



Development of regional climate scenarios in the Netherlands – involvement of users

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Climate scenarios are consistent and plausible pictures of possible future climates. They are intended for use in studies exploring the impacts of climate change, and to formulate possible adaptation strategies. To ensure that the developed climate scenarios are relevant to the intended users, interaction with the users is needed.

As part of the research programmes “Climate changes Spatial Planning” and “Knowledge for Climate” several projects on climate services, tailoring of climate information and communication were conducted. Some of the important lessons learned about user interaction are:

- *) To be able to deliver relevant climate information in the right format, proper knowledge is required on who will be using the climate information and data, how it will be used and why they use it;
- *) Users’ requirements can be very diverse and requirements may change over time. Therefore, sustained (personal) contact with users is required;
- *) Organising meetings with climate researchers and users of climate information together, and working together in projects results in mutual understanding on the requirements of users and the limitations to deliver certain types of climate information, which facilitates the communication and results in more widely accepted products;
- *) Information and communication should be adapted to the type of users (e.g. impact researchers or policy makers) and to the type of problem (unstructured problems require much more contact with the users).

In 2001 KNMI developed climate scenarios for the National Commission on Water management in the 21st century (WB21 scenarios). In 2006 these were replaced by the KNMI’06 scenarios, intended for a broader group of users. The above lessons are now taken into account during the development of the next generation of climate scenarios for the Netherlands, expected at the end of 2013, after the publication of the IPCC WG1 report:

- *) users’ requirements are taken into account explicitly in the whole process of the development of the climate scenarios;
- *) users are involved already in the early phases of the development of new scenarios, among others in the following way:
 - ***) workshops on users’ requirements to check whether they have changed and to get more information;
 - ***) feedback group of users to get more detailed feedback on the modes of communication;
 - ***) newsletter with information on the progress and procedures to be followed and separate workshops for researchers and policy makers with different levels of detail;
 - ***) projects together with impact researchers: tailoring of data and in order to be able to present impact information consistent with the climate scenarios much earlier.

During the presentation more detailed information will be given on the interaction with users.