

Agricultural nature & landscape management in the Netherlands: the collective approach

Landcare Europe Workshop

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**Innovative approaches for species & habitat restoration with
farmers in & outside Natura 2000 areas**

18th of April 2023

The 'new' CAP: from objectives to results

> agricultural nature & landscape management
(the ANLM or in Dutch: ANLb)

OBJECTIVES

10 'specific objectives' (SO)

SO6 =
protection of
biodiversity

NEEDS

Restoring and enhancing
biodiversity

Conservation & restoration
of (cultural) landscapes

INTERVENTIONS

eco-schemes for climate & environment

agri-environment climate measures (AECM)

non-productive investments

LEADER - community led local development

cooperation scheme

RESULT INDICATORS

environmental/climate-related
performance through investment (R27)

habitat & species conservation (R31)

investments for biodiversity (R32)

preservation of landscape elements (R34)

The green architecture of the Dutch National Strategic Plan



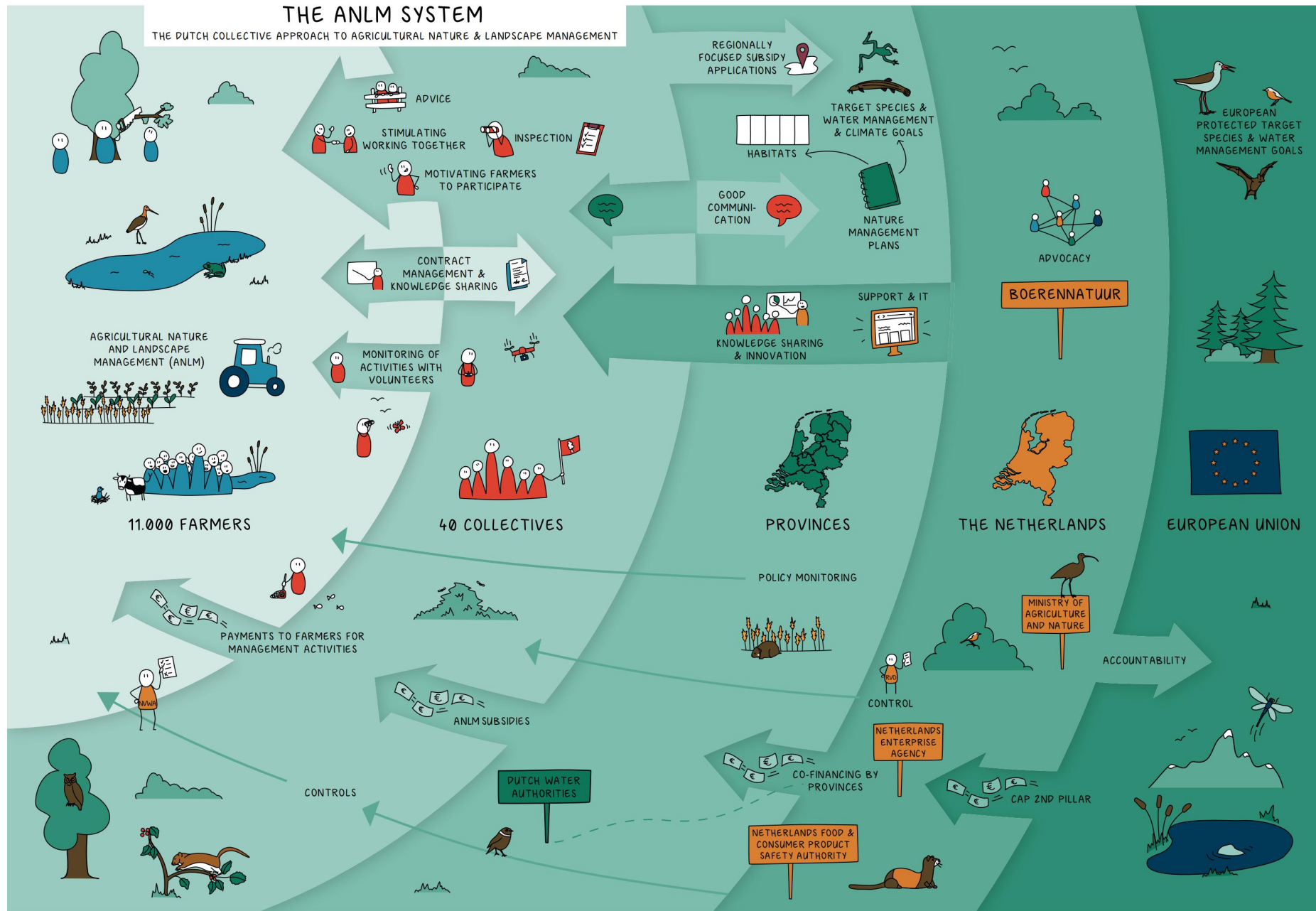
3 Quality of habitats through AECM: the Dutch agricultural nature & landscape management (ANLM)

2 Functional agrobiodiversity through the eco-scheme

in NL there is 1 eco-scheme, consisting of a 'menu' of eco-activities

1 Basic quality through good agricultural & environmental conditions (GAEC)

in NL there are 10 GAEC

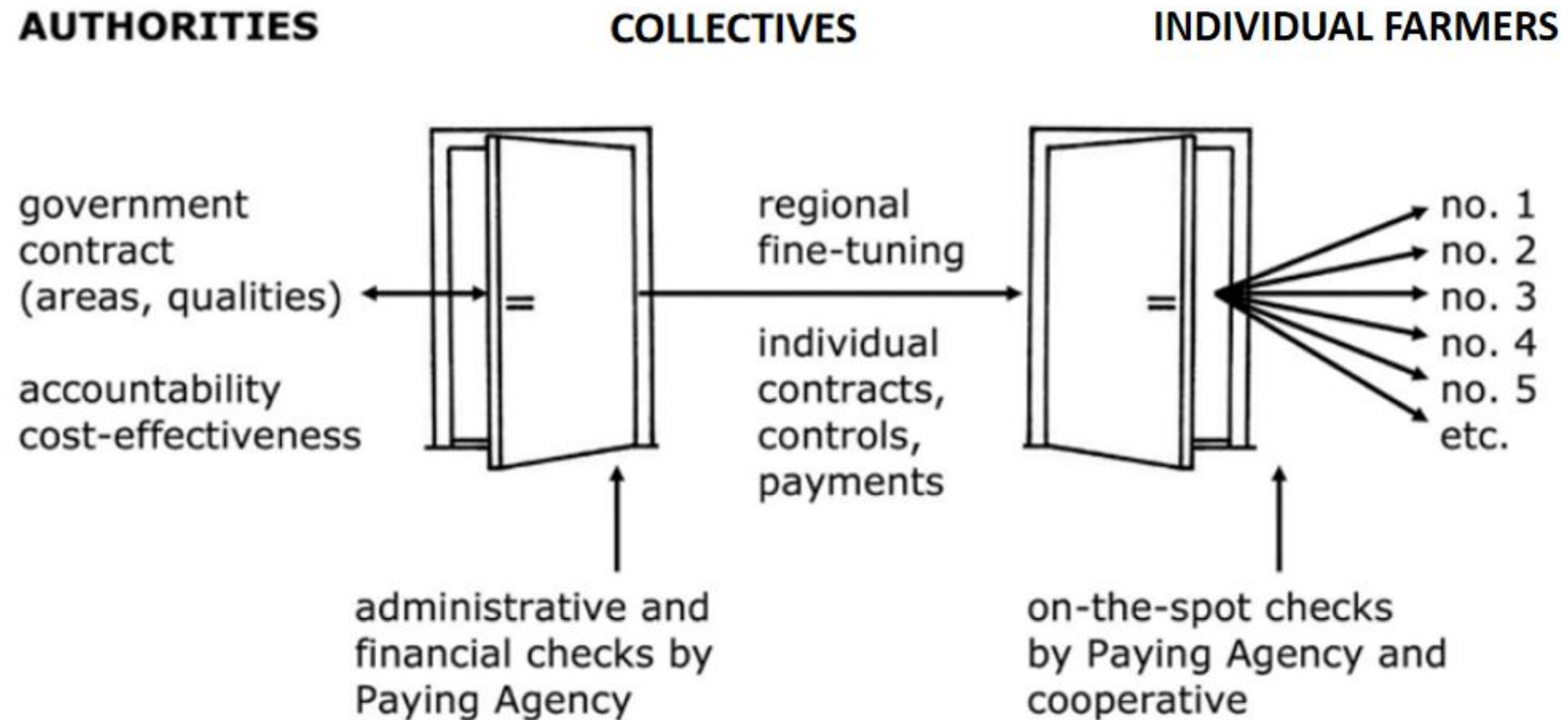


Download this poster [here](#)



[Here](#) you find a map of our 40 collectives, together covering the whole of NL

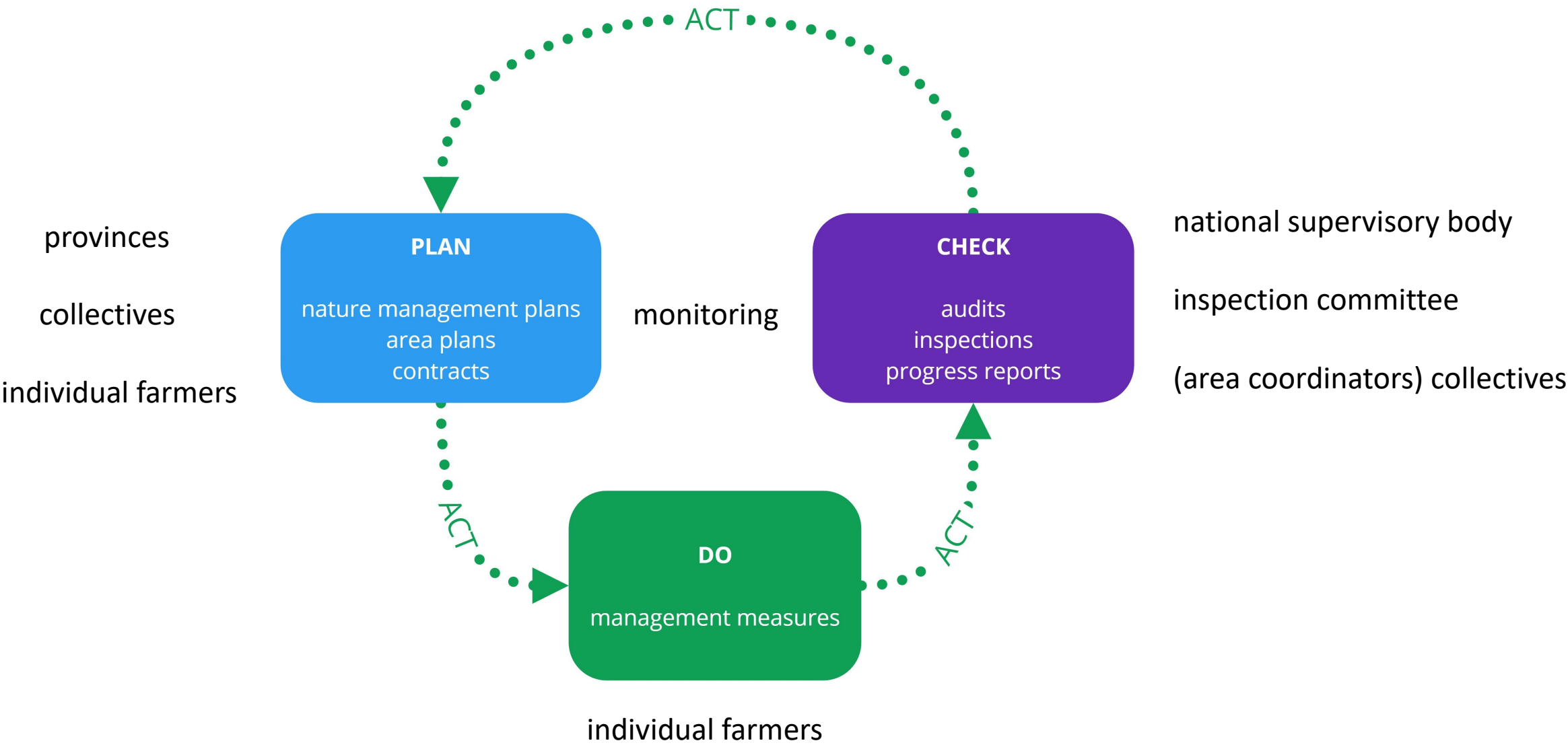
The collective (or cooperative) approach: front & back door



The "front door – back door system" of the Dutch agri-environment scheme with a key role for agri-environment cooperatives as final beneficiaries

Read also [this brochure](#) (in which it is referred to as 'the cooperative approach')

Plan-Do-Check-Act cycle



Agricultural nature & landscape management: ANLM

Hectares

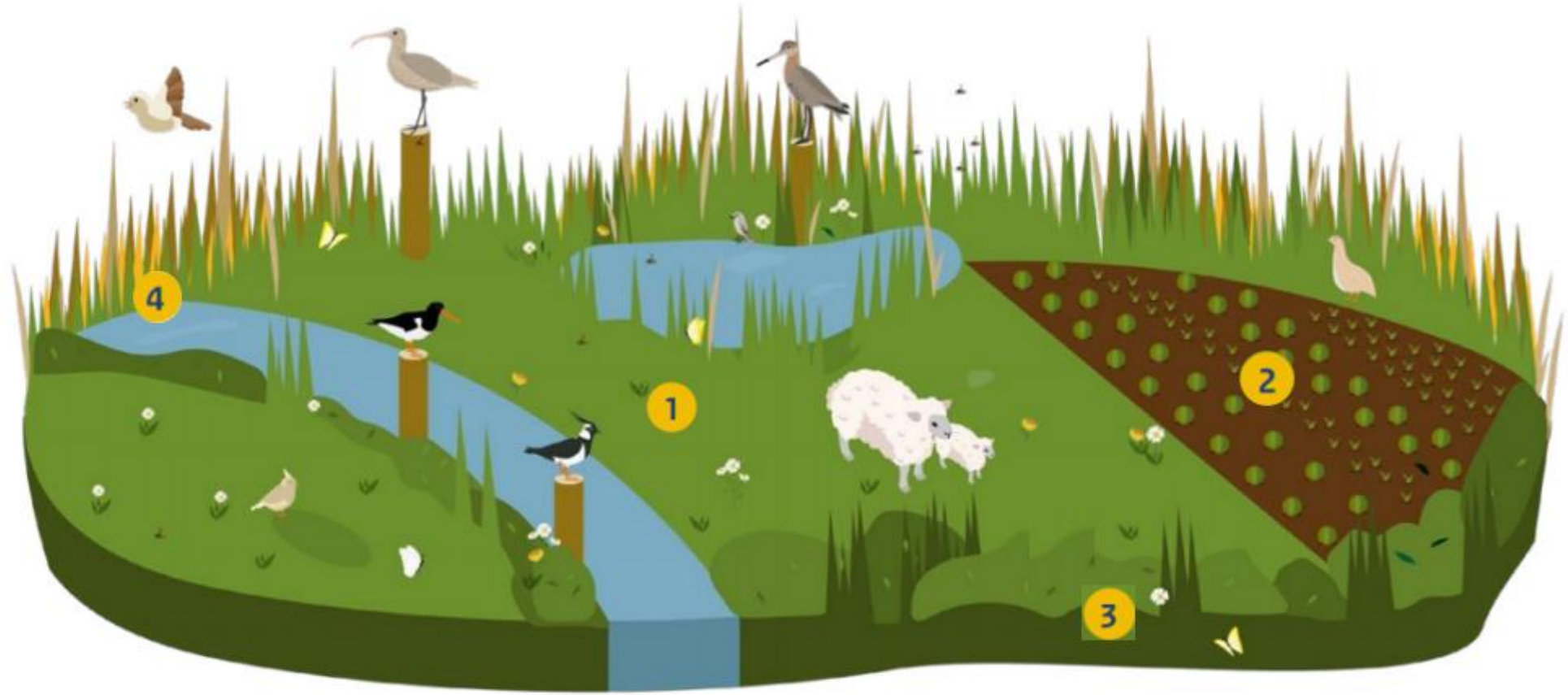
2021 110.000

2027 135.000

Participating farmers

2021 11.000

2027 14.000



40+ habitat management packages to choose from:

- 1 open grassland
- 2 open arable land
- 3 green-blue infrastructure: landscape elements
- 4 climate and water management areas

Pros of the collective approach

- Government deals with 40 collectives instead of appr. 11.000 individual farmers
- Guidance from collectives
- Cross-farm approach at landscape level
- Back door system provides flexibility with regards to the execution of measures and payments
- Lower error rate because of guidance from collectives

>>> better value for money > increased environmental output

Cons of the (current) collective approach

- Limited budget, therefore:
 - limited number of farmers that can participate and/or
 - limited amount of management measures that can be contracted
- Limited areas > only farmers in certain 'promising' areas eligible to participate
 - 💡 currently about 6% of the total agricultural land in NL is covered by ANLM contracts and approximately 20% of the total number of farmers in NL is participating
- Insufficient payment levels, esp. for non-productive landscape elements
- Maintaining sufficient buffer to absorb setbacks can be a challenge (esp. now)

The new CAP period: difficulties

- Implementation process still ongoing; regulations still changing
- There is a gap between policy and practice
- Regulations too complex
 - many interactions
 - double funding issues
 - too much focus on means rather than goals
- Government communication has been lacking > big knowledge gap
- Necessary ICT and data not yet up to standard (map layers, digital application form)
- ...

Consequences of CAP difficulties

- Agricultural collectives still in the process of negotiating new contracts for this CAP period
- Some collectives have difficulty negotiating new contracts, esp. with arable farmers
- Interaction between eco-scheme and ANLb is proving complex and challenging:
 - eco-scheme and ANLb sometimes compete (double funding issues)
 - contract periods don't align (yearly eco-scheme vs 6 year ANLb)
- Collectives currently have no good insight in the potential financial risks

Proposals for improvement (1)

- **LESS complexity!**
- **Improve alignment**
 - between relevant policies (manure law, nitrate action plan, CAP)
 - between GAEC, eco-scheme, AECM
- Ensure **harmonisation of legislation**
- Make all CAP payments **results-based**

Proposals for improvement (2)

- Enable **stacking of public and private rewards**, f.e. by using key performance indicators (KPI's)
- Create a **financial incentive** for the delivery of public goods/green-blue services > a 'top up' payment. There are already 2 precedents:
 - with respect to eco-schemes this is already allowed in case of non-productive measures (see [this document](#) from the European Commission)
 - for 'forest environment and climate services' the revised state aid rules also allow for an 'incentive payment' (max 20%) (see [revised state aid rules](#), p. 79)

A photograph of two people standing on a gravel path in a grassy field, looking through binoculars. The person on the left wears a brown jacket and a backpack, while the person on the right wears a blue jacket. In the background, there is a metal fence and a line of trees. On the left side of the image, there are two large, white, stylized tree icons. A blue rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing contact information.

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BOERENNATUUR

Agrarisch Natuur- en Landschapsbeheer

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