

**Netherlands
National
IHP-HWRP
Committee**



THE COMMITTEE

The Netherlands National IHP-HWRP Committee is a platform of Dutch scientists, policy-makers and practitioners. Since its establishment in 1964, it connects academic, operational, and research institutes and the three ministries focused on water. Together, the members define the Dutch position regarding the water programmes of UNESCO (IHP) and WMO (HWRP). By bringing together Dutch expertise from different parts of the water sector, the Committee provides valuable input to the international networks of UNESCO and WMO.

The Committee keeps its members informed of opportunities in these programmes and organises joint activities with members and partners. The Netherlands hosts two UNESCO Water Centres: Category 1 Centre UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and Category 2 Centre IGRAC for international groundwater resources assessments. IGRAC is also a WMO Centre.

COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

- Contribute to the international water research agenda
- Define the Dutch strategic position regarding UNESCO-IHP and WMO-HWRP
- Connect Dutch researchers, policy-makers and practitioners
- Link Dutch experts to potential partners abroad
- Inform partners about specific Dutch water knowledge and expertise
- Share knowledge on water issues with other countries

UNESCO-IHP (International Hydrological Programme) is the only intergovernmental freshwater initiative institutionalised in the UN system. UNESCO hosts the IHP Secretariat, which coordinates the implementation of the programme together with its network of IHP National Committees, UNESCO Category 1 and 2 centres, UNESCO Water Chairs, and other partners. In its eighth phase (2014-2021), IHP is aimed at improving water security in response to local, regional, and global challenges.

WMO-HWRP is the Hydrology and Water Resources Programme of the World Meteorological Organisation. It focuses on the assessment of the quantity and quality of water resources. It provides advice to members on flood management and IWRM. It helps national hydrological services to provide the hydrological data and information required for the sustainable development of their countries. The Commission for Hydrology (CHy) provides guidance for the implementation of the programme. The Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) is the Dutch representative in the WMO-HWRP.

THEMES

The Committee focuses on the following areas of Dutch expertise, which are supported by thematic working groups:

MAIN THEMES

Delta management & Building with nature

Deltas worldwide are often densely populated areas where rivers and seas meet and where many different issues are intertwined. Such complex areas require an integrated approach towards land- and water management. Because of its long time experience in managing the country as a delta area, Delta management is a focal theme in the Dutch international water cooperation. Building with Nature is the concept of using ecological processes in designing water management measures, which can make such measures more resilient. It is an important approach in Dutch programmes such as Room for the River and the 'Sand Engine' (*Zandmotor*).

Data collection and sharing

Several Dutch institutes have a particular comparative advantage in data collection and sharing. This includes modeling and analysing the global hydrology and water resources, water accounting, earth observation through remote sensing and flow forecasting. Water accounting approaches may support trans-boundary water sharing agreements and monitor the achievement of selected future Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Water cooperation and diplomacy, water policy and governance

Water diplomacy is an important Dutch area of expertise. Research institutes focus on the relationship between water and security, the influence of climate change on this relationship and the use of "track II" diplomacy approaches in transboundary water management. This theme also encompasses the broader field of water policy and governance, with an emphasis on the interactions among the multiple levels, sectors and actors involved in the decision-making processes.

Sustainable groundwater management

Groundwater makes up the most of the world's fresh water reserves; it often sustains wetlands and rivers and prevents sea water intrusion in coastal areas. Groundwater is invisible and its enormous importance - not only to water supply and irrigation - is not easily recognized. Therefore the Netherlands hosts and supports IGRAC, the UNESCO Groundwater Centre, that facilitates sharing of expertise necessary for sustainable groundwater management. Further, The Netherlands has a valuable, sometimes unique groundwater expertise (at Deltares, UNESCO-IHE, universities, water supply companies and waterboards) and an impressive information sharing tradition and technology.

Disaster Risk Reduction & Hydrohazards

Disaster Risk Reduction is not only a focus area of IHP, but also of other programmes within UNESCO, WMO and other UN organisations (e.g. UN-ISDR). To advise countries that face severe water threats, the Dutch government initiated the Disaster Risk Reduction Team. This team of experts advises governments regarding urgent water issues, such as floods, droughts, and water pollution. Dutch knowledge can be used to develop measures that prevent water-related disasters in the future.

CROSS-CUTTING THEME

Climate change adaptation

This is a focal theme for both IHP and HWRP, and encompasses a broad range of activities and programmes existing within the Dutch water sector. It has been selected as overarching theme under which various topics can be addressed, such as disaster risk reduction, data collection and sharing, building with nature and delta management.

MEMBERS

Clingendael | Deltares | ITC | Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment (MER) | Ministry of Economic Affairs | Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment | Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) | Rijkswaterstaat | Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI) | TU Delft | University of Twente | Utrecht University | Wageningen University and Research Centre

OBSERVERS

International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) | Netherlands Water Partnership | Permanent Netherlands Delegation to UNESCO | UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education | UNESCO National Commission



NETHERLANDS NATIONAL
IHP-HWRP COMMITTEE

CONTACT

Interested in receiving more information about the Committee, exploring cooperation opportunities, or subscribing to our e-newsletter? Please contact the Committee Secretariat via: ihp.hwrp@unesco.nl.

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