

# A 14 Hotspot Zuidplaspolder

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<b>Project website</b>	www.xplorelab.nl		
<b>Starting date</b>	1 December 2006	<b>Completion date</b>	1 December 2008

## Context / Social problem

The Zuidplaspolder lies to the west of Gouda. It is one of the deepest polders in the Netherlands at 6 metres below Amsterdam Ordnance Datum. In the National Spatial Strategy the polder is designated a development area to meet the need for urban expansion (including greenhouse horticulture) in the southern half of the Randstad. Parts of this reclaimed lake are subject to land subsidence, and the polder is situated next to the Hollandse IJssel river, which is connected to the major rivers in the delta and via them to the sea. A breach of the dike would therefore have serious consequences. In addition, climate change will increase the likelihood of flooding and high groundwater levels caused by intensive rainfall, of drought and of upward seepage of partly saline groundwater. The polder will have to be laid out in such a way that future residents and businesses are not negatively affected by any of these processes. For these reasons the provincial council took the initiative, together with the Climate changes Spatial Planning programme, in setting up this hotspot project. The steering committee responsible for coordinating the development of Zuidplas fully supports the project.

## What is already known, and what is not?

The Zuidplaspolder project has been running for several years and an intermunicipal masterplan (structuurplan) for the whole area has already been adopted. This plan already takes the risk of flooding into account through the use of the 'layer' or 'strata' planning methodology. A 'climate appraisal' was performed using the latest climate scenarios, in particular for the longer term (to 2100).

## What is being studied?

The Hotspot project consists of three phases. In phase 1 the long-term effects of climate change will be presented in the form of risk maps for the province of Zuid-Holland, and specifically for Zuidplaspolder. In phase 2 solutions for making Zuidplaspolder climate-proof will be proposed and incorporated into the ideas which have already been developed during the preparation of the plans for Zuidplas. The proposals will probably include innovative building forms and smart measures for limiting the impacts of potential disasters. In phase 3 these design solutions will be subjected to a cost-benefit analysis.

## What are the results, and who are they for?

The Zuidplaspolder Hotspot project is being implemented by a consortium and will run for one year. Schieland en de Krimpernerwaard regional water board and ConSept will work alongside Zuid-Holland provincial council on substudies within the project. Wageningen, Delft and Amsterdam (VU) universities will provide the academic input. The provincial council's input will be made by Xplorelab, a laboratory for innovative learning and working established in 2007 as a unit within the council's Green Space, Water and Environment division. The final product will consist not only of a final report, but also a covenant or declaration of intent between the Zuidplas parties on the use and implementation of the ideas generated and the knowledge acquired during the project.

