

The Delta programme in the Netherlands: a long-term perspective on flood risk management

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Abstract In September 2008, the Dutch Committee on Sustainable Coastal Development advised the development and implementation of a Delta Programme to adapt flood risk management (and freshwater supply) to climate change. On 1 February 2010 the Delta Commissioner was installed, in order to elaborate and implement this advice into a rolling-on Delta Programme. The Delta Programme will result in updated standards for flood protection and a policy-framework regarding flood-proof urban (re)development. The programme also includes the necessary measures for the short term (maintenance, improvement of “aging infrastructure”), framing these measures into the long-term perspective. The Delta Commissioner directs this multi-governmental process, monitors progress, reports to Parliament annually and takes the necessary steps when problems arise. From 2020 onwards, a Delta Fund of about 1 billion euros per year will provide stability in financial resources. The new Delta Act forms the legal basis for the implementation of the programme, the responsibilities of the Commissioner and the Delta Fund.

Key words flood risk management; climate change; the Netherlands