

From
problem orientation
to
development thinking

Dr Stella van Rijn



**UNIVERSITY
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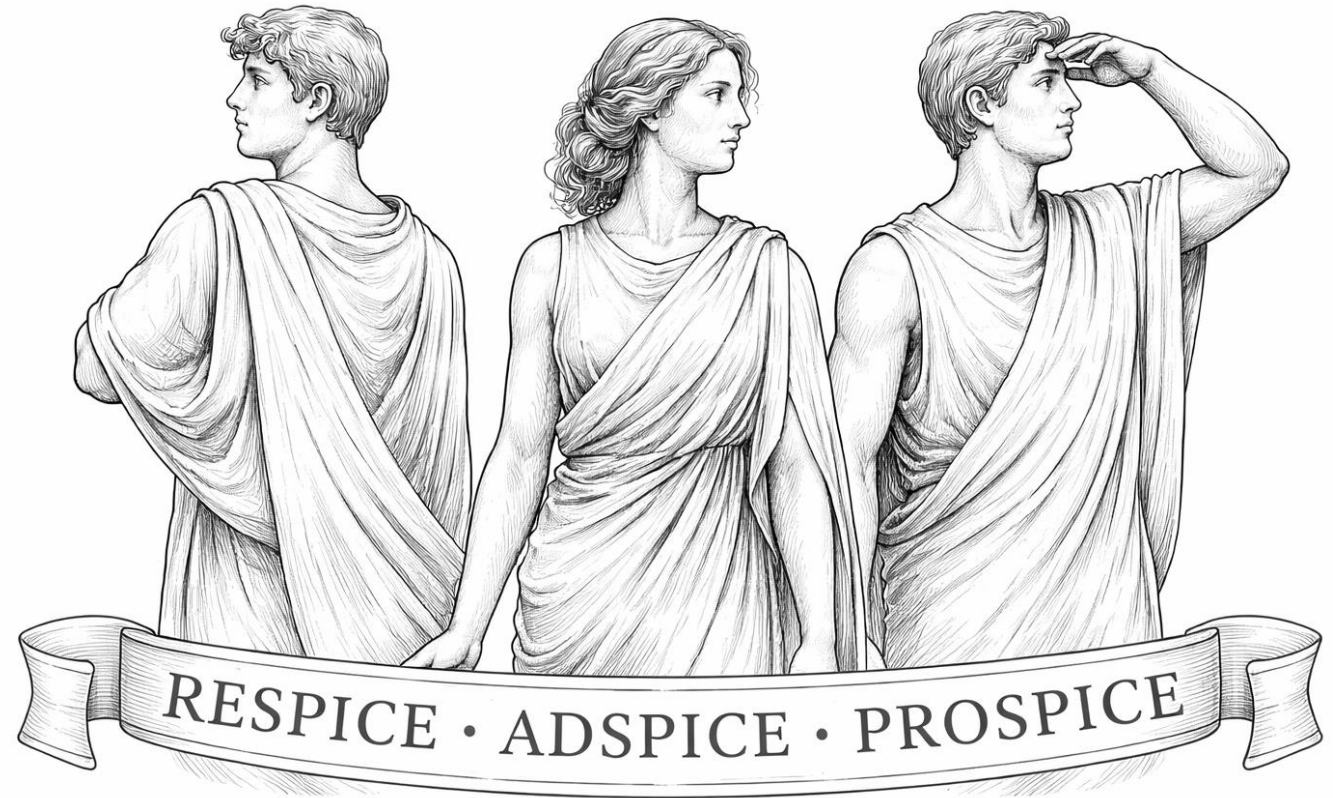
SINT MAARTEN TRUST FUND
RESULTS & KNOWLEDGE FAIR 2026



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JW Marriott



**UNIVERSITY
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DR. MOISES DA COSTA GOMEZ



Know your past
Analyze the present
To plan your future

Challenges in long term focus

- Disaster relief : urgent and immediate actions, perceived absence of choice
- Brain is 'hardwired' for problem thinking
- Caribbean culture: day to day
- Political cycles are short term
- Civil servants : full plate of regular tasks

Focus : narrow

Timeline: short

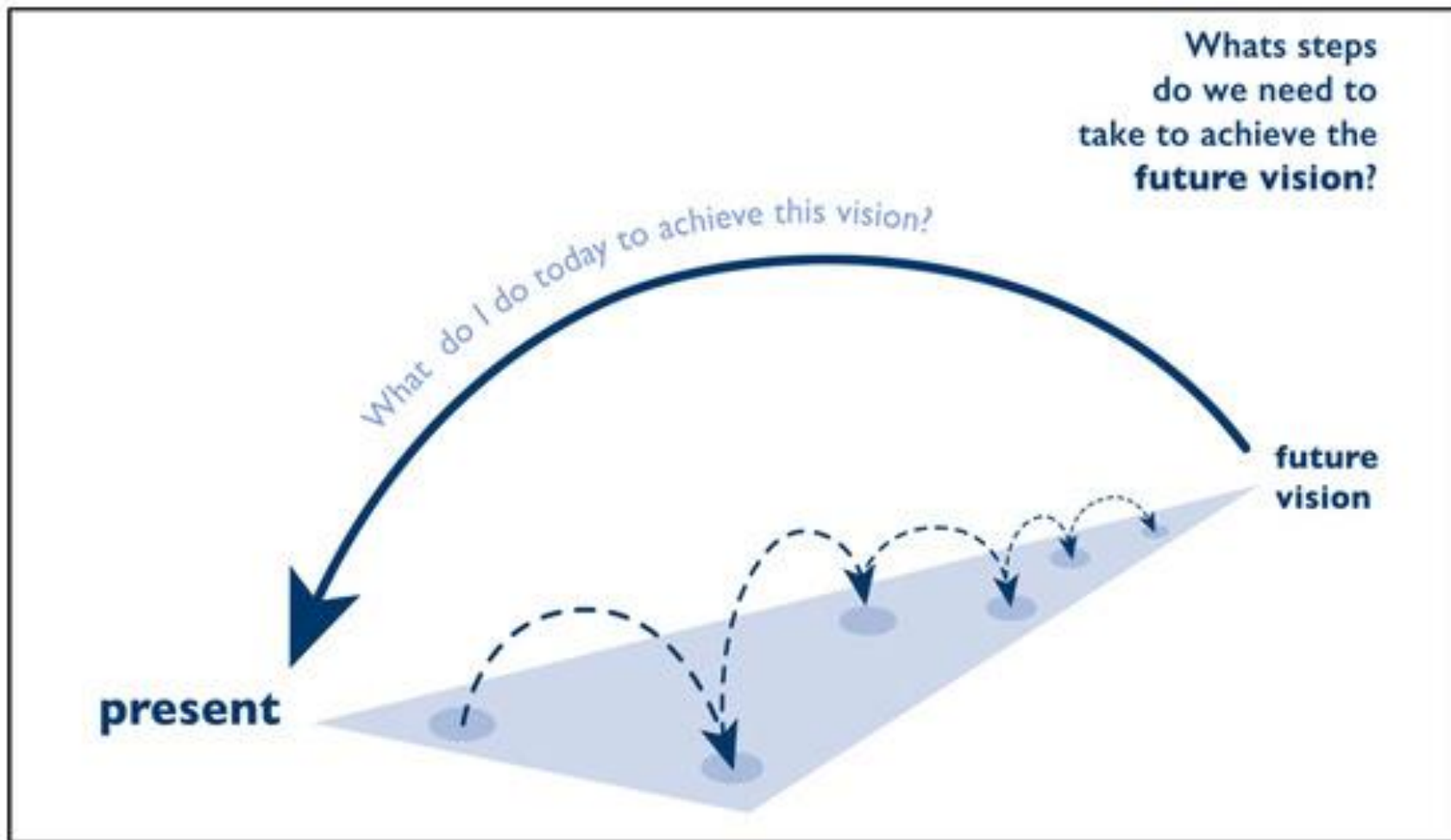
Value: constrained

Scope: singular



Development thinking

Focus : wider
Timeline: long
Value: coherent
Scope: multi-disciplinary



Project

versus

Program

- VALUE - Improves quality and efficiency in a specific way.
- FOCUS - specific project or initiative, usually having a defined start and end date.
- SCOPE - success of a specific project, including budget, timeline, and quality of deliverables.
- TIMELINE - Specific deliverables with set dates (days, weeks, months, quarters).

- VALUE - Success delivers long-term, strategic value
- FOCUS - program, which often involves multiple projects and teams.
- SCOPE - **portfolio of interconnected projects, together contributing to a larger strategic program objective**
- TIMELINE - months, quarters, or even years to accomplish

Relevance of long term focus



Build-Back-Better in the Disaster Risk Reduction cycle, inspired by/adapted from the "adaptation cycle" concept proposed by Gunderson and Holling (2002).

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Requires
Culture of
innovation:

Trust
Support
Safety
Co-creation



Co-Creation is famously complex and satisfying



- Real dialogue
- Clarity on decision making



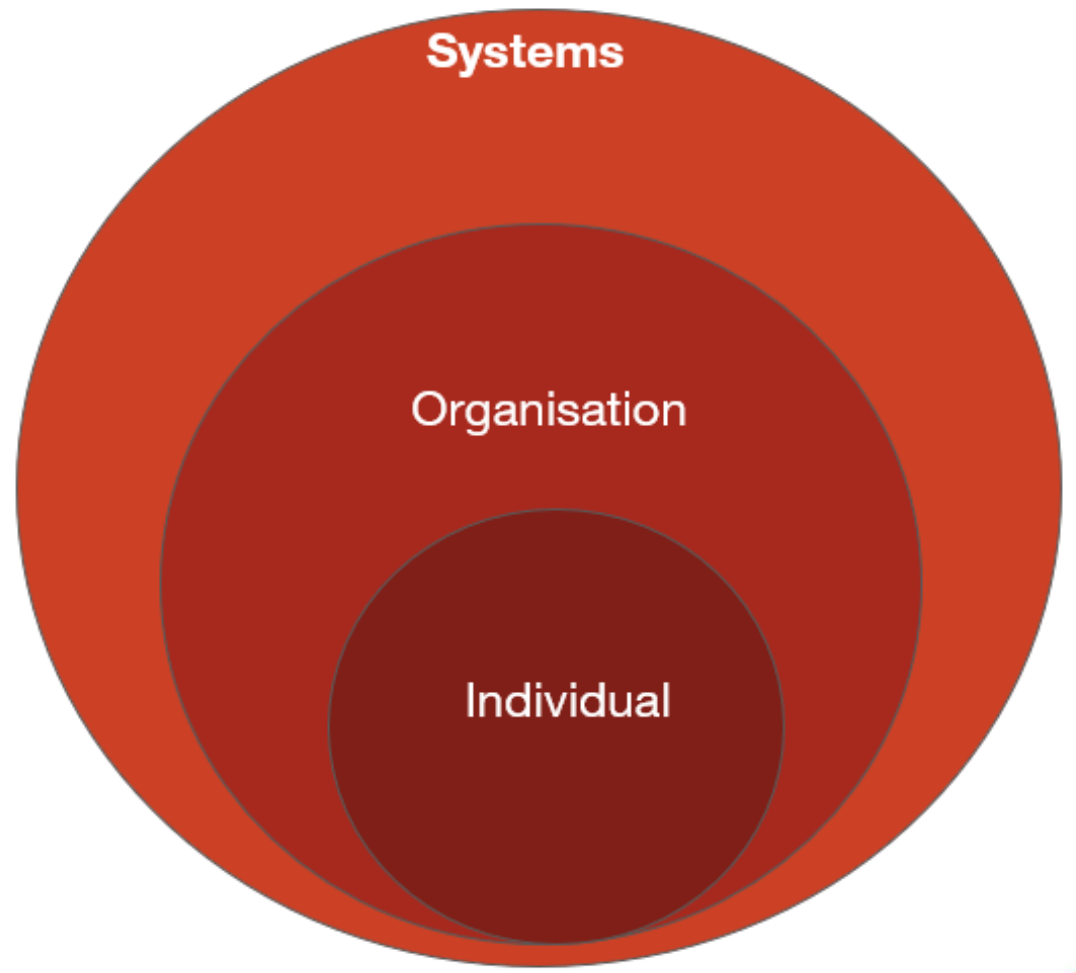
The myth of being powerless

(prof Jan Rotmans)



The three levels of sustainability

Curiel & Cavagnaro (2012)



Choose your impact level,
but ignite action!



THANK YOU

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Government of
the Netherlands



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