

NETHERLANDS
UNESCO WMO
WATER COMMITTEE



THE COMMITTEE

The Netherlands UNESCO WMO Water Committee (NUWWC) is a platform of scientists, policy makers and practitioners. It contributes to the water programmes of UNESCO and WMO. The committee was originally established in conjunction with the International Hydrological Decade (1965-1974). The platform currently unites Dutch academic, research and operational organizations as well as policy institutes working on hydrology, water resources management and meteorology from an international perspective. It is supported by a committee coordinator.

The primary role of the NUWWC is to contribute to the international water research programmes of UNESCO (the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme, IHP) and WMO (Vision and Strategy for Hydrology). During UNESCO IHP Council and WMO Congress meetings, this also involves expressing the formal Dutch position concerning decision-making on proposed resolutions. The committee plays a leading role in stimulating scientific advancements and constructive collaboration in international water research and capacity development, by contributing with knowledge and lessons learned, and by driving the implementation of projects and initiatives that aim to achieve SDG6.

COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

- **Connect and stimulate interaction** between scientists, policy makers and practitioners (the science-policy-practice interface) from the international water research and capacity development communities.
- **Harmonize and drive** the Dutch contributions and position with regards to the international water research programmes of UNESCO and WMO.
- **Promote** committee members' expertise with water organizations in other countries, potential new partners and strategic actors in the UN Water Family network.
- **Stimulate and organize** knowledge sharing events and knowledge co-development initiatives.

UNESCO

The UNESCO Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP) is the only intergovernmental cooperation programme of the UN system dedicated to freshwater research and management, and related capacity development. UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) hosts the IHP Secretariat, which coordinates the implementation of IHP together with its network of IHP National Committees, UNESCO Category 1 and 2 Centres, UNESCO Water Chairs, and other partners. Its ninth phase (2022-2029) is currently being implemented. IHP aims to highlight the relevance of water for sustainable development from the perspective of education (from primary to professional education), scientific advancement and innovation, as well as its social, historical and cultural dimension.

The Permanent Delegation of the Netherlands to UNESCO and the NUWWC coordinator harmonize the collective input and collaboration with UNESCO. More information: [link](#)

WMO

WMO (World Meteorological Organization) has formulated its Vision and Strategy for Hydrology and the Associated Plan of Action. This represents the overall strategic framework of WMO for international water research and implementation projects in the fields of meteorology, climate research, cryosphere and operational hydrology. WMO conducts assessments of the quantity and quality of water resources. This helps national hydrological services with the hydrological data required for sustainable water resources management.

The Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) is responsible for the collaboration with WMO on meteorology-related topics. The National Hydrological Advisor, appointed at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, coordinates operational hydrology related initiatives. The Advisor participates in WMO's Hydrological Assembly and Hydrological Coordination Panel. Support is provided by the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to WMO and the NUWWC coordinator. More information: [link](#)

THEMATIC EXPERTISE

The Committee members cover several areas of Dutch water expertise, built up over decades of research about and practical applications of water resources management.

OVERALL THEME

Hydrology

Hydrology is the central theme in the committee's collaboration with UNESCO and WMO. It serves as an overarching theme for various perspectives on water. From an academic perspective, this includes social, environmental, technological and cultural perspectives on water. In thematic terms, hydrology relates to flood and drought risk management to water governance, but also cross-cutting areas such as water-related capacity development and training. A broad range of programmes and initiatives is in place, which the Dutch water sector implements in collaboration with international partners.

SPECIFIC THEMATIC EXPERTISE

Water management in deltas

Deltas are densely populated places where rivers and seas meet. An integrated approach is required towards managing land and water in such challenging environments. The Dutch water sector has gained decades of experiences with managing water in deltaic areas. It has learned from other large deltas around the globe, with sometimes even more dynamic water systems. Delta management, and the development of policy frameworks for sustainable delta management including nature-based solutions, is a focal theme in the Dutch international water cooperation.

Water data collection and sharing

Several Dutch committee members have a long track record in water-related data generation, collection, analysis and sharing. This includes modeling and analyzing global hydrology and water resources, assessing water use in agriculture and crop production, conducting earth observation through remote sensing, and river flow forecasting. Advancements in meteorology improve our understanding of atmospheric processes, climate change and the effects on water resources. The topic of water data collection relates to the principles of Open Science. Committee members have contributed to the Global Runoff Dataset and European Water Archive.

SPECIFIC THEMATIC EXPERTISE

Water cooperation and governance

Water cooperation is key in international policies of the Netherlands. Some of the NUWWC committee members focus on studying the relationship between water, climate, peace and security. Others are active in water diplomacy in transboundary river basins. This theme also encompasses the broader field of water governance. Good water governance stresses the importance of timely stakeholder consultation across multiple levels and sound decision-making processes in water resources management.

Sustainable groundwater management

Groundwater makes up most of the world's freshwater reserves. It is essential to support wetlands and rivers. Although largely invisible, groundwater is essential to sustaining livelihoods in marginal areas, for example through drinking water supply and irrigation. In the Netherlands, where fresh groundwater aquifers prevent saline groundwater flows and seawater intrusion, various institutes have specialized in the topic of groundwater assessments and sustainable use of the resources. One example is the [International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre](#), IGRAC, a WMO Centre.

Water Education and Capacity Development

Sustainable water resources management depends on the skills of professionals working in the water sector, as well as on the way national or regional water institutions operate. It is essential that the 'water workforce' is well-equipped in terms of competences and skills. Nearly all members of the NUWWC are active in water education and capacity development. IHE Delft Institute for Water Education is a UNESCO Category 2 Centre. In addition, over ten Dutch museums are member of UNESCO's Global Water Museum Network which aims to reach non-professionals and the general public with water knowledge.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Clingendael | Deltares | Twente University - ITC |
Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment |
Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Ministry of Infrastructure and
Water Management | Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries,
Food Security and Nature | Dutch Research Council |
Rijkswaterstaat | Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute |
Delft University of Technology | Utrecht University | Vrije
Universiteit Amsterdam – IVM | Wageningen University and
Research | KWR Water Research Institute | Dutch Water
Authorities | Statistics Netherlands

OBSERVERS

International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre
(IGRAC) | Ministry of Education, Culture and Science |
Netherlands Water Partnership | Permanent Delegation of
the Kingdom of the Netherlands to UNESCO | IHE Delft
Institute for Water Education | Netherlands Commission for
UNESCO | EURO-FRIEND Water



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WATER COMMITTEE



CONTACT

Are you interested in learning more about the Committee,
its members, or in exploring opportunities for collaboration?
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Contributing to:



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