



Integration for Biodiversity in the Netherlands

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1. Introduction

The Netherlands report¹ on the extent to which biodiversity has been integrated into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies and plans, such as agriculture, education, health, rural development, forestry, fishery, mining, tourism, finance, trade, industry; the process(es) by which biodiversity has been integrated into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies and plans; adoption and employment of the ecosystem approach in mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes; the extent to which biodiversity is included in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments undertaken at various levels; outcomes achieved through implementation of these measures, in particular in terms of observed changes in the status and trends of important biodiversity components, and the extent to which these measures contribute to the implementation of NBSAPs; information on how biodiversity has been taken into account in programmes of overseas development assistance (ODA), scientific and technical cooperation and technology transfer.

2. The extent to which biodiversity has been integrated into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies and plans

Agriculture

Biodiversity has been explicitly addressed in the “Policy Letter on Agrobiodiversity” and its follow-up, as well as in “Biodiversity works: for nature, for people, for ever: the biodiversity policy programme of the Netherlands 2008-2011” and includes promoting useful application of ecosystem services in agriculture. Moreover the document “Nature for people, people for nature: policy document for nature, forest and landscape in the 21st century” includes several targets regarding the conservation of species, such as goose and meadow bird species, in agricultural environments. Further, policy documents addressing more general targets regarding more sustainable agriculture include the following:

- The Choice for Agriculture (*Kiezen voor landbouw: een visie op de toekomst van de Nederlandse landbouw*; 2005; see: http://www.minlnv.nl/portal/page?_pageid=116,1640360&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_file_id=14089); in English);
- Outlook on the future of the livestock sector (*Toekomstvisie op de veehouderij*; 2008; see: http://www.minlnv.nl/portal/page?_pageid=116,1640321&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_file_id=24405); in Dutch);
- Policy document on sustainable food (*Nota duurzaam voedsel: naar een duurzame consumptie en productie van ons voedsel*; 2009; see:

¹ Netherlands (2010). Fourth National Report of the Netherlands, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Department of Nature, Landscape and Rural Affairs, April 2010, 77 pp.

<http://www.minlnv.nl/portal/page?_pageid=116,1640360&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_file_id=40703>; in English).

Education

Targets regarding biodiversity have been addressed in the policy document “To choose, learn and participate: towards effective environmental education in the Netherlands 2008-2011” (*Kiezen, leren en meedoen: naar een effectieve inzet van natuur- en milieueducatie in Nederland 2008-2011*; see: <http://www.minlnv.nl/portal/page?_pageid=116,1640321&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_file_id=25423>; in Dutch).

Health

“Biodiversity” has not explicitly been addressed in Dutch health policy. However, “nature” has been addressed to some extent in a policy document on environment and health (*Nationale aanpak milieu en gezondheid 2008-2012*; see:

<http://www.vrom.nl/Docs/milieu/200804_Kamerbrief_nataanpakgezondheidenmilieu.pdf>; in Dutch).

In addition, the “Policy Note on Invasive Alien Species” has considered public health impacts of invasive species.

Rural development

Biodiversity targets have been addressed in the policy document “Agenda for a Living Countryside/ Multi-year programme for a living countryside 2004: Responding to change” (*Agenda voor een vitaal platteland: inspelen op veranderingen; 2004*; see: <http://www.minlnv.nl/portal/page?_pageid=116,1640360&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_file_id=13790>; in English).

Forestry

Targets regarding sustainable forestry within the Netherlands as well as regarding the domestic establishment of different types of forest areas have been addressed in the document “Nature for people, people for nature: policy document for nature, forest and landscape in the 21st century” . Targets regarding the use of legally and sustainably produced timber from outside the Netherlands have been included in “Biodiversity works: for nature, for people, for ever: the biodiversity policy programme of the Netherlands 2008-2011” . In addition, targets regarding the establishment of a gene bank with indigenous tree species have been included in the document “Sources of our existence: conservation and the sustainable use of genetic diversity”.

Fishery

Targets regarding the relation fisheries-biodiversity have been addressed in the document “Biodiversity works: for nature, for people, for ever: the biodiversity policy programme of the Netherlands 2008-2011”.

Further, policy documents addressing more general targets regarding more sustainable fisheries include the following:

- Fish as sustainable capital: the Dutch view on the new European fisheries policy (*Vis als duurzaam kapitaal: de Nederlandse visie op het nieuwe Europese visserijbeleid*; 2009; see: <http://www.minlnv.nl/portal/page?_pageid=116,1640360&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_file_id=49282>; in English).

Mining

Mining activities generally require Environmental Impact Assessments. Mining activities in nature areas under the Nature Conservation Act 1998 require special permissions. In addition, permissions under the Flora and Fauna Act 1998 may be required. Further, a code of conduct has been made by the surface mining sector (*Gedragscode van de Federatie van Oppervlaktedelfstoffenwinnende industrieën*) to regulate activities which may harm species that are protected under the Flora and Fauna Act 1998 (see: <http://www.minlnv.nl/portal/page?_pageid=116,1640321&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_file_id=42552>; in Dutch)

Tourism

Documents in which the issue of sustainable tourism and nature have been addressed, within as well as outside the Netherlands, include a policy letter on sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation (Tweede Kamer 2006), a policy letter on outdoor recreation in the Netherlands (Tweede Kamer 2009a) and a policy letter on tourism in and outside the Netherlands (Tweede Kamer 2009b).

Finance

Targets regarding the financial sector have been addressed in the document “Biodiversity works: for nature, for people, for ever: the biodiversity policy programme of the Netherlands 2008-2011”.

Trade

For wood, palm oil, soya, biomass, and peat, targets regarding the improvement of the sustainability of international production economic (trade) chains have been addressed in the document “Biodiversity works: for nature, for people, for ever: the biodiversity policy programme of the Netherlands 2008-2011”.

Industry

For the industry, targets have been addressed in the document “Biodiversity works: for nature, for people, for ever: the biodiversity policy programme of the Netherlands 2008-2011”.

3. The process(es) by which biodiversity has been integrated into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies and plans

Instruments applied in above strategies vary from communication and incentives to legal regulation. Generally, concerning sectors have been actively involved in the policy-making processes underlying

above strategies and plans. Further, a number of policy plans themselves aim at an integrative area-based approach involving several sectors (e.g., the document “Agenda for a Living Countryside/ Multi-year programme for a living countryside 2004: Responding to change”)

4. Adoption and employment of the ecosystem approach in mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies, plans and programmes

The Dutch National Ecological Network and the Habitat-based approach are sectoral strategies in accordance with the ecosystem approach. Likewise, the targets “Biodiversity works” and “Marine biodiversity and sustainable fishery” in the document “Biodiversity works: for nature, for people, for ever: the biodiversity policy programme of the Netherlands 2008-2011” may be considered as being examples of corresponding cross-sectoral strategies.

5. The extent to which biodiversity is included in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments undertaken at various levels

Targets:

Except for biodiversity components addressed by the EU Birds Directive and Habitats Directive, Dutch EIA legislation does currently not explicitly include targets regarding the consideration of biodiversity.

Indicators:

For information on EIAs in the Netherlands, contact the Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment; see: <<http://www.eia.nl/default.asp>>.

6. Outcomes achieved through implementation of these measures, in particular in terms of observed changes in the status and trends of important biodiversity components, and the extent to which these measures contribute to the implementation of NBSAPs

As parts of Dutch biodiversity policy, the measures have been, are or will be evaluated by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency.

7. Information on how biodiversity has been taken into account in programmes of overseas development assistance (ODA), scientific and technical cooperation and technology transfer

Dutch international cooperation supports the principles of the Paris Agenda to enhance harmonisation alignment and ownership. In joint consultation with the partner country, sectors have been selected and sectoral support (ODA) was provided. Through these sector-wide programmes Dutch support to environment and biodiversity was mainstreamed in national sectoral budget lines. Some partner countries – notably Colombia, Ghana, Guatemala, Senegal, Pakistan, Surinam, Vietnam – did select environment or a natural resource (forestry, water management, agriculture/rural development) as a sector in which biodiversity was an integral part. In 2008, Dutch Development Cooperation supported 134 activities related to biodiversity (sector support, core funding, programmes, projects) that were implemented through multilateral organisations, non-governmental organizations and Dutch embassies. The total expenditure is around € 90 million per year. Within the Netherlands the Dutch government

also promotes policy coherence through the policy plan "Biodiversity works: for nature, for people, for ever" which links consumption in the Netherlands with sustainable trade chains to reduce the ecological footprint.

Particular attention has been paid to the integration of biodiversity in trade-related developments. A striking example is the Forest Law and Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiative. In 2008 the Initiative for Sustainable Trade was launched in which business, non-governmental organisations and government work together to create sustainable production and trade chains on soy, timber, tea, cocoa, natural stone, tourism, cotton and aquaculture. The contribution totals € 31.128.000. Support has also been provided to innovative mechanisms to integrate biodiversity concerns into economy and finance. The intention is to create a demand and supply mechanism for environmental goods and services and related economic instruments thereby integrating biodiversity in our economic system. To achieve this, the Dutch government wants to enhance insight and create more value for biodiversity in economic production processes and meeting the needs of society; to actively support and initiate (inter)national initiatives; to influence international negotiations; and to 'green' and/or reform fiscal and subsidy schemes. The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) has researched and helped to improve the design and implementation of PES-schemes (Payment for Environmental Services) in for example Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and South Africa. Other examples are support to the World-Wide Fund for Nature to pilot PES-schemes, and support to the REDD-initiative (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation). In support of the REDD-initiative the Netherlands contributes € 15 million for the period 2008-2012 to the Readiness Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank.