

Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

Summary for The Netherlands

Disclaimer

Based on the scoreboard in Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2018)460 accompanying the evaluation of the EU's strategy for adaptation to climate change. For referencing this Commission analysis from June 2018, please use the full version in the SWD.

SUMMARY

Overall progress

Dutch adaptation policy comprises: 1) The National Climate Adaptation Strategy 2016 (NAS2016); and 2) The Delta Programme, initiated in 2010. Both are in the implementation stage. The NAS2016 Programme team organises national dialogues with stakeholders on: heat stress; critical infrastructure; agriculture; nature; allergies and infections; and cascading effects. The Delta Programme works on flood resilience and water supply and has implemented many projects. Important challenges include the lack of an implementation budget for the NAS (the Delta programme has a budget of 1 billion per year), and the lack of a monitoring and review cycle.

Adaptation strategies

The NAS2016¹ "Adapting with Ambition" sets out a policy for tackling the effects of climate change. The NAS2016 was preceded by a NAS2007 "Make Space for Climate". Nine out of twelve provinces have published policy documents on adaptation, and some municipalities, including Rotterdam and Amsterdam, have started to develop adaptation policies. This covers about 75% of the Dutch territory. The Delta Programme Spatial Adaptation aims to cover 100% of the Dutch territory by 2019 by involving all municipalities in regional strategies.

Adaptation action plans

The NAS2016 programme team published an implementation programme 2018-2019 in March 2018². The Delta Programme provides an updated plan to Parliament every year³. In September 2017 the first "Delta Plan Spatial Adaptation" was sent to parliament⁴; it aims to implement spatial adaptation at local and regional level. Sectoral adaptation plans have been published for heat stress/health, transport, agriculture and water quality.

Step A: Preparing the ground for adaptation

1 Coordination structure

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management is responsible for climate adaptation. Seven other ministries are involved. The NAS programme team coordinates

¹ Nationale Adaptatie Strategie 2016 <http://ruimtelijkeadaptatie.nl/english/nas/>

² Uitvoeringsprogramma 2018-2019. Nationale klimaatadaptatiestrategie (NAS), <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/rapporten/2018/04/04/uitvoeren-met-ambitie-uitvoeringsprogramma-2018-2019-nationale-klimaatadaptatiestrategie-nas>

³ Deltaprogramma 2018 <https://www.deltacommissaris.nl/deltaprogramma/deltaprogramma-2018>

⁴ Deltaplan Ruimtelijke Adaptatie 2018: <https://ruimtelijkeadaptatie.nl/deltaplan-ra/>

adaptation in the twelve provinces. The Delta programme has seven regional programmes in which regional partners participate. According to the Delta Programme Spatial Adaptation municipalities must cooperate with other municipalities in a region.

2 Stakeholders' involvement in policy development

During the development of the new NAS 2016, many stakeholders were involved in workshops and consultations. National adaptation dialogues with the ministries, other governments and other stakeholders are an important element of the NAS2016 from 2017 onwards. Types of stakeholders involved are research institutes, governments, NGOs and the private sector. Stakeholders are also closely involved in the Delta Programme. Transboundary issues are addressed extensively in Benelux, river basin committees, the Trilateral Wadden Sea cooperation, and Interreg projects.

Step B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change

3 Current and projected climate change

The Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) monitors weather and extreme events, while Rijkswaterstaat monitors sea level and water level in the main rivers. Impacts are not monitored centrally. KNMI provides climate scenarios. The most important vulnerability assessments include reports from the Delta Programme, the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) and the Knowledge for Climate programme. Regarding transboundary risks, transnational cooperation on river flooding is pursued through the implementation of the Floods Directive for the Rhine, Meuse and Scheldt.

4 Knowledge gaps

Two knowledge programmes ran between 2006 and 2014: 'Climate changes Spatial Planning' and 'Knowledge for Climate'. In 2015 the National Water and Climate Knowledge and Innovation Programme (NKWK) started, in which governments, consultancies and research institutes set up innovative projects. The Delta Programme has funding for research on flood prevention (1% of its total contribution of one billion euros per year).

5 Knowledge transfer

The web portal 'Space for Climate' provides information in an accessible way. KNMI provides online climate information to different users, including warnings for heat waves and other extremes. The overstromik.nl website and an app inform citizens what water rise levels to expect in case of flooding. The Climate Adaptation Services foundation provides workshops for regional water authorities, provincial and local governments based on the recently updated Climate Effect Atlas.

Step C: Identifying adaptation options

6 Adaptation options' identification

The method adopted in preparation of the NAS2016 was 1) Climate change effect analysis, 2) Risk analysis 3) Urgency analysis. During stakeholder workshops multiple adaptation options were compared. In the Delta programme a 4-year process included problem analysis; identification of a range of solutions; selection of preferred solutions; and strategic choices. In 2015 the programme 'Water and Evacuation' started. It aims to improve the preparedness of the Dutch Safety Regions for consequences of floods.

7 Funding resources identified and allocated

The NAS2016 does not have an implementation budget; instead, it states that funding for adaptation has to be found by all partners involved in concrete adaptation projects in their own budget. The Delta programme is funded through the Delta Act which has made a provision of around 1 billion euro per year mainly for investments and maintenance of water infrastructure.

Step D: Implementing adaptation action

8 Mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes

The Dutch EIA Commission sees consideration of climate adaptation in EIAs as advisable, but it is not a legal requirement. The Delta Programme and the Steering group 'National Safety' base their plans on climate projections. In 2018 all municipalities are expected to conduct a stress test to assess their resilience against climate risks. The 'National vision on the living environment' addresses climate change and climate adaptation. Water authorities assess the impact of spatial plans and urban development on the water system. Climate change is a significant aspect in water legislation. In 2017 a first Adaptation Dialogue with the Insurance sector took place.

9 Implementing adaptation

The NAS2016 was followed by an implementation plan in March 2018. A National Heat Plan was published for the health sector in 2007 and has been used for action every year. The NKWK programme implements innovative adaptation projects. Climate scenarios helped in planning reconstruction of the flood protection system since 1999. Delta programme, implementation started in 2012. Guidelines on assessment of climate impacts exist for transport and water infrastructure projects. NAS2016 actions included dialogues with sectors and lower governments, while the Delta Programme Spatial Adaptation organizes municipalities into adaptive regions.

Step E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities

10 Monitoring and reporting

PBL published a report on monitoring of adaptation to climate change in 2015 and the NAS plans to build on this. The Delta programme has developed a monitoring system for following its own progress. The system has been applied to monitor the process for the Delta Programme Spatial Adaptation. A more comprehensive system is currently under development. There is no regional or local monitoring yet.

11 Evaluation

Progress reports on the implementation of the NAS will be available as of 2019. It has not been decided if and with what frequency reviews of the NAS will take place. Delta programme reports have been presented to Parliament annually since 2010. It is unclear if involving stakeholders in the processes of monitoring and revision of the NAS or the Delta Programme is foreseen.