

Responding to climate change

A top 5

The Netherlands organized the Climate Adaptation Summit 2021 at the start of this week. The main question at this online conference was how countries can best respond to climate change. Here's a top 5 from Tim van Hattum, Climate programme leader at WUR.

1 **Natural coastal protection**
This is about building with nature – projects that combine coastal protection with nature development. Like the sand motor off the Dutch coast, oyster reefs in Bangladesh and mangrove forests in Indonesia. The idea: flexible coastal protection grows in step with rising sea levels..

2 **Restoration of wetlands and room for rivers**
Raising the water level in peatland areas around the world, such as the Netherlands and Indonesia, to reduce CO₂ emissions and create wetland nature reserves at the same time. And capturing more fresh water by restoring wetlands and streams or creating room for rivers.

3 **Green cities**
Making cities greener to combat flooding and overheating, for instance. With more trees and parks, say, or smart green roofs and urban farming.

4 **Climate-smart agriculture**
For example, sustainable soil management with a higher level of carbon sequestration, smarter irrigation systems that cope better with water shortages and surpluses, and the development of salt- and drought-tolerant crops.

5 **Adaptive delta management**
Long-term plans for adapting water management to changed climates, such as the delta plans in the Netherlands, Bangladesh and Vietnam. AS