PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency

From accounts 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 into policy is a different task than compiling statistics.
3. Different channels exist to connect statistics and policy.
4. Environmental accounts often, but not always, yield relevant information for policies.

1. Long term vision on statistics and accounts

1969

- Start of the department of Environmental Statistics
- focus on waste and emissions to air and water

1974

- Pollutant Release and Transfer Register
- Focus on health issues related to water, soil and air

....

- Accounts added: e.g. 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

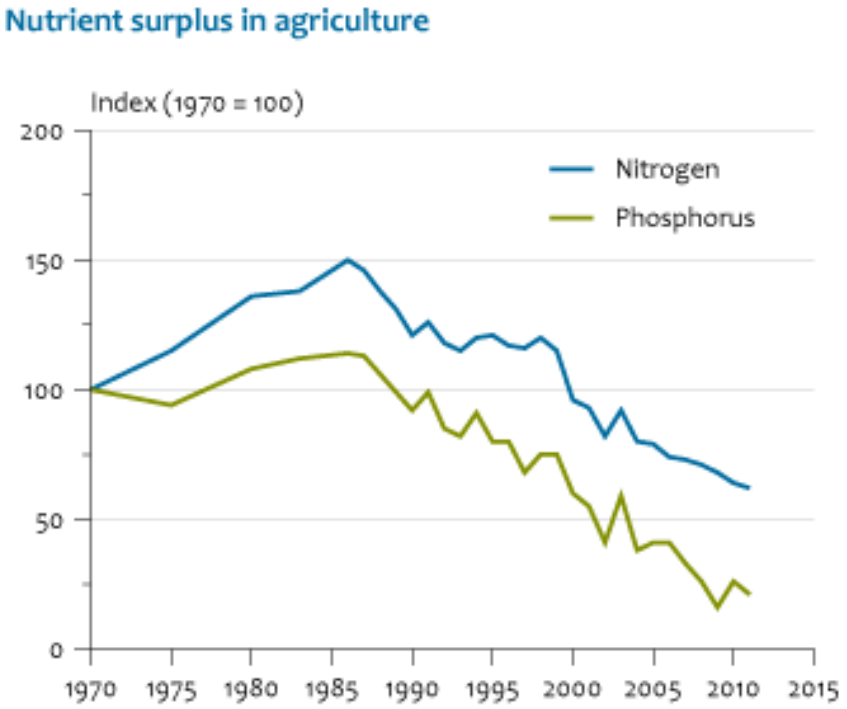
12 million pigs

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- 1973: Unpublished estimates of the problem.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.



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

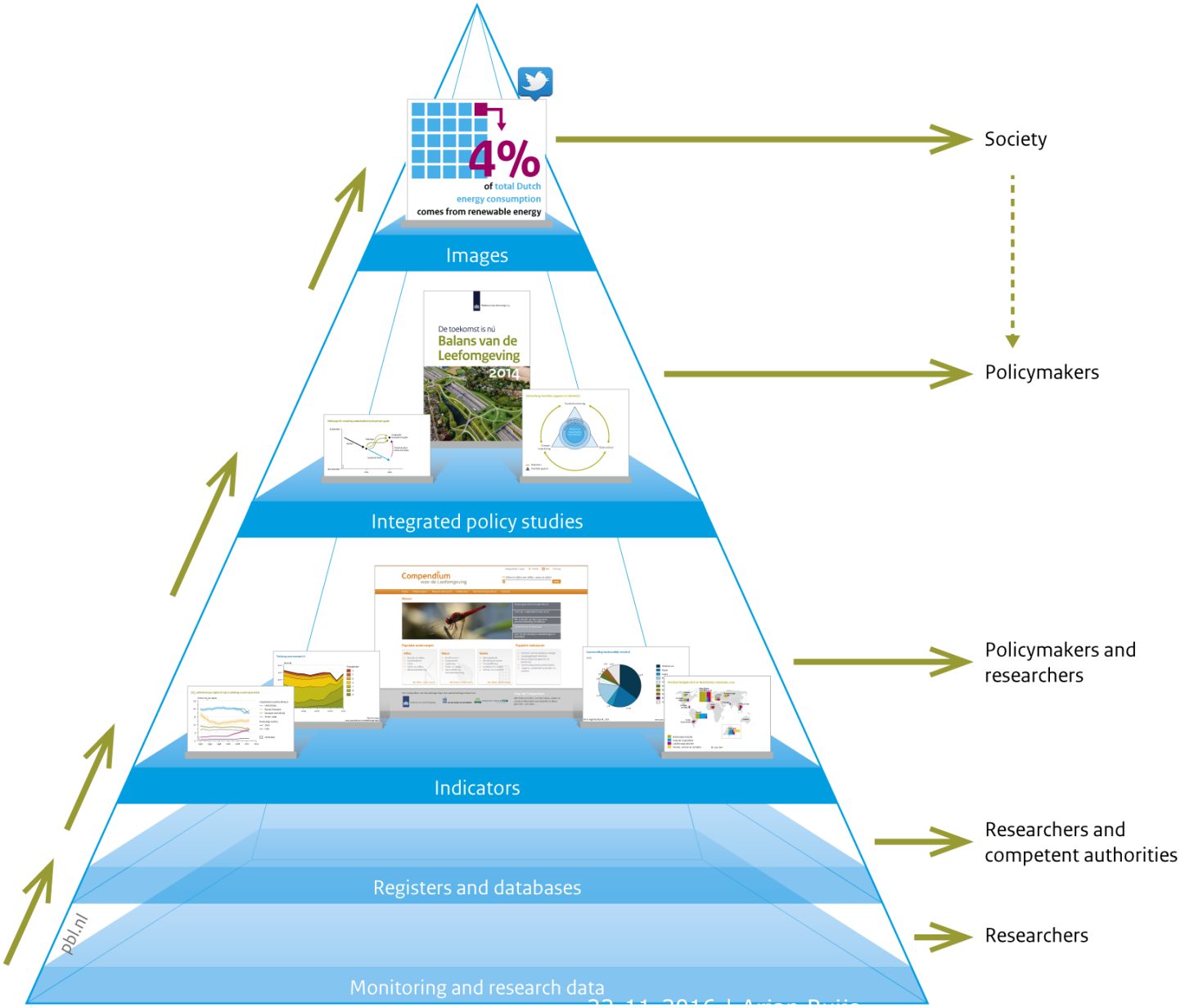
1996: Sustainable National Income (SNI)

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



Source: PBL

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 translate statistics into policy

Policy analysis and modelling has become a joint effort!

The institutional set up to realize this is characterized by

3. Channels to translate statistics into policy

4. Added value of environmental accounts

Scale of the problem	• Does the scale of the problem fit the accounting framework?
Decision making level	• Are the actual decision makers represented in the accounting framework?
Policy measures	• Are policies location dependent or generic? • Is the accounting information appropriate for doing policy analyses?

Thank you

1. Dutch environmental accounts

Economy

Domestic product (gross, market pr
2010)

Economy

Domestic product (gross,
2010)

Final consumption expen
of 2010)

Investments in fixed asse

Population

Employment

Environmentally adjuste

Adjusted national income
reserves (net)

Energy

Net domestic energy use

Energy intensity

Extraction natural gas

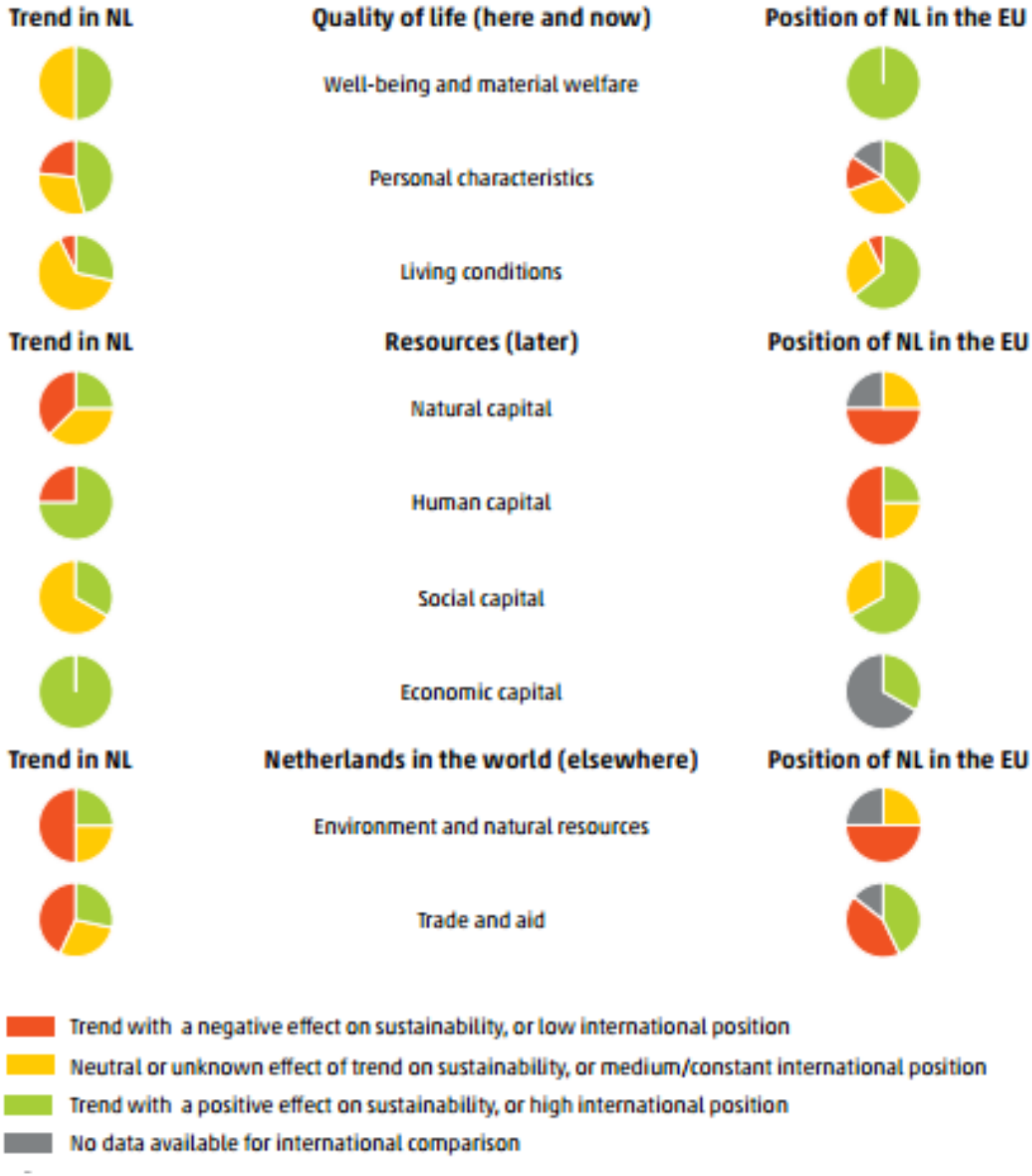
Mineral reserves gas[3)]

Valuation mineral reserve

Labour input environmental goods

Value added environmental goods
(basic prices)

Water	
Groundwater abstraction[4)]	**million m³**
Tap water use[5)]	**million m³**
Tap water use intensity	**litre/euro**
Heavy metals to water[6)]	**1,000 eq.**
Nutrients to water[6)]	**1,000 eq.**
Materials	
Material consumption biomass	**million kg**
Material consumption metals	**million kg**
Solid waste production	**million kg**
Landfilled waste	**million kg**
Greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution	
Greenhouse gas emissions	**million CO_2-eq.**
Greenhouse gas emission intensity	**CO_2 eq/1,000 euro**
CFK emissions (ozone layer depletion)	**thousand CFK12-eq.**
Acidifying emissions	**billion ac-eq.**
Fine dust emissions	**million kg**
Policy instruments and economic opportunities	
Environmental taxes and fees	**million euros**
Share environmental taxes and fees in total taxes	**%**
Environmental costs	**million euros**
Labour input environmental goods and services sector	**x 1,000 FTE**
Value added environmental goods and services sector (basic prices)	**million euros**


Trend in NL
Quality of life (here and now)
Position of NL in the EU
Well-being and material welfare
Personal characteristics
Living conditions
Trend in NL
Resources (later)
Position of NL in the EU
Natural capital
Human capital
Social capital
Economic capital
Trend in NL
Netherlands in the world (elsewhere)
Position of NL in the EU
Environment and natural resources
Trade and aid
Trend with a negative effect on sustainability, or low international position
Neutral or unknown effect of trend on sustainability, or medium/constant international position
Trend with a positive effect on sustainability, or high international position
No data available for international comparison