



## Annual report 2023

Improving access to clean, sufficient and safe water  
for 20 million people around the world



Ministry of Infrastructure  
and Water Management

 DUTCH WATER  
AUTHORITIES



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



## The Blue Deal in 2023:

- First Blue Deal Congress
- Water Governance Assessments carried out
- Challenges due to political unrest

On to 2030!



Annual Report 2023





## Preface

In 2023, the Blue Deal programme celebrated its fifth anniversary, marking a significant milestone in our journey towards sustainable water management by 2030. It was a year of reflection on our achievements and lessons learned so far, as well as a celebration of new steps forward. However, it was also a year where many partnerships had to confront difficult external challenges.

An important achievement in 2023 was the implementation of the Water Governance Assessment, a tool developed by the Programme Office to assess and enhance the developmental progress of our partnerships. The report of Phase 1 of the Blue Deal programme (2019-2022) was also completed. It showed that 6.8 million individuals benefited from Blue Deal initiatives, with 8,153 individual water professionals receiving training. These figures not only demonstrate progress but also valuable lessons learned, which serve as a foundation for the years ahead.

Moreover, 2023 was a year of many important events. From active participation in the UN Water Conference to several regional congresses, and the royal Dutch visit to our partnership in South Africa. The first Blue Deal Congress was the biggest event of the year for the programme. All the partnerships besides Mali came to the Netherlands for the first time to meet and learn from each other. This also boosted participation in the six Communities of Practice.

However, amidst our achievements, we cannot overlook the external challenges that confronted us in 2023. The deteriorating security situations in Ethiopia, Burkina Faso and Mali, the harrowing conflict in the Palestinian Territories, the devastating floods in Ghana and the political transitions in Argentina posed significant hurdles to our progress. The partnership in Mali was even paused for a few months as we could no longer travel there. But despite all the challenges, 2023 was a year of many inspiring encounters, and together we took another important step forward to make an impact.



# Making a splash: the Blue Deal mission



## What is the Blue Deal?

Improving access to clean, sufficient and safe water for twenty million people around the world by 2030. That is what the Blue Deal is all about. Through our long-term, twelve-year partnerships and the focus on strengthening water governance, the Blue Deal is charting a unique course towards a water-secure future.

## Who are on board?

The Blue Deal is jointly carried out by Dutch Water Authorities (DWA), water authorities in fifteen countries, and the Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Infrastructure and Water Management. The Blue Deal contributes to the ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (SDG 6.3-6.6), the goals of the Netherlands International Water Ambition (NIWA), and the collective goals of DWA.

## Navigating the waters: our approach

The Blue Deal approach is demand-driven. DWA partners with river basin/catchment area management authorities and water treatment organisations in other countries. These partnerships work on strengthening the three crucial elements of good water management:

1. Enhancing water management knowledge and expertise
2. Reinforcing organisational functioning
3. Promoting collaboration with other (regional) organisations.

This demand-driven capacity building is achieved through one-on-one coaching, webinars and on-site training.

All our partnerships work closely together with the Dutch embassies and consult with the relevant delta coordinators.

## Learning from each other: like a duck to water

What is the best way to learn? To learn from each other, of course! One of the core elements of the Blue Deal is the exchange of knowledge. We have therefore set up six Communities of Practice (CoPs) in which staff from all seventeen partnerships can join to exchange knowledge and learn from each other.

We have CoPs on six topics:

- CoP Monitoring Cycle
- CoP Water Safety
- CoP Nature-Based Solutions
- CoP Social Inclusion & Stakeholder Participation
- CoP Water Allocation Planning
- CoP Urban Waste Water Management

Another way of achieving mutual learning is through knowledge exchange meetings with several partnerships in the region. Learning within the region gives the international teams of the Blue Deal the opportunity to connect with other Blue Deal partnerships and international projects of other organisations.

The first regional meeting was held in 2022 and the second is scheduled for 2024, boosted by the success of the first Blue Deal Congress in 2023.

## Hybrid approach

In our work, we embrace a hybrid approach. We blend digital meetings with strategic work visits to the partner countries, or from the partner countries to the Netherlands. This approach also strengthens the capacity of the teams in the partner countries, while we reduce our ecological footprint and maximise impact.

## More fish to fry: two crosscutting themes

The Blue Deal isn't just about water; it's also about addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change and social inclusion. These issues are so important to integrated water management that we have adopted them as our crosscutting themes. This means that every partnership has to focus on these issues and organise activities relating to them.





# 2023

Accelerating our impact

17 partnerships in 15 countries

## Working to improve access to clean, safe & sufficient water



Clean

14 partnerships working on clean water



Safe

11 partnerships working on safe water



Sufficient

14 partnerships working on sufficient water

The core work of the Blue Deal contributes to SDG 6.3-6.6, 6.A, 6.B and SDG 13.

22 young experts abroad



21 from partner countries

1 from NL



12-year partnerships

worldwide



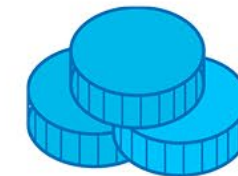
2966  
people trained



349  
stakeholder  
meetings



149  
plans approved



€480,000  
additional funding  
raised by partner-  
ships

Status of the partnerships 4-year objectives



Not applicable  
Not achievable  
Serious delay  
Not on track  
On track  
Achieved

Total amount of days worked on Blue Deal

Country partnerships: 10,827

Dutch Water Authorities: 5,520

Learning together

10 sessions of 4 different  
Communities of Practice

1 Blue Deal Congress in the  
Netherlands with 16 partnerships





## First Blue Deal Congress

**2023 was the year of the very first Blue Deal Congress. From June 12 to 14, participants from 16 of our partnerships visited Amsterdam to attend the congress.**

The goal of the [Blue Deal Congress](#)? Getting to know each other, so that it will be even easier to exchange knowledge in the future – between the Netherlands and the Blue Deal partner countries, but also between the partner countries themselves. As one of the participants put it: “Money is not the only thing to get something done. It’s about people working together to find solutions.” The congress also laid the foundation for many activities to come, for example the Regional Meeting in Africa that will take place in 2024.

### Who was there?

Delegations from Argentina, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique, Palestinian Territories, Peru, Romania, Vietnam and South Africa attended the first Blue Deal Congress.

### What did we do?

On Monday, guests were welcomed for a plenary day on Dutch water management and intercultural cooperation. On Tuesday, the participants split into smaller groups and followed workshops on water pricing, water safety management, stakeholder participation, urban wastewater management, nature-based solutions and smart monitoring. On Wednesday, the participants saw Dutch water management in practice with visits to the Sand Motor, the Markermeer dykes and the Amsterdam Water Supply Dunes (Dutch name: Amsterdamse Waterleidingduinen). On Thursday and Friday, the partnerships went their separate ways and visited the water authorities they work with. There, too, they saw more of Dutch water management in practice.





# Lessons & reflections from our partnerships

**This year we are diving into the more practical matters of a capacity-strengthening programme. How can you be most effective? Which activities work well and which don't? And what are common obstacles in carrying out activities?**

## Type of activities

Our partnerships carry out a range of different activities. The majority fall in the category of “working-on-the-job”, meaning experts from DWA partner with their counterparts to work towards a specific goal. There is also plenty of scope for group discussions. Partnership Indonesia, for example, mentions that these are “productive, pleasant and informal meetings”, in which a lot of feedback is given on technical topics. Partnership Peru, writing about the training courses they had given, noted: “training included more students than previous year, more universities and other public and private actors from the region”.

## Common obstacles to activities

Naturally, the partnerships also faced obstacles. The two most common problems are:

### Delays due to political factors or elections

Several partnerships postponed certain activities due to elections, such as partnership Colombia. In Eswatini a workshop was postponed because of board elections, and a workshop in Peru on transboundary cooperation with Ecuador was delayed because of the political situation in Ecuador. The partnerships managed these situations as well as possible, by anticipating upcoming political shifts and by making careful choices as to which activities should be continued and which could be postponed to improve the effectiveness of the activities.

## Reshuffling of staff

The restructuring of organisations and teams is another common problem. For example, in Ethiopia Awash there was a delay in signing an MoU due to a staff reshuffle. Truly mitigating these changes is difficult, but it remains important to invest in ways to have the partnerships really embedded in the organisations, so that when staff changes occur, the impact on the partnership is not too great. The partnerships handled this well, but it remains a point to focus on in the future.

## The value of activities

Time to reflect on what the activities achieve for the partnerships in the short to mid-term. The long-term results for improved water governance and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) are summarised in the infographic on page 8 and 9. Three examples of outcomes attributed by partnerships to their joint activities:

### Increased influence

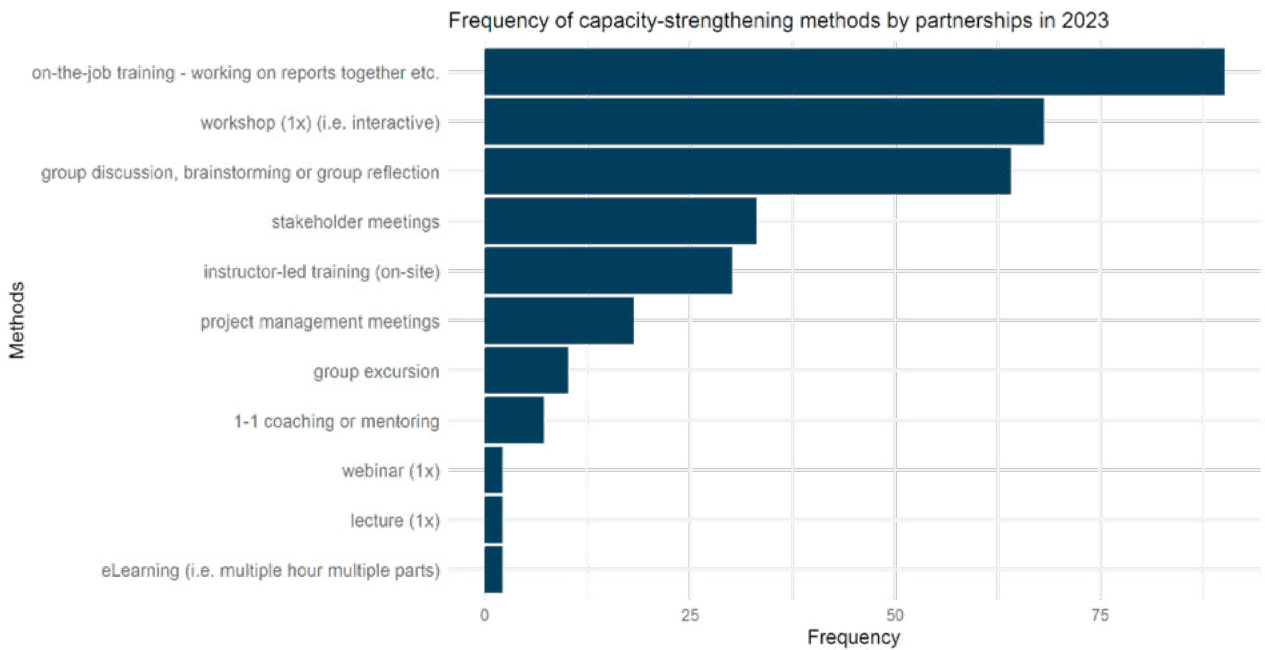
One result of partnership activities is an improved positioning of the Blue Deal partners. For example, partnership Colombia writes that “regional water managers, together with other actors in the region, have more influence on national policy in the field of integrated water resources management” as a result of several activities, including lobbying activities. Likewise, partnership Peru noted that one result for the partner was “a better positioning of the partners involved at the regional and national level.” Activities resulting from this outcome included joint meetings to discuss strategy on improved communication.

## Enhanced knowledge of water management

Many Blue Deal partnership activities focus on strengthening knowledge of IWRM, which is beneficial even in the short term. For example, partnership Peru writes that on-the-job-training resulted in “a more coherent and focused IWRM plan to implement in the region”. Partnership Burkina Faso notes that awareness of the need to reduce water resource wastage has increased as a result of exchanges of experience and commitment to adopting best practices in IWRM. Finally, partnership Ghana writes about their reforestation activities: “The reforestation project is a vital element in the Area Oriented Approach of the White Volta. It is a means of putting theory into practice and gets people and parties together in a combined effort to address the identified water and environmental issues.”

### Improved monitoring and informed choices

A key challenge faced by many partnerships is gathering meaningful data and using it to inform choices on climate-resilient IWRM. Some examples. Partnership Kenya worked on mobile water monitoring and wrote: “The pilot is working well and proves the improved efficiency in collection and communication of the daily water level reading by a river gauge reader. This will aid water management during periods of droughts or high flows.” Partnership Awash notes that the set-up of a Joint Implementation Monitoring Team in the last phase of the water allocation plan (WAP) process is “good and appreciated”.





# Results of the partnerships

What did the partnerships achieve in 2023? What were their biggest successes and challenges? This chapter gives an overview per partnership.

There is little focus on the first Blue Deal Congress in this chapter, as it is covered elsewhere in the annual report and we wanted to avoid repetition regarding the results of the partnerships. However, we would note that all 16 partnerships that attended were very enthusiastic about the congress. The chance for all parties to meet was seen as extremely valuable, strengthening cooperation both within and between partnerships. The partnerships found a great deal of common ground in the topics they work on, leading to opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange. Many are still in contact with other partnerships, thanks to the congress.

The partnerships also all successfully completed the Water Governance Assessment - a highly time-consuming exercise.

## South America

### Argentina

In 2023, the Blue Deal partnership Argentina was able to carry out many activities, thanks to increasing support from Blue Deal partner ADA. They included a productive work visit in April, with workshops and a field trip to a new area: Canal 1. The work visit marked a significant milestone, as it presented an integrated approach to water quality considerations and water quantity aspects such as safety and availability. A touching testament to its success came from a member of our counterpart team at ADA, who became quite emotional when she stated that this integrated approach was unprecedented in her 20-year career at Buenos Aires Province.

The momentum of progress continued with the Blue Deal Congress in June, which not only provided the project with a substantial stimulus but also garnered institutional commitment in Argentina, thanks to the presence of the president of ADA and the

Secretary of State for Infrastructure and Water Policy. Subsequent work visits to Argentina throughout the year furthered the partnership's objectives.

Amidst these achievements, challenges emerged, a major one being to establish and implement a monitoring plan for water quality, surface water and groundwater, along with region-specific quality norms for the river basin of Tandil - General Lavalle. The intricacies of this task, given the unique characteristics of the area, posed significant hurdles. While a monitoring plan was drafted by the end of 2023, the absence of region-specific standards needs to be addressed in 2024.

### Colombia

In 2023, the Blue Deal partnership in Colombia, InspirAgua, achieved notable results. Two standout accomplishments deserve particular recognition.

Firstly, in March 2023, we strengthened cooperative agreements by signing for Phase 2 with both existing and new partner organisations in Colombia. This event

generated substantial media attention, fostering heightened interest from related organisations in the programme's outcomes and potential.

Secondly, in collaboration with national partner ASOCARS and international organisations from Sweden and Switzerland, we organised a water conference in Barranquilla at the end of November 2023. The conference was attended by technical specialists from all CARs (Regional Autonomous Corporations) across Colombia, the aim being to facilitate knowledge exchange and foster collaboration within the CAR network. It was a success, further enhancing interest and engagement among diverse stakeholders.

Local communities and stakeholders were also involved in other ways. The design of action plans helped Colombian colleagues contribute to the development of their organisations with respect to the wastewater theme. Multiple exchanges of experience and knowledge between participants in 2023 culminated in the informal establishment of an expertise network. With our main



partners, the CARs, we organised meetings with local communities and worked on participatory monitoring. In Santander and Huila, our partners involved stakeholders such as farmers, school children, community leaders and eco-tourism entrepreneurs in participatory monitoring activities. This led to a better understanding of the river basin and thus boosted local ownership.

There were also challenges that led to delays. For example, in the first semester, relatively many Dutch theme and regional coordinators were (temporarily) unavailable due to personal circumstances. This, together with some procedural hiccups experienced by the leading partner, caused the development of the national theme PLU to be delayed to the second half of 2023.

#### Peru

What were some of the key activities for Blue Deal Peru in 2023? We provided technical advice on establishing priorities and keeping the focus on the IWRM plans of the CRHC Tumbes and Chira-Piura. The plans were approved in 2024. The partnership also launched a scholarship programme to finance undergraduate theses on IWRM. And we won the NWB Fund Video Award 2023, for [our movie](#) about smart cooperation on research into optimising water volume for rice cultivation.

In the highlands of the Piura watershed, our partner CRHC Chira-Piura actively engaged with the rural municipality of Lagunas. As a result, we learned more about local needs. We decided to draw up a joint proposal for a feasibility study on carbon credit opportunities for the local communities in Piura. During our work visits we organised informative meetings in Spanish to identify expectations and propose meaningful interventions and commitments. The meetings involved the regional government, the municipality, tail-end cooperatives or water users, and local NGOs working on sustainable water use. This resulted in commitments from stakeholders in kind or in cash. We subsequently submitted a proposal to the NWB Fund to carry out the above-mentioned feasibility study. The proposal was granted, and the study is being implemented in 2024.

Amidst these accomplishments, the partnership learned invaluable lessons. We were reminded of the importance of

formulating each (annual) plan together with our partners. This creates ownership and increases the impact of the work. The strategic utilisation of training courses, as well as synergies with learning programmes such as YEP (Young Experts Programme) and KIWI (Climate Game Changers Programme), bolstered the partnership's operational efficiency and effectiveness. Additionally, the partnership underlined the importance of elevating its profile at national level to enhance recognition of and support for the initiatives of the regional partners.

#### West Africa

##### Burkina Faso

In 2023, the Blue Deal partnership Burkina Faso organised many activities to enhance water management. For example, workshops on communication, IWRM planning processes, monitoring, and social inclusion and stakeholder management. We've also worked together with the Blue Deal partnership Ghana. In November, our team visited Ghana. We focused on the NWB/TreesForAll reforestation, on knowledge exchange about transboundary IWRM, and on Bagré Dam spilling management.

The monitoring task force made the most progress in 2023. Thanks to their efforts, all five water authorities in Burkina Faso have selected a pilot area to analyse water availability, water demand and to develop solutions for problems related to water allocation. The first steps have been taken to set up a hydrological (WEAP) model for these pilots. In 2024 the task force will continue to further improve modelling skills of the hydrologists. With the models the water allocation in the areas will be analysed and solutions will be proposed to improve water management.

We also faced challenges. In October 2023, the Dutch Embassy changed the travel advice for the entire country to the colour code red (no travel), which means that working visits from the Dutch teams were no longer possible. This has affected the partnership, resulting in fewer contact moments and the need to work remotely. Our adaptability was tested and we made the shift to organise workshops online and to seize the opportunities to meet each other in non-restricted countries, for example the work visits to Ghana (October) and Rwanda (December). It did result in a 19% underspending on our 2023 budget, partly



due to the travel restrictions. For example, the planned work visit to Burkina Faso in October didn't take place.

##### Ghana

What has the partnership in Ghana achieved in 2023? Our partnership is especially proud of two results. One is that in March the IWRM plan for the Lower Volta Delta was approved by the Lower Volta Delta Basin Board, the general board of the area's water authority. We have been working with stakeholders and the Water Resources Commission to set up this plan since 2019. Its approval marks a major milestone. We can now work on its implementation.

The partnership is also very proud of the success of the tree-planting project. We visited the site in the north of Ghana where over 300,000 trees had been planted in the previous three years to prevent siltation of rivers and dams and to ameliorate the water system. The project is funded by Trees for All and implemented by our local stakeholder Tree Aid. During our visit we saw that the trees were flourishing; many were already taller than the height of an average person.

The partnership has also learned some valuable lessons from the above tree-planting activities. When setting up a local implementation partnership, it is very important to consider long-term sustainability versus short-term incentives. Because when funding stops before long-term benefits are visible, how can you keep the communities motivated to sustain the planted trees? We could have started with a pilot project (e.g.

planting 50,000 to 100,000 trees) and then expanded later on after evaluating the factors involved. We are already putting this lesson into practice in the Songor Lagoon, as a pilot for the implementation of the IWRM plan.

Over the years, the partnership has also learned that the approach of working with the Water Resources Commission as the sole Ghanaian partner is too narrow. In the process we have identified other valuable stakeholders in Ghana and invested in relations with them, such as contacts at the relevant ministries. We have found that working with more local stakeholders also helps to reach the goals. This has been achieved by selecting a locally-respected NGO in the Songor Lagoon, the Volta Revival Foundation, to help tackle challenges in the lagoon region through a bottom-up approach.

##### Mali

2023 has been an intense year for the partnership in Mali, due to the ongoing unrest in the country. For safety reasons, both Dutch and Malian partners were to meet each other in Burkina Faso instead of in Mali in the first quarter of the year. However, this had to be cancelled by the Malian partners. Four Malian team members were able to visit the Netherlands in March.

On top of this, the Dutch partnership manager indicated that the partnership might not be able to continue, and that the Blue Deal would have to reconsider its setup. This was due to several factors. These included the difficulty of involving sufficient Dutch water authorities, because of the challenging safety situation



on the ground. The partnership faces other challenges, such as deficient digital literacy and limited locally-based partnership management. As a result, the partnership could not achieve projected results in capacity-building and knowledge-sharing.

The partnership was temporarily put on hold in 2023 and a new assessment and plan were made together with the Blue Deal Programme Office, World Waternet, EKN Bamako and ANGESEM. Constructive conversations led to collaboration with SNV, which has an office in Mali. The Blue Deal Programme Office has also hired a partnership manager who will temporarily take over the management in 2024.

## East Africa

### Ethiopia Abbay

2023 saw the start of Phase 2 for the partnerships. The Ethiopia Abbay partnership started this new phase with two days of teambuilding with the Ethiopian and Dutch teams, during which we reflected on the working relationship and cultural differences in Phase 1. This has strengthened our relationship and provided us with an optimal base for future cooperation.

We also looked beyond our own Blue Deal partnership. July 2023 saw the first knowledge-exchanging event between river basin organisations and the Ministry of Water & Environment on areas of common interest: data and information management, permitting and tariffing, nature-based solutions, and implementing water allocation

plans. Ethiopian experts from two Blue Deal partnerships (Abbay and Awash) as well as experts from two sustainable water fund projects in the Awash and Rift Valley Lakes were present and exchanged lessons learned.

However, the partnership also faced serious challenges. Since August 2023, the Amhara Region has become the scene of an armed conflict between local militiamen – known as the Fano – and federal forces. The Ethiopian government has declared a state of emergency in the entire region. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs has designated the region as ‘Do not travel’ for Dutch nationals. Internet connection has been very limited, though we managed to stay in contact via our focal person in Addis Ababa. We also managed to have virtual, and later also physical meetings with our local project lead and Young Expert in Addis Ababa.

We assumed that the security situation would stay more or less the same for 2023 and 2024, and so adjusted our 2023 and 2024 activities accordingly. We started to focus on preparatory work, as well as on training courses and workshops that could take place in Addis Ababa rather than Bahir Dar. We also looked at the possibility of universities providing courses locally. This led, for example, to us organising a local training course on the Python programme that was given by Bahir Dar University in December 2023. We believe that with an agile approach the partnership can still achieve results, such as laying a solid foundation for implementing the water allocation plan.

### Ethiopia Awash

Two results stood out for the Ethiopia Awash partnership in 2023:

Firstly, the harmonising of sampling and data management. Through Capacitating Industrial Waste Water Management (CIWWM) we supported the creation of instructions and guidelines on sampling methodologies, collection and handling. The six organisations are now doing joint planning and sampling. They share data and apply one consistent language in data collection, storage and management. Acquiring knowledge and insights from this data will hopefully help them to improve their regulatory tasks to protect the environment and water bodies.

Secondly, the setting up of internal platforms to spread knowledge. The knowledge and experience gained by the partners through on-the-job training courses was not effectively shared within the respective partner organisations. The Basin Information Management (BIM) project has set up an internal discussion platform to close this gap. We want to sustain this initiative in 2024 and apply it in other projects. We have also supported increased contact with external stakeholders, to share knowledge more extensively, for example with the Water Cooperation Framework (WCF). Within WCF we have designed a functional water governance cooperative framework to build relationships between the main actors in the Awash basin. We trained all regional stakeholders in cooperative stakeholder and mutual gains approaches.

The partnership also applied innovative technologies and approaches to make water management more sustainable and efficient, an example being the tools we designed to make the water allocation planning process more inclusive and transparent. We have developed a WAP infographic to increase all parties’ understanding of the full WAP process and to use this as a training and evaluation tool. The infographic also functioned as a showcase at the national exhibition of the Science Museum. We designed a Road Map to further describe the roles, responsibilities and objectives of each of the individual phases in WAP. Now we are developing a supportive communication strategy based on the Road Map. In the final step of the WAP, we have set up a Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Team comprising

various authorities and stakeholders. The one-party practice has thus evolved towards a multi-party approach. As a result, there is greater trust between Regional Water and Energy Bureaus and the basin administration office, and their relationship has improved.

In addition, the partnership focused strongly on collaboration and stakeholder management. Examples include setting up a reforestation project, and supporting the establishment and capacitation of Irrigation Water User Associations.

### Ethiopia Wastewater Treatment Plants

Like the Ethiopia Abbay partnership, the Ethiopia Wastewater Treatment Plants partnership (WWTP) found itself hampered by the security situation in the country. Last year, the national conflict spread to the Oromia region. Two of the three partner towns are located in Oromia: Adama and Shashemene. This made it more difficult to travel there for training. To manage this, the local project lead kept us well informed about the safety situation, and the project team members followed a HEAT training course. The travel schedules of the work visits were also adjusted, by having the partner come to a safe area or by only operating in the ‘orange area’ during the day. In 2024, a Young Expert will be stationed in Addis Ababa to implement the project more from the country itself.

Despite the new outbreak of conflict in Ethiopia halfway through the year, the WWTP has accomplished many of its goals for 2023, an example being water quality monitoring. This could be launched at the Shashemene utility by providing staff with training, as well as a monitoring kit with which they can now measure the water quality themselves. Moreover, we have been able to come to an arrangement with the laboratory in Addis to take samples from the wetlands and analyse them each quarter.

Last year, the World Bank invested in vacuum trucks for the utilities. However, it turned out that the Ethiopian colleagues were not yet able to use them safely. By providing truck management training, we were able to help them operate the vacuum trucks better and more safely.

The partnership also found ways to work more closely with local communities. Communication with local communities





is especially important for activities linked to the newly constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment. In April, work was done on the social monitoring of the wetlands in Shashemene. Together with the utility and the community we drew up principles for the design of the wetlands to be constructed in Adama. We also completed a first draft of the water quality monitoring plan and discussed it with the municipality and utility of Shashemene and Hawassa, condominium committees and specialists from Hawassa University.

In September, a short film was made about the social monitoring of wetlands. With the help of the film we want to make more communities aware of the importance of good sanitation and their own role in it.

**What did you learn from your work visit to Ethiopia?**

Douwe de Voogt (Waternet):

“One valuable lesson I’ve learned from my experiences abroad is the importance of relationships. In other countries, there’s a much greater emphasis on building relationships – people inquire about each other’s well-being, ask about family, and so on. This emphasis on relationships is also crucial in international work; you simply can’t collaborate without getting to know each other better.

One concrete way I’ve applied this lesson in my work in the Netherlands is by prioritising face-to-face interactions. While we rely heavily on digital meetings, I’ve learned that speaking in person often leads to better understanding and can defuse potential conflicts more effectively, particularly when there are disagreements.”

**Kenya**

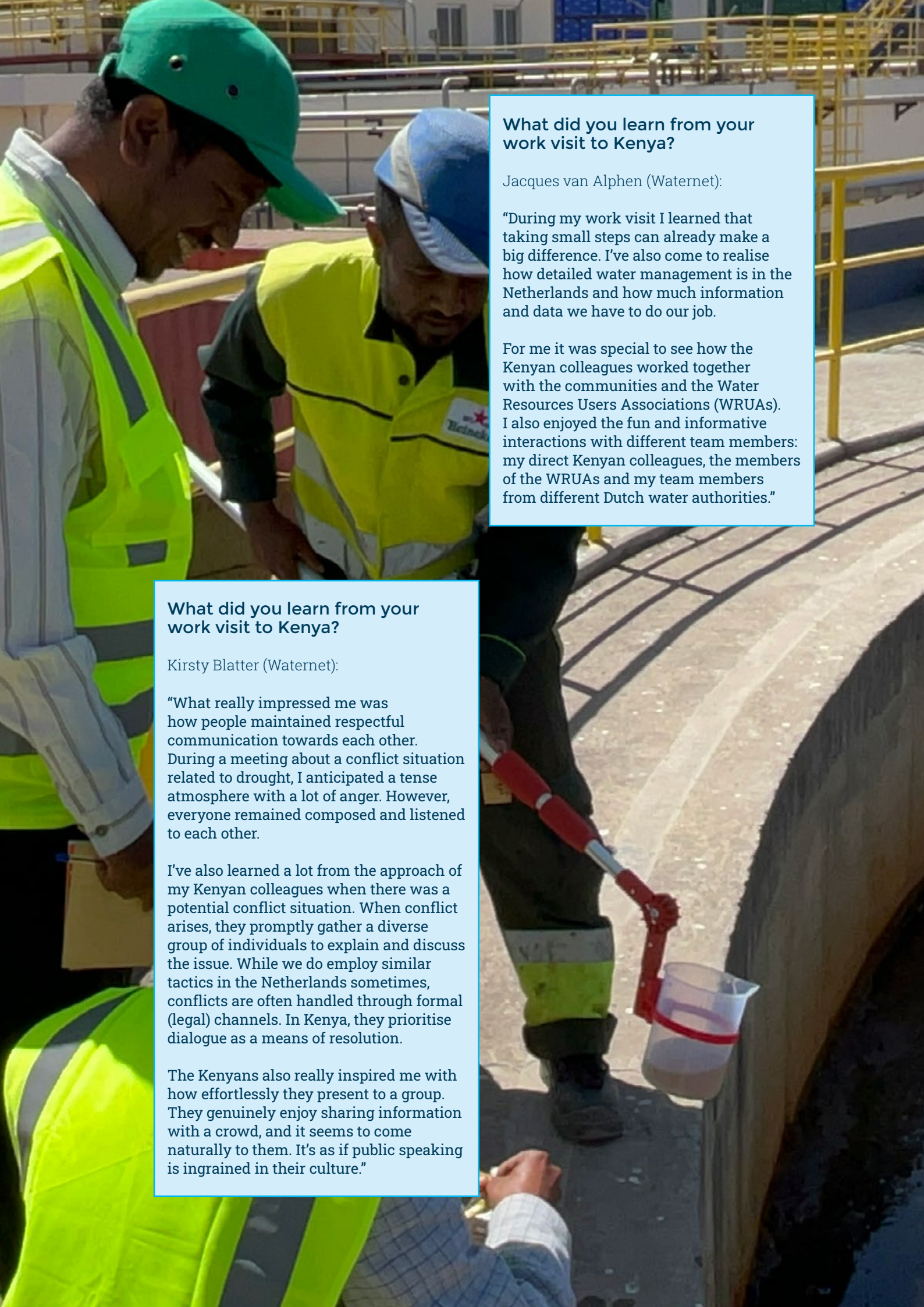
In 2023, our partnership focused on four objectives:

- integrated Regional Water Management tools in the Thika sub-catchment;
- improved data and information management for the Tana basin and the headquarters of the Water Resources Authority (WRA);
- restoration and protection measures in the Thika catchment;
- increased financial mobilisation and revenue collection in the Thika river basin.

We introduced the River Health Assessment tool to equip the Water Resources Users Associations (WRUAs) and WRA with knowledge about water quality, and trained four WRA surface water officers on WEAP (Water Evaluation and Planning) modelling in a one-day course. We also reintroduced the Mobile water level monitoring app with a new application and continued the monitoring. We donated 31 data loggers and two interface converters to the river gauging stations and installed one of them to demonstrate functionality. We plan to install more in 2024.

Additionally, we participated in a Future Design Basecamp to bring back ‘Njururi’ (a species of water beetle) to the river. This was a participative event that enabled a large group – all the problem holders of the Thika river, such as organisations, communities and authorities – to create and execute a plan. The event fostered collaboration between the various actors to achieve the most desirable future outcome. We did this in three parts: analysing the environment, analysing the system, and integrating the environment and the system to develop strategies and action plans to realise the vision for the future.

Bringing different members of the community and different stakeholders together increased awareness among the various actors in the Thika River ecosystem and stressed the urgency of coming together as never before.



**What did you learn from your work visit to Kenya?**

Jacques van Alphen (Waternet):

“During my work visit I learned that taking small steps can already make a big difference. I’ve also come to realise how detailed water management is in the Netherlands and how much information and data we have to do our job.

For me it was special to see how the Kenyan colleagues worked together with the communities and the Water Resources Users Associations (WRUAs). I also enjoyed the fun and informative interactions with different team members: my direct Kenyan colleagues, the members of the WRUAs and my team members from different Dutch water authorities.”

**What did you learn from your work visit to Kenya?**

Kirsty Blatter (Waternet):

“What really impressed me was how people maintained respectful communication towards each other. During a meeting about a conflict situation related to drought, I anticipated a tense atmosphere with a lot of anger. However, everyone remained composed and listened to each other.

I’ve also learned a lot from the approach of my Kenyan colleagues when there was a potential conflict situation. When conflict arises, they promptly gather a diverse group of individuals to explain and discuss the issue. While we do employ similar tactics in the Netherlands sometimes, conflicts are often handled through formal (legal) channels. In Kenya, they prioritise dialogue as a means of resolution.

The Kenyans also really inspired me with how effortlessly they present to a group. They genuinely enjoy sharing information with a crowd, and it seems to come naturally to them. It’s as if public speaking is ingrained in their culture.”



## Southern Africa

### Eswatini

The Blue Deal partnership in Eswatini had a busy year in 2023, on both sides of the equator. National elections were held in the Netherlands for board members of the water authorities. Timing was such that on that particular day, 15 March, we could show our partners from Eswatini how elections are organised in the Netherlands. Later that year national elections were held in Eswatini for parliament and by the end of 2023 we knew who would be Minister of National Resources and Energy for the next four years.

In June, we welcomed a delegation from Eswatini as participants in the first Blue Deal Congress in Amsterdam. Blue Deal Eswatini organised a workshop on water pricing which will have a follow-up in 2024 with several Blue Deal partnerships. It was encouraging to discover that other partnerships are facing similar challenges on this topic. Water pricing from A to Z – from measuring water use to timely payment of bills – remains a key activity to increase the financial independence of the Joint River Basin Authorities (JRBA).

One of the Dutch companies returned to Eswatini to complete work on a monitoring system, later followed by two Dutch team members who looked into creating a monitoring plan. We made the first steps towards including groundwater in the scheme of activities. The JRBA is gradually moving from being a small start-up to a new player in field of IWRM.

This creates a shift in the existing balances, so has our unwavering attention – it will be a focal issue in 2024.

Our Young Experts had a successful and fun time training in Kenya with their peers. And the KIWI climate experts (from the Dutch Climate Game Changers learning programme) are working towards sustainable water use via drip irrigation with small-scale farmers in one of the river basins. We were all very proud when one of the YEPs from Eswatini was invited to join the UN Water Conference in New York.

In 2023, Eswatini had the pleasurable challenge of hosting the REMCO conference. Two years ago it was held in South Africa and in two years' time it will be in Mozambique. Close to 400 experts from seven countries came together to speak on topics such as governance, hydrology, monitoring, sustainability and also water use in tourism. An extra day was added for Women and Youth in Water Management. We like to think it was the best conference so far!

### Mozambique

Among the many activities of the partnership in Mozambique, two results stood out:

Firstly, the partnership organised two training courses on asset management at the drainage and sanitation department of the City of Beira. This enabled SASB (Beira Autonomous Sanitation Unit) to subsequently start an assessment of their drainage canal system. Two junior technicians were recruited to support the inventory of assets. Staff were trained in the use of QGIS (software

## Dutch King and Queen visit Blue Deal South Africa

**Even the Dutch King and Queen are now familiar with the Blue Deal programme. On 18 October 2023 they visited the Blue Deal partnership in South Africa, where they were shown around at the project in Blesbokspruit.**

The wetland in Blesbokspruit suffers from poor water quality, caused by the water hyacinth, an invasive aquatic plant. The King and Queen were enthusiastic about the creative solutions that South African and Dutch water authorities are jointly investigating to combat water hyacinth.

During the tour, the Royal couple saw how the plants were removed. This is not only done by hand and with machines: researchers are experimenting with biological control. Natural enemies of the water hyacinth play the leading role: fleas from South America. King Willem-Alexander visited the greenhouse where the fleas are farmed and watched as these were deployed on the water hyacinth.

In the meantime, Queen Máxima spoke with a local entrepreneur, who uses the dried water hyacinth to weave baskets and other useful products and sell them. The woman also trains others in weaving and entrepreneurship. This initiative really appealed to the Queen. And water hyacinth has other potential uses. Applications on a larger scale also seem promising, for example as a raw material for briquettes or geotextiles.

Zamafuze (Zama) Ngcobo, a Young Expert Professional (YEP) of the Blue Deal partnership in South Africa, was [the one who got to show the King and Queen around](#). Zama: "I never thought I would do something like this. It was very nerve-wracking. There was so much preparation that went into it. Everybody stressed the importance of this visit." However, she was pleased with [how the visit turned out](#).

"Sometimes with a project, you need to get assistance from the top. High-level events like this put a spotlight on the project and really help to get attention from the right people. Now, things are already set in motion thanks to this visit. I am really happy we got the message across and my colleagues were pleased with how I represented the project. It was a bit of a blur in the moment, but afterwards I realised: wow, I really did do that."

that supports the viewing, editing, printing and analysis of geospatial data ) in order to set up a data management system for asset management. We are proud to see the progress on the incorporation of asset management principles and tools within the water authority. This provides realistic insight into the budgets needed for operation and maintenance.

Secondly, in June, a Centre of Excellence (CoE) on water storage infrastructure and water availability was established between ARA Centro (the regional water authority in the city of Tete) and the Technical Institute IPS in Songo (IPSS). Together we developed a plan for activities within the CoE. An important element of the collaboration is the development of a curriculum for students at IPSS. In October there was a second meeting of the CoE, during which the activities were further detailed and the

website was launched. We are delighted that young talented people will now get a chance to learn about innovative technologies for water storage, developing their professional expertise.

Since the Blue Deal is a learning programme, we also looked beyond our own partnership. We participated intensively in the REMCO conference on transboundary river management for South Africa, Eswatini and Mozambique. A delegation from ARA Sul contributed with several presentations during the conference. There was significant interaction between the Blue Deal partnerships from South Africa, eSwatini and Mozambique. An agreement was signed between iCarto (Spain) and Blue Deal Eswatini to start working on automated invoicing and databasing for water users, taking its lead from the system under development within Blue Deal Mozambique.





In this way, the Mozambique partnership is sharing its experiences with other Blue Deal partnerships.

#### South Africa

As a learning programme, the Blue Deal South Africa partnership addresses local challenges in five different pilot projects. These challenges are to:

- improve the performance of wastewater treatment plants along the Crocodile River;
- restore the Blesbokspruit RAMSAR wetland, presently overgrown by water hyacinth, an invasive species;
- improve the water quality of the Vaal River within the UNESCO Cultural Heritage Site of the Vredefort Dome;
- improve water quality in the Msunduzi-uMngeni River Basin, the major source of water supply for four million people in the Durban-Pietermaritzburg area;
- improve sanitation in and reduce pollution from the informal settlements in Villiersdorp.

The results of these pilot projects can be replicated in other areas with similar challenges, to improve the water situation for 2.5 million people in South Africa.

Progress has been made in all projects, but some stand out. In Crocodile River for instance, the implementation of improvement plans enhanced the functioning of wastewater treatment plants towards the Green Drop standard. This is a breakthrough, since malfunctioning wastewater treatment plants are a serious and widespread problem in South Africa.

We also reached out to other Blue Deal partnerships. During the Blue Deal Congress in Amsterdam in June, the Blesbokspruit team made contact with Blue Deal Burkina Faso to exchange knowledge and experiences on handling the water hyacinth issue. This collaboration was extended by digital meetings afterwards.

Last but not least, we are proud to mention the visit of his Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Queen Máxima of the Netherlands to the Blesbokspruit project. This royal visit once again proved the importance of international cooperation, not only in South Africa but for all Blue Deal partnerships in the world.

However, it hasn't all been rainbows and sunshine. Besides outbreaks of public unrest, we also faced political reluctance to move forward in the Msunduzi-uMngeni and Vredefort Dome pilot projects. During the review of the Msunduzi pilot project, three options were researched: 'revive', 'readjust' or 'retreat'. These options led to a readjustment of the scope: climate change and citizen science are now incorporated in the Catchment Management Strategy (CMS). In the case of Vredefort Dome, the recent public unrest led to the pilot project being put on hold until such time as the situation has stabilised. The most important lesson learned from these events is to take time to reconsider and adapt your plans when a setback occurs.

#### Europe, Middle East and Asia

##### Indonesia

For Blue Deal Indonesia, 2023 was the first year of the partnership. In July, during a work visit to Semarang City, we celebrated the official kick-off of the entire Blue Deal Indonesia programme with all four partners of the three regions. That same visit saw the signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the Indonesian Ministry of Public Works and the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (represented by the Dutch Embassy), together with the Chair of BDI, in Jakarta. This agreement was necessary to make the Blue Deal partnership an official part of the existing MoU on water between the two countries.

In the case of Semarang, the aim of the July work visit was to identify the key themes to focus on in the coming years of Phase 2. Two central themes have been identified: Operation and Maintenance (O&M) and flood risk management. In November, we held the first training activities (workshops) on O&M.

The big challenge in the Pekalongan region is improving water quality, which suffers from the wastewater problems caused by the Batik industry. The Blue Deal team visited the sites of the communal wastewater treatment plants (IPALs) and the DWA experts wrote an advisory report on how to improve these plants. The recommendations are perceived as practical, and the adjustments they propose require a minimum of financial investment while substantially improving water quality.



Activities got off the ground quickly in the Tangerang region, with many being carried out in 2023. For the DWA team it was very helpful to visit the pilot sites. We conducted an "actor and factor mapping" for these areas, a methodology to get a quick understanding of the issues, opportunities and stakeholders. This set the basis for further activities. The July scoping visit to Puri Tigaraksa, focusing on coastal zone issues, was immediately followed up by regular online meetings with local partners and their consultants to discuss the different aspects involved in the design of a retention basin. This has already led to concrete and significant steps towards a more reliable and trustworthy hydrological design.

During our first year, we already learned a great deal. For example, the importance of a structural approach and long-term strategy for IWRM. Our Indonesian partners expressed a need for small-scale advice on assorted water topics. A challenge is to keep the focus on our main goals and long-term solutions; this is something that is often discussed within the partnership. It will require sustained focus on the IWRM's core objectives during the collaboration and mutual understanding to achieve the goals of the Blue Deal.

Cooperation between Indonesian and Dutch colleagues has been shown to benefit greatly from the establishment of a good and more personal relationship between the countries' teams. It emerged that Indonesian working culture is very much relationship-oriented, while Dutch working culture is more result-

oriented. During the joint activities there were many instances where this became apparent, in good times and in hectic times. There is now a basis of trust, because both sides have invested in a solid personal relationship. This gives space to reflect and will ultimately lead to concrete and better results.

##### Palestinian Territories

Despite the backdrop of ongoing conflict, our commitment to water resource management in the Palestinian Territories remains unwavering. The colleagues of the partnership in the West-Bank have faced many hardships since war broke out in Gaza in October 2023. Although the partnership is not based in Gaza, severe clashes and tensions also occurred in the West Bank. This led to a red (negative) travel advice from the Dutch government and a big impact on all our Palestinian colleagues, who are still losing family and friends. It is important to be flexible and adapt where necessary, especially now, so that we can keep working on sustainable access to basic needs such as water and sanitation. The good online working skills of the Palestinian and Dutch teams meant that approximately 80% of the work could be continued online in the last quarter of 2023.

In the period before the war broke out, we were able to achieve many successes with our planned activities in the new Blue Deal multi-annual plan 2023-2030, also in close

connection with the WaterWorX Programme, knowledge and private partners, and the Dutch embassy in the West Bank. Despite



intermittent tension and unrest on the ground in the West Bank, Dutch teams were able to visit. Palestinian teams also visited the Netherlands for laboratory capacity building, participation in the Blue Deal Congress, GIS training-on-the-job, governance and leadership capacity building. A group of Palestinian service provider staff participated twice in the World Waternet Asset Management training in Jordan. Palestinian (Young) Professionals participated and presented at the UN Conference & Wetskills-USA 2023 in New York, the Blue Deal Congress, GWOPA Bonn, Arab Water Week Jordan, the Service Provider Conference West Bank and YEP training in Kenya. We developed investment proposals for operational finance in nature-based solutions, for a rainwater harvesting pilot and for upscaling the BluElephant pilot.

2023 was the first year of the BluElephant two-year pilot, designed to accelerate access to clean, safe and sufficient water in the West Bank. BluElephants are mobile, small-scale units for waste and sewage water purification and reuse. The pilot involved the installation of three of these units in the West Bank. The units can be monitored and operated remotely. During the war, this has proved additionally valuable, keeping local staff safe while they continue to treat and reuse wastewater.

### What did you learn from your work visit to the Palestinian Territories?

Jan-Willem Moerman (Waternet):

“Working abroad always feels like a wonderfully focused week to me, with nothing to get in the way of my mission. I’m trying to bring that same approach to my work for Waternet. The techniques and methods remain the same, so you learn that collaboration or achieving goals is somewhat universal.

My work in the Palestinian Territories hasn’t changed my perspective on my work in the Netherlands in any significant way: the work itself is the same, only the working culture differs. However, there is often a difference in ‘where you stand’: a difference in the current status of water management in a country. This helps put things into perspective when you feel like progress is slow in the Netherlands.

Ultimately, the approach to water management is very similar. It’s crucial to have a shared goal, to understand and appreciate each other’s strengths. With that foundation, we can achieve great things together.”

### Romania

In the Romanian partnership, four main topics have been identified:

- Tackling Floods: contingency and action plans for tackling flash floods and flooding.
- Tackling Drought: tackling drought through improved stakeholder engagement.
- Sufficient Finances: improvement of the economic mechanism for sufficient funding.
- Better Reservoir Management: development of a Decision Support System for reservoir management in order to tackle drought and floods.

In 2023, we carried out all of the planned activities – and more. Seven training missions devoted to the four topics took place. In addition, there was a meeting of the RO-NL panel for water management in the Netherlands and Dutch members of the panel visited project locations in Romania.

Our partner organisation, National Administration Romanian Waters (NARW), is increasingly able to put lessons learned into practice. In June, the Romania partnership provided a stakeholder management workshop at the Blue Deal Congress in collaboration with, among others, the Burkina Faso partnership and the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (NCEA). The Romanian partner organisation has also committed to transferring Blue Deal knowledge to Moldova.

In addition, the Romania partnership also supported the World Bank in its advice for better financing of water management in Romania. And NARW completed a Nature-based Solutions training course. Knowledge gained from this will be applied in a flood-prone area near Siret.

Stakeholder participation is another important topic for the Blue Deal. In the Romania partnership, collaboration with stakeholders and local communities takes place through NARW. Training from the Blue Deal has given NARW the skills and confidence to independently organise meetings with stakeholders. This happened at least four times in 2023.

We also stay in close contact with the Dutch embassy in Bucharest. An important common goal is to seek connections between the Blue Deal Romania partnership with the Dutch and Romanian water sectors. This was also achieved many times in 2023.

### Vietnam

In 2023, the Blue Deal partnership in Vietnam – the Blue Dragon Programme – focused on capacity building and training courses for the staff of our partners. This centred on the following themes: asset management, flood risk management and resilient cities. In November 2023, the first Blue Dragon Day was also held with partners and other stakeholders to exchange experiences of Phase 1 and to acquaint new possible partners with our programme. Also, our KIWI climate expert (appointed under the Blue Deal’s Dutch Climate Game Changers learning programme) started a project proposal for a nature-based/ecological embankment for one of our partners.

To stay in touch with stakeholders and local communities, each training week includes a field visit. For instance, a dyke inspection was part of the flood risk management training week. During the inspection, we consulted local residents about area-related information. This resulted in very useful information for the provincial staff.

In the course of our work, we have learned to be more patient. As early as Phase 1 (which was extended in Vietnam to include 2023) we saw how time-consuming the bureaucracy could be in getting approval from the People’s Committees of our partners. And although we have taken advance steps to smooth the process of approval for Phase 2, it still is a challenge and it requires patience to get approval for Phase 2 without a delay to our activities.





### The Water Governance Ladder: assessing progress of water governance in the Blue Deal

**In Phase 2 of the Blue Deal, we've initiated a new method to gauge progress in water governance: the Water Governance Ladder. It involves self-assessment by the partnerships, allowing us to identify areas of advancement and where improvements are needed. In 2023, all partnerships filled out this self-assessment and this generated many meaningful discussions.**

This new method is grounded in the OECD Principles of Water Governance. It provides insights into areas requiring improvement in water governance and Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Simultaneously, it serves as a tool for partnerships to engage in discussions about existing challenges and to highlight areas of success. "An overview-generating tool," as described by one of our partnership managers. It has also sparked meaningful discussions and insights at partnership level.

#### Strengths

Reviewing the outcomes of this initial self-assessment at Blue Deal programme level as a whole revealed the following strengths:

- engaging stakeholders;
- task allocation, and clear roles and responsibilities.

#### Areas for improvement

On average, Blue Deal partnerships perform least effectively in the following three areas:

- managing trade-offs (determining priorities for funding and decision-making processes);
- financing water;
- maintenance and management.

This knowledge provides valuable input for our learning programme and programme-level strategy

## Finances

2023 was the first year in Phase 2 of the Blue Deal (2023-2030). From this year on, the total expenses, as shown in table 1A, only comprise the out-of-pocket costs. The total expenses of 2023 come to €4,034,000. Compared to the out-of-pocket costs in 2022 of €3,593,000, this represents an increase of €441,000. However, this amount is still below the multi-annual plan budget of €4,699,000.

Expenses all partners (in 1,000 euro)	Budget 2023	Actual 2023
Travel and accommodation	1,637	1,367
Contractors/third party	835	877
Project expenses	1,566	1,401
Contingency	151	
Partnership management	510	390
<b>Total project expenses</b>	<b>4,699</b>	<b>4,034</b>

Table 1A: Budget vs. actual expenses 2023 partners

The personnel deployment of the seventeen partnerships consists of the work done by staff of Dutch Water Authorities (DWA) and their local partners. This is the in-kind contribution of the Blue Deal. Table 1B shows that the actual number of working days by DWA was slightly lower than budgeted, but the actual number of working days by local partners was higher. This shows that overall more work was done and activities developed by the local partners. If the number of days from DWA and local partners is translated into euros, it comes to a total of €4,140,000 for Dutch Water Authorities and €1,668,000 for the local partners.

Deployment of all Blue Deal partnerships 2023 in days	Budget 2023	Actual 2023
Days Dutch Water Authorities	5,744	5,520
Days local partners	9,620	10,827
<b>Total days 2023</b>	<b>15,363</b>	<b>16,346</b>

Table 1B: Budget vs. actual days 2023 partners

The total programme costs are shown in table 2. This amount of €9,634,000 comprises the costs made in kind by DWA and local partners, the total out-of-pocket costs for all partners, and the costs incurred by the Blue Deal Programme Office, including the costs of the learning programme and communication. The latter costs comprise €92,000 in expenses related to the learning programme and its activities, while €84,000 was incurred by communication work performed by the Programme Office. Lastly, €70,000 was spent on the work of the Learning and Development Officer. The bulk of the Programme Office costs related to salaries and staff





recruitment. The remaining €100,000 represents costs incurred by the Blue Deal Congress, accountancy costs and general costs of the Programme Office itself.

The total programme costs (€9,634,000) are covered by several organisations. The Association of Dutch Water Authorities (Unie van Waterschappen, DWA) bore part of the expenses of the Programme Office. DWA supports the Blue Deal programme with an annual contribution of €100,000. In addition, DWA and local partners contribute the sum of €4,752,000. The remaining contribution to cover the total costs comes from the Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Infrastructure and Water Management and amounts to €4,782,000.

Cost and contribution (in 1,000 euro)	Budget 2023	Actual 2023
Dutch Water Authorities and local partners	4,752	49%
Project cost partners	4,034	42%
Programme Office (excl. learning programme and communication)	601	6%
Learning programme and communication	247	3%
<b>Total programme costs</b>	<b>9,634</b>	<b>100%</b>
In-kind Dutch Water Authorities and local partners	4,752	49%
Contribution Association of Dutch Water Authorities	100	1%
Contribution Ministries	4,782	50%
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>9,634</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 2: Costs vs. contribution 2023

Table 3 shows first of all the total budget in euros for 2023 (including the working days of DWA and local partners). The budget, which was set in the 2023-2030 multi-annual plan, is presented in table 3 to show the relationship between the total budget that includes the in-kind contribution from the partnerships themselves on the one hand and on the other hand the out-of-pocket costs per partnership, which are covered by the contribution received from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Infrastructure and Water Management.

The total budget is €9,979,000. Of this amount, a total of €4,699,000 is budgeted for out-of-pocket costs. These comprise the following expenses: travel and accommodation costs, contractors' costs, project costs, contingency costs and a budget of €30,000 per partnership for the cost of the partnership management.

From this budget of €4,699,000, a total of €4,034,000 out-of-pocket costs was collectively made by the partnerships in 2023. A closer look at table 3 shows that in the case of fourteen partnerships, actual out-of-pocket costs are under budget. The main reasons are: fewer activities like working visits due to increased safety restrictions (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia Abbay, Mali), vacant positions in the programme management (Colombia), work visits and projects rescheduled to 2024 (Eswatini, Vietnam), delay in the start of contractors' work due to local change of institutions (Peru), more costs borne by local partner (South Africa) and, lastly, a partnership and its activities being put on hold since mid-2023 (Mali).

The total out-of-pocket costs for the partnerships Argentina, Ethiopia Awash and Palestinian Territories are above budget. For all three partnerships this is due to higher contractors' costs as a result of extra work visit(s) (Argentina), more activities and the hiring of more staff (Ethiopia Awash) and extra focus on activities related to the local development of a wastewater management strategy (Palestinian Territories).

The total out-of-pocket costs amount to €4,034,000 and thus remain below the multi-annual plan budget of €4,699,000 for 2023.

Expenses by partnership (in 1,000 euro)	Total budget 2023 (incl. days DWA and local)	Budget 2023 out-of-pocket costs	Actual 2023 out-of-pocket costs
Argentina	166	78	85
Burkina Faso	343	173	146
Columbia	1,220	524	421
Eswatini	891	480	418
Ethiopia Abbay	340	163	151
Ethiopia Awash	594	312	438
Ethiopia WWTP	262	144	135
Ghana	381	202	184
Indonesia	614	303	258
Kenya Tana	328	145	133
Mali	274	130	66
Mozambique	1,468	715	686
Palestinian Territories	394	136	164
Peru	627	284	143
Romania	460	161	105
South Africa	957	429	330
Vietnam	660	321	172
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,979</b>	<b>4,699</b>	<b>4,034</b>

Table 3: Expenses by Blue Deal Partnership



**Improving access  
to clean, safe and  
sufficient water for  
20 million people**





May 2024  
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