Water Co-Governance for Sustainable Ecosystems: Dutch Pilot Projects

Arjen Grent
Mathilde Twelkemeijer

Jonathan Tipping
Floris Boogaard
Water **Co-Governance** for Sustainable Ecosystems: Dutch Pilot Projects

**Co-Governance:** a Dutch heritage

11th Century first Polders  
13th Century first Water Authority
Water Co-Governance for **Sustainable Ecosystems**: Dutch Pilot Projects

**Sustainable Ecosystems**: not so much a Dutch heritage

Man-made water systems

Engineered ecosystems
“The WFD requirements regarding public participation were first seen as a positive sign for NGOs to share their views and concerns. However this active participation of NGOs has remained limited to information and consultation instead of co-production of decision making.”
Dutch Water Authorities
Oude Diep Catchment
Oude Diep Land Use
Fish Passage Oude Diep
Hoogeveen Improvements

Oude Diep

New Meandering Stream Path

Constructed Wetland

Hanze University Groningen
Applied Sciences

Interreg North Sea Region WaterCoG
New Walking Trail
Key Stakeholders

Government Body
- Water Board
- Provincie Drenthe
- Hoogeveen Municipality

Private
- Businesses
- Farmers
- Residents

Civil Society
- Het Drentse Landschap
- Natuur & Mileufederatie
- IVN

Academic Institutions
- Hanze University

Hanze University Groningen
Applied Sciences
Representation of the Board of Directors

- Political Parties
- Companies
- Agriculture
- Environment
Constructed wetland (Helofytenfilter): Oude Diep, Hoogeveen

This constructed wetland has a surface of 7 ha.

Description
In het beekdal is een oppervlakte van 7 ha beplant met riet, grootste helofytenveld in Nederland

Downloads
- abstract constructed wetlands in The Netherlands (pdf)
- useful presentation (pdf)
- STOWA rapportage zuivering regenwater helofytenvelden (pdf)
Co-Governance of Oude Diep Project

Challenges:
• Getting the trust of all stakeholders;
• Willingness of people to get involved;
• Changing mindset of participation in water management

Opportunities:
• Civil society and the public get a voice in the process;
• Collaboration provides thorough and accurate monitoring results;
• Greater participation in evaluation leads to improved future projects