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**Environmental chronology
of the Netherlands**

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ENVIRONMENTAL CHRONOLOGY OF THE NETHERLANDS

**A short historical overview of important incidents,
institutions, legislation, persons, protest actions and publications**

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SAMENVATTING

Dit rapport geeft een chronologisch overzicht van de gebeurtenissen in Nederland op het vlak van natuur en milieu. Het is opgesteld naar aanleiding van een vraag van het Centre national d' études et de documentation sur l'écologie et sa culture (C.E.D.E.C.). Dit Franse instituut zal de hier gepresenteerde gegevens verwerken in een publikatie over de geschiedenis van de natuur- en milieuproblematiek in West-Europa. De keuze voor de Engelse taal, de chronologische ordening en de periode 1814-1995 komen voort uit de wensen van het C.E.D.E.C.

Vanwege de beperkte tijd voor deze studie zijn vooral gemakkelijk toegankelijke, secundaire bronnen geraadpleegd. Slecht gedocumenteerde onderdelen van de natuur- en milieugeschiedenis, zoals acties en incidenten voor 1970, blijven dus goeddeels buiten beeld. Daarentegen krijgen institutionele aspecten, zoals de wetgeving en de organisaties veel aandacht. In het algemeen worden alleen direct relevante, grote, invloedrijke en/of unieke zaken vermeld. Aan de orde komen alle nieuwe wetten en de belangrijkste beleidsplannen op het gebied van natuur en milieu. Bovendien worden gezaghebbende of karakteristieke personen, geschriften en instanties uit de Nederlandse natuur- en milieubeschermingsbeweging behandeld.

Ondanks de beperkingen van deze studie is het beeld duidelijk. Ook de negentiende eeuw kende milieuproblemen en aan het eind van deze eeuw ontstonden de eerste milieu- en natuurbeschermingsorganisaties en -wetten. Daarna nam het aantal instanties dat zich met natuur bezig hield gestaag toe. Tussen 1930 en 1950 groeide de natuurbeschermingsbeweging sterk, mede als gevolg van de ontginningen, de opkomst van de planologie en de ontwikkelingen in de landbouw. Na 1970, toen het milieuprobleem maatschappelijk werd erkend, was er sprake van een stormachtige groei van het aantal milieuorganisaties, acties en nota's. Bovendien radicaliseerde de milieubeweging, vooral rond het thema kernenergie. Ook werden de analyses steeds wetenschappelijker. De verhoogde activiteit van particuliere organisaties en overheid duurde tot 1995 voort. Dit leidde tot meer verfijnde regelgeving en nauwkeuriger doelstellingen, maar ook tot steeds preciezere overzichten over de achteruitgang van de natuur- en milieukwaliteit.

De Biologiewinkel van de Rijksuniversiteit Groningen heeft dit rapport uitgegeven om te voldoen aan de groeiende vraag onder historici, milieu- en natuurbeschermers, milieukundigen en beleidmakers aan een historisch overzicht van de milieuproblematiek in Nederland.

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INTRODUCTION

This publication presents a chronology of events in the Netherlands in the realm of nature conservation and environmental protection. This chronology was prepared in response to a request from the Centre national d' études et de documentation sur l'écologie et sa culture (C.E.D.E.C.). This French institute is working on an overview of the history of ideas and events relating to nature and environment in Western Europe and, if possible, the whole world. Several features of this overview result from the requirements of this centre: the chosen period (1814-1995), the English language and the format.

To make such an overview, even for the Netherlands only, is far from simple. And because we had a few months to work on it, we were forced to make certain choices. Unfortunately the C.E.D.E.C. was unable to offer any clear guidelines on selecting data, and we therefore had to use our own criteria.

An important choice was the restriction to our own archives and to readily available secondary sources. Because we have little information about some parts of the history of nature and the environment, such as public protests and incidents before 1970, they are underestimated here. On the other hand, the institutional aspects of history, such as changes in legislation and in organisational structures, are well documented.

In general, only directly relevant, major, influential and/or unique items have been selected for inclusion. With respect to legislation and policy plans relating to nature conservation and environmental protection, the focus is on the most important changes. Regulations concerning economy, which are sometimes of indirect relevance to nature and environment, have not been included. With respect to books, reports, institutions and persons within the nature conservation and environmental movements, only most influential or original are mentioned. Also, we have restricted ourselves to large or innovative protest actions, such as the huge anti-nuclear demonstrations and the blockades, which marked the beginning of new forms of actions. Finally, regional and international events are listed only if they had a national impact.

We hope that this overview is useful for people who are interested in the nature conservation and environmental movements, inside and outside the Netherlands. Like the C.E.D.E.C., we think it is important to document the history of these movements. We realise that this overview is only a first step. Perhaps it will inspire us or others to prepare a better accessible and more thorough work.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHRONOLOGY OF THE NETHERLANDS

- 1814: 07.11: 'Wet op de Jacht en de Visserij' (Game and Fishery Act) enacted. It regulates inspection of hunting and fishing, the accepted periods for fishing and hunting, hunting and fishing methods and permits.
- 1840: 06.06: 'Landontginningswet' (Reclamation Act), to stimulate reclamation.
- 1851: Inhabitants of the city of Zierikzee try to force the closure of a chemical factory because of the severe air and water pollution. At other places too, serious environmental problems occur in the second half of the 19th century, due to industrialisation and huge peat-moor fires.
- 1864: 08.25: Foundation of ' 's Gravenhaagse Vereeniging tot Bescherming van Dieren', later to become in 'Nederlandse Vereniging tot Bescherming van Dieren' (Society for the Protection of Animals). In 1995 this organisation has 195,000 members.
- 1871: 07.10: The last trees of the famous "pristine forest" Beekbergerwoud cut. Only few protests will follow, among others by the amateur botanist F.W. van Eeden.
- 1875: 06.02: 'Fabriekswet' (Factory Act) enacted. This law regulates hindrance such as water pollution, odour, explosions, noise etc., caused by factories.
- 1880: For the first time the phrase 'monumenten der natuur' (monuments of nature, derived from the German word 'Naturdenkmal') is used, by F.W. van Eeden in the journal 'Album der Natuur' and later in the book 'Onkruid'.
- 1880: 05.25: 'Nuttige Dierenwet' (Useful Animals Act) enacted, protecting animals (mostly birds) which are useful for forestry and agriculture.
- 1881: 06.21: 'Wet Zeevisserij' (Sea Fishery Act) enacted, containing guidelines for fishery on a few sea fishes.
- 1883: 06.03: Foundation of 'Algemene Nederlandse Wielrijders Bond' (ANWB, Dutch Society for Cyclists). This tourist union starts as a small group of cyclists, but a century later it is the biggest organisation in the Netherlands (3.1 million members in 1995). The main interest changes after World War II into tourism by car and recreation by car.
- 1886: 05.10: 'Markenwet' (Commons Act), to distribute the grounds of the commons to stimulate reclamation projects. Indeed, many reclamation

- 1886: 05.10: 'Markenwet' (Commons Act), to distribute the grounds of the commons to stimulate reclamation projects. Indeed, many reclamation activities start at the end of the century, as a result of this law, certain technological innovations - like fertilizers - and the development of an agricultural policy by the state.
- 1888: Foundation of 'Heidemaatschappij' (Heath Society). The main aims of this company are the reclamation of land and forestry.
- 1894: Appearance of 'Van Vlinders, Bloemen en Vogels' (About Butterflies, Flowers and Birds), the first one of a popular series of books, written by the teachers and naturalists Jac. P. Thijssse and E. Heimans.
- 1896: Foundation of the journal 'De Levende Natuur' (The Living Nature) by the teachers Jac. P. Thijssse and E. Heimans; this journal is the most important medium for articles about nature protection and nature study in the period before World War II.
- 1896: 09.04: Enactment of 'Hinderwet' (Nuisance Act). This law replaces the 'Fabriekswet' (Factory Act) of 1875 and the 'Veiligheidswet' (Safety Act) of 1895.
- 1898: Appearance of A.J. van Schermbeek's book 'Het Bosch' (The Forest), more or less a translation of 'Der Waldbau' by Karl Gayer. The book criticises the excessive cultivation in forestry and proposes a sustainable type of forestry. In Wageningen, the centre of forestry in the Netherlands, the book will inspire the so-called biological foresters.
- 1899: 01.01: Foundation of 'Nederlandse Vereniging tot Bescherming van Vogels' (Dutch Society for Protection of Birds). In 1995 this organisation has 76,000 members.
- 1899: 07.22: Foundation of 'Staatsbosbeheer' (State Forest Service). From 1901 onwards (until 1937) E.D. van Dissel is its Director, and plays an important role in the nature conservation movement. In 1995 'Staatsbosbeheer' owns 200,000 ha of nature reserves and forests.
- 1901: 05.18: Foundation of 'Nederlandse Ornithologische Vereniging' (Dutch Society for Ornithology). Already in 1901 it pays attention to bird protection.
- 1901: 06.22: Enactment of 'Woningwet' (Housing Act), containing rules for town planning.
- 1901: 08: Lecture about plant protection at a meeting of the 'Nederlandse Botanische Vereniging' (Dutch Organisation of Botanists, founded in 1845).

- 1901: 12.27: Foundation of 'Nederlandse Natuurhistorische Vereniging' (Dutch Society for Natural History). One of its goals is the protection of nature. The biologist H. Heukels is the first chairman.
- 1903: For the first time the word "natuurbescherming" (nature protection) is used, in the journal 'De Levende Natuur'.
- 1904: The German biologist and nature conservationist H. Conwentz is invited to give a lecture about nature protection at a meeting of the 'Nederlandse Botanische Vereniging'.
- 1904: 11: Mayor and Aldermen of Amsterdam propose to make a garbage dump of Lake Naardermeer. Jac. P. Thijssse and other naturalists start an action against this plan. The City Council does not accept the dump plan (for financial reasons, not because of the action). Thijssse's action can be seen as the start of the founding procedure of the later conservation organisation 'Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland'.
- 1905: 04.22: Foundation of 'Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland' (Society for Preservation of Nature in the Netherlands). Chairman is prof. J. Th. Oudemans (until 1928), secretary Jac. P. Thijssse (until 1945). In 1995 this organisation has 725,000 members and owns 300 sites with a total area of 70,000 ha. Then, it is the most powerful nature conservation organisation in the Netherlands.
- 1906: 09.03: The 'Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland' buys its first nature reserve: the Naardermeer.
- 1908: For the first time the State decides to categorise an area as a "nature monument": De Muy.
- 1908: 10.06: 'Visserijwet' (Fishery Act) enacted, regulating fishery in fresh and salt waters (for about 100 fish species).
- 1909: 09.15: Founding of 'Vereniging tegen Water-, Bodem- en Luchtverontreiniging' (Association against Water, Soil and Air Pollution). This association asks for better legislation with respect to water and air pollution. In the 1950s the organisation starts to warn against the dangers of nuclear power.
- 1911: 02.02: Foundation of 'Bond Heemschut' (an organisation for the preservation of cultural historical objects such as farms, castles and windmills). In 1995 this organisation has 8050 members.
- 1911: 02.11: The 'Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland' buys the forest Hagenau, a part of the later National Park the Veluwezoom.
- 1912: The 'Commissie voor de Reiniging van het Afvalwater van Strokarton- en Aardappelmeelfabrieken' presents report to tackle serious water

Groningen province. The proposals of the committee are not implemented.

- 1912: 09.23: 'Vogelwet' (Bird Protection Act) enacted, to protect certain birds.
- 1914: 06.22: Change of 'Nuttige Dierenwet' (Useful Animals Act). From now on it is possible to declare protection for any animal, except birds, which are protected in the Bird Protection Act. In fact this law will be used only three times, for the protection of the mole, hedgehog and frog.
- 1918: 02.12: Foundation of 'Nederlands Instituut voor Volkshuisvesting' (Dutch Institute of Public Housing; in 1923 'en Stedebouw' (and Town Planning) is added to the name. In 1956 the name will be changed again, to 'Nederlands Instituut voor Ruimtelijke Ordening en Volkshuisvesting' (Dutch Institute of Physical Planning and Housing). The goals of the society are: proper housing for all, a reasonable quality of urban construction and rational planning of rural areas. From 1956 onwards the focus is on physical planning in general too, and after 1990 environmental problems are taken into account.
- 1920: 08.16: Founding of 'Nederlandse Jeugdbond voor Natuurstudie' (Netherlands Youth Society for Nature Studies), historically influential "breeding ground" for conservationists and environmentalists. In 1995 this society has 800 members.
- 1921: Foundation of 'Nederlandsche Arbeiders Reis Vereeniging' (NARV, Dutch Travel Society for Workers). In 1925 the words 'De Natuurvrienden' (Friends of Nature) are added to the name.
- 1921: Authorities plan to construct an electric tramway through the important recreation area 't Gooi and the nature reserve Naardermeer. Many protests follow and as a result the plan is cancelled. This is probably the first successful nature conservation action in the Netherlands.
- 1921: 02.19: Change of 'Woningwet' (Housing Act). From now on it is possible to integrate and coordinate the town plans of different municipalities.
- 1922: 12: Thousands of fishes die in the river Meuse as a result of water pollution of Belgian industries. During the first decades of the 20th century, several similar incidents occur related to water quality of rivers and the North Sea.
- 1922: 05.19: Enactment of the 'Boswet' (Forest Protection Act), to ensure the conservation of forests and natural scenery.
- 1922: 09.18: Jac. P. Thijssse becomes doctor honoris causa in mathematics and natural sciences.

- 1924: At a congress of the ‘Nederlands Instituut voor Volkshuisvesting en Stedebouw’ about town planning a plea is made for better contact between man and nature. For this reason the town planners propose a better way of planning, with regional plans, including the planning of nature reserves.
- 1924: Foundation of ‘Instituut voor Arbeidersontwikkeling’ (IVAO, Institute for the Education of Workers), to educate and develop the workers. The study of nature is one of the aims.
- 1925: 07.10: Foundation of ‘Nederlandse Commissie voor Internationale Natuurbescherming’ (Dutch Committee for International Nature Conservation).
- 1926: 09.14: ‘Noodklokvergadering’ (Urgency Meeting) about the threat to forests and country seats. The same day the committee ‘Het Nederlands Landschap’ (The Dutch Landscape) is founded. The main organisations for recreation, nature conservation and town planning work together in this committee (until 1938). The goal of the committee is to achieve better protection of country seats and to make an inventory of nature in the Netherlands.
- 1927: The businessman and lawyer P.G. van Tienhoven becomes Chairman of the main organisation for nature conservation, the ‘Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland’ (until 1952). He is one of the most influential persons of the nature conservation movement in the pre World War II period.
- 1927: 03.09: Foundation of ‘Utrechts Landschap’, a provincial organisation for nature and landscape protection. Between 1927 en 1936 11 such private provincial organisations (‘Landschappen’) are founded (this means that every province has such an organisation). In 1995 these organisations have 215,000 donors together.
- 1927: 11.12: Foundation of ‘Commissie voor den Monumentendag’ (Committee for the Organisation of the Monument Days). This committee organises a meeting every year (until 1955) about issues such as physical planning, the conservation of cultural monuments and nature conservation. In this committee the important organisations for recreation, culture conservation and nature conservation participate.
- 1928: Installation of the ‘Commissie Advies inzake de Natuurmonumenten van het SBB’. This committee is asked to advise ‘Staatsbosbeheer’ (State Forest Service) about the management of state nature reserves. Chairman is the biologist prof. Th. Weevers. Other members are scientists too.

- 1928: 03.15: Enactment of 'Natuurschoonwet' (Natural Beauty Act). Now it is possible to subsidise the management of forests with a high scenic value.
- 1929: The Government announces that a 'Natuurbeschermingswet' (Nature Conservation Act) is coming soon (it will be 1967!).
- 1929: Founding of 'Vuil Afvoer Maatschappij' to process domestic waste. In 1995 this company processes 20% of domestic waste in the Netherlands.
- 1929: 02.16: The task of 'Staatsbosbeheer' (State Forest Service) is officially extended. From now on this organisation is also responsible for the protection of natural beauty.
- 1930: Foundation of National Park the Veluwezoom, later followed by National Park De Hoge Veluwe (1935) and Kennemerduinen National Park (1950).
- 1931: 07.09: Change of 'Woningwet' (Housing Act). Now it is possible to draw up regional plans.
- 1932: Heavy protest by nature conservationists against the plan to make a reservoir of the botanically very interesting and very beautiful Geul valley. The conservationists are successful: the plan is cancelled.
- 1932: 07.04: Creation of 'Contact Commissie inzake Natuurbescherming' (Liaison Committee for Nature Protection) by existing conservation organisations, with the aim of exerting greater influence on Government policy. First chairman is Th. Weevers, but this position is soon taken over by E.J. Beumer, member of parliament (for the 'Anti-Revolutionaire Partij', the Protestant Party). In the sixties this committee has 120 members (all kinds of organisations such as trade unions, recreation organisations, organisations for biologists, for artists and for naturalists).
- 1935: Start of an intense debate about forest management. Issues are hunting, the desirability of non-indigenous plant species and the techniques of forestry.
- 1936: 12.31: Change of 'Vogelwet' (Bird Protection Act). Many more birds now are protected.
- 1937: 06.07: Founding of 'Nederlandse Vereniging tot Bevordering der Biologisch-Dynamische Landbouw Methode' (Netherlands Association for the Advancement of Biodynamic Agriculture). In 1995 this association has 2500 members.
- 1938: State report about reclamations presented, written by J.Th. Westhoff. His proposal is to reclaim 96,349 ha. At that time thousands of hectares of "waste land" have already been reclaimed (13,000 ha/year).

- 1939: As a reaction to the large scale reclamations the 'Contact Commissie inzake Natuurbescherming' presents the report 'Het voornaamste natuurschoon in Nederland' (The most important natural beauty in the Netherlands), written by the leading nature conservationists Jac.P. Thijssse, G.A. Brouwer, H. Cleyndert, Th. Weevers and W.G. van der Kloet. The report provides the first overview of the interesting nature areas in the Netherlands.
- 1939: Founding of 'Comité tegen Verontreiniging van Natuur en Stad' (Committee Against the Pollution of Nature and Town), which will change its name in 1948 to 'Bond van Natuurbeschermingswachten' (Union of Nature Guards).
- 1940: M. van der Goes van Naters, Labour Party member of parliament and lawyer, becomes Chairman of the 'Contact Commissie inzake Natuurbescherming' (until 1971). He will play an important role in the nature conservation movement.
- 1940: 04.02: Introduction of the 'Natuurbeschermingsbeschikking' (Nature Conservation Decree), setting conditions on damage to nature and the landscape due to construction work.
- 1941: 'Ministerie van Onderwijs, Kunsten en Wetenschappen' (Ministry of Education, Arts and Sciences) gets its first full-time employee for nature conservation: W.G. van der Kloet. From then on this ministry bears main responsibility for nature conservation.
- 1941: The 'Contact Commissie inzake Natuurbescherming' (Liaison Committee for Nature Protection) changes its name into 'Contact Commissie voor Natuur- en Landschapsbescherming' (Liaison Committee for Nature and Landscape Protection).
- 1941: 05.14: The Government decides to found the 'Rijksdienst Nationale Plan' (State Agency National Plan), to make a document on national physical planning. As a first result the so-called "meldingsplicht" (duty to report) and "meldingslijst" (report list) are introduced in 1942. It is obliged to inform the authorities if one intends to damage an area which is on this list.
- 1943: Foundation of a department for landscape protection at the tourist union 'ANWB'.
- 1945: Many nature conservationists criticise the management of the nature reserves of the 'Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland'. Some propose to introduce a more human-free way of management to get "real nature". Others disagree. The young plant sociologist V. Westhoff introduces the term "half-nature" to stress the need of certain human management to get some attractive kinds of nature, such as meadows which are the result of old-fashioned

- agriculture. This term will become very influential in the nature conservation movement.
- 1945: 01.08: Jac. P. Thijssse, one of the founders of the Dutch nature conservation movement, dies.
- 1946: H.P. Gorter becomes Director of ‘Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland’ (until 1979). He will become a very influential person in the private nature conservation organisations.
- 1946: 01: P.G. van Tienhoven receives an honorary degree in mathematics and natural sciences.
- 1946: 05.17: Founding of ‘(Voorlopige) Natuurbescherdingsraad’ ({Preliminary} Nature Conservation Council), to advise Government about nature and landscape affairs. Chairman is W.G.A. van Sonsbeek.
- 1946: 07.13: Foundation of ‘Verbond van Wetenschappelijke Onderzoekers’ (VWO, Union of Scientific Researchers). One of the aims is to prevent abuse of scientific knowledge for war purposes. This union gives great impetus to the growth of counter expertise with regard to nuclear energy and gene technology in the seventies. Many VWO members will be active in the anti-nuclear movement.
- 1947: Biologist V. Westhoff becomes scientific advisor of ‘Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland’. He will become the most influential biologist/nature conservationist of the post-second World War period.
- 1947: 11.12: Foundation of ‘Bond van Friese Vogelbeschermswachten’ (Union of Frisian Bird Guards). In 1995 this organisation has 25,000 members.
- 1948: Founding of ‘Commissie Overleg Landbouw en Natuurbescherming’ (Committee for Consultation about Agriculture and Nature Conservation), a committee in which the main nature conservation and agriculture organisations try to reach agreement about a common policy. This committee was disbanded in 1955.
- 1948: Egbert de Vries publishes ‘De Aarde Betaalt’ (It Will Cost the Earth), on the future of industrial society, including the need for major changes to avoid disaster. Interesting book, but not influential.
- 1950: Research by biologist J.J. Barkman shows the existence of so-called epiphyte deserts, probably due to air pollution.
- 1950: 09.28: Enactment of ‘Wet Nationale Plan’ (National Plan Act), providing a legal basis for region plans.

- 1952: 05.15: Change of 'Hinderwet' (Nuisance Act), necessary because of the enormous technological and administrative changes since the introduction of this act.
- 1953: 05.05: P.G. van Tienhoven, former chairman of 'Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland' dies.
- 1954: 11.03: Change of 'Jachtwet' (Game Act). Now the protection of wildlife is explicitly mentioned in the act. More attention is also paid to nature conservation and less to agriculture interests. At the same time the 'Jachtraad' (Game Council) is founded.
- 1955: Walter Greiling's 'Wie werden wir leben?' is translated ('Zo Zal Ons Leven Worden'; This Will Be Our Life). It is on the future of industrial society, including the need for major changes to avoid disaster. The book is not influential.
- 1955: 'Ministerie van Onderwijs, Kunsten en Wetenschappen' (Ministry of Education, Arts and Sciences) decides to spend much more money for the acquisition of nature reserves (Dfl. 3,000,000/yr instead of Dfl. 300,000/yr.).
- 1957: Foundation of 'Rijksinstituut voor Veldbiologisch Onderzoek ten behoeve van het Natuurbehoud' (RIVON, State Institute for Field Biological Research Nature Research). Director is M.F. Mörzer Bruins.
- 1958: 07.09: Enactment of 'Wet Olieverontreiniging Zeewater' (Oil Pollution in Sea Act). Within 50 miles of the mainland it is forbidden to discharge oil.
- 1959: Foundation of 'Nederlands Instituut voor Volksontwikkeling en Natuurvriendenwerk' (NIVON, Dutch Institute for Education and Nature for the People), as a result of the fusion of the older organisations 'NARV' (1921) and 'IVAO' (1924). In 1995 this organisation has 41,000 members.
- 1960: 'Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting en Bouwnijverheid' (Ministry of Housing and Building) presents first 'Nota inzake de Ruimtelijke Ordening in Nederland' (Policy Document on Physical Planning).
- 1960: 05.21: Founding of 'Instituut voor Natuurbeschermingseducatie' (IVN, Institute of Nature Education), continuation of 'Bond van Natuurbeschermingswachten' (1948). In 1995 the society has 17,000 members.
- 1962: 05: Foundation of 'Inspectie Milieuhygiëne' (Inspectorate of Environmental Hygiene).
- 1962: 07.05: 'Wet op de Ruimtelijke Ordening' (Town and Country Planning Act) enacted, enabling nature reserves to be legally protected within the framework of regional plans or town plans.

- 1962: 07.12: Enactment of 'Bestrijdingsmiddelenwet' (Pesticides Act), including guidelines for trade in and use of pesticides (replaces former acts, of which the first was enacted in 1922).
- 1963: 02.21: 'Kernenergiewet' (Nuclear Energy Act) enacted. Aim is to promote nuclear energy and protect the community against dangers.
- 1963: 11.14: Founding of 'Vereniging tegen Luchtverontreiniging in en om het Nieuwe Waterweggebied' (Society against Air Pollution in and around the Industrial Area near Rotterdam), motivated by the fire and emission of poisonous substances at the ENCK factory in Vlaardingen (near Rotterdam). In the seventies the name of this group, one of the first modern environmental organisations, will be changed to 'Vereniging tegen Milieubederv in en om het Nieuwe Waterweggebied' (Society against Environmental Pollution in and around the Industrial Area near Rotterdam). In 1995 this organisation has 300 members.
- 1964: Health experts of Rotterdam present a report about air pollution. They fear dangerous effects of air pollution on human health.
- 1964: 'De Beer', one of Europe's best-known bird reserves, offered for Europoort extension of Rotterdam port.
- 1964: Problems between farmers and nature conservationists culminate in Twente: farmers cut 1300 old oaks and destroy 7 kilometres of hedgerow.
- 1965: Foundation of an Environmental Board for the Rijnmond district (Rotterdam and surroundings).
- 1965: Province of Friesland gives support to a plan to embank a part of the Wadden Sea.
- 1965: Creation of 'Ministerie van Cultuur, Recreatie en Maatschappelijk Werk' (Ministry of Culture, Recreation and Social Work). From now on this ministry is responsible for nature conservation policy.
- 1965: 07.05: Renewal of the 'Wet op de Ruimtelijke Ordening' (Town and Country Planning Act): all citizens exert their influence during regional plan procedures.
- 1965: 10: Foundation of 'Landelijke Vereniging tot Behoud van de Waddenzee' (Dutch Society for the Preservation of the Wadden Sea). In 1995 this society has 55,000 members.
- 1966: Tens of thousands of birds die due to pesticides.
- 1966: Government presents 'Tweede Nota over de Ruimtelijke Ordening in Nederland' (Second Policy Document on Physical Planning).
- 1967: Founding of 'Actiecomité tegen Geluidhinder Zwanenburg-Halfweg' (Action Committee against Noise Nuisance Zwanenburg-Halfweg) in the village of Zwanenburg near Amsterdam, to oppose plans to

expand Schiphol national airport. After a few years the much more radical committee 'De Lastige Zwanenburger' (The Rebellious Zwanenburger) is founded. As one of the first actions this committee burns a car on the motorway to the airport.

- 1967: C.J. Briejèr publishes 'Zilveren Sluiers en Verborgen Gevaren' (Silver Veils and Hidden Dangers), on the dangers of pesticides for man and nature. Influential book in circles of environmental activists.
- 1967: 11.15: Enactment of 'Natuurbeschermingswet' (Nature Conservation Act). The aim is to protect certain valuable areas and organisms.
- 1968: Foundation of 'Actiegroep Oosterschelde Open' (Action Group for an Open Oosterschelde). After the great flood of 1954 the Government decided to dam all the main arms of the sea. This job has now almost been completed. Fisherman and nature conservationists begin to challenge the decision to dam the Oosterschelde in this period.
- 1968: Several anti-Progil groups founded, trying to stop the settlement of Progil factory in Amsterdam.
- 1968: 12: The biologists M.J. Adriani en E. van der Maarel present their report 'Voorne in de Branding' (Voorne in Danger). The report shows the influences of industrialisation on man and nature (including the nature reserve Voorne) and is meant to stop further industrialisation near Rotterdam. The 'Contact Commissie voor Natuur- en Landschapsbescherming' plays a key role in the distribution of the report.
- 1968: 12.21: Some artists organise a debating evening about the quality of the environment in Vlaardingen, a city in the centre of the industrial area near Rotterdam.
- 1969: Founding of 'Bond van Wetenschappelijke Arbeiders' (BWA, Union of Scientific Workers). This organisation has a strong anti-capitalist ideology. It sets up practical (and productive) working groups on problems of health, safety, environment and nature conservation. One of the active members is Lucas Reijnders, who will publish many books about science, environmental problems and health, and will become professor of environmental science and a staff member of the 'Stichting Natuur en Milieu' (Nature and Environment Foundation), founded in 1972.
- 1969: Foundation of 'Rijksinstituut voor Natuurbeheer' (Research Institute for Nature Management), continuation of older institutes such as 'RIVON' (1957).
- 1969: First university creates new research and education field 'milieukunde' (environmental science). Soon other universities and

schools introduce this field. At the same time universities introduce ecology programmes.

- 1969: 03: Foundation of 'Stichting Leefbare Delta' (Foundation for a Liveable Delta), a cooperation of 27 local organisations, mainly in the province of Zuid-Holland. In 1972 the tasks of this foundation are taken over by the 'Centrum Milieubeheer Zuid-Holland' (Centre for Environmental Management in South Holland), soon renamed 'Zuid-Hollandse Milieufederatie' (Environmental Federation of South Holland).
- 1969: 03.26: First Dutch nuclear power station brought on stream, in Dodewaard.
- 1969: 05.14: Perhaps first successful modern-day environmental action: Amsterdam City Council adopts motion to oppose construction of hazardous chemical factory by French company Progil. The anti-Progil actions turn out to be very stimulating for other people. Newly established environmental groups in many regions fight against industrialisation plans, in Zeeland and Groningen among other areas.
- 1969: 06.26: River Rhine is contaminated with insecticide endosulfan, killing more than one million fishes; Dutch water authorities shut intake for two weeks (first major alert).
- 1969: 07.06: Demonstration against poor quality of the environment in Rotterdam.
- 1969: 11.13: Enactment of 'Wet Verontreiniging Oppervlaktewateren' (WVO, Pollution of Surface Waters Act), requiring businesses to obtain a permit for discharges to waterways; first legislation to encompass "polluter pays" principle.
- 1969: 12.19: Rotterdam decides to establish Hoogovens, a large metallurgic industry complex, near nature reserve Voorne.
- 1970: It is announced that a Directorate 'Natuurbescherming en Openlucht Recreatie' (Nature Conservation and Recreation) will be founded at the 'Ministerie van Cultuur, Recreatie en Maatschappelijk Werk' (Ministry of Culture, Recreation and Social Work).
- 1970: 'Contact Commissie voor Natuur- en Landschapsbescherming' presents the report 'Landschap en Landbouw van Morgen' (Landscape and Agriculture of Tomorrow). The report proposes to create several types of nature reserves and to give many agricultural areas a new destination as a nature reserve or an area with extensive "nature-friendly" agriculture.
- 1970: Founding of 'Aktie Strohalm' (Straw Action, a reference to "clutching at straws"), socially and politically most radical of early Dutch environmental movements, and still true in the 1990s. One of

the founders is Willem Hoogendijk, who will remain an influential person in the radical environmental movement. In 1995 'Aktie Strohalm' has 6500 donors.

- 1970: Founding of 'Centraal Aktiecomité Rijnmond' (CAR, Rijnmond Central Action Committee), to improve environmental quality in industrialised Rijnmond region. The first actions of CAR, the action group of 'Stichting Leefbare Delta', are concerned with the establishment of the Hoogovens iron foundry in the Rijnmond area. Many people sympathise with this group, seeing how noisy and polluted the heavily industrialised area near Rotterdam has become.
- 1970: Founding of 'Stichting Centrum Milieuzorg' (Centre for Environmental Care). The main tasks of this centre are to document environmental information and to educate the cadre of women organisations.
- 1970: Presentation of a plan to construct an enormous pipeline from potato flour industries in Groningen to Eems-Dollard estuary near the Wadden Sea. Nature conservationists protest. As a result, the original plan is never carried out.
- 1970: European Nature Conservation Year, which stimulates the founding of nature and environmental protection groups. In the 1970s, about 700 such groups will be founded.
- 1970: 03.24: Founding of 'Nederlandse Stichting Geluidhinder' (Netherlands Noise Nuisance Association).
- 1970: 04.13: Big fire at ENCK factory in Vlaardingen. For the second time in a few years poisonous substances escape. As a reaction, 4000 people demonstrate on 18 April in Vlaardingen.
- 1970: 06.03: 'Kabouter' (Gnome) party wins five seats in Amsterdam City Council and starts pressing for major environmental reforms: car ban in inner city, free (white) bicycles, etc.
- 1970: 08.22: Start of a weekend-long protest camp-out against the plan of the city of Rotterdam to establish the Hoogovens iron foundry in the Rijnmond area.
- 1970: 10.12: First day of a period with heavy smog in Rijnmond area. Such very high ozone concentrations had not measured been before, here, nor elsewhere in the world. NO₂ concentrations are high too. Many people become sick and a high school (1000 pupils) in the city of Vlaardingen has to close. As a reaction pupils refuse to go to their lessons next day (13 October). Instead they organise a spontaneous demonstration against air pollution for all pupils in Vlaardingen (1500 participants). The heavy smog in the Rijnmond industrial zone leads to massive protests. On 14 October environmental organisations

- present 60,000 signatures against the Hoogovens iron foundry plan, but Rotterdam City Council refuses to accept them.
- 1970: 11.26: Installation of a special committee for the Rijnmond area, the 'Saneringscommissie voor Rijnmond', to tackle serious air pollution.
- 1970: 11.26: 'Wet inzake Luchtverontreiniging' (Air Pollution Act) enacted, requiring businesses to obtain a permit for discharges into the open air.
- 1971: Founding of 'De Kleine Aarde' (The Small Earth), by Sietze Leeflang. This influential community works practically on renewable energy, housing and farming systems, publishing booklets, magazine, etc. In 1995 the organisation has 12,000 donors.
- 1971: Heavy storm causes enormous forest damage, which is worsened by a second storm in 1972. However, many nature conservationists become enthusiastic because of the unexpected nature developments in the open spaces. These developments stimulate a new way of thinking about the nature management of forests.
- 1971: Founding of 'Stichting Zeehondencreche Pieterburen' (Seal Rehabilitation and Research Centre Pieterburen). In 1995 this centre has 40,000 donors and 300,000 visitors. From 1971 onwards about 200 rehabilitation centres are founded for all kinds of wild animals.
- 1971: Directorate 'Natuurbescherming en Openlucht Recreatie' (Nature Conservation and Recreation) (part of 'Ministerie van Cultuur, Recreatie en Maatschappelijk Werk' - Ministry of Culture, Recreation and Social Work) gets a 'Hoofdafdeling Natuur- en Landschapsbescherming' (Main Department for Nature and Landscape Protection).
- 1971: Founding of 'Raad voor Milieudefensie', soon renamed 'Vereniging Milieudefensie' (Environmental Defence Association), affiliated with the international movement Friends of the Earth. One of the initiators is W. van Dieren, who will remain an influential person in the environmental movement. In the 1990s he will become a member of the Club of Rome. 'Vereniging Milieudefensie' has 35,000 members in 1995.
- 1971: Foundation of provincial 'Zeeuwse Milieufederatie' (Environmental Federation of Zealand). In 1972 each province will have its own 'Milieufederatie'. These (private but subsidised) organisations coordinate and stimulate the activity of regional, provincial and local nature, landscape and environmental organisations and try to influence the policy of the provincial authorities.
- 1971: 04.14: Environmentalists present 93,000 signatures to Rijnmond Council against Hoogovens plan. Two days later, Rotterdam City

- Council adopts motion to oppose establishment of Hoogovens metallurgical industry.
- 1971: 07.06: Founding of 'Ministerie van Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiëne' (Ministry of Public Health and Environmental Hygiene), with a Directoraat-Generaal Milieuhygiëne' (Directorate of Environmental Protection). The first minister of this department is the physician L.B.J. Stuyt.
- 1972: Publication of 'The Limits to Growth', edited by D.H. Meadows et al. for the Club of Rome. This book (Dutch translation: 'Rapport van de Club van Rome; de grenzen aan de groei') has a major impact in the Netherlands, where about half the book's worldwide sales are achieved.
- 1972: Foundation of the Dutch section of World Wildlife Fund, 'Wereld Natuurfonds'. In the Netherlands this organisation has 700,000 donors in 1995.
- 1972: Government presents 'Urgentienota Milieuhygiëne' (Urgency Document on Environmental Hygiene), first official governmental paper to draw up an inventory of environmental problems.
- 1972: Actions concerning 'Leidse baan' (motorway between The Hague and Leiden) are successful. Plan for motorway is cancelled.
- 1972: Bram van der Lek writes 'Het Milieuboekje' (Small book about the environment). In this book Van der Lek presents technical and biological facts about the environmental problem, a societal analyses of this problem, and suggestions about environmental actions. Van der Lek, a biologist and member of parliament (for the 'Pacifistisch Socialistische Partij' (Pacifist Socialist Party), later became one of the founders of 'Groen Links' (Green Left party), and chairman of 'Vereeniging Milieudefensie'.
- 1972: Introduction of 'Planologische Kernbeslissing' (PKB, a thorough and democratic procedure for important decisions with spatial consequences) as a new instrument for physical planning.
- 1972: 03: Founding of 'Vereniging tot Behoud van het IJsselmeer' (Association to Preserve Lake IJsselmeer). In 1995 this association has 4800 members.
- 1972: 06.15: Four organisations, 'Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland' (1905), 'Vereniging tegen Water-, Bodem- en Luchthygiëneontreiniging' (1909), 'Contact Commissie voor Natuur- en Landschapsbescherming' (1932) and 'Stichting Centrum MilieuZorg' (1970) found 'Stichting Natuur en Milieu' (Nature and Environment Foundation), in which many national and regional

- conservation and environmental organisations cooperate. The biologist P. Nijhoff becomes general director.
- 1973: Founding of regional 'Stroomgroepen' (Energy Committees), which cooperate in 'Landelijke Stroomgroep Kalkar' (National Energy Committee Kalkar). Also foundation of 'Anti-Kalkar Comité' (Anti-Kalkar Committee) by left-wing political parties.
- 1973: 01: Foundation of 'Milieu Aktiecentrum Nederland' (MAN, Netherlands Environmental Action Centre), working closely with the small 'Socialistische Partij' (SP, Socialist Party). One of the founders is the socialist and artist Remy Poppe, previously a leading person in the 'Centraal Aktiecomité Rijnmond'. During the seventies the work of the centre is taken over by the SP.
- 1973: 04: Dutch parliament approves funding of Kalkar fast-breeder nuclear reactor in West Germany. Netherlands, Belgium and Germany fund respectively 15%, 15% and 70% of estimated Dfl. 300-400 million construction costs. Dutch consumers must pay 3% extra on energy bills, leading to a widespread boycott action.
- 1973: 05.11: Start of Government led by Den Uyl, including 'Partij van de Arbeid' (Labour Party), 'Politieke Partij Radikalen' (Radical Party), 'D'66' (Democratic Party), 'Anti-Revolutionaire Partij' (Protestant Party) and 'Katholieke Volkspartij' (Catholic Party). This Government pays much attention to nature conservation issues, due to the participation of the rather green Radical Party and Democratic Party. As Secretary of State for Culture, Recreation and Social Work W. Meyer is responsible for nature conservation. I. Vorink becomes 'Minister van Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiëne' (Minister of Health and Environmental Hygiene). The governmental declaration states that the damming of the Oosterschelde will be reconsidered.
- 1973: 06.22: Supreme Court declares fluoridation of drinking water by supply utilities illegal, on medical, biological and ethical grounds.
- 1973: 08.06: 'Besluit Beschermd Inheemse Plantesoorten' and 'Besluit Beschermd Inheemse Diersoorten' (Decrees on Species Protection) enacted.
- 1973: 11.04: During the oil crisis, Arab nations ban oil exports to the Netherlands for the country's policy on Israel. Government announces to ban on private car transport on Sundays, to be continued until February 1974 (in total seven Sundays). Many people enjoy the quiet and some go biking or roller-skating on motorways.
- 1973: 12.28: 'Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting en Ruimtelijke Ordening' (Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning) presents 'Oriënteringsnota Ruimtelijke Ordening' (Orientation Document on

- Physical Planning), first part of 'Derde Nota over de Ruimtelijke Ordening' (Third Policy Document on Physical Planning).
- 1974: Founding of 'Eerste Enige Echte Nederlandse Wielrijders Bond' (ENWB, First Only Real Dutch Cyclist Union), a reference to the car image of the large tourist union 'ANWB'. ANWB forces ENWB to change its name in ENFB to avoid confusion. In 1995 ENFB has 31,000 members.
- 1974: Founding of 'Centrale Raad voor de Milieuhygiëne' (Central Council for Environmental Hygiene), from 1993 on the 'Raad voor het Milieubeheer' (Council for Environmental Management), the most important advisory council to the Minister responsible for the Environment.
- 1974: 'Ministerie van Economische Zaken' (Ministry of Economic Affairs) presents 'Energienota' (Energy Document) as a result of the energy crisis. It is planned to establish three nuclear power plants.
- 1974: 02.24: 'Ministerie van Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiëne' (Ministry of Health and Environmental Hygiene) announces plans to reduce air pollution (hydrocarbons and sulphur dioxide) in Rijnmond area by 30% by 1975 and 65% by 1978.
- 1974: 07.11: Government bows to pressure from 'Landelijke Vereniging tot Behoud van de Waddenzee' and cancels plans from 1966 to build a canal through part of Dollard bay, an important area for wading birds near the Wadden Sea.
- 1974: 09.19: Founding of 'Stichting Reinwater' (Clean Water Foundation), providing scientific and legal support around water pollution issues, especially of the Rhine and Meuse.
- 1974: 09.28: First demonstration against construction of fast-breeder nuclear reactor at Kalkar, 20 km over German border. More than 10,000 people demonstrate, mostly Dutch.
- 1975: Government presents the so-called 'Groene Nota's' (Green Documents) for rural areas. One is about the relation between agriculture and nature conservation, one about 'Nationale Parken' (National Parks) and one about 'Nationale Landschapsparken' (National Landscape Parks). It is proposed to introduce "nature-friendly" agriculture on 100,000 ha and to found 21 National Parks. The Government also intends to start an experiment with 20 National Landscape Parks, areas of least 10,000 ha where agriculture and landscape protection are to be integrated in a harmonious landscape.
- 1975: Founding of 'Stichting Milieu Educatie' (SME, Foundation for Environmental Education) by 'Aktie Strohalm'.

- 1975: 'Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat' (Ministry of Traffic and Public Works) presents 'Indicatief Meerjarenprogramma Water' (IMP-W, Indicative Long-range Water Programme) 1975-1979; in 1980 and 1985 followed by similar 'IMP's Water'. In these documents the "stand still" principle is accepted and targets set for reducing the water pollution.
- 1975: Environmentalists of 'Milieu Aktiecentrum Nederland' discover heavy soil pollution of Broekpolder near Vlaardingen. Authorities decide to stop agriculture, which makes the tragedy complete for this area. A few years earlier Rijnmond Council cancelled the housebuilding programme for the Broekpolder because of the air pollution.
- 1975: Some nature conservationists and ecologists start a debate about the desirability of more natural forest management.
- 1975: 01.08: Enactment of 'Wet Bedreigde Uitheemse Diersoorten' (Threatened Exotic Animals Act).
- 1975: 06.05: Enactment of 'Wet Verontreiniging Zeewater' (Seawater Pollution Act), restricting the emission of certain substances to the sea.
- 1976: Founding of 'Landelijk Energie Komité' (National Energy Committee). The basis of this committee is formed by the 'Landelijke Stroomgroep Kalkar', some political parties - 'Pacifistisch Socialistische Partij' (Pacifist Socialist Party), 'Politieke Partij Radikalen' (Radical Party) - , critical scientists and environmental groups. The aim of the committee is to work towards an ecological energy production and consumption, energy conservation and democratic electricity production. The committee is disbanded in the eighties.
- 1976: 'Ministerie van Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiëne' (Ministry of Health and Environmental Hygiene) presents 'Nota Milieuhygiënische Normen' (Document on Environmental Quality Standards).
- 1976: 'Landelijk Overleg Vrijwillig Landschapsbeheer' (National Platform for Landscape Management by Volunteers) is founded, in 1979 renamed to 'Landelijk Overleg Natuur- en Landschapsbeheer' (National Platform for Nature and Landscape Management), to coordinate landscape management activities of provincial volunteer groups. In 1995 the name is changed again, to 'Landschapsbeheer Nederland' (Landscape Management in the Netherlands). In this platform 'Stichting Natuur en Milieu', 'Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland', 'Instituut voor Natuurbeschermingseducatie', tourist union 'ANWB' and provincial

- organisations participate. In 1995 the platform coordinates landscape activities of 30,000 volunteers and professionals.
- 1976: Start of a 'Planologische Kernbeslissing', a thorough and democratic procedure, about the future of the Wadden Sea (ended in 1980).
- 1976: Establishment of a formal and regular consultation platform between all major Dutch environmental organisations: 'Landelijk Milieu Overleg' (LMO). In the following decade nine organisations participate: 'Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland', 'De Kleine Aarde', 'Landelijke Vereniging tot Behoud van de Waddenzee', 'Instituut voor Natuurbeschermingseducatie', 'Nederlandse Vereniging tot Bescherming van Vogels', 'Stichting Natuur en Milieu', 'Stichting Milieu Educatie', 'Centrum voor Energiebesparing & Schone Technologie', 'Wereld Natuurfonds Nederland' (Dutch branch of World Wildlife Fund). In 1996 the platform is discontinued to be superseded by the 'Strategisch Beraad Natuur- en Milieuorganisaties' (Consultative Committee on the Strategy of Conservation and Environmental Organisations).
- 1976: 'Ministerie van Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiëne' (Ministry of Health and Environmental Hygiene) presents 'Indicatief Meerjarenprogramma Lucht' (IMP-L, Indicative Long-range Programme on Air) 1976-1980, followed by three other 'IMP's Lucht' for the periods 1981-1985, 1984-1988 and 1985-1989. In these documents (related to the 'Wet inzake Luchtverontreiniging' - Air Pollution Act) two principles are formulated: the "stand still" principle and the "polluter pays" principle. The aim of the policy is to reduce air pollution by formulating quality standards for air and stimulating the use of clean technologies. In the last 'IMP' the acid rain problem is the central issue. This programme also introduces a list of priority substances.
- 1976: During this and the next year 600 tons of benzene and 580 tons of methylene chloride escape from General Electric factory in Bergen op Zoom. The factory is forced to close temporarily. Incidents also occur at other places. In Tiel several people appear to be poisoned by an arsenic emission caused by the Verdugt factory. Besides, research shows excessively high levels of lead in the blood of children near Biliton factory in Arnhem. Protest actions follow.
- 1976: Presentation of report 'Alternatieve Landbouwmethoden' (Alternative Agricultural Methods) of the 'Commissie Onderzoek Biologische Landbouwmethoden', an advisory committee of the 'Ministerie van Landbouw en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries), edited by J.T. de Smidt. Conclusion: some alternative agricultural methods

seem to be promising, more research is needed. In 1977 the report is published and in the same year the ministry starts an experimental farm working with alternative methods.

- 1976: Founding of 'Mens en Milieu' foundation, providing funding and advice for small-scale "environment- and human-friendly businesses". In 1996 this foundation is disbanded. However, in the nineties many banks and other organisations start all kinds of 'green funds', to stimulate environment-friendly investments.
- 1976: 02.11: Government presents 'Verstedelijkingsnota' (Document on Urban Development), second part of 'Derde Nota over de Ruimtelijke Ordening' (Third Policy Document on Physical Planning).
- 1976: 02.11: Enactment of 'Wet Chemische Afvalstoffen' (Chemical Waste Act).
- 1976: 06.22: Government decides to cancel Oosterschelde damming plan (planned according to 'Deltawet' to close sea arms and to strengthen dikes). Instead they opt for an expensive and technologically advanced plan to create a half-open dam. As a consequence the 'Actiegroep Oosterschelde Open' is disbanded in 1984.
- 1976: 12.03: International Agreement about the protection of river Rhine.
- 1977: Founding of the 'Landelijke Werkgroep Kritisch Bosbeheer' (National Working Group Critical Forest Management), soon renamed 'Stichting Kritisch Bosbeheer' (Critical Forest Management Foundation). The aim of this group is to achieve more natural management of the Dutch forests.
- 1977: Dissolution of 'Vereniging tegen Water-, Bodem- en Luchtverontreiniging' (1909), 'Contact Commissie voor Natuur- en Landschapsbescherming' (1932) and 'Stichting Centrum Milieu' (1970) which are completely integrated in 'Stichting Natuur en Milieu' (Nature and Environment Foundation).
- 1977: Founding of 'Stichting Duinbehoud' (Foundation for Conservation of Dunes) to protect dunes. In 1995 this organisation has 1600 members.
- 1977: Herring fishery stops because of over-exploitation.
- 1977: Government announces 'Brede Maatschappelijke Discussie' (Broad Public Debate) about the future of (nuclear) energy in the Netherlands. In 1980 the Government will emphasise that closure of the Borssele and Dodewaard nuclear plants is not up for discussion within this debate.
- 1977: Publication of 'Het Vergeten Scenario' (The Forgotten Scenario), written by Theo Potma. This influential energy- and nature-conserving economic scenario will later (1979) be presented to the Dutch Government on behalf of all the major environmental organisations.

- 1977: 'Jachtwet' (Game Act) revised: hunting is restricted.
- 1977: 01.25: Drilling platform in Warffum (Province of Groningen) occupied by some 20 people to protest against trial drilling for nuclear waste storage.
- 1977: 02.05: Protesting against nuclear waste plans, 5000 people trek from village to village in 10 km long caravan of tractors, buses and trucks.
- 1977: 03.11: 'Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting en Ruimtelijke Ordening' (Ministry of Housing and Physical Planning) presents 'Nota Landelijke Gebieden' (Document on Rural Areas), part three of the 'Derde Nota over de Ruimtelijke Ordening' (Third Policy Document on Physical Planning); In the same year the integral 'Structuurvisie Natuur en Landschap' (Structural Vision on Nature and the Landscape) is presented by the 'Ministerie van Cultuur, Recreatie en Maatschappelijk Werk' (Ministry of Culture, Recreation and Social Work). This vision introduces four types of rural areas: nature reserves, agricultural areas and two types of mixed areas.
- 1977: 04.02: First major demonstration against 'Ultracentrifuge Nederland' (UCN) uranium enrichment plant at Almelo. Ten-thousand people march to protest against expansion plans, worried that enriched uranium will be used by Brazil for its nuclear weapons programme.
- 1977: 06.23: Enactment of 'Afvalstoffenwet' (Wastes Act), to regulate domestic waste.
- 1977: 07.21: Dutch and other European environmental organisations start a three-week protest cycling tour along the Rhine, to protest against pollution of this river.
- 1977: 09.24: Big demonstration at Kalkar fast-breeder construction site: 50,000 demonstrators, with major support from rapidly growing Dutch anti-nuclear movement. Estimated construction cost now Dfl. 3000 million (originally 300-400 million).
- 1977: 12.19: Start of Government led by Van Agt. L. Ginjaar is the new 'Minister van Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiëne' (Minister of Health and Environmental Hygiene). Secretary of State G.C. Wallis de Vries is responsible for nature conservation.
- 1978: Emission of 80 kg bromine gas from Broomchemie factory in Terneuzen.
- 1978: German and Dutch environmental groups ask judge to stop construction of Kalkar because construction permit is not legal.
- 1978: 'Vereniging Milieudefensie' starts action to promote the use of recycled paper.
- 1978: Founding of 'Greenpeace Nederland'. This organisation has 600,000 donors in 1995.

- 1978: First 'Milieu-effectrapport' (Environmental Impact Statement) is presented, for Sigma Coatings factory in Uithoorn.
- 1978: 03.04: Big demonstration against expansion plans at Almelo UCN plant (40,000 demonstrators).
- 1978: 06.04: First demonstration against dumping of nuclear waste in sea, near Velsen.
- 1978: 10.05: Alarm '81: 19 environmental organisations ask the Government for a better environmental policy.
- 1979: 'Ministerie van Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiëne' (Ministry of Health and Environmental Hygiene) presents 'Intentieprogramma ter Onderbouwing van Milieuhygiënische Normen' document (Intention Programme for Environmental Quality Standards).
- 1979: Creation of 'Werkgroep Energie Discussie' (WED, Working Group Energy Debate), including 55 different public organisations. The aim is to create broad societal support for clean environment, employment, a sustainable economy and safety.
- 1979: Founding of 'Dierenbevrijdingsfront', a radical animal liberation group.
- 1979: 'Ministerie van Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiëne' (Ministry of Health and Environmental Hygiene) presents 'Nota Milieuheffingen' (Document on Environmental Levies). Main principle is the "polluter pays".
- 1979: Government presents plans for a better regulation of phosphate emissions.
- 1979: 'Brede Maatschappelijke Discussie' (Broad Public Debate) about energy starts.
- 1979: 01.15: Founding of 'Centrum voor Energiebesparing & Schone Technologie' (Centre for Energy Conservation and Clean Technology) created by major Dutch environmental organisations as a think-tank to develop alternative economic and energy scenarios and "green" technological and economic consultancy services.
- 1979: 02: Founding of 'Organisatie voor Duurzame Energie' (Renewable Energy Organisation).
- 1979: 02.16: 'Wet Geluidhinder' (Noise Nuisance Act) enacted.
- 1979: 05.12: Ten people chain themselves to the gates of UCN enrichment plant in Almelo, thus closing the main site entrance. First action of collective of a dozen non-violent direct activists, calling themselves 'Breek Atoomketen Nederland' (BAN, Break the Dutch Nuclear Chain). Many actions of this BAN group and other BAN groups will follow in subsequent years (until 1983), in Almelo, but also at the

- Borssele and Delft nuclear power plants, and in Amsterdam at the office of the Municipal Energy Company, shareholder of Dodewaard power station.
- 1979: 06.02: Demonstration against plans to dump nuclear waste at Gasselte (25,000 demonstrators).
- 1979: 06.13: Enactment of extended 'Hinderwet' (Nuisance Act), regulating its integration with other environmental acts.
- 1979: 06.13: Enactment of 'Wet Algemene Bepalingen Milieuhygiëne' (WABM, General Environmental Provisions Act). The aim is to integrate all the different acts concerning environmental protection.
- 1979: 06.16: Fifteen-hundred people march for two days against dumping of nuclear waste in Atlantic Ocean. Activists of 'Breek Atoomketen Nederland' and others, 80 in all, chain themselves to block the gates of dumping depot, blocking transport for 6 hours. As a reaction, the police uses force. In the two following years many actions of this type will follow in several cities in Noord-Holland, including blockades of roads and ports, demonstrations, and sabotage of business and Government trucks, buildings and equipment.
- 1979: 07.12: Government bows to pressure of conservationists and repeals decision of Province of Friesland to embank 4000 ha Wadden Sea.
- 1980: Foundation of 'Centrum voor Landbouw en Milieu' (Centre for Agriculture and Environment), a centre for education and research on environmental agricultural issues. The centre is founded by some (organic) farmers, critical scientists and representatives of environmental organisations.
- 1980: Appearance of 'Windwerkboek' (Wind Working Book) by C. Westra and H. Tossijn. The book shows the possibilities for wind energy in the Netherlands and how individuals can construct their own windmill.
- 1980: During this year several incidents are registered. As a result of a failing truck cooling system at a Unilever factory two people die. Research also shows high levels of several toxic substances in the milk from cows in the region of Waterland.
- 1980: Lekkerkerk Affair takes place. In part of the village of Lekkerkerk soil, household air and drinking water are found to be polluted with benzene, toluene, xylene et cetera, due to (partly illegal) dumping of chemical waste. Evacuation of the people and removal of the soil follow. In the same year comparable affairs are brought to light in other cities. In 1995 more than 500,000 locations with more or less polluted soil are known.

- 1980: Symposium concerning the management of the Veluwe nature area. A plea is held for more grazers and predators such as the wolf.
- 1980: 'Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland' reduces hunting activities in its nature reserves.
- 1980: 'Vereniging Milieudefensie' presents document 'Geïntegreerde Landbouw' (Integrated Agriculture), written by B. Edel et al.
- 1980: 'Indicatief Meerjarenprogramma Geluid' (IMP-G, Indicative Long-range Programme Noise) 1980-1984 presented by 'Ministerie van Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiëne' (Ministry of Health and Environmental Hygiene), based on 'Wet Geluidhinder' (Noise Nuisance Act); followed by other 'IMP's Geluid' in 1980 (1981-1985), 1981 (1982-1986), 1982 (1983-1987), 1983 (1984-1988) and 1984 (1985-1989). These documents state how the 'Wet Geluidhinder' (Noise Nuisance Act) is to be implemented. The aim is to integrate existing regulations with respect to noise, and to create so-called "stilte gebieden" (quiet areas).
- 1980: Dutch version of 'World Conservation Strategy' (by IUCN) published: 'Strategie voor het behoud van de biosfeer' by J.H. Westermann.
- 1980: 05.02: Start of first congress of 'Vereniging van Wetenschappelijke Werkers' (VWW, Society of Scientific Workers), continuation of 'VWO' (1946) en 'BWA' (1969).
- 1980: 05.24: Activists organise annual march against plans to dump nuclear waste near Gasselte (5000 people). On the same day 6000 anti-nuclear activists hold camp near Dodewaard nuclear power station, demanding plant closure. On 27 May 1980, about 200 people blockade the Dodewaard nuclear reactor site, the first mass direct action in the Netherlands. During this manifestation a new organisational form is invented: the so-called "Basisgroepen" (Affinity Groups), inspired by comparable groups in the US and the Spanish Civil War. In the eighties there are about three hundred of these autonomous and basic-democratic groups (of 10-15 persons). At the end of the eighties most of these groups no longer exist.
- 1980: 10.19: About 15,000 people blockade Dodewaard, as announced in the spring. After 24 hours, the blockade is ended.
- 1981: Founding of 'Stichting Internationaal Watertribunaal' (International Water Tribunal Foundation), initiative of European group Ecoropa and 11 Dutch environmental organisations long active against pollution of the Rhine. The foundation will disappear in 1992.

- 1981: Research shows dangerous effects of lead on children. 'Stichting Natuur en Milieu' demands reduction of lead emissions, especially by cars.
- 1981: Foundation of 'Nederland Gifvrij' (No Poison in the Netherlands) by the main environmental organisations and the 'Vereniging van Wetenschappelijke Werkers', to help local anti-pollution groups with the aim of achieving clean soil (free of chemical waste) everywhere. In 1995 the organisation is integrated in 'Stichting Natuur en Milieu'.
- 1981: Government presents three important documents for rural areas, the so-called 'Groene Structuurschema's' (Green Structure Plans), the 'Structuurschema Natuur- en Landschapsbehoud' (Structure Plan Nature and Landscape Protection), 'Structuurschema Openlucht Recreatie' (Structure Plan Recreation) and 'Structuurschema voor de Landinrichting' (Structure Plan Land Management). It is announced that more weight will be attached to nature conservation in reallocation procedures. The Government also announces establishment of 'Grote Landschappelijke Eenheden' (areas of 500 ha with special landscape qualities). The experiments with 'Nationale Landschappen' (National Landscapes, areas of at least 10,000 ha, to integrate landscape protection and agriculture) will come to an end.
- 1981: 'Vereniging Milieudefensie' starts action to promote the use of bottles in stead of cartons or synthetic material for milk packaging.
- 1981: 03.29: Blockade of Dodewaard nuclear plant by 200 people, followed by other relatively small scale blockades (1500 people) of the plant in Dodewaard and the UCN uranium enrichment plant in Almelo, in April and June.
- 1981: 05.01: First 'Kringloopcentrum' (Recycling Centre) opens in the Hague. Many others will follow. The goals of these volunteer organisations are education, facilitation and sometimes setting up of better recycling systems.
- 1981: 05.18: Major part (95,000 ha) of the Wadden Sea becomes state nature reserve.
- 1981: 05.22: Enactment of 'Grondwaterwet' (Groundwater Act), regulating use of groundwater and artificial infiltration of water.
- 1981: 06.24: Revision of 'Wet Verontreiniging Oppervlaktewateren' (Pollution of Surface Waters Act), including introduction of environmental quality standards for waters.
- 1981: 09.11: Start of the second Government led by Van Agt. J.J. Lambers-Haquebard is Secretary of State responsible for environmental issues. H.A. de Boer is responsible for nature conservation as 'Minister van

Cultuur, Recreatie en Maatschappelijk Werk' (Minister of Culture, Recreation and Social Work).

- 1981: 09.18: Start of a four-day mass blockade of Dodewaard nuclear plant, initially with 15,000 people. Access roads are barricaded, but riot police use tear gas and chaos breaks out: 150 wounded, 15 in hospital. After new problems with police and right-wing "heavies", demonstrators break up the blockade on Monday and leave. A few days later, however, on 26 September, a huge anti-nuclear demonstration takes place in Arnhem (40,000 people), to protest against police violence at the blockade of nearby Dodewaard. At the time, this is one of the largest demonstrations ever held in the Netherlands.
- 1982: Uniser Affair takes place: several waste disposal companies are found to be dumping illegally or exporting waste products instead of reprocessing or recycling them.
- 1982: 'Stichting Natuur en Milieu' organises conference about cooperation between farmers and nature conservationists.
- 1982: Two prominent members of the 'Politieke Partij Radikalen' (Radical Party), B. de Gaay Fortman and W. van Dieren, register the 'Groene Partij Nederland' (Green Party of the Netherlands) with the Electoral Council. They also participate in the 'Groen Platform' (Green Platform), a working group, which tries to found a new green political formation.
- 1982: 'Stichting Natuur en Milieu' expresses its opposition to DNA research because of concerns about safety for man and the environment.
- 1982: Several nature and animal protection organisations organise actions against the production and use of fur.
- 1982: Trichloroethylene and perchloroethylene appear to be present in groundwater at all (232) monitoring sites throughout the country.
- 1982: Several environmental organisations protest against the use of LPG.
- 1982: 'Minister van Ontwikkelingssamenwerking' (Minister of Development Cooperation) founds a 'Commissie Ecologie en Ontwikkelingssamenwerking' (Committee on Ecology and Development Cooperation).
- 1982: 09.17: Activists start a protest camp-out in Nieuw Amelisweerd forest near Utrecht against a planned road. This action is one of a series of actions such as blockades, occupations and collecting signatures (30,000). As a result of the actions the authorities change the route of the road slightly.

- 1982: 11.04: Start of Government led by Lubbers. Formation of a new ministry: the 'Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieubeheer' (Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment), which is responsible for most environmental issues. Within this ministry the 'Directoraat-Generaal Milieubeheer' (Directorate of Environment) is founded. P. Winsemius becomes minister. Responsibility for nature conservation, including the Directorate 'Natuurbescherming en Openluchtrecreatie' (Nature Conservation and Recreation) is taken over by the 'Ministerie van Landbouw en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; G.J.M. Braks) from the 'Ministerie van Cultuur, Recreatie en Maatschappelijk Werk' (Ministry of Culture, Recreation and Social Work). Secretary of State A. Ploeg is responsible for nature conservation.
- 1982: 12.11: Following national and international opposition to nuclear dumping at sea, the Dutch Government announces plans to dump on land, near Velsen. Soon thousands of residents demonstrate against this new nuclear waste dump plan.
- 1982: 12.29: Enactment of 'Interimwet Bodemsanering' (Soil Clean-up - interim- Act), regulating cleaning of contaminated soils.
- 1983: Foundation of the 'Vlinderstichting' (Butterfly Foundation) for study of and protection of butterflies. In 1995 this foundation has 500 members. During this decade other small but rather influential specialised groups will be founded, for sea organisms, reptiles, bats, etc. The 'Vereniging Flora en Fauna' (Flora and Fauna Society) coordinates the work of these (about 20) organisations and their (about 10,000) volunteers.
- 1983: The Broad Public Debate about energy comes to an end. One of the main conclusions: no new nuclear plants in the Netherlands.
- 1983: 'Voorlopig Indicatief Meerjarenprogramma Bodem' (IMP-B, Preliminary Indicative Long-range Programme on Soil) 1984-1988. This program presents a "grey list of substances".
- 1983: The 'Groen Platform' (Green Platform), the 'Communistische Partij van Nederland' (Communist Party of the Nederlands), the 'Politieke Partij Radikalen' (Radical Party) and the 'Pacifistisch Socialistische Partij' (Pacifistic Socialistic Party) come to terms on a so-called 'Groen Progressief Akkoord' (Green Progressive Accord) for the European elections.
- 1983: Food Inspectorate finds very high cadmium concentrations in some vegetables in the Kempen region. It is advised not to eat these greens.

- 1983: H.P. Gorter, former Director of 'Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland', receives an honorary degree in mathematics and natural sciences.
- 1983: 'Stichting Natuur en Milieu' presents report 'Milieu en Bewapening' (Environment and Armament).
- 1983: 01.12: Founding of 'Nederlandse Vereniging voor de Ekologische Landbouw' (Netherlands Association for Ecological Agriculture). In 1995 this organisation has 200 members.
- 1983: 02.19: At the 'Day of the Future', organised by 'Vereniging Milieodefensie' (VMD) as a major strategy meeting for Dutch environmental movement, a conflict arises. Representatives of the 'Centrum voor Energiebesparing & Schone Technologie' accuse VMD and others of supporting groups propagating direct, "anti-democratic" action (against background of frequent direct action against nuclear power).
- 1983: 02.26: At Arnhem, near Dodewaard nuclear plant, 1500 blockade entrance to KEMA nuclear authorities site. Start of action to refuse payment of (nuclear) part of electricity bill.
- 1983: 03.18: Drinking water authorities announce that supplies in 18 towns are polluted with mutagenic chemicals.
- 1983: 04.03: Demonstration by 3000 people at UCN enrichment plant at Almelo, protesting against link with nuclear weapon manufacture and imports of uranium from (South African occupied) Namibia.
- 1983: 06.18: Start of a weekend-long manifestation in Lauwersmeer against destination as a military terrain.
- 1983: 08.04: After a decade of action and civil procedures, Strasbourg Court of Justice supports demands of Dutch environmental groups to withdraw permit allowing Alsace potassium mines to discharge vast amounts of salt into the Rhine, a major source of Dutch drinking water. On 16 December 1983 Rotterdam Court declares illegal French discharges of potassium salt into the Rhine, opening the door for compensation payments to Dutch horticulture businesses using Rhine water.
- 1983: 10.03: Start of first International Water Tribunal (IWT) held in Rotterdam. An initiative of 11 Dutch environmental groups and the all-European group Ecoropa, the tribunal heard and pronounced judgment on 18 cases of serious water pollution.
- 1983: 12.14: 'Wet Voorkoming Verontreiniging door Schepen' (Act on the Prevention of Pollution by Marine Vessels) enacted. Emission of dangerous substances by ships is forbidden.

- 1983: 12.17: Some members leave the 'Groen Platform' (Green Platform), fearing the influence of the old left-wing parties within the Green Progressive Accord. They found the 'Groenen' (Greens).
- 1984: 'Wetenschappelijke Raad voor het Regeringsbeleid' (Scientific Council for Governmental Policy) presents document 'Bouwstenen voor een Geïntegreerde Landbouw' (Building Blocks for an Integrated Agriculture), written by W.J. van der Weijden et al. 'Stichting Natuur en Milieu' reacts enthusiastically.
- 1984: 'Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieubeheer' (Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment) presents document 'Meer dan de Som der Delen' (More than the Sum of the Parts). The document focuses on the need of environmental planning and integration. It argues along two lines, the so-called effect-oriented policy line, to reduce the effects of environmental pollution, and the source-oriented line, to reduce the emission of substances, noise, et cetera.
- 1984: Founding of 'Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiëne' (National Institute of Public Health and Environmental Protection), amalgamating three existing sectoral institutes (public health, drinking water, waste substances).
- 1984: At the 'Ministerie van Landbouw en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) a new department for nature conservation is founded: the 'Directie Natuur, Milieu en Faunabeheer' (Division for Nature, Environment and Wildlife Management).
- 1984: 'Ministerie van Landbouw en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) presents 'Meerjarenplan Bosbouw' (Long-range Plan on Forestry), announcing extension of present 15,000 ha of natural forest to 35,000 ha.
- 1984: Reintroduction of beavers in the Netherlands. Other reintroduction plans for animals will follow.
- 1984: 'Indicatief Meerjarenprogramma Milieubeheer' (IMP-M, Indicative Long-range Programme of Environmental Management) 1985-1989 presented by 'Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieubeheer' (Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment), introducing a more integrated approach to environmental policy.
- 1984: 'Groen Progressief Akkoord' (Green Progressive Accord) wins 2 seats in European Parliament.
- 1984: 'Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieubeheer' (Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment) presents 'Indicatief Meerjarenprogramma Chemische

'Afvalstoffen' (IMP-C, Indicative Long-range Programme on Chemical Waste) 1985-1989 and the 'Indicatief Meerjaren Programma Afvalstoffen' (Indicative Long-range Programme on Waste) 1985-1989. The aim of these programmes is to reduce the production of wastes, to regulate the management of wastes and to protect the environment against dangerous wastes.

- 1984: Several publications appear about successful cooperation between farmers and nature conservationists.
- 1984: 09.22: Demonstration against nuclear power in Emmeloord (7000 people), one of the possible sites for a new nuclear plant. Although the 'Brede Maatschappelijke Discussie' (Broad Public Debate) has shown that the majority of the Dutch are opposed to nuclear power, the Government is considering building new nuclear power stations. The demonstration in Emmeloord is organised by 41 organisations (such as 'Stichting Natuur en Milieu', the 'Partij van de Arbeid' (Labour Party) and 'FNV', the most important trade union).
- 1985: 'Vereniging Milieudefensie' organises action 'Gemeente Gifvrij' (No poison in the municipalities) to force municipalities to adopt a more responsible policy with respect to the use and collection of pesticides.
- 1985: 'Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieubeheer' (Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment) presents 'Indicatief Meerjarenprogramma Milieubeheer' (IMP, Indicative Long-range Programme on Environmental Management) 1986-1990; besides the themes of acidification, eutrophication, dispersion of toxic waste and hazardous substances, and disturbance (noise, odour and safety), mentioned in the 'IMP Milieubeheer 1985-1989' (1984), some new themes are introduced: groundwater depletion, pollution of aquatic sediments, CO₂, environmental problems in the Third World and the indoor environment. This IMP integrates the older 'IMP's' on waste, chemical waste, water and air. In 1986 the next 'IMP Milieubeheer' will be presented.
- 1985: 'Vereniging Milieudefensie' agitates against use of tropical timber, asking for a reduction of at least 50%.
- 1985: 'Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieubeheer' (Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment) presents 'Meerjaren Uitvoeringsprogramma Geluidhinderbestrijding' (Implementation Programme on Noise Abatement) 1986-1990. The Government presents such a programme in 1986, 1987 and 1988, too.
- 1985: 'Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat' (Ministry of Traffic and Public Works) presents 'De Waterhuishouding van Nederland' (Water

- Management in the Netherlands). This document pays more attention to water pollution than the earlier documents on water management.
- 1985: 02.27: Several environmental organisations organise consumer boycott against producers (Union Carbide and Duracell) of mercury-containing batteries. They are successful: production is stopped.
- 1985: 04.14: 'Vereniging Milieodefensie' and other environmentalists start action 'Bosalarm' (Save the Forests!) because of the damage of acid rain to the forests.
- 1985: 05.09: Enactment of 'Landinrichtingswet' (Land Management Act). Now all kinds of arguments and groups, not only farmers and their arguments, count in reallocation procedures in rural areas.
- 1985: 06.21: Activists break in to Energy Department of 'Ministerie van Economische Zaken' (Ministry of Economic Affairs) and steal six mail bags of papers, many confidential. In the following weeks, many secret arrangements (i.e. outside of parliament) on nuclear and other energy policies are publicly exposed.
- 1985: 09.02: First of a series of "public participation evenings" at possible locations for new nuclear plants (2-6 September). All evenings are disrupted by hundreds of activists.
- 1985: 12.05: Enactment of 'Wet Milieugevaarlijke Stoffen' (Environmentally Hazardous Substances Act).
- 1986: 'Ministerie van Economische Zaken' (Ministry of Economic Affairs) presents 'Integraal Programma Windenergie' 1986-1990, to stimulate the use of wind energy. The SEP (United Electricity Producers) react positively. These producers construct several large windmill parks.
- 1986: 'Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieubeheer' (Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment) obliges local authorities to process the organic fraction of garbage to compost.
- 1986: Thousands of fishes, other animals and plants die over hundreds of kilometres of the Rhine as a result of the Sandoz accident in Basel (1000 tonnes of heavy poison emitted). The Rhine water cannot be used by drinking water companies for some time.
- 1986: 'Groenen' (Greens) win a seat in Amsterdam City Council (occupied by Roel van Duyn, former member of the 'Kabouters' - Gnome Party).
- 1986: 'Ministerie van Landbouw en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) presents 'Meerjarenprogramma Natuur- en landschapsbehoud' (Long-range Programme on Nature and Landscape) 1987-1991; from now on such a programme is presented every year.

- 1986: It is foreseen that 25 percent of groundwater extraction sites will no longer be usable because of the pollution of the water.
- 1986: Research shows that the river Schelde is the most polluted river in Europe.
- 1986: Several environmental organisations organise consumer boycotts of Heineken and Vrumo because of their use of cadmium-containing crates.
- 1984: Schiermonnikoog is given the status of "emergent" National Park, followed by 7 other areas in the succeeding years. Except for one, they all have the status of definitive National Park in 1995.
- 1986: 04.26: Explosion at Chernobyl nuclear plant, in Ukraine, causes widespread nuclear contamination, also in the Netherlands. On 4 May the Government instructs farmers to keep cattle inside, to avoid consumption of contaminated grass, with milk from cows in fields being confiscated. The same day 400 people blockade Borssele nuclear plant, and close main gates with chains. On 7 May the Government announces that all spinach has to be destroyed immediately after harvest; consumers are urgently warned not to consume this vegetable. It is forbidden to sell milk and cheese from sheep. The financial damage to farmers is Dfl. 65 million. Government postpones its decision on new nuclear plants.
- 1986: 04.23: Decree on 'Milieu-effectrapportage' (Environmental Impact Assessment, EIS) enacted, listing the activities for which an EIS is obliged.
- 1986: 07.03: 'Wet Bodembescherming' (Soil Protection Act) enacted. One of the aims is to regulate the production and emission of manure. It has been clear for several years that it is hardly possible to find solutions for the country's enormous amounts of manure: 100 million farm animals produce almost half of what the total crop needs.
- 1986: 07.14: Start of second Government led by Lubbers. E.H.T.M. Nijpels becomes 'Minister van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieubeheer' (Minister of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment) and G.J.M. Braks 'Minister van Landbouw en Visserij' (Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries).
- 1986: 12.12: 'Mestbesluit' (Decree on Manure), regulating registration of production of manure.
- 1987: Plan 'Ooievaar' (Stork) presented by nature conservationists (ecologists, landscape architects and other specialists), written by D. de Bruin et al. This plan aims to restore the old natural situation of river banks in as many places as possible. This implies, for instance, the disappearance of some of the dikes and of the farmers from the

- water meadows. The plan gets the first prize in a competition for landscape architecture. Many conservationists are enthusiastic about this new conservation approach towards rivers and water meadows.
- 1987: 'Saneringsprogramma Waterbodem' (Programme on Rehabilitation of Aquatic Sediments) 1988-1989 is presented by 'Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat' (Ministry of Transport and Public Works). In 1989 a similar plan is presented.
- 1987: International consultations result in so-called action plans to improve the water quality of the North Sea and the River Rhine. The aim is a fifty-percent reduction of discharges of the most important pollutants.
- 1987: Heavy smog in southern and eastern parts of the Netherlands. Authorities demand citizens not to use their cars. Sufferers of heart diseases are advised to stay home.
- 1987: 04.25: Start of a 28-hour blockade of the nuclear plant at Borssele, one year after the Chernobyl explosion. During the blockade chaos breaks out: 40 wounded (of whom 34 policemen). Only 2000 people are present at the blockade or the demonstration afterwards. It will be the last blockade of the anti-nuclear movement.
- 1987: 09.08: First windmill brought on stream of a so-called 'Windmolen Collectief' (Windmill Collective). In most provinces such collectives exist, which own and exploit several windmills. Members of these collectives are mainly anti-nuclear activists.
- 1987: 09.15: 'Milieuprogramma' (Environmental Policy Implementation Programme) 1988-1989. Environmental policy focuses on five themes: acidification, eutrophication, dispersion of toxic substances, removal of waste products and disturbance. From this year on, every year such a programme is presented by the 'Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieubeheer' (Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment), sometimes together with the 'Ministerie van Landbouw en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) and the 'Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat' (Ministry of Transport and Public Works).
- 1988: Government presents the 'Vierde Nota over de Ruimtelijke Ordening' (Fourth Policy Document on Physical Planning).
- 1988: Government presents first version of 'Flora en Fauna Wet' (Flora and Fauna Act), which replaces 'Jachtwet' (Game Act) and flora and fauna regulations.
- 1988: Government establishes 'Grote Landschappelijke Eenheden' (Large Landscape Units, each 5000 ha).

- 1988: 'Vereniging Milieudefensie' agitates against spray cans, which contain ozone-layer damaging gases. As a result industries opt for other gases.
- 1988: 'Ministerie van Landbouw en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) presents study 'Natuurontwikkeling' (Nature Development), written by F. Baerselman and F.W.M. Vera. It is basic document for its later 'Natururbeleidsplan' (Nature Policy Plan). One of the proposals in the study is to create large self-regulating nature reserves, together forming a national ecological main structure.
- 1988: Founding of 'Alliantie voor Duurzame Ontwikkeling' (Alliance for Sustainable Development), an alliance of all major environmental, peace and development NGOs, to participate critically in the process following the presentation of the report 'Our Common Future' ('Brundtland' report) about sustainable development.
- 1988: 'Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland' presents document 'Landbouw en Natuurbescherming' (Agriculture and Nature Conservation), written by F. Hellinga. The aim is sustainable agriculture.
- 1988: Research shows the poor condition of Dutch forests as a result of air pollution.
- 1988: It is found that drinking water, especially from the Rhine, contains too much bentazone and atrazine.
- 1988: Many discharges of oil are registered in the North Sea, resulting in the death of thousands of birds.
- 1988: Several environmental organisations and institutes plead for a reduction of the number of cattle by 20 to 40 %.
- 1988: Government wants better regulation and reduction of waste products. The aim is to recycle 35 to 60 %.
- 1988: Founding of 'Platform Biologische Landbouw' (Platform for Biological Agriculture). In this platform two older organisations, the 'Nederlandse Vereniging tot Bevordering der Biologisch-Dynamische Landbouw Methode' (1937) and the 'Nederlandse Vereniging voor de Ekologische Landbouw' (1983) participate.
- 1988: 04.23: About 3000 people demonstrate against plans to dump nuclear waste at Gasselte, two years after the Chernobyl explosion.
- 1988: 10: Government announces that "environment" will be one of the four main policy issues.
- 1988: 12.13: 'Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiëne' (National Institute of Public Health and Environmental Protection) publishes 'Zorgen voor Morgen' (Concern for Tomorrow, a national environmental survey for the period 1985-2010), edited by F.

Langeweg. This report, confirming enormous scale and urgency of the environmental crisis, and thus the analysis of the environmental movement, will have a major impact on Dutch politicians and the general public. Among its recommendations are 70-90% cuts in all pollutant flows (especially SO₂, NO_x, NH₄, N and P) and structural economic change.

- 1988: 12.25: Queen Beatrix devotes whole of her traditional televised Christmas message to the environmental crisis: "Gradually the Earth is dying and the inconceivable - the end of life itself - is becoming conceivable" and she appeals for "a new relationship with nature".
- 1989: 'Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries) presents the report 'Toestand van de Natuur' (State of Nature), written by J.A. Weinrich et al. It is an initial effort to give an overview of the increase and decrease of wild fauna and flora.
- 1989: Founding of 'Vereniging voor Wetenschap en Samenleving' (Association for Science and Society), continuation of 'VWW' (1980).
- 1989: Founding of 'Platform Stadsecologie', to pay more attention to nature and ecology in towns.
- 1989: 'Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieubeheer' (Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment) presents 'Meerjaren Saneringsprogramma Geluidhinderbestrijding' (MSG's, Long-range Improvement Programme on Noise) 1989-1993, continuation of similar improvement programme's on noise. Later more 'Meerjaren Saneringsprogramma's Geluidhinderbestrijding' will be presented.
- 1989: Action of 'Ziedende Bintjes' (Seething Potatoes). This new group destroys test fields with genetically manipulated potatoes.
- 1989: 'Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries) presents 'Natuurbeleidsplan' (Nature Policy Plan). It announces a new conservation policy, including the construction of an Ecological Infrastructure, consisting of old and new nature reserves. Dfl. 120 million will be spent on new policy.
- 1989: Ministries of 'Verkeer en Waterstaat' (Transport and Public Works) and 'Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieubeheer' (Housing, Physical Planning and Environment) present the 'Derde Nota Waterhuishouding' (Third Policy Document on Water Management). One of the goals is to put more emphasis on water quality and nature conservation.

- 1989: 01.11: Major federations of employers and trade unions announce joint pledge "to prevent further deterioration of the life-supporting capacity of our environment and initiate a process of improvement". Eight years later, this has proved to be an almost empty promise.
- 1989: 05.19: The 'Communistische Partij Nederland' (Communist Party), the 'Evangelische Volkspartij' (a small progressive christian party), the 'Pacifistisch Socialistische Partij' (Pacifist Socialist Party) and the 'Politieke Partij Radikalen' (Radical Party) decide to take part in the national elections collectively as 'Groen Links' (Green Left Party).
- 1989: 05.25: 'Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieubeheer' (Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment) presents 'Nationaal Milieubeleidsplan' (NMP, National Environmental Policy Plan). Its goal is to achieve a sustainable development, using the three principles: closing material cycles, conserving energy and putting quality before quantity. Central themes are climate change, acidification, eutrophication, dispersion of toxic waste and hazardous substances, waste disposal, disturbance, groundwater depletion and squandering.
- 1989: 06.14: 'Wet Waterhuishouding' (Water Management Act) enacted. The aim is integrated water management.
- 1989: 08.16: Coalition of largest nature and environment organisations presents Government with policy recommendations.
- 1989: 09: 'Groen Links' (Green Left Party) obtains 6 seats in parliament.
- 1989: 11.07: Start of third Government led by Lubbers. J.G.M. Alders becomes 'Minister van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieubeheer' (Minister of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment), J.D. Gabor Secretary of State, responsible for nature conservation. The 'Ministerie van Landbouw en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries) changes its name to 'Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries), and is led by G.J.M. Braks. This Government pledges that the environment will be one of its main policy issues.
- 1990: Opening of Sun House in Castricum. This house is completely self-supporting with respect to energy.
- 1990: Founding of 'Stichting Waterpakt' (Foundation Waterpakt) to coordinate actions against water pollution. The 'Landelijke Vereniging tot Behoud van de Waddenzee' (Dutch Society for the Preservation of the Wadden Sea), the 'Vereniging tot Behoud van het IJsselmeer' (Association to Preserve Lake IJsselmeer) and the

'Werkgroep Noordzee' (North Sea Working Group) work together in this foundation.

- 1990: 'Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries) presents 'Meerjarenprogramma Natuur en Landschap' (Long-range Programme on Nature and Landscape) 1991-1995. From now on such a programme is presented every year.
- 1990: 'Floristisch Onderzoek Nederland' (Organisation for Research on Dutch Flora) presents the 'FLORON Rode Lijst' (Red List for Plants) 1990. At that time the diversity of vascular plants is rapidly decreasing. In the subsequent years other organisations and also the 'Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries) present similar 'Rode Lijsten' (Red Lists), for birds, mammals, butterflies and other groups of organisms.
- 1990: A group of people from politics, science and industry presents Manifesto 'Duurzaam Samengaan van Landbouw, Natuur en Milieu' (Sustainable Agriculture, Nature and Environment), edited by D. de Zeeuw and W.G. Albrecht. One of their ideas is to plan 400,000 ha of nature reserves in the year 2000, partly on former agricultural land.
- 1990: 'Ministerie van Economische Zaken' (Ministry of Economic Affairs) presents 'Nota Energiebesparing' (Energy Conservation Document). The aim is to use energy more efficiently.
- 1990: Rotterdam starts legal proceedings against Alsace potassium mines, since the earlier judgements of the Strasbourg Court of Justice and Rotterdam Court had not yet led to a discontinuation of discharges.
- 1990: 'Vereniging Milieudefensie' and 'Stichting Natuur en Milieu' start action against "gifpieper" (poison potato, because of the huge amounts of pesticides used during the cultivation of potatoes). Later actions follow against cut flowers and other agricultural products produced with excessive pesticides.
- 1990: On several occasions milk is found to be polluted with dioxine, emitted by waste-incineration plants. Authorities ban consumption of this milk.
- 1990: Government cancels plan to embank part of lake IJsselmeer after years of actions against this proposal.
- 1990: Government presents 'Vierde Nota over de Ruimtelijke Ordening Extra' (Fourth Policy Document on Physical Planning Extra). Compared to the original Policy Document (1988) it focuses more on environmental problems and on implementation.

- 1990: 'Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries) presents 'Meerjarenplan Gewasbescherming' (Long-range Plan on Crop Protection), introducing proposals to apply alternative means of crop protection, ban some pesticides and improve the regulation of others.
- 1990: 01: Plans announced to expand Schiphol national airport.
- 1990: 01.25: 'Besluit Genetisch Gemodificeerde Organismen' (Decree on Genetically Manipulated Organisms) enacted.
- 1990: 03.25: Several environmental organisations organise a demonstration against 'Hoge Snelheidstrein' (TGV).
- 1990: 04: 'Vereniging Milieudefensie' starts action 'Halveer het autoverkeer' (Half car traffic).
- 1990: 06.14: Government presents 'Nationale Milieubeleidsplan Plus' (NMP+, National Environmental Policy Plan Plus) to Parliament. Compared to the first 'NMP' it pays more attention to integration with other Government documents and to implementation problems.
- 1990: 09.20: 'Minister van Ontwikkelingssamenwerking' (Minister of Development Cooperation) issues new development cooperation plans, based on notions of "sustainable development".
- 1990: 11.05: Survey shows that half of the businesses in the Netherlands do not comply with environmental legislation.
- 1990: 11.23: Parliamentarians from different countries ask for a Meuse Committee (parallel to the already existing International Rhine Committee) to seek ways to clean up the heavily polluted river Meuse. In 1995 such a committee is founded.
- 1991: 'Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland' presents plan 'Goudplevier' (Golden Plover), edited by L. Berris and J. Gorter. It is planned to create a nature reserve of 1000 ha, consisting of old and new nature reserves. For this reason 600 ha has to be obtained from farmers. In this plan nature is "developed" from agricultural land. This new approach can be found in the 'Natuurbeleidsplan' (Nature Policy Plan) and started with plan 'Ooievaar' (1986).
- 1991: 'Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiëne' (National Institute of Public Health and Environmental Protection) presents report 'Nationale Milieuverkenning 2' (National Environmental Outlook). It is pointed out that there is no reason for optimism; many of the Government's environmental targets will not be achieved. The institute advises changing the conventional economic growth scenario.

- 1991: 'Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries) is again reorganised. The new 'Directie Natuur, Bos, Landschap en Fauna' (Division for Nature, Forest, Landscape and Wildlife) is given responsibility for nature conservation. In 1995 its name is changed to 'Directie Natuur' (Nature Division).
- 1991: 05.16: Industry and Government enter into an agreement about packaging policy. The use of packaging materials in the year 2000 is to be restricted to the level in 1986. Another aim is 60 % recycling of packaging materials.
- 1992: Dutch branch of 'Wereld Natuurfonds' (World Wildlife Fund) presents plan 'Levende Rivieren' (Living Rivers), written by W. Helmer, to make the rivers more natural, adopting many ideas from the plan 'Ooievaar' (1986).
- 1992: 'Vereniging Milieudefensie' presents 'Actieplan Nederland Duurzaam', written by M. Buitenkamp and H. Venner. Goal is to achieve a sustainable country in 2010. The plan shows the consequences for transport, living, recreation, etc.
- 1992: Ecolonia, a quarter with 100 environment-friendly houses in Alphen aan de Rijn, is opened. Such ecological quarters are planned in other cities too.
- 1992: 'Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries) presents 'Nota Landschap' (Document on Landscape).
- 1992: 'Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries) presents 'Structuurnota Zee- en Kustvisserij' (Document on Marine Fisheries). The aim is to make marine fishery more responsible and balanced.
- 1992: Founding of 'Platform voor Duurzame Ontwikkeling' (Platform for Sustainable Development), in part a continuation of 'Alliantie voor Duurzame Ontwikkeling' (Alliance for Sustainable Development). Fifty organisations participate in this platform, including all the major environmental, peace and development NGOs, but also trade unions, churches, feminist groups, employer organisations, etc. The aim of this organisation is to try to implement the agreements of the Rio de Janeiro United Nations conference on sustainable development.
- 1992: Research shows that aquatic sediments are more polluted than expected. It is estimated that Dfl. 10-20 billion is needed for rehabilitation.
- 1992: 'Structuur Schema Groene Ruimte' (Green Space Structure Plan) presented by 'Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij'

- (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries). It integrates governmental plans on nature policy, physical planning and agricultural policy. Two new concepts are introduced: 'Waardevolle Cultuurlandschappen' (Valuable Man-made Landscapes), replacing the concept of 'Grote Landschappelijke Eenheden' (areas of 500 ha with special landscape qualities) from 1984, and 'Strategische Groengebieden' (Strategic Green Areas) for recreation and nature.
- 1992: 02.22: Several environmental organisations start national action to reduce air traffic.
 - 1992: 03.25: In a poll citizens of Amsterdam say yes to the plan to reduce the number of cars in the city.
 - 1992: 09: 'Nederlandse Vereniging tot Bescherming van Dieren' (the main animal protection organisation) starts action against application of biotechnology to animals.
 - 1992: 10: 'Vereniging Milieodefensie' and 'NOVIB', an organisation for help to the Third World, start action 'Hart voor Hout' (Help the Forests), to reduce the use of tropical wood.
 - 1992: 10.04: EI Al Boeing crashes in Amsterdam. Three crew members and 40 citizens die.
 - 1992: 10.15: 'Wet Milieubeheer' (Environmental Management Act) enacted, replacing 'WABM' (General Environmental Provision Act, 1979).
 - 1993: 'Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries) presents 'Bosbeleidsplan' (Forest Policy Plan). One of the aims is 100,000 ha of natural forest in the next century.
 - 1993: 'Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij' (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries) presents 'Jacht en Wildbeheer' (Hunting and Wildlife Management) document. One of the aims is to strengthen the nature conservation perspective in hunting and wildlife management.
 - 1993: Start of actions of 'Vereniging Milieodefensie' against plans to expand Schiphol national airport.
 - 1993: 05.12: 50 environmental and nature conservation organisations publish an open letter to the members of all political parties. They ask for a better energy policy, for a more environment-friendly transport policy, for better protection of the rural areas and more nature reserves.
 - 1994: The 'Raad voor het Natuurbeheer' (Council for Nature Conservation) is founded as a continuation of the 'Natuurbescherdingsraad' (Nature Conservation Council), the 'Jachtraad' (Game Council), the 'Bosbouwvoorlichtingsraad' (Council for Forestry Education) and the

- ‘Adviescommissie Wet Bedreigde Uitheemse Diersoorten’ (Advisory Committee, Threatened Exotic Animals Act).
- 1994: Government presents ‘Nota Produkt en Milieu’ (Document on Products and the Environment), to ensure the production of more environment-friendly products.
- 1994: For the first time ‘Milieubevrijdingsfront’ (Environment Liberation Front) damages new cars (not yet sold). Other sabotage actions follow, by this and other radical environmental and nature conservation groups.
- 1994: 08.22: Start of Government led by Kok. M. de Boer becomes ‘Minister van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieubeheer’ (Minister of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment); J.J. Aartsen is ‘Minister van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij’ (Minister of Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries).
- 1994: 11.06: Planting of trees in the so-called ‘Bulderbos’ (Noisy Forest). The land for this forest-in-the-making is bought by ‘Vereniging Milieodefensie’ and supporters, and lies in the expansion zone of Schiphol airport.
- 1995: It becomes clear that the ‘Raad voor het Natuurbeheer’ (Council for Nature Conservation) and the ‘Raad voor het Milieubeheer’ (Council for Environmental Management) will soon disappear as part of a thorough reorganisation of governmental advisory councils. Instead two new councils will be founded (in 1997). The ‘Raad voor het Landelijk Gebied’ (Council for the Rural Areas) is a continuation of both the ‘Raad voor het Natuurbeheer’ and the ‘Raad voor de Openluchtrecreatie’ (Recreation Council). The ‘VROM-raad’ (Council for the Ministry of Housing, Physical Planning and Environment) is a continuation of the ‘Raad voor het Milieubeheer’, the ‘Raad voor de Ruimtelijke Ordening’ (Physical Planning Council) and the ‘Raad voor de Volkshuisvesting’ (Housing Council).
- 1995: Authorities and environmental groups discuss the need for and the desirable route of the ‘Betuwelijn’ (a new railway for goods trains). Opponents of the plan fear the noise and the impact on landscape.
- 1995: It is decided that the ‘Platform voor Duurzame Ontwikkeling’ (PDO, Platform for Sustainable Development) will disappear in 1996. Instead a new organisation will be founded, the ‘Nationale Commissie voor Internationale Samenwerking en Duurzame Ontwikkeling’ (National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development), a continuation of both the ‘PDO’ and the ‘NCO’, an organisation for help to the Third World.

- 1995: 04.26: 'Vereniging Milieodefensie' organises tree-planting day at Schiphol airport. On 21 May a demonstration against the expansion plans follows.
- 1995: 10.06: Ministries of 'Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieubeheer' (Housing, Physical Planning and Environment) and of 'Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij' (Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fishery) present 'Integrale Notitie Mest- en Ammoniakbeleid' (Integral Notice on Manure and Ammonia Policy): in the year 2010 environmental pollution must be reduced to an acceptable level. Both ministers accept that a reduction of the number of cattle is no longer avoidable.

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Photo on Cover:

The so called half-open Oosterschelde dam. In 1976 the Dutch government decided to start this very expensive and technologically advanced project instead of closing the ecologically very valuable sea arm Oosterschelde. It is seen as a historical success of the Dutch environmental movement.

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