



Notification concerning the adoption of the National Water Programme 2022 – 2027

On 18 March 2022 the Minister of Infrastructure & Water Management, the Minister for Nature & Nitrogen Policy and the Minister for Housing & Spatial Planning adopted the National Water Programme 2022 – 2027 (NWP), including its annexes. The annexes concern the river basin management plans and the North Sea Programme for the period 2022 – 2027. This notification gives more information about the NWP.

In the NWP, the Dutch government sets out the main elements of national water policy and its implementation with regard to national waters and waterways. The Netherlands and water are inseparably linked. Water influences the location and form of our housing, our natural environment, drinking water, shipping, agriculture and industry. Water presents the Netherlands with major challenges, which will become bigger and more complex in the future.

These include:

- Anticipating the consequences of climate change for the Netherlands by ensuring effective protection against flooding, a water-resilient society and a supply of fresh water that can withstand more frequent droughts.
- Continuing efforts to safeguard the quality and quantity of our groundwater and surface water, restoration of biodiversity, and a sustainable supply of drinking water.
- Striking the right balance in the North Sea between offshore wind power, nature development, fisheries, shipping and sand extraction.
- The maintenance and where necessary replacement or renovation of infrastructure such as dikes, bridges and locks.

These tasks cannot be tackled in isolation. They call for a comprehensive approach that integrates other tasks we face in our physical living environment, such as the energy transition, housing construction and the rural transition. This comprehensive approach must include the water and soil system as its central element.

In the NWP, the government adopts three main objectives for the future:

- a safe and climate-resilient delta;
- a competitive, sustainable and circular delta;
- a clean and healthy delta with areas of great ecological significance.

Central government cannot achieve the NWP's objectives on its own. To tackle the various national and regional tasks, central government must work together with other tiers of government, civil society organisations, sectoral parties, drinking water companies and other businesses, and the general public. These parties have collaborated on the NWP's development.

A SINGLE COMMON WATER PROGRAMME

For 2009 – 2015 and 2016 – 2021, central government drew up a National Water Plan together with a Management and Development Plan for National Waters. For the period 2022-2027, these two plans have been combined by the government into a single programme in anticipation of the entry into force of the Environment and Planning Act.

Major components of the National Water Programme 2022 – 2027 are:

- the river basin management plans for the Dutch parts of the Rhine, Maas, Scheldt and Eems river basins for 2022 – 2027;
- the flood risk management plan for the Dutch parts of the Rhine, Maas, Scheldt and Eems river basins for 2022 – 2027;
- the North Sea Programme, including Part 3 of the Marine Strategy for the Dutch part of the North Sea (Marine Strategy Framework Directive programme of measures).

An environmental impact assessment has been drafted for the NWP, including a Natura 2000 appropriate assessment.

No objection to or application for judicial review of the adoption of the NWP is possible.

PRECEDING PARTICIPATION PROCESS AND PROCEDURES FOR EXPRESSING VIEWS

From late 2019 to late 2021, subnational authorities and stakeholders from across society were involved by means of a participation process in the development of the NWP and the annexes. Many stakeholder organisations provided input by taking part in thematic or area-related sessions or via administrative bodies. Dutch and foreign government bodies, civil society institutions, members of the public and companies provided input into the draft NWP and supplementary draft North Sea Programme through procedures for expressing views.

Their views contributed to the development of the NWP and the annexes. The government's response to these views have been set out in two response papers.



READ THE DOCUMENTS

All documents will be available online from Tuesday 22 March 2022 at: www.platformparticipatie.nl/nationaalwaterprogramma and www.ruimtelijkeplannen.nl.

Paper copies of the documents will be available for inspection from Tuesday 22 March 2022 to Monday 2 May 2022 during regular office hours at:

- **Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management**, Rijnstraat 8, The Hague, tel. +31 (0)70 456 9607 (by appointment only).
- **Rijkswaterstaat**, Griffioenlaan 2, Utrecht, tel. +31 (0)88 797 1111.

The documents are also available for public inspection at the offices of every province in the Netherlands. The addresses of all locations where the documents can be inspected are listed on: www.platformparticipatie.nl/nationaalwaterprogramma.

PLEASE NOTE: You may need to make an appointment to inspect the documents in person and opening hours may be limited due to COVID-19-related measures. You are therefore advised to contact the location by telephone before you go.

DIGITAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION POINTS

Digital government information points are for people who find it difficult to use online services and have questions about their dealings with the government. The information points are located at public libraries and are therefore readily accessible. They can help you with questions about government websites, such as how to consult online documents relating to this project.

Ask at your local library what the options are. For more information, see www.informatiepuntdigitaleoverheid.nl.



INFORMATION

For more information: go to:

www.platformparticipatie.nl/nationaalwaterprogramma and www.iplo.nl/water-nwp.

Questions regarding the content?: If you have any questions about the content of the National Water Programme 2022-2027, please email: PostbusNationaalWaterProgramma@minienw.nl.