
Balancing emission reduction measures and ecological water quality benefits; the river Dommel case

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The river Dommel (the Netherlands) suffers from urban and rural inputs of organic wastes and nutrients. As a result, good ecological conditions as demanded by the EWD are yet far from reached and substantial investments are necessary to improve the water quality. Local governments and waterboards more and more demand an optimization of the cost-benefit ratio, when designing catchment management plans.

A two-year project is started to link ecological water quality to specific regional pressures by intensive monitoring and modeling. The main idea is to shift from emission reduction targets (as an objective itself) to vulnerability and resilience of the aquatic ecosystem. The projected result is insight in the most efficient and cost-effective measures, both emission reductions and management options. Moreover, the feasibility of implementing the measures and regulations is enlarged by the early involvement of all parties in this project (local government, waterboard, scientists, consultancies). This presentation will show the set up of the project and some preliminary results.