



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

# *Climate and Energy Response Facility (CERF): Milestones and the way forward*

April 2024

# Foreword

Global greenhouse gas emissions are rising, and the disastrous effects of global warming are becoming more and more evident. We need to take action to combat climate change. The Climate and Energy Response Facility (CERF), commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, works with Dutch diplomatic missions in almost 40 countries to ensure a just and inclusive green energy transition. The goal is to contribute to accelerated climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in these countries. CERF focuses on sectors where Dutch expertise adds value to climate-related challenges. These sectors include, but are not limited to, circular economy, deforestation and renewable energy, such as solar, offshore wind and green hydrogen.

CERF connects decision-makers, governments and other relevant stakeholders, instruments and investors to contribute to scale-up policy ambitions in the focus sectors. CERF has an annual budget that can be used to carry out projects for which no other instruments are available, with a focus on government-to-government cooperation. Typical CERF activities include technical assistance, capacity development, knowledge-sharing and building partnerships. Ultimately, CERF aims to contribute to policy developments, increased climate investments and trade and innovation in the field of climate change mitigation and adaptation. Cooperation between governments, businesses and knowledge institutes lies at the heart of this.

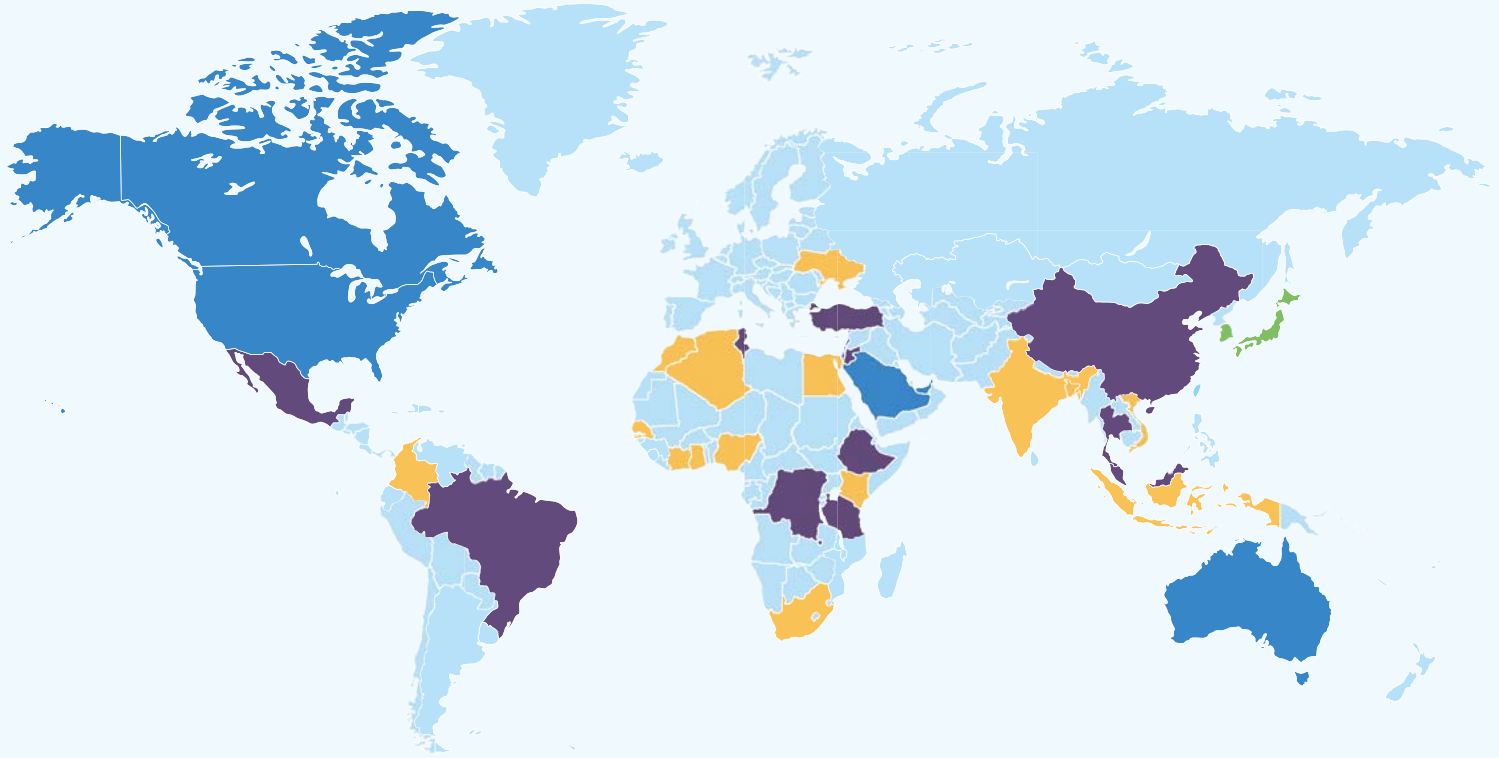
During the first 2 years of CERF, climate sectors in partner countries have been selected on the basis of opportunities for long-term collaboration, for which multi-annual intervention strategies have been developed in collaboration with Dutch diplomatic missions. Subsequently, networks with relevant stakeholders in our partner countries and the Netherlands have been built. Activities included organising knowledge events, round tables and incoming and outgoing missions. Also studies to explore areas for long-term collaboration have been conducted. In the coming years, the focus will shift further to the strategy implementation phase. Activities will be designed to address specific local technical, financial, policy or regulation-related challenges. The ultimate goal is to achieve long-term impact on climate change mitigation and adaptation by bringing together a wide range of stakeholders, building partnerships and adding value with Dutch expertise. Within RVO, CERF also plays a vital role in developing the

so-called combi-tracks with Dutch missions in 14 emerging markets, together with the Private Sector Development and Business Development coaches. The Combi Approach aims to combine trade, investments and development cooperation with the aim to tackle contemporary challenges like climate change. CERF provides advice on and contributes to achieving greening targets within combi activities by linking Dutch expertise to local challenges and embedding environmental and climate related targets within economic and business development goals. Some combi-tracks focus on one of the selected CERF sectors specifically, such as the solar energy combi-track in Nigeria. In these cases, CERF and combi-tracks are fully integrated.

This brochure provides a concise overview of CERF's collaborative strategies with Dutch missions worldwide. It details our key initiatives, from renewable energy projects to innovative green solutions, and illustrates our approach to fostering international cooperation and knowledge sharing. Dive in to discover how we work together with embassies and local partners to drive meaningful change and create a sustainable future. Together, let's catalyze change and pave the way for a sustainable future!

Mijke van den Boogaard, Programme Coordinator CERF

The CERF-instrument is implemented by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO). Consult the CERF team for expertise and support to propel our joint initiatives forward via [cerf@rvo.nl](mailto:cerf@rvo.nl)



## CERF worldmap

### ODA partner countries with long-term (multi-annual) collaboration

- Algeria
- Bangladesh
- Colombia
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Egypt
- Ghana
- India
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Morocco
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- South Africa
- Ukraine
- Vietnam

### ODA partner countries with short-term collaboration

- Brazil
- China
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Ethiopia
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Palestinian Territories
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Tunisia
- Türkiye

### Non-ODA partner countries with short-term collaboration

- Australia
- Canada
- Israel
- Saudi Arabia
- United Arab Emirates
- United States of America

### Non-ODA partner countries with long-term (multi-annual) collaboration

- Japan
- South Korea

# Table of contents

Foreword . . . . .	2
CERF worldmap . . . . .	3
Table of contents . . . . .	4
Creating a just and sustainable future: The Indonesia-Netherlands Renewable Energy and Climate Summit. . . . .	5
Powering a sustainable and circular future through Nigerian-Dutch collaboration . . . . .	6
Twinning for transformation: Advancing green hydrogen and solar energy initiatives in Algeria . . . . .	7
Subsurface solutions: Spreading Dutch aquifer thermal energy storage system innovations across Japan . . . . .	8
India and the Netherlands unite for a green hydrogen revolution . . . . .	9
Driving a just energy transition in South Africa through a combi-approach . . . . .	10
Advancing green hydrogen knowledge in Jordan through Dutch expertise. . . . .	11
Supporting China’s circular construction transition with Dutch innovations . . . . .	11

# Increasing climate policy ambitions in partner countries: Key CERF highlights

## Creating a just and sustainable future: The Indonesia-Netherlands Renewable Energy and Climate Summit

With the recently established Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) between Indonesia and the G7 countries, Indonesia's path towards net zero is becoming increasingly visible. However, efforts must still be made to ensure Indonesia reaches its decarbonization targets. The country still largely depends on coal-fired power plants to meet energy needs. Indonesia has 17,000 islands, making the transition towards a secure energy grid powered by various renewable energy sources a great challenge.

CERF aims to support Indonesia's climate mitigation efforts by cooperating with the Indonesian government and other relevant stakeholders to take national action and ensure sustainable development. CERF also intends to facilitate sustainable trade between Indonesia and the Netherlands and increase investments in renewable energy and climate projects in Indonesia.

### CERF activities

From 9-13 October 2023, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency's (RVO) Climate and Energy Response Facility (CERF) proudly hosted the Renewable Energy and Climate Summit Indonesia-the Netherlands. This summit was hosted in close cooperation with the Indonesian government, investment, and private sector partners. The Renewable Energy and Climate Summit Indonesia-the Netherlands aimed to contribute to a sustainable future for Indonesia and the [Just Energy Transition Partnership](#) (JETP).

In line with the Dutch Diamond approach, the summit led to a successful and constructive exchange between governments, investors, businesses, knowledge institutes and NGOs. These parties can realise the transition to renewable energy, but only if they work together.

### Results

As a result of the summit, to which over 150 Dutch and Indonesian companies, knowledge institutes, financial institutes, and governmental organization participated, the Dutch-Indonesian Joint Working Group on Energy is exploring 4 themes. These are wind and (floating) solar energy, Indonesia as a green hydrogen hub and increasing energy efficiency in buildings. Also, during the summit, Dutch company HyET Solar and Indonesian company Pertamina signed a contract for the long-awaited solar thin film factory joint venture. This contract represents a joint investment of around 200 million USD.

### Next steps

The Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and RVO will continue cooperation with the Indonesian Ministry of Energy and Mineral Sources. Together, they will create an action plan for cooperation on offshore wind and solar energy and share expertise on green hydrogen and energy efficiency.

The Ministries and organisations have agreed to organise the second Renewable Energy and Climate Summit in the Netherlands in 2024. In the meantime, parties will explore investment opportunities in the Indonesian renewable energy sector with the Dutch and international project developers and suppliers interested in contributing to the Indonesian energy transition.

CERF will provide support by facilitating trade and investment by bringing these sectors together and informing them about development and investment opportunities. Additionally, CERF will work together with knowledge institutes to increase knowledge exchange and capacity building. CERF has also commissioned a study on the opportunities and challenges in the Just Energy Transition Partnership, with a specific focus on how the Netherlands government and private sector can contribute.



## Powering a sustainable and circular future through Nigerian-Dutch collaboration

Nigeria is one of the largest oil and gas-producing countries in the world. Despite this, it does not generate enough power for its domestic market. Currently, the country has a 60% electrification rate. The Nigerian government wants to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20% by 2030, and in 2060, they want to be completely CO<sub>2</sub> neutral. Renewable energy offers Nigeria many opportunities to reach its CO<sub>2</sub> and electrification targets.

Currently, the Nigerian off-grid solar market is among the fastest-growing in Sub-Saharan Africa, increasing at an average annual rate of 22% during the last 5 years. Having a circular economy can also play an important role in climate change mitigation. The national roadmap for a circular economy in Nigeria is now complete. The next step is implementation.

### Project partners

- The Netherlands embassy in Abuja
- The Consulate General in Lagos
- Larive, consultant for the impact cluster RenewableTechNigeria
- Holland Circular Hotspot
- The European Union in Nigeria
- Several Dutch companies that were speakers at the events
- The federal government of Nigeria (the Ministry of Environment) and Lagos State.

### CERF activities

In Nigeria, CERF focuses on solar energy and circular economy/waste. For both of these sectors, CERF organised an event. The Netherlands Nigeria Clean Tech Event was held in Lagos (2 November 2022) and Abuja (7 June 2023). These events aimed to increase the Nigerian federal government's commitment to climate change mitigation, position the Netherlands as a partner, and strengthen the collaborations on the promising sectors solar, circular economy/waste and climate smart agriculture.

### Results

As a result of CERF activities, agreements with the Lagos State Government were made for a visit to the Netherlands to learn more about clean tech. Also, the Lagos State Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding for more cooperation on circular economy. For the solar sector, the input from the Clean Tech Event informed the intervention strategy for the solar combi-track, which was created at the end of 2023. The first activity from this track, the pre-launch of the solar marketplace, took place in November 2023. The Clean Tech Event better positioned Dutch companies. For example, NXT grid, a Dutch solar mini-grid company, has now started building 19 mini-grid sites. This company already has 9 operational solar mini-grids in Nigeria. The company Closing the Loop has received a DHI subsidy to investigate the feasibility of a melter to make metal balls from e-waste in Nigeria.



### Combi-track

In parallel to these efforts, the Dutch diplomatic missions in Nigeria, recognizing the untapped potential of solar energy amid the significant electrification challenges, initiated a solar combi-track at the beginning of 2022. This initiative aims to leverage solar energy's potential for both on-grid and off-grid solutions, acknowledging its vital role in reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, facilitating economic growth, and creating jobs, particularly through off-grid solar mini-grids in agriculture and healthcare sectors. The combi-track strategy, completed at the end of 2023, includes creating a solar marketplace to connect stakeholders, promote Dutch solar solutions, and advocate for supportive policies and capacity building. This approach exemplifies a synergistic effort, adding value by addressing market barriers and lobbying for policy changes to enhance the solar energy sector's development in Nigeria. The pre-launch of the solar marketplace in November 2023 marked a significant step towards realizing these ambitions, setting the stage for a broader implementation starting in January 2024 that integrates with the national roadmap for a circular economy and aligns with Nigeria's CO<sub>2</sub> neutrality goals.

### Next steps

For the circular economy, the Consulate General in Lagos, the Netherlands embassy, the Nigerian Ministry of Environment and the EU are organising a validation session for the circular economy roadmap of Nigeria. This event took place on 20 February 2024. On 25 March 2024, CERF will organise a follow-up strategy week in Lagos. The focus of this week is a locally-supported circular economy and waste strategy and an overview of interventions involving relevant stakeholders within the Nigerian government, businesses, knowledge institutes and NGOs.

For both sectors, CERF will organise a follow-up of the Clean Tech Events to highlight successes and challenges encountered in specific activities.

## Twinning for transformation: Advancing green hydrogen and solar energy initiatives in Algeria

Algeria has great potential for solar energy and is taking steps towards renewable energy development. The country generates 0.5 GW of solar energy, primarily through off-grid solutions. There are plans to improve solar capacity, including a significant 2 GW solar tender, but there are infrastructural and bureaucratic challenges. Algeria is also exploring the potential of green hydrogen. Recent initiatives and a government roadmap for hydrogen production by 2040 reflect Algeria's commitment to renewable energy. These capitalise on the country's strategic geographical position, young population, abundant renewable energy resources, and existing energy infrastructure.

CERF's strategy in Algeria focuses on green hydrogen and solar energy to support climate change mitigation. The goal is to shift mindsets and improve policymakers' understanding of the energy transition. CERF's approach includes developing green hydrogen strategies and boosting solar energy with Dutch expertise. In the long term, CERF aims to target the domestic use and export of green hydrogen, supporting Dutch-Algerian business ties. This strategy aims to establish the Netherlands as an important partner in Algeria's transition to renewable energy.

### CERF activities

The German-Dutch Twinning project in Algeria, a key initiative under CERF, is closely aligned with the broader goals and strategies of the Dutch embassy in Algeria. Twinning is a European Union instrument for institutional cooperation, which connects public sector expertise from EU Member States with beneficiary countries to achieve concrete operational results through peer-to-peer activities.

#### Twinning project stakeholders

- The Algerian Commission for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CEREFE)
- The German Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)
- German Energy Agency (DENA)
- City University of Applied Sciences in Bremen
- Experts from other Dutch and German institutions.

This project aims to contribute to the national and sectoral development of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Algeria, supporting structural transformation towards a sustainable, future-proof energy model. Activities in this project include strengthening the organisational structure of CEREFE and enhancing its capacity for effective intervention and interaction. CEREFE has been assigned the role of planning, evaluating and forecasting for the Algerian government.



### Results

The Twinning project started in February 2023 and has advanced well. Stakeholder workshops and training sessions on renewable energy policies have been carried out for the component focused on enhancing CEREFE's monitoring and evaluation capacities. All initial activities for the component covering statistics, monitoring, and energy forecasting have been completed, and a second, more practical cycle has been planned. Meanwhile, the organisational development and communication plan is advancing well. This project has had a significant role in facilitating access to institutions and ministries, a key factor in successful international cooperation. It has opened doors to critical networks and collaboration opportunities. Moreover, the involvement of the European Union adds value, creating synergies that surpass what standalone efforts from individual countries, like the Netherlands, could achieve.

### Next steps

The German-Dutch Twinning project in Algeria ends in June 2024. At the moment, several ideas for continued collaboration and research are being considered. One possibility is the initiation of a new Twinning project that builds upon the lessons learnt from the current project. Additionally, there is potential for collaboration between Dutch organisations such as RVO, TNO, the Port of Amsterdam and Algerian institutions, focusing on common issues identified during the Twinning missions. Another prospect is a multi-annual Netherlands-German research project on future energy scenarios for Algeria.

## Subsurface solutions: Spreading Dutch aquifer thermal energy storage system innovations across Japan

As the 3rd economy in the world, Japan can play a leading role in the regional energy transition. In 2011, an earthquake following the Fukushima nuclear accident caused a significant disruption in Japan's energy supply. This initiated major changes in Japan's energy system. The country diversified its energy mix with renewables but still aims for around 21% nuclear energy in 2030. Japan aims to reduce dependency on fossil fuels from 69% in 2019 to 40% in 2030 to meet the greenhouse gas reduction target of 46% compared to 2013. The solar photovoltaic sector has already rapidly expanded in recent years, more efforts are needed to develop other renewable technologies.

### CERF activities

The Netherlands embassy in Tokyo and Consulate General in Osaka focus on policy dialogues with high-level decision-makers. Both promote energy saving and renewable energy technologies. Air conditioning accounts for nearly half of the power consumption of office buildings in Japan. Therefore, CERF focuses on aquifer thermal energy storage (ATES), a technology that utilises the subsurface for heating and cooling of buildings. By encouraging the successful implementation of ATES, CERF aims to help Japan accelerate its renewable energy transition and create space for more considerable climate change mitigation goals.

CERF's goal is to put ATES prominently on the Japanese national political agenda and establish a strong ATES business relationship between Japan and the Netherlands. The Netherlands is a frontrunner in ATES. Currently, a few ATES pilot projects are being carried out in Japan. Japanese businesses see potential, and Osaka is taking the lead in improving the enabling environment at both the regional and national level. To promote ATES further, CERF developed a feasibility map for Osaka city. The programme plans to showcase this map to other Japanese cities through webinars and plans a mission to interested cities, like the city of Nagoya. Next to emphasizing the potential of ATES, CERF will also share Dutch experiences in implementation challenges. Currently, the legal and regulatory framework of Japan does not allow groundwater extractions in many urban areas of Japan as there are concerns about land subsidence. CERF will invite high-level Japanese government officials to the Netherlands to see the potential in real life and exchange experiences on the development path, lessons learnt and risk prevention and mitigation.

### Results

Creating the feasibility map of Osaka strengthened the collaboration between the Netherlands and Japan on the topic of ATES. This resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Netherlands Consulate General and the city of Osaka.

### Next steps

At EXPO2025 in Japan, ATES will be used for several buildings, and Dutch engineering solutions will be promoted.





## India and the Netherlands unite for a green hydrogen revolution

India is the third-largest greenhouse gas emitter and the third-largest final energy-consuming country globally. It, therefore, plays a significant role in climate change and the energy transition. In 2015, India committed to the Paris Agreement with ambitious goals of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 33-35% and having 450 GW of non-fossil fuel power generation capacity by 2030. During COP26 in 2021, India announced a net-zero target by 2070 and even more ambitious Paris-goals. To contribute to achieving its goals, India is investing in the green hydrogen sector. In the coming years, there will be a strong focus on developing pilot projects, infrastructure, supply chains, research and development, skills, regulations, and policies.

### CERF activities

The long-term ambition of the Netherlands embassy in India is to establish a bilateral green hydrogen partnership through which the Dutch government, academia and the private sector contribute to and invest in India's green hydrogen sector. CERF supports the embassy's long-term ambition by connecting Dutch and Indian expertise in the whole green hydrogen value chain, specifically in the areas such as law and regulation, safety, system integration and the development of regional green hydrogen economies.

CERF aims to further strengthen the collaboration with the Government of India. India and The Netherlands embassy are currently working on a MoU in the field of renewable energy. Once this MoU is signed, the Netherlands embassy aims for a Joint Working Group with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy NITI Aayog (MNRE) intends to use the established collaboration with NITI Aayog to start a new workstream on green hydrogen once a Memorandum of Understanding between 2 Ministries in India and the Netherlands is signed. These ambitions build on the initial 2022 explorative study commissioned by The Energy and Resources Institute ([TERI](#)). This study identifies mutually beneficial collaboration opportunities in research, industries and projects. It also includes recommendations on a way forward to create mutually beneficial ecosystems which would enable to work together in developing the green hydrogen economy in India.

Via CERF, in September 2022, a green hydrogen delegation from the Netherlands visited India to follow up on the TERI study and engage in discussions with the local main players in the green hydrogen field. During this visit, the delegation assessed India's green hydrogen potential and brainstormed with the embassy regarding the way forward.

CERF successfully organized the Green Hydrogen Valley Indo-NL Hackathon, bringing together companies and academic partners from India to outline the challenges they encountered in developing regional valleys. Students and companies from India and the Netherlands collaborated in a fully-organized, 2-day hybrid hackathon, where they devised innovative solutions to these challenges. This event significantly contributed to the development

of the hydrogen sector in both countries, fostered mutual knowledge development, and strengthened Indo-NL ties in the field of hydrogen.

CERF is also focusing on the long-term upscaling of the hydrogen sector in India by looking at the investment and finance challenges shared by partners such as the World Bank. CERF will also contribute to a green hydrogen centre of excellence in India.

### Results

During the green hydrogen delegation's visit to India, discussions with government officials, knowledge institutes and companies from both countries resulted in a focused list of opportunities for collaboration. The visit also made it clear that there was a demand from India to collaborate on knowledge development. Therefore, CERF invited 4 government officials from the Indian MNRE and the National Institute for Wind Energy (NIWE) to the Offshore Energy Exhibition & Conference (OEEC) in Amsterdam in November 2022. The officials had the opportunity to participate in a 2-day masterclass on green hydrogen and offshore wind in collaboration with the RVO [ICEP](#) team.

Another area of potential collaboration is the development of port infrastructure for the green hydrogen economy. CERF invited 3 government delegates (MNRE, Department of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways) to the World Hydrogen Summit in Rotterdam in May 2023. This visit resulted in further specification of the areas for collaboration and interest in the Netherlands' learnings and best practices on how to develop a local green hydrogen. The embassy and CERF are now working on collaborating in this field with DST and other partners.

## Driving a just energy transition in South Africa through a combi-approach

At COP26, the UK, USA, Germany, France, and the EU initiated a partnership together with the South African government to accelerate the decarbonisation of the South African economy, known as the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP). South Africa depends heavily on coal for energy (80%), making it one of the larger contributors to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The International Partners Group (IPG) agreed to mobilise significant funding in the coming 3-5 years to accelerate decarbonisation. In South Africa, the focus of this partnership is on the energy sector, green hydrogen and electric vehicles, as well as on a just transition, meaning to leave no one behind. In October 2023 the South African government welcomed the Netherlands and Denmark as additional partners to the International Partners Group.

### CERF activities

President Ramaphosa of South Africa presented the Just Energy Transition Investment Plan (JET-IP) 2023-2027 at COP27. This plan sets out the scale of need and investments required to achieve the decarbonisation commitments of South Africa's Nationally Determined Contribution.

The Netherlands is now exploring how it can best contribute to the JET-IP focus areas (energy, electric vehicles, green hydrogen and just-projects) in South Africa. Rebel Group is carrying out a study and creating an intervention plan. The main goal of the JET-IP study is to help formulate a meaningful Dutch contribution from an investment perspective to the Just Energy Transition in South Africa. The study will provide relevant information for the embassy, RVO and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and potential investors and funders that are interested in areas of the JET-IP. This will help determine how best to leverage existing Dutch facilities, programmes and networks to mobilise investments and funding that can contribute to the Just Energy Transition in South Africa.

So far, the Dutch contribution has focused primarily on the just aspect of the transition under the Grootvlei Just Transition programme, resulting in a letter of intent signed by Eskom and the Kingdom of the Netherlands to repurpose a decommissioned coal-fired power plant and develop alternative livelihoods on the site through agricultural developments. Furthermore, the embassy focuses on strengthening the cooperation between the Netherlands and South Africa in green hydrogen.

# Activities in partner countries with short-term collaboration

## Advancing green hydrogen knowledge in Jordan through Dutch expertise

Jordan is pursuing advancements in green hydrogen. The country recognises its potential to enhance the nation's energy transition but needs more knowledge to create hydrogen policies.

### CERF activities

CERF's engagement in Jordan strategically focuses on short-term, high-impact educational programmes, such as masterclasses. To support Jordan's transition to green energy, CERF organised a masterclass on various aspects of hydrogen energy for the Jordan Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. The masterclass involved a collaboration between the Netherlands embassy in Amman and the [DOB Academy](#). It aimed to enrich participants' understanding of the global hydrogen application landscape, hydrogen's use as an energy source, and the specific implications for Jordan's energy grid and water resources. This initiative aligned with Jordan's national roadmap for green hydrogen and was a key component in the embassy's multi-annual strategic agenda.

### Results

The masterclass resulted in a deep understanding of green hydrogen and enabled staff to draft informed policies and facilitate Jordan's ongoing transition to sustainable energy sources.

## Supporting China's circular construction transition with Dutch innovations

China is home to 18% of the world's population, and is a major contributor to global emissions through its construction sector, which is responsible for around 41% of construction-related emissions globally. Addressing emissions within this sector is crucial in tackling climate change and achieving China's goal of carbon neutrality by 2060. Implementing circular approaches in the Chinese construction sector presents a significant opportunity to reduce emissions in the medium to long term. Given the extensive lifespan of industrial assets, early-stage intervention is crucial.

### CERF activities

CERF has initiated a short-term intervention involving an incoming visit. This visit from Chinese companies and government officials focused on understanding the Chinese circular construction sector and introducing circular construction solutions from the Netherlands. This aligns with the broader goals and strategies of the Dutch diplomatic network in China. The Dutch diplomatic network in China's 2022 Economic Working Plan (EWP) prioritises scaling up climate diplomacy and transitioning to a circular economy, specifically in the construction sector, areas in which Dutch expertise has added value.

### Results

As a result of an incoming visit to the Netherlands, Chinese policymakers and construction companies now have knowledge of pioneering circular construction solutions from the Netherlands. The Netherlands now better understands China's circular construction sector and can foster sustainable connections between Dutch and Chinese policymakers and construction companies. CERF aims to accelerate the adoption of circular approaches at the local level across China.



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Netherlands Enterprise Agency  
Prinses Beatrixlaan 2 | 2595 AL Den Haag  
Postbus 93144 | 2509 AC Den Haag  
T +31 (0) 88 042 42 42  
[www.rvo.nl](http://www.rvo.nl)

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