



Enabling Dutch Sector Engagement in the WACA Program

Summary Report

This document provides a recap and reflections of the online session “Enabling Dutch Sector Engagement in WACA”, taking place on 24 September 2020. The session was facilitated by the Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP).

Introduction

Unsustainable development and inadequate management of the coastal space and resources threaten the productivity of coastal ecosystems and the lives and livelihoods of their inhabitants. In West Africa, a mix of natural processes, man-made infrastructure and inadequate land-use planning continue to put coastal communities at risk.

Responding to the urgency of scaling up coastal resilience across West Africa and mobilising the required financing through coordinated regional action, the West Africa Coastal Areas (WACA) program was developed in partnership with West African stakeholders (<https://www.wacaprogram.org>). Through co-developed interventions, the programme transfers knowledge, fosters political dialogue among countries and mobilises public and private finance to ultimately make households less vulnerable to coastal erosion, flooding, and pollution.

It is within the context of the WACA program that the Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) and World Bank (WB) aim to establish a Dutch WACA Hub to facilitate potential contribution of Dutch water sector expertise to the program. The Dutch water sector, as internationally recognised experts on issues like integrated coastal zone management, including the use of nature-based solutions for water management and flood control measures, offers a relevant and much needed value proposition to sustainably address coastal management challenges together with West African partners.

Over the past months, the NWP team had conversations with a variety of organisations within the Dutch water sector. Goal of these meetings was to get a better understanding of the interest in the WACA program, ongoing activities, the needs of the sector in relation to the programme and expectations for a Dutch WACA Hub. A comment that is often made is the complexity of the programme and the need for more information on how the WACA program works and how Dutch sector parties can contribute. To bring the Dutch water sector and WACA program together, bring clarity on the program and identify potential pathways for Dutch water sector engagement in the program, NWP facilitated an online session on 24 September 2020.

Objectives of the session

The goals of the session included:

- Introducing the intended collaboration between the WACA program and NWP & Dutch partner;
- Informing the Dutch sector about the WACA program (e.g. activities, opportunities & areas to engage);
- Gathering input on potential services of a Dutch WACA Hub and understanding the relevant ongoing Dutch sector efforts in the region and level of interest of the Dutch sector in the WACA program;
- Identifying potential pathways for Dutch sector engagement in the WACA program.

Background on collaboration & the Dutch water sector

After a general introduction, Mr. Peter Kristensen, WACA Program Coordinator and Lead Environmental Specialist at the World Bank provided welcoming remarks. Amongst others, he stressed that considering the current pandemic, it is possible to design recovery programs that deal with the immediate challenge of economic recovery and jobs, while cementing the basis for a sustainable and resilient future. The WACA program is a clear example of this approach and the WB is keen to proceed

with full speed – focusing on social aspects, sustainability, private sector engagement, and the use of the WACA platform to engage expertise and innovative financing instruments.

Mr. Bastiaan Lammers, Head of Operations at NWP continued with a short introduction on NWP and stressed the importance of the WACA program and the opportunities it can bring for the Dutch water sector. The regional focus is crucial for its success and the expertise of Dutch organisations in relation to integrated approaches, complex stakeholder management and concepts such as Nature-based Solutions might offer good solutions for the West African needs in relation to integrated coastal zone management.

Ms. Josephine Damstra from NWP followed the meeting by providing a short overview of the participating organisations, highlighting the various types of organisations (ranging from engineering firms to knowledge institutes and from NGO's to contractors), topics of interest, potential offering to the programme and level of interest in different countries.

Presentation on the WACA Program

Mr. Sajid Anwar, WACA Platform Lead and Environmental Specialist at the World Bank Group provided an in-depth overview of the WACA program design. The programme is operating under two parts:

- The Resilience Investment Project (ResIP), which is a \$212million, client-executed investment project in six countries and four regional institutions. It targets site specific investments on a country-level and investments in regional integration and policy formulation.
- The Scale-Up Platform, which aims to expand to 11 additional countries and scale up the level of investment finance to \$2 billion or more – an amount that is seen as the minimal level of ensuring a transformative impact on the West African coastline.

The WACA program is working in multiple arenas with a focus on identifying resilience investments and supporting capacity development for long-term sustainability. As such, there are opportunities for partners to engage across multiple sectors (ranging from Ports to Mangroves & NBS, to Plastics, Dams and Investment Planning), whether for resilience investments, or for technical assistance type activities.

The presentation by the World Bank also touched upon institutional arrangements, how financing flows and the way project ideas can move from project preparation to financing and implementation. Mr. Anwar highlighted the different actors in this process and the action that they take, emphasising that the role of the World Bank is mainly focused on supervision and that the countries are really the core of the programme; the government counterparts lead dialogues and have a final say on potential pilots, innovative solutions and the implementation of grand ideas such as a sand engine.

The final part of the presentation highlighted potential Dutch engagement. It was stressed that there are multiple ways to become involved be it through financing, knowledge sharing, capacity building or project implementation. As such, the sector is not required to wait for the various Multi-Sector Investment Plans (MSIP) to engage, knowing the work that needs to be done and agreeing with the government of the WACA partner country, it is possible to start putting partners and instruments together for engagement.

Overall, it was stressed that a collaboration with the WACA program is not only a collaboration with the World Bank. The programme consists of a wide range of local, regional and international institutions and implementing partners and both the World Bank and NWP via the Hub, can play a role as facilitator and overall connector.

After the plenary presentation, the participants were divided into two different breakout groups, one focusing on Ghana and the other focusing on Senegal.

Summary breakout session Ghana

The breakout session on Ghana started with an introduction from Job Udo, Strategic Advisor on Water for the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ghana. The session followed by a short presentation from Sajid Anwar, WACA Platform Lead and Environmental Specialist at the World Bank. He focused on current developments and activities in relation to Ghana. The MSIP for Ghana is under development and is expected to be completed in 10 months. The MSIP describes the challenges, priorities, and potential areas for engagement on coastal management in Ghana on a general (pre-feasibility) level and is used to further elaborate on the WACA related project in Ghana. Following various questions from the audience, it was stated that the WACA program can in general serve as a voice of support or catalyst to innovative solutions. The program can direct project ideas/initiatives or relevant products and services to the relevant partners.

Summary breakout session Senegal

The breakout session on Senegal started with an introduction from Pyke Polderman, Policy Advisor at Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Senegal. He referred to the role of the Embassy as a linking pin between Dutch and Senegalese organisations and governmental agencies. He stressed that problems on coastal protection in Senegal are complex and interlinked. Both from the political and institutional side it is not always easy to work towards a solution. The Embassy can guide organizations through some of these complexities.

The welcoming remarks were followed by a short presentation from Nicolas Desramaut, WACA Resilience Investment Project Team Leader and Senior Environmental Engineer at the World Bank. He mentioned that the Senegalese government is currently finalizing a new law on coastal areas. The WACA team aims to provide support, build institutional capacity and strengthen the legal framework around this law. In addition, he noted that there is no MSIP for Senegal, but that the programme will build on the national strategy on integrated coastal zone management that was already in place. Within this national strategy, the government really identified the need for building the capacity on management of environmental aspects of offshore exploitation of oil and gas. Following a Q&A with the audience, the group reverted to the 'main room' for a plenary wrap up and closure of the session.

Key reflections & Next steps

The online session was a first introduction to the WACA Program and the World Bank team leading the programme. Joint reflections include, but are not limited to:

- There is a high interest from the sector to be involved in the program and the work that NWP is doing in relation to WACA;
- There is already an ongoing involvement of Dutch consultancy and surveying companies while others submitted tenders coming out of the programme;
- Complexity and lack of information on how the WACA program works is seen as one of the main challenges for DWS;
- Regional focus of the programme makes it hard to find the right entrance and direct business development;
- French language is often seen as a challenge.

With respect to a Dutch WACA Hub, some initial reflections include:

- Greatest value is seen during the pre-competitive phase;
- The Hub could serve as a tool to give the Dutch water sector more visibility;
- The Hub could serve as a mediator to inform about the program, local needs and upcoming opportunities, and guide affiliated organisations through complex processes.

By means of next steps, NWP and the World Bank will organise targeted follow up meetings on specific topics and/or countries. It will also explore the possibility of developing resources to communicate key information such as the needs of WACA partner countries and potential ways to engage based on a partner's offering to the region.

In addition, NWP, together with the World Bank and Dutch partners such as RVO, continues seeking a better understanding of the commitment and needs of interested Dutch organisations and the willingness to move forward with a pilot project or other types of activities.

If you have project ideas or want to be part of targeted follow up sessions, do get in touch with Josephine Damstra (j.damstra@nwp.nl) or Raúl Glotzbach (r.glotzbach@nwp.nl). In addition, do let us know any questions, comments or ideas you may have with respect to the WACA Program and a Dutch WACA Hub.

Appendix I. Programme

Topic
<p>Welcome & Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming words by Peter Kristensen, WACA Program Coordinator, Lead Environmental Specialist at the World Bank Group • Welcoming words by Bastiaan Lammers, Head of Operations at Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP)
Overview of participants based on registration form
Presentation on WACA Program by Sajid Anwar, WACA Platform Lead, Environmental Specialist at the World Bank Group
Q&A
<p>Breakout sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On Senegal (facilitated by Pyke Polderman, Policy Advisor at Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Senegal & Nicolas Desramaut, WACA Resilience Investment Project Team Leader, Senior Environmental Engineer at the World Bank Group) • On Ghana (facilitated by Job Udo, Strategic Advisor on Water for the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ghana & Sajid Anwar, WACA Platform Lead, Environmental Specialist at the World Bank Group)
Wrap up

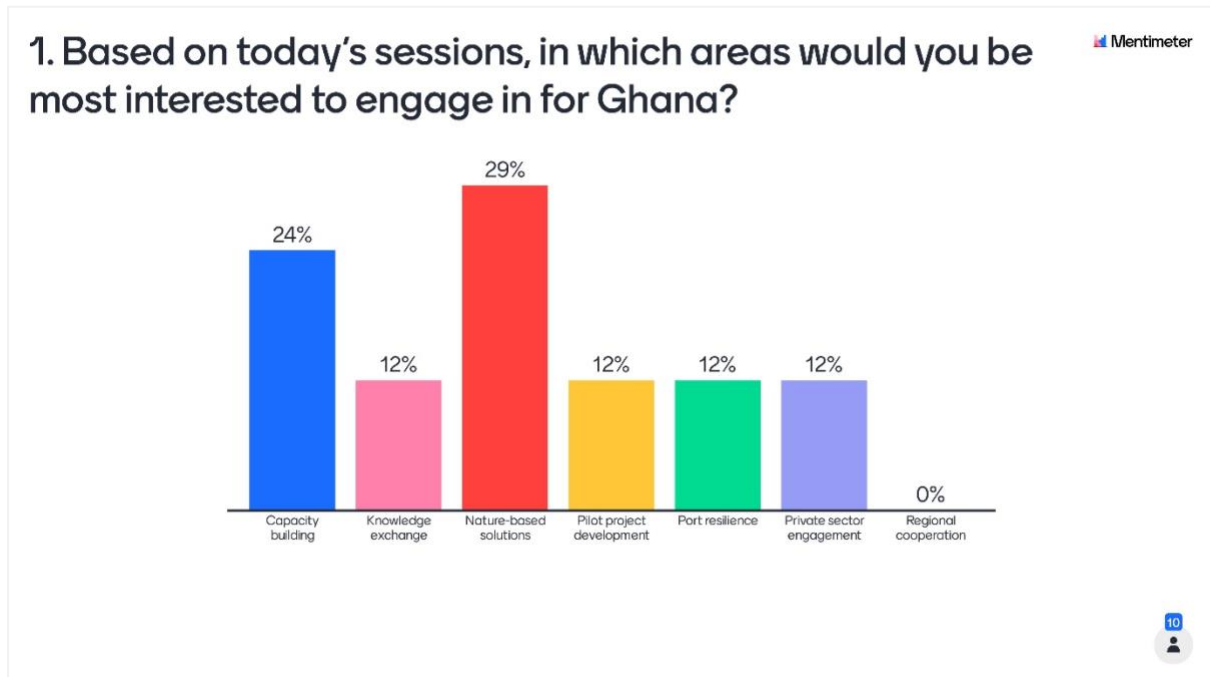
Appendix II. Participants

1. Anastasia Velnidis (Citilinks)	31. Kenichiro Tachi (World Bank)
2. Anne-Katrien Denissen (RVO - PSD Coach)	32. Lisanne Evenhuis (NWP)
3. Anouk de Bakker (Deltares)	33. Lizette van der Kamp (RVO - Infrastructure)
4. Audrey Legat (Deltares)	34. Maarten Meeder (Van Oord)
5. Bastiaan Lammers (NWP)	35. Maddie and Pieter (World Bank)
6. Bert Vermaat (Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Senegal)	36. Maloe de Reuver (NABC)
7. Carolien Wegman (HKV)	37. Mark van Geest (Boskalis)
8. Caroline Figueres (Strategic Advisor Water Benin)	38. Maurice de Kok (Van Oord)
9. Chrétien Hendriks (Genap B.V.)	39. Miriam Pot (NWP)
10. Derk Bonthuis (RVO – Instruments)	40. Nadege Sango Afonso (RVO – PSD Coach)
11. Dirk Heijboer (CDR International)	41. Nene Barry (Witteveen + Bos)
12. Dirkjan Douma (Royal HaskoningDHV)	42. Nicolas Desramaut (World Bank)
13. Eddy Wymenga (Altenburg & Wymenga Ecological Consultants)	43. Nontas Papadimitriou (RVO - Infrastructure)
14. Edwin Zengerink (TenCate Geosynthetics)	44. Noor Hendriks (NWP)
15. Edy Blom (IUCN NL)	45. Omar Saleh (SLAMDAM)
16. Erik Klop (Altenburg & Wymenga Ecological Consultants)	46. Peter Bervoets (NWP)
17. Geert Hendriks (Royal HaskoningDHV)	47. Peter Kristensen (World Bank)
18. Hanneke van Hoof (RVO - PSD Coach)	48. Peter Westerhuis (Van Essen Instruments B.V.)
19. Hans van Poppel (HydroSynergy)	49. Pieter Boer (Boskalis)
20. Henk Nieboer (EcoShape)	50. Pyke Polderman (Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Senegal)
21. Idriss Deffry (World Bank)	51. Raúl Glotzbach (NWP)
22. Jan Kamstra (IUCN NL)	52. Rens de Man (P2)
23. Janet Arthur (Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ghana)	53. Rosmarijn Fens (NABC)
24. Janett Tapia (NWP)	54. Sajid Anwar (World Bank)
25. Jara Bakx (NWP)	55. Sandra Schoof (RVO)
26. Job Udo (Strategic Advisor Water Ghana)	56. Sean Zandbergen (Shore Monitoring & Research)
27. Joel Amani Kouame (Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Ivory Coast)	57. Tien Hoang (RVO)
28. Joris Oele (UN-Habitat)	58. Titia Wouters (Aqua for All)
29. Josephine Damstra (NWP)	59. Tom D'Haeyer (Antea Group)
30. Jurre de Vries (Van Oord)	60. Tom Wilms (Witteveen + Bos)

Appendix III. Outcomes of Mentimeter Questions

Mentimeter outcome from breakout session on Ghana:

Topics of interest to engage in for Ghana:

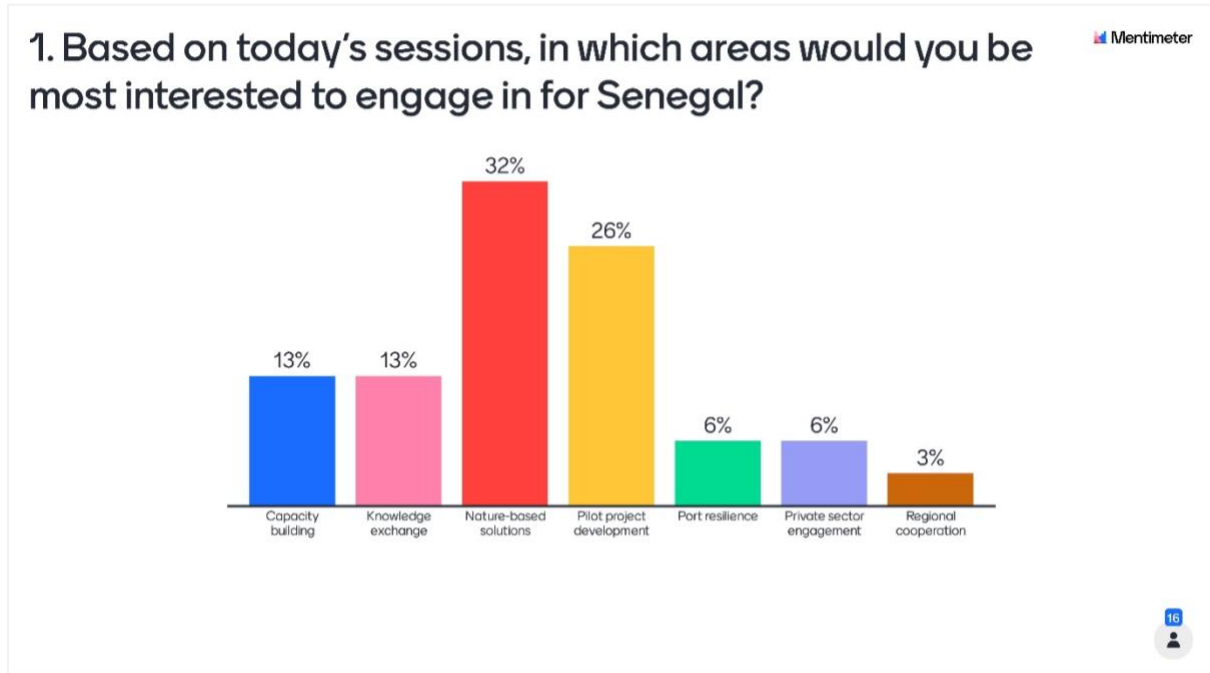


Challenges to engaging in the WACA program:



Mentimeter outcome from breakout session on Senegal:

Topics of interest to engage in for Senegal:



Challenges to engaging in the WACA program:

