



# Cities and their vulnerability to climate change

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## Climate Adaptation

> Consequences climate change far-reaching

- **Independent institute for Applied Science**
- **Not for profit**
- **~800 employees**
- **Home base in the Netherlands**
- **Open source knowledge and software**

Deltares is an independent institute for applied research in the field of water and subsurface with five areas of expertise.

> Watch our introduction video

Flood Risk

Adaptive Delta Planning

Infrastructure

Water & subsoil resources

Environment



# Semantics of 'vulnerability' differ between scientific communities, and evolves

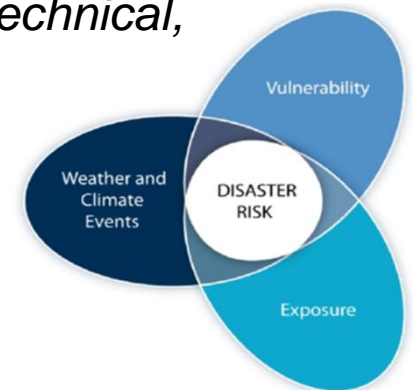
IPCC integrative vulnerability concept (IPCC 2007) →

'Vulnerability is the outcome of an assessment that **integrates** biogeophysical and socio-economic **factors**'

- 1. **Exposure**
  - 2. **Sensitivity**
  - 3. **Adaptive capacity** (i.e. the ability and means to cope with impacts)
- } determine the potential **impact** of climate change

**Socio economic resilience:** *the capability of a society to **prevent** or **cope with** the impacts of climate change and sea-level rise, including technical, institutional, economic, and cultural ability*

Semantics don't really matter for stakeholders  
It boils down to **what/how to assess & which information to produce ?**



IPCC SREX (2012)

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# What to assess? – Vulnerability of...

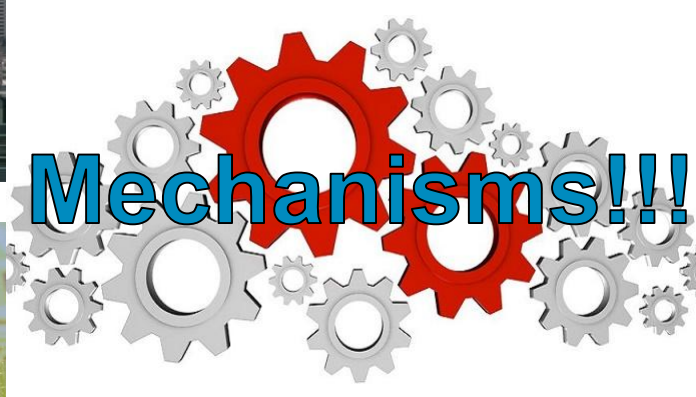
Objects



People



Mechanisms!!!



Infrastructure



Air/Water/Eco/Geo System



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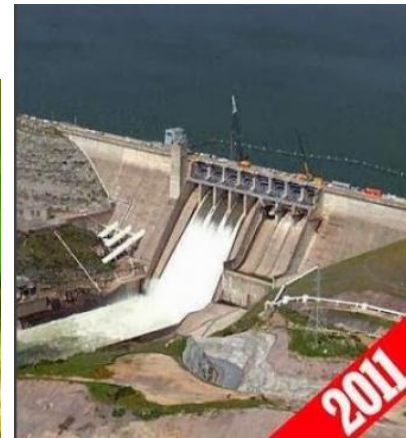


# Exposure to - Flooding (coastal, fluvial, pluvial, groundwater, ...)





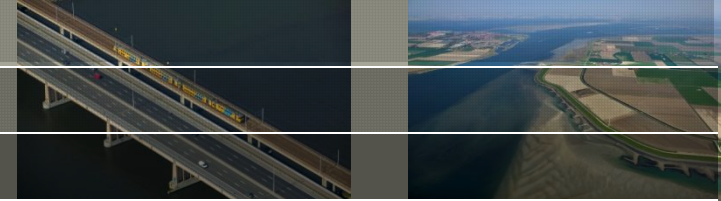
# Exposure to - Drought



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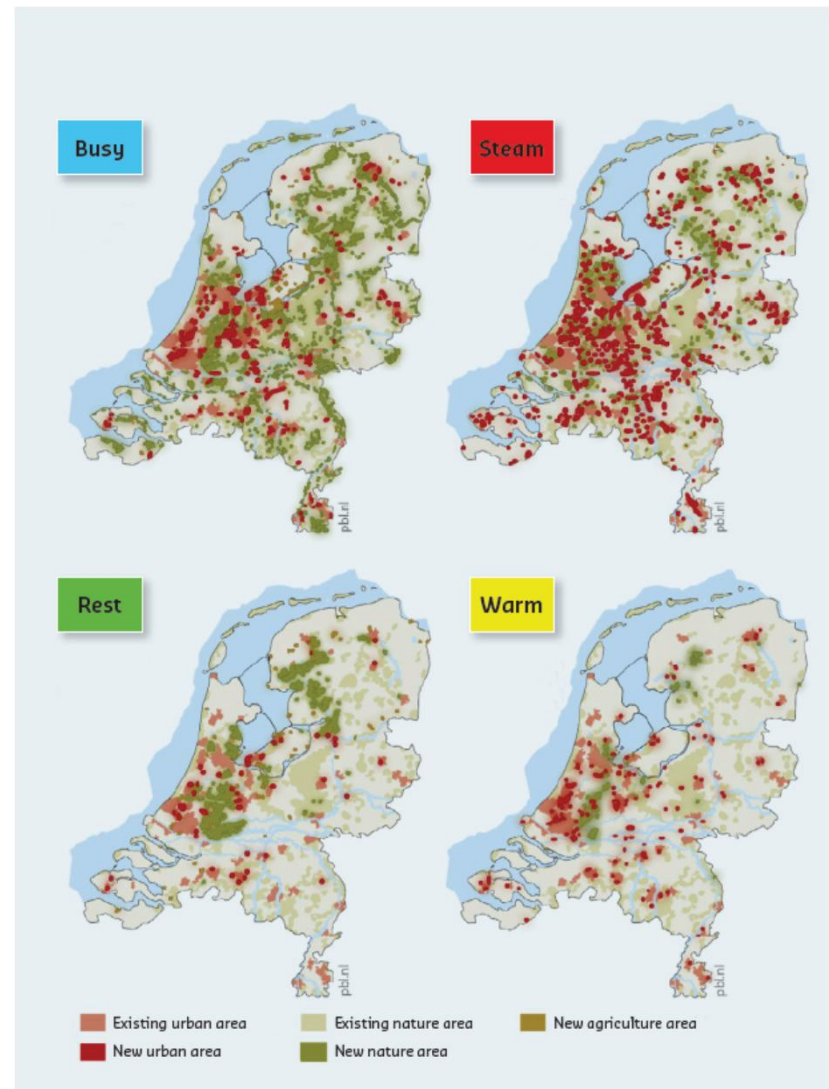
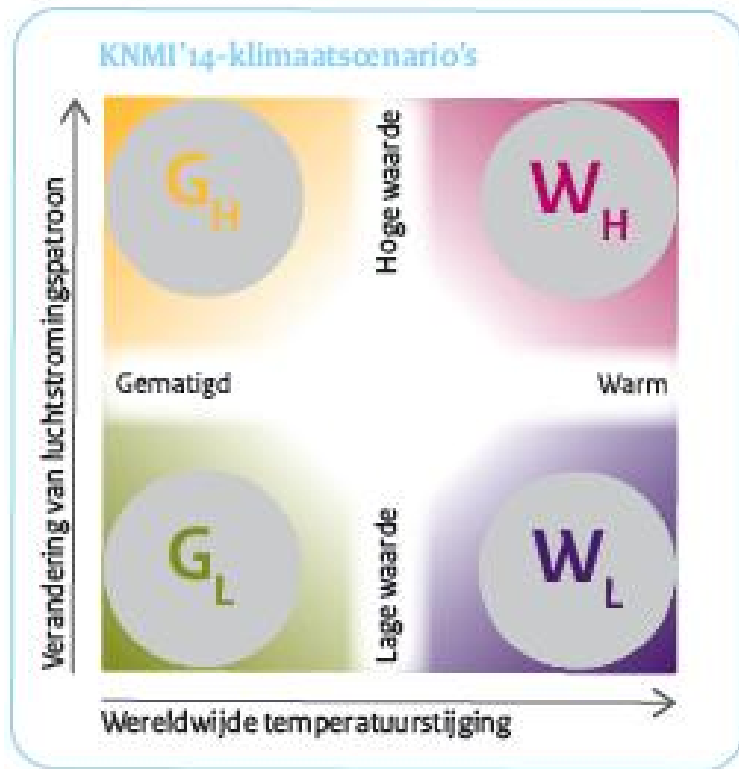


# Exposure to - Heat



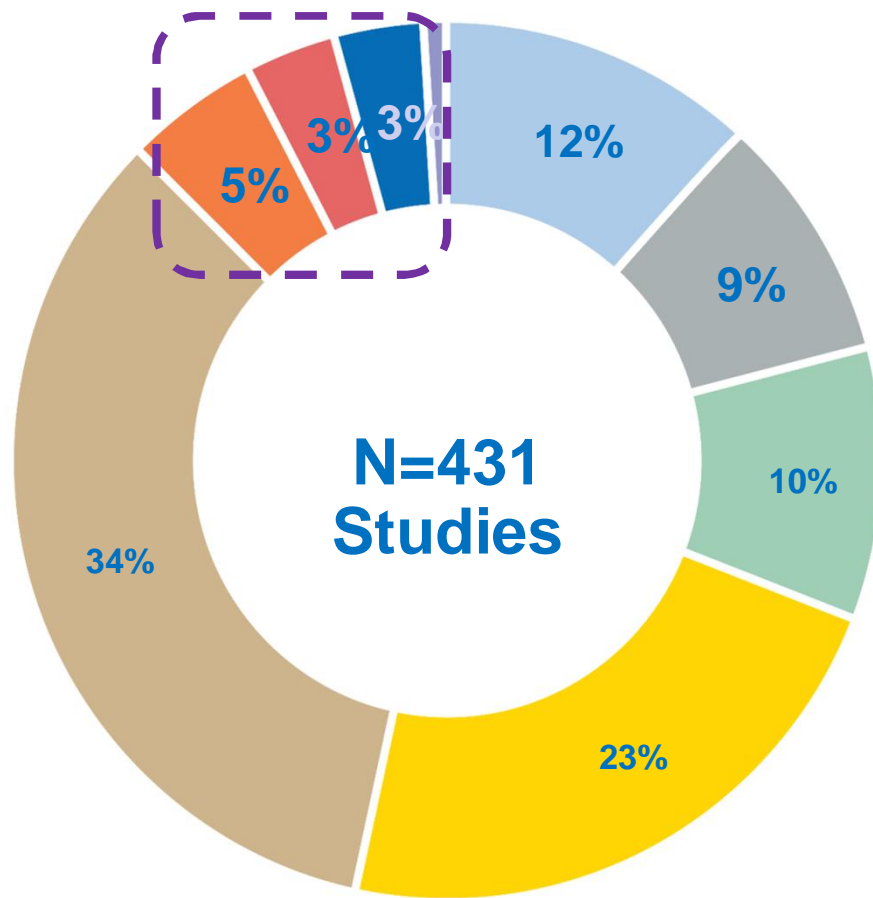
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# At least as important - Exposure to Socio Economic changes

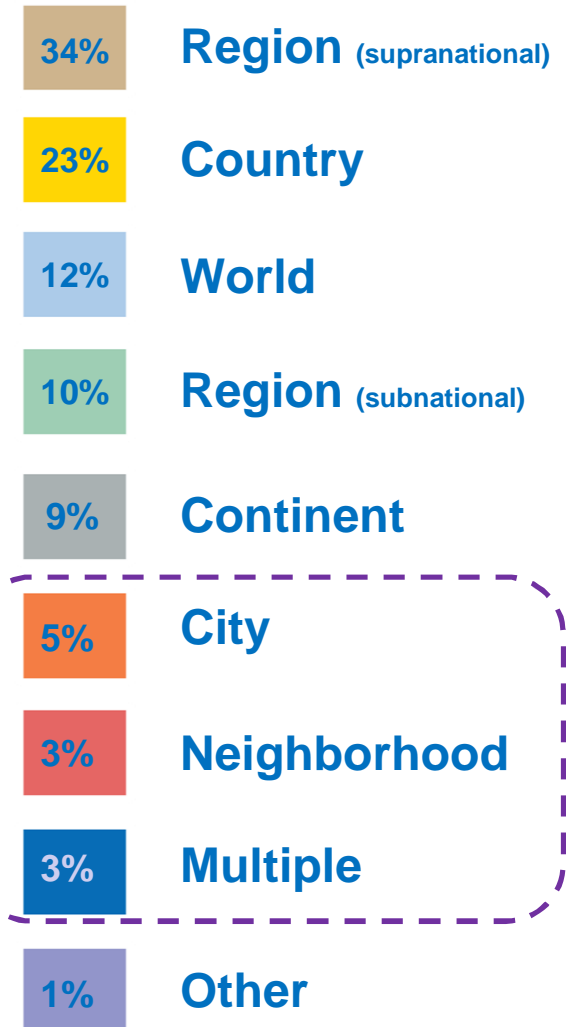




# Evaluation of vulnerability studies → Local (urban) scale under-represented



Source: De Groot - Reichwein and Masselink (2015)



- National and regional governments are (2015) frontrunners in climate change impact studies
- Accurate vulnerability assessment on local level is **complex**, on many levels



# Estimates of impacts in damage (€), affected GDP and affected population

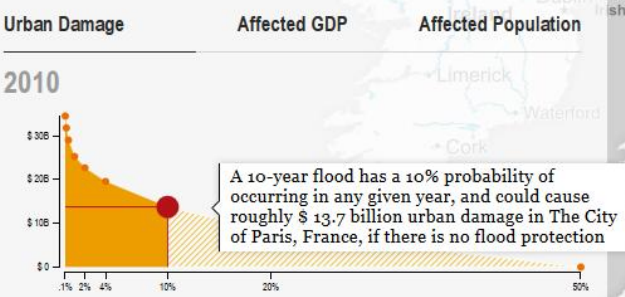


AQUEDUCT Global Flood Analyzer

10 year protection

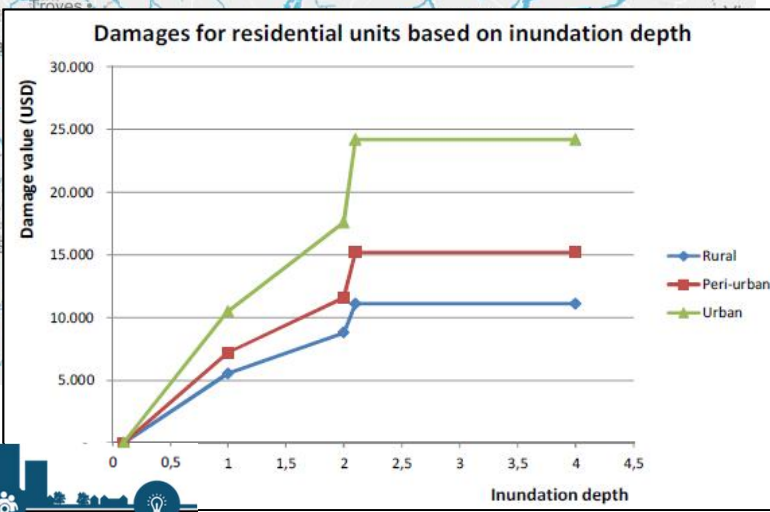
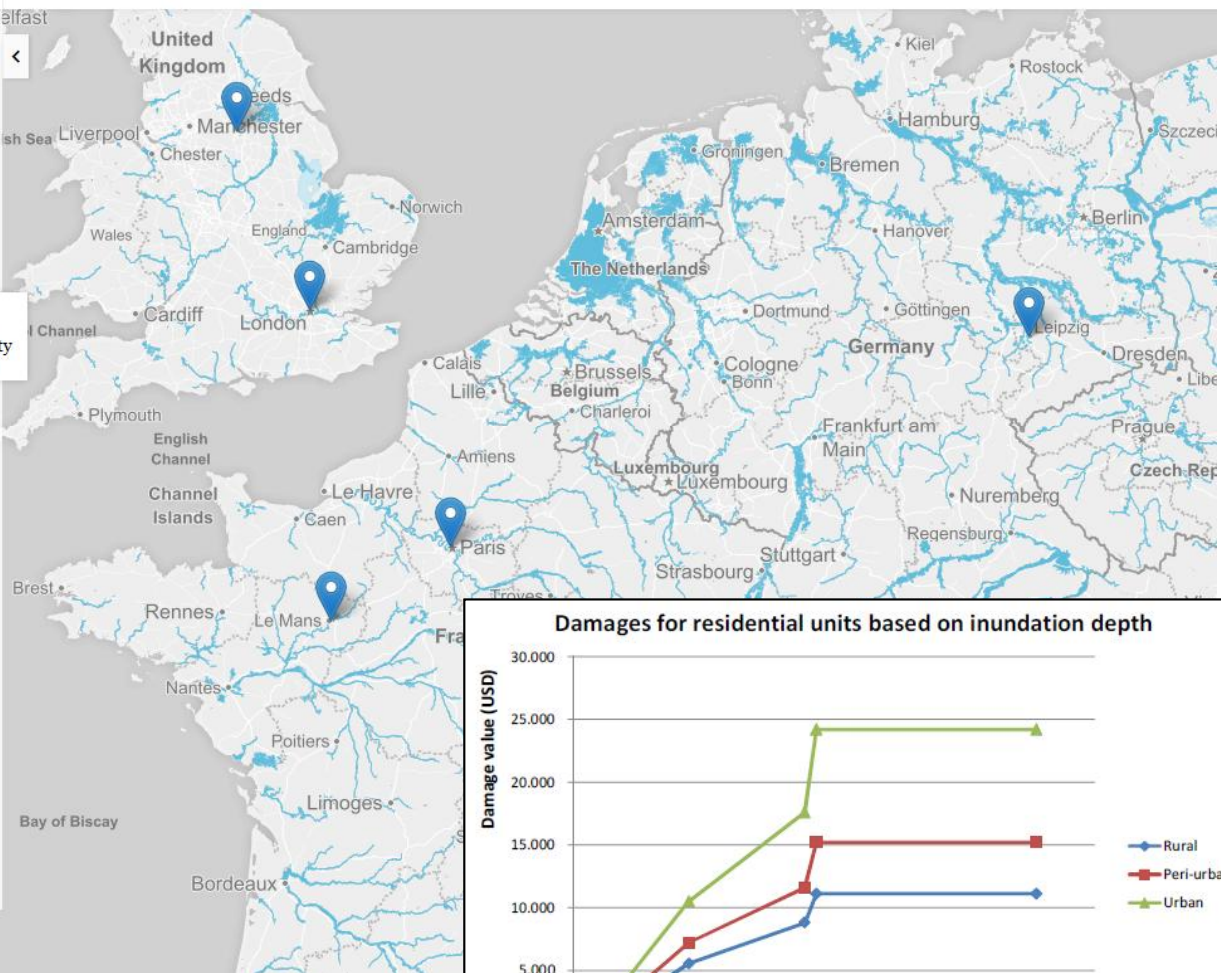
Type or select a country,

## Flood Risk in The City of Paris, France



Annual Expected Urban Damage      **\$2.0B**      Annual Avoided Urban Damage      **\$2.4B**

2030      Scenario A      Scenario B      Scenario C



<http://floods.wri.org/#/>





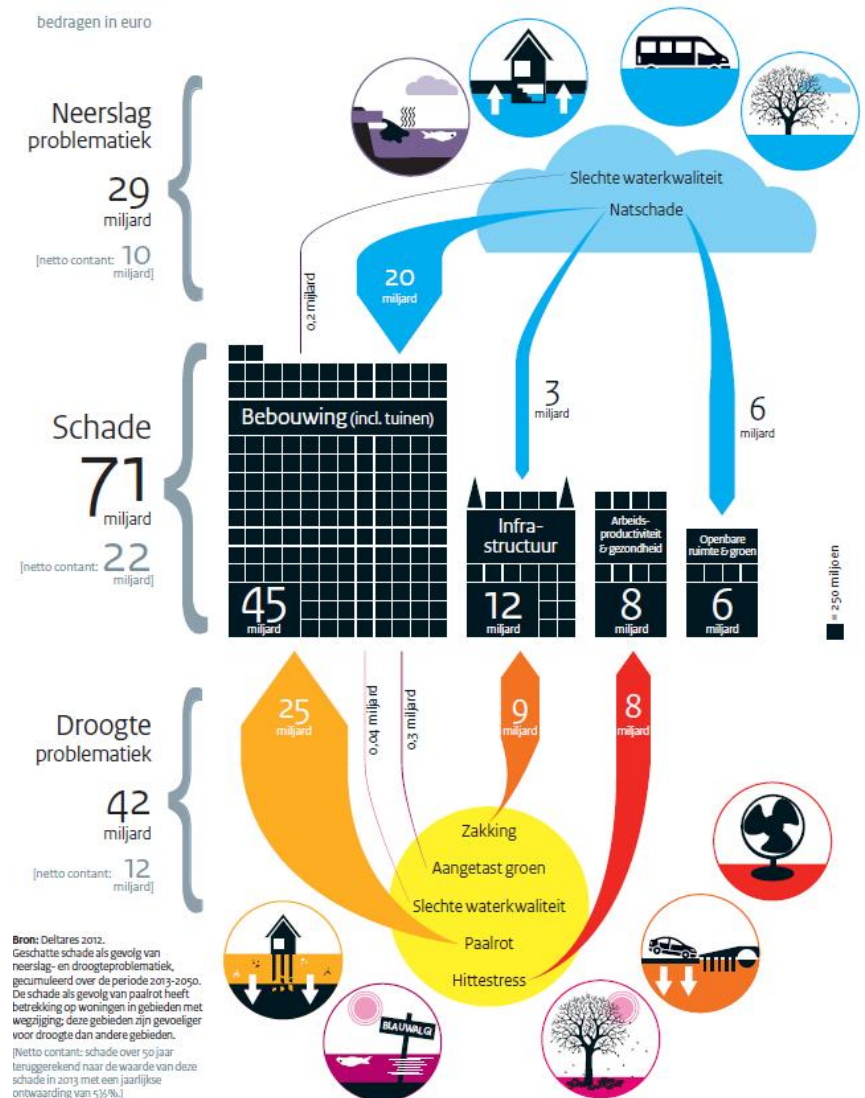
# National scan of impacts (exposure + sensitivity) on local scale revealed...

Damage will run into billions, but **accuracy of estimates is low** (large range)

Mainly because **sensitivity is poorly known**

Accuracy is **more influenced by sensitivity information** than by exposure (climate) information

**Dutch situation !**



# Sensitivity assessment → Urban Design and Construction assessment

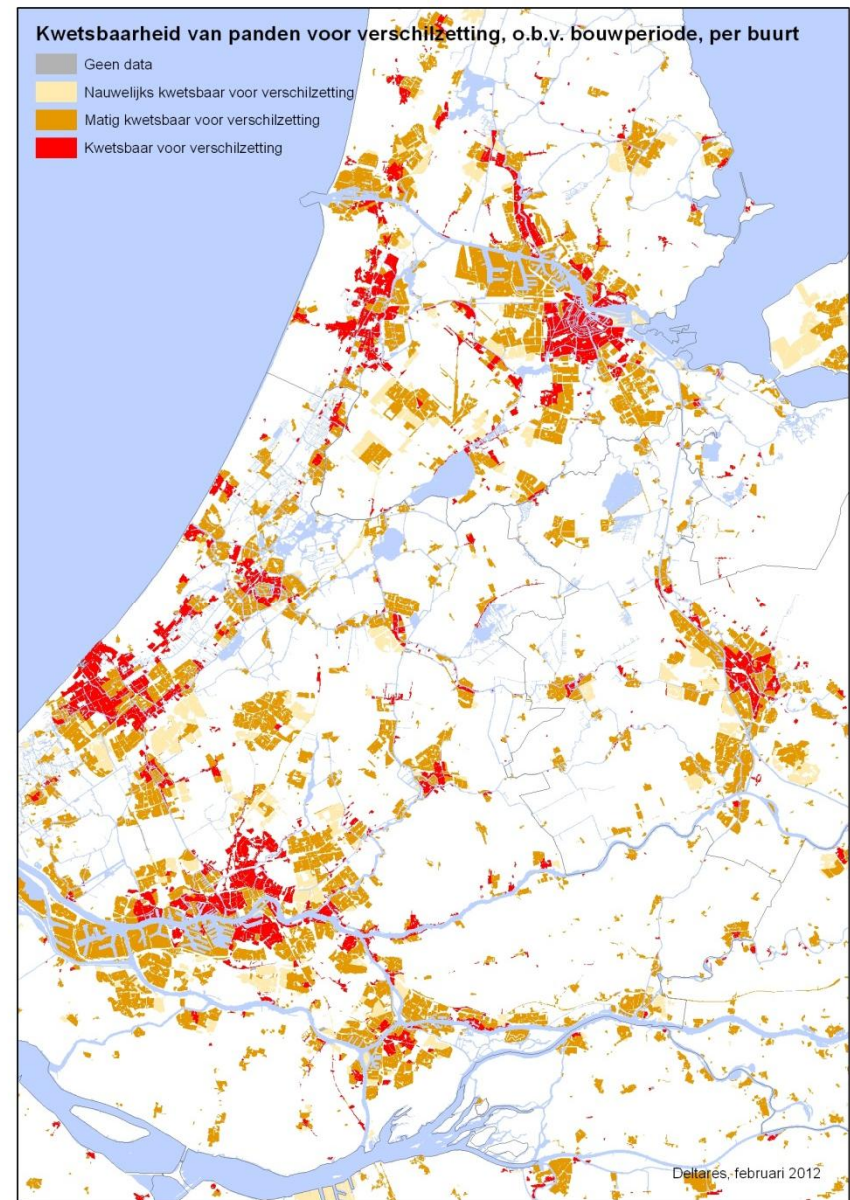
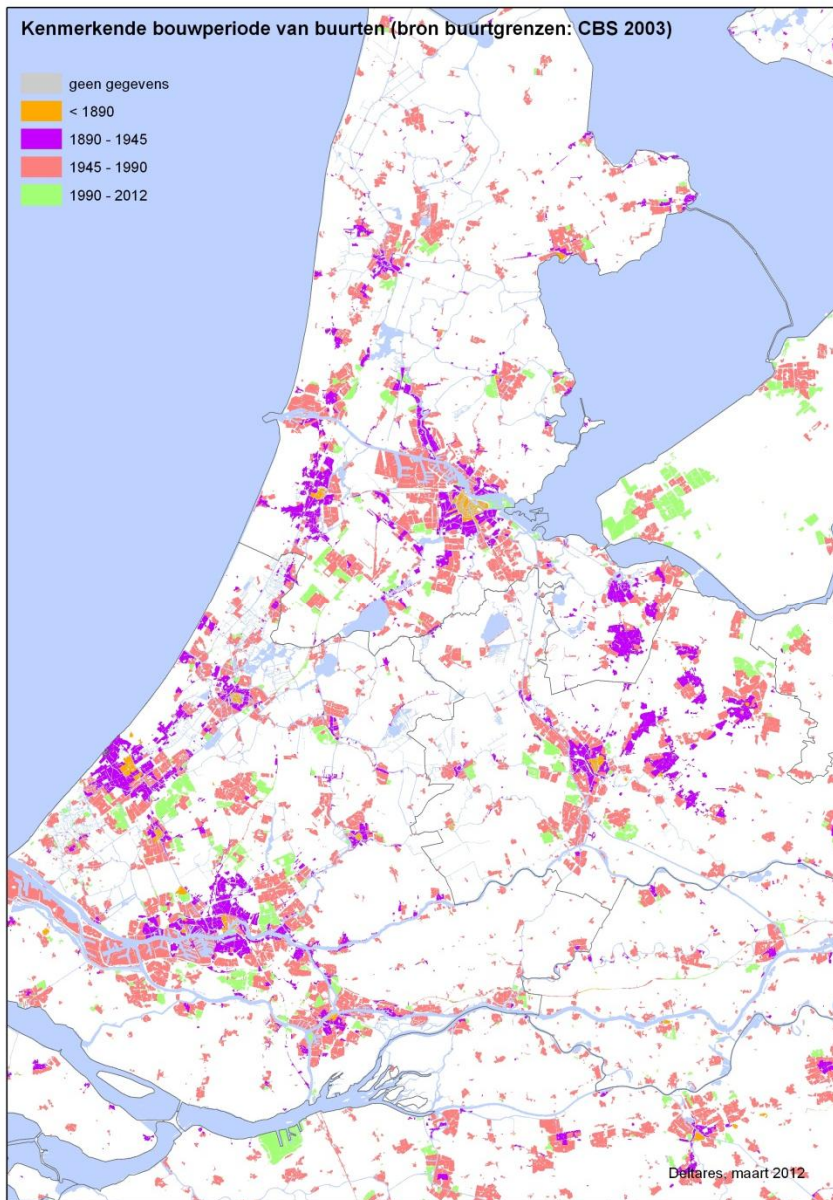


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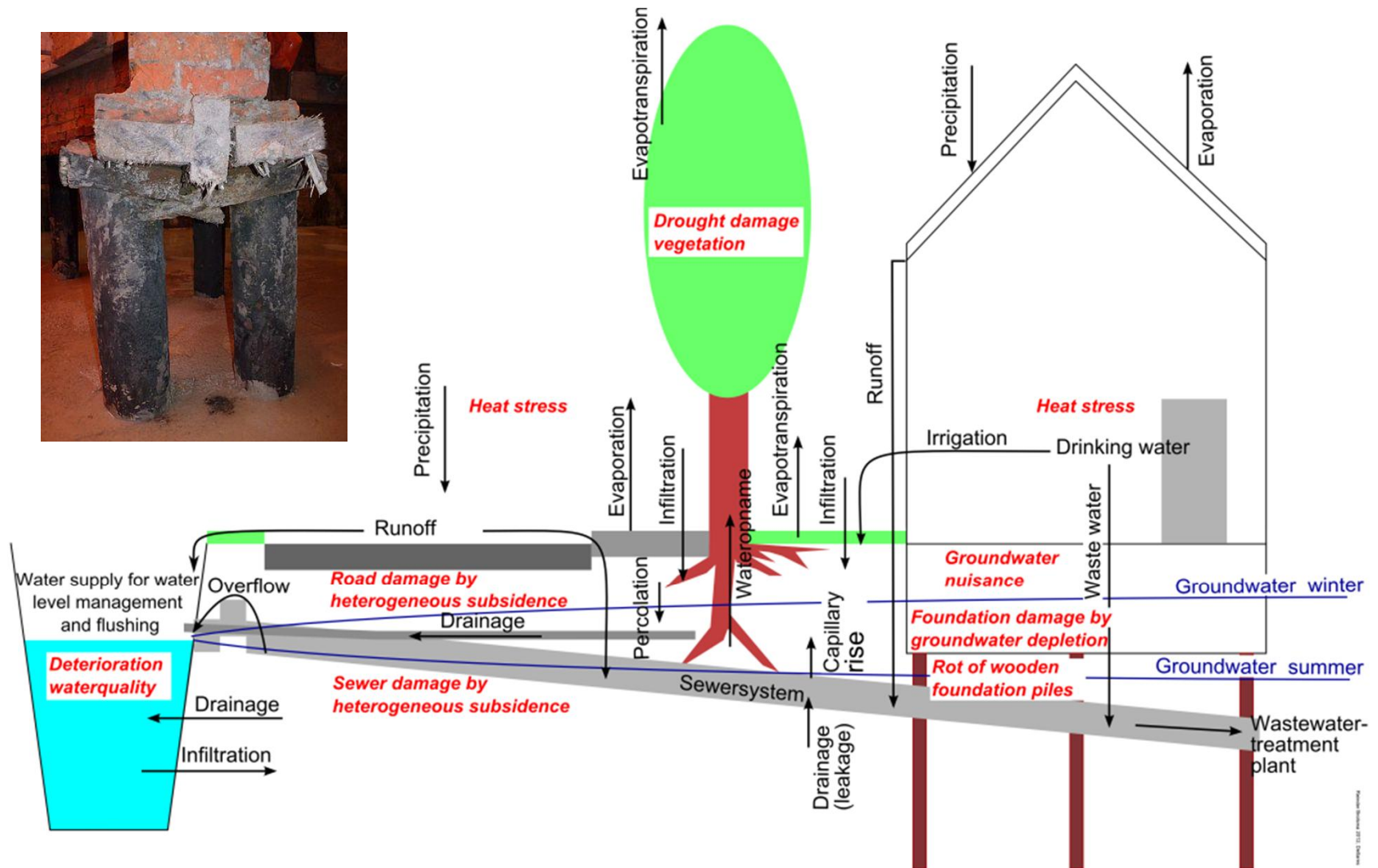




# Know urban area characteristics, thoroughly

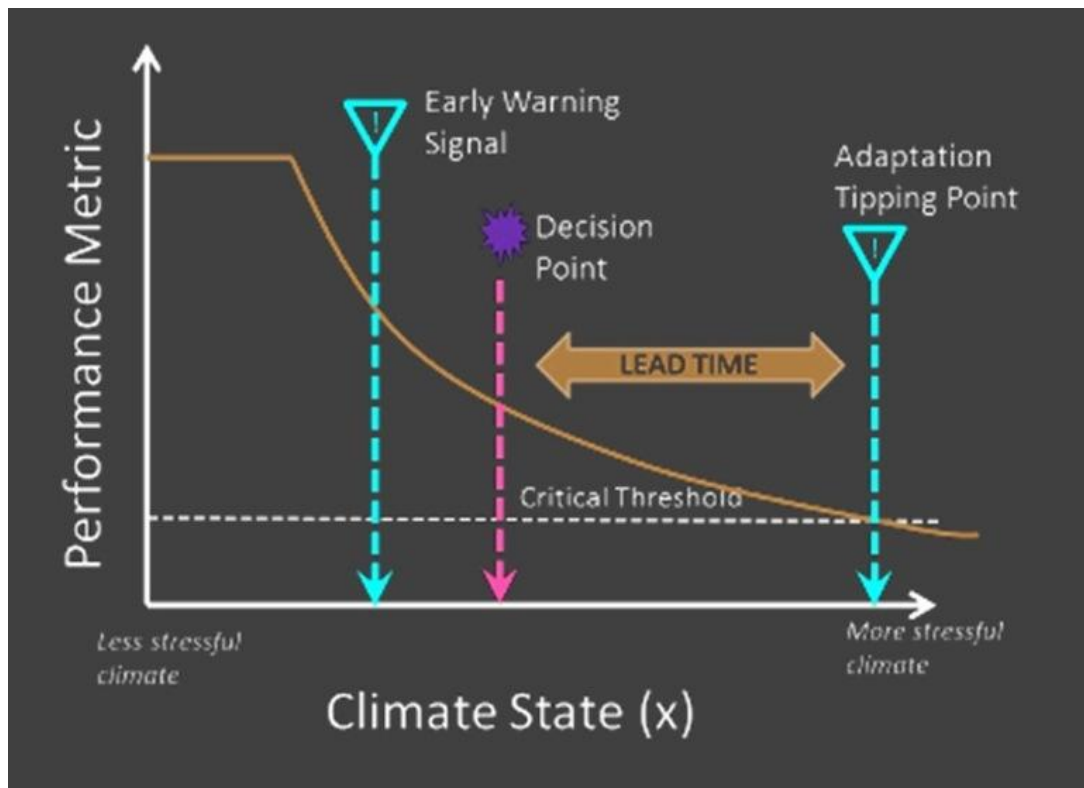


# Understand effect of increased exposure on damage mechanisms





# Stresstest: increasing exposure leads to decreasing performance



Alas, performance does not always decrease gradual or noticeable

Tipping points can be reached suddenly

Especially because of increased dynamics, peaks in exposure

→ At least: **determine weak links** and **climate state at critical threshold**

**What does it take to break?** Not necessarily based on climate scenario's

physical

functional

normative

...



# → Guide for Urban Climate Stress Test (Exposure + Sensitivity)



Deltaprogramma | Nieuwbouw en herstructurering

Handreiking Ruimtelijke Adaptatie

Handreiking voor de uitvoering van een  
Stresstest Klimaatbestendigheid



## VULNERABILITY SCAN

1 INITIATIVE



2 ENGAGE  
STAKEHOLDERS



3 COLLECT DATA



4 VULNERABILITIES  
AND CHALLENGES



5 IDENTIFY  
OPPORTUNITIES



6 CLIMATE  
WORKSHOP



7 VULNERABILITY  
SCAN



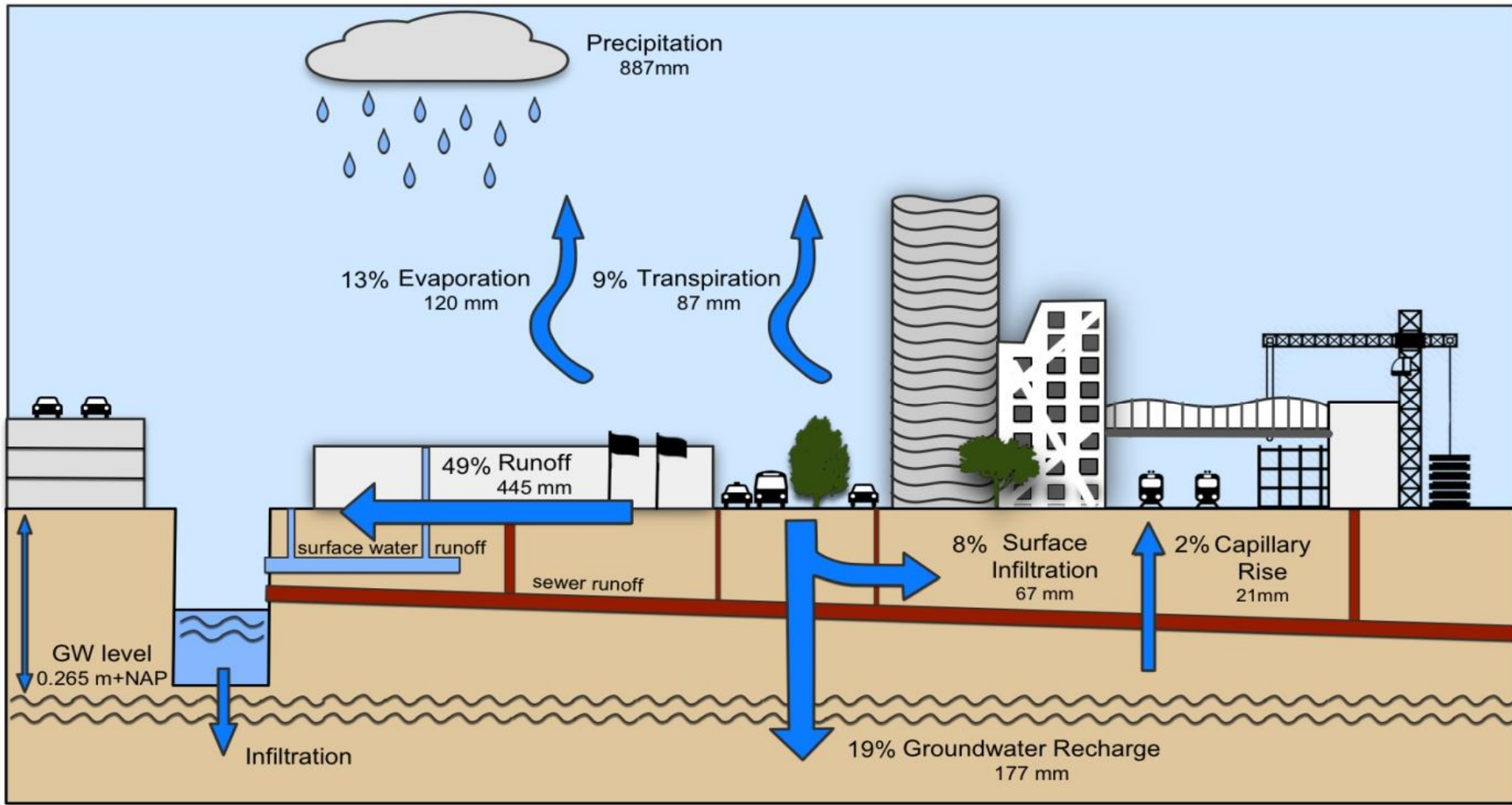
<http://www.spatialadaptation.com/hulpmiddelen>

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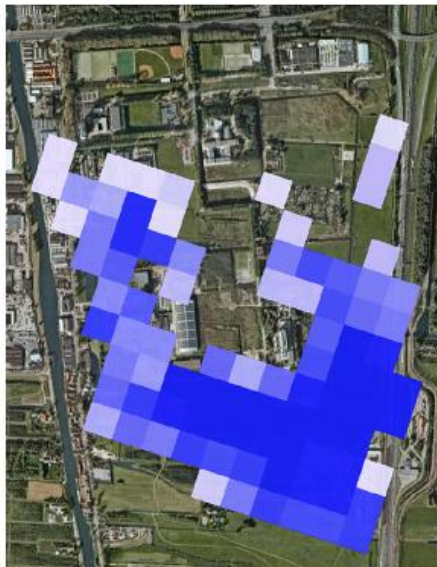
First: stress test light with simple tools to identify (most) sensitive factors



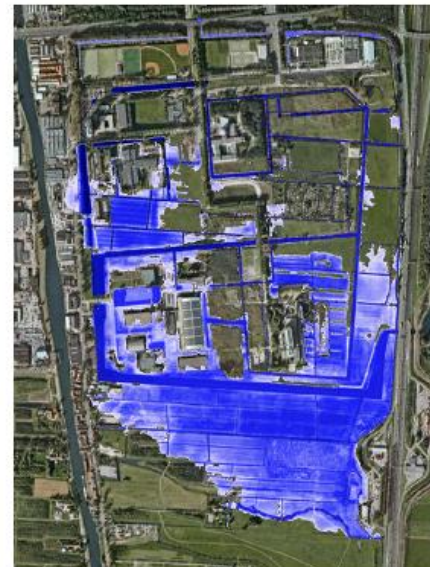
# Fast progress in high resolution flood & risk assessment



Standard  
resolution  
(100meter)



New standard  
resolution  
(up to 0,5m)





# Using different (real) events to assess effect of Exposure variations



### Rainfall events in Brisbane 2016 ▾

☐  5 January  
45 mm

☐  4 June  
65 mm

☐  19 June  
73 mm









Mt. Stapyton Radar 17:00

(mm/h)

- <2.5
- 2.5
- 5
- 7.5
- 10
- 15
- 25
- >25

Rainfall West End at 



Rainfall sum [mm]

time



Rainfall sum West End 17:00







Rainfall West End at 



Rainfall sum [mm]

time



Rainfall sum West End 19 June



Select a measure

- ☐  Adding green in streetscape
- ☐  Dams (to redirect water)
- ☐  Water squares
- ☐  Porous pavements
- ☐  Green roofs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBCeQH4awmw>

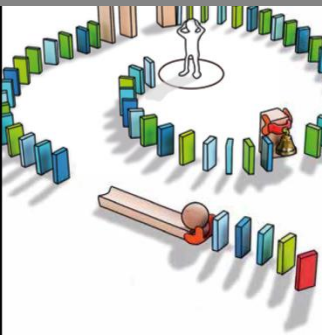
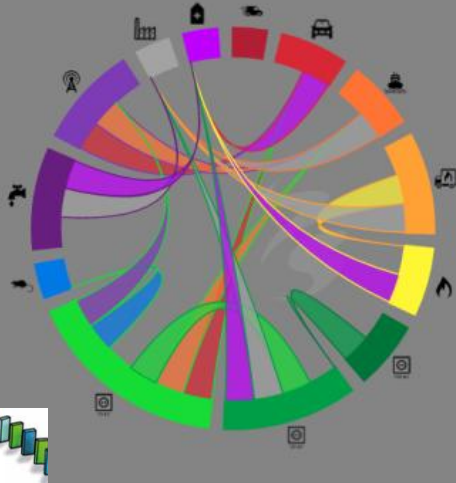


# Participative identification of cascading failure of vital infra

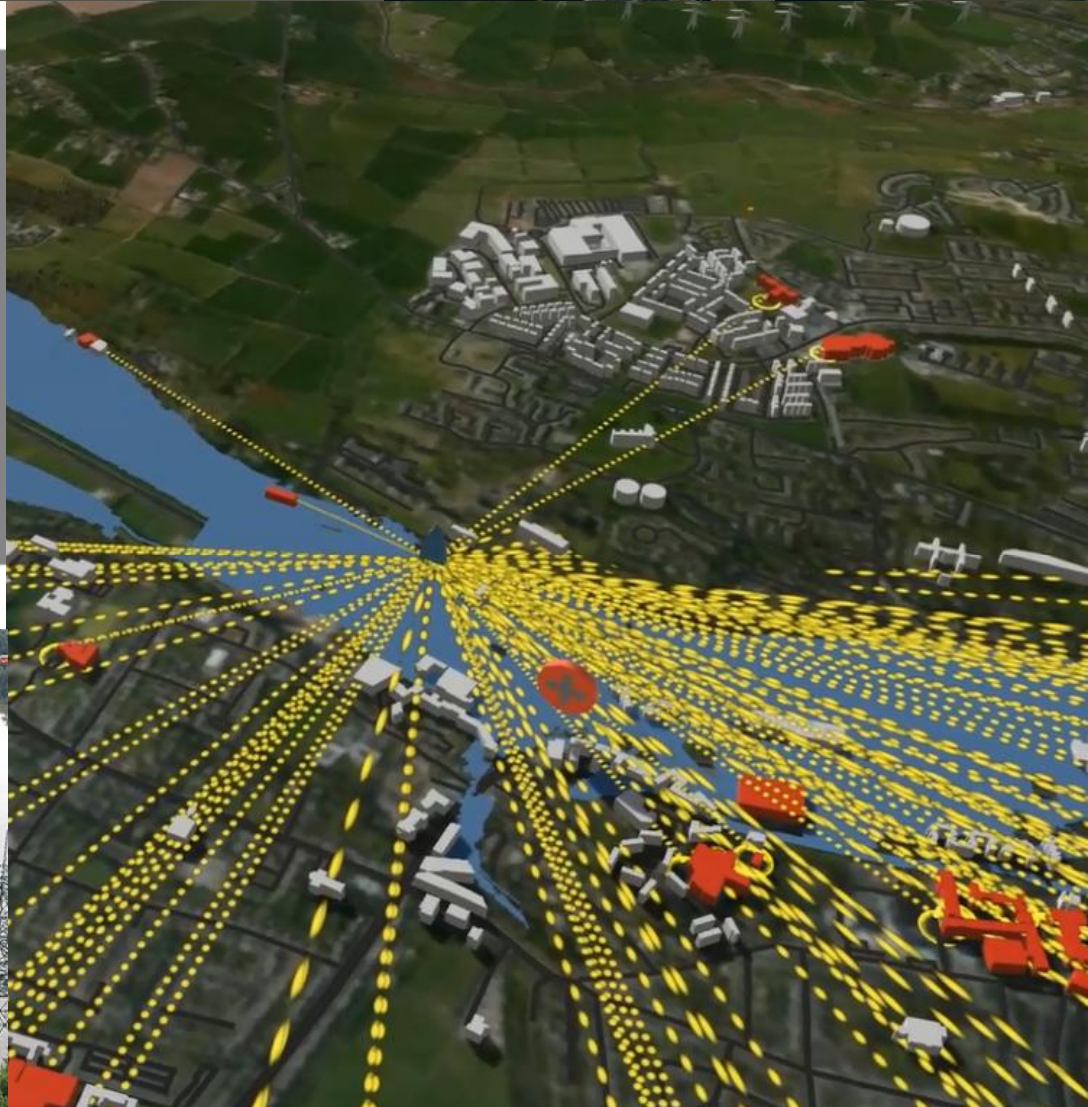


Circle - Critical Infrastructure: Relations and Consequences for Life and Environment

- Highways
- Main roads
- Waterways
- Gas transport
- Gas urban network
- Electricity high voltage
- Electricity mid voltage
- Electricity low voltage
- Wastewater pumps
- Freshwater extraction
- Radio mast
- Industry
- Hospital



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Building Delta Life

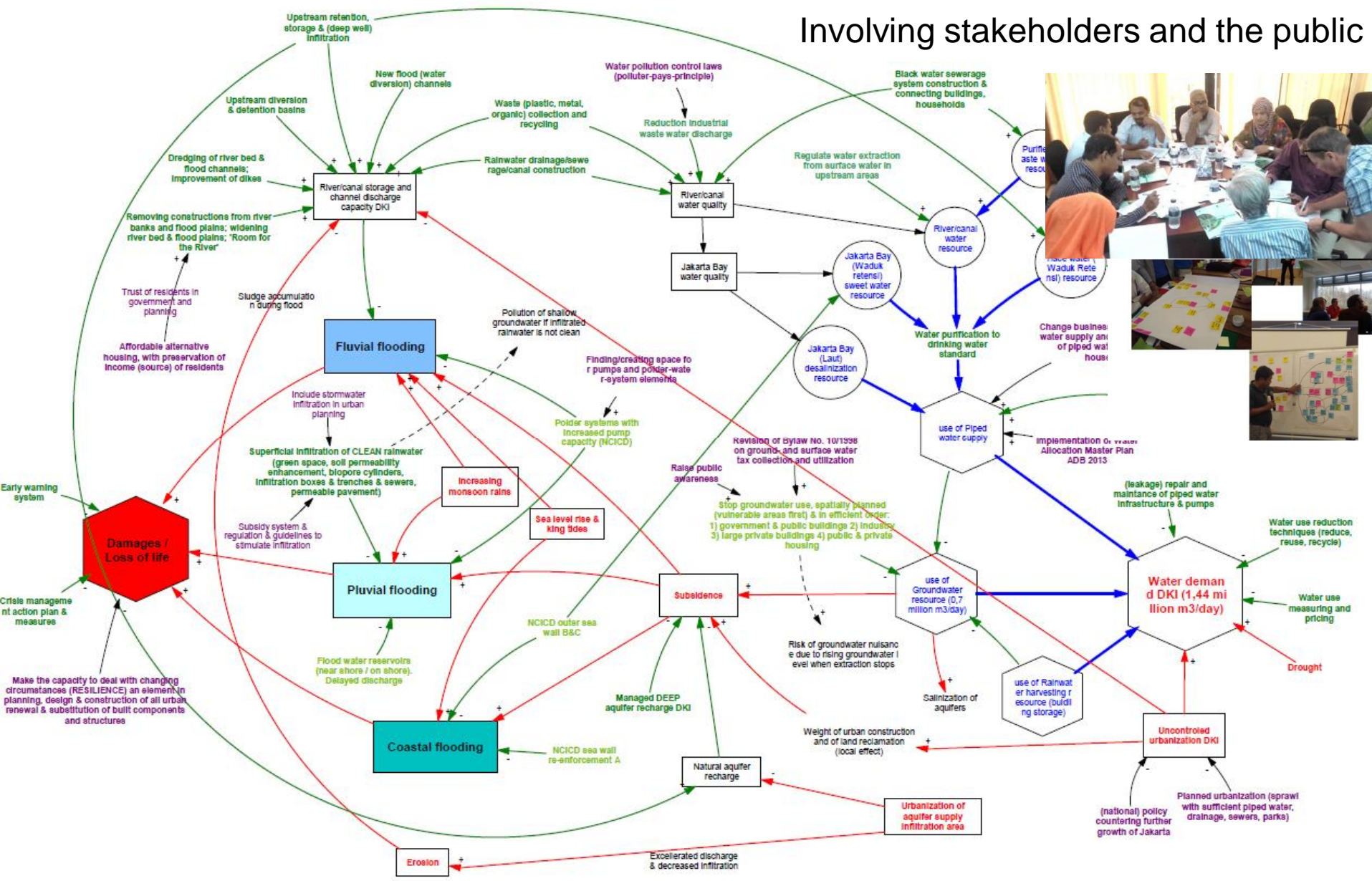


[https://www.deltares.nl/nl/software/circle\\_vitale\\_infrastructuur/](https://www.deltares.nl/nl/software/circle_vitale_infrastructuur/)

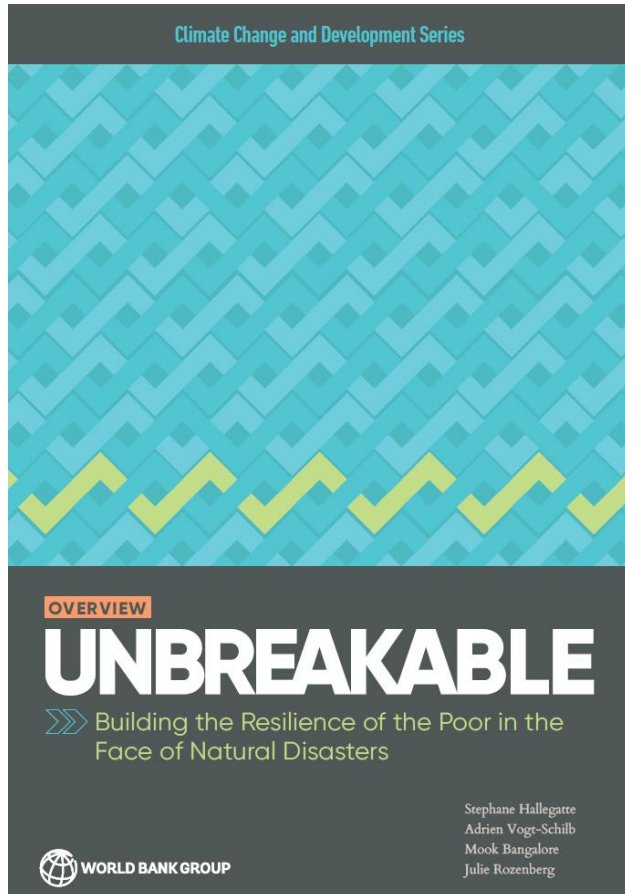


# Joint system understanding → where do climate effects come in play?

## Involving stakeholders and the public



# Evaluate risks beyond plain damage to assets



ground level



income levels



damage claims



income level

Including Adaptive Capacity or Socio-Economic Resilience in Risk Assessment **shifts** adaptation investments

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/25335>



# Lots of solutions, more coming, and tools to help you choose



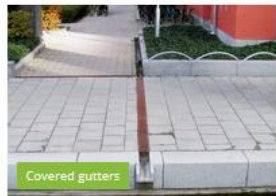
Fluted gutters



Prefab fluted gutter



Open gutters



Covered gutters



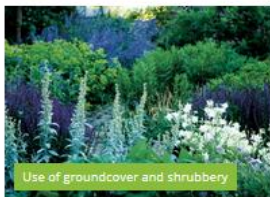
Hollow roads



Ditches



Open water channels



Use of groundcover and shrubbery



Porous paving materials



Ground infiltration



Infiltration meadows and infiltration strips with above-ground storage



Rainwater ponds for buffering and purification of moderately polluted water



Rainwater ponds for buffering and purifying extremely polluted water



Nature-friendly bioswales



Gravel layers/trenches/reverse drainage

**ADAPTATION SOLUTIONS**

FILTER

Project type

Scale

Adaptation target

Land use

Dominant soil type

Surface level and slope

Flat area on low ground

84 Adaptation solutions

Reset

**CLIMATE INFORMATION**

**ABOUT**

## ADAPTATION SOLUTIONS

Storage/settling tank and storage basins	Increased pump capacity	Increase capacity of sewer system
Water squares	Reduced paved surfaces	Emergency supplies and utilities
Network of waterways	Canal	Raising land
Raising the groundfloor level	Raised curbs/ hollow roads	Reconstruct combined sewer systems to separated sewer systems
Infiltration and Transport-sewer	Use of groundcover and shrubbery (instead of unplanted surface)	Rainwater storage below buildings

[www.climateapp.org](http://www.climateapp.org)

[www.urbangreenbluegrids.com/design-tool/](http://www.urbangreenbluegrids.com/design-tool/)

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# Work on concepts that combine goals, techniques, benefits and funds

adaptation  
+  
mitigation  
+  
resource efficiency  
+  
health & liveability

and attract cross sectorial  
co-investments



**Towards Adaptive Circular Cities**  
Concepts for a sustainable urban environment

**Deltares**  
Enabling Delta Life

**TNO** innovation  
for life

**WAGENINGEN UR**  
For quality of life

**ECN**  
Your energy. Our passion.

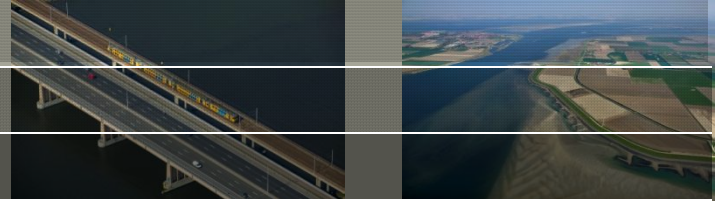
**TU**  
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[www.adaptivecircularcities.com](http://www.adaptivecircularcities.com)

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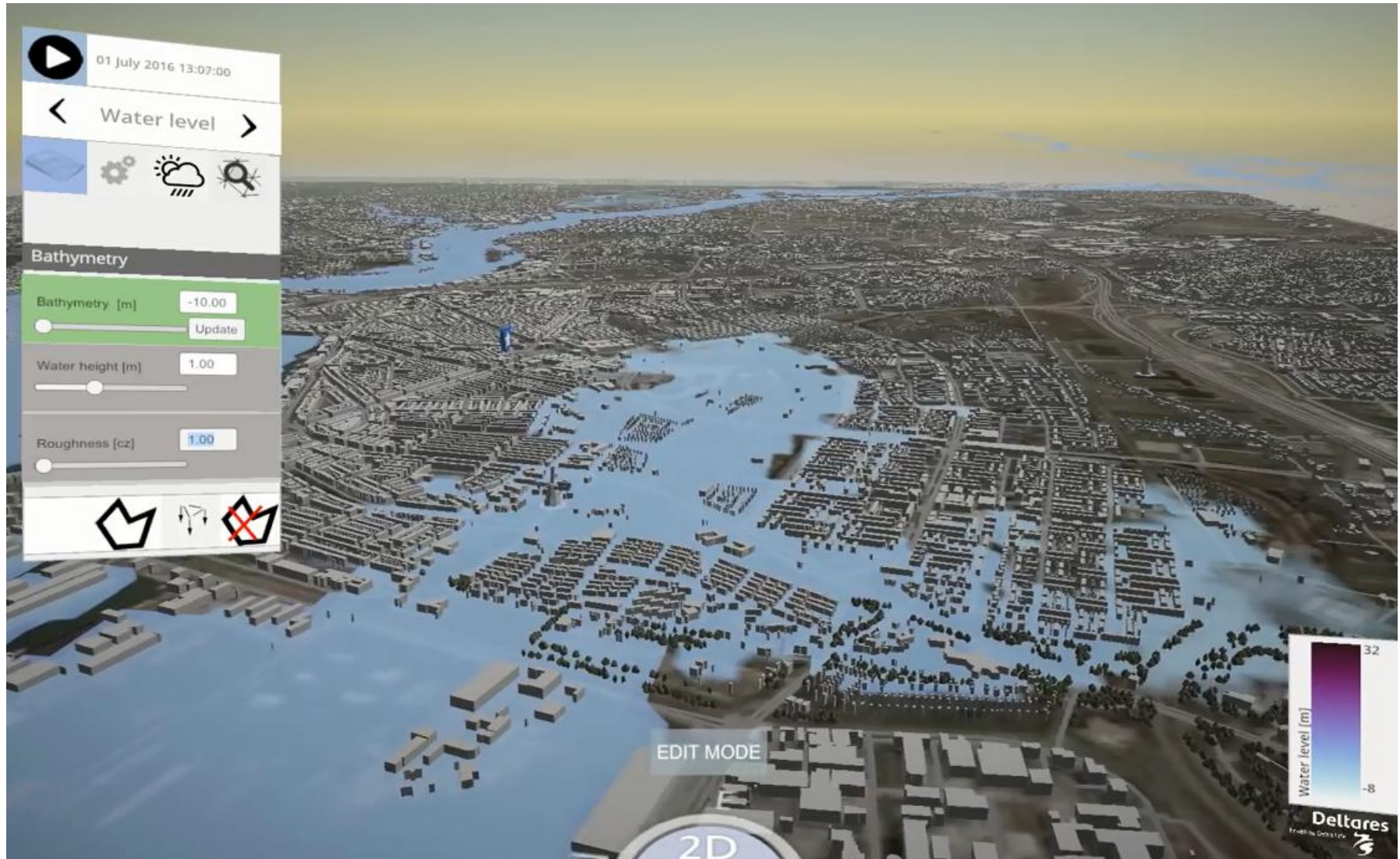






**Thank you for your attention**

# interactive flood modelling and instant visualization of effects



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