

Appendix:

Overview of current activities in the Dutch biodiversity policy

Current activities (based on the action points in the European Commission's (EC) Action Plan)

EC Action Plan Current topics in the Dutch biodiversity policy

A THE TEN PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

POLICY AREA 1: BIODIVERSITY AND THE EU

A1

Protection of the most important habitats and species in the EU

- Creation of National Ecological Network (EHS), Natura 2000, Emerald Green Network (Bern convention) and creation of a Pan-European ecological network, including robust corridors, and the implementation of the long-term defragmentation programme.
- Protection, restoration and 'wise use' of wetlands worldwide via Ramsar and ecological networks.
- Support of Ramsar and Wetlands International.
- Designation and management of national parks.
- Contribution to protection of biological hotspots (protected areas).
- Integration of the concept of ecoregional development in development cooperation policy.
- Embedding of network concept in the working programme of the CMS (Bonn Convention).
- Adjustment of the existing protection regime in the Antilles.
- The Flora and Fauna Act.
- The creation of management areas (inside and outside the National Ecological Network) and the drafting of a national nature objectives map.
- Updating the red lists.
- Drafting of fauna management plans.
- Convention on the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW).
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention).
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), in association with the the CMS there are agreements, among other things, on the conservation of migratory species such as waterbirds (AEWA), small cetaceans (ASCOBANS) and bats (EUROBATS) as well as several Memorandums of Understanding within the CMS. Cooperation with and development of an instrument for migratory birds of prey within the CMS and for the Central Asian flyway.

A2

Conservation and restoration of biodiversity and the ecosystem services throughout the rural areas in the EU

- Contributing to the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE).
- Further strengthening of the conservation of biodiversity in the further development of the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and in the the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), with specific attention for 'high nature value farmland'.
- Pressing for consideration of the effects of the CAP and of European agriculture on nature in the review of the CAP.
- Attention for the effect of the cultivation of biofuels on biodiversity.
- Anchoring of three classes of agrobiodiversity in the working programme of the CBD in 2008, as basis for the inclusion of nature.
- Assisting developing countries in integrating biodiversity in agricultural areas, particularly where they are part of ecoregional development.
- Continuing the CBD working programme in revised management of agricultural areas, the more precise definition of the term 'good agricultural practice'.
- Attention for biodiversity in 'non trade concerns' of the WTO.
- Promoting good agricultural practice in developing countries, tailored to the local situation and to sustainable rural development.
- Maintaining attention for biodiversity in the FAO.
- Conservation regime for a selection of Belvédère areas.
- Demarcating and managing national landscapes by provinces.
- Allocating agro-environmental payments and payments for natural handicaps.
- Implementing the programme 'Sources of our existence'.
- Promoting an integrated landscape design.
- Supporting green and blue services.
- Steering the implementation of the management of the programme by the central government.
- Increasing the sustainability of agriculture.
- Reconstructing the sandy areas.
- Addressing dehydration (Desired Ground and Surface Water Regime - GGOR) and setting targets for environmental quality.

POLICY AREA 2: THE EU AND GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY

A6

Significant improvement in the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Strengthening global *governance* with respect to biodiversity issues, in association with the UN process with respect to the institutional setting for environmental activities of the UN.
- Contributing to sustainable use and conservation of ecological networks outside Europe, including the protection of biological hotspots (PA5³⁵).
- Embedding the network concept in the working programme of the CMS (Bonn Convention).
- Adapting the existing conservation regimes in the Antilles with a view to impending changes in governance.
- Further developing the Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands (Ramsar), Convention on the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention; section on species), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS, Bonn Convention), including the subsidiary agreements on the conservation of species such as waterbirds (AEWA), small cetaceans (ASCOBANS) and bats (EUROBATS³⁶) as well as a number of Memorandms of Understanding in the CMS.
- Supporting the role of Wetlands International , partly as a supporting organisation for Ramsar.
- Supporting capacity building for managers in developing countries (e.g. via DLO support as part of WETCAP and Ramsar Advisory Board).
- Capacity building in the field of integrated water management.

A3

Conservation and restoration of the biodiversity and the ecosystem services in the marine environment of the EU

- Regulating the legal status of genetic sources in the open sea through 'UNCLOS implementation agreement on marine biodiversity'.
- Implementing the 'Water Framework Directive' (KRW) and the 'Marine Strategy Framework Directive'(KRM).
- Implementing Management Vision North Sea 2010.
- Establishing 'Public Private Partnership' (PPP) for sustainable fishery and aquaculture in Asia.
- Implementing CBD working programme on 'marine and coastal biodiversity'.
- Designating protected areas on sea (MPAs, Natura 2000, etc.).
- Implementing and further developing the OSPAR Convention.
- Fishery policy

A4

Strengthening the unity of regional and spatial development with biodiversity in the EU

A5

Significant reduction of the impact of invasive exotic species and genotypes on biodiversity in the EU

- Performing risk analyses.
- Identifying and monitoring of exotics by the monitoring network of Private Data Management Organisations (PGOs) and other 'eyes and ears' in the field.
- Preventing and combating.
- Communication (creating awareness of the risks of exotic species for indigenous biodiversity).

EC Action Plan *Current topics in the Dutch biodiversity policy*

A7

Significant strengthening of the aspect of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU's policy for external assistance

- Integration of poverty alleviation in the ABS regime.
- Integration of development aspects in the work of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
- Contribution to negotiations and EU input for the FAO International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- Integration of the concept of eco-regional development in policy on development cooperation.
- Further implementation of the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in the Netherlands in close collaboration with the Centrum for Genetic Resources Nederland (CGN).
- Incorporation of the Dutch collections of crops listed in the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in the multilateral system where possible.
- Conservation, restoration and *wise use* of wetlands worldwide via Ramsar and ecological networks.
- Promotion of the combination of conservation of wetlands and 'sustainable livelihoods', including integrated management of land and water in accordance to the 'Guidelines on Agriculture, Wetlands and Water Resource Interactions' (GAWI), taking into account ecosystem services of wetlands, and the development of Ramsar-FAO guidelines.
- Integration of water management in development cooperation policy.
- Elaboration of bilateral water policy in the form of WSSD partnerships and water panels.
- Support for socially just legislation with regard to land ownership and use.
- Active promotion of sustainable forestry.
- Prevention of land degradation via TerrAfrica and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the sustainable use of deserts, savannahs and steppes.

A8

Significant reduction of the impact of international trade on global biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Implementation and further development of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES³⁷).

POLICY AREA 3: BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

A9

Support for the adaptation of biodiversity to climate change

- Integration of climate risks in development cooperation policy.
- Decision on details of emission trading in the context of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), in relation to COP 13 or COP/MOP 3 of the Convention on Climate change
- Green Seat tree for travel.
- Adaptation of farming methods, (e.g. cultivation of biofuels) taking into account the impact on biodiversity.
- Implementation of programme 'Clean and efficient'.
- Adaptation measures through the construction of the National Ecological Network, 'a Green-blue veining', and Natura 2000 areas.
- Limiting the damage and adopting measures in ecosystems that are highly vulnerable to climate change, including Arctic systems, wetlands and coastal areas.

POLICY AREA 4: KNOWLEDGE

A10

Significant strengthening of the knowledge base for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in the EU and globally

- Financing WUR/DLO research, dedicated in part to the priorities in this policy programme.
- Starting pilot projects with 'sustainable management plans for ecosystems'.
- Keeping LNV databases of species and habitats up to date.
- Arranging for and responding to the annual nature and environment balances of the Environmental Assessment Agency (MNP).
- Performing activities by the Data Authority

B THE FOUR SUPPORTING MEASURES FOR BIODIVERSITY

B1

Ensuring there is adequate financing

- Provide help in drafting plans for sustainable management and biodiversity.

B2

EU-level

- Strengthening policy making at EU-level.

B3

Creating partnerships

- Facilitate Corporate Social Responsibility, with the aim of promoting transparency about the impact of companies on biodiversity.
- Support for initiatives by the Dutch tourism sector and in developing countries, for example aimed at internationalisation of 'Product Environmental Care' and fleshing out 'Community-Based Tourism'.

B4

Raising awareness and increasing public participation

- 'Socially Significant Nature' scheme.
- Carrying out the 'Learning for sustainability 2008-2011' programme.
- Encouraging certification of sustainable wood.

C MONITORING, EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT

C1

Annual reports

- The MNP will produce the annual 'Nature and Environment Balance'.
- Every four years the MNP will produce a 'Nature Outlook'.
- Annual reports on the progress with the policy implementation programme 'Nature for people, people for nature'.

C2

Indicators

C3

Monitoring

- National measurement network strategie

C4

Evaluation and assessment

- Once every eight years there will be an evaluation of the effectiveness of the policy instruments set out in 'Nature for people, people for nature'.