

# Framing collaborative governance: new approaches for maintaining Dutch floodplains

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## Challenge

The governance of maintaining multifunctional floodplains has become rather complex due to the diversity of actors and sectors involved, each with their own frames and stakes. In the context of integrated river basin management, maintenance is also complicated by long-term perspectives, changing actor configurations, fragmented properties and declining state budgets. Despite a broad recognition of the importance of collaboration, in practice it appears very difficult to give shape to collaborative governance.

## Innovative character

- A framing analysis is used to explore the opportunities and barriers for collaborative governance;
- By using a social network analysis, collaborative relations are made visible;
- A Joint Maintenance Approach (JMA) is developed, which seeks a balance between top-down and bottom-up decision making, promotes flexible budgets and time limits, and emphasizes the importance of learning through debate-oriented processes.

## For whom and where?

Any professional or researcher interested in the governance of river management in the Netherlands.

## Lessons learned?

By analyzing stakeholders frames with regard to maintaining multi-functional floodplains, we learned that:

- Stakeholders use diverse frames with regard to collaborative objectives;
- An integrated planning approach has not been incorporated into the maintenance strategies and programs, inter alia by the lack of an integrated vision of floodplain maintenance;
- Despite well-connected networks within floodplain management, only a few collaborative relationships exist between organizations focusing on either flood protection or nature management goals.

## Status for day-to-day practice

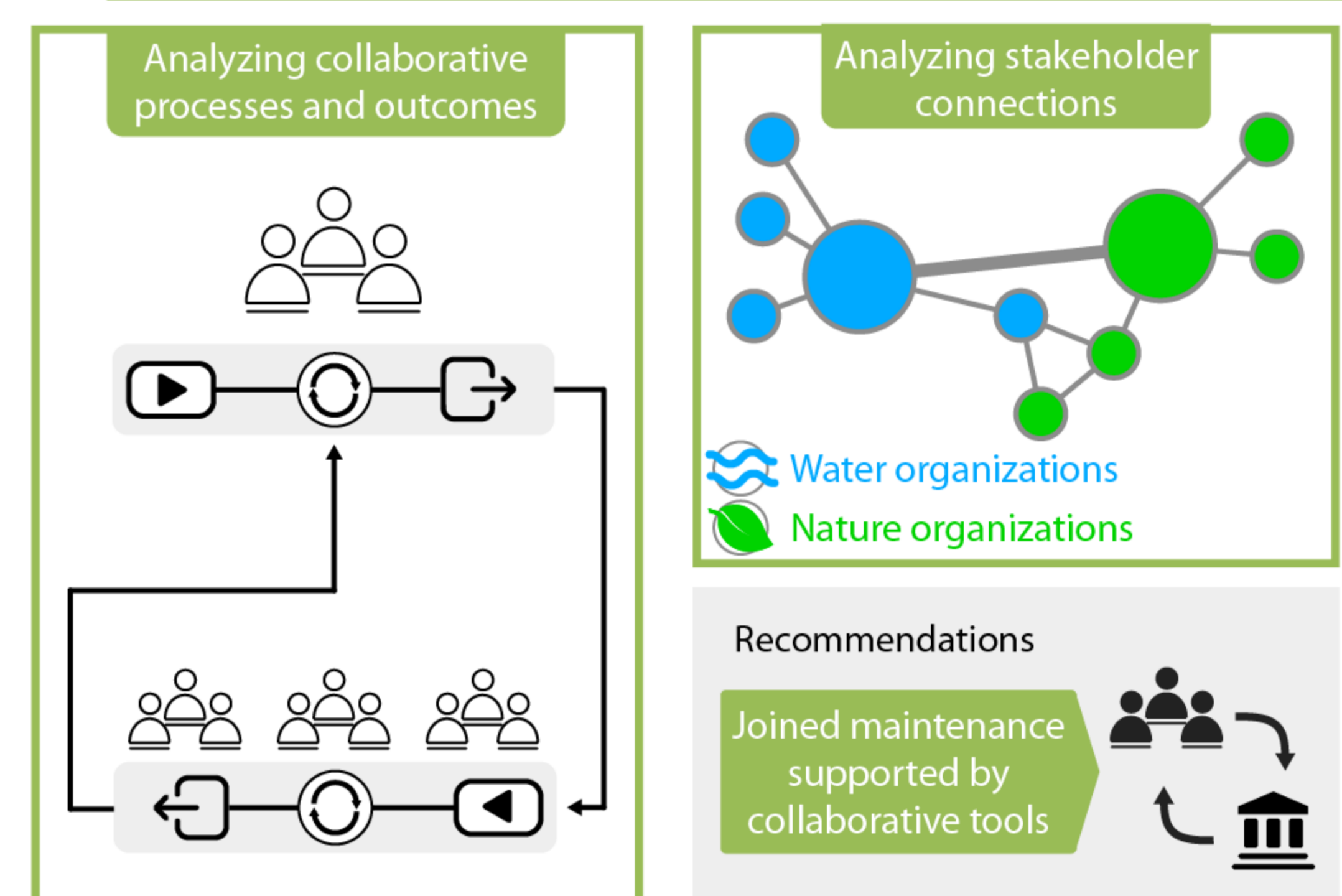
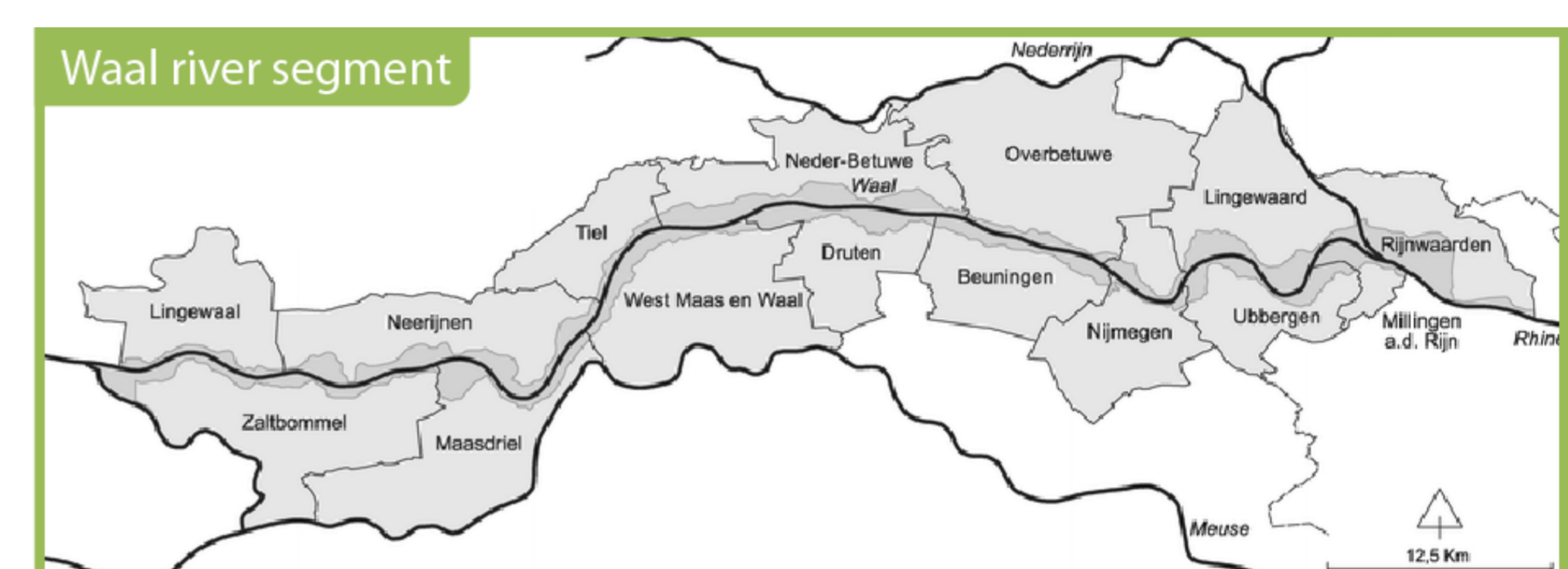
This research illustrates the complexity of collaborative governance in maintaining Dutch floodplains and the need to increase dialogue between parties to understand each others frames and perspectives.

## Next steps

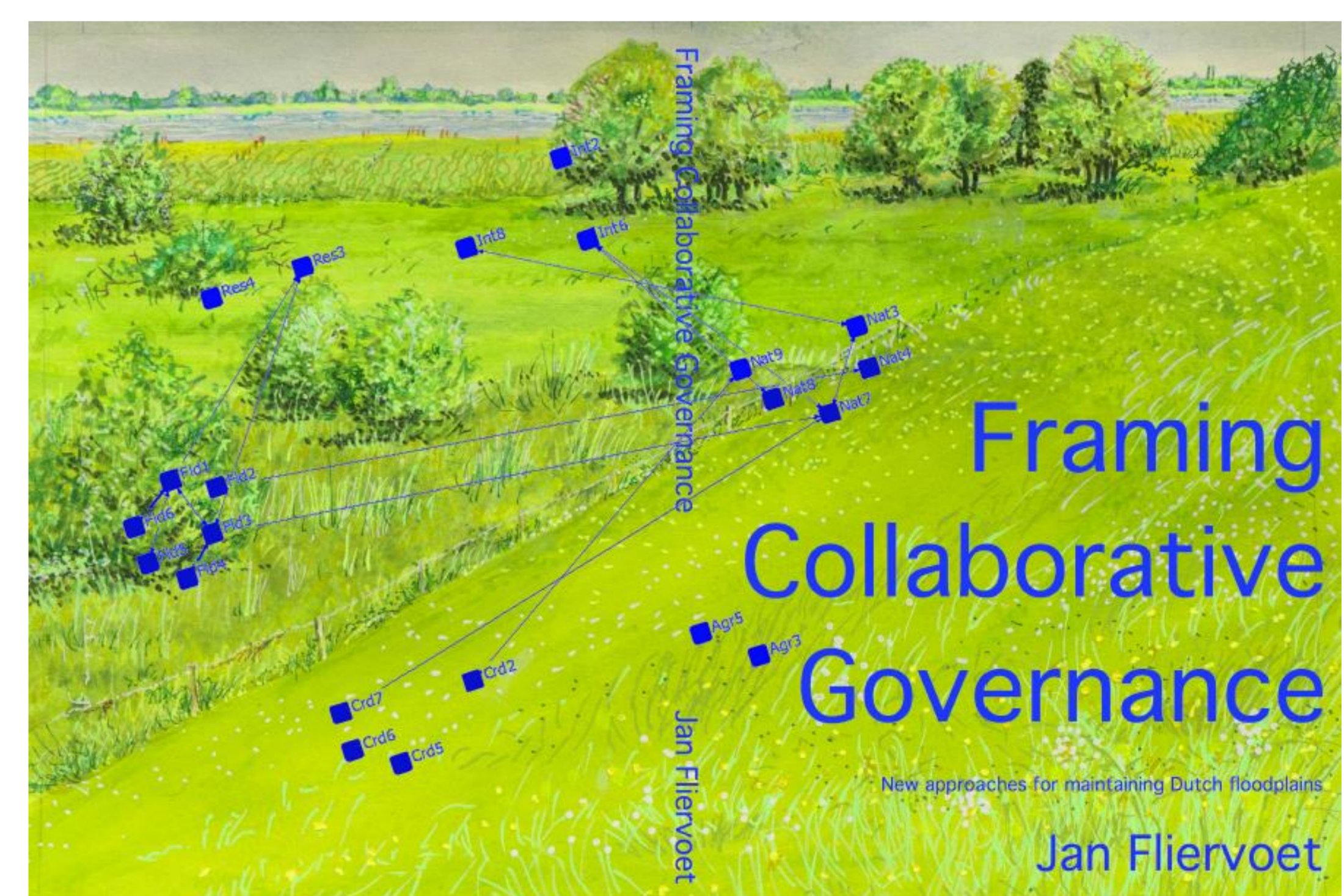
A joint maintenance approach will be performed in the planning phase of redeveloping the floodplains of the Rivierklimaatpark IJsselpoort.



A flooded floodplain of the river Waal in 2012, which also functions as a nature reserve and recreational area (Source: Jan Fliervoet).



Infographic of research, including study area, analyzing collaborative processes and social network analysis.



Cover of thesis

## Interested?

Email to: [Jan.fliervoet@ru.nl](mailto:Jan.fliervoet@ru.nl)  
 Explore more in the theme: "river governance: uncertainties, participation and collaboration"  
[project description](#)

