# Conceptual framework for assessing climate-proofness of governance structures

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In the Climate *changes* Spatial Planning programme, a project is running called 'Institutions for adaptation' (also known under the number IC12). The research will investigate, in a variety of ways, how Dutch society can adapt to climate change. It is one thing to think of technical solutions, but will the Dutch authorities, companies and other organisations be able to carry them through? The climate problem has several specific characteristics:
- It has implications on all scales: global, EU, national, regional and local.
- It has implications over very long time horizons, such as 50, 100 or 200 years into the future.
- There are still uncertainties about the scale of the impacts of climate change.
Can the present administrative structure in the Netherlands cope with these issues? Many public authorities are trying to shape their policies in greater consultation with a range of civil society organisations ('from government to governance'). Does this interactive policy style lend itself to a problem such as climate change?

The project has developed a conceptual framework for assessing the adaptive capacity of a system of national institutions. The six concepts that wil form the basis of the framework are:
- Requisite variety
- Responsive autonomous change
- Learning capacity
- Leadership
- Resources
- Legitimacy

This framework will be applied to the Dutch administrative system. The research will look at four sectors: nature, water, agriculture and spatial planning. The result will be a diagnosis of the adaptive capacity of Dutch institutions. At the conference we will focus on explaining and discussing the conceptual framework.