

Human-induced subsidence in urbanizing deltas and coastal zones

Policy brief and Sinking Cities II brochure

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Climate Adaptation and Resilience
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Nikkei Shimbun, 22 October 2019

室との絆育む

他国と良好な関係を深める国際親善は皇室が担う重要な役割の一つだ。とりわけ、各国の王室とは長い時間をかけて交流を深め、強い絆を築いてきた。各国で国王の世代交代も相次ぐ中、即位されたばかりの天皇陛下の「人脈」にも注目が集まる。

リザベス女王



皇室と英王室のゆかりは深い。近代以降に来日した外国の王室は、1869年の英国第二エドワード公が最初とされる。昭和天皇は皇太子時代の1921年に英国をはじめ欧州各国を訪問し、上皇さまも

19歳だった68年に昭和天皇の代りとしてエリザベス女王の戴冠式に参列された。天皇陛下は学習院大卒業後の83、86年に英オックスフォード大に留学し、18世紀のテムズ川の水運を研究、学生寮に寄宿し、初め

てクレジットカードで買い物をしたり、パブでビールを飲んだりするなど、日本では経験できない自由な生活も楽しまれたという。後、同郷録で「今日の私の生き方」に記された。フランスに渡り、戦後、英国は皇族方の主要な留学先となっている。秋篠宮さまはオックスフォード大で動物学を専攻。長女の麗子さまはレスター大

ワンチュク国王

留学「生き方にプラス」

オランダのアレクサンダー国王（右から二目）一家の乗車で、王室馬車庫を走る天皇、皇后両陛下（愛子さま）の2006年、アムステルダム。＝共同



00年に国を訪問した上皇（夫妻は戦争犠牲者の慰霊塔に献花し、元抑留者と面会された。学生寮の超越しに学生と歓談する姿なども国民に好意的に受け止められ、国民感情を和らげる契機になったとされる。

オランダ

アレクサンダー国王

オランダでは2013年、高齢となったベネリックス前女王の退位を受け、長男のウィレム・アレクサンダー国王が即位した。天皇陛下は国王と同世代で、これまでも親しい交流を重ねてきた。

代表的なのが安全な水の確保や治水といった水問題への取り組みだ。陛下は皇太子時代の07、15年に国連委員会（水資源部）を率いて、各国で講演などをされてきた。国王も06、13年に同委

員会で議長を務め、共に水問題の解決に力を尽くしてきた関係だ。私的な交流も続いている。天皇、皇后両陛下は女王の愛子さまは06年に国連を訪れ、約2週間静養された。皇后さまの療養も兼ねたもので、前女王の招待で実現した。両陛下は13年にも同国を訪れ、現国王の即位式に出席されており、皇后さまは11年ぶりの外国公式訪問となった。

サウジアラビア

サルマン国王

Johannis de Rijke, Colijnsplaat





Tokyo Metropolitan Government delegation in Dordrecht (NL), Sept. 2019



Delta Alliance Countries



Delta Alliance & Delta Coalition





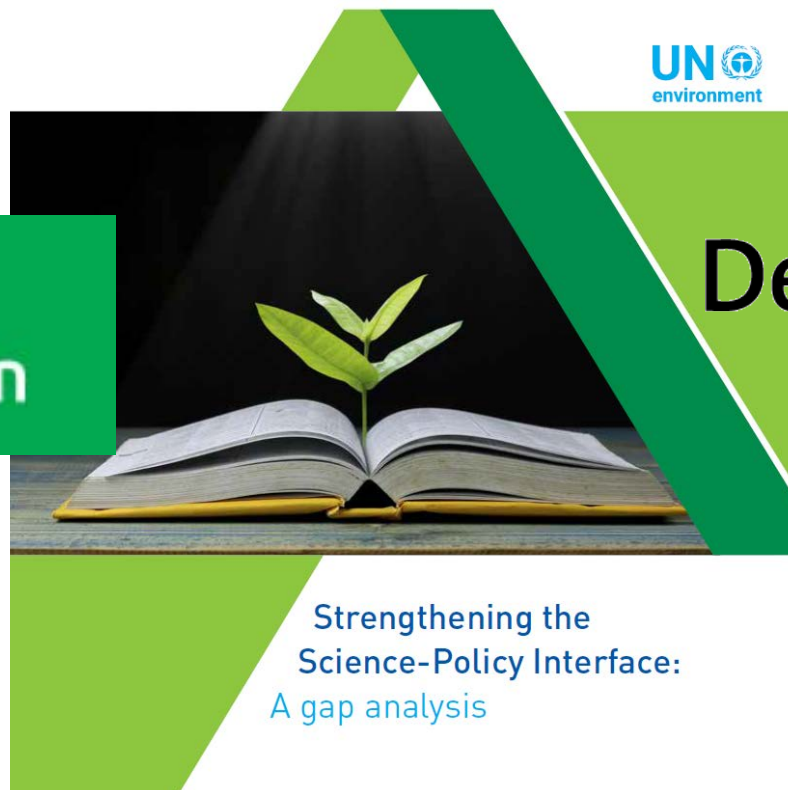
Bridging the gap for deltas

Policy network



Knowledge network

Delta Alliance



Strengthening the
Science-Policy Interface:
A gap analysis



GLOBAL CENTER ON ADAPTATION



Challenge:

Leveraging deltas to address climate change

Deltas are areas where the impacts of climate change can exacerbate existing pressures from urbanization and pollution. But they are also places of opportunity that are often rich in social, economic and natural capital. The Global Center on Adaptation works with a global network with common interests in deltas to use these opportunities to address climate change challenges.

Delta Alliance is active participating organization of the Global Center on Adaptation



Delta Alliance

Deltares
Enabling Delta Life

ALTEERRA
WAGENINGEN RESEARCH CENTER

UNESCO-IHE
Institute for Water Education

TU Delft

Knowledge for Climate

Comparative assessment of the vulnerability and resilience of deltas

Extended version with 14 deltas

synthesis report

Current situation	Land and water use (occupation layer)	Infra-structure (network layer)	Natural Resources (base layer)	Governance	Resilience & Sustainability Indicator		
					Current	Moderate Scenario	Extreme scenario
Nile delta	--	0	-	0	-	-	--
Tana	-	-	0	-	-	-	--
Incomati delta	0	-	-	-	-	-	--
Zambezi	+	-	+	-	0	0	-
Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta	--	--	--	0	--	-	--
Yangtze delta	-	+	-	0	0	0	--
Ciliwung delta	--	--	--	-	--	--	-
Ayeyarwady	-	--	--	-	-	0	-
Mekong delta	0	0	-	0	0	+	0
Rhine-Meuse delta	+	++	0	+	+	0	-
Danube delta	+	+	+	0	+	0	0
California Bay-Delta	0	-	-	0	-	0	-
Mississippi River Delta	0	0	-	0	-	0	-
Parana	+	0	-	0	+	0	-

resilience/sustainability: ++(very good), +(good), 0 (medium), -(low), -- (very low)

Available in december 2019 also: Assessment report on Ouémé Delta (Benin) and Volta Delta (Ghana)

Collaboration on subsidence between Coalition and Alliance

Subsidence in urbanizing deltas and coastal zones

This policy brief describes the challenges and the actionable approaches to counteract human-induced land subsidence. Recommendations are made on policy and governance, technology, capacity building and financing aspects.

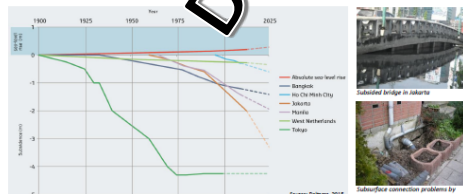
Subsidence is a huge challenge

Key messages

- There is abundant evidence that subsidence is a big challenge worldwide, especially in low-lying urbanizing deltas and coastal zones with deltaic subsidence; current observed subsidence rates in coastal megacities are in the range of 6-100 mm/year, while current global mean sea level rise is around 3 mm/year
- Without proper measures many coastal (delta) cities will sink below sea level resulting in increased risk of flooding, loss of lives and significant economic losses in the form of structural damage and high maintenance costs, totalling billions of dollars per year
- The impacts of subsidence are further exacerbated by climate change, i.e. extreme weather events (short term) and rising sea levels (long term)
- Subsidence is a versatile, interlinked issue involving many policy sectors (e.g. urban planning, housing, economy, spatial planning), and many stakeholders from local to international level; a major rethink is needed to deal with the complex and often 'hidden' but urgent threat of subsidence
- The good news is that it is possible to take action now to mitigate land subsidence, which will prevent worse impacts and much higher costs on longer term

IPCC and OECD identified coastal cities and urbanizing deltas around the world as highly vulnerable environments threatened by climate and human-induced changes. Current estimated risks for 0.5 billion people. Currently in many delta cities land subsidence and sea level rise are increasing, due to excessive groundwater extraction related to rapid urbanization and population growth. Current global mean sea level rise is around 3 mm/year. However current observed subsidence rates in coastal megacities are in the range of 6-100 mm/year and projections till 2025 expect similar subsidence rates. Urgent measures are in the form of structural damage and high maintenance costs, totalling billions of dollars per year.

Without change, more parts of Ho Chi Minh City, Bangkok and numerous other delta (and coastal) cities will sink below sea level. Increased flooding and other widespread impacts and subsidence result currently in damage of billions of dollars per year.



Subsidence for several coastal cities compared to absolute sea level rise in the same time period (please note that average subsidence values are presented as subsidence can differ considerably at local scale, depending on groundwater level and subsurface characteristics)

Sinking cities II – example cases

A step-by-step approach to address land subsidence in urbanising deltas

In many coastal and delta cities land subsidence exceeds absolute sea level rise up to a factor of ten. Without action, parts of Jakarta, Ho Chi Minh City, Bangkok and numerous other coastal cities will sink below sea level. Increased flooding and other widespread impacts of land subsidence result in damage totalling billions of dollars per year. A major rethink is needed to deal with the 'hidden' but urgent threat of subsidence, as well as more effective and step-by-step approach to address land subsidence from the perspective of sustainable and resilient urban development, as illustrated by real life case study examples. The lessons learned from these experiences provide valuable information and inspiration for decision makers and experts to address subsidence in urbanizing deltas. It is expected that this guidance will further raise awareness and contribute to lowering the threshold to act while acknowledging the progress made over the last years.

In 2015, Deltares published the agenda-setting brochure 'Sinking Cities' to raise awareness of subsidence and the associated damage. Although awareness on subsidence is increased, it is far from finished, as evidenced by frequent new discoveries of apparent new subsiding coastal cities. As there is a growing need in guidance this brochure provides a comprehensive and step-by-step approach to address land subsidence from the perspective of sustainable and resilient urban development, as illustrated by real life case study examples. The lessons learned from these experiences provide valuable information and inspiration for decision makers and experts to address subsidence in urbanizing deltas. It is expected that this guidance will further raise awareness and contribute to lowering the threshold to act while acknowledging the progress made over the last years.

A step-wise approach is elaborated along the stages of the policy cycle. Clear steps that need to be taken. For each of the 6 steps identified, there are questions that need to be addressed, technical and governance aspects that need to be considered to answer the questions, and products that form the outcome of the step to be taken. This document offers guidance for the step-wise approach on land subsidence, providing a checklist for each of these steps. The Sinking Cities 2 brochure contributes to the ongoing awareness raising on land subsidence, while providing a step-wise approach for the progress made over the last years. It is expected that it will contribute to lowering the threshold to act and will be used to address subsidence in more areas around the world. It offers a lead what to do next once a certain aspect is finalised.

Policy cycle	Questions to address	Step-wise approach	Governance aspects	Products
Problem analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much subsidence is there? Are people aware of this? What is the impact of subsidence? What are the causes? Why is it hidden and responsible? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inventory 2. Inventory modelling to make predictions (subsidence, sea level rise) 3. Modelling / forecasting vulnerability assessment 4. Damage assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising Stakeholder analysis Identification of problem owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidence map with current subsidence rate (i.e. mm) and impacts Communication plan Measurement plan and setup Subsidence database with available available data Subsidence map with cause of subsidence Stakeholder mapping
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much future subsidence is to be expected? What are the most vulnerable areas? What are the possible measures? What are the current and projected impacts (quantified and monetized)? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Options 6. Measures - Cost-benefit analysis and decision support 7. Decision support system 8. Decision of (integrated) measures in an integrated multi-sectoral perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building / education Multistakeholder cooperation Policy, strategy, development of policy, strategy and legal instruments Planning and design of buildings and infrastructure, the building code Decision-making on implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidence map with future subsidence rate (i.e. mm) Subsidence map with future subsidence rate (i.e. mm) Subsidence impact report (current + future) Decision support tools Strategy and action plan (including selection of measures) Capacity building plan Overview of possible measures Subsidence impact report (current + future) Decision support tools Strategy and action plan (including selection of measures)
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What will be done, how and when and by whom? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Implementation of measures 10. Monitoring and evaluation 11. Setting up pilot projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multistakeholder cooperation / organizational structure Legal framework / operational procedures / guidelines Enforcement of laws and regulations Financing mechanism / asset management Public hearing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation plan (IP), organization, operational procedures, legal aspects Monitoring plan Financing plan
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What problem is under control? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Monitoring and evaluation 13. Knowledge sharing 14. Assessment of impact 15. Exchange of knowledge and best practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multistakeholder cooperation / organizational structure Legal framework / operational procedures / guidelines Enforcement of laws and regulations Financing mechanism / asset management Public hearing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidence plan (technical and socio-economic) Best practice Knowledge exchange plan

Table 1. Integrated framework and step-wise approach covering all aspects of subsidence, incorporating technical as well as governance aspects (Deltares, 2018)



Sinking cities

An integrated approach towards solutions

In many coastal and delta cities land subsidence exceeds absolute sea level rise up to a factor of ten. Without action, parts of Jakarta, Ho Chi Minh City, Bangkok and numerous other coastal cities will sink below sea level. Increased flooding and other widespread impacts of land subsidence result in damage totalling billions of dollars per year. A major rethink is needed to deal with the 'hidden' but urgent threat of subsidence. Deltares presents a comprehensive approach to address land subsidence from the perspective of more sustainable and resilient urban development.

There is abundant evidence that subsidence causes major problems worldwide. It increases in the near future, making it necessary to address subsidence related problems now.

In many coastal megacities land subsidence increases rapidly, especially with floods causing major economic damage and loss of lives. Land subsidence results in significant economic losses in the form of structural damage and high maintenance costs. This affects roads and transportation networks. There is a need for an integrated approach in order to manage subsidence and to develop appropriate strategies and measures that are effective and efficient on both the short and long term. Urban groundwater management, adaptive flood risk management and related spatial planning strategies are just examples of the options available. The figure below illustrates the current subsidence problems related to socio-economic development and climate change.

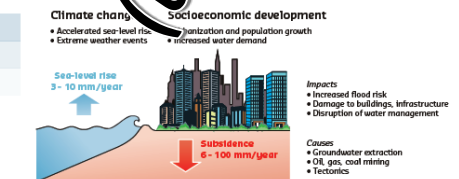
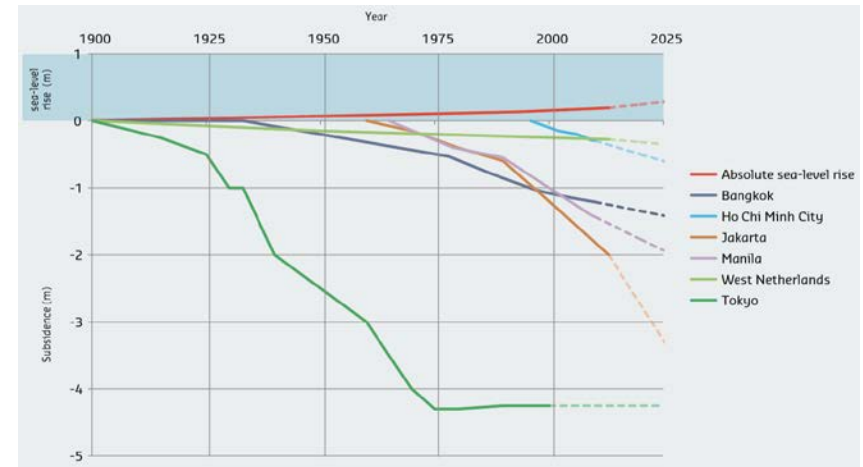


Figure 1. Land subsidence from a multi-sectoral perspective



Human-induced land subsidence is a big challenge worldwide especially in low-laying urbanizing deltas and coastal zones

- 6-100 mm/year, while global mean SLR is around 3 mm/yr
- Damage is totalling billions of dollars per year
- Impacts are further exacerbated by climate change (extreme events + SLR)



Policy brief

- Describes the challenges and the actionable approaches to counteract human-induced land subsidence
- Recommendations are made on policy and governance, technology, capacity building and financing aspects

Sinking Cities II brochure (supporting the policy brief)

- Step-by-step approach illustrated by real life example cases

Policy brief



Policy and governance aspects of subsidence

- Subsidence is not mentioned in the global agendas and often also not addressed in national or local policy agendas
- Subsidence is often a 'hidden' policy issue, not fully recognized or acknowledged
- In many subsidence prone areas there is no comprehensive subsidence strategy and approach, no multi-sectoral cooperation, no legal framework nor specific instruments, which hampers setting of clear policy targets and implementation of measures to mitigate subsidence
- An organisational structure with clear roles and responsibilities regarding subsidence issues is often non-existent or not sufficient, thus undermining planning and action

Policy brief



Comprehensive approach towards solutions

Integrated framework and stepwise approach (6 steps) addressing most relevant aspects of subsidence, incorporating technical as well as governance aspects

Policy cycle	Questions to address	Step-wise approach		Products
		Technical aspects	Governance aspects	
Problem analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much subsidence is there? Are people aware of this? What is impact of subsidence What are the causes? Who is involved and responsible? 	1. Measuring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measurement data collection Impact assessment 	Awareness raising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder analysis identification of problem owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidence map with current subsidence rates (+ sum) and impacts Communication plan Measuring plan and set-up Subsidence database with publically available data Subsidence map with causes of subsidence Stakeholder mapping
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much future subsidence is predicted? What are most vulnerable areas? What are possible measures? What are the current and future impacts (quantified and monetised)? 	3. Modelling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Inverse) modelling to make predictions Scenario constructions / analyses Modelling / forecasting Vulnerability assessment Damage assessment 4. Measures - Cost-benefit analysis and decision support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost-benefit analyses / multi-criteria analysis of possible measures Decision support system Selection of (innovative) measures in an integrated multi-sectoral perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building / education Multi-sectoral planning, participation, stakeholder engagement and commitment Political action, development of policy, strategy and legal instruments Planning and design of buildings and infra-structure, incl. building codes Decision-making on Implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidence map with future subsidence rates (+ sum) Vulnerability map Capacity building plan Overview of possible measures Subsidence impact map (current + future) Decision support tools Strategy and action plan (including selection of measures)
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What will be done, how and when and by whom? 	5. Measures - implementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of measures Setup monitoring plan Setting up pilot projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-sectoral cooperation / organisational structure Legal framework / operational procedures / guidelines Enforcement of laws and regulations Financing mechanisms / asset management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation plan (incl. organisation, operational procedures, legal aspects, financing, asset management) Monitoring plan Pilot sites
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the problem under control? 	6. Monitoring and evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring, remodelling Setup evaluation plan Compliance checking Assessment and outlook Exchange of knowledge and best practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder evaluations Public hearing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluation plan (technical and socio-economic) Best practices Knowledge exchange plan

Policy brief

Recommendations

Technology

- Knowledge agendas and collaborative research on subsidence
- Systematic monitoring
- Artificial groundwater recharge

Policy and governance

- Clear policy framework and appropriate legislation on subsidence
- Multi-sectoral cooperation, joint policy development, coordination and participation
- Future proof decisions enabled by evidence-based decision support models and tools

Capacity building

- Awareness raising and need assessments on subsidence knowledge
- Training programs, workshops, seminars and conferences
- Community of practice on subsidence mitigation (from planning to implementation)

Finance

- Assessments of main financial risks and costs/benefits
- Financing mechanisms and innovative financial instruments
- Integrated economic assessment framework for land subsidence



Sinking Cities II brochure



A step-by-step approach to address land subsidence in urbanising deltas

- Illustrated by real life example cases
- Lessons learned and recommendations for each step

Step 1. Measuring subsidence (example case Ganges–Brahmaputra–Meghna delta and Dhaka, Bangladesh)

Step 2. Understanding subsidence Mechanisms (example case Jakarta, Indonesia)

Step 3. Modelling land subsidence (example case the Mekong Delta, Vietnam)

Step 4. Measures - Cost-benefit analysis and decision support (example case Gouda, The Netherlands)

Step 5 Implementation of measures (example case Bangkok)

Step 6. Monitoring and evaluation of land subsidence (example case Shanghai, PRC)



Subsidence in Dutch national Climate Effect Atlas

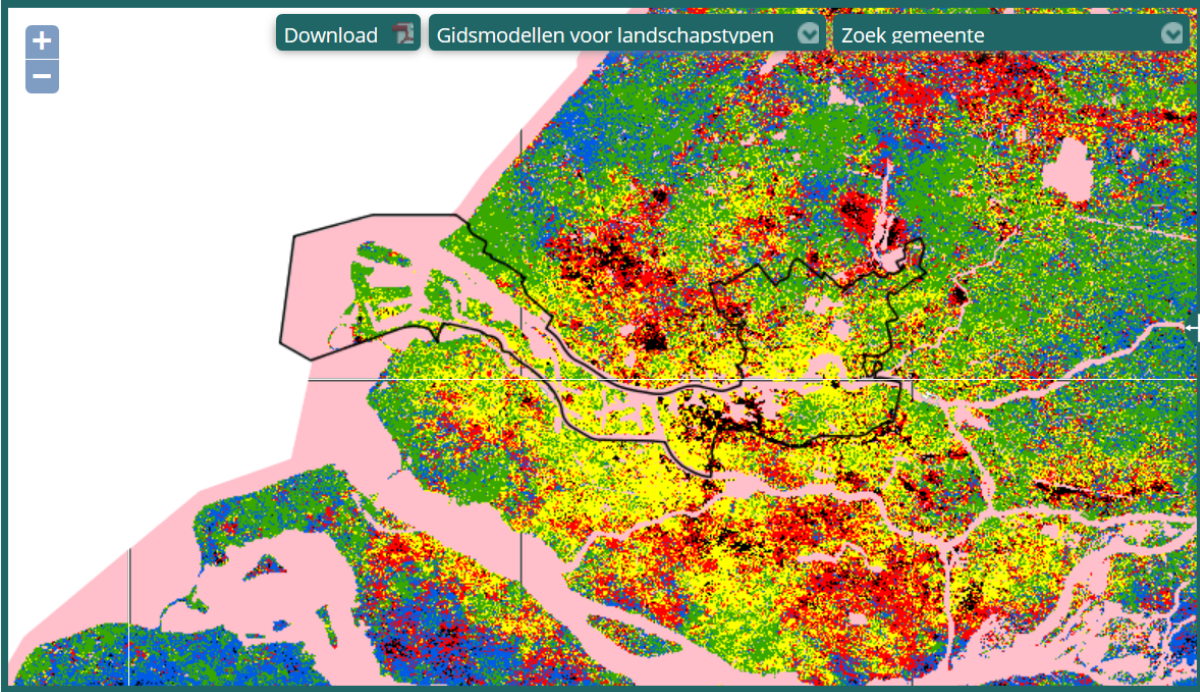


[VIEWER](#) [KAARTVERHALEN](#) [OVER DE ATLAS](#) [PARTNERS](#) [HELPDESK](#) [FAQ](#)

[Home](#) > [Viewer](#)

[Overstroming](#) [Wateroverlast](#) [Droogte](#) [Hitte](#)

[Download](#) [Gidsmodellen voor landschapstypen](#)



Klimaateffecten

Selecteer scenario: **Huidig** 2050WH

<input type="checkbox"/>	Tekort oppervlaktewater extreem droog jaar		<input type="range"/>	✓	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tekort oppervlaktewater gemiddeld jaar		<input type="range"/>	✓	✓
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gemiddelde Laagste Grondwaterstand		<input type="range"/>	✓	✓

Gevoelige functies en ruimtelijke kenmerken

Signaalkaart bodemdaling mei15-mei18

- Weinig daling
- Significante daling eerste helft periode
- Significante daling tweede helft periode
- Significante daling
- Veel daling

[Klik hier voor het kaartverhaal droogte](#)



Two dominant frames (cf. De Boer & Wardekker, 2010)



Risk Avoidance



“To prevent damage and climate risks to society”



Opportunity



“To realize resilient, sustainable and innovative businesses and cities”



Two dominant frames

Risk Avoidance	Opportunities
Reductionistic	Integrated holistic
Technical engineering (controlling the water)	Systems approach (using nature, living with water)
Quantification of risks and uncertainties	Creating support through design and visualization
Are measures cost effective?	Is there support for measures? Can they be financed?

Minimizing risks

**Maximizing opportunities,
value creation**

Delta Commission 2008



"The threat is not acute, but measures to improve flood risk management and fresh water supply should be prepared urgently."



Delta Programme

One Aim:

- Keeping NL a good, safe and attractive place to live and work for present and future generations (→ 2100, long term perspective)

Two Goals:

- Safe, now and in the future (2050-2100)
- Fresh water supply guaranteed, also in dry periods

Three Basic values:

- Solidarity, Flexibility and Sustainability

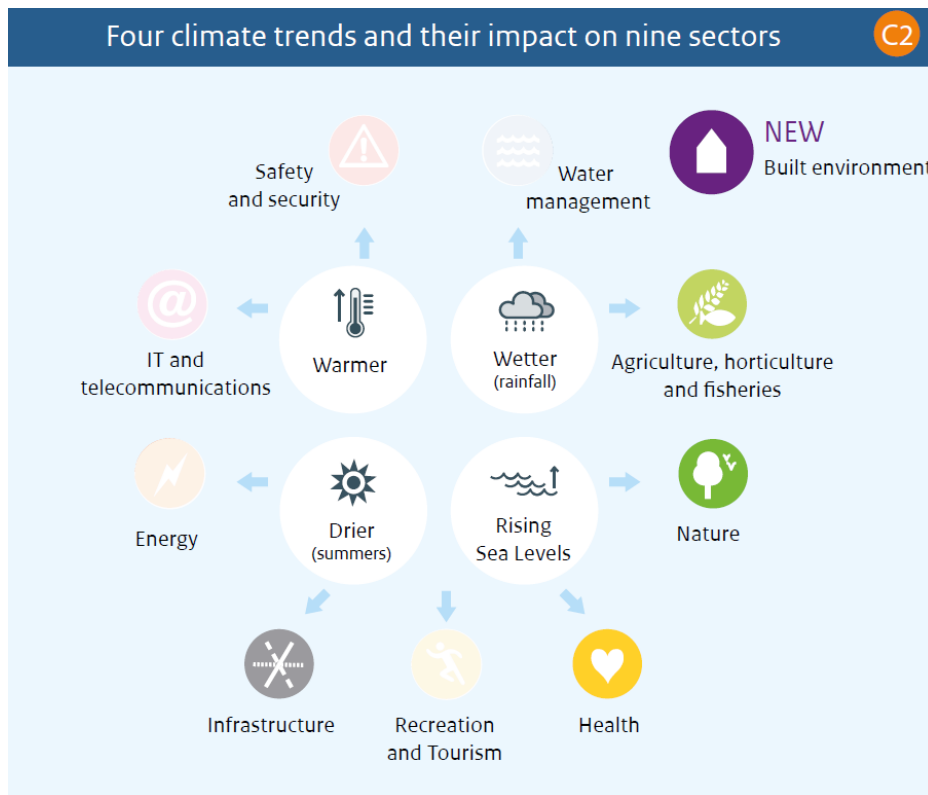
Not in answer to a disaster, but in advance, to be prepared or avoid it



Some lessons learned

- Establish the network on the ground, with those that do the actual work. Make them feel part of the family
- Make the connection with identity and let others shine
- A frontperson that is both powerful (stay in control) and accessible (make connections)
- Secure the funds
- It's not just threats, it's above all about opportunities
- Secure the knowledge base and work interdisciplinary
- Be innovative / flexible in organizing (e.g. collaboration with NAS)

National Adaptation Strategy of The Netherlands





NAS NL: effects sea level rise



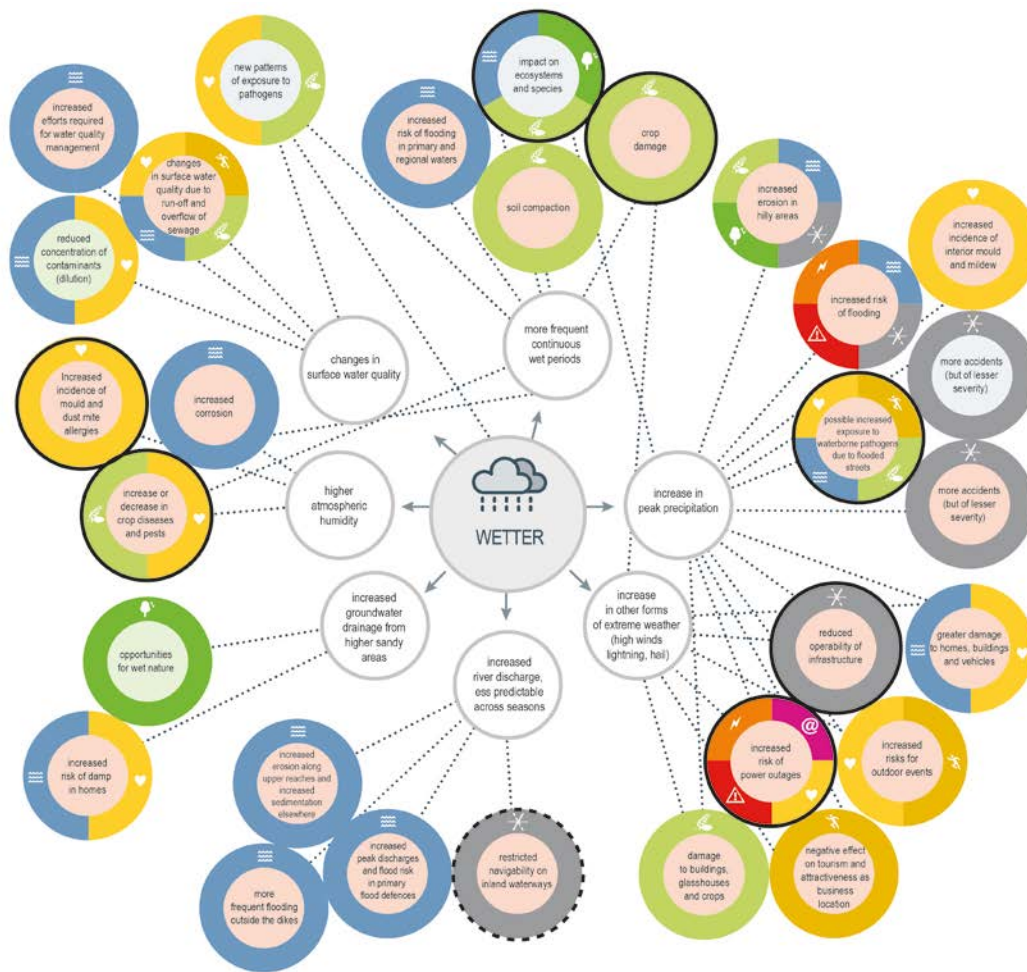
National Climate Adaptation Strategy (NAS)
Climate trends, climate impacts
and consequences for sectors



Disclaimer: These diagrams offer a simplified and incomplete representation of the actual situation. In the interests of clarity, not all components of the known causal relationships are shown.
PBL Scientific check on this version



NAS NL: effects wetter



National Climate Adaptation Strategy (NAS) Climate trends, climate impacts and consequences for sectors



source: PBL, Aanpakken met beleid klimaatverandering (Adapting to climate change), 2013
 PBL, Aanpakken aan klimaatverandering/klimaatverandering (Adapting to climate change), 2015
 NAS workshop sessions, 7 June, 1 September and 12 October 2016

Disclaimer: These diagrams offer a simplified and incomplete representation of the actual situation. In the interests of clarity, not all components of the known causal relationships are shown.
 P.M. Scientific check on this version



NAS NL: effects warmer



National Climate Adaptation Strategy (NAS) Climate trends, climate impacts and consequences for sectors

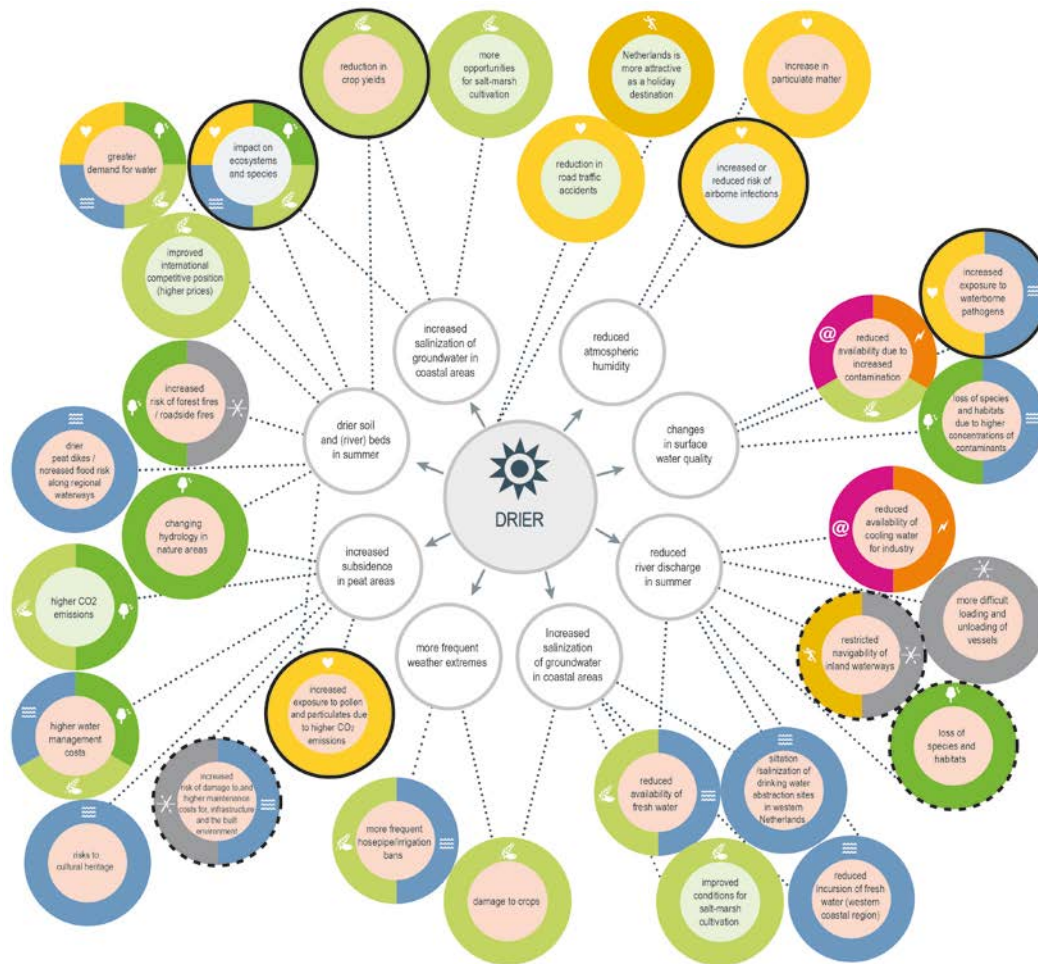
- Climate trend
 - Climate impact
 - Implications for sectors
- Sectors**
- Water and spatial management
 - Nature
 - Agriculture, horticulture and fisheries
 - Health
 - Recreation and tourism
 - Infrastructure (air, road, rail, water)
 - Energy
 - IT and telecommunications
 - Safety and security
- Impact**
- Medium to marked effect: this decade
 - Marked effect: this century
- Nature of effect**
- Effect is an opportunity
 - Effect is a threat
 - Unclear whether effect is an opportunity or a threat
- source: - PBL, Aanpassen met beleid Klimaatsverandering (Adapting to climate change), 2013
- PBL, Aanpassen aan Klimaatsverandering/Klimaatverandering (Adapting to climate change), 2015
- NAS workshop sessions, 7 June, 1 September and 12 October 2016

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P.M. Scientific check on this version.

English_Bollenschema_warmer_V18C_U9, februari 2018



NAS NL: effects drier



National Climate Adaptation Strategy (NAS) Climate trends, climate impacts and consequences for sectors

Legend:

- Climate trend
- Climate impact
- Implications for sectors

Sectors:

- Water and spatial management
- Nature
- Agriculture, horticulture and fisheries
- Health
- Recreation and tourism
- Infrastructure (air, road, rail, water)
- Energy
- IT and telecommunications
- Safety and security

Impact:

- Medium to marked effect: this decade
- Marked effect: this century

Nature of effect:

- Effect is an opportunity
- Effect is a threat
- Unclear whether effect is an opportunity or a threat

Source:

- PBL, Aanpassen met beleid klimaatverandering (Adapting to climate change), 2013
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P.M. Scientific: check on this version

English_Bolenschema_droger_V18C_LR_februari 2018



The Dutch delta





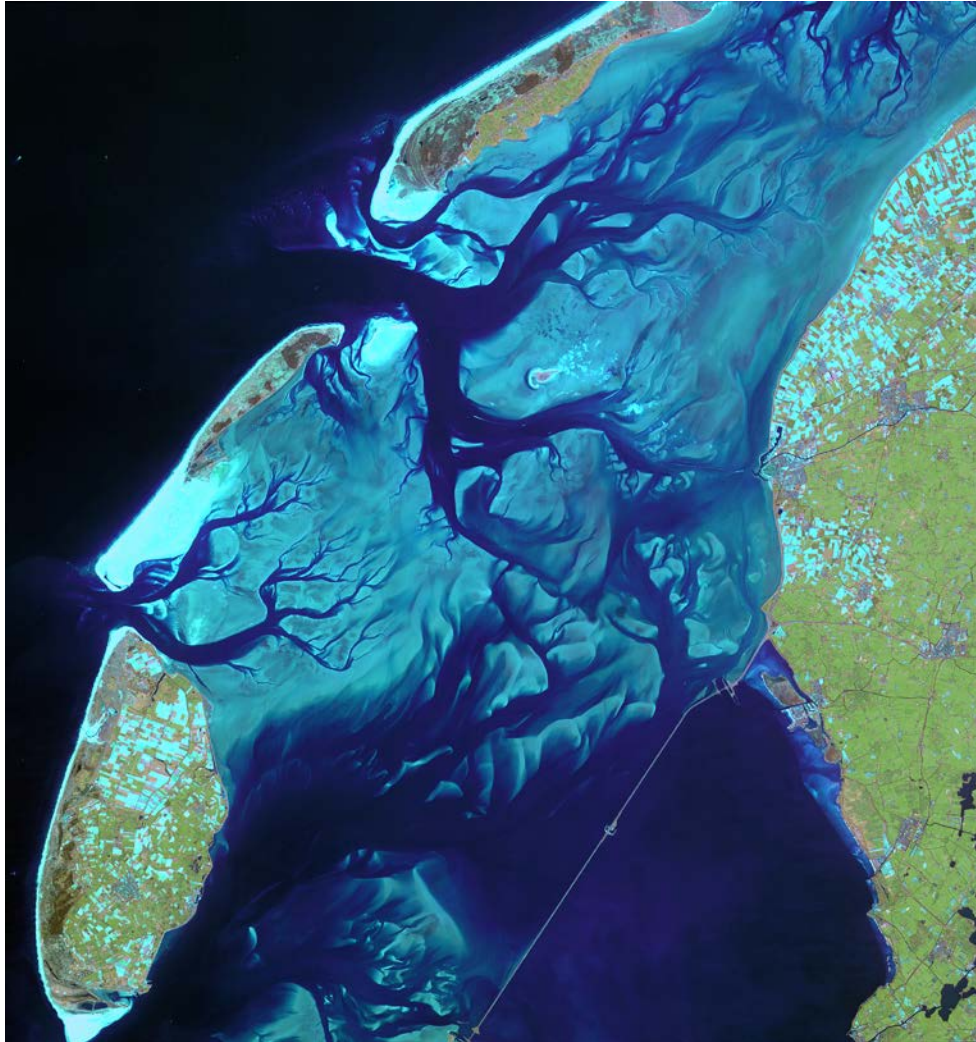
The Dutch delta works





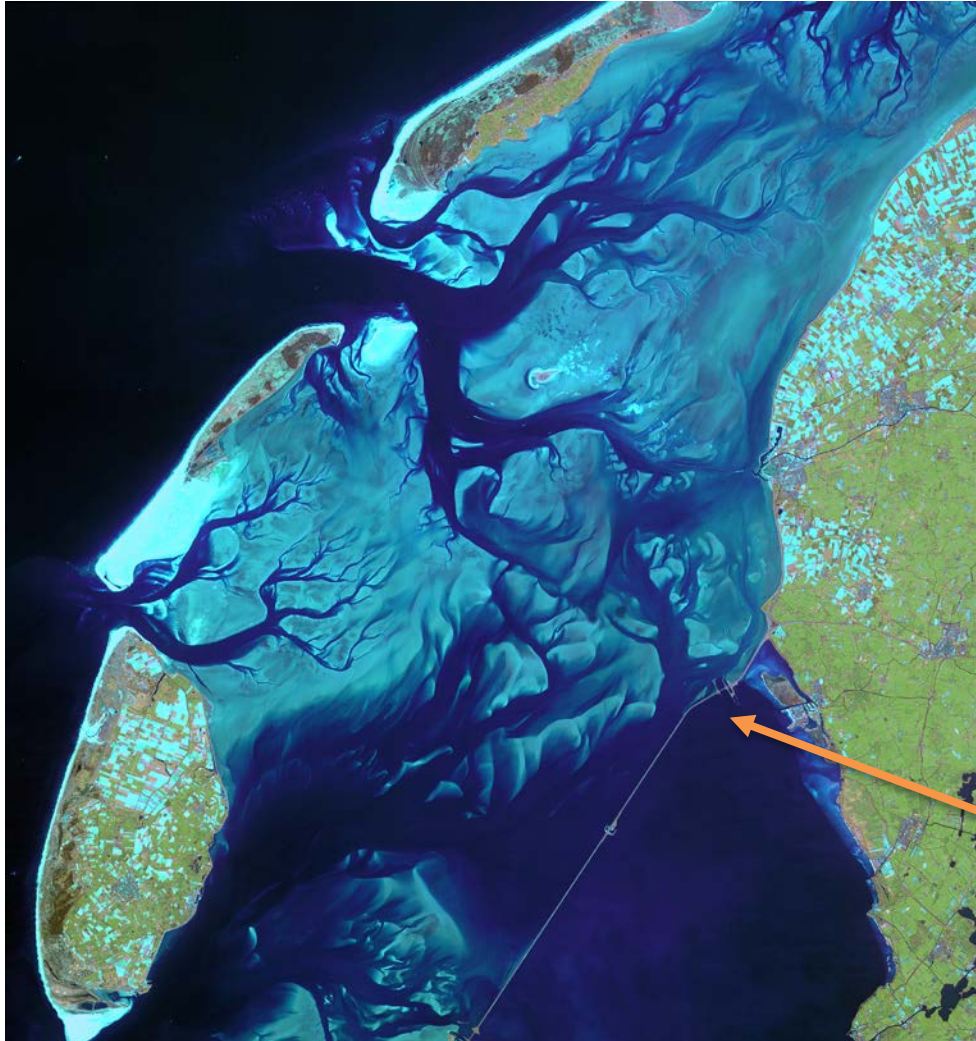
Paradigm shift: room for the river





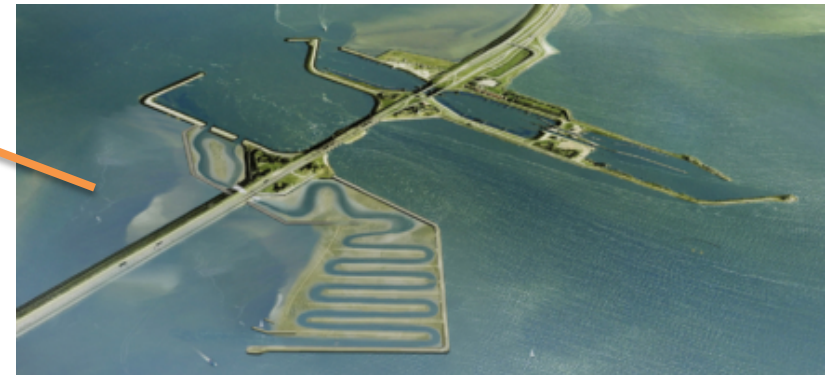
The Dutch Wadden Sea

Western part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, with Afsluitdijk visible at the bottom



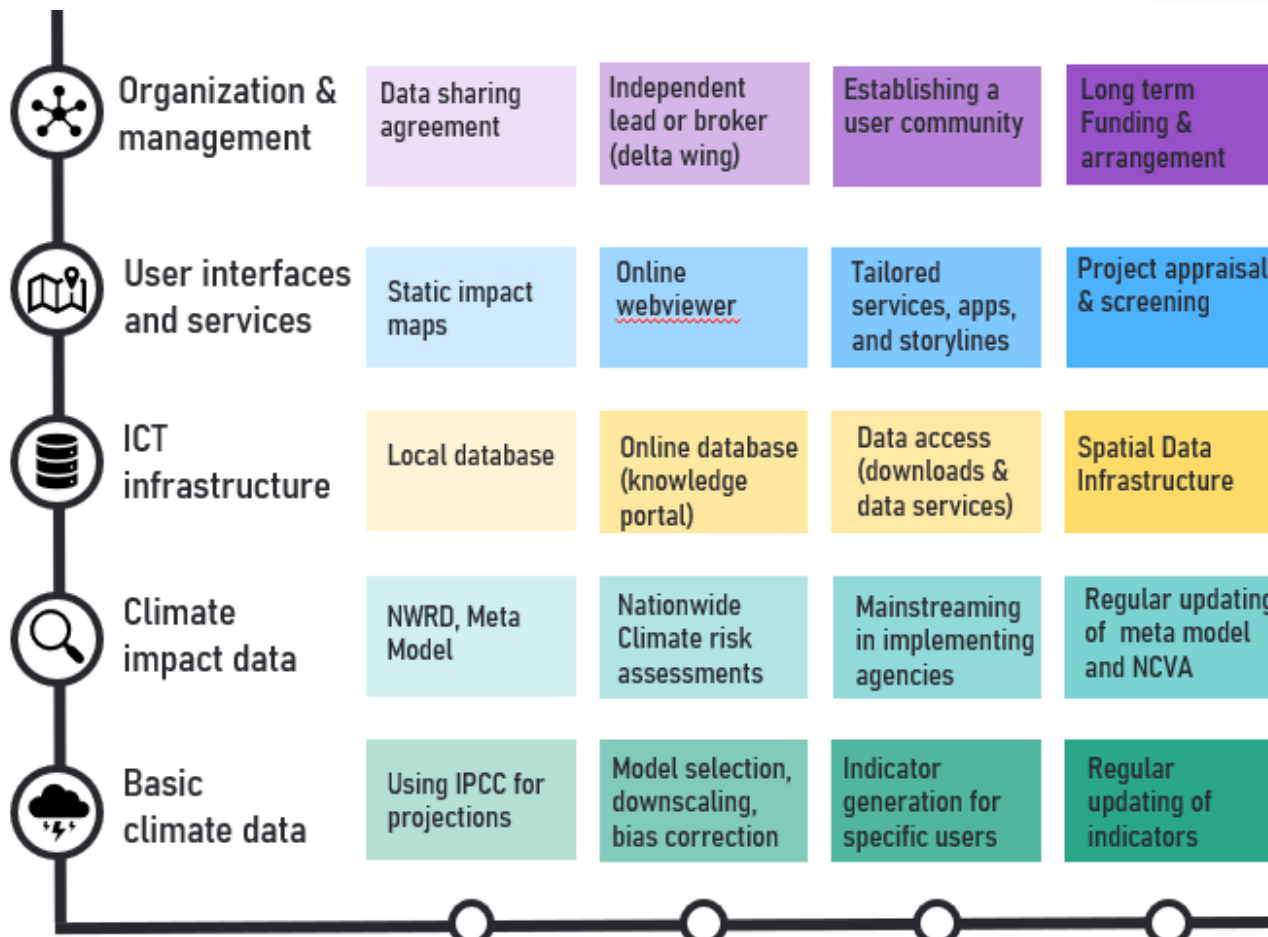
The Dutch Wadden Sea

Fish Migration River





Delta Knowledge Management components



Building the *climate adaptation services chain* in Bangladesh

(CAS work in progress)

Steps towards climate adaptation information services for BDP2100

An aerial photograph of a river delta, showing a complex network of winding water channels in shades of green and blue. The channels are densely packed and meander across the landscape, which appears to be a mix of land and water. The overall scene is vibrant and detailed, capturing the intricate patterns of the delta system.

Thank you. Let's work on our
beautiful deltas together!

www.delta-alliance.org