

IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands



National Committee of
The Netherlands

IUCN
The World Conservation Union

Mission

To influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.



IUCN NL

Plantage Middenlaan 2K
1018 DD Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel. +31 (0) 20 626 17 32
Fax +31 (0) 20 627 93 49
Website www.iucn.nl
E-mail mail@iucn.nl



Introduction

IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands (IUCN NL) has evolved into the central Dutch platform for issues related to international conservation, biodiversity and ecosystem management. It aims to bring together political decision makers, corporate executives, Dutch IUCN member organizations, and other civil society organizations to work on changing our society and its impact into an ecologically sustainable one.

Another goal of IUCN NL is to use the possibilities available in the Netherlands to support civil society organizations and micro-enterprises in ecologically important regions, mainly in the South, to become more effective in protecting our planet's most important resource: the natural environment. Its final aim is to generate a practicable and relevant knowledge base on the impact of Dutch society on the global ecology. Thirty-three IUCN member organizations in the Netherlands, including the Dutch State, support this strategy.



IUCN and the National committee of the Netherlands

The mission of IUCN, The World Conservation Union, is to promote nature conservation in a just world. The World Conservation Union, founded in 1948, is the largest global nature conservation network. It is unique in bringing together states, government agencies and a diverse range of non-governmental organizations. IUCN is supported by six international commissions made up of some 10,000 technical and scientific experts. They form the largest volunteer network in the world, responsible for publications such as the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. IUCN contributes to the setting of global environmental standards and guides the actions of governments and civil society in sustaining the biological diversity and natural resource base on which human livelihoods depend. Member organizations within a country or region often organize themselves into National or Regional Committees to facilitate cooperation and help coordinate the work of IUCN.

The IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands (IUCN NL) was founded in 1983 and is the platform of the IUCN members in the Netherlands. It is supported by an office, based in the centre of Amsterdam which employs thirty plus staff, making it the largest IUCN National Committee office. IUCN NL, in close cooperation with IUCN and its members, aims to promote the conservation and responsible management of ecosystems and natural resources in an international context. To this effect, the strategy- and work plans of IUCN NL are developed in cooperation with the Dutch NGO members and the Dutch Government in alignment with the IUCN Global Program.

This strategy identifies four focal areas:

- Promoting IUCN's mission; offering a platform for its members in the Netherlands, developing its network and actively participating in the (inter)national policy dialogue.
- Identifying problems related to sustainability, consumption, trade and biodiversity, elaborating this vision through studies, projects and advocacy.
- Co-financing activities for small NGO conservation projects focusing on ecosystems and sustainable development.
- Support and promotion of new financing mechanisms for sustainable development.



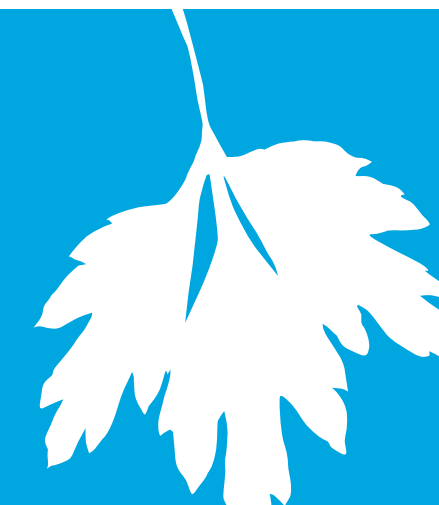
The IUCN network in The Netherlands

IUCN NL primarily considers its role as a network organization, linking the national and international members' networks and, in matters of international nature conservation and sustainability, connecting scientists, policymakers and the private sector. Members interact with and support each other in pursuit of IUCN's mission.

IUCN NL functions as a platform for its Dutch members and the Dutch members of the IUCN Commissions. It organizes members' meetings for discussion of current topics and formulation of policy recommendations and coordinates information exchange. The Working Group The Hague, an initiative of IUCN NL, focuses on advocacy and the exchange of information and is specially directed at politicians and policy makers in the ministries. The Leaders for Nature Initiative is trying to involve leading business people in conservation and ecosystem issues world wide.

The office of IUCN NL also facilitates the secretariats of several working groups, which form an important part of the network, and that are often closely related to the IUCN Commissions:

- Forum on Forests
- Working Group Indonesia
- Forum on Oceans
- Working Group Ecology & Development
- Working Group Sustainable Tourism
- Support Group Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA)
- Working Group on Species
- Working Group on Protected Areas



Ecology and Economy

The Netherlands is one of the wealthiest countries in the world. This affluence is obtained at considerable ecological and social cost, which is mostly felt in other parts of the world. This negative impact of Dutch trade and consumption on global biodiversity and ecosystems is a cause for concern, and is an important area of attention in the programs of IUCN NL.

Dutch society is dependent on a wide range of global ecosystem products and services (delivering fish and wood, clean water and air, for instance). Unsustainable use of these services and the effects of climate change lead to the degradation of ecosystems, and may eventually endanger economic activities and the very future of society. IUCN NL aims to investigate the impact and dependency of the Dutch economy on ecosystem services worldwide. It also tries to find ways to limit this impact, and to increase, the Dutch awareness of this relationship and of the importance of taking appropriate measures.

The program titled "the Netherlands and the World Ecology" aims to raise the awareness of various Dutch actors who play a role in current unsustainable practices in the supply and production chain: private sector/companies, financial institutions, the Dutch Government, consumers and civil society organizations. Another objective of the program is to help achieving sustainable production and consumption, through dialogue, lobbying and joint partnerships.

IUCN NL has produced several publications providing comprehensive information on trade- and consumption-related environmental degradation in the South. It is participating in a number of partnerships with NGO networks and the private sector focusing on subjects like timber, soy, palm oil and shrimp, working jointly on minimizing ecological impacts of these sectors.



Ecosystems Small grants

Civil society in the South plays a crucial role in the policy and practice of ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation. This has been confirmed repeatedly during IUCN NL's twelve-year experience in managing small grants programs for southern NGOs and Community-Based Organizations. Small grants have demonstrated to be a low-risk and an effective support mechanism to help build the capacity of civil society organizations and they contribute to achieving conservation and poverty reduction goals. IUCN NL's small grants have been praised for being flexible, demand-driven and easily accessible. Some projects supported combine local conservation and sustainable land use goals, while others focus on education and raising awareness, lobbying and advocacy or empowerment and capacity building.

Having started with a small grants program for tropical rainforests in 1994, IUCN NL currently manages five small grants programs. Three of these programs are ecosystem-based, one provides funds for the purchase of land with strategic biodiversity value and one is sector-related (tourism). The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been the main donor, while the Dutch National Postcode Lottery funds the land purchase program. The combined programs have up to now supported over 1,000 projects for which over 30 million Euros was allocated. The programs have contributed significantly to the awareness and appreciation of the IUCN network in our partner-countries. As of 2007, the three ecosystem-based program will be joined in a single Ecosystem Grants Program (EGP) with nature and poverty as central theme.

Innovative financing mechanisms

IUCN NL works to promote and achieve support for new financing mechanisms for sustainable development and particularly conservation. Central is the aim to establish co-operative agreements between organizations, as well as to find sustained support for important initiatives.

This work is divided into two parts:

First IUCN NL aims to realize co-operative agreements to achieve specific goals, such as:

- The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance, which through a co-operative agreement between seven Dutch NGOs and six Antillean Nature Protection organizations aims to establish a trust fund and a long term management structure for nature on the islands.
- The Green Coast Program, which is a co-operative agreement between four members to support the post-tsunami recovery in South East Asia.

Second IUCN NL aims to realize adequate political support in the Netherlands for (new) sustainable financing mechanisms for international ecosystem management, protected areas, and sustainable development. This will include working on generating support for trust funds, markets for ecosystem services and other innovative financing approaches.

Publications

IUCN NL publishes a quarterly magazine (Ecology & Development), which is focused on international nature protection and its relation to (sustainable) development.

The magazine is primarily aimed at policymakers, private sector, members of the IUCN, and interested professionals. Over the years, IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands has produced several publications in multiple languages concerning the ecological effects of the Dutch economy which are listed on our website (www.iucn.nl) and available at the IUCN Bookstore (www.iucn.org/bookstore).



The Members of IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands Dutch Member Organizations of IUCN

ANWB, Royal Dutch Touring Club •Avalon Foundation •BothENDS •The CARMABI Foundation (Dutch Antilles)
•CML, Centre of Environmental Science •Diergaarde Blijdorp, Royal Rotterdam Zoological and Botanical
Gardens •Foundation Reserves for the Przewalski Horse •Government of The Netherlands •IVN, Association for
Environmental Education •KNNV, Royal Dutch Society for Natural History •The Lippe-Biesterfeld NatuurCollege
Foundation •Natuurmonumenten, Dutch Society for the Preservation of Nature •Het Nederlands Centrum voor
Inheemse Volken (NCIV) •NVD, Dutch Federation of Zoos •De Landschappen •The Prince Bernhard Centre for
International Nature Conservation •Stichting Face (Forests Absorbing Carbon dioxide Emission) •Stichting Natuur
en Milieu, Netherlands Society for Nature and Environment •Stichting Tigris, Tigris Foundation •Trésor Foundation
•Tropenbos International •Van Tienhovenstichting, Netherlands Foundation for International Nature Protection
•De Vlinderstichting, Dutch Butterfly Conservation •UvA, University of Amsterdam •Vogelbescherming Nederland,
Dutch Partner of BirdLife International •Waddenvereniging, Wadden Society •WWF, WWF-Netherlands
•Zoogdierverseniging VZZ, Society for the Study and Conservation of Mammals

International Members of IUCN based in the Netherlands

ECNC, European Centre for Nature Conservation •European Association of Zoos and Aquaria •European Union
for Coastal Conservation •EUROSITE •FoEI, Friends of the Earth International •Wetlands International



IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands, in close cooperation with IUCN, the World Conservation Union, and its members, aims to promote the conservation and responsible management of ecosystems and natural resources in an international context.

IUCN NL

Plantage Middenlaan 2K
1018 DD Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Tel. +31 (0) 20 626 17 32
Fax +31 (0) 20 627 93 49
Website www.iucn.nl
E-mail mail@iucn.nl

