

**Vecht PES project:
Participatory development of a
“Payments for ES” scheme
in transboundary water resource management
(Dec. 2012 - June 2015)**

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Rijksoverheid

Overview on this presentation

- Tasks for developing a PES
- The Vecht PES Case Study
- Key – Insights
- Where to find more information



The project: Vecht PES case study

- Initiated in the context of UN ECE- Transboundary Water Convention
- „ A down to earth pilot study on the application of the ESA, leading to the development of a PES“
- Test: Is ESA applicable in practical water resources management? Does it provide added value?
- Simulate Negotiation: What would non-water-stakeholders pay for this wetland restoration?



Developments in the case study river basin

... From a natural river with regular, severe flooding in a wet landscape (before 1950's)

...to...

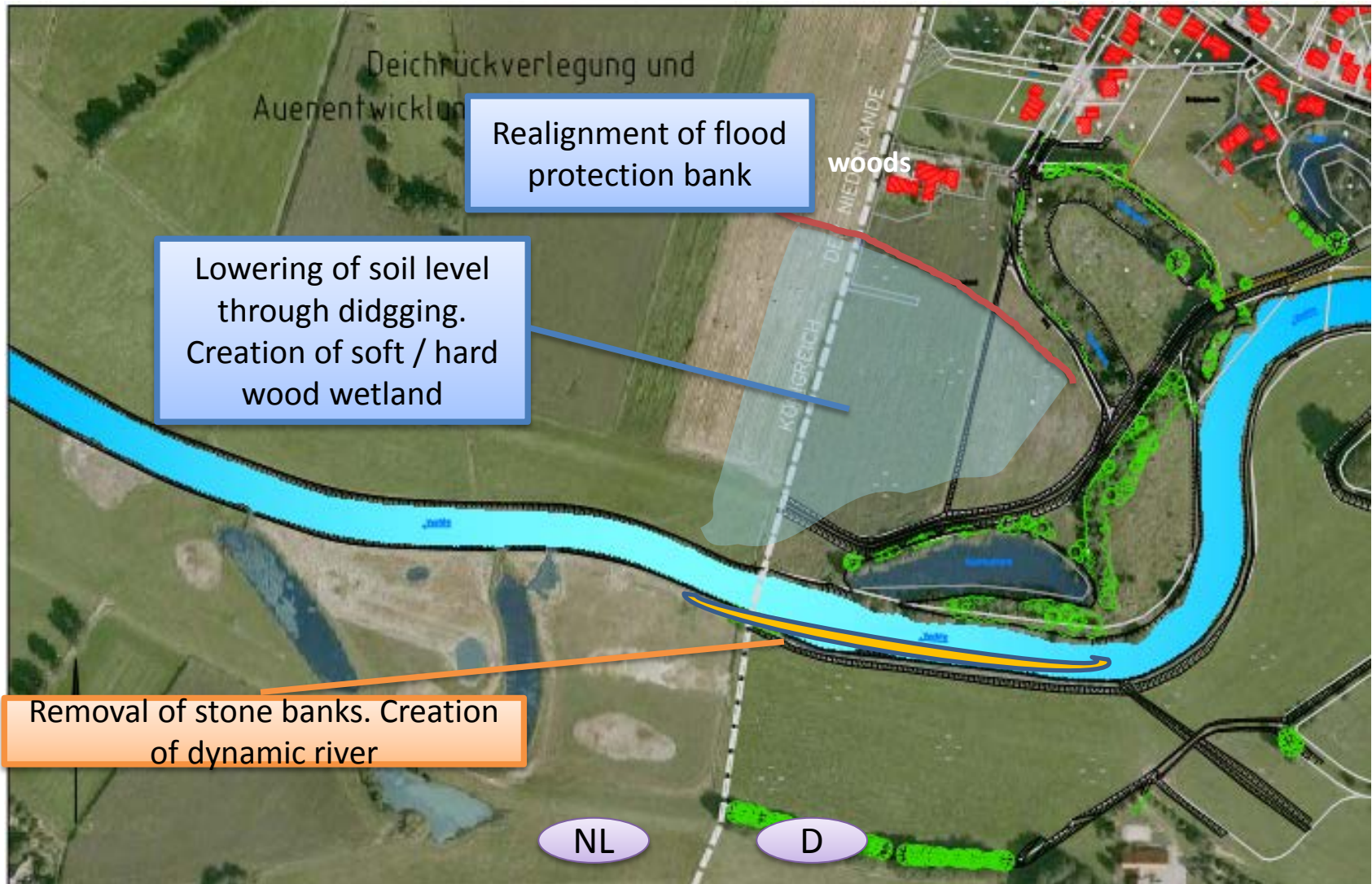
Water management for agriculture and flood protection: drainage, channeled, dams, stone river banks

...to...

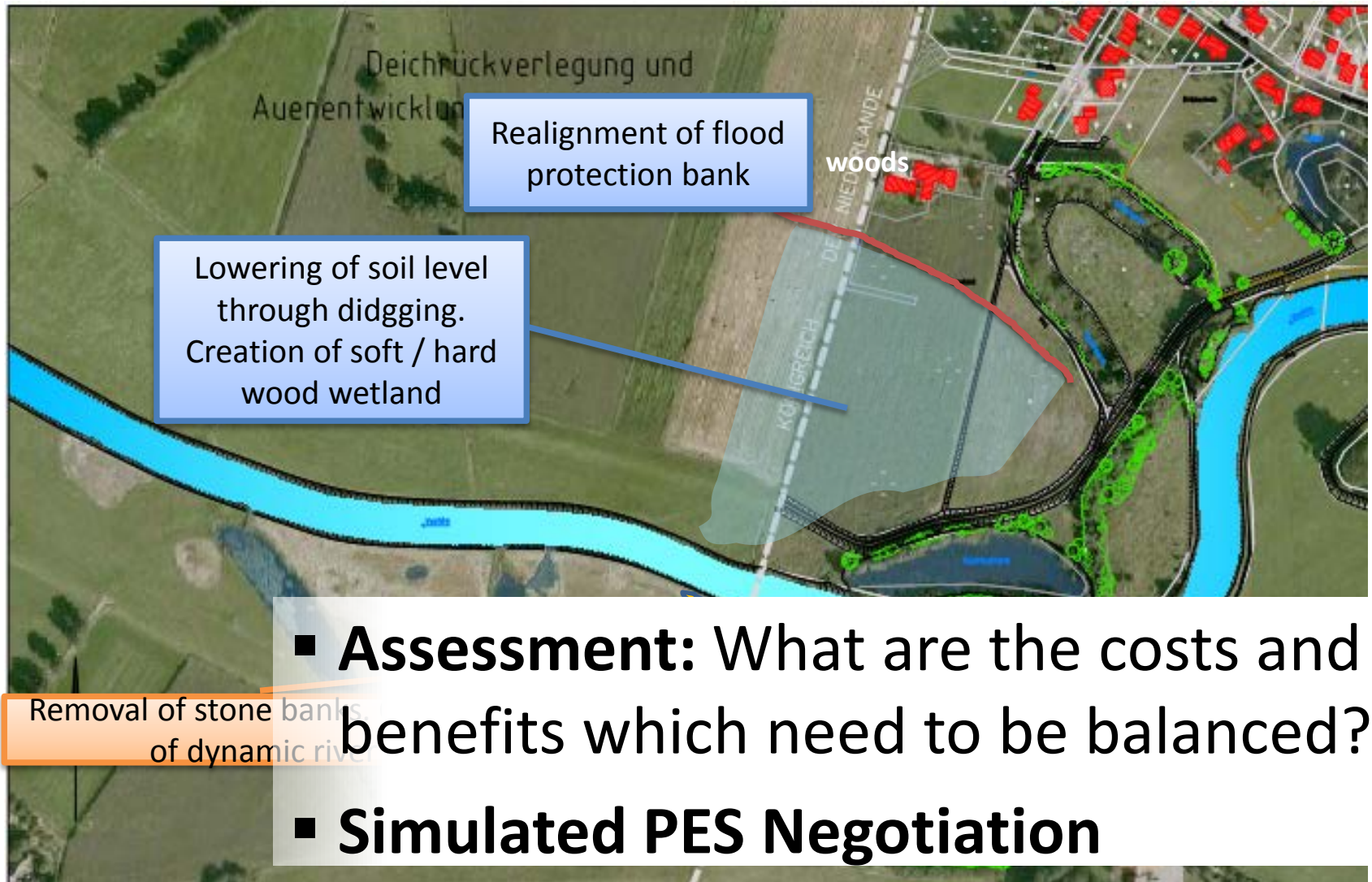
Vecht Vision (2009): “ ensuring current level of flood protection and drainage.... Restoring – where appropriate a dynamic and natural river....with some opportunities to create wetlands ...

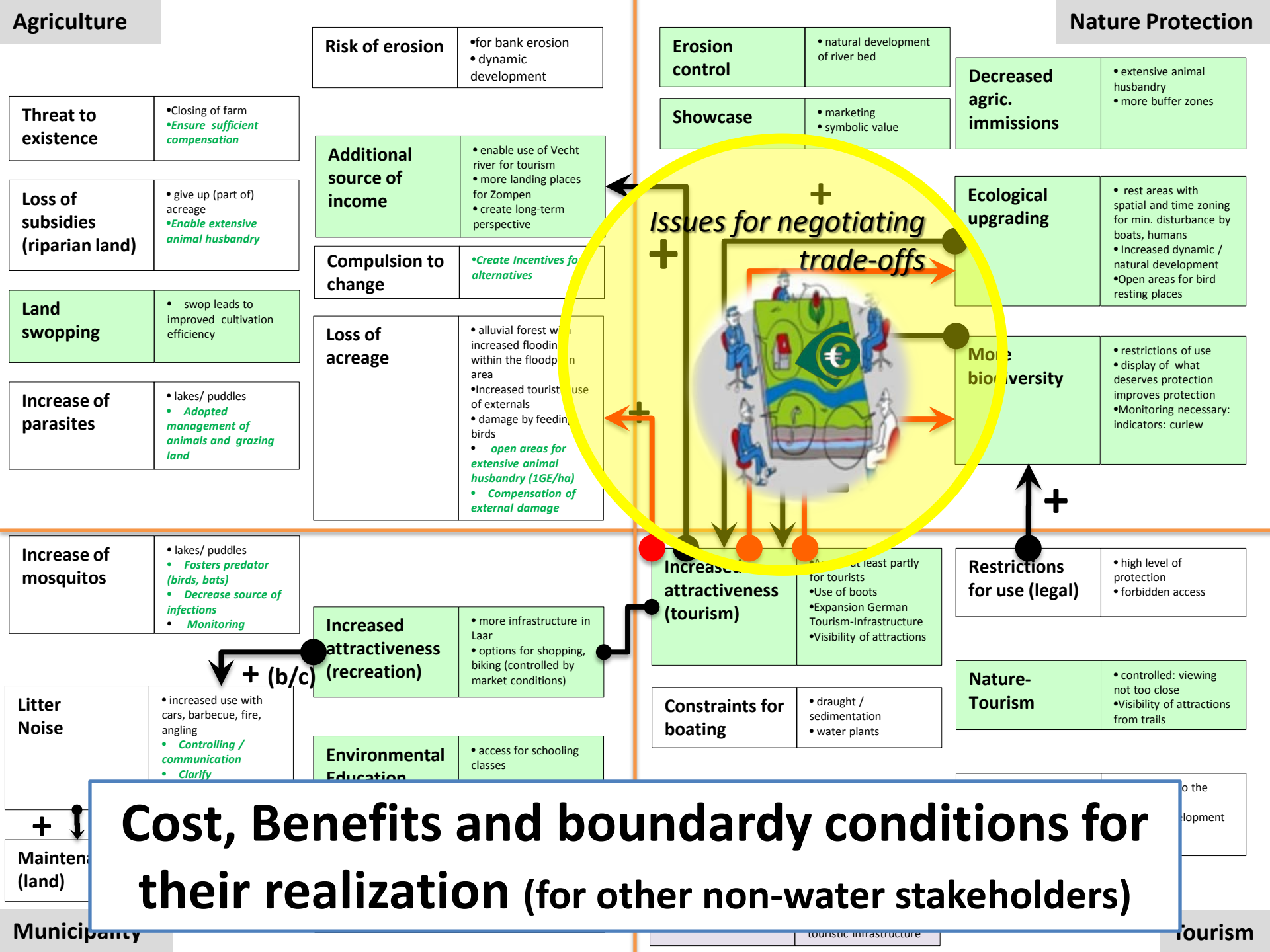


Wetland restoration measure



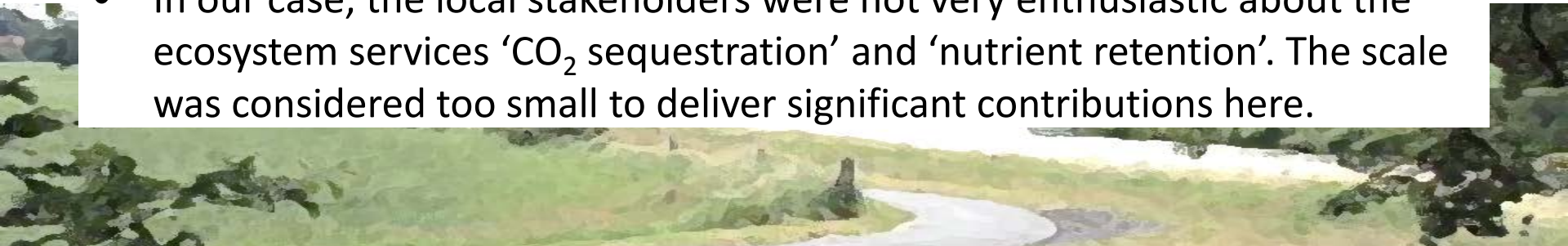
Wetland restoration measure



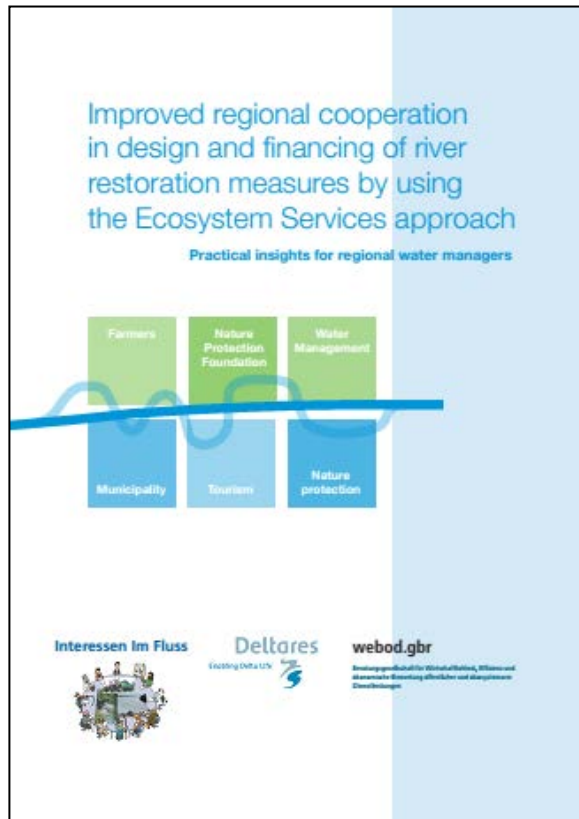


Key Insights from our experiment

- Even without an intensive quantification and valuation of ecosystem services (ES), it proved possible to elicit ‘trade-offs’: who would benefit from, and who would bear the cost burden for, the river restoration measures and in which circumstances.
- Clear benefits facilitate finding potential buyers: In our case, the local municipalities involved were the principal potential buyers.
- Uncertainty about the spatial and time scale for ES benefits, hampers to find buyers: In our case, reluctance was found in particular among potential buyers from the tourism sector.
- In our case, the river will be restored anyhow by the water authorities. This made it more difficult to identify additional ES buyers because they will receive most of the benefits, even if they turn down a role as ‘buyers’.
- In our case, the local stakeholders were not very enthusiastic about the ecosystem services ‘CO₂ sequestration’ and ‘nutrient retention’. The scale was considered too small to deliver significant contributions here.



More information at:



- **Brochure for regional water managers** available by 30th June in English, German, Dutch
- **Full research report Phase II**
Borowski-Maaser, I.; Sauer, U.; Cortekar, J.; van der Meulen, S.: Final Report (DII.6 – V13) on Phase II of an ecosystem services project in the Vecht basin: Developing a proposal for a regional scheme on payments for ecosystem services.
- **Paper with negotiation results (Phase II) in preparation.**
 - For printed versions, please contact bm@interessen-im-fluss.de
 - All publications will be available for download at www.interessen-im-fluss.de/vechtpes



Team & Funding Bodies

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Thank you for your attention.

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