Forest development in urban areas
Experiences and challenges

Harrie Hekhuis
Staatsbosbeheer

Content

- Staatsbosbeheer
- The “Randstad -groenstructuur”: forests in urban areas
- Are the forests/green structures a succes?
- Forest development
- Recommendations

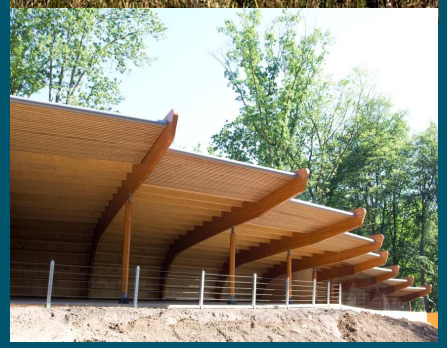
staatsbosbeheer

Objectives Staatsbosbeheer

1. Maintaining, restoring and developing woodland, natural heritage, landscape and cultural-historical values at Staatsbosbeheer's sites;

2. Promoting outdoor-recreation at Staatsbosbeheer sites

3. Contributing to the production of environmentally-friendly, renewable raw materials such as timber.



staatsbosbeheer

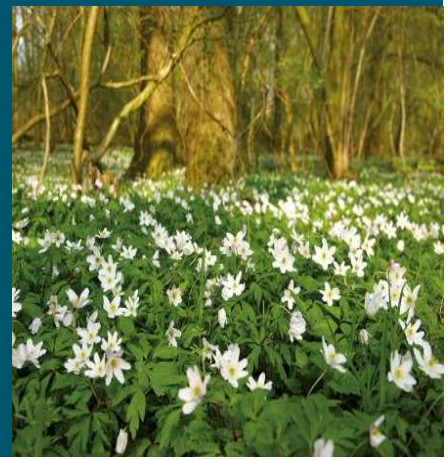
Forest area

- Natural forests 34.000 ha
- Cultural-historical forest 1.000 ha
- Multifunctional forests 60.000 ha

TOTAL 95.000 ha

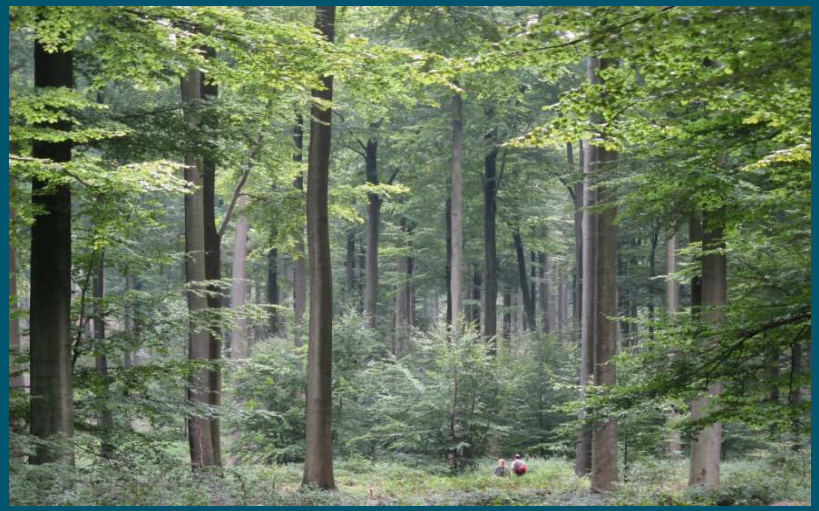
Total area 267.000 ha

Outdoor-Recreation in all forest types



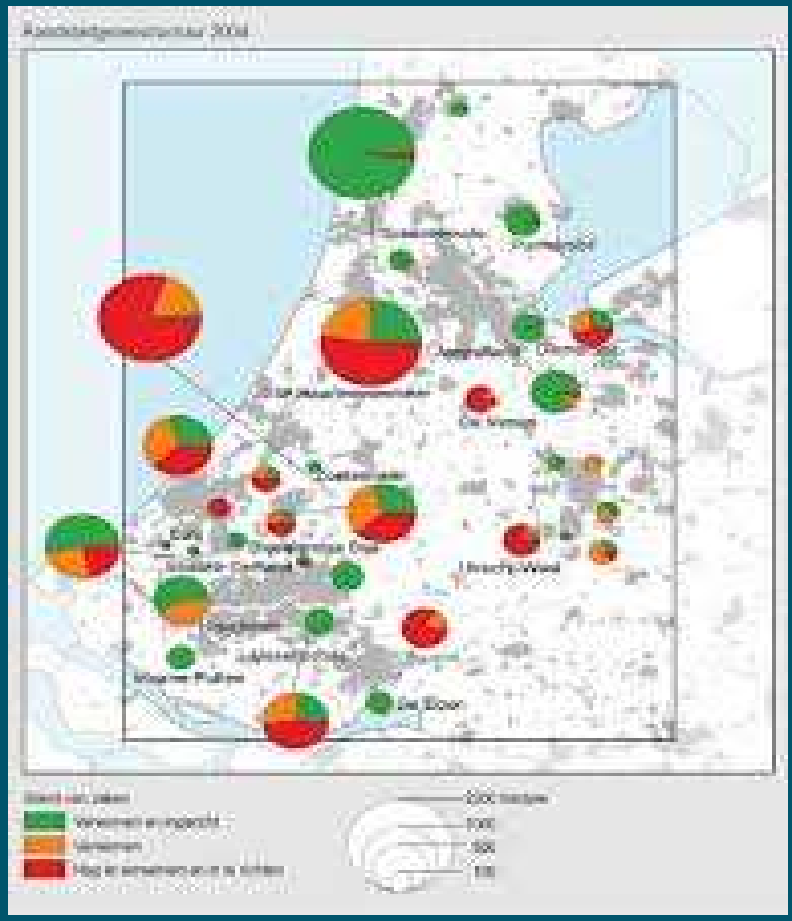
staatsbosbeheer

Main forest types NL



staatsbosbeheer

Randstadgroenstructuur

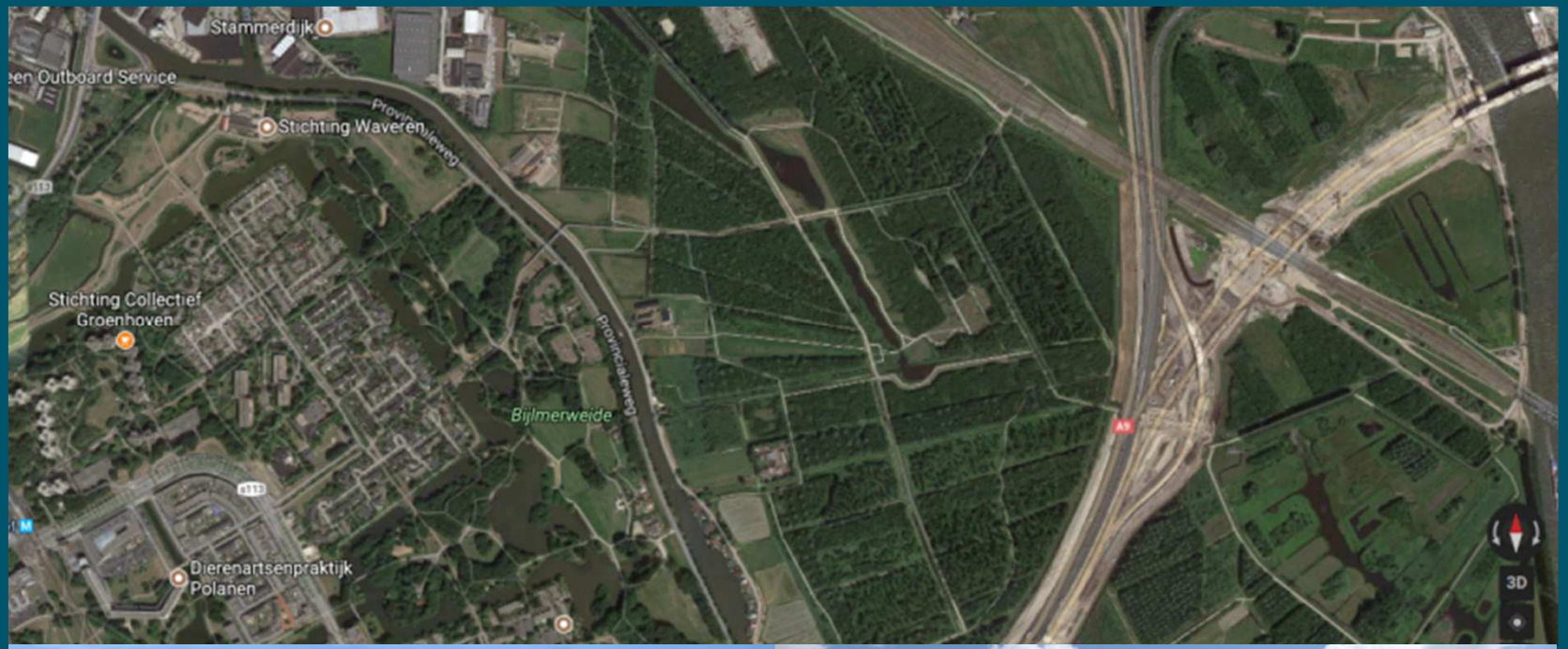


staatsbosbeheer

Randstadgroenstructuur

staatsbosbeheer

Accessibility!



staatsbosbeheer

Are the forests/green structures a succes?

Visitor scores

- De Balij en Bieslandse bos (2007): 7,8
- Nieuw Wulven (2015): 7,7
- Purmerbos (2016): 7,7
- Gagelbos (2015): 7,5
- Diemerbos (2016): 7,3
- Venneperhout (2016): 7,3
- Diemerbos (2004): 7,2
- IJsselbos (2009): 7,1
- Pumerbos (2010): 6,9

staatsbosbeheer

Are the forests/green structures a succes?

- Realization 50%
- Buffer city development +
- Recreation +/-
- Wood production -/+ (in future)

staatsbosbeheer

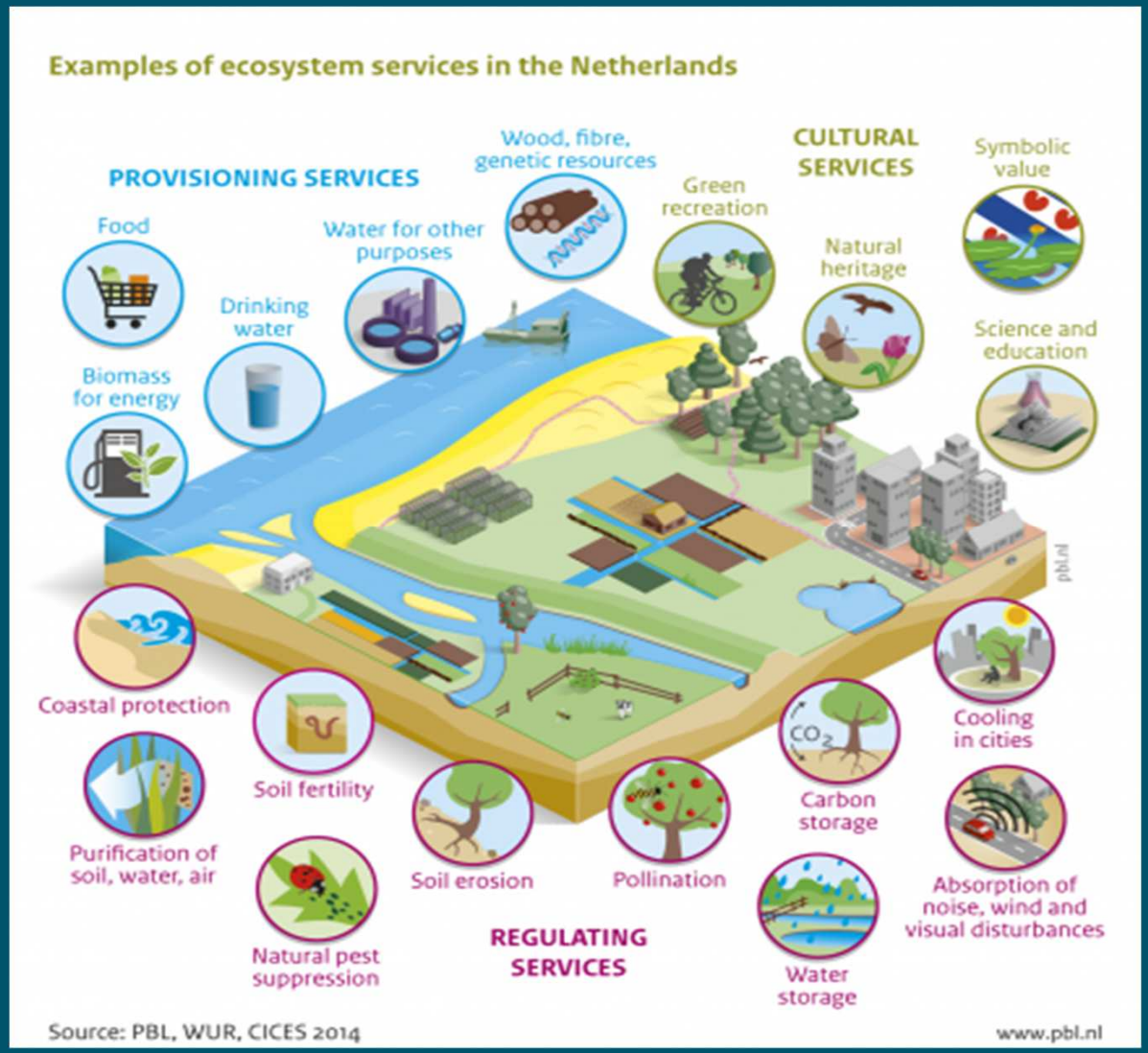
Are the forests/green structures a succes?

New developments:

- 800.000 new houses until 2040
- Climate change: heat stress, water problems

staatsbosbeheer

Are the forests/green structures a succes?



staatsbosbeheer

Are the forests/green structures a succes?

❖ Realization	50%
❖ Buffer city development	+
❖ Recreation	+/-
❖ Carbon and water storage	+
❖ Cooling in cities	+
❖ Liveability and business climate	+
❖ Wood/biomass production	-/+ (in future)

staatsbosbeheer

A lot of work has to be done

staatsbosbeheer

A lot of work has to be done

- Still in the investment period
- Ownership (decentralization nat => local level?)
- Responsability
- Funding irt
  - new economic functions?
  - ecosystem services?

staatsbosbeheer

Forest development: Main forest types

	Start	**Plan**
Poplar species	35%	10%
Ash	15%	25%
Broadleaves spp	50%	65%

staatsbosbeheer

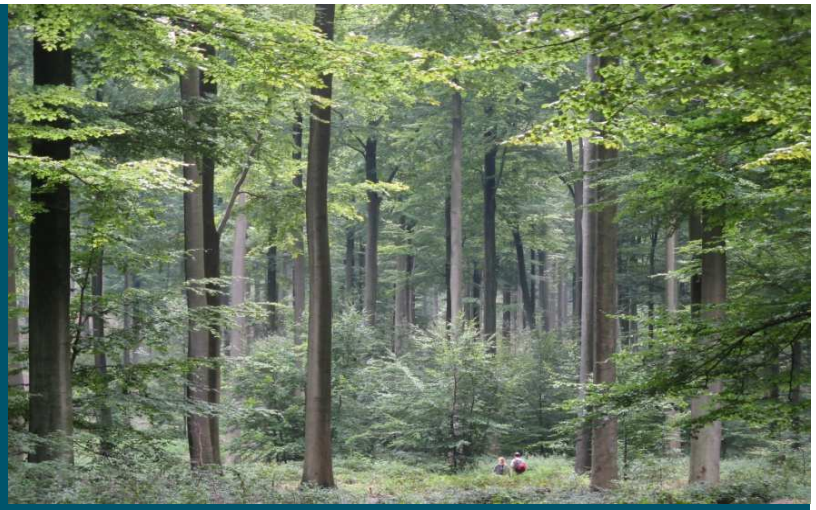
Forest images

staatsbosbeheer

Forest images

staatsbosbeheer

Forest management



Transition

- 30-40 years allmost no forest management
- 100% area forest measures and cutting

Poplar species	Next generation ?
Ash	Ash dieback disease
Broadleaves spp	Thinning in/over time

staatsbosbeheer

Recommendations

- Mixed and flexible forest : goals change and robust towards external influences and diseases etc
- More attention towards infrastructure: Direct connection between urban area and the forest
- High level of forest craftmanship and communication skills
- Investment period: > 50 years, continuous management
- Realize ownership

staatsbosbeheer

Thank you for your attention!

staatsbosbeheer