

Information on the Steenbergsche Vliet project and the impact of climate change on this part of the Meuse basin for the AMICE partners .

In September 2008 the report of the “*Deltacommissie Veerman*” reported that the *Volkerak Zoommeer* will in future be used for water storage during high discharges of the Meuse and the Rhine. As a consequence of this the storage of the Steenbergsche Vliet and the Dintel river discharge will be obstructed. No water can be discharged to the lake. This will likely result in high and possibly too high water levels in the upstream areas.

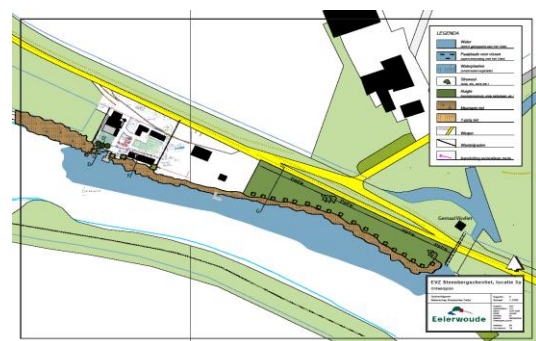
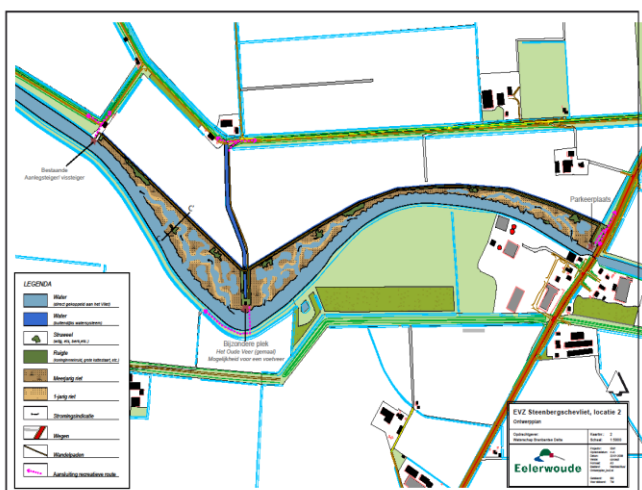
The **aim** of the *Steenbergsche Vliet* project is to create new water retention areas for storage of surplus water in the Mark river. The retention will be combined with the development of river related nature. This means ecological corridors, more nature in combination with water retention. However also the problem of water shortage in the dry season has to be tackled. In summer with less discharges from the river in combination with high temperatures blue green algae develops (blooms) in the *Volkerak Zoommeer*. The water board is also seeking for solutions for this problem.

Together with *Natuurmonumenten* (Nature conservation society in the Netherlands) the water board is looking for solutions to create more water retention anticipating the expected general sea level rise due to climate change in combination with nature development, especially wetlands along the river. Solutions are developed in close cooperation with landowners and the municipality of Steenberg.

The solution for high water levels on the Meuse River

Flooding of agricultural land may lead to crop damages. The water board, responsible for water management and flood control, will have to compensate for this damages. This is the reason why the water board wants to cooperate with *Natuurmonumenten* on plans to create new nature areas that can be used as water storage during high water on the Meuse River.

The investment project in the AMICE project are two small examples of the creation of a areas of 50 to 60 ha between the dikes as wetlands and water storage. The project also comprises dike improvements and transfer of agricultural facilities tot non-agricultural use (“so-called Red for Green exchange”).



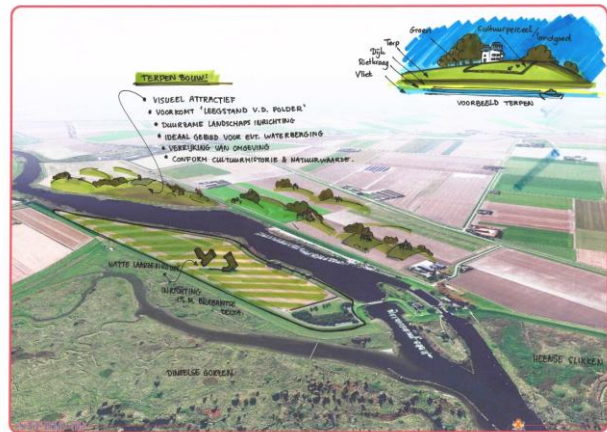
The two examples in the *Steenbergsche vliet* area.

Multifunctional usage of the land

The change of pure agricultural land into wetland enables a multifunctional developments as a combination of: water storage, recreation, housing in flood planes, restoring and reinforcing of historical monuments and the landscape.

Innovative communication possibilities and actions

In order to create awareness on water management and climate change among the population of the area we will develop the project in a so-called open plan process. The target groups are the local government and administrative organisations, inhabitants and other stake holders. Communication is focused on this approach.



For example an interactive video about a project area used in combination with a MP3 player and GPS presenting:

1. cultural history (water defence lines, fortresses, inundation areas, historical sluices, floodings from the sea in the past, future usage of the *Volkerak Zoommeer*, the typical open landscape, dike landscape and other historical developments since 1930.
2. water management, in the past, now and in the future;
3. history of the town of Steenberg: harbour, fortress town, salt and peat exploration; recreational development in historical places

Transnational partnership.

In this investment project the measures will be taken in the most downstream area of the Meuse basin. The measures incorporate the results of the upstream measures in the other AMICE projects. For the AMICE project it is of great importance that strategy and knowledge gathered downstream for as well high as low water levels are shared. The water boards in the Netherlands have this knowledge. Partnership of the water board in the AMICE project is therefore useful, wishful and necessary.