

From Knowledge to Climate

Research → Knowledge → Cash

Renske Peters, Director Water Business and International Water Affairs,
Dutch ministry of Infrastructure and Environment
Speech at the Mid Term Assessment Knowledge for Climate, Royal
Tropical Institute, October 4th Amsterdam

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's a great pleasure for me to speak at the occasion of this 'Mid Term Assessment'.

This historic Royal Tropical Institute has for me, since I was a young child, a special value. Here I learned about the global challenges, about different cultures in the world.

Today the global challenge, climate adaptation is the central issue.

Being the government representative in the so called Topsector Water my interest goes to knowledge in connection with practice. To solutions now and in the future. Solutions here in the Netherlands and worldwide.

My compliments go to the Program Office for organizing this day. Today we can share a feeling whether the program is on the right course towards the intended destination.

I am proud to live in a country, working in a policy field, where the notion of climate change is rooted in a long tradition of coping with natural challenges. Experience in integrated water management and a strong spatial planning tradition creates a safe and attractive delta to live. I mention "Room for the River" as a form of climate adaptation "avant la lettre". Our situation in this densely populated delta, asks for constantly anticipating the future, including its uncertainties.

The notion of “urgency combined with opportunities” made the government decide to support important knowledge programs, notably “Knowledge for Climate” you are reviewing today. At the end of the day the question is whether these investments in knowledge meet the original objectives. When “Knowledge for Climate” ends in December 2014, the Dutch society will have spent money from the State budget, complemented by inputs from stakeholders, including from the private sector.

After a first phase of “exploring” research the second phase of Knowledge for Climate took to thematic deepening of knowledge, linking in with the actual questions we face, in particular under the Delta program.

The Delta program, with the Delta Act, a Delta Commissioner, the Delta Fund, with the involvement of provinces, cities, waterboards, civil organizations, private sector and knowledge institutes, is an excellent counterpart dealing with priorities in climate adaptation.

In the Delta program the focus is on long term flood security, the availability and distribution of freshwater and - last but not least - climate proof urban development.

A clear example of the promising cooperation between “Knowledge for Climate” and the Delta Program are your so called “hot spots”. Partners are the local and regional governments.

The approach is bottom-up, focusing on making these hot spots climate resilient, resulting in regional adaptation strategies.

I see with great pleasure that in the hot spot approach not only scientific institutes, government bodies, but also 23 business companies were participating. A solid base “from knowledge to practice” which also lies at the heart of our Topsector Water approach.

Here I refer to this new innovative policy, in which 9 economic areas are aiming to improve the economic position of the Netherlands. For climate adaptation the topsectors of water, Energy and Agriculture are relevant. It is about cooperation in the golden triangle, knowledge institutes, private sector and government. Research will become more demand driven, innovation is needed, Public Private Top consortia (TKI) are launched.

As government we'll more and more act as launching customer. The government will remove barriers and focus on bottom up, regional input.

The results of the program KfC are promising. Just a few examples from the first phase, briefly some examples to show a link between KfC and the Delta program.

Water safety. As an example: the Rotterdam Port Area, also the living area for 40.000 people. The ambition of the city of Rotterdam is to reconstruct building areas into "floating communities". The question is how vulnerable is this area for flooding? Climate scenarios are translated into flood maps and these flood maps show the vulnerability of specific areas.

This knowledge is used as a policy tool for these type of areas.

- (1) A safe and in the urban surrounding well fitted flood defense work: an excellent combination of functions in an urban area. Design as instrument to move forward in spatial planning in urban areas;
- (2) Building in flood prone areas, tailor fit designed for specific regions. Bridging the gap in thinking between urban designers and water experts. Also reconciling 'grand design' and technical safety. More insight in the need for adaptive building.
- (3) Storage of water under glasshouses.

- (4) Riverfront on dike level: The so called "climate dyke" or "Delta dyke". A major issue in the development of the future Delta-decisions.
- (5) The decision support tool, the so called touch table.

The details you can enjoy later today, when you will be inspired by the new book 'Invent, develop and apply: Knowledge for Climate in practice", edited by Florrie de Pater and Marjolein Pijnappels.

But there is more spin-off from the synergy between KfC and the Delta program:

- contributes to the development of Deltascenario's, incorporating climate change in the modelling
- looks in "Climate proof cities" to the increased risk of flooding under extreme precipitation, and deals with heat-exposure during the urban heat island effect.
- deals in a breakthrough meta-study with "fresh water supply" in South-West Netherlands and experiments with so called "fresh water lenses" in the subsoil'.

The issues addressed show the need for a good interactive relationship between policymakers and scientists, but in my opinion there is still more room for involvement of the private sector. Scientific knowledge is evolving all the time, we should stay alert on practical application and innovation, and thus ... co-operation with business. Innovations arise in frontier areas.

So my plea is a stronger relationship between KfC and Business in the remaining time we have.

So far the National Connection.

But the importance of work on adaptation - water related and broader - goes far beyond the national level.

In the European Union climate adaptation is being mainstreamed in all policy areas, agriculture, transport etc. And early next year the European Commission will present its European Adaptation Strategy. This will result in additional pressure on drafting national strategies, action plans and a need for knowledge.

We can be proud that the “Knowledge for Climate” spirit spreads its wings all over Europe. Your contribution to wide spread knowledge about adaptation to climate change is highly appreciated at European and international level. Dutch Universities and Knowledge Institutes score high in current European Knowledge Program’s.

In speaking about the international value of Knowledge for Climate the “International Delta Alliance” should be mentioned. This Alliance shows potential in becoming THE global knowledge network in the area of climate adaptation in deltas. Knowledge for Climate laid the foundation for the Delta Alliance and now is the task of the Board of the Alliance to make it fly as an important independent flagship.

One merit of “Knowledge for Climate” is the lively Policy Science Community it has created. Our common responsibility is to sustain this community in the post-KfC area.

And with “we” I mean also the co-operation in “the Golden Triangle”. The Topsector approach of knowledge institutes, private sector and government stands ready to carry the stick further.

In summary: the joint efforts in “Knowledge for Climate”, including through the link with the Delta program and the evolving Topsectors create an excellent basis for coping with challenges of climate change.

This within our country, but certainly also in Europe and internationally.

Making countries climate resilient, create jobs and attractive environments for all.

I wish you an inspiring day.

Thank you!

Knowledge for Climate

Midterm Assessment Amsterdam

From knowledge to practice

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Renske Peters, Director Water Business and
International Water Affairs,
Dutch ministry of Infrastructure and Environment

September 16, 2012





Room for the river





Room for the river



KfC themes in the second phase

1. **Climate Proof Flood Risk Management**
2. **Climate Proof Fresh Water Supply**
3. **Climate Adaptation for Rural Areas**
4. **Climate Proof Cities**
5. **Infrastructure and Networks**
6. **High-quality Climate Projections**
7. **Governance of Adaptation**
8. **Decision support tools**

Hotspots & Deltaprograms





Invent

Develop

Apply



Design as a movement



Building in flood prone areas



Invent

Develop

Apply



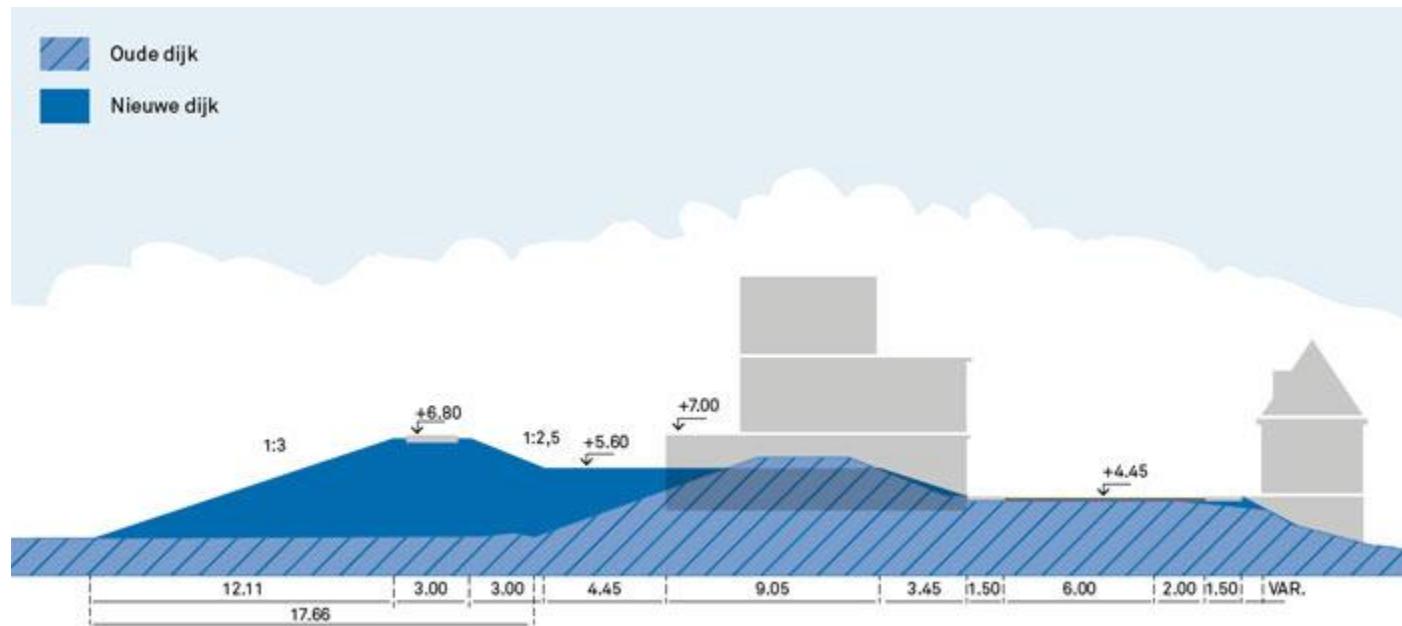
Waterstorage under Glashouses



Riverfront on dyke level



Climate dyke Streefkerk



Invent

Develop

Apply

Knowledge for Climate in Practice

Edited by Florrie de Pater and
Marjolein Pijnappels **KfC**

Published today!

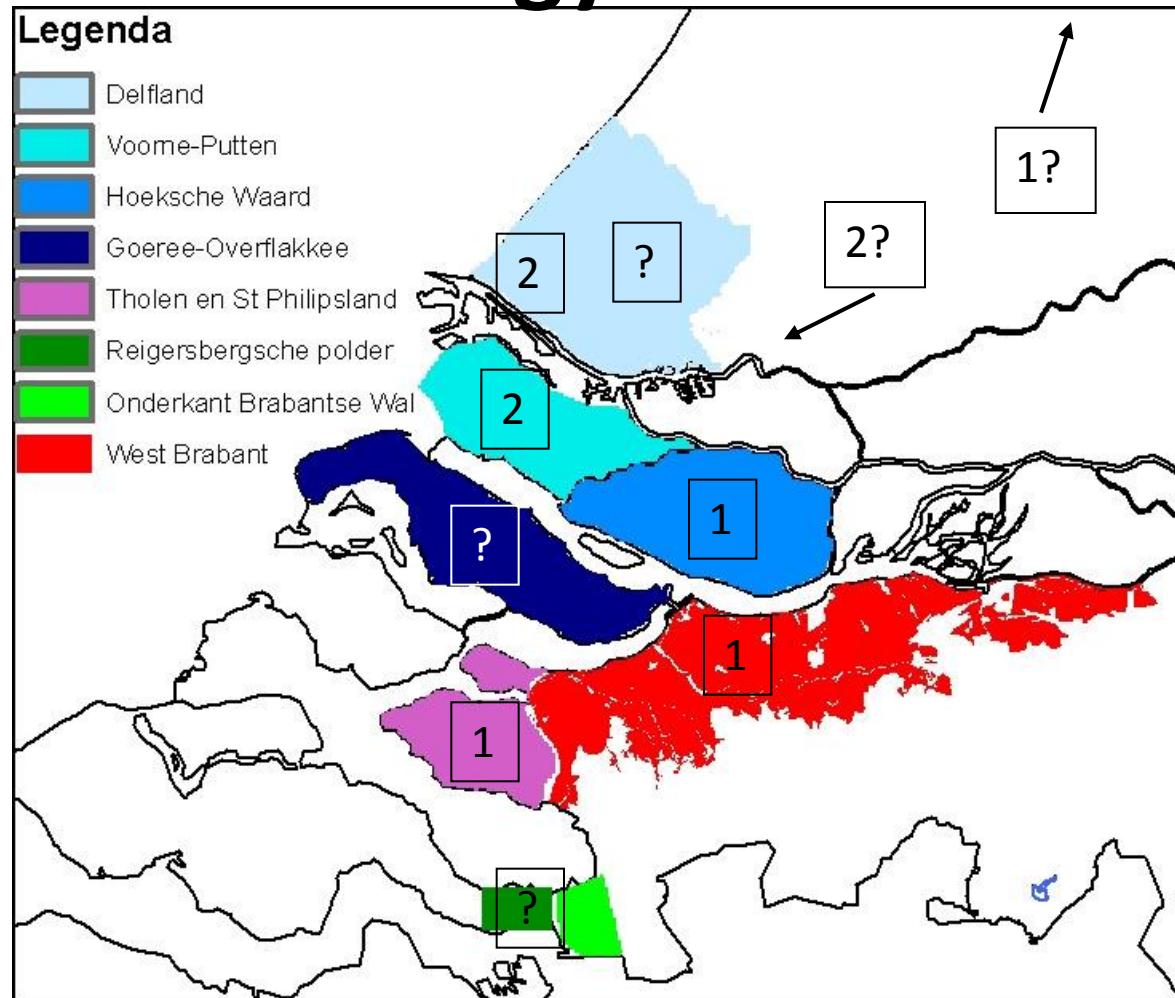
Heath stress





Fresh or Salt water: When, where, which strategy?

- 1. Resistance**
- 2. Move along with**





Artic Ice



Thank You!

PILOT ZANDMOTOR

De **Zandmotor** is een grote hoeveelheid zand die in 2011 wordt aangebracht voor de kust van Ter Heijde. Door wind, golven en zee-stroming verspreidt het zand zich geleidelijk langs de kust. Dit is 'bouwen met de natuur'. De natuur helpt ons in de versterking van de kust waarbij tegelijk meer ruimte ontstaat voor natuur en recreatie.

Over een periode van 20 jaar zal de vorm van de **Zandmotor** veranderen. Uiteindelijk gaat de **Zandmotor** volledig op in nieuwe duinen en strand. De **Zandmotor** is uniek in de wereld. Door dit pilotproject doen we nieuwe kennis op over kustbescherming en bouwen met de natuur.

Meer informatie: www.dezandmotor.nl

Pilot Zandmotor DeltaDuin is een initiatief van Rijkswaterstaat en de provincie Zuid-Holland

PILOT PROJECT SAND MOTOR

THE PILOT PROJECT involves the delivery of sand that is being deposited off the coast of Ter Heijde. Wind, waves and ocean currents will gradually distribute the sand along the coast. This natural process helps us to reinforce the coast, simultaneously creating more room for nature and recreation.

The shape of the Sand Motor will change in the course of 20 years. Eventually, the sand will be completely dispersed along the coast and the beach. The Sand Motor project is unique in the world. Through this pilot project we acquire further knowledge of coastal protection and building with nature.

PILOT PROJECT SAND MOTOR

Im Rahmen des Projektes Sandmotor werden 2011 vor der Küste von Ter Heijde große Sandmengen aufgeschüttet. Durch Wind, Wellen und Meereströmung wird das Sand nach und nach gleichmäßig an der Küste verteilt. Dies ist 'Bauen mit der Natur'. Die Natur hilft uns einerseits, die Küste zu verstetigen und andererseits in dieser Weise zusätzliche Natur- und Erholungsgebiete zu schaffen.

In einem Zeitraum von 20 Jahren wird sich der Sandmotor verändern, bis er sich letztendlich völlig in Form von Strand und Dünen befindet. Dies ist einzigartig. Dieses Pilotprojekt ermöglicht uns neue Erkenntnisse über den Küstenschutz und das Bauen mit Hilfe der Natur.

De Zandmotor in het kort:

- Vergroten kustveiligheid
- Extra ruimte voor natuur en recreatie
- Kennisontwikkeling
- 21,5 miljoen kubieke meter zand
- Oppervlak 100 hectare = 200 voetbalvelden
- Uniek in de wereld

The Sand Motor in brief:

- Increasing coastal safety
- More room for nature and recreation
- Knowledge development
- 21.5 million cubic metres sand
- Surface area of 100 hectares = 200 football fields
- Construction: 2011
- Unique in the world

Aanbieders:

Van Oord  **Boskalis Nederland** 

Hier wordt geïnvesteerd in uw toekomst. Dit project wordt mede mogelijk gemaakt door het Europees Fonds voor Regionale Ontwikkeling van de Europese Unie.



ZANDMOTOR
DELTAHEIDEN

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