

NETHERLANDS

Water management

Location

Western Langstraat

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P4 – Ecosystems
management

Measure

M4 – Investments in physical
assets

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 9 975 356

EAFRD 4 460 000

National/Regional 4 460 000

Private 1 055 356

Project duration

2017 – 2021

Project promoter

Waterschap Brabantse Delta

Contact

westelijkelangstraat@brabant.nl

Website

www.brabant.nl/subsites/westelijke-langstraat

Adjustments to water management and remedial measures help to preserve protected areas and conserve the landscape of the Western Langstraat.

Summary

The Western Langstraat (North Brabant) lies on the border of a Natura 2000 site and neighbours the Nature Network Brabant (NNB). However, nature in Brabant suffers from an excess of nitrogen. This is mainly caused by agricultural activities, industry, and transport.



Adjustments to water management and restoration works are necessary to conserve nature and include more land in the NNB.

Results

Approximately 250 ha of agricultural parcels bordering the Natura 2000 site have been added to the Nature Network Brabant.

Dissemination of information about activities through a website and newsletter.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ It is very important to have good communication with the stakeholders.

Context

The Western Langstraat is one of 21 protected areas in North Brabant province. Located in Waalwijk municipality, it covers an area of 529 ha. Its rivers and long, narrow parcels of land are home to around 50 threatened species. This is why it has been included in the Natura 2000 network and the Nature Network Brabant (NNB).

The water canal Zuiderafwateringskanaal (ZAK) runs through the Western Langstraat and removes much of the deep and shallow seepage. This has a negative effect on hydrology; restoring the hydrological system is the most important measure to protect the area's nature. This includes raising the water level by diverting water from the ZAK.

North Brabant also suffers from an excess of nitrogen. This is predominantly caused by agricultural activities, industry, and transport. The Netherlands has implemented a programme-based approach to curbing excess nitrogen, which links economic development (e.g. new roads) to nature restoration.

Objectives

The project aims to support the inclusion of around 650 hectares in the NNB. This involves the implementation of measures described in the Natura 2000 site management plan. An important part of these measures are programme-based measures to control nitrogen levels. The project will make adjustments to water management in the area and carry out remedial measures to preserve the existing NNB and prepare new parcels to be included.

Activities

Supported activities include:

2017 - Develop a memorandum on the scope and details of scenarios for nature development to be included in an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

2018 - Prepare the EIA, describing the effects of nature restoration in various scenarios. Design plans and describe the measures at parcel level. Prepare a Provincial Integration Plan (PIP), that determines the future use of plots of lands.

2019 - Preparation for the execution of the recovery measures.

2020 – A contractor will carry out the works.

The project partners (Brabantse Delta Water Board, Municipality of Waalwijk, Staatsbosbeheer, North Brabant provincial government) work closely with local residents and interest groups. Consultations have been held to understand stakeholders' views on nature, living, working and recreation in the area. This feedback is taken into account as much as possible, provided that it fits within the principles of the project.

The municipality of Waalwijk is working with experts to present the story of the Western Langstraat. This will include the area's history, natural history and visible heritage.



Main results

- intensive early stage consultation with stakeholders;
- inclusion in the Nature Network Brabant of approximately 250 ha of agricultural parcels bordering the Natura 2000 network site;
- implementation of restoration measures to reduce nitrogen levels; and
- dissemination of information about the project's activities through a website and newsletter.

Key lessons

It is very important to have good communication with all stakeholders.

Additional sources of information

www.brabantsedelta.nl/index.html