



Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

As approved by Rec.C.4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Montreux, Switzerland - July 1990

NOTE: Please read the accompanying guidelines before attempting to complete this form. An example of a completed data sheet is also included.

Completed sheets should be returned to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

1. Country: The Netherlands 2. Date: 14-2-'92 3. Ref: office use only NL009
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4. Name and address of compiler:
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature management and Fisheries
P.O. Box 20401
2500 EK The Hague / The Netherlands
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5. Name of wetland: Zwanewater
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6. Date of Ramsar designation: 15 June 1988
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7. Geographical coordinates: 52° 49' N 4° 42' E
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8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town) of Alkmaar
In the province of Noord-Holland near approximately 6 km north west of the city
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9. Area: (in hectares)
~~6000~~ 573
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10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)
E
-
11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)
0 (small lakes) to +20.2 (dune top) m.N.A.P
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12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)
~~An coastal area of sand dunes with wet dune slacks~~ The wetland Zwanewater is a coastal area with various types of habitats, thus resulting in a high species diversity of plant and wildlife. The site is famous by its Spoonbill colony
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13. Physical features: (e.g. geology; geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth; water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)
 The Zwanewater is a ~~dune area~~ excised after the Zype, a former creek, was closed off. As a result of this closure sand dunes were able to form, first to the east of the existing beach barrier later also to the west. Between the two dune ridges a dune valley formed. The ^{result is an intricate} ~~dune and valley~~ complex of secondary valleys and possible dunes with overlap and transect each other many times. Dunes and valleys are mainly non-calcic. A fresh water lens floats on the salt water located deep in the substratum. The fresh water supply has a convex water table, so that in the lowest-lying parts of the dune area the water stands above ground level, with the two dune lakes as result. These lakes are not more than some 1.5 m. deep. The water is oligohaline, autotrophic and rich in organic matter.
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14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)
 The main habitats concerns sand dunes, with wet dune-slacks, two dune-lakes, Salix scrub, coastal marshes and woodland. Characteristic of the mainland is a fresh water vegetation which is totally absent in the rest of Noord-Holland north of the Noordzeekanaal. Thanks to the special environmental conditions less common and rare plants occur in this area.

15. Land tenure /ownership of:

- (a) site Owned and managed by the Society for the Preservation of Natural Monuments in the Netherlands (de Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland). Some minor parts are owned by the State (State Forestry Service) and the Hoogheemraadschap Noord-Hollands Noorderkwartier, a drainage board.
- (b) surrounding area
State and multiple private ownership
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16. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

The area is designated as Ramsar site (15-6-1988) and as SPA under the EC Wild Birds Directive (2-5-1991). The area is a strict nature reserve and has also been designated under the Nature Conservation Act. Management by the Society is based on an officially approved management plan.

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

None

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

- (a) site nature conservation, coastal defence and maintenance of the water defence function of the dune range on the landward side, and recreation
- (b) surroundings/catchment
nature conservation, recreation ~~and~~ pastoral agriculture, water extraction and artillery activities.
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19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

(factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

- (a) at the site
- predation of the spoonbill colony by fox
 - alteration of the vegetation (so-called 'grassification') due to acid rain and atmospheric deposition of nutrients.
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- (b) in the surroundings/catchment
none known, activities mentioned under 18(b) have no effects on the scientific values of the wetland itself.

20. Hydrological and physical values: (e.g. groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc.)

see 10 (a).

21. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

see 10 (a). The area is not important for archaeological sites.

22. Noteworthy fauna: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important species; include count data etc.)

Breeding bird species include Botaurus stellaris, Platalea leucorodia (60-50 pairs), Circus aeruginosus (1 pair), Recurvirostra americana (11 pairs), Porzana porzana (1-3 pairs), Numerius arquata (23 pairs) and Asio flammeus (2 pairs). On average some 20 to 30 different species breed in the area. The Zwane water is also important to migratory birds, particularly ~~the~~ Limosa limosa (up hundreds).

The area has a large and varied mammal population including stoat, weasel, rook vole and harvest mouse. The Zwane water is also important to many insects, esp. to butterflies (200 species) and hover flies. It harbours several kinds of amphibians and reptiles, for example Common newt and Sand lizard. A number of fish species occur in the lakes and water holes.

23. Noteworthy flora: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)

Some typical species of wet dense stacks like Zotrychum ~~uliginosum~~ vulgatum

24. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

Monitoring research on effects of nature management (for example grazing)

25. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

There is one hide near the most northern lake

26. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland used for recreation/tourism; indicate type & frequency/intensity)

The area is ~~open~~ open to public only on footpaths.

27. Management authority: (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)

Vereniging tot Behoud van Natuurmonumenten in Nederland
Noordereinde 6a
1243 JJ 's-Graveland
The Netherlands

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept of Environment etc.)

Functional: - Dept of Agriculture, Nature management and Fisheries
- Dept of Traffic and ~~Highways~~ Public Affairs
Territorial: - Province of Noord-Holland
- Municipality of Callantsoog and Zyppe

29. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

- several monitoring research reports (in dutch)
- several reports on feeding and feeding areas of Spoonbills (in dutch)
- Kemper, J.H. Foraging strategy of the Spoonbill. ITZ Amsterdam
- Wit, K.E. and M. Wynsma, 1980. Geo-hydrologisch onderzoek in het Zwanenwater IZW nota 1175. (in dutch)

30. Reasons for inclusion: (state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Montreux Conference - are applicable)

1(a)
2(a) (b) (c)
3(c)

31. Map of site (please enclose the most detailed and up-to-date map available - preferably at least 1:25,000 or 1:50,000)

already in your possession

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