

Stakeholder dialogue on long-term climate policy

Experience and lessons from the Netherlands

Dr. Marleen van de Kerkhof

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Institute for Environmental Studies

Presentation for the Low-carbon society scenario towards 2050 symposium

24 March 2005



The Institute for Environmental Studies

- Oldest academic environmental research institute in the NL
- About 120 scientists and support staff
- Multidisciplinary research
- Participatory integrated assessments on climate, energy, water, hydrogen

Outline talk

- Definition of stakeholder dialogue
- The Dutch context for dialogue
- Two dialogue examples: COOL and HOT
- Pitfalls and factors for success
- The Dutch model in Japan?

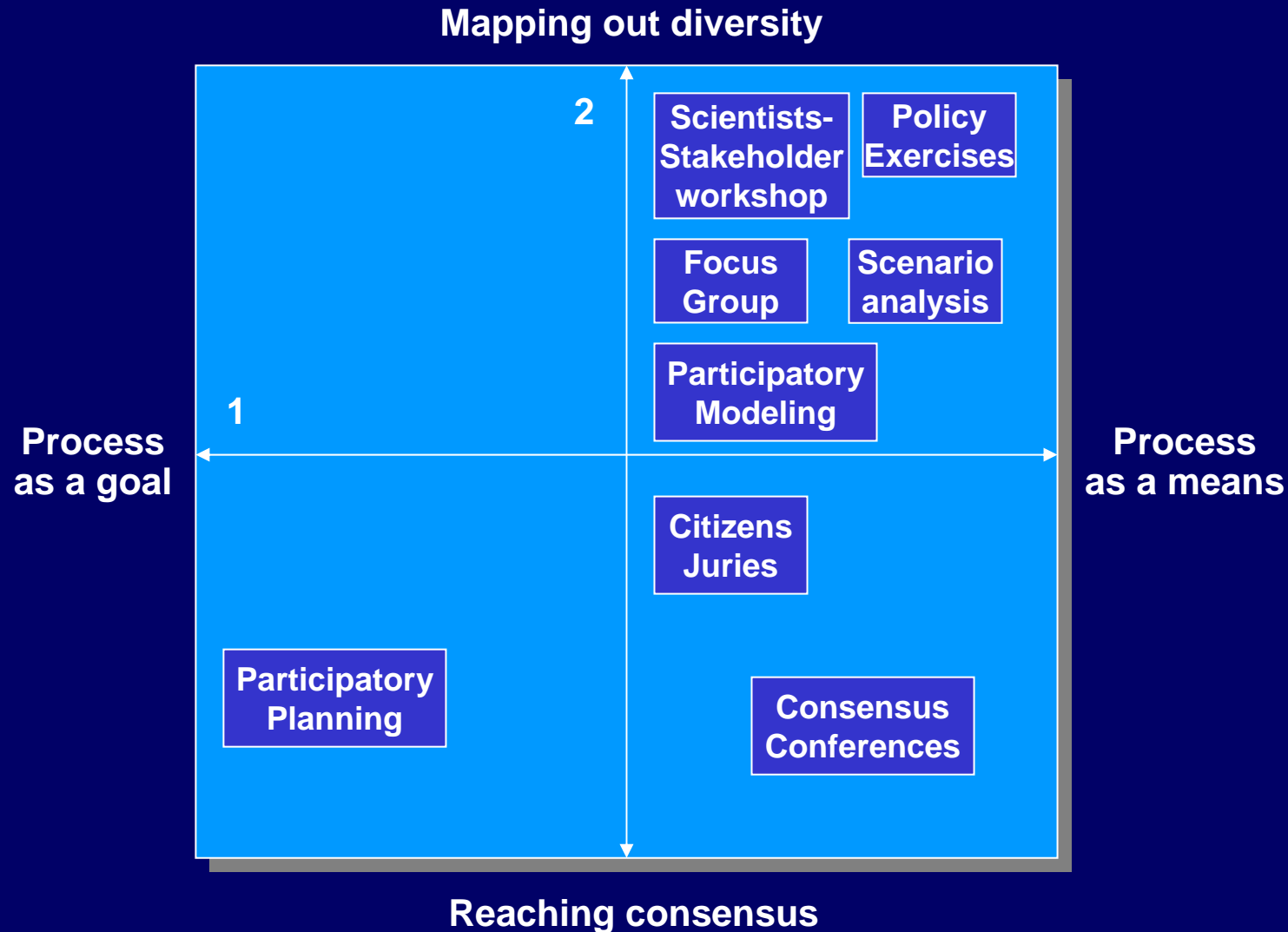
Definition of stakeholder dialogue

- Scientists, policy makers and actors from society
- Interaction and debate
- Outcomes are advice to decision makers
- Exploring preferences and value judgments with regard to policy options and targets
- Focus on deliberation not negotiation
- Consensus not necessary

Why stakeholder dialogue?

- Climate change is a complex problem
- Scientists can only make educated guesses
- Preferences for targets, policy options and acceptability of risks always include value judgment
- Value judgments and disagreements often insufficiently articulated
- Generate support for climate policy

Typology of goals and methods for participation



(Van Asselt en Rijkens-Klomp, 2001)

The Dutch climate for dialogue

- Netherlands are below sea level
- Corporatism and consensus orientation
- Negotiation and consultation institutionalized in environmental policy
- Kyoto targets



Two dialogue examples: COOL and HOT

- COOL - Climate OptiOns for the Long term

Suppose we aim for 80% reduction of GHG emissions by the year 2050, what needs to be done to achieve this?

- HOT - Helping Operationalize Article Two

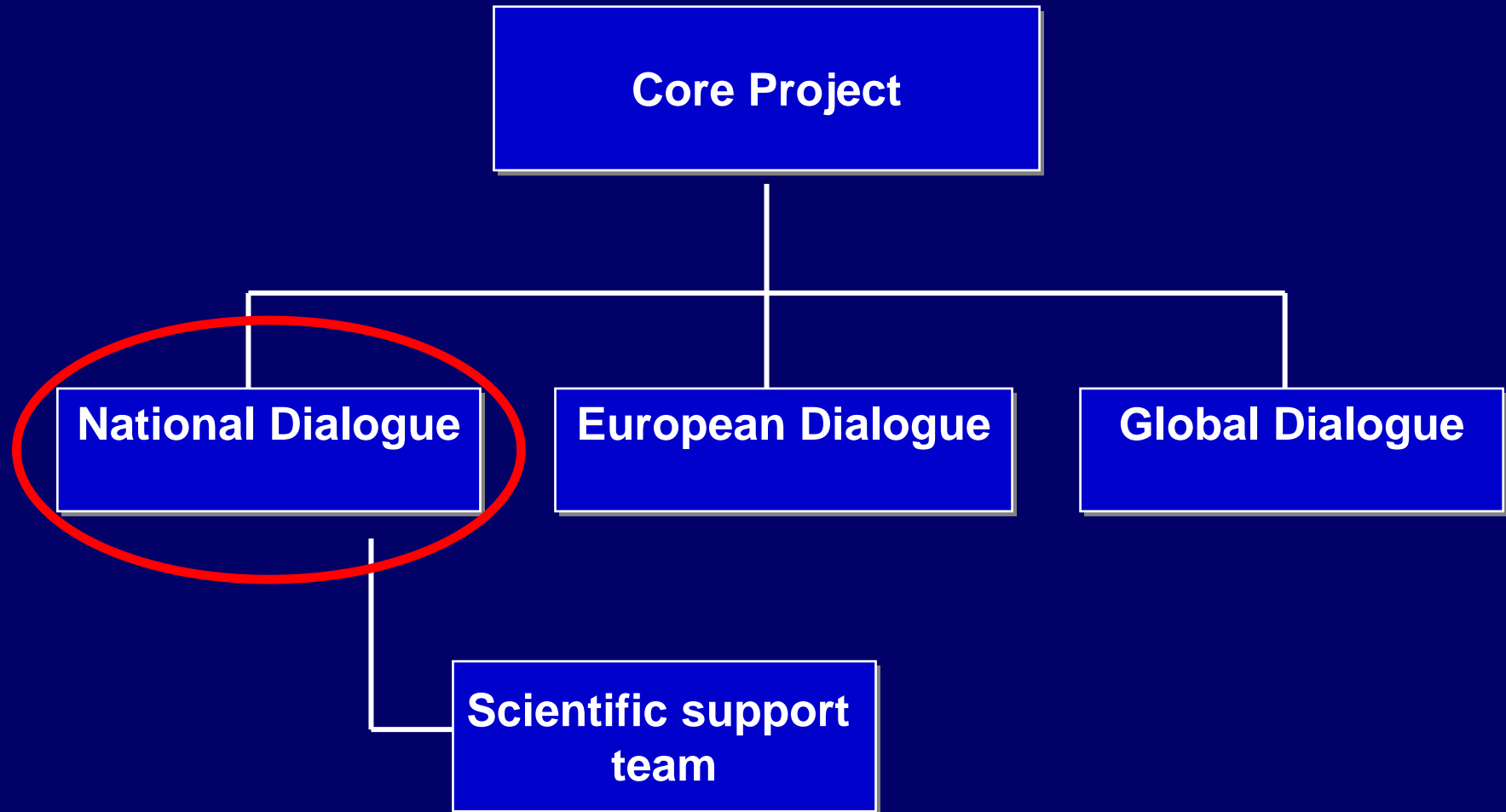
What are dangerous and non-dangerous levels of anthropogenic interference with the climate system?

The COOL project



- Strategic insights for climate policy
- Dialogue at three different levels
- Four sectors of Dutch economy
- A 'What if' exercise
- 80% reduction by 2050 as working hypothesis
- Exploration of different options

The COOL Dialogues



The COOL project



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Phasing of the National Dialogue

Phase 1 (8m)

Preparation of dialogue

- Interviews
- Dialogue design
- Scientific input

Phase 2 (18m)

The actual dialogue

- Future images
- Response options to climate change
- Criteria for climate policy
- Long-term policy strategy

Phase 3 (6m)

Evaluation of the dialogue

- Content
- Process

Outcomes of the COOL dialogue

- 80% reduction imaginable, but..
 - In some sectors easier than in others
 - Moderate optimism about state of technology
 - Technologies that are needed are also controversial
 - Doubts about the social acceptance of the required policies
 - Strong government needed
- Business companies recognize need for action
- Need for consistent government policy
- Dialogue appropriate tool to mobilize stakeholder knowledge

The HOT project

- Dialogue to further articulate Article 2 of the UNFCCC
- Discuss acceptable and unacceptable climate change impacts
- Develop indicators for 'dangerous levels of climate change'
- Dialogue is not negotiation

Article 2 of the UNFCCC

The ultimate objective of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, the **stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations** in the atmosphere at a level that would **prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference** with the climate system. **Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt** naturally to climate change, to ensure that **food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner**

Phase I of the HOT project

Understand what is/are:

- Key issues in Article 2
- Main knowledge gaps
- Importance of Article 2
- Need for dialogue
- Potential indicators for dangerous climate change

Activities:

- Questionnaires in the four regions
- Four regional workshops

Outcomes of HOT Phase I

Examples of indicators

- **Water**

Availability of drinking water, rainfall variation, frequency of flooding and droughts, ice sheet stability

- **Food**

Area suitable for agriculture, tons of food production, productivity of a specific crop

- **Biodiversity**

No. of exotic and native species, migration of species, frequency of coral bleaching, sea level rise, glacier retreats, impacts of extreme events

- **Health**

Mortality, risk exposure, environmental risks

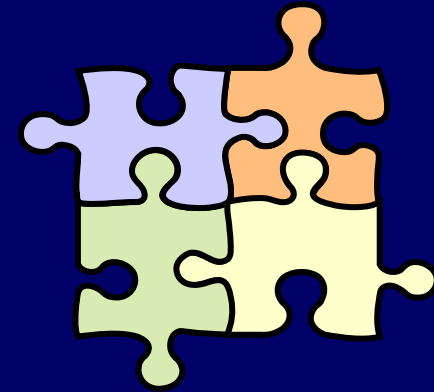
Pitfalls for the dialogue approach

- Lack of policy support
- Lack of urgency of the problem
- Hierarchies and power issues
- Not all relevant parties want to participate
- Different levels of knowledge
- Ambitions too high



Factors for a successful dialogue

- Create a sense of urgency
- Gain political support for the process
- Good preparation is crucial
- Get people's trust and commitment
- Create atmosphere of openness and learning
- A series of workshops to create continuity
- Give ownership to the participants
- Be clear about the ambitions of the process



The Dutch model in Japan?

- Sense of urgency high
- Japan made huge efforts for the Kyoto negotiations
- Stakeholder approach less common in Japanese climate policy
- Differences seem to be huge, but have these been sufficiently articulated?
- Dialogue can mobilize stakeholder knowledge for Japanese climate policy