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# Application of a co-design process on a nature-based intervention in the coastal system of Texel, the Netherlands



Floortje d'Hont<sup>1</sup>, Jill Slinger<sup>1,2</sup>
1) Delft University of Technology 2) Institute of Water Research, Rhodes University, South Africa

# PhD Candidate TUDelft

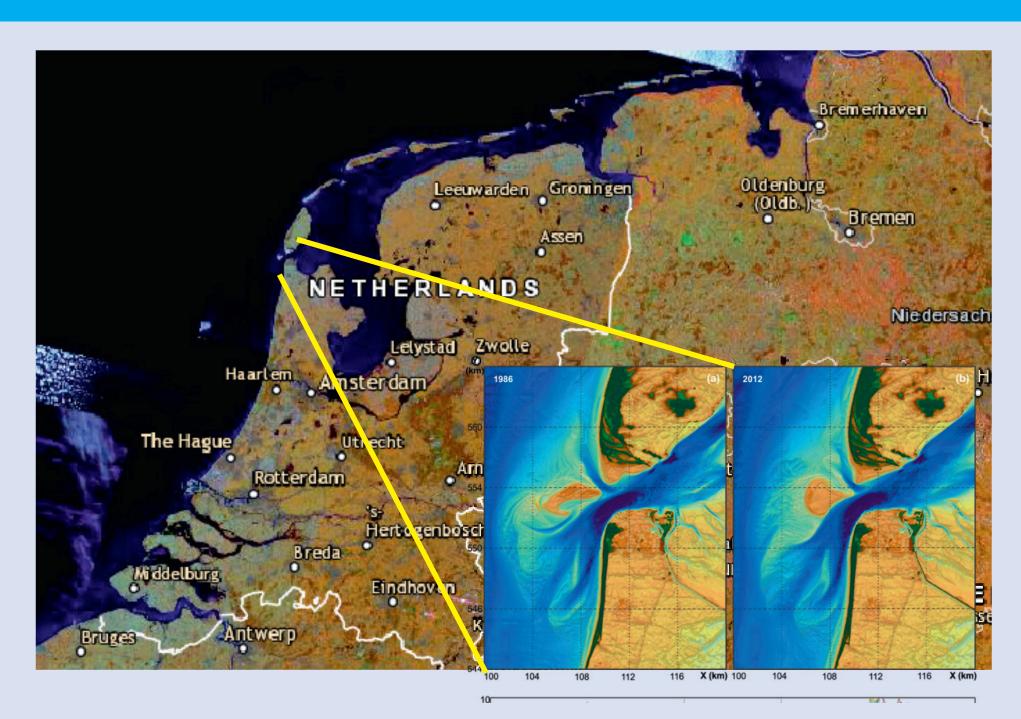
#### **Problem situation**

- Barrier island in an ebb-tidal delta
- Phases of coastal erosion, uncertain changes over time
- This results in societal problems, including:
  - Decrease in flood protection
  - Loss of nature reserve
  - Loss of recreational area
- Interventions may include: dredging and nourishments to stimulate shoal attachment to the island
- Uneven distrubution of costs and benefits.

# Texel, the Netherlands

#### Approach

- To design and apply a co-design process
- To start early interactions with the stakeholder community and experts to derive a more optimal design of interventions to solve erosion problems on the adjacent shorelines.
- Stepping away from citizen tokenism and stakeholder consultation to citizen power, by putting **emphasis on social values** and system understanding.



# Application in three rounds

## Round 1: with 17 local stakeholders & 5 professionals

a.o. nature-lovers, municipa employees, recreationists, restaurant owners, with place-based knowledge related to Texel. Experts shared scientific information on governance, ecology and the physical system.

Aim: To create shared system understanding, elicit (stakeholder) values.

#### Round 2: with 14 experts and professionals.

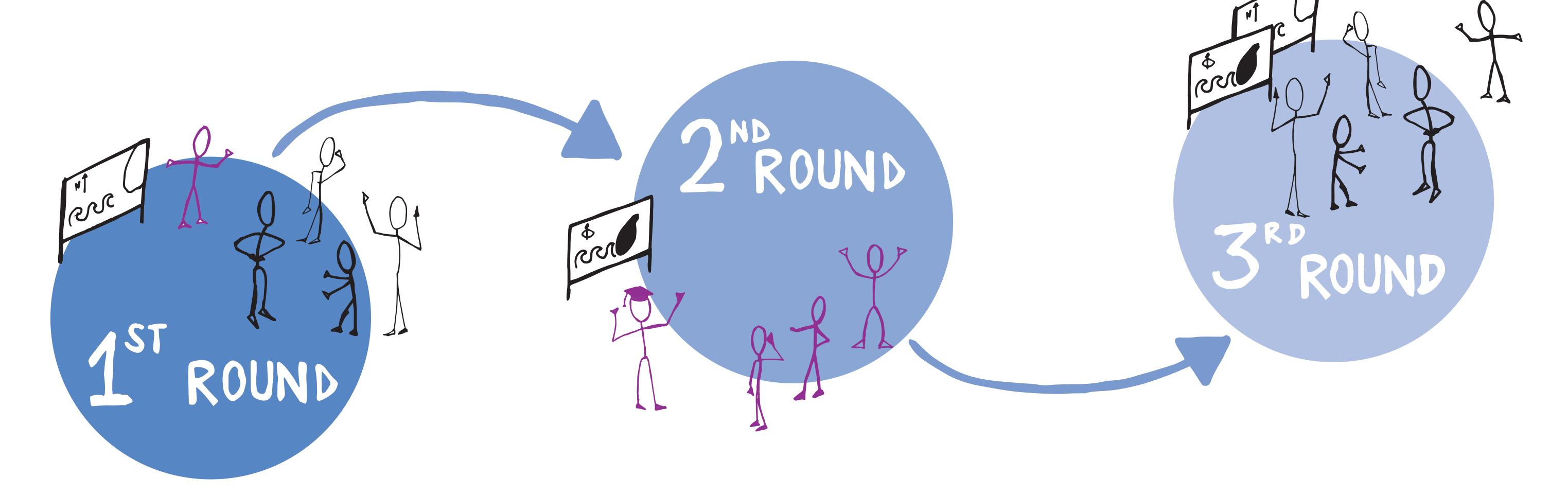
a.o. engineers, coastal managers and governance specialists with a variety of knowledge related to water and the (Dutch) coast.

Aim: To generate alternative designs starting from the values of stakeholders

#### Round 3: with 14 local stakeholders

The same participants from round 1 were invited.

Aim: To validate the value-based designs, content and process from previous rounds.



#### **Emphasis round 1**:

#### Design utopian and dystopian futures

- 1. Related to uncertainty in the future developments of the coastal system
- 2. Knowledge sharing between scientists and stakeholders

## **Emphasis round 2**:

## Designing packages of integrated coastal management strategies

- 1. Starting from the revealed value dimensions of local stakeholders into account (round 1).
- 2. Generated designs potentially used the natural channel-shoal dynamics of south Texel, and the futures from round 1.

### **Emphasis round 3**:

#### 2-way feedback between participants and researchers

- 1. Recognition of distilled value dimensions (from round 1)
- 2. Stakeholder validation of coastal management strategies (from round 2).

## Conclusions

### Outcomes round 1

What local stakeholders (don't) want, and their **underlying values** (primary components based on participants' ranking of the designed futures).

#### **Outcomes round 2**

Agreement on importance of integration: "The challenge is not the technology, because physical solutions are already here. The main challenge lies in the social system."

#### **Outcomes round 3**

Participants recognized their values and preferences in the distilled values and "value dilemmas". However, participants were less satisfied with the coastal management strategies from round 2. The process failed to produce an implementable set of strategies.

#### What worked...

is-the-limit)

- ✓ Building trust with local stakeholders. They appreciated the process, felt included and their input was valued:
- ✓ by making the local stakeholder views the starting point
- ✓ by giving them autonomy and opportunities to exit the process
- experts in role and task

  ✓ by allowing plenty of freedom in the designs (sky-

✓ by separating local stakeholders and professional

- ✓ by having "neutral" facilitators
- ✓ Local stakeholders were able to understand shortand long-term consequences in a complex coastal system.
- ✓ Acknowledgement of time scale uncertainty
- ✓ Acknowledgement of uneven distribution of costs and benefits

#### ... and did not work:

- Professional experts felt hindered by the unusual starting point of stakeholder values.
- Next iteriations may involve stakeholder representatives in round 2.
- Collaboration in interdisciplinary expert teams proved to be challenging for designing integrated strategies.

## Further research steps:

- 1. Elicitation of generic aspects of co-design in coastal systems, potentially by cross-comparing with experiences in international exemplars.
- 2. Identification of site- and context-specific aspects of collaborative design-in-action approaches
- 3. Exploration of existing dilemmas in underlying stakeholder values, which can be mapped and are recognized.