

What are the Dutch government's priorities in the Netherlands?

Management and cohesion of EHS and Natura 2000

- All management plans for Natura 2000 and the conservation targets will be completed and adopted as soon as possible but not later than 3 years after the formal designation of the Natura 2000 areas, with the exception of the areas in the North Sea, which are still to be designated.
- In 2008/2009, implementation of the 'EHS rules' will be evaluated with a review of whether tighter supervision by the Environment inspectorate is required; if necessary legal measures will be taken in the Spatial Planning Act.
- On the basis of the situation at the time of mid-term review of the ILG in 2010, it will be decided whether a shift from management to acquisition is needed.
- Redrawing of the boundaries of the EHS in response to relevant developments will be considered in connection with the effect on Natura 2000 areas.

Environmental conditions EHS and Natura 2000

- In 2010 the agreements that have been made with provinces until 2013 on the ambitions for nature quality of the EHS in 2018 will be adjusted to the new management system.
- In the water plans (to be adopted at end of 2009) the measures relating to water quality will be adopted.
- In the mid-term review (2010) of the ILG contracts, the progress of efforts to combat desiccation will be evaluated in the TOP-list areas.

Habitats approach

- The habitats approach pursues a pro-active species policy, supplementing the EHS and Natura 2000. The Dutch government will make further agreements on it in 2008 with the provinces.

Climate change and adaptation in the Netherlands

- Security in combination with nature: linking of green and blue.
- Review of feasibility of targets set for certain species and habitats.
- Conservation and recovery of wetlands: strengthen resilience of delta and 'IJsselmeer' lake.
- Identification of priority ecosystems, areas and adaptation strategies for biodiversity, both from the perspective of vulnerability (conservation) and functionality (sustainable use in the event of adaptation).

What are the Dutch government's priorities in international cooperation?

Creating ecological networks worldwide

- Further elaboration and embedding in international context of the concept of ecological networks, for example by making an active contribution to the CBD Working Group on Protected Areas, implementation of the Letter of Intent with the CBD Secretariat and contributing to the World Conservation Congress 2008.
- In Europe, the Netherlands will actively contribute to the creation of a Pan-European ecological network.
- A specific Dutch contribution to concrete projects for the ecological networks management, embedded in the socio-economic development of a region. The Dutch government will give particular priority to the flyways and wetlands because of the special expertise and position of the Netherlands concerning them.
- Strengthening ecological networks in relation to climate change.

Increasing cohesion

- Fleshing out of international agreements to guarantee the 'connectivity' of existing networks and their integration in the broader socio-economic development of a region, partly in relation to adaptation to climate change strengthening international cooperation.
- Promoting international cooperation with respect to transnational protection of ecological networks, for example through CMS and subsidiary conventions.



On what themes and activities will the Dutch government seek to cooperate with partners in civil society?

In the Netherlands

- Coordination of the efforts and activities of civil society organisations relating to the creation of ecological networks in the Netherlands and elsewhere.
- Preparation of proposals for adaptation to climate change by land management organisations and nature conservation organisations.
- Preparation of proposals by water boards and the agricultural sector to flesh out adaptation in moorland areas and stream valleys.
- Specific elaboration of the concept of 'natural climate buffers'
- Organisation of five concrete pilot projects with provinces for redrawing EHS boundaries for robust ecosystems.

Outside the Netherlands

- Contribution to sustainable ecoregional development through economic activities (tourism, trade chains).

