

Hans Woldendorp

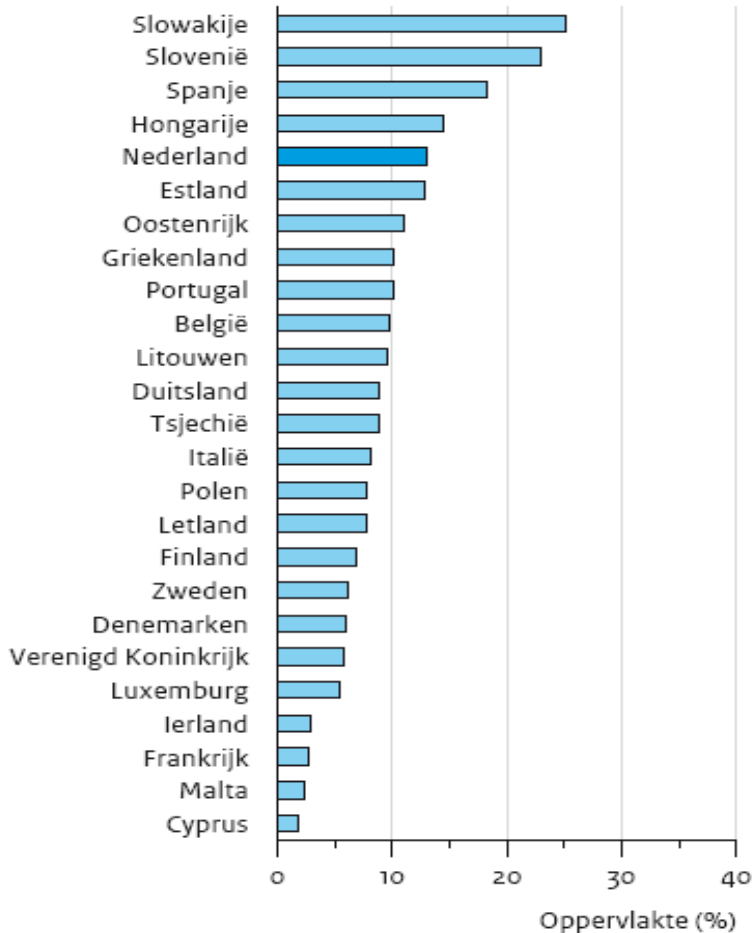
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How coherent is the N2000- network ?

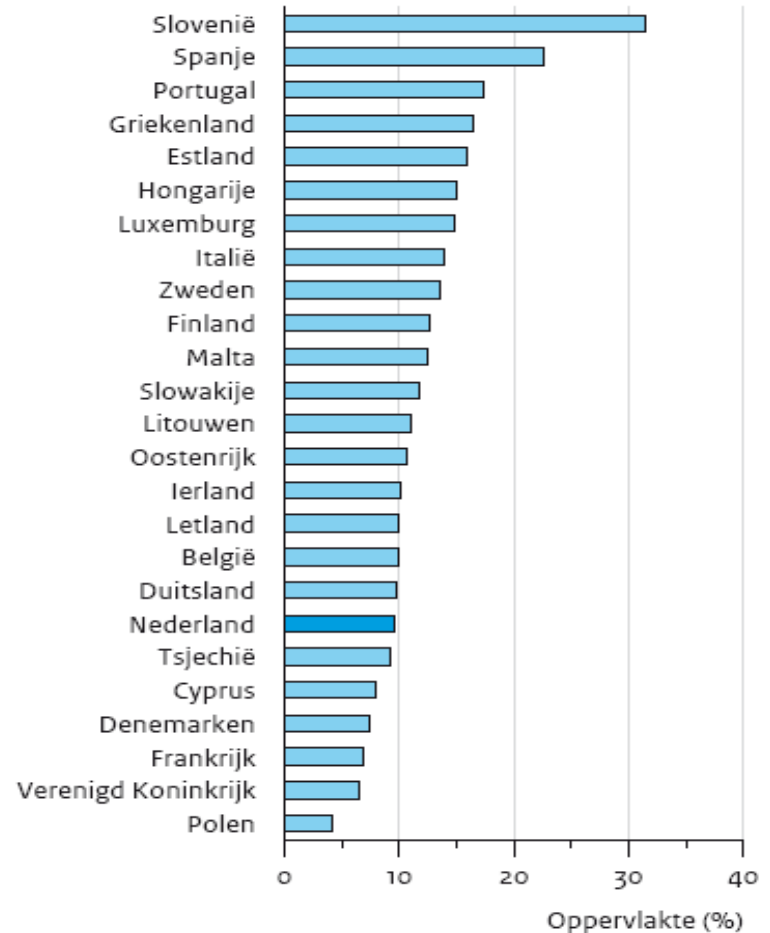


Natura 2000-gebieden in Europa, 2006

Vogelrichtlijn



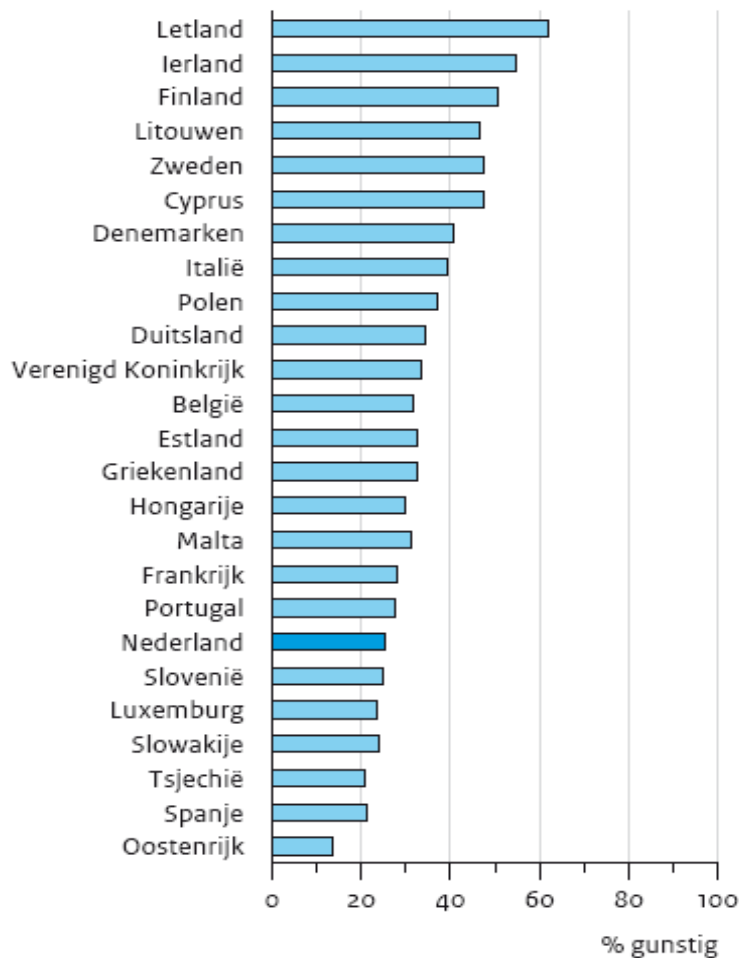
Habitatrichtlijn



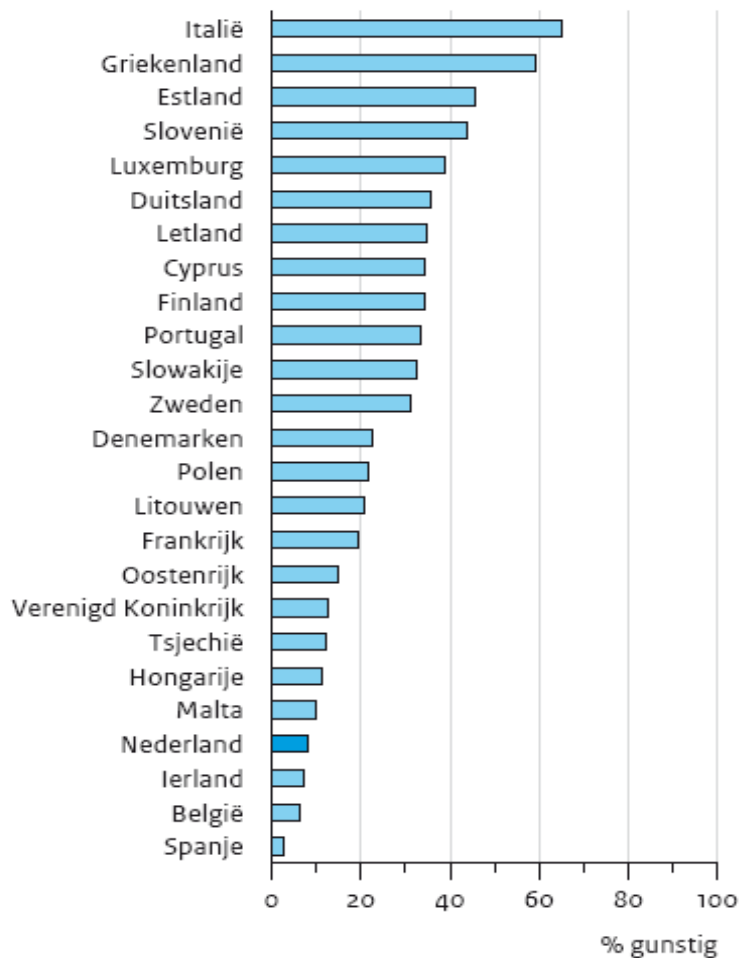
Bron: Europese Commissie, Natura 2000-barometer

Gunstige staat van instandhouding Habitatrictlijn, 2006

Soorten bijlage II en IV

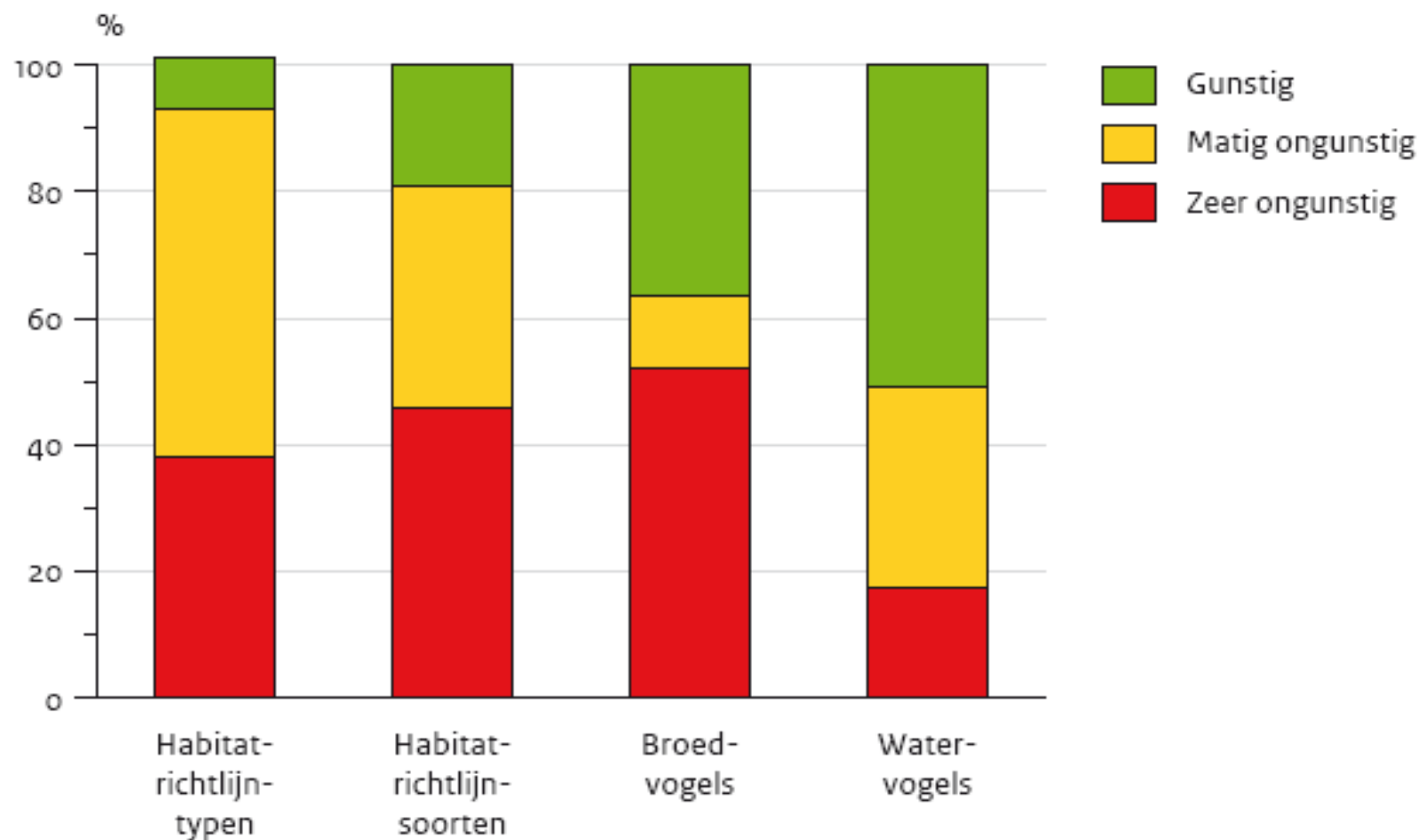


Habitattypen



Bron: Europese Commissie, Natura 2000-barometer¹

Staat van instandhouding, 2006



Bron: Ministerie van LNV (2006)

Is N2000 a coherent network from an ecological point of view ?

- Species and habitats in the N2000-network are at an **unfavourable conservation status**.
- The N2000-network is too **small and fragmented**.
- General **environmental** conditions are unfavourable.
- The favourable conservation status of habitats and species in the N2000- Network is not possible without a system of **linking zones** between N2000-sites.
- Keeping/bringing species and habitats in the N2000-network at a favourable conservation status is the **main objective** of the HD - Art. 2(2)

Is N2000 a coherent network from a legal point of view

- The HD does **not** require, **as a result obligation**, (positive) measures to keep/bring species and habitats at **favourable conservation status** within a time-limit.
- The HD does not require the **creation of new N2000-sites or linking zones** between N2000-sites (Art. 10 HD is not a result obligation)
- No political and public support for investments in N2000-network unless it is necessary on behalf of authorisation of economic activities (minimum=maximum).
- Nature organisations/site-managers are losing influence.

Conclusion

The HD leaves a lot to be desired to bring the N2000 Network at a favourable conservation status:

- N2000 is not (and has not been) a coherent network
 - From an ecological point of view
 - From a legal point of view
- N2000-sites are '**ecological islands**'.
- **No result obligations:**
 - bringing the N2000-sites/network at a **favourable conservation status**
 - **linking zones** between N2000-sites (crucial for restoration and improvement)
 - measures for **improving the conservation status** of the species and habitats



Photo: Hans Woldendorp

The process of designation of N2000-sites

- The system of the designation of N2000-sites
- by its narrow **ecological focus**
- not taking into account economic and other interests
- has contributed to the **erosion of political and public support** for the HD and N2000.
 - In the NL many N2000-sites still must be designated
 - Designation is waiting until adoption of management plans
 - Adoption of management plans is waiting until adoption of programmatic approach for N

Designation of sites in the NL

- Definition of national conservation status →
- **national conservation objectives** →
- **site's conservation objectives.**
- If the national conservation status is unfavourable, conservation objectives for **improvement** must be set for N2000-sites, with the aim to realize a favourable national conservation status. Economic interests are taken into account (Art. 2(3) HD).
- Favourable conservation status at national level instead of N2000-site level; reason of N2000 as a network.
- A lot of **jurisprudence** about the designation of N2000-sites and conservation objectives.

What could be done better ?(7)

- Learning by doing
- The Water Framework Directive (WFD) and other directives offer examples of a more realistic, **programmatic approach**, combining in pressure cooker
 - the setting of water quality standards on a scientific basis,
 - application of derogations
 - adoption of management plans + measures (public participation)
 - based on assessment of consequences for other interests as well as costs and feasibility.
- WFD requires **restoration and improvement measures** and sets dates. A programmatic approach gives a more complete picture as it is more focussed on positive measures.

Programmatic approach

- Programmatic approach includes:
 - Setting of objectives
 - Inventarisation of values and their conservation status
 - Plan
 - Programme of measures
 - Implementation of measures
 - Monitoring of implementation of measures and results
 - Evaluation
 - New programme of measures
 - Start of a new planning cycle

Conclusion

- A **programmatic approach** (PA) could contribute to the improvement of the conservation status of species and habitats and the N2000-network.
- **PA** focusses on **possibilities**.
- **HD** focusses on **'impossibilities'** for activities
 - requirement of stand-still (Article 6(2) HD);
 - Article 6(3) and 6(4) HD): stop negative effects
 - Management aimed at conservation, not restoration and improvement (Article 6(1) HD).
- **A more integral and ambitious approach is desirable.**
- **This is possible within framework of the present HD.**

Thanks for your interest !



Photo: Jacqueline Zijlmans