

Name:	26. NETHERLANDS OOIJPOLDER 'CLIMATE BUFFER' PROJECT		
Region	Europe	Country	Netherlands
Ecosystem	Inland water		
Nature of approach	Improvement in capacity, design and policy measures (incorporation into relevant policies); Implementation of EBA measures (natural resource management)		
Description of approach	<p>Objective/Expected outcomes The impact of climate change will be particularly felt in low-lying regions such as the Netherlands. Extreme precipitation is already causing more flooding in river and stream basins, damaging property and agriculture. During a period of flooding in the late 1990's, huge areas of agricultural land were flooded, protecting populated areas downstream. Following this, the climate buffer project set out to restore the habitat surrounding the river to wetland and marsh areas, to provide water storage during periods of flooding.</p> <p>Actions A combination of measures to develop a natural succession of wetlands included activities to relocate river dikes, developing and restoring reed marshes.</p> <p>Results achieved The project restored natural wetland processes and habitats, including reedbeds, water meadows and marshes. This provides additional water storage during periods of flooding, whilst during dry spells, there is a greater buffer for maintaining the groundwater levels.</p> <p>Lessons learned (particularly highlighting the benefits and challenges related with ecosystem-based approach) As well as increasing the resilience of the ecosystem, the project also demonstrates an alternative to costly flood defences.</p>		
Type of organisation	NGOs; Government; private landowner	Name of organisation:	ARK Nature, Rivierenland Water Board), BirdLife Netherlands, National Forest Service and a private landowner
Further information and contact details	<p>http://www.klimaatbuffers.nl/eng/kb1.asp?type=Rivers%20and%20lakes&nummer=1016</p> <p>http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sowb/casestudy/286</p> <p>Birdlife 2009 Partners with Nature: How healthy ecosystems are helping the world's most vulnerable adapt to climate change. Netherlands: Birdlife.</p> <p>More information on a similar project 'The Hague's sand engine' available at: http://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/change/how_adapt_to_climate_change/coasts_en.htm</p>		