

# Water and water management in the Netherlands

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# Association of Regional Water Authorities

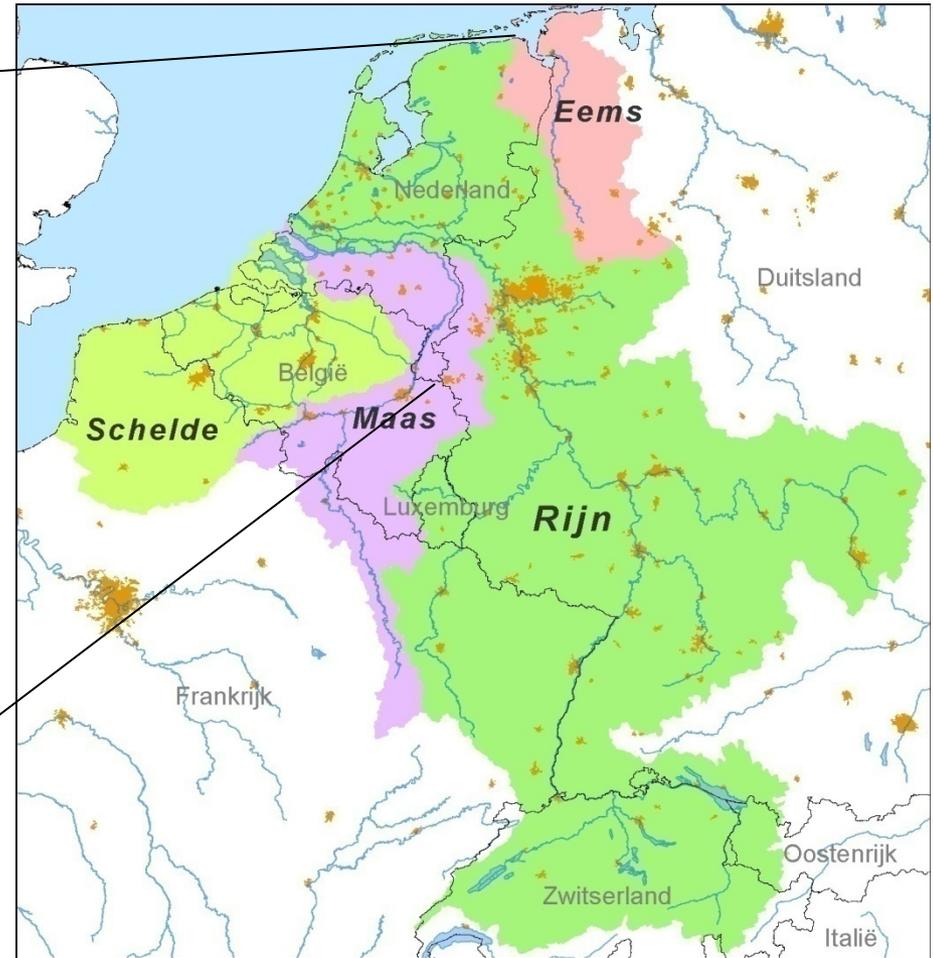


- Established in 1927
- Umbrella organisation of the 26 Regional Water Authorities in the Netherlands.
- Official representative in The Hague and Brussels
- Promotion of regional water governance.

# Netherlands = wetlands



# The Netherlands: delta of 4 international basins



# The Netherlands without dikes



29 % below sealevel  
26 % floodplains

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55 % flood risk area

10 million people  
€ 2000 billion

# The North Sea flood 1953

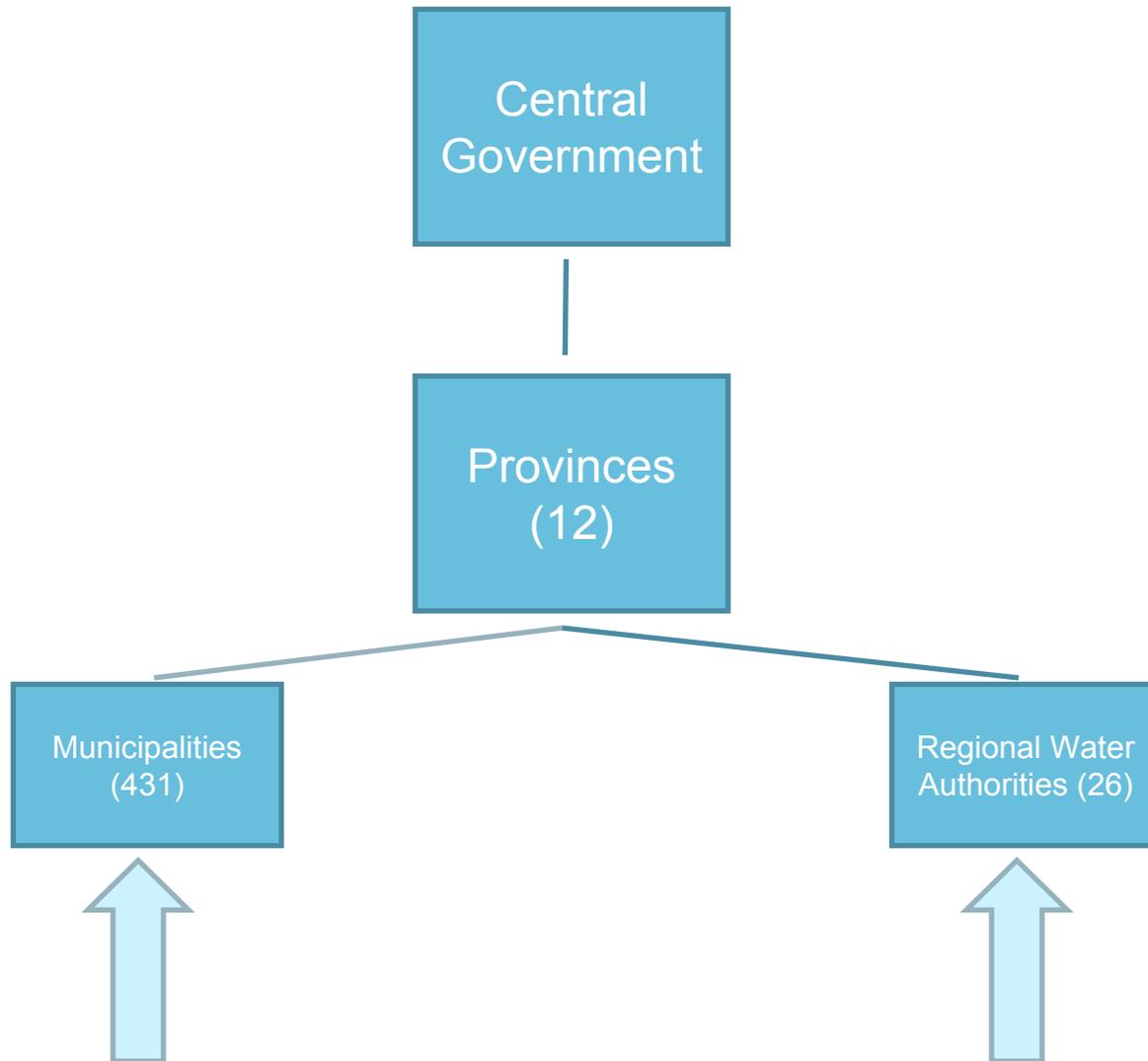


# 🌊 Consequences of Climate Change





# Water responsibilities



## Water responsibilities

- In the Netherlands, the central government takes care of the water management of the main water systems (North Sea, Wadden Sea, Lake Yssel, Rhine, Meuse, Scheldt, Ems, Waal and some large canals).
- The provinces set up, regulate and supervise the regional water authorities.
- Municipalities are responsible for the sewage management, urban rain and groundwater.
- The regional water authorities are responsible for the regional water systems.

# Regional Water Authorities (26)

**Waterschapskaart van Nederland** van 1 januari 2018

Uitgevoerd door  
van Waterschappen

De kaart toont de waterschapsgebieden die van toepassing zijn op 1 januari 2018.



Government body:

- Own legal power
- Own tax system
- Own elections
- Only water management tasks

Water management tasks:

- Flood protection for 16 million people
- Surface water quantity (irrigation and drainage)
- Surface water quality
- Urban wastewater treatment
- Groundwater management

# Flood protection

Upgrading of flood defence infrastructure related to:

- Climate change
- Construction protocols and risk standards
- Muskrats



## Surface water quantity



Irrigation and drainage

57,000 km main, local and regional watercourses

# Urban Wastewater Treatment



390 wastewater treatment plants  
99% sewage connection  
22 million water pollution equivalents treated

# Taxation



## Taxation by regional water authorities(2008)



Flood protection	135
Water quantity	640
Water quality	1.265
Total €	2.040

# Financing principles

Waste water  
treatment

Principle



The polluter  
pays

Watersystem task  
(flood protection,  
water quantity, water  
quality)

Principle

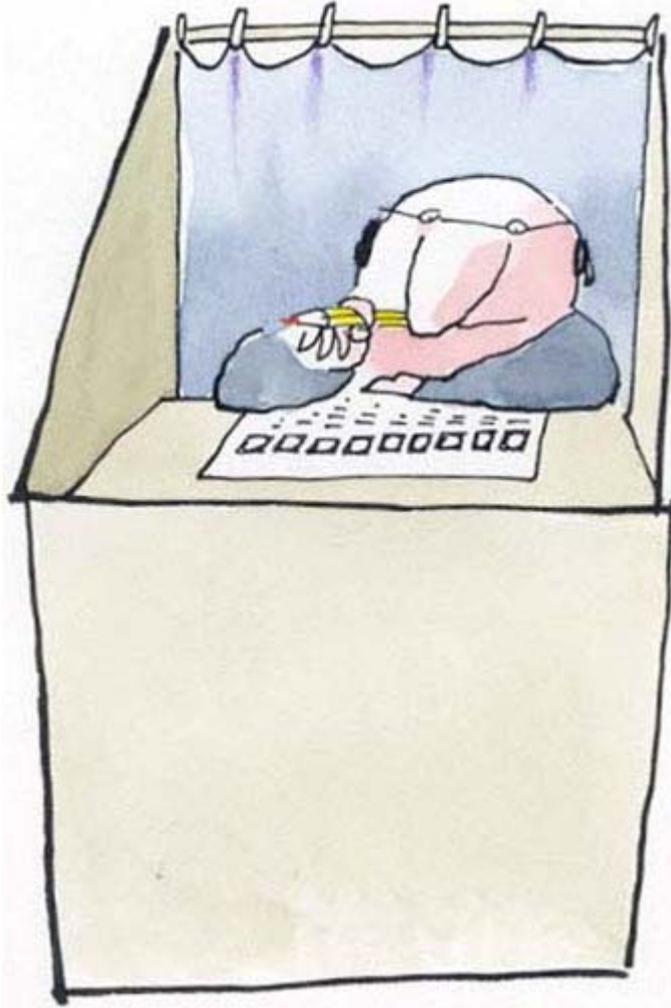


Interest-pay-say

## Involvement of stakeholders



# Election of Assembly



- Interest-pay-say
- Stakeholder democracy:
  - *Residents*
  - *Industries*
  - *Farmers/landowners*
  - *Nature conservation*

 Thanks for your attention

