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

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Funded by:
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

- Removal of stone banks
- Creation of dynamic river
- Lowering of soil level through digging
- Creation of soft/hard wood wetland
- Realignment of flood protection bank
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Assessment: What are the costs and benefits which need to be balanced?

Simulated PES Negotiation
Agriculture

Threat to existence
- Closing of farm
- Ensure sufficient compensation

Loss of subsidies (riparian land)
- Give up (part of) acreage
- Enable extensive animal husbandry

Land swopping
- Swap leads to improved cultivation efficiency

Increase of parasites
- Lakes/ puddles
- Adopted management of animals and grazing land

Nature Protection

Risk of erosion
- For bank erosion
- Dynamic development

Additional source of income
- Enable use of Vecht river for tourism
- More landing places for Zompen
- Create long-term perspective

Compulsion to change
- Create incentives for alternatives

Loss of acreage
- Alluvial forest with increased flooding within the floodplain area
- Increased tourist use of externals
- Damage by feeding birds
- Open areas for extensive animal husbandry (1GE/ha)
- Compensation of external damage

Erosion control
- Natural development of river bed

Showcase
- Marketing
- Symbolic value

Decreased agric. immissions
- Extensive animal husbandry
- More buffer zones

Ecological upgrading
- Rest areas with spatial and time zoning for min. disturbance by boats, humans
- Increased dynamic/ natural development
- Open areas for bird resting places

Increased biodiversity
- Restrictions of use
- Display of what deserves protection improves protection
- Monitoring necessary: indicators: curlew

Increased attractiveness (tourism)
- Access at least partly for tourists
- Use of boots
- Expansion German Tourism Infrastructure
- Visibility of attractions

Restrictions for use (legal)
- High level of protection
- Forbidden access

Nature-Tourism
- Controlled: viewing not too close
- Visibility of attractions from trails

Cost, Benefits and boundary conditions for their realization (for other non-water stakeholders)
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](mailto:bm@interessen-im-fluss.de)
  - All publications will be available for download at [www.interessen-im-fluss.de/vechtpes](http://www.interessen-im-fluss.de/vechtpes)
Team & Funding Bodies

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