



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Adaptation communication

The Netherlands' submission to the United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change



Cover note

This submission, prepared in accordance with article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement, sets out the organisational part of the Adaptation Communication of the Netherlands. It has been drawn up using the guidelines in the Annex to Decision 9/CMA.1 as a framework. Supplementary information has been included in an annex.

Adaptation is a top priority for the Netherlands, both domestically and internationally. In 2016 the Netherlands adopted its National Adaptation Strategy (NAS), which will be updated in 2022. The NAS sets clear guidelines for adaptation action in the Netherlands to prepare for a climate-resilient future. This includes a comprehensive approach to adaptation that integrates climate-resilient policies across all sectors, such as water, infrastructure/mobility, urban and spatial planning, agriculture, nature/biodiversity, health and security. The Netherlands has centres of knowledge on various elements of adaptation that assign a crucial role to nature-based solutions and an ecosystem-based approach.

Internationally, the Netherlands advances adaptation action through various policies and programmes. Inclusivity of marginalised groups and the most climate-vulnerable people, gender equality, and youth are essential elements in these programmes. The Netherlands stresses the importance of adaptive capacity, good planning and long-term sustainable implementation of adaptation action for all adaptation sectors. This was highlighted during the Climate Adaptation Summit, the first ever global virtual conference exclusively dedicated to adaptation, held by the Netherlands on 25-26 January 2021, building on the work of the Global Commission on Adaptation.

The Netherlands will continue to build on the progress set out in this Adaptation Communication and will work with and learn from counterparts around the world in the lead-up to COP26 in Glasgow and beyond. This Adaptation Communication will be updated in 2022 in conjunction with the adaptation section of the National Communication.

Introduction

This submission sets out the adaptation communication of the Netherlands¹, submitted in accordance with article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement. Paragraph 10 requires that Parties to the Paris Agreement should, as appropriate, submit and update an adaptation communication. This Adaptation Communication will be updated in 2022 in conjuncture with the National Communication, and will lay out a more detailed overview of domestic and international adaptation efforts of the

Netherlands. The Netherlands' submission has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Annex to Decision 9/CMA.1 of 15 December 2018. The communication contains information regarding the adaptation priorities of the Netherlands and all relevant policies, institutional arrangements and regulations that apply domestically. It also outlines various initiatives and activities the Netherlands engages in with other countries and international organisations, as well civil society groups and other relevant actors at the subnational level, including indigenous groups and youth groups. Gender-responsive action is an essential component of our adaptation strategy and is also addressed in this communication.

National circumstances, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks

Climate change affects us all, but the effects of climate change differ strongly from one country or region to another. Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) from the past years have shown negative impacts for the Netherlands with extreme weather events such as increased temperatures, heatwaves, droughts and a rising sea level.

The conditions of a changing climate, in a country such as the Netherlands – a low-lying delta area with four large rivers and a high population density, and low-lying small islands in the Caribbean – give rise to climate change impacts that require risk assessments and decisions on timely and smart interventions.

Mitigation is the best form of adaptation to climate change. As a member state of the European Union, the Netherlands is committed to the EU goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2050 and to the EU target of a net domestic reduction of at least 55% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The Climate Plan, the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) and the National Climate Agreement set out the policy and measures intended to achieve these climate goals.¹ *After the entry into force of the European Union regulation on the European Climate Law, the Dutch Climate Act² must at a minimum stipulate that the national reduction target for 2030 applies, without prejudice to the reductions that must be achieved on basis of the European Climate Law.*

Impacts, risks and vulnerabilities

Impacts, risks and vulnerabilities are currently under review and will be integrated into the operational part of this adaptation communication, as part of the National Communication. Impact and risk assessment is part of the Netherlands' new National Adaptation Strategy, to be published in 2022.

¹ The policies, strategies and mitigation actions of the Netherlands are included in the National Communication (to be updated in 2022).

² Applies only to the European part of the Kingdom.

National adaptation priorities, strategies, policies, plans, goals and actions

As part of the implementation of the institutional arrangements and legal frameworks, the Netherlands has a number of adaptation strategies, policies, plans, goals and actions across different sectors.

The list of plans and actions below is by no means exhaustive but provides a comprehensive overview of the most important adaptation actions in the Netherlands. Dutch adaptation expertise plays an integral part in the implementation of international programmes and projects, in which the Netherlands works closely with local authorities to fulfil local adaptation needs.

General

- The National Adaptation Strategy (2016)ⁱⁱ (NAS). The NAS, a national strategy for the European part of the Netherlands, has identified six main policy goals: 1) increase awareness of the necessity of climate adaptation; 2) encourage the implementation of climate adaptation measures; 3) develop and exploit the knowledge base; 4) address urgent climate risks; 5) embed climate adaptation in policy and legislation; 6) monitor the progress and effectiveness of the adaptation strategy.
- The NAS provides an overview of the main climate risks. Some climate risks need to be addressed more urgently than others, for example, because of gaps in knowledge or a lack of policy measures. Spearheads have been set down, based on the six most urgent climate risks. An updated version of the NAS will be published in 2022 and included in the adaptation section of the Netherlands' National Contribution. Over 300 examples of adaptation actions that were set up and implemented in the Netherlands over the past few years in accordance with the NAS are detailed in a database.ⁱⁱⁱ
- The National Adaptation Implementation Programme 2018-2019^{iv} is focused on setting the agenda and addressing important climate risks of which we are still insufficiently aware in the Netherlands, but which may have a significant impact on, for example, public health and the economy.
- The Nature and Environment Policy Plan for the Dutch Caribbean (2020-2030),^v a comprehensive framework for policies, responsibilities and legal obligations in relation to the natural environment in the special municipalities in the Dutch Caribbean (Bonaire, Saba and St Eustatius).

Agriculture and food security

- The Agriculture Climate Adaptation Action Programme (January 2020) aims to ensure that all businesses in the agriculture and horticulture sectors are prepared by 2030 to deal sustainably and effectively with changes in the climate. The action programme contains five pillars to make agriculture more

climate-resilient, namely the water system, soil system, crops and cultivation systems, livestock farming and the supporting instruments, i.e. regional approach, knowledge and innovation, and risk management. While the programme is primarily national in scope, there is certainly an intention to learn from other countries, both in Europe and beyond. The programme includes innovations and the use of resilient crops and systems, but also other varieties and crops. Dutch agriculture is expected to switch in the – not too distant – future to, for example, more drought- and saline-resistant crops. In order to make that change, it is important that Dutch farmers, researchers and policymakers are able to learn from good international examples.

- The Netherlands' plan of action supporting transition to circular agriculture^{vi} looks ahead to 2030 and focuses on Dutch farming, horticulture and fisheries becoming more resilient. The Netherlands faces serious social and ecological challenges. To be able to fulfil the commitments of the Paris Agreement, the depletion of the soil, freshwater supplies and raw materials need to be prevented and the decline in biodiversity must be halted.

Biodiversity/nature

- Initiatives on climate adaptation and nature have been devised to promote more climate-proof nature and to use nature for adaptive solutions (building with nature). The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality has developed these initiatives together with the provinces, partly because the provincial authorities are responsible for nature policy in the Netherlands. While the initiatives have been developed mainly as national policy, they are also international in outlook. National borders cannot contain nature, and as climatic regions will shift, learning from other countries is as relevant as ever.

Climate data

- The Netherlands Royal Meteorological Institute (KNMI) develops climate scenarios^{vii} for the Netherlands. It has adopted an innovative approach to making projections of the climate in 2050 and 2100, making local calculations based on worldwide IPCC projections. A new climate scenario will be presented in 2023, including the effects of climate change on the Netherlands. It will address aspects such as sea level rise, rainfall, drought, the urban climate and the pace of climate change.

Education

- Unlocking and using adaptation knowledge from cultural heritage to maintain and preserve heritage, collections and archives. Programmes include one on shared cultural heritage.^{viii}

Financial sector

Climate change directly affects insurance business models and the risk management models of households, businesses or public authorities. Risk management, in addition to the financial resources for the energy transition, will be instrumental in efforts to adapt to a changing climate.

In its role as a supervisory authority, De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB) – the Dutch central bank – expects financial institutions to manage such climate risks and have a forward-looking approach. Since 2016, DNB has been identifying the scope of climate risks affecting the Dutch financial sector. DNB has conducted a climate stress test^x on the impact of the energy transition on the financial sector and examined^x exposure to climate risks. The results of these efforts indicate that climate change and the energy transition have the potential to lead to major financial losses. A study carried out in 2020^{xi} by DNB in conjunction with the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency revealed that Dutch financial institutions also run high financial risks due to the loss of biodiversity. DNB works closely with other central banks

and supervisors on these issues within the Network for Greening the Financial System.^{xii} As chair of the Dutch Sustainable Finance Platform,^{xiii} DNB facilitates a dialogue on sustainable finance between the financial sector, supervisory authorities and government ministries.

Health

- The goal of the Green Deal on Sustainable Health^{xiv} is to work towards climate-neutral healthcare. This means net zero emissions and the circular use of resources, such as more sustainable use of water supplies.
- A recent report^{xv} to the Dutch parliament links zoonosis and climate change adaptation. Climate change can influence the risk of zoonosis, since in temperate areas, such as the Netherlands, an increase is possible due to growing populations of mosquitoes and ticks and the introduction of new vectors and new pathogens. The Netherlands will investigate the possible impact of climate change on zoonotic risks in order to identify measures necessary to limit them.



Infrastructure

- Climate-resilient infrastructure is linked in the Netherlands to integrated water management, described below (under the heading 'water') as part of the comprehensive Dutch approach to climate resilience. This includes integrated (urban) design and new infrastructural planning. Resilient infrastructure for inland shipping, roads and rail is part of the National Adaptation Strategy. For example, railway provider ProRail has developed stress tests and risk dialogues with multiple stakeholders to develop a climate-resilient railway network. In 2018 the Dutch government announced that it will set aside around €600 million to accommodate investments in climate adaptation for resilient infrastructure. To cope with waterlogging caused by extreme rainfall, urban areas will be depaved, more greenery will be planted, and water collection facilities will be created. Additional provision will be made for water storage in both rural and urban areas; such water buffers can be used during prolonged periods of drought.

Security and defence

Climate change has direct and indirect effects on ecological, social, economic and political systems. Climate change acts as a threat multiplier by amplifying critical situations within these systems, concerning migration for example, and thus negatively affects stability and security. In particular, the degradation of natural resources such as land and water increases competition, triggering and prolonging conflicts.

The Dutch Ministry of Defence acknowledged the consequences of climate change for the worldwide security situation and for the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the Defence Vision 2035.^{xvi} The armed forces must therefore be prepared to act on climate change-related security threats in the Kingdom, but also in other parts of the world.³ They must prepare not only for increased demands for humanitarian assistance and disaster response, but also for migratory movements caused by increased resource competition or, for instance, interstate conflict over resource management in cross-border issues. Effective early warning systems and planning capabilities will be part of this preparation.

- In addition, the Ministry of Defence has started an initial investigation regarding climate adaptation of the Defence organisation's real estate. This investigation is focusing on climate change and its effects on our infrastructure. It provides an initial impetus for measuring this impact. The aim of the investigation is to stimulate further research into climate adaptation.

Urban planning

- The Netherlands' National Strategy on Spatial Planning and the Environment (NOVI) outlines an approach and policy choices in which green environment is an integral part of strong and healthy cities and future-proof urban areas. In the Urbanisation and Housing Programme, the NOVI's integrated urbanisation strategy is further elaborated in collaboration with the local authorities and applied to the regional urbanisation strategy. Among other things, the programme is concerned with the development of instruments for a coherent approach to green areas in and around the city and agreements on the application of such an approach, of which adaptation is an integral part.

Water

- The Netherlands' Delta Programme^{xvii} involves concerted efforts by central government, the provinces, municipalities, district water authorities, Rijkswaterstaat (department of waterways and public works)⁴ and a range of NGOs, under the auspices of the Delta Commissioner – the independent government commissioner for the Delta Programme. Under the Delta Programme there are three delta plans: a) Delta Plan on Flood Risk Management,^{xviii} which looks ahead to 2050; b) Delta Plan on Freshwater Supply,^{xix} also looking ahead to 2050; c) Delta Plan on Spatial Adaptation.^{xx} All decisions under the Delta Programme, known as Delta decisions, are anchored in the Netherlands' Water Plan.^{xxi} The Netherlands' policies on resilient infrastructure are integrated into the Delta Plan on spatial planning.

Implementation and support needs of, and provision of support to, developing country Parties

The list of plans and actions below is by no means exhaustive but provides a comprehensive overview of the most important adaptation actions undertaken internationally by the Netherlands.

The Netherlands helps meet developing countries' adaptation needs and provides them with support in different ways. The Netherlands' goal is to strengthen countries' local adaptation practices to reduce their vulnerability and increase their resilience. By building on the adaptive capacity of local partners, dependence on external technology and knowledge is reduced. The focus is on design and implementation for long-term and sustainable maintenance of adaptation action. *The Netherlands underlines the great importance of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Inclusivity of the whole of society is an integral part of our adaptation approach.*

³ The Netherlands also contributes to the UN mission MINUSMA, the first UN mission that has climate security integrated in its mandate.

⁴ Rijkswaterstaat is an agency of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management.

In 2020, the Netherlands spent more than €300 million of its ODA on climate adaptation disbursements, accounting for more than half of the total public climate finance spending, almost all of which is geared to supporting LDCs. The majority of our spending on adaptation is on support for programmes in the areas of food security and water, with a view in particular to eradicating poverty.

The different projects and programmes are subdivided into different sectors. This section provides an overview of activities the Netherlands is involved with. Biodiversity and inclusivity are cross-cutting aspects in the programmes described.

Agriculture and food security

Natural and human-made shocks undermine progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 2 to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. Therefore, Dutch food and nutrition security policy focuses on the transition to sustainable, robust, resilient and fair food systems and increasing the adaptive capacity (resilience) of farming systems.

- Internationally, the focus is on the exchange of knowledge and innovation with other countries and the implementation of climate-smart solutions that increase productivity and incomes such as salt-tolerant crops, genetic resources, efficient water management and prevention of food waste and food loss. To do this and to initiate and support sustainable projects and programmes abroad, the Dutch government seeks active cooperation with sustainable businesses, and knowledge and financial institutions, and affiliates with programmes of multilateral fora such as the World Bank and the FAO.
- The Dutch government stimulates sustainable agriculture in harmony with nature, biodiversity and ecosystems within multilateral fora such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR); the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA); the Agriculture Development Programme (ADP); the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock (GASL), the Livestock Environmental Assessment Programme (LEAP) and the Global Research Alliance (GRA). Climate change has negative consequences for biodiversity, while biodiversity and ecosystem services can make an important contribution to climate mitigation and adaptation. The Dutch government emphasises such connections. The government also supports some specific programmes in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, the Middle East and North Africa.
- Incorporate more and better information on weather and climate risks into decision-making and planning. The most relevant example is the Geodata for Agriculture and Water programme,^{xxii} with projects in areas including the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.
- Stimulate innovations that can better manage the risks of droughts, floods, storms, high temperatures and new diseases.

- This includes access to the right seeds via the Integrated Seed Sector Development programmes^{xxiii} in Ethiopia, Burundi and Uganda. Similar programmes are currently starting in the Sahel countries. Another good example is GAFSP, an initiative of the World Bank that helps smallholder farmers to access financial products, including micro-finance and micro-insurances.
- Upscale local adaptation practices that build buffer capacity and resilience to shocks and stresses. The recently started PRO-ARIDES^{xxiv} programme in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali is a good example of a programme that will scale best local practices.
- The Netherlands also funds the Zero Hunger Lab, a project by the University of Tilburg which uses data science to combat global food insecurity in the face of climate change.
- Furthermore, the Netherlands supports the Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Programme (FNS-REPRO) of FAO and Wageningen University & Research. FNS-REPRO is a resilience-building programme in Eastern Africa specifically designed to foster peace and food security at scale involving humanitarian, development and peace actors.

Climate data

- The KNMI contributes to the work of compiling IPCC assessment reports. Since climate change greatly affects developing countries, it is essential that these countries develop the capacity to study climate change and to provide early warnings of extreme weather events. In the context of KNMI Global, the KNMI works to build the capacity of various meteorological offices in developing countries and small island states.
- In addition, the Netherlands realises the humanitarian sector will need to innovate if it is to keep up with rising (humanitarian) needs due to increasing disasters and climate shocks. To this end it supports, for example, the OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data, working on data exchange and predictive analysis which enable humanitarians to better anticipate climate shocks and subsequent humanitarian needs. Another example is the 510 initiative, in which the Netherlands Red Cross uses data to improve disaster risk management in the different phases of a disaster.

Disaster risk reduction

In the face of increasing climate shocks, the Netherlands provides part of its humanitarian funding through an anticipatory model. This form of climate adaptation allows for quicker, more effective and more dignified humanitarian responses when climate shocks happen. Dutch support for anticipatory action includes:

- Contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- Contributions to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).
- Support for the Start Network's Anticipation Window.

Financial sector

- The World Bank Group's Global Index Insurance Facility (GIIF), which is supported by the Netherlands, facilitates access to finance for smallholder farmers, micro-entrepreneurs, and microfinance institutions through the provision of catastrophic risk transfer solutions and index-based insurance in developing countries.

Forests/Landscapes

The Netherlands is helping to reduce deforestation by supporting developing countries in the formulation and implementation of policies and laws that combat deforestation, such as improving spatial planning. We also work with companies and small farmers in forest-rich areas to increase agricultural production and protect or restore the forests at the same time.

- The Netherlands supports the protection, sustainable management and good governance of (tropical) forests and other ecosystems via a number of landscape programmes (including Tropenbos International, IDH (sustainable trade initiative), and the European Forest Institute).
- The Netherlands works on scaling sustainable finance for sustainable land use and deforestation-free agriculture, through the Agri3 fund,^{xxv} via Mobilising More for Climate^{xxvi} and the Dutch Fund for Climate and Development.^{xxvii}
- The Netherlands strengthens the lobbying and advocacy capacities of indigenous communities to govern their forests through the Green Livelihoods Alliance.^{xxviii}
- The Dutch-Sino East Africa Bamboo Development Programme^{xxix} supports climate-resilient bamboo supply chains in East Africa (International Network for Bamboo and Rattan).
- The Netherlands is a founding member of the Amsterdam Declarations Partnership^{xxx} which works to promote sustainable and deforestation-free supply chains, and also supports the efforts of the Tropical Forest Alliance^{xxxi} in this regard.
- The Netherlands supports sustainable supply chains via the work of IDH, Solidaridad and the Rainforest Alliance.

Health, education and social progress

The Netherlands has a long tradition of working in partnership with civil society organisations to strengthen their capacity to advocate for more and better adaptation, gender and social inclusion, address inequality and pursue climate justice.

- Key programmes and partnerships funded by the Dutch government include Partners for Resilience,^{xxxii} Shared Resources - Joint Solutions,^{xxxiii} Green Livelihoods Alliance,^{xxxiv} Fair Green and Global Alliance,^{xxxv} and African Activists for Climate Justice.

Infrastructure

- Infrastructure Action Track (formerly under the Global Commission on Adaptation until CAS 2021) focuses on the development of an e-learning module on public-private partnership in the field of climate-resilient infrastructure.^{xxxvi} The module consists of a handbook and a masterclass, in which people from around the globe participate and receive a climate-resilient infrastructure officer certificate. In addition, a stress test facility will be developed which enables countries to share experiences on processes and knowledge of stress tests.
- Coalition on Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)^{xxxvii} promotes the resilience of new and existing infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks in support of sustainable development. The coalition carries out projects to inform member countries how to strengthen national and international collaboration for climate and disaster-resilient infrastructure and to encourage them to do so.
- The Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management is developing a decision-making tool to weigh the different options for adaptation among the networks of different modalities (water, road and rail) in order to set priorities on the different adaptation needs.
- Infrastructure programs DRIVE and Develop2Build (D2B) consider, when relevant, the importance of climate adaptation in (water) projects. For instance: dike reinforcements, waterways, etcetera.

Multilateral

- Green Climate Fund (GCF).^{xxxviii} the Netherlands pledged USD 134 million for the period 2020-2023.
- Global Environment Facility (GEF).^{xxxix} between 2015 and 2018 (GEF-6) the Netherlands contributed USD 110 million and pledged/contributed a comparable amount for the period 2019-2022 (GEF-7).
- The Netherlands contributes to climate action by the World Bank: the 2020 joint MDB report^{xl} on climate finance shows that the World Bank Group accounted for climate adaptation finance of USD 9 billion in low- and middle-income countries.
- Contribution to the Least Developed Countries Fund^{xli} in support of LDCs to address their short-, medium- and long-term resilience needs and reduce climate change vulnerability in priority sectors and ecosystems.
- As part of its role as co-chair of the NDC Partnership,^{xlii} the Netherlands helped lead and develop the Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP)^{xliii} to fast-track support to countries to raise the quality and ambition of, and implement, nationally determined contributions (or NDCs).
- The Netherlands is a steering committee member to the Climate Risk and Early Warnings System (CREWS)^{xliiv} initiative supporting LDCs and SIDS for risk-informed early warning systems by increasing the availability of, and access to, early warning systems.

Peace and security

- The Netherlands played an active role in the drafting of the NATO climate change and security action plan which was agreed at the NATO leaders meeting on 14 June 2021. The plan sets out proposals to increase Allied awareness, adapt to climate change, contribute to the mitigation of climate change and enhance outreach with partners. In 2020, the Netherlands released the 'Climate and Defence in the EU' non-paper which suggested how the European defence community should direct their efforts towards better preparing the armed forces of EU member states for the rising impact of climate change, and help reduce the ecological footprint of our armed forces where possible, and proposed that the EU and its member states become more active interlocutors on current debates on climate and security.
- The Netherlands accordingly strongly supports the EEAS Climate Change and Defence Roadmap and is an advocate for ambitious climate and security goals within the Strategic Compass.
- The Netherlands keeps a close eye on security developments in the Arctic region and works to ensure that the Arctic remains a region of low tension and high cooperation with a focus on resilience. This is reflected in our Polar Strategy 2021-2025,^{XLV} the Defence Vision 2035, our role as an observer state in the Arctic Council (since 1998) and our bilateral engagement with the Arctic states and with multilateral frameworks such as the Northern Group and the Joint Expeditionary Force.

Water

Support for adaptation in developing countries is specifically provided in the water sector, where efforts are focused on improved water security and sustainable access to water and sanitation. Activities are designed to reduce the vulnerability of disadvantaged groups and increase their resilience. They include improved governance, capacity building, improved service delivery, innovation and access to data. Special attention is given to reducing water-related conflicts. The Netherlands has a strategy on its international water ambition:

- The Netherlands International Water Ambition.^{XLVI}

Examples of activities supported:

- Cooperation in International Waters in Africa;^{XLVII} Water, Peace and Security Initiative;^{XLVIII} Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership;^{XLIX} FAO Water Productivity Data Base;^L WaterWorx;^{LI} Blue Deal;^{LII} IHE Partnership Programme for Water and Development;^{LIII} WASH programmes implemented by UNICEF, SWA, IRC, WASTE, Sanitation and Hygiene Fund, Aqua for All, SDG 6 WASH Consortium;^{LIV} Aqua for All^{LIV}; the Water Adaptation

Community (WAC);^{LVI} Water as Leverage.^{LVII}

- The Netherlands Water Partnership (Partners voor Water)^{LVIII} with a focus on projects in Argentina, Bangladesh, the Balkans, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, India, Mozambique, Mexico, Myanmar, the Philippines, Poland, South Africa and Vietnam.
- Dutch Risk Reduction Team^{LIX} assists developing countries in preparing for and responding to water-related disasters and/or urgent water issues.

Implementation of adaptation actions and plans

1. Progress and results achieved

This section will be updated as part of the National Communication of the Netherlands in 2022 in the adaptation section.

2. Adaptation efforts of developing countries for recognition

This section refers to projects and programmes that the Netherlands facilitates in close collaboration with local authorities in accordance with adaptation needs. Therefore, all the above projects are a recognition of adaptation efforts of developing countries, facilitated by the Netherlands and partners.

3. Cooperation on enhancing adaptation at the national, regional and international level

- The Netherlands founded the Global Center on Adaptation (2017)⁵ and the Global Commission on Adaptation (2018)^{LX} and organised the first ever global Climate Adaptation Summit (25-26 January 2021),^{LXI} where the Adaptation Action Agenda was launched.
- The Netherlands, as one of the EU's 27 member states, supports the recently launched EU Adaptation Strategy to Climate Change (2021)^{LXII} and the Council conclusions on the strategy.⁶ This also includes a section in which the EU calls on member states to submit their adaptation communications as soon as possible.
- The Netherlands is a party to the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol (KP) and the Paris Agreement (PA). The Netherlands is a member of the Cartagena Dialogue and co-lead on the adaptation work stream.
- The Netherlands is involved in the preparation of the EU Adaptation Communication to be submitted to the UNFCCC by Slovenia on behalf of the EU and its 27 member states.
- The Netherlands is one of the founding members of the Adaptation Action Coalition,^{LXIII} launched at the Climate Adaptation Summit. This coalition focuses on water, infrastructure and health.

⁵ An independent NGO since 2021.

⁶ Conclusions on Forging a climate-resilient Europe – the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, Environmental Council, 10 June 2021.



- The Netherlands is also a member of Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS).
- The Netherlands has a long tradition of supporting civil society organisations (CSOs) operating in low- and middle-income countries. CSOs are the voice of citizens at local, national and international level. They can help make government more accountable to citizens and increase its legitimacy. In doing so, they contribute to greater social cohesion, stronger and more open democracies, a better response to environmental problems, a better business climate, more opportunities for all and less inequality. As part of the Dialogue and Dissent policy framework, the Dutch government supports Partners for Resilience.
- The Netherlands contributes on adaptation topics as an active member of a number of European and multilateral organisations and development banks, including several UN organisations such as: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and its United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA); UN Water and United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).⁷ In addition, organisations such as: World Food Programme (WFP); Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO); Inland Transport Forum (ITF); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); World Bank Group and Asian Development Bank. In 2021, the Netherlands is also part

of the G20, and actively participates on adaptation in the G20 working groups on environment and climate/energy.

4. Barriers, challenges and gaps related to the implementation of adaptation

This section will be updated as part of the National Communication of the Netherlands in 2022 in the adaptation section.

5. Good practices, lessons learned and information-sharing

This section will be updated as part of the National Communication of the Netherlands in 2022 in the adaptation section.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

This section will be updated as part of the National Communication of the Netherlands in 2022 in the adaptation section.

⁷ OMC group on strengthening cultural heritage resilience for climate change

Adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, including those that result in mitigation co-benefits

The Netherlands identifies nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches, sustainable mobility and renewable energy as the sectors mostly resulting in co-benefits for both adaptation and mitigation.

Nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches are mentioned in the previous sections as part of the different sectors: agriculture/food security, biodiversity/nature, forests, infrastructure and water.

Renewable energy

The Netherlands is investing in access to renewable energy for 50 million people in developing countries by 2030, for example through cleaner cooking, solar energy and biogas, and strengthening their climate change resilience through first-time access to modern energy services.

- Key programmes funded by the Dutch government include Energizing Development;^{LXIV} the Clean Cooking Alliance;^{LXV} the FMO Access to Energy Fund;^{LXVI} the World Bank Energy Sector Management Assistance Program^{LXVII} (incl. Clean Cooking Fund); SDG7 Results;^{LXVIII} and GET Invest.^{LXIX}
- The Netherlands is Global Champion on Energy Access in the UN High Level Dialogue on Energy;^{LXX}
- The Netherlands is a donor country member of the COP26 Energy Transition Council.^{LXXI}

The Netherlands plays a role in speeding up climate ambition and climate action in multilateral frameworks and through coalitions, the greening of multilateral banks, bilateral climate diplomacy in third countries, strengthening EU climate diplomacy and supporting climate action in developing countries. Realising the low-carbon transitions needed around the world to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees and supporting countries as they adapt to a changing climate are integral parts of the Netherlands' climate diplomacy efforts.

How adaptation actions contribute to other international frameworks and/or conventions

This section provides an overview of a number of conventions in relation to climate adaptation. This overview is not exhaustive or exclusive. Other (sub) national, regional and international treaties, frameworks or conventions have relevance in relation to climate adaptation action.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Netherlands actively supports efforts to reach the sustainable development goals established by the United Nations. The Netherlands efforts' are summarised in the Netherlands' fourth SDG report (2020).^{LXXII}

Convention on Biological Diversity

The Netherlands is committed to its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and recognises the role that ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation can play in helping to meet these obligations. Synergy between climate and biodiversity agendas is of the utmost importance in order to secure a sustainable future.

Convention to Combat Desertification

The Netherlands ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on 27 June 1995. The UNCCD is the sole legally binding international agreement linking the environment and development to sustainable land management. It focuses specifically on the world's arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found. The Netherlands actively supports the work being done in this field through the Global Land Outlook.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Netherlands is committed to Disaster Risk Reduction. It is an integral part of the Netherlands' domestic approach to civil contingencies and risk management, from land-use planning and infrastructure investment to our response to climate change.

UN Leaders' Pledge for Nature

The Netherlands and 88 other countries have endorsed the pledge, along with over 50 organisations from business, the financial sector and civil society, providing a strong signal of leaders' commitment at the beginning of the Sustainable Development Goals Decade of Action. By supporting the pledge the Netherlands believes that, through joint efforts over the coming years, the change needed to bend and reverse the curve of biodiversity loss, stabilise the climate and support sustainable development can be made.



Gender-responsive adaptation action and traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems related to adaptation

Climate change is happening and appears to be speeding up. Many people around the world, both women and men, are already affected by it, albeit in different ways. On the whole, women in developing countries tend to bear the brunt of the impacts of climate change.

For the Netherlands, integrating gender equality into our international support for climate action, and climate change adaptation in particular, is not only a matter of principle or basic human rights, but also a necessary condition for the success of our programmes and for achieving the SDGs and Paris goals.

Experience and research show that development programmes, including on climate action, are most effective – and their outcomes most sustainable – when they build on the strengths and capacities of both genders, addressing both their needs and vulnerabilities.

We therefore promote and actively pursue gender equality in our international support programmes, through gender-sensitive policies and procedures, but also through awareness creation and training at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and dialogues with development partners.

Annex – hyperlinks to policies, strategies and programmes

- I It should be mentioned at the outset that this submission relates only to the European part of the Netherlands. The Kingdom of the Netherlands acceded to the Paris Agreement on 28 July 2017. In its notification of accession, the Netherlands indicated that the Paris Agreement only applies to the European part of the Netherlands. Pursuant to the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as amended on 10 October 2010, the Kingdom of the Netherlands is made up of four autonomous countries, namely, the Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten. In addition, the Netherlands consists of a European part and a Caribbean part, with the latter consisting of three special municipalities: Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba. International agreements to which the Kingdom of the Netherlands is a party only apply to the autonomous countries of the Kingdom after their legislatures have adopted the necessary legislation. To date, Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten have not adopted such legislation. Similarly, no legislative action has been undertaken to extend the application of the Paris Agreement to the three special municipalities of the Netherlands.
- II [National Adaptation Strategy \(2016\)](#)
- III [Database containing national adaptation examples](#)
- IV [National Adaptation Implementation Programme 2018-2019](#)
- V [Nature and Environment Policy Plan for the Dutch Caribbean \(2020-2030\)](#)
- VI [The Netherlands' plan of action supporting transition to circular agriculture](#)
- VII [KNMI – climate scenarios](#)
- VIII [Cultureel Erfgoed – shared cultural heritage](#)
- IX [DNB climate stress test](#)
- X [DNB examination of climate risks](#)
- XI [DNB and PBL study on climate risks for the financial sector \(2020\)](#)
- XII [Network for Greening the Financial System](#)
- XIII [Sustainable Finance Platform](#)
- XIV [Green Deal Sustainable Health](#)
- XV [Report linking zoonosis and climate change](#)
- XVI [Dutch Defence Vision 2035](#)
- XVII [Dutch Delta Programme](#)
- XVIII [Delta Plan on Flood Risk Management](#)
- XIX [Delta Plan on Freshwater Supply](#)
- XX [Delta Plan on Spatial Adaptation](#)
- XXI [Dutch Water Plan](#)
- XXII [Geodata for Agriculture and Water programme](#)
- XXIII [Integrated Seed Sector Development programmes](#)
- XXIV [PRO-ARIDES](#)
- XXV [Agri3 fund](#)
- XXVI [Mobilising More for Climate](#)
- XXVII [Dutch Fund for Climate and Development](#)
- XXVIII [Green Livelihoods Alliance](#)
- XXIX [Dutch-Sino East Africa Bamboo Development Programme](#)
- XXX [Amsterdam Declarations Partnership](#)
- XXXI [Tropical Forest Alliance](#)
- XXXII [Partners for Resilience](#)
- XXXIII [IUCN: Shared Resources – Joint Solutions](#)
- XXXIV [Green Livelihoods Alliance](#)
- XXXV [Fair Green and Global Alliance](#)
- XXXVI [Adaptation Exchange – Infrastructure](#)
- XXXVII [Coalition for Climate-Resilient Infrastructure](#)
- XXXVIII [Green Climate Fund \(GCF\)](#)
- XXXIX [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#)
- XL [2020 joint MDB report](#)
- XLI [Least Developed Countries Fund](#)
- XLII [NDC Partnership](#)
- XLIII [Climate Action Enhancement Package \(CAEP\)](#)
- XLIV [Climate Risk and Early Warnings System \(CREWS\)](#)
- XLV [Polar Strategy 2021-2025](#)
- XLVI [The Netherlands' International Water Ambition](#)
- XLVII [CIWA](#)
- XLVIII [Water, Peace and Security Initiative](#)
- XLIX [Global Water, Security and Sanitation Partnership](#)
- L [FAO Water Productivity Data Base](#)
- LI [Waterworx](#)
- LII [Blue Deal](#)
- LIII [IHE Partnership for Water and Development](#)
- LIV [WASH](#)
- LV [Aqua for All](#)
- LVI [Water Adaptation Community](#)
- LVII [Water as Leverage](#)
- LVIII [The Netherlands' Water Partnership \(Partners voor Water\)](#)
- LIX [Dutch Risk Reduction Team](#)
- LX [Global Commission on Adaptation / Global Center on Adaptation](#)
- LXI [Climate Adaptation Summit \(25-26 January 2021\) / Outcome Report / Press-releases](#)
- LXII [EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change \(2021\)](#)
- LXIII [Adaptation Action Coalition](#)
- LXIV [Energising Development](#)
- LXV [Clean Cooking Alliance](#)
- LXVI [FMO Access to Energy Fund](#)
- LXVII [Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme](#)
- LXVIII [SDG7 Results](#)
- LXIX [GET Invest](#)
- LXX [UN High Level Dialogue on Energy](#)
- LXXI [COP26 Energy Transition Council](#)
- LXXII [The Netherlands' fourth SDG report \(2020\)](#)

Colophon

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