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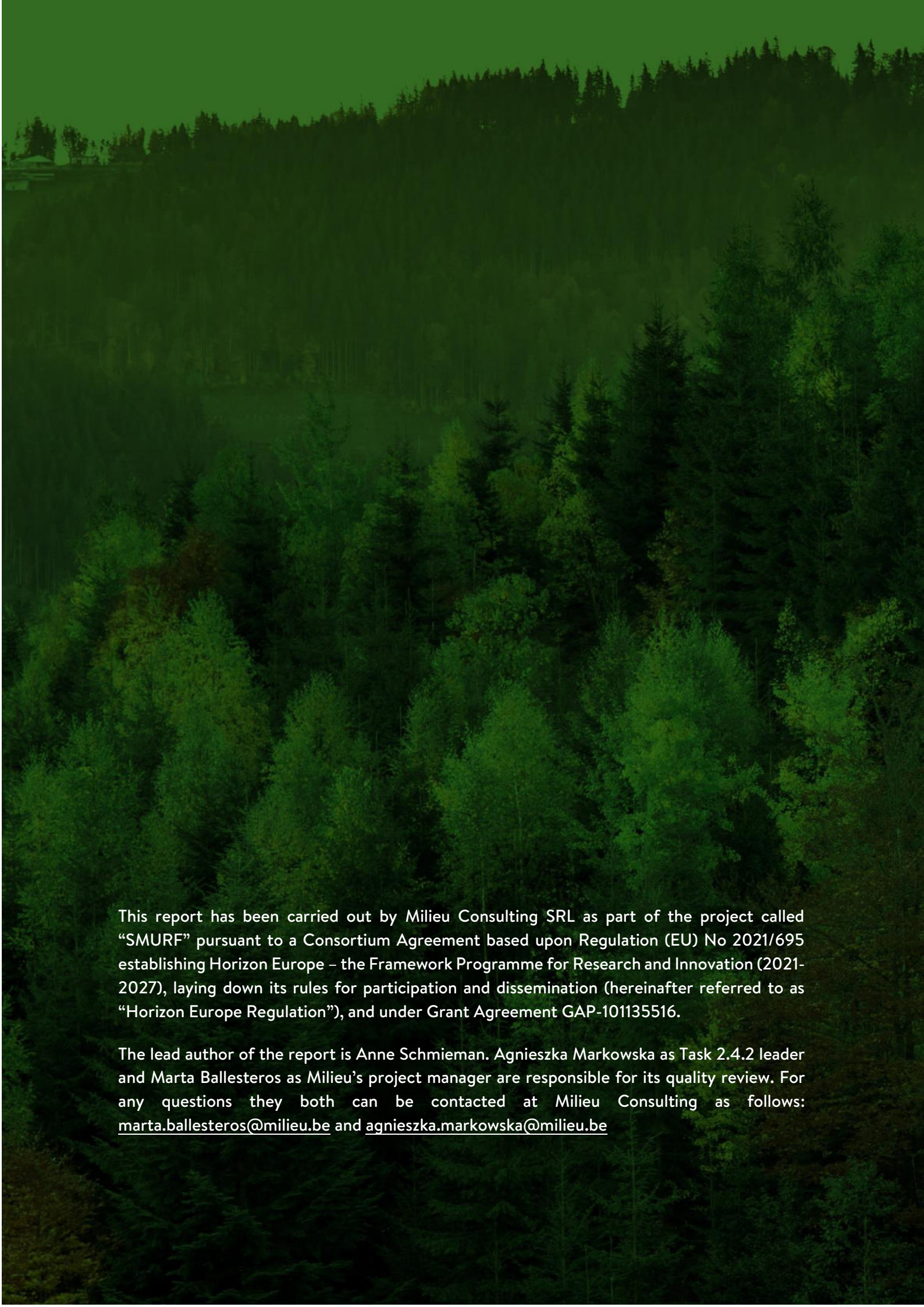
Financial incentives applicable to Small Forest Holdings and their impacts

Country Fact Sheet
The Netherlands

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Executive Summary

The Netherlands offers several financial incentives, combining EU and national-level funding, as well as regional schemes and private initiatives. While SFHs benefit from a mix of direct and indirect support mechanisms, opportunities are largely tied to broader nature and agricultural policies, requiring integration into farming systems or participation in collaborative schemes for effective access.

1. EU-based financial incentives
    - European Regional Development Fund (ERDF): Despite its theoretical scope including nature and biodiversity, no ERDF-funded projects specifically targeting SFHs or sustainable forest management (SFM) were identified in either the 2014–2020 or 2021–2027 periods.
    - Common Agricultural Policy (CAP): The Dutch CAP Strategic Plan 2023–2027 allocates nearly €5 billion in total. While not tailored for SFHs, eco-schemes include permanent non-productive elements (e.g. wood stands) within eligible farming areas, offering indirect support if the forested areas are part of an agricultural holding.
2. National funding
    - State aid: Four forestry-related measures were reported (2020–2025), including significant grants for Staatsbosbeheer and the Union of Forest Groups in Overijssel, and a smaller SME grant in Gelderland.
    - SNL subsidy scheme: Subsidy for Nature and Landscape Management (SNL) provides annual payments based on forest type (e.g. €2,409.59/ha for woodland, €4,971.24/ha for willow coppice).
    - SKNL subsidy scheme: SKNL focuses on quality improvements and supports forest planting and land conversion. This is implemented at the provincial level.
    - Tax incentives (Natuurschoonwet 1928): Provide exemptions from inheritance, gift, and property taxes, and income tax advantages for stewardship-compliant activities.
    - Administrative incentives: Codes of conduct enable permit exemptions if sustainable forest management complies with environmental regulations.
3. Local and regional funding
    - Provinces (e.g. South Holland, Gelderland, Utrecht) offer direct subsidies for afforestation outside protected areas, with notable budgets (€1M–€8M depending on region). This mostly involves the SKNL subsidy.
4. Private and innovative funding
    - Foundations and NGOs: Programmes like Trees for All, IVN's Tiny Forests, and Landschapsfonds Groene Woud provide planting support and awareness campaigns.
    - Carbon credits: SNK and GreenDutch facilitate CO_2 offsetting through reforestation.
    - Biodiversity credits: National Biodiversity Bank enables ecosystem investment via landowner-company partnerships.
    - Crowdfunding: Platforms like Buitenfonds and Crowdfunding For Nature raise funds for tree planting and nature restoration.

1. Financial incentives based on EU funding

1.1. The European Regional Development Fund

Regional programmes

During the 2021–2027 period, the Netherlands is set to receive approximately EUR 506 million from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). This amount is allocated across four regional operational programmes1. These programmes are managed regionally and focus on various policy priorities including innovation, digitalisation, the energy transition, and the circular economy.

1. North: Samenwerkingsverband Noord-Nederland (SNN) (Collaborative North-Netherlands)2. The subsidies are given by SNN across a broad range of sectors and do not seem to target nature conservation or biodiversity topics per se. The current available subsidies for individuals and companies in sustainability and greening do not include projects directly associated with forest management.
    a. Only the Provincial LEADER Drenthe grant3 may be relevant for forest managers, provided their project contributes to themes including biodiversity, landscape quality, climate adaptation or sustainability. Both natural persons, legal entities and partnerships can apply for projects in the rural area of East or West Drenthe (excluding urban cores). Grant amounts range from €5,000 to €25,000, with a maximum reimbursement of 50% of eligible costs and mandatory co-financing (where volunteer hours count). Only necessary project costs that fit the objectives are eligible, and the project must be completed within two years. Licensing procedures must be demonstrably started.
2. East: Programma EFRO Oost (Programme EFRO East)4. EFRO Oost aims for a smarter, green East of the Netherlands, and grant applicants can come up with their own projects.
    a. However, the programme is not directly relevant for SFHs. There are, however, indirect leads within the programme that provide grant opportunities. For example, the programme also focuses on projects that contribute to a low-carbon economy, including technological solutions for climate adaptation and risk prevention. Projects around ecosystems, carbon storage in soils or forests are potentially covered. Moreover, the programme refers to promoting renewable energy in line with Directive (EU) 2018/2001, which may include biomass, and would leave room for projects around sustainable wood combustion or forest residue wood processing as a renewable energy source.

1 https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/onderwerpen/europese-subsidies/europese-structuur--en-investeringsfondsen/europees-fonds-voor-regionale-ontwikkeling-efro.
2 https://www.snn.nl/ (SNN).
3 https://www.snn.nl/subsidies-voor-particulieren/provinciale-leader-drenthe.
4 https://media.gelderland.nl/sfc2021_PRG_2021_NL_16_RFPR_004_3_2_d695396aa8.pdf, more information available at: https://www.efro-oost.eu/ (EFRO Oost).

3. South: Programma EFRO Zuid (Programme EFRO Zuid)5. Programme Zuid focuses on the green sector, primarily green energy.
    a. The programme does not mention forest management, reforestation, forest biodiversity, ecosystem services or nature management as priority themes. Even climate transition focuses on technological solutions (e.g. water management, sensor technology) rather than ecological landscape measures.
4. West: Kansen voor West (Chances for West)6. Kansen voor West gives an overview of possible grant applications and indicates where budget is still available.
    a. The programme is not relevant for SFHs as no forestry related activities fall within the scope. It focuses on SMEs with innovation potential, specifically targeting technological or organisational innovations that fit within the identified transition themes and grant typologies.

Consequently, while nature and biodiversity are theoretically within the scope of ERDF interventions, the initial mapping shows little to no direct support for SFHs in relation to sustainable forest management or ecosystem services in the Netherlands.

No ERDF-funded projects have been identified that are specifically aimed at small forest holders or the enhancement of ecosystem services through forestry in the Netherlands under the current 2021–2027 programming period. The same trends apply to the 2014-2020 ERDF period: no recorded funding targeted at SFHs or sustainable forest management activities. Available reports indicate little or no use of ERDF funds for forest or nature-related projects, let alone for small forest owners7.

1.2. Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

The Dutch CAP Strategic Plan (2023–2027)

The National Strategic Plan (NSP CAP) is the Dutch interpretation of the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)8, the EU-wide framework for agricultural subsidies and rural development. The national strategic plan (SNP CAP) succeeds the previous Rural Development Plan (RDP) for the 2014-2020 period, which was implemented in the Netherlands as POP3 and its transitional extension POP3+ 9. The aim of the NSP CAP is to promote agriculture that benefits the economy, the farmer and the living environment. In the Netherlands, the provinces

5 https://www.stimulus.nl/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/RIS3-Zuid-Nederland-2021-2027-21-april-2020.pdf. See for more information: https://www.stimulus.nl/opzuid/ (EFRO OPZuid).
6 https://www.kansenvoorwest.nl/ (Kansen voor West).
7 See for example https://europadecentraal.nl/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2014-07-29-Partnerschapsovereenkomst-Nederland-2014-2020.pdf, or https://www.stimulus.nl/opzuid-2021-2027/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2022/04/Programma-EFRO-2021-2027-Zuid-Nederland-uitgebreide-versie.pdf.
8 https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2022/02/24/verslag-strategisch-gbl-plan-202. See for more information on the strategy here: https://europadecentraal.nl/onderwerp/europese-unie/landbouw/glb-gemeenschappelijk-europees-landbouwbeleid/#:~:text=Decentrale%20overheden%20spelen%20een%20belangrijke,uitvoering%20van%20het%20NSP%2DGLB.
9 The Rural Development Plan for the Netherlands in the 2014–2020 programming period was implemented under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) as part of the CAP. In the Dutch context, this took the form of the POP3 programme ("Plattelandsontwikkelingsprogramma 3"), which succeeded earlier rural development programmes (POP1, POP2). See: https://www.rvo.nl/subsidies-financiering/investering-pop3-2022.

in particular are responsible for implementing the NSP CAP10 It consists of two pillars: The European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The Dutch plan aims to promote a more sustainable, equitable, and climate-resilient agricultural system. Emphasis is placed on climate, soil health, biodiversity, and water quality.

Eligibility conditions (applicability to SFHs)

The eco scheme for climate and habitat is primarily designed for activities on arable and grassland, which promote future-proof agriculture, including permanent non-productive areas that are part of the definition of eligible area (wood stands, pools, banks and ditches) from 2023 onwards11. As a consequence, from 2023, permanently non-productive elements such as wood stands (small groves or tree rows) can also be part of the eligible area - provided they are part of a farm.

As included in the CAP, ''deployment of CAP funds for "real" forests is not obvious, as the Netherlands wants to focus these funds as much as possible on the agricultural domain and agricultural goals. However, the ambition for the upcoming CAP NSP period is to encourage woody landscape elements and agroforestry, including food forests. These can contribute significantly to CO2 sequestration in the soil and in trees, and to biodiversity on agricultural land. In addition, agroforestry can be a new development model for agriculture"12.

Budget

The EU budget for CAP 2023-2027 in the Netherlands is over EUR 4.5 billion. With over EUR 415 million of national funding, the total funding comes to almost EUR 5 billion. The CAP aims to be economically sustainable, fair, socially sustainable, and greener. For example, it will use about EUR 760 million to support farmers to implement biodiversity friendly measures on more than 1.5 million hectares13.

For the eco-regulation, 25% of the Dutch part of the EAGF budget is allocated in 2023, rising to around 30% in 2027 (with increasing transfer)14. Intervention 3.1.E0115 supports, among others, woody landscape elements, pools, gullies and small forest structures on agricultural land. The average unit amount according to this calculation method, at a budget of €152 mln per year is about €109 per ha16.

10 The National Strategic Plan (NSP) is the Dutch interpretation of the European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).
11 NSP CAP, p. 287.
12 NSP CAP, p. 94.
13 CAP 2023-2027 – 28 CAP Strategic Plans at a glance.
14 It is expected that around 80% of farmers will make use of this and it is assumed that 20% of the eco-regulation budget can be considered as a contribution to income, NSP CAP, p. 73.
15 NSP CAP, p. 286-287.
16 As the Netherlands uses a growth model, where the budget for the eco-regulation remains constant, the share of eco-regulation grows from 25% in 2023 to 30% in 2027.

1.3. LIFE, Interreg and Horizon Europe

Projects relevant to SFH supported from LIFE, Interreg and Horizon Europe funding are analysed for the whole EU in a dedicated chapter and annex.

2. Financial incentives based on MS funding

2.1. State aid

Based on the information available on the European Commission's transparency platform17, four state aid measures have been reported by the Netherlands for the period 2020-2050 concerning the NACE code 02 (forestry and logging):

1. The first was granted to Staatsbosbeheer (the national public forest manager) under the amended model regulation for the grant scheme on nature and landscape management. This aid, amounting to EUR 3,766,610, was awarded by the Province of Overijssel on 29 March 2022 to support large-scale nature management activities. Since Staatsbosbeheer is not a SFH or a representation thereof, this measure is not relevant for the scope of this project.
2. A second aid measure, also under the same scheme and granted on the same date by the Province of Overijssel, involved a significantly larger amount of EUR 34,871,284. It was provided for Staatsbosbeheer's own land management activities, again targeting large enterprises involved in forestry and environmental stewardship. Since Staatsbosbeheer is not a SFH or a representation thereof, this measure is not relevant for the scope of this project.
3. A third aid measure under this regulation was awarded to the Unie van Bosgroepen u.a. (Union of Forest Groups) on 11 July 202218. The amount granted was EUR 9,043,171, also from the Province of Overijssel19. This support aimed at large enterprises engaging in forest group activities. This includes construction and restoration of landscape elements such as wooded banks, hedgerows and forest edges. It also includes setting back forest edges to a 10-metre-wide zone, allowing shrubs to develop ("forest canopy") and the creation of woody elements such as girdles, wooded banks and hedgerows, wooded banks, coppice hedges, coppice groves, thicket and shaving hedges and hedgegerows.
4. The fourth reported aid measure was granted to Bureau Takkenkamp B.V. by the Province of Gelderland. It falls under the prolongation of an approved aid catalogue and is scheduled to be awarded on 22 January 2025. The amount, EUR 222,496, is designated for a small or medium-sized enterprise, although the specific forestry-related objective is not detailed in the entry. Bureau Takkenkamp offers support to owners in managing their estates, forests or nature reserves. This can range from

17 https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/competition/transparency/public?lang=en
18 The Union of Forest Groups is the umbrella organisation of three regional forest groups: North-East Netherlands, Central Netherlands and South Netherlands. These cooperatives were set up by and for owners of forest and natural areas, including private individuals, foundations, estates and governments. Together they represent more than 2,000 members with a joint management of over 500,000 hectares of forest and nature. The Union offers several services specifically aimed at supporting small forest owners by amongst others FSC Group Certification for small forest owners, for whom individual certification is often not feasible, the Union offers group certification. Additionally, the Union coordinates applications for the Subsidy Scheme for Nature and Landscape (SNL), which means members are automatically certified and eligible for subsidies and provide advice and support on sustainable forest management, including management plans, implementation and monitoring.
19 https://lokaleregelgeving.overheid.nl/CVDR679264/27.

occasional advice to taking the management out of their hands completely. Bureau Takkenkamp B.V. provides specialised consultancy services for owners of rural properties, including forests, nature reserves and estates. They advise on the establishment of NSW estates, nature and forest management, conversion of agricultural land to nature, and estate development. They also offer support in lease and long lease matters, expropriation, tax optimisation and subsidies, such as SNL and CAP. Their advice focuses on sustainable design, conservation and profitable management of outdoor areas.

2.2. Taxes and tax exemptions, subsidies

The SNL subsidy programme

The Subsidy Scheme for Nature and Landscape Management (SNL)20 aims to support private individuals, farmers, and land management organisations in sustainably managing and protecting natural areas and landscapes. SNL is guided by the national the model Subsidy Ordinance for Nature and Landscape Management 2016 (SVNL'16)[21] and the model Subsidy Scheme for Quality Impulse for Nature and Landscape (SKNL)[22]. The SVNL'16 provides the legal basis for implementing SNL at the provincial level (see section 2.3 below), while SKNL is specifically aimed at nature improvement and is complementary to SNL.

The subsidies can be applied for various management activities, including nature restoration, protecting biodiversity and maintaining ecological connections. A SNL grant can be received only under certain conditions. These conditions are in the SNL agreement with the Unie van Bosgroepen23, which is signed before the start of the subsidy period. The Unie van Bosgroepen fulfils a coordinating and executive role within the SNL scheme. Their core tasks in this regard are:

- Submitting SNL subsidy applications on behalf of their members, including SFHs.
- Drafting certified management plans that meet the quality criteria of the SNL system.
- Managing and monitoring the implementation of nature management measures on members' land.
- Monitoring and reporting on the progress of subsidised measures to the provinces.

Funding comes from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) and is disbursed through provinces24.

20 https://www.bij12.nl/onderwerp/natuursubsidies/snl/.
21 Model Subsidieverordening Natuur- en Landschapsbeheer (SVNL) 2016 beheerjaar 2025 – versie 23 juli 2024, available at: https://www.bij12.nl/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Model-SVNL2016-beheerjaar-2025-versie-23-juli-2024.pdf.
22 Model Subsidieregeling kwaliteitsimpuls en landschap (SKNL) versie juli 2023, available at: https://www.bij12.nl/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Model-Subsidieregeling-kwaliteitsimpuls-natuur-en-landschap-SKNL-%E2%80%93-versie-juli-2023.pdf.
23 More information available at: https://bosgroepen.nl/snl/#:~:text=In%20de%20Overeenkomst%20SNL%20die,via%20het%20delen%20van%20beheerrichtlijnen.
24 Staatsbosbeheer the largest forest owner in the Netherlands, deals with both public (central government and provinces) and private parties and is largely funded by subsidies from provinces. In addition, Staatsbosbeheer receives money from the national

The total maximum amount per province includes:

Gelderland	€3.510.000,-- for the period 2020-2030.
Zuid Holland	€ 20.190.000,-
Utrecht	€ 300.000, - per year
Overijssel	€5.779.684,-
Drenthe	€ 1,620,000 for sites located within the Nature Network Netherlands. € 10,000 for sites located outside the Nature Network Netherlands.
Groningen	€ 75.000,-.
Friesland	The grant ceiling for the period 2023-2028 for grants is €130,920,000. For sites located within the Nature Network Netherlands the ceiling is € 121,200,000 and for sites located outside the Nature Network Netherlands €9,720,000.
Flevoland	€ 20.000,- per year25
Noord-Holland	€ 2.237.940,- (€ € 372.990 ,- per year)
Zeeland	€ 5.089.483
Noord-Brabant	€ 24.000.000 for the year 202426
Limburg	€1.900.000,- for 2025

SNL subsidy amount

The Subsidy System for Nature and Landscape (SNL) in the Netherlands is co-financed by the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), specifically through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

The SNL subsidy provides annual payments for the management of nature and landscape elements. The amount of the subsidy depends on the management type and is determined on the basis of standard cost prices. These standard cost prices are updated annually and are available via BIJ1227. It includes specific amounts per management type28.

budget for its own organisation and for specific projects. Finally, Staatsbosbeheer has income from third parties and income from the sale of timber and biomass, recreation. See Algemene Rekenkamer, 'Bosbeheer in beeld: over (staats)bosbeheer en de bossenstrategie, section 2.4. Available at: https://www.rekenkamer.nl/publicaties/rapporten/2022/12/06/bosbeheer-in-beeld.
25 Fixed grant periods of six years are used. These periods are 2020-2025, 2026-2031, and so on. New decisions resultant from this opening up will receive a decision of only one management year being 2025.
26 Nothing identified for 2025.
27 https://www.bij12.nl/onderwerp/natuursubsidies/snl/inhoud/tarieven-en-standaardkostprijzen/.
28 The amounts for 2025 can be found at: https://www.bij12.nl/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Subsidietarieven-SNL-beheerjaar-2025.xlsx.

It includes, amongst others:

Management type	Subsidy rate 2025
Pollard (per piece)	€ 17,77
High-stemmed orchard (per ha)	€ 2.590,09
Woodland (per ha)	€ 2.409,59
River and brook accompanying forest	€ 26,91
High and low moorland forest	€ 83,61
Hornbeam and ash forest	€ 89,63
Dune forest	€ 146,06
Pine, oak and beech forest	€ 43,50
Dry forest with production (new)	€ 76,93
Moist forest with production (new)	€ 620,00
Dry coppice	€ 408,31
Park and stump forest	€ 3.397,40
Willow coppice	€ 4.971,24
Moist and slope coppice	€ 872,84

SKNL subsidy

The quality impulse subsidy (SKNL) is for land users who want to make land suitable for (agricultural) nature management and for nature managers who want to further develop and increase the quality of nature29. The quality impulse Nature and Landscape consists of two subsidies: investment subsidy and change of function subsidy. A combination of these is also possible. Investment subsidy and function change subsidy go through the province. The province indicates subsidy opportunities on the ambition map in the nature management plan.

29 https://www.bij12.nl/onderwerp/natuursubsidies/snl/inhoud/regeling-en-verordening/subsidieverordening-en-subsidieregeling/ and https://www.bij12.nl/onderwerp/natuursubsidies/snl/inhoud/regeling-en-verordening/kwaliteitsimpuls-investeringen-en-functieverandering/.

SFHs can make use of this if they meet the following conditions:

- They own or manage land included in the Nature Network Netherlands (NNN) or added to it via function change.
- They implement measures that fit within the management and policy objectives of the province.
- They submit the application on the basis of an approved nature management plan or a recognised management type.

Budgets include for example € 4.000.000- in Noord-Holland and € 52.700.000,- in Overijssel.

Limited information is available on the exact SKNL expenditure by province, especially for recent years. Moreover, no specific information is available on the share of the budget going to forest-related activities. The SKNL is funded entirely from national and provincial resources. There is no direct funding from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for this scheme.

Tax incentives

The Natuurschoonwet 192830 provides tax advantages for landowners (including forest holders) who maintain their properties in a natural or forested state and open them to the public. Benefits include:

- Exemption from inheritance and gift taxes (Articles 7-8a).
- Partial or full exemption from property tax (Article 9a).
- Possibility of income tax advantages if forest-related activities are framed within a recognised land stewardship model (Article 10).

No information has been identified on the amounts of avoided tax or the numbers of tax payers who have made use of the exemptions.

Forest-specific taxation

There is currently no indication of taxes specifically earmarked for forestry or forest management in the Netherlands (e.g. corporate tax revenues allocated to forests). Forest support schemes are instead funded from general public budgets (provincial and national), often co-financed by EU funds (e.g. CAP).

2.3. Funding provided by regional and local authorities

Most **provinces** have subsidy schemes for planting new forest and landscape elements[31]. For example, the following schemes are in place per province:

30 https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0001939/2021-01-01.
31 For more information on provincial subsidy schemes, see: https://bosgroepen.nl/bosgroep-midden-nederland/nieuws/provinciale-subsidies-aanplant-bos-en-landschapselementen/.

- Province of **South Holland** has an 'Implementation programme Forest and tree policy: 2023 - 2028'[32]. Among other things, it proposes the 'More forest in South Holland 2023' scheme[33], for forest planting outside the Nature Network the Netherlands (NNN)34, but excluding meadow bird areas. The application period was from 15 April to 13 June 2024. For 2024, a total of €1,100,000 was available for this grant.
- In **Gelderland**, there is the scheme for 'Construction new forest outside the Gelderse Nature Areas (GNN)[35]. Condition for the subsidy scheme is a minimum surface area of one hectare if the site borders the Gelderland Nature Network or lies within the Green Development Zone, or a minimum area of three hectares if the plot is located elsewhere in Gelderland. A certain amount is available for this grant for the period until 31 December 2026. For the component "establishing new nature", it is €8 million. For the other components, it is €7 million.
- In **Utrecht**[36], to encourage landowners to convert a plot to nature, the subsidy 'New forest outside NNN' has been created. The new subsidy falls under the Quality Impulse for Nature and Landscape (SKNL) scheme, which is designed to convert farmland to nature and to improve, increase or restore the quality of nature and landscape. The grant started in July 2024 and will be open for several years. The grant will reimburse the costs of converting the plot to forest and creating the forest. The grant also compensates for any depreciation in the value of land. The subsidy scheme does not cover the cost of management. Also, there is (for the time being) no possibility to apply for management subsidy through the Subsidy System for Nature and Landscape (SNL). For the first subsidy year 2024, the province had €1,000,000 available.

32 Available at: https://www.zuid-holland.nl/publish/besluitenattachments/srg-vaststelling-openstellingsbesluit-subsidie-meer-bos-in-zuid-holland-2023-enu/voorstel-uitvoeringsprogramma-bos-en-bomenbeleid-2023-tot-2028.pdf.
33 Available at: https://platform-groen.nl/dashboard/nieuws/subsidieregeling-meer-bos-in-zuid-holland/.
34 The Nature Network Netherlands is the Dutch network of existing and newly created nature areas. The network should better connect nature areas with each other and with the surrounding agricultural area. The provinces are responsible for the Nature Network Netherlands on land. The Government is systematically responsible for nature in the Dutch part of the North Sea and for nature in the large waters within the national waters. These are the Wadden Sea, the Eems-Dollard, the IJsselmeer region, the South West Delta and the major rivers. The Nature Network Netherlands, together with nature reserves in other European countries, should eventually form the contiguous Pan-European Ecological Network (PEEN).
35 Available at: https://www.gelderland.nl/subsidies/aanleg-nieuw-bos-buiten-het-gelders-natuurnetwerk.
36 Available at: https://www.provincie-utrecht.nl/actueel/nieuws/provincie-utrecht-stelt-1000000-euro-subsidie-beschikbaar-voor-nieuw-bos.

2.4. Funding provided by foundations, business associations, educational or other institutions

Several public and private organisations in the Netherlands provide funding for biodiversity projects37. For example:

- Dutch Postcode Lottery: This lottery distributes a portion of its proceeds to various environmental and conservation projects, including those related to biodiversity38. Trees for All receives structural support for planting and restoring forests, both in the Netherlands and internationally39.
- IVN Nature Education Foundation: This Foundation provides funding for nature education projects, with a focus on promoting awareness and understanding of the country's biodiversity. IVN's 'Tiny Forests' are co-sponsored by the Dutch Postcode Littery, and include small-scale planting of native mini-forests in residential areas.
- More Trees Now40 is a national initiative giving help in the form of a donation, land, manpower and/or trees.
- The Green Forest Landscape Fund (Landschapsfonds Groene Woud)41 designated 2024 as the theme year Forest and Trees, including the possibility to request funds42.

2.5. Innovative funding sources

- Green bonds

In October 2023, the General Treasury Agency (DSTA)43 issued a new 20-year green government bond worth €4.98 billion. After reopenings in February and July 2024, the outstanding amount stood at €9.25 billion. Proceeds will be invested in environment-friendly projects, including sustainable water management and infrastructure. However, forests are not covered.

- Carbon credits

National Carbon Market Foundation (SNK)44: Since June 2021, projects that capture CO_2 through forest planting or climate-friendly forest management in the Netherlands can apply for certificates from the SNK. These certificates can be sold to companies that want to offset their CO_2 emissions.

37 A tool to help searching for the most suitable fund is available at: https://debossenmakelaar.nl/ondersteuning/subsidie-voor-bos/.
38 https://www.postcodeloterij.nl/goede-doelen/overzicht/natuur-en-milieufederaties.
39 https://treesforall.nl/.
40 https://meerbomen.nu/.
41 https://www.hetgroenewoud.com/organisatie/streekfonds/.
42 https://www.hetgroenewoud.com/organisatie/streekfonds/bijdrage-aanvragen/.
43 https://www.dsta.nl/.
44 https://nationaleco2markt.nl/.

GreenDutch45: This initiative develops local projects focused on carbon storage in soil, crops and building materials. Companies can invest in carbon credits to offset their emissions and meet sustainability reporting obligations

- Biodiversity credits

National Biodiversity Bank46: Established in August 2022, this independent non-profit organisation manages a system of biodiversity credits in the Netherlands. They are developing procedures and methodologies to enable future trading of these credits. Although the bank does not focus exclusively on forests, forest areas can be part of the projects eligible for biodiversity loans. The bank works with landowners who want to improve biodiversity on their property and with companies that want to invest in biodiversity, for example to offset their own impact.

- Crowdfunding

The Buitenfonds47, a support foundation of the Forestry Commission, organises several crowdfunding campaigns to plant trees in various provinces. For €10, donors can have a tree planted in locations where it is most needed, such as areas affected by drought or disease. After donation, participants receive a digital certificate.

2.6. Other funding sources

N/A.

45 https://greendutch.nl/.
46 https://nationalebiodiversiteitsbank.nl/.
47 https://www.buitenfonds.nl/crowdfunding/projecten/project/bomen_zuid_holland.

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