



WATER OPERATORS' PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN

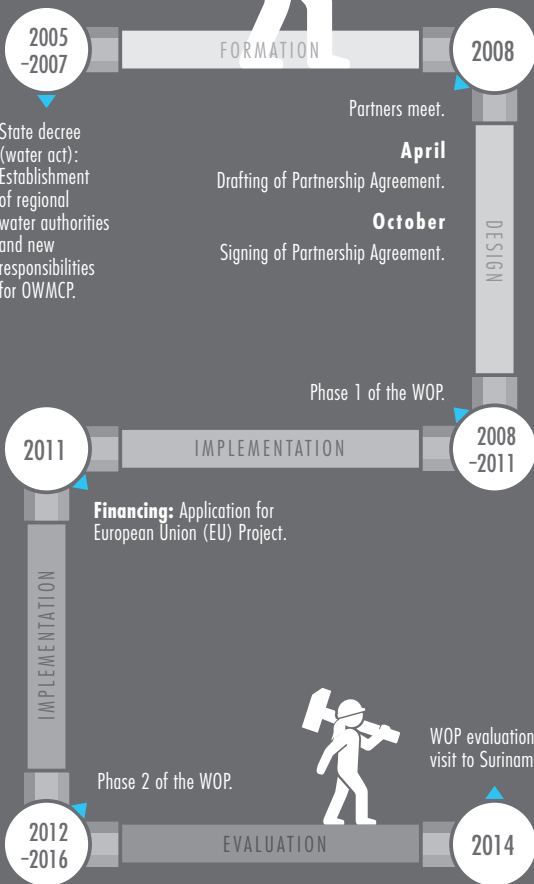
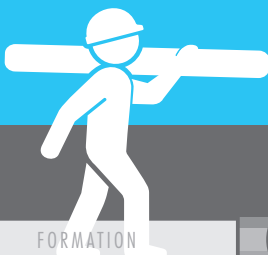
**Overliggend Waterschap Multi-purpose Corantijn Project**  
(OWMCP) – Suriname

**World Waternet & Waterschap Rijn en IJssel**  
(WWN & WRIJ) – Netherlands

TARGETED IMPROVEMENTS ON

Management | Technical Design | Communication | Integrated water management

# TIMELINE



## COST

<b>PHASE 1</b>	NEDERLANDSE WATERSCHAPSBANK €84,000 TRAVEL AND OTHER COSTS	PARTNERS STAFF TIME
<b>PHASE 2</b>	EUROPEAN UNION €735,000	PARTNERS €215,000 (MAINLY STAFF TIME)





— DIRECT COST OF WOP €1,034,000 —

# APPROACH




**Phase 1:** governance of the partnership was more informal and less structured, allowing the partnership to develop slowly. As organisational and individual capacity grew within OWMCP (as a result of the cooperation), and the organisation became more structured, so did the partnership. With the help of the partners, OWMCP developed a new organisational structure with clearer task division that relieved managers of operational functions by delegating more tasks. **Phase 2:** more structured governance and strengthened cooperation in line with requirements of the EU regarding governance and reporting.

## IMPROVEMENT TRACKS



### Improvement of management capacity

-  New organisational setup resulting in better division and distribution of tasks and responsibilities.
-  Improved administrative procedures, work instructions and protocols.
-  Strengthened planning capacity within OWMCP.
-  Improved working relations with inset water boards, rice companies and local branches of ministries.



### Technical design

-  Digital register of the water works was developed so that all information is easily and rapidly accessible.
-  Maintenance plan for of the 66 km long Corantijn canal.
-  Improved pumping regime, saving fuel (and money)

### Communication Plan

-  Strengthened communication between OWMCP and important local stakeholders.
-  Increased awareness of OWMCP in society, through media, school books for children, etc.

## Integrated water management

-  More efficient distribution with minimum losses for irrigation.
-  Training provided for water engineers, students of technical schools and staff of water boards in integrated water management.

## CHALLENGES



**Socio-political context of OWMCP:** Water taxation for irrigation was politically delicate leading the mentee and mentor to hold different opinions about introducing water taxes for irrigation.

## SUCCESS FACTORS



**Flexible partnership design:** Flexible design allowed the partnership to adjust to changing capacities and roles of partners as it developed over time.

**Partnering process:** Communication mechanisms and the sharing of information were crucial in developing the partnership.

**Relational aspects:** Trust and mutual respect were essential to the prolonged success of a partnership over time.

## WHAT THEY SAID



“‘Hardware’ is important, but ‘capacity building’ is key for sustainability”

**Manodj Hindori, Chairman of the board of OWMCP**

“This is a very successful program with tangible results, that WWn often considers as its best practice!”

**Otto Ferf Jentink, Regional Manager WWn**

“Working with OWMCP has been tremendously effective and inspiring. To see how this joint effort is motivating people to perform better, is promising for other similar initiatives.”

**Bram Zandstra, Project Leader WRIJ**

# MENTEE

**Overliggend Waterschap  
Multi-purpose Corantijn  
Project**  
(OWMCP) – Suriname  
Waterboard

# MENTOR

**World Waternet and  
Waterschap Rijn en IJssel**  
(WWN and WRIJ) – Netherlands  
Water Utility and Waterboard (WWN) and  
Waterboard (WRIJ)

## PARTNERS' MANDATES

Provide sufficient water for irrigation and drainage of excess water from jurisdiction

Provide services and promote common interests of the inset water boards (12)

### World Waternet

Support local governments and public water organizations to improve performance

### Waterschap Rijn en IJssel

Manage ground water, purify sewage and provide clean water in streams, ditches and rivers

## MOTIVATIONS

Seek support for organizational reforms to accommodate new responsibilities of mentoring small water boards that fall under OWMCP.

Develop staff capacity and networking opportunities.

Mobilize international financial support.

Exercise social responsibility.

Strengthen bilateral cooperation and expand international activities to boost reputation.

Increase staff motivation and morale.

## SUPPORTING THIRD PARTY

The Embassy of the Netherlands in Suriname facilitated contact between OWMCP and World Waternet. Once the WOP was formed, it was decided not to have an intermediate facilitator; to save costs as the budget was limited, and to learn from the process of communication and management at different levels. The European Union provided financial support for this WOP.



Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance



FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



UNESCO-IHE  
Institute for Water Education

## WATER OPERATORS' PARTNERSHIPS

WOPs are peer-support arrangements between two or more water and sanitation operators, carried out on a not-for-profit basis with the objective of strengthening operator capacity.

### BEWOP

Boosting the Effectiveness of Water Operators' Partnerships (BEWOP) is a 5-year research, operational support and outreach initiative aimed at boosting the effectiveness of Water Operators' Partnerships around the world.

Launched in September 2013, BEWOP is a collaboration between leading water sector capacity development institute, UNESCO-IHE, and UN-Habitat's Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance, the organization leading the global WOPs movement.

This project has been made possible by the support of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS).

This factsheet is part of a series summarizing WOPs cases being studied in order to draw lessons and guide better practice.

### FIND OUT MORE

[BEWOP.org](http://BEWOP.org) | [#BEWOP](https://twitter.com/BEWOP)

[GWOPA.org](http://GWOPA.org)