

Summary

Climate proofing the Netherlands is not only a technical issue but also a demanding matter of governance. The specific complexities of adaptation governance call for new advanced governance knowledge. Governance is defined as the interactions between public and/or private entities ultimately aiming at the realization of collective goals. A governance arrangement is the ensemble of rules, processes and instruments that structure these interactions. This programme will develop and test governance arrangements that can contribute to realizing adaptation options, and to increasing the adaptive capacity of society. These arrangements should be effective, legitimate and resilient. The program will be concentrated around four key questions and corresponding work packages:

1. How can we organise connectivity within the existing complex governance structures?
2. Which economic instruments and governance structures to (re)allocate risks and responsibilities between the public and the private are promising?
3. What are the consequences of uncertainties, stakeholders' perceptions and contested knowledge, and which methods help to cope with them in decision-making processes?
4. How can the principles of legitimacy, effectiveness and resilience be elaborated and what are the implications for the governance of adaptation?

To fulfil the dual ambition to develop practically relevant and scientifically sound knowledge, two supporting methodological work packages will be set up: collaborative action research and comparative analysis across regional and national boundaries. Collaborative action research means that we take guidance from the hotspots as the primary source of questions, dilemmas and empirical data regarding the governance of adaptation, but also collaborate with them in testing insights and concepts and evaluating their usefulness.

This interdisciplinary programme will result in new insights in climate adaptation governance; tested governance arrangements; innovative research methods; and international comparison of adaptation efforts between Netherlands, Sweden, Germany and UK.

Overview of main research questions on three levels

