

DUTCH WATER AUTHORITIES

Leading in regional
watermanagement



WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE NETHERLANDS

Large parts of the Netherlands are below sea level. Without proper water management 60% of the Netherlands will be flooded. Some areas of the Netherlands are 6 meters below sea level. No need saying that good water management is essential. Dutch water authorities is the regional government in the Netherlands that is responsible for the flood protection, water quantity management and wastewater treatment and clean water.

With the recent challenges of climate change water management is more necessary than ever before and Dutch Water Authorities is seeking for relevant partnerships and innovative solutions worldwide. Dutch Water Authorities can offer expertise in regional water management and water governance through long-term partnerships or short term field visits and presentations.

THE MAIN TASKS OF DUTCH WATER AUTHORITIES

Dutch Water Authorities consists of 21 regional authorities and their umbrella association, the Unie van Waterschappen. They are responsible for flood protection, regional water management, water quantity management and treatment of urban wastewater. Water management therefore involves much more than building dykes and windmills.

- In the Netherlands approximately 11.000 employees work 24/7 to keep the feet of the Dutch inhabitants dry and to make sure they are supplied with clean and safe water.
- For a country the size of the American state of Virginia we have an enormous amount of flood defences: a total length of 3.600 kilometres.
- 3.700 pumping stations make sure the water level stays adequate and 360 wastewater treatment plants purify almost 2 billion cubic meters on wastewater on a yearly basis.





ETHIOPIA – ABBAY RIVER

Ethiopia is richly supplied with water, but unfortunately it is unequally distributed, both time-wise and location-wise. The country's population is growing rapidly and moving to the cities. As a result, local demand for water is increasing fast, creating the danger of water shortages and water pollution. The Blue Deal Partnership is focusing on achieving an equitable, balanced and efficient distribution of water in this catchment area. To this end, Dutch Water Authorities is working with Abbay Basin Development Office, the local water authority. This includes setting up an information system and professionalising the method whereby water data is converted into information, as well as improving the laboratory's quality system. In this way, the Blue Deal partnership is contributing directly to an equitable distribution of water, a professional information supply and manageable water quality.



DUTCH WATER AUTHORITIES: WHAT DO WE HAVE TO OFFER?

Abroad, Dutch Water Authorities usually builds a partnership with organisations for regional water governance. The aim is to be a sparring partner; respect for each other's context is key.

The exchange with the international partner organisation focusses on elements of good water management. Such as financing, technique & innovation, organisation strategy, long term maintenance, monitoring & evaluation, regulation & enforcement and planning.

Dutch Water Authorities offers a long tradition of regional water management. Characteristics are:

- the principle of interest- pay- say
- good water governance
- hands on mentality
- institutional involvement
- integrated approach and a long term perspective.

Dutch Water Authorities shares knowledge, experiences and staff offering working methods such as coaching, workshops, linking organisations, provide inspiration and learning by doing.

BLUE DEAL

Water-related disasters have affected increasing numbers of people, animals and businesses. The Dutch water authorities and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Infrastructure and Water Management are therefore joining forces. This joint programme is known as the Blue Deal. Projects will be carried out within the partnerships that will improve water management step by step. It is a program that consists of 17 long-term partnerships with regional water authorities in 14 countries worldwide: Argentina, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Mali, Palestinian Territories, Peru, Romania, Eswatini, Vietnam, South Africa.

The Blue Deal will run to the end of 2030 and has one clear goal: to help 20 million people in 40 catchment areas around the world gain access to clean, sufficient and safe water. We want to reach this goal by helping the local partner gain more technical knowledge and expertise, strengthening the organisation and working together with stakeholders. The focus is on providing help, but also on creating opportunities for businesses and on learning from other countries so as to keep improving our own work in the Netherlands. The Blue Deal gives the water authorities and ministries the opportunity to support regional and national governments for twelve years. Not as an investor or project developer, but as a partner that helps to find solutions.





COLOMBIA

In Colombia, Dutch Water Authorities is strengthening water governance in two regions. In the first phase of the Blue Deal, the focus is mainly on improving integrated water management, on the basis of a threetier water governance model. The approach involves improving water treatment plants, making management plans more workable, cracking down on illegal industrial discharge and promoting working with reliable data. Experience will be translated into widely applicable methods, directives and procedures, and linked to players at national level. This will enhance water security, availability and quality.

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