




How to: Visualise KML - files from the NLHO in Google Earth

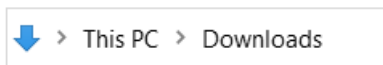
This short manual is specifically written to provide a step-to-step instruction of how to load (geo-referenced) **KML files** from the Dutch Hydrographic Office (**NLHO**) in the web-based version of **Google Earth**. With the help of KML files you will be able to display your own geographical data in relation to the globe. **Please note that** this manual will only show the method using locally stored data.



Step 1


Download the desired NLHO Maritime limits and boundaries from the Ministry of Defence [website](#) (the downloadable file(s) are compressed in a ZIP-format ). Save the file(s) in an easily retraceable file-path on your computer device.

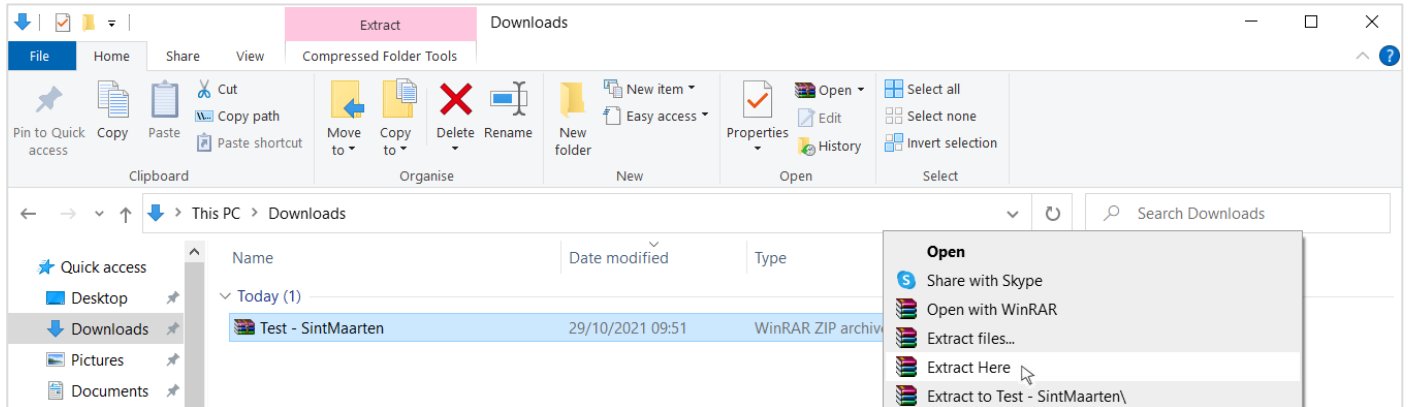
e.g.



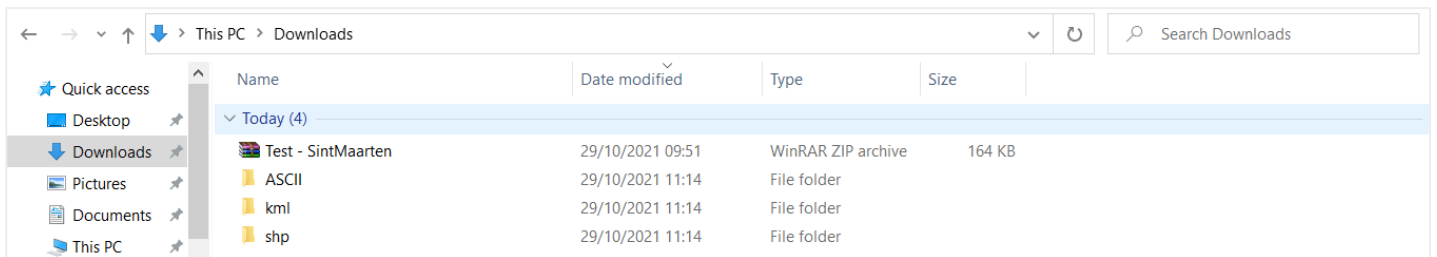



Step 2

Open the *File Explorer*  and go to the folder where you saved the ZIP-file(s) to, as done in [Step 1](#). Subsequently extract the files by right clicking the ZIP-file(s) and choosing the option <Extract Here>¹.



Your screen should now resemble this:



You may notice that instead of 1 item, we now have 4 items. This includes the KML folder  **kml** containing the KML files we will eventually use in *Google Earth* (as detailed in step 7 of this manual).

¹ For you to be able to perform this action you need to have an 'unzipping' software tool installed, such as *WINRAR* or *7-Zip* (freeware)



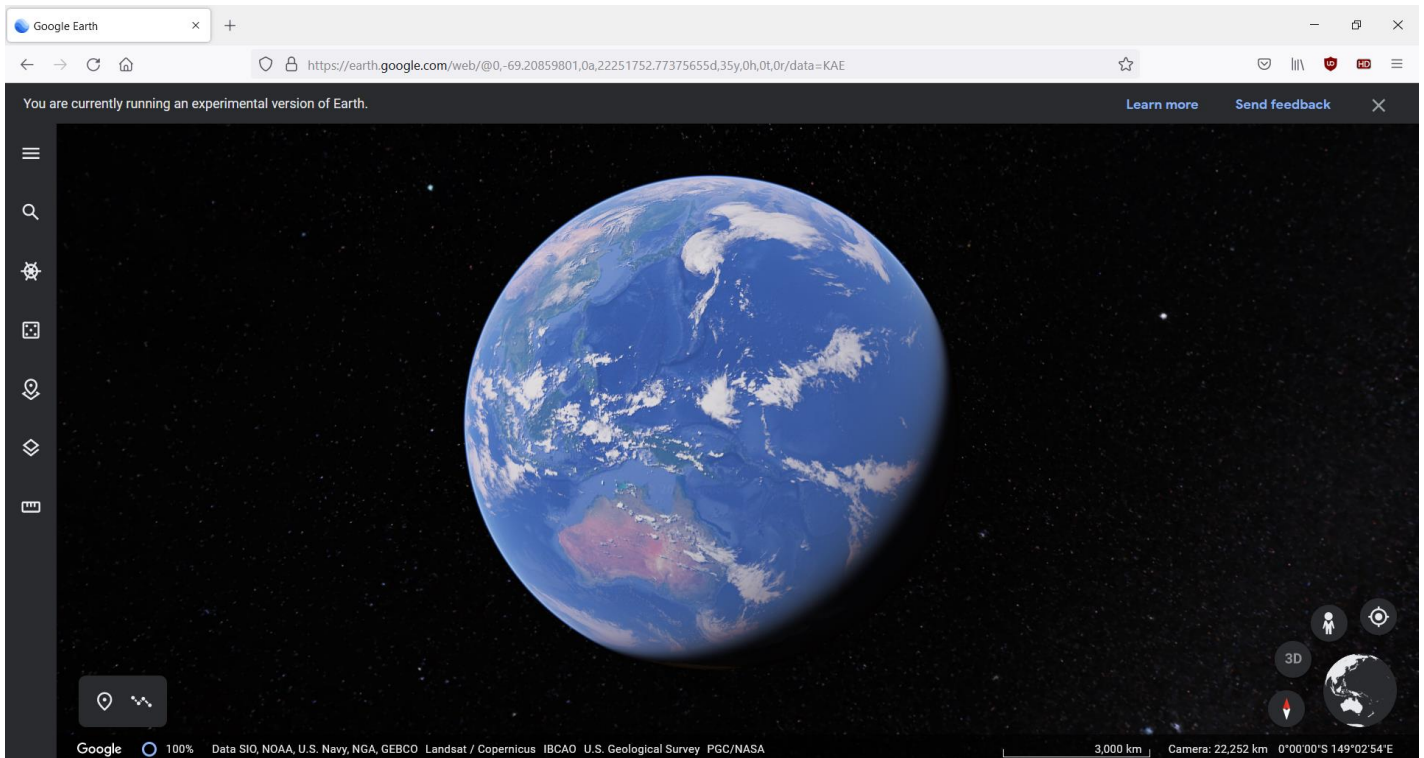
Royal Netherlands Navy

Step 3

Open the *Internet Explorer* of your preference and go to the website of [Google Earth](https://earth.google.com).



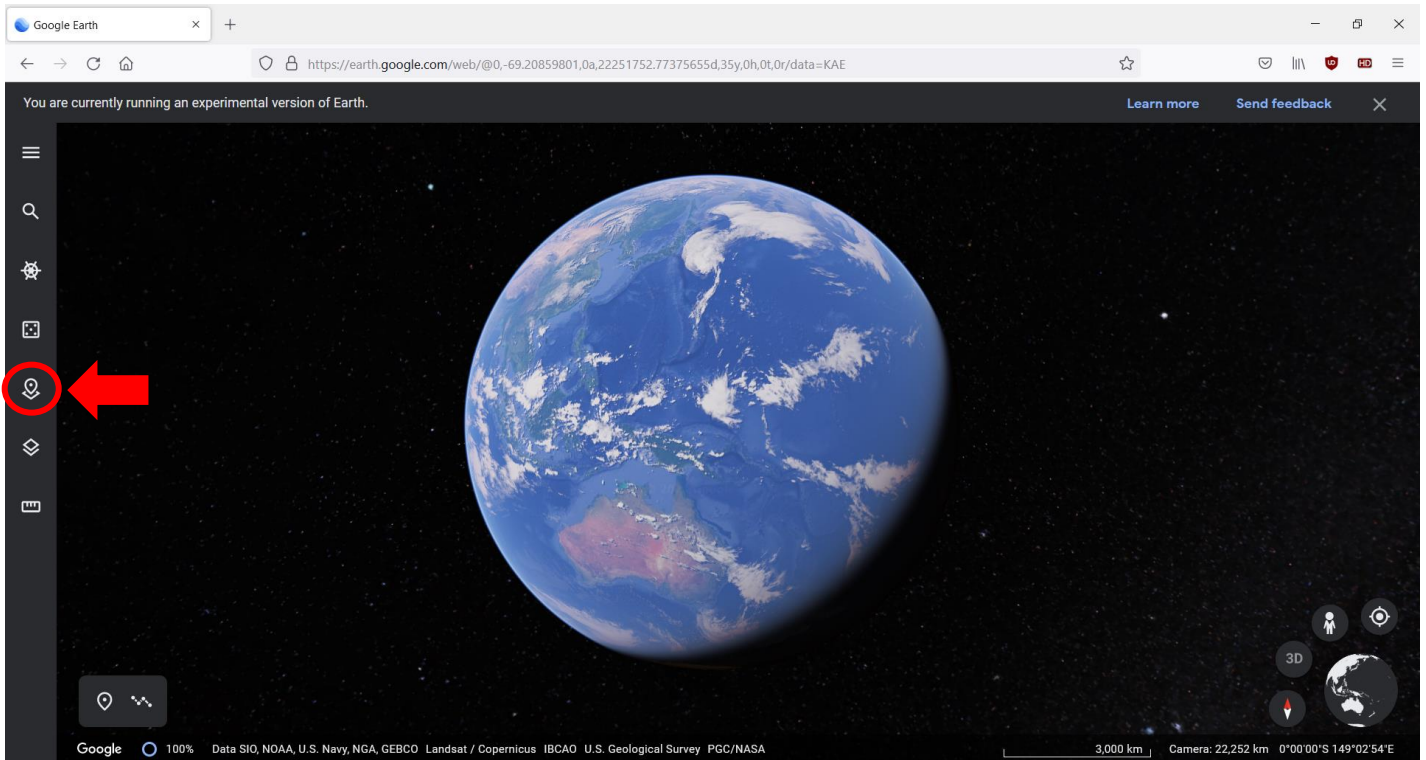
The following screen will load:



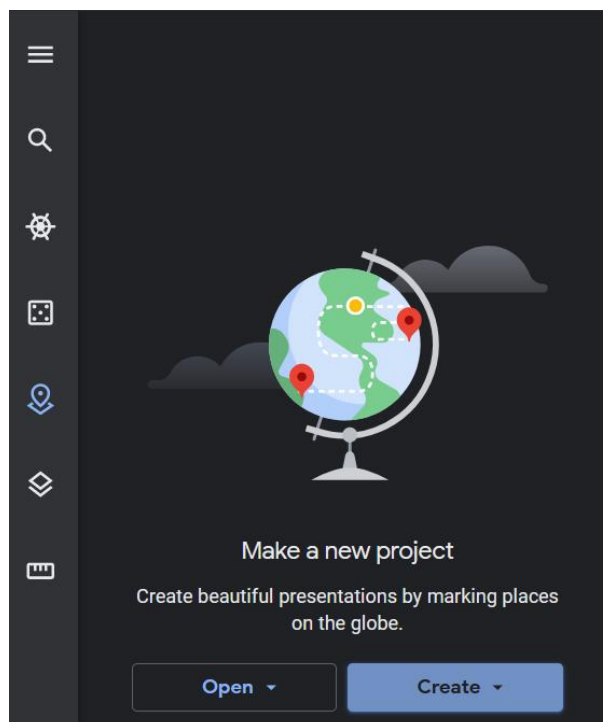


Step 4

Open the *Projects* section by clicking on this icon  on the left hand part of your screen.



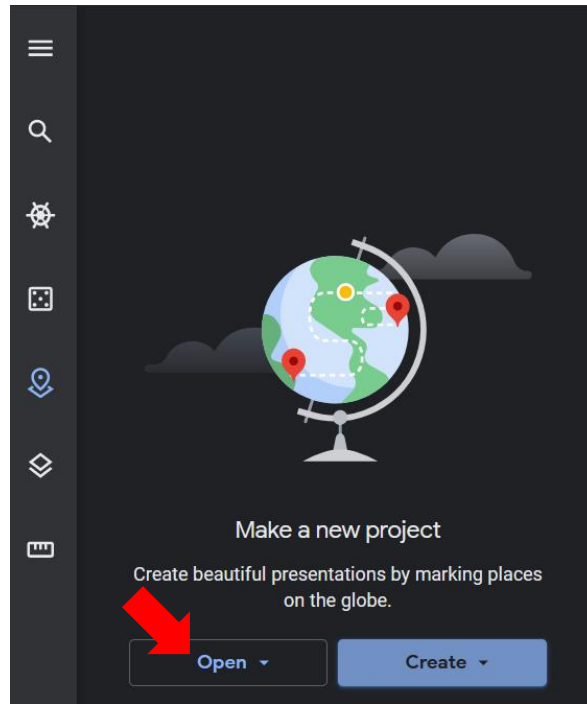
The following screen will pop up:



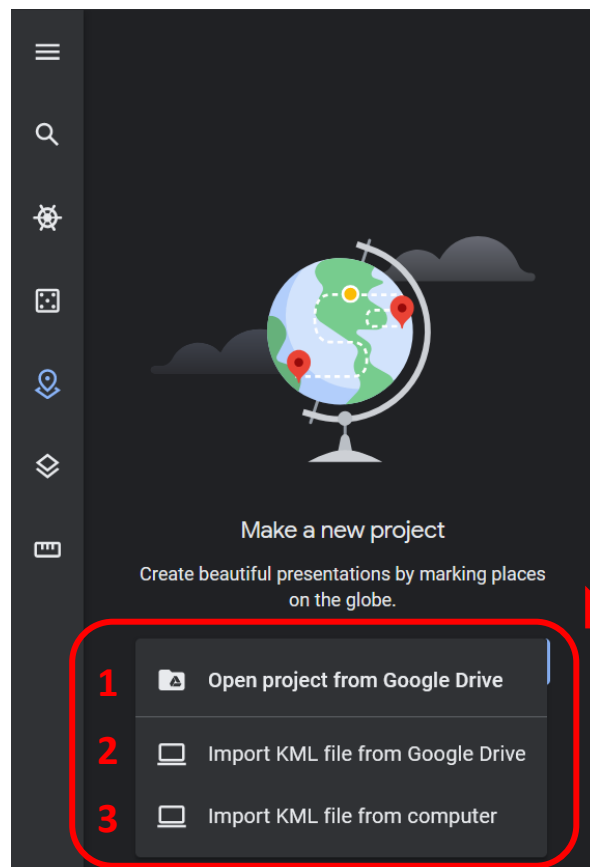


Step 5

Click on the <Open> button as shown below:



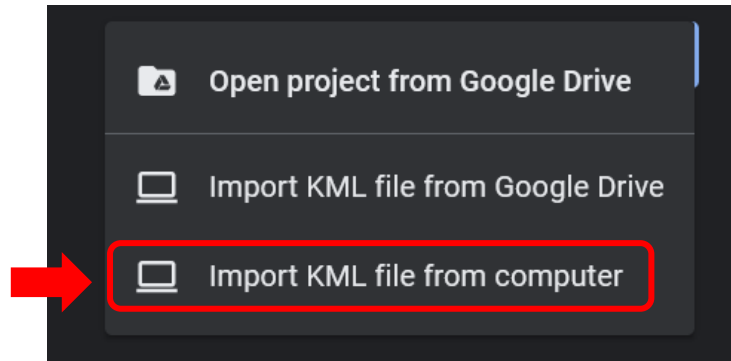
You will be presented with a list of 3 options.



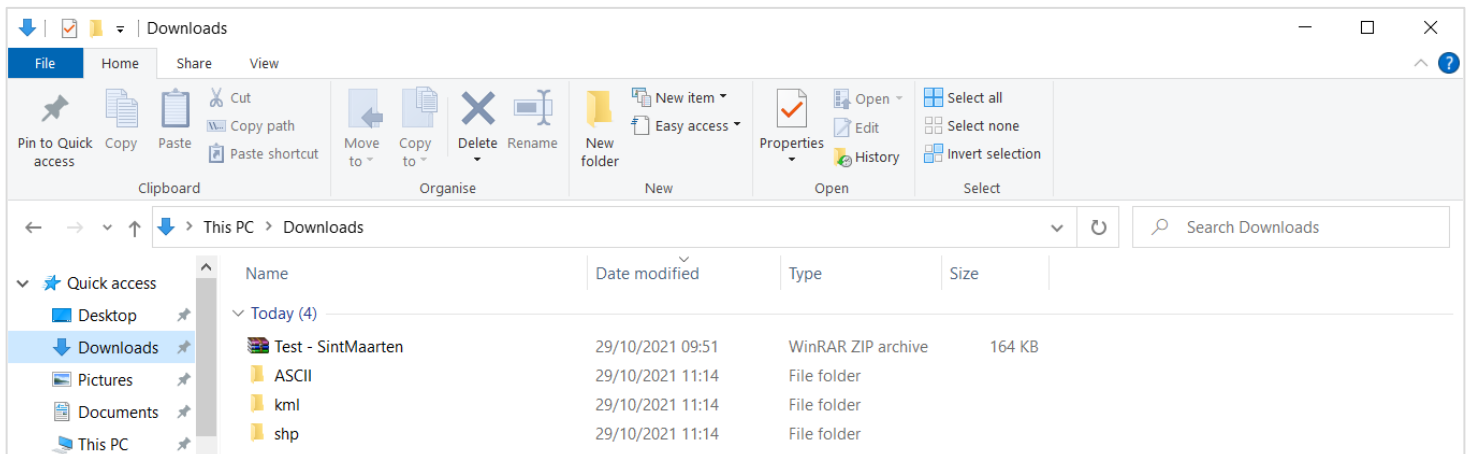


Step 6

Choose the bottom-most, i.e. *<Import KML file from computer>* by clicking on it.



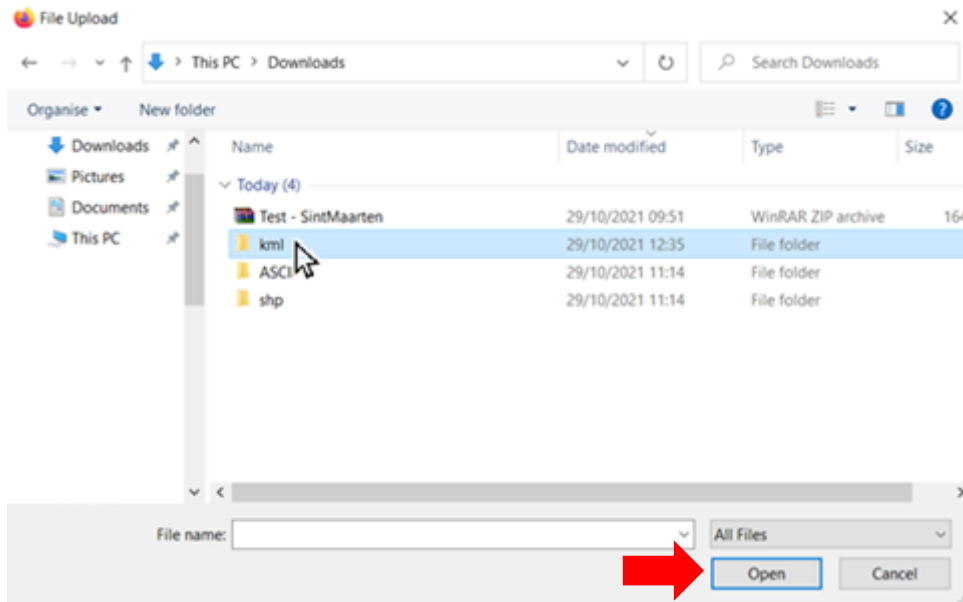
A *File Explorer* screen will now open.





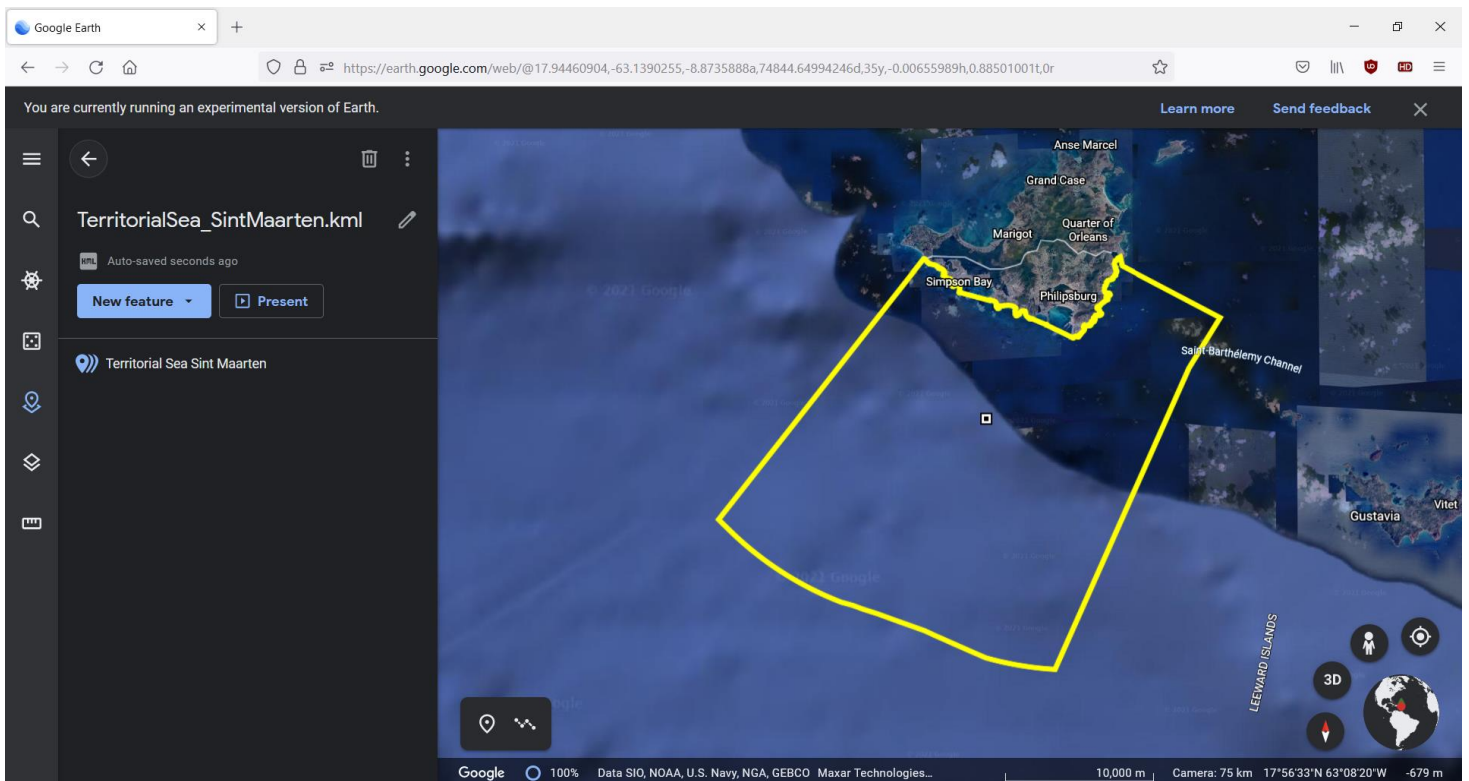
(Final) Step 7

From here go to the file-path where you extracted the ZIP-file(s) to (as done in [Step 2](#)), and select & open the KML folder and thereafter the KML-file you wish to open in *Google Earth*.



The KML file will now load into *Google Earth* and will automatically zoom in at the region where the KML-file applies to. You should now be able to see your geographical data as captured in the KML-file.


e.g. KML file depicting the Territorial Sea of the island-State of *Saint Martin* (Dutch part):

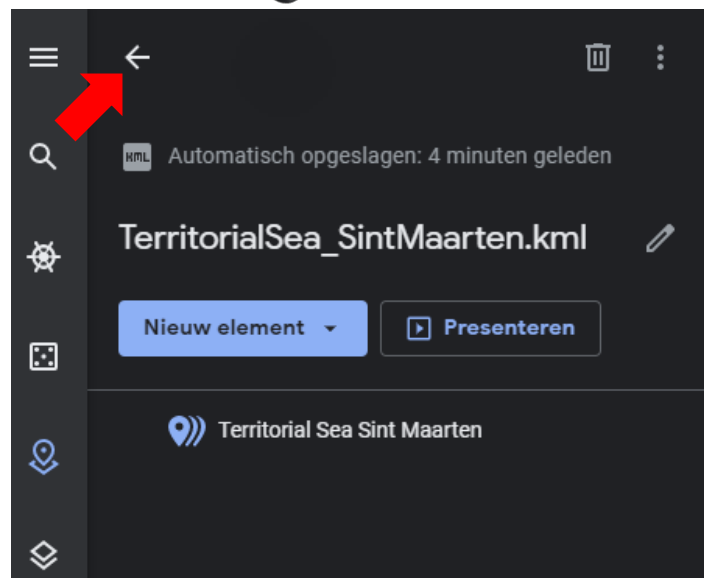




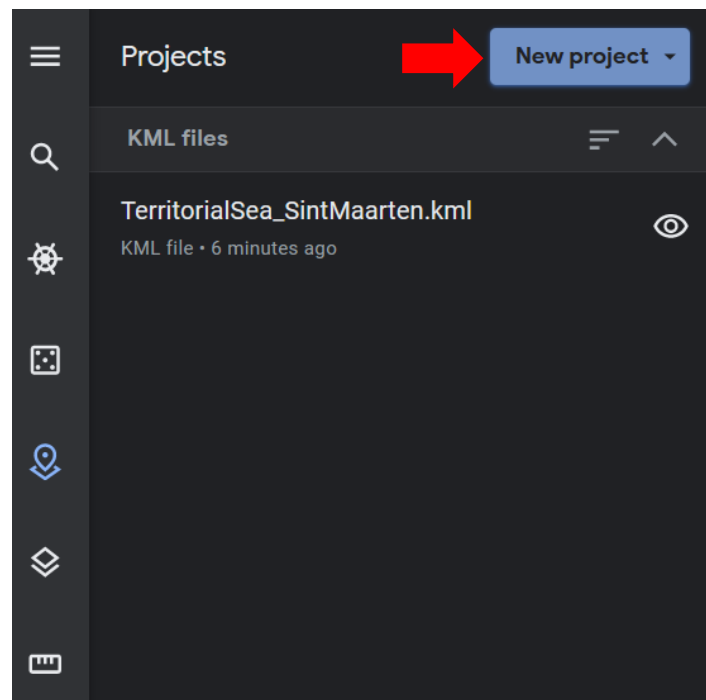
Tips & Tricks

A - Did you know you can display multiple KML files at the same time?

Firstly, press the <back> icon  found at the left hand side of your screen.



Secondly, press the <New project> button.



Lastly, repeat [step 6](#) and [step 7](#).



B - Did you know you can toggle the displayed KML files on or off (individually)?

Simply click the <Hide project> (“eye”) icon  next to the KML file you want to hide.

