



**Prof. Bert van der Zwaan**  
**Climate-KIC coordinator**

Since the start of his academic career in 1982, and following the successful completion of his PhD thesis, Bert van der Zwaan has been working at Utrecht and Nijmegen universities in the Netherlands and has held many positions outside the field of academia.

Being a paleontologist by origin, his main research interest always involved quantitative (paleo) ecology, although already early in his career he participated in many interdisciplinary programs. This led to building an interdisciplinary research group exploring what was at the time a rather unknown area between Biology and Geology. Nowadays, biogeology is a vibrant field of research where substantial and exciting scientific progress has been made through collaboration between geologists (in particular paleontologists and geochemists), microbiologists, ecologists, (paleo) climatologists and modelers. In particular, the development of the modern global climate system over the past 60 million years has been subject of this research. The success of his research group and that of others, recognized by the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences, led to the foundation of the Darwin Center for biogeology of which Bert van der Zwaan became the first scientific director.

Bert van der Zwaan has led a substantial number of scientific programs, has been amongst others lead-writer and quartermaster for the government funded (FES) program Knowledge for Climate, coordinator of the Earth and Sustainability program of Utrecht University in which 1200 scientists participate, chair of the Utrecht Center of Geosciences and lately interim-CEO of the EIT's Climate-KIC. After becoming dean of the Faculty of Geosciences in 2006, he left the chair of Biogeology at Utrecht University on 1 September 2008 and became completely involved in science management.