

Policy framework

Justification for a Dutch polar policy

1. Our obligation to promote the international legal order, a key objective of government

supplementary international agreements on fishing, shipping and extractive industries. Compliance with these norms will be another focal point.

3. The Netherlands regards the Arctic Council as the best circumpolar policy form for achieving overarching Arctic stewardship objectives. We will remain active as an observer to the Arctic Council, participating among other things in the Council's working groups.
4. The Netherlands supports a larger role for the European Union in the North Pole region on the grounds that a European role will lead to synergy and economies of scale. We support eventual observer status for the EU.
5. The Netherlands believes that the far north is of enduring strategic significance.
6. The Netherlands foresees an increase in the extraction of fossil fuels in the far north. With that in mind, we will work to ensure that the exploitation of oil and gas takes place under very strict environmental and security standards. We feel that the advisability of such activities should be assessed in the light of the special vulnerability of the Arctic environment and the position of indigenous peoples.
7. As part of the appropriate stimulus and innovation programmes, the Netherlands will support, in response to demand, research and development on safeguarding the

Policy principles and objectives for Antarctica: main points

1. As a result of the Cabinet decision in 1989 to pursue consultative status within the Antarctic Treaty and the attainment of this status in 1990, the Netherlands has undertaken to conduct substantial scientific research in Antarctica and to co-administer the Antarctic region for an indefinite period. The Netherlands will continue to fulfil these treaty obligations in the future.
2. The Netherlands regards the Antarctic Treaty System as a competent and legitimate

Tour Operators (IAATO), the body that represents the sector.

9. With respect to the Antarctic marine environment the Netherlands supports the CCAMLR's ecosystem and precautionary approaches. We will look into the feasibility of joining the CCAMLR Commission.
10. Within the scope of the Protection of Antarctica Act (WbA) the Netherlands will in principle issue no permits for activities that could harm the intrinsic value of the continent.
11. Dutch policy on whaling is expressed by our representatives at the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and is not considered part of the Netherlands' polar policy.