

CLIMATE ADAPTATION ATLAS

The Climate Adaptation Atlas (CAA) discloses spatial information on climate change impacts to a wider audience. The Atlas is a discussion/decision support tool. The easily accessible database - or geoportal – with an emphasis of visualizing information by means of G.I.S. makes the information comprehensible for a wider public and allows local governments to work towards a climate-proof future. The CAA has been developed for the Netherlands. It's methodology has proven to be successful in supporting governments to develop adaptation strategies. This methodology can be applied internationally. Countries working on climate adaptation face the same problems: What is the impact? How can we adapt? How can I make information accessible for stakeholders and policy makers? Therefore, as a discussion/decision support tool the Climate Adaptation Atlas can be very attractive globally. The atlas is being developed by a consortium consisting of knowledge institutes (Alterra-Wageningen UR, Deltares, KNMI) and consultants (DHV Group, Geodan Next) in close collaboration with regional stakeholders and governments. The CAA contains information about projected impacts of regionalized climate change scenarios, including flooding, ecosystem shifts, urban heat island effect and agricultural production. The Atlas is successfully being applied in numerous workshops and design sessions with different groups of stakeholders.



The Climate Adaptation Atlas discloses and visualizes scientific information on climate change to support spatial planning and decision making. The Dutch Climate Adaptation Atlas consists of a large number of maps disclosed via an online Geoportal (<http://klimaateffectatlas.wur.nl>).

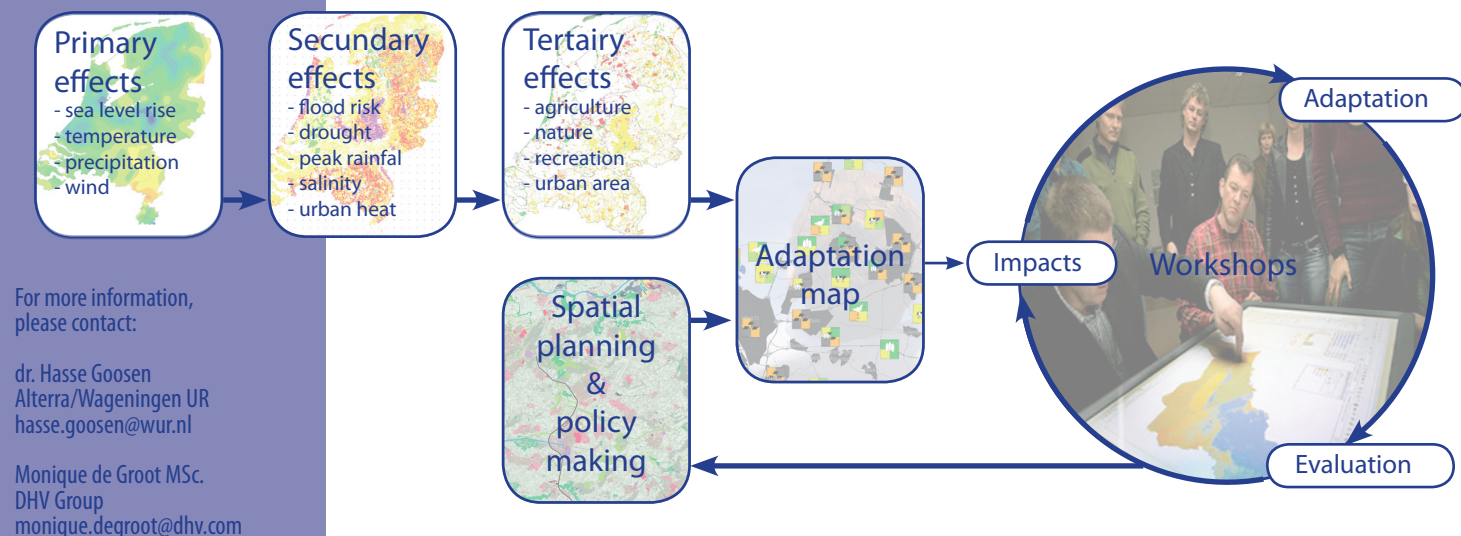
The development of adaptation strategies requires more than the 'predict-optimize-act' approach. Adaptation problems cannot be resolved only through downscaling of climate information. Developing robust adaptation strategies or climate-proofing plans or projects requires a bottom-up process involving also non-climate objectives. In the Netherlands, the Climate Adaptation Atlas has proven

itself to be an important discussion/decision support tool for climate adaptation at the regional level. Using the atlas provided a wealth of information and experience working bottom up. This approach can be an important tool in bridging science, policy and private sector around the world.

The atlas contains a wealth of information on climate change impacts, e.g. flood modeling, urban heat island effect, crop drought sensitivity and sensitivity of nature types to droughts. This Climate Adaptation Scan helps users to identify key adaptation challenges in their areas of interest. The Atlas combines the effects and visualizes the main conclusions in an adaptation map, highlighting ar-

reas where adaptation is more urgent. This map addresses policy makers and highlights areas where proposed investment policies may face future damage or opportunities due to climate change.

The impact and adaptation maps are used in several interactive and multidisciplinary workshops between scientist, policy makers and spatial planners. Together the participants design adaptation options based on the local impacts of climate change. The adaption options are evaluated on their effectivity and social costs and benefits. These workshops proved to be very helpful in investigating robust adaptation strategies, leading to an increased political support for action.



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The CAA offers easy access to regionalized state-of-the-art knowledge on the impacts of climate change. It's methodology has proven to be effective in supporting local and regional governments to develop adaptation strategies. The methodology can easily be applied elsewhere in the world. The consortium has the knowledge and expertise as well as the experience with facilitating adaptation planning processes.