



PBL Netherlands Environmental  
Assessment Agency

# PBL and the SDG's

An environmental science-policy perspective

Hans Mommaas, PBL

# PBL



- PBL is the Dutch national institute for **strategic policy analysis** in the fields of the **environment, nature** and **spatial planning**.
- It contributes to the quality of the politico-administrative consideration by conducting **surveys, analyses** and **evaluations** in which an integral approach is paramount.
- First and foremost **policy-oriented**; PBL performs both solicited and unsolicited research, **independently** and based on **science**.

# Role and position

## Formal basis:

Special government rule for three Dutch national policy-analysis agencies (3P), guaranteeing independence: CPB (1946), SCP (1972) and PBL (2008)

“In the kitchen of policy making, at the front of knowledge development”

## Organisational embedding:

Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management

## Task environment:

- The entire national cabinet: Infrastructure and Water Management; General Affairs; Economic and Climate Affairs; Foreign Affairs; Finance; Interior and Kingdom Relations; Agriculture, Nature and Food.
- European Union, UN (UNEP, UNCCD, UNFCCC, IPCC, IPBES), OECD, GCECA
- Dutch Regional Governments (Provinces)







# Scientific quality control

Academy Lectures  
and Seminars



Advisory Board



Peer Reviewed  
scientific articles



Scientific audit



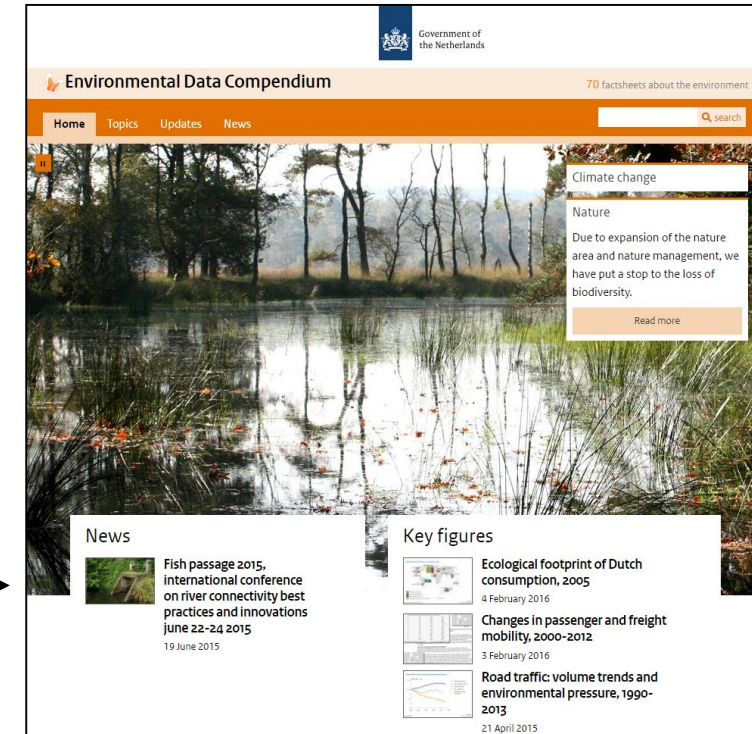
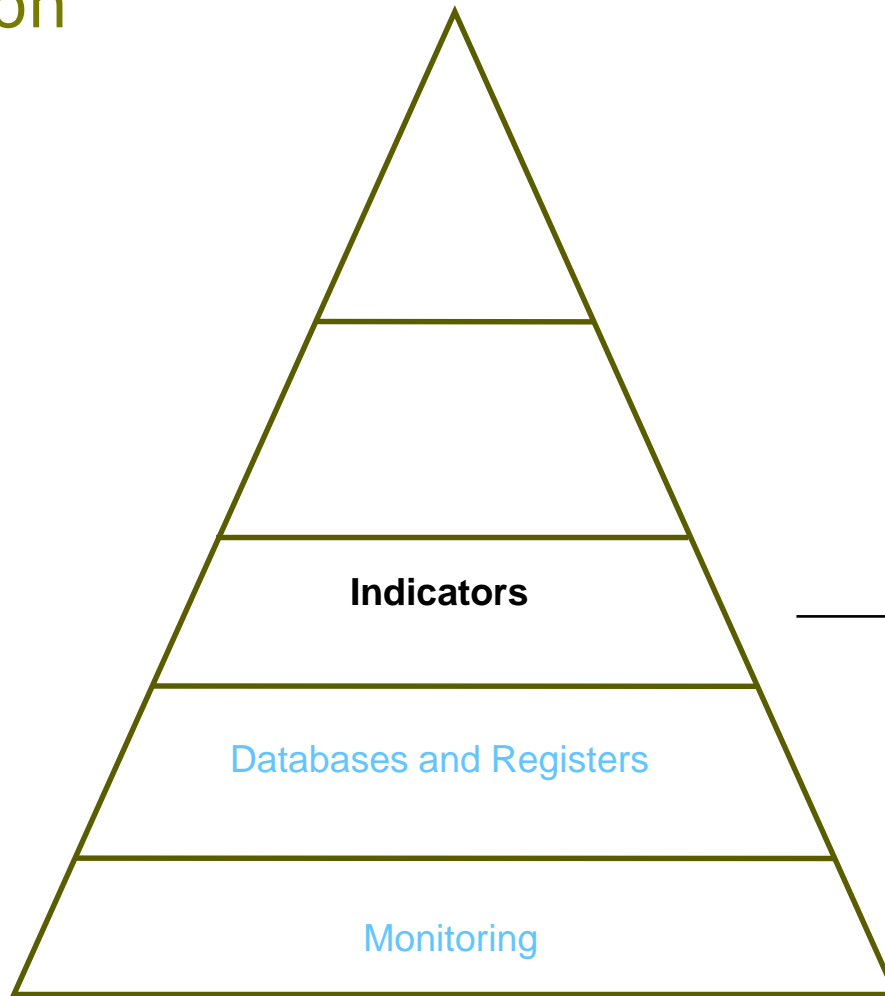
Professors



Foto: Roemer Overdijk

Awards

# Knowledge position

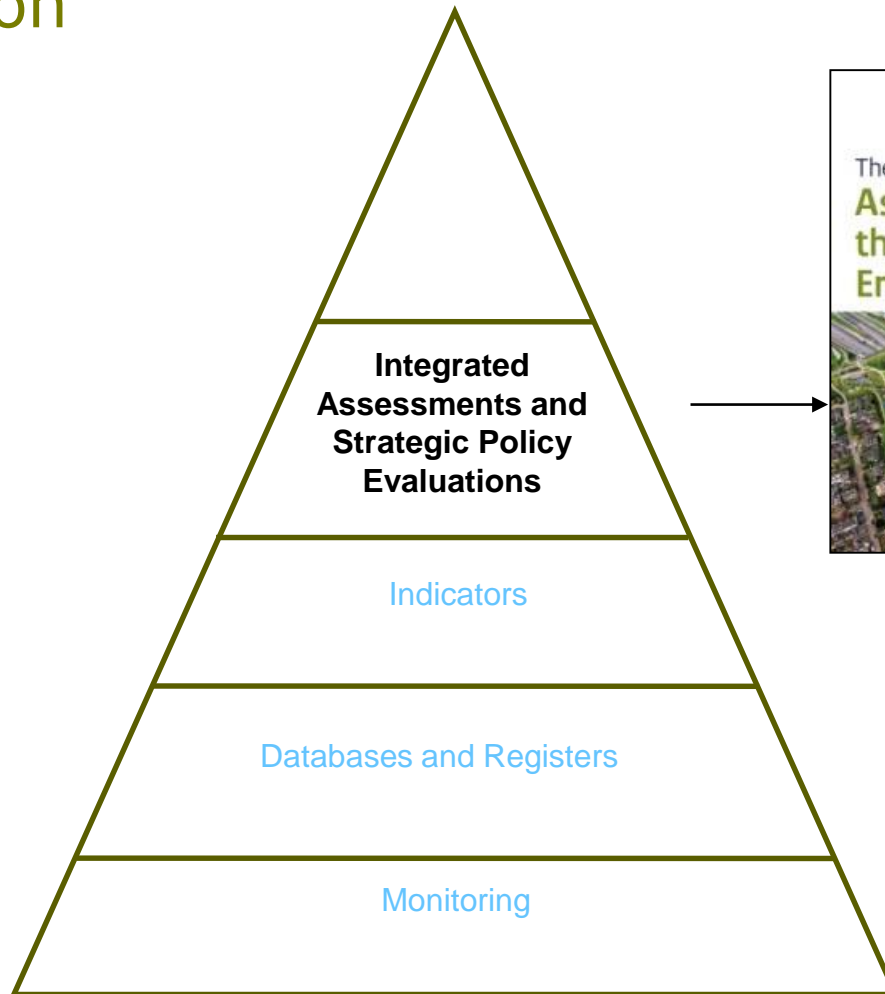


Monitoring data are a corner stone for PBL's assessments, policy evaluations and outlooks

PBL is no operator of monitoring networks or a key register owner itself



# Knowledge position



Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving

## Balans van de Leefomgeving 2014

Home Thema's Download het rapport Over de Balans

Home > Waterveiligheid

### Waterveiligheid

Download het rapport: Waterkwaliteit en -veiligheid (PDF, 3 MB)

**Transitie in het waterveiligheidsbeleid vergroot interactie met regio en samenleving**

In het waterveiligheidsbeleid is een transitie gaande van een beleid uitsluitend gericht op het voorkomen van overstromingen naar een beleid dat zich ook richt op het beperken van de gevolgen van een overstroming (aantal slachtoffers en maatschappelijke ontwrichting). De interactie met andere overheden en actoren neemt hierdoor sterk toe op het gebied van de ruimtelijke ontwikkeling en de rampenbestrijding. Ook de interactie met de burger en het vergroten van de handelingskoppies bij een overstroming krijgen een grotere aandacht. Dit kan het bewustzijn over en de kennis van de overstromingsrisico's sterk verbeteren.

**Veel dijken, stuwen, sluzen en stormvloedkeringen onvoldoende veilig**

**Nieuwe normen: kans op overstroming neemt af en doelmatigheid investeringen in preventie neemt toe**

**Aandacht voor beperken gevolgen: concretiseringslag nodig**

In de Balans voor de Leefomgeving analyseert PBL hoe in Nederland wordt omgegaan met water, een belangrijke factor voor Nederland als een veilige, leefbare en welvarende Delta, zie [Waterkwaliteit en -veiligheid \(2014\)](#). Het gaat daarbij om beleid, doelbeelden en sturing van de bescherming tegen en de aanwezigheid van voldoende water van goede kwaliteit (zie [Waterkwaliteit](#)) om door mens en natuur.

**In het waterbeleid**

De tabel vat de voortgang samen ten aanzien van de doelen gericht op het verbeteren van veiligheid.

Doel	Balans 2012	Balans 2014	Toelichting
T en voorziening 2015	●	●	In normale én in droge jaren kunnen de meeste gebruikers van voldoende water worden voorzien.
Veiligheid	■	●	Het beschermingsniveau voor waterveiligheid is niet op het gewenste peil. In het Deltaprogramma wordt nieuw veiligheidsbeleid ontwikkeld.

**Over de legende**



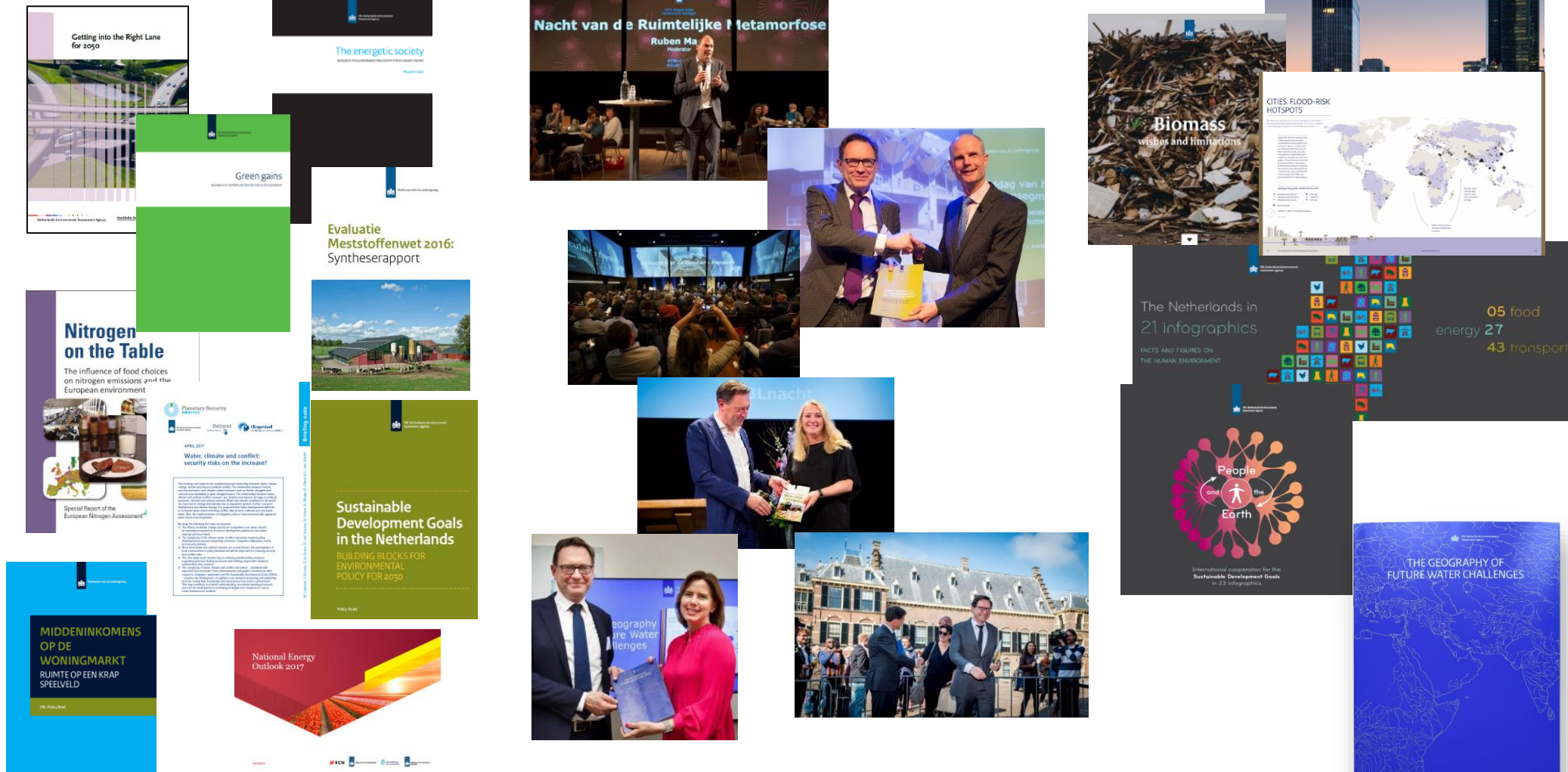
# Knowledge position







...impact...

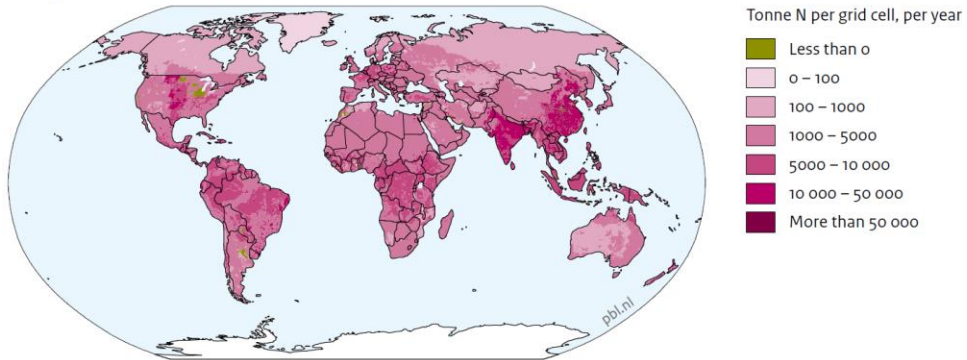




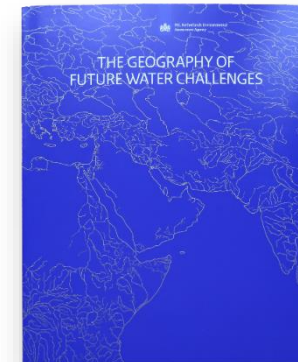
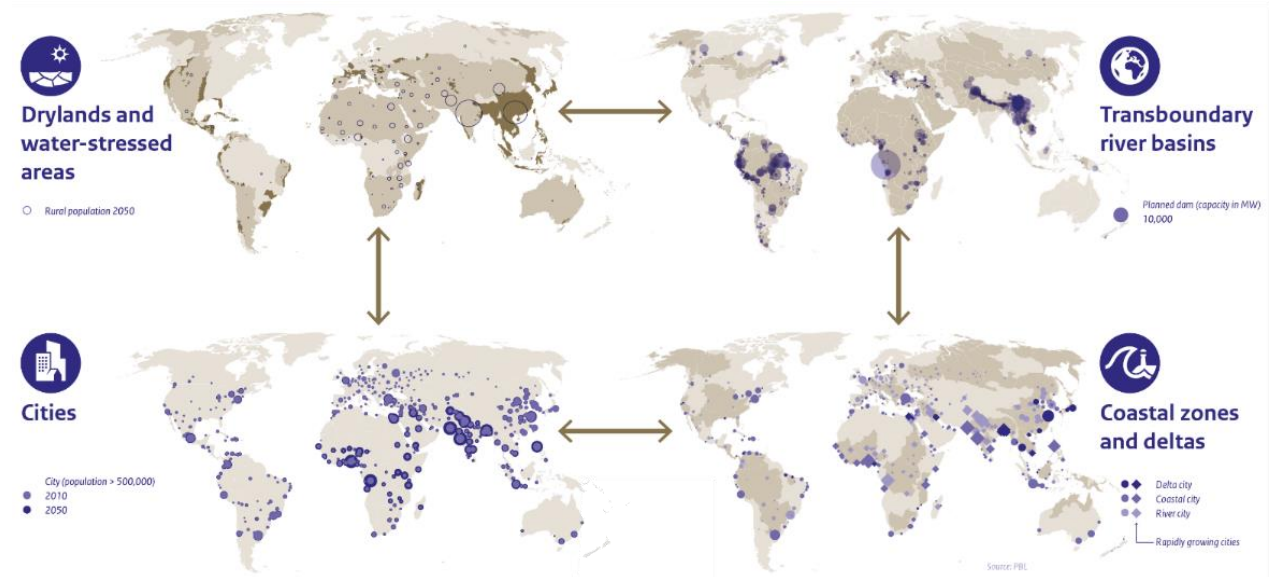
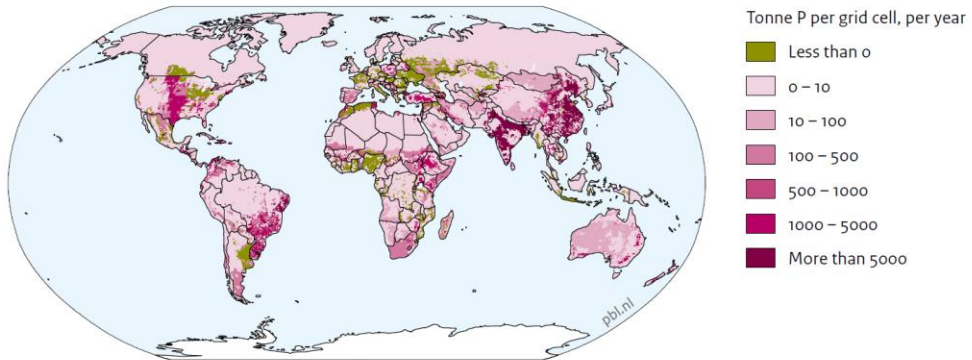
# ...linking global...

Figure 4.7  
Nitrogen and phosphorus budget, 2010

Nitrogen



Phosphorus

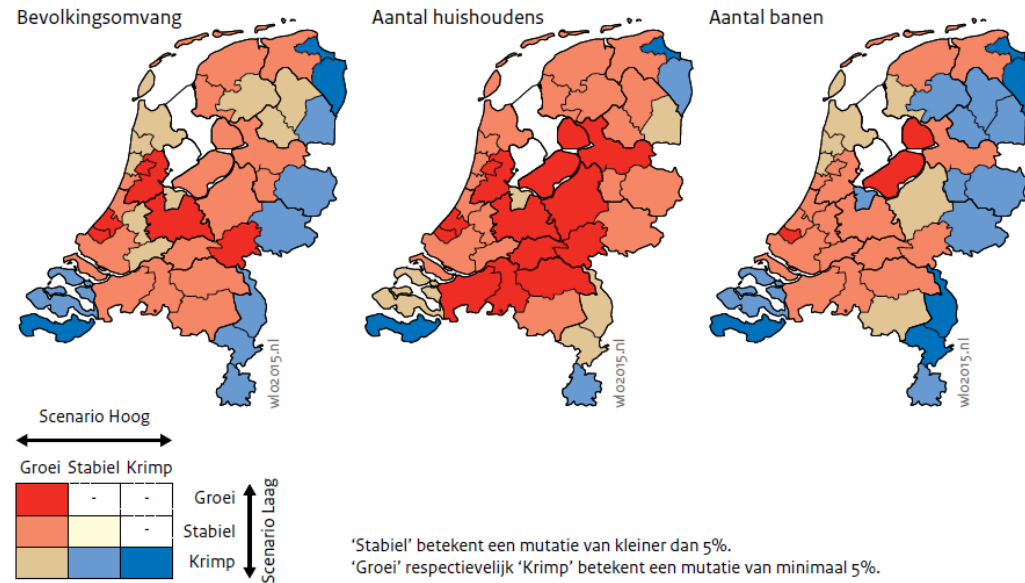




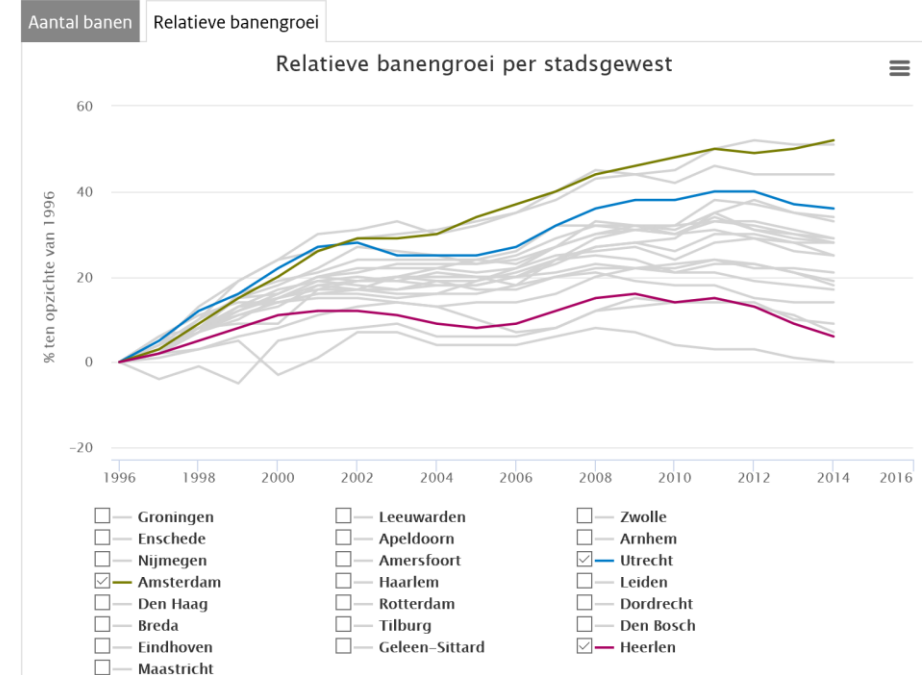
# ...and regional...

Figuur 2

Verandering van bevolkingsomvang, aantal huishoudens en aantal banen per COROP-gebied volgens WLO-scenario Hoog en Laag, 2012 – 2050



Bron: PBL/CPB (Tigris XL)

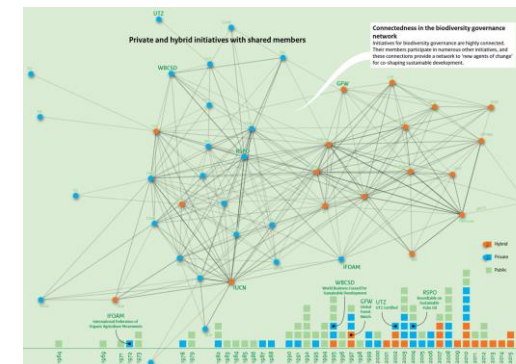
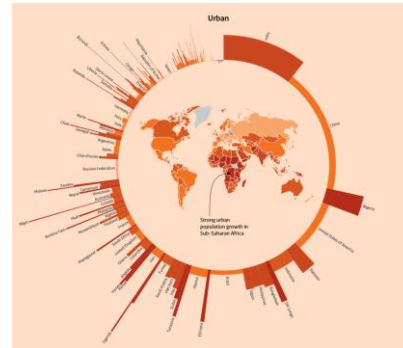
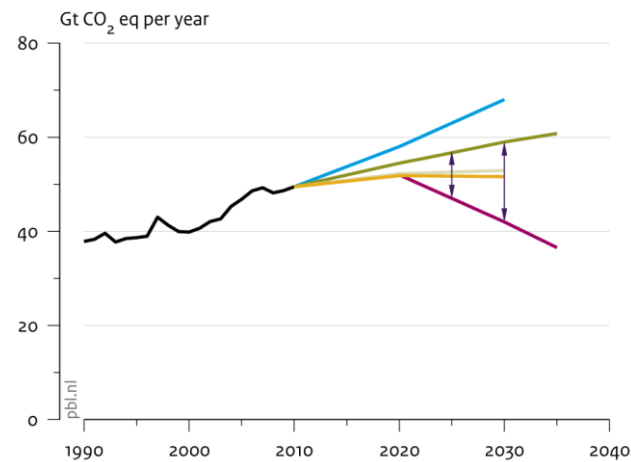
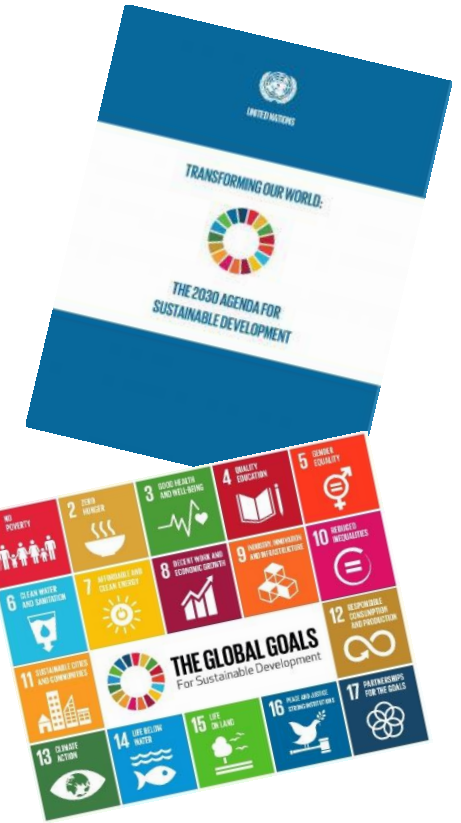




## ...changing times: from traditional environmental agenda's...







Source: UNEP 2014; PBL 2015

# Four major environmental transitions



Climate & Energy



Food, Agriculture  
& Nature



Green & Circular  
economy



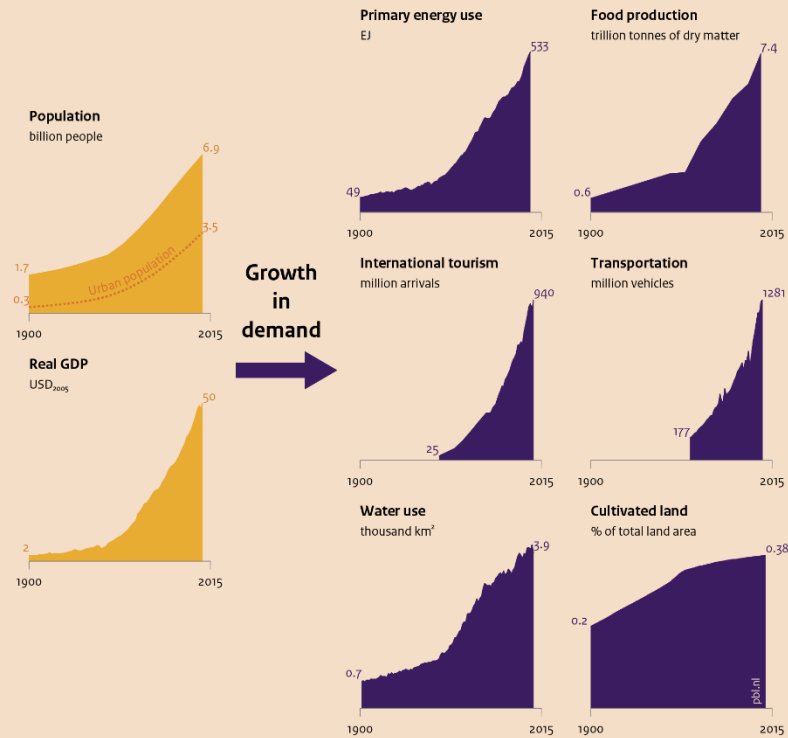
Resilient (city)  
regions





# Welcome to the **Anthropocene**

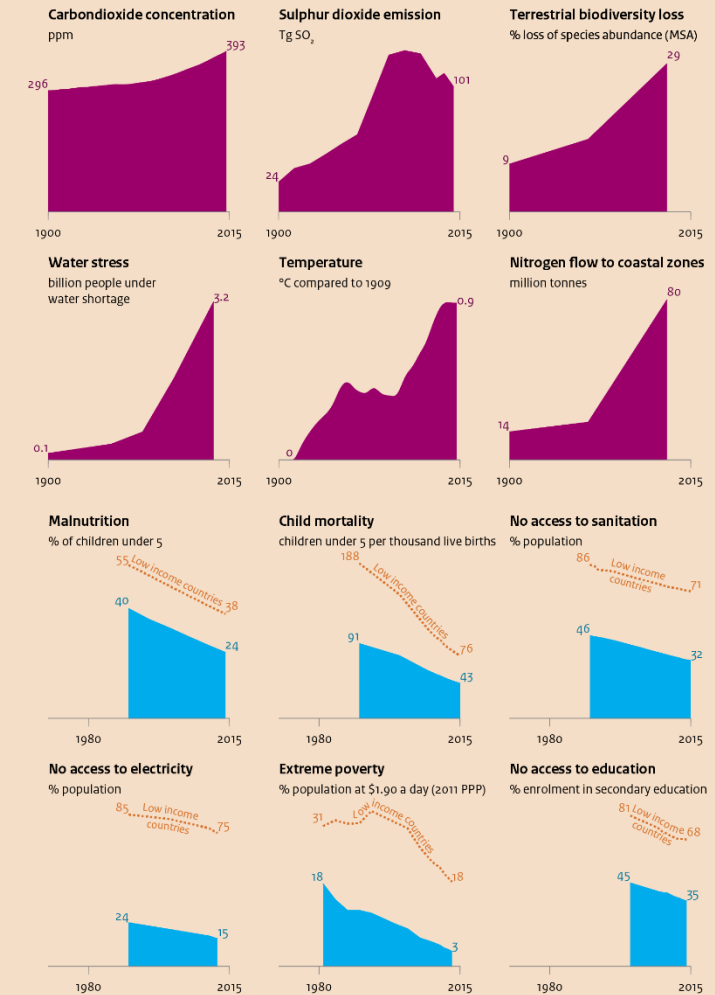
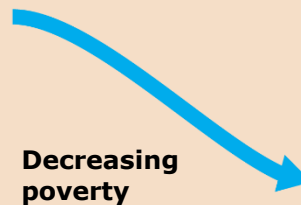
Trends in human development and environmental pressures



Increasing  
pressures  
on the  
environment



Decreasing  
poverty

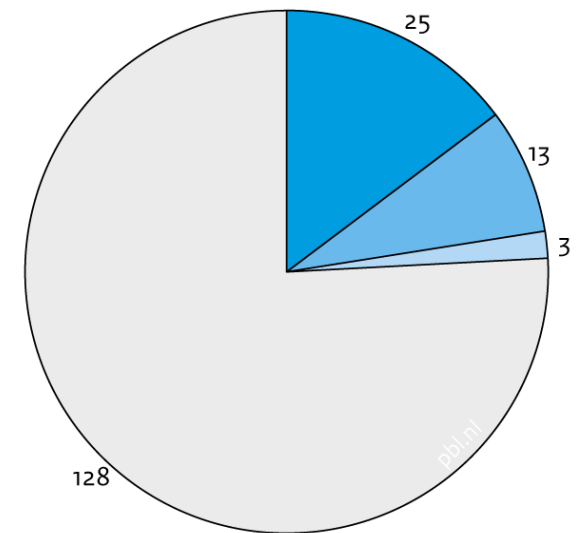






# SDGs not new for Dutch environmental policy

- SDG's put Dutch environmental challenges in an integrated global context
- SDG's provide policy momentum for next step in national SD policies
- SDG's deliver multi-dimensional (3P) assessment tool
- But: what is their role and position?



Number of environment-related SDG targets relevant in the Dutch context

- Fully covered by existing policy targets
- Partly covered by existing policy targets
- Not covered by existing policy targets

Number of other SDG targets

- Not analysed

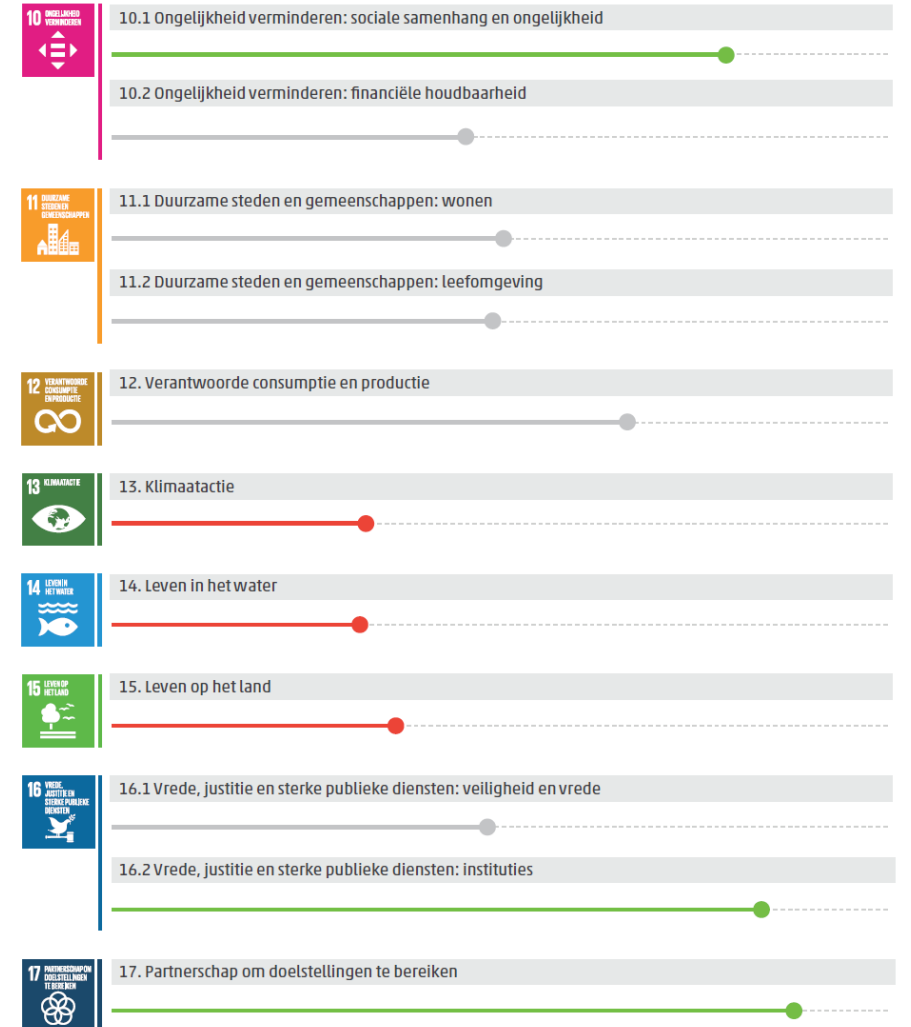


Positie van in Nederland binnen de EU per SDG<sup>plus</sup>-doelstelling (gemiddelde positie over totale aantal gemeten indicatoren per SDG)



Laatste in EU  
0%

Eerste in EU  
100%







# However: no national SDG Agenda



Klimaatakkoord

Den Haag  
28 juni 2019





# Interest from business and civil society

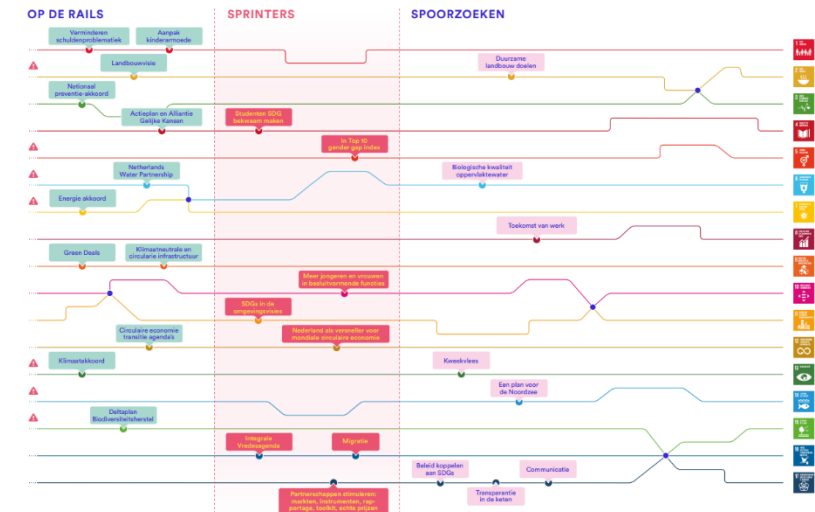
## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS Charter



**Letter to informer of new Cabinet**  
*'Put SDGs at the center of the new coalition agreement'*



### SDG Routekaart 2019



# SDG Monitoring not integrated in specific policy programmes, but part of overall view



- SDGs now an integral part of the yearly 'Monitor Brede Welvaart' of statistics Netherlands (SD Monitor)
  - NL behind in the EU on SDGs on energy, climate and biodiversity



- Yearly Dutch SDG report, government together with civil society, business
  - NL scores low on 'planet' goals





# Not much traction beyond Foreign Trade and Development Co-operation: how come?

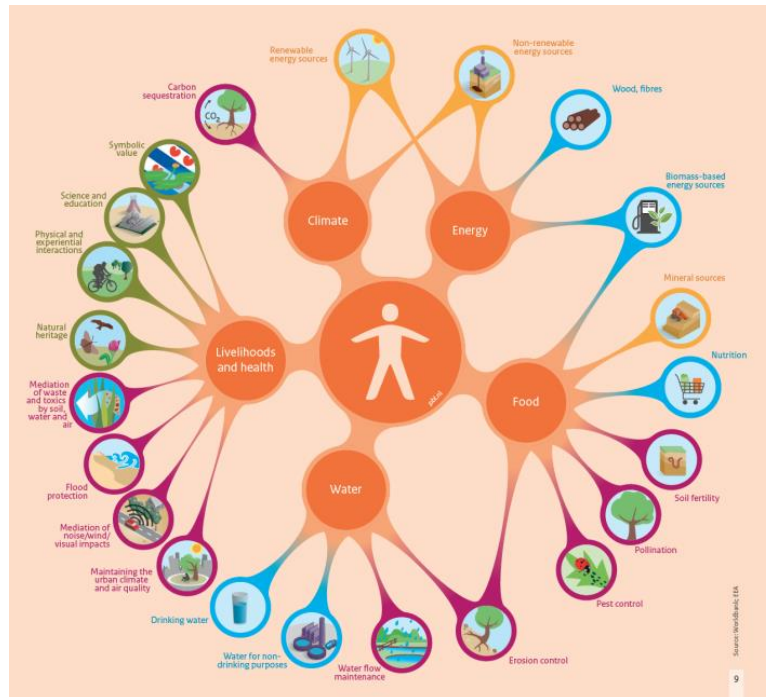
- SDGs are seen as
  - a follow-up of the MDG, thus for developing countries
  - a top-down, external, foreign affairs'-based UN process
  - a very broad agenda, with vaguely, pragmatically defined targets/indicators
  - not adding really new issues to the Dutch policy agenda
  - not coming out of policy development processes



Ask not what you can  
do for the SDGs, ask  
what the SDGs can  
do for you!

# The role of science

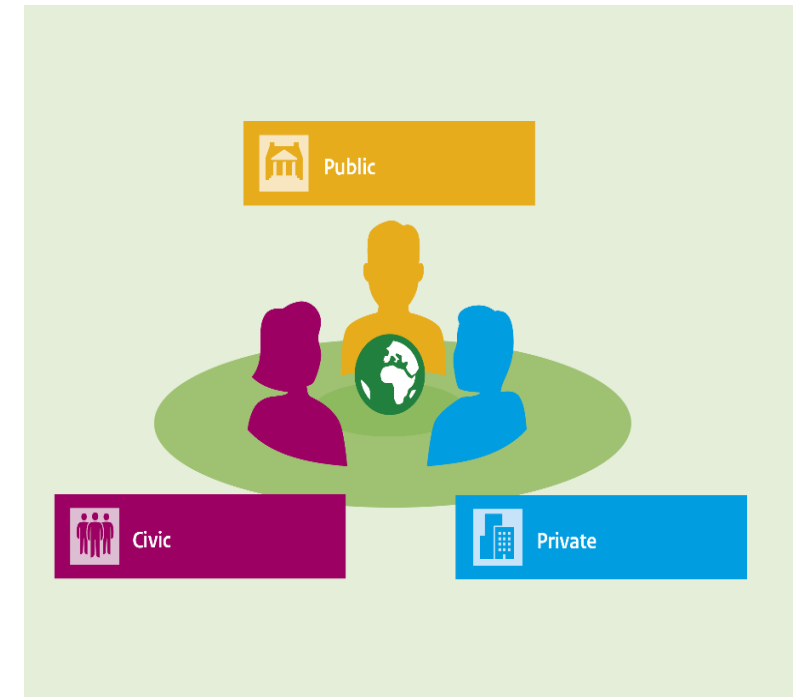
## Assessing systemic challenges



## Finding integrated solutions



## Analysing policy coherence and integration





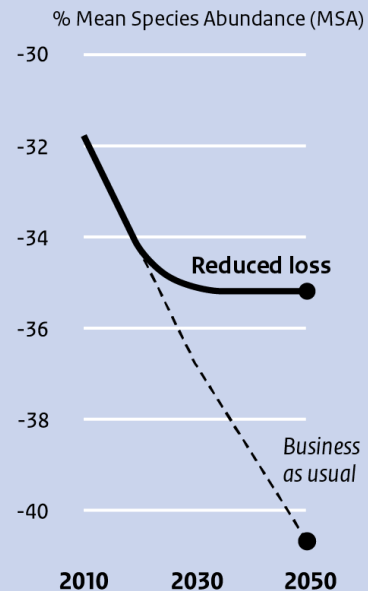
# Global Environmental Assessments



- Knowledge base for policymakers to address global environmental challenges
  - State of the global environment
  - Progress toward internationally agreed targets
  - Solution pathways and policies
  
- Transition from 'what' to 'how'
- Translation to national context required

# Finding shared solutions

## Pathways for reducing biodiversity loss, 2050



### SPARING

#### Global Technology

Pathway achieves the 2050 targets with a focus on optimal large-scale global technological solutions, such as **intensive agriculture** and a high level of **international coordination**.



### SHARING

#### Decentralised Solutions

Pathway with a focus on **regional priorities** and local ecology-friendly technologies. Agriculture is interwoven with **natural corridors**.



### CARING

#### Consumption Change

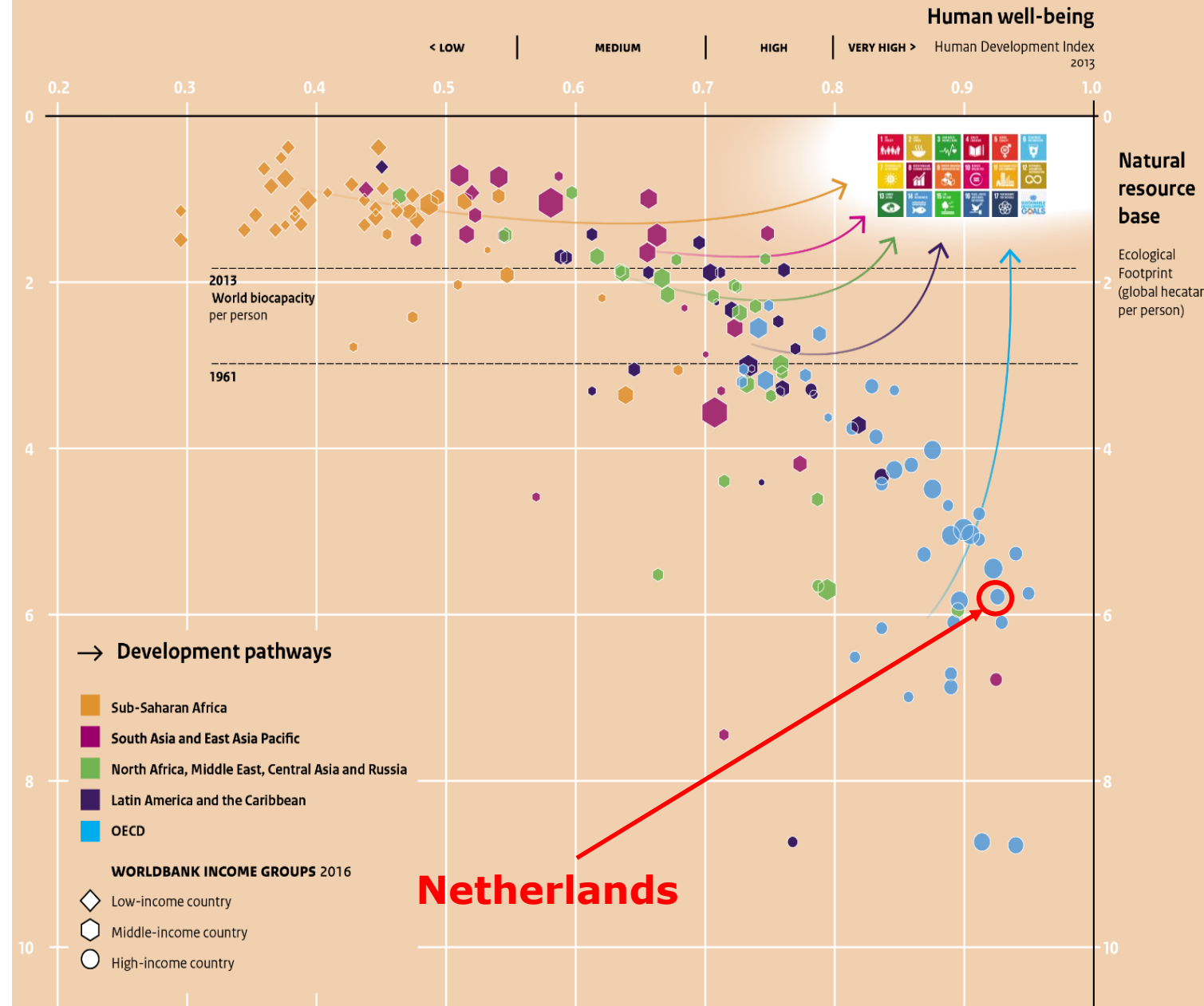
Pathway with a focus on changes in human consumption patterns, most notably by limiting meat, reduce waste, and a less energy-intensive and material-intensive lifestyle.



Source: WCMC; PBL

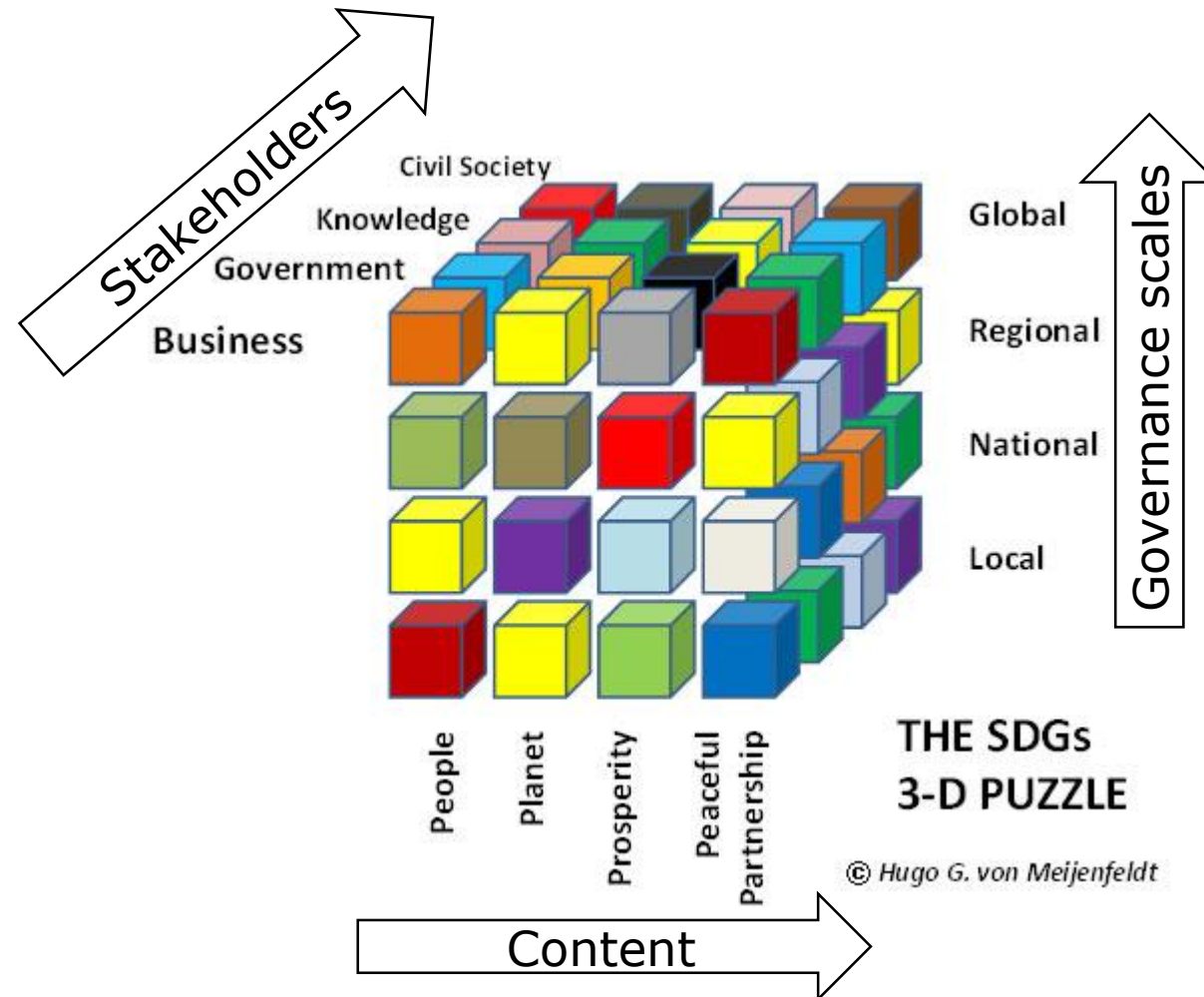
# Integrating global ambitions and national 'policy' targets

- Unequal distribution of benefits and impacts of resource use
- Shared or 'Common but differentiated responsibility'





# Enabling policy coherence and integration





# Conclusion

- › SDG's play a promising role in building global-regional integrated/comparative sustainability development agenda's
- › However, at a distance from the everyday detail of the knowledge-policy interface to really become part of effective policy assessment practices
- › That is not a problem, but a strength: back and forth between mere 'compliance' and building 'collaborative action vectors', organizing commitment, stimulating imagination