KICKING OFF NATURAL CAPITAL
Some experiences from the Netherlands

May 2017
Agenda

1. Who are we?
2. What’s happening in the world of natural capital?
3. Natural capital developments in the Netherlands
4. Experiences
Who are we?

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International team
Global Presence

- North America: ∼6,800
- United Kingdom: ∼3,600
- Europe: ∼5,200
- Middle East: ∼2,200
- Asia: ∼6,000
- Australia: ∼600

- 28,000+ employees
- 400+ offices
- 40+ countries
- 30,000+ projects

Adressing the world’s most pressing challenges:
- Globalization
- Urbanization
- Mobility
- Productivity
- Climate Change
- Sustainability
- Scarcity
- Energy
- Natural Resources
Arcadis and Natural Capital

Co-author of the Natural Capital Protocol (NCP)

Thought leader on natural capital

Connected to the frontrunners on a global scale (e.g. NCC and WBCSD)

Broad understanding of natural capital impacts on site level and in the value chains

Known for its biodiversity expertise and its ability to develop concrete solutions related to challenges in biodiversity and ecosystem services
What’s happening in the World?

• Financial sector becomes more involved in natural capital as a driver for change
• Natural capital becomes part of reporting
• Sector guides are developed
• Natural and social capital are connected
What’s happening in Europe?

• Increasing interest in natural capital by governments
• European governments look at front runners such as the Netherlands
• European Business & Biodiversity platform is an important player
• Appearing national Business & Biodiversity platforms
What’s happening in The Netherlands

• Dutch government takes an active and facilitating role
• Financial sector takes the lead
• Organizations pilot tested the Natural Capital Protocol
• Natural capital gradually moves towards mainstream, from awareness to concrete implementation
• Transition from individual efforts to sector wide developments
• Natural Captains program (previously Platform BEE; Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Economy)
Poll 1

Do you recognize these developments?
1) Yes, I do, and I’m part of these developments
2) Yes, I do, but I’m just exploring the concept of natural capital
3) No, I don’t experience this in my environment, but I’m interested
4) No, I don’t
5) Other,....
Platform BEE

- Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Economy: Natural Capital
- 5 years collaboration between NVO-NCW and IUCN NL, funded by Ministry of Economic affairs, ended last year
- Awareness, knowledge and tool development
- Natural Captains program: 40+ companies in a community to share experiences and to pilot natural capital projects
Experience: growth in understanding

Majority

Phase

Novice
Organizations are not aware of topic natural capital

Orientation
Organizations have heard of natural capital and are considering what to do next

Knowledge Development
Organizations are developing knowledge about their natural capital impacts and dependencies, associated risks and opportunities

Business Integration
Organizations integrate natural capital in business strategy, both at operational level and board room level

Day-to-Day operations
Natural capital is part of the day-to-day operations and decisions, at board level and on the work floor

Front runners

Needs

Awareness
Examples

Pitch
Quick tools

Support
Guidance

Examples
Tools

Examples
Data

Examples
Support

Guidance
Tools

Examples
Data
Experience: various drivers

- Cost reduction
- Client demands
- Stakeholders
- Access to finance
- Compliance to law
- Supply security
- Employee health
- Personal motivation
- Innovation
- Image
- Employee health
- Stakeholders
- Client demands
- Access to finance
- Compliance to law
- Supply security
- Innovation
- Image
What is natural capital about?

• **Rijkswaterstaat (Dutch State body for infrastructure, RWS)**

• **Challenge:** To explore relation of the work of Rijkswaterstaat and natural capital in order to identify impacts and dependencies and to create more positive impact

• **Actie:** Quickscan and workshops to 1) identify the natural capital that RWS impacts & depends on and 2) workshops to further increase knowledge within the organization
Futureproof supply chain

- **Testa**
- **Challenge:** The impact of production of shrimps / sea catch is increasing and scarcity is expected. What could be an alternative source for fish fatty acids with less impact on natural capital?
- **Action:** Find an alternative with as least as possible natural capital impact.
- **Result:** Fatty acids from algae production
Poll 2

Where would you place your organization?

1) Novice
2) Orientation
3) Knowledge development
4) Business Integration
5) Day-to-Day operations
Poll 3

What is, or would be your driver to invest in natural capital?
1) Cost reduction
2) Image
3) Stakeholders
4) Client demands
5) Supply security
6) Innovation
7) Access to finance
8) Personal motivation
9) Employee health
10) Compliance to law
Experience: Step by step

Source: Natural Capital Protocol (2016)
### Experience: Step by step

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<th>START</th>
<th>1.</th>
<th>FOCUS</th>
<th>2.</th>
<th>MEASURE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Explore....</strong></td>
<td><strong>Investigate....</strong></td>
<td><strong>Measure....</strong></td>
<td><strong>And consider</strong></td>
<td><strong>FOCUS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. What natural capital does my company depend on?</td>
<td>1. What can I do to cease the opportunities?</td>
<td>1. How do I know that my actions are successful?</td>
<td>1. How can I integrate this new information into my day to day business?</td>
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<td>2. Are there any threats to this natural capital?</td>
<td>2. What can I do to mitigate risks?</td>
<td>2. Can I measure and follow my impact on natural capital?</td>
<td>2. How can these new insights influence decisions in order to guarantee business continuity?</td>
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<td>3. Does my company have any impact on this natural capital?</td>
<td>3. What are priority actions?</td>
<td>3. Can I follow the state of my natural capital?</td>
<td>3. Would it be relevant to structurally embed natural capital considerations into all of the business decisions?</td>
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Innovative solution

- **Foreco**
- **Challenge**: As there have been clear doubts about the use of tropical wood in relation to its sustainability, Foreco (a wood company) investigated alternative wood species that were equally durable and with same lifespan.
- **Action and result**: The company looked for solutions by innovation. They treated pine wood with biopolymers that originate from waste from cane sugar stems. Its characteristics can be compared to teak wood. This is now one of their innovative solutions with less dependency on vulnerable natural capital
Increase understanding

- **Schut Papier**
- **Challenge**: Schut Papier is a small paper company that provides paper to the art community. It increasingly uses biobased waste from other sectors to develop new paper varieties. It is convinced that this approach will be future proof. Nevertheless it wants to investigate how sustainable this paper is in comparison to its conventional alternatives.
- **Action**: The company executed several life cycle analysis (LCAs) for paper that is produced using tomato cellulose fibers in comparison to ‘normal’ paper. It focused on biodiversity impacts.
More information?

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