



# **Forests and the Biodiversity Convention**

**Independent Monitoring of the  
Implementation of the Expanded Programme  
of Work  
in the Netherlands**

**WIX**



GFC coordinator for the Independent monitoring programme:  
Miguel Lovera  
Global Forest Coalition  
Bruselas 2273  
Asunción, Paraguay  
E-mail: miguel.lovera@globalforestcoalition.org

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Dr Ir Renaat van Rompaey, Wix Wageningen International Experts,  
Wim Sonneveldstraat 24, 6708 NB Wageningen, Nederland  
Email: [Renaat@Wix.nl](mailto:Renaat@Wix.nl)

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**Cover:**

Riverine forest, one of the most natural forest types in the Netherlands (Photo: Gerard Grimberg. In: Directie Kennis, Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit, 2007. Meetnet Functievervulling bos 2001-2005, Vijfde Nederlandse Bosstatistiek).

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## FOREWORD

The Global Forest Coalition (GFC) was established in 2000 as a network of southern and northern non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and organizations of indigenous peoples. An important objective of GFC is to call for attention for the rights of indigenous peoples and other original inhabitants of forest areas, and for the underlying causes of deforestation and the biodiversity loss.

In 1992, the Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD, was signed. This treaty, which has been ratified in the mean time by more than 160 countries, imposes the countries to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. In 2001, GFC has, together with the environmental organisation FERN, assessed the status of implementation of forest-related clauses of the CBD in 20 different countries including the Netherlands. During the Sixth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2002, the Parties agreed on an Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD / POW). As a contribution to the official review of the implementation of this work programme during the Ninth Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which will take place from 19 to 30 May 2008 in Bonn, GFC has carried out an independent monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Work in 22 different countries.



In mid-May 2007, Yolanda Sikking of the international secretariat of Global Forest Coalition in Amsterdam launched a call via the Forest Forum of the Dutch Committee for IUCN to carry out this evaluation of CBD / POW for the Netherlands. Wix Wageningen International Experts has reacted positively, and after meeting with Simone Lovera, Managing coordinator of GFC, on June 12, 2007 the contract between GFC and Wix signed. As described in Annex III of this report, the process consisted of an examination of relevant international and national policy documents, including the third National Report of the Netherlands to the CBD and the Nature Outlook 2007 (Natuurbalans), and sending out and collecting responses to the standard questionnaire provided by GFC's project coordinator, Miguel Lovera. There were also individual interviews with a number of key players and an open consultation meeting, which took place on September 19 in Amsterdam. The draft report was submitted on November 9 and sent in February 2008 to stakeholders for comment.

I thank Simone Lovera, Yolanda Sikking and Miguel Lovera for the pleasant cooperation, and all respondents and workshop participants for their active participation in the evaluation.

Wageningen, May, 2008

Renaat Van Rompaey

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## SUMMARY

Global Forest Coalition has asked WIX, Wageningen International Experts, to do an independent monitoring of the implementation by the Netherlands of the Expanded Programme of Work (POW) on Forest Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in the period 2002-2007.

The official party to the CBD, that signed in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This is a federation of three countries: the Netherlands in Europe, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba in the Caribbean. Although there some background information is given in the report on the Antilles, where 1,200 ha of forest is found, and on Aruba, that has no forest, we were not able to monitor the implementation of CBD / POW on the Antilles. There is also no special workshop organised there.

### **Forest biodiversity in the Netherlands**

The Netherlands are a densely populated country with 400 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup> and a prosperous economy that generates an average income of € 21,000 per person per year. The Dutch government spends 0.8% of GNP to development aid, of which 0.1% specifically to internationally support environment, nature and water protection. From this € 70 million a year is spent on the conservation of tropical forests.

Forest cover according to the FAO definition is in the Netherlands 360,000 ha, 11% of the country. Most of it is plantations of exotic species. Only 100,000 ha are mixed broadleaved forests, and only 3,000 ha are strictly protected forest reserves without economic use.

Forest management is very professional in the Netherlands, and two fifths of the Dutch forests are certified. There is an active policy to get more mixed and broadleaved forest and to leave more dead wood in the forest, but this does not alter the very 'civilized' appearance of Dutch forests. Water management is also very intensive in the Netherlands and there are hardly any woods with a natural water regime. The main function of forest in the Netherlands is recreation.

### **Main results of the independent review process.**

**Quality of forest management.** The CBD/POW was no great challenge for the Dutch government, because forest management in the Netherlands was already very professional and very environmentally oriented. The European Union also presents Directives to protect endangered species and their habitat.

Forest cover barely rises in the Netherlands. Through subsidies, forests become more natural, and the proportion of indigenous species increases, but there is no massive transformation. In fact, there are no natural forests left with a complete fauna in the Netherlands. There are some areas released for spontaneous forest development, but the degree of human control of the countryside is still very important, and probably one of the highest in the world.

**Forest Law.** The Netherlands have a clear Forest Law that bans effectively any further deforestation, and imposes replanting after cutting. The law is clearly less effective in the eradication of alien species or preserving the pristine character of the forests.

**Indigenous people.** Although the Dutch are native to their own country, there are no endangered populations that live in the woods, who consider themselves as "indigenous peoples".

**Role of the Netherlands in deforestation and forest management worldwide.** The Dutch economy produces for € 500 billion per year, and has a significant footprint in the rest of the world. The Netherlands not only consume lot of non-renewable fossil fuel, but

its main port, Rotterdam, is known as a global centre for trade and processing of many tropical plant products. Many of them are grown in monoculture in a non-sustainable manner after deforestation of tropical rainforest.

In fact, the Dutch economy is now integrated into the EU economy. This is the largest economy in the world, and thus with the largest footprint. It has a big responsibility for biodiversity loss in the rest of the world.

**Important donor.** The Netherlands are also a major donor of development aid (0.8% of GNP), especially in the field of environment and biodiversity (0.1% of GDP or € 500 million per year). Approximately € 70 million per year is earmarked for the conservation of tropical forests. Yet it remains questionable whether the Dutch economy does not impair these forests for a multiple of that amount.

**The role of international institutions to assist countries with the implementation of the CBD / POW.** In the Netherlands, the European Commission plays a key role by many directives on environment and biodiversity. In some cases, these rules are stricter than national policies that sometimes favour the economic development too much.

**Implementation of POW in the Netherlands.** Forest management is in the Netherlands in accordance with the POW. The problem is that the Netherlands has only little real natural forests, so that it cannot lose much. The Netherlands should be more ambitious in the restoration of original natural forests, not at hectare scale, but with a scale of hundreds of km<sup>2</sup>. The Netherlands should also pay more effort to eradicate exotic species from the forests in the Netherlands.

The EU target to stop biodiversity loss by 2010 will be missed in the Netherlands. Climate change requires an ever greater toll. The claim of agriculture on land in the Netherlands is also excessive.

**Underlying causes.** Since Netherlands already has lost its natural forests, there exists no longer deforestation of natural forest. The plantation forests suffer although from nitrate deposition, drought stress and habitat fragmentation, but the slow pace of recovery of original natural forest is due to a lack of political will, a strong agricultural lobby, and the fact that every 2 km in the Netherlands is inhabited, mostly privately owned, the water there is intensively managed and crossed by roads and infrastructure. Thus, recovery is not, unlike some tropical countries, a matter of reserving a portion of the wilderness. The area should be decolonised and infrastructure removed. But there is no other solution, because real natural forests do not fit into the current small-scale landscape.

**Dutch violations of the CBD.** The Netherlands lag behind in the restoration of the original forest ecosystems and in the eradication of alien species in the woods.

From the interviews, three specific cases arose for which the Kingdom of the Netherlands has failed to fulfil the CBD. One deals with the regulations on ammonia emission around sensitive natural areas. The Netherlands decided to minimize the buffer zone. Another is about the deforestation of a wooded area near a military airport, where the Netherlands has acted against the wishes of the local population. And the third is on Saba in the Netherlands Antilles, where the last remaining tropical rainforest is threatened by the installation of a telephone base station.

## **Recommendations**

**Large Areas Natural Forest.** To restore the original natural forests on peat soils, sandy soil and along the rivers, we recommend letting Large Areas of Natural Forest return to their natural state. These areas should be larger than 10,000 ha and have the status of Strict Forest Reserve. This category of protected area now covers 3,000 ha and this should be extended to 30,000 ha, or 10% of the forests in the Netherlands.

**Forests in a more natural state.** Only one fifth of the forest of the Netherlands consists of mixed woodland. It is true that in privately owned forest (half of the forest area), tree species choice is up to the owner, and some industries (mining, paper) have

promoted the planting of conifers. Nevertheless, the natural character of the forests should be enhanced by mixing deciduous tree species, promoting non-commercial deciduous tree species such as birch, willow, poplar, linden, elm,. Besides, the largest and oldest trees of a species on every hectare of forest should be left as seed trees, as habitat for wildlife, and as structural and landscape element. Also, uprooted trees are to remain untouched as well as dead wood, portrait and landscape.

**Include rules and procedures for non-compliance in the Treaty.** In contrast to the Cartagena Protocol, such rules are not foreseen in the CBD. If parties agree to maintain their biodiversity in the CBD, they must also decide what to do if something goes wrong in one or other country. Of course, the inspection can be a delicate issue, and the reality is that very often international economic forces are behind biodiversity loss, so that the issue of international responsibility must be addressed in these procedures as well.

**Payment for environmental services at 0.1% of GDP.** We recommend this rule of thumb applied by the Netherlands, for all developed countries, or at least for the EU member states. It is not just a subsidy, but one pays for environmental services, and only if the services are provided. The type of service relates to carbon sequestration, avoidance of deforestation and biodiversity loss.

**Towards a more integrated international environmental policy.** It is proposed that the secretariats of international environmental conventions should integrate, for example within UNEO, *United Nations Environmental Organisation*, because the solutions are often linked with each other.

**Ecological footprint and the responsibility for damage in other countries.** Article 3 of the CBD provides that the parties are responsible for damage by their economies to the environment in other countries. It is clear that the footprint of the Dutch economy worldwide is very high. The external costs of these economic activities should be included in their price so that the environmental protection is the same for all countries.

**Carrying capacity of the earth already exceeded.** The loss of biodiversity is due to our excessive use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources, and beyond the sustainable level. Thus, halting biodiversity loss implies a reduction in the use of the Earth. Given the economic development of China and India, it seems that the opposite is the case. This underlying cause greatly undermines the attempt to preserve biodiversity on Earth to save. It seems that the developed countries will maintain their biodiversity precisely by increasing the pressure on the ecosystems in the developing world.

## **Description of the evaluation process**

**Questionnaire.** We approached some twenty experts and send them the terms of reference of the study and the questionnaire. Their first reaction was that CBD was something for people who are interested in international environmental policy. These people in turn had no precise idea of forest management and policy in the Netherlands. For them, the CBD was on the protection of tropical rainforest. The parties involved in forest management in the Netherlands, knew very little about the CBD and POW, so they were unable to answer the questionnaire. But at the first sight, they saw no weaknesses in the Dutch forest policy regarding forest biodiversity. So we decided to approach the two groups, the international foresters, and the Dutch foresters, separately.

**National workshop.** We have organized a workshop on September 19 2007 in Amsterdam. Eleven participants have contributed to the workshop. Their interest was mainly in international policy. Their background was government, NGOs, experts and research institutions. These people felt not enough qualified to judge the progress of the Dutch national forest policy, but there was a lively discussion on international nature conservation policy, on the effectiveness of the CBD, which resulted in a series of recommendations.

**Other interviews.** Certain Dutch forest experts were interviewed during an excursion to the Czech Republic and through a series of direct interviews. It became clear that the CBD/POW is not part of the debate about Dutch forestry. The practice in Dutch forestry is changing towards more natural forests, but the largest part of the Dutch forests still are plantations of exotic conifers. Connectivity between the fragmented remaining natural patches is an important topic in the Netherlands. Recently, the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (MNP) concluded that Large Areas Natural Forest should be returned to their wilderness state, in order to allow the original forest biodiversity in the Netherlands to recover.

## **Outreach campaign and the expected impact on national forest policy.**

We believe that it is important to broadcast the findings of this study to the public, to forest professionals and policymakers. Netherlands is not the best pupil in the classroom. The economy gets too much priority on environment and biodiversity. It is an international rule of thumb that 20% of a country should be preserved in its natural state - for the Netherlands with its temperate climate, this is forest - and that is by no means the case. So, the Netherlands are lagging behind in restoring the original natural vegetation. We recommend that at least one fifth of the territory should return to that state.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **The Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro 1992)**

The Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD, that has been signed in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has the following three objectives:

- The conservation of biodiversity
- The sustainable management of biodiversity
- The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

There are 7 Programmes of Work, POW, established by the CBD parties, in the following fields:

- Agricultural biodiversity,
- Forest biodiversity
- Inland waters biodiversity
- Island biodiversity
- Dry and semi-humid biodiversity
- Marine and coastal biodiversity
- Mountain biodiversity

### **Expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity (The Hague, 2002)**

In 2002, at the sixth Conference of the Parties of the CBD in The Hague, the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity has been approved. This report focuses on the implementation of this Programme of Work by the Party the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands is a federation of three countries: the Netherlands in Europe, the Netherlands Antilles, a group of five islands in the Caribbean Sea, and Aruba. The Kingdom of the Netherlands is officially Party to the CBD. Only the Kingdom is entitled to sign international treaties.

Secretary of State JD Gabor signed the Convention on behalf of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on June 5, 1992. The Convention on Biological Diversity came into force on December 29, 1993. Ratification of the Treaty happening again by the parliaments of the

three countries that makes up the Kingdom. On July 12, 1994, the CBD was ratified by the First and Second Chamber of the Netherlands Parliament (SG, 1993-1994, 23713 (R1502) Nos. 362 and 1. The Netherlands Antilles and Aruba ratified the Treaty on June 4, 1999 (Secretariat of the CBD, 2001). The forest biodiversity in the Netherlands, the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba will be discussed in the next chapter.

## 2. FOREST BIODIVERSITY IN THE NETHERLANDS

### Environmental, geophysical and socio-economic aspects of the Netherlands

#### Netherlands

**Location.** The Netherlands are located in Western Europe, at the North Sea, 52° 30 'N 5° 45' E. It is 41,528 square kilometres in size, 19 % of the area consists of water. There are 16 million people (2007) and with 394 inhabitants per square kilometres Netherlands is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Population growth is 1.8 per ‰ per year and life expectancy is 81 years for women and 78 years for men.

**Climate.** The Netherlands has a temperate climate, with an average of 800 mm precipitation per year and an average annual temperature of 10 ° C. The Netherlands mainly consists of lowlands and polder areas along the coast, with some hills in the southeast. Elevation above sea level varies from -7 m in the Zuidplaspolder to 322 m on the Vaalserberg. See Figure 1 for the part of the Netherlands under sea level.

**Economy.** The Netherlands are one of the richest countries in the world. The Gross National Product (GNP) was in 2006 525 billion € and the joint fortune of all Dutch households 1,800 billion €. Average income per head of the Dutch population is € 21,000 per year, or € 105 per working day. The joint budget of the governments is € 250 billion annually.

**Development aid.** From GDP 0.8% goes to official development aid (ODA), a sloppy 4.2 billion Euros per year. 0.1% of GDP is destined for international nature and environmental policy, half a billion Euros per year, of which 70 million Euros per year is specifically intended for international forest policy.

#### Forests in the Netherlands

**Forest cover.** The Netherlands has 3.4 million ha of land. 360,000 ha is "forest" according to the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) definition, which includes both natural forest and timber plantations. This is 11 % of the land area (Fifth Forest statistics, 2006). Annually, forest cover increases with 343 ha (Kerngegevens Bos en Hout in Nederland, 2005). Two thirds (260,000 ha) of the forest cover are timber plantations. Only 100,000 ha is mixed broadleaved woodland, which is 3% of the land area. As described below, there is since more than a century no untouched forest left in the Netherlands. The current forests are or recent, or have been heavily influenced by humans since a long time. Only half of the forest is owned by the government. The annual cut is about 1 million m<sup>3</sup> of timber, while the Netherlands imports 21 million m<sup>3</sup>, of which 1 million m<sup>3</sup> is tropical timber (Probos 2005). Furthermore, 25% of the land in the Netherlands is agricultural land, 25% permanent pasture.

## BOOMSOORTEN

### Oppervlakteverdeling Nederlands bos naar hoofdboomsoort x 1000 ha (2002)

naaldboomsoorten		loofboomsoorten	
grove den	119	inl. eik	70
lariks	22	populier/wilg	29
douglas	24	berk	21
fijnspar	13	beuk	14
overig	18	overig	32
<b>totaal</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>totaal</b>	<b>166</b>

bron: MFV<sub>bos</sub>

### Boomsoortenverdeling (naar hoofdboomsoort)



### Menging in Nederlands bos

x 1000 ha (2002)

Ongemengd loofbos	78	22 %
Gemengd loofbos	80	22 %
Ongemengd naaldbos	108	30 %
Gemengd naaldbos	72	20 %
Open/jong bos	22	6 %
<b>Totaal</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>100 %</b>

bron: MFV<sub>bos</sub>



### Forest cover per tree species in the Netherlands

Principal species x 1000 ha (2002). Source: MFV bos

#### Conifer forests

Scotch pine	119	33%
Larch	22	6%
Douglas fir	24	7%
Norway spruce	13	4%
Other	18	5%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>54%</b>

#### Broadleaved forests

Oak	70	19%
Poplar / willow	29	8%
Birch	21	6%
Beech	14	4%
Other	32	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>46%</b>

### Species composition in the Netherlands (x 1000 ha, 2002)

Monospecific broadleaved	78	22 %
Mixed broadleaved	80	22 %
Monospecific conifer forest	108	30 %
Mixed conifer forest	72	20 %
Open/young forest	22	6 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>100 %</b>

**Ownership forests in the Netherlands (X 1000 ha, 2002)**

<b>Governments</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>48%</b>
State Forest Service	92	26%
Other (municipalities, provinces, etc.)	81	23%
<b>Private</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>47 %</b>
Nature conservation organisations	54	15%
Private forest owners	114	32%
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5%</b>

**BOSEIGENDOM**

Eigendom Nederlands bos x 1000 ha (2002)	
<b>overheid</b>	<b>173</b>
Staatsbosbeheer	92
overig (gemeenten, provincies, e.d.)	81
<b>particulier</b>	<b>168</b>
natuurbeschermingsorganisaties	54
particuliere boscigenaren	114
<b>onbekend</b>	<b>18</b>

bron: MFV<sub>bos</sub>

**Boscigendom**

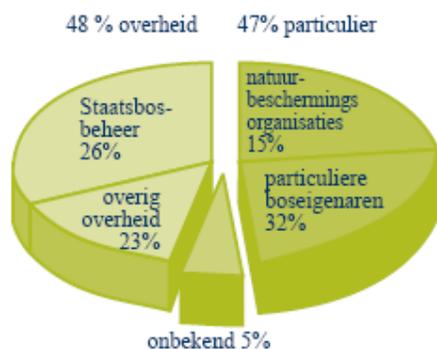


Figure 1: Species composition and land tenure of forests in the Netherlands (source: Foundation Probos 2005. Kerngegevens Bos en Hout in Nederland / Key Forest and Wood in the Netherlands)



**Bos in Nederland (2002)**

landoppervlakte (excl. water)	3,4 miljoen ha
aantal inwoners	16,2 miljoen
bosoppervlakte	360.000 ha - 100%
=10,6 % van landoppervlakte, 0,02 ha per inwoner	
strikt bosreservaat <sup>1)</sup>	3.000 ha - 1%
nationale parken <sup>2)</sup>	24.200 ha - 7%
overig beschermd bos <sup>3)</sup>	56.400 ha - 16%
jaarlijkse bosuitbreiding (2000-2002)	343 ha - 0,1%

1) IUCN-code I  
2) IUCN-code II  
3) IUCN-code III t/m VI

bron: CBS, MFV, Laser

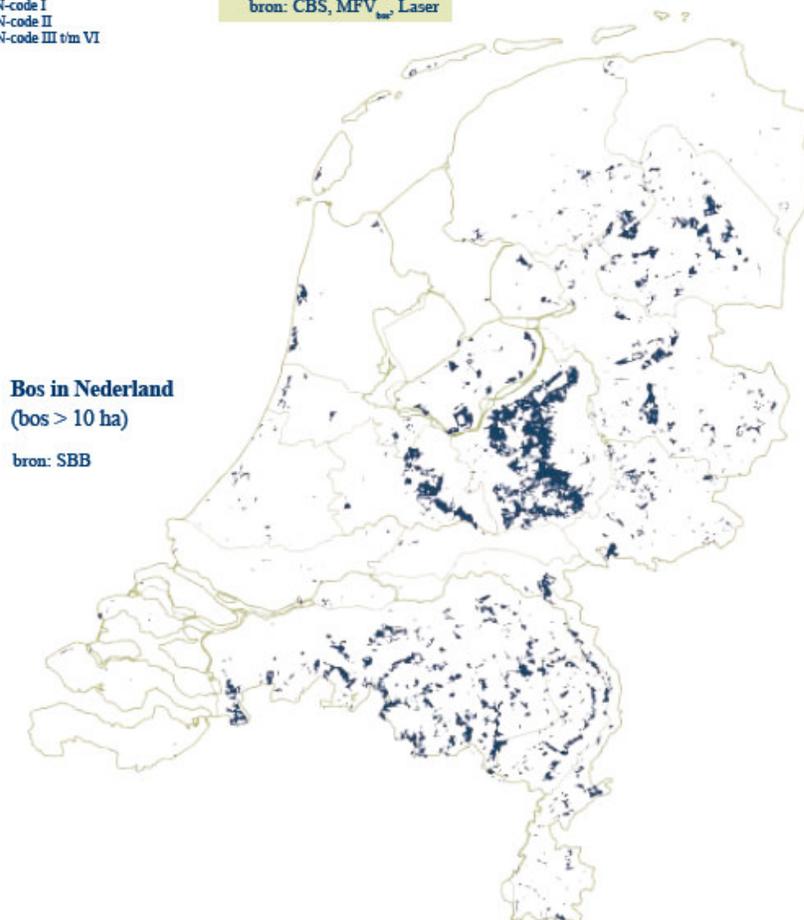


Figure 2: Forest cover in the Netherlands, per protected forest category (2005)

Forest in the Netherlands (2002)

Land area (excluding water)	3.4 million hectares
Population	16.2 million
Forest cover	360,000 ha    100% = 11% of land area,
0.02 ha per capita	
Strict forest reserve, IUCN Cat. I	3,000 ha    1%
National Parks, IUCN Cat. II	24,200 ha    7%
Other protected forest, IUCN cat. III-VI	56,400 ha    16%
Annual increase in forest cover (2000-2002)	343 ha    0.1%

**Original vegetation in the Netherlands.** Forest may be rare in the Netherlands, especially if timber plantations are left aside, but practically the whole of the Netherlands was once forested. The western part of the Netherlands that is sunk below sea level (see Figure 3), was covered with peat forests growing on a thick peat layer. These are important from biodiversity and climate perspective. The name 'Holland' refers to this 'Houtland', meaning woodland. After land reclamation and water drainage already in the Middle Ages, these bogs inevitably sunk, releasing large amounts of greenhouse gases.



Figure 3: The part of the Netherlands above sea level, NAP (Wikipedia, 2007)

Originally, mixed oak woodland grew on the sandy soils. This forest was easy to use under shifting cultivation, but fertility quickly declined. Through soil nutrient depletion, it became heath land, which in many places was 'plagged' and grazed.

Along the many rivers in the Netherlands extensive riverine forests existed, which were rich in biodiversity. By channelling and diking of the rivers very little is left from these riverine forests.

The Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (MNP) noted in the Nature Outlook 2007 that even at full realisation of the National Ecological Network (EHS) nature in the Netherlands will consist in 2018 of too small areas. MNP argued that Large Areas of Nature is needed to preserve plant and animal species and their habitats. In these areas, infrastructure will then have to be reduced. Otter, tie and lynx now all die in traffic accidents, and not being hunt. Also the black vulture in the 'Oostvaardersplassen' nature reserve thought he was the king of the animals and remained sitting on the track when the train came hitting.

**Target species in the forests in the Netherlands.** Which forest species are now on the Red List in the Netherlands? The wryneck and black grouse are seriously threatened, hops and the woodchat shrike have disappeared. Some bat species are threatened and are also in the list in Annex II of the Habitat Directive, which means that they are threatened at the European level.

According to the CBD, the species that originally lived in the forests of the Netherlands should also be target species. One assumes that without human intervention most of the Netherlands would gradually develop back to forest. The target species of the Large Areas of Nature Forest,

as mentioned above, are, of course, not only "dry land" species. Two of the three outlined original forest vegetation types are partially 'wet' ecosystems or wetlands. Flag ship species as moose, beaver, otter, white-tailed eagle, black stork, great egret and spoonbill occurred originally in the wet pristine forests of the Northwest-European Plain.

On drier land natural flag ship species are brown bear, wolf, wild horse and ox, eagles and vultures. For these species to survive in these areas connections must be available with wetter forests.





Figure 4: Current and natural (future?) forest biodiversity in the Netherlands

### Land tenure regime and forest management in Netherlands

As indicated in Figure 1 half of the forest in the Netherlands is owned by the government, the other half is privately owned, but only 32% is owned by private individuals. 15% of the forests are owned by private nature conservation foundations, which is internationally a special situation.

Forest management in the Netherlands is very professional. Partly encouraged by the government subsidies, forest owners are grouped into Forest Owner Groups that carry out professional forest management, controlled by the Inspectorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food quality (LNV). Two fifths of the forest in the Netherlands, 136,000 ha, is certified (Stichting Probos 2005). It should be noted that the target forest types of this professional management only partially match the original biodiversity that once occurred in the Netherlands. In forests where nature is the primary objective, one now actively seeks to restore ecological values by leaving dead wood in place, and by introducing large grazers as Scottish Highlander cattle and Konik horses (replacing the large natural grazers that went extinct centuries ago) and the removal of alien species, although the latter have little policy priority. Most Dutch "forests" are very important for recreation, causing a certain degree of disturbance. Even wood production affects to some extent the natural character of the forest, although the many mature timber plantations can deliver the next couple of years a lot of

timber by removing the - partly invasive - alien species such as the Douglas fir, and thus, accelerate natural forest restoration.

### 3. FOREST BIODIVERSITY ON THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

#### The Netherlands Antilles

**Location.** Netherlands Antilles (Antias Hulandes), a country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, consists of five islands in the Caribbean Sea belonging to two archipelagos of the Lesser Antilles. Bonaire and Curacao are among the Leeward Islands (12° 06'N, 68° 56'W) and are located off the coast of South America (Venezuela). The other three islands (Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Maarten) belong to the Windward Islands (17° 38' N, 63° 14' W) and are located east of Puerto Rico.

The Netherlands Antilles are not members of the European Union, while citizens are EU citizens. EU directives like the Birds and Habitat Directive are therefore not in force.

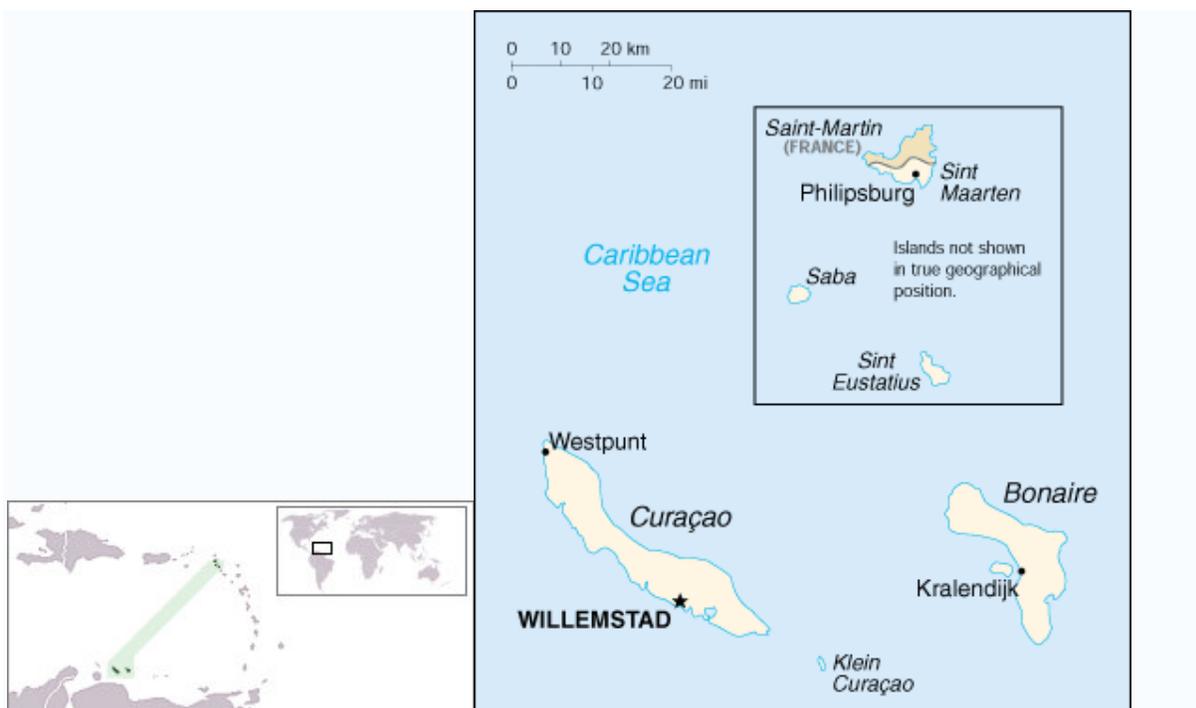


Figure 5: Location of the Netherlands Antilles in the Caribbean Sea

Total land area is 800 square kilometres, while there are 224,000 inhabitants (2007). Population density is thus 280 / km<sup>2</sup> (2007). The capital and by far the largest city in the Netherlands Antilles is Willemstad on the island of Curacao. Population growth is 7.7 per ‰ years and life expectancy is 79 years for women and 74 years for men (Source: CIA fact book).

**Climate.** In the Leeward Islands, there is a nearly constant temperature of approximately 27 °C. Over 95 percent of the time the North-easterly trade wind is blowing, which brings fresh air to the warm tropical islands. On average there is only 500 millimetres rainfall per year, almost exclusively in the period from October to February and strongly fluctuating from year to year. The core of the Leeward Islands consists of very old rocks of volcanic origin, that outcrop in the hilliest section of the islands.

Also on the Windward Islands North-easterly trade wind is blowing and the islands lie within the hurricane belt. Hurricanes are characterized by huge wind speeds and large amounts of

rain. They only occur in the months June to November. In these months most of the rainfall occurs (on average 1,100 millimetres per year). The Windward Islands have a savannah climate.

**Economy.** The economy of the Netherlands Antilles is based on three pillars: tourism, oil and (financial) services. GNP in 2004 was 2 billion €. Average income per head is € 12,000 per year. Unemployment amounts to 17% (CIA fact book).

## Aruba



*The Statian Morning Glory*

## Rarest plant of the entire Kingdom grows in Statia

ST. EUSTATIUS--The rarest plant in the entire Kingdom of the Netherlands can be found in St. Eustatius. According to the Dutch nature magazine *Grasduinen*, this honour goes to the Statian Morning Glory (*Ipomoea sphenophylla*).

The Statian Morning Glory is a creeper, carrying lilac-coloured flowers, which only exists in Statia.

Up until recently it was thought that the creeper, which had only been spotted in 1884 and 1905, had gone extinct. But in 1994, another plant was found on the premises of Statia Terminals.

A recent inventory held by St. Eustatius National Parks Foundation (Stenapa) revealed that no less than 16 plants can be found on the island: 10 at Statia Terminals and six in the Boven National Park, where the plants are automatically protected.

In the Netherlands rare plant species are being

counted according to location. Therefore it is not known whether there are any species in the Netherlands with less than 16 individual plants. However, according to Wout van der Slikke of the Dutch Foundation Floron, the *Ipomoea* can be rightfully called the rarest plant of the Kingdom.

A plant species that is endemic on just one island is unique for the entire Kingdom. The Netherlands itself does not have any endemic species, only an endemic sub-species, namely the *Viola persicifolia* var *lacteoides*, and even that is disputable.

The *Ipomoea* is growing in some isolated spots of the island. Stenapa wants to try to nurse more plants in the Miriam C. Schmidt Botanical Garden on the other side of the island.

The Boven National Park will be inspected more closely on the presence of more Morning Glories.

**Aruba** is an island state in the Caribbean Sea, a member of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and located at 27 kilometres north of the peninsula Paraguaná of the Venezuelan state of Falcón (12° 30' N, 69° 58' W). It belongs to the ABC islands of the Lesser Antilles. Aruba has a population of 100,000 inhabitants (2007) and an area of 180 square kilometres. The island is relatively dry, the economy similar to the Netherlands Antilles.

### Forest on the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba

Although limited in size, the islands of the Netherlands Antilles have 1200 ha of forest. On Aruba there is no forest.

The three southern islands are located in a desert climate and thus bear no lush vegetation. The northern islands, however, are located in the subtropical zone and are green, although St. Maarten has only a few green hills because of the important built up and high population density. The two smallest islands, St. Eustatius and Saba, are the most green.

The most biodiversity in St. Eustatius is to be found in Quill-Boven National Park. In fact, it consists of two areas: the forests on the flanks of The Quill on the south of the island and the forests around the Bovenberg in the north.

Saba is the only island that in majority is covered by forest. The Saba National Park covers only 43 hectares. The small mist forest on the flanks of Mount Scenery, with 877 meters the highest mountain in the Kingdom, lies largely outside the Park.

### Biodiversity in the forests of the Netherlands Antilles

Endangered species still remaining in the Quill National Park on St. Eustatius are: red bellied racer snake (*Alsophis rufiventris*), a fruit eating bat (*Ardops nicholisi montserratensis*) and the endemic Saba anolis lizard. Among the rare plant species there are 16 orchid species and the rare and endemic Statian Morning Glory (*Ipomoea sphenophylla*), until recently thought to be extinct.



Figure 6 : Forest biodiversity in the Netherlands Antilles (including *Anolis bimaculatus* and Red-Bellied Racer snake, Stian Morning Glory (*Ipomoea sphenophylla*) in a article in *The Daily Herald*, the main newspaper of St. Maarten, Febr. 2007).

Although forest biodiversity of the Netherlands Antilles is important, it has not been possible in the framework of this research to investigate in detail the implementation of the CBD /POW in the Antillean forests. An important reason for this was that only few responses to the questionnaire have been received covering the Antilles and given the distance it was not possible to consult the main actors on the Antilles.

## 4. SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE

### On the implementation by the Netherlands on Expanded Forest Work of the CBD

#### Results of the survey

The survey was complicated by the fact that almost none of the interviewees knew the Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity of the CBD, let alone that they knew the content in detail. Actually, only the CBD focal point at the Ministry of Agriculture had good knowledge about these international agreements. There exists no Dutch translation of the Programme of Work. If people don't know CBD / POW, they can not answer the rest of the Questionnaire. Of those who would be prepared to study the CBD / POW, then the Questionnaire required from them a detailed knowledge of the Dutch forest and biodiversity policy between 2002 and 2007. Some officials of the Ministry of Agriculture had a good overview of these policies, but their knowledge of the CBD was on the contrary limited.

While the questionnaire has been sent to dozens of respondents, no one has neatly filled them and returned. This is why we opted for a freer form of collecting information by discussing directly to with people about the themes of the CBD / POW. On the basis of these discussions, the answers in Annex III have been formulated. Below are a number of important points.

#### Status of forests and forest peoples before and after the entry into force of the CBD/POW

Forest cover is slightly increasing. The forests become more natural and more diverse in species. This trend is independent of the implementation of the CBD / POW, a document that is barely known within the national forest context in the Netherlands. However, the Dutch government guarantees that the principles of the CBD / POW are translated into its policies and regulations.

As for indigenous forest peoples, the Netherlands has no threatened minorities who live in the forest. The population in the Netherlands is largely native and originally consisted of a mixture of hunter-gatherers and farmers, but there are no population groups who define themselves as indigenous, which is for the UN the most important criterion.

#### Predominant forest management practices (including legal framework) before and after the inception of the CBD/POW

The Forest Law of July 20, 1961 was in fact an effective ban on further deforestation in the Netherlands. Under that law is the removal of forest in principle, there should only be cut if there is an explicit logging permit was issued. After timber harvesting, there is an obligation to replant within three years. The purpose of this law was forest conservation and as such the law was successful because forest cover increased in the Netherlands. However, it must be stressed again that this is "forest" according to the FAO definition, and most of the "forests" which were about in 1961, were in fact timber plantations. The replanting policy largely happened with replanting monocultures of alien species. Only in the 1970 and 1980 the main forest managers gradually changed to a more natural management of their "forests".

The Flora and Fauna Act of 1998 contains a number of provisions to prevent biodiversity loss by logging.

#### The role of the Netherlands in deforestation and forest conservation internationally, as well as market-based conservation initiatives originated in those countries.

The Dutch economy has an important ecological footprint worldwide. It consumes a lot of fossil energy, especially the transport sector. The Netherlands, i.e. Rotterdam, is also a world centre

for the processing of raw materials from tropical forest countries, such as soy, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, etc.

The conservation and sustainable use of forests in other countries, especially tropical rain forests, is one of the spearheads of Dutch international cooperation. In 2007, almost 70 million Euros was spent on forest management in developing countries. Since the establishment of the Dutch Tropical Rain Forest Policy in 1991, the preservation of tropical rain forests a priority.

**The role of international institutions, such as the World Bank, FAO, UNCTAD, WTO and other regional institutions to help the Netherlands CBD / POW to perform**

The biodiversity policy of the European Union, and especially the Habitat, Birds and Water Directives play an important role in the Netherlands. The Natura 2000 network of nature reserves of European interest also forces the Netherlands to protect threatened biodiversity effectively, and to prioritise it on economic development.

**Environmental changes occurring in the country since the entry into force of the CBD/POW.**

Since 2002, an annual Environmental and Nature Outlook is made by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (NMP). The Environmental Outlook 2007 states:

"In recent years, much progress has been made on the environment, particularly through technological measures. Changes in the behaviour of consumers have hardly played a role. With increased travel and more electrical appliances, the use of energy by consumers increased. The public awareness about the environment however, has increased. A majority of the population would also pay for additional environmental policy, but only if everybody is doing so. "

The CBD Parties have agreed that biodiversity loss should be significantly reduced by 2010. The member states of the European Union have gone a step further and have promised to stop biodiversity loss in the EU by 2010. The Nature Outlook 2007 states that it is unlikely that the Netherlands will comply with this obligation. As the document states: "The conditions of the environment, water and spatial planning are still inadequate to maintain the characteristic plants and animal species sustainably." According to the same Nature Outlook document, the bottlenecks for forest biodiversity are the following:

- To develop forest on peat and clay soils, there is a lack of space
- On sandy soils environmental quality is the main bottleneck
- On good soils both environmental quality and space are a "moderate bottleneck"
- Along water courses, water quality is especially a big problem, although environmental quality and space are mentioned here as "moderate" bottlenecks.

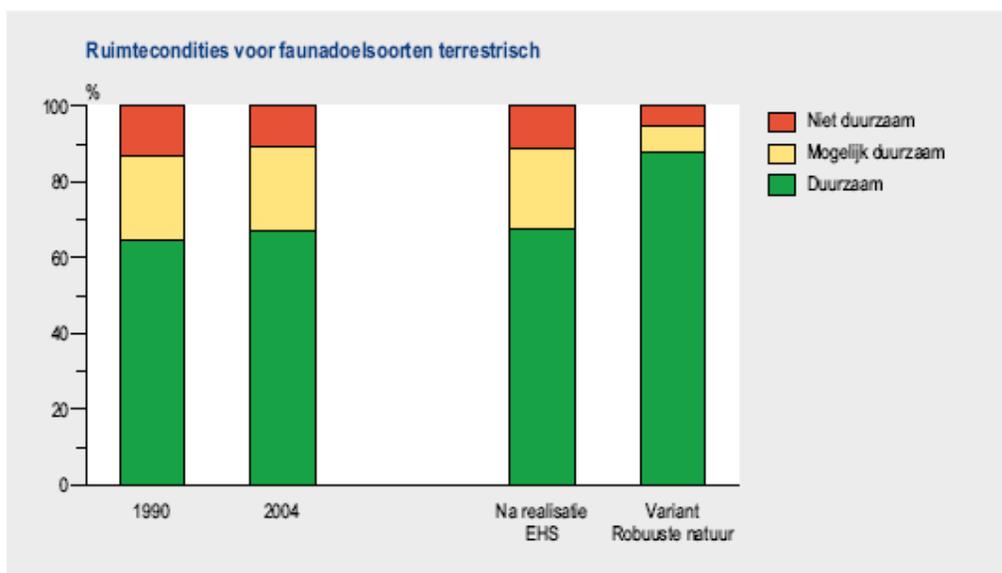
The Nature Outlook 2007 also indicates that the realisation of the National Ecological Network, a nationwide network of interconnected nature reserves that is one of the spearheads of the Dutch biodiversity policy, is not on schedule. This is also remarkable because the Dutch government in its interventions in the Conferences of Parties of the CBD always has placed enormous emphasis on the importance of creating ecological networks in other countries. In any case, the completion of the National Ecological Network was originally planned for 2018, 8 years after the 2010 deadline for biodiversity loss to stop.

One of the indicators of the continuing decline of biodiversity in forests and other natural areas in the Netherlands is that the number of endangered bird and butterfly species on the IUCN Red List has increased between 1995 and 2005.

Since fragmentation and the lack of space is such a major factor in Dutch biodiversity loss, the Nature Outlook 2007 recommended that to create Large Natural Areas, as a necessary condition for further biodiversity loss halting.

### How much work took the implementation of the CBD / POW in the Netherlands?

The CBD / POW focuses on sustainable forest management. The problem lies not in management in the Netherlands, but in the fact that there is no natural forest left, and that spontaneous forest development has no chance because various stakeholders interfere with every hectare of land in the country. If natural forest is to develop over large areas in the Netherlands, then these interferences have to stop. Forest restoration in countries that lost most of their original natural forest is a major objective of the CBD / POW.



Spatial conditions for target animal species on land

Not sustainable

Possibly sustainable

Sustainable

After realisation of Ecological Network

Variant Robust Nature

Figure 7: More internationally important species will survive when Large Natural Areas can be designed around Natura 2000 sites. The Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency MNP underpins in this way its proposal for Large Natural Areas (Nature Outlook 2007).

### Are the underlying causes that give rise to the loss of biodiversity in forest areas identified and addressed?

Of course, there are direct causes of forest degradation in the Netherlands: nitrogen deposition, lowering of ground water level and fragmentation of natural areas. But then we are talking about plantation forests. The reasons for the disappearance of the original natural forest in the past have been the very intensive use in the Netherlands of the countryside. Only recently, trees are allowed to grow, dead wood is left in the forest and some areas are left to natural forest development. Fragmentation and lack of space remains one of the main causes of biodiversity loss in Dutch forests, and the absence of many of the original species, including virtually all larger mammals that once occurred in Dutch forests. Only 1% of the Dutch forest (3,000 ha) is strict forest reserve (IUCN category I), where no economic use takes place. The Large Areas Natural Forest Environment and Nature as suggested by Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency need an area of at least 10,000 ha. No through traffic and without water management (see Figure 7). Incidentally, given the consumption patterns and

population pressure in the Netherlands any form of sustainable use of such areas should be bound to very tight and well-enforced rules.

**Do you think the CBD/POW was (partly) useful in enhancing biodiversity in forest areas in your country?**

The CBD / POW is homework given to all the children in the class in April 2002 in The Hague, but the work to be done, is not the same in every country. Indeed, when reading the CBD / POW one wonders what points of the CBD / POW the Netherlands still needs to work on. Maybe it has to do with the fact that COP 6 was held in The Hague, so the Dutch contribution to the texts of the CBD / POW was probably important.

**Why is CBD/POW useful?**

Not much used in the Netherlands.

**Is the CBD / POW (partially) in your country implemented?**

What the CBD / POW prescribes is already applied in the Netherlands.

**Which parts of the CBD / POW are implemented?**

All, except natural forest restoration and eradication of alien species.

**What process in your country put in motion to CBD / POW to carry out?**

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**Is the CBD / POW included in sectoral policy?**

It is already included.

**If yes, in which sector (s)?**

Agriculture, land-use planning, traffic, etc.

**What resources have been allocated for the implementation of the CBD / POW?**

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**Which staff will be responsible for implementing the CBD / POW?**

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**Does your government have a program for public consultation and discussion about design, implementation and monitoring of the CBD / POW?**

No, because policymakers other things on the agenda, such as public consultation on the Natura 2000 areas.

**Are the causes underlying the loss of biodiversity in your forest, determined and addressed?**

Yes.

**Could you tell what causes have been assessed?**

The nitrogen deposition, desiccation, and the fragmentation of nature will be addressed.

**What has been undertaken to address these causes?**

To this end, the Nature Outlook 2007 (MNP, 2007) has proposed to create Large Natural Areas (Figure 4).

***Programme element 1: Conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing***

**What actions are being undertaken by your government to protect forests from identified threats?**

There are no immediate threats Netherlands. Forests are well protected.

**What actions are being undertaken by your government to restore, mitigate and eradicate those identified threats?**

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**Is the ecosystem approach being applied in your country?**

Yes

**How is the ecosystem approach being applied?**

The National Ecological Network EHS is an important application of this approach, and encouraging natural regeneration and the use of native tree species is another.

**What is the effect of the application of the ecosystem approach on forest biodiversity?**

The ecosystem approach was already widespread in the Netherlands before the establishment of the CBD / POW.

**Is sustainable use of forest biological diversity a concrete activity/policy issue in your country?**

No.

**If so, can you explain activity or that policy?**

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### ***Programme element 2: Institutional and socio-economic conditions***

**Is forest biodiversity an important economic factor for people in your country?**

No.

**Please, briefly describe forest tenure, access and property regimes in your country?**

Half of the forest is privately held, but only 30% actually belongs to private individuals. Forest management is done largely by professionals. Accessibility is well regulated (see introduction).

**In your experience, how does forest biological diversity contribute to the welfare of all segments of national society?**

In the Netherlands, the exploitation of forest genetic resources does not contribute so much to the prosperity or to the welfare of the people. Recreation is the main function of the forests, for all segments of society.

**What actions are being undertaken by your government to create an enabling environment in the institutional and socio-economic fields?**

The government subsidises significantly forest management that is not profitable by itself. Also in the extension of forest cover the government invests a lot, but the impact of it leaves still pending.

**How are the different actors being engaged in this process?**

In the Netherlands, regular consultations are held with the various actors, especially when it comes to spatial planning issues.

### ***Programme element 3: Knowledge, assessment and monitoring***

**What are the priorities for research on forest biological diversity in your country?**

In the Netherlands, there is a lot of knowledge about forest biodiversity, both about the Netherlands as about the rest of the world, especially the tropics.

Priority in an organization like Tropenbos International is research that supports the sustainable management of forests and biodiversity.

**How is this knowledge linked to assessment and monitoring of:**

- forest cover,
- forest health,
- forest structure and composition,
- forest classification and definitions,
- forest protection,
- forest rehabilitation and restoration

In the Netherlands, a Monitoring system for forests functions exists that assesses these parameters every four or five years, coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture.

**How is this knowledge reflected in policies and measures to curve forest loss and degradation?**

The Ministry of Agriculture has a special Department of Knowledge for this transfer cycle.

**How is forest currently defined in your country?**

FAO definition. The Fifth Forest Statistics (Dirkse et al 2007) follows the FAO definition, namely forest is each piece of land, larger than 0.5 ha, where trees cover with their crowns more than 10% of that land. Forest land is thus interpreted as a lot. Isolated woodlots smaller than 0.5 ha are not counted. The 10% crown cover is not meaningful in the Netherlands. If there are trees along a field, the entire field would then be a forest lot, just like heath with scattered Scots pine. Also, gardens, parks, orchards and Christmas tree plantations are apparently not excluded, and large clear cut areas are suddenly no longer forest. Dirkse et al (2007) indicate that they found 30,000 ha forest land that does not meet the FAO definition. One can therefore conclude that forest cover in the Netherlands with the current definition is overestimated, as a corner of 10% of a lot with trees qualifies as 'forest', but also underestimated because all lots smaller than 0.5 ha are not counted. From the class 'mixed broadleaved forest', which is closest to natural forest, there is only 80,000 ha in the Netherlands, or 2.3% of the land area, which is very little.

**Plantation forest.** Especially in the CBD framework, forest is a vegetation type with trees that grow there *naturally*. Timber plantations would not have to count. 80% of the Dutch 'forest' is planted, and therefore actually plantation. Although most forest managers are now trying to introduce more biodiversity in these monocultures, this is a major challenge on land that was previously pasture or heath land. If it is old forest land, previously wooded, then the original forest species mix easier with the planted trees. There is obviously a big difference between plantations with alien species like Douglas fir or poplar clones, than a plantation with native species. The current subsidy policy promotes indigenous tree species and mixing.

It would be preferable to adopt the forest definition from the Forest Decree in Flanders (Muys 2004). Article 3 of the Flemish Forest Decree (1990) can be viewed as an example of a legal forest definition: "Forests are lots of land on which woody trees and scrubs are the main constituent of the vegetation, having its proper fauna and flora, and fulfilling one or more functions. Also considered as forest are: the clear cut areas, formerly wooded, which belong to the forest, non-wooded areas necessary for the management of the forest, like the forest roads, fire breaks, timber storage areas, service areas and forest guard houses, non-wooded areas and recreational facilities within the forest, plantations mainly destined for timber production, including those of Poplar and Willow, and osier.

Not as forest be considered: the fruit tree orchards, gardens and parks, line plantations and hedges, e.g. along roads, rivers and canals, and the tree- and ornamental plant nurseries and arboretums outside the forest, ornamental plants, Christmas trees plantations and all temporarily planted woody plants in implementation of the regulations of the European Community with regard to its policy regarding setting aside land. "

Finally, it is wise to set a minimum surface area and density. It sounds counter-intuitive that, for example, Greece, where Plato already in the fourth century BC compared the deforested hills of Attica with a skeleton (Weeber, 1993), is now in the statistics one of the most densely forested countries of Europe (45%, Eurostat, 2000). That's because the national forest definition of Greece uses a low minimal density judge, namely 10% crown cover, so that all maquis vegetation is counted as forest. For comparability, such minima need to be agreed on internationally.

Some FAO publications use the class closed forest, which are already more in line with what we consider as forest. In our experience, forest is vegetation with trees and bushes completely covering the soil, and not just 10%. And forest is vegetation where trees grow naturally.

**Is traditional knowledge considered in definitions associated to policy making?**

No.

**Please describe**

Forestry sciences are in the Netherlands and Western Europe highly developed. In addition, knowledge of local customs and practices has been included and documented.

**How is this knowledge reflected in policies and measures to curb forest loss and degradation?**

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**Is traditional knowledge used in policy making regarding assessment and monitoring of the status of forests?**

No.

**Can you explain this?**

See above.

## 5. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CBD IN NETHERLANDS

**The objectives of the CBD**

In the Netherlands, the first goal of the CBD, preservation of biodiversity, is at stake. The second goal, sustainable use of biodiversity, is less an issue, because the economic use of forests is limited in the Netherlands, although recreation is an important forest use and of relatively high economic importance. Most forests managed by public organisations such as the State Forest Service and Natuurmonumenten have an explicit recreation function. Promoting sustainable recreational use of the forests thus remains a major policy challenge for Dutch government, especially given the fact that the Dutch prefer to go out for recreation by car. The third objective, fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources, is of minor importance. In the Netherlands, there is hardly any exploitation of genetic forest resources or traditional knowledge of natural woodlands.

In tropical countries all three goals are important issues, and the Netherlands have a role there as user of genetic resources.

**Dutch violations of the CBD**

There are no primary forests left in the Netherlands, but the obligations under the CBD imply the start of a large-scale program to restore the three major original forest ecosystems. The European Common Agricultural Policy used to spent most of the subsidies in often not sustainable and competitive farms, but in 2013 this will change and create space for an ambitious plan to apply the recommendations of the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency to set aside at least 35% of the Dutch territory for regrowth of the original forest. Specific measures to speed up forest restoration processes are desirable, partly because, for example, the large grazers who naturally played a crucial role in the original Dutch forest

ecosystem went extinct. Reintroducing such species will accelerate natural forest restoration, although most forest experts believe that these large species will come back by themselves if enough space is available. But that process could take a few centuries. Also in the current monoculture plantations, it is needed to drastically remove the alien species through selective logging, and to use other management measures like vibrating and pulling down of trees.

It should also be noted that reforestation is one of the policies within the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol to combat global warming. The regrowth of the Holland peat would be a substantial reduction in net emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and should thus be an integral part of the Dutch climate policy.

According to the above mentioned Nature Outlook 2007 it is unlikely that the Netherlands will meet the 2010 target of zero biodiversity loss. The number of endangered species is increasing. The establishment of the National Ecological Network has been delayed while the Dutch government has always underlined the importance of such a network of nature reserves as a tool to preserve biodiversity. Even according to the official schedule that network would only be completed 8 years after the original deadline of 2010.

From the interviews, a number of other cases have emerged in which the Netherlands have violated the CBD:

- The shameless exploitation of natural resources by Western companies in societies that are not able to defend themselves because the political leaders co-operate with those Western companies. According to certain experts, this is a breach of the CBD for which the Western governments can be held responsible. The Dutch Tropical Rain Forest Policy from 1991 stated that the Netherlands in principle do not cooperate with projects or developments that directly or indirectly harm the tropical rainforest, but in practice, little action has been taken. The Netherlands still transfer a lot of funds to the World Bank, of which the forest programmes have been heavily criticized, and they also directly and indirectly subsidized the use of biofuels and the production of meat still, despite the proven negative effects of these economic activities on tropical forests.

- In 2006, the Minister of Agriculture has unilaterally reduced the protection zone for ammonia around sensitive natural areas (Natura 2000) from 250 to 50 m (Veerman agreement with the VNG). Since nitrogen deposition is one of the biggest threats to the Dutch forest biodiversity, this policy is as a violation of the CBD.

- In South Limburg, the Dutch government has clear cut six hectare of forest in the vicinity of the military airport Schinveld, very against the wishes of the local population, which violated both the first objective of the CBD as the clauses on the need for public consultation.

- On Saba in the Netherlands Antilles, there is still 3% of the land area of the island covered with rain forest. This forest is not protected, and the KPN (the largest Dutch telecom company) wants to install on exactly that place a telephone base station. According to the interviewee concerned this was not exactly a good example of protecting the tropical forest biodiversity, supposed to be a priority for the Dutch government.

- Objective 1.1 of the CBD / POW is the eradication of alien species from the forests. In private forests in the Netherlands, species such as poplar, Douglas fir and other conifers are still widely planted. In gardens and parks alien species are massively introduced without taking into account their potential invasive nature, e.g. after climate change. This has a major negative impact on the natural forest biodiversity in the Netherlands.

- Objective 3.1 of the CBD / POW recommends the restoration of the original forest biodiversity. The Netherlands still have no plan to restore a sufficiently large area of each original forest type, large enough so that all animal and plant species can exist there in viable populations. The Netherlands is nonetheless wealthy enough to do so. In the international arena, the Netherlands cannot speak up if its own native forest biodiversity has not adequately

been protected and restored. In the implementation of the CBD / POW the restoration of Large Areas Natural Forest should be a priority in the Netherlands. This would include a large peat forest development project in western Netherlands, a large oak forest on the sandy soils and a large riverine forest with free meandering rivers.

During the interviews and discussions also other aspects of the CBD were raised, which were considered more important by some for the Netherlands, than the Programme of Work. Here we address these issues.

### **Procedures for non-compliance with the Treaty**

In contrast to the Cartagena Protocol, Art. 34, CBD itself has no clause on a specific procedure how to deal with non-compliance with the Convention. There is a reporting obligation, but there is no penalty if it does not happen, or when violations have been reported against the legally binding provisions of the Treaty. This weakens the Treaty. The CBD not only deals with the rights of nature, but also with human rights and justice, and thus, a rigorous international attitude is desirable.

### **Financial support from other countries in the implementation of POW**

Article 5 stated that each Party must collaborate with other Parties to achieve the CBD goals. Art. 20 adds that a developed country like the Netherlands must provide new and additional financial resources to developing countries for the implementation of the Convention in those countries. The Netherlands has the policy to spend 0.1% of GNP, half a billion € per year, on international environmental, nature and water policy. An important part of these funds goes through the BBI, the Dutch International Biodiversity Policy and part of these funds goes to the Global Environment Facility, the financial mechanism of the CBD. Other developed countries have not followed the Netherlands with this 0.1% norm. As a consequence, some experts consider the CBD as a convention without money. From the reports to the CBD secretariat, it is not clear how much money has been contributed and to what extent the needs of the developing countries have been covered.

Article 3 states that each country has the sovereign right to exploit its natural resources and to have its own environmental policy. Interference with internal policies of other countries is undesirable. However, Dutch development aid is always accompanied by proper planning, monitoring and results of the activities. Developing countries could claim more freedom, based on the CBD.

### **Integration of international biodiversity policy with other international environmental policy.**

During the workshop it revealed that the various international environmental conventions all have their own secretariat and bureaucracy, and that there was little integration or cooperation.

It was advocated to establish links between the CBD and other conventions (the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol) and dialogues (the G8, the UN Forum on Forests). On many points synergies can be achieved (trade, energy, climate), for example within UNEO, *United Nations Environmental Organisation*.

### **Responsibility for damage in other countries – Footprint**

Article 3 of the CBD stated that the Netherlands are responsible for environmental damage in other countries through activities within its jurisdiction. Much of the prosperity in the Netherlands is based on the exploitation of natural resources in other countries. This involves important environmental degradation and social injustice. This ecological footprint is according to Article 3 therefore at the expense of the Netherlands.

Some environmental measures to protect our biodiversity and nature, has the consequence that production is moved to countries where the rules are less stringent. The Netherlands remain responsible for the problems that its economy causes elsewhere.

On average, every man has 1.8 ha of land available to meet his needs, but in reality every person uses 2.2 ha, and the average Dutchman uses a multitude of that. Because of population growth and economic development in countries such as China and India, the pressure on the Global only increases. This enormous pressure can not be stopped by the CBD. Stronger mechanisms are needed to reduce our consumption. There will be economic wars for water and oil. This underlying cause of biodiversity loss is not fully addressed by the CBD or POW.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity of 2002 contains little elements that are still had to be included in the Dutch Forest Biodiversity Policy. An improvement would be to eradicate faster the alien species in the Dutch forests, such as poplar and alien conifer species, and solving the problems related to the lack of space, water quality and environmental quality.
2. Netherlands has so little natural forest left (2%) that it should be more ambitious with the restoration of the original forest vegetation. Both the peat forests in the west of the country, the riverine forests as the mixed forests on sandy soils should be developed as Large Areas Natural Forest (> 10,000 ha ), that ultimately should cover one third of the country.
3. The CBD should be strengthened with more stringent clauses regarding non-compliance and finance (0.1% GNP for all developed countries).
4. The international environmental policy can gain from a more coherent implementation structure, such as the United Nations Environment Organization UNEO.
5. Not only our emissions of harmful substances, but also the behaviour of our trade and economy cause much damage to the biodiversity in third countries. As with the harmful substances, we are responsible for the consequences of such damage. Internationally, we must find mechanisms to charge these external costs to the consumer.
6. Biodiversity loss is caused by our increasing consumption of natural resources on earth. Not only are 80% of the non-renewable resources rapidly consumed by 20% of the world's population, but the rest of the world is now catching up and harming the environment as well, where the carrying capacity has already been exceeded. Durable international environmental governance can only be successful by immaterialising the society with prices of goods and services that reflect the total cost of their production to the planet.

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## ANNEX I: TERMS OF REFERENCE

### **Preparation of independent monitoring reports on implementation of the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/POW). Global Forest Coalition. January 2007**

#### **Introduction**

Global Forest Coalition decided to conduct an independent monitoring process to assess how governments implement the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 20 different countries, selected from a total of 21 case studies produced, 3 per each region. When deciding to adopt this CBD/POW, the COP 'invited' Parties, Governments, NGOs, international and regional organizations, etc. to:

- a. The need to focus on key priorities for sustainable use of forest resources and the equitable sharing of benefits;
- b. The need to facilitate adequate participation of indigenous and local communities and the need to respect their rights and interests;
- c. The need for urgent conservation action for forests that are ecologically significant and/or most important for biological diversity on national and regional scales, in accordance with national priorities, where forest biodiversity loss or threats of loss are

- significant or of great concern, but also to work to enhance conservation in all types of forests, both within and outside protected areas;
- d. The need to achieve synergies and avoid duplications between the work of the key international instruments and bodies, such as the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;
  - e. The need to ensure capacity-building and the provision of adequate financial, human and technical resources to allow implementation of the work programme by all relevant stakeholders;
  - f. The need to ensure that relevant activities be effectively incorporated into national and sub national forest and biological diversity strategies and programmes;
  - g. The need for clarification of the links between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management.

The GFC pays special attention to understanding the influence of international and national underlying causes of forest loss and degradation in order to assign clear responsibilities in the processes driving forest loss and degradation.

The results of the process will be presented at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (May 2008) with the aim to provide input to the long-term development of the CBD/POW and the commitments taken up by countries for national level implementation.

Each monitoring report will be published in the main language of the country undergoing a monitoring process, for the Netherlands reports will be in English. Summaries of all the reports will be compiled into a global report with a broader international perspective and translated into at least three international languages. As most of the authors of national monitoring reports may not be native English speakers, a professional editor will be hired to ensure grammatical and linguistic coherence. A side event and a press conference will be organized to present and discuss the monitoring reports. The country monitors will be asked to attend these meetings and the relevant intergovernmental for themselves, so that they can respond to any questions that may need further clarification and provide additional information.

### **Time schedule**

“Country monitors” (local research partners) will be identified by GFC Focal Points. This process should finalize by mid February 2007. The research process, starting with gathering of data and analysis of base-line information will be based on a participatory process, involving individuals from communities or organizations with experience in research projects. These activities should be finalized by the end of April.

Relevant questionnaires will be prepared, circulated and compiled for local analysis, review and critique. The questionnaires should be circulated by the end of March and should be submitted back to the country monitors by the end of April.

Participatory appraisals will be conducted in the field and workshops and seminars will be held to ensure clear understanding of all aspects of the project by all actors involved. These activities should take place until the end of August.

The monitoring reports will combine research results and the answers to the questionnaires, and will include conclusions, recommendations for action and a list of key findings and recommendations for inclusion in the project synthesis report. The monitoring reports will be delivered, for review and editorial work, to a “production group” (composed by the GFC Focal Points and the GFC coordination) in any of the project’s working languages. The deadline for the first review round by the production group will be end of September. The “production group” will be responsible for reviewing, editing and producing a synthesis report through electronic media. The group will work in English.

After the first review round by the production group, an open review and comment process of both, the case studies and the synthesis report in their respective working languages, will take place. The deadline for this review round will be end of October. The production group, in

consultation with the authors will incorporate comments and finalize editing the products. Linguistic editing will be conducted at this point by qualified editors, appointed by the GFC-CG. Translation of the synthesis report will take place after the final English version is completed. The deadline for these activities by the production group will be end of November. The final product will be ready by the end of December.

### **Tasks of the Country Monitor**

**The Country monitors, together with the communal actors (when applicable) and as set out in the research process, will:**

1. Together with the relevant GFC Focal Point, develop and distribute an adequate questionnaire among the relevant official and societal actors.
2. Provide a brief description of the environmental, geophysical and socioeconomic aspects of the country.
3. Provide a characterization of forests occurring in the country.
4. Describe the land tenure regime and forest management situation in the country.
5. Describe the status of forests and forest peoples before and after the entry into force of the CBD/POW.
6. Compare predominant forest management practices (including legal framework) before and after the inception of the CBD/POW.
7. In southern country case studies, describe and analyze how market-based conservation mechanisms interfere with the implementation of the CBD/POW.
8. In northern country case studies, describe and analyze those countries' role in deforestation and forest conservation abroad, as well as market-based conservation initiatives originated in those countries.
9. Assess the role of international institutions, such as the World Bank, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, UN Conference on Trade and Development, World Trade Organization, and other relevant regional ones in helping countries implementing the CBD/POW.
10. Assess the environmental changes occurring in the country since the entry into force of the CBD/POW.
11. On basis of the information and data gathered, conduct a comparative analysis of the situation of forest and forest peoples before and after the inception of the CBD/POW.
12. Write a report of between 4,000 and 5,000 words about the results of the independent monitoring process, complying with the revision requirements specified in the "research process" and with the guidelines for formatting independent monitoring reports, contained in the annex to this TOR. The structure of this report should follow the one presented in annex 1.
13. Write an executive summary of no more than 800 words.

## **ANNEX II: EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON FOREST BIODIVERSITY**

In undertaking this expanded programme of work, Parties, Governments, international and regional organizations and processes, civil society organizations and other relevant bodies and all relevant implementers are invited to take into account the following considerations:

- a. The need to focus on key priorities for sustainable use of forest resources and the equitable sharing of benefits;
- b. The need to facilitate adequate participation of indigenous and local communities and the need to respect their rights and interests;
- c. The need for urgent conservation action for forests that are ecologically significant and/or most important for biological diversity on national and regional scales, in accordance with national priorities, where forest biodiversity loss or threats of loss are significant or of great concern, but also to work to enhance conservation in all types of forests, both within and outside protected areas;

- d. The need to achieve synergies and avoid duplications between the work of the key international instruments and bodies, such as the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;
- e. The need to ensure capacity-building and the provision of adequate financial, human and technical resources to allow implementation of the work programme by all relevant stakeholders;
- f. The need to ensure that relevant activities be effectively incorporated into national and sub national forest and biological diversity strategies and programmes;
- g. The need for clarification of the links between the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management.

## **PROGRAMME ELEMENT 1. CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND BENEFIT-SHARING**

### **GOAL 1**

#### **To apply the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests**

##### **Objective 1**

Develop practical methods, guidelines, indicators and strategies to apply the ecosystem approach adapted to regional differences to forests both inside and outside protected forest areas as well as both in managed and unmanaged forests.

##### **Activities**

- a. Clarify the conceptual basis of the ecosystem approach in relation to sustainable forest management.
- b. Develop guidance for applying the ecosystem approach in forest ecosystems.
- c. Identify key structural and functional ecosystem elements to be used as indicators for decision-making and develop decision-support tools on a hierarchy of scales.
- d. Develop and implement guidance to help the selection of suitable forest management practices for specific forest ecosystems.
- e. Develop and implement appropriate mechanisms for the participation of all stakeholders in ecosystem-level planning and management.
- f. Develop an informal international network of forest areas for piloting and demonstrating the ecosystem approach and exchange related information through the clearing-house mechanism.
- g. Hold workshops to train and familiarize decision makers and managers with the foundations, principles and modalities of the ecosystem approach.
- h. Promote research and pilot projects to develop understanding of the functional linkages between forest biological diversity and agriculture with the aim to developing practices that could improve the relations between forest management and other land use methods. Promote assessment of functional linkages between mining, infrastructure and other development projects and forest biodiversity, and develop best practice, guidelines for such development projects to mitigate adverse impacts on forest biodiversity.
- i. Promote activities that minimize the negative impacts of forest fragmentation on forest biodiversity, including afforestation, forest restoration, secondary forest and plantation management, and agroforestry, watershed management and land use planning aimed at providing a combination of economic and environmental goods and services to stakeholders.

### **GOAL 2**

#### **To reduce the threats and mitigate the impacts of threatening processes on forest biological diversity**

##### **Objective 1**

Prevent the introduction of invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, and mitigate their negative impacts on forest biological diversity in accordance with international law.

### **Activities**

- a. Reinforce, develop and implement strategies at regional and national level to prevent and mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, including risk assessment, strengthening of quarantine regulation, and containment or eradication programmes taking into account the guiding principles on invasive alien species if adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- b. Improve the knowledge of the impacts of invasive alien species on forest ecosystems and adjacent ecosystems.

### **Objective 2**

Mitigate the impact of pollution such as acidification and eutrophication on forest biodiversity

### **Activities**

- a. Increase the understanding of the impact of pollution, e.g., acidification and eutrophication, and other pollutants (such as mercury and cyanide) on forest biodiversity; at genetic, species, ecosystem and landscape levels.
- b. Support monitoring programmes that help evaluate the impacts of air, soil and water pollution on forest ecosystems, and address the impacts of changing environmental conditions on forest ecosystems.
- c. Encourage the integration of forest biodiversity consideration into strategies and policies to reduce pollution.
- d. To promote the reduction of pollution levels that adversely affect forest biodiversity and encourage forest management techniques that reduce the impacts of changing environmental conditions on forest ecosystems.

### **Objective 3**

Mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity

### **Activities**

Taking into account the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Climate Change and Biodiversity:

- a. Promote monitoring and research on the impacts of climate change on forest biological diversity and investigate the interface between forest components and the atmosphere;
- b. Develop coordinated response strategies and action plans at global, regional and national levels;
- c. Promote the maintenance and restoration of biodiversity in forests in order to enhance their capacity to resist to, and recover from and adapt to climate change;
- d. Promote forest biodiversity conservation and restoration in climate change mitigation and adaptation measures;
- e. Assess how the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity can contribute to the international work relating to climate change.

### **Objective 4**

To prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression

### **Activities**

- a. Identify policies, practices and measures aimed at addressing the causes and reducing impacts on forest biological diversity resulting from human-induced uncontrolled/unwanted fires, often associated with land clearing and other land use activities.
- b. Promote understanding of the role of human-induced fires on forest ecosystems and on species, and of the underlying causes.
- c. Develop and promote the use of fire management tools for maintaining and enhancing forest biological diversity, especially when there has been a shift in fire regimes.
- d. To promote practices of fire prevention and control to mitigate the impacts of unwanted fires on forest biological diversity.

- e. Promote development of systems for risk assessment and early warning, monitoring and control, and enhance capacity for prevention and post-fire forest biodiversity restoration at the community, national and regional levels.
- f. To advise on fire-risk prediction systems, surveillance, public education and other methods to minimise human-induced uncontrolled/unwanted fires.
- g. Develop strategies to avoid the negative effects of sectoral programmes and policies which could induce uncontrolled forest fires.
- h. Develop prevention plans against devastating fires and integrate them into national plans targeting the biological diversity of forests.
- i. Develop mechanisms, including early warning systems, for exchange of information related to the causes of forest biodiversity loss, including fires, pests and diseases, and invasive species.

### **Objective 5**

To mitigate effects of the loss of natural disturbances necessary to maintain biodiversity in regions where these no longer occur.

#### **Activities**

- a. Develop and promote management methods that restore or mimic natural disturbances such as fire, wind-throw and floods.

### **Objective 6**

To prevent and mitigate losses due to fragmentation and conversion to other land uses

#### **Activities**

- a. Encourage the creation of private reserves and private conservation methods where appropriate, respecting the rights and interests of indigenous and local communities.
- b. Establish ecological corridors on a national and regional basis.
- c. Promote cost-benefit analysis of development projects that might lead to the conversion of forest into other land uses incorporating the impacts on forest biological diversity.
- d. Implement policies, practices and measures aimed at addressing the causes and reducing impacts on forest biological diversity resulting from human-induced uncontrolled clearing or other uncontrolled land-use activities

## **GOAL 3**

### **To protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity**

#### **Objective 1**

Restore forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forestlands and other landscapes, including in plantations.

#### **Activities**

- a. Promote the implementation of systems and practices for restoration in accordance with the ecosystem approach
- b. Promote restoration of forest biological diversity with the aim to restore ecosystem services.
- c. Create and improve where appropriate international, regional and national databases and case-studies on the status of degraded forests, deforested, restored and afforested lands.

#### **Objective 2**

Promote forest management practices that further the conservation of endemic and threatened species.

#### **Activities**

- a. Determine status and conservation needs of endemic or threatened species and the impacts of current forest management practices on these species.

- b. Develop and implement conservation strategies for endemic and threatened species for global or regional application, and practical systems of adaptive management at national level.

### **Objective 3**

Ensure adequate and effective protected forest area networks.

#### **Activities**

- a. Assess the comprehensiveness, representativeness and adequacy of protected areas relative to forest types and identify gaps and weaknesses.
- b. Establish (in accordance with Article 8(j)) with the full participation and with respect for the rights of indigenous and local communities, and other relevant stakeholders, comprehensive, adequate, biologically and geographically representative and effective networks of protected areas.
- c. Establish, in a similar manner, restoration areas to complement the network of protected areas where needed.
- d. Revise in a similar manner and ensure the comprehensiveness, adequacy, representativeness and efficacy of existing protected area networks.
- e. Assess the efficacy of protected forest areas for the conservation of biological diversity.
- f. Ensure that relevant protected areas are managed to maintain and enhance their forest biodiversity components, services and values;

### **GOAL 4**

#### **To promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity**

##### **Objective 1**

Promote sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biological diversity

#### **Activities**

- a. Support activities of indigenous and local communities involving the use of traditional forest-related knowledge in biodiversity management.
- b. Develop, support and promote programmes and initiatives that address the sustainable use of timber and non-timber forest products.
- c. Support regional cooperation and work on sustainable use of timber and non-timber forest products and services, including through technology transfer and capacity-building within and between regions.
- d. Improve forest management and planning practices that incorporate socio-economic and cultural values to support and facilitate sustainable use.
- e. Promote cooperative work on the sustainable use of forest products and services and its relation to biodiversity conservation with the other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.
- f. Encourage implementation of voluntary third-party credible forest certification schemes that take into consideration relevant forest biodiversity criteria and that would be audited, taking into consideration indigenous and local community rights and interests.
- g. Set up demonstration sites that would illustrate forest conservation and on-ground delivery of goods and services through sustainable forest management, which are also representative of various types of forest, themes and regional needs, through case-studies.
- h. Facilitate and support a responsible private sector committed to sustainable harvesting practices and compliance with domestic laws through effective development and enforcement of laws on sustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber resources.

##### **Objective 2**

Prevent losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest resources.

#### **Activities**

- a. Establish a liaison group with an associated workshop to facilitate development of a joint work plan with relevant members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to

bring harvesting of non-timber forest products (NTFP)s, with a particular focus on bush meat, to sustainable levels. This group should have a proportionate regional representation, giving special consideration to sub regions where bush meat is a major issue and representation of relevant organizations such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. The mandate of this group is to:

- i. Consult in a participatory manner with key stakeholders to identify and prioritize major issues pertaining the unsustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products, particularly of bushmeat and related products;
  - ii. Provide advice on the development of policies, enabling legislation and strategies that promote sustainable use of, and trade in, non-timber forest products, particularly bushmeat and related products;
  - iii. Provide advice on appropriate alternative sustainable livelihood technologies and practices for the affected communities;
  - iv. Provide advice on appropriate monitoring tools.
- b. Promote projects and activities that encourage the use and supply of alternative sources of energy to prevent forest degradation due to the use of firewood by local communities.
  - c. Develop any necessary legislation for the sustainable management and harvesting of non-timber forest resources.
  - d. Solicit input from Parties, other countries and relevant organizations on ways and means to encourage and assist importing countries to prevent the entry of unsustainably harvested forest resources, which are not covered by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, and consider this information as a basis for further steps on this issue.

### **Objective 3**

Enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community-management systems to conserve and sustainably use forest biological diversity.

#### **Activities**

Taking into account the outcome of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity:

- a. Strengthen the capacity of, and provide incentives for, indigenous and local communities to generate opportunities for sustainable use of forest biodiversity and for access to markets;
- b. Strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities to resolve land rights and land use disputes in order to sustainably manage forest biodiversity;
- c. Encourage the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity by indigenous and local communities through their development of adaptive management practices, using as appropriate traditional forest-related knowledge;
- d. Provide incentives for the maintenance of cultural diversity as an instrument to enhance forest biological diversity;
- e. Develop and implement education and awareness programmes on traditional uses of forest biological diversity in accordance with Article 8(j);
- f. Create an environment that fosters respect, and stimulates, preserves and maintains traditional knowledge related to forest biological diversity, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities.

### **Objective 4**

Develop effective and equitable information systems and strategies and promote implementation of those strategies for in situ and *ex situ* conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic diversity, and support countries in their implementation and monitoring.

#### **Activities**

- a. Develop, harmonize and assess the diversity of forest genetic resources, taking into consideration the identification of key functional/keystone species populations, model species and genetic variability at the deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) level.

- b. Select, at a national level, the most threatened forest ecosystems based on the genetic diversity of their priority species and populations and develop an appropriate action plan in order to protect the genetic resources of the most threatened forest ecosystems.
- c. Improve understanding of patterns of genetic diversity and its conservation in situ, in relation to forest management, landscape-scale forest change and climate variations.
- d. Provide guidance for countries to assess the state of their forest genetic resources, and to develop and evaluate strategies for their conservation, both in situ and *ex situ*.
- e. Develop national legislative, administrative policy measures on access and benefit-sharing on forest genetic resources, taking into account the provisions under Articles 8(j), 10(c), 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and in conformity with future decisions of the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.
- f. Monitor developments in new biotechnologies and ensure their applications are compatible with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity with respect to forest biological diversity, and develop and enforce regulations for controlling the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) when appropriate.
- g. Develop a holistic framework for the conservation and management of forest genetic resources at national, sub regional and global levels.
- h. Implement activities to ensure adequate and representative in situ conservation of the genetic diversity of endangered, overexploited and narrow endemic forest species and complement the in situ conservation with adequate *ex situ* conservation of the genetic diversity of endangered, overexploited and narrow endemic species and species of economic potential.

## **GOAL 5**

### **Access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources**

#### **Objective 1**

Promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the utilization of forest genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge

#### **Activities**

Based on the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilization, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting<sup>(48)</sup>:

- a. Establish mechanisms to facilitate the sharing of benefits at local, national, regional and global levels.
- b. Strengthen capacity of indigenous and local communities to negotiate benefit-sharing arrangements.
- c. Promote dissemination of information about benefit-sharing experiences through the clearing-house mechanism and appropriate means at the local level.

## **PROGRAMME ELEMENT 2: INSTITUTIONAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENABLING ENVIRONMENT**

### **GOAL 1**

#### **Enhance the institutional enabling environment.**

##### **Objective 1**

Improve the understanding of the various causes of forest biological diversity losses

##### **Activities**

- a. Each Party to carry out, in a transparent and participatory way, thorough analysis of local, regional, national and global direct and underlying causes of losses of forest biological diversity. A distinction should be made between broad socio-economic causes such as demographic growth and more specific causes such as institutional weaknesses and market or policy failures.
- b. Each Party on the basis of the above analysis to implement their recommendations.

- c. Parties to report through the clearing-house mechanism of the Secretariat on successful experiences involving control and mitigation of the underlying causes of deforestation, which would make it possible to understand lessons learned.

## **Objective 2**

Parties, Governments and organizations to integrate biological diversity conservation and sustainable use into forest and other sector policies and programmes.

### **Activities:**

- a. Parties to formulate appropriate policies and adopt sets of priority targets for forest biological diversity to be integrated into national forest programmes, national sustainable development strategies, poverty reduction strategy papers, related non-forest programmes and national biological diversity strategies and action plans. Ensure that there is coherence and direct interaction between the different programmes.
- b. Seek ways of streamlining reporting between the different forest-related processes, in order to improve the understanding of forest quality change and improve consistency in reporting on sustainable forest management.
- c. Develop a set of indicators that might be used in assessing progress in implementing the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and relevant work programmes;
- d. Donor bodies and other financial institutions to incorporate forest biological diversity and sustainable use principles and targets into forest and related programmes, including watershed management, land-use planning, energy, transport, infrastructure development, education and agriculture, mineral exploitation, and tourism.
- e. Seek to harmonize policies at regional and sub regional levels in the area of forest biological diversity.
- f. Develop strategies for effective enforcement of sustainable forest management and protected area regulations, including adequate resourcing and involvement of indigenous and local communities.
- g. Parties and donor bodies to develop and implement, strategies, in particular national financing strategies in the framework of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national forest programmes, and provide adequate financial, human and technical resources.
- h. Encourage the Executive Secretary to coordinate and seek synergies between Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Forum on Forests and the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, including establishment of memoranda of understanding, as appropriate, between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and recommend such an memorandum of understanding with the International Tropical Timber Organization and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as a first step.
- i. Increase emphasis on capacity-building, research and training, public education and awareness, access to and transfer of information and technology, technical and scientific cooperation, with focus on capacities required to address forest biodiversity-related issues.

## **Objective 3**

Parties and Governments to develop good governance practices, review and revise and implement forest and forest-related laws, tenure and planning systems, to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity.

### **Activities**

- a. Develop appropriate measures and regulations to secure a permanent forest area sufficient to allow for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity.
- b. Seek to resolve land tenure and resource rights and responsibility, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders including for indigenous and local communities, in order to promote the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity.

- c. Encourage Parties and countries to ensure that forest and forest-related laws adequately and equitably incorporate the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties.
- d. Implement effective measures to protect traditional knowledge and values in forest laws and planning tools.
- e. Develop legislation, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing for forest genetic resources, taking into account the draft Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of their Utilization.
- f. Invite Parties, Governments and other relevant organizations to submit case-studies and research on the role of performance bonds in forest concessions, in the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity; and request the Secretariat to make these available.
- g. Parties, Governments and relevant stakeholders to develop mechanisms and processes to work toward good governance to promote conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity.
- h. Develop and apply environmental and socio-economic impact assessment methods as appropriate prior to land-conversion decisions.

#### **Objective 4**

Promote forest law enforcement and address related trade

#### **Activities**

- a. Invite Parties, Governments and relevant organizations to provide information on a voluntary basis to enable a better comprehension of the effects of unsustainable harvesting, exploitation of other forest resources and associated trade, as well as on the underlying causes, on forest biological diversity. On the basis of dissemination of this information countries may decide to take relevant measures such as enforcement actions.
- b. Evaluate and reform, as required, legislation to include clear definition of illegal activities and to establish effective deterrents.
- c. Develop methods and build capacity for effective law enforcement.
- d. Develop codes of conduct for sustainable forest practices in logging companies and the wood-processing sector to improve biodiversity conservation.
- e. Encourage and support the development and implementation of tracking and chain-of-custody systems for forest products to seek to ensure that these products are legally harvested.
- f. Invite Governments and relevant organizations to develop and forward to the Secretariat case-studies and research on the impacts of unsustainable timber and non-timber harvesting and related trade.

### **GOAL 2**

**Address socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity.**

#### **Objective 1**

Mitigate the economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity.

#### **Activities**

- a. Develop mechanisms to ensure that monetary and non-monetary costs and benefits of forest biodiversity management are equitably shared between stakeholders at all levels.
- b. Develop, test and disseminate methods for valuing forest biological diversity and other forest ecosystem goods and services and for incorporating these values into forest planning and management, including through stakeholder analysis and mechanisms for transferring costs and benefits.
- c. Incorporate forest biological diversity and other forest values into national accounting systems and seek to estimate such figures for subsistence economies.

- d. Elaborate and implement economic incentives promoting forest biological diversity conservation and sustainable use.
- e. Eliminate or reform perverse incentives, in particular subsidies that result in favouring unsustainable use or loss of forest biological diversity.
- f. Provide market and other incentives for the use of sustainable practices, develop alternative sustainable income generation programmes and facilitate self-sufficiency programmes of indigenous and local communities.
- g. Develop and disseminate analyses of the compatibility of current and predicted production and consumption patterns with respect to the limits of forest ecosystem functions and production.
- h. Seek to promote national laws and policies and international trade regulations are compatible with conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity.
- i. Increase knowledge on monetary and non-monetary cost-benefit accounting for forest biodiversity evaluation.

### **GOAL 3**

#### **Increase public education, participation, and awareness.**

##### **Objective 1**

Increase public support and understanding of the value of forest biological diversity and its goods and services at all levels.

##### **Activities**

- a. Increase broad-based awareness of the value of forest biological diversity through international, national and local public awareness campaigns.
- b. Promote consumer awareness about sustainably produced forest products.
- c. Increase awareness amongst all stakeholders of the potential contribution of traditional forest-related knowledge to conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity.
- d. Develop awareness of the impact of forest-related production and consumption patterns on the loss of forest biological diversity and the goods and services it provides.
- e. Increase awareness of the value of forest biological diversity amongst public authorities and decision makers through specific information and training actions.
- f. Implement effective measures to recognize, respect, protect and maintain traditional forest-related knowledge and values in forest-related laws and forest planning tools, in accordance with Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- g. Develop awareness of the value of forest biological diversity among forestry workers, owners of forest land, logging contractors, and consulting firms.

### **PROGRAMME ELEMENT 3: KNOWLEDGE, ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING**

#### **GOAL 1**

#### **To characterize and to analyse from forest ecosystem to global scale and develop general classification of forests on various scales in order to improve the assessment of status and trends of forest biological diversity.**

##### **Objective 1**

Review and adopt a harmonized global to regional forest classification system, based on harmonized and accepted forest definitions and addressing key forest biological diversity elements.

##### **Activities**

- a. Review and adopt a minimum forest classification for forest types, compatible with remote sensing technologies, that includes broad indicators of biodiversity that can be taken into account in all international and regional forest-related programmes, plans and activities.
- b. Adapt frequency of forest resource inventory at regional and global scales, where resources permit, preferably at least to every ten years.

- c. Review and contribute (from the biodiversity point of view) to standard forest definitions in cooperation with the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to be used in global and regional reporting to the scale of forest types.

### **Objective 2**

Develop national forest classification systems and maps (using agreed international standards and protocols to enable regional and global synthesis).

#### **Activities**

- a. Review existing national forest ecosystem classification systems and maps.
- b. Develop and apply national forest ecosystem classification systems and maps that include key components of forest biological diversity to be used in assessment reports on forest types including socio-economic and cultural aspects.
- c. Use adapted technology, for example geographic information system, to develop a baseline for assessing levels of deforestation and impacts on biodiversity.

### **Objective 3**

To develop, where appropriate, specific forest ecosystems surveys in priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity.

#### **Activities**

- a. To identify and prioritize relevant areas to carry out these surveys.

## **GOAL 2**

**Improve knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity, based on available information.**

### **Objective 1**

Advance the development and implementation of international, regional and national criteria and indicators based on key regional, sub regional and national measures within the framework of sustainable forest management.

#### **Activities**

- a. Advance the development and implementation of international, regional and national criteria and indicators based on key measures within the framework of sustainable forest management.
- b. Develop and select international, regional and national criteria and where appropriate quantifiable, indicators for forest biological diversity, taking into account, as appropriate, existing work and processes on criteria and indicators on sustainable forest management, as well as the knowledge held by indigenous and local communities. Such criteria and indicators should be used for assessment reporting at least 10-year intervals.

## **GOAL 3**

**Improve understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning.**

### **Objective 1**

Conduct key research programmes on the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning.

#### **Activities**

- a. Develop and support focused research to improve understanding of the relationship between forest biological diversity and ecosystem functioning, taking into account forest ecosystem components, structure, functions and processes to improve predictive capability.
- b. Develop and support research to understand critical thresholds of forest biological diversity loss and change, paying particular attention to endemic and threatened species and habitats including forest canopies.
- c. Develop and apply forest ecosystem restoration techniques to address biodiversity loss at the ecosystem level.

- d. Develop and support research on impact of current forest management practices for forest biodiversity within forests and on adjacent land.

#### **GOAL 4**

#### **Improve the infrastructure for data and information management for accurate assessment and monitoring of global forest biological diversity.**

##### **Objective 1**

Enhance and improve the technical capacity at the national level to monitor forest biological diversity, benefiting from the opportunities offered through the clearing-house mechanism, and to develop associated databases as required on a global scale.

##### **Activities**

- a. Develop and implement a strategy and a plan of action and facilitate transfer of technology to provide infrastructure and training in developing countries, in order to monitor forest biological diversity and develop associated databases.

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(41) [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/INF/3](#).

(42) [UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/7](#).

(43) [UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/6](#).

(44) [UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/26](#).

(45) [UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/9](#).

(46) [UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/7](#).

(47) [UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/7](#).

(48) See [decision VI/24 A](#).

### **ANNEX III: DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCESS OF EVALUATION**

#### **Study of the CBD documents, reports and Dutch GFC reports**

The research started on May 23, 2007. The CBD has a multitude of documents produced, which are systematically compiled on [www.CBD.int](http://www.CBD.int). An important document is the Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity, which was in 2002 adopted by COP6.

Then, the Dutch policy documents and national reports were consulted to find out how the Dutch government respected its obligations as a Party to the Convention. Important document is the third National Report of the Netherlands to the CBD in 2005.

A relevant document is the last report on Independent Monitoring of GFC from 2002, published on the website [www.globalforestcoalition.org](http://www.globalforestcoalition.org).

#### **Consultation with all relevant actors**

In June, several experts and actors approached. Some are connoisseurs of international nature, while others are expert in the Dutch forest.

The participants in the Workshop on September 19 in Amsterdam'07 were:

1. Arthur Ebregt, FSC
2. Marieke Wit, Tropenbos , VTB
3. Marjol vd Linden, Profound
4. Bert-Jan Ottens , Profound
5. Merel van der Mark, OPN - Brozielie
6. Juliaan Bakker, LAES
7. Rob Busink , LNV - Department Nature
8. Alois Clemens , WWF - Netherlands
9. Erik V. Lammerts Bueren, ISAFOR
10. Renaat of Rompaey, WIX
11. Yolanda Sikking , GFC

International experts:

- Joost van de Velde, European Commission, DG Environment, Brussels
- Chris Geerling , International expert, Driebergen
- Herbert Prins , Professor of tropical nature, WUR, Wageningen

- Simone Lovera , Global Forest Coalition
- Ben Papendorp , Lobbyist, Den Haag
- Mark van der Wal , IUCN-Eng, Amsterdam
- Henk Prummel , Green Group of the European Parliament, Brussels
- Peter Bos , Ministry LNV, Den Haag
- Paul Zambon , S-FOR-S, Wijchen
- Miguel Lovera , Global Forest Coalition
- Herman Savenije , Ministry LNV, Den Haag

National experts:

- Maaïke Vineyard , Ministry LNV, Den Haag
- Jeannette de Rijsoort, Bosgroepen, Ede
- Gert-Jan Nabuurs , Alterra, WUR, Wageningen
- James Brenninkmeijer , KNBV
- Jaap van den Briel, Gelders Negotiated Grondbezit
- Bea Claessens , Gelderland, Arnhem
- Tim French , Staatsbosbeheer West region, Noordwijk
- Mark Karsemeijer , County Nunspeet
- Jop the Klein , Bureau Silve, Wageningen
- Dianne Nijland , Vogelbescherming, Zeist
- Leffert Oldenkamp , Keurhout, Wageningen
- Francis Schennink , Adviesbureau Man and Forest, Baarn
- Marleen van den Ham , Ministry LNV, Den Haag
- Edo Knegtering , Ministry LNV, Den Haag

The use of the Questionnaire was no success. If one answered 'no' to the first question, whether one knew the CBD / POW, the rest of the Questionnaire becomes irrelevant. However, during discussions, many aspects of international biodiversity policy or the quality of the Dutch forest management have been discussed.

A Workshop has been to organised on September 19 2007 in Amsterdam, as an afternoon session of the Forest Forum (an IUCN platform on International Forest Policy). All attendees were mainly internationally interested. National experts have been approached through interviews during a four day excursion of the Royal Dutch Forestry Association and the Tropical Forest Association to the Czech Republic 12-16 September 2007.

### **Synthesis and reporting**

Yolanda Sikking drafted the report of the workshop. After a series of comments from participants the final draft has been circulated.

This report contains:

- An introduction about the Netherlands, forests and forest biodiversity
- Answers to the questions raised by the Questionnaire
- Description of the evaluation process and the workshop
- Comments and recommendations on the implementation of the CBD in the Netherlands in general

### **The situation in the Netherlands Antilles**

In the introduction, forest biodiversity in the Netherlands Antilles is described. However, it was difficult to make a good analysis of the implementation of the CBD / POW there, because the budget did not allow for a special workshop and interviews on the spot. I have heard that DLV Plant - AdDev Consult prepared a tender for the "Evaluation of Long Nature and the Environment from 2004 to 2007 Netherlands Antilles, commissioned by the Ministry of Kingdom Affairs. The report will certainly contain interesting elements.

### **Results of the outreach campaign / Expected impact on the Dutch forest policy**

The choice has been made to include the outreach campaign and a number of actions towards the Dutch political arena part of a separate assignment.

## ANNEX IV: REPORT WORKSHOP NETHERLANDS AND CBD SEPT. 19, 2007, AKANTES, AMSTERDAM

### Present:

1. Arthur Ebregt FSC [Arthur.Ebregt@fsc.nl](mailto:Arthur.Ebregt@fsc.nl)
2. Marieke White Tropenbos , VTB [Marieke.Wit@tropenbos.org](mailto:Marieke.Wit@tropenbos.org)
3. Marjol vd Linden ProFound [mail@ThisIsProFound.com](mailto:mail@ThisIsProFound.com)
4. Bert-Jan Ottens ProFound [mail@ThisIsProFound.com](mailto:mail@ThisIsProFound.com)
5. Merel van der Mark OPN - Brozielie [merel\\_vandermark@yahoo.com](mailto:merel_vandermark@yahoo.com)
6. Juliaan Bakker LAES [latinsoc@tutopia.com](mailto:latinsoc@tutopia.com)
7. Rob Busink LNV - Department Nature [rlbusink@minlnv.nl](mailto:rlbusink@minlnv.nl)
8. Alois Clemens WWF - Netherlands [aclemens@wwf.nl](mailto:aclemens@wwf.nl)
9. Erik V. Lammerts Bueren ISAFOR [elvb@isafor.nl](mailto:elvb@isafor.nl)
10. Renaat of Rompaey WIX [Renaat@Wix.nl](mailto:Renaat@Wix.nl)
11. Yolanda Sikking (Report) GFC [yolandasikking@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:yolandasikking@yahoo.co.uk)

### Agenda:

1. Introduction Global Forest Coalition (GFC)
2. Objectives and principles of CBD
3. Discussion
4. Conclusions and recommendations

The workshop is led by Renaat of Rompaey of Wageningen International Experts WIX who has been designated by GFC as 'country monitor' for the Netherlands. The results of his report, based on a survey and the results of the workshop are included in a global report of GFC that will be presented at COP 9 in May 2008 in Bonn.

### 1. Introduction Global Forest Coalition (GFC)

The meeting starts with a brief introduction to the Global Forest Coalition (GFC) by Yolanda Sikking. GFC was established in 2000 as an international network of NGOs and indigenous people organisations (IPOs) fighting for the rights of indigenous peoples, for the survival of the forests and their biodiversity they depend on. GFC focuses on the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation, such as the recent focus on agrofuels. The organization has a small headquarters in Amsterdam, a second office in Paraguay and 9 focal points in Colombia, Panama, Indonesia, New Zealand, India, Russia, USA, Africa (Kenya and South Africa) and Finland. In 2006, a grant was obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In late June GFC was on tour in Brussels, The Hague and Paris. GFC initiates once every few years an independent monitoring in some 20 countries on the implementation of CBD / POW, prescribed by the CBD since 2002.

### 2. Objectives and principles of CBD

The objective of the workshop is to evaluate the performance of the Netherlands (government and / or civil society; Kingdom or only the Netherlands in Europe) with respect to the Convention adopted in 2002. Renaat refers to the brief description that he has sent by mail of the elements and principles of the Convention. There are 7 Programmes of Work drawn up by the CBD: Agricultural Biodiversity, Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity, Forest Biodiversity, Inland Waters Biodiversity, Island Biodiversity, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Mountain Biodiversity.

*The CBD has the following three objectives:*

1. Preserving biodiversity
2. Sustainable Management of
3. Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of the Utilization of genetic resources

Renaat discusses the principles of CBD, according to Professor Herbert Prins, Wageningen University. The Ecosystem Approach, which is at the centre of the CBD, implies:

1. "Problem-shed approach 'problems are addressed at the scale of the phenomenon
2. Adaptive management (Not against the current but along with the current and bend with)

### 3. Decisions at most appropriate level, Subsidiary

Marieke White notes that in these points the human factor has not been mentioned, while the ecosystem approach is exactly about that. She cites the IUCN page on the ecosystem approach <http://www.iucn.org/themes/cem/ourwork/ecapproach/index.html>

*"The Ecosystem Approach places human needs at the centre of biodiversity management. It aims to manage the ecosystem, based on the multiple functions that perform ecosystems and the multiple uses that are made of these functions. The ecosystem approach does not aim for short-term economic gains, but aims to optimize the use of an ecosystem without damaging it."*

*The attendees of the workshop participants are mainly from the Forest Forum. Some ask whether they are the designated persons to express an opinion on the Dutch forestry policy in relation to biodiversity policy. The participants are specialists in international forest policy. Others indicate that they are not the appropriate people to answer the questions in the Questionnaire; national experts should be approached.*

This problem is recognized, but the input of the participants is indeed greatly appreciated. Focus of the meeting will no longer be on the Programme of Work of the CBD, but about other related international affairs. The POW is about the implementation within the Netherlands, but aspects such as cooperation between countries and participation in the financing of the implementation in other countries are also part of the CBD and the Netherlands are very active in this area.

### 3. Discussion

Then, a lively debate starts around the central question:

#### **Do the Netherlands comply with the international agreements in the CBD?**

-- Who is the responsible for the implementation of CBD?

In the Netherlands, the Government must comply with the CBD, not private individuals. The Netherlands are in accordance with Art. 3 of the CBD also held responsible for environmental damage abroad from activities within the jurisdiction or control of the Dutch State. Rob Busink suggests to submit this question to expert in the field of international law.

-- Renaat got during his research the impression that the Netherlands stick to the CBD engagements by then national work programmes and policy documents.

Let's take recreation policy as an example. The Netherlands should comply to the principles of CBD, but these principles have been devised for tropical countries and implementation in the Netherlands is not always evident. In African countries such as Congo or Ivory Coast, all land belongs to the State and therefore there is no private forest. User rights are often rights of groups of people. Often there is no clear forest manager that can be addressed. In the Netherlands, there is a clear difference in control of the forests and forest management between public forests and private forests. But in the Netherlands, we have a Forest Law that obliges the owner to conserve the forest, while in Africa land rights on forest precisely mean that the forest can be converted.

-- What would you miss if the CBD ceases to exist?

There are different opinions about this. One direct effect of the CBD is that national governments have a way to address the problem.

-- How much confidence do we have that the average consumer's consumption pattern will change? Economic interests are stronger than ecological interests. On average our footprint should be 0.8. We now use 1.2. The economic incentive prevails. The challenge is to put less pressure on the environment, but still become richer.

#### **International policy:**

Where can the Netherlands spend its funds for forest and biodiversity conservation in the most efficient way?

It would be interesting to know the balance between how much the Netherlands spend on its national biodiversity, and how much internationally.

Does more law enforcement help by forbidding the import of illegal timber? Enforcement starts in the country of origin. That is clearly the responsibility of the countries themselves, also in the framework of the CBD. When it comes to import bans as a way to prevent illegal logging, then bilateral agreements like in the FLEGT process, are, in the short term, the most feasible.

#### **4. Recommendations (summary of the comments):**

- Formulate a strong direct link with the **footprint** of the Netherlands elsewhere. When the Netherlands take better care of its own forest biodiversity, will it then put the forests elsewhere in the world more under pressure?
- Try to involve the private sector and the consumers more. Otherwise, the "sense of urgency" will never be achieved. Think of Al Gore.
- Put links between the CBD and other conventions (Kyoto) and consultation (G8, IFF). On many points synergies can be achieved (trade, energy, climate).
- Challenge for the CBD is to make international relations clearer. Place it in an international context (think of Indonesia or Brazil where forests disappear; this counterbalances the commitment of other countries). Think of cross-border nature reserves. Agreements often cannot be taken locally only.
- The Netherlands need to financially support countries that have biodiversity as a policy priority.
- More subsidies for environmentally friendly initiatives, or extra tax on activities harming the environment or biodiversity. Let people pay extra, e.g. for airline tickets.
- Environmental services: let companies pay for water exploitation.
- Organise a consultation with experts in the area of our national forest policy.

## ANNEX VI : EXTRACT FROM THE THIRD NATIONAL REPORT OF THE NETHERLANDS TO THE CBD, PARTUM POW, 2005

### Expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity

Programme element 1 – Conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing	
<b>30.</b> Is your country applying the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests?	
a) No (please provide reasons below)	
b) No, but potential measures being identified (please provide details below)	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Comments on application of the ecosystem approach to management of forests (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impact on forest management, constraints, needs, tools, and targets).	
National nature policy (and infrastructure policy) includes the establishment of forest reserves (including within the framework of the Dutch National Ecological Network), the reduction of fragmentation (e.g., by cerviducts) and the support of forest management aiming at natural forest regeneration, conservation of indigenous forest species and increasing forest biodiversity values.	

31. Has your country undertaken measures to reduce the threats to, and mitigate its impacts on forest biodiversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please specify below the major threats identified in relation to each objective of goal 2 and the measures undertaken to address priority actions  National environmental policy in general (i.e., the "Fourth National Environmental Policy Plan" ( <i>Vierde Nationale Milieubeleidsplan</i> )) and the Forest and Nature Survival Plan ( <i>Overlevingsplan Bos en Natuur</i> ) in particular, aim at reduction of environmental conditions being harmful for forests, notably, of nitrogen deposition and ground water depletion. In addition, nature policy and infrastructure policy aim at reduction of the extent of fragmentation of forests (e.g., by the construction of cerviducts).
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on measures to reduce threats to, and mitigate the impacts of threatening processes on forest biodiversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

<b>32. Is your country undertaking any measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity?</b>		
<b>Options</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities  Measures include the establishment forest reserves within the framework of the Dutch National Ecological Network, Natura 2000 and National Parks. In addition, under the Flora and Fauna Act 1998, codes of conduct are being set up for forest management, aiming at the prevention of potential harmful effects of harvest operations on forest species such as breeding bird species.
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on measures to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

<b>33. Is your country undertaking any measures to promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity?</b>		
<b>Options</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Yes	X	Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities  National forest policy has been integrated in the national policy document "Nature for people, people for nature: the Dutch national plan for nature, forests and landscape in the 21st century" ( <i>Natuur voor mensen, mensen voor natuur</i> ). The policy supports sustainable management of Dutch forests.
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the promotion of the sustainable use of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

<b>34.</b> Is your country undertaking any measures to promote access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources?		
<b>Options</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Yes		Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 5 and describe measures undertaken
b) No	X	Please provide reasons below Not applicable.
Further comments on the promotion of access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources. (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets)		

<b>Programme element 2 – Institutional and socio-economic enabling environment</b>		
<b>35.</b> Is your country undertaking any measures to enhance the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing?		
<b>Options</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities  The institutional enabling environment includes spatial planning and nature policy. The latter includes the establishment of the Dutch National Ecological Network and Natura 2000 areas, incentive schemes for nature management, collecting and processing data and policy evaluation by the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (MNP).
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the enhancement of the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

<b>36. Is your country undertaking any measures to address socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity?</b>		
<b>Options</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No	X	Please provide reasons below
Further comments on review of socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

<b>37. Is your country undertaking any measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity?</b>		
<b>Options</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities  A variety of nature and environmental education activities implicitly or explicitly address the subject of forest biodiversity. The activities include programs supported by the government or executed by organizations such as the National Forest Service. Moreover, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality is considering to enhance the 'socialization' of the subject biodiversity by means of additional policy.
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on measures to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

<b>Programme element 3 – Knowledge, assessment and monitoring</b>		
<b>38.</b> Is your country undertaking any measures to characterize forest ecosystems at various scales in order to improve the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?		
<b>Options</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities  This includes a variety of efforts, including scientific efforts.
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on characterization of forest ecosystems at various scales (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

<b>39.</b> Is your country undertaking any measures to improve knowledge on, and methods for, the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity?		
<b>Options</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Details</b>
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities  Several components of forest biological diversity are subject of ecological monitoring, including by the government and by nature management organizations.
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on improvement of knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

40. Is your country undertaking any measures to improve the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities Efforts include public information, education, scientific research, etc.
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the improvement of the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

41. Is your country undertaking any measures at national level to improve the infrastructure for data and information management for accurate assessment and monitoring of global forest biodiversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the improvement of the infrastructure for data and information management (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		

## ANNEX VII: CURRICULUM VITAE OF THE RESEARCHER

Renaat Van Rompaey (born 1965) studied tropical forestry at the University of Ghent, Belgium. He wrote a thesis on silvicultural treatments of natural tropical forest in Suriname in connection with the development of the CELOS Sustainable Forest Management System. He earned a doctorate at Wageningen University under supervision of Professor RAA Oldeman and Dr NR de Graaf. The title of the thesis was "Forest gradients in West Africa: a spatial gradient analysis". It deals with the tropical rain forests in and around Taï National Park in south-western Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. He received further training in Didactics and Business Administration.

After earning his doctorate, he worked two years as Programme Secretary of the Dutch Climate Change Research Program, and then he was vice-leader of the EU-funded programme ECOSYN, led by Wageningen University, on the biogeography and biodiversity of the forests of West Africa. He was then a visiting professor in Brussels, Berlin and Eberswalde in Montpellier. He worked as an adviser and campaigner for the Flemish Minister of Welfare. As a consultant he has since been active in the field of international natural and environmental matters for WWF Belgium, Unilever, Tropenbos, Fauna & Flora International, Conservation International, WWF Netherlands, CARE and Agrifor. In 2007 he founded the expert bureau Wix, Wageningen International Experts, which is working on the formulation, implementation and evaluation of international projects, and provides liaison with the European institutions in Brussels and similar institutions worldwide.

Renaat Van Rompaey  
30 March 2008  
[Renaat@Wix.nl](mailto:Renaat@Wix.nl)  
+31 6 23469633





**For more information, please contact  
Miguel Lovera, [miguel.lovera@globalforestcoalition.org](mailto:miguel.lovera@globalforestcoalition.org)**

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