



Netherlands
Water Partnership



NWP NGO Water Platform

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“NWP as a broker, a neutral environment, for bringing parties together: share, connect, involve”

A wide variety of Dutch NGOs focus on different aspects of water ranging from access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), enhancing sustainable water use and ecosystems management. Parallel to the thematic focus, members of the NGO Platform work with a wide range of actors, varying from local entrepreneurs and multinationals to scientific institutions, women's groups and farmers cooperatives. As an integral part of NWP, the NGO Water Platform sets out to actively connect to other stakeholders in the water sector to jointly work towards the realisation of the NWP Vision and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Platform

Through the NGO Water Platform, the NWP facilitates deepened connections between all its NGOs members and between NGOs and other member groups within NWP and assures NGO participation in NWP programmes and projects.

Membership of the NGO Water Platform allows for direct access to a diversity of actors within the Dutch water sector while at the same time providing its members with mechanisms to keep abreast of themes of interest, e.g. through experts meeting and network events, the weekly NWP newsletter. The NGO Platform meets every three months to realize joint policy analyses, engage in dialogues with invitees representing various stakeholder groups and to assure NGO members development shared activities. Via: [\(Link\)](#)

Ambition

- Achieve more cooperation between and with NGOs and other NWP participants, and government agencies (integrated approach of the Dutch water sector)
- That movement is made together, based on respect for each other's specific capacities and methods and in solidarity with each other's agendas:
- Through a joint effective contribution of the NGOs, together with the other NWP members, to the activities and themes (programs, projects etc.) in the sector, the aim is to make a sustainable contribution to achieving SDG6

Alone you might go faster, but together you go further.



Results and examples

The NGO Platform is a known entity; both Parliament and the ministries, and other sector parties know the added value of the Platform: an integrated and inclusive approach.

An important part of the Platform's work is to link to other NWP-members, as collective change maker. As shown during the New Year's event in 2019. [\(Link\)](#)

- The NWP NGO Water Platform promotes an integrated approach because it believes this will yield most results throughout the water sector and will, moreover, contribute to achieving the SDGs. Intensified cooperation with other NWP members offers NGOs access to the knowledge and expertise of companies, government agencies and knowledge institutes, and simultaneously gives companies, government agencies and knowledge institutes access to the knowledge and local networks of NGOs.
- Inspiring collaboration: The New Year's reception (January 18, 2019) was a great step forward in inspiring collaboration. There was consensus among those present that it is evident that intensified cooperation between NGOs, companies and knowledge institutes in the water sector leads to the transition to a sustainable future. Concrete examples:
 - 1 water finance & the market, hosted by Aqua for All and Dunea;
 - 2 sustainable business models for water, hosted by Max Foundation;
 - 3 water management and agriculture, hosted by Aidenvironment and HKV Lijn in Water;
 - 4 increasing mutual cooperation between WASH SDG Program, Blue Deal and Water-WorX, hosted by Simavi and Wereld Waternet.



Quote of Henk Ovink Dutch Special Envoy for Water Affairs

"NGOs bring assets that others can't. They can and must be the thorn in the side of governments and businesses to take their responsibilities and act as needed. Of course, NGOs also have their own responsibilities too. And I realise that joining forces can be challenging. Governments must acknowledge this by giving them the space they need to operate. In turn, NGOs must use that space to the max." [\(Link\)](#)

Quote of one of the Platform members

"The NGO Platform is relevant and important, and all the documents and meetings are both interesting and inspiring"



NGO Platform and the collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Parliament

Politicians Corrie van Brenk ([50PLUS](#)) [\(Link\)](#) and Chris Stoffer ([SGP](#)) [\(Link\)](#) opted for SDG 6 which focuses on clean drinking water, good sanitation and sustainable water management. In this Q&A session, they explain why they think this SDG is so important, how they approach it and what they hope to achieve: [\(Link\)](#) (February 20, 2020).

For example, via the Building Change campaign, the platform informs and updates Corrie van Brenk and Chris Stoffer on a regular basis:

- Since September 2017, more than 25 members of the Dutch House of Representatives from eight different political parties have committed to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They are part of the Adopt an SDG campaign initiated by [Building Change](#) [\(Link\)](#), a project of [Partos, Foundation Max van der Stoep](#) [\(Link\)](#) and NWP member [Woord en Daad](#) [\(Link\)](#).

Quote of Chris Stoffer (SGP)

"I believe the best political motion was 'iedereen de pot op' (a Dutch expression with a double meaning that suggests that everyone gets a usable toilet, eds.) in November 2018, in which we asked Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, to draw up an ambitious and credible plan to achieve the Dutch target for 2030 of access to sanitation for 50 million people by 2030. It generated a lot of publicity – just what we want to create awareness and encourage action."

By means of letters on behalf of the entire platform and various conversations with civil servants and members of Parliament, i.e. the following has been reached (we contributed to) in Dutch:

- *Naar aanleiding van de IOB-beleidsdoorlichting van verbeterd waterbeheer zal Nederland samen met maatschappelijke organisaties inzetten op meer inclusieve instituties, groene/natuurlijke infrastructuuroplossingen en de verduurzaming van resultaten. Zoals aangekondigd in de Kamerbrief over de Netherlands International Water Ambition (NIWA), Kamerstuknummer 32 605, nr. 217, zal het kabinet interdepartementale samenwerking intensiveren om de impact op wereldwijde waterzekerheid en -veiligheid, en het Nederlands verdienvermogen te vergroten. WASH-programma's die bijdragen aan innovatieve financiering worden opgeschaald conform de WASH-strategie (2017). Waterbeheer en WASH worden vaker gekoppeld. Via: [\(Link\)](#) (September 17, 2019)*

- The platform managed to organise a recurrent meeting with IWRM colleagues of the ministry of Foreign Affairs (for WASH this was already organised)
- The NGO Platform members link to many programmes and projects (co)financed by the ministry of Foreign Affairs. For example, a lot of alumni of the Young Expert Programmes [\(Link\)](#) work various members of the Platform.

Organisation and list of participating NGOs

The current chair of the NWP NGO Water Platform is Daniëlle Hirsch, Director Both ENDS and Board Member NWP. Secretary is Vincent Cornelissen, project manager NWP (v.cornelissen@nwp.nl).

Policy group

On a monthly basis the policy group of the platform meets. The policy group of the NWP NGO Water Platform focuses on influencing policy towards Dutch parties that are active in the international water sector. The current members of this sub-group include: Both ENDS, SNV, IRC WASH, AMREF - Flying Doctors, Simavi, Max Foundation, Plan International Netherlands, IUCN - National Committee of The Netherlands and Wetlands International. The policy group act on the basis of their collective theory of change.

Below the list of participating NGOs (as of January 2021):



More information and participation

Want to join the platform? [Become a member!](#) ([Link](#))

Want to get in touch with the platform?

Contact Vincent Cornelissen: v.cornelissen@nwp.nl

