KIN Dutch Climate Research Initiative
Accelerating transitions together

FIRST BIRTHDAY-MAGAZINE



OUR FIRST WORK PROGRAMME;

THE FIRST SAR-ADVICE;

and five more highlights from one year KIN

Interview:
KIN THROUGH THE EYES OF SEVEN KEY FIGURES

Contents









4 **TIMELINE**
KIN from its founding to now

6 **INTERVIEWS**
An evaluation of KIN through the eyes of seven keyfigures

15 **CRUTZEN WORKSHOP**
Trust in the wisdom of the group

18 **IPCC EXPERT CONSULTATION**
KIN Expert Consultation, in preparation for IPCC's Special Report on Climate Change and Cities

20 **SAR-ADVICE**
What is included in the first advice of the strategy and advisory council?

22 **PACT LAUNCH**
KIN Pact officially launched on April 18

24 **PURPOSE ACCELERATOR**
THRIVE x KIN Purpose Accelerator

28 **MAKE-ATONS**
Climate adaptation in the Netherlands: pioneering the path to resilience

32 **APPOINTMENT DERK LOORBACH**
Derk Loorbach joins KIN as scientific figurehead

35 **LOOKING FORWARD**
What lies ahead in the coming period?

36 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

38 **COLOPHON**

Additionally, in-depth interviews with the seven key figures are featured in the interview magazine: https://hetkin.nl/en/kin-1year-interviewmagazine/

LOOKING BACK AND **LOOKING FORWARD**

With great pride and gratitude, I reflect on the first year of the Dutch Climate Research Initiative (KIN). In November 2023, we officially opened our doors, and since then, the tremendous dedication of our colleagues, Pact partners, and the large group of individuals involved in our projects and workshops has brought us to where we stand today. And that is no small feat.

This year, we launched our first KIN work programme, focused on urban transitions through the lens of climate justice. It came together remarkably quickly, originating from our inaugural Crutzen workshop, and seeks to connect as much as possible with existing (action) research programmes. I am particularly proud that by October, we were already able to present the first tangible and highly relevant results: valuable insights into strategies we can adopt to adapt our country to climate change, as well as how these strategies affect areas such as national infrastructure, flood management, and cultural heritage. Our THRIVE x KIN Purpose Accelerator programme will deliver its first cohort of 'knowledge brokers' in November, along with an impressive report on success factors for transition pilots.

This anniversary magazine serves as a reflection and evaluation of what we have achieved over the past year, complemented by perspectives from those who have contributed. Founding members of KIN share their thoughts, and we revisit the year's most significant activities.
In the spring, we launched our Pact network, which has already led to the formation of six working groups delivering new, concrete outcomes. Internationally, we are working on a KIN programme in Mozambique and exploring a potential role for KIN in the Dutch Caribbean. Additionally, we facilitated input from a wide range of experts across research, policy, and practice for the Dutch IPCC authors.

In the coming years, we aim to initiate even more projects and programmes, keeping societal challenges at the core of everything we do and leveraging science to address the climate crisis as effectively as possible. That's why we will continue to invest heavily in national collaboration: through our Pact working groups, our projects, and partnerships with various climate centres across the country.

Only by uniting forces can we tackle the challenges of our time: bringing together all forms of knowledge and expertise, crossing boundaries of disciplines and backgrounds, united by urgency, determination, energy, and hope!

Michiel van den Hout
General Director



KIN FROM ITS FOUNDING TO NOW

JAN 2022
The Permanent Committee for the National Institutes advises NWO and KNAW to explore whether there is support for a 'new-style institute' for climate research, which should combine the strengths of all relevant Dutch knowledge institutions

APR 2022
NWO and KNAW establish Climate Taskforce

JUL 2022
Advice 'Dutch Climate Research Initiative'

OCT 2022
NWO and KNAW decide to act on the report by appointing a facilitator and starting the 'steering committee KIN in formation'

JAN 2023
The start of the establishment phase with various working groups. A broad call for ideas to accelerate the transition is also made

MAR/APR 2023
In two prioritisation sessions, a number of themes are distilled from the ideas

MAY 2023
A programme committee provides advice

JUN 2023
The KIN governance working group advises to establish KIN as a steering body under NWO

OCT 2023
The first Crutzen workshop takes place in Egmond aan Zee in the Netherlands. Around 120 participants embark on the challenge of outlining the contours of the first work programme in a short period of time



NOV 2023
The establishment of KIN as the coordinating body of NWO, with broad support from the knowledge institutions

FEB 2024
A large consortium from the Crutzen workshop submits the grant application for the first KIN work programme. The programme is assessed within two weeks

MAR 2024



The Executive Board of NWO allocates the funding to the programme. On the same day, KIN organises an expert consultation to advise several Dutch IPCC authors from both policy and practice perspectives

APR 2024

The festive launch of the KIN Pact takes place at museum Museon. From this day, the first KIN working groups are formed. We also kick off our Purpose Accelerator pilot programme with the THRIVE Institute and begin collaborating with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (IenW) for a series of Make-atons aimed at developing adaptation pathways for the National Climate Adaptation Strategy (NAS). In April, our new steering committee also meets for the first time

MAY 2024



The first Make-aton session takes place, during which the methodology for developing the adaptation pathways is created

JUN 2024

The second Make-aton takes place, laying the foundation for the adaptation pathways

JUL 2024



Derk Loorbach is appointed as the scientific figurehead

OCT 2024

The first concrete results come in: the first set of adaptation pathways is delivered during the third Make-aton

NOV 2024



The THRIVE x KIN Purpose Accelerator programme produces a group of new 'knowledge brokers'

Interviews

An evaluation of KIN through the eyes of seven key figures

KIN was founded thanks to the dedication of a number of driven scientists, administrators, and advisors. We spoke with seven key figures who have been involved with KIN from the start. In this interview, they share their reflections on the launch of KIN, its growth, the current state of affairs, and their hopes for the future of KIN.

The first steps: An ambitious start

KIN started as an ambitious plan, supported by a diverse group of scientists and stakeholders. Heleen de Coninck recalls the founding phase clearly: "It was a radical idea, focused on using knowledge to serve people across society who are engaged in transitions, and fostering collaboration rather than competition within science. It began with the realisation that science in the Netherlands is currently falling short when it comes to accelerating the system transitions it itself calls for."

Gerard van der Steenhoven, who has been involved in the steering committee from the start, saw the same drive. "In the Taskforce, we chose to fundamentally deviate from how science in the Netherlands was used to operating. This caused some resistance, but the enthusiasm among those involved kept us going." According to Jan de Boer, who helped shape the original vision for integrated climate research, KIN started as 'a Taskforce with a high-level plan and great ambitions'. Although much development was still needed, the potential of KIN was immediately clear to everyone involved.





"KIN has been a great success in terms of visibility and the involvement of a large group of scientists and other stakeholders."

Jan de Boer

Jan de Boer

Professor of Theoretical Physics at the University of Amsterdam, Chair of the ENW domain at NWO, Member of the Board of Directors (RvB) at NWO, Portfolio holder for KIN

Jan de Boer is a Professor of Theoretical Physics at the University of Amsterdam, but ironically, his research has nothing to do with climate. He studied in Groningen, obtained his PhD in Utrecht, and spent nearly six years as a postdoc in the United States. In 2021, Jan initiated the discussion within the ENW domain on integrated climate research, which led to a vision document, an advisory report, and eventually the establishment of KIN.

Growth of KIN: Ambition and perseverance

The growth of KIN has been impressive and comprehensive, and this is confirmed by everyone involved. Michiel van den Hout describes this growth as 'jerky but steadily moving forward.' He explains, "The foundation we have laid is solid. Sometimes things progress surprisingly quickly, such as the establishment of new working groups and the rapid increase in our visibility. On the other hand, there are processes that take longer, such as the opening of new funding instruments." Despite the varying pace of progress, enthusiasm is clearly present.

For Gerard, the most significant growth is visible in the way KIN has evolved from an idea to an active player in the field. "We have a first work programme that has started, and we are constantly working on new working methods to achieve our goals even faster. The involvement of a wide range of young professionals especially gives me the sense that we have a strong future ahead."

Martijn Bart emphasises the growth on multiple fronts: "If I had to describe the growth of KIN in three words, they would be 'content, network, and practice'. We have now built much more substantive knowledge in the field of systems thinking. Our network has expanded tremendously, not just within the Netherlands, but also internationally. And we are beginning to put into practice what we have in mind, such as the launch of the first working groups within the Pact."



Sanli Faez

Associate Professor at the Debye Institute for Nanomaterials Science, Co-founder of Lili's Proto Lab, Open Science Lead at KIN

Physicist Sanli Faez is a researcher at the Debye Institute for Nanomaterials Science, Open Science Lead at the Dutch Climate Research Initiative (KIN), and a board member of the Young Academy. He is a co-founder of the Climate Helpdesk and strives for a more just and sustainable academy, partly through the creation of open-source hardware in the fields of diagnostics, energy storage, and nanophotonics. Sanli has been involved with KIN since the first meeting in April 2022, initially as a member of the Taskforce and later as a member of the steering committee.

Linda Steg sees the growth also in terms of collaboration. "One of the most beautiful aspects of KIN is that we are now involving a broader group of societal partners. It is important that we do not only work within science, but also engage society in our plans. That was the goal from the beginning, and I am pleased that we are now taking steps in that direction."

Reflecting on the growth and highlights, Sanli Faez mentions the appointment of the scientific figurehead as a significant milestone. "That was one of the moments when I felt that KIN was really being taken seriously. It gave us the visibility and the confidence that we are on the right path." With this growth and many successes, KIN has not only gained recognition, but also taken concrete steps towards accelerating system transitions in the Netherlands.



"We must remain aware that we, both as individuals and as an organisation, are part of the system we aim to change."

Martijn Bart

Martijn Bart
Senior Climate Policy Officer at KNAW

Martijn is an ecologist with a background in research on deep-sea corals and sponges. He has now worked for 2.5 years at the Royal Dutch Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), where he is responsible for the activities related to climate that the KNAW organises. This includes the establishment of KIN, as well as various webinars and meetings. Martijn has been involved since 2022, initially in a supportive role for the Taskforce, then as secretary of the working group on programmes/ focus areas and the steering group, and is now a policymaker at KNAW.

> *"Not everything will work or prove possible, but by boldly and courageously fighting for our concepts, we ultimately contribute to building a new – and far more beautiful – society."*
>
> *Gerard van der Steenhoven*

Gerard van der Steenhoven
Special Advisor at the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK), Part-time Professor at the University of Twente, Chair of the Steering Group at KIN

Gerard van der Steenhoven led the KNMI (Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute) until 2023 and has since been active as a board member, supervisor, and advisor for several organisations, including KIN, DCC, TNO, Sonnenborgh, and Springtij. He is also involved in institutional reviews and delivers public lectures and courses on climate change. Since 2022, Gerard has been involved with KIN as vice-chair of the Taskforce, vice-chair (and later chair) of the 'steering committee in formation,' and is now serving as chair of the 'steering committee post-establishment.'



Did KIN become what we expected?

These seven key figures agree that KIN has both fulfilled and fallen short of their initial vision. They acknowledge that working on system transitions is complex and often does not follow a linear path of development.

Jan observes that the visibility and engagement of KIN are impressive, but he had hoped they would have made more progress with tangible results by now: "That's a challenge, but also a reality when working on system transitions."

Linda Steg adds that KIN is still evolving: "We want to do things radically differently, and that brings uncertainty. Not everything we try will succeed, but that's precisely the essence of innovation."

Linda Steg

Professor of Environmental Psychology at the RUG



Linda Steg is a Professor of Environmental Psychology at the University of Groningen. She researches the factors that influence sustainable behaviour and the acceptance of strategies to promote it. She is a member of the Royal Dutch Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), the European Academy of Sciences, and the Netherlands Scientific Climate Council, and served as a lead author for the IPCC report on 1.5°C and AR6. Since 2022, Linda has been involved as vice-chair of the Taskforce, chair of the pre-Pact working group, and is now serving as chair of the Strategy and Advisory Council.

Gerard van der Steenhoven views the unexpected developments as a sign of strength: "The working methods we are now developing are different from what I anticipated, but that shows we are flexible and open to new approaches."

What message do we want to pass on to KIN?

Martijn highlights the importance of creativity and perseverance in KIN's continued development. "We are part of the very system we aim to change. That's why we must always reflect on our work and remain open to new ideas." Linda agrees: "It's amazing to see how many people are dedicated to KIN, but we must not forget that we are working together towards a greater goal. KIN must deliver societal impact, not just academic publications."

Gerard encourages the team to stay true to their vision. "Keep fighting for our concepts with courage and determination. There will be setbacks, but in the end, this is how we truly contribute to a better society."

Hopes for the coming year

Heleen hopes that KIN will continue to develop over the coming year and truly put society in the lead. "We have now laid the foundations. KIN feels like a window of opportunity. This chance can only be seized by genuinely making a difference for people who currently



Michiel van den Hout

General Director at KIN

Michiel is responsible for the daily operations, long-term strategy, and representation of KIN. With a background in bionanophysics and extensive experience in project management, public-private partnerships, and strategic advice, he bridges the gap between science, policy, and innovation. Michiel has been involved since 2021, when the PCNI (Permanent Committee for the National Institutes) advised NWO and KNAW on a 'new-style institute' for climate research. He initially served as a quartermaster and has been the managing director since early 2024.

feel barely supported by science." Sanli shares this hope and sees opportunities for growth: "We need to further promote KIN's name and methods to other institutions and scale up our activities. The potential is enormous, but we need to take the next step now."

Michiel hopes that KIN will continue to develop as a place where scientists and societal partners can connect. "We must keep working on impactful projects that you could say wouldn't have been possible without KIN." Finally, Jan hopes that KIN will continue to grow in both size and impact: "We have achieved a lot, but we now need to build on that foundation and show that the pledges of our Pact partners truly translate into meaningful action." Gerard encourages the team to remain committed to their vision.

"Keep fighting for our concepts with courage and determination. There will be setbacks, but ultimately, this is how we genuinely contribute to a better society."

With this shared outlook on the future, the strength of KIN remains in the hands of these dedicated individuals. Their enthusiasm and determination form the heart of what KIN is and where it is headed.

> ***"My wish for KIN is that real system transition projects are carried out."***
>
> ***Heleen de Coninck***

Read the full individual interviews with the seven key figures in the interview magazine at: https://hetkin.nl/en/kin-1year-interviewmagazine/

Heleen de Coninck

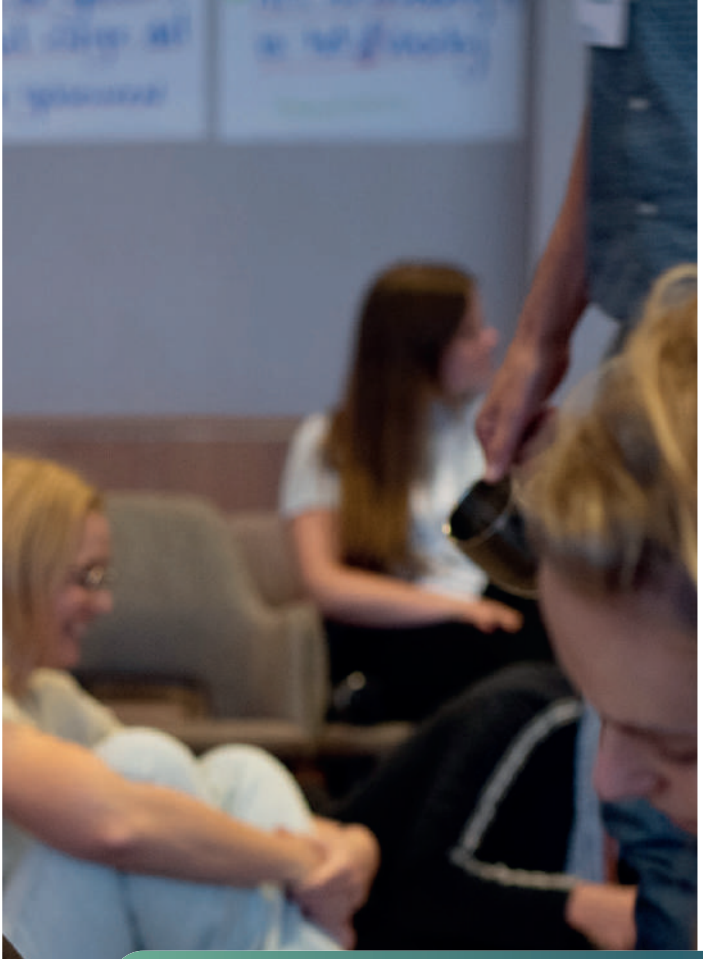
Professor at TU Eindhoven and Radboud University, Deputy Chair at the Netherlands Scientific Climate Council

Heleen is a professor of Socio-Technical Innovation and Climate Change at TU Eindhoven. She is also a professor of System Transitions and Climate Change at Radboud University. Her research focuses on international climate policy, energy technology and innovation, and system transitions, with a specific focus on climate policy for energy-intensive industries in the Netherlands. Heleen has been involved since 2022, initially as chair of the Taskforce that developed the first proposal and chair of the steering committee. She is now co-chair of the Global Transitions Programme Committee.





Crutzen workshop



Crutzen workshop

Trust in the wisdom of the group

"We are all KIN." This was a statement from one of the participants at the first Crutzen workshop of KIN in October 2022, which later led to the first work programme. It captures the atmosphere and energy well after three days of collective thinking about the contours for a work programme focused on the theme 'Urban Climate Transition through the Lens of Climate Justice.'

Representatives from (decentralised) governments, societal organisations, businesses, and researchers joined forces to think together, not in competition, but collaboratively, about a work programme that could accelerate the system transition in urban areas in a fair manner. This was done using Open Space Technology, aimed at solving complex issues in large groups, where participants set the agenda themselves and hierarchy plays no role. In this way, you trust in the wisdom of the group, as you can draw on the insights of all involved individuals.

What is a Crutzen workshop?
The starting point for this first work programme was a Crutzen workshop. In this workshop, all stakeholders (researchers, policymakers, societal organisations) work together in a short period of time to define the contours of a work programme. The workshops are named after the Dutch meteorologist and Nobel laureate Paul Crutzen, one of the key figures in atmospheric sciences.The aim is to approach action and research in a new way – not in competition, but through co-creation, working together towards a common goal. That is the principle behind the Crutzen workshop.

More about the Crutzen workshop at:
https://hetkin.nl/en/crutzenworkshops/

Positive impact

The name tags only featured names, without job titles or organisations. "That worked well," one of the participants remarked. "You end up talking to a person, rather than someone with a specific role within a certain organisation." The atmosphere was clearly different from other meetings. There was room for everyone's input. Even when it seemed like there was nothing more to say, new ideas would emerge during the built-in moments of silence.

Three days of collaborative thinking on such an important topic creates a sense of connection. Everyone focused on the positive impact that could be achieved with the steps taken here. This was also reflected in the very diverse action plans that the various spontaneously formed groups put on paper.

'Trust the process'

When the sense of unity on the afternoon of day three seemed to fade, as no one appeared to feel called to take on the role of coordinator, someone from the audience stood up and said: "I always think about the children who have yet to be born, to move beyond our own individual perspective." More voices followed, from people who wanted to make an impact and do so together. As a result, someone from the group offered to organise a follow-up meeting in the short term, with the help of KIN, to turn the fifteen emerging plans into a coherent proposal for a work programme and to form a consortium. Others could join the process as it progressed, provided they brought added value to the theme.

The desire for KIN to arrange a facilitator for future meetings was widely supported. KIN is now working on this.'Trust the process' is a key principle of Open Space Technology. And that is exactly what happened in Egmond aan Zee.



Crutzen workshop

The first KIN work programme
During the Crutzen workshop on 9, 10, and 11 October 2023, the first action plans were formed, which led to our first work programme, 'Accelerating Just Transitions in Urban Regions'. In this programme, researchers and local stakeholders, including residents, housing corporations, civil servants, local entrepreneurs, and sustainability professionals, are joining forces.

In various neighbourhoods in Rotterdam, Nijmegen, Eindhoven, and Maastricht, local action paths and agendas are being developed, and collaboration is being facilitated where it previously operated in silos. Additionally, the work programme provides a generic approach with tools (training programmes, manuals) for co-designing just, climate-neutral, and climate-resilient neighbourhood transitions.



More about the ACT work programme at: https://hetkin.nl/en/accelerating-just-climate-transitions-in-urban-regions/

IPCC expert consultation

KIN Expert Consultation, in preparation for IPCC's Special Report on Climate Change and Cities

"I met people today that I should have known already." At the expert consultation in March 2024, our main goal was to provide input to the Dutch IPCC candidates for the IPCC scoping mission for the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities. But the day brought so much more than that!

A reflection on the day

On 6 March 2024, a diverse group of experts from municipalities, research institutions, knowledge platforms, societal organisations, and private entities gathered for a discussion at the KNAW in Amsterdam. We talked about the impact of climate change on cities and specifically about what the IPCC, as well as all the participants, can do to contribute to actionable perspectives that will truly lead to transitions.

Participants were challenged in various ways to broaden their perspectives, form new connections, and advise each other on dilemmas from their daily work. The central question that repeatedly came up was: "How can we ensure that science makes the right translation so that practical experts can benefit?"

> *"I met people today that I should have known already"*

There is so much knowledge available, but how do we ensure it reaches the right people? This is exactly what KIN aims to contribute to. To make cities climate-resilient, it is not so much a lack of solutions, but what we really need is much more collaboration! And the right stories, the right language, the right tone.

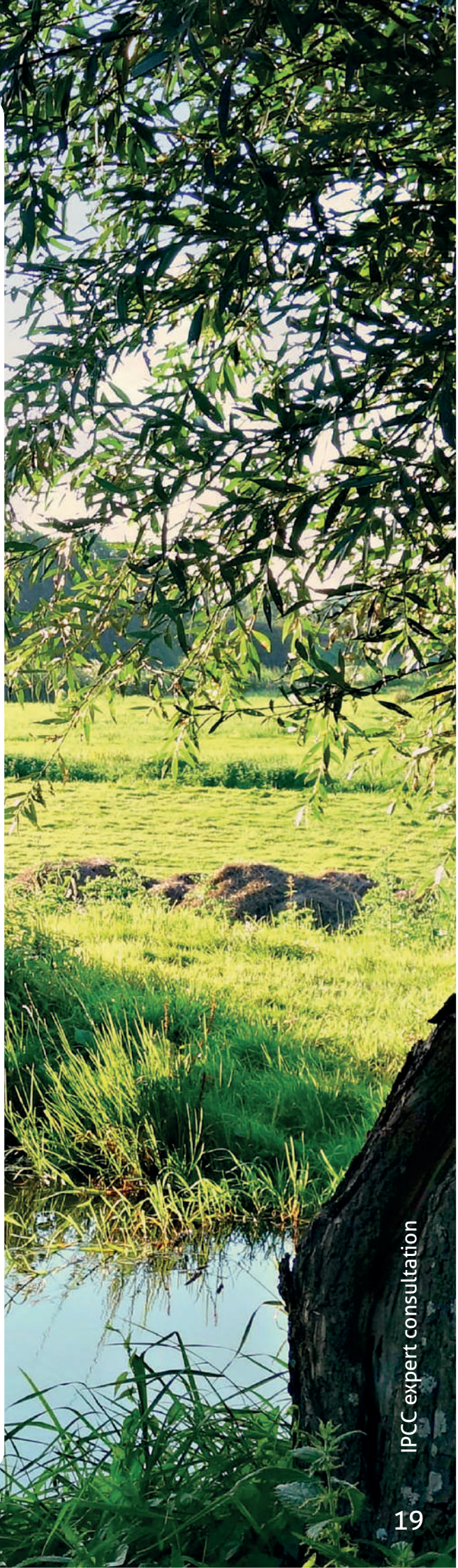
With the new practical knowledge and insights that our Dutch IPCC candidates have gained today, we hope that the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities will also deliver new knowledge to

practice in return. Because "reports lead to stories, stories to actions, actions to habits, habits to values and values to a new reality."

Reason for the knowledge consultation

In April 2024, the first international IPCC scoping meeting will take place in Riga for a special report on climate change and cities, led by Working Group 2 (Impact, Adaptation, and Vulnerability). During this scoping meeting, the outline and table of contents of the report will be determined. Heleen de Coninck and Anne-Marie Hitipeuw-Gribnauw are participating on behalf of the Netherlands in the IPCC scoping mission for the special report on climate change and cities.

In preparation for this meeting, we organised an expert consultation on 6 March 2024 for experts on this topic. The Dutch delegates for the IPCC scoping meeting were present to incorporate the participants' contributions into the international mission. On 8 November 2024, KIN hosted a new expert meeting, this time as input for the 7th assessment report of the IPCC.



IPCC expert consultation

SAR-advice

What is included in the first advice of the Strategy and Advisory board?

In July 2024, the Strategy and Advisory board (SAR) of the KIN Pact released its first advice on the prioritisation of knowledge questions. The steering group received the advice with enthusiasm and officially adopted it. There is a more detailed public summary and appendix that outlines the backgrounds and considerations of the SAR, but in this blog, we will delve into the core of this advice and highlight its implications for KIN.

What is the SAR and what does it do?

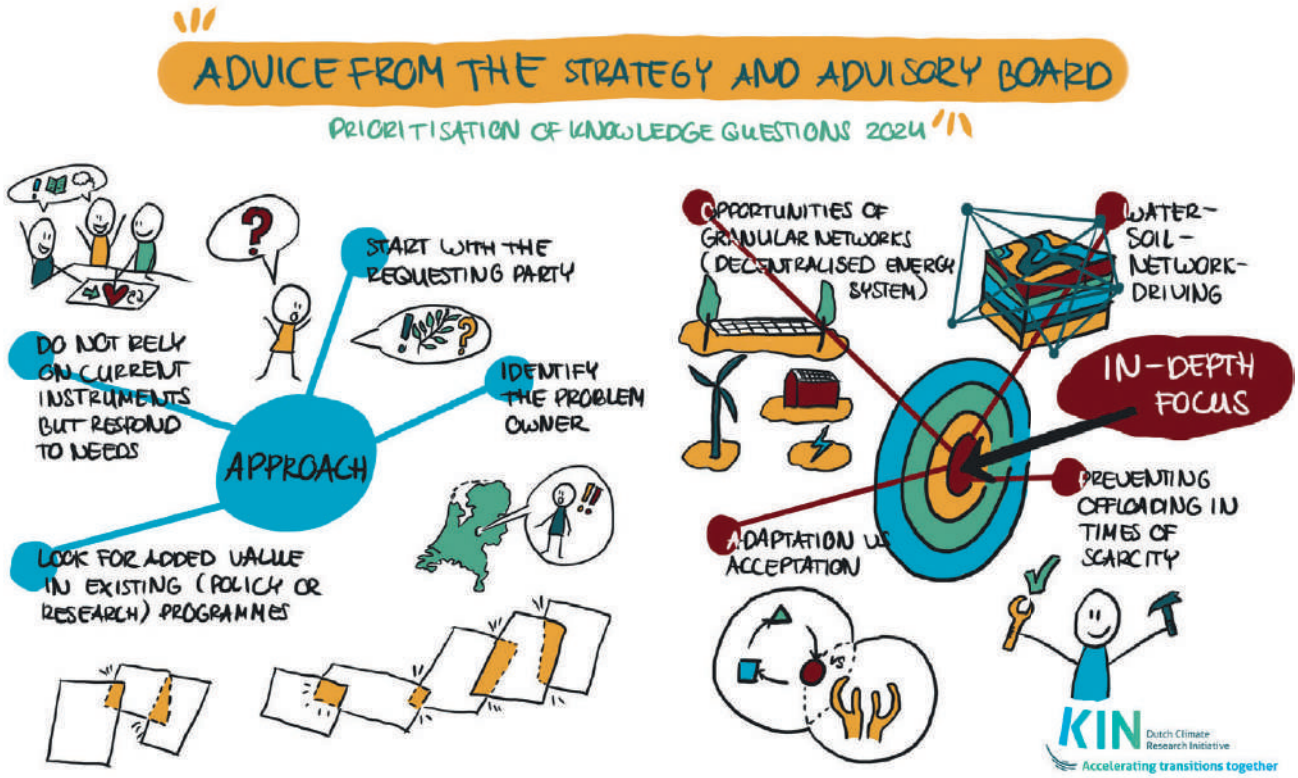
The SAR plays an important role within KIN by providing strategic advice on which knowledge questions should be prioritised for action. KIN's mission is to accelerate system transitions, but which issues will have the most impact? And what activities are necessary to address them? The recent meeting was therefore a key opportunity to provide direction for KIN in the coming period.

Notable points about this advice

The SAR, with its diverse expertise and perspectives, immediately demonstrated its value by providing KIN with advice that was not 'an answer' to our question, but rather a compass through which KIN can achieve impact. Rather than sorting through a long list of submitted knowledge questions (as was done in broad sessions last year), the board took a helicopter view. As a result, it did not arrive at a top-ten list of specific questions, but rather four broad challenges that encompass the knowledge questions KIN gathered in 2023.

This is significant because the SAR points directly to the key issue. The broad challenges are all complex, but that is precisely why KIN can add value here.

Perhaps even more importantly, the SAR also reminded KIN not to focus on large work programmes. Instead, the board emphasised the need to centre the problem owner's needs. Thus, the advice provided direction not only on content but also on the approach for KIN.



The core of the advice: The content-related challenges

The SAR has identified four content-related challenges that align with the mission, capabilities, and position of KIN. These challenges are, in no particular order:

- Implementation of Water-Soil-Network as steering policy.
- Adaptation versus acceptance
- The opportunities of modular and granular solutions.
- Preventing the shifting of burdens in times of scarcity.

An explanation of why this is essential, as well as the complete list of considerations for developing the themes, can be found in the public summary on our website.

View the complete appendix on our website for an extensive explanation of the challenges

Implementing the advice

The advice given was merely a starting point. The next steps were to explore who the problem owners are for each challenge and to align with ongoing programmes. By widely communicating this advice both within and outside the KIN, we invite stakeholders to provide additional input. This will help refine our strategies and ensure they are well aligned with both local and broader societal needs.

Pact launch

KIN Pact officially launched on April 18

With a festive launch event at the Museon-Omniversum in The Hague, the Pact of the Dutch Climate Research Initiative (KIN) officially went live on Thursday, 18 April 2024. This means that societal organisations, governments, businesses, and knowledge institutions can now join the transdisciplinary network dedicated to accelerating system transitions.

KIN Pact: A network to reduce climate change risks by accelerating system transitions

To make the Netherlands climate-neutral and climate-resilient, system change is essential. Governments, businesses, societal organisations, and knowledge institutions all feel the urgency for change. Each of them possesses its own expertise, but this practical and theoretical knowledge is fragmented, making it difficult to act collectively. To achieve true transition, these different parties must come together.

The KIN Pact was created to change this. By sharing, developing, and applying knowledge together, we help connect the puzzle pieces. In this way, we accelerate the transition to a climate-resilient Netherlands.

Becoming a member of the Pact is simple for organisations or individuals by endorsing the KIN mission: "KIN connects, expands, deepens, and unlocks knowledge for transitions towards a climate-neutral and climate-resilient society." Membership is free and voluntary, but requires active commitment. The Pact is for and by its members: that means you! To make this clear to each other, members formulate their own individual 'pledge.' This outlines what you or your organisation contributes, such as time, resources, networks, or facilities. Then, as a member, you can participate in decisions about what the Pact will do, with the support of the KIN team.

An inspiring afternoon of knowledge and connection

The location was chosen with purpose. The Museon-Omniversum science museum is the first cultural institution to officially join the Pact. In support of the launch, they provided the spaces for the event. Incoming director Iris van den Akker emphasised in the plenary discussion that the Museon, with its expertise in translating complex

issues to society, sees the added value of connecting with practical experts.

Building new connections sounds easy, but in practice, it can be uncomfortable. This tension was aptly captured in an entrance ritual performed by Circus Andersom. Visitors entered the museum backwards via a 60-meter-long green carpet. The event allowed ample room for connections. Through themed discussion tables, attendees engaged in conversations on content, laying the foundation for the activities the KIN Pact will initiate.

Action plan KIN Pact 2024

In March 2024, a prioritisation session with the Pact's Strategy and Advisory Council took place. The launch of the Pact was a new step in its development and marked the beginning of the next phase: the phased start-up of working groups and activities. In addition to implementing the core objectives of the KIN Pact, the focus for the rest of 2024 is on building a clear organisation and processes.

We can proudly say that a beautiful start was made on April 18th!



More about Pact at https://hetkin.nl/en/pact-en/

More about the kick-off at https://hetkin.nl/en/the-pact-kickoff-on-april-18-2024/

Purpose Accelerator

THRIVE x KIN Purpose Accelerator

The urgency of the climate crisis urges us to collaborate and make use of the valuable knowledge we already have. This is why we are excited about our collaboration with the THRIVE Institute, whose final report will be presented this month (November 2024). The Purpose Accelerator programme began on May 8, where 7 talented PhD candidates from diverse backgrounds applied their knowledge and skills to the societal mission of KIN.

KIN and THRIVE for climate valorisation

In May 2024, we entered into a collaboration with THRIVE, an expert in making an impact and navigating complexity. Through THRIVE's proven method, the 'Purpose Accelerator,' a working group of multidisciplinary researchers was formed to create an evidence base for climate valorisation under expert guidance.

Over five months, the PhD candidates, alongside their various research projects, investigated successful examples of pilot projects and interventions in the areas of climate neutrality and resilience. This allowed them to learn how to best leverage the potential of science for the climate transition. The central question was: what needed to be organised to ensure that relevant



insights from research could quickly and effectively lead to significant societal impact?

The researchers dedicated four hours per week to training as knowledge brokers and to engaging in knowledge brokering activities themselves. Meanwhile, they learned from experts in the fields of knowledge transfer, valorisation, and systems and climate transition. This gave them the opportunity to gain experience in addressing urgent and complex societal issues from real-world practice. In doing so, the researchers established a solid evidence base and took concrete steps that would benefit the future efforts of KIN.

For the individual researchers, this marked the beginning of their knowledge broker careers. They laid the foundation for a new type of profession, where subject matter experts have one foot in academia and one foot outside it. In their future careers, they aim to continue translating relevant scientific insights into solutions for complex societal challenges.

More about the programme at https://hetkin.nl/en/thrive-x-kin-purpose-accelerator-programma/



Meet our knowledge brokers



Daniela Garcia-Caro is a PhD researcher at Erasmus University Rotterdam, within the Initiative on the Dynamics of Inclusive Prosperity. Her academic background includes an MSc in Sustainable Development from Uppsala University and a specialised master's in Agroecology, Food Sovereignty, Urban Ecology, and Rural Development Cooperation from the Universidad de La Laguna. She became involved in the Purpose Accelerator programme through her participation in THRIVE's PhD Career Swifters programme. Daniela brings valuable knowledge and experience in the fields of agroecology, food systems, law and policy, and sustainability transitions.



Rianna Anwar Sani graduated as a veterinarian and is currently working on her PhD at Utrecht University, focusing on antimicrobial use and resistance on poultry farms in Indonesia. She learned about the programme through the PhD network PROUT. Rianna's experience as a veterinarian, along with her background in epidemiology and mixed methods studies, brings valuable communication and analytical skills to the programme. She hopes to contribute to the transition towards a climate-neutral society.

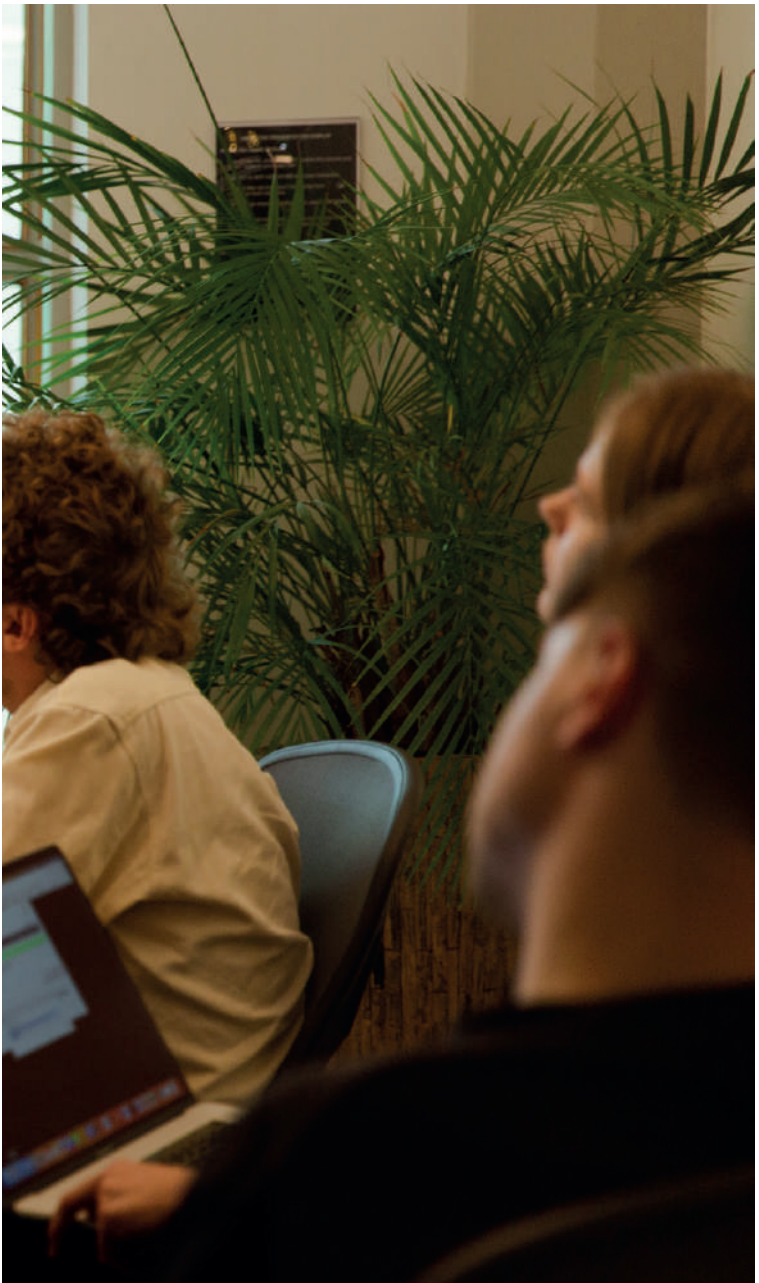


Ugochukwu Orji (Ugo) is a PhD candidate at Tilburg University, focusing on AI and data science for energy forecasting and sustainable energy integration. He came across the Purpose Accelerator programme through the university's announcement. His work experience as an energy analyst provides him with a solid foundation in the application of predictive models in the energy industry. Ugo looks forward to developing his skills in knowledge brokering and collaborating with others to promote sustainable energy solutions.





Maksim Sitnikov is a PhD candidate at Tilburg University in Organization and Management Studies. He focuses on the dynamics of time in interorganisational relationships, specifically within the EU Emission Trading System. He was drawn to the programme due to its emphasis on research impact and the practical application of empirical findings. Maksim expects that the programme will enhance his knowledge brokering skills and expand his network, helping him to contribute effectively to climate policy.





Martha Kosters is a PhD candidate at Utrecht University in Earth Sciences. She was inspired by a promotional email from THRIVE and decided to apply. Her background in geosciences and sustainable consultancy provides her with a broad knowledge framework to apply within the programme. Martha looks forward to learning about the complexities of implementing climate adaptation and mitigation strategies in practice.



Ravi Ramesh is a PhD candidate in Mechanical Engineering at TU Delft. He discovered the Purpose Accelerator programme via LinkedIn and saw it as a great complement to his interest in climate change and policy-making. Ravi has a background in aerospace engineering with a strong focus on fluid dynamics and weather patterns. He looks forward to developing practical solutions for climate change.



Jane Pauline Ramirez is a PhD candidate at TU Delft, specialising in Aerospace Engineering. She discovered the programme through her university, and her experience in biomorphic intelligence brings a unique perspective to the project. With a background in AI, Jane is currently working on projects focused on the application of AI in aerospace engineering. She hopes to gain new insights and contribute to climate resilience strategies.

Make-atons

Climate adaptation in the Netherlands: pioneering the path to resilience

To ensure that the Netherlands is as well-prepared as possible for the changing climate, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (IenW) is coordinating the revision of the National Climate Adaptation Strategy (NAS). On behalf of the ministry, KIN has developed the Make-atons: a new method to quickly develop adaptation pathways for a climate-resilient Netherlands with a broad group of experts.

Within the national Climate Adaptation Strategy (NAS), 15 challenges have been defined, of which adaptation pathways are now being developed for 5: water, cultural heritage, health, passenger and goods infrastructure and energy, ICT and vital infrastructure. While these adaptation pathways are typically explored individually, we wanted to use a single method for all topics and apply the same principles.



Make-atons



1 First Make-aton: possible and desirable futures

The first Make-aton, held on 30 May 2024, brought together around 30 experts and policymakers to develop methods for the new National Climate Adaptation Strategy (NAS). The focus was on creating adaptation pathways for fifteen key challenges, such as health, waterlogging, and infrastructure, which are intended to help the Netherlands become climate-resilient. Participants, including experts in methodology and policymakers from various ministries, explored different approaches to formulating effective and clear adaptation pathways. They split into three groups to work on themes such as future scenarios, positioning milestones, and ensuring coherence across different adaptation pathways. Highlights of the day included interactive sprints where experts and policymakers shared their insights and cross-pollination between different disciplines took place. Policymakers provided valuable feedback on the practical applicability of the methods, while the methodology experts used their knowledge to create a robust action plan. At the end of the day, the participants came together to formulate a joint method and prepare a plan for the next Make-atons. The first step was taken towards a shared understanding of terminology and processes, essential for the further development of the adaptation pathways.

More about Make-aton 1 at:
https://hetkin.nl/en/review-of-the-1st-make-athon-nas/

2 Second Make-aton: developing the measures

The second Make-aton took place on 26 June 2024 at the inspiring Cobra Museum in Amstelveen, where around seventy policymakers, scientists, and advisors gathered. This edition focused on five key themes: waterlogging, health, cultural heritage, waterways, and infrastructure. After a creative start led by Tamara Witschge, where participants made symbolic drawings for transitions, the group worked on developing measures for the short, medium, and long term.

By working from various future scenarios and using the PBL scenarios as a basis, fascinating insights emerged about the risks and opportunities in the climate adaptation of the Netherlands. The day was characterised by energetic collaboration and creative solutions. During the three intensive sprints, the first transition pathways were explored and analysed, with cross-pollination of ideas between participants. The Cobra Museum provided an inspiring environment that fostered creativity. After a day full of pitches, post-its, and even an ice cream, the session ended with plenary feedback and visualisations by artist Edwin Stoop. The positive atmosphere and dedication of the participants remained palpable until the end.

Core team and task leaders

In the summer of 2024, a small core team, together with the task leaders, further developed the results of the second Make-aton. They worked on the adaptation pathways for five themes: waterlogging, health, cultural heritage, transport infrastructure (people and goods), and energy, ICT, and vital infrastructure.

The core team, which included leading experts such as Marjolijn Haasnoot and Robbert Biesbroek, refined the methodology and validated the input from the experts. These preparations were crucial in order to work more deeply on the connections between the different themes during the third Make-aton and to increase the involvement of additional experts.

More about Make-aton 2 at: https://hetkin.nl/en/reflection-on-the-second-make-athon-pitches-post-its-chips/







Third Make-aton: analysing interrelationships

The third Make-aton, held on 17 October 2024, brought together 60 experts and policymakers to explore the interrelationships between the adaptation pathways. The day began with a feedback session on the pathways that had been previously developed, after which participants worked in three sprints to analyse how measures could either reinforce or hinder each other.

The focus was on the interaction between themes, such as the cross-pollination between water management and infrastructure, highlighting the complexities and synergies involved. There was strong engagement and collaboration, with valuable input from experts. A key insight was that, while significant progress had been made, further in-depth analysis was necessary to ensure the adaptation pathways are consistent and applicable.

Meer about Make-aton 3 at: https://hetkin.nl/en/looking-back-at-the-third-make-athon-connections-and-cross-pollination-for-a-climate-resilient-netherlands/

In the remainder of 2024 and 2025, the next steps will focus on further refining and validating the adaptation pathways. Policymakers, utilities, network operators, and other key stakeholders will be closely involved to test the measures for feasibility and effectiveness. The pathways already form a strong foundation but will continue to evolve to ensure they are widely applicable within the new NAS.

The focus will be on further developing the connections between the different themes and integrating additional expertise. Furthermore, work is underway to develop concrete, measurable measures that can be applied in practice. The core team will continue to ensure a solid scientific basis for the adaptation pathways, so that they can be included in the NAS in 2026.



Appointment Derk Loorbach

Derk Loorbach joins KIN as scientific figurehead

It took a while, but it was worth the wait: in September we were finally able to announce that Derk Loorbach will be joining KIN as its scientific figurehead. His innovative approach to research in and with society makes Derk the perfect expert for this role. Derk started in the summer of 2024 and will fulfil this position on a part-time basis.

What will the scientific figurehead do?

As the scientific figurehead, Derk Loorbach is responsible for the scientific content of KIN's activities and serves as the scientific face of KIN. Derk will focus on, among other things:

- Promoting a vision and advising on approaches for system transitions through the contribution of knowledge and expertise;
- Co-shaping new forms of research funding and organisation;
- Assisting in the development and maintenance of strategic collaborations.

Derk has been a unifying force between research, policy, and practice for years. With his knowledge and expertise, he contributes to the visibility, credibility, and impact of the KIN.

"As the academic figurehead for KIN, I hope to inspire, encourage, and challenge others through my professional and personal experience as an entrepreneurial transition researcher."

Derk Loorbach

About Derk Loorbach

Loorbach has extensive experience in transition research across various societal domains. He combines his role as the scientific ambassador of the KIN with his position as director of the internationally renowned action-research institute DRIFT. He is also a professor of socio-economic transitions at Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR). Loorbach's broad experience and vision make him an inspiring leader for the KIN. From his position as scientific ambassador, he aims to contribute to promoting interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration, which is essential in addressing climate change.

"Thanks to climate research, the importance of the transition to a climate-neutral and climate-resilient society has reached almost all Dutch boardrooms, policy tables, and community hubs," says Loorbach. "But the transitions needed for our economy and society are still not being sufficiently realised. It is a major socio-economic challenge to turn the scientific necessity into a just and democratic transition process."

KIN about the scientific ambassador

As the KIN itself is new in its structure, the role of scientific ambassador is also a new position, with no predecessor. With Loorbach's appointment, the management team is now complete, consisting of general director Michiel van den Hout and the scientific ambassador. Derk will spend one day a week on this role in the first year, increasing to one and a half days thereafter.

"We are very pleased with the arrival of Derk. He is truly a leading expert when it comes to transition management and has an impressive network, along with extensive experience in fostering collaboration between different disciplines. With 'transition in science' as his mission, Derk will undoubtedly contribute to the impact and visibility of the KIN."

Michiel van den Hout, General Director KIN

Looking forward

What lies ahead in the coming period?

In this mini-magazine, we showcased what we have achieved so far. While it's a lot, it's still far from what we would like to accomplish. The coming year will therefore be focused on scaling up.

With the new tools that we plan to launch later this year, we aim to quickly initiate a large number of new projects, which should also lead to results in a short period of time

We are expanding the number of partners in our Pact and working on improving knowledge exchange within the Pact, including by enhancing our 'member only' section on our website

We are developing a knowledge portal for climate research and improving our website

Next year, we will launch several larger programmes focused on the themes advised by our SAR

We will further expand our collaboration with various climate centres across the country

We will strengthen our role as an expertise centre and ensure more cohesive programming within NWO around the climate transition

Starting next year, we will launch our international programme – initially in Mozambique and possibly also in the Dutch Caribbean

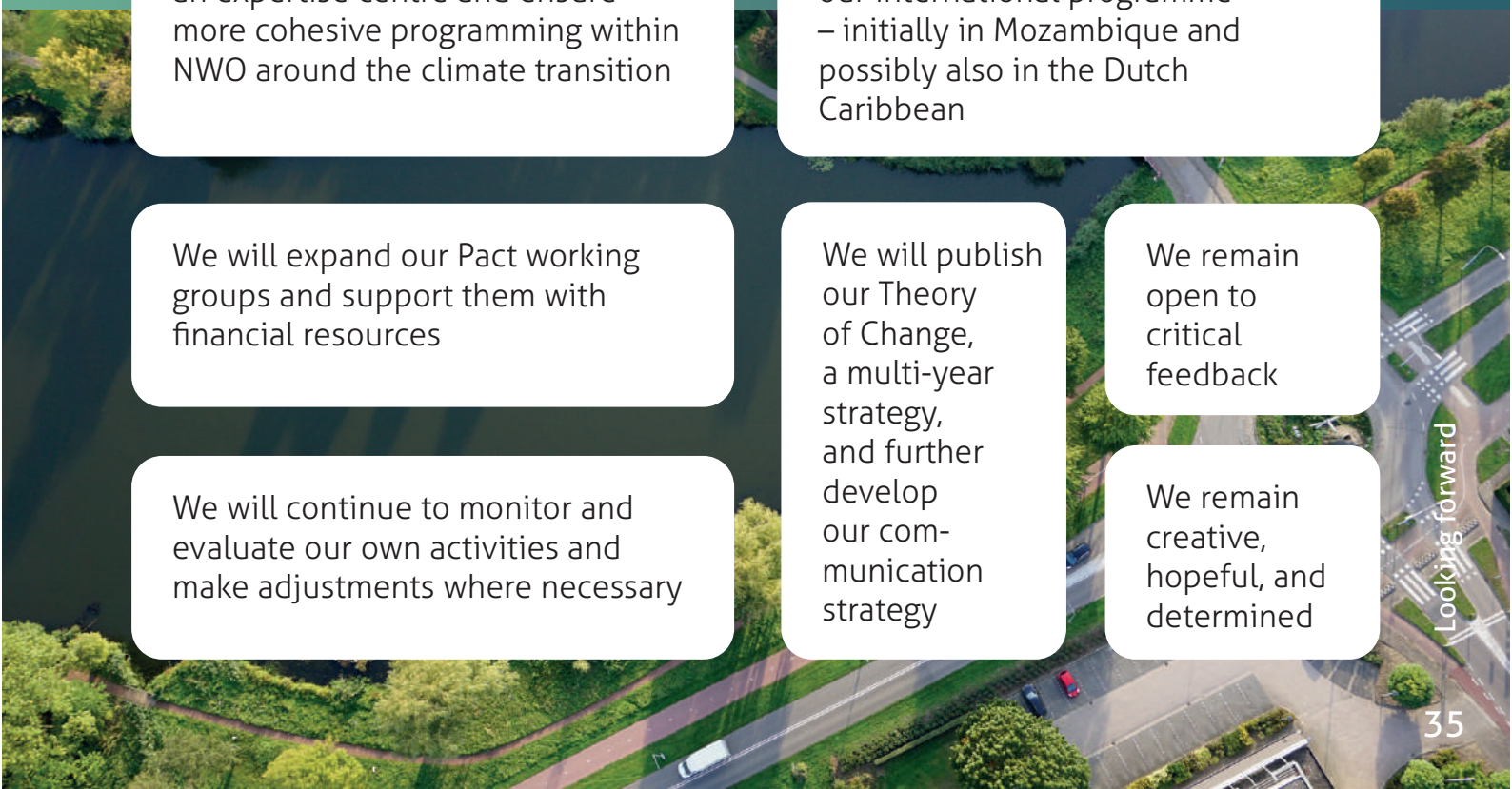
We will expand our Pact working groups and support them with financial resources

We will publish our Theory of Change, a multi-year strategy, and further develop our communication strategy

We remain open to critical feedback

We will continue to monitor and evaluate our own activities and make adjustments where necessary

We remain creative, hopeful, and determined

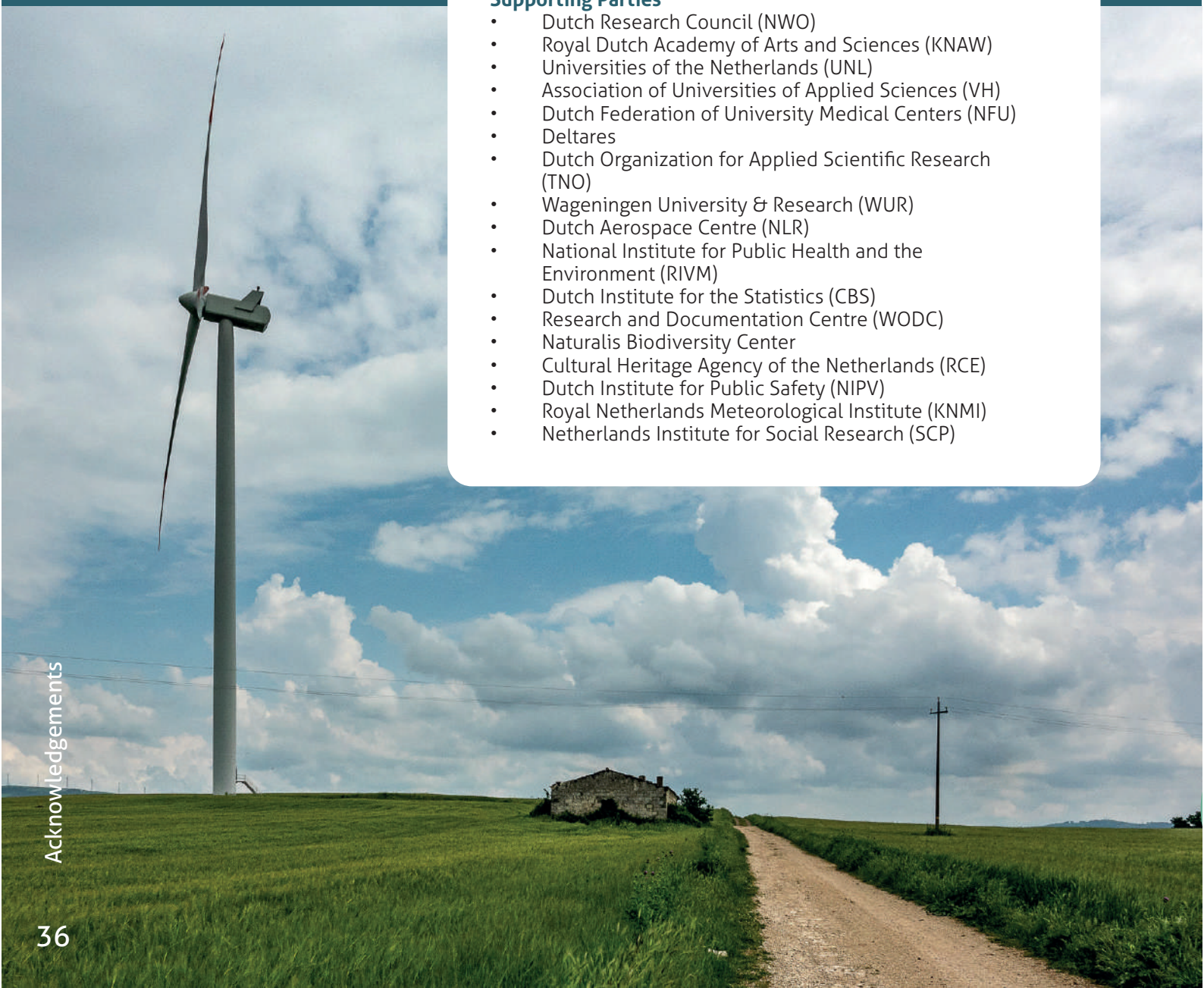


Acknowledgements

The establishment of KIN in November 2023 has been made possible thanks to the contributions of many organisations and individuals. NWO and KNAW, as initiators, facilitated the development phase by providing resources for the initial activities, in-kind contributions of staff for the founding team, and strategic support. ZonMW has also contributed to the supporting activities of KIN. In addition, various expert groups from knowledge institutions, government organisations, and civil society have collaborated, contributed to writing, and provided input in the different working groups. We sincerely thank all of you for your valuable support and contributions to this important initiative.

Supporting Parties

- Dutch Research Council (NWO)
- Royal Dutch Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW)
- Universities of the Netherlands (UNL)
- Association of Universities of Applied Sciences (VH)
- Dutch Federation of University Medical Centers (NFU)
- Deltares
- Dutch Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO)
- Wageningen University & Research (WUR)
- Dutch Aerospace Centre (NLR)
- National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)
- Dutch Institute for the Statistics (CBS)
- Research and Documentation Centre (WODC)
- Naturalis Biodiversity Center
- Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE)
- Dutch Institute for Public Safety (NIPV)
- Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI)
- Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP)



Governance
Annemieke Nijhof
Arian Steenbruggen
Arthur Mol
Gerard van der Steenhoven
Hans Brug
Hans van Goudoever
Marcel Levi
Marileen Dogterom
Peter Paul Verbeek

Advisers
Bart van den Hurk
Erik van der Linde
Jacob Jolij
Jessica van Kammen
Laurens Brandes
Leen Fokker
Marjolijn Blaauboer
Sofie Dings

Pre-Pact
Aniek Moonen
Antoine Heideveld
Egid van Bree
Geerte Paradies
Ika van der Pas
Kees Vendrik
Kristel Lammers
Marjolijn Demmers
Ted Veldkamp

Pact
Anna Hiemstra
Leo Meyer
Linda Steg
Maaike Spuij
Reint Jan Renes
Rosa van den Berg
Sanne Geelhoed
Sible Schöne
Vincent de Gooyer
Wouter Verduijn

Finance
Belinda van der Gaag
Bregje van Wesenbeeck
Frank Pierik
Gerard van der Steenhoven
Han Dolman
Jasper Roodenburg
Josef Stuefer

Pilots
Martijn Bart
Stephanie Holst
Uyoyo Onemu
Yara ten Pas

Communication
Arian Visser
Belinda van der Gaag
Martien Versteegh
Sanli Faez

Steering Committee in formation
Bregje van Wesenbeeck
Eddy Moors
Ellen Weerman
Gerard van der Steenhoven
Heleen de Coninck
Liesbeth van der Grift
Linda Steg
Marjolijn Haasnoot
Michiel van den Hout
Patrick Huntjens
Reint Jan Renes
Sanli Faez

Global Transitions
Daniëlle Hirsch
Diana Suhardiman
Eddy Moors
Freek van der Meer
Fulco Ludwig
Heleen de Coninck
Jelte Verberne
Josephine van Zeben
Karen Arnon
Lizanne Schepers
Maheen Khan
Marja Spierenburg
Monique Berendsen
Rachel Kelders
Rubert Konijn
Thea Hilhorst

Programs (way of working)
Andrea Ramirez
Bart van Arem
Birka Wicke
Caroline Katsman
Derk Loorbach
Detlef van Vuuren
Ellen Weerman
Frank Pierik
Joost van der Ree
Madeleen Helmer
Marjolijn Haasnoot
Martijn Bart
Maud Huynen
Patrick Huntjens
Robbert Biesbroek

Between November 2023 and now, much has happened (as you can see in this magazine). Therefore, there are many more people to thank – from our own team to our steering committee, and from the committees to our partners.

We are immensely grateful to these wonderful individuals and institutions!

The KIN team consists of:
Anna Hiemstra
Björk Johannes
Derk Loorbach
Frank Pierik
Jeanique Everts
Jelte Verberne
Laura Termeer
Lisa Berkouwer
Lizanne Schepers
Maaike Spuij
Manon Veldhoven
Marije van der Kamp
Martijn Bart
Michiel van den Hout
Mirko Lukacs
Nick Boer
Ninarosa Juffermans
Rosa van den Berg
Sanli Faez
Stephanie Holst

Steering Committee
Eddy Moors
Gerard van der Steenhoven
Marjolein Demmers
Stientje van Veldhoven

Strategy and advisory board
Bregje van Weesenbeeck
Geeke Feiter
Joost Koch
Linda Steg
Lot van Hooijdonk
Olof van der Gaag
Piet Sprengers
Richard van de Sanden
Rob Weterings
Stefan Kuks

Global Transitions Programme Committee
Annelieke Douma
Debra Roberts
Fatima Denton
Heleen de Coninck
Maheen Khan
Marcel Beukeboom
Shenaaz Moosa

And thanks to...
All the individuals and organisations who have contributed to our workshops and projects.

THANKS!





Colophon

KIN's first birthday magazine is a publication of the Dutch Climate Research Initiative (KIN), a part of NWO.
Adress: PO Box 3021, 3502 GA Utrecht
Contact: contact@hetkin.nl, www.hetkin.nl

Authors and design:

- Ninarosa Juffermans (communication advisor; text editing and project management)
- Lisa Berkouwer (communications; design)
- Michiel van den Hout (general director; text editing)
- Nick Boer (communications; text editing)

Photography:

- Studio Oostrum (portrait Linda Steg)
- Jasmijn de Lange (portraits KIN-team members, Pact launch, THRIVE)
- Denise Roggeveen (portrait Martijn Bart)
- Bastiaan Heus (portrait Sanli Faez)
- Bart van Overbeeke (portrait Heleen de Coninck)
- Martien Versteegh (Crutzen workshop)

Thanks to:

- Heleen de Coninck, Gerard van der Steenhoven, Jan de Boer, Linda Steg, Martijn Bart, Sanli Faez (contribution to the interviews)

Do you want to read more about the first year of KIN? Read the interview magazine at: https://hetkin.nl/en/kin-1year-interviewmagazine/

© Climate Research Initiative Netherlands (KIN), Utrecht 2024
Some rights reserved / Creative Commons licence [Attribution 4.0 Netherlands].
The content of this publication may be used and reproduced (partially) for non-commercial purposes. Modifications to the content are not permitted. Citations must always be credited.

With KIN, we aim to increase the contribution of science in accelerating system transitions. Our ambition is to accelerate the transition to a climate-neutral and climate-resilient world through the optimal use of existing scientific knowledge and the development of new knowledge.


KIN
Dutch Climate
Research Initiative
Accelerating transitions together
1 year!