

Working with nature ?

Inland shipping & the environment

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1. Framework - conceptual

- multifunctionality
 - ecology, transport, recreation, flood prevention, drinking water, ...
- sustainable development
 - social, economic, ecological
- water system
 - groundwater, sediments, biota, ...



1. Framework - legal

- Water framework directive (2000/60/EC)
 - good ecological status/potential in 2015
 - public participation
 - non-deterioration clause
 - cost-recovery principle for water services
(*)

(*) no discrimination between transport modes – internalisation of external costs should apply for all (road charges).



1. Framework-legal

- “decreet betreffende het integraal waterbeleid” (Flanders, 14/11/03)
 - purpose (extra with regard to WFD)
 - Fish migration
 - Recreation
 - Prevention of floods
 - Development of waterways to promote a sustainable transportmodus



2. Instruments

- public participation
- societal cost-benefit analysis
 - Overriding public interest, alternatives
- strategic environmental assessment
- mitigation and compensation

3. Examples

- Scheldt Estuary Project Development Plan 2010
 - Safety against flooding
 - Accessibility of Flemish and Dutch Ports
 - Naturalness of the delta

Proses - approach

- research
- advisory consultation (joint fact finding)
 - multifunctional vision
 - societal cost-benefit analysis
 - strategic environmental assessment
 - compensation – nature development



3. Examples

- Optimisation of existing waterways (for economic reasons) offer (multifunctional) chances.
- Example: Rivierherstel Leie (plan)
 - Part of TEN (transport)
 - Economical functions
 - Environmental problems
 - Prevention of flooding



3. Examples

- Objectives put forward in the water framework directive are challenging (for Flanders)
- Infrastructure projects may be threats, but can sometimes offer opportunities.

3. Examples

- Optimisation of sluice complex in Oudenaarde (Scheldt river) combined with fish migration.



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3. Examples

- Compensation
 - End-of-pipe
 - Hard to get
 - To late to little ?
- Example: KBR
 - Compensation under habitats directive for part port of Antwerp
 - coupled realisation with ‘Deurganckdok’
 - Flood protection
 - Nature development
 - ‘soft’ recreation

KBR – low tide



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KBR – high tide



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KBR – spring tide



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4. Conclusion

BBL strongly believes that - within the conceptual, legal and organisational framework as put forward in the Water Framework Directive and the ‘decreet integraal waterbeleid’- there are a lot of possibilities for the environment and inland shipping – to come to a real ‘sustainable development’ of the waterways in Flanders.