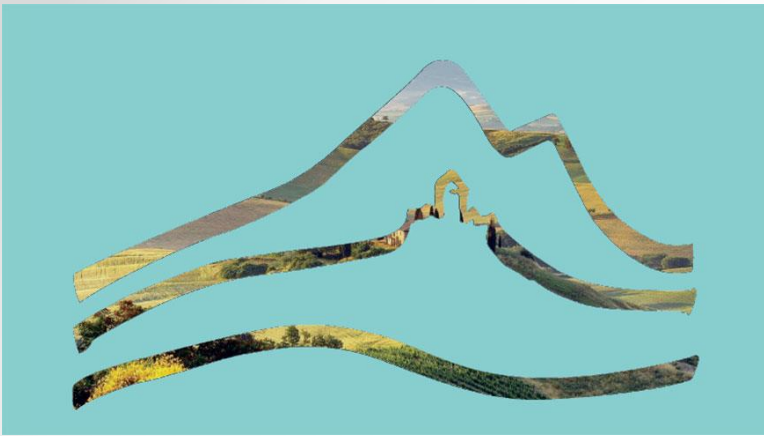


# Water Heritage for the Future

Henk van Schaik  
ICOMOS Netherlands

Council of Europe, 22nd Meeting of the Workshops for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, Seville, 14-15 (16) March 2019



.....the landscape is our living natural and cultural heritage, be it ordinary or outstanding, urban or rural, on land or in water.

The European Landscape Convention promotes the protection, management **and planning** of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIz3pKXs9ck](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eIz3pKXs9ck)



## ICOMOS CONFERENCE \* WATER & HERITAGE PROTECTING DELTAS: HERITAGE HELPS!

Saving the urbanizing deltas of the world will be one of the most important critical challenges for the sustainable future of humankind. Increasing population density and exposure to water-related hazards puts the rich cultural heritage in the world's deltas at high risk, especially due to climate change affecting flood and drought patterns, groundwater and sea levels, pollution and the frequency and intensity of disasters. Human ingenuity and the capacity to learn from heritage across cultures helped coping with water hazards in the past, it is key to improving health and well-being in the present, and will determine a sustainable and equitable future for all.

Societies and professional communities related to water, heritage and spatial planning alike are challenged to adapt to these realities. For a world struggling to find sustainable strategies to address these necessities, heritage helps by providing valuable examples of successful and not so successful decisions and actions, allowing us to better understand the dynamic relationship between society, water technology and governance.

At the same time, water management offers essential technologies to protect world heritage sites threatened by natural disasters and continuous change in vulnerable regions on the banks of rivers, low-lying deltas, flood meadows, and coasts (e.g. 2001 UNESCO affirms the connection between heritage, water and sustainable development through its programmes, the conventions on World Heritage, Intangible Heritage and Underwater Heritage, its declarations on Responsibilities Towards Future Generations and on Culture for Sustainable Development, as well as its Climate Change strategy).

The conference "Protecting delta's heritage helps" convened by ICOMOS Netherlands from 23-24 September 2013 in Amsterdam, brought together more than 100 water, heritage and planning experts from over 20 countries to share innovative strategies on heritage protection and water management, to build and promote linkages within and between communities, and identify opportunities for related heritage to contribute towards safe and sustainable communities in delta regions.

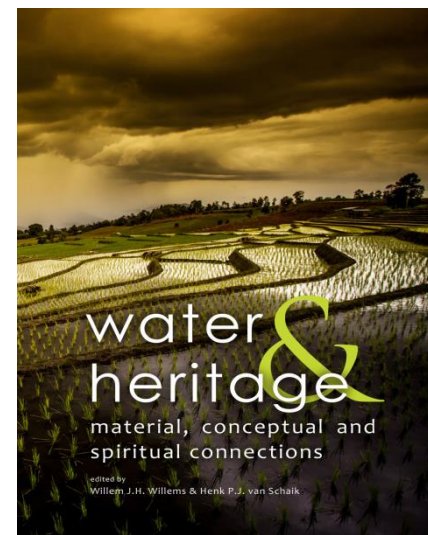
The conference finds that:

- Water, land, and societies are constantly evolving. Water-related heritage is, therefore, dynamic or living, its management is management of change. Many water-related heritage sites are still in use, they encourage the need to adapt, to find new functions and interpretations for heritage, based on principles of flexibility, robustness and resilience. Profound understanding of historical continuity and context is an essential source of information and inspiration for adaptive water management; successful water heritage management requires understanding of the functions and questions of water management.
- Successful strategies to create attractive, sustainable and resilient cities for the future rely on heritage management, water management, urban and spatial planning. Heritage is a reliable asset, where it is a source of pride and inspiration for living communities. Safety measures to prepare societies for the effects of climate change will work best where they are combined with improving city landscapes and respect heritage and the social context.
- The societal desire for integrated urban forms is expressed in spatial planning, but the relation between heritage, development and sustainability is still in its infancy. Spatial planning plays a key role in connecting the insights offered by engineers, archaeologists, historians, ecologists and landscape architects, communicate the links between water, society and heritage to policy makers, professionals and the public and actively involve stakeholders in participatory decision-making processes.
- Awareness raising and capacity development are key to integrate water, heritage and planning. In some parts of the world, relatively recent advances in water technology meant that flood problems and safe water supplies too easily went unaddressed. Heritage plays a crucial role in reminding societies that we have to learn redefining our relationship with water. Consolidating existing knowledge and fostering broad international knowledge development and education will support the institutional transformations needed.



# Water&Heritage, material, conceptual and spiritual connections





“As a basic element of life, our relationship with water is complex, entailing material and spiritual dimensions, and embodied in heritage that is both tangible and intangible. This relationship has always been a source of well-being and inspiration, as well as a source of innovation and creativity, leading us to think not only of the present but also the **future, and the security of future generations.**”



The image shows the interior of a large, ancient cave. The ceiling is low and made of rough, textured rock. Several large, cylindrical stone pillars support the ceiling. The walls are also made of rough rock, with some areas showing faint, reddish-brown markings. A person is standing in the distance on the left side, providing a sense of scale. The lighting is dim, with a bright opening visible on the far left. The overall atmosphere is one of historical significance and archaeological discovery.

*Study the past, before designing something for the future.*

*Confucius (ca. 551-479 bc)*

*IWA Specialist Group on Water and Waste Water in Ancient Civilisations*

78 →







Topics	
<b>Human Services</b>	drinking water supply waste water irrigation
<b>Waterscapes</b>	land reclamation recreation fisheries
<b>Waterways</b>	rivers and deltas canals ports
<b>Water Power</b>	energy generation protection
<b>World Views</b>	cosmology philosophy legal aspects

Aesthetics – Function – History – Spirituality





# *The hydro- biography*

a critical historical perspective on 'waterscapes'  
as a tool for planning and design

**ERIC LUITEN – LANDSCAPE CONSULTANT**

FORMER CHAIR OF HERITAGE AND SPATIAL DESIGN, TU DELFT

FORMER GOVERNMENT ADVISOR ON LANDSCAPE AND WATER



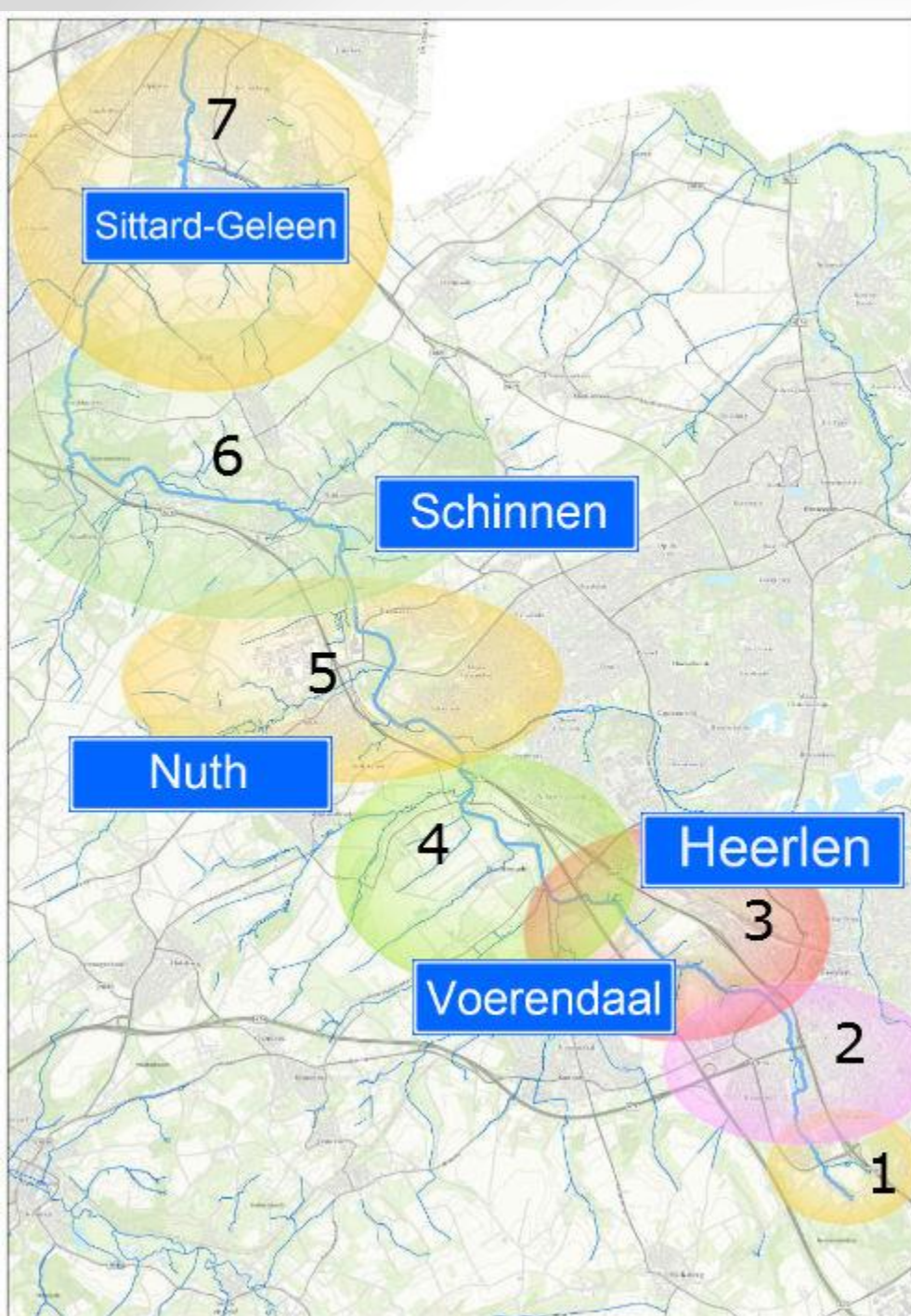
# Hydrobiografie Marken

Leven met het water



# Hydrobiografie Schelde-estuarium





1: *Cultuurhistorisch landschap*

2: *Stadspark voor Heerlen Zuid*

3: *Landschap van hoeves en kastelen*

4: *Landschap van Zijbeken*

5: *Stadsmoeras in 'Gebrook'*

6: *Beekdallandschap*

7: *Het Absbroekbos en beekdalen  
Geleen*



# Openhovenerhof







MUCHAS GRACIAS