

Assessing vulnerability and coping with uncertainty

Thursday December 10, Holland Climate House (Hall C7)

Organized by Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate (CPWC)
 Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (MER)
 Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM)
 Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL)

Time	Topic	Session contents
10.00-11.30	Closing the gap between global assessments and regional/national realities in adaptation and development	The session will focus on developing countries. It is about multi-stakeholder consultation how best to close the gaps between global assessments and regional realities. We aim to develop a system to link global financing with country level implementation, including mainstreaming in sectoral activities.
12.00	Lunch	
12.00-14.00	SEA, IWRM and climate change	Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are tools to assess vulnerability to climate change. We will discuss the synergy that comes from linking the tools, drawing on experiences of the Global Water Partnership, the World Bank, the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment and the SEA task force of the OECD DAC.
14.30-16.30	Adaptive management: merging top down and bottom up	Climate change introduces a cascade of uncertainties. These have to be dealt with in decision making at global, regional and national level. We will present why a combination of top down and bottom up approaches for adaptation is needed.
17.00	Reception	
18.00 - 20.00	Management of changing risks from extreme weather	Risks of weather disasters in urbanized coastal areas are changing. We address issues that relate to detecting historic trends in climate and weather extremes. Also financial instruments to economic losses will be discussed, eg. Insurance practices.
20.00 – 22.00	Groundwater, climate change and adaptation	Improved knowledge and use of groundwater can support adaptation to climate change impacts on fresh water resources. A panel discussion will be held on how groundwater management can assist adaptation to climate change.

Contents of the day

Climate change affects natural resources, societies and economies. Some of the impacts of climate change are beneficial, others harmful, but climate change will in any case affect the resilience of societies, economies and ecosystems.

One of the main concerns of the COP15 is the development and use of tools for the assessment of the vulnerability of ecosystems, societies and economies to climate change as well as the development of adequate policy responses. These tools and policy responses will provide answers to how to cope with uncertainties about the magnitude of climate change and its impacts. Today several examples of vulnerability assessments, risk sharing and policy development under uncertainty will be presented and discussed. The aim is to share experiences and to provide opportunities to bring practitioners together and start new working relations.

Overview of presenters by topic

10.00-11.30	Willem Ligtoet and Marloes Bakker, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL)	Closing the gap between global assessments and regional/national realities in adaptation and development
12.00-14.00	Ania Grobicki, Executive Secretary of the Global Water Partnership Warren Evans, Director of the World Bank Environment Department Rob Verheem, Deputy Director of the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment	SEA, IWRM and climate change
14.30-16.30	Jeroen van der Sluijs, Copernicus Institute, Utrecht University Robert Pietrowsky, US Army Corps of Engineers, Water Resources Institute Tim Reeder, Environment Agency, UK Jeroen Aerts, VU University, Amsterdam Willem Ligtoet, PBL	Adaptive management: merging top down and bottom up
18.00-20.00	Molly Hellmuth, IRI Columbia University Laurens Bouwer, Institute for Environmental Studies, Amsterdam Robert Muir-Wood, Risk Management Solutions	Management of changing risks from extreme weather
20.00-22.00	Karen Grothe Villholth, GEUS – Geological Survey of Denmark Prof. Richard Taylor, University College London Bai-Mass Taal, Executive Secretary of the African Ministers' Council on Water - AMCOW Peter Letitre, International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre Francesco Rizzo, UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme (IHP)	Groundwater, climate change and adaptation