

Project 'Regional reconnaissance in the coastal zone in the North of The Netherlands'

Arjan Luijer, January 29, 2009



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Background

- Area reconnaissance project: a 'daughter' of the 'mother' project:
'Climate change, sea level rise and salinity – effects and perspectives for users involved in the coastal zone in the North of The Netherlands

- Looking at:
 - Effects of climate change in the region
 - Transition processes necessary in local society
 - in order to render the economic, social, environmental and cultural structure in society robust and sustainable in the event of climate change



3 sub-projects of the Reconnaissance project:

(the grand daughters)

- Salinity study – realistic dimensions of the problem, options, uncertainties, perceptions
- Comparison on attitudes and processes of S-W. Delta with Groningen and Friesland Provinces
- Pilot reconnaissance survey: Lauwersmeer Area



Lauwersmeer Area – Why ?

- situated in the Northern coastal zone
- situated in 2 provinces, 4 municipalities and 2 water basin districts
- representation: → land use / functional groups
→ interest groups
→ conflict(s) of interest
- presence of salinity is noticeable
- there is energy in local society to cooperate and forge coalitions, even at supra-provincial level
- the area is a delta with a wide ‘hinterland’
- the area acts like a kind of liaison area/ transition zone with the West Frisian Islands.



Intended results

- Analysis of the experiences acquired - on attitudes towards:
 - problems/effects of CC by groups of stakeholders,
who are owners of the problem ?
 - mind maps of the future, scenarios for action,
 - conflicts of interest
- an agenda of issues and questions for inquiry – relevant for the users and inhabitants in the area, but unanswered as yet



Intended results (2)

- A (first) definition of the position and roles of governments, executors and knowledge institutes in supporting processes of change in the northern coastal zone
- A programme to be submitted comprising a series of areas where a bottom-up process of adaptation, change and interactive planning is started,

actively supported by other *WUR-institutions* (PRI/PPO, LEI) through the IPOP-programme and realised through external funding.



How ? - Approach

- Information package on effects of CC and increasing salinity in the area
- Stakeholders analysis in the pilot area – players, perceptions, visions, conflicts of interests
 - enhancing a *bottom-up* process:
focus on actual users and user-groups, representing branch org., local civil society org., lower government (municipalities), etc.
- Reflection on results – new initiatives + feed back to the actors involved
- Regional Conference on the results of the pilot study – lessons + consequences; new initiatives and coalitions for the future, etc.





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