

when two separate facts were conflated into one – that 26 per cent of the Netherlands is under sea level and 29 per cent subject to river flooding – and then reported inaccurately.

Although the checkers were able to reassure the Dutch Government and Parliament that the report contained no errors that materially affected its conclusions about the regional impacts of climate change, they found several failures of integrity in the way facts had travelled into summaries.

Crucially for the future, the Agency has used this process to develop a practical taxonomy of likely errors, and it has undertaken to conduct similar quality-assurance exercises for the current round of reports from the IPCC.

Climate science is vitally important to society. Equally vital is maintaining public confidence in the integrity of scientific evidence placed in the public domain.

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