

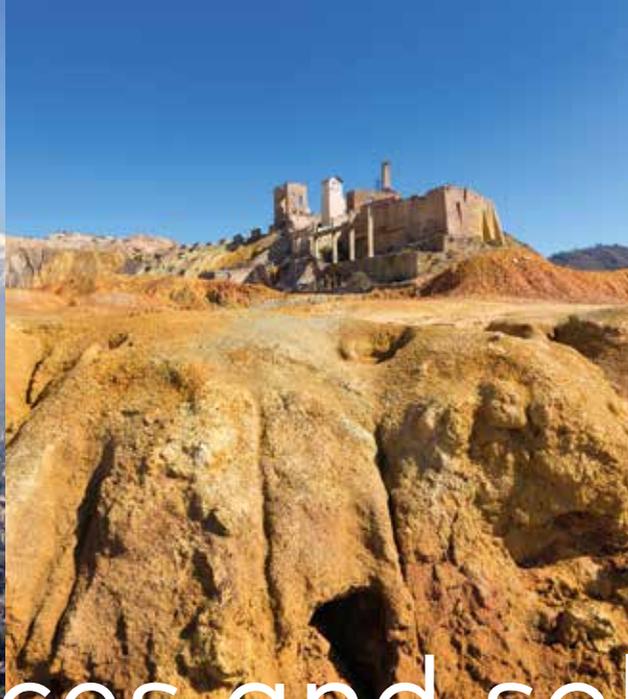
4TH INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CONFERENCE



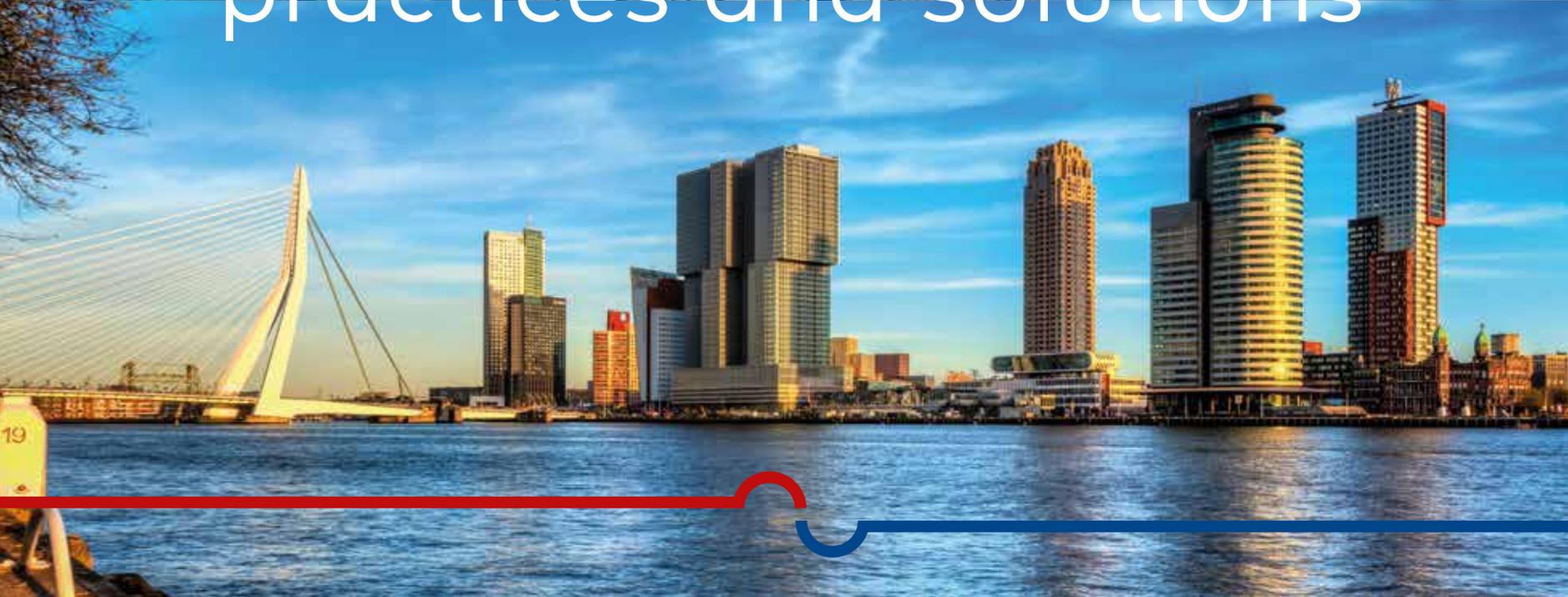
ROTTERDAM THE NETHERLANDS  
10 - 13 MAY 2016

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS  
AND SESSIONS





# practices and solutions





# ADAPTATION FUTURES 2016

**Adaptation Futures 2016** is the fourth PROVIA worldwide adaptation conference. It will be held in Rotterdam from 10 to 13 May 2016. The conference aims to move climate change adaptation forward by promoting solutions across sectors, borders and communities.

**Adaptation Futures 2016** is for scholars, practitioners, policymakers and business people from all around the world.

**Adaptation Futures 2016** offers a platform to exchange new and practical ideas, experiences and insights for climate change adaptation. Participants are invited to share their research findings, public and commercial solutions, and policy issues. They are asked to demonstrate how their findings might be applicable to other communities, countries or sectors. Over four days, there will be opportunities to meet, mingle, inspire and develop partnerships.

**Adaptation Futures 2016** comprises conference and workshop sessions on science, practice and policy. Participants can show and explain their solutions in an exhibition, make commercial contacts in a business fair and connect with their peers in field excursions to adaptation projects.

Three types of sessions will be offered: science sessions, practice sessions (including policy practice) and combined science-practice sessions. We invite proposals for full sessions that fit one of the three categories, as well as abstracts for individual presentations in the science sessions. We are particularly interested in combined science-practice sessions.

Many companies and public authorities contribute to scientific research, or conduct research themselves. Science sessions are therefore open to those wishing to present scientific findings and solutions relevant to climate change adaptation. Businesses, practitioners, policymakers, designers, investors and decision makers can also interact with scientists to explore and discuss solutions to the adaptation challenge in practice sessions, or propose solution-oriented science-practice sessions.

Seven sectoral themes and three cross-cutting issues have been identified to guide session proposals. We recognise that there are other ways of organising adaptation research, policy and practice, and that learning and innovation benefit from taking a view beyond specific sectors or approaches. For example, ecosystem management (a theme) can offer solutions in agriculture, urban settings and public health. Evaluation (a cross-cutting issue) can be applied to all themes. We therefore welcome contributions that demonstrate the added value of combining knowledge, experience and innovation across themes and issues.

Climate change is of concern to everybody. Poorer communities are typically the most vulnerable. Adaptation policies can help curb poverty and avoid magnifying existing inequality if their impacts on social development – for instance access to public goods and gender inequality – are considered. The issue of poverty and inequality is therefore a recurring topic under all seven themes and three cross-cutting issues.

Two kinds of sessions will be organised: (A) practice, science-practice and focused science sessions to be proposed and organised by yourself; and (B) science sessions, to be composed on the basis of approved science abstracts.



## A. Submission of session proposals

You are invited to submit a proposal for a complete session. In your proposal, the session's topic, aim, organisers, form, working methods and all presenters should be well explained.

You can submit a proposal under one of the themes or issues described for:

- A practice session: sharing best practices and lessons learned, working methods, tools, evaluation findings, etc. that are of particular interest to other practitioners, but also to scientists
- A science-practice session: sharing experiences among scientists and practitioners; co-creation, boundary work to link science and practice, joint evaluations, etc. that are interesting to practitioners and scientists
- A focused science session: about a specific topic of interest to scientists and practitioners. Scientists organising such sessions must submit their abstract through the science abstract system and indicate to which focused science session they belong

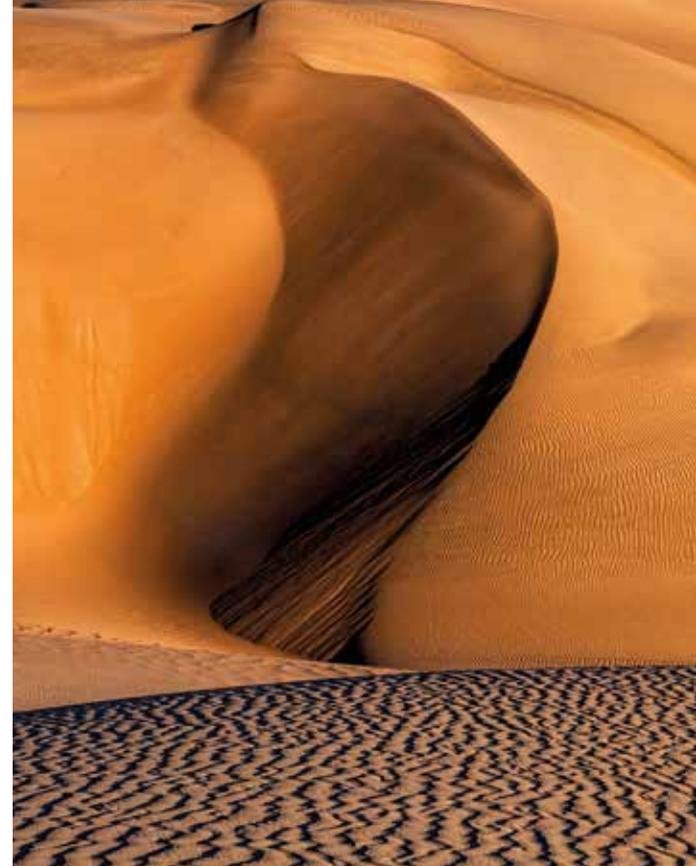
## B. Submission of science abstracts

You can submit a science abstract under one of the themes described under themes and issues. The abstracts will be assessed by our conveners, who will propose sessions to be composed of approved abstracts. All abstracts have to contain the following four elements: research question, methodology, findings and significance of the research for practical solutions.

The programme of the conference will offer a variety of plenary and parallel sessions, round tables, excursions, an exhibition and a business fair, side events and back-to-back meetings.

**IT'S HIGH TIME WE LOOK CLIMATE CHANGE  
IN THE EYE AND RE-ENGAGE WITH SCIENCE.**

**ACHIM STEINER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UNEP**



To structure the conference, seven themes and three cross-cutting issues have been identified. These reflect key issues in climate adaptation today and in the coming decades.

## Themes

### 1. Cities and infrastructure

Cities and infrastructure are under stress from population growth, urbanization, austerity measures, inadequate water management and environmental degradation. Changes in rainfall patterns and temperatures as well as sea-level rise add to this stress. Adaptation of the existing and newly developed urban fabric, public space, infrastructure (grey and green), energy networks, water and wastewater systems, biodiversity and buildings is essential to protect cities and their inhabitants. Adaptation requires diverse approaches that integrate and reconcile various economic, social and environmental objectives across institutional, spatial and temporal scales. This theme focuses on recent research and emerging practical experience regarding adaptation measures, policies, strategies and institutional and governance structures that anticipate climate change impacts on urban areas and infrastructure.

### 2. Food, forestry and rural livelihoods

Food, agriculture and rural development are already affected by climate change. Agricultural systems have to transform to take account of changes in rainfall, floods and droughts, higher temperatures, salt water intrusion, loss of coastal habitats and new pests and diseases. Food security and livelihoods, often of the poorest and most vulnerable populations, are at stake. Adaptation options that can address all these stresses require integrated land and water management strategies and systems, and a major change in mind-set and decision-making processes. Forests are also increasingly threatened by fires and pests. All these issues affect the livelihoods of people living in rural areas or depending on agriculture or forest production. This theme covers recent research and emerging practical experience on how these multiple stresses can be addressed and food and forest production be improved.



### 3. Fresh water availability and access

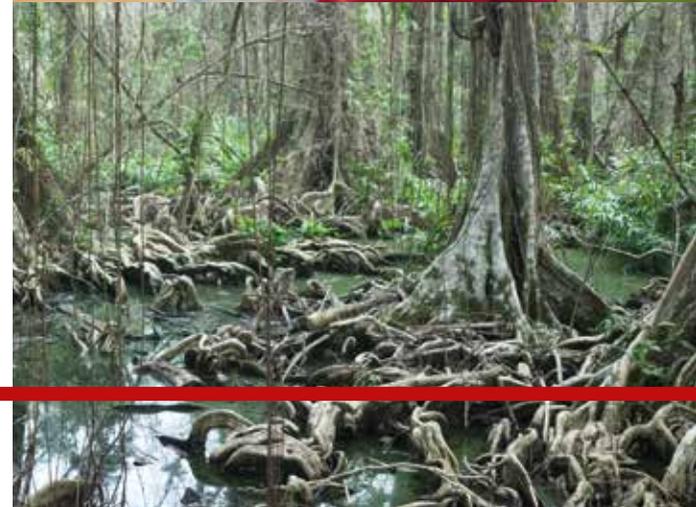
Climate change, socio-economic development, ineffective water policies and governance, and basin-wide developmental interventions are causing increasing threats to the availability and access to fresh water for drinking, agriculture, ecosystems and industrial activities. Sea level rise, salinisation and long periods of drought are posing challenges to optimisation of freshwater supply and demand. This theme will cover recent research and emerging practical experience on how areas can enhance their adaptive capacity to these stresses and meet the increasing demand for water. The theme will highlight technical, economic, governance, policy and spatial planning solutions for fresh water management from local to global level.

### 4. Public health

Public health depends to a large extent on safe drinking water, sufficient food, secure shelter and good social conditions. Climate change affects all of these conditions. The health effects of a rapidly changing climate are likely to be negative, particularly in the poorest communities, often living on marginal land and in water-scarce areas. Some of the health effects include increasing heat stress due to more frequent and intense heatwaves, increasing risks of water- and vector-borne diseases, changes in ecosystem and biodiversity, decreasing availability of staple foods, increasing allergic reactions and invading plant and animal species. This theme covers recent research and practical experience on the impact of climate change on health and on national or local health programmes and interventions that take into account measures to reduce vulnerability to future climate change.

### 5. Ecosystems and ecosystem-based adaptation

Natural ecosystems are threatened by human population growth causing growing demands on the planet's limited supplies, affecting water and habitat quality and changes in climatic patterns. Climate change deteriorates habitat quality and puts plants and animal populations under direct pressure, while also enhancing land and water use impacts. All these pressures combine to accelerate the rapid decline of biodiversity. This theme covers analyses of the problems ecosystems are facing in times of global change, and pathways to induce self-adaptability of ecosystems and biodiversity. Opportunities ecosystems can offer in terms of climate change adaptation, reconciling nature protection, nature-based solutions and social adaptation will be discussed. Opportunities for improving the governance of ecosystem services will also be covered.





## Themes

### 6. Disaster risk reduction

In spite of the fact that the risk of floods, droughts and other weather-related disasters is influenced by a combination of climate change and socio-economic factors, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are often quite separate fields of research, practice and policy. Yet the two fields have much in common. This theme discusses how climate change affects disasters. It explores links, synergies and differences between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Lessons are presented from disaster risk reduction research, practice and policy that are relevant to climate change adaptation, and challenges and opportunities for novel adaptation and risk management partnerships are discussed. The session focuses especially, but not exclusively, on floods and droughts.

### 7. The Arctic

In the Arctic, the effects of climate change have been among the most striking to appear to date. People living in the Arctic are adapting to rapidly changing conditions, yet may still see their livelihoods and cultures disappear. This is not only due to the direct effects of climate change: commercial interests from extractive industries, shipping and tourism are benefiting from improved access to the Arctic, which adds to the direct climate stress but also creates economic opportunities. This theme presents the latest research on adaptation needs, options and constraints in the Arctic, from the community level to the supranational scale. It also highlights the analytical approaches and methods developed by a range of scientific disciplines to conducting adaptation research in the Arctic.

**THE WORLD WILL FACE MORE DOWNPOURS,  
FLOODS, DROUGHTS, HEAT WAVES AND STORMS.  
WE NEED TO ACT NOW.**

**MELANIE SCHULTZ VAN HAEGEN,**

**MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS**

# Cross-cutting issues

## 8. Risk assessment, adaptation planning and evaluation

Planning for climate change calls for risk assessment methods that take a longer-term perspective. Uncertainty about climate change increases the complexity of assessing and evaluating risk. Various methods have been applied to develop adaptation plans and strategies from local to national and regional scales. Adaptation plans and strategies are often most effective when integrated with other policy fields and inclusive of all relevant stakeholders. Better methods and tools for simulating and communicating climate risk to those who take decisions and influence outcomes, might help bridge the gap between science and decision-making. Visualization techniques are helpful when interacting with stakeholders, elicit their knowledge and increase their commitment. In addition, climate services can play an important part in assessing risk and in planning for adaptation. In this cross-cutting issue, risk assessment methods and techniques are discussed, and the effectiveness of adaptation plans and strategies is assessed. Special attention is given to the evaluation of adaptation projects: how can progress and success in adaptation be measured? What are lessons learned?

## 9. Institutions and governance

Adaptation to climate change is not only a technological and financial challenge, but also a social, political and normative one. Adaptation governance is multi-level, cutting across different sectors and policy domains, and involving a wide range of actors and stakeholders. These and other factors increase the complexity of decision-making. Institutions need to be able to handle the challenges of climate change adaptation and

capacity building needs. This may require changes in societal preferences and priorities, and their interactions with knowledge development. This cross-cutting issue discusses the potential for new governance arrangements from local to the global level for effective adaptation, the conditions of their emergence and adoption, capacity building, new decision-making tools, the social justice implications of adaptation policies, framing of adaptation and forms of science-policy interactions.

## 10. Finance, investment and business

Some of the most challenging questions relate to the financing and economics of adaptation: What are the financing and investment needs for adaptation? What are the costs and benefits of adaptation? Are domestic and international resources adequate and easy to access? How do they affect, when and how best to adapt? What do we need to do now and what can be postponed? What are effective, equitable and legitimate strategies to finance adaptation measures? When are investments in adaptation profitable? Whether large or small, businesses often are affected by climate change through disruptions in supply chains. Challenges are many when links in the chain not under their direct control are affected. How can supply chains be made more resilient? This cross-cutting theme discusses issues such as methods to be used to develop and appraise adaptation options under conditions of climate uncertainty, the most cost-effective measures to gain the most socially desired benefits, innovative financing models for adaptation, possible partners for financing alliances and resilience of businesses for climate change.



# Committees

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Martin Parry, Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College London,  
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Andrea Tilche, DG Research and Innovation

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Carolina Zambrano-Barragán, Fundación Avina, Ecuador





## THE CONFERENCE WILL BOOST THE TRANSLATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE INTO OPERATIONAL SOLUTIONS.

**ROBERT-JAN SMITS,**  
**DIRECTOR-GENERAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION, EU**

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Carolina Zambrano-Barragán, Fundación Avina, Ecuador

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Matthijs van den Brink, Ministry Infrastructure and the Environment

Ottelien van Steenis, Wageningen UR Alterra

Kim Willems, MCI, Conference Secretariat



# ADAPTATION FUTURES 2016

practices and solutions

## Dates to be remembered

### 2015

15 August	Registration open, early bird till 15 March 2016
4 October 23.59h GMT+1	Call for science abstracts and sessions closed
End November	Notification of acceptance or rejection sessions
Week of 15 December	Notification of acceptance or rejection science abstracts

### 2016

End of January	Publication draft programme
End of February	Publication final programme
15 March	Registration, start regular fee
10-13 May	Conference

Adaptation Futures 2016 is hosted by  
PROVIA, the European Commission and  
the Government of the Netherlands.

## Venue of the conference

The conference will be held in the Beurs-World Trade Center, located in the heart of Rotterdam. This is easily accessible by both public transport and car. A direct train from Schiphol Airport will take you to Rotterdam in 30 minutes.

## For further information please contact

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 <http://linkd.in/1MhVbIH>  
 <http://bit.ly/1BU3W6c>

[www.adaptationfutures2016.org](http://www.adaptationfutures2016.org)



Government of the Netherlands