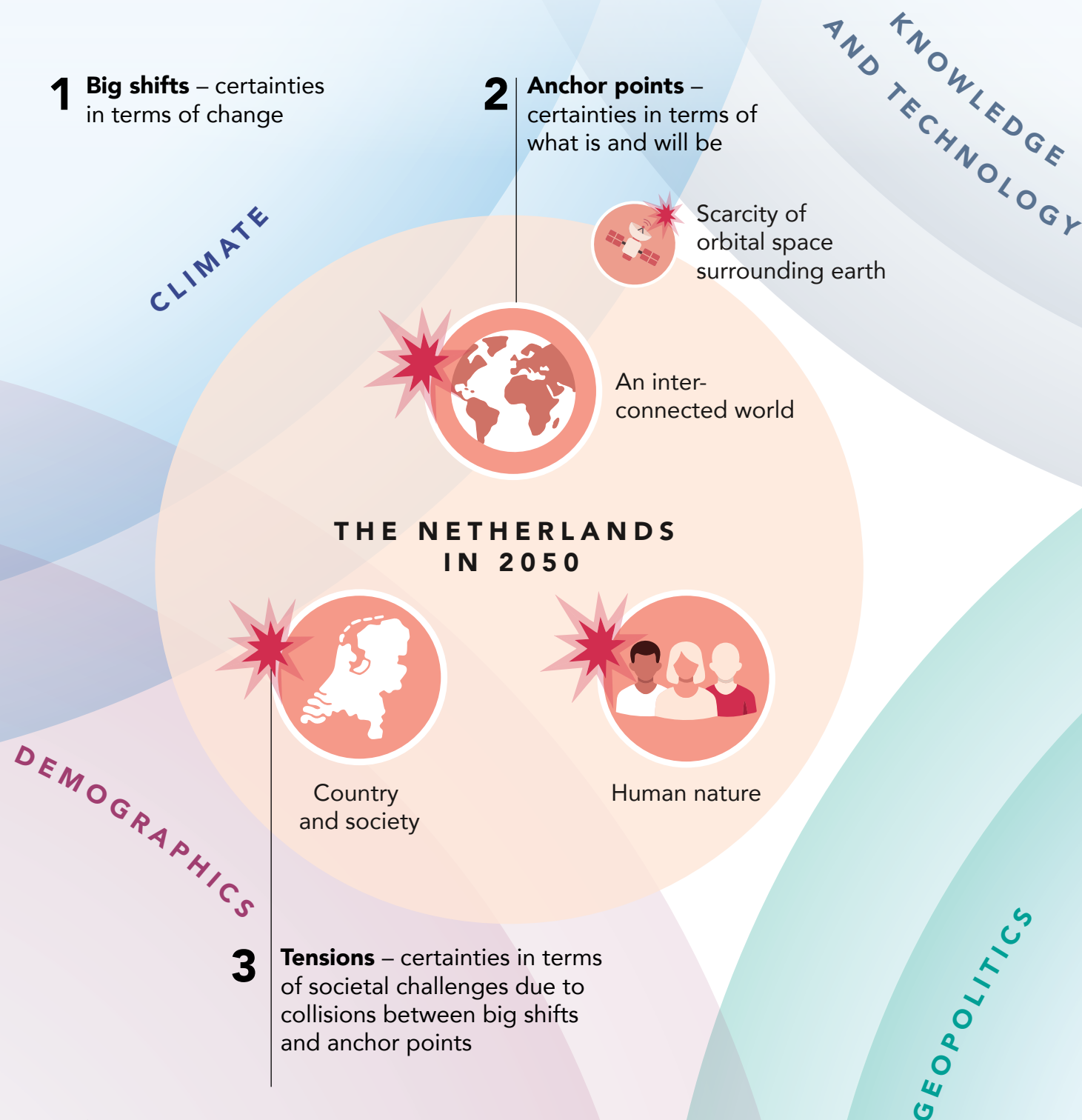


Investigation *The future in policy:* three different angles on certainties for 2050

Based on its belief that policy for the long term should be informed by uncertainties as well as certainties, the WRR has developed a frame of reference that allows policymakers to consider the future and discuss their considerations with other policymakers in a structured manner. Whoever wants to develop a vision for the future of the Netherlands will need to consider not only the type of country it wants to be, but also the type it can be.

1 Big shifts – certainties in terms of change

2 Anchor points – certainties in terms of what is and will be



3 Tensions – certainties in terms of societal challenges due to collisions between big shifts and anchor points

Big shifts

CLIMATE

Global warming is causing the Dutch climate to change.

GEOPOLITICS

Power centres are shifting. The world order is fragmenting as a result of power projection and divergent world views.

KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY

Technological innovations in the fields of AI, robotics and biotechnology will dramatically alter our lives in the period to 2050.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The Dutch population is ageing while the birth rate is falling. The dominant factor in population growth is migration.

Anchor points



An interconnected world

- A smaller global workforce
- Economically tied to other countries
- Widespread digitalisation
- Limits to the stability of our planet



Country and society

- A small, low-lying, spatially designed river delta
- Obduracy of the built environment and infrastructure
- Long shadow of education and upbringing
- The traces of history



Human nature

- A brain from the Pleistocene
- Intergenerational drive to survive
- Social beings
- Need for a purpose in life



Scarcity of orbital space surrounding earth