Strategic planning and futuring
Climate change and its prospected impacts pushes us to rethink planning beyond normal cycles of government planning for sustainable development (of river basins, deltas, regions, countries). Strategic plans set out development directions in the perspective of a long-time frame (e.g. 50+ years). Strategic plans cover a variety of policy domains. Strategic plans require to include the uncertainty of the long-time perspective, and thus be adaptive, but also give guidance to decision makers to develop towards the desired situation. In this course you will learn on various concepts and participatory tools relevant for developing long term strategic plans: systems analysis, stakeholder analysis, contextual scenario, strategic scenario analysis, adaptive planning/management and adaptation pathways, strategic environmental assessment, and design charrettes. The module is more focused on developing skills in applying participatory planning tools. Students will be, based on a specific case in the Netherlands, develop a strategic plan. The students will visit the area, talk/interview with various stakeholders, and present their ideas/strategic plans to local officials. In the course professionals who have been involved in developing strategic plans are invited to share their experiences with the students and explain how to put theory into practice. After a common part, students then will apply these concepts and approaches in case studies related to their thematic track.

In the Water Hazards, Risks and Climate track e.g. cases of delta planning, and urbanizing deltas.

In the Water Resources and Ecosystem Health track e.g. cases of river basin planning.