

Sustainable Action

Sustainable Development Programme



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Summary

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Sustainable Action

The results of the World Summit
on Sustainable Development
translated into actions for the Netherlands

This is a summary of the national and international modules of the Action Programme
for Sustainable Development. The complete Dutch document (approx. 120 pages) can
be downloaded from www.vrom.nl and www.minbuza.nl.

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Introduction



A new impetus

In summer 2002 the United Nations held a summit in Johannesburg to intensify global efforts to achieve sustainable development. Sustainable development means satisfying the needs of the current world population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The term ‘sustainable development’ was first formally included on the international agenda at the UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (1992). It was here that member states first agreed to work towards sustainable development.

This was followed a decade later by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg (26 August to 4 September 2002), an international conference wholly devoted to the theme of sustainable development. The Johannesburg conference emphasised the link between poverty reduction and the environment. One of its outcomes was a specific Plan of Implementation setting out detailed objectives and the measures needed to achieve them. The Plan of

Johannesburg:
concrete plans,
specific objectives

The national strategy

Implementation also incorporates the results of past international conferences - the Millennium Summit (autumn 2000), at which the Millennium Development Goals were adopted, the WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha (November 2001) and the Financing for Development Conference in Monterrey (spring 2002).

The Netherlands' commitments: working out the details

The WSSD participants committed themselves to translating the commitments made in the Plan of Implementation into specific strategies of their own. In the policy document *Sustainable Action: an action programme for sustainable development*, the Dutch government explains how the Netherlands will do its share.

The Action Programme is in two parts. Part one describes the measures the government will be taking in the Netherlands itself and part two describes the measures it will take at the international level.

The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment will manage the national strategy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will coordinate the international strategy. The policy document *Sustainable Action* was sent to the House of Representatives of the States General on 16 July 2003. The international strategy was submitted separately on 29 November 2002.

Sustainability to be the touchstone for all Dutch government policy

The main theme of the Dutch Action Programme is that sustainable development should ultimately become a natural springboard for all action at all levels of government. As such, it will serve as a touchstone as well as a guideline for policy.

Financial implications

For the moment, no additional funding will be set aside to implement the national strategy. This means that the ministries must create extra scope within their own budgets and current staff levels to carry through the various measures. EUR 30 million a year has been reserved for the international strategy.

Annual progress report

Parliament will be sent an annual progress report on the Action Programme. Both the Action Programme and the Netherlands' progress towards sustainable development will be discussed in a public debate to be held each year with key actors from Dutch society.



Introduction

Goals:

- sustainable development must become a natural springboard for all government action
- a learning process must be started



The Sustainable Development Action Programme is the Netherlands' follow-up to the Johannesburg agreements. The aim of the national part of the programme is to make it increasingly automatic for public authorities to consider the totality of sociocultural, economic and ecological consequences of their choices, both here and elsewhere, both now and in the future. A parallel aim is to start a process that will over time make it clearer how best to pursue sustainable development and present our efforts to the public.

In connection with these aims, the government wishes to bring about fundamental social changes that will promote sustainable development ('transitions'). It also wants to use the Action Programme to start looking at the social aspects of sustainability in more detail, since these have so far proved more difficult to operationalise than the ecological and economic aspects.

Illustration, mobilisation and learning

The initiatives described in the national strategy are programmes in which the state clearly plays a role. Rather than aiming for completeness, the government has included only a selection of programmes which can serve as models of how sustainable development can be pursued (illustration), in which experience can be gained for use in other initiatives (learning) and which can be expected to lead stakeholders to take measures that make a real difference (mobilisation). The Action Programme is thus a starting point, not a final destination. By reviewing progress annually and by constantly discussing and filling in any gaps, the government can keep moving towards a more sustainable society and planet.

In developing the national strategy, we made use of the results of two forward-looking surveys carried out in 2002:

- National Strategy for Sustainable Development: Government Policy Review (January 2002)
- National Strategy for Sustainable Development: National Review (June 2002).

Chapter topics

The national strategy is summarised in chapters 2 to 7: Chapter 2 presents the government's definition of sustainable development. It also outlines our long-range ambitions within the main policy areas relating to sustainable development.

Definition of sustainable development

- Chapter 3 explains how the government will work towards sustainable development. What role does it see for itself and what does it expect of others?
- Chapter 4 lists measures for promoting sustainable development. These instruments are designed chiefly to promote and support sustainable action by governments, businesses, civil society organisations and the general public.
- Chapter 5 gives an overview of the model programmes, i.e. the specific projects that show how the government’s long-term goals can be attained.
- Chapter 6 discusses the emerging policy agenda.
- Chapter 7 covers implementation, accountability and the financial implications of the Action Programme.



Sustainability:
people, planet, profit
here, elsewhere, now and
later

The Dutch government believes that sustainable development involves balanced, coordinated management of three domains:

- the sociocultural domain (people)
- the ecological domain (planet)
- the economic domain (profit).

The government therefore feels that sustainable development should be about more than just tackling environmental problems. Balanced and coherent management should not be restricted to the here-and-now but should also include other countries, especially developing countries, and future generations. This inclusive approach is reflected in the following matrix:

Strike balance between:	Sociocultural factors (people)	Ecological factors (planet)	Economic factors (profit)
Here and now	*	*	*
Elsewhere	*	*	*
Later	*	*	*

The government also sees sustainability as a continuous *learning process* in which all the stakeholders try to prevent problem displacement, seek synergy and make careful decisions. One example of problem displacement is the ‘footprint’ that the Netherlands (‘here’) leaves in developing countries (‘elsewhere’). Communication and cooperation are essential to avoiding such problems, which is why a fourth ‘p’ - *process or participation* - has been added to the three standard p’s of people, planet and profit.

Making a global
contribution within
the Netherlands

There are various ways in which the Netherlands can enhance global sustainability. It can, for example, increase the sustainability of activities within its own borders that will have an impact *elsewhere* and in the *future*, through supply chains for raw materials, semi-manufactures and products that the Netherlands imports, processes or refines, as well as the materials and products that it exports.

The Fourth National Environmental Policy Plan (NEPP4) describes how the Netherlands intends to improve sustainability at home in the areas of agriculture, energy conservation, mobility, biodiversity and natural resources. To achieve this, systematic changes are needed. These are referred to as ‘transitions’.

The Netherlands opts for twelve sustainability themes

The main sustainability themes and long-term objectives
Based on the outcome of the Johannesburg summit and its own preliminary work, the government has come up with twelve sustainability themes. The first three are less relevant to the national strategy. The final four are specific themes arising from the preliminary work in the Netherlands. The remainder are the five priority themes identified by the Secretary General of the United Nations in the run-up to Johannesburg: water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (known as the WEHAB themes).

1. Poverty reduction
2. Effective global governance
3. Good global financing structures and trade
4. Good water management and access to clean drinking water
5. Sustainable energy management (clean, reliable, affordable)
6. Health and safety
7. Sustainable agriculture
8. Biodiversity
9. Population (ageing and migration)
10. Sustainable mobility
11. Sustainable production and consumption
12. Knowledge

The first three themes are not discussed in detail in the national part of the Action Programme. They relate to the international part.

The government has formulated long-term policies for most of these themes. The summary below states for each theme which measures are directly based on the outcome of Johannesburg, which ones are based on commitments made within the European Union and which were devised by the Netherlands unilaterally.

Water

Water:
- more efficient use of water
- measures to combat flooding
- measures to maintain groundwater levels
- guarantee of clean drinking water

Johannesburg: The Dutch government has already concluded agreements to use water more efficiently. It is also drawing up plans to combat or control flooding in the Netherlands. Public-private partnerships are being encouraged. Cooperation between scientists and policymakers on managing the water cycle is being improved. It was agreed that all countries must have integrated water management plans in place by 2005.

Energy:
- improved energy efficiency
- a better functioning energy market
- phasing out of non-sustainable subsidies
- more renewable sources of energy
- tax on polluting sources of energy
- more research

Transition

Health and safety:
- chemicals
- public safety

EU: The Dutch Water Framework Directive will provide the overall framework for improving water quality. (Management of water resources does not yet fall within the scope of the Framework Directive.)
The Netherlands: Flooding, groundwater depletion and clean drinking water are the main areas of concern. Floods must be prevented from posing a threat to safety, through water management and new spatial planning. Measures will be taken to maintain groundwater levels and to ensure a high standard of clean drinking water.

Sustainable energy management

Sustainable energy management involves the extraction, transport and consumption of energy in a way that, around the world, is reliable, safe, affordable, efficient and emission-free.
Johannesburg: It was agreed that the number of people without access to reliable and affordable energy must be halved by 2015 and that the functioning of the energy market must be improved. Unsustainable energy subsidies must be phased out.
EU: The European Union aims to generate 12% of its total energy requirements from renewable sources by 2010. At least 22% of all electricity consumed must be renewable. Energy efficiency must be substantially improved by 2010. Economic growth must be decoupled from the depletion of natural resources.
The Netherlands: Dutch energy policy has three aims: to provide a reliable, affordable and clean supply of energy (security of supply, economic efficiency and sustainability). These aims will be achieved partly by increasing taxes on non-environmentally friendly sources of energy. Research on renewable energy and energy efficiency will be encouraged. The transition to sustainable energy management is one of the key objectives of the Fourth Environmental Policy Plan (NEPP4).

Health and safety

People have a right to lead safe and healthy lives. This means that the soil, water and air they come into contact with must be clean enough and that food, products and the environment must be safe enough to pose only a negligible risk of sickness or accidents to humans and animals. Moreover, this must be achieved at socially acceptable costs.
Johannesburg: By 2020, the negative effects of the production and use of chemicals for man and the environment must be negligible.

Agriculture:
sustainable
competitive
socially responsible

Transition

EU: More chemicals will be assessed for risks. Details of the nature and level of these risks will be published.

The Netherlands: The Fourth Environmental Policy Plan started a process of creating new policy on substances. Policy on public safety has also been revised. More attention will be given to health and safety in the immediate environment in which people live and work.

Sustainable agriculture

Sustainable agriculture is about finding a satisfactory balance between spatial planning, nature conservation, environmental protection, economic growth and social quality.

Johannesburg: It was agreed that agriculture (and thereby food production) must be made sustainable. Specific commitments were also made about the sustainability of the fishing industry. More attention will be given to food security in developing countries and to opening up Western markets to agricultural produce from these countries.

EU: The agreements concluded in Johannesburg, Doha and in the current WTO round will be incorporated into the Common Agricultural Policy.

The Netherlands: Dutch policy is geared to developing a sector that is sustainable, internationally competitive and produces food in a socially responsible way. The Fourth Environmental Policy Plan stresses the need for a transition to sustainable agriculture. Measures to bring this about will specifically consider the effects of agriculture on efforts to achieve sustainable development elsewhere in the world.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity:
- opposing loss of
biodiversity
- sustainable fisheries

Biodiversity is under threat the world over. If it continues to be lost at the present rate, the socioeconomic security of tens of millions of people will be at risk by the year 2030.

Johannesburg: The rate of biodiversity loss must be significantly reduced by 2010 and the fishing industry must be made more sustainable by 2015. Immediate action will be taken to combat the illegal trade in forestry products and illegal felling.

EU: Measures to protect biodiversity will be included in all relevant sectors and activities. Agreements have also been made to implement the Natura 2000 network and to encourage responsible management of natural resources via the ecosystem approach.



Transition

Population:
- cohesion and freedom

Sustainable transport:
- available
- safe
- easy to use
- healthier

The Netherlands: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has appointed a 'Biodiversity Transition Team' to direct the process that must ultimately halt the loss of biodiversity.

Population

The Netherlands: This theme includes trends and demographic developments such as demographic ageing and shifting migration patterns. Sustainable development in this context means that everyone (both young and old) is both socially and economically capable of taking part in society and that alongside social cohesion there is scope for personal development. A life-course approach will ensure that both men and women can play an active part in the labour market for longer.

Sustainable mobility

Sustainable mobility in the long term entails safe, emission-free transport that guarantees a reasonable level of accessibility.

Johannesburg: This requires a transport strategy based on availability,

The roles of national government

3

New relationships,
new roles

The government wishes to realise the objectives contained in this Action Programme using a three-pronged approach based on mobilisation, illustration and learning. The state will thus have a variety of roles to play depending on the nature and scale of the problems being tackled, the approach taken and the requirements and roles of the other actors.

Example: transition management

If sustainability is to be achieved, new partnerships and relationships will be needed. The government is also considering which roles are most appropriate for itself. The choices it makes will be based partly on the experience it is gaining through transition management. This is because the transitions provided for by the NEPP4 are specifically designed to bring about a more sustainable society through fundamental changes at various levels (technological, economic, administrative and social).

Transition management crucially depends on the various groups in society each being able to make a contribution to sustainable development. The working method used for transition management can therefore help the state to define its own role in promoting sustainable development.

Different roles

The state must find itself a suitable role if each actor is to make a meaningful contribution to sustainable development. One factor affecting the role of government is ongoing globalisation: how much room for manoeuvre do national governments have if they are also involved in international efforts?

Mobilising, initiating. Sustainable development does not come about by itself, which is why the state must actively initiate the necessary measures. This Action Programme is an example of such an initiative. Although many of the measures described in it will be implemented by others, it is the government that will take the first steps.

Offering guidance and instruments. To promote sustainability, the government must define a long-term strategy on which other stakeholders can base their actions, and underpin it with effective instruments.

efficiency and ease of mobility which promotes better health, improves urban air quality and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

EU: Reducing the need for mobility is one way of promoting sustainability. The EU has agreed to include sustainability criteria in its Directives on trans-European transport networks by 2003. It will also introduce 'infrastructure charges' by 2004 to make transport prices reflect social costs more fully.

The Netherlands: The Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management is working on a transition to sustainable mobility based on the NEPP4.

Sustainable production and consumption

Johannesburg: Participants agreed a ten-year time-frame for programmes to achieve more sustainable production and consumption patterns. These programmes are designed to promote social and economic development without damaging ecosystems and thereby decouple economic growth and environmental degradation.

EU: The results of the Cardiff summit to promote the integration of the environmental goals into sectoral policy will be intensified. General mechanisms to decouple economic growth and environmental degradation will be introduced, together with sectoral mechanisms where necessary.

The Netherlands: Such activities have been on the Netherlands' agenda for some time and are already part of ongoing programmes. In its programme on corporate social responsibility, for example, the Netherlands is actively promoting the continued adoption of CSR. This is being coordinated by the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Knowledge

Johannesburg: Sustainable development must be addressed at all levels of education.

EU: At the Lisbon summit, EU member states undertook to make the EU the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world by 2015, based on sustainable economic growth, with more and better jobs and increased social cohesion. An environmental dimension was added to this strategy at the Gothenburg European Council.

The Netherlands: The Netherlands itself also wishes to become a globally competitive knowledge-based economy. Alongside a general policy on innovation aimed at strengthening the Dutch economy and competitiveness, special attention is being given to promoting sustainable innovation. Sustainable development must be integrated more effectively into all levels of education.

Transition

Sustainable production
and consumption:
- active government
support for corporate
social responsibility

Knowledge:
- an ongoing incentives
policy to create a
knowledge-based
economy

An appropriate role for
government in each
situation:
- actively initiate
- plan strategically
- provide support
- set a good example
- communicate and learn

Providing support and an enabling environment. The government sees a crucial role for itself in *providing support and creating an enabling environment*. Most of the instruments described in chapter 4 are geared to this.

Setting an example and providing illustrations. Good examples encourage imitation. The government wants to use this Action Programme to set a positive example to others and to remain accountable for its actions over the coming years. The model programmes show the methods by which the various ministries are working towards sustainable development, including sustainable management.

Communicating, learning. The public must learn to automatically incorporate a positive attitude towards sustainability into their thoughts and actions (as producers and consumers). This includes not just people who are already aware of the need for sustainability, but above all the vast majority of Dutch citizens for whom the issue is a closed book. The government also wants to ensure that all stakeholders, including the ministries themselves, acquire the skills needed to bring about sustainable development. See also the document *Werken aan duurzaamheid bij departementen* ('Promoting a sustainability-based approach within the ministries'). The experience gained can then be used to help others. Conversely, the government also wants to learn from the experiences of private enterprise and of local and regional government.

Links with other levels of government

The municipal and provincial authorities play a key role in the process of sustainable development. It is after all they who are closest to where change must take place, and they who must directly interpret and apply the somewhat abstract concept of sustainable development at the local and regional level.

A crucial role for local and regional government

The municipal and provincial authorities have already made considerable progress on the road to sustainable development, as the government surveys have shown. The model programme *Leren voor duurzaamheid* ('Learning for sustainability'), which is described below, exemplifies the awareness that working towards sustainability is something that has to happen mainly at grass roots level, in other words, at the local and regional level. The government wants to

support the municipal and provincial authorities while at the same time giving them the freedom to take the measures they feel are most appropriate.

The government is therefore inviting the municipal and provincial authorities to work toward sustainable development at local and regional level in accordance with the guidelines laid down in this Action Programme. It will also be studying the merits of public-private partnerships in this regard.

Instruments

4

Action programme:
- programmes and
instruments

Sustainable development does not come about automatically. There are always dilemmas, constraints, choices and balances to be struck. This applies to the state, lower levels of government, the private sector, civil society and individual citizens.

However, there are instruments available to help guide these choices, which is why a selection has been included in this Action Programme alongside the programmes themselves. These instruments have been chosen in such a way that they relate to as many aspects of the evaluation framework as possible (see chapter 2). Another criterion was that they should be thematically cross-cutting. Most of these instruments already exist, and the government is involved in their development, financing or implementation.

Some of these instruments fulfil a dual role: as well as influencing the decisions taken by third parties, they are also used to help the government make its own choices.

Instruments designed to influence the choices made by government

Experiments with sustainable development in government decisions

1. Experiments with sustainable development in decision-making processes
Over the next few years the government will be launching a range of experiments to study how best to flesh out the abstract concept of sustainable development. A minimum of three to four experiments will be carried out, relating to a handful of key investments and other decisions. They will be used to help produce tools such as a sustainability test and decision-making guidelines. The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment will coordinate this instrument; the experiments themselves will be carried out by various ministries.

sustainability

2. Sustainability appraisal, sustainability balance sheet and indicators
The National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) will publish an initial sustainability appraisal at the end of 2003. The appraisal will examine aspects such as the international effects of choices made in the Netherlands and the influence of international developments and trends on the choices available to the Netherlands. The sustainability appraisal will ultimately be used to produce a sustainability balance sheet, to be produced annually from 2006. The balance sheet will be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment.

Section on sustainable development in budgets

3. Section on sustainable development in ministry budgets
With effect from 2003, each ministry must include a section in its budget reflecting the links between sustainable development and its own policy areas. The aim of this exercise is to increase awareness within the ministries of the need to give attention to sustainable development. This instrument will be evaluated in 2004. The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment is coordinating this instrument.

Promoting a sustainability-based approach within the ministries

4. Encouraging sustainability within the ministries
Encouraging sustainability within the ministries is more about promoting a way of thinking and working than about taking specific measures. It is a matter of getting ministries to take responsibility for working towards a cohesive, sustainable approach.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and the Ministry of Economic Affairs have developed instruments to help policymakers take account of the need for sustainable development in their work. These instruments can also be adopted by other ministries, either for their own policymaking or as a model on which to base decision-making tools.

Instruments primarily designed to facilitate and influence the choices of others

Scope for experimentation

1. Creating room to experiment in legislation
Rewards for companies with sustainable business practices
Sustainable development sometimes requires action that does not appear to tie in with existing legislation and regulations. The government is therefore considering whether it would be useful to create extra scope for projects that can contribute to sustainable development. In this context, it is also studying whether it can waive specific administrative charges for companies engaged in corporate social responsibility and which have opened their business practices to scrutiny in dialogue with civil society. The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment is coordinating this instrument.

Factoring in environmental costs

2. Internalising external costs
The instrument ‘internalising external costs’ is based on one of the underlying principles of government policy, namely to charge social or other costs, wherever feasible and useful, to whoever is responsible

for generating them. This is referred to in jargon as the ‘internalisation of external costs’. This initiative ties in with the Johannesburg commitment to promote the internalisation of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments. The main focus over the next few years will be on emissions trading. The instrument is being coordinated by the Ministries of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment and of Finance.

Sustainable investment in developing countries

3. Increasing investments in other countries and making them more sustainable
It was agreed in Johannesburg to encourage investments in developing countries, with considerations of sustainability in mind.

Investment promotion measures must meet certain criteria in order to encourage sustainable investment in other countries. A sustainability appraisal should therefore be applied to export credit insurance and tax incentives which are being used to encourage international investment. This is already gradually happening. In the context of promoting corporate social responsibility, the Ministry of Economic Affairs has introduced a CSR component into eleven export, investment and cooperation schemes.

The government is pressing the multilateral banks to make their policies more sustainable. It is also exploring ways to more actively involve the financial world in sustainable development (e.g. by encouraging investment in, and the release of venture capital for, sustainable projects).

Ministries in charge: the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with the Ministries of Economic Affairs, of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and of Finance.

Phasing out non-sustainable subsidies

4. Abolishing or adjusting environmentally unfriendly subsidies
Sometimes, while subsidies may have the desired effects in one area (such as the economy), they can cause adverse effects in another (such as the environment). The government announced the abolition of unsustainable subsidies in the NEPP4, in line with the agreements made in Johannesburg.

The National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) is developing a method to screen subsidies for their effects on

Review of incentive schemes

sustainable development. Depending on its findings, the government will either adjust or abolish these environmentally unfriendly subsidies. The instrument is being coordinated by the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment. Many other ministries are involved, however, since each is responsible for its own subsidy schemes.

5. Incentive schemes to promote sustainable development
In line with the previous instrument, the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment will be assessing the sustainable development aspects of existing incentive schemes, in cooperation with the other ministries. This will involve examining whether there are any sustainability projects that should be subsidised but fall outside the scope of existing schemes. This is because most ministries operate incentive schemes that focus only on certain aspects of sustainable development, such as the environment. As a result, projects that take an integrated approach may not qualify for funding. The ministries will be submitting a proposal to merge some of these schemes while allowing others to continue as they are. The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment is coordinating this measure.

Greater involvement by research institutes

6. Deployment of research institutes specialising in sustainable development
Many organisations develop, disseminate and exchange knowledge on sustainable development. However, the knowledge they supply is still not fully matched to the needs of society. Information and know-how are available but are still too fragmented. It was agreed in Johannesburg that cooperation between the research and policymaking communities must be improved and that knowledge networks in education and research must be strengthened.

The government is working with research institutes to substantially improve the match between supply and demand. One possibility is to encourage these institutes to merge or pool their resources. A special help desk for sustainable development does not yet appear to be necessary but could be an option in the future. The instrument is being coordinated by the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment.

Developing a communication strategy

7. Communication
Sustainable development is an abstract concept. The effects of a lack

of global sustainability (such as loss of biodiversity) are usually not perceived as local problems, even though their causes are often found at local level.

Communication must therefore be given more attention. The communication advisors at the relevant ministries will therefore be putting together a communication strategy to present global sustainability in more solid, practical terms. This will be done in consultation with experts from civil society.

The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment will take the lead in this initiative, in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Other ministries will also be involved.

5

Model programmes and projects

The Action Programme contains 20 model programmes and projects. These were selected using the following criteria:

- the state should assume a key role
- the programmes should tie in with the goals of the Sustainable Action policy document
- the programmes should reflect a broad interpretation of sustainability (people, planet and profit, process, here and now, elsewhere and later)
- together, the model programmes should provide reasonable coverage of the sustainability themes.

These programmes are summarised in the annex on page 47

Overview of programmes in relation to themes	Good water management and access to clean drinking water	Sustainable energy management (clean, reliable, affordable)	Health and safety	Sustainable agriculture	Biodiversity	Population (ageing and migration)	Sustainable mobility	Sustainable production and consumption	Knowledge
1. Sustainable public administration		*					*	*	
2. 'Room for the river'	*		*	*					
3. Peat grassland project	*	*		*	*				
4. Biodiversity in the Hoeksche Waard	*			*	*				
5. Biodiversity in the Haringvliet and Biesbosch	*		*	*	*				
6. Task force on species policy					*				
7. Energy-efficient greenhouse cultivation		*		*					
8. Biomass (part of the energy transition		*		*	*		*	*	*
9. Corporate social responsibility and sustainability	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
10. Project-based cooperation	*	*		*				*	*
11. Synchronising government funding for industrial estates		*	*				*		
12. Triple P and the consumer								*	
13. Roads to the future		*					*		
14. The New Way of Driving		*					*		
15. Improving quality of life in residential areas			*			*			
16. Operation Young People						*			
17. Human life cycle and sustainable development						*			
18. Register of high-risk hazardous substances			*						
19. Life cycle analyses for LPG, ammonia, chlorine			*						
20. Learning for Sustainability									*
Total	6	9	7	7	7	4	6	5	4



Agenda for sustainable action

6

A dynamic policy agenda

This Sustainable Development Action Programme follows up the Johannesburg summit with a large number of practical instruments and programmes. Over the next few years it will almost certainly be expanded to include new activities and plans. The need to correct and adjust ongoing initiatives will also require permanent attention.

The government has identified various topics that will need to be addressed in the coming period. This ‘agenda for sustainable action’ is not static and can be further refined during the government’s current term of office in the light of political debate or new scientific insights. The results of the RIVM sustainability appraisal, for example, will certainly play a role.

Long-term policy for the sustainability themes

There is a direct connection between some of the sustainability themes and the concept of transition management introduced in the NEPP4, notably as regards the themes *energy* (Ministry of Economic Affairs), *mobility* (Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management), *agriculture* (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality) and *biodiversity* (Ministry of Foreign Affairs). The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment will coordinate and support these transitions, partly via the ‘Transition Support Centre’. The government will continue to provide its full support to these transitions as key pillars of long-term sustainable development.

Four major transition areas:

- energy
- mobility
- agriculture
- biodiversity

Transition Support Centre

Sustainable Chemistry Transition Project

- The Ministries of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment and of Economic Affairs are launching a ‘Sustainable Chemistry’ transition project as part of the sustainable production and consumption theme and the transitions in energy and agriculture. A possible first step is the use of ethanol as a flexibly deployable raw material.
- The government has identified a policy gap in the area of recreation and tourism within the theme of sustainable production and consumption. It will therefore be formulating a long-term policy on sustainable recreation and tourism in collaboration with other organisations. The Ministries of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality and of Economic Affairs will coordinate the programme. The Ministries of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, of Transport, Public Works and Water Management and of Foreign Affairs will also be involved, each within its own area of specialisation.

Long-term policy on sustainable recreation and tourism



A better understanding of the effects of migration

- The existing long-term policy would seem to be adequate to cover the themes of water, health and safety, for which no transition policy has been initiated.
- Two gaps have been identified in the theme of population: migration and ageing. The migration issue generates considerable debate but no clear conclusions. Migration is seen as both a cause of and a solution to various social problems. The government wishes to gain an understanding of the overall effects of migration, both positive and negative. The programme is being coordinated by the Ministry of Justice, with assistance from the Ministries of Health, Welfare and Sport, of Foreign Affairs, of Social Affairs and Employment and of Economic Affairs.

A better idea of how demographic ageing affects the environmental burden

For a better understanding of the effects of demographic ageing, it is necessary to identify the underlying trends and developments that influence consumption patterns and increase pressure on the environment, and to see where corrective steps can be taken. A model programme may therefore be devised for this theme. The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment will take the lead in this initiative, together with the Ministries of Health, Welfare and Sport and of Social Affairs and Employment.

Give innovation and knowledge policy a stronger focus on sustainability

- The Dutch programme on the theme of knowledge ties in with the European Union's Lisbon strategy, which seeks to make the EU the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world. Over the coming years the *relationships between knowledge, innovation and sustainability* will be studied in more depth to identify opportunities for a more sustainable economy and strengthen the sustainability component of policy on innovation and knowledge. The Ministries of Economic Affairs and of Education, Culture and Science will take the lead role, in close collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment and of Transport, Public Works and Water Management.

The EU

Ongoing coordination with EU policy on sustainability

EU heads of state and government meet each spring to discuss the progress of EU policy on sustainability. They take stock of commitments which are not yet fully reflected in national policy and propose additional steps to move the process forward. The Dutch government also actively contributes to the developing EU sustainability agenda and puts forward supplementary and corrective measures where appropriate. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is coordinating these actions in close cooperation with the other ministries concerned.

The national component of the Action Programme contains actions that must and can produce concrete results within the next four years. However, the time-frame is not limited to four years. Sustainability will require strong emphasis for far longer than this, and new insights and developments will continue to necessitate the development of new activities.

This Action Programme is therefore not a final step but merely the starting point for a series of activities which are or will be implemented in the Netherlands.

Implementation

The national strategy contains a large number of measures. Most are described in chapters 4 (instruments), 5 (model programmes) and 6 (agenda for sustainable action). Each relevant ministry is responsible for ensuring that the actions for which it is the main coordinator are taken.

Public accountability

The government will send Parliament an annual progress report on It will also organise an annual public debate on the status of sustainable development in the Netherlands, to be jointly coordinated by the Minister for Development Cooperation and the member of government responsible for sustainable development.

In the *progress report*, the government will discuss the specific results that have been achieved and the steps that have been taken so far with regard to all the measures and other commitments contained in the Action Programme. It will focus especially on the lessons learned, on what is possible and impossible, and on considering as many aspects of the evaluation framework as possible in the preparation and implementation of policy. It will also indicate whether new initiatives are needed in response to new developments.

The aim of the *public debate* is to discuss the progress of sustainable development with key civil society actors, based in part on the progress report. What, for example, are the most pressing issues that need to be addressed? How can or should they be tackled?

How can progress and success be assured?

A permanent agenda item

The ministers concerned will meet once a year in the Council for

Spatial Planning and the Environment to discuss the progress they are making towards sustainable development. The meeting will be chaired by the Prime Minister and based on the progress report.

Room for an unconventional approach

Ministers will be expected to provide inspiration and encouragement within their own ministries and will be personally responsible for the quality of the projects their ministries are coordinating. They will give their staff the freedom to explore new avenues.

Innovation platform for developing strategy

Sustainable development requires input from many actors, combined with a successful transition policy. The government wants the Netherlands to become a European front-runner in higher education, research and innovation. To this end, it is setting up an innovation platform headed by the Prime Minister, in which ministers with responsibility for education and innovation and representatives of relevant civil society organisations will plan a strategy for the development and commercial exploitation of knowledge.

Finance and manpower

No additional funding will be set aside to implement the Action Programme. This means that the ministries must create extra scope within their own budgets and current staff levels to carry through the various measures.

The international strategy

Introduction



The Netherlands' international strategy is based on the five priority themes identified by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the run-up to Johannesburg: water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (known as the WEHAB themes). The Dutch government has adopted these themes because they satisfy criteria that are relevant for the Netherlands, such as the added value of Dutch involvement, the need for continuity in Dutch efforts and the views of the political community and society as a whole about what the priorities should be.

In addition to the WEHAB themes, the Dutch international strategy also focuses on making trade and investment more sustainable. This guarantees consistency between follow-up efforts for the WSSD and for two other key international conferences, the Financing for Development (FfD) Conference in Monterrey in spring 2002 and the WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha in November 2001. Poverty reduction and sustainable production and consumption are also included as cross-cutting themes. There is a regional focus on Africa where possible.

The Netherlands' efforts in the EU context play an important role alongside its bilateral and multilateral activities. These efforts are implemented along two lines:

1. In the joint committees, through current activities such as the review of the Common Agricultural Policy and the EU negotiating position for the WTO trade round.
2. In the European Council, by initiating discussion of the EU sustainability strategy and of the Lisbon process as it relates to sustainable economic growth.

The WSSD agreements and existing policy

The WSSD Plan of Implementation acknowledges that a substantial increase in ODA funding will be necessary in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is therefore crucial that the commitments made by the EU and the US at FfD in Monterrey be honoured. Rich countries should spend at least 0.7% of GNP on ODA. The Netherlands spends 0.8% of its GNP on development cooperation, making it one of the few rich countries to meet the target. Of this amount, 0.1% is intended for international nature conservation and environmental policy in developing countries. Of course it is not only the volume of aid that matters; the quality

of aid is just as important. Quality can be improved by harmonising donor programmes, reducing transaction costs, increasing ownership of projects by developing countries and embedding donor programmes in developing countries' national strategies for poverty reduction.

In its existing bilateral policy the Netherlands opts for cooperation with the poorest countries which have relatively good standards of policy and governance. Within these countries aid is directed at a small number of sectors regarded as high priorities by the country itself.

At the international level the Netherlands will continue to press for aid to be untied and for better donor coordination and harmonisation of procedures.

The WSSD also called for the rapid, effective and complete implementation of debt relief for highly indebted poor countries (HIPC). The Netherlands is a strong supporter of the HIPC initiative. It has met its own obligations with regard to the HIPCs and will continue to do so.

Enabling environment

Private investment requires an 'enabling environment'; in other words, specific conditions must be met to attract investors. At the international level, world trade needs to be liberalised so that new markets are opened up to producers in developing countries. Domestic issues include the need for good governance, legal certainty for investors, good education and health care and compliance with environmental standards.

The Netherlands endorses this strategy and has opted for an integrated approach. The promotion of human rights, conflict resolution, development aid, and concern for nature and the environment: all these are elements of an integrated strategy for sustainable development.

The government will also continue to support the private sector directly. The decision was recently taken to substantially expand the Emerging Markets Cooperation Programme.

Promoting sustainability

The private sector must play a bigger role in making investments

more sustainable. The Netherlands is committed to actions designed to bring this about. The abolition of non-sustainable subsidies and the internalisation of environmental costs are important preconditions. The Netherlands will press for the EU to act in this area.

The Netherlands also supports programmes with a ten-year time-frame to achieve more sustainable production and consumption, including better consumer information, internalisation of environmental costs and cleaner technology.

Integration

Greater integration must be achieved between environmental and development policy. Pro-poor growth must not be promoted at the expense of natural resource conservation or biodiversity. And conversely, concern about nature and the environment must not push the fight against poverty into the background. This is especially important in areas such as intellectual property, establishing sustainable quotas (e.g. for fisheries), fair trade and certified trade.

Policy dialogue

A good dialogue on national priorities is crucial to aligning the WEHAB themes with national poverty reduction strategies. The partnerships in which the Netherlands is involved (see annex 2: List of partnerships) can play a useful role in this dialogue. The WSSD gave new impetus to partnerships between government, business, international organisations and NGOs. The Netherlands joined a number of new partnerships. Other forms of public-private partnership will be examined over the coming months.

Finance

This international strategy will be financed by reallocating funds within existing financial parameters, subject to the country and sectoral policy already adopted. It will be implemented as far as possible within the framework of existing programmes. To work towards the WSSD objectives, an initial sum of EUR 30 million per year will be made available from ODA funds, alongside contributions from other ministries. The Global Environment Facility will remain the primary international source of funding. In the coming years efforts will be made to increase the involvement of the private sector, for example through cofinancing.

2

The implementation of the WSSD outcomes will need to be properly managed at national, EU and global level. At the national level, government policy will be coordinated by the Council for Spatial Planning and the Environment (RROM). This body, chaired by the Prime Minister, will ensure the necessary coordination and coherence between the national and international strategies and will be responsible for the allocation of resources. The Minister for Development Cooperation will have primary responsibility for managing the international strategy and the State Secretary for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment for the national strategy. Responsibility for implementing specific programmes will rest with the relevant ministries. The Johannesburg Task Force, coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will provide coordination between ministries.

Leadership at EU level is provided by the General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC). However, sustainable development will also be addressed by other EU Councils. The topic is also on the European Council agenda: the European Strategy for Sustainable Development is discussed each year at the spring European Council.

At the global level, the policies and measures agreed at the Millennium Summit (the MDGs), Financing for Development and the WSSD, and in Agenda 21, must be implemented in a coordinated manner. Implementation of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) will also contribute to sustainable development. The Secretary-General will report to the UN General Assembly each year on progress made with the Millennium Development Goals. The Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) will play a central role in implementation. Proposals to this effect will be included in the next five-year CSD work programme.

3

WSSD outcomes

- Halve the number of people without access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015.
- Produce and use chemicals, by 2020, in ways that have no significant adverse effects on health, water and the environment.
- Reduce land-based pollution by small island states. Develop an integrated management plan for oceans and coastal waters.
- Put fisheries on a sustainable basis by 2015 at the latest (an end to overfishing and illegal fishing). Set up a worldwide network of protected marine waters by 2012 in order to better protect vulnerable ecosystems.
- Research ways of increasing water productivity in agriculture (more crop per drop), e.g. within the Africa Water Task Force. The EU is supporting this programme through the EU Water Initiative.
- All countries must develop national integrated water management plans by 2005.

Additional Dutch action

- As well as pursuing existing activities (the World Water Forum and the Netherlands Water Partnership), the Netherlands will work closely with the UN and other fora working in this area. Support through multilateral channels (EU, UN agencies, IFIs and international organisations) will be given priority.
- New activities will also be supported in the fields of integrated water management and management of the marine environment, in addition to sanitation. These will include the EU Water for Life Initiative and the US Water for the Poor Initiative.
- More attention will be given to cooperation with Dutch industry on water management in developing countries.
- The Netherlands will support the International Dialogue on Water and Climate given that developing countries are expected to be hardest hit by climate change.
- The Netherlands will support the following two partnerships: Partners in Water for Food, and Water and Ecosystems.
- The Netherlands will work more closely with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to promote a more integrated approach to water, farming and food.
- The Netherlands will support the Africa Water Facility partnership, due to its focus on Africa.



Funding

The government will seek to channel activities arising out of the WSSD action plan through the interministerial Partners for Water programme. The Netherlands is participating in three partnerships. The funding will come from a reallocation of EUR 5 million of existing resources and an additional EUR 3 million. These have been allocated as follows:

- EU Water for Life Initiative: EUR 4 million a year from 2003
- US Water for the Poor Initiative: EUR 1 million a year from 2003
- Africa Water Facility: EUR 3 million a year from 2003

Expertise will also be provided, through the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management (and possibly also funding through Partners for Water), to the US partnership White Water to Blue Water and the UNEP Regional Seas Programme (OSPAR).

Funding has already been committed to the Global Water Partnership for the period 2002-2006. Finally, the government will actively seek cooperation with partners from the Dutch private sector and from civil society.

4

Energy

WSSD outcomes

- Halve the number of people without access to reliable and affordable energy by 2015.
- Abolish environmentally unfriendly subsidies.
- Strengthen market mechanisms in the field of energy and reduce market distortions, in part through tax reform and by phasing out harmful and unsustainable subsidies.
- A broad coalition of countries has set ambitious quantitative objectives for renewable energy (hydroelectric, solar and wind energy) by 2015 (including the EU and associated countries, Norway, Switzerland, Mexico, Brazil, Uganda and the small island states).

Additional Dutch action

- Strengthening energy research centres in developing countries through support for three regional programmes (ENERGIA, a network for gender and energy, the worldwide programme Enabling Access to Sustainable Energy and ESAMI ENERGIA in Africa).
- Improving cooperation between the IFIs and putting more emphasis on investment in energy for the poor.
- Promoting cooperation between stakeholders, for example by using the partnerships to create platforms and markets for businesses (such as the Shell/World Bank Million Solar Homes Fund).
- Aiming technology transfer in the area of energy supply at countries with innovative technology programmes.
- Promoting non-motorised transport in cities, for example through the UN-Habitat/UNEP Sustainable Cities Programme, the World Bank Clean Air Initiative and a recent proposal by the ICE (Interface for Cycling Expertise).
- Participation in the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP) with UNDP, the World Bank and some 80 partners, which is designed to ensure modern energy services.
- Involvement in the creation of the EU Energy for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development (EUPE) partnership.
- Supporting the EU partnership between member states, companies, NGOs and developing countries in the field of energy.
- Studying the feasibility of a special activity within the existing partnership programme with the FAO for the relationship between forest management and the use of firewood.

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- On the bilateral front, investigating ways of incorporating energy into other development sectors. Of the bilateral partner countries, only Bangladesh has opted for energy as one of its sectors.
- Developing policy on the use of biomass for energy in the context of the sustainable management of 'dry' forests.
- At the EU level, identifying environmentally unfriendly and unsustainable subsidies related to energy.
- Further developing the Coalition for Sustainable Energy established at Johannesburg, mainly via the EU.

Funding

- Global Village Initiative: EUR 2.5 million/year
- Energy for Poverty Eradication (EU partnership): EUR 1 million/year

An additional EUR 6.5 million a year is available for other, as yet unspecified, energy-related activities with multilateral organisations and/or in public-private partnerships.

In addition to the EUR 8.2 million already committed to the UN-Habitat Partnership for Sustainable Cities, a further EUR 1 million a year will be provided for the component on integrated waste processing in sub-Saharan Africa for five years from 2003.

WSSD outcomes

- Better health thanks to steps taken outside of the health sector as such: sufficient safe water and sanitation, wholesome food, good housing, clean air, a living environment free of chemicals, and education, particularly for girls and women.
- Increasing the capacity of health care systems.
- Specific attention for the fight against HIV/AIDS, in particular for reducing HIV infection amongst the young.
- Special attention for the consequences of air pollution for women and children.
- Special attention for reproductive health.

Additional Dutch action

- Improving health and health care systems, mainly by making affordable essential medicines more readily available. The Netherlands is seeking at the EU level to ensure that concrete steps are taken, notably in the follow-up to the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health.
- Organisation of a symposium in 2003: "Primary Health Care, 25 years after Alma Ata".
- The Netherlands will call for international attention for human resources in the health sector. It is becoming increasingly clear that the ability of health care services to deliver is limited by human resources. The consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic are making this distressingly clear.
- The Netherlands will contribute to the EDCTP (European and -
- Developing Countries Platform for Clinical Trials and Poverty Related Diseases), a partnership between 15 European and several sub-Saharan African countries. Its purpose is to speed up the development of new treatments for HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) is applying to bring the Secretariat of the EDCTP to the Netherlands and if successful will then have a central coordinating and supporting role.
- The Netherlands will continue to press for more action to improve reproductive and sexual health, with particular attention for the needs of young people and women.
- The Netherlands will participate in the Healthy Environment for Children initiative launched by the WHO.
- The Netherlands will participate in GAIN (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition), a partnership which seeks to help



developing countries to enrich foodstuffs with micronutrients (particularly iron and vitamin A for women and children). The Netherlands plans to provide financial support for GAIN for a period of four years. A contribution will also be made to the Nutrition and Gender partnership, which addresses malnutrition in girls and women.

- More attention will be given to chronic non-communicable diseases. Chronic diseases are costly to tackle and impose a heavy burden on health care systems in developing countries. The Netherlands will contribute (through the WHO) to the Global Strategy on Diet and Physical Health.
- The Netherlands will pursue its Clean Fuels and Vehicles partnership initiative with the US. At present, air quality is adequate in only 15% of the largest cities in the world, and poor air quality causes some 3 million deaths a year.

Funding

A contribution of EUR 5 million per year has been earmarked for the EDCTP vaccine development partnership.

Agriculture

6

WSSD outcomes

- View agricultural development in the context of overall rural development.
- Draft clear legislation to regulate rights to land and water, and provide legal certainty in relation to land use.
- Strengthen the role of women in rural development, agriculture, food and food security.
- Develop and implement national policy programmes for agriculture and food. African countries will have to take responsibility for their own food security strategy as part of their poverty reduction programme by 2005 at the latest.
- Promote food security and food safety in an environmentally friendly manner.
- Improve market mechanisms and market access for agricultural products.
- Promote environmentally friendly agricultural methods, including organic farming.
- Give additional government funding for sustainable agriculture.

Additional Dutch action

- Bilateral cooperation programmes will do more to address the issue of sustainable development and increased productivity in the agricultural sector, from both a technical (agricultural) and an institutional perspective.
- The Netherlands will participate in the land alliances for national development (LAND) partnership coordinated by IFAD. The Netherlands is considering increasing its funding for this programme.
- The Netherlands will closely monitor the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) initiative coordinated by the FAO. Dutch support will depend on the details of the programme and the performance of the FAO.
- The Netherlands will also seek to work with other parties, such as industry and NGOs.
- The Netherlands will participate in programmes which make it easier for farmers to produce for the market by, for example, strengthening farmers' organisations and participatory processes.
- More efficient markets will be promoted in the agro-food sector and to reduce the barriers to trade for the poorest developing countries in particular.



- More will be done to remove restrictions to trade for developing countries: further worldwide reductions in subsidies, tariffs and other quantitative restrictions on agricultural products. At the EU level, the Netherlands favours reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.
In addition the Netherlands has established a WSSD partnership with seven developing countries to open up western markets to their products. The aim is to boost the capacity of these countries so that they can meet the stringent quality requirements applicable to food and farming products on these markets, especially environmental and food safety norms.
- The Netherlands wishes to continue to promote corporate social responsibility in the agro-food sector. The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises will serve as the basis for this.

Funding

Additional initial funds of EUR 0.5 million in 2003 and EUR 2.5 million a year for the period 2004-2006 for the 'Market access for agricultural and food products' partnership, initiated by the Netherlands. Also an initial contribution of EUR 250,000 in 2003 for the SARD and LAND partnerships. These initial contributions will be followed by a further contribution of EUR 500,000 to be distributed between the two partnerships.

7

Biodiversity

WSSD outcomes

- Greatly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 at the latest.
- Further integrate biodiversity into policy.
- Create national and regional ecological networks.
- Provide extra funding for biodiversity programmes in developing countries.
- Implement existing guidelines on access to genetic resources. Develop an international system for access to genetic resources.
- Swiftly implement the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources.

Additional Dutch action

- By 2006 at the latest, a set of indicators will have been agreed for measuring biodiversity worldwide. The Netherlands will also support pilot initiatives, either at country level or covering specific topics.
It favours working through the EU within the framework of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD). The Netherlands will make expertise available for this process and will study financing options.
- The Netherlands will press for the establishment of a global ecological network, operational by 2010, aimed at protecting biodiversity of international and national importance. (This is on the agenda of the 2003 IUCN (World Conservation Union)/World Parks Congress, and on those of the subsequent meetings of subsidiary bodies of the CBD.)
- Implementing projects within the Biodiversity International Policy Programme (BBI). These include various projects relating to the Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN).
- Efforts will be made to strengthen cooperation between Europe and Africa, in view of the ecological links between the two continents. The Netherlands regards involvement by locals – particularly women and indigenous groups – as indispensable in the development and management of ecological networks.
- The Netherlands will support the PEEN, EU Natura 2000 and the Emerald Green Network. It also supports the development of the Meso-American biological corridor.
- The Netherlands will participate in the partnership on sustainable forestry in Asia.



- Measures will be taken to coordinate efforts pursuant to the various international agreements on sustainable forestry.
- The Netherlands will help establish an international regime to govern access to and the use of genetic resources, with specific provisions for the genetic resources important for agriculture and the world food supply. The Netherlands will actively support the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources.
- The Netherlands will support key components of the work programmes of the Centre for Biological Diversity (CBD), FAO and the Collective Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and make its expertise available for gene banks and in situ projects.
- The Netherlands backs the WSSD partnership which helps developing countries increase their capacity to implement the Biosafety Protocol. It also endorses the Biotrade partnership (Biotrade Facilitation Programme), which supports initiatives to encourage trade in products originating from areas which are sustainably managed.

Funding

-Additional funding will be made available for the following partnerships:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| - Capacity-building for ratification of the Biosafety Protocol: | EUR 1 million a year from 2003 |
| - and a one-off contribution of the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment. | EUR 0.1 million from |
| - Biotrade Facilitation Programme (3 years): | EUR 0.8 million a year from 2003 |
| - Regional Forest Management in Asia (5 years): | EUR 1 million a year from 2003 |

WSSD outcomes

- Acknowledge that trade can play an important part in bringing about sustainable development (as encapsulated in the Doha Declaration and WTO 2002), provided the interests of developing countries are given a central role.
- Implement the WTO commitments made in Doha. These include phasing out barriers to non-agricultural products; improving market access for agricultural products from developing countries; reducing or abolishing tariff peaks and tariff escalation; phasing out export subsidies; and provisions relating to special and differential treatment.
- Various activities were initiated to promote a good and sustainable investment climate. The importance of corporate social responsibility was stressed. There were calls for financial institutions to incorporate sustainable development into their decision-making processes more effectively.

Additional Dutch action

- Subsidies with a large negative environmental impact will be abolished, since it is essential for the market to offer incentives for sustainable development.
- The government will further strengthen these commercial incentives by establishing a knowledge centre for corporate social responsibility, including socially responsible procurement and contracting, and through a requirement to address sustainability issues in annual reports.
- In order for private capital to play a role in sustainable development the institutional infrastructure must form an enabling environment and macroeconomic policy must be sound. This is an important initial task for developing countries themselves. As agreed at the Financing for Development Conference in Monterrey, national initiatives in this area will be supported.
- The Netherlands will support projects that enable experience to be gained with sustainability assessments and global reporting initiatives, to foster insight into the efficiency of financing and investment that emphasises sustainable development.
- The Netherlands will examine at the international level whether, on the basis of the Johannesburg and Monterrey commitments, a more coherent set of conditions can be created which ensure that foreign investment does more to promote sustainable development.



Annexe 1: Model projects



Abbreviations used in tables

AfDB	African Development Bank
BZ	Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
BZK	Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations
EDCTP	European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Programme
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (US)
EU	European Union
EZ	Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
Financiën	Dutch Ministry of Finance
GWP	Global Water Partnership
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
Justitie	Dutch Ministry of Justice
LNV	Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
NIS	Newly Independent States
OC&W	Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
NWO	Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OS	Dutch development cooperation programme (within the foreign ministry)
OSPAR	Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North Atlantic
PfW	Partners for Water
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SZW	Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
V&W	Dutch Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management
VROM	Dutch Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment
VWS	Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport
WB	World Bank

1 Sustainable public administration

Innovative aspects: - promoting sustainable development by setting a good example throughout the public sector	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - energy - mobility - sustainable production and consumption
	Here and now	*	*	*	
	Elsewhere	*	*	*	
	Later	*	*	*	
Coordinating ministry: VROM					
	Other ministries: all				

2 ‘Room for the river’

Innovative aspects: - role for the provinces - dual aim: spatial quality and safety	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - water - health and safety - biodiversity
	Here and now	*	*	*	
	Elsewhere				
	Later	*	*	*	
Coordinating ministry: V&W	Other ministries: VROM, LNV				

3 Peat grassland project

Innovative aspects: - many parties involved - structured social process - very longterm problems placed on agenda now	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - water - agriculture - biodiversity - energy
	Here and now	*	*	*	
	Elsewhere		*		
	Later	*	*	*	
Coordinating ministry: LNV	Other ministries: n/a				

4 Biodiversity in the Hoeksche Waard

Innovative aspects: - key role for the public	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - water - agriculture - biodiversity
	Here and now		*	*	
	Elsewhere				
	Later				
Coordinating ministry: VROM	Other ministries: LNV				

5 Biodiversity in the Haringvliet and Biesbosch

Innovative aspects: - experimenting with reopening sluices	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - water - health and safety - agriculture - biodiversity
	Here and now		*	*	
	Elsewhere				
	Later	*	*		
Coordinating ministry: LNV, V&W	Other ministries: n/a				

6 Task force on species policy

Innovative aspects: - take account of biodiversity at early stage of decisionmaking	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - biodiversity
	Here and now		*	*	
	Elsewhere				
	Later		*	*	
Coordinating ministry: LNV	Other ministries: -				

7 Energy efficient greenhouse cultivation

Innovative aspects: - transition approach - market-based initiative	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - energy - agriculture
	Here and now		*	*	
	Elsewhere				
	Later		*	*	
Coordinating ministry: LNV	Other ministries: EZ, VROM				

8 Biomass (part of the energy transition)

Innovative aspects: - transition approach - very broad-based cooperation - create a broadly supported strategy	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - energy - agriculture - biodiversity - mobility - sustainable production and consumption - knowledge
	Here and now		*	*	
	Elsewhere		*	*	
	Later		*	*	
Coordinating ministry: EZ	Other ministries: VROM, LNV, V&W, BZ/OS				

9 Corporate social responsibility and sustainability

Innovative aspects: - seeking integrated sustainability - role/responsibilities of private sector	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - all
	Here and now	*	*	*	
	Elsewhere	*	*	*	
	Later	*	*	*	
Coordinating ministry: EZ	Other ministries: all				

10 Project-based cooperation

Innovative aspects: - sustainable development as condition for grant	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - water - energy - agriculture - sustainable production and consumption - knowledge
	Here and now		*	*	
	Elsewhere				
	Later		*	*	
Coordinating ministry: EZ	Other ministries: -				

11 Synchronising government funding for industrial estates

Innovative aspects: - one-stop-shop approach to implementation of physical projects - more effective allocation of public funding	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - health and safety - mobility - energy
	Here and now	*	*	*	
	Elsewhere				
	Later		*	*	
Coordinating ministry: EZ	Other ministries: V&W, VROM				

12 Triple P and the consumer

Innovative aspects: - making production processes transparent	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - sustainable production and consumption
	Here and now		*		
	Elsewhere	*	*	*	
	Later	*	*	*	
Coordinating ministry: VROM	Other ministries: EZ, LNV				

13 Roads to the future

Innovative aspects: - creative process based approach	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themaes: - mobility - energy
	Here and now		*	*	
	Elsewhere				
	Later		*	*	
Coordinating ministry: V&W	Other ministries: -				

14 The New Way of Driving

Innovative aspects: - integrating behaviour and technology - unconventional coalitions	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - mobility - energy
	Here and now		*	*	
	Elsewhere		*		
	Later		*		
Coordinating ministry: V&W	Other ministries: VROM				

15 Improving the quality of life in residential areas

Innovative aspects: - heavy focus on process with local parties - integrated social, physical and economic measures in residential areas	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - health and safety - population
	Here and now	*		*	
	Elsewhere				
	Later	*		*	
Coordinating ministry: VROM	Other ministries: BZK, VWS, EZ				

16 Operation Young People

Innovative aspects: - integrated policy on youth focusing on decompartmentalisation within central government	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - population
	Here and now	*			
	Elsewhere				
	Later	*		*	
Coordinating ministry: VWS	Other ministries: SZW, BZK, Justitie, OC&W				

17 Human life cycle and sustainable development

Innovative aspects: - integrated approach aimed at personal development from cradle to grave	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - population
	Here and now	*		*	
	Elsewhere				
	Later	*		*	
Coordinating ministry: VROM	Other ministries: EZ, VWS, Financiën				

18 Register of high-risk hazardous substances

Innovative aspects: - designed to win public confidence	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - health and safety
	Here and now	*	*	*	
	Elsewhere				
	Later				
Coordinating ministry: VROM	Other ministries: -				

Innovative aspects: - integrated study of the entire life cycle for all three substances	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - health and safety
	Here and now	*	*	*	
	Elsewhere				
	Later				
Coordinating ministry: VROM	Other ministries: BZK, EZ, SZW, V&W				

Innovative aspects: - highly decentralised approach - aimed at various forms of learning	Promoting coherence for	Socio-cultural aspects (people)	Ecological aspects (planet)	Economic aspects (profit)	Themes: - knowledge
	Here and now	*	*	*	
	Elsewhere	*	*	*	
	Later	*	*	*	
Coordinating ministry: LNV	Other ministries: VROM, BZ/OS, OC&W				

Annexe 2: Partnerships in which the Netherlands is involved

List of partnerships in which the Netherlands is involved
(status as at November 2002)

Theme Partnership	Participating ministries	Coordinated by	Status	Contribution (EUR)
Water				
EU water initiative Water for Life (primarily Africa, also NIS)	OS V&W VROM	EU	starting 2003	4.0 m/yr period 2003/06 (ODA)
US Water for the Poor initiative	OS V&W	US	in preparation	1.0 m/yr period 2003/06 (ODA)
Africa Water Facility	OS V&W	AfDB	in preparation	3 m/yr period 2003/06 (ODA)
USA White Water to Blue Water initiative	V&W OS	US State Department	in preparation	V&W to contribute in expertise; fin. contrib. via PwW
Global Water Partnership (GWP) network	OS V&W	GWP	starting 2002	0.9 m/yr period 2002/06 (ODA)
UNEP Regional Seas Programme (OSPAR)	V&W OS	OSPAR	inactive	V&W bcontribution in expertise; fin. contrib. via PwW
Energy				
Global Village Energy Initiative	OS EZ VROM	UNDP, WB EU	starting 2003	2.5 m/yr period 2003/06 (ODA)
EU Energy Partnership for Poverty Eradication	OS VROM		in preparation	1.0 m/yr period 2003/06 (ODA)
Health				
Vaccine development	OS VWS	EU–EDCTP NWO	in preparation	5.0 m/yr period 2003/06 (ODA)
USA EPA global fuels, clean air (Clean Fuels and Vehicles Partnership)	VROM OS, VWS	UNEP	in preparation	0.125 mln. (VROM)

Agriculture				
Market access, rural development (Bali follow-up)	LNV OS	Netherlands	in preparation	0.5 m in 2003 for initial phase 2.5 m/yr 2004/06 (ODA)
Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) (FAO and others)	LNV OS	FAO	in preparation	0.25 m 2003 start-up funding
Land Alliances for National Development, (LAND) (IFAD and others)	LNV OS	IFAD	in preparation	0.5 m/yr 2004 (ODA)
Biodiversity				
Regional forest management in Asia	OS LNV	TPF	in preparation	1.0 m/yr period 2003/06 (ODA)
Bio Trade Facilitation Programme	OS EZ	UNCTAD	in progress	2.5 m period 2003/05 (ODA)
Building capacity in developing countries for effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing House	VROM OS LNV	Biodiversity Convention Secretariat	starting in 2003	1.0 m/yr period 2003/06 (ODA) + 0.1m (VROM)

Non WEHAB Partnerships

Theme Partnership	Participating ministries	Coordinated by	Status	Contribution (EURO)
Sustainable Cities Programme UN-HABITAT, Integrated waste processing Sub-Saharan Africa	OS	UN-Habitat	starting in 2003	1.0 m/yr period 2003/06 (ODA)
Expert support to UNEP's contribution to a framework on sustainable consumption and production	VROM	UNEP	starting in 2003	0.2 m (VROM)
UNEP/UNCTAD Capacity building task force on trade, environment and development	VROM	UNEP/ UNCTAD	pending	? (VROM)
Pan European East-West Environmental Partnership for Sustainable Development	VROM	Secretariat for the OECD task force	Started in Jo-burg	0.1 m (VROM)

The full texts of the national and international modules of the Action Programme for Sustainable Development can be downloaded from www.vrom.nl and www.minbuza.nl. Both the full text and the summary of the WSSD Plan of Implementation, as compiled by the United Nations, can also be downloaded from these sites.

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Publicity Material Division (DVL/VM)
Jennifer Chin

Photographs

Tineke Dijkstra
Renee van der Hulst
Suzanne van de Kerk

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