

River Bed Vegetation Map (EPSA2015219)

Submitted by *Rijkswaterstaat*, Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management

I. Innovation

Faced with the major economic, social and environmental challenges of flooding, this project sought a new economically viable means of flood prevention whilst achieving other benefits; and it strongly focused on the involvement of stakeholders. 'The most important innovative feature of the project was the online consultation strategy, engaging thousands of local stakeholders.'

II. Stakeholder involvement

The project demonstrates an excellent approach to stakeholder involvement which included landowners, public bodies and professionals. There is too little evidence of co-design but there is evidence of co-production. A stakeholder management strategy was set up. 13,000 stakeholders were invited to comment through an interactive website and other communication channels.

III. Relevance of actions taken

The actions taken have addressed the objective of reducing flood risk whilst meeting environmental objectives and being affordable for the public sector and landowners. The project application shows very good how the actions address their real needs. E.g. 'This formal procedure took relatively little time because only 40 stakeholders appealed.'

IV. Impact/Results

The results would seem to be good though there could have been more evidence of the economic and social benefits for landowners and communities. The project application shows very good the impact and the results of this project. E.g. very high response rate.

V. Sustainability

The project has been designed to secure environmental sustainability and because of the level of involvement and support of stakeholders it should be sustainable. 'The strategy that will be elaborated in the coming years, is to work with maintenance contracts between stakeholders and *Rijkswaterstaat*.'

VI. Transferability and Learning Capacity

This approach to flood prevention could apply in similar environments with similar ecological conditions. The approach to stakeholder involvement could be replicated for a range of challenges and situations. 'The online consultation shows the value of timely and seriously involving stakeholders in the development of instruments like the river bed vegetation map.'

VII. Social Inclusion

This project will result in economic and social disruption which will benefit all in the communities affected by flooding. 'About 35 stakeholders received a printed version of the vegetation map.' 'Furthermore we observed that many elderly were assisted by family members.'

VIII. Effect on Financial Sustainability and Economic Growth

Flooding has a very detrimental impact on businesses including agriculture, transport and homes. Reducing the risk of flooding will have a positive economic impact and in the longer term reduced demands on public finances for recovery and reconstruction. The project application is not clear about the effect on financial sustainability and economic growth.