



PBL Netherlands Environmental
Assessment Agency

From statistics to policy

Environmental statistics and accounts in The Netherlands

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Lessons for WAVES Partnership countries

1. We need transparency about decisions with regard to environmental statistics and a long term vision
2. Translating statistics to policy is a different task than collecting them
3. Different channels exist to connect statistics and policy
4. Giving natural capital a role in decision making adds new requirements to data needs



1. Long term vision on statistics and accounts

1969: start of the Department Environmental Statistics

- focus on waste and emissions to air and water

1974 Pollutant Release and Transfer Register

- Focussing on health issues related to water, soil and air pollution

Throughout the years more statistics were added:

- Energy, manure, recycling, resource use, air-soil-water quality, noise and odor, nature and environmental costs/levies/sector



1. Environmental statistics: an example

Nutrient surpluses in agriculture.

On a given day in 2011 in the Netherlands there were:



16,7 million
people



1 million
sheep



4 million
cows



12 million
pigs



97 million
chickens

1. Environmental statistics: an example

Nutrient surpluses in agriculture.

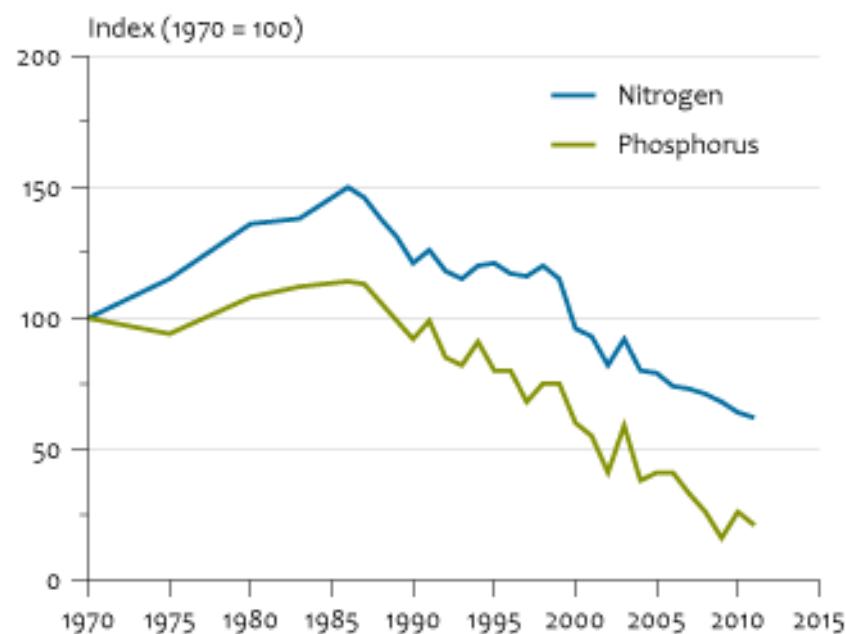
1960s: signs of environmental problems due to nutrient surplus.

1973: Unpublished estimates of the problem.

1982: First statistics on nutrient surpluses published.

1984: First policies to reduce nutrient surplus.

Nutrient surplus in agriculture



Source: CBS.

1. Long term vision on statistics and accounts

1994: NAMEA

➤ **Physical supply and use accounts**

- Waste accounts
- Air and water emissions accounts
- Energy and water accounts
- Material flows

➤ **Subsoil Accounts**

- Petroleum and natural gas reserves

➤ **Monetary environmental accounts**

- Environmental taxes and charges, sector and costs



1996: Sustainable National Income (SNI)

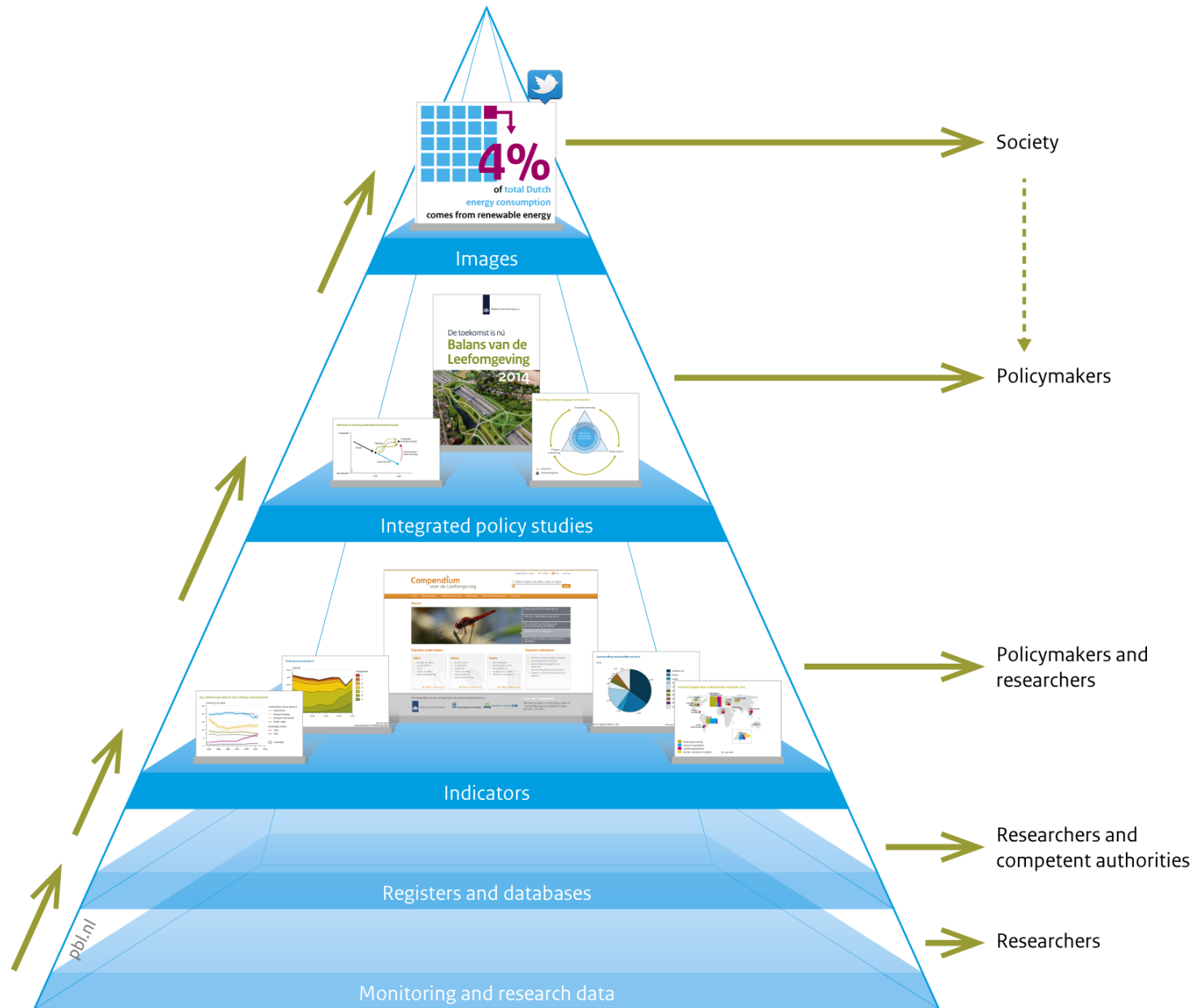


2. Translating statistics into policy

**Good statistics and accounts don't make good policy
but good policy needs good statistics and accounts.**

**Statistics and accounts are better able to inform policy
if they are provided with context and interpretation.**

The information pyramid





2. Translating statistics into policy

Application in different phases of the policy cycle

- Awareness raising and prioritization
- Support policy making
- Monitoring and evaluation

Other applications

- Allocation of environmental costs and benefits
- International comparison and obligations
- Research



3. Channels to translate statistics into policy

Institutionalization of data collection and use

- CBS Central Commission for Statistics with Ministries and data users.
- Independent, trustworthy agencies work on statutory products the government must comment upon.
- Governmental advisory councils that associate with scientific, social and economic stakeholders

3. Channels to

- a. Statline
- b. Environmental data compendium
- c. Green Growth
- d. Environmental Accounts
- e. Assessment of the Dutch human environment
- f. Nature outlook
- g. Energy outlook
- h. Sustainability monitor
- i. Monitor business policy
- j. Public Health monitor
- k. Atlas natural capital

...and many more



4. Giving natural capital a role in decision making

The economy restricts nature

Impact

Pollution, emissions
and overexploitation



The economy supports nature

Benefits

(Financial) support for nature development



Support

Higher social and economic appreciation leads to more support for conservation and protection



Nature supports the economy

Benefits

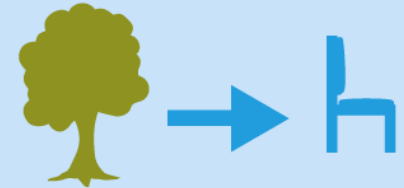
Nature creates value added

Property values
Recreation



Nature produces

Wood
Fish
Biomass
Crops



Cost savings

Nature prevents

Floods
Climate Change



Nature works

Water purification
Pollination



Well-being

Nature contributes to health, knowledge and happiness





Thank you

1. Dutch environmental accounts

Economy

Domestic product (gross, market prices, 2010)

Economy

Domestic product (gross, market prices, 2010)

Final consumption expenditure (2010)

Investments in fixed assets

Population

Employment

Environmentally adjusted

Adjusted national income reserves (net)

Energy

Net domestic energy use

Energy intensity

Extraction natural gas

Mineral reserves gas³⁾

Valuation mineral reserves

Labour input environmental goods

Value added environmental goods (basic prices)

Water

Groundwater abstraction⁴⁾

Tap water use⁵⁾

Tap water use intensity

Heavy metals to water⁶⁾

Nutrients to water⁶⁾

Materials

Material consumption biomass

Material consumption metals

Solid waste production

Landfilled waste

Greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution

Greenhouse gas emissions

Greenhouse gas emission intensity

CFK emissions (ozone layer depletion)

Acidifying emissions

Fine dust emissions

Policy instruments and economic opportunities

Environmental taxes and fees

Share environmental taxes and fees in total taxes

Environmental costs

Labour input environmental goods and services sector

Value added environmental goods and services sector (basic prices)

million m³

million m³

litre/euro

1,000 eq.

1,000 eq.

million kg

million kg

million kg

million kg

million CO₂-eq.

CO₂ eq/1,000 euro

thousand CFK12-eq.

billion ac-eq.

million kg

million euros

%

million euros

x 1,000 FTE

million euros

Trend in NL



Quality of life (here and now)

Well-being and material welfare

Personal characteristics

Living conditions

Position of NL in the EU



Trend in NL



Resources (later)

Natural capital

Human capital

Social capital

Economic capital

Position of NL in the EU



Trend in NL



Netherlands in the world (elsewhere)

Environment and natural resources

Trade and aid

Position of NL in the EU

