



Ministerie van Infrastructuur  
en Waterstaat

# The Dutch National Water Program 2022-2027

*Ensuring Sustainable Water  
Management in the  
Netherlands*

Marloes Bakker, PhD

Senior Policy Advisor

Directorate General Water and Soil



# What is it?

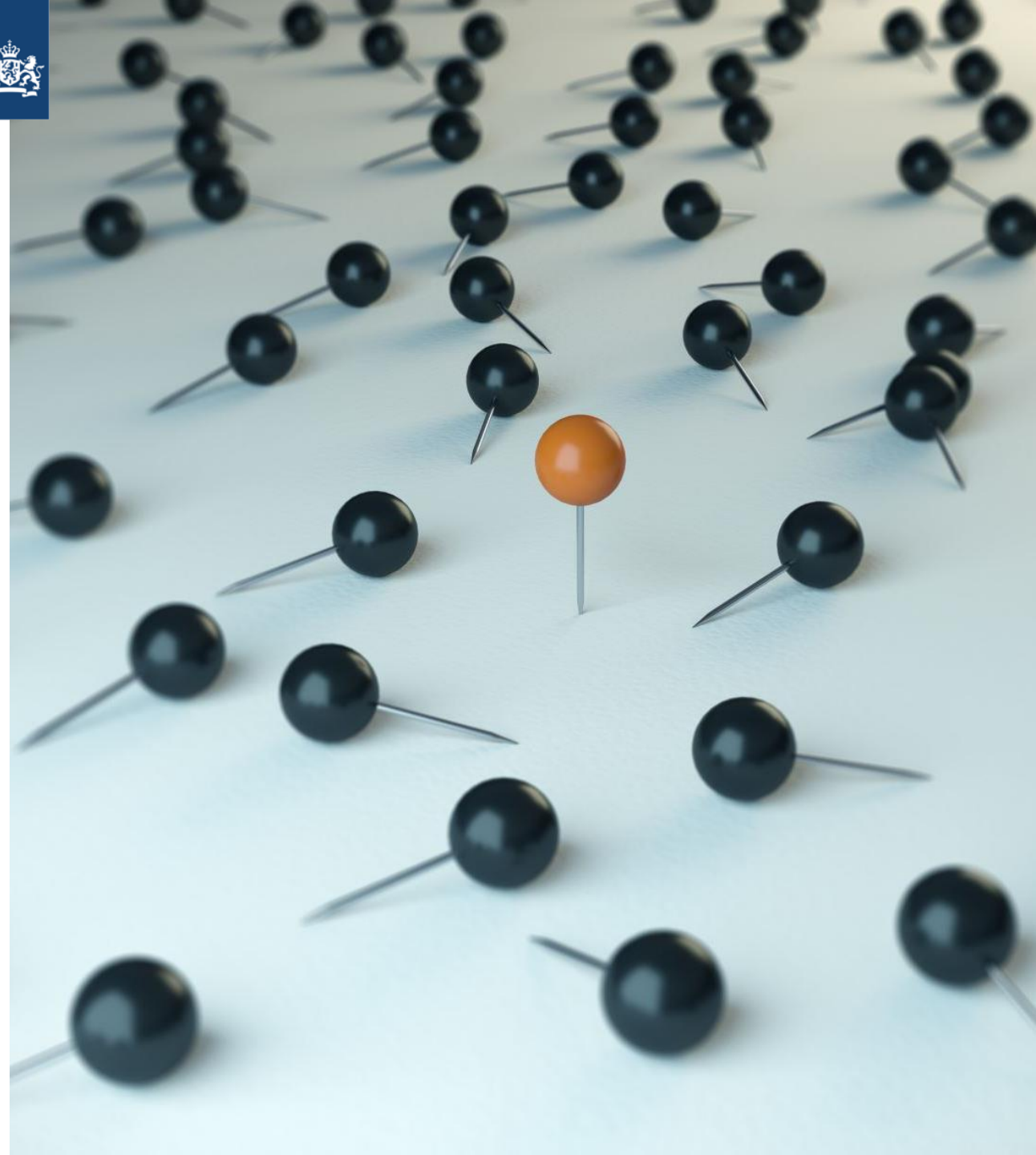
- › Strategic initiative
- › Addresses key challenges
  - Flood risk management
  - Water quality
  - Sustainable water usage





# Purpose

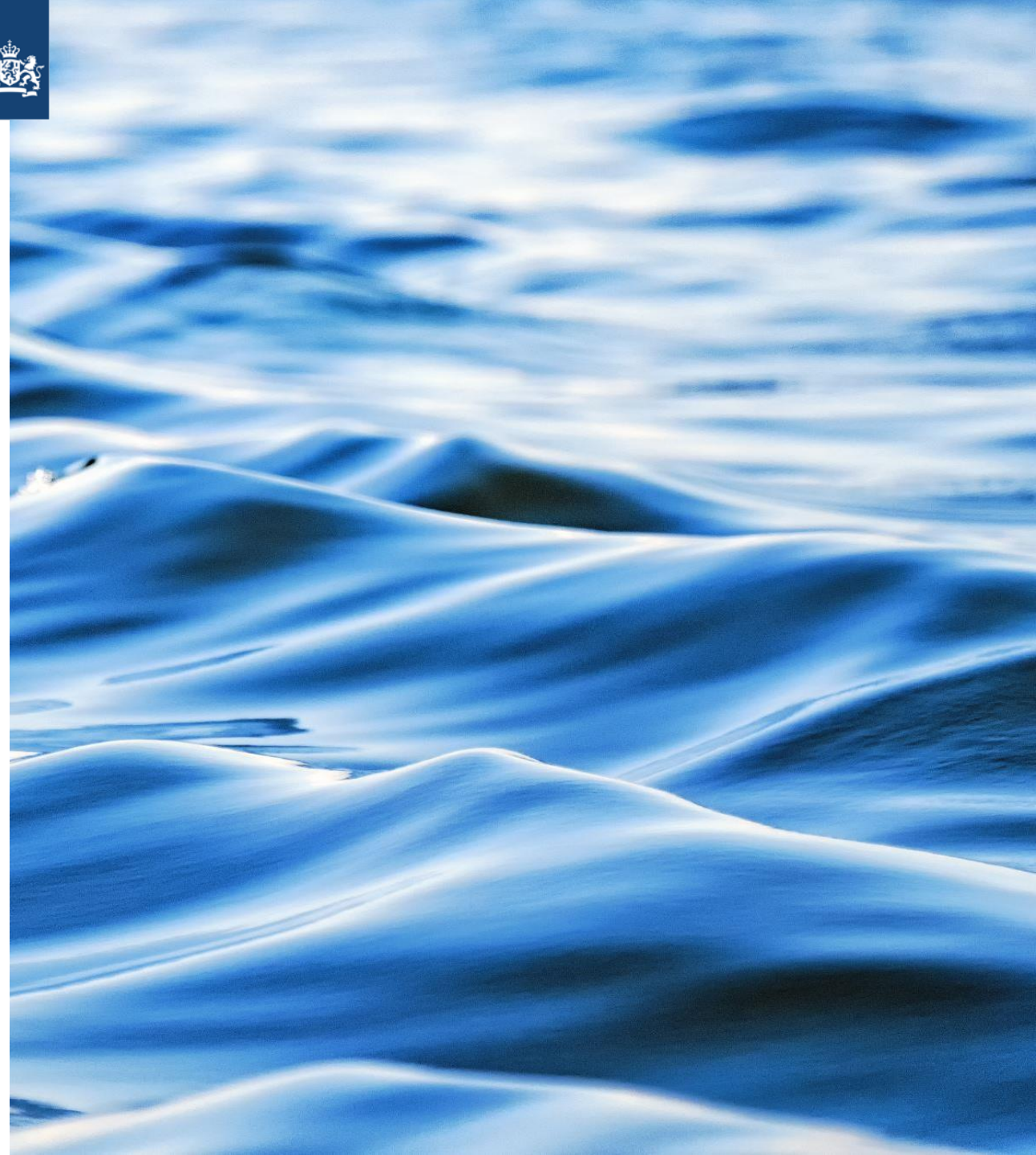
- › Safeguard infrastructure and population
- › Integration of various stakeholders
  - Government
  - Municipalities
  - Water boards
  - Citizens





# Why?

- › Obligations under national law
- › EU Water Framework Directive (quality)
- › EU Flood Directive (flood protection and disaster reduction)
- › Integration with spatial planning and environmental laws
- › International water agreements (Rhine, Meuse)



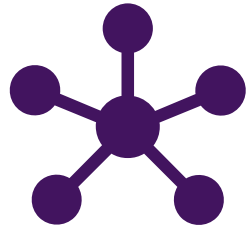


# Goal

1. Establishing main outlines and frameworks
2. Scheduling developments
3. Providing an overview
4. Showing the coherence between different themes
5. Integrating policy and management



# Integrated approach



Challenges are interconnected



Guiding principles for decision-making

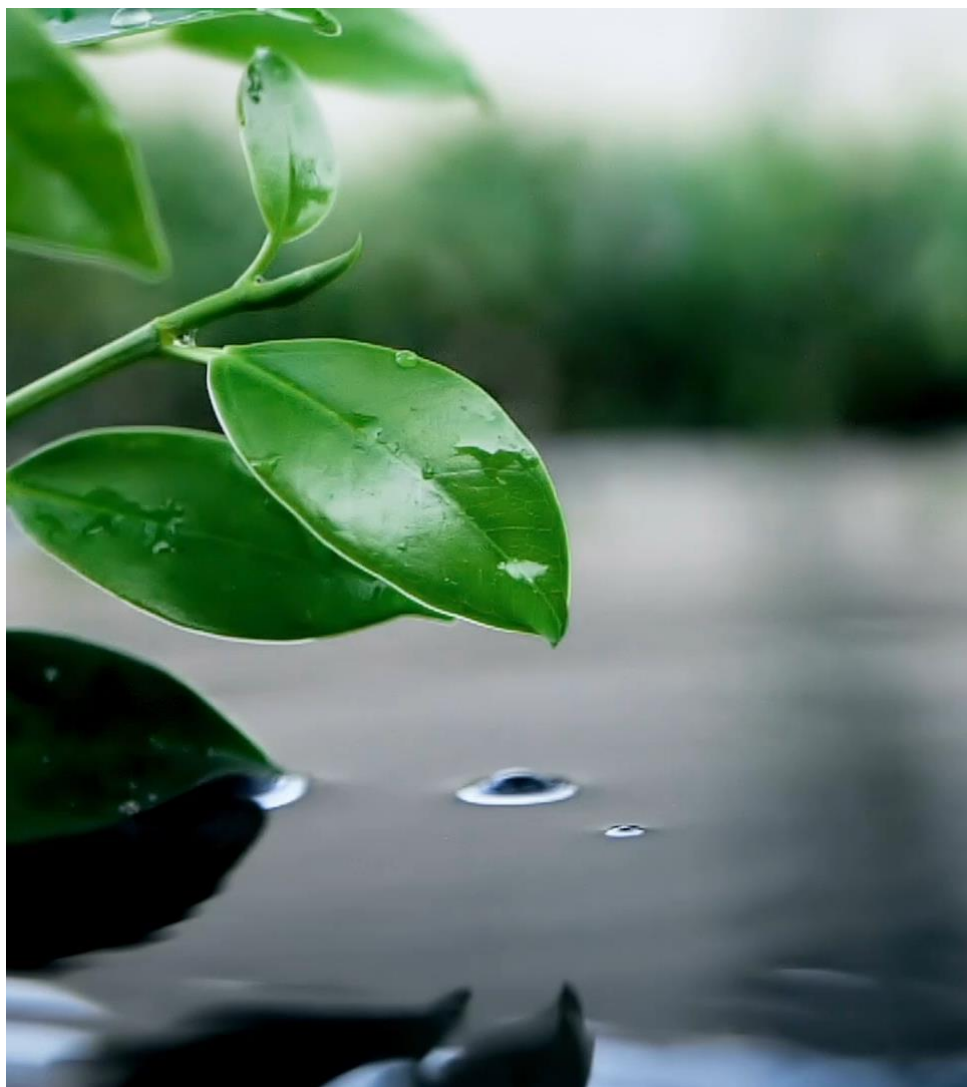


Water and soil as leading principles



# Collaborative approach

1. Workstreams
2. Content
3. Strategic environmental assessment
4. Participation



# Content: challenges

- > Significant water challenges
- > Interconnected issues: climate change, land subsidence, environmental pollution, biodiversity loss, spatial pressures, aging infrastructure
- > -> integrated and forward looking approach to water management, infrastructure maintenance and environmental sustainability





# Content: ambitions

Key ambitions for 2050 and beyond

1. Safe and climate-resilient delta
2. A competitive, sustainable and circular delta
3. A clean and healthy delta



## Area-specificity: tailored approach

- North Sea
- Southwest delta
- Rhine-Meuse delta
- Major rivers
- IJsselmeer
- Wadden Sea and Eems-Dollard
- Canals



# Lessons learned

- ❑ Integrated and coordinated approach
- ❑ Stakeholder involvement and public participation
- ❑ Climate change adaption
- ❑ Strategic environmental assessments
- ❑ Flood protection #1





## More takeaways for DEFRA

- ❑ Proactive climate resilience
- ❑ Pollution control at the source
- ❑ Innovation and investment in water infrastructure
- ❑ Decentralized water management
- ❑ Coordinate with other policy areas
- ❑ Long-term vision



Ministerie van Infrastructuur  
en Waterstaat

The key lies in a collaborative, inclusive approach, long-term planning, climate resilience, and knowledge-sharing across sectors and borders.



Ministerie van Infrastructuur  
en Waterstaat

Thank you  
for your attention!

Feel free to contact me:  
[marloes.bakker@minienw.nl](mailto:marloes.bakker@minienw.nl)

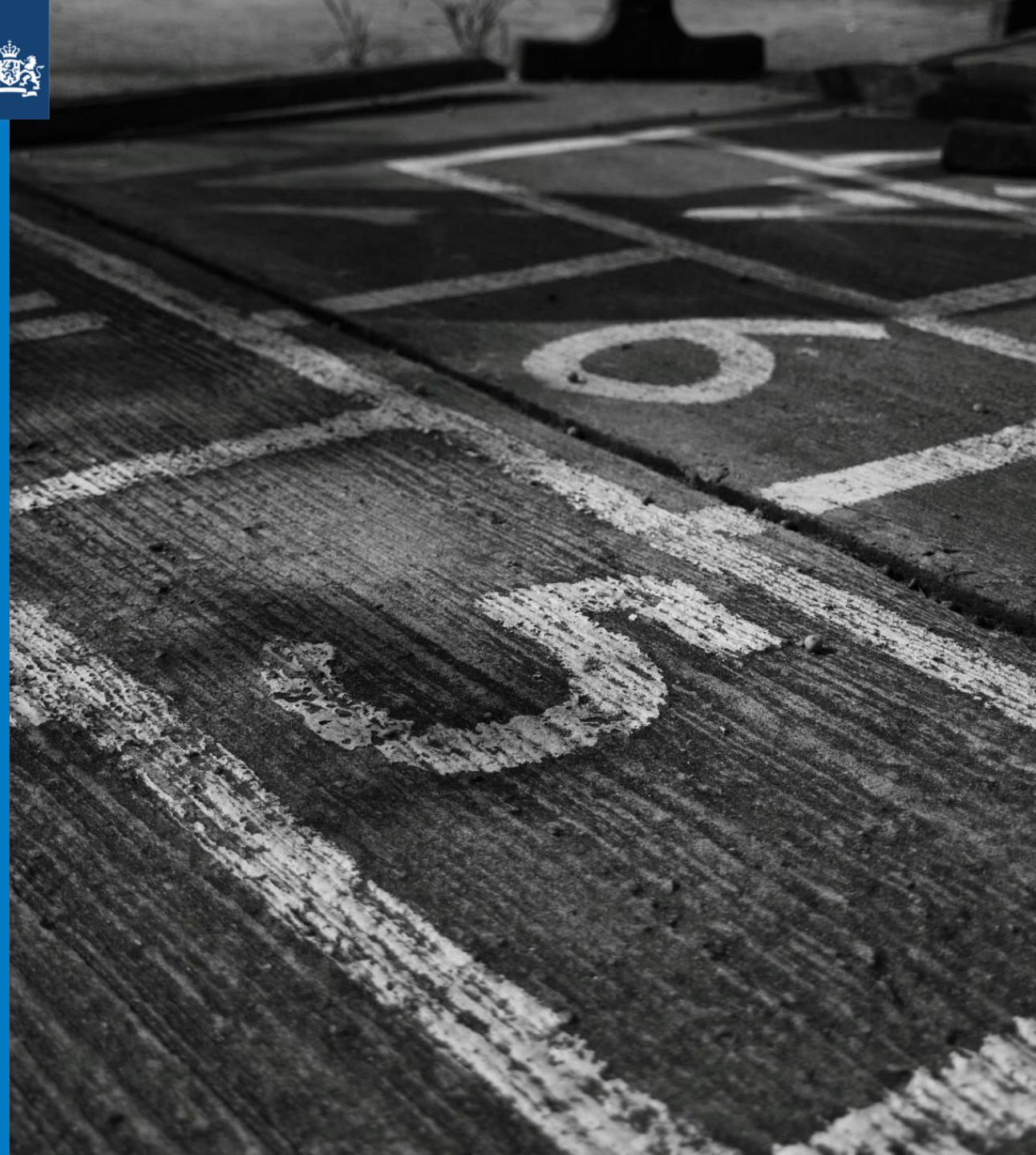


Ministerie van Infrastructuur  
en Waterstaat



## Next up: 2028-2033!

- Builds on the success of previous plans
- Adapt to evolving challenges
- Accelerate sustainability efforts
- Integrate innovation into management practices
- Preparations started in summer of 2024.









# Who pays the bills?

- > National government
- > Provincial governments
- > Water authorities
- > No fixed total cost; spread across multiple years



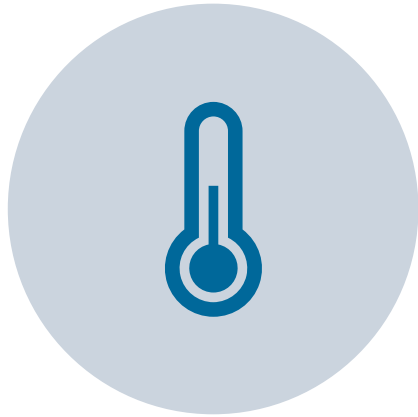


# Sources of funding

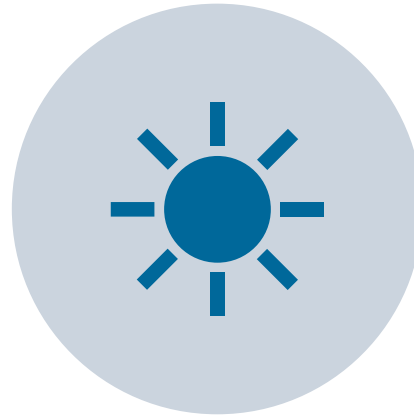
1. National government: national projects (Delta works)
2. Provinces and water authorities: local and regional implementation
3. EU subsidies



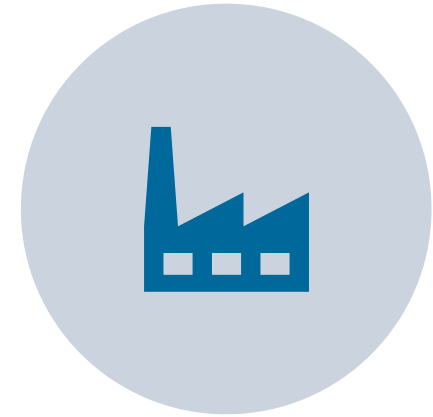
## 1. Safe and climate-resilient delta



**CLIMATE CHANGE  
MITIGATION**



**CLIMATE ADAPTION**



**CROSS-SECTORAL  
IMPACT**