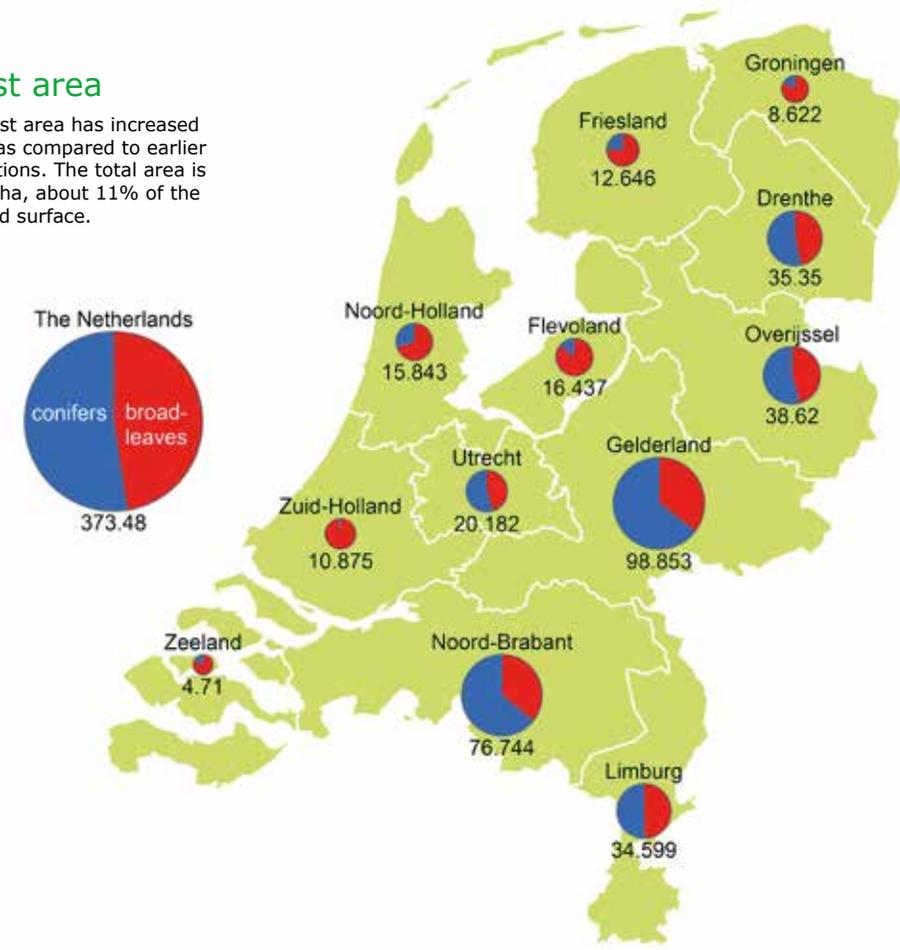


The Dutch forests may be small in area, but are of enormous value to the Dutch society. This through e.g. nature conservation, recreation, groundwater protection, and wood and biomass provision. In order to be able to manage these forests optimally for all these functions, it is important to monitor the state and dynamics of these forests. The Sixth Dutch Forest Inventory (NBI6) was executed in 2012 and 2013. The main aim was to gather information on the current status of the Dutch forests. At 3190 sample points observations and measurements of amongst others tree species composition, age, diameter at breast height, regeneration and management type were performed. This leaflet presents the basic findings.

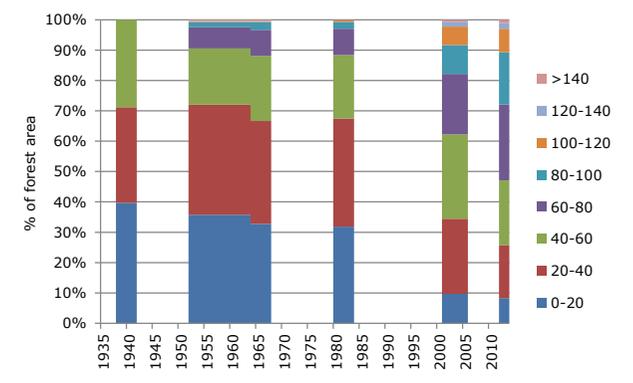
Forest area

The forest area has increased slightly as compared to earlier observations. The total area is 373480 ha, about 11% of the total land surface.



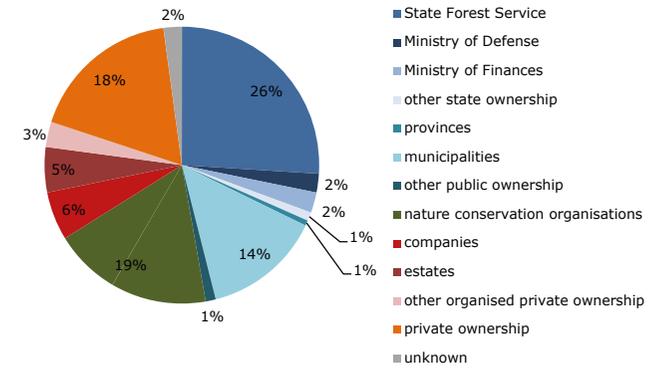
Older forests

The average age of the Dutch forest is continuously increasing. The average age of conifers is now 67 years, while for broadleaves it is 55 years. The share of young forests (< 20 years) decreased from 40% in 1940 to 8% now.



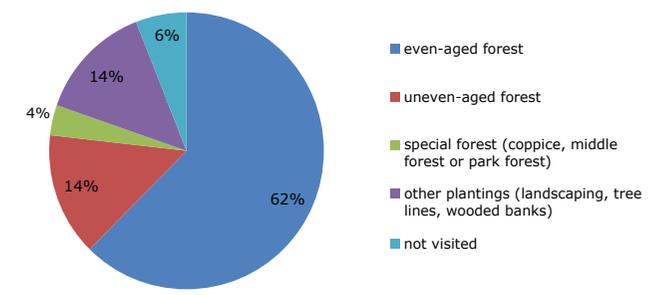
Ownership

Ownership conditions have not changed over the last 10 years. About 19% of the area is owned by nature conservation organisations and about 30% is privately owned. An estimated 65000 ha of the privately owned forest consists of holdings smaller than 5ha.



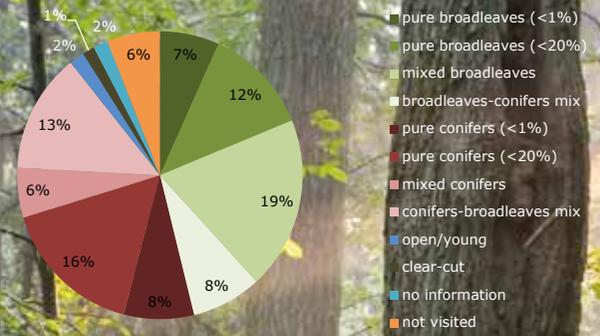
Management type

About 75% of the forest is classified as high forest, while 3.5% is classified as special forest, such as coppice, middle forest or park forest. The share of uneven-aged forest has increased from 14 to 16%, but at the same time more clear-cuts were observed (1.4% now vs 0.3% 10 years ago).



Mixtures

The Dutch forest is increasingly mixed, mainly at the cost of mono-species coniferous forest. Slightly more than half of the forest area is dominated by conifers, but the share is decreasing. Scots pine is still the most common tree species, dominating on about one third of the total area, but its share is decreasing.



Regeneration

NBI6 for the first time also registered the amount of regeneration, defined as trees taller than 50cm in height, but not yet reaching a diameter at breast height of 5cm. Most of the regeneration was not mixed (either pure conifers or pure broadleaves), with more often broadleaves than conifers.

