

Abstract for the poster exhibition

The Steenbergse Vliet Project in The Netherlands

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The Steenbergse Vliet is a part of the Mark and Vliet river system that forms a unique river landscape in the Western part of the Province of Noord Brabant in the Netherlands. The system constitutes a so-called “Ecological Connection Zone” between major national and international nature areas like the “Volkerak-Zoommeer”, the “Biesbosch” and great nature reserves in neighbouring Belgium.

In this area the Waterboard Brabantse Delta developed three pilot projects together with Natuurmonumenten (Dutch NGO working in the field of nature conservation), the municipality of Steenbergen, the Province of Noord Brabant and the ZLTO (the Southern Dutch farmer Union). A first pilot project deals with the restoration of the moat of the historical fortress “Henricus” which is now turned into an area for water retention. Furthermore, in the pilot project Polder Benedensas 10 ha of agricultural land was turned into wet nature again. In the third pilot project the Waterboard Brabantse Delta cooperated with a private land owner in order activate additional 2,5 ha of land for water retention. In this area a new creek and longer banks were made.

It is expected to be that the area of the Steenbergsche Vliet will be considerably affected by climate change. More robust strategies are required to deal with more extreme rainfall and corresponding high water levels in the future. By means of these three pilot projects the Waterboard Brabantse Delta wants to demonstrate that it can increase flood damage prevention and so safety for their inhabitants in particular by combining water management efforts with nature development, recreational usage, strengthening of the landscape, culture and history.