

Dutch Water Boards' Muskrat & Coypu Control Programme — Nationwide Dike Protection (Netherlands)

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Netherlands

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Since 1941, Dutch regional water boards have run a nationwide muskrat/coypu control programme to stop dike-burrowing damage; in 2025 they trapped 84,438 animals, up 28% on 2024, at an est. €35M/year, backed by peer-reviewed evidence linking muskrat density to dike damage.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

NL Times: Dutch water boards capture 84,438 muskrats in 2025 as invasive rodents threaten dikes — accessed 2026-07-10

European Commission: LIFE MICA — Management of Invasive Coypu and Muskrat in Europe — accessed 2026-07-10

Springer: Evidence for the effectiveness of controlling muskrat populations by trapping — accessed 2026-07-10

ResearchGate: Damage to dykes and levees in the Netherlands is extensive and increases with muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) density — accessed 2026-07-10

Dutch Water Authorities: official coordinating body — accessed 2026-07-10

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