

f facts!

be part of the solution



De Wijers: area development based on eco-system services

Bert Barla – 25 october 2012

Flemish Land Agency
Province of Limburg



facts!

Pilot De Wijers

- Province of Limburg, Flanders (B)
- Ca. 20,000 ha
- 7 municipalities, 250.000 inhabitants
- Diversity in landscapes and interests
- Rural development project
- Strategic project (Spatial Planning policy)
- 17 project partners



Climate change challenges in De Wijers

- longer **dry periods**
- **flooding**
- vulnerable Natura 2000 **pond systems**
- increase of **wild fires** in the heathlands

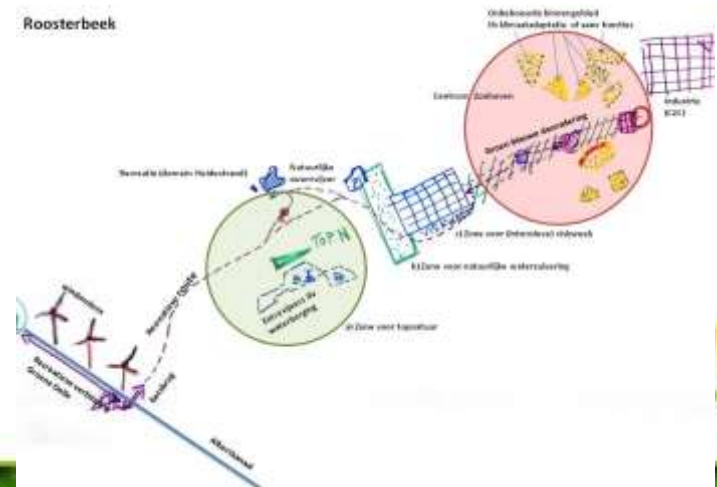


The *province of Limburg* and the *Flemish Land Agency* work together in the F:ACTS!-partnership to develop a **territorial strategy** for climate change **adaptation** and **mitigation** in De Wijers.



Ecosystem services as conceptual framework

- System thinking: expand your point of view
- Focus on possibilities: positive thinking
- Climate change inclusive: watersystem, biomass, ...

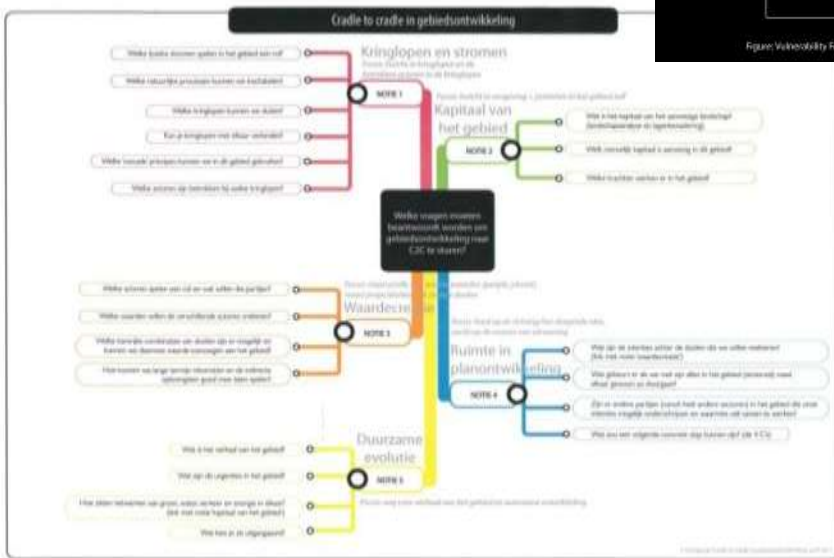
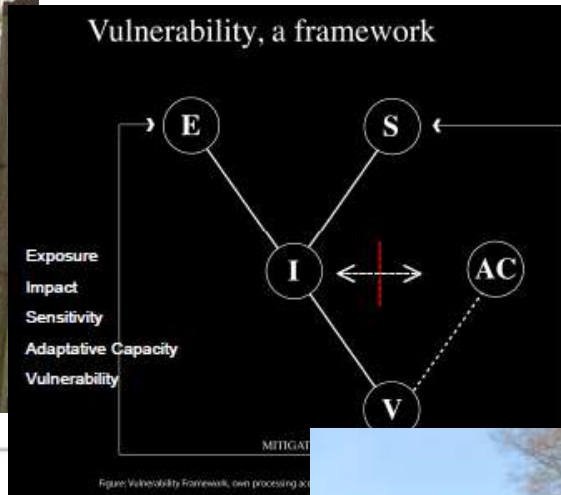


Planning in coöperation with stakeholders

- Workshop trajectory: > 200 participants
- Open mind – simple language - personal involvement
- Questions
 - What do I find attractive?
 - Which needs do I have?
 -

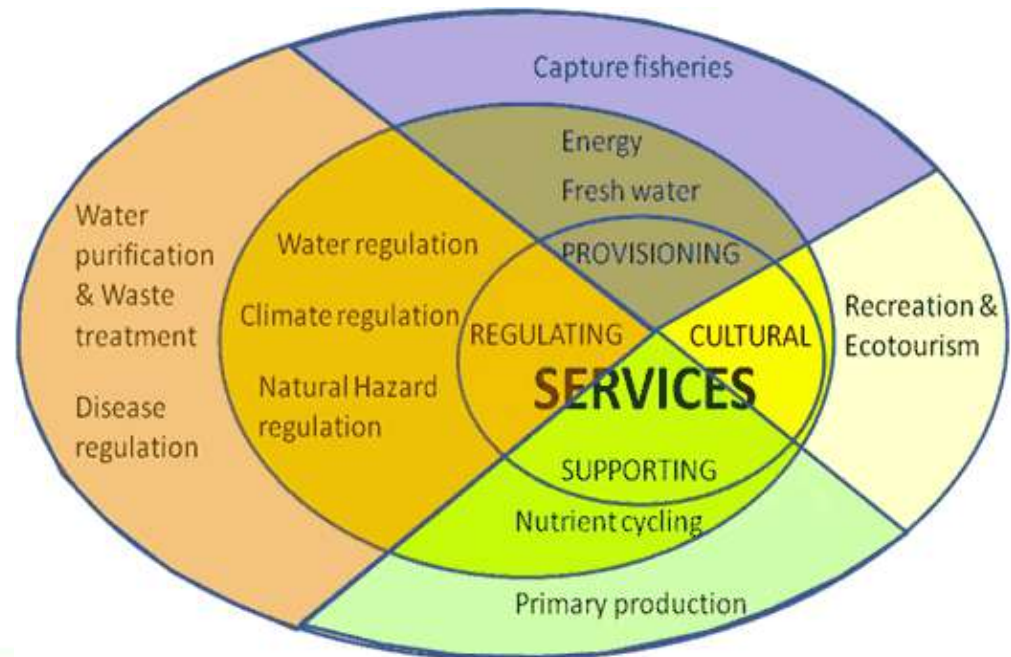


F:ACTS! : various coaching visits



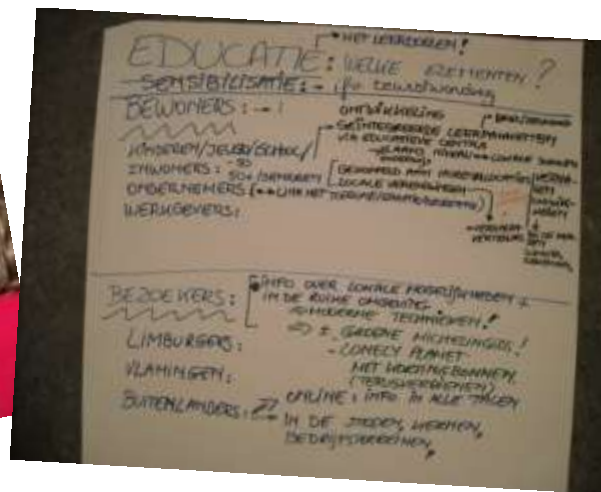
Reflections on the planning proces (1)

- Climate change is addressed as an important issue
- The concept of ecosystem services
 - needs (time for) good introduction
 - can be used for integrated development
 - is attractive for 'green' partners
 - is maybe to much eco?



Reflections on the planning process (2)

- The intensive participation approach
 - took a lot of time and energy
 - made sure that local knowledge is incorporated
 - enhanced ownership & awareness (the Wijers feeling)
 - stimulated to think about new coalitions
 - forgot a bit the involvement of inhabitants?
 - made that the focus on the content sometimes got lost





Facts after F:ACTS!

Masterplan



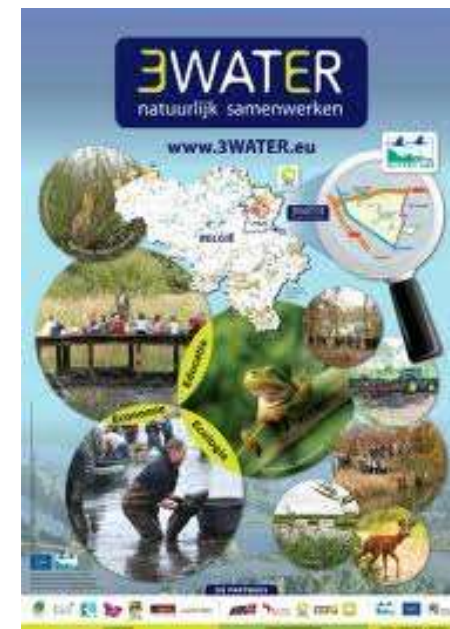
Public awareness



Action program



Projects



Land development project Stiemerbeek





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