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COUNTRY PROFILE



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INTRODUCTION - 2002 COUNTRY PROFILES SERIES

Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, underscored the important role that States play in the implementation of the Agenda at the national level. It recommended that States consider preparing national reports and communicating the information therein to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) including, activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the obstacles and challenges they confront, and other environment and development issues they find relevant.

As a result, in 1993 governments began preparing national reports for submission to the CSD. After two years of following this practice, the CSD decided that a summarized version of national reports submitted thus far would be useful. Subsequently, the CSD Secretariat published the first Country Profiles series in 1997 on the occasion of the five-year review of the Earth Summit (Rio + 5). The series summarized, on a country-by-country basis, all the national reports submitted between 1994 and 1996. Each Profile covered the status of all Agenda 21 chapters.

The purpose of Country Profiles is to:

- I. Help countries monitor their own progress;
- II. Share experiences and information with others; and,
 - Serve as institutional memory to track and record national actions undertaken to implement Agenda 21.

A second series of Country Profiles is being published on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development being held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4, 2002. Each profile covers all 40 chapters of Agenda 21, as well as those issues that have been separately addressed by the CSD since 1997, including trade, energy, transport, sustainable tourism and industry.

The 2002 Country Profiles series provides the most comprehensive overview to date of the status of implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level. Each Country Profile is based on information updated from that contained in the national reports submitted annually by governments.

Preparing national reports is often a challenging exercise. It can also be a productive and rewarding one in terms of taking stock of what has been achieved and by increasing communication, coordination and cooperation among a range of national agencies, institutions and groups. Hopefully, the information contained in this series of Country Profiles will serve as a useful tool for learning from the experience and knowledge gained by each country in its pursuit of sustainable development.

NOTE TO READERS

The 2002 Country Profiles Series provides information on the implementation of Agenda 21 on a country-by-country and chapter-by-chapter basis (with the exception of chapters 1 and 23, which are preambles). Since Rio 1992, the Commission on Sustainable Development has specifically addressed other topics not included as separate chapters in Agenda 21. These issues of trade, industry, energy, transport and sustainable tourism are, therefore, treated as distinct sections in the Country Profiles. In instances where several Agenda 21 chapters are closely related, for example, chapters 20 to 22 which cover environmentally sound management of hazardous, solid and radioactive wastes, and chapters 24 to 32 which refer to strengthening of major groups, the information appears under a single heading in the Country Profile Series. Lastly, chapters 16 and 34, which deal with environmentally sound management of biotechnology, and transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation, capacity-building respectively, are presented together under one heading in those Country Profiles where information is relatively scarce.

At the release of this Country Profile, Netherlands had not updated it and therefore any new changes will appear on our web page: <http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo>.

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LIST OF COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AMCEN	Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CARICOM	The Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations
DESA	Department for Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIDA	Foundation for International Development Assistance
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development

IEEA	Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategies
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization for African Unity
ODA	Official Development Assistance/Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SACEP	South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNU	United Nations University
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)

CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in particular its Directorate-General for International Cooperation, has the main responsibility for decision-making on international cooperation and assistance for sustainable development. The other ministries contribute in relation to their thematic responsibilities or expertise. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs coordinates these efforts. This takes place in committees of civil servants as well as at Ministerial level. Main authority and responsibility for decision making with regard to international relations and cooperation lies on a national level. However, local governments also execute their own projects and have a role in awareness raising of information exchange, for example through Local Agenda's 21 projects and the Programme Learning for sustainability. There are some international partnerships or forms of cooperation on a local and regional level. There are some environmental partnerships of provinces with regions in Middle and Eastern Europe. Matters related to cooperation for sustainable development are regulated through policy documents of the Minister for Development Cooperation. The Netherlands Government is a strong supporter of regulations that improve market forces, increase market access and combat unfair competition. The Netherlands is a member of the WTO and adheres to the related regulations. The ORET/MILIEV programme of the Ministers for Development Cooperation and Economic Affairs is designed to help generate employment, boost trade and industry in developing countries and promote environmental protection. The programme reduces the costs to developing countries of eligible projects through the award of grants for the purchase of capital goods, services or works from the Netherlands. The ORET/MILIEV grant will normally equal 35% of the total value of the transaction, or 50% in the case of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). NLG 330 million has been set aside for ORET/MILIEV per annum, NLG 80 million of which is reserved for environmental projects. The Netherlands Government actively promotes regional cooperation with respect to sustainable development and environmental protection. This is pursued in various regional fora. In relation to multilateral cooperation the Netherlands maintains an active diplomacy. The Netherlands provides substantial financial assistance to multilateral organisations and funds promoting sustainable development. The Netherlands has a history of maintaining development assistance at a high level, ODA being at 0.8% of the GNP under current policy. Of this, 0.1 % of the GNP is specifically directed towards environmental protection. Part of this assistance is channeled through co-financing arrangements with multilateral institutions in order to realise efficient utilisation of funds. Transfer of environmentally sound technology and know-how is stimulated both through the general development assistance funding as well as through specific programmes such as ORET/MILIEV and Joint Implementation. The influence of local authorities, trade unions and business and industry is mainly exerted through their participation in specific programmes for each of these groups. The scientific community is, through an advisory council (RAWOO), directly involved in the policy preparations in relation to international cooperation. The Department of International Cooperation also regularly organises dialogue meeting with youth representatives. Gender is one of the main issues within the Netherlands' international cooperation. Farmers are the group most affected by trade liberalization.

Programmes and Projects: The part of the Netherlands' ODA channeled through multilateral programmes will amount in total to NLG 1435 million, or 17 % of the ODA, in 2001. This includes contributions to GEF, UNEP, World Bank, UNDP and IFAD. Under the current policy as described in the document "Making a difference" bilateral cooperation programmes of the Netherlands focus on 21 developing countries. With another 12 countries programmes specifically aimed at environmental goals are executed. In total, bilateral ODA will amount to NLG 3 billion in 2001. In the framework of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, 1992) Costa Rica, Bhutan, Benin and the Netherlands signed a cooperation agreement for sustainable development: the Sustainable Development Agreements (SDA). These are bilateral, trilateral and quadrilateral agreements for implementing the UNCED agreements, based on the principles of equality, reciprocal effort and the mutual acquisition of knowledge and experience. Several activities have been initiated in this framework. Poverty Eradication is the main goal of the Netherlands' development cooperation. Thus, almost all of its programmes

contribute to this goal. The “MATRA” Programme specifically addresses capacity building in the fields of design and implementation of economic policies and public administration and promotion of entrepreneurship for countries in Middle and Eastern Europe.

Status: Total Foreign Direct Investments from the Netherlands in developing countries fluctuated strongly over the period 1995-1999. The Netherlands continues its commitment to the statement made in Rio that it will make available 0.1% of GNP to developing countries and other qualifying recipient countries for activities that help meet the objectives of environmental treaties, if other countries do the same. Starting in 1997, this commitment will gradually be implemented.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The Netherlands’ Government spends some NLG 30 million per annum on activities to promote public awareness. Circa 2/3 of this budget is used to subsidize the National Commission for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO). The NCDO stimulates and organizes public debate on international cooperation and sustainable development and through the NCDO local and regional activities to increase awareness are subsidized. The Department for International Cooperation publishes two magazines on international cooperation, one for the general public, one for the youth. The Netherlands has an elaborated educational and training system, where programmes in international relations are widely available. The new Netherlands’ policy on bilateral aid puts strong emphasis on priority setting by developing countries themselves in the international cooperation relation. The other items are usual parts of many regular cooperation programmes. Also the business sector should be more involved in capacity building for international cooperation.

Information: Several Ministries are involved in making this information available, in particular Foreign Affairs/Development Cooperation, Economic Affairs, Environment, Agriculture and Nature Conservation and Education. All produce publications on specific topics and regulations, as well as their annual budget and policy documents.

Research and Technologies: Priorities in sustainable technological developments include sustainable energy supply, ecological restructuring of the economy, instruments for integrated assessment, and social-scientific knowledge for environmental and nature management policy. Such partnerships are mainly formed by NGOs and private business executing or taking part in relevant government (research) programmes. The main role of the government is the promotion of application of environmentally sound technologies in foreign projects through its subsidizing programme.

Financing: Netherlands’ ODA is stable at 0.8 % of its GNP. Poverty reduction and environmental protection are main target areas. UNCED led to the reallocation of funds within existing ODA budgets, with respect both to the choice of countries and to the projects to be financed.

Cooperation: The Netherlands is very actively involved in many international fora related to sustainable development, both at the regional and at the global scale. Major conventions, e.g. CBD, UNFCCC, Montreal Protocol, CCD, UNCLOS, Basel Convention, CITES, Bonn Convention, OSPAR, Antarctic Treaty, have all been ratified. Conventions are in general implemented through national implementation plans and incorporation in national law. The Netherlands government and civil service have been and continue to be very active in promoting Agenda 21. Netherlands cooperates with other countries in joint research, professional networking, or other activities related to sustainable development between experts in your country and those outside through collaboration in EU projects.

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CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES - TRADE

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: The Government of the Netherlands does not see any inherent conflict between an open trading system and sound environmental policy, and it is convinced that an open multilateral trading system can be reconciled with active environmental protection in the pursuit of the overall objective of sustainable development. At the international level, the debate on trade and the environment is conducted in different fora, such as WTO, UNCTAD, UNEP and the OECD, in which the Netherlands is involved both directly and as an EU Member State. The Netherlands encourages the integration of environmental aspects into the trade policy operated under WTO and is working toward concrete results in the Committee on Trade and Environment, especially with respect to the relationship between the WTO provisions and trade measures included in Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA's). The use of such measures in the framework of MEA's should be accommodated under clear and predictable rules and guarantees against protectionist abuse. Furthermore the Government of the Netherlands has requested the European Community to explore the possibilities of a "green" Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) that does not conflict with WTO obligations.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: In November 1995, the Government of the Netherlands launched a national campaign based on the 'Poverty Memorandum'. This Memorandum is part of the Netherlands' strategy to implement the Copenhagen Declaration (Social Summit 1995). The Memorandum gives a wide range of measures to combat poverty, by stimulating participation, providing income support, limiting fixed costs and reducing the number of people who fail to take up their entitlements to social benefits. These measures are currently being implemented. A special system will be set up to monitor the extent of poverty in The Netherlands, based on indicators for poverty and social exclusion. This system will include statistics on the number of minimum-income households, their specifics and financial trends, the health of their members and the participation of people in this category both in education and in society. An annual conference on poverty and social exclusion will be held for the next five years. The purpose of this conference is to focus political attention on poverty and to encourage the various parties concerned - central government, municipal authorities, care services, social partners and interest groups - to join forces. The first of these conferences was held in October 1996.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

Decision-Making: The Government makes use of legislative instruments (licensing schemes like the Small Chemical Waste Logo Decree), market-oriented instruments (e.g. energy tax) and social instruments (information, education and feedback, e.g. through the Personal Lifestyle Test). Since 1992 the Government has introduced fiscal instruments in support of environmental objectives. At the national level, a policy debate has been conducted on such issues as trends and the social context of consumption, tax reform, product information, supply of cleaner products, policies to stimulate development of the services sector, the role of new media (such as Internet), physical planning, and labour patterns. Many participants stress the need to develop policies that influence societal systems and the physical infrastructure and make sustainable consumption an almost automatic and invisible process. Public sector policies have been adopted to influence the consumption and production patterns of various segments of the economy. For example, policies for material efficiency are directed toward influencing producers; policies on energy efficiency, toward the public sector; on housing, toward both central and local authorities, on waste reduction toward producers and households, on waste reuse and recycling, toward producers and local authorities. In general, the central Government is responsible for all kinds of activities to influence production and consumption patterns; local authorities are responsible for research to improve understanding and analysis; and producers are responsible for evaluating environmental claims. With regard to water demand and use, the central Government plays a key role in analysis, tools, monitoring and assessment. In addition, a national and sectoral review on production and consumption patterns has been undertaken to identify waste and possibilities for waste reduction.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: At the international level, The Netherlands government has contributed to the Oslo II Round Table on Sustainable Production and Consumption (Oslo, February 1995), the OECD workshop Clarifying the Concepts (Rosendal, July 1995), activities of the OECD Consumer Policy Committee (Helsinki, ad hoc working party on Sustainable Consumption), the OECD/BIAC/TUAC meeting on sustainable consumption and production (Paris, October 1995) and the Korea Workshop on Sustainable Consumption (Seoul, August/September 1995). In January 1995, the Netherlands held an international workshop on facilities for a sustainable household, the results of which were incorporated into the Oslo Round Table and the CSD work programme. At the third CSD meeting, the Netherlands announced the organisation of an international meeting on the relation between government and industry in the field of production and consumption, which was held in February 1996. The Netherlands has also contributed to the European Round Table on Cleaner Products (Rotterdam, November 1995) with the presentation of a paper on Consumers and Cleaner Products. The Netherlands partly finances the Sustainable Europe Study of Friends of the Earth International and the UNEP Work programme on sustainable consumption and production.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - ENERGY

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Economic Affairs has the lead in making energy policy in The Netherlands. Depending on the specific form of energy it also cooperates with other ministries, namely with the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment in relation to environmental issues, and with the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management in relation to the transport related issues. Work is also carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Public Health, Welfare and Sports, the Ministry of Defence, and the Ministry of Finance. Government programmes concerning energy include voluntary agreements with industries to create efficiency standards, research and development on renewables, and demand-side management. Since 1992, an Energy tax has collected US\$ 600 million. There are additional regulatory taxes on light bulbs and energy use. The laws include the Gas Act, the Electricity Act, the Environmental Management Act, Act on Taxes with an Environmental Base and administrative orders under these acts. The government follows a strategy of (a) encouraging fuel switch to renewable energy, (b) energy conservation in industry and households, and (c) clean use of fossil fuel. Major Groups have made contributions to meeting national energy goals. Greenpeace Netherlands has developed a prototype super energy efficient refrigerator and is looking into marketing options. WWF Netherlands cooperates with the 5 largest construction companies in the Netherlands on building "super energy efficient houses".

Programmes and Projects: The Netherlands' government has developed an action plan to meet its Kyoto target. Also, the CO2 Reduction Plan Project Bureau is a cooperative alliance between the Dutch executive organisations Novem and Senter. It functions as a coordination point for all aspects of the climate policy. The bureau supports the government in the preparation of subsidy schemes and goes on to implement such schemes in practice. It thus oversees large-scale investment projects which would not normally be conducted without additional support, the financial risk being too great. The government also has four strategies which might promote sinks – the Nature Policy, the Key Planning Decisions on the Wadden Sea, a forest extension programme, and the use of wood in construction and aims to manage existing sinks to increase biomass. The government has initiated in cooperation with relevant actors a number of schemes. The National Automobile Association (ANWB) and local authorities have started car sharing initiatives; The Netherlands Energy and Environment Company (NOVEM) carried out a study on reuse of breaking energy in vehicles. In an agreement between the European Commission and the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA), the latter undertakes to reduce CO2 emissions from cars by 25 % over the next ten years. Labels for new cars indicating their energy efficiency are compulsory since January 18th 2001 for all EU countries. The Dutch label also provides information on comparative fuel use of different cars to influence further people's choices. The Action Programme on Energy Conservation 1999-2002 will achieve its goals through financial incentives, covenants with the individual sectors, technology development, energy efficiency standards, the Environment Management Act, the Regulatory Energy Tax and the Special E Teams. Under the Law on Energy Conservation of apparatus (WET), it is compulsory for refrigerators, dryers, washing machines, dishwashers and others appliances to have energy labelling to influence consumer choices.

Status: The liberalisation which began in 1999, may seriously affect the energy trends in the country. The liberalisation of the energy market may, if the trend in the UK, Sweden and Germany is reflected in The Netherlands, lead to falling electricity prices; which in turn may stimulate consumption of electricity and hence lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. The Dutch CO2 emissions from energy production in 1999 decreased by 60% compared to the previous year because of imports of electricity.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The government has contributed to increase public awareness, through, inter alia, advertisements on television and in newspapers, and has established education programmes for consumers since the first National Environmental Policy Plan. During the second plan period, the dialogue between citizens and the government matured and many cities discussed environmental issues and sustainable development within the framework of the Local Agenda 21. Because of the immense complexity in the

relationships between consumption and production patterns and environmental issues, the government believes that it is vital to have social support for achieving far reaching changes in the economy.

Information: The Netherlands has detailed information about the generation and use of energy within the country. The emissions related to energy use are monitored in detail within the national Pollutant Emission Register. The emission data are updated every year and reported yearly in a joint publication of the relevant national institutes under responsibility of the Inspectorate for Environmental Protection. The Government and the related affiliated institutes publish brochures and documents, and their web sites provide information to concerned industry and citizens. Public policies are also extensively debated in the national media.

Research and Technologies: There is very limited potential for large hydro power installations in The Netherlands, since it is a low-lying country. There is some potential for small hydro power installations. Potential for exploiting solar energy is limited by the present costs. Concerning wind energy, there is a problem of finding possible sites. The Government is exploring the possibility of building wind parks in the sea; wind energy on land is currently being developed. Nuclear energy is excluded by the post-election coalition agreement made by the current Dutch Government and, given the strong public feeling on the subject, it appears unlikely that this will be further developed. There is potential for biomass, but the Netherlands is a small country and the potential is limited by the size of the country.

Financing: Energy projects and programmes are mostly financed from private sources. Prices paid by the consumers cover the cost of production and a certain profit margin. Public resources are spent for specific projects related to energy conservation, renewable energy and climate change. This is in addition to the resources spent by institutions like ECU and NOVEM. Some funding is received from various EU programmes for research and development. Although the revenue from Green Taxes is not earmarked for environmental policy, it is allocated to the general budget which finances environmental policy as well as other policy fields.

Cooperation: There are a number of bilateral and multilateral programmes of co-operation with developing countries and East and Central European countries in relation to research on and transfer of energy technology. The bilateral programmes which in the past encompassed a large number of developing countries and target energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies are now limited to a smaller number of countries in the context of the preferential development relationship with those countries. At the multilateral level the Netherlands is a first-hour and one of the key-financiers of World Bank programmes such as ESMAP, RPTES and ASTAE. With UNDP, several energy-related activities have been supported in the past years. With the FAO, the Netherlands has a long-term programme called RWEDP to promote changes at policy level in Asian countries related to biomass energy. The Netherlands also contributes to the Global Environment Facility to help fund activities in relation to climate change, and other issues.

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CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS – TRANSPORT

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management is responsible for policy development for traffic and transport as laid down in the National Traffic and Transport Plan (NVVP). But also the Ministries of: Spatial Planning and Environmental (VROM, esp. vehicle emissions standards); Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ); Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries (LNV); Ministry of the Interior (BZK); and Finances, the provinces, municipalities, and framework act regions are involved. There are a considerable number of laws all addressing in some extent to our national transport and traffic system. Since 1993 there has been a fully harmonized set of EU standards for road vehicles and these are tightened regularly. Shipping and air transport are also regulated internationally. The international regulatory body for air transport is the international Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO), and for shipping the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The Netherlands supports more restrictive regulations with regard to emissions, noise, safety and pricing policy than at the moment agreed upon in these bodies. The Government promotes policies and programmes in support of environmentally sound and efficient transportation. And is actively participating in the Prepcom for the ECE Regional Conference on Transport and Environment. The NVVP is an integrated policy plan for our traffic and transport system, for which the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water management is responsible. The 5th Memorandum of Spatial Planning (2000) is our integrated strategy for urban planning, rural development and transport infrastructure, for which the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environmental is responsible. In preparation of the NVVP the governmental partners gathered input from parties outside of the government: the business world, social organizations and the academic world. These were gathered and discussed in a Perspectives Memo on Traffic and Transport. The Plan Key Decision procedure of the NVVP ensures the participation and involvement in several phases of the planning process. Some social groups involved and consulted in the planning process were environmental NGO's, the Transport industry / sector, consumer associations, manufacturers/importer organizations, transporters organizations, and employers organizations.

Programmes and Projects: Several programmes and projects are undertaken in the framework of the NVVP and MIT 2000 - 2004. The NVVP main themes are accessibility, safety, and quality of life. Some relevant programs are Program Sustainable Safety, Randstad Accessibility Offensive (BOR), the project 'Short Trips,' Project Traffic, the Environment and Technology, Memorandum Vehicle technique and fuels, and Project Transport Prevention. Within the programme Ways to the Future several projects on the improvement of transport and traffic design are mentioned, some examples are: dynamic traffic lane sign posting, innovations in technology on road management, and ICT applications in route information. Also with the set up of Connect, in co-operation with the private sector, new research themes have been taken up. There are now 4 research theme's in preparation: space, behaviour, logistics, and utilization. The Research programme Economic Effects of Infrastructure (OEI), gives guidelines for cost - benefit analysis in the framework of infrastructure.

Status: Overall the Dutch system of transport services is an extensive and safe one, with an extensive road and cycle network, public transporting system, waterway network, main airports, and maritime ports. However, the Randstad and Urban areas are experiencing serious congestion problems in the area of road transport and public transport. Parts of the countryside have limited access to public transport services. Through measures within MIT 2000 – 2004 and Accessibility Offensive Randstad (BOR) an acceptable level of accessibility can still be realized. In the future this may however not be enough. In the NVVP a long term strategy to cope with these problems has been worked out. The Netherlands has an extensive network of roads, waterways and airways of excellent quality. An evaluation of the amount of vehicle emission is made in the yearly Environmental Balance Sheet, the four-yearly National Environmental Exploration, and the Environmental Compendium. The CO₂ emission of transport and traffic has to be reported in the international framework of the IPCC. In 1999 the transport sector was responsible for about 15% of the greenhouse gas emission. 50% of the CO₂ emission through transport and traffic from 1990 to 1999 was on account of personal vehicles. Freight transport has a share of about 17%. Non-road transport is responsible for about 20% of transport-related CO₂ emission. Between 1990 to 1999 total CO₂

emission has increased with almost 25%, especially due to growth in auto mobility and road freight transport. The total emission of non-CO₂ greenhouse gases stabilized since 1990 in terms of CO₂ equivalents. The Methane emission has decreased with 20% between 1990 and 1999. The emission of N₂O has decreased with 15% in the period of 1990-1999. De emissions of HFK, PFK and SF₆ have increased with about 30% since 1995. Emission trends compared to other countries: the CO₂ equivalent emissions per person has increased with 4% (1995-1990), while the group of EU countries has a decrease of 7%. This is largely due to the fact that the Netherlands, in contrast to the rest of Europe, already made the switch from coal to natural gas in the 70th and 80th which for the EU countries led to a considerable decrease of CO₂ emission. Due to common European and national policy a reduction of emissions of SO₂ (30% (23 million Kg) decrease from 1980 to 1999, especially through a decrease in sulphur content of fuels), NO_x, organic volatiles, and fine dust, has been realized. In the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution (VN-ECE) targets for the reduction of abovementioned pollutants have been set. Newest are the Gothenburg protocol targets in which also targets for road transport are set.

tenders and public-private partnerships. For the largest part, supply of fuel is financed privately. An investment programme for infrastructure for the period until 2010 in the MIT 2000 - 2004 and the Infrastructure Fund, Mobility Funds, etc. The private sector is also encouraged to invest in transport through research programmes and public private partnerships.

Cooperation: National legislation in this area is more and more dictated by European legislation. In border areas there is much attention for border crossing co-operation in the area of traffic and transport. In 1999 the European Union has set new directions for atmosphere quality, with standards for NO_x emissions, SO₂ emissions, etc. The Netherlands participates in the Auto Oil program (EU, 1997) to limit the air polluting emissions from road transport. The Netherlands supports more restrictive regulations with regard to emissions, noise, safety and pricing policy than at the moment agreed upon in IMO and ICAO.

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CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

Decision-Making: The Ministry for Education, Culture and Science and the Ministry for Health, Welfare and Sport are primarily concerned with demographic issues. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is also involved. Although there is no national policy on population, environment and development, the Ministry of Finance has adopted an integrated approach to these topics. The Netherlands supports the following NGOs and women's organizations that strengthen the position of women in the field of population and development: International Planned Parenthood Federation, the Population Council, International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, Platform for Cairo, National Commission for international cooperation and Sustainable Development, WEMOS. The Platform for Cairo organized a number of seminars, conferences, public events and media activities. The World Population Foundation (Laren, The Netherlands) is particularly active on these issues in a number of its media and information programmes. Women have been involved in decision-making on this topic and support has been given to women's NGOs.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The Netherlands is a major donor to UNFPA and is actively involved in multilateral and bilateral cooperation.

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CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

Decision-Making: The protection of public health is one of the basic elements of environmental policy in the Netherlands. The need to approach the environment from a public health perspective is a result of the increasing visibility of the cumulative pressure placed on the environment by human activity.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Although the effects of pollution on public health are difficult to quantify, there is evidence that the health of the Dutch population is at risk as a result of exposure to noise, odor, and pollution of the air and water. Combating pollution at the source is an efficient way of creating a sustainable environment and, at the same time, safeguarding public health. The government has initiated two research programmes to tackle health problems in the near future. The "Mens en Lucht" (People and Air) programme will assess the health risks associated with air pollution, while the "Mens in Milieu" (People and Environment) programme will examine the health risks resulting from cumulative pollution of the environment. Public information campaigns to warn of health risks of pollution will also be increased.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Cooperation: Environment and public health is also a vital part of the government's policy in development cooperation. Water is the crucial theme in this respect, since in developing countries it is often in short supply, badly polluted or a carrier of disease. The Netherlands plays an active role in the WHO, helping to develop environmental indicators relating to public health and advocating the incorporation of Agenda 21 in concrete projects.

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CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: Sustainable building must be an integral part of a process of physical planning based on the economical use of space, the preservation of the natural environment and a minimum use of raw materials and energy. The economical use of space contributes to nature conservation and releases land for purposes other than housing. For these reasons, environmental and planning policies are closely coordinated in the Netherlands. The Structure Plan for Surface Mining - a basic planning document - outlines national policy on construction materials for the building industry. This policy is based on the principles of sustainable development and demands careful stock management. The policy objectives presented in the structure plan include the economical use of raw materials; the responsible reuse of waste products as secondary base materials; and the policy to promote the use of renewable materials, especially when wood is used as building material.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: In the civil engineering sector, emphasis is on the use of secondary materials, since the sector uses a large quantity of raw materials (more than 95%) and reuse would have considerable positive effects on the environment. These secondary materials include aggregates of building and demolition waste and of residue from industrial processes, waste incineration and energy generation. Building projects devote increased attention to minimizing energy use in the home, improving insulation, making optimal use of solar energy, using water more economically, employing recycled materials, avoiding the use of tropical hardwood that has not been sustainably produced and reducing emissions in heat generation. These elements are all being incorporated into pilot projects, which also devote attention to more environmentally friendly living space. The Government is promoting sustainable building by supporting experiments, providing grants and amending legislation and regulations.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: A report on sustainable building published in 1990 outlined ways in which the building industry in the Netherlands could use raw materials, energy and space in a more sustainable way. The report covers building in the housing and utilities sector.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: In developing countries, cooperation on sustainable housing projects is focused mainly on the search for alternative materials that are environmentally friendly and energy efficient. These materials should also preferably be locally produced, so that they help to create additional employment.

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CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

Decision-Making: A formal National Council for Sustainable Development does not exist in The Netherlands. This is because the Netherlands was already applying policy planning procedures involving various governmental and non-governmental actors and agencies well before the term 'Sustainable Development' was coined and spread internationally in 1987. In connection with the integrated approach to planning, various coordination mechanisms have been established at different levels. While these generally have not been set up with a view to promoting sustainable development, many of them incorporate considerations of sustainability in their normal activities. The National Environmental Policy Plan (NEPP) contains the equivalent of a national strategy on sustainable development. Prior to publication, intensive discussions are held with all those concerned, both within and outside government. The NEPP is updated every four years (the third one is due at the end of 1997). It is signed by the Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment, the minister of Economic Affairs, the Minister of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, the minister of Transport, Public Works and Water Management and the minister for Development Cooperation. A large number of NGO's from all Major Groups are involved in many coordination mechanisms at different levels. Furthermore, some fifty NGO's from all sectors of society participate in the National Commission for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development, which has been established with a view to stimulate the debate on sustainable development on the national and local level. This Commission also liaises with the government on issues concerning international meetings such as the CSD. Impact assessments are usually used for policies and projects, not for programmes. For large projects likely to damage the environment, an impact assessment is mandatory. For small projects this is not the case. Policies with legislative consequences, likely to damage the environment, are also assessed on their impacts.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: Central government expenditure decreased by US\$ 13 million between 1992 and 1995. "Environmental expenditures" (according to the OECD definition) increased by US\$ 3.5 million between 1992 and 1995.

Cooperation: Several functional ministries have regular consultations to review and coordinate all the activities resulting from international agreements that have called for national strategies, plans and programmes in the field of sustainable development.

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CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment has the lead in dealing with the issue of atmospheric pollution. Decision-making in The Netherlands, in general, begins at the level of co-operation between civil servants in different departments of one ministry, and then there is inter-ministerial co-operation between different ministries and the documents are prepared and sent to the minister for approval. Then it goes to Parliament for approval. Since the climate change issue is a global issue, decisions on this are mostly taken at ministerial level and at EU level. Measures in relation to acidification policy are developed at central government level but also with support from the provincial governments because they are involved in the implementation of the policy. Second National Environmental Policy Plan (December 1993), Government Policy on Air Pollution and Aviation (August 1995), Action Plan for Sustainable Development (September 1995), and Environmental Management Act are the main legislation referring to this chapter. There is a detailed strategy for protecting the atmosphere. It can be divided into the categories air pollution and climate change. Air pollution and acid rain are covered by detailed policies on acidification. Concerning climate change, The Netherlands has developed the Climate Policy Implementation Plan to meet its Kyoto target. These are outlined in the Third National Environmental Policy Plan and will be updated in 2001 in the Fourth National Environmental Policy Plan. Major Groups have made contributions to implement climate change activities in the programme areas "promoting sustainable development," "preventing stratospheric ozone depletion" and "transboundary atmospheric pollution". Under the FACE initiative the organization of electricity producers has been working in recent years on joint implementation projects in which forests are planted or adopted in other countries to preserve sinks. NGOs, local authorities, business and industry, the scientific community and the trade unions have a greater influence on the process, with business and industry and NGOs taking the lead.

Programmes and Projects: The measures to reduce industrial emissions of greenhouse gases include Long term agreements with industry on energy efficiency, Energy standards for new households and existing buildings, Benchmarking Covenant, Agricultural measures, Environmental Tax on Fuels, and Environmental Tax on Waste. An Environmental Tax on Waste entered into force in 1995 to raise the price of landfilling in order to encourage other means of disposing of waste. The Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, which entered into force in 1997, complements the Environmental Tax on Waste as it obliges producers to reduce the amount of packaging, to recycle packaging waste, and to report on the achievements in these fields. The use of methylbromide in agriculture is prohibited in The Netherlands. The government also has four strategies which might promote sinks – the Nature Policy, the Key Planning Decisions on the Wadden Sea, a forest extension programme, and the use of wood in construction and aims to manage existing sinks to increase biomass. The Government has established a National Programme on Atmospheric Pollution and Climate Change, which is a cooperative research programme of several ministries. The NOP secretariat identifies research priorities and allocates funding for related research. The Netherlands Scientific Organisation funds programmes for research on various issues including environmental issues. The government also promotes research initiatives that aim at finding alternatives to methylbromide for disinfections purposes as well as research examining to what extent ozone depleting substances can be further reduced.

Status: In relation to the general impact of atmospheric changes in the country, the following points can be noted. Even though the life expectancy has increased from 35 years to 75 years in the last century, high concentrations of dust particles and ozone in the air along with increased UV radiation and high level of noise threaten human health. Also, the number of people with skin cancer is expected to rise as a result of increased UV radiation. The UV radiation has increased by 6-7% in 1999 compared to 1980. The soil and vegetation are also being affected by acid deposition in The Netherlands. Acid deposition is now 300 600 z-eq/ha which is much higher than the aim of 2400 z-eq/ha. On the positive side, the growing season has lasted about 3 weeks longer in the last few years which could increase the contribution of the agricultural sector to the national economy. Assuming that there will not be a policy

in place curbing atmospheric pollution problems, the different scenarios indicate that total greenhouse gas emissions will increase by 13% to 15% between 1990 and 2010.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Training opportunities are being provided in the field of transboundary atmospheric air pollution control. National capacity for observation and assessment, research and information exchange in this area is rated "very good". The government has contributed to increase public awareness, through, inter alia, advertisements on television and in newspapers, and has established education programmes for consumers since the first National Environmental Policy Plan. During the second plan period, the dialogue between citizens and the government matured and many cities discussed environmental issues and sustainable development within the framework of the Local Agenda 21. There are several research programmes for innovative technology, curriculum building and knowledge exchange for sustainable development and environment.

Information: Scientific data is made available to the general public through advertisements, publications, policy documents, brochures and through the web sites of various organisations and through different brochures. Public policies are also extensively debated in the national media. The Netherlands also shares its information at the international level, through developing web sites and publications in English (and sometimes in other EU languages) and actively distributes information through the journals Change, Joint Implementation Quarterly and Environmental News from The Netherlands is made available internationally.

Research and Technologies: The Government encourages industry to develop safe technologies by policy development and implementation, financial support, research and development and economic incentives. The Netherlands is in the process of both developing technologies and can purchase technologies from other countries for the purpose of environmental protection.

Financing: Green Taxes have been introduced in The Netherlands to raise revenue. The revenue raised by the Environmental Tax on Waste is estimated to be about 390 million NLG per year and it is expected to diminish as the amount of waste land filled is reduced. Although the revenue from Green Taxes is not earmarked for environmental policy, it is allocated to the general budget which finances environmental policy as well as other policy fields. The government has set national goals to phase-out CFCs and other ozone depleting substances. It aims to phase out halons by January 1994; CFCs and tetrachloronchloride by January 1995; HCFC's by January 2010 with cap of 1.5%; trichlorethane by January 1996; methylbromide by January 2001. In 1994, The Netherlands contributed US\$ 100,000 to the Montreal Trust Fund and US\$ 2.6 million to the multilateral ozone fund. In 1995 the contribution was US\$ 0.8 million and in 1996 US\$ 1.1 million.

Cooperation: There are several bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes on research and development, technology transfer and other activities related to protection of the atmosphere funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Development Cooperation, the Economic Affairs Ministry and the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Housing and the Environment. In the framework of the Netherlands development cooperation programmes, 0.1 % of GNP is earmarked annually for international support for environment and development. This amounted to NLG 795 millions in 1999. A considerable percentage of this amount goes to funding bilateral and multilateral projects on urban and rural issues that directly or indirectly lead to the transfer of technologies and knowledge in relation to air pollution. The Government contributes to the Global Environment Facility and to the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition in activities in relation to climate change, international waters, biodiversity and introduction of substitutes for ozone depleting substances. The specific funding for the Global Environmental Conventions amounted to NLG 21 millions in 1999. The Netherlands is party to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution of 1979 and ratified the Convention in 1982. In 1984, the Parties to the Convention adopted the 1984 Geneva Protocol on Long-Term Financing of the Co-operative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of Long-Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP). The Netherlands is also party to the First Sulphur Protocol (1985), the NOx Protocol (1998), the Volatile Organic Components Protocol (1991) and the Second Sulphur Protocol (1994). In December

2000, a new treaty was signed on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The Netherlands finances a climate study programme in collaboration with developing countries to assess the potential consequences of climate change and develop policy options to tackle these. The Netherlands is still committed to the goal set in the Final Declaration of the 1992 OSPAR Meeting of reducing, by the year 2000, discharges and emissions of substances which are toxic, persistent and liable to bioaccumulate (specially organohalogen substances) and which could reach the marine environment to levels that are not harmful to man or nature with the aim of their elimination. Within the framework of the Conference of Ministers Responsible for the Marine Environment of the North Sea it was agreed that the objective is to ensure a sustainable, sound and healthy North Sea. Regional and international cooperation play an important role in Dutch policy. Concerning transboundary atmospheric pollution, the Netherlands acceded to LRTAP Convention and its Protocols, the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic, the North Sea Ministers Conference, to Memoranda of Understanding with Hungary, Poland, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the USA and to bilateral agreements with neighboring countries on smog warning systems and air pollution measurement systems. The Netherlands is actively participating in the Prepcom for the ECE Regional Conference on Transport and Environment. UN Organizations and IGOs made contributions to the implementation of climate change activities in all programme areas of this chapter. An energy-efficiency training programme is to be set up between the Netherlands and Eastern European countries.

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CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

Decision-Making: Three ministries are primarily responsible for activities under this chapter: the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries and the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management. Policies and policy instruments are in place to address the integrated approach to the planning and management of land resources, but monitoring and evaluation are not yet optimal. The issues "strengthening information systems," "scientific understanding of land-resources systems" and "pilot projects" have been addressed in part. The following policy documents are relevant: the Fourth Policy Document on Physical Planning (1991), the Nature Policy Plan (1990/91), the Structure Plan for the Rural Areas in the Netherlands (1993/94) and the Structure Plan for Surface Mining (1996). As a result of several high discharges and important risks of flooding in the major rivers in the period 1993 - 1995, the Netherlands' Government decided to give higher priority to water discharge and protection against flooding. As a direct consequence larger areas will be reserved for water discharge purposes instead of other uses. Public participation has been promoted but is not always possible in the preparation of plans.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The Dutch government is actively involved in supporting sustainable land use activities in developing countries by implementing projects and supporting divisions in appropriate ministries. It also participates in programmes of FAO and the World Bank. Other international activity includes joint cooperation programmes with institutions in neighbouring countries, e.g. in Belgium and Germany.

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CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, especially the Department of Nature Conservation, Forestry, Landscape Planning and Wildlife Management is in charge of forestry issues. The following are also involved: Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Government fully supports the forest principles adopted by UNCED and has agreed to the International Tropical Timber Agreement. The Dutch government cooperates with timber producing countries in the implementation of norms and criteria of sustainable forest management and the initiation of a system for certification of sustainably produced timber. The Stortebeker Committee drew up a report on the development of a certification system for sustainably produced timber. The ITTO guidelines were tested in a 500 ha State forest. A second test is envisaged. Regulations on only importing sustainably produced timber are pending. Some users have already stopped using non-sustainably produced hardwood. A revision of the Forest Act of 1920 is under discussion. The Forestry Act has been a major instrument in preventing the conversion of forests for other uses. In many cases, if the use of the land is changed, the same area of forest or more has to be planted elsewhere. However, recent figures show that around 200 ha of forest disappear every year without being replaced. The Act is an important instrument in maintaining the total forest, but says nothing about the quality of forests. Supplementary protection of important forest areas is provided for in the Town and Country Planning Act and the Nature Conservancy Act. In 1994, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries adopted the Forest Policy Plan. Main targets are the enhancement of natural values and biodiversity in the existing forests and the increase of the forest area. The Plan is supported by the Nature Policy Plan. In addition, the Natural Environmental Policy Plan provides for measures to reduce harmful emissions. The Third Policy Document on Water Management provides for measures to prevent further parching of forests and nature conservation areas. The private sector and NGOs are fully involved in decision-making at the national planning level. Labour unions, local communities and user groups are advisory participants and rural cooperatives are adhoc participants. The various associations of forest owners play an important role in providing information on forest matters. The major obstacle to effective afforestation is the inclusion of forest areas in the spatial planning at state, provincial and community levels, which can cause long delays. The increase in forest area and improved management should result in an increase in homegrown wood supply from 8% to 25%. On the economic side, timber production accounts for only a small proportion of GNP. The Netherlands supplies only about 10% of its own timber needs. There are no good surveys for the macro-economic significance of forests.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: The forest area has increased continuously during the last decades from 260,000 ha in 1952/53 to 334,000 ha in 1980/83, when the latest forest inventory was carried out. A new inventory is under discussion. Many of the new forests were planted on marginal agricultural ground and in the newly created polders. The annual increment in the total area of forest is estimated at around 2.5 million m³., approx. 1.3 million m³ of wood is harvested every year. The gradual expansion of the forest area contributes substantially to the sustainable maintenance of forests in the Netherlands. With the annual harvest significantly less than the increment, a modest but significant reduction of CO₂ is being achieved. The volume of carbon currently stored in Dutch forests amounts to 63.7 Mt, 58% of which is stored in soil-stable humus. The present gross annual carbon accumulation is equivalent to about 1% of the Dutch carbon emission. More emphasis is now placed in forestry policy on promoting processing and boosting demand, e.g. by increasing the scope for sales of timber for energy generation purposes. Some other important developments in the timber market are the move towards life-cycle management, the certification of sustainably produced timber and the recycling of paper. Most forests are managed on the basis of more or less detailed management plans. Hunting does not take place on a very large scale and is increasingly restricted. There is no overexploitation of forests as a result of productive functions. The health of forest ecosystems in the Netherlands is threatened, inter alia, by relatively high levels of nitrogen deposits. The actual levels measured in forests are between 30 and 60 kg of nitrogen per hectare per year. For damp and wet forest ecosystems, parching is another danger. Water extraction

and improved drainage have resulted in a permanent drop in the groundwater level from 25 to 50 cm. If inputs of acidifying and, above all, eutrophic compounds continue at present levels, the sustainable maintenance of forest ecosystems on soil that is sensitive to acidification cannot be guaranteed. Encroaching urbanization is rated "moderate" for causing forest loss and damage. Air pollution and acidification are rated "light". Actions have been initiated to promote tree-breeding, in-vitro-techniques and in situ conservation. There are several categories of protected forests in the Netherlands: strict forest reserves, "A" locations, national parks and forests with emphasis on nature conservation. Around 90% of the total area of forests is part of the network of protected areas. Recent surveys show that the number of endangered species in forests is very small compared to other biotops. The biodiversity of Dutch forests is likely to continue to increase as a result of a vigorous forestry policy.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Information campaigns aimed at private forest owners have stimulated the practice of thinning out as a form of harvesting in recent years. Due to efficiency operations, staffing has been reduced over the last decade and no new staff has been recruited. The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries had 2,100 staff members in 1980 and 950 in 1990, but staffing situation is rated "adequate" at all levels.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: Forest expertise is maintained thanks to the existence of several university courses. 25 to 50 foresters graduate every year. Specialised forestry research is conducted at the Institute for Forestry and Nature Research. An Information and Knowledge Centre was set up in 1991 to provide factual policy support and information for private forest owners.

Financing: The annual budget of the forest sector is approximately US\$ 80 million. Budgets for afforestation and protection of forests against the effects of air pollution have increased over the last decade. Within the budget of the Ministry of International Cooperation an annual amount of US\$ 53 million has been earmarked for cooperation on forestry.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The International Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa was on 15 October 1994 and ratified on 27 June 1995.

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CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries are in charge of sustainable agriculture and rural development. The following legislation supports national policy: Soil Protection Act (1986), Fertilizers Act (1986), Pesticides Act (1962), Surface Waters Pollution Act (1969), Wastes Act (1977), Nuisance Act (1981), Land Planning Act, Animal Medication Act, Nature Conservation Act, Forest Law, Environment Law, Fisheries Act. The Agricultural Structure Memorandum of 1990 provides a coherent national policy framework for sustainable agriculture and rural development. This policy document presents the Dutch government's guiding principles for the agricultural sector. The Netherlands aims at a "competitive, safe and sustainable agriculture". The principles are elaborated in subsequent memoranda, such as the Memorandum on Quality in Agriculture, the Policy Document on Manure and Ammonia, the Multi-year Crop Protection Plan, the Structure Plan for the Rural Areas, the Forestry Policy Plan and the Nature Policy Plan. Agriculture also plays an important role with regards to policies concerning water scarcity and protection of the aquatic environment. The Ministry of Development Cooperation has established close cooperation with NGOs on the subject of stimulating ecologically sustainable agriculture. NGOs have been encouraged to seek a dialogue with multilateral organizations such as FAO and UNDP.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: Some programmes run by the European Union to support sustainable agriculture supply funds for regional structural development projects in the Netherlands. The Netherlands is actively involved in CGIAR and FAO and organized the Den Bosch Conference on agriculture and the environment in 1991, which laid the basis of chapter 14 in the UNCED process. Twenty percent of Dutch ODA is allocated to agriculture and rural development focusing on sustainable land use, sustainable livestock production and integrated pest management. Bilateral agreements on scientific cooperation have been signed with Indonesia.

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CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries is in charge of biodiversity issues. The following ministries are also involved: the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Ministry of Transport and Water Management and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Other important legislation related to this chapter includes, among others, the Nature Conservation Act, the Forest Law and the Environment Law. It has been concluded that no additional legal instruments are necessary in order to fulfill the obligations of the Convention for Biodiversity and Agenda 21. The Biodiversity Action Plan of 1995 identified gaps in policies and in the implementation of policies covering biodiversity issues. The Action Plan's target is to achieve sustainable development by the year 2020 by preventing further loss of biodiversity and by increasing biodiversity through restoration and development of habitats and ecological corridors and through sound environment management. Habitat destruction, over-harvesting and pollution were identified as the main causes for biodiversity loss of flora and fauna. The Nature Policy Plan of the Netherlands laid down a large number of activities for the in situ conservation of ecosystems. Of major importance is the creation of the national ecological network of nationally and internationally important areas. With regard to ex situ protection a number of rehabilitation centres have been supported, e.g. for the otter, seal and badger. Collections of genetic resources have been conserved and expanded. Many NGOs were involved in the preparation of the Biodiversity Action Plan. To a large extent the realization of the national policy with regard to biodiversity takes place through rural development projects, in which local communities are fully involved. Many government decisions are only taken after an extensive consultation process.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Capacity building will focus on improved cooperation of universities and institutes, data exchange and data assessment for policy decisions.

Information: The state of nature and the environment has at the national level been systematically monitored since 1988, resulting in the publication of two editions of State of Nature, three editions of National Environmental Outlook, and other documents. A study was carried out on the available and needed capacity with regard to the assessment, study, systematic observation and evaluation of biological diversity.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The Convention on Biological Diversity was signed in 1992 and ratified on 12 July 1994. The latest report submitted in 1996. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was ratified before 1 July 1995. At the international level, Dutch development cooperation supports a large number of initiatives and institutions working in the protection of biodiversity such as IUCN, IIED, WRI and WCMC. In key countries, capacity building activities are supported. Special emphasis is given to the conservation and sustainable use of the tropical rainforest. At the European level the Dutch government bilaterally and multilaterally supports capacity building in Eastern and Central Europe and the European Centre for Nature Conservation. Many activities are implemented in cooperation with international institutions, such as the European Union. Many Dutch research groups participate in European projects. The Netherlands has participated for many years on biosafety issues in the framework of the OECD, on plant genetic resources issues in the framework of FAO, and in intellectual property rights in the framework of UPOV and WIPO.

CHAPTERS 16 AND 34: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Decision-Making:

Technologies: The Commission that was established to implement the Water Pollution Act is also responsible for the exchange of information on water pollution prevention technologies. Several Ministries, regional authorities and industrial organizations are represented. A policy paper on environmental technology in relation to development cooperation is in the final draft stage. The principle of Dutch policy is, as agreed in several International Conventions, the application of Best Available Techniques and Best Environmental Practices as so defined, including, where appropriate, clean technology. Life Cycle Analysis and environmental product development are being applied in the Netherlands for assessment of technology options. The Government applies several instruments to promote development, transfer and dissemination of environmentally sound technologies.

Biotechnologies: There is no central decision-making body for this issue, but, among others, the following Ministries are involved in the sound management of biotechnology: the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Ministry of Science, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries and the Ministry of the Environment. Although there is currently no overall plan or strategy covering all the issues related to biotechnology, there is a government policy covering aspects such as safety for human health and the environment, workers protection, ethics, animal welfare and Third World issues. The Genetically Modified Organisms Decree was passed in order to protect public health and the environment. The Decree provides for safety procedures relating to the use and the release into the environment of genetically modified organisms. It also provides for the establishment of an advisory committee. Safety procedures contain principles on biotechnology risk assessment and risk management and are being reviewed annually. Notice is given to the Minister of the Environment of projects involving the use of genetically modified organisms. Standard requirements for safe handling and for the release of products are being published in the Bulletin of Acts and Decrees. Specific additional safety requirements can be laid down.

Programmes and Projects:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: Examples for successful biotechnology projects contributing to a cleaner environment are the In situ Bioremediation Programme and the Programme on Diagnostic Methods for Plant Pests.

Status:

Technologies: In 1995, an Information Centre for Environmental Licensing was opened. The centre has been set up primarily to provide licensing authorities with information, but industry can also make use of it. The idea is that licensing authorities, by using appropriate and up-to-date information, should be able to apply the ALARA (As Low As Reasonably Achievable) principle as referred to in the Environmental Protection Act. The information centre has started by integrating existing information facilities regarding air pollution, energy, soil remediation technology and the helpdesk of the facilitating organization for industry. Information regarding legal aspects is also provided. According to the plans, the scope of the information centre will be broadened to cover the information needs of licensing authorities regarding all environmental aspects. The information center will be extended, with information on water, waste prevention and environmental care systems. A further assessment of the "market" for information will be performed, the results of which will lead to further completion of the information system. Quality, accessibility and cost-effectiveness are also under the permanent attention of the management. A connection to Internet is planned. An easily accessible data base of state-of-the-art technology has to be created. Up to now information has been available only by telephone or mail.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: Endogenous biotechnology capacities are strengthened through Technology Assessment Programmes. During the last 15 years, a large number of initiatives have been taken aimed at enhancing public awareness of issues relating to the development and application of biotechnology. These initiatives focused on potential benefits, safety and ethical aspects. They originated from government, industry and interest groups and took a variety of forms such as conferences, workshops, seminars, brochures, exhibitions, and television programmes, among others. The Government recently has taken steps to provide some coordination, e.g. by establishing a platform in which representatives of interest groups, such as farmers' organizations, can participate.

Information:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: No information available.

Financing:

Technologies: No information available.

Biotechnologies: From 1981 to 1992, the Biotechnology Stimulation Programmes of the Ministry of Economic Affairs accounted for a total of US\$ 200 million. In 1994, the Ministry allocated US\$ 17.5 million for biotechnology research and development. US\$ 50 million are being allocated annually to the Wageningen Agricultural University for research and development in biotechnology. The Association of Dutch Biotechnology Schools receives US\$ 5 million per year.

Cooperation:

Technologies: The Netherlands actively supports the UN-policy on setting up environmentally sound technology centres and has begun cooperation with countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America for this purpose. The network of cleaner production centres cooperates closely with the industrial market for technology development and transfer. The main activities of the centres lie in the field of strengthening environmental care in industry by the organization of seminars and courses and provision of support for companies preparing environmental working plans. The Government has also supported a national needs assessment for clean technologies in, for example, Costa Rica; at the international level, with Switzerland, it organized an international expert meeting on national needs assessment in February 1996. The Netherlands, in cooperation with IMO and the USA Coast Guard, supports a Regional Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre (REMPEITC) in Curacao (Netherlands Antilles). The Dutch programme for cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe includes projects in the area of environmental technology focusing on sustainable processes of production and energy-saving techniques. Further activities are being conducted within the framework of OSPAR, UNEP and ECE.

Biotechnologies: Much of the biotechnology research undertaken is related to the Biotechnology Programmes of the European Union.

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CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES.

Decision-Making: The Netherlands has an integrated coastal area management programme and is in the process of establishing an EEZ. The Netherlands has ratified the OSPAR Convention that includes precautionary measures for marine and coastal activities, e.g. environmental impact assessments. National policy on oceans is part of the National Sustainable Development Strategy. The Ministry for Transport, Public Works and Water Management is responsible for integrated planning. Activities are being coordinated with other competent ministries, government bodies and NGOs. The private sector and small-scale artisanal fishermen have advisory status at the national level. At the local level, Major Groups are ad-hoc participants in decision-making.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Some economic incentives have been introduced: a charge for pollution of surface waters, financial compensation for inclination of the soil by natural gas extraction, a Green Award system where clean ships pay lower harbour taxes. All activities under this programme area are rated "very important". Protection of the marine environment has been fully integrated into policies. In 1993, the Coastal Management Centre of the Netherlands was set up to assist coastal nations in making and implementing integrated coastal zone management programmes. Some gaps exist concerning surveillance and monitoring of fisheries at sea. Regarding pollution of the marine environment from land-based sources, specialised information is available in government institutes, and based on this information, Best Available Techniques are elaborated and discussed. All sewage related issues are rated "very important" and have been fully covered.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: The Netherlands develops capacity-building and training programmes.

Information: The Netherlands participates in the development of socio-economic and environmental indicators, systematic observation systems, the mussel watch programme, clearing-houses and in the Global Ocean Observing System as well as in EuroGOOS, the European component of GOOS. In 1996 The Netherlands has organized the First International Conference on EuroGOOS. The objectives were to identify the next steps in the provision of European operational oceanographic services to industry, to government agencies and to value added service companies, and to promote GOOS. There are several database systems for integrated coastal management. These systems are rated "very good" and cover all necessary information. Since 1995, an international Quality Status Report of the North Sea has been established every 2 to 5 years, including a comprehensive assessment of the State of the Environment. In the year 2000 a QSR of the OSPAR Convention area will be established. Changes in the coastal and marine environment can be determined.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: Under the programme area "sustainable development of small islands," a total financial assistance of US\$190,456 was given to Jamaica, Haiti, Cape Verde, Madagascar and the Seychelles on a bilateral basis. Through multilateral assistance US\$1.45 million have been provided to Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Barbados, especially for education projects.

Cooperation: The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea was signed in 1982 and ratified in 1996. At the international level, the Netherlands is a member of the Trilateral Waddenzee Cooperation, the International Conference on the Protection of the North Sea, the OSPAR Commission, the Rhine Commission, the Bonner

Agreement, Port State Control, the London Convention 1972, IMO, the Oil Prepared Response Cooperation, and EU activities. No problems have arisen in implementing international conventions. In 1997, an Intermediate North Sea Ministers Conference will be held to discuss concerns related to fish stocks in the North Sea. Voluntary implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct of Responsible Fishing will take place under the responsibility of the EU in cooperation with the parties concerned. Within the IPCC working group on coastal zones, the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Centre of the Netherlands initiated the "Common Vulnerability Assessment" and assisted 8 countries in assessing their vulnerability to climate change. At the World Coast Conference 1993, organized by The Netherlands as a response to the call for Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Agenda 21, participants from 100 coastal nations, 20 international organizations and 23 non-governmental organizations in consensus agreed on strengthening national and international responses for building ICZM capabilities. For the Conference, 46 country and regional assessment case studies were collected. The CZM Centre constitutes the follow-up of the conference. The development of a Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre (REMPEITC) in Curaçao is being supported in cooperation with IMO and the US Coast Guard.

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CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES.

Decision-Making: Most parts of the system of standards will remain at present unchanged. This includes the statutory norms (largely based on EC directives) for the quality of surface water to which specific functions have been assigned, for discharges of black-listed substances, and for discharges of oxygen-absorbent substances and phosphates and nitrogen compounds in urban waste water. Nor will there be any change in the operation of the non-statutory standards given in the CIW/CUWVO guidelines for emissions from various types of companies. That system of non-statutory Dutch standards relating to the quality of surface water will, however, be subject to some modification. In future, water quality policies will be based on two fixed measures where micropollutants are concerned: the basic quality standard and the target value. The Third National Policy Document on Water Management (NW3) set out a new strategy under the name of integrated water management. This was based on the view that the aims of water management could only be achieved via an integrated approach. Integrated water management has been a success and the Fourth National Policy Document on Water Management (NW4) wholeheartedly pursues the same approach. The process of public consultation revealed the need both for more vigorous implementation and for a broader and deeper integrated water management approach. The water management policies can only succeed if they are pursued in cooperation with those directly involved and therefore through measures in their direct vicinity. This means that local and regional problems must be addressed wherever possible at that level. Accordingly, national objectives and standards must provide scope for area-specific policies at local and regional level. This requires a new approach and the modification of norms and targets set in the Water Evaluation policy document. The Third National Policy Document on Water Management introduced the concept of integrated water management. To put this concept into practice, it was thought necessary to create water control boards able to apply a fully integrated approach to managing the quantity and quality of water. The creation of such all-in water control bodies required mergers between existing boards and this has considerably reduced the number of water control boards. The basic principles of NW3 still apply. The modifications proposed here are a question of "fine-tuning": shifting the emphasis from a debate on structure to the optimization of implementation. This may mean that some operational duties relating to the management of ground water and waterways have to be delegated from the provinces to the water control boards.

Programmes and Projects: The Dutch Aquatic Outlook project has demonstrated that a number of NW3 objectives cannot be achieved within the time limits set for them in the policy document unless policies are modified. In recent years the threat of flooding along the various branches of the Rhine and the actual floods in the Maas basin have made it clear that measures to prevent the repetition of these events will involve more than simply raising the dikes. A strategy directed at a sustainable solution demands measures relating to the wider situation, and not just to the dikes or the river system itself. For this reason, NW4 advocates improved coordination between policies on water management, physical planning and the environment.

Status: The Netherlands now has one of the highest levels of sewerage and water treatment in the world. The waste water of more than 95% of the Dutch population is now purified through biological oxidation before being discharged. Almost all industrial waste water is also purified either by physical and chemical means or biologically -- or by a combination of the two methods. The Netherlands has taken effective steps to reduce discharge of polluting substances. Water consumption continues to rise in the Netherlands, both in households and in industry. The Government is taking steps to curb this increase by encouraging people to save water. In households, the Government promote the use of water-saving toilets and washing machines. In industry, the emphasis is on water used for cooling and other processes. Policy measures to combat water depletion have been stepped up in recent years. A target has been set to reduce the areas affected by water depletion by 25% in 2000 compared to 1985, but this may prove to be too ambitious. High river discharges may cause flooding and inundation of densely populated areas in The Netherlands. Implementing the safety standards against flooding results in accelerating the existing program on dike reinforcement. Water is of great economic significance to the Netherlands: it is a means of

transport, a production factor in agriculture and industry, the raw material of public water supplies, a cooling agent and an intrinsic feature in the landscape, ecology, culture and history of the country. Investing in effective water management (protection and exploitation) will lay the basis for the development of a high-quality industrialized society. The replacement value of the investments protected by the flood defences is estimated at over 4,000 billion guilders. Constant consideration and care of the country's water systems is an absolute precondition for the development and preservation of the Netherlands. An important principle for future water management is to base measures on natural processes and to restore the resilience of water systems. This can be achieved by encouraging water conservation and buffering to make areas more self-sufficient. This will have the additional advantage of alleviating current water depletion problems and contamination by non-indigenous water. In terms of reducing pollution, much has already been achieved, but work has to continue. Use functions are still being restricted and necessary modifications of the hydrological system complicated by continuing diffuse pollution and the legacy of past pollution in the form of contaminated aquatic soils. Water managers will not be able to relax their attention with regard to pollution; on the contrary, they must tackle these problems with renewed vigour.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: The policies set out in NW4 are expected to produce a further improvement in the functioning of water systems. The government proposes to make an extra NLG 3 billion available in the period up to the end of 2015 to protect the country against flooding. This sum is intended -- in this order of priority -- to restore the revetments of the dikes around the coast and the IJsselmeer, to ensure the safety of areas protected by river dikes and to protect against flooding in the undiked sections of the Maas (Grensmaas and Zandmaas). This financial injection will be sufficient to fund most of the new approach to flood prevention along the major rivers -- an approach which will not only provide lasting protection for the areas themselves, but will also have a positive impact on the ecological and recreational value of the river flood plains.

Cooperation: In 1994, the Netherlands organized an international conference on drinking water and environmental sanitation in Noordwijk. Integrated water management is a central principle in Dutch development projects. For urban areas, the emphasis is on the quality and quantity of the drinking water. Since the extraction and consumption of drinking water is very closely linked to the use of water in agriculture and industry, sustainable water management plays a significant role in urban infrastructural projects. States sharing the catchment areas of transborder river systems have a shared responsibility for the quality and functioning of those systems and for organizing and supervising their use. This includes responsibility for flood protection and for the seas into which the rivers discharge. This responsibility should be expressed at the most appropriate level of scale, within the framework established by international covenants, rules and agreements reached at a higher level or in a broader context. Public accountability is an important aspect of this responsibility. There is a need for rationalization of international consultations and improved coordination between the forums in which it takes place, in order to increase consistency and prevent duplication of effort. The basic terms of international water management policies should be established in general forums such as the EU and the UN. But the identification and, where possible, resolution of problems should take place at the level of regional seas or river basins and parts of them, with action programmes serving as frameworks for integration. Particular problems can be tackled at EU or UN level where desirable. There should be effective feedback mechanisms for this, as well as between the various area-specific organizations. There also needs to be regular bilateral cooperation and national cooperation. The international forums should themselves maintain an open attitude towards the outside world. Dutch water management expertise should be systematically deployed in other countries, with a particular focus on the sustainable development of water systems.

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CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS.

Decision-Making: The most important regulations regarding toxic chemicals are the Chemical Substances Act and the Pesticides Act. The Second National Environmental Policy Plan restates the long-term objective for all substances, namely that the maximum permissible risk level for the public and for the environment must no longer be exceeded by the year 2000. Attention is focused on reducing emissions of dioxins, agricultural pesticides, fluorides and organohalogens and of radon in domestic households and other buildings. Dutch chemical substances policy also focuses on the OECD Chemicals Programme.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Special attention is being given to soil protection and the second programme for soil protection and remediation 1995-1998 is being implemented. Long-term targets by the year 2010 are to quantify the total extent of soil contamination, to clean up environmentally urgent cases of severe soil contamination and at least to make safe other severely contaminated sites. The Netherlands is particularly active in the European Union. In 1993, the EC adopted Regulation 793/93 under which the risk associated with certain substances must be evaluated and restricted. The Netherlands made a significant contribution to the development of the method contained in this Regulation, under which the chemical industry is now obliged to provide the EC with information on chemicals. This information will be used to draw up a priority list for evaluating the risk level of different chemicals. In 1994, the Netherlands conducted risk evaluations of 7 substances from this list. It also made a contribution to the development of an EC notification system for new substances. Risk evaluation is compulsory for all new substances.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: The Netherlands devotes attention to the provision of information at the international level, including preparing handbooks and distributing leaflets.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The Netherlands plays an active role in the Task Force set up within the UNEP for the preparation of a convention that is more binding than the London Guidelines.

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CHAPTERS 20 TO 22: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS, SOLID AND RADIOACTIVE WASTES.

Decision-Making:

Hazardous Wastes: Many of the measures described under the solid waste heading are also relevant for the control and reduction of hazardous waste.

Solid Wastes: Government policy on waste is based on the principle of integrated life-cycle management. Raw materials and products have to be processed in a sustainable way, waste has to be avoided as far as possible and the effects of waste on the environment have to be minimised. Although the amount of waste produced in the Netherlands is decreasing, it will be very difficult to achieve targets set for the year 2000 due to the problems associated with the recycling and reuse of waste.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Programmes and Projects:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: Waste prevention and recycling plans include the Action Programme for Segregation of Dry Waste, the Ten-Year-Waste Programme, and the Multi-year Plan for the Disposal of Hazardous Substances.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Status:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Wastes: The Netherlands government abides by the decision taken at the 1990 North Sea Ministers' Conference, that the North Sea is not suitable for dumping radioactive waste or for the storage of such waste on the sea bed. The Netherlands is in agreement with the decisions made pursuant to the London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (1972) concerning a worldwide dumping ban, and will not dump radioactive material anywhere. The Netherlands also follows the OSPAR Ministers' Conference on banning the dumping of radioactive waste in the Atlantic Ocean. With respect to the deep underground storage of radioactive waste, the Netherlands government has decided that it will not store nuclear waste anywhere where it is not possible to retrieve it.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Information:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Research and Technologies:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: No information available.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Financing:

Hazardous Wastes: No information available.

Solid Wastes: Large-scale investments in sewage treatment in The Netherlands have led to a substantial reduction from 40.0 million to 7.7 million pollution equivalents from 1969 to 1990. Annual costs of operating sewerage systems and treatment of waste water amount to some US\$ 1600 million in 1997.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

Cooperation:

Hazardous Wastes: The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was signed in 1989 and ratified on April 16, 1993.

Solid Wastes: Internationally, the Netherlands tries to ensure that integrated life-cycle management is adopted as the main principle of waste policy in relation to developing countries. The Netherlands actively takes part in drawing up EU directives in the field of waste management.

Radioactive Wastes: No information available.

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CHAPTERS 24 TO 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS

Women: Cooperation: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was signed on 17 July 1980 and ratified on 23 July 1991.

Children and Youth: Decision-making: The relevant youth fora include the National Youth Council for Environment and Development, which includes a 'youth coalition' (political youth parties, united for sustainable development.), Vereniging 31 (national youth council on all issues), internationally oriented and JOPLA (association of various youth-organizations for education and employment).

Indigenous People: No information available.

Non-Governmental Organizations: Decision-making: A National Commission for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development has been established in which some fifty NGOs from all sectors of society participate. The Platform stimulates public debate on sustainable development. Major Group organizations (farmers' associations, business representatives, environment and nature protection organizations) also participate in environmental impact assessments at the national and local level and occasionally contribute to the design and implementation of sustainable development projects. Major Group representatives were included in the National Delegations to the CSD, to the Social Summit in Copenhagen, to the World Population Conference in Cairo and to the World Conference on Women in Beijing and to HABITAT II in Istanbul.

Local Authorities: No information available.

Workers and Trade Unions: No information available.

Business and Industry: No information available.

Scientific and Technological Community: Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Dutch universities have signed a Charter for Sustainable Development which serves as a basis for making sustainable development an integral part of research and education programmes and for internal environmental policies. A number of institutes have drawn up a joint declaration, which places sustainable development at the centre of their strategies.

Farmers: No information available.

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CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

This issue has been covered under the heading **Financing** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Decision-Making: The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science is primarily responsible for this chapter. The Higher Education and Research Act (1992) is the most important legislation. The National Environmental Policy Plan addresses the promotion of science for sustainable development. In 1993, Dutch universities signed a Charter for Sustainable Development that should lead to integration of sustainable development into their strategies. The goal of Dutch policy is to optimize and strengthen national research infrastructure and promoting international scientific cooperation in relevant fields. There is a general policy to promote women in public service, including governmental research institutes and universities. Several institutes and advisory bodies participate in decision-making for environment and development, e.g. in the evaluation of research programmes. These include the Advisory Council for Research on Nature and the Environment, the Advisory Council on Development-Related Research, and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Science.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: Integration of knowledge and scientific assessment of highly multidisciplinary and international fields, require more programmatic coordination both at the national and international level. Interdisciplinary cooperation between social scientists and between social and natural scientists needs to be improved. Well-coordinated, longer-term national and international multidisciplinary networks and programmatic frameworks are vital in this respect and need further development and support.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: Since the streams of additional money are drying up, reprioritization and reorientation of ongoing research activities are necessary. Cuts in research budgets are creating problems particularly in nature, environmental and energy research. In the social sciences sector, much of the environmental research undertaken is still going on in relatively small, short-term projects of local significance. Some promising developments are emerging in this field.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: The Netherlands participates in many international scientific programmes and initiatives, e.g. in the EU Framework Programme / Special Programme on the Environment and in the EU 5th Action Programme on the Environment, in GEF -initiatives and in many UN-programmes, especially those related to Environment and Global Change. It hosts the IPCC secretariat for the coastal zone and small island subgroup, the Coastal Zone Management Centre and the International Coordination Office of the Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone Programme of IGBP. Numerous courses and training activities have been offered. It also participates in the Tropical Rainforests Programme of the Tropical Rainforests Organization and in the Special Programme for the Sustainable Management of Coastal Areas of SW Sulawesi and carries out a National Research Programme on Global Air Pollution and Climate Change.

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CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

This issue has been covered under the heading **Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

This issue has been covered either under Chapter 2 or under the heading **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

This issue deals mainly with activities undertaken by the UN System.

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CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

This issue has been covered under **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile. However, you will find below a list of International Legal Instruments.

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CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

This issue has been covered either under Chapter 8 or under the heading **Decision-Making** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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CHAPTER: INDUSTRY

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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CHAPTER: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Decision-Making: No information available.

Programmes and Projects: No information available.

Status: No information available.

Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: No information available.

Information: No information available.

Research and Technologies: No information available.

Financing: No information available.

Cooperation: No information available.

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