

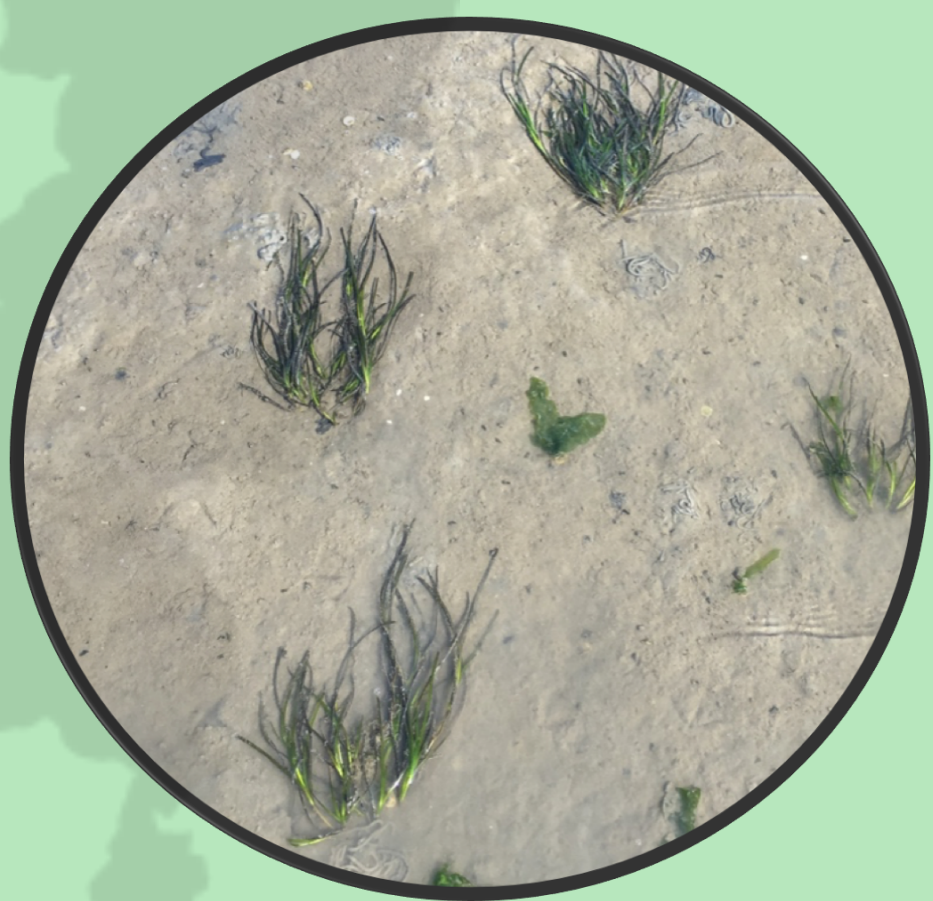
ON THE USE OF DRONES FOR SEAGRASS MONITORING: COUNTING INTERTIDAL EELGRASS PLANTS



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INTRODUCTION

There have been several seagrass restoration attempts in the Dutch Wadden Sea using *seed-based restoration techniques*. Large-scale experiments, using BuDS, yielded very low annual eelgrass densities (0.02 plants m⁻²) across large surface areas (>5 ha). Cover estimates are not suitable to monitor restoration success of such low plant densities. Additionally, plants are growing in extremely muddy sediments, prone to physical disturbance by walking. We have thus developed methods to conduct aerial monitoring by drone to cover large surfaces and to reduce sediment disturbance. Here, we present past and present challenges and successes monitoring individual intertidal eelgrass plants in the Dutch Wadden Sea by drone.



Sparse annual intertidal
Zostera marina in the Dutch Wadden Sea

METHODS

