Visual Problem Appraisal ‘Rhine river branches’
A film based learning strategy for sustainable river management

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Visual Problem Appraisal
Visual Problem Appraisal (VPA) is a film based learning strategy, which aims to enhance the problem analysis of complex issues and to facilitate the development of actions. The action-research simulation is based on ‘mediated stakeholder consultations’ realized with a series of filmed portraits of concerned stakeholders.

VPA Rhine river branches: goals
The Visual Problem Appraisal ‘Rhine river branches’ searches to develop strategic guidance for the complex, multi-stakeholder setting of sustainable river management for the river Rhine and its branches in the Netherlands. The VPA aims to create a tool to support innovative governance as it shapes processes of participation and social learning, creating social imaginaries of sustainable resource management and policy platforms to communicate about sustainable river futures.

VPA Rhine river branches: methods
A professional film crew documents the social and natural environment of river Rhine river branches in a series of filmed portraits and documentaries of farmers, local entrepreneurs, tourists, nature conservationists, water managers, policy makers, fishermen, residents, governmental administrators and so on, represent the diversity of involved actors and narratives. The VPA will be used in a workshop setting to allow for analysis of the issues at stake.

VPA Rhine river branches: deliverables
The VPA Rhine river branches will consist of a series of 28 interviews with stakeholders in the entire Rhine river branches area (Ijssel, Waal and Nether Rhine), concerning their life, work, livelihoods and other stories they relate to the river. Two documentaries will accompany the interviews, together with a facilitators guide for VPA workshops.

VPA Rhine river branches: prototype results
The VPA Rhine river branches prototype has resulted in four films showing concerned stakeholders, a production report, a (mock up) List of Interviews and a Making Of film. The consortium of RSW, VHL and HAN will further develop the VPA Rhine branches in 2018 – 2020, including use in both higher education and the public domain.