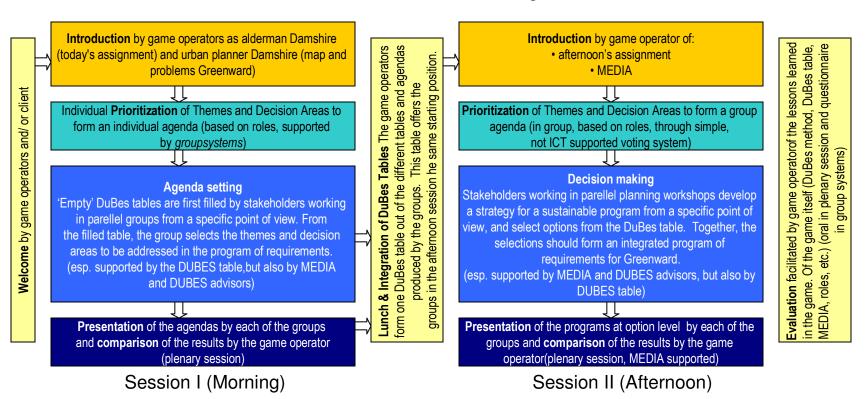


## **Actors and their objectives**

- Many actors hold a stake in urban reconstruction
  - residents
  - municipal authorities
  - housing corporations
  - building contractors
  - providers of energy and drinking water
- Actors have preferences regarding
  - specific decision options
  - expected impacts

and will strive to satisfy these preferences by exercising their (limited) influence on decisions

#### DuBes Game: Structure and Program









#### Modeling Environment for Design Impact Assessment

## **AIDA + Actor Network Analysis**

- Decision areas
- Decision options
- Variables

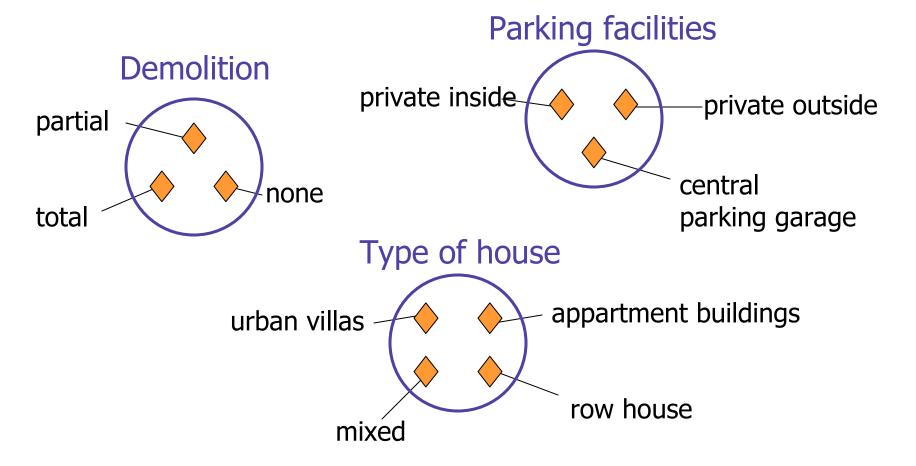
Computer model

Actors

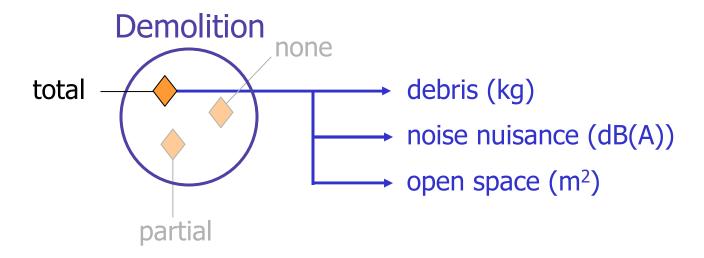
Simulation game

- Objectives
- Policy frames & instruments

## **Decision areas and options**

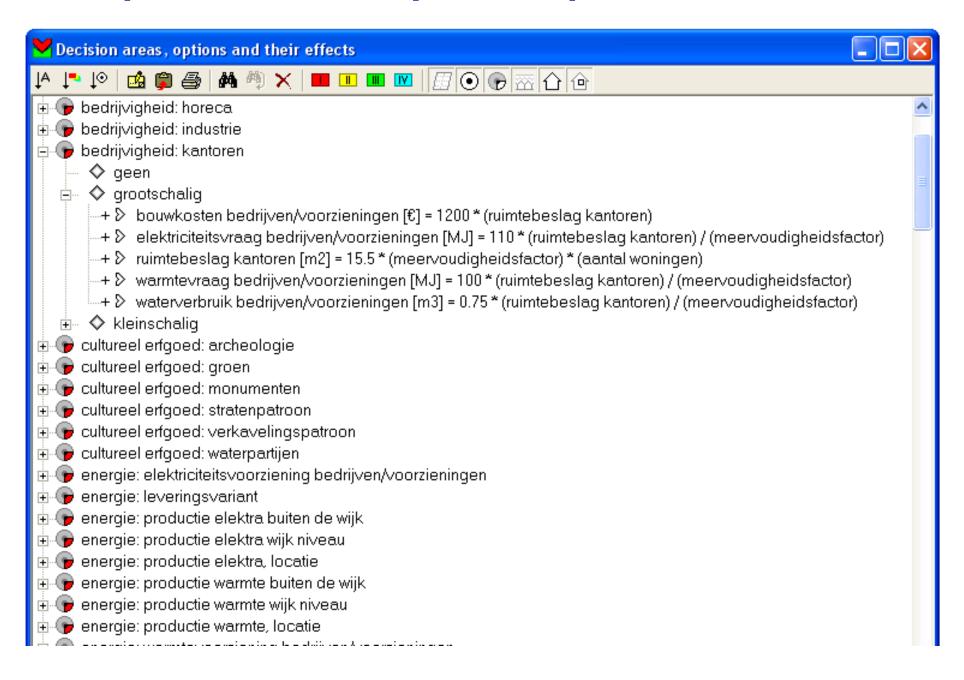


### **Decision options impact variables**

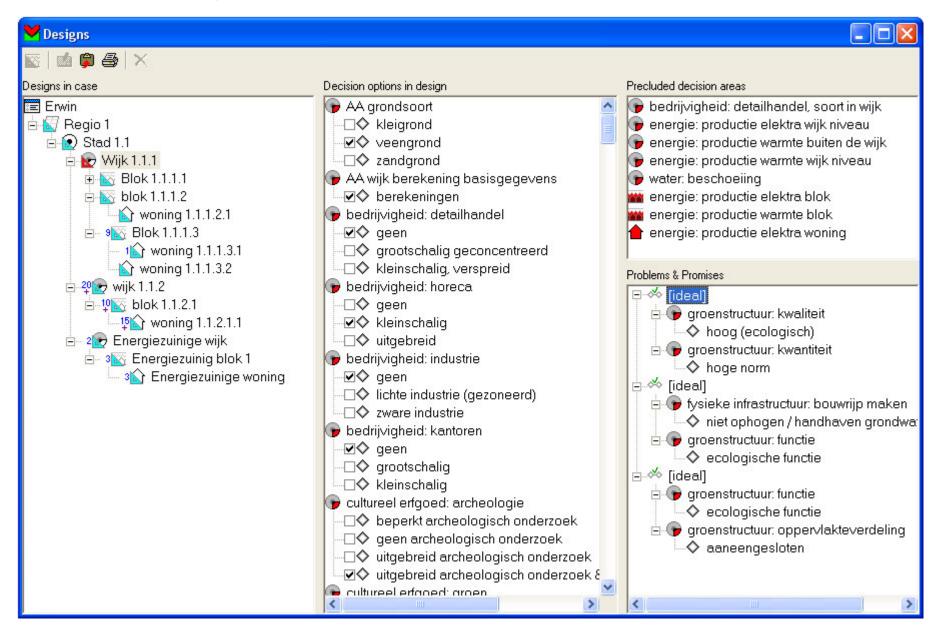


- Number and type of variables can vary per option
- Chosen option has impact on specific variables

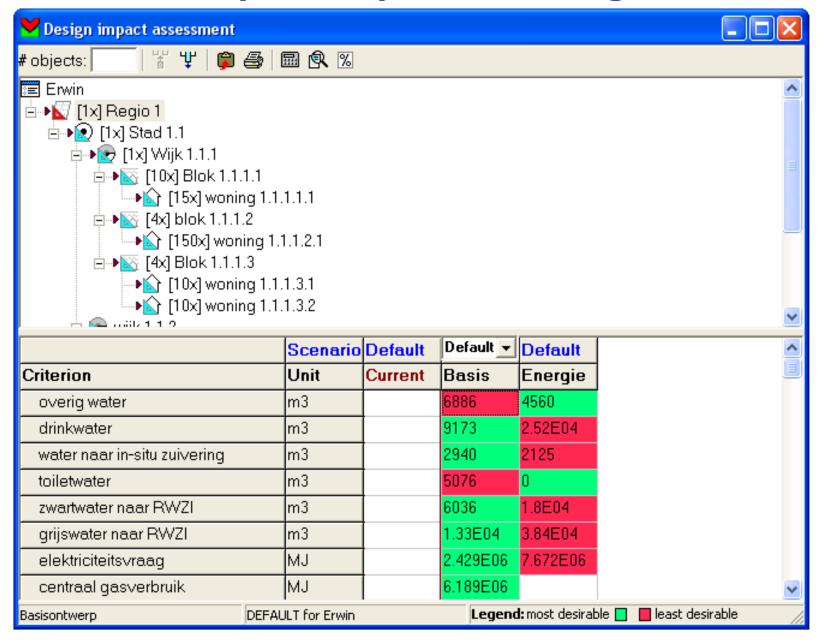
#### **Equations define impacts of options on variables**



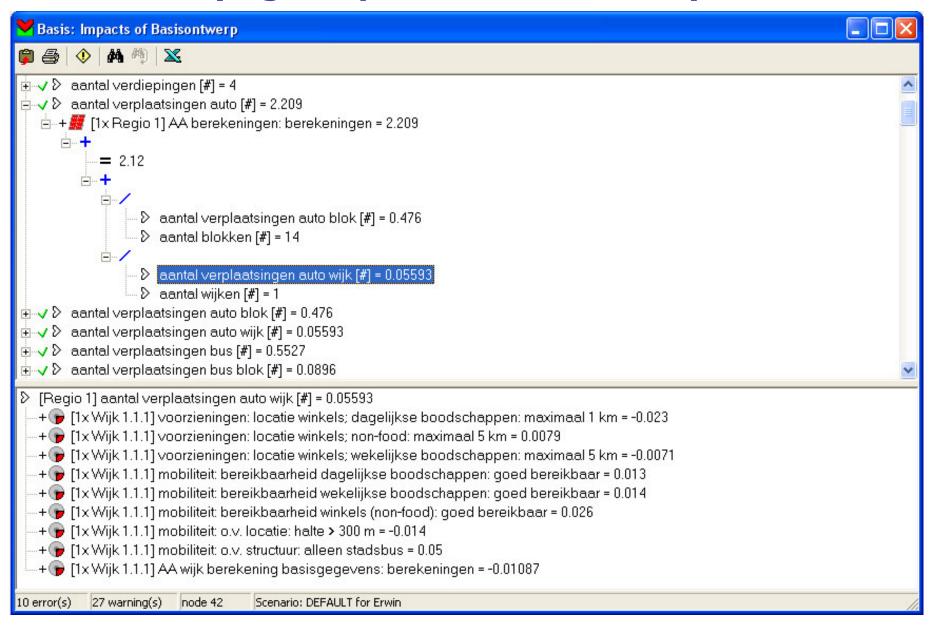
#### **Design = chosen options per spatial level**



#### MEDIA computes impacts of a design variant



#### Underlying computations can be fully traced



# Functions of the DuBes gaming simulation

• Validate: *Does the model work?* 

Convince: The model works!

• Train: How to work with the model?

Research: Why does the model work?

## **Combination model + game**

- Makes complexity transparent and manageable
- Decision proces as point of entry
- May be used early in the process
- Allows integrated impact assessment
- May be used in interactive setting
- Tension creativity ↔ structure
- User ← model interface needs improval

## French experiences: ComMod

- Sharing representations of actors (including the researchers)
- Gradual modification and validation of a hybrid representation: the "model"
- Render this model dynamic: "simulations"
- Gradual modification and validation of this simulation model
- Continuous switching between knowledge improvement and the decision process

## **Principles**

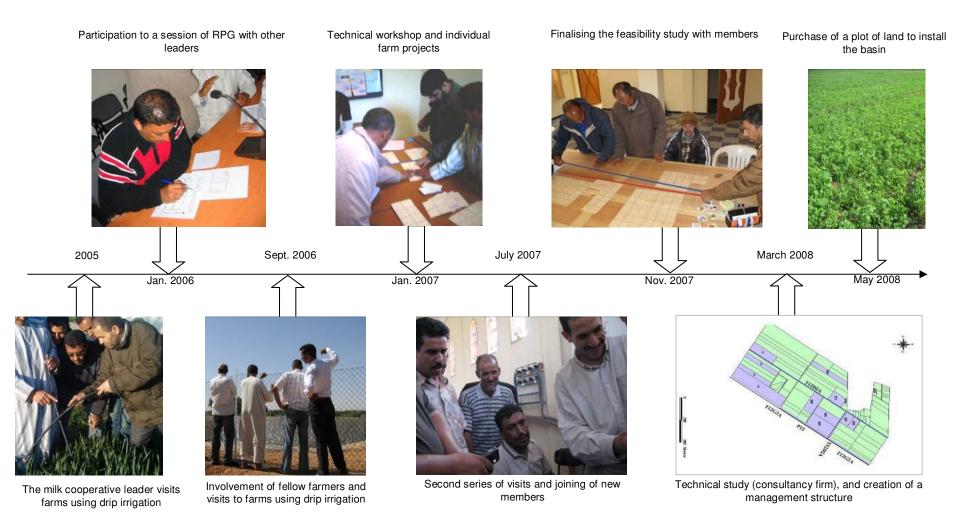
- Recognize and visualize all the different view points on the situation that is being investigated
- Work towards representations that are more shared, to improve the mutual knowledge of the actors (including the researchers)
- Learn collectively while creating, modifying or observing simulations based on these representations
- The simulations have an impact on the decision process:
  - by creating/modifying representations
  - by integrating the time dimension in the representations
  - by articulating several levels and scales in the representations

### **Tools**

- Agent-Based Systems: the preferred formalization tool (the Cormas modeling platform)
- Role Playing Games: the preferred form of communicating with the actors
- Other tools are used: maps, GIS, scale models, comic strips, ...

## **Example: Tadla case**

(Kuper et al. in Ecology & Society, 2009)



#### **Learn more?**

- papers & reports on DuBes
  - http://www.envplan.com/abstract.cgi?id=b31149
  - http://www.delftcluster.nl/website/files/files\_org/AIO/Collabora tive\_decisionmaking\_for\_sutainable\_urbanetc..pdf
  - http://www.iospress.nl/loadtop/load.php?isbn=9789040725951
- the MEDIA modeling software
  - http://media.actoranalysis.com/
- www.commod.org
- www.ecologyandsociety.org (see the special feature on participatory methods in water management)
- contact me at <u>p.w.g.bots@tudelft.nl</u>