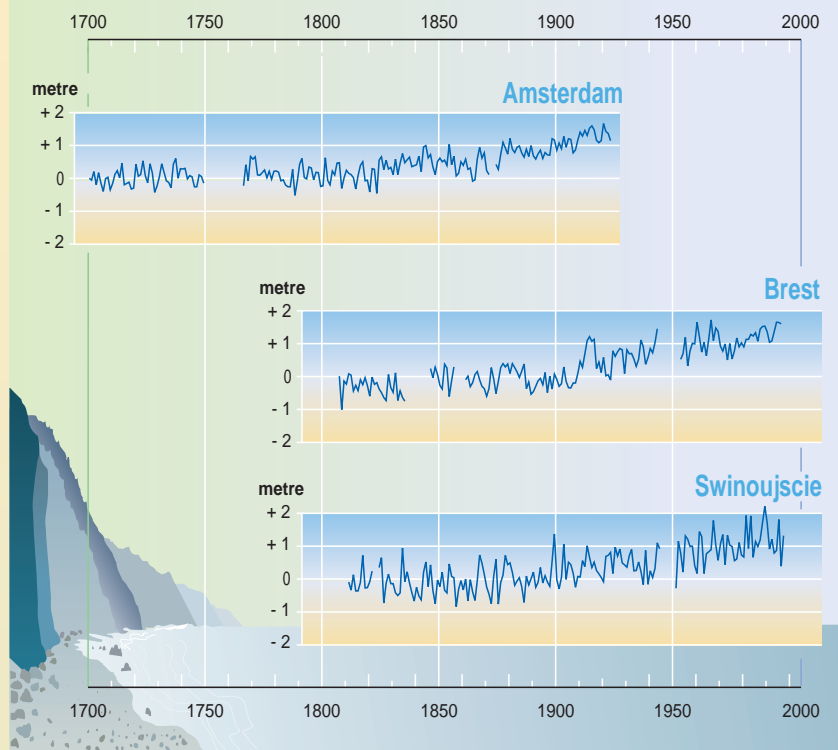


The Rising Sea

Estimations and Predictions of Our Changing Sea Levels

Relative Sea Level Over the Past 300 Years



Possible Scenarios

A1FI, A1T and A1B

The A1 scenario family describes a future of rapid economic growth, a global population that peaks in the middle of the 21st century and then declines, and the rapid introduction of new and more efficient technologies. The major underlying themes are convergence among regions, capacity-building, and increased cultural and social interaction, with a substantial reduction in regional differences in per capita incomes. The A1 scenario family develops into three groups with alternative directions of technological change according to their energy systems: fossil intensive (A1FI), non-fossil energy sources (A1T), or a balance of both (A1B).

A2

The A2 scenario describes a heterogeneous world, with underlying themes of self-reliance and the preservation of local identities. Fertility patterns slowly converge across the regions, resulting in a continuously increasing population. Economic development is primarily regionally oriented and per capita economic growth and technological change are more fragmented and slower than the other scenarios.

B1

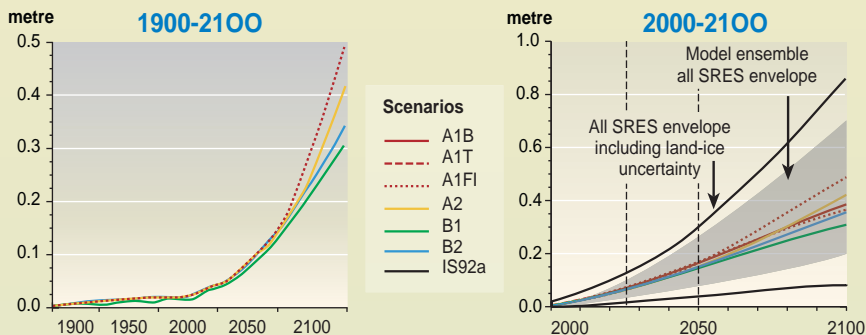
The B1 scenario describes a convergent world with a population that peaks in mid-century and declines thereafter (as in A1), but with rapid change in economic structures towards a more service and information oriented economy, with reductions in material intensity and the introduction of clean and resource-efficient technologies. The emphasis is on global solutions for economic, social and environmental sustainability, including improved equity, but without additional climate initiatives.

B2

The B2 scenario describes a world in which the emphasis is on local solutions for economic, social and environmental sustainability. It is a world with a continuously increasing population (at a rate lower than A2), intermediate levels of economic development, and less rapid and more diverse technological change than in the B1 and A1 scenarios. While the scenario is also oriented towards environmental protection and social equity, such initiatives are primarily focused at local and regional levels.

Causes of Sea Level Change

Simulated Global Mean Sea Level Changes



Components of Mean Sea Level Rise

