



Delta Programme 2017 Linking taskings, on track together

Together we will stay on track and keep up the pace in tackling the taskings related to flood risk management, water availability, and climate-proofing the Netherlands. This is stated in the Delta Programme 2017 that was submitted to the House of Representatives today on Prinsjesdag, the state opening of Parliament.

This seventh annual report on the Delta Programme has been published via an online tool, as was last year's report. It describes the new developments since Delta Programme 2016, and the milestones expected to be achieved in the period of time ahead. To open DP 2017, [click here](#). DP2017 is also available at english.deltacommissaris.nl.

The increasing risk of pluvial flooding and heat/drought caused by the changing climate may have a significant (economic) impact. The urgency of these issues is reflected in DP2017: all the government authorities involved will draw up a concerted Delta Plan to boost the efforts aimed at achieving water-resilience and climate-proofing the Netherlands. The Delta Programme already comprises a Delta Plan on Flood Risk Management, and a Delta Plan on Freshwater Supply. With effect from next year, it will be expanded with a Delta Plan on Spatial Adaptation. The authorities involved thus also substantiate the agreements set down in the Administrative Agreement on the Delta Programme.

Some other new developments and expected milestones are:

- With respect to the Delta Decision on Flood Risk Management, legal embedding of the new standards is on track. The aim is for the New Standards for Primary Flood Defence Systems bill, and the associated assessment tools to take effect on 1 January 2017. The district water boards and the Rijkswaterstaat are taking steps to implement the new standards for the assessment of primary flood defence systems as from 2017. In its schedule for 2017-2022, the Flood Protection Programme has already set down as many priorities as possible, ensuing from the new standards.
- The elaboration and implementation of the Delta Decision on Freshwater Supply is largely on schedule. All across the Netherlands, measures for the economical use, containment, storage, and supply of freshwater have been implemented. In all the regions, administrative agreements have been signed between regional administrators, the Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment, and consumers regarding the funding, scheduling, and implementation of freshwater supply measures and the introduction of water availability.
- All the regions are actively engaged in the implementation of measures and the elaboration of the preferential strategies. In the IJsselmeer Region, Rijkswaterstaat has initiated the procedure to adopt a new water level ordinance. In the area around the major rivers, MIRT explorations have been launched regarding the Varik-Heesselt flood channel and the IJsselpoort River Climate Adaptation Park. MIRT Studies have been rolled out along the Meuse for the areas of Venlo, Ravenstein-Lith, and Maastricht. In parallel, parties in the area around the major rivers are working on the collective substantiation of the preferential strategy to achieve a powerful interaction between dyke improvement and river widening. In addition, a host of new initiatives are underway, such as a Rotterdam North disaster control case study in the Rhine Estuary-Drechtsteden area, and the Zeeland Climate Adaptation programme in the Southwest Delta. In the Wadden Region, agreements have been made regarding three innovative projects that link up with the earthquake-proofing of the Eemshaven-Delfzijl dyke.
- Delta Programme 2017 presents the initial elaboration of the "Monitoring, Analysing, Acting" system: the "engine" of adaptive delta management. This enables us to map out the progress made within the Delta Programme: whether we are on schedule with the elaboration and implementation of the Delta Decisions, preferential strategies, and Delta Plans, and whether any new developments or insights require adaptation or further refinement of the Decisions, strategies, or Plans.

The Delta Programme comprises a new, interactive map presenting a range of examples of projects that have managed to connect spatial planning and water. New research provides concrete leads for project leaders, policy-makers, and administrators. Both are intended as an inspiration to initiators who aim to (further) connect water and spatial planning.

Once again, this Delta Programme demonstrates that together we have made tremendous progress in the fields of flood risk management, freshwater supply, and spatial adaptation: results that are underpinned by the collaboration within the Delta Community. The findings of the [evaluation of the Delta Act](#) by the independent evaluation committee, which were published on 1 July, confirm the success and the importance of continued collaboration.

This year's Delta Programme has also been established on the proposal of the Delta Programme Commissioner, through a decision-making process in the Cabinet, following administrative consultations with the provinces (IPO), municipalities (VNG), and water boards (UvW), and a careful, concerted preparation in the Delta Programme Steering Group, seven Regional Consultative Bodies, and the administrative platforms of the Delta Programme. Civic society organisations have provided input in various ways, including through the Infrastructure and the Environment Consultative Body.

On 3 November, during the National Delta Congress 2016 in Apeldoorn, you will have the opportunity to obtain further information regarding the execution of the work on the delta. To register for the conference, go to english.deltacommissaris.nl/dutch-delta-congress.

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