

# Enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services in Dutch waters, Netherlands

Case Study 7



Enforce



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### Location

Dutch waters, Netherlands.



### Local Context

Water has always played a big role in the history of the Netherlands. The country lies within the **delta of three large European rivers**. All the Netherlands is drained into the North Sea. Roughly 18,5% of the country's surface consists out of water (including the ocean). But the biodiversity and ecological health of this water is **under pressure**. Mainly from **different forms of pollution** and environmental degradation e.g. plastics, wastewater, and harmful chemicals. Luckily, The Netherlands has an increasing **vibrant citizen science community** focused on environmental sensing, aiming to protect its natural areas and resources.



### The Challenge

- **Very charged theme** and conflicting interests
- **Lack of norms** for certain pollutants
- **Difficulty in analysis** of large open datasets
- **Challenge to visualise negative impacts** and show importance



## Key Conducted Activities

- Site visit for biodiversity loss and pollution.
- Connection with Environmental legal experts, experienced citizen scientists, and policy makers/advisers.
- Connection with The Doggerland Foundation (North Sea project, potential legal case attached) and Schone Rivieren (Clean Rivers).
- Tested initial citizen science data validation method in the ongoing Hollandse Luchten project.



## Expected Impacts

The initiative aims to increase citizen engagement in biodiversity monitoring, contributing to the European Green Deal's goal of biodiversity & ecosystem protection. The capacity for citizen science will be built to record changes in local biodiversity and ecology. While also developing an easy method for citizens to analyse this data, and inform policymakers, fostering a collaborative approach to conservation.



# 01

### Develop collaborative data practices.

Waag Futurelab and EVISIGHTS will bring citizens and officials together to monitor biodiversity and pollution.

# 02

### Equip communities to collect and analyse data.

Waag's Making Sense methodology, citizen science tools, Waarneming.nl and the Urban Ecology Field Atlas will help citizens collect and analyse data.

# 03

### Turn evidence into policy change.

EVISIGHTS will apply a five-step process to help local and EU officials use the evidence gathered by communities in environmental decision-making.

## Partners Involved

waag  futurelab  
EVSIGHTS



Join our community!  
[join-enforce.eu](mailto:join-enforce.eu)



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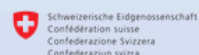


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