



## **Notification of consultation procedure for the Draft Integrated River Management Programme**

**(Date of publication: Wednesday 31 January 2024)**

**From Wednesday 31 January 2024 up to and including Tuesday 12 March 2024, everyone will have the opportunity to give a response to the Draft Integrated River Management Programme. This notification explains how you can submit your views.**

### **ABOUT THE PROGRAMME**

With its Integrated River Management (IRM) Programme, the national government has decided that a new direction will be taken in terms of the design and management of the major rivers in the Netherlands. It is based on collaboration with provinces and water boards in the Rhine and Meuse Delta Programmes. The goal is to redesign the rivers in such a way that as many of the system characteristics as possible are achieved. If this proves to be unfeasible in the context of the IRM Programme, the possible adjustment of sectoral goals will be included in the agenda of sectoral programmes.

The planned future-proof river system is the combined set of physical, chemical, and biological characteristics that maintains itself hydro-morphologically and ecologically as much as possible on the basis of natural processes. The goal of the IRM Programme is to improve system characteristics so that river functions can continue to be facilitated as much as possible, and comply with national and international legislation and regulations.

IRM is a program of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, and the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

### **ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (PLAN EIA)**

The aim is to adopt the Integrated River Management Programme in 2024. The Programme seeks connections with other programmes in the river zone.

Linked to the IRM Programme, this Environmental Impact Assessment (Plan EIA) was drawn up to review the impacts of policy choices in the programme. Given that significant negative impacts on the conservation goals of Natura 2000 sites cannot be ruled out in advance, an appropriate assessment was also drawn up. Finally, a cost-benefit analysis (CBA)<sup>1</sup> of the key figures was conducted.

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<sup>1</sup> This is a form of a Social CBA in which all impacts are considered, but in this case the impacts were estimated/valued quickly and roughly.



### **STUDYING THE DOCUMENTS**

From Wednesday 31 January 2024, you can find all the relevant information and accompanying documents on [www.platformparticipatie.nl/IRM](http://www.platformparticipatie.nl/IRM).

Paper copies of the documents will be available for inspection during office hours from Wednesday 31 January to Tuesday 12 March 2024 at:

Participation Directorate, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Rijnstraat 8, The Hague, tel. +31 (0)70 456 9607 (by appointment only).

### **SUBMITTING YOUR VIEWS**

You can submit your views from Wednesday 31 January to Tuesday 12 March 2024. You can do this in three ways.

#### *By email*

This is the preferred option. Send your views to [info@platformparticipatie.nl](mailto:info@platformparticipatie.nl)

#### *In person*

If you wish to give your response orally, you can make an appointment for an interview by calling +31 (0)70 456 9607 (during office hours).

#### *By post*

Participation Directorate  
Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management  
Draft Integrated River Management Programme  
P.O. Box 20901  
2500 EX Den Haag

### **WHO CAN GIVE THEIR VIEWS**

During the period given above, everyone is welcome to submit their views on the draft Integrated River Management Programme.

### **FOLLOW-UP**

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Water management will read and evaluate all the views received. The relevant administrative authorities, statutory advisers and the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment will also be asked to give their advice on the plan Environmental Impact Assessment. The Ministry will then give its response to these views and advisory opinions in a memorandum of response. Everyone who submitted their views will be notified of this.



Government of the Netherlands

### **GETTING HELP FROM A DIGITAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION POINT**

Digital government information points are for people who find it difficult to use online services and have questions about their dealings with government authorities. The information points are located at public libraries and are therefore readily accessible. They can help you with questions about government websites, such as how to consult online documents relating to this project or how to submit your views online. Ask at your local library what the options are. For more information go to [www.informatiepuntdigitaleoverheid.nl](http://www.informatiepuntdigitaleoverheid.nl).

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

You can find more information about the project (in Dutch) on [www.rijksoverheid.nl](http://www.rijksoverheid.nl) or [www.platformparticipatie.nl/IRM](http://www.platformparticipatie.nl/IRM). If you have any questions about the EIA or the draft Integrated River Management Programme, please email [info@platformparticipatie.nl](mailto:info@platformparticipatie.nl).

If you have any questions about the procedure, please call the Participation Directorate, Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, tel. +31 (0) 70 456 9607