The Netherlands Nitrogen crisis



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Succesful agricultural and food policy





Sicco Mansholt: 'Never a hunger winter'

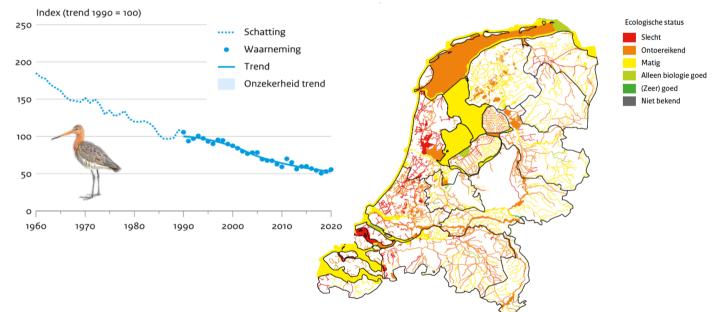
At the expense of environmental quality



Water quality

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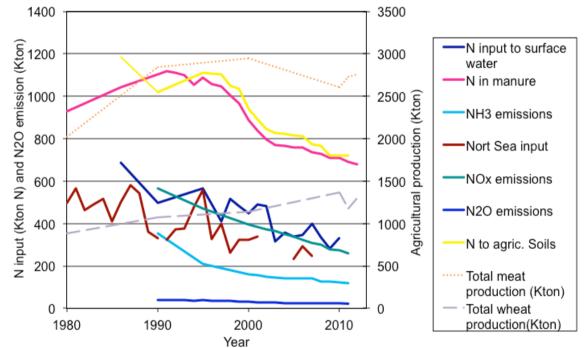
Farmland birds



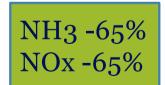
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Increased agricultural production while decreasing nutrient losses (1980 – 2010)

- Mineral accounting system
- Emission poor housing
- Slurry injection
- Coverage of manure storage
- Maximum manure application per land use
- Decrease of N in concentrates: lowering urea concentration in milk
- Manure processing
- Housing cattle at night
- No slurry application in winter
- Good agricultural practice
- SCR industry and transport
- Fuel switch









Protection of is Natura 2000 areas

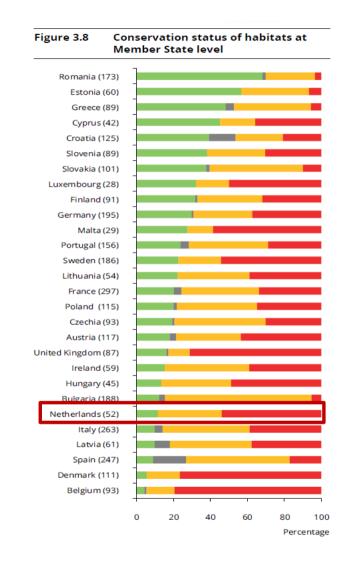
European network of nature areas with for Europe important flora and fauna.

Aim:

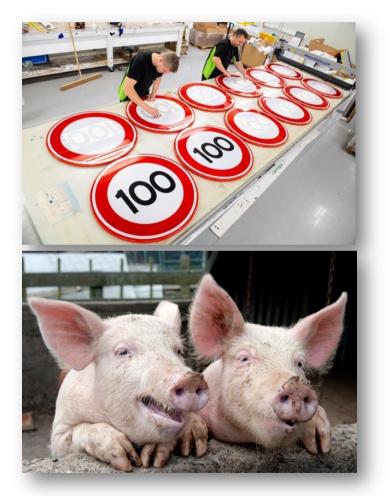
- Prevent further decline in biodiversity
- Sustainable protection of plants, animals and habitats against negative impacts of human activities.

Legislation:

- European: Bird directive (1979) and Habitat directive (1992)
- Translation into Dutch legislation: Nature Protection Law
- 2015: Programmatic Approach Nitrogen (PAS)



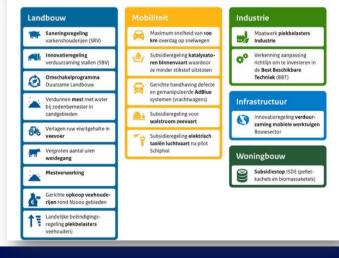
Emergency Act (2020)



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Nitrogen Reduction and Nature Improvement Act (2021)





Target 2035: 74% surface area below Critical loads 3 bilion € for nature recovery

Emission reduction: net. -50% in 2030 3 bilion €

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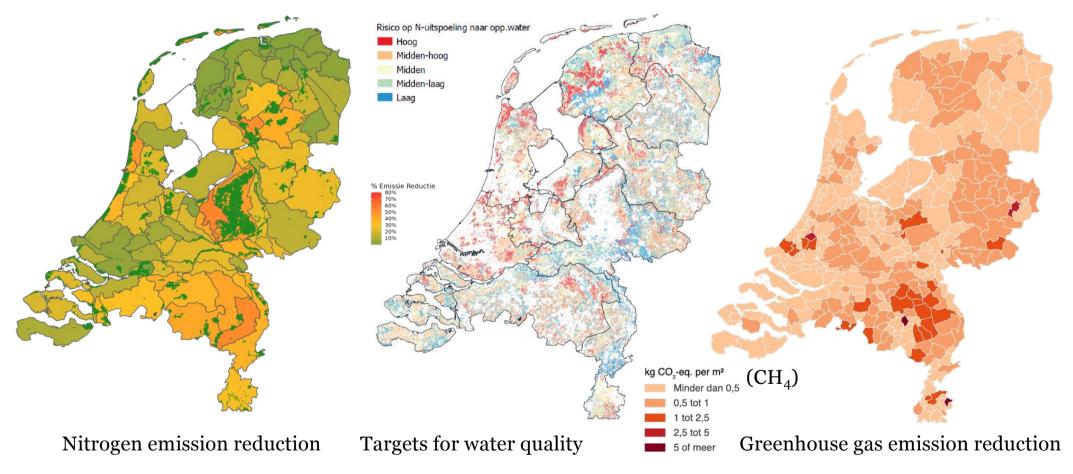
The Netherlands has targets and obligations

Verdroging Bird and Habitat Directive	
Waterkwaliteit fysisch-chemisch	
Waterkwaliteit ecologisch	
Stikstofultspoeling Verstedelijkingsopgave	ler
Verstedelijkingsopgave Weidevogelopgave	
Weidevogelopgave	
50km EU Climate and Adaptation policy	
Air Quality Directive	
Diverse nature protection agreements (Bern, Bonn, AEWA, Ramsar, OSPAR, etc.)	
European Landscape Convention	
World Heritage Convention	
Climate agreement 2019	
In de stapelkaart worden verschillende opgaven gecombineerd weergegeven. Op de linker kaart heeft elke kaartlaag zijn eigen kleur zodat je kunt zien waar welke opgave/problematiek speelt. In de rechterkaart heeft elke kaartlaag dezelfde kleur en transparantie zodat je kunt zien in	

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Erisman en Strootman, 2021

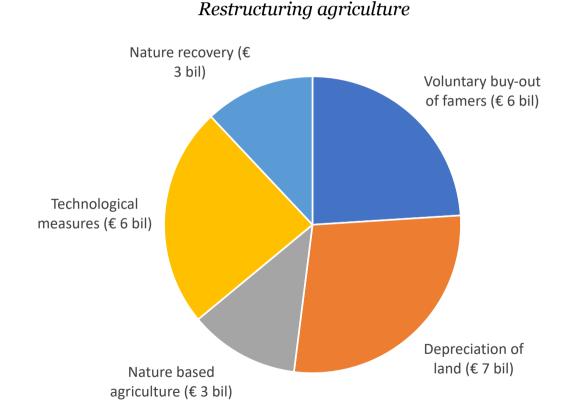
Nitrogen targets (nature) (area average emission reduction), KRW and climate (methane)



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Coalition agreements 2021: Targets, budget and ambition

Measures nitrogen fund

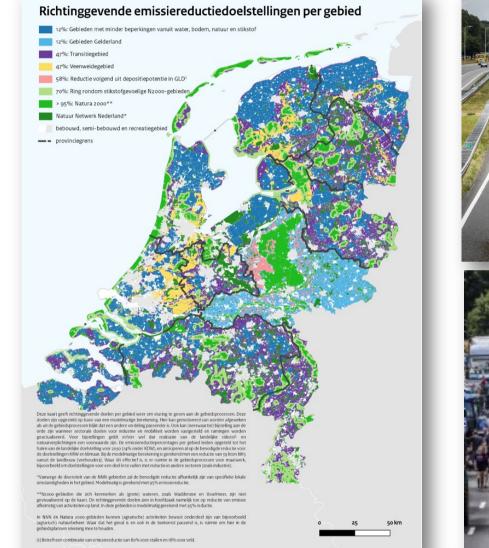




Targets:

- Protection of nature (nitrogen, nature restoration)
- Climate
- Goals WFD
- Agricultural perspective

July 2023: concept area plans

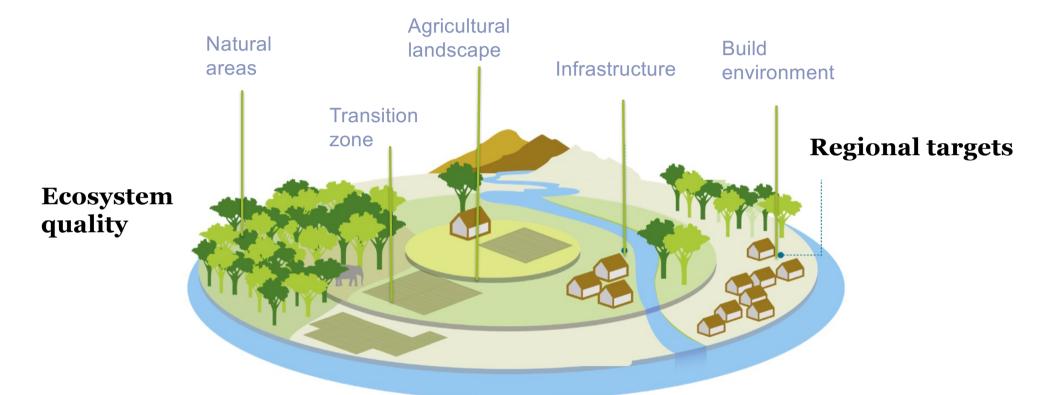




Where are we now?



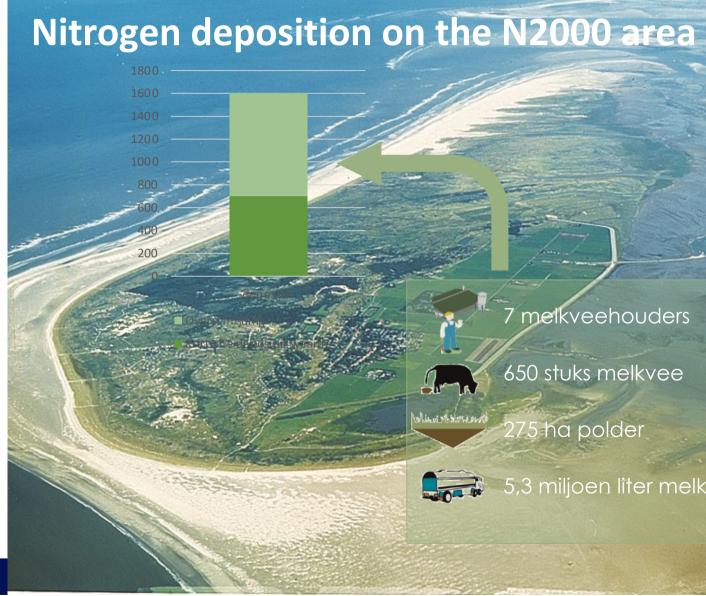
Agriculture: set nitrogen, water and climate targets for regional development



Soil, hydrology and landscape determines landuse for nature areas, agriculture and the build environment

• 7 dairy farmers

- 650 dairy cattle
- 275 ha of polder and salt marsh for grazing young stock
- 100 ha gras main land
- 5.3 million litres of milk (2016) for export
- Edge management and delayed mowing date
- Major goose damage:
 - Two cuts of spring grass
 - Compensated by the province



Agreement and long term vision for the polder (2021)

- 38% dairy cattle reduction (5 to 3 million litres of milk)
- Value (financial and valuation) creation by producing cheese
- Dairy Farm Cooperative
- PAS money invested in the transition
- CAP pilot finances the transition
- Permit for a max number of cows and individual permits maintained







Some general lessons for other countries

- NOx: technological problem with a technological fix: electrification/H2 with sustainable energy (solar, wind, geo)
- Policies to stimulate export resulted in high productivity but also industry and infrastructure
- The reduction of agricultural technological measures is usually less than from 'model'/lab tests & social boun

Government

- Agriculture: place based approaches within environmental targets
- Low hanging fruit: on-farm tools/measurements that provide insight induse and costs. Risk management, Nature based approaches
- Poor legislation results in poor implementability and enforceabil
- Good balance between short term and long term solutions LOCAL
- Multi-national agreements to relocation of production (level pla

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Thank you for your attention j.w.erisman@cml.leidenuniv.nl