PEER

Partnership of European Environmental Research: Climate Projects 2008





TOLERATE conference, 19 May 2008

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ORE
ed by Wageningen University & Research Publications

What is PEER?

A network of 7 large European environmental research Centers:

- created in 2001
- covering the full spectrum of natural and social environmental sciences
- combining basic, strategic and applied interdisciplinary research

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PEER Member Institutes

a part of ERA,..

a part of Europe..

Staff: 4700 persons
Annual budget: 350 million Euros
PhD students: 700
Publications: 5200 / year (1380 peer-reviewed)

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PEER: vision and mission

The vision of PEER is to be a world leader in integrating knowledge and expertise for sustainable development.

PEER Mission:

- To build a strategic partnership of major European public environmental research centres;
- To lead a European Research Area that strengthens the knowledge base for the sustainable development of a changing world;
- To foster innovative interdisciplinary research and cross-cutting approaches in support of national and European policy-makers, industry and society.

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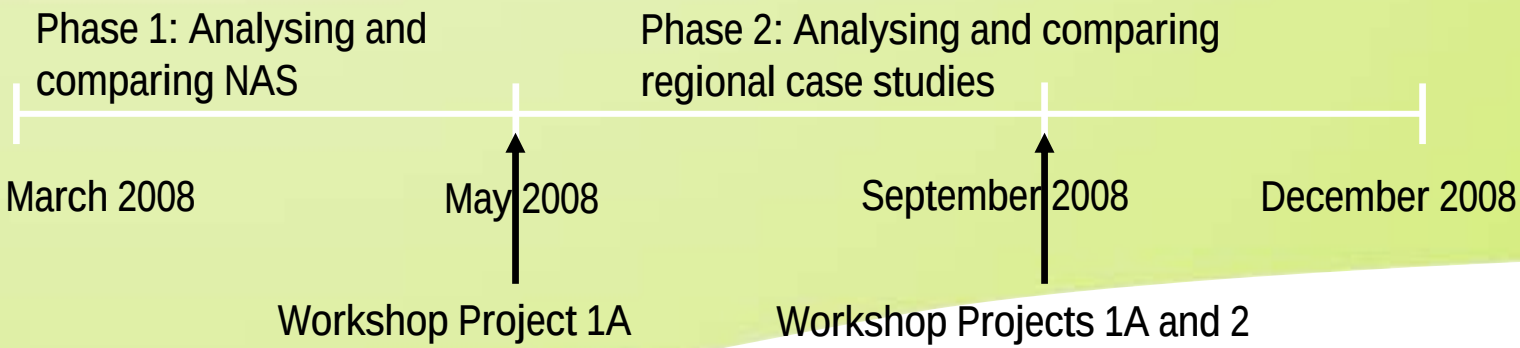
PEER: Two climate change projects

- Project 1A: comparative analysis of national and regional adaptation strategies
  - project lead: Alterra – Rob Swart
- Project 2: policy integration, coherence and governance
  - project lead: SYKE - Per Mickwitz
- Timeframe PEER project 1A



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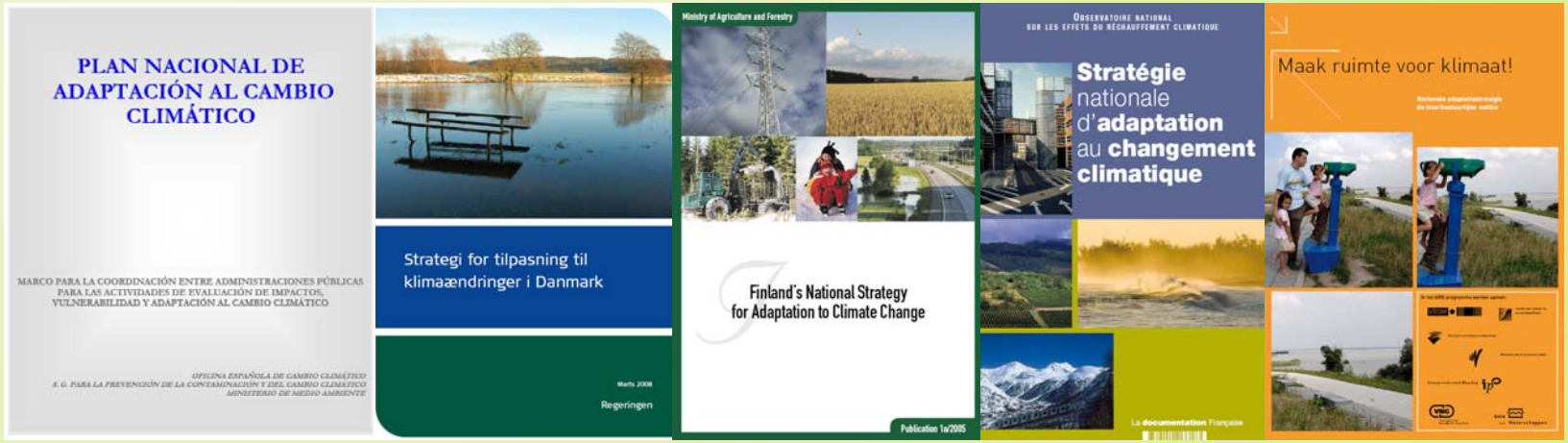
Project 1A: output and objectives

- Policy support
  - Position paper “Acclimatizing Europe”
  - PEER as policy-relevant think tank
- Research agenda
  - Knowledge gaps: “Advancing the PEER Climate Agenda”
  - Scientific Paper: “How does Europe adapt to Climate Change”
  - PEER as innovating research community

Phase 1: Research strategy

Comparative analysis of National Adaptation Strategies (NAS)



- Analyses NAS characteristics with factsheets for a dozen countries
- Use information from earlier assessments to broaden perspective (EEA, IVM/EPA, CIRCLE, UNFCCC)
- Builds upon an earlier framework to categorize and compare adaptation activities developed by IVM for European EPAs

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Phase 1: Research strategy - Factsheet

General information	Adaptation level	Adaptation objective	Adaptation aim
Example:	*Example:*	*Example:*	*Example:*
•Budget/costs (research programs)	•Adaptation concern	•Building adaptive capacity	•Coastal zone management
•Timeframe	•Adaptation (policy) recommendation	•Reduction of risk and sensitivity	•Water management
•Level of implementation	•Adaptation policy measure	•Increase of coping capacity	•Health and disease management
•Science-policy interactions			

After Massey and Bergsma (2008)

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Phase 1: Research strategy - NAS

PEER countries

- Denmark (NERI)
- Finland (SYKE)
- France (CEMAGREF)
- Germany (UFZ)
- Netherlands (Alterra)
- United Kingdom (CEH)

Second NAS (other?)

Norway

Latvia

Spain

Austria

Portugal

Ireland

Source of information:

- National policy document(s),
- Interviews
- Sectoral policy strategies

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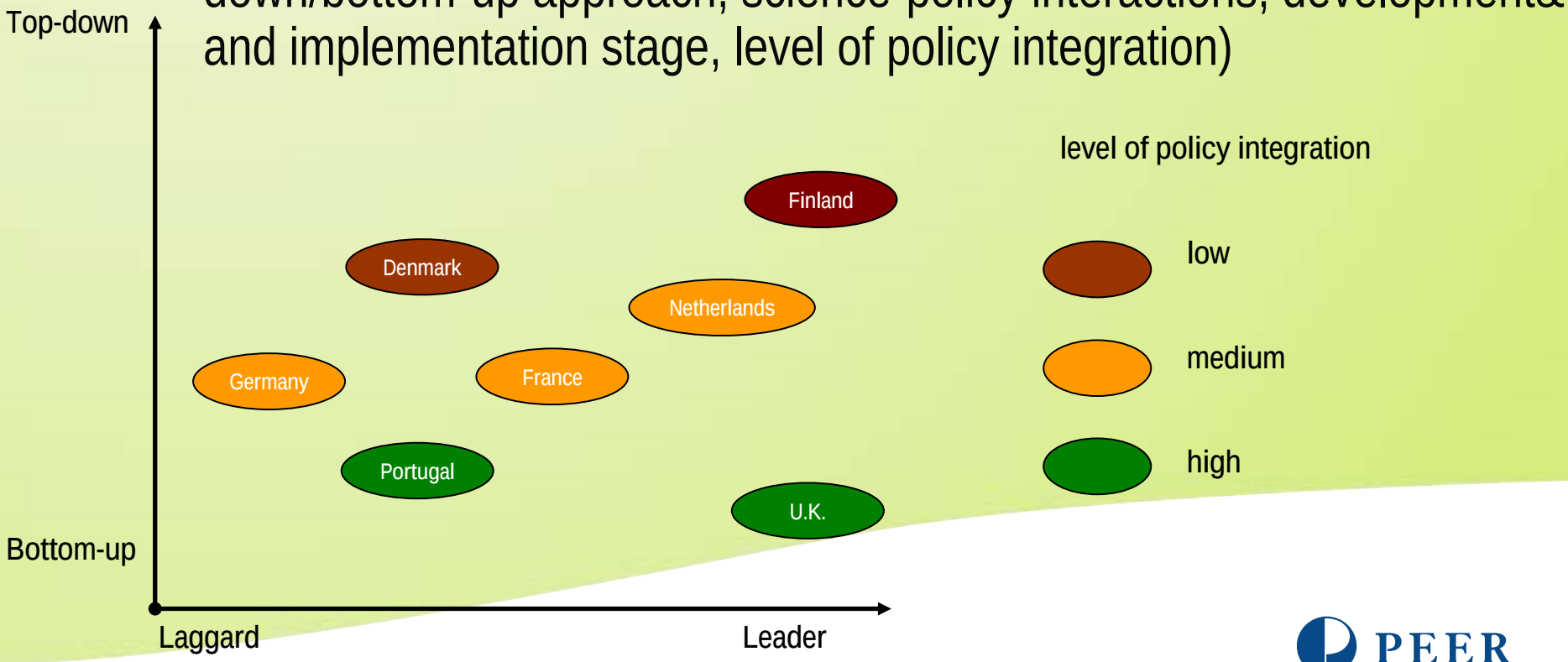
Phase 1: Research strategy - output

- Comparative analysis of national adaptation strategies from at least 12 countries
- Identification of the 'laggards' and 'leaders'
- Overview of the main similarities and differences (e.g. top-down/bottom-up approach, science-policy interactions, development& and implementation stage, level of policy integration)



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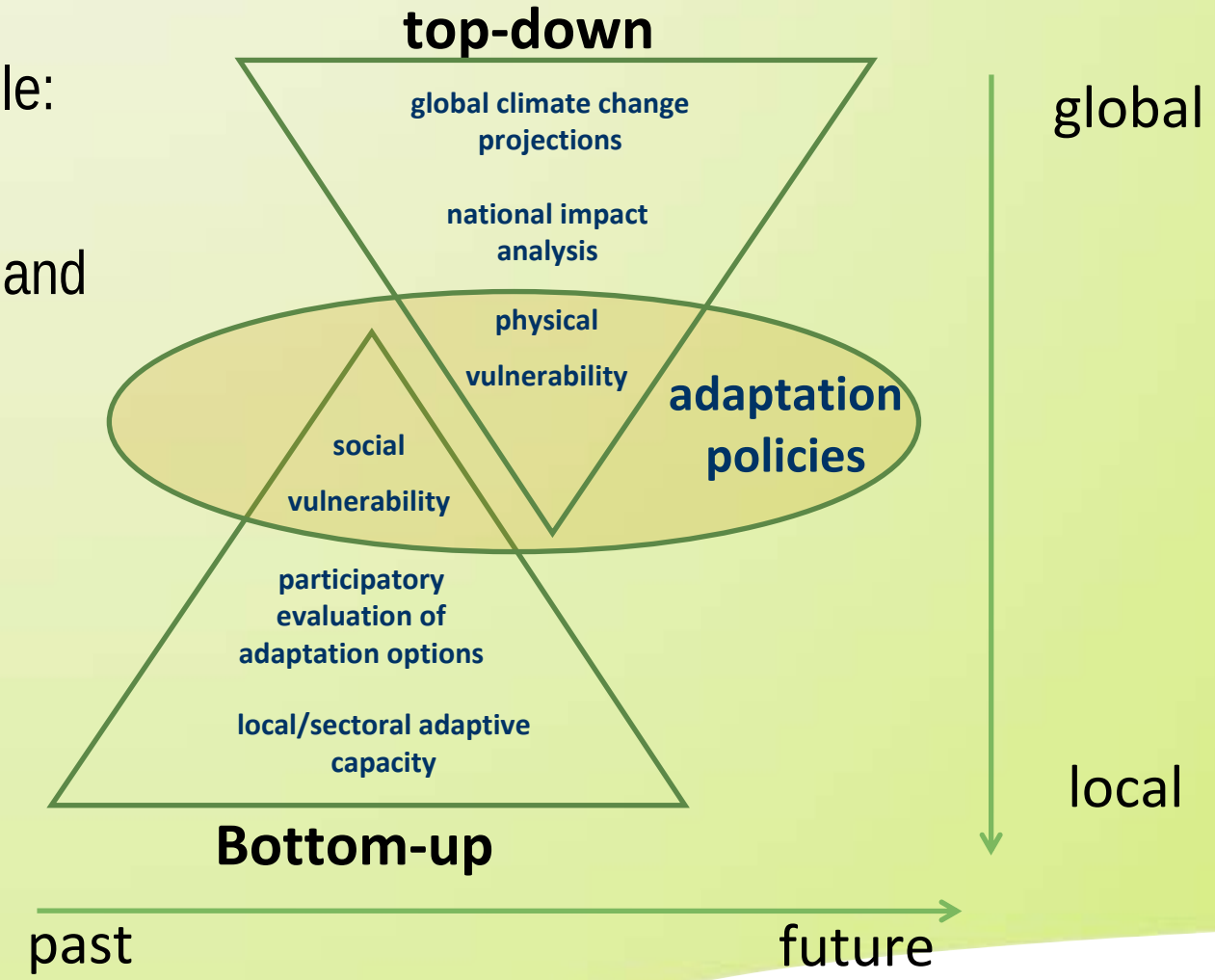
Phase 1: Research strategy - output

For example:

Integration bottom-up and top-down



Source: adapted from FINADAPT

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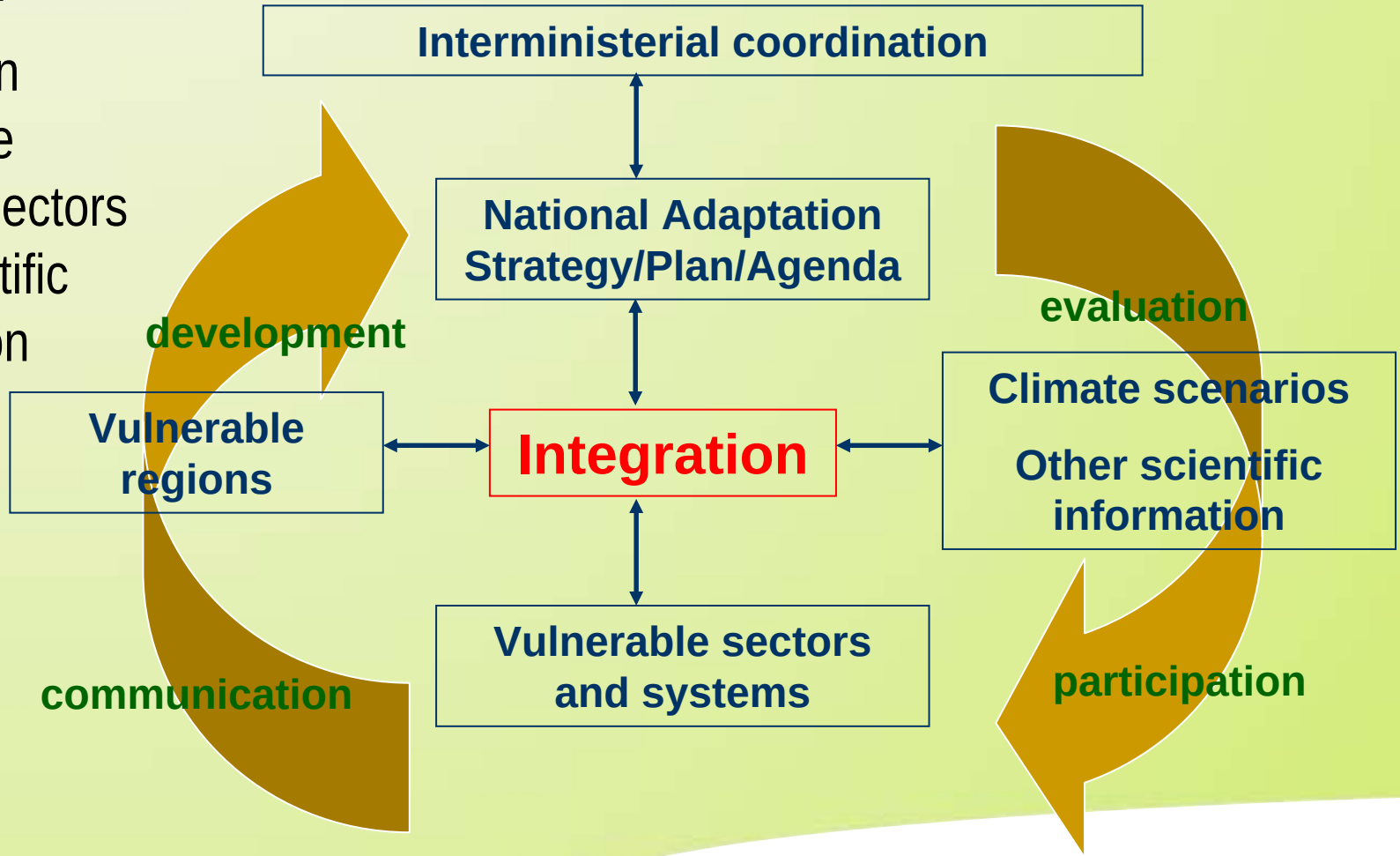
Phase 1: Research strategy - output

For example:

Integration vulnerable regions, sectors and scientific information



Source: adapted from Spanish NAP

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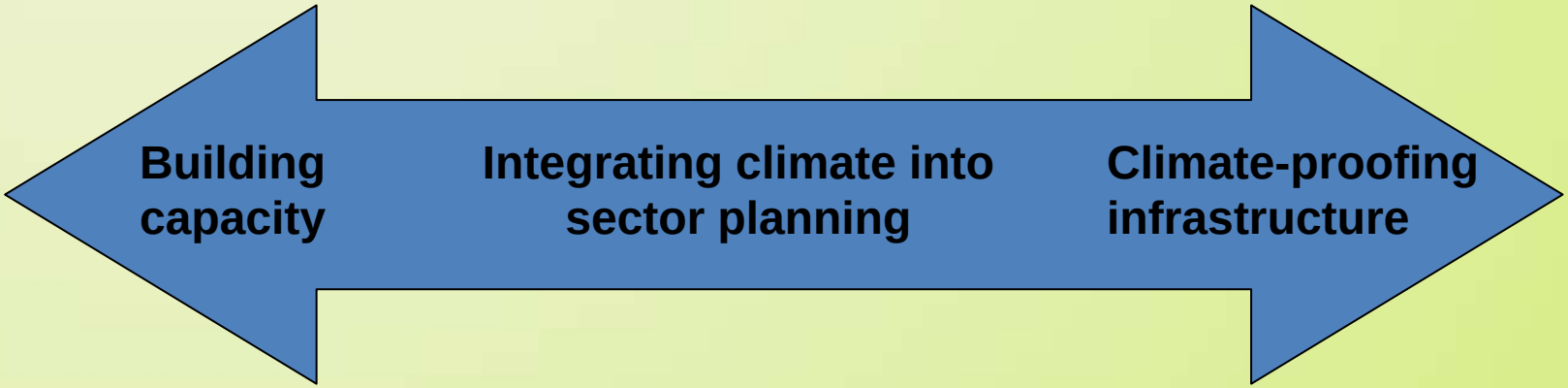
Preliminary conclusions (phase 1)

Spain Portugal Finland Netherlands



social vulnerability focus

climate change focus

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SNEAK PREVIEW: the Dutch ‘NAS’

Policy document ‘Make Space for Climate!’

•Description of the main strategy for making the Netherlands ‘Climate Proof’

•Accepted by the Dutch parliament as NAS

• Very short document (15 p) to create broad political support

Background document

•Description/analysis of main problems; suggestions for adaptation options

•Not an official, commonly agreed-upon policy document, hence more detail (46 p)

•Follow-up: National Adaptation Agenda for implementation announced

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SNEAK PREVIEW: the Dutch 'NAS'

- Supported by a coalition of national, regional & local governments:
  - Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management,
  - Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality,
  - Ministry of Economic Affairs,
  - Interprovincial Cooperation,
  - Association of Dutch Municipalities,
  - Union of Water Boards
  - Coordinated by the Ministry of Housing Spatial Planning and the Environment
- Includes long-term vision; short-term actions
- Advocates an integrated approach on a regional level
- Aims for policy coherence and interaction in and between policy domains
- Proposes links & interaction between science, research and policy
  - Research programs: Climate changes Spatial Planning, Knowledge for Climate
  - Interface: Adaptation for Space and Climate (ARK), 'Routeplanner'
  - Policy: National Adaptation Strategy, National Adaptation Agenda (forthcoming)

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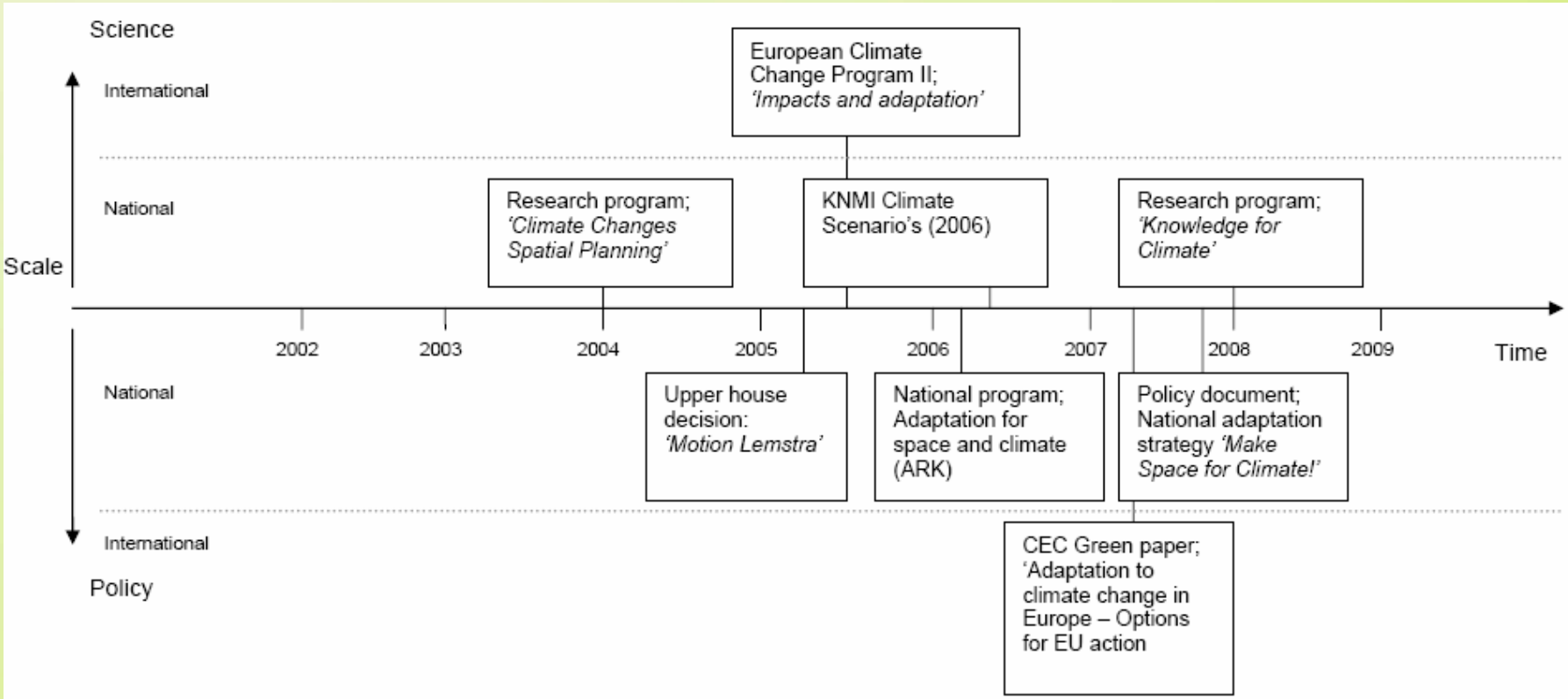
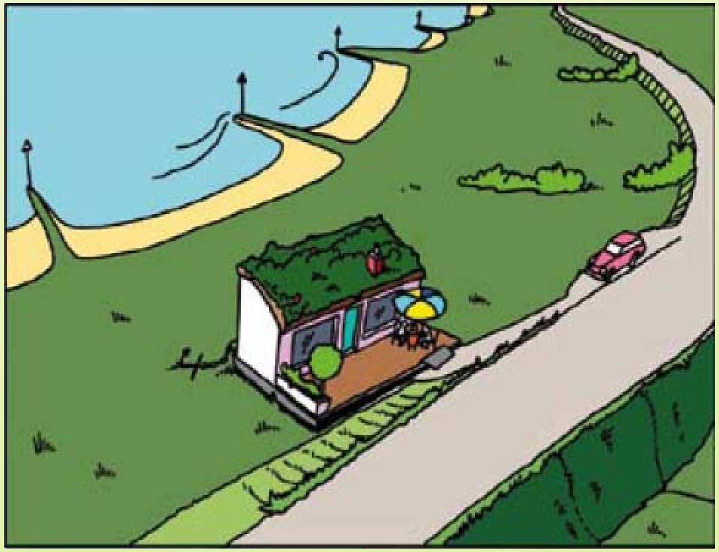
SNEAK PREVIEW: the Dutch 'NAS'

- The NAS is the result of evolving interactions between governmental organisations (policy) and scientific research programmes (science) through time and governance levels



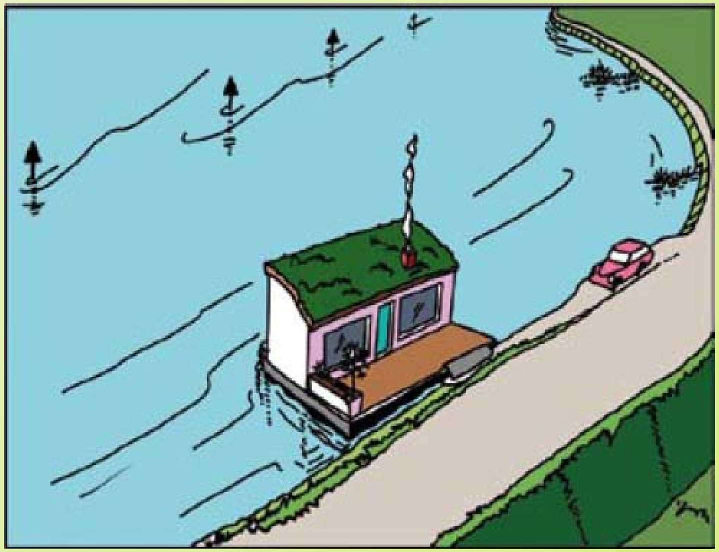
SNEAK PREVIEW: the Dutch ‘NAS’

Challenge



[illegible] damage potential

Possible solution in NAS



[illegible] tourism (flexible)

SNEAK PREVIEW: the Dutch 'NAS'

Concluding:

- Based on comprehensive analysis of positive and negative effects of climate change in the Netherlands and suggestions for solutions
- Mostly a top-down strategy, but implementation local/sectoral
- Strong science-policy interactions: research programs (CcSP)– interface (ARK) – policy development (Make Space for Climate!)
- Focus only on spatial/water dimension (health, energy etc. not included)
- No 'SMART' criteria for gauging the progress included (indicators)
- June 2008 National Adaptation Strategy will be made operational -> National Adaptation Agenda (NAA)

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Phase 2: case studies – aim and objective

- Start: May 2008 – October 2008
- Research focus to be further developed (during Helsinki workshop)
- Search for collaboration with PEER project 2 (policy coherence and integration)
- Objective: comparative analysis of adaptation strategies at the regional/sectoral scale

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Phase 2: case studies – output

- Good practice guidance: practical examples of (different) approaches to adapt to climate change in specific contexts (e.g. different countries)
- Insights in the key NAS implementation challenges
- Understanding of the links between (European and) national strategies and the regional/local/sectoral scale
- Options for effective science-policy knowledge transfer
- Pros and cons of different balance of top-down and bottom-up approaches
- Search for links with PEER 2: How can NAS be transferred to sector policies?
- Questions for future research

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Possible research questions

- What are the pros and cons of a local/regional approach (bottom-up) in terms of effectiveness, public awareness?
- Which scientific information is required for which kind of adaptation and how can it be generated?
- Is spatial planning an attractive way of successfully developing and implementing NAS in an integrated fashion?
- How relevant are synergies and trade-offs with mitigation?
- What are social, economic, institutional, technological barriers to successful adaptation?
- ……

If you have any relevant information on adaptation strategies that we can use, please let us know Robbert.Biesbroek@wur.nl

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Thank you!

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Alterra, The Netherlands | www.alterra.wur.nl

ies Institute for Environment and Sustainability

Joint Research Centre - Institute for Environment and Sustainability, European Commission | http://ies.jrc.ec.europa.eu

CEH Centre for Ecology & Hydrology NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

CEH - Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, United Kingdom | www.ceh.ac.uk/

NERI - National Environmental Research Institute, University of Aarhus, Denmark | www.dmu.dk

Cemagref

Centre for Agricultural and Environmental Engineering Research, France | www.cemagref.fr

SYKE

SYKE - Finnish Environment Institute, Finland | www.environment.fi/syke

HELMHOLTZ CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH – UFZ

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, Germany | www.ufz.de

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SNEAK PREVIEW: the Dutch ‘NAS’

Other climate related policy recommendations in NAS

- Improve knowledge-action nexus
- Public private partnerships (PPP) to enhance effectiveness of measures
- Stimulate innovation and knowledge development
- Evaluating existing climate sensitive policy strategies
- Re-evaluate policy instruments (‘carrots and sticks’)
- Aim for a multi-level governance approach in adaptation
- Policy coherence in and between governmental organisations
- Communication strategy (effects of climate change)

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SNEAK PREVIEW: the Dutch 'NAS'

Dutch National Adaptation Strategy framed in the IVM framework

	Netherlands
Adaptation stage:	
Policy concern	X
Policy recommendation	X
Policy measure	-
Adaptation objective:	
Building adaptive capacity	X
Reduction of risks and sensitivity	X
Increase coping capacity	X

	Netherlands
Adaptation aim:	
Coastal zone management	X (e.g. spatial reservations,…)
Landscape management	X (e.g. spatial quality,….)
Water management	X (e.g. water storage areas, …)
Energy / secure power	-
Health and disease management	-

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Phase 2: case studies – selection criteria

- Options for research focus second phase:
  - *Drivers:* laggards and leaders
  - *Multilevel governance:* institutional organization
  - *Science-policy nexus:* knowledge transfer arrangements
  - *Policy integration* and coherence
  - *Policy mix:* portfolios of options
  - *Implementation* issues, including socio-economic factors

- Dimensions for comparison:
  - *scale*: local to transnational
  - *theme/sector*: water management, agriculture, forestry, spatial planning,..

- Five criteria for case study selection:
  - *scientific credibility:* expertise PEER
  - *scientific relevance:* innovative research agenda
  - *policy relevance:* focus in NAS
  - *feasibility:* accessibility of information
  - *comparability:* combination of dimensions shared by at least 3 partners

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Preliminary conclusions (phase 1)

- Differences in emphasis between NAS
  - comprehensive strategy (e.g., Finland, Netherlands, Denmark)
  - sectoral approach (e.g., Portugal, United Kingdom)
- Differences in timing
  - 'leaders' (U.K., Finland?) and 'laggards' (Belgium, Norway?)
- Differences in organization of science-policy interactions
  - Participatory (Netherlands, Portugal, UK?) or directive (Germany, Spain?)
- Similarity in science policy interactions
  - Research program -> knowledge transfer -> policy making
- Reasons of differences and similarities
  - Specific vulnerability/opportunities, political/institutional culture, individual initiatives, level of participation in international negotiations?

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