

Development of regional climate scenarios in the Netherlands



climate scenarios - involvement of users

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Introduction

Aim climate scenarios: for use in studies exploring the impacts of climate change + for adaptation strategies

To ensure that the developed climate scenarios are relevant to the intended users, interaction with the users is needed.

	Energy	Urban water management	Coastal protection
Preferred climate data	Wind speed	Rainfall extremes	Sea level rise, wind extremes
Time resolution	Day-month-year	5-60 minutes	hours-year
Preferred time horizon	2015-2020	2050-2100	2050-2200

Lessons learned from the past

As part of the research programmes CCsP and KfC* several projects on climate services, tailoring climate information and communication were conducted. Some important lessons learned about user interaction:

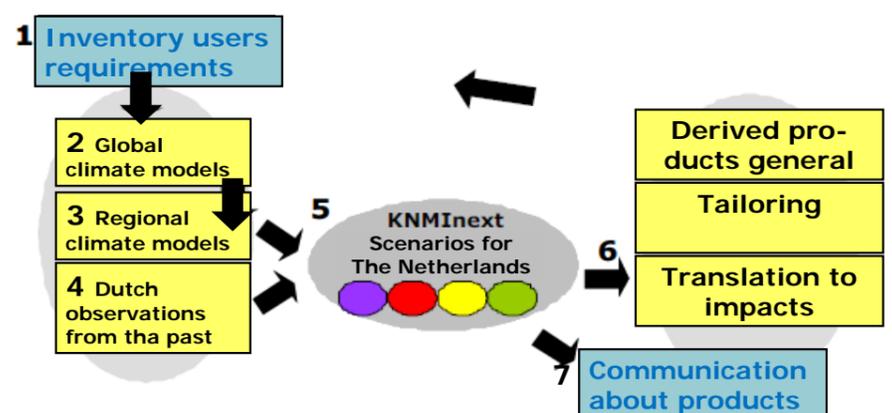
- To be able to deliver relevant climate information in the right format, proper knowledge is required on who will be using the climate information and data, how it will be used and why they use it
- Sustained contact with users required, because users' requirements can be very diverse and may change over time
- Meetings with climate researchers and users together + working together in projects results in mutual understanding on requirements of users and limitations to deliver certain types of climate data
- Adapt information and communication to the type of users (e.g. impact researchers or policy makers) and to the type of problem (unstructured problems require much more contact with the users)



User involvement in KNMI next scenarios

The above lessons are taken into account during the development of the next generation of climate scenarios for the Netherlands (expected end 2013):

- Users' requirements taken into account explicitly from the beginning of the process
- Users involved from early phases of the development of new scenarios, among others in the following ways:
 - workshops on users' requirements to check whether they have changed and to get more in depth information, separate workshops for researchers and policy makers with different levels of detail
 - feedback group of users to get more detailed feedback on the modes and forms of communication
 - Autumn school on dealing with uncertainties in impact research
 - newsletter with information on the progress and procedures to be followed
 - projects together with impact researchers: tailoring of data + present impact information consistent with climate scenarios much earlier



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* CCsP = Climate Changes spatial Planning
KfC = Knowledge for Climate