

Session DP FE 1.2: Methodologies for costs and effects of adaptation options at global, national and local level

Date and Time of Session: Wednesday, 29 September 2010, 16.15-18.00

Short description of the session topic and the objective of the session

Topic: The usefulness of Cost Benefit analysis in determining the maximum effects of investments in adaptation on different levels of scale in different regions around the world.

Objective: Using a modal to predict risk of flooding and the cost and benefits of avoiding or mitigating that risk can help to calculate the necessary and optimal investments in flood protection on different scales and in different regions around the world.

Session Agenda and Main Speakers

Session chair: msc. Willem Ligtvoet, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency.

Main speakers:

- Global assessment of the costs& effects of adaptation on different scales, dr. Marloes Bakker, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency.
- Costs and effects of adaptation strategies for flood protection in the Netherlands, Joost Knoop Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency.
- Climate proofing for water services for the city of Khulna in Bangladesh, prof. Pavel Kabat, Wageningen University, The Netherlands.

Most exciting insight, moment or outcome

Global assessment of the costs & effects of adaptation on different scales:

In reaction tot de presentation of dr. Bakker, Saleemul Huq commented that the contribution of donor countries how ever well thought through are of no consequence if the receiving countries government is not prepared to invest in the safety of their citizens. And if they are prepared tot invest the donations of other countries are mostly not necessary.

Costs and effects of adaptation strategies for flood protection in the Netherlands

Joost Knoop concluded that maximum safety does not have to mean absolute safety. Controlled flooding can be a very good alternative that is much more cost effective (it costs approx.10 times less) at almost the same risk levels than the risk aversion goals set by the second Delta Commission.

Climate proofing for water services for the city of Khulna in Bangladesh

Pavel Kabat concluded that it is not so much the risk of flooding as it is the ever increasing threat of salinization that will effect the city of Khulna most in the future.

Main conclusions, themes, insights or messages

Global assessment of the costs & effects of adaptation on different scales:

It is possible to model environmental risks of different problems like flooding, drought salinization for different region and on different scales to advice on the most useful investments in prevention.

The model is a useful tool for both the donating party and the receiving country to decide on where to invest the money with the biggest impact. This knowledge will help all parties in justifying the investments. Saleemul Huc concluded that the willingness of governments to invest in the safety of its people is a much more important indicator of the end result than a model based assessment of the impact of investments. Even as the model is a great tool in determining the right strategy.

Costs and effects of adaptation strategies for flood protection in the Netherlands

There are more ways to secure the Netherlands from floods than the solutions brought forward by the 2nd Deltacommission that are both more cost effective, more spatially responsible and much more easy to realize.

Climate proofing for water services for the city of Khulna in Bangladesh

Local Knowledge should not be discounted and should be utilized as much as possible.

In Bangladesh it is not so much the risk of flooding that is the problem as is the ever increasing level of salinization.

Key phrases or quotes

- The conclusion on the necessary investments (that are very high) in Dutch water protection by the Delta commission seem to be in part motivated by the need to make a political statement to show the need to act – Jim Hall
- It is not so much the cost (.. of the investment in water safety) as it is the way we have to pay for it that is the central question – Laurens Bouwer
- Cost Benefit analysis is not as important as is the political will to act- Stéphane Hallegatte