

Dear {{voornaam}},

This is the Scientists4Future NL newsletter of June 2020, this month coordinated by S4F Team Nijmegen. Please consider forwarding this newsletter to a friend or colleague. If this email has been forwarded to you and you'd like to join our mailing list, please [click here](#). To unsubscribe, use the link at the bottom of this email.

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Eurasian coots in the river Rotte use urban plastic pollution to cosy up their nests. Rotterdam, 15-06-2020. © Imke Visser

Editorial Scientists4Future Nijmegen

Dear readers,

We're halfway through June and leave the summer's prelude and, with it, the breeding season for many species of birds behind us. We're also entering the year's driest months again. In the Netherlands, the Royal Dutch Institute for Meteorology (KNMI) already registered record-high droughts in some parts of the country and water company Vitens asked its recipients to cut down on water use. Of course, now that we're all forced to work from home, domestic water usage has increased significantly and will continue to put stress on the potable water supply for months to come. In fact, in our changing climate, droughts become more recurring and have an increasing impact on our daily life. We highlight recent findings of the KNMI in this newsletter.

In the middle of the #BlackLivesMatter demonstrations, we realize more than ever that striving for true equality is an extremely multifaceted problem. And right now, the growing demand for and inadequate distribution of access to potable water is adding to this inequality. Today, this inadequacy is often perceived as an issue restricted to low-GDP countries which already contradicts one fundamental human right: the access to clean water for everyone. However, as our climate changes, affluent countries may soon find themselves facing similar challenges.

Such messages give us the incentive to rethink our attitude towards potable water. Should we be flushing our toilets, nourishing our gardens, and washing our dishes with pristine drinking water? And what are the alternatives? How do we make the change to fair and more sustainable water management? If you want to start small, look into the plethora of rainwater collection systems for home use. You can find them cheap, expensive, simple, fancy, filtered, or unfiltered but most importantly, they provide you with an alternative to wasteful use of drinking water.

Happy water saving!
S4F Team Nijmegen

We stand united against racism and injustice

In the midst of ongoing racism and at a time of deep division in society, the Scientists4Future NL community reaffirms its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusivity in the sciences, and in actively creating and supporting a community that reflects this commitment.

We take this moment to emphasise that "climate change will amplify existing risks and create new risks for natural and human systems. Risks are unevenly distributed and are generally greater for disadvantaged people and communities in countries at all levels of development" [1]. We stress that racism is an institutional construct that continues to lurk within our university institutions [2]. ([View the full statement](#))

Survey: how can we best reach you?

After the recent [Online Climate Strike](#), S4F-NL wondered why so few of our fellow scientist joined us in this action. Lack of time? No interest? Not enough information? Hence, we designed a survey with which we would like to learn more about how to best engage with our followers, i.e. the scientific community. The results will allow us to streamline our efforts in informing you about our activities. We invite you to take 5 minutes of your time to answer our questions. [Take me to the survey](#).

KNMI finds regional differences in drought trends in the Netherlands



In [a recent article](#) by the KNMI and University of Utrecht, researchers found regional differences in drought trends in the Netherlands. We asked the first author [Sjoukje Philip](#) to comment on these findings:

Dry summers such as the one in 2018 happen more often now in the Netherlands inland than in the past, due to climate change. This is the conclusion that emerged from recent research [1] jointly conducted by KNMI and University of Utrecht. In the Netherlands drought tendency is officially monitored at KNMI by assessing the balance in precipitation and (potential) evaporation over the months April to September. In this study, Apr-Sep averaged trends in precipitation potential evaporation and temperature observations are analysed, and, where possible, an attribution to climate change was performed, comparing climate conditions around 1950 to now. New in this study is that the Netherlands is divided into two regions: the coastal region and the inland region. In earlier research the climate change signal in drought had been concealed due to country-wide averaging and internal cancellation of signals, although trends in precipitation were known to be different in these regions [2,3].

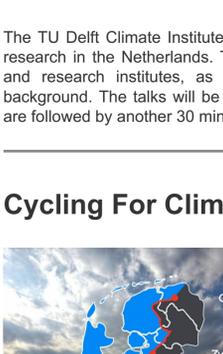
Accordingly, the new study finds a trend towards more Apr-Sep precipitation in the coastal region but no significant trend inland. As can be expected, temperature and potential evaporation are increasing in both regions, however, these trends are stronger in the inland region. Both lack of precipitation and evaporation play a role in drought, such that in the inland region there is a trend towards Apr-Sep averaged drying, driven by trends in temperature and potential evaporation, whereas in the coastal region no significant trend in drying is evident because of increasing summer precipitation.

Climate models indicate that the inland trends in temperature and potential evaporation can be attributed to climate change, although models show a lower trend in temperature than observations. For the inland region this means that we can formally at least partly attribute the trend towards more drought to climate change. In the coastal area, climate models do not reproduce a trend towards more precipitation and are thus incompatible with observations, with the implication that no formal attribution statement can be made.

European Commission consults the public on EU2030 climate ambitions

The European Commission is carrying out an online public consultation, inviting stakeholders and citizens to express their view on the EU 2030 climate ambition increase and on the action and policy design necessary for deeper greenhouse gas emission reductions. The information is gathered via the online form but one can also submit concise position papers, policy briefs, sectoral roadmaps, or studies. The online consultation will be open until June 23rd, 2020 ([more information](#)).

Get those tiles out of your garden!



"Get those tiles out of your garden!" With this cry, the Rotterdam municipality introduced a financial support program for residents to remove tiles from their garden. Currently, the average garden in the Netherlands is packed with tiles. They are low in maintenance, but not very sustainable. During summer these places absorb significantly more heat. Compared to gardens with a lot of vegetation, this can differ with up to 7°C. Secondly, during downpours, which are expected to occur more often in the future, insufficient water drainage leads to regular flooding of streets and basements. This green subsidy can provide a proper solution to both of these major issues. Several other municipalities also initiated subsidy programs to make your garden a greener place. Do you want to see whether your municipality participates? Check [this website](#).

Out of your comfort zone: Wikiversity is looking for your input

Are you interested in "super wicked problems"? Are you an expert in a discipline related to the environmental crisis, including psychology, economy, or otherwise? The [Wikiversity.org](#) community is looking for input and testers of the 'problem analysis' templates. The idea is to collaboratively draft environmental emergency plans which not only combat the effects of problems but also propose fundamental changes. The templates invite to state causes of a problem (down to the root cause), formulate and reconsider the goal to be reached if the problem would be solved, and propose and discuss measures to reach that goal. ([template information](#)).

Truly interdisciplinary: RE-PEAT festival

RE-PEAT is a new youth-led project that draws attention to the ecological and cultural value of peatlands. **Re-Peat is collating an anthology** of individual stories, drawings, poems and images that describe personal connections to peatlands to be sent to the Members of European Parliament before the upcoming Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) meeting later this summer. Currently, the CAP offers subsidies to farmers who practise drainage-based agriculture but does not provide subsidies for farmers who want to grow 'wet' crops on restored peat.



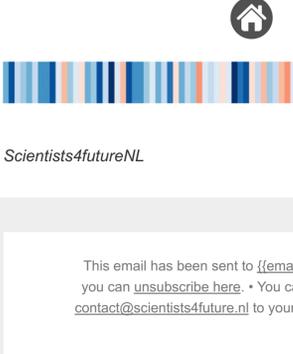
Recently, Re-Peat held an interdisciplinary **24-hr global online peat festival**. Amazing peatland art practices, photographs, scientific & policy discussions, field demonstrations, and live reports from peat bogs from every inhabited continent made this a wonderfully mesmerising experience. If you missed it, recordings will be available online. We are looking forward to a re-peat!

Re-Peat website: [re-peat.earth](#)
Peat-fest recordings: <https://re-peat.mn.co/feed>
Anthology submissions: info@re-peat.earth
Contact for more info: t.j.r.lippmann@vu.nl

Webinars on sea level research in the Netherlands

The TU Delft Climate Institute is organizing a series of webinars about the ongoing sea level research in the Netherlands. The webinars target (under-)graduate students, fellow scientists, and research institutes, as well as anyone interested with a scientific and/or technical background. The talks will be held via Zoom. Presentations will last for about 30 minutes and are followed by another 30 minutes of public discussion ([more information](#)).

Cycling For Climate: discover our new coastline



According to the predictions of the Dutch Meteorological Institute, the sea level will rise anywhere between 26 to 83 cm at the end of this century. This will have major consequences for the Netherlands and may significantly shift our coastline. To draw attention to these consequences of climate change, the participants of the Cycling For Climate event will cycle along this metaphorical and imaginary new coastline of the Netherlands, covering a distance of almost 400 km in one day. An impressive feat to show the strength of cooperation, speed, and perseverance. [More information](#).

MIT launches climate primer website

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) published a website visualizing the [climate primer](#) written by Prof. Kerry Emanuel. [The website](#) summarizes the most important lines of evidence for human-caused climate change. Moreover, it confronts the stickier question about uncertainty in our projections, engages in a discussion of risk and risk management, and concludes by presenting different options for taking action. It even contains a quiz to test your own knowledge. Basing the website on facts rather than politics, the authors express the hope that the presented facts prepare the reader for more effective conversations with their community about values, trade-offs, politics, and actions ([more information](#)).

A closed restaurant in New York displays the sign: "We're all in this together - sign here to support the community." Photo: [Anthony Quintano](#) (CC BY 2.0)

Climate outreach during COVID-19

Climate advocates should consciously think about how the corona crisis changes climate change communication, both in terms of timing and sensitivity. What does the evidence say about how to best engage audiences? A UK charitable company called "Climate Outreach" has looked into this and summarized their key findings in a 10-principle guide as well as a webinar. Find both of these materials on their website ([more information](#)).

Upcoming events

- **June 19, 2020** - Utrecht University webinar: [Tim Lenton](#) (University of Exeter) "Tipping points change to avoid climate tipping points". ([more information](#))
- **June 22, 2020** - Cycling For Climate Classic ([more information](#))
- **June 25, 2020** - Sea level research webinar: [David Steffebauer](#) (TU Delft) "Detecting non-linear sea level variations in the Dutch tide gauge record" ([more information](#))
- **June 29 & 30, 2020** - Astronomy for Future: development, global citizenship, and climate action. ([more information](#))
- **July 9, 2020** - Sea level research webinar: [Tim Hermans](#) (NIOZ) "Ocean dynamical downscaling for regional sea level change projections" ([more information](#))

Local groups

Currently, there local groups active in Amsterdam, Delft, Nijmegen, and Utrecht. If you wish to get involved (or start your own local group) [contact us](#) and we'll get back to you shortly.

Finally, check out our [website](#), or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#) where we will be sharing national and international news regarding the role of scientists in times of the climate crisis.

Local S4F-NL groups
Adapted from [original](#)

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