NÅR VANDET KOMMER
WHEN THE WATER COMES

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Når vandet kommer

Jeg forestiller mig, at vi ser de første bekymrede miner på fjernsynsskærmen en tidlig morgen. Fokus er pludselig ikke længere på krigen ude i Europa eller de trivielle bryderier i Folketinget. TV-værten smiler ikke, og hurtigt stilles der videre til en meteorologisk ekspert ude i instituttet. Igen bekymrede miner. Det her skal tages alvorligt.

Prognosen viser, at landet inden for det næste døgn vil blive ramt af et heftigt uvejr, der vil give ekstreme nedbørsmængder. En ekspert på skærmen fortæller, at der kan falde lige så meget regn, som det skete i Tyskland i juni 2024. Dengang faldt der op til 135 mm regn i løbet af kort tid. Fjernsynsskærmen viser oversvømmede byer og veje i vores naboland.

I Danmark er der udarbejdet en række værktøjer til screening af oversvømmelser forbundet med ekstrem regn og havstigninger. Klimaforandringerne vil i de kommende år give os hændelser, som tidligere generationer aldrig har oplevet. Den grønlandske Indlandsis smelter – afsmeltningen synes at accelerere. Mange kyststrækninger og kystbyer vil blive ramt af oversvømmelser.

Planlæggerne har udarbejdet det danske screeningsværktøj Bluespot. Bluespot viser lavninger i terrænet, som vil blive oversvømmet. Screeningsværktøjet angiver, hvor mange meter regn, der skal falde, før en lavning uden afløb vil blive oversvømmet. Således kan værktøjet anvendes til screening af oversvømmelsesrisiko i tilfælde af ekstremregn.

På min hjemegn viser Bluespot, at store dele af pastoratets tre sogne er risikoområder for oversvømmelse i en hændelse, som de oplevede i Tyskland i juni måned. 135 mm regn vil oversvømme de store kærområder mod nord. Den store vildmose mod øst vil være sat under vand og selv inde i min landsby, Kongerslev, vil de lavere dele i midtbyen være i risiko for at blive oversvømmet.

135 mm regn. Det lyder også af meget. I Danmark falder der normalt 7-800 mm regn i løbet af et år. År 2024 bliver det mest nedbørrige år i dansk vejrhistorie. Allerede i september måned var der faldet lige så meget nedbør, som der normalt falder i løbet af et år.

I december måned i år faldt der på den græske ø Rhodos under stormen Bora over 300 mm regn – i løbet af en time ved midnat faldt der 71 mm regn.

Den 29. oktober i år faldt der mellem 300 og 500 mm regn på blot otte timer over den spanske by Valencia. Det udløste en katastrofe, hvor mere end 200 mennesker mistede livet.

Eksperterne er enige: De menneskeskabte klimaforandringer forværrer situationen, når uvejr bryder løs. Måske skal vi ikke længere sige, '*HVIS vandet kommer*', men '*NÅR vandet kommer*'?

When the water comes

I imagine we see the first worried faces on the television screen early one morning. Suddenly, the focus is no longer on the war in Europe or the trivial disputes in Parliament. The TV host is not smiling, and the broadcast quickly shifts to a meteorological expert at the institute. Again, worried expressions. This is something to be taken seriously.

The forecast shows that within the next 24 hours, the country will be hit by severe weather, bringing extreme rainfall. An expert on the screen explains that the amount of rain could match what happened in Germany in June 2024, when up to 135 mm fell quickly. The television shows images of flooded cities and roads in our neighbouring country.

In Denmark, several tools have been developed to screen for flooding related to extreme rainfall and rising sea levels. In the coming years, climate change will bring us events that previous generations never experienced. The Greenland Ice Sheet is melting—and the rate of melting appears to be accelerating. Many coastal areas and towns will be affected by flooding.

Planners have developed the Danish screening tool, Bluespot. Bluespot identifies low-lying areas that are prone to flooding. The tool calculates how many meters of rain would need to fall before a depression without drainage becomes inundated. This makes the tool useful for assessing flood risks in cases of extreme rainfall.

In my hometown, Bluespot shows that large parts of the parish's three villages are high-risk flood zones in an event like what was experienced in Germany in June. With 135 mm of rain, the extensive meadows to the north would flood. The great bog to the east would be submerged, and even within my village, Kongerslev, the lower parts of the town centre would be at risk of flooding.

135 mm of rain—it sounds like a lot. In Denmark, we typically receive 700–800 mm of rainfall in a year. The year 2024 will go down as the wettest in Danish weather history. By September alone, as much rain had fallen as usual in an entire year.

In December of this year, on the Greek island of Rhodes, over 300 mm of rain fell during Storm Bora —in just one hour at midnight, 71 mm of rain was recorded. On October 29 this year, between 300 and 500 mm of rain fell in just eight hours over the Spanish city of Valencia, triggering a disaster in which more than 200 people lost their lives.

Experts agree: Human-induced climate change is worsening the situation when extreme weather strikes. Perhaps we should no longer say, "*IF the water comes*", but "*WHEN the water comes*".

Sydgrønland, september 2017

South Greenland, September 2017

Sydgrønland, september 2017

South Greenland, September 2017

Sydgrønland, september 2017

South Greenland, September 2017

Sydgrønland, september 2017

South Greenland, September 2017

Vesthimmerland, september 2024

West Himmerland, September 2024

Østhimmerland, september 2018

East Himmerland, September 2018

Østhimmerland, maj 2018

East Himmerland, May 2018

Østhimmerland, april 2024

East Himmerland, April 2024

Østhimmerland, april 2024

East Himmerland, April 2024

Østhimmerland, juni 2018

East Himmerland, June 2018

Østhimmerland, juli 2024

East Himmerland, July 2024

Østhimmerland, juli 2024

East Himmerland, July 2024

Østhimmerland, november 2018

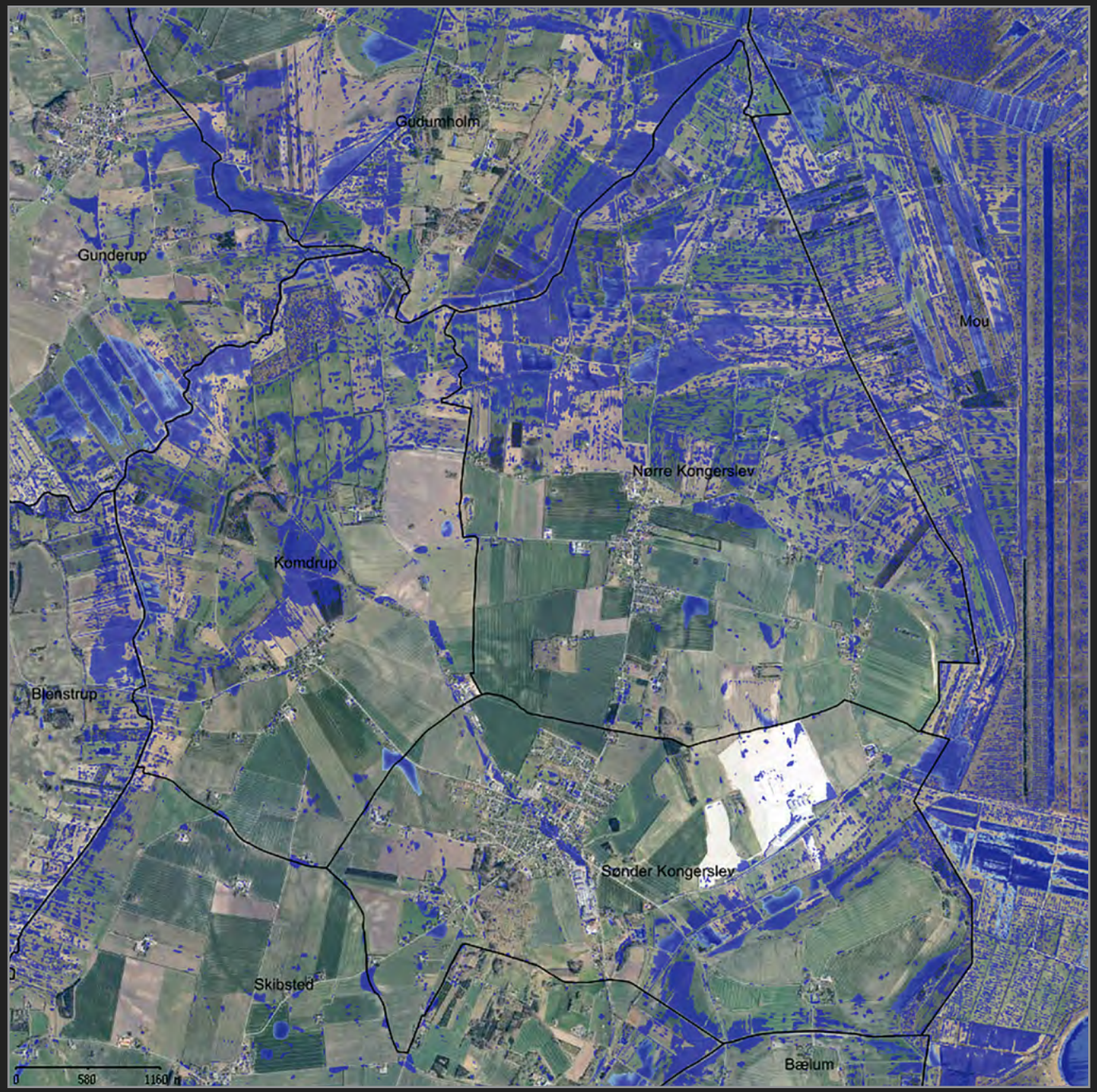
East Himmerland, November 2018

Østhimmerland, december 2018

East Himmerland, December 2018

Østhimmerland, april 2018

East Himmerland, April 2018



Bluespot,
Kongerslev Pastorat,
december 2024

Bluespot,
The benefice of Kongerslev,
December 2024

KOLOFON

Ugens foto: Når vandet kommer
Af Keld Jensen

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Kilde Bluespot: Klimastyrelsen

COLOPHON

Photo of the week: When the water comes
By Keld Jensen

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