

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Do you know that joke about the person who went to Paris?”... as a popular children’s joke starts. The punch line is that the “person” did not go. Over the last few years, some people might have posed a similar question: “Do you know that joke about Detlef writing his thesis?” Well, it turned out to be no joke. Finally, I have traveled the long road of writing a thesis to completion. On the way, I have obviously experienced that writing a PhD thesis on the fringe of working life is far from easy – and certainly not when there so many other interesting things to work on. During this process, my colleagues, both at the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (MNP) and across the globe, were helpful in reminding me that writing a thesis was still a very worthwhile undertaking. Spending some time at Utrecht University in 2006 pushed me on to taking the last steps.

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