



BLUE DEAL WORKSHOP

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE WITH SOUTHERN AFRICA

Date: 9 March 2021

Time: 10.00 – 12:30 (Central African Time CAT)

09:00 – 11:30 (Central European Time CET)

Invitation to register through this [Registration Link](#) .

International context

A cooperative approach is necessary to deal with the present and future challenges on water resources and water services. Due to climate change the variability in rainfall will increase. This will lead to more extreme events like droughts and floods in water sensitive areas like Southern Africa. Climate change has both direct and indirect effects on people's welfare and development. It will also effect the ecosystem structure and faunal diversity.

A few years ago the City of Cape Town feared to meet with 'Day Zero'. And flash floods occurred several times in the last years with a lot of damages and even casualties. Especially in the field of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) there is a need for international cooperation to face the challenges of the future together, to learn from each other and to bring in the innovative strengths of the young professionals. Two examples of this innovative international co-creation of the future are the Blue Deal and Wetskills.

Blue Deal

The Blue Deal is a program to establish long lasting partnerships between the Dutch Water Authorities and water professionals in different countries. The objective is to provide 20 million people in 40 water management areas with improved water availability and sanitation and also security against flooding by the year 2030. The Blue Deal has been initiated by the Dutch Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Infrastructure & Water Management together with the Dutch Regional Water Authorities to strengthen the three crucial elements of good water management:

- sufficient knowledge and expertise
- a well-functioning organisation
- cooperation with key stakeholders.

In this way, the program contributes to achieve Sustainable Development Goals 6.3 – 6.6.

The Workshop

During the workshop the experiences of the Blue Deal partnerships in eSwatini and South Africa will be exchanged and special attention will be paid to capacity building and youth involvement in transboundary cooperation.

The workshop is meant for people with an interest in the Blue Deal program, international cooperation and intergenerational cocreation.



Programme

Facilitator: Mr. Grant Mackintosh

CAT	CET	Item	Person
09.30	08:30	Registration / Meet and Greet	All
10.00	09.00	Words of Welcome	Mr. Trevor Balzer Mr. Hein Pieper
10.10	09.10	Water challenges of the future	Mr. Henk Ovink, special Envoy on Water of the Dutch government
10.30	09.30	The Blue Deal eSwatini Partnership	Mrs Sindy Mthimkhulu
10.40	09.40	The Blue Deal South Africa Partnership	Mrs. Estathia Bofilatos
10:50	09:50	Questions from the audience	Moderator Mr. Grant Mackintosh
11.05	10.05	<i>Comfort Break</i>	
11:15	10.15	European experiences on transboundary river management	Mr. Patrick van der Broeck
11.30	10.30	Southern Africa experiences on transboundary river management	REMCO representative
11.45	10.45	Interactive meeting with young professionals and their ideas for the future	Several young professionals
12.15	11.15	Closing Remarks	Mr. Han Peeters, Dutch Ambassador
12.30	11.30	Closing of the session	Mr. Grant Mackintosh

In the afternoon there will be the Wetskills Challenge, Celebration and Award Ceremony.
At the digital registration (see above) you can choose for one, several or all events.