

Climate Adaptation in Deltas

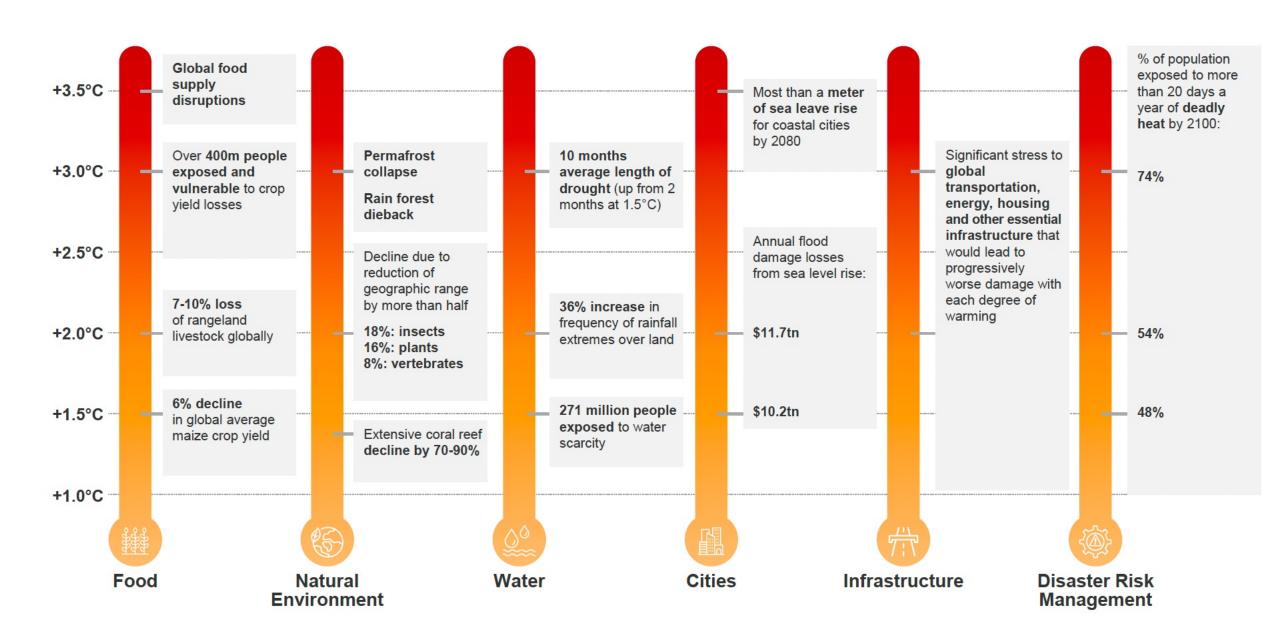
Key Note

Joep Verhagen Global Lead Water and Urban June 15, 2023



There is no safe climate scenario





Climate Change is also Water





Climate Change



Temperature
Higher highs
More variability



Precipitation
Higher intensity
More variability

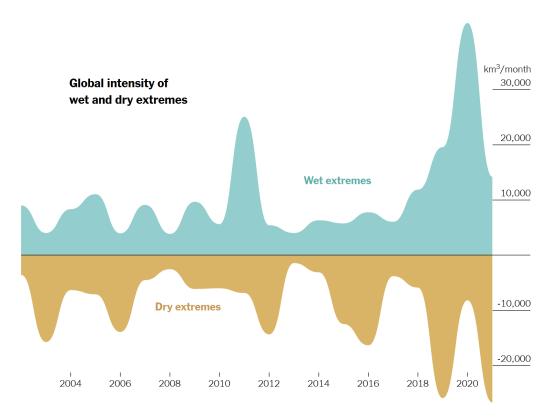


Water-Related Impacts

- Decreasing and more variable water supply
- Increasing demand for water
- Increase in floods and droughts
- Declining water quality
- Greater stress on ecosystems

Broader Impacts

- Less water available for household use, industry and agriculture
- More loss of life and property due to natural disasters
- Environmental degradation

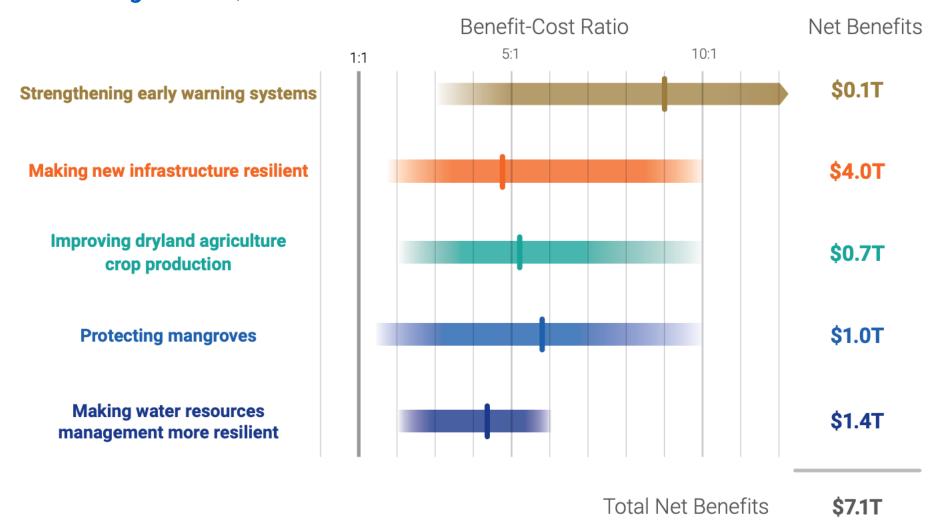


Rodell and Li, (2023)

The economic value in adaptation



The **Global Commission on Adaptation** estimated that **investing \$1.8 trillion** globally in five areas from 2020 to 2030 **could generate \$7.1 trillion in total net benefits**



Source: Global Commission on Adaptation (2019), Adapt now: a global call for leadership on climate resilience

The financing of adaptation



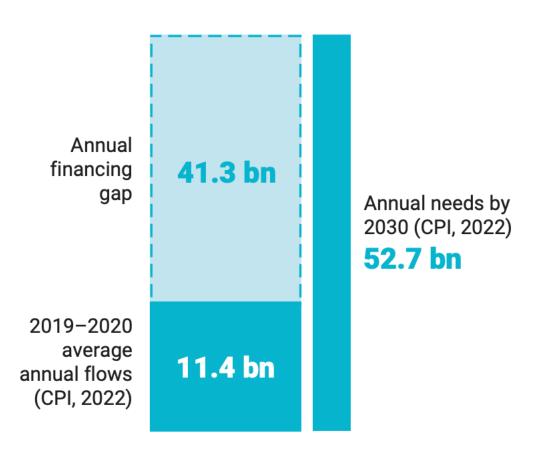
Annual cost of adaptation for developing countries

US\$160 billion/year to \$340 billion/yearUS\$315 billion/year to \$565 billion/year

Source: UN Environment Programme, Adaptation Gap Report 2022



Adaptation Finance Commitments (US\$bn) vs. Needs in Africa



Source: GCA, State and Trends in Adaptation Report 2022





Coastal Areas and Deltas



• 40% of global population lives within 100 km of coast (20% of land mass).

About 2/3 of global GDP is generated within 100 km of the coast.

 There 17 megacities around the globe, and 14 of them are located in coastal areas.

Rich and biodiverse eco-systems that are under threat.

Senegal



- Approximately 75% of population lives in coastal zone; 95% of formal economy concentrated in there.
- At the country level, coastal degradation imposes costs to 7.6 percent of GDP in Senegal in 2017.
 Costs of floods in coastal districts is estimated to be US\$ 230 million in 2017. This corresponds to 1.4 percent of the Senegal's GDP.
- AfDB estimates that Senegal will lose up to 40% of its GDP (as compared to a 'normal situation') under high warming scenario by 2050.

- Large and diverse range of stakeholders (Ministry of Tourism, Environment, Oceans, Fisheries, Planning, Urban Development, and so on).
- Integrated approach needed; necessary law is stuck for 10 years.
- Who owns the 'new' beach?



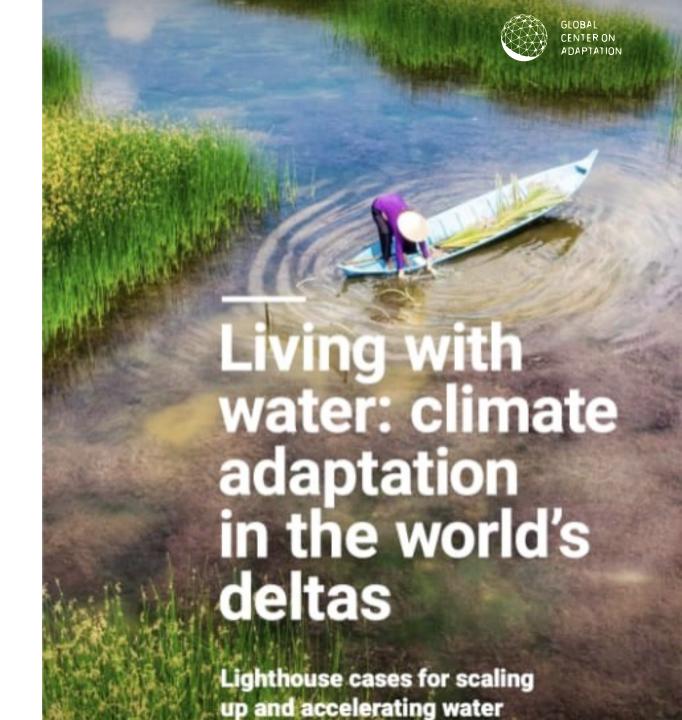
Netherlands: Really prepared?

- 26% below sea level; 59% vulnerable to flooding. 70% of population live in areas vulnerable to flooding. Low probability but high impact.
- Economy concentrated in coastal areas.
- Multilayered safety concept (protection, spatial planning, contingency).
- Dedicated institutional structure and long-term budget sustainability.
- Increased risk of flooding and droughts.
- Prepared for sea level rise? AAA credit rating at risk?



Good practices to scale up and accelerate climate adaptation in Deltas

- 6 lighthouse case studies (Argentina, Bangladesh, Colombia, Indonesia, Mozambique, Netherlands, Vietnam).
- https://gca.org/reports/living-with-water-climate-adaptation-in-the-worlds-deltas/



What works ...



- There is an urgent need to improve understanding of what works in delta environments, and share lessons and information across countries for scaling up.
- Climate adaptation in delta areas is a complex issue best looked at through a systems lens.
- While action is required immediately, climate-change adaptation is a longterm game.
- Communities must be at the center of adaptation planning and action.

What works ...



- Nature-based solutions, combining 'green' and 'gray' infrastructure, are promising but need urgent scaling.
- Deltas need dedicated governance structures organized on water management principles.
- Adaptation in deltas needs an increased level of long-term financing commitments

Singapore



