



NATIONAL DELTA PROGRAMME 2021

STAYING ON TRACK IN CLIMATE-PROOFING THE NETHERLANDS

Today, a *Prinsjesdag* unlike any other opening of Parliament, the Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management presented Delta Programme 2021 to the States General. This year's Delta Programme is also a special one. Delta Programme 2021 sets out the results of the first six-year review and the proposals for revised Delta Decisions and Preferential Strategies.

To open Delta Programme 2021, [click here](#). Delta Programme 2021 is also available via english.deltacommissaris.nl.

As the Delta Programme Commissioner, I am proud that we have been able to continue our collective efforts on the national Delta Programme, on flood risk management, on freshwater availability, and on rendering our country water-resilient and climate-proof, despite the COVID19 virus and the ensuing measures that have the world currently in their grasp.

Delta Programme 2021 shows that we are still on the right track, yet we need to expedite and intensify the work on our delta. Successive years featuring periods of drought and heat, and frequent torrential rain only confirm this need. Furthermore, it is important that we already look farther ahead, to the period beyond 2050, as water issues will only increase in scope then. Over the next five years, such issues will be addressed in programmes such as the Sea Level Rise Knowledge Programme.

In order to achieve the aims of the Delta Programme, water must be taken into account in the spatial considerations regarding other taskings involving the physical domain. The water taskings will need to be more directive and indicate preconditions regarding the choices to be made with respect to spatial planning in the Netherlands. That is why, in the years ahead, the Delta Programme partners intend to strengthen the interconnectivity between the three Delta Programme taskings. To this end, this autumn will see the launch of, inter alia, a study to explore whether the current (amended) Preferential Strategies can be developed into Regional Delta Strategies, in which flood risk management, freshwater availability, spatial adaptation, and the connection with other national-level transitions are elaborated in interconnection.

Recommendations from the Delta Programme Commissioner

I would like to reiterate the importance of having flood risk management up to par by 2050. The urgency is increasing due to the changing climate, but also because such investments are especially crucial now, to foster our economy and the resilience of our society. In my cover letter to Delta Programme 2021, I have called on the authorities in charge of flood defence systems and all the relevant stakeholders to give their all to the pursuit of this goal. My second recommendation is to intensify the efforts to climate-proof vital and vulnerable functions. In recent months, we have experienced, more than ever before, how important it is for our vital sectors such as health care, IT, and the power, gas, and drinking water supply, to continue to operate during a crisis. In conclusion, I have called on the Cabinet to prevent the COVID19 crisis from stagnating the work on the delta as a result of a potential lack of funding.

I am pleased that the Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management, in accordance with recommendations regarding previous Delta Programmes, is making available EUR 200 million to co-fund measures to combat waterlogging. Furthermore, the Minister intends to allocate an additional EUR 100 million from the Delta Fund to Phase 2 of the Delta Plan on Freshwater Supply. Along with the 75 per cent of co-funding pledged by the regions, this will bring the total budget for Phase 2 to more than EUR 800 million.

National Delta Congress 2020

The National Delta Congress 2020, to be held on Thursday 12 November, will provide information on topical issues being addressed by the National Delta Programme and enable participants to contribute ideas. For the first time, the conference will feature an online format, to be broadcast live from several studios in the Utrecht Jaarbeurs convention centre. Via a live stream connection, you may attend a live broadcast entitled "De Delta Draait Door" [As the Delta Turns]. This is followed by two rounds of substantive sessions focusing on topics such as drought, climate-proof housing, Integrated River Management, spatial adaptation & the energy transition, heat stress, and sea level rise. The digital invitations will be emailed in early October.

The conference is a co-production of all the Delta Programme partners: municipalities, provinces, district water boards, and the central government.

In conclusion, I would like to draw your attention to the new lay-out and logo of the national Delta Programme, which is also being launched today. The logo constitutes an even better reflection of the concerted efforts being expended by the entire delta community and can be used by all the partners wherever such is appropriate within or in connection with their own communications.

Peter Glas
Government Commissioner for the Delta Programme