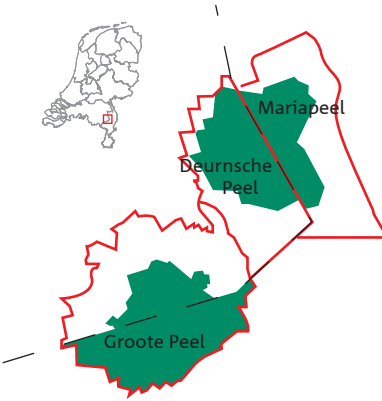


# Raised bog development LIFE+ Peelvenen

The connected nature reserves Deurnsche Peel and Mariapeel in the Netherlands will receive a significant boost in the coming years. The quality of the raised bog will greatly improve and their area will be expanded. In turn, the raised bog will enable the return and preservation of rare, protected plants and animals. Thanks in part to the European LIFE+ funding program, the Peelvenen area will flourish again!

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## Peelvenen

The Peelvenen is a unique area that lies on the border of the Dutch provinces of North Brabant and Limburg. The area consists of the sub-zones Deurnsche Peel, Mariapeel and Groote Peel. Peat harvesting began in the mid 19th century. Subsequently, the areas were reclaimed for agricultural purposes.

The areas that were not reclaimed are now reserves that emulate the original raised bog. In addition, the area is of great cultural and historical significance due to its canals, bridges, lanes and old buildings.

The Peelvenen project aims to restore the raised bog, with several important conditions in mind. Our focus is on the liveableness of the area, on prospective agricultural development, and on the preservation of cultural heritage values. We have been investing in these objectives for quite some time and will continue their implementation in the coming years.



## LIFE+ measures

In the Deurnsche Peel, the part of the Peelvenen situated in North Brabant, we will develop circa 135 acres of former farmlands to support raised bog. To this end, we will remove the layer of topsoil in certain areas and adjust the water system. Stable water levels will enable the raised bog to evolve within the existing natural core of the Deurnsche Peel. Central to our approach in the Mariapeel, the part of the Peelvenen situated in Limburg, are measures aimed at combating drought and separating water streams. Think of filling up watercourses and placing screens in the banks of the canals that run through the area. In addition, the local high-bush blueberry will be removed, as this species is threatening the quality of the raised bog.

## Duration and cost

Authorities, site managers, district water boards and interest groups will cooperate with the region to restore the extremely rare raised bog landscapes. The duration of this phase of the Peelvenen project is four years (mid 2012 - early 2016). Visible activities will mainly take place in 2013 and 2014. The associated project costs amount to approximately EUR 6.5 million.

## More information

For more information about the project, please contact Edith Camps, project lead at the Government Service for Land and Water Management (Dienst Landelijk Gebied) at +31652401391 or [e.p.l.camps@dlg.nl](mailto:e.p.l.camps@dlg.nl). Have a look at our website: [www.peelvenen.nl](http://www.peelvenen.nl). Follow us on Twitter: @Peelvenen



*With the contribution  
of the LIFE financial instrument  
of the European Union*

