

Nature restoration in the Dutch dunes

Myrthe Fonck PWN



Where are we?



WHY DO WE NEED TO ACT?



EU nature is in alarming decline, with **more than 80% of habitats in bad or poor conservation status.**

Peatlands, grasslands and dunes are worst affected. Wetlands have shrunk by 50% in Western, Central and Eastern Europe since 1970



Up to 70% of EU soils are in an unhealthy condition.

Severely eroded croplands are estimated to contribute to a loss in agricultural productivity of **EUR 1.25 billion** per year in the EU



In the past decade, **71% of fish and 60% of amphibian populations have suffered a decline**

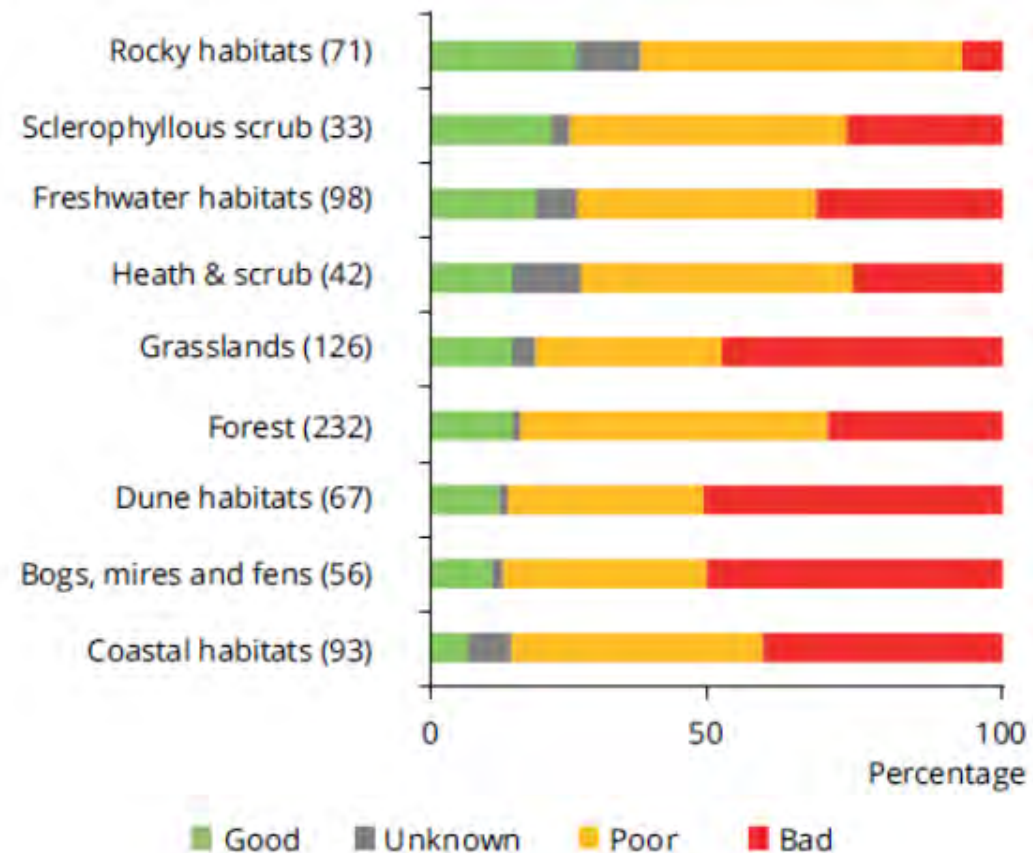


One in three bee and butterfly species in the EU are in decline, and one in ten such species on the verge of extinction

Conservation status

Figure 2-2 Conservation status per habitat group at the EU level

Source: Taken from EEA (2020) State of nature in the EU, Results from reporting under the nature directives 2013-2018. EEA Report No.10//2020.





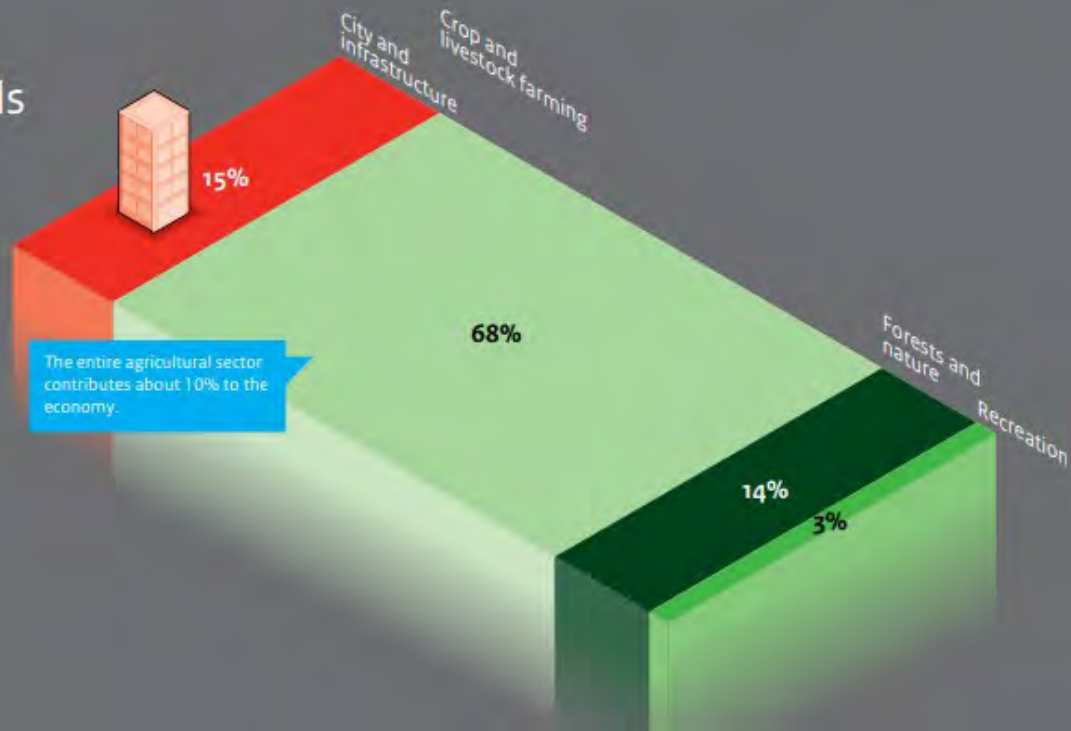
What are the pressures?



The Netherlands: a low-density city

Land use in the Netherlands

Land surface:
34,000 km²



The entire agricultural sector contributes about 10% to the economy.

The Netherlands is a unique country. It is an agricultural superpower within an urbanised society. This takes a high environmental toll.

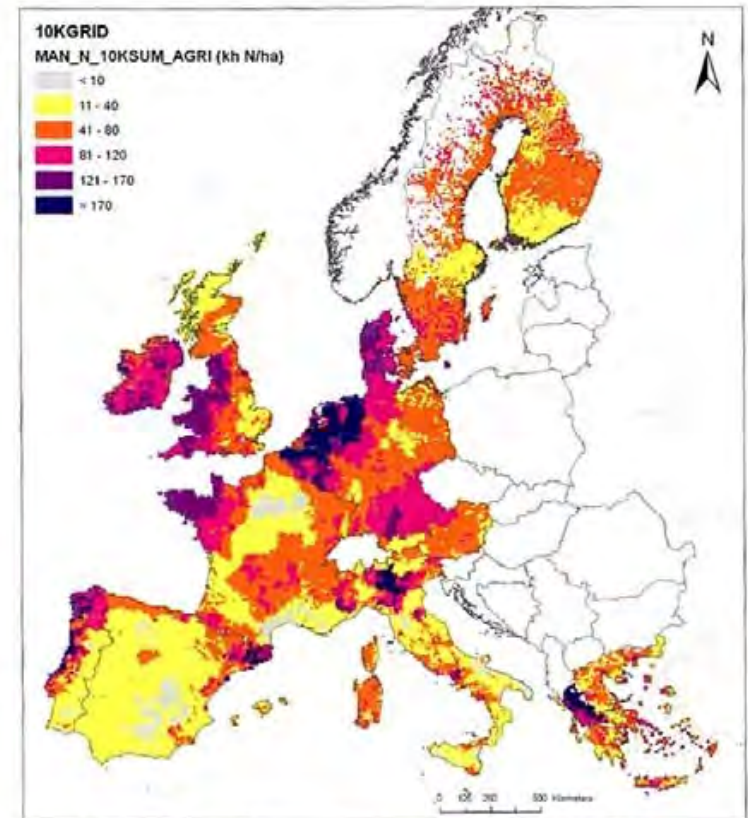
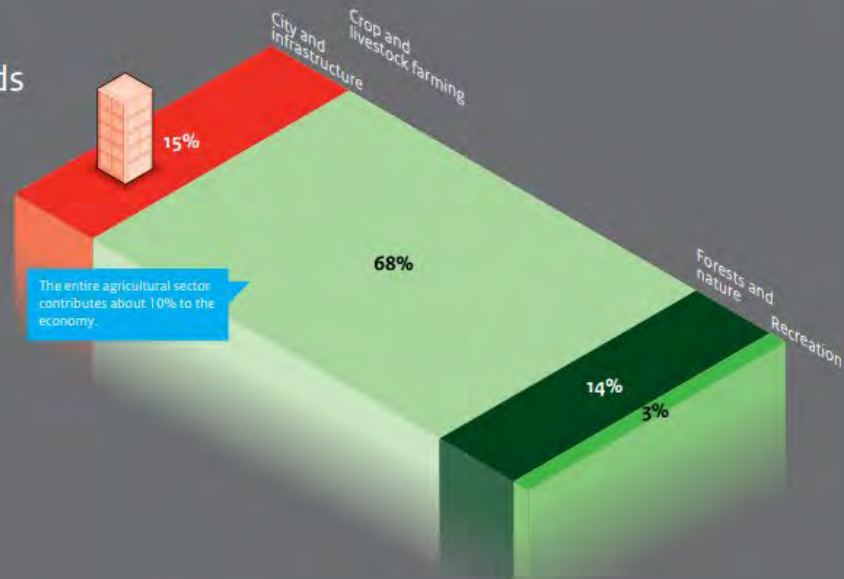


Figure 4.25 European map of nitrogen manure input per agricultural area in EU15, average on 10 km² area. (In Sweden and Finland the white colour indicates the absence of agricultural land within the 10 km² area).

The Netherlands: a low-density city

Land use in the Netherlands

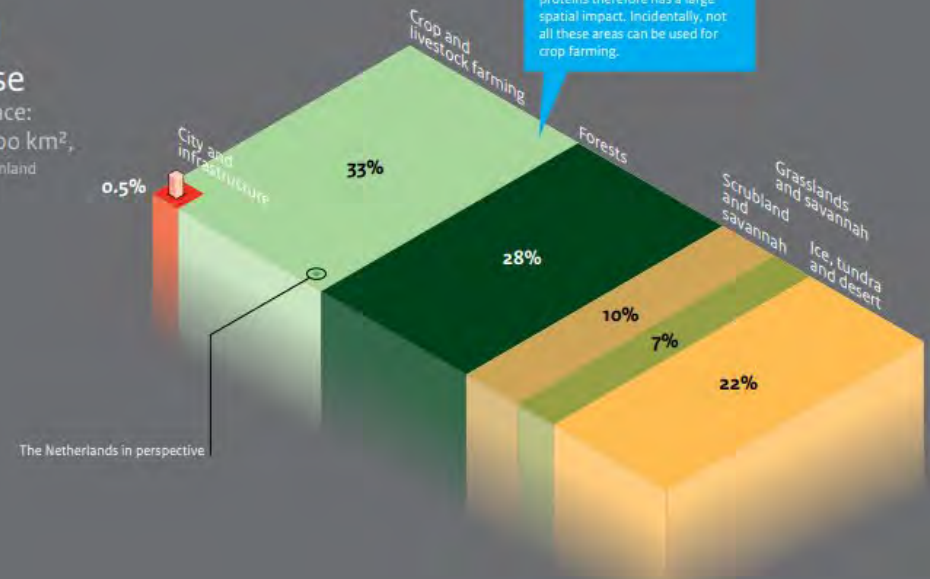
Land surface:
34,000 km²



The Netherlands is a unique country. It is an agricultural superpower within an urbanised society. This takes a high environmental toll.

Global land use

Land surface:
133,000,000 km²,
excluding Greenland
and Antarctica



The Netherlands in perspective

What do we aim for?



Connect nature

- Ecological corridors
- Land use change



Restore natural processes ('rewilding')

- Dynamic dunes
- Natural grazing regimes
- Hydrology



Improve the balance

- Reduce pressure
- Connect people with nature



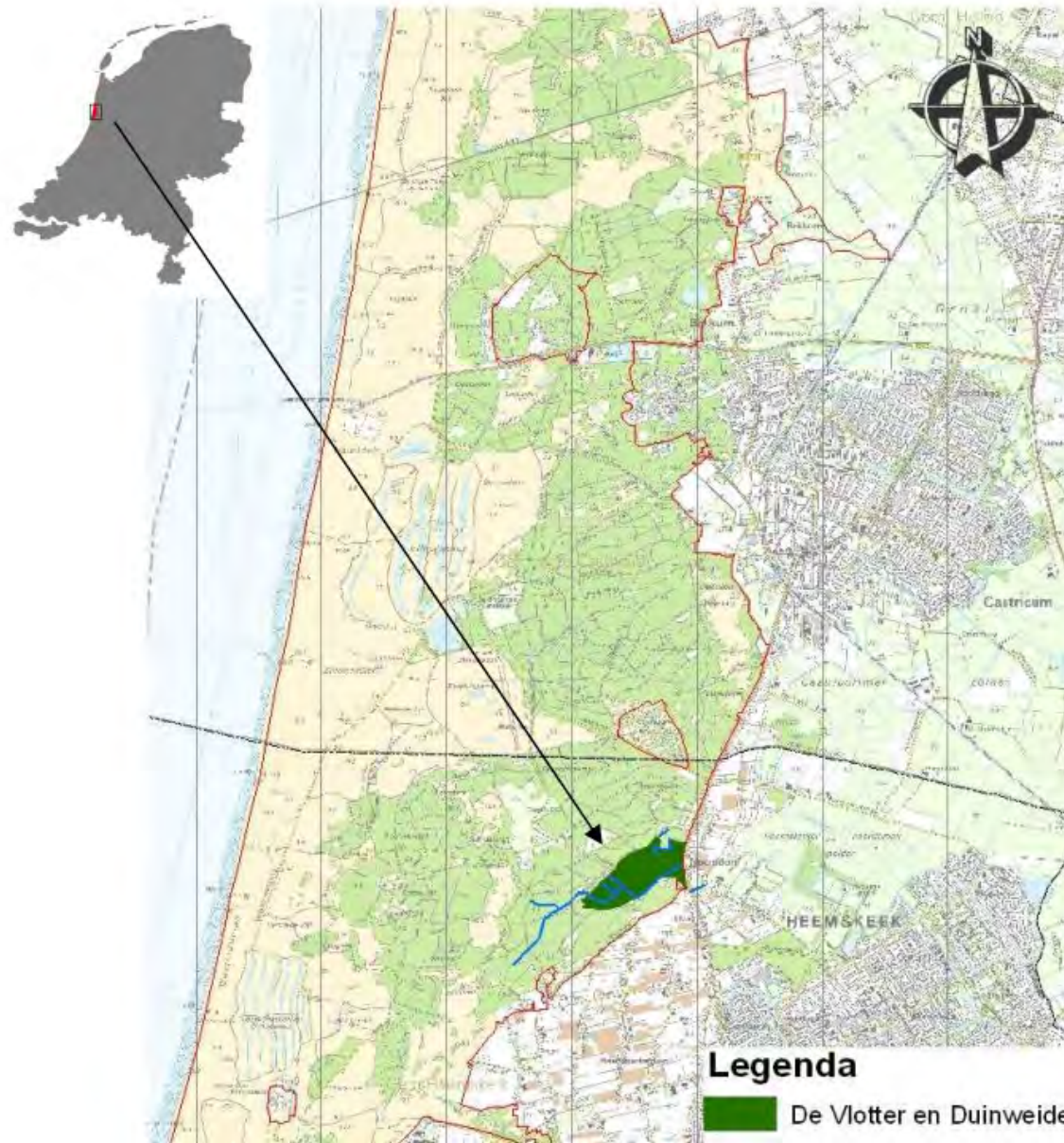
Land use change

Strict separation of nature and polder → transition zone



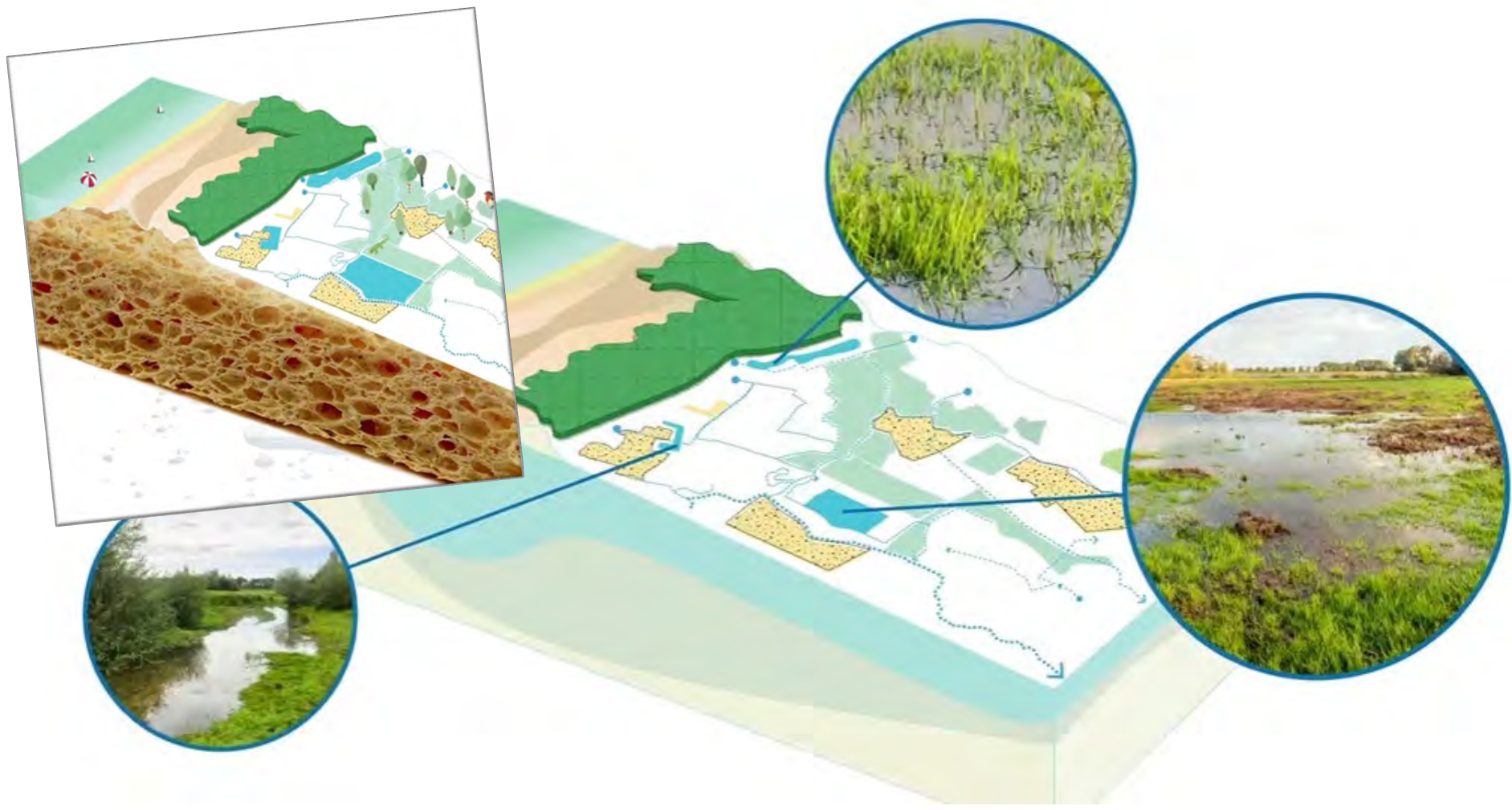
- Legenda**
-  Stufduin – zeereep
 -  Open duin: grasland en droog struweel
 -  Vochtige duinvalei
 -  Droog duinbos
 -  Bos
 -  Schraalgrasland
 -  Moeras en rietland
 -  Weidevogelleefgebied
 -  Open water
 -  Landgoed
 -  Provinciale ecologische verbindingzone
 -  Stedelijk gebied
 -  Bos
 -  Duin
 -  Strand
 -  Water
 -  Grasland
 -  Bollen-/bloementeelt













Restoration of natural grazing regimes

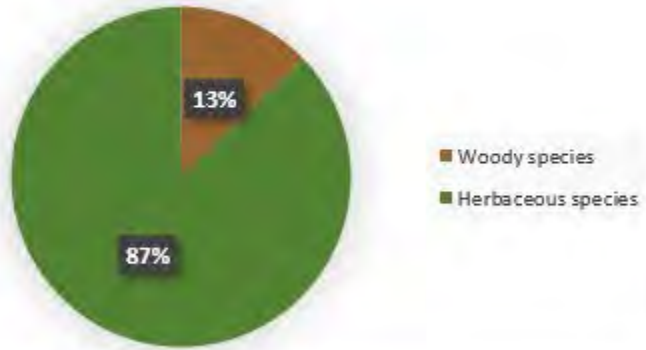




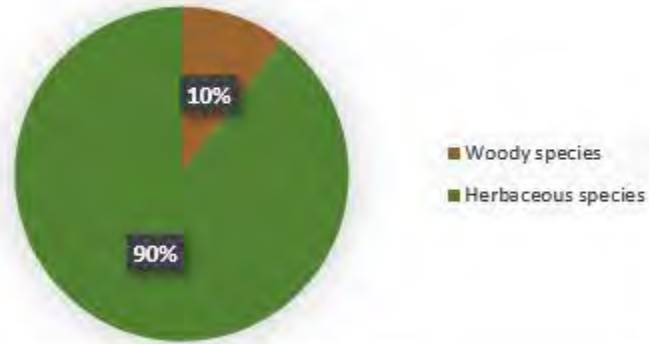
- Lack of natural grazers
- Counteract vegetation overgrowth
- Habitat use
- Human-wildlife interactions



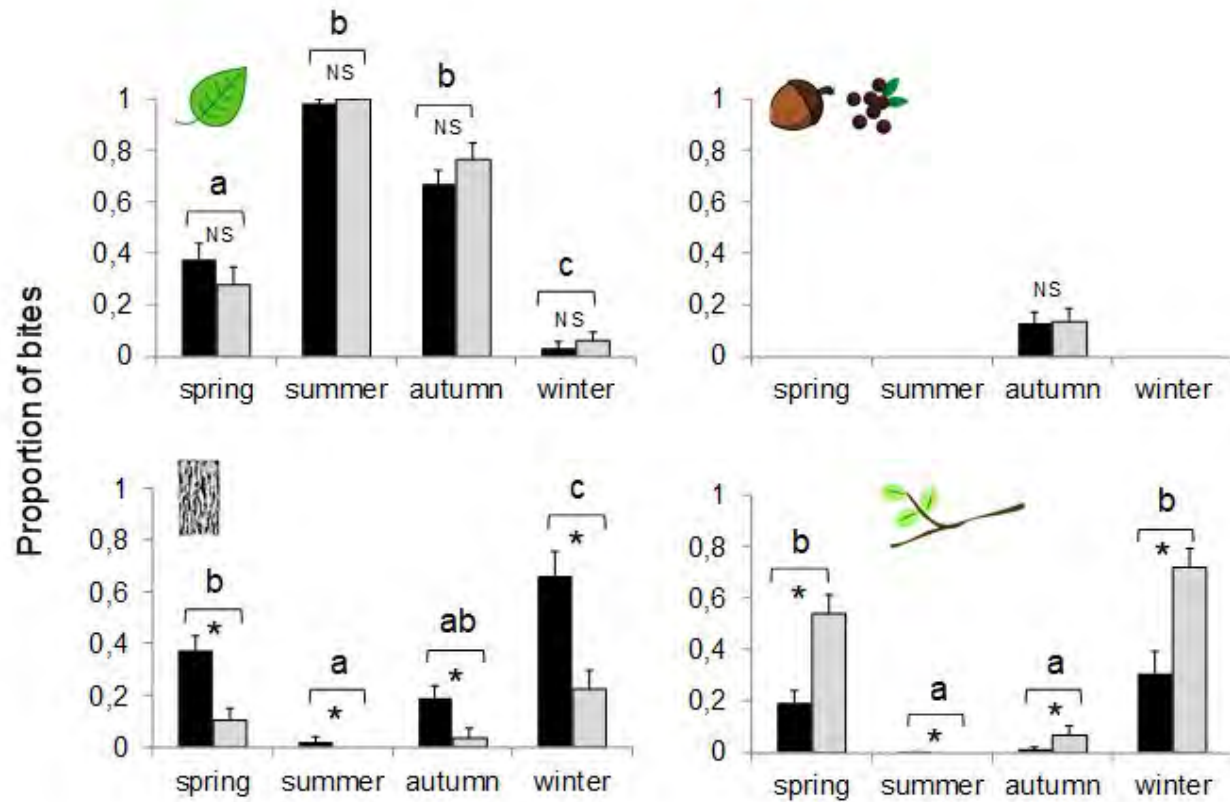
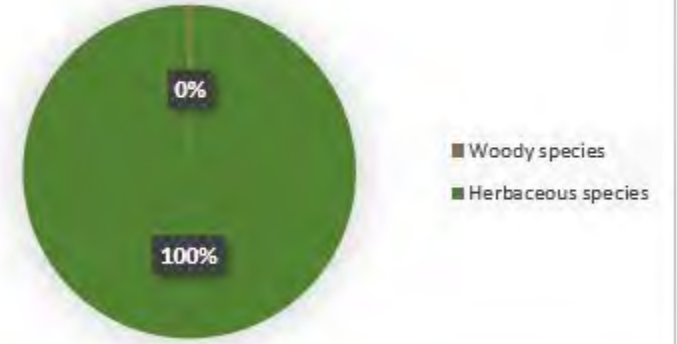
European bison



Scottish Highland cattle



Konik Horse





WildlifeNL





Any questions?

