



DELTA IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE II INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE, SCIENCE, CITIES AND BUSINESS
ROTTERDAM THE NETHERLANDS, 24-26 SEPTEMBER 2014

Delta Sessions	
DS 4: The Netherlands	
Chair	Bart Parmet Bart, Staff Delta Programme Commissioner, the Netherlands
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bert Naarding, Programme Water Safety, the NetherlandsAns van de Bosch, Programme Fresh water supply, the NetherlandsDavid van Zelm van Eldik, Programme Spatial Adaptation, the NetherlandsHerbert Bos, Programme Lake IJssel region, the Netherlands

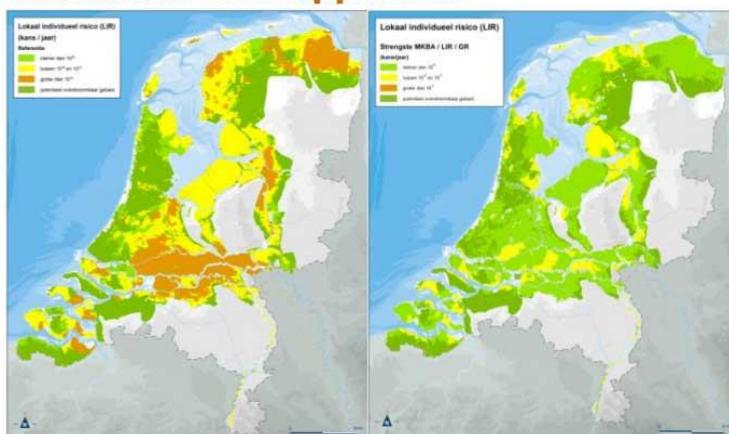
'In almost all the areas we reached consensus.'

Bart Parmet, director Delta Programme, was chairman of the Delta Session the Netherlands. He introduced the new approach of The Netherlands briefly. 'Instead of reacting on a disaster we are now anticipating.' The New Deltaplan foresees in a strategy to keep the Netherlands safe on the long term (2100). It not only aims to protect the Netherlands against flooding but also to ensure an adequate fresh water supply. Four different speakers focused on different aspects of the New Deltaplan.

Bert Naarding, responsible for the Programme Water Safety in the Delta Programme talked about the new protection standards. 'Nowadays we can better determine the strength of dikes and the consequences of flooding. Because of that we can ensure better protection to all people (individual risk of 1: 100.000 per annum) and we can better prevent economic consequences.' Thus, the Netherlands are introducing new norms at a national level. In order to achieve consensus the national organization worked intensively together with the regions. With success. 'In almost all the areas we reached consensus.'

Naarding uses maps of the Netherlands to show the differences between the old and the new approach. In the blink of an eye it becomes clear that the norms will make The Netherlands safer for people.

Revenues new approach



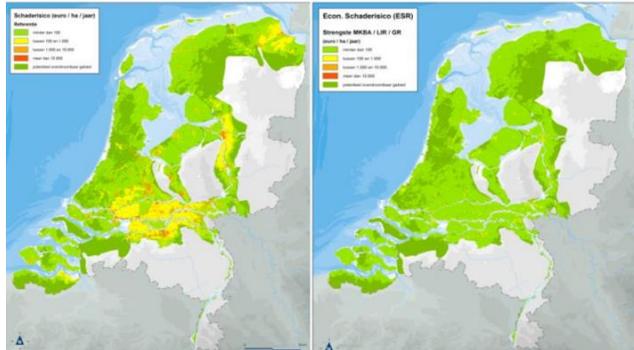


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Also the diminished economic risks become clear in a specific damage risk map. The economic risk reduces by a factor 20 if the new approach is implemented.

Revenues new approach



A participant from Washington asks how The Delta Programme succeeded in 'selling' the concept to all the regions, whilst the concept implies differentiation of norms. Parmet answers this question: 'Through dialogue in understanding and accepting the basic principles. That the risk of drowning has a base level that is the same everywhere in the Netherlands really helped. The height of this base level, 1:100.000 was a political decision.'

Lilian van Aarsen, Programme director Rivers Delta Programme talked about the new policy on fresh water supply. Climate change signifies more periods of drought and salinization. The Netherlands want to take no regret-measures and have to get clear the supply level under normal and dry consequences. 'We cannot safeguard all demands'. In order to prevent problems The Netherlands are investing in a robust water system and innovative solutions for economic use of water.

David Zelm van Eldik, Programme Manager Spatial Adaptation presented the new policy framework for climate and water proof land use. Van Eldik started with the four threats for urban planning; Flooding (1), Drought (2), Heat (3) and Intense Rainfall (4). We expect the costs of climate change will be huge, for example expected costs for intense rainfall in 2050 are 29 billion euro. Expected costs for drought are 42 billion euro, because of problems with the foundation of houses. Despite the new flood risk policy it remains necessary to protect vital functions, like hospitals and energy plants. With spatial planning we can introduce water basins in the city, green roofs and make old neighbourhoods climate proof.

Herbert Bos, Delta Programme Lake IJssel region, told the audience the biggest freshwater lake (IJsselmeer) in Holland is preparing for Climate Change. In order to have enough freshwater for periods of drought the national Delta Commission proposed years ago to raise the level of the lake with 1,5 meters. For safety reasons stakeholders did not want that and got involved in finding a better solution. And so they did. Flexible management of the water level creates a much larger waterstorage and with the installation of pumps the water level can be lowered if needed. In order to anticipate on climate change on the long term the water storage can be increased according to the needs in decades to come. Also economic water use is an issue that will be tackled.

