



## The Dutch adaptation scan for local authorities

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For centuries water management has been a concern for local authorities in the Netherlands. The threats that the climate causes to our coast and our large river basins are deeply entrenched in our national and local policies. The impact of climate change, however, is not only confined to the area of water management. Instead, it is a real and eminent threat to other areas as well. Climate change can and will deeply effect all aspects of society i.e. infrastructure, public health care, ecology, agriculture and so forth. Local authorities are not yet prepared for the impact of climate change in all of these areas. Moreover, since climate change and impact scenarios predict more trouble ahead, even for areas which local authorities thought they were well acquainted with, there is an urgent need to update or renew their strategies.

Tauw and BuildDesk have developed a climate change **adaptation scan** which helps local authorities to gain insight in which effects of climate change will be relevant for their specific local situation and which adaptive (counter)measures are available to cope with them. The adaptation scan is a web-based tool which consists of a database that currently contains 22 basic physical changes caused by climate change, approximately 250 effects (both threats and opportunities) for 13 sectors and approximately 100 adaptive measures.

The adaptation scan can be used in different ways. It can help a user to select effects caused by specific physical changes or it can give insight in the effects which are relevant to specific sectors (e.g. agriculture, water management, etc), depending on the interest of the user. Subsequently, the tool can show matching adaptive measures that either reduce the negative effects of climate change or make use of the positive

effects that climate change can have on a specific local situation. Moreover, when a set of relevant effects is selected a set of adaptive measures will be presented according to its effectiveness (defined as causing the lowest negative and the largest positive interactions on the effects). Apart from that, the scan can also be used to evaluate regional policy plans. An example of a successful use of the first Beta-version of the scan is presented hereafter.

An existing regional policy plan has been examined for adaptive measures already present in the plan and evaluated for its contribution to the adaptation to locally relevant effects of climate change. This assessment showed that only half of the existing threats and opportunities were tackled by the adaptive measures mentioned in the regional policy plan at hand. The scan also revealed some (avoidable) inconsistencies hidden within the regional policy plan. Additional adaptive measures have been suggested from the database to improve the climate robustness of the regional policy plan.

In the following months the scan will be improved and extended using the comments and suggestions from pilot sessions with local authorities.

In our presentation the (emerging) theoretical background of the database, the web tool and the policy assessment approaches used will be presented. Furthermore the practical use of the tool will be demonstrated and some recent applications and lessons learned will be discussed.