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Challenging Both Ends

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Both Ends Profile

- **First image on google:**
- “Both Ends supports the work of environmental organisations primarily in the so-called South (developing countries) and the Central and Eastern European Countries”
- **First image on own Both Ends website**
- “Both ENDS supports organisations in developing countries to fight poverty and to work towards sustainable environmental management”. **Header: Environment and Development Service**
- **First image on wikipedia NL**
- **Both ENDS** (*Beide Einden*) is in 1986 door enkele milieuorganisaties opgericht en ondersteunt het werk van milieuorganisaties, vooral in het zogeheten [Zuiden](#) (de ontwikkelingslanden) en de Midden- en Oost-Europese landen (CEE). Die ondersteuning wordt gegeven in de vorm van informatieverstrekking, onderzoek, beleidsbeïnvloeding, campagnes, netwerken en capaciteitsversterking.
- De centrale thema's van Both ENDS zijn: duurzaam landgebruik, internationale kapitaalstromen, stedelijke duurzaamheid, voedselzekerheid en duurzaam waterbeheer.

Imaging Both Ends

- **Secondary image** on own website:
- Three themes: **water**, **land** and **capital**
- Map gives partners: 3: 7: 1
- Map suggests geographical focus on:
Europe (2); Latin America (1); West Africa (2);
East Africa (1); West Asia (2); Indonesia (1)

Theme texts: framing the water problem and Both Ends' approach

- WATER
- Clean water is scarce and is becoming increasingly scarcer as the global population grows, which puts increasing pressure on water resources. Large-scale agribusinesses and factories also use enormous amounts of water. More than one billion people, predominantly in developing countries, have no access to clean drinking water. Two billion people have to make do without sanitation.

In response to the growing water crisis, governments are investing in building large-scale dams, irrigation networks and the canalisation and diversion of rivers.

- Technological developments threaten valuable ecosystems and the existence of indigenous peoples who depend on them. Meanwhile, small-scale solutions for water problems are seldom or never used.

Both ENDS supports Southern civil society organisations and networks that are fighting against non-sustainable solutions and trying to come up with alternative approaches to sustainable water management.

Theme texts: framing the land problem and Both Ends' approach

- Land
- In large parts of the world, people are directly dependent on forests as a means of their survival - for fire wood, food or medicine. Forests also play an important role in the water supply and protection of agricultural lands. Deforestation and forest degradation have direct consequences for the quality of life of the people living in and around forests.

Local communities often have to deal with drought, floods and other climatic extremes. To get the issue of desiccation onto national and international political agendas, Both ENDS is working with an international network of NGOs. In this way, local solutions for drought gain national and international attention.

Many local communities become involved in conflicts about natural resources. This can be the result of civil wars or conflicts caused by mining companies or agribusinesses that produce soy and palm oil. The challenges that are created by this as well as the strive for Social Responsibility are central focus areas for Both ENDS in its sustainable land usage programmes.

Theme texts: framing the capital problem and Both Ends' approach

- **Capital:**
- Human intercourse with the environment and natural resources is often largely determined by developments and decisions made on an economic- (trade and investment) and political (macro-economic policy, budget) level. Economic and financial arguments are often very effective in order to arrive at a more sustainable policy.

Both ENDS does it utmost to influence decision-making processes and to anticipate the processes that generate trade- and international funding. It also closely follows the way big financial institutions such as the World Bank group and the IMF work. Both ENDS tries to put sustainability and the fight against poverty high on the agenda within the world of international funding.

partners: WATER

buzz words and geography

- Freshwater Action Network: UK+Central America +WW
- AEDES (sust. water devt and climate adaptation): Peru + WW (human rights to water, WorldBank lobby)
- Telapak (River basin management): Indonesia

partners, LAND: buzzwords and geography-1

- **Forest People Partnership:** UK, Siberia, 6 in Africa, Guyana, Venezuela
- **Alterra (Desire, dryland hotspots):** various (18)
- **ENDA (Drynet):** Senegal and WW
- **Rainforest Res & Dev Centre, sustainable forest management:** Nigeria (linking with OxfamNovib, IUCN and EU)
- **TEMA, combating soil erosion and protecting natural habitats:** Turkey (part of Drynet)

Land and Capital partners, buzzwords and geography-2

- LAND
- CAREC, regional environmental centre: central asia
- Telapak, FSC certificates: Indonesia
- CAPITAL
- Forum for Environment, Nature parks, fair flower campaign, agrofuels: Ethiopia

MY PROFILE

- Research and teaching in Political environmental geography/political ecology
- Observer and advisor of the (Dutch) development industry; developing new evaluation/assessment tools
- Co-initiator of DPRN, Broker, Worldconnectors, and change in WOTRO

Env & Dev, current context

- Fall out of the current financial crisis: maybe more global coordination ('new Bretton Woods'), probably stronger EU, short term: less attention for env, CC and MDGs; longer term: more global 'etatism', more confrontation between major blocks (trade and real wars between EU/US and BRIC, a.o. in Middle East, Africa and Indonesia), more authoritarian programmes, stronger position East Asian Model,
- Rapid technological advances in solving energy and water crisis, new global centre-periphery arrangements, severe shocks as a result of CC-related disasters, but also power shifts from CC losers to CC winners.

Env & Dev contexts, more 'longue duree context'

- Ongoing population growth, with ongoing rising demands for food, feed, forest products, water, energy and minerals
- Ongoing rapid urbanization, with concentrated pollution and urban poverty problems; and severe risks for vulnerable people at vulnerable locations (coastal urban lowlands and deltas)
- Ongoing globalization of chains of goods and services; maybe: ongoing global regime setting of regulatory networks; partly by own initiatives of mega companies (also from China and India!)
- Re-invention of the 'developmental state', at national and regional levels, and with new 'aid' arrangements around access to localized resources.

Context of Dutch aid industry

- Major change needed of the 'architecture' of Dutch international development initiatives
- Very fragmented; knowledge-poor; impotent ministry of FA; not enough visible
- My suggestion:
 - More emphasis on EU for MDG aid
 - Rijksdienst (Separate agency for International Relations) directly under PM (separation from FA and embassies): concentrating on assessments and non-mainstream ID initiatives
 - Radical change of distribution of ODA means: 30% multilateral (UN system; Global Bank if it comes); <20% pioneer bilateral initiatives but always together with donor look alike; >50% civilateral (Dutch major asset).
 - Better coherence of ODA funds, with funds from other ministries and societal agencies

Env & Dev Dutch context

- Too fragmented and lack of knowledge sharing; lack of international visibility; image of 'lack of impact'
- Only loosely connected with non-Env&Dev NGOs, more contacts with VROM than with FA
- Major ones: WWF, IUCN-NI, GreenPeace, (Natuur en Milieu)
- Less major ones: BothEnds, ETC International (esp ETC Energy), BLI, Tropenbos Int.
- Minor connections with think-tanks companies (Shell, Philips, Unilever, alt. energy companies, CDM initiators)
- Many direct and fruitful linkages NI agencies with southern partners, but very few with other European agencies (only a bit with UK ones, like IIED, and through OxfamNovib; not at all prepared for a 'Europeanization' of international development (and env.) efforts.

Political ecology

Buzz words central in the current scientific debate:

Livelihood strategies and outcomes; Sustainable livelihoods

Product, service and image chains (identity!) and their environmental and livelihood/poverty impact along the chain

Local-global interfaces; territoriality and networks; scaling

Natural resource management and access arrangements (legal pluralism)

Volatility and vulnerability: shocks/triggers, and trends (resilience, insurance, social security)

Risks, hazards, disasters: mitigation and adaptation

Collective action and leadership; negotiation interfaces

Multiple governance

Cultural and institutional embedding; institutional dynamics

Stakeholder analysis (meta analysis of decision making)

The analysis of framing (framing problems, rights/entitlements, interventions and impact): discourse analysis and communication analysis ('imaging')

MY IMAGE OF BOTH ENDS

- Strategic agency: influencing discourses by linking Southern and Global players; (ambition) Dutch office in a hub role
- Choice of southern partners not clear: image of ratjetoe, both thematic and geographical choices
- Dynamics of partner choice unclear: is there a strategy of gradual renewal?

Why would southern NGOs go to the Netherlands for support?

Dutch environmental pioneer visibility: old, but continuing and further strengthening

- Water (but not so much drinking water; more: drainage, coastal and delta defense against water hazards, water management institutions)
- International Legal frameworks (int. courts)
- Agricultural innovation capability/food production institutions

Cont.

- Dutch environmental pioneer visibility: new
- Clean Development Mechanism and climate funds (+ EIA quality, but NOT poverty assessment quality!)
- Bioenergy technological innovations
- Eco-certification and connecting 'sustainable' with 'fair' products/services and chains

Obvious problems

- Lack of embedding of Both ENDS in a European (EU) network of look-alikes
- Lack of orientation towards UNEP and GEF
- Lack of connecting with pioneer (big) companies (and their Social Responsibility strategies)
- Niche behavior of pioneer: success = mainstreaming by others (at much larger funding capability); continuous deliberate shift to new pioneer fields ↔ expertise strengths
- Niche ambition necessitates a continuous inflow of young bright minds, and a very high meta-knowledge acquisition attitude among senior staff.
- Pioneer ambition means: continuously scratching the 'big ones' (IUCN, WWF, Companies, FA/VRROM) = being close (same networks) but annoying at the same time.
- To do that successfully and 'volhoubaar', you need an independent financial base: from where???