

Follow-up and the new Environmental and Planning Act in the Netherlands

A practice-oriented research to follow-up in the Netherlands



Wout van der Gun

Co-authors: Sophie de Maat, Susan Vernij, Inge van Leijenhorst and Maartje van Ravesteijn

*Dutch ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Rijkswaterstaat
The Netherlands*



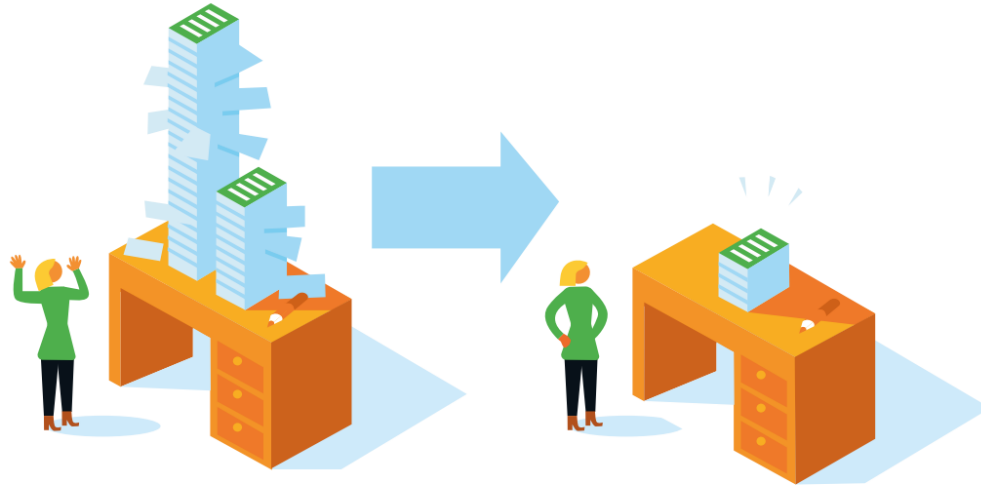
Contents

- The new act
- The research
- Case studies and experiences
- Conclusions and reflection



The new Environmental and Planning Act in the Netherlands

Before:
26 laws with
rules and
regulations



Now:
1 law with rules
and regulations

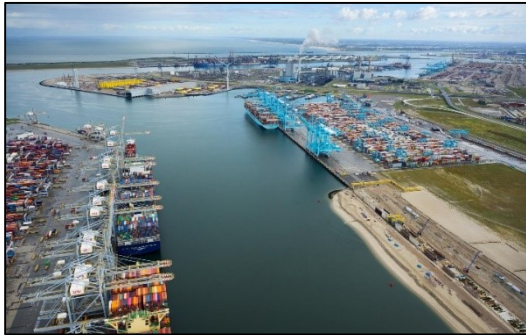
- Follow-up is explicitly part of the policy process
- How can we use the renewed attention for follow-up to improve implementation ?

The research

- Research carried out by Antea Group
- The research consists of three parts:
 - Desk study
 - Case studies and interviews
 - Final report
- Useful insights about follow-up are identified



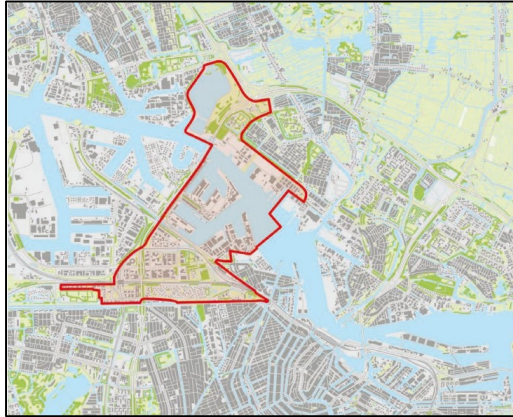
Case studies – Maasvlakte 2



Maasvlakte 2 concerns the construction, design and use of deep-sea related port industries, sea walls and rail- and road infrastructure.

- To assess if compensation is successful, follow-up measures were implemented
- Broader in scope than the EA obligations
- Follow-up can increase the trust of stakeholders
- Unique and extensive

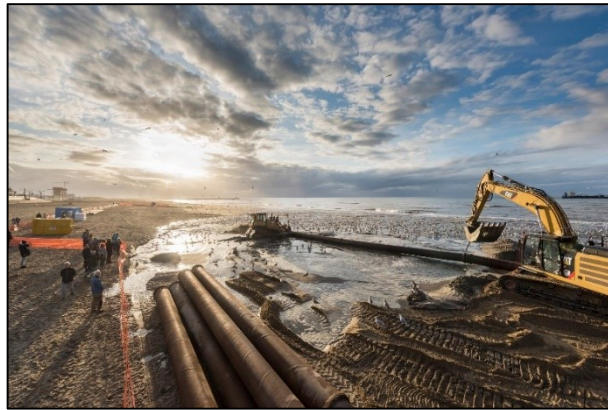
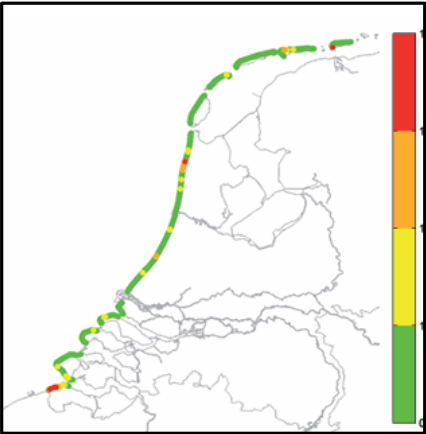
Case studies – Haven-Stad Amsterdam



Long-term urban development project in former industrial area

- Final image of these type of projects is often unknown
- Follow-up can contribute to timely adjust goals, ambitions and take measures
- Pragmatic approach to data collection
- Executed by a small project team

Case studies – Sand extraction North Sea (coastline care)



- Because Coastline care is an ongoing project, the follow-up is organized differently
- Focus may also shift to other indicators, due to new insights or at the request of the competent authority

Coastline care provides sand supplementation to reinforce the ever eroding Dutch coast, which is vital to prevent the country from flooding.

Experiences

- Legal obligations
- Increase the trust of stakeholders
- Follow-up as a forward-looking tool
- Follow-up seems to have remained relatively unknown
- Used sparingly and implementation not properly arranged



Conclusions and reflection

Follow-up of Environmental Assessment in the Netherlands

- 1. The more changeable the environment, the more value follow-up can have**
- 2. Follow-up has more added value if it serves multiple purposes**
- 3. Follow-up needs a careful start phase with a plan of action (MEP)**



It happens that monitoring and evaluation falls through the cracks during the transition from planning to the realization and management phase



Follow-up of Environmental Assessment in the Netherlands

4. Check the usability of existing data at an early stage

5. Ensure that EA follow-up is embedded in the organization

6. Present follow-up more separately from EA



“ A pragmatic approach is desirable. For example, by connecting to existing monitoring programs.”
– senior EA advisor (NLengineers)



View the EIA as an instrument for determining what kind of follow-up is needed, instead of focussing too much on checking the EIA.

Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments in the IAIA24 app.



#iaia24

Wout van der Gun

Dutch ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Rijkswaterstaat

Netherlands