Rijkswaterstaat
Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

Major Projects and maintenance

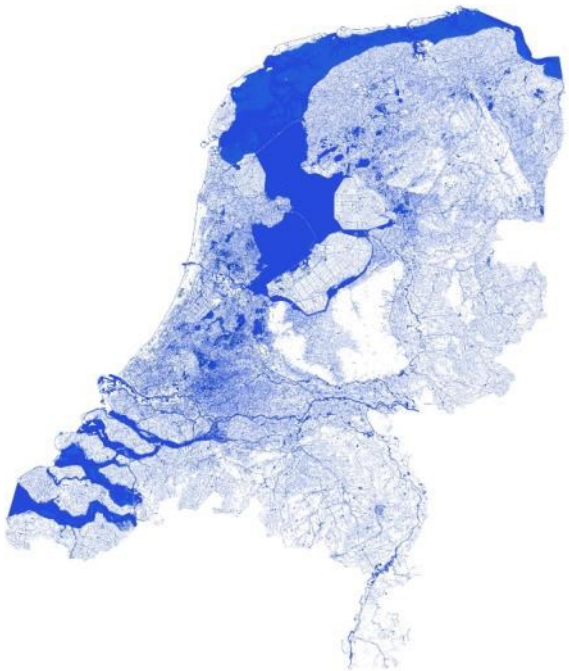
Room for the River

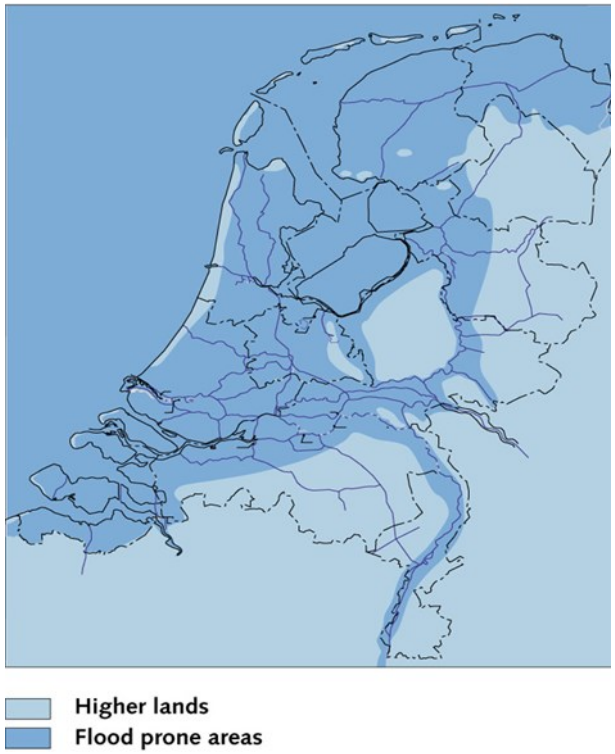
Martin Hoenderkamp
Director realization

Agenda

- In The Netherlands water is a part of our lives
- Room for the River program
- Process of planning and implementation
- Communication
- Governance
- Lessons learned

Water in The Netherlands



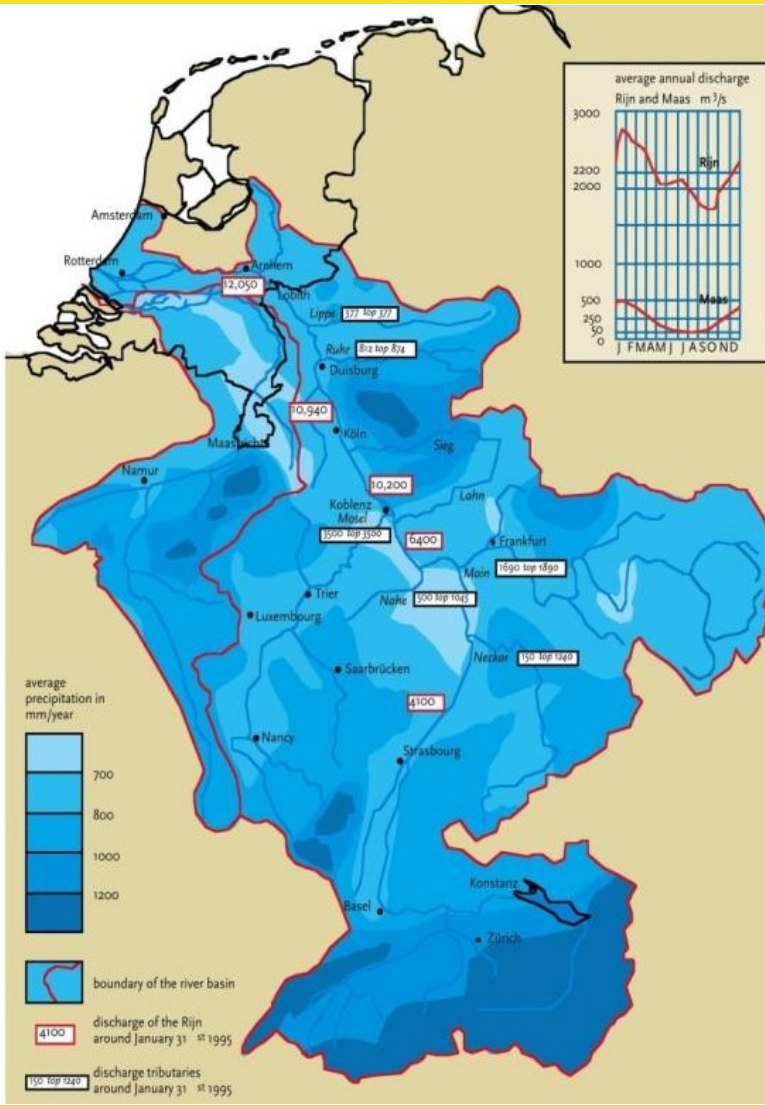


Over 50% of Dutch people live below sea level

Water in The Netherlands

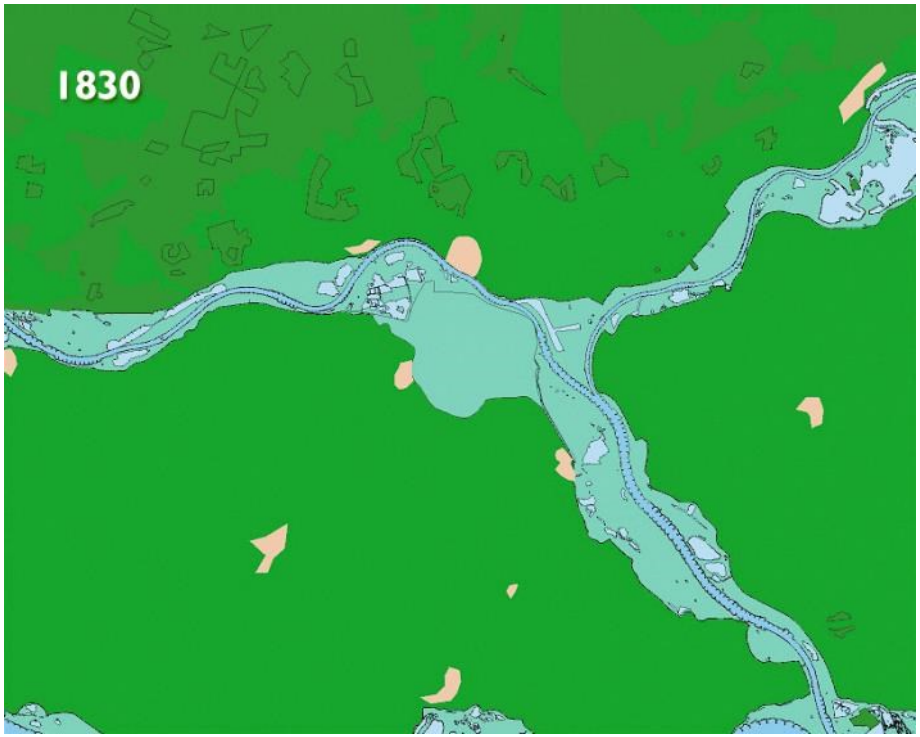
Catchment area of the
Rhine and the Meuse

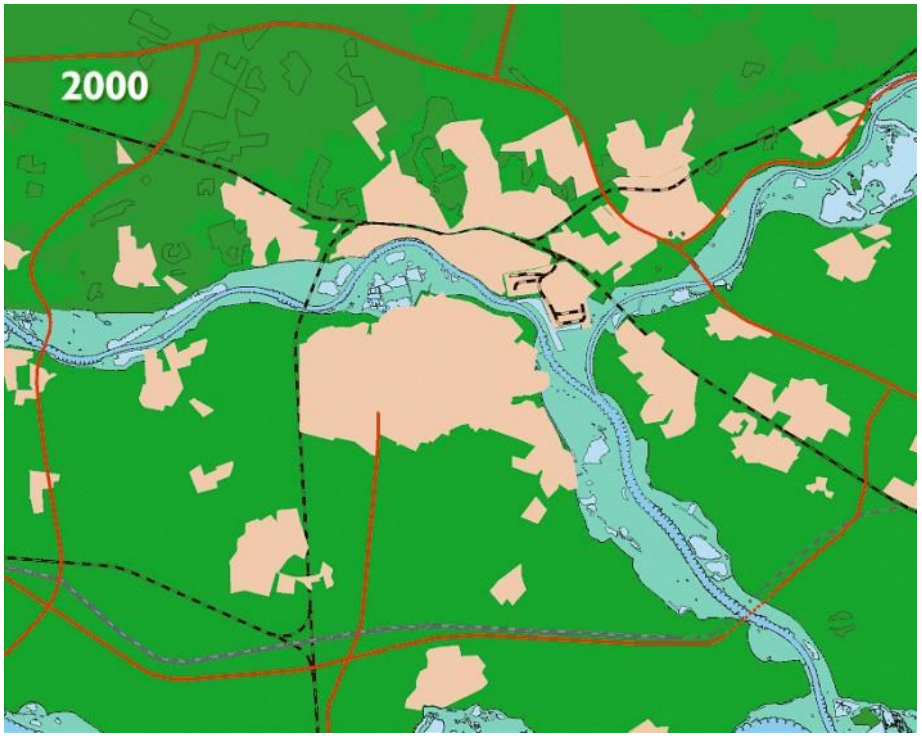
Discharge at Lobith	
Average	2,200 m^3/s
Top	12,000 m^3/s
Peak	16,000 m^3/s (1/1250 per year)



Water in The Netherlands

Urbanization has resulted in less and less space for water





Water in The Netherlands

Serious flood risks in ‘93 and ‘95
Damage and evacuations

Water in The Netherlands

Things have gone far enough

Time for a new approach to flood protection (2000):

- Continuing to raise dikes is not an option
- Rivers must have more space or the space they once had

Result: lower water levels

Room for the River program

Double goal

1. Safety

To upgrade the protection against floods in the river basin to the required level

2. Spatial quality

Making a contribution to the improvement of the spatial quality of the river basin area.

Room for the River program

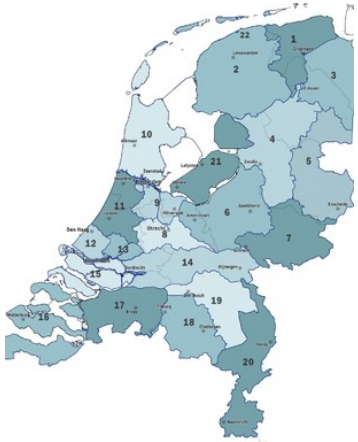
Characteristics

- Discharge of 16,000 m^3 at Lobith
- 34 projects
- Investment of € 2,5 billion
- Work completed in 2015 / 2017
- Design and implementation by local authorities

Process of planning and implementation

Exploration & Identification phase

Involvement of authorities



Ministries: 2 Provinces: 6 Municipalities: 60 Waterboards: 12

And countless other stakeholders: Inhabitants, farmers, nature organizations etc.

Room for the River principles

Strengthening dikes

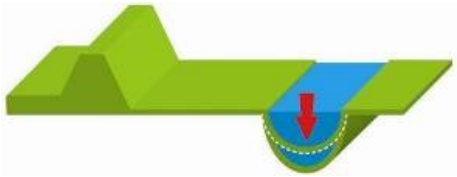
Dyke relocation

Depoldering

Lowering of floodplains

Lowering groynes

Deepening summer bed

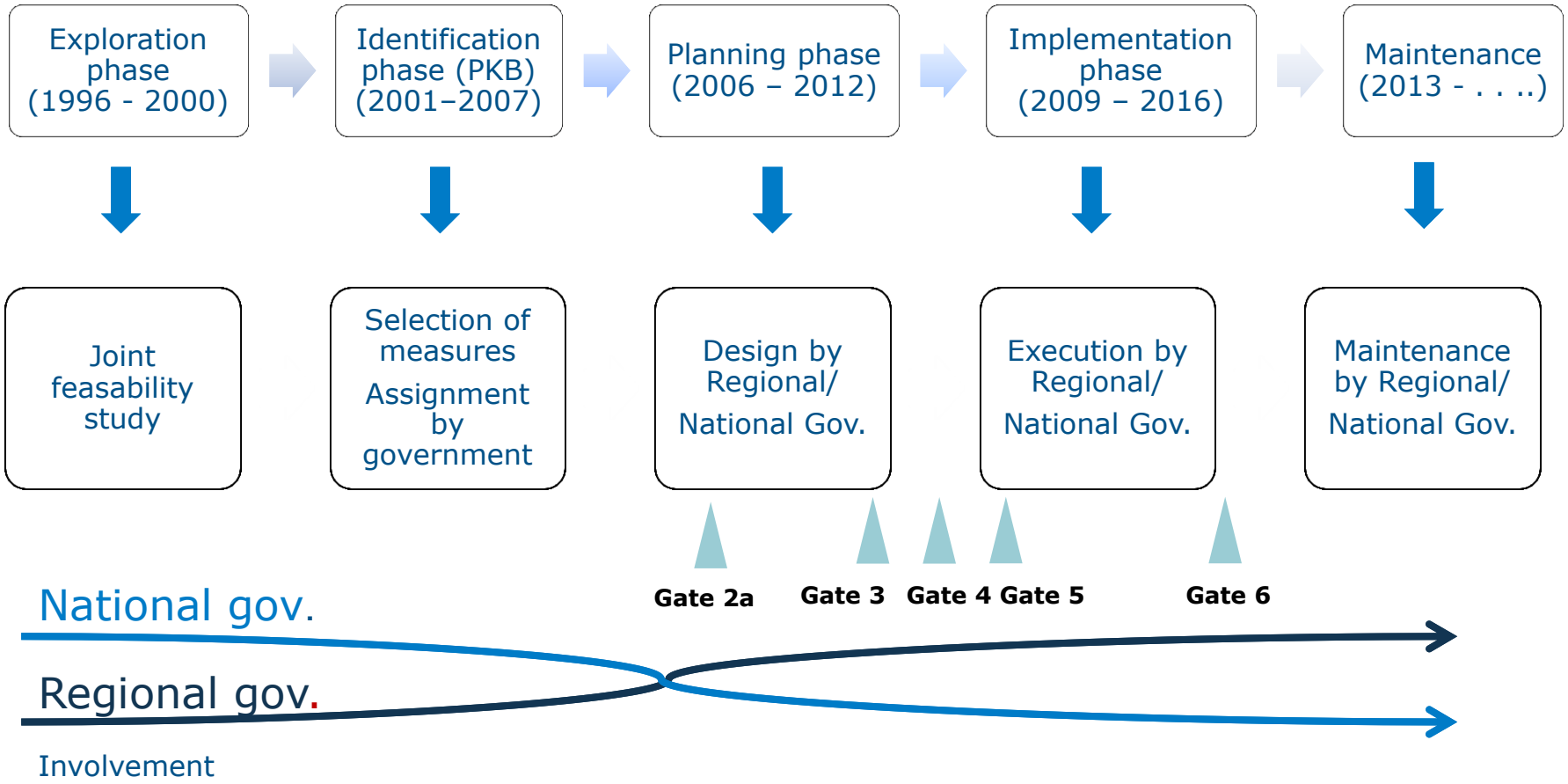


High-water channel

Removing obstacles

Water storage

Process of planning and implementation



Understanding of alternative measures

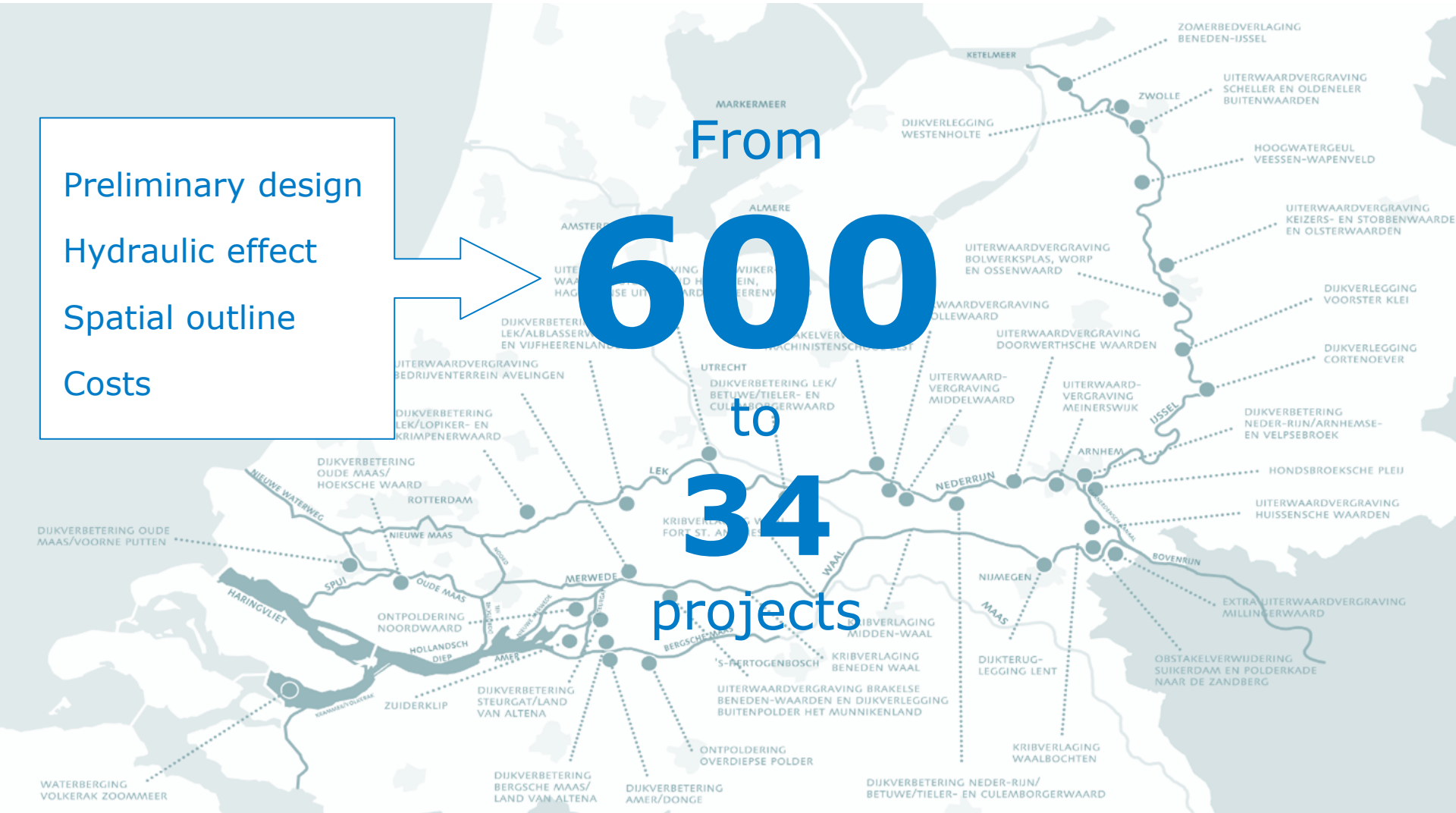
Preliminary design

Hydraulic effect

Spatial outline

Costs

From **600** to **34** projects



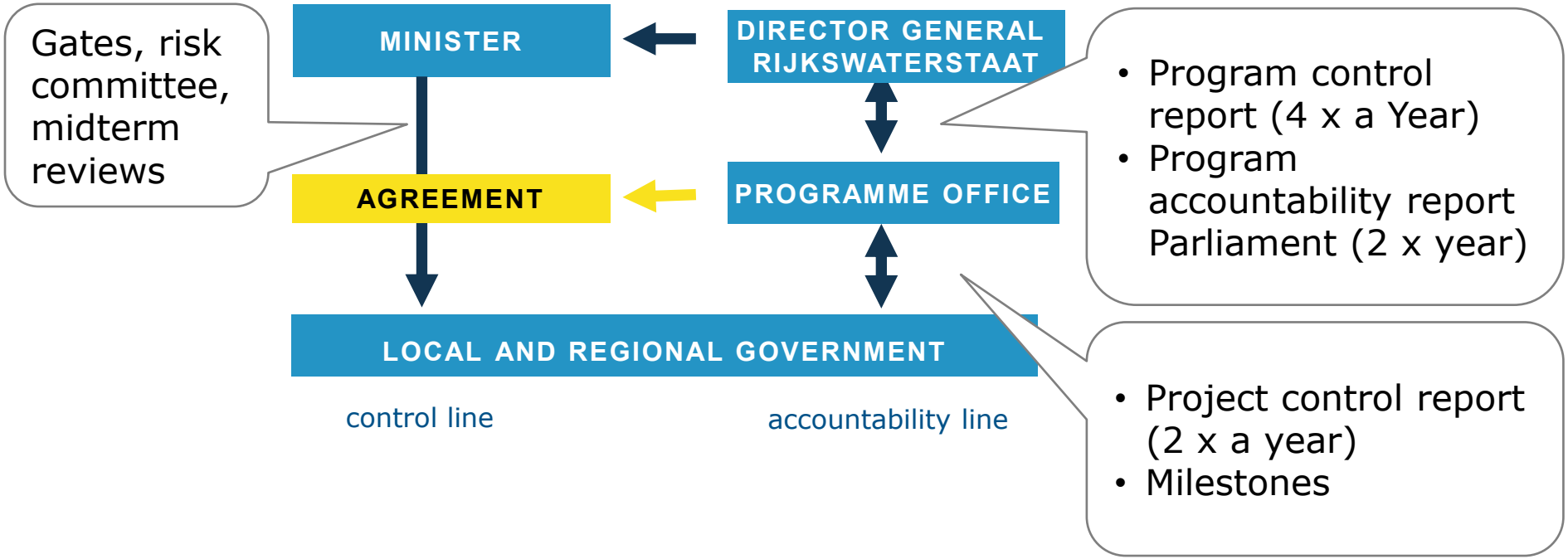
Design process

Planning and implementation

Water fronts	→	Municipalities
Floodplain measures/ Dike relocation	→	Water authorities
Main river measures	→	Rijkswaterstaat
Program management	→	Room for the River

Planning and implementation

Control, accountability and steering



Programme bureau guiding principles

Overall direction

- Control
- Risk management

Governance

- Relation management
- Education
- Facilitation

Yin and yang

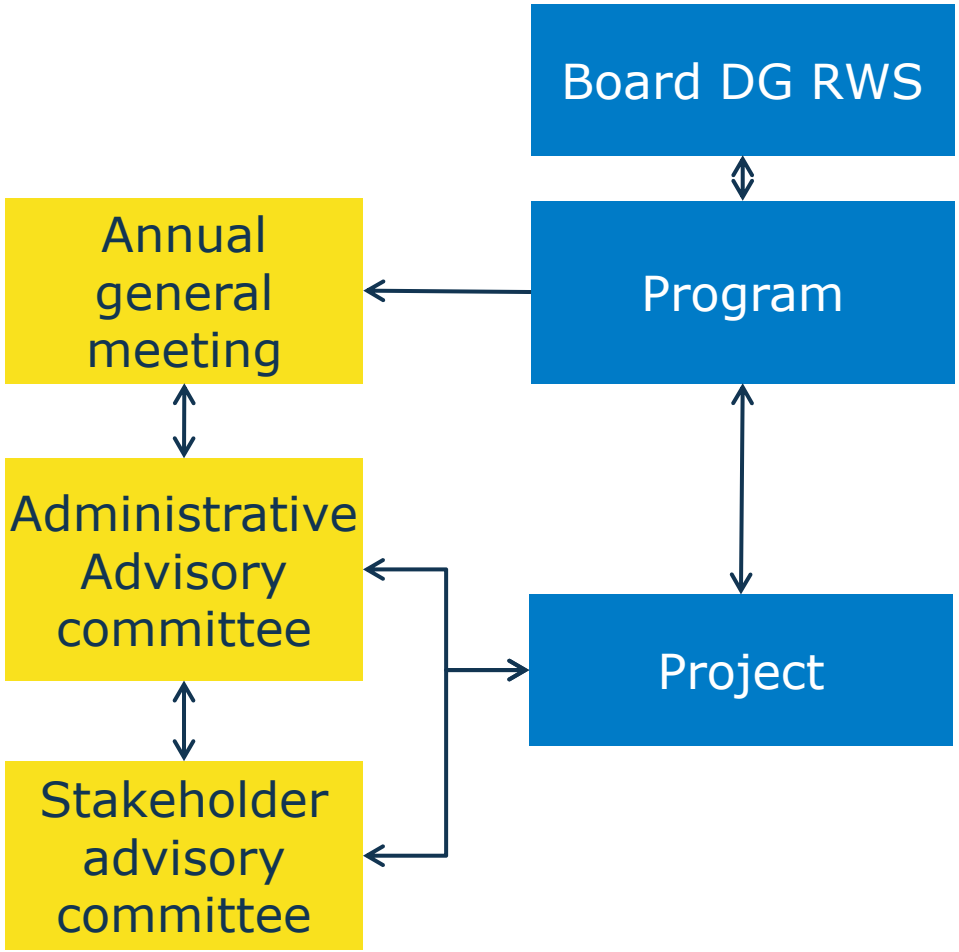
- River branch managers

Communication

- Open
- Transparant
- Inviting

More than 5.000 followers

Governance

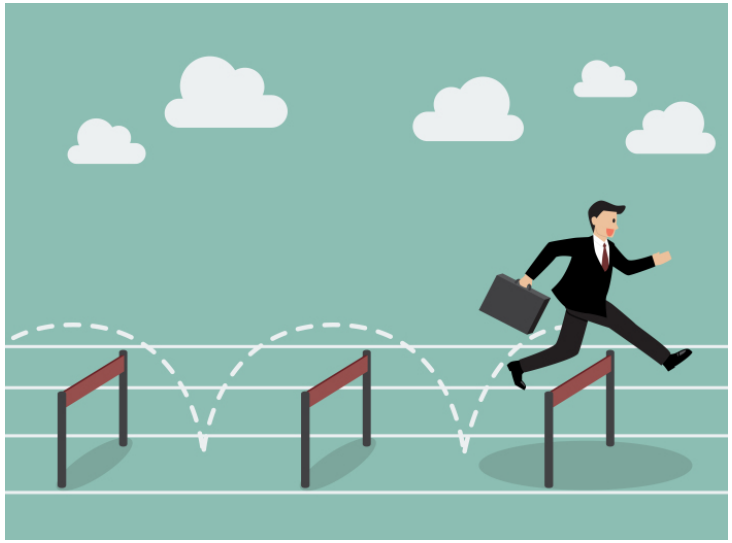

Board DG RWS
Program
Annual general meeting
Administrative Advisory committee
Project
Stakeholder advisory committee

Lessons learned: Governance

- The double goal -> support for the program
- Inspiring ambition and integrated design in strong collaboration with local demands
- National ambition moves to background
- Decentralize when possible (tight control vs. space)
- Knowledge exchange between projects

Lessons learned: Governance (2)

- Apply open and trustworthy administrative style.
- Create a frontman above the parties
- Managerial trust has a civil basis
- Steer and facilitate on achieving planning -> use milestones
- Stakeholder management



Thank you for your attention.
Any questions?