



NATIONAL DELTA PROGRAMME 2022

EVERY NEW DEVELOPMENT CLIMATE PROOF

Today, the Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management presented Delta Programme 2022 to the States General. New features in the design of this Delta Programme include a reading guide and an infographic on the regions and themes. We hope that this will make the Delta Programme more accessible to those who are not involved in the programme on a daily basis.

I would like to extend my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this Delta Programme: the central government, the provinces, the regional water authorities, and the municipalities, but also businesses, Security Regions, research institutes, and NGOs with whom we have collaborated. Over the past year, everyone has been working hard again to improve our country's climate resilience, e.g., by implementing measures to foster spatial adaptation, a sufficient supply of fresh water, and flood risk management.

However, major efforts are still needed. We need to step up our climate adaptation efforts in order to accommodate the consequences of climate change: more extreme weather and an increased probability of flooding, drought, and heat stress. Across the globe, the climate appears to be changing at an ever-increasing rate. Unfortunately, the Netherlands has been experiencing this first-hand, particularly the province of Limburg, which was faced with waterlogging, local flooding, and high Meuse water levels in July.

The choices that the Cabinet will be making in the years ahead in the purview of housing, agriculture, energy, nature, and economic recovery will substantiate the spatial planning of the Netherlands for the decades to come. We must ensure that such choices and measures are climate-proof, in order to secure the future of our low-lying delta and preserve the attractive business climate of the Netherlands.

For that reason, I was pleased to accept the request of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, this summer, to produce an advisory report on housing and climate adaptation. In my [advisory memorandum](#) dated 1 September I have stated that the central government will need to set down agreements with the regional authorities, stipulating the adoption of climate-proof construction methods in the built-up environment and large-scale housing development locations all across the country, as the "new normal".

Recommendations to the Cabinet

The above paragraph is one of my recommendations to the Cabinet, which I have also included in the cover letter presenting the Delta Programme to the Minister. In this letter, I am also asking for additional investments that are required in the purview of the timely implementation of the Delta Programme measures. I am recommending an additional impetus of 800 million euros for the coming Cabinet term and 100 million euros annually for the subsequent years.

Furthermore, I am calling on all the government bodies and societal partners also to invest substantial sums in the connection of climate adaptation with other taskings. This calls for reinforcement of regional and national implementation capacities. I advise the Cabinet to reinforce the implementation capacities of both the central government and the regional governments by investing in sufficient quality and capacity among all the parties, for now and for the future.

In addition, I would like to see the early involvement of the water managing bodies in the NOVI areas process, based on their roles and responsibilities, for example, with respect to the combination of societal taskings founded on the water and soil systems: the Delta Programme in interconnection with such issues as the agricultural transition, the energy transition, the housing taskings, and enhancement of biodiversity.

With a view to the potentially major impact of (accelerated) climate change on our rivers, I advise the Cabinet to make resources available for a *Knowledge Programme focused on cross-border river discharges and discharge distributions (high and low discharges)*.

In the concluding paragraph of my letter, I am making a case for concretising the substantive spatial adaptation goals, in consultation with the parties involved. There is a wide need for guidelines and frameworks issued by the central government. This will also provide clarity for private parties.

Additional resources in second phase of the Delta Plan on Freshwater Supply

In this email, I want to bring to your attention the increase in the investments pertaining to the Delta Plan on Freshwater Supply. In the Delta Fund, a sum of 250 million euros has been set aside for the second phase - 2022-2027 of the Freshwater Supply Delta Programme. The second phase will see the implementation of measures to a total sum of 800 million, 540 million euros of which will be co-funded by regional authorities. This means that the scope has doubled compared to the first phase, 2015-2021. These measures are aimed at the retention and utilisation of the available freshwater supply; they are intended to increase our resilience during times of scarcity. This is good news, because in spite of the wet summer of 2021, some parts of our country are still coping with drought. Securing a sufficient supply of fresh water, now and in the future, is imperative.

In the years ahead, the Netherlands will see a major overhaul. Let us join forces in capitalising on the opportunities this affords us to render our country climate-proof and increase its appeal!

[Click here](#) to open Delta Programme 2022. DP2022 can also be found at www.deltaprogramma.nl.

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