

**Input by Piet de Wildt, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, the Netherlands****A Dutch perspective on monitoring and evaluation of adaptation, to the background of the Delta Program.**

- 1. Given the diverse set of indicators that currently exist to measure and evaluate adaptation, how can communities, countries and development and adaptation agencies build on a common understanding of success in achieving climate resilience?**

The diversity of the indicators is in itself an indicator for the diversity in the way that the effects of climate change are valued and addressed in different regions and different cultures. The diversity in indicators is essential to be able to measure the effect of efforts in their own context and with respect to the local situation. Since adaptation is a local (or regional) issue, this diversity should not be replaced by a 'universal' set of indicators.

In our view climate resilience is essentially 'the capability of any society to deal with the problems from climate change on their own strength'. That means that indicators for success might be in the field of the vitality and organization of governance, political commitment and social engagement. In this view it might be very difficult to measure common understanding by objective indicators and that the budget spent on adaptation might not be a good indicator to measure success in achieving climate resilience. A more concrete common understanding of success might come from sharing information on the availability and operability of early warning systems and emergency (evacuation) plans and of social and political entities to ensure that active participation of the society is ensured. This would also include the ability to organize cooperation between stakeholders, including local-regional-national government, and support in case of acute threats. Resilience might also be linked to the ability of a community to ensure that the protection level for the longer term is assured by regular maintenance of the infrastructure and reassessment following predictions of the effects of climate change.

- 2. How can a framework be created that links individual assessments with national level assessments to broaden the focus from the means of achieving outcomes (individual interventions) to the desired end result (countries' becoming less vulnerable and having more adaptive capacity).**

In the Netherlands, adaptation to climate change concerning the protection against flooding and ensuring a sufficient supply of freshwater now and in the future, has a legal basis through the Delta Act. This Act mandates that a Delta Commissioner is appointed, that an annual Delta Programme is drawn up and that progress reports are submitted. It also constitutes the legal basis for the Delta Fund to be set up. In this way the necessary efforts on technology, governance and finance are connected for the short and long term. This is essential for keeping the population involved and aware of the treats at all levels, which is the basis for acceptance of possible far-reaching measures - infrastructure and regulations- and the willingness to make substantial financial efforts. The Delta Fund is the financial basis of the Delta Programme. From 2020 onward, an annual sum of at least 1 billion Euros will be deposited in this fund. Until this date, the Delta Fund is fed with the current resources earmarked for water safety, freshwater supply and "wet" management and maintenance. The fund provides continuity and certainty with respect to the available resources, without needing to compete with other spending purposes.

The legal basis and the control over the Delta Fund are strong pillars under the role of the Delta Commissioner as the sole focal point for adaptation on water and related issues in the Netherlands. Because of the intensive connection and communication in the framework of the Delta Commissioner between all stakeholders, including the different governmental layers, individual actions can grow to the national level and the other way around. The Delta Commissioner provides for regional tailor-made strategies, to benefit from local knowledge, collect local ideas for solutions, explore opportunities to combine measures with other agenda's, etc. with the aim to improve the quality of the solutions and build acceptance.

In short: The Netherlands created a legal framework which connects technology, governance and finance to both reduce vulnerability and increase resilience on the short and the long term.

**3. How can results from M&E be reported and disseminated so as to ensure that they are fed back into the respective adaptation process but also to allow for lessons learned and good practices identified to be shared with the wider community of adaptation planners and practitioners?**

In the Netherlands the Delta Commissioner reports on a yearly basis by presenting the Delta Book to parliament, giving the state of affairs on the preparation and implementation of measures. The Delta Book is also available to the general public on the website ([www.deltacommissaris.nl](http://www.deltacommissaris.nl)). The highlights and main findings of the report are presented on the yearly Delta congress and shared and discussed with officials, stakeholders, experts and other interested participants

On a day-to-day basis the Delta Commissioner has a pivotal role in the regional and supra-regional coordination, which not only serves as a platform for exchanging experiences but also as platform to ensure coherence in the approach at each level through -amongst others- guarding the uniformity in premises, basic assumptions, policy goals, essential values (solidarity, flexibility, sustainability) and insight in interdependence.

In the framework of the UNFCCC it might be essential to break out of the climate circle and reach out to other groups. That means active participation in conferences for professionals in relevant sectors as water (Stockholm Waterweek, IWA-congress, etc.) agriculture and health. Not just by making an intervention but organize a side event, arrange for key note speeches and ask for discussions and opinions from participants. On reporting and dissemination on the global level it is essential to bear in mind that adaptation is particularly a local (or regional) matter. More than responding to 'universal' indicators, Parties might benefit from exchanging experiences (positive and negative) and efforts to increase resilience on the whole of technology-governance-finance, for instance through the Adaptation Forum.