



“European Rivers embraced?” Adding values in floodplains by working together

Event about community based adaptation to climate change along the rivers Parrett (Somerset), Rijn and Meuse (Netherlands) and Rhein (Nordrhein-Westfalen)

Friday, 30th January 2015, 10.25 am 5.00 pm

Venue: Verhalenmagazijn, Elzenstraat 3 Nijmegen (5 minutes from Central Station by bus)

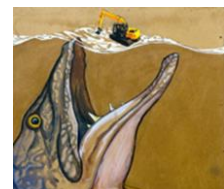
Background and goal of the event

Maybe you were there exactly one year before at the conference entitled: ‘European rivers embraced?’ in Nijmegen, January 30th 2014? Then organised with the ‘Knowledge for Climate Program’ (Kennis voor Klimaat) to present midterm results. Now we are proud to present the final report: “Inspiration document on adapting to climate change along the Dutch Rivers”. Same time, same place. Everybody present in 2014 as well as some other people are kindly invited to come to Nijmegen once again. Together we’ll make this conference into an attractive international event. The report will be presented by the author Marnix de Vriend. Some of the recommendations will be detailed and discussed as a source of inspiration for involved community members in The Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Germany. Thus we will try to contribute to a trilateral community of people involved in challenges posed by climate change in our flood plains. Can we embrace new solutions and turn the presence of the rivers into a benefit for our future? British experiences in living with floods and forging public private partnerships, German experience in maintaining retention areas and Dutch experience with big solutions as well as sound governance might emerge into even better solutions. This event offers a shared source of knowledge, experience and inspiration for communities to move forward. Whether it would be at Varik-Heesselt, Xanthen-Rees, Somerset, Köln-Rhodenkirchen or Rijnstrangen.

Provisional program (can be subject to last minute alterations)

8.45 – 10.15 Voluntarily excursion from 8.45 till 10.15 to dike relocation Nijmegen-Lent: assemble on foot at city side of Waal bridge on west side (facing city) foot path. Others will be received by artist Ada Dispa in the venue as from 9.30. Coffee and tea with home baked cookies available all day for 2 €, which is for (ANBI recognized) Bifae Education foundation to support four primary schools in a deprived rural area in Northwest Cameroon.

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- 10.25 – 10.35 **Mile Lukič** singer/ musician and friend from Mook & Sarajewo opens the conference.
- 10.35 – 10.45 **Hubert Bruls** mayor of the municipality of Nijmegen: Welcome and some words about the ongoing project “Nijmegen embraces the river Waal”.
- 10.45 – 10.50 Presentation first copies of report “Inspiration document Climate Change Adaptation along the Dutch rivers” by **Marnix de Vriend** to **Hubert Bruls**, Mayor of Nijmegen and **Jos van Alphen**, staffmember Delta Commissioner, The Hague. Some reflections.
- 10.50– 11.10 **Marnix de Vriend** : “European Rivers Embraced: talk based on the contents of the <<Inspiration document Climate Change Adaptation along the Dutch rivers>> About wise use of flood plains and governance challenges.”
- 11.10 – 11.35 **Thomas Kahlix**, Bürgerinitiative Rodenkirchen on “The role of citizens in stimulating German capabilities in diminishing flood risks along the river Rhine and their potential downstream significance”.
- 11.35 – 12.20 Discussion with speakers and audience presided by **Rob Jaspers**, journalist of Gelderlander (yet to be confirmed), preceded by four 2-minute statements from:
- **Piet Winterman** , Program Director Grote Rivieren Staatsbosbeheer;
 - **Joop de Bijl**, Waterboard Aa en Maas;
 - **Adam Guy**, Programme Manager, Thames Estuary Partnership;
 - **Henk de Hartog**, Secretary Stuurgroep Deltarijn, Progr. WaalWeelde, Province of Gelderland.
- 12.20 – 13.20** *Break with reports available (for sale) and lunch with music by Mile Lukič (all free except for drinks). A copy of the executive summary will be available free of charge for every participant.*
- 13.20 - 13.40 **Huib de Vriend**, professor Delft University of Technology and owner of “With Nature” consultancy, Oegstgeest on “Long-term morphological effects of interventions in the Dutch Rhine branches”.
- 13.40 – 14.05 **Barry James**, Strategic Commissioning Manager - Community Infrastructure, Somerset County Council on “What happened in Somerset last Winter/ Spring and how to prevent that by building up the 20 years Action Plan with the communities”.
- 14.05 – 14.25 **Joop de Bijl**, Senior policy advisor watersafety, Water Authority Aa and Maas, Den Bosch on Dutch water governance in general illustrated through two Maas projects combining too much and too little.
- 14.25 – 14.35** *Relaxation*
- 14.35 – 14.55 **Caspar Pompe**, consultant water- and energy management will elaborate on “The broad and promising potentials of Rhine Meuse connections”.



14.55 – 15.15 **Ad Jeuken** of Deltares (Coordinator Fresh Water for Knowledge for Climate) on fresh water demands and the strategy the Delta program envisages for The Netherlands + some co notations on UK and Germany.

15.15 – 16.30 Two parallel workshops on making effective use of floodplains and climate change:

- Workshop A on “Too much Water” by **Dennis Martens** owner of LiNO Arnhem;
- Workshop B on “Too little water” by **Rebecca Planteijdt** owner of Rethink Landscape.

Meanwhile coffee, tea and cookies (on payment for Bifae Education, Cameroon).

Items: (defining) and developing spatial quality, possibilities of public private partnership and payments for ecosystem services to prevent flooding downstream, cross border cooperation, possibilities for new Interreg initiatives governance and instruments to promote solidarity in downstream/ upstream relationships

16.30 – 16.50 **Björn Prudon** and **Peter Philipsen** (Waterboard Rivierenland, Tiel and Working With Nature, Wageningen, both active in Deelstroomgebied Rijn-West) with a movie and a talk on “Fish Migration in the Dutch Delta” and the Water Framework Directive.

16.50 – 17.00 Wrapping up and goodbye by **Marnix de Vriend and Huib de Vriend.**

17.00 – 18.30 Drinks (on payment for Bifae Education, Cameroon)

Costs and purchase of tickets

This none subsidized event will cost € 42,00 for participants and € 22,00 for speakers (VAT excluded prices). For this you will receive a full colour version of the summary of the Inspiration Document, a lunch, (voluntarily) a guided visit to the work in progress on the dyke relocation in Nijmegen - Lent and some music.

You can apply for 1 or 2 (for a colleague) tickets by sending an email to marnix@aquamarnix.com as soon as possible (admittance on the basis of first in until sold out).

You will then receive a reply with confirmation and invoice (€ 50,80/ € 26,60 VAT included). More information on www.aqua-deltamarnix.com.

Free entrance possibility. Anybody buying one or more of the paintings of painter Joachim Mbiyong Jumafer from Bamenda Cameroon through the Catalogue or the paintings present at the conference will not pay any entrance fee or if already paid it will be refunded. A percentage of 25% of these paintings is for Bifae Education, Cameroon to help 4 deprived primary schools in the rural area around Shisong, Northwest Cameroon.



An event for people eager to reinforce networks, get inspired and connected

