



## **Programme 1<sup>st</sup> RIWET Exchange of Experience Event (EEW) & Kick-off**

The RIWET Kick-off meeting and Exchange of Experience Workshop-1 (EEW-1) will take place in Drenthe, NL 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

The Lead Partner, the Province of Drenthe, has developed a stimulating programme at various locations which includes:

- Project introductory sessions
- Field visits to the Hunze Valley and peatland areas in Drenthe
- Discussions and exchange of Good Practices with stakeholders
- Shared experiences with Theory of Change

Locations: Emmen | Bargerveen | Hunzedal

## **Monday June 24**

**Arrival at Fletcher Hotel By Zoo, Emmen** (20 min walk from Emmen Station or 5 min by bus 3 or 4))  
<https://www.fletcherhotelbyzoo.nl/en/>

**19:00 Informal dinner (optional).**

**Please indicate on the registration form if you will join us for dinner.**

## Tuesday June 25

- 08.30** Departure by bus from hotel to Wollegras, Ambachtsweg 5 7765BX Weiteveen
- 09.00** **Walk-in with coffee and tea**
- 09.20** Welcome by LP Drenthe and introduction to the programme of the day
- 09.30** Natural Countryside Programme (2022-2027) (Programma Natuurlijk Platteland) – what is it and what would we like to improve? +Q&A \*See Annex 1
- 10.00** Presentation on paludiculture as nature-based solution by Gert Jan van Duinen - Foundation Bargerveen. Followed by Q&A en reflection from RIWET partners  
Introduction Bargerveen – Gerard Meijers
- 11.00** **Coffee break**
- 11.30** Peer review and co-creation with all partners
- 12.30** **Lunch and visit to local sheepfold**
- 14.00** Official Kick-off by Henk Jumelet, Regional Minister of the Province of Drenthe
- 14.30** Guided cycle tour
- 1. Restaurant Bij Wollegras - start and finish*
  - 2. Buffer West – development of a buffer for Bargerveen for the purpose of more stable groundwater levels under the peat and to create a discharge to the South buffer. Explanation by Gerard Meijers*
  - 3. Geological monument – centrally located in the peat area, explaining the restoration work of, among others, the Kamerlingswijk, old sheepfold and Meerstalblok development. Explanation by Klaas van den Berg*
  - 4. Buffer North – one of the first fully-fledged and working buffers. Explanation by Tjeerd Dijkstra*
  - 5. Border Quay – On the cycle path near the restored border stone, provide an explanation about the tourist use of the Bargerveen in combination with nature restoration (internal and external buffering by waterproof quays with cycle and walking paths and entry options for the site manager and for example the fire brigade. Explanation by Henriëtte Vrieling*
  - 6. Buffer South – explanation of the process: planning in the context of GGOR, the land exchange and the planning process of the buffer South. Explanation by Carolien van de Bles.*
- 17.00** **Drinks & bites & networking**
- 17.30** Return to hotel
- 19.00** **Dinner in the city of Emmen (restaurant <https://www.restaurantdekamer.nl/> )**
- 21.00** Return to hotel





## **Wednesday June 26**

- 09.00** Bus trip to Zuidlaardermeer, the northern part of Hunze Valley in Drenthe
- 09.45** Arrival Molen de Wachter, coffee & tea
- 09.50** Introduction of the Hunze Vision & Programme Team and the role of private landowners.
- 10.45** Site visit Tusschenwater, a new, natural wetland of 230 hectares where drinking water extraction, water storage and nature development go hand in hand. By Uko Vegter, Drents Landschap
- 12.15** Departure to 't Keerpunt, Spijkerboor.
- 12.30** **Lunch**
- 13.30** Walk along the Hunze river.  
Site visit Annermoeras – by speaker Waterboard Hunze & Aa's.
- 15.00** **Coffee break**
- 15.15** Peer review co-creation session
- 16.15** Departure to LOFAR, Exloo
- 16.45** Site visit LOFAR- agricultural land changed into nature and private company/research organisation ASTRON (space telescope) (Hans Dekker, Province of Drenthe)
- 17.15** Departure
- 17.30** **Drinks & dinner at restaurant Bussemaker**
- 21.00** Return to hotel



## **Thursday June 27**

**09.00 – 12.00** Steering Committee Meeting (only for partners), Hotel Fletcher byZoo.

**09.00** **Welcome and coffee and tea**

09.10 Updates from the LP

- communication

- good practices

- other

09.40 EEW2 and webinar 1 – by Inga Retike, University of Latvia

10.00 Theory of Change workshop

11.00 10 minute break

11.10 Reporting

11.45 Final questions and issues

12.00 End of meeting

**12.00** **Buffet lunch**

**13.30** End of meeting and departure

Annex 1

## **Natural Countryside Programme (2022-2027)**

The Natural Countryside Programme focuses on physical measures creating a robust Nature Network Netherlands (NNN), Natura 2000 restoration measures, agricultural nature management and Water Framework Directive (WFD). If necessary, additional initiatives are taken aimed at specific species. Initiatives through partnerships at local and regional level are encouraged.

Because of the interaction between the functioning of the NNN and water and environmental conditions and natural values in the landscape, it is important that there is more cohesion between nature in and outside the NNN. Agricultural nature management is an instrument that contributes to the international obligations under the Birds and Habitats Directives and the WFD as well as to the attractiveness and experience of rural areas. Together with the waterboards, the Province of Drenthe is looking for maximum synergy between the Natural Countryside Programme, the WFD, the Future-Oriented Agriculture Programme and the revised National Environment and Planning Act.

The recreation sector is one of the economic pillars of the Drenthe countryside. Nature is of great value in this respect. Recreational shared use is possible as long as nature objectives are not compromised. Sustainably strengthening nature contributes to climate objectives. For example, Drenthe retains water in stream valleys such as the river Hunze. Where possible, the principles of the climate strategy is combined with the design of nature reserves.

The Natural Countryside Programme has been running for a number of years now. Many developments influence the programme and the nature tasks it contains. The necessary nitrogen measures, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and developments in agriculture (the agricultural transition) ask for more attention. This all adds up to a different and more broad policy implementation, involving more and earlier involvement of other parties and tasks. E.g. can nature development and restoration of the stream system be done with residents, and landowners/users? Can the capacity for drinking water extraction be increased while increasing natural values?

The Province of Drenthe wants to improve the Natural Countryside Programme in such a way that it is more in line with the introduction of the National Environment and Planning Act. It is necessary to think about participation and forms of cooperation at an early stage.

1) New projects: projects including early collaboration with farmers and other landowners/users and the local community, involving parties in the design and realization of new nature reserves and cooperation with landowners. In RIWET Drenthe will experiment and develop knowledge by carrying out projects in the different sub-areas 'Hunzedal' and 'Bargerveen'. In the case of Bargerveen this could be the development of paludiculture between the different bog remnants at both sites of the

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DE-NL border, connecting water buffer zones, or improving internal dikes which contribute to further improvement of the water level management. In the Hunze river catchment area, the aim is to enhance local cooperation in order to create high-quality nature together with Nature trust organisations, waterboards and private landowners.

2) Management of the instrument. Themes are related and effect each other, and have to be executed in a more integral way. E.g. integrated development with farmers. In addition, the Province is working on broadening the nature task by combining it with agricultural development (nature-inclusive agriculture). It is also looking at possibilities to increase the quality of nature in combination with increasing the water extraction capacity. The Natural Countryside Programme focuses on physical measures creating a robust Nature Network Netherlands (NNN), Natura 2000 restoration measures, agricultural nature management and Water Framework Directive (WFD). If necessary, additional initiatives are taken aimed at specific species. Initiatives through partnerships at local and regional level are encouraged.