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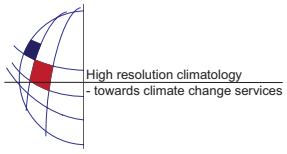

Improving access to data on climate change and its impacts in the Netherlands

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Recent research on climate change, its possible impacts and adaptation options in the Netherlands has been substantial and promising. However:

- Results are often not available in a format that can be used directly by stakeholders who need to develop climate adaptation strategies. For example, the information on climate change in the brochure on the KNMI'06 climate scenarios (KNMI, 2006) only indicates the percentage change in the average and extreme rainfall. However, hydrologists, ecologists and agricultural researchers need time series or statistics to simulate the impact of changes in rainfall on groundwater levels, nature and crop production.
- In the Netherlands several organisations work on the same discipline, for example on hydrology and ecosystems, all with their own specialisations. A cross-sectoral overview of the available data and information on climate change and its impacts is not available.
- Between various disciplines the results are often inconsistent. Firstly because different climate scenarios, different spatial and/or temporal scales, and different reference periods are used to compile the climate data sets. Furthermore, assumptions and simplifications made in one discipline (e.g. groundwater levels in agricultural models) may not reflect the knowledge from other disciplines (in this case hydrology).

These shortcomings hamper the dissemination and proper use of data and information on climate change and its impacts.

In order to overcome some of the above-mentioned shortcomings, the "Climate Knowledge Facility – Tailoring" project was started in 2009. In this project we work on:

- A common web portal (pilot) to give an overview and access to data and information on climate change and its impacts for different disciplines (climate, hydrology, nature/ecology, agriculture and land use);
- Consultation on stakeholder requirements and feedback on the web portal;
- Pre- and post processing of data and information on climate, hydrology, nature/ecology, agriculture and land use scenarios (tailoring to stakeholder needs). In the first instance we will focus on tailoring of existing databases and existing tools/methods and the accompanying guidance for the use of the data;
- Identifying inconsistencies in approaches between the above mentioned disciplines. For example, the projections for potential evapotranspiration in the future from the meteorological institute do not include the possible effect of increased CO2;
- Where possible, improving consistency between datasets from different disciplines by promoting the use of a limited number of combinations of climate scenarios and land use scenarios.

The project has a broad range of stakeholders: in the first stage we give most attention to researchers (universities, consultants), but in a later stage also to policy makers.

We will present first results of this project and the set up of the web portal.