

# Organisational update IUCN NL

February 2011

## 1. General

The IUCN National Committee of The Netherlands (IUCN NL) is the office of the Dutch members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the global network of nature organisations, scientists and governments. IUCN is known because of the Red List of Threatened Species, the global barometer of biodiversity. Active in 160 countries, the Union's headquarters are in Switzerland. There are 35 IUCN member organisations in the Netherlands, including the Dutch State, which is represented by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation. IUCN NL is an alliance of IUCN members in the Netherlands. We place biodiversity on the agendas of companies and government agencies in close cooperation with members, scientists and southern partner organizations. In southern hemisphere countries, IUCN NL is known mainly as a financier of field projects of local organisations in the area of sustainable ecosystem management, conservation and restoration.

### IUCN's mission

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

### IUCN's long-term strategy

- *Conserving biodiversity*: conserving and managing biodiversity in a sustainable and equitable way from a local to a global level.
- *Countering climate change and encouraging sustainable energy policy*: integrating the value of biodiversity and ecosystems into the development of policy and measures concerning climate change.
- *Safeguarding human wellbeing through sustainable and socially equitable ecosystem management*: improving living conditions, combating poverty and vulnerability, and creating a safer environment for people and the natural environment through the sustainable management of ecosystems.
- *Making economies greener*: integrating the value of ecosystems into economic policy, finances and market mechanisms.

### IUCN members in the Netherlands

Alertis - fund for bear and nature conservation  
ANWB  
Artis  
Avalon Foundation  
Both ENDS  
Carmabi Foundation  
Centrum voor Milieuwetenschappen Leiden  
De12Landschappen  
Diergaarde Blijdorp  
Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance  
European Association of Zoos and Aquaria  
European Centre for Nature Conservation  
European Union for Coastal Conservation  
IBED/Universiteit van Amsterdam  
IVN Vereniging voor natuur- en milieueducatie  
Koninklijke Nederlandse Natuurhistorische Vereniging  
Nederlands Centrum voor Inheemse Volken  
Zoogdierverseniging

Nederlandse Vereniging van Dierentuinen  
Prins Bernhard Leerstoel voor Internationale Natuurbescherming  
RAVON  
Staatsbosbeheer  
Stichting Natuur en Milieu  
Stichting NatuurCollege  
Stichting Reservaten Przewalski-paard Nederland  
Stichting Trésor  
Tropenbos International  
Van Tienhoven Stichting  
Vereniging Natuurmonumenten  
Vlinderstichting  
Vogelbescherming Nederland  
Waddenvereniging  
Wereld Natuur Fonds  
Wetlands International

The Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation is the lead agency of the Dutch State.

## 2. Our activities

To enhance our ability to give content to the long-term strategy for 2009-2012, we implemented a number of changes. We modified our objective, the range of countries in which we are active, our key thematic areas and our organisation. The focus is on practical solutions and projects, securing support for biodiversity and developing a common agenda with members.

### Our goal

Our goal is to reduce the negative ecological footprint of the Netherlands through solution-oriented knowledge, advice and projects. In addition, IUCN NL aims to increase the positive impact on biodiversity and ecosystems by offering projects pertaining to the management, recovery and conservation of ecosystems, and by showing that biodiversity and ecosystems are of tremendous economic value.

### Our priorities

- Bringing our 35 Dutch IUCN members together around a common agenda to give content to the IUCN strategy in the Netherlands.
- Projecting IUCN NL as the knowledge and network organisation in the area of biodiversity, in respect of which we focus primarily on the business community and the government. The relationship between the Dutch economy, biodiversity and ecosystems guides this work.
- Placing biodiversity on the agendas of companies and government agencies by exercising direct influence, providing advice, encouraging new forms of cooperation and launching new initiatives.
- In close consultation with our members and 200 local organisations in 24 countries in the global south, offering practical solutions to companies and government agencies. Together with IUCN headquarters and our partners in the Ecosystem Alliance, we connect these local organisations, which are working under difficult circumstances to make nature conservation, management and protection a reality in the tropics, to partners in the Netherlands.

### Our key areas

In addition to developing a common agenda with the IUCN members, our supra-team key areas are:

- Biodiversity and practical solutions to conserve biodiversity
- The economics of ecosystems and biodiversity (TEEB<sup>1</sup>)
- Forests and climate (REDD+<sup>2</sup>)
- The sustainable management and restoration of ecosystems to combat poverty

### Active in 24 countries

More than was the case in the past, the IUCN NL Ecosystem Grants Programme is outsourced to our partners in the countries themselves. We have reduced the number of countries in which we are active from 60 to 24. These 24 countries are:

Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Uganda and Cameroon

Asia: Indonesia, India, Vietnam, Bangladesh and the Philippines

Latin America: Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala

In most countries, the work will be outsourced to local IUCN members and partner organisations. We work closely in this regard with the Ecosystem Alliance, a cooperative arrangement with

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<sup>1</sup> G20/EU/UNEP report on the economic importance of biodiversity and ecosystems.

<sup>2</sup> Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation.

Wetlands International and Both Ends. In some countries, we finance the purchase of threatened natural areas.

### **Our partners**

In addition to the 35 IUCN members in the Netherlands and the 200 local nature and environmental organisations in the 24 countries, we cooperate with 20 large companies within Leaders for Nature, our business community network. IUCN NL is a partner of various social and scientific institutions and umbrella organisations and, together with the Confederation of Dutch Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW) and others, operates the Biodiversiteit en Bedrijfsleven (Biodiversity and the Business Community) platform.

## **3. Organisation**

As an organisation that brings IUCN members and professionals together, we have opted for four teams that each focus on a particular area. These areas concern the impact of the Netherlands on terrestrial ecosystems (Land) and marine and freshwater ecosystems (Water) respectively, and the impact of energy companies on ecosystems (Energy & Climate). The Future team focuses on realizing attractive projects for IUCN members with a positive footprint. The points of contact for the 24 countries and IUCN issues operate within these teams. The teams constitute partnerships led by team coordinators and facilitated by management and a supporting unit. As of 1 January 2011, the staff was as follows:

### **Management**

Willem Ferwerda - general director  
Rietje Grit - operations director

**Chief expert** - Henk Simons

**Controller** - Corry van Swieten

### **Support**

Finances - Chris Bonnar (head), Aldren Tweeboom, Machiel Overhoff  
Office management - Ellen van Tholen, Puck Heikens  
Communications - Marijn van der Pas, Aukje ter Horst, Rosa Draaisma  
ICT - Leonieke Melvius

### **Land Team**

*Mark van der Wal* - team coordinator  
Cas Besselink - senior and legal advisor / Hivos alliance  
Evelien van den Broek - advisor  
Rob Glastra - senior advisor  
Imke Gilsing - advisor  
Laurens Gomes - advisor  
Sjef Gussenhoven - senior advisor  
Liliana Jauregui - senior advisor  
Joseph Lumumba - senior advisor  
Daan Wensing - Leaders for Nature manager

### **Water Team**

*Henri Roggeri* - team coordinator  
Maart Hilterman - senior advisor  
Tina Lain - senior advisor  
Mathew Parr - senior advisor  
Marielies Schelhaas - Business Relations manager  
Henk Simons - chief expert  
Chris Maas Geesteranus - senior advisor

#### **Energy & Climate Team**

*Danielle de Nie* - team coordinator  
Sander van Andel - advisor  
Desiree Beeren - advisor / Leaders for Nature  
Heleen van den Hombergh - senior advisor  
Jan Kamstra - senior advisor  
Carl Königel - senior advisor  
Rob Regoort - senior advisor  
Femke Tonneijck - REDD senior advisor

#### **Future Team**

Marc Hoogeslag - Small grants for the Purchase of Nature (SPN) contact person

## **4. Contact persons**

### **IUCN Membership & Communications**

IUCN membership  
Communications, Public Affairs

Aukje ter Horst, Rosa Draaisma  
Marijn van der Pas

### **Biodiversity and Ecosystems**

Biodiversity / IUCN Red List  
TEEB  
REDD and Climate  
Ecosystem Alliance  
Nature and Poverty.net  
International law and the environment project

Henk Simons  
Mathew Parr  
Femke Tonneijck  
Joost van Montfoort  
Heleen van den Hombergh  
Annelies Henstra

### **Business Community**

General customer relationship management  
Leaders for Nature

Marielies Schelhaas  
Daan Wensing

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