



Netherlands Commission for
Environmental Assessment

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Climate change & EIA in The Netherlands

Experiences of the NCEA

Current practice experience

EIAs paying explicit attention to climate:

- completed:
 - climate mitigation: CO₂ reduction in power stations and industrial projects
 - climate adaptation: 20 – 30 EIAs including some info on adaptation
- many ongoing, e.g. housing, energy, infrastructure

Recommended approach

- **Overall approach** developed by expert committee of NCEA in 2008
- Overall approach translated by NCEA in **tailor made** approach per project

Overall approach for climate in EIA

- Screen carefully; climate not always relevant
- When mitigation relevant: 3 step approach
- When adaptation relevant: 3 step approach
- Always cope with uncertainty: 3 step approach

When is mitigation relevant?

- industrial activities
- power stations
- infrastructure projects
- agricultural projects
- horticulture projects (green houses)
- housing projects
- waste processing projects
- ground water abstraction
- airports

When is adaptation relevant?

Depends; needs a **risk assessment**

1. expected local climate change
2. area vulnerability
3. project vulnerability
4. short term adaptation costs versus long term costs without adaptation

How to integrate climate mitigation in EIA?

1. Describe greenhouse gas **emissions** and possible **mitigation** measures
2. Analyse options to increase **energy efficiency**
3. Present **contribution** of project to national mitigation **goals**

How to integrate climate adaptation in EIA?

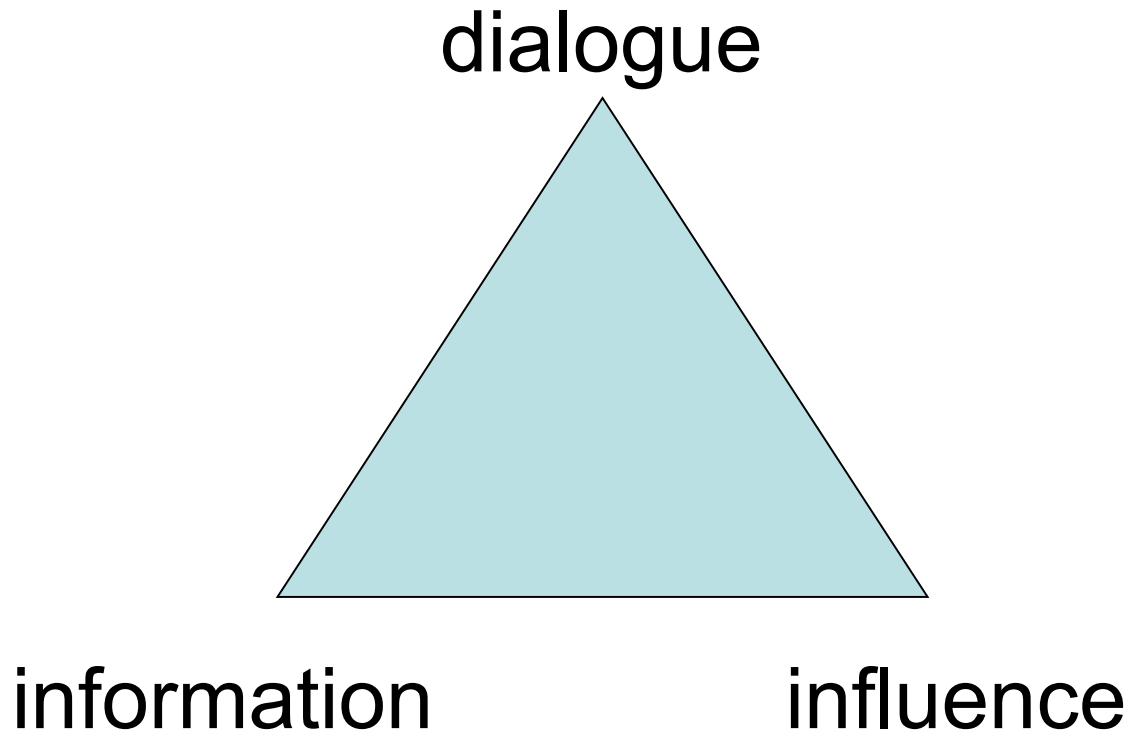
Analyse 3 options to improve the project:

- 1. *more resistant*** - to withstand extreme circumstances
- 2. *more resilient*** - to recover quickly once extreme circumstances return to normal
- 3. *more adaptable*** – when extent and speed of climate change is uncertain

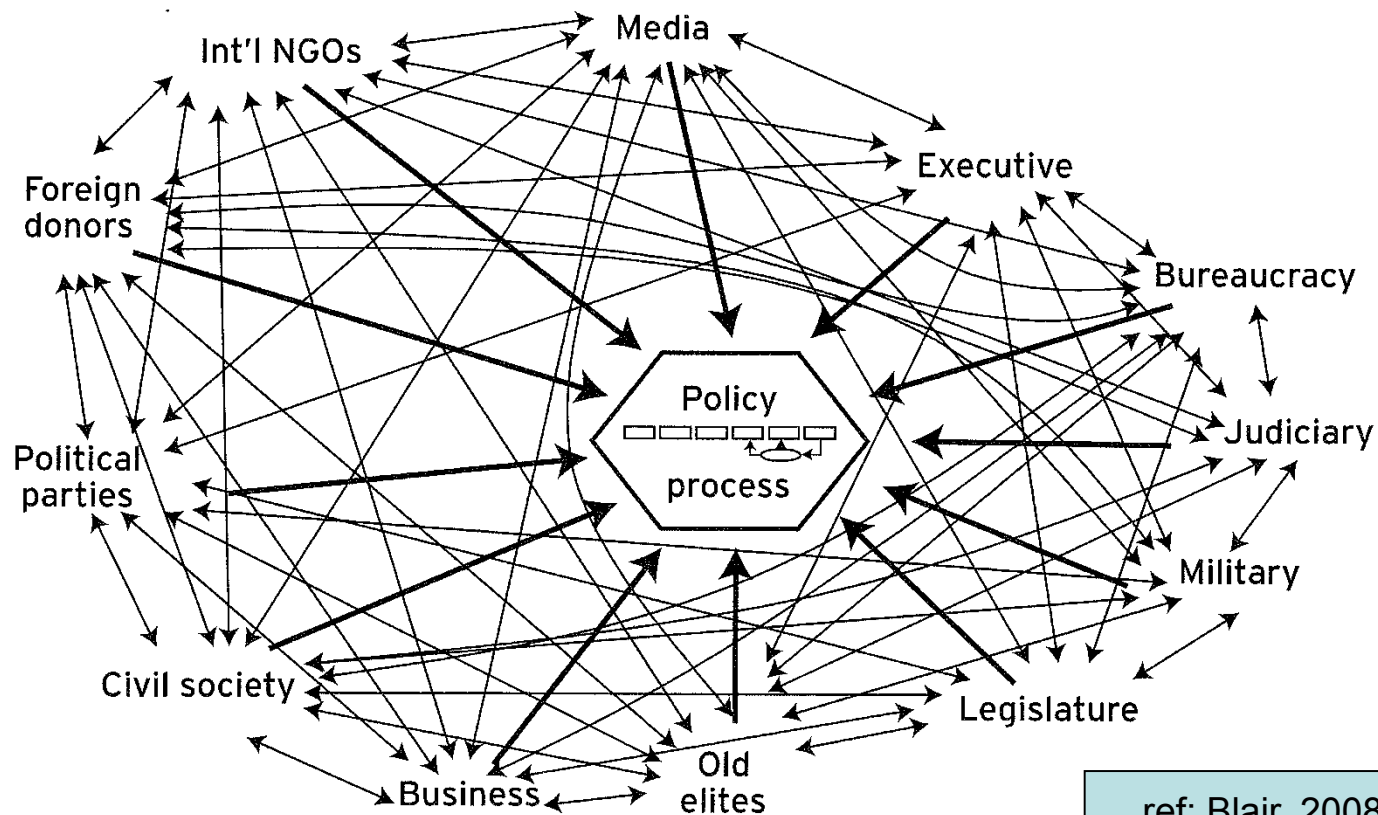
Deal with uncertainties

1. Consider different climate **scenario's**
2. Identify '**no-regret**' measures
3. Define '**back up**' measures – what to do in worst case?

EIA is not only about information



It's a complex world out there





More detail and cases on

www.eia.nl