

*The format for notification of an affected Party of a proposed plan or programme under article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment was adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment by the Decision II/7 at its sixth session held in Geneva from 2 to 5 June 2014.*

*This document contains excerpt from the Decision II/7 and can only be used in conjunction with the full text of Decision II/7 and not as a stand-alone document.*

**Notification of an affected Party of a proposed plan or programme under article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment**

<i>Description of information to be included</i>	<i>Information</i>
<b>General information on the plan or programme</b>	
Name of the plan or programme	Memorandum on Scope and Level of Detail (Scoping report) and Participation plan for the National Water Programme 2028-2033
Type and sector of plan or programme (e.g., local land-use plan, national energy strategy)	National policy and management plan of the national waters and waterways.
Territorial coverage (e.g., regional, national)	National coverage. Figure Fout! Geen tekst met de opgegeven stijl in het document.-1 illustrates the NWP planning area. The NWP deals with all water in the European part of the Dutch territory. This includes the territorial sea and the Dutch Exclusive Economic Zone of the North Sea. For Drinking Water, the Caribbean part of the Netherlands also falls within the NWP implementation domain.

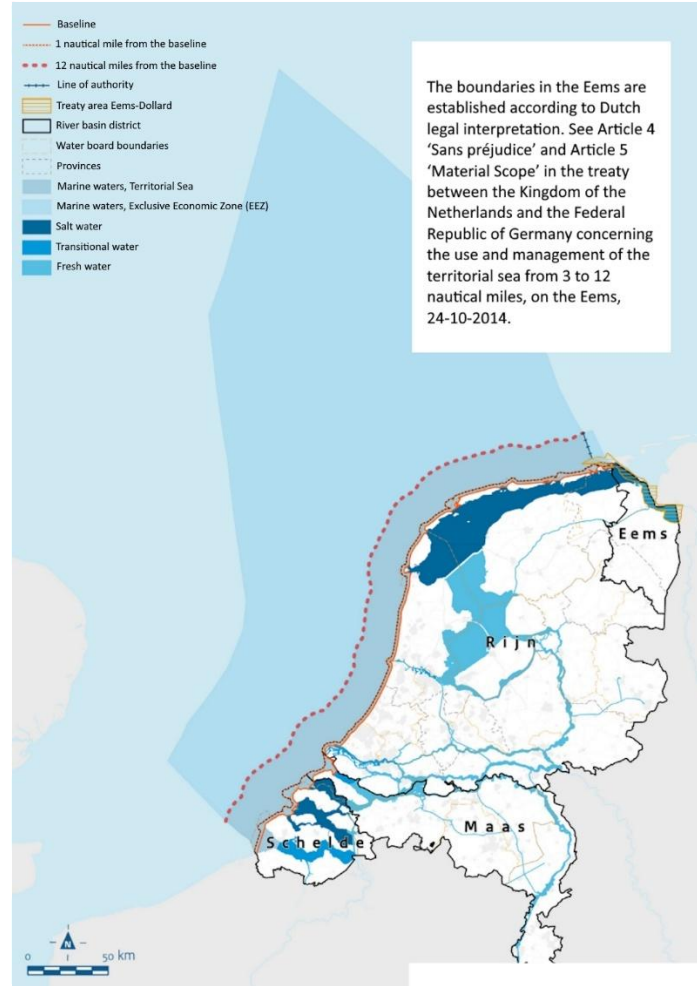


Figure Fout! Geen tekst met de opgegeven stijl in het document.-1 NWP planning area (Source: NWP 2022-2027)

Main content and purpose of the plan or programme (e.g., framework setting for projects, determination of use of land) and its links with other plans or programmes

The National Water Programme (NWP) describes the main aspects of national water policy and the management of national waterways and waterways. The NWP is anchored in the Environment and Planning Act, which requires it to be updated every six years. The current NWP was adopted in 2022 and is valid until the end of 2027. The NWP is binding for the activities of the national government and influences the activities of provinces, water boards, drinking water companies, municipalities, and the broader water sector. The Netherlands' water management challenges converge in the National Water Programme (NWP) under the following themes: (1) water safety, (2) flooding, (3) freshwater availability, (4) water quality, (5) drinking water, (6) navigability of waterways, and (7) cooperation, crisis management and water awareness. An effective water policy – that anticipates the water system's limits – is crucial for the Netherlands to be future-proof and to have a good business climate and an attractive and safe living environment. This will require our water policy to include high-impact choices in the coming decades. In order to make these choices in an integrated way, consistently and with significant effect, the central government is updating the National Water Programme (NWP).

	In doing so ensuring their continued contribution to the national interests outlined in the National Strategy for Spatial Planning and the Environment (NOVI in Dutch).
Whether the plan or programme is binding	Binding <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Self-binding for the Dutch Government.) Not binding <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Submitted documents</b>	
Draft plan or programme	Enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> Not enclosed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Programme is in the making, targeted for finalisation in 2027.
Environmental Report	Enclosed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is the summary of the Scoping Report for the National Water Programme 2028-2033.
Other documents (with description)	A participation plan has also been developed and enclosed. This plan outlines how we will approach the participation process.
Languages into which documents are or will be translated	English and Dutch for notification and scoping report, Participation plan only in Dutch.
<b>Description of the decision-making procedure and of the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) procedure in the Party of origin</b>	
Description of the phases of the planning procedure	<p>1 Consultation on scope and level of detail (till March 2, 2026.)          From Tuesday, January 20, to Monday, March 2, 2026, anyone can submit their views on the National Water Programme Scope and Level of Detail Note (NRD) and the participation plan. This is used on the one hand to give the opportunity to submit views (see notification), but also to consult the administrative bodies and legal advisers about the required scope and level of detail.</p> <p>2 Drawing up the SEA Report (until end of 2026)          After the consultation on scope and level of detail, the SEA Report for the National Water Programme will be drawn up.</p> <p>3 Public notification SEA-procedure and draft National Water Program, for public consultation and reviewing advice (beginning of 2027)          The SEA report is made available for public simultaneously with the draft National Water Programme at the beginning of 2027. Anyone can submit opinions on both documents in accordance with the public consultation procedure. Neighbouring countries are consulted on the SEA report and draft National Water Programme. There will also be a review of the SEA by the</p>

	<p>Netherlands Commission on EIA. Simultaneously with the public consultation the SEA and draft National Water Programme will be offered to the House of Representatives.</p> <p>4 Preparation and adoption final National Water Programme. In 2027, the Minister for Infrastructure and Water Management will determine the national policy for the Netherlands with the National Water Programme. It is stated here how the SEA and the views and recommendations have been considered. The National Water Programme will enter into force after being discussed in parliament.</p>
Legal basis for the planning procedure (quoting the regulation or other legal basis)	Eventually, the National Programme will constitute a framework for future decisions regarding plans and activities that may impact the environment in the Netherlands. If the government has such plans, the SEA procedure must be completed. This is regulated by law in the Environmental Management Act (“Wet milieubeheer”, Article 7) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Decree (“Besluit m.e.r.”), in which European legislation on environmental assessments is laid down.
Description of the phases of the SEA procedure, including participation of the affected Party	Scope and Level of Detail for the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report.
Legal basis for the SEA procedure (quoting the regulation or other legal basis)	
Present phase of the planning procedure and of the SEA procedure	Conducting of draft programme. Consultation on the Scope report.
Time schedule of the foreseen continuation of the planning procedure and of the SEA procedure	<p>1.Consultation on the Scope report: till March 2, 2026.</p> <p>2.Drafting of the concept programme until the end of 2026.</p> <p>3.Drafting of the SEA report until the end of 2026.</p>
Process and timing of the possible adoption of the plan or programme	End of 2027
<b>Information on the public participation process in the Party of origin</b>	
Opportunities for the public to participate:	To be determined in 2026, according to the participation plan.
Start and end dates for the public to provide comments on the environmental report and draft plan or programme	<p>On the scope report and participation plan: From Tuesday, January 20, till March 2, 2026.</p> <p>On the programme and SEA-report: beginning of 2027, exact dates to be determined</p>
How the public is informed of the public participation process	<p>On the website <a href="http://www.platformparticipatie.nl/Projecten">www.platformparticipatie.nl/Projecten</a> you will find information about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content, program planning and the procedure followed;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documents related to this program (the NRD and the participation plan);</li> <li>• What will be done with your response;</li> </ul> <p>The neighbouring countries can respond via <a href="mailto:info@platformparticipatie.nl">info@platformparticipatie.nl</a>.</p>
Whether a public hearing is organized and, if so, when	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(in which case, the date of the hearing)</p> <p>No X</p> <p>No public hearing will be organized. Please contact: <a href="mailto:info@platformparticipatie.nl">info@platformparticipatie.nl</a> if there are any questions.</p>
How the public is informed of the adoption of the plan or programme and how the information specified in article 11, paragraph 2, is made available	<a href="http://www.platformparticipatie.nl">www.platformparticipatie.nl</a> and Notification in the Staatscourant and Algemeen Dagblad.
Expected time schedule for transmittal of comments and questions by the public of the affected Party on the draft plan or programme and on the full environmental report	To be determined
<b>Involved authorities in the Party of origin</b>	
Authority responsible for the planning procedure	The Ministry for Infrastructure and Water Management
Authority/institution responsible for the adoption of the plan or programme	The Ministry for Infrastructure and Water Management
Authority responsible for the SEA procedure	The Ministry for Infrastructure and Water Management
Authority/institution responsible for the SEA decision (if applicable)	The Ministry for Infrastructure and Water Management
<b>Affected Parties</b>	
List of Parties to which notification has been sent	Germany, Belgium, United Kingdom, Denmark, France

<b>Point of contact for the transboundary procedure</b>	
Authority responsible for coordinating activities relating to the transboundary SEA procedure: name, address, email, telephone and fax numbers	The Ministry for Infrastructure and Water Management
<b>Deadlines for response to the notification</b>	
Deadline for responding to indicate whether the affected Party wishes to participate	till March 2, 2026.
Deadline for transmission of comments on the draft plan or programme and the full environmental report by authorities of the affected Party (if different from above)	till March 2, 2026.

<b>Means of communication</b>	
Means by which letters from the Party of origin are sent (e.g., e-mail, fax, post, via embassy)	email
Means by which affected Parties are asked to send their letters	email