

# Fossil collaboration advice: ‘No silver bullet’

**Shortly before the Christmas holidays, the committee appointed to advise WUR on collaboration with fossil-fuel companies proposed a decision framework. It recommends three criteria for assessing potential partners.**

Wageningen saw fierce protests last year against the university’s connections with fossil industry companies. In response, the Executive Board set up an advisory committee tasked with establishing criteria for new collaborations with fossil companies.

**A new advisory committee will evaluate in case of doubt**

The decision framework proposed by the committee has three steps. The first is a general assessment: is

the project in line with WUR’s mission? The second is an assessment of the potential partner: is it a company in the fossil industry, has the company made



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a commitment to the Paris Agreement, is it actively phasing out its fossil-fuel operations, does it obstruct climate policies? In addition, the partner must not be responsible for the research objectives (that is WUR’s task) and its financial contribution must not exceed 30 per cent of the project budget. The third step applies if doubts or objections are raised in the first two steps. Then what is termed a ‘reflective report’ has to be drawn up showing why the collaboration is of

strategic importance to WUR despite the doubts. A new advisory committee, which is still to be set up, will then evaluate the proposed collaboration.

The recommendations, which will not be binding, will be published in an annual report. <sup>ss</sup>

*Read more about the advice and comments, including from committee chair Carolien Kroeze, on p. 14*