

Summary annual report 2022

This is a summary (English-language) of our annual report.

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1. Our goals and key achievements

1 goal: all major polluters come up with a climate plan

The Climate case won against Shell has changed everything. Even the major polluting companies must now get to work. That is why we are taking the Climate case verdict to the Netherlands' greatest polluters and demanding a climate plan. That climate plan ensures that all the company's emissions are reduced within the 1.5-degree limit, as agreed in the Paris climate agreement. The plan must be fair to the inhabitants of the Netherlands as well as the world, and it must not harm biodiversity.

At the same time, we advocate a climate duty enshrined in law. This law requires companies to prevent climate damage and ensures that:

- the polluter pays;
- the climate bill is shared fairly;
- everyone can participate and benefit from sustainability.

Indicators:

To see whether we are on track towards our goal, we have described indicators. These are measurable results that are needed to achieve our goal. Below are these indicators and to what extent they have been achieved.

For our activities targeting major polluters, these are our indicators:

1. Changemakers speak out in favour of good corporate climate plans.
2. Companies' climate plans are discussed in local and national media.
3. Stakeholders underrepresented in the climate movement call on large companies to come up with a good climate plan (e.g. local residents).
4. Polluting companies present climate plans that meet global climate agreements (max. 1.5 degree warming).

For our activities focused on politics and a climate duty, these are our indicators:

5. Changemakers speak out in favour of a climate duty for businesses.
6. A climate duty is discussed in leading media.
7. Polluting companies speak out in favour of a legal climate duty.

With the indicators, we measure whether our demands are adopted in the public debate (in the media, and because companies, stakeholders and changemakers express support). In this way, we put pressure on major polluters and the government to ensure proper climate plans and a legal climate duty.

Results:

1. **166,000 changemakers** have expressed support for a good corporate climate plan. A very good result and only slightly less than expected (185,000).
2. **263 leading media** discussed our campaign. This result is double what we expected beforehand (130).
3. **13 stakeholder groups that are underrepresented** in the climate movement participate (e.g. employees of the polluting companies, and people living outside the Randstad). That is more than expected (forecast was 10).
4. **9 polluting companies** have publicly presented climate plans that meet global climate commitments. That is 1 more than previously anticipated.
5. Of the 166,000 changemakers listed at 1, **58,000 changemakers** expressed support for a statutory climate duty for companies.
6. Activities for a climate duty were given lower priority than previously envisaged, therefore this component was dropped.
7. Activities for a climate duty were given lower priority than previously envisaged, therefore this component was dropped.

Not everything worked out completely, but all in all, 2022 was a very good year. The 2023 target is the same as the 2022 target, because we are not done with this yet.

2. The letter that changes everything

In May 2021, Milieudefensie won the historic Climate case against Shell. In January 2022, we sent 29 other major Dutch polluting companies 'the letter that changes everything'. Our call: reduce your CO₂ emission by 45% by 2030 and send us your climate plan by 15 April.

All 29 companies shared their climate plan with us. This allowed us to assess companies' green promises for the first time. We had this done by the independent and internationally renowned NewClimate Institute. The Climate Crisis Index followed from this survey. This showed that no company is doing enough to prevent dangerous climate change.

Some results:

- Albert Heijn, part of Ahold Delhaize, pledged in November to reduce its emissions by 45% by 2030. That was 15%.
- Pension fund ABP stops investing in fossil industry. ABP aims to half greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 through companies in which the fund invests.
- We wrote an urgent letter to the 4 largest accounting firms in the Netherlands, asking them to include climate risks in audits and reports. Trade association NBA announced that they agree with us and will take action.
- More and more employees are demanding that their employers do more for the climate. The largest union, FNV, publicly adopted our demand to the 29 companies.

Figures:

- 'The letter that changes everything' was supported by more than 40,000 people.
- We crowdfunded the Climate Crisis Index and raised 125,000 euros.

- 60,000 people signed an appeal to the climate minister not to provide subsidies to companies if they do not have a proper climate plan.
- Over 9,000 people signed Milieudefensie Jong's appeal to Ahold Delhaize.
- We conducted interviews with hundreds of employees of major polluters about what they want their companies to do for the climate.

Follow-up steps:

- Ahead of the shareholder meetings in spring 2023, we are asking the public to send a Last Encouragement to the CEOs. And we are going to shareholder meetings to ask questions about their climate policies.
- We are conducting preliminary legal research and will probably announce by the end of 2023 which company we will start the next Climate case against.
- In October 2023, we will release our second Climate Crisis Index, assessing the updated plans of the 29 companies.

3. We are keeping pressure on Shell

On Monday 25 April 2022, the Shell board received a letter from us. In it, we reminded board members of their personal responsibility. Because: a year after our Climate case, they are still not implementing the judge's ruling. Over 25,000 people joined us and sent a card.

Shell appears to have no intention of complying with the court's ruling. On the contrary. The major polluter actually wants to drill for more oil and gas worldwide. In Brazil, Australia, South Africa and under our own Wadden Sea (World Heritage Site). We spoke to Shell about that: at the shareholder meeting in London.

Some results:

- We managed to generate a lot of media coverage: a total of 101 times. Our line that Shell violates human rights was taken on board. Of particular note was the short [Al Yazeera documentary](#) on global climate issues.
- Our action on the coast of the Wadden Sea made all the TV news.

Figures:

- A total of 58,000 people joined us: by sending a card or text message to Shell or supporting the appeal in the Climate case against Shell with a donation.

Follow-up steps:

- In 2023, we will start charting Shell's new fossil projects.
- We are stepping up pressure to prevent Shell from drilling under the Wadden Sea.
- We will go to Argentina, where every month thousands of people protest against drilling off the coast of Mar del Plata.

4. Shell pays €15m to clean up oil spill in Nigeria

4 Nigerian farmers and their communities receive 15 million euros in compensation due to Shell's oil pollution in their villages. This finally ends the court case that began in 2008. The company already had to install a leakage and detection system.

Together with Milieudefensie, farmers made the impossible possible. For the first time in history, the headquarters of an international company was held responsible for the damage caused by a

subsidiary company abroad. With this lawsuit, we showed that Shell is causing serious climate damage and gross human rights violations.

5. Our lobbying successes

To achieve our goals, we also lobby government and industry. It works like this: with our public campaigns, we make visible what we stand for and build support. Then, behind the scenes, our campaigners and substantive staff conduct robust lobbying discussions to anchor our commitment at policy level.

In 2022, we achieved several lobbying successes. A few examples:

- In December, the European Union agreed on the Deforestation-free regulation: a milestone in the fight against deforestation. Companies in the European Union must record where their soy, palm oil, rubber, cocoa, coffee, wood, paper and beef come from and prove that production does not contribute to deforestation and human rights violations. This success is the result of years of efforts by civil society organisations, together with communities in the countries where deforestation is taking place. Our next step: ensuring that financial institutions are now included in this regulation.
- During the nitrogen crisis, 1 solution was overlooked: the role that chain parties, such as banks, feed companies and supermarkets, can play. Rabobank drove the scaling-up of livestock farming for years. Farmers' debts with this bank prevent them from choosing sustainable livestock farming on a smaller scale. We therefore think Rabobank should contribute to solving the nitrogen crisis, for example by writing off loans. Meanwhile, the minister has accepted our demand. He also explicitly mentions that Rabobank would have to write off loans. Ahold wants to reduce its emissions.
- Because of our successful Climate Plans campaign, we were invited by 2 ministers. They wanted to hear our ideas on making major polluting companies in the Netherlands more sustainable. Our demands: take into account the footprint of Dutch companies abroad and do not give money to major polluters without a proper climate plan.
- The Netherlands is leaving the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT). Minister Jetten (Climate and Energy) announced this in October.

6. Our international work

Milieudefensie is part of the global network of Friends of the Earth International. We work closely with our Friends of the Earth sister organisations in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America. Together, we are tackling violations with increasing success. We do so at the international level, in the countries concerned as well as in the Netherlands.

- At the international level, we are working on, among other things, a fair and sustainable economy, a fair energy transition and better rules to protect tropical forests.
- In affected countries, we strengthen community and organisational resistance to deforestation and violations of human rights. We are also committed to responsible agriculture and sustainable forest management by local communities, renewable energy as well as activist protection.
- In our own country, we address companies that commit violations elsewhere in the world. In particular, we focus on the impact of the Dutch financial sector on tropical forests.

It is important that we in the Netherlands and Europe quickly stop activities that damage the climate and tropical forests and violate human rights. Therefore, the Netherlands and Europe should legislate so that Dutch companies stop extracting fossil energy and financing industrial agriculture in other parts of the world. We are working on this within 2 international programmes for which we receive grants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: **Fair, Green and Global Alliance (FGG)**, and **Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA)**.

A few examples of our work in 2022 within the FGG Alliance:

- In South America, we investigated and monitored the expansion of the fossil industry, particularly by Shell. We noted that these continue despite the Climate case won. We supported local fishing and coastal communities in their campaigns.
- In Africa, especially in West African countries such as Togo, Ghana and Nigeria, the effects of climate change are palpable and urgent: due to the combination of sea level rise and the building of infrastructure for fossil industries, villages are disappearing under the water. In 2022, we supported organisations and communities in these countries to come up with demands and proposals together.

A few examples of our work in 2022 within the GLA Alliance:

- Within the Just Energy Transition thematic programme, we are committed to a sustainable, fair and inclusive energy transition. Among other things, we got the Netherlands to stop fossil export subsidies (1.5 billion a year).
- We marched with a broad group of NGOs from around the world (ECAWATCH) to call for restrictions on oil and gas at the OECD meeting on export support guidelines in Paris .
- A coalition of local communities in Sulawesi, Indonesia, and a number of Friends of the Earth groups challenged one of the largest palm oil plantations in Indonesia (Astra Agro Lestari) concerning violations (deforestation, pollution, land grabbing). 6 major *consumer goods companies* and a Dutch investor, subsequently severed their ties with the company.
- Together with Friends of the Earth groups and European and Dutch civil society organisations, Milieudedefensie is advocating for an ambitious European law on *Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence*. In 2022, we approached national governments, the European Parliament and the European Commission about it.

7. We are financially sound

Milieudedefensie is financially sound. Revenue growth continues (+18.6% compared to 2021) and we close 2022 with a positive result: the balance before appropriation was €1,144,930 and after appropriation €334,701 positive. This is €370,000 more than the 2022 budget of €35,300 negative. The positive result is added to the continuity reserve, bringing it to €2,933,820.

Of every euro received in 2022, we spent 89.9 cents directly on our objectives (including income from alliance partners). 4.5 cents went to recruitment costs, 5.6 cents to management and administration.

Where does our income come from?

Milieudedefensie funds activities partly from long-term government subsidies. Much of the implementation of those subsidies takes place with partners outside of Milieudedefensie. Excluding these, the share of public funding comes to 17%. 56% comes from individuals, 18% from other non-profit organisations, and 9% from lottery organisations.

Private fundraising income growing

Financial support from our members and donors reached €8.3 million (+11%) in 2022.

More members, fewer donors

In 2022, membership grew to 80,742 (2021: 78,819). The number of individual donors fell to 27,569 (2021: 31,259). Together 108,311 (2021: 110,078). In 2022, 10,650 people became members, but 7,900 discontinued their membership.

8. The organisation in 2022

50 years of Milieudéfensie

In 2022, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of our organisation. In 1971, The Council for Milieudéfensie was established. That Council became Milieudéfensie organisation on 9 November 1972. In 50 years, Milieudéfensie has grown from one of the players to perhaps the most influential climate organisation in the Netherlands.

Number of employees:

- Paid employees with permanent contracts: 94
- Paid employees on fixed-term contracts: 42
- Office volunteers: 69
- Interns: 23

Building change power

People committed to change - we call them 'changemakers' - are our foundation. Together, they constitute our change power. On 1 January 2022, our change power counter stood at 175,279; a year later, on 1 January 2023, it stood at 166,357.

Governance

Milieudéfensie is an organisation with members. The highest body of the organisation is the General Meeting, which meets twice a year. The national office in Amsterdam takes care of organisation tasks. The national office is headed by the executive board, consisting of 2 members. The organisation also has a supervisory board.

Financial policy and effective use of resources

The strategic financial policy is aimed at achieving the objectives of Milieudéfensie's policy, the viability and continuity of the organisation and rests on 3 pillars:

1. ensuring short- and long-term continuity;
2. managing risks;
3. properly managing short- and long-term financial resources.

For these three pillars, the following always applies: measure, monitor and control.

The core of the strategic financial policy is to ensure the continuity of Milieudéfensie through multi-annual budget game rules leading to a healthy financial situation (multi-annual healthy balance sheet, healthy income and expenses and predictable cash flows). Resulting in a balanced budget, in which income is structurally (at least) equal to expenditure and in which sufficient slack has been built up to absorb setbacks.

Effective deployment of resources is driven by a good planning and control cycle. This cycle starts with the preparation of annual plans in which the strategic objectives from the multi-annual policy vision are translated into concrete activities. For each activity, staff deployment is budgeted along with the corresponding financial resources. Milieudéfensie wants to spend its resources on its objectives and therefore the aim is to keep the financial result around zero.