From 1999 the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) will concentrate entirely on its public tasks: general weather forecasts and warnings, meteorological and seismological infrastructure and research. This new role is a consequence of a Dutch governmental decision: public institutions are to abandon commercial activities. KNMI’s role as a centre of knowledge on weather, climate and seismology will thus become more prominent in the future.

This Biennial Scientific Report shows that the Climate Research and Seismology Department is well prepared for this role. The research described covers a wide range of subjects, from the intricate properties of atmosphere-ocean interaction to the details of seismic wave propagation. The numerous collaborative research projects, both nationally and internationally, are evidence that the work is firmly embedded in the scientific community.

The present report, covering the years 1997 and 1998, gives a detailed impression of the Department’s latest research activities.

dr. H.M. Fijnaut
Director