

Title: PKB Room for Rivers (national spatial river planning process for a region)							
Keywords: Spatial planning; water management, flood defence and control							
Governance level: National and regional							
Messages in the ESPACE strategy to which the plan or policy applies:	1.	2.X	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
	8.	9.	10.X	11.X	12.	13.	14.
<p>Sentences linking the plan/policy to relevant strategy messages: 2, 10 and 11 Room for Rivers has combined a long term strategy for water management and improvement of the spatial quality of this region. For 2050 measures will be taken anticipating the climate changes with a river discharge of 16,000 m³/s. This project has also identified measures to adapt to climate change in 2100 with a river discharge of 18,000 m³/s. Spatial developments in the region (present and future) have been taken into account.</p>							
<p>Overview: The Dutch cabinet recently proposed a Spatial Planning Key Decision in which the spatial planning for the entire area related to the Rhine delta is laid out. The document presents an integrated spatial plan with the main objectives of flood protection, master landscaping and the improvement of overall environmental conditions. Completion of a basic package of about forty projects is foreseen for 2015, with a budget of €2.2 billion.</p> <p>Safety against extreme river floods Due to anticipated climatic changes the Rhine delta river branches have to accommodate ever-higher extreme discharges. Until recently it was standard policy to raise the crest levels of the dikes to maintain the required level of flood protection. This centuries old policy was abandoned in 2000 in favour of 'Room for the River'. In the new policy, river cross sections are widened by situating the dikes further away from the river, or by lowering the river forelands. This will result in lower flood levels. By the year 2015 the river should be able to safely discharge 16,000 m³/s.</p> <p>Improvement of overall environmental conditions In giving 'Room for the River' care should be taken not to affect valuable features of landscape, nature and cultural history. More space can also be found by enlarging the river channel within the dikes. In the process, one should aim at a balance between present and foreseeable future spatial requirements, keeping an open eye for every opportunity to enhance safety as well as the master landscaping and the improvement of overall environmental conditions.</p>							

Description/Example policies:

The Spatial Planning Key Decision sets a flexible framework for realising the project's objectives. Various alternatives are, or will become available at a later stage, and will offer opportunities for regional development along the rivers, such as waterfront housing, and recreational and nature developments. These measures were not selected as yet because of the higher cost and longer procedures involved. To achieve these additional goals, cooperation and co-financing in public-public or public-private partnerships are required. The national government will facilitate or co-finance initiatives from private parties or regional governmental bodies such as municipalities. National procedures with supra regional and coordinating influence may apply to certain initiatives so the national government can smooth the often cumbersome path of public decision making and of obtaining all required legal permits.

Author:

Further information:

PKB Ruimte voor de Rivier
www.ruimtevoorderivier.nl (English version available).
www.minvenw.nl
www.nederlandleeftmetwater.nl
www.minvrom.nl
www.programmaARK.nl