# IC II Socio-economic scenarios for climate change assessments

Project manager	prof.dr. Frans Berkhout
Institute	VU University Amsterdam, Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences, Institute of Environmental Studies
Email	frans.berkhout@ivm.vu.nl
Consortium	VU University Amsterdam, Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences, Institute of Environmental Studies
	WL Delft Hydraulics
	Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB)
	Netherlands Institute for Spatial Research (RPB)
	Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (MNP)
Project website	http://www.ivm.falw.vu.nl/Research_projects/index.cfm/home_subsection.cfm/subsectionid/
	341ACB99-B55B-3B18-1E5183E0F4CD4E78
Starting date	1 September 2006 <b>Completion date</b> 31 December 2007

### Context / Social problem

Most climate studies are about the future. But it is not just the climate that is changing; society is changing too. It makes little sense, therefore, to project future climate effects onto the current socio-economic situation. We can explore these situations by conducting scenario studies. Scenarios are descriptions of possible future developments and trends. They consist of storylines, which are usually based on quantitative models.

The project will generate socio-economic scenarios for climate studies, including storylines, models and instructions on how to use them, in collaboration with future partners.

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

The study on 'Prosperity and Living Environment' (Welvaart en Leefomgeving, WLO) by CPB, RPB, MNP and others describes four different scenarios for the Netherlands to 2040. Two 'key drivers' are decisive in determining the outcomes of these four scenarios: the degree of individualisation in society and the degree of international cooperation. The implications of these two drivers are translated into socio-economic trends, such as employment and population size, and also into spatial trends, such as available housing in various regions.

The time horizon of the WLO scenarios and their relation to climate change may limit the value of the WLO study for use in climate studies. Project IC11 will investigate whether there is a need for scenarios to 2100 and whether the BSIK researchers consider that the scenarios diverge sufficiently from current practice – in other words,

that the degree of international cooperation, for example, is extreme enough. The WLO study has been published in book form, but it would be better if the scenarios were made available in a digital format so that BSIK researchers could work with them directly.

#### What is being studied?

In IC11 we will establish whether the above-mentioned limitations are significant, and if so, what we can do about it. Workshops will be held with potential users of the scenarios, the suitability of the scenarios will be tested in a case study, and we will explore, with three WLO authors from CPB, RPB and MNP, how the underlying models can be made available for use by other researchers.

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

The main products of IC11 will be:

- 1. A literature review of relevant scenarios
- A report on the results of the workshop on user requirements
- 3. A report containing storylines and relevant data
- A report and website containing 'instructions' on how to use the scenarios and providing access to the scenario models

The main target group for the project consists of CcSP researchers

