

# Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

Categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

NOTE: It is important that you read the accompanying *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document before completing this form.

**1. Date this sheet was completed/updated:**

12-09-2002

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY.

DD	MM	YY

Designation date

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Site Reference Number

**2. Country:**

the Netherlands

**3. Name of wetland:** Leekstermeergebied

**4. Geographical coordinates:** 53°11'N - 06°26'E

**5. Altitude:** (average and/or max. & min.) NAP -3 - -1 m

**6. Area:** (in hectares) 1,450

**7. Overview:** (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

A freshwater lake, located southwest of the city of Groningen, surrounded by reedbeds, peatbogs, and pastures. The latter are important as feeding area for geese. The lake is used as roost.

**8. Wetland Type** (please circle the applicable codes for wetland types as listed in Annex I of the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document.)

**marine-coastal:** A . B . C . D . E . F . G . H . I . J . K

**inland:** L . M . N . **O** . P . Q . R . Sp . Ss . **TP** . Ts  
 . U . Va . Vt . W . Xf . Xp . Y . Zg . Zk

**man-made:** 1 . 2 . 3 . **4** . 5 . 6 . 7 . 8 . 9

Please now rank these wetland types by listing them from the most to the least dominant: O4Tp

**9. Ramsar Criteria:** (please circle the applicable criteria; see point 12, next page.)

1 . 2 . 3 . 4 . **5** . **6** . 7 . 8

Please specify the most significant criterion applicable to the site: 6

**10. Map of site included? Please tick *yes*  -or- *no***

(Please refer to the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document for information regarding desirable map traits).

**11. Name and address of the compiler of this form:**

National Reference Centre for Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries  
 PO Box 30, 6700 AA Wageningen, the Netherlands  
 tel.: +31 317 474800; fax: +31 317 427561

**12. Justification of the criteria selected under point 9, on previous page.** (Please refer to Annex II in the *Explanatory Note and Guidelines* document).

Criterion 5: The site regularly supports more than 20,000 wintering waterbirds: average peak 33,500 (1993/94-1997/98).

Criterion 6, Average peak numbers of species meeting the 1% threshold (1992/93-1997/98):

Species	Biogeographical population	1% Biogeogr. Population	% at site
<i>Anser albifrons</i>	NW-Siberia/ NW-Europe	6000	4,0%

**13. General location:** (include the nearest large town and its administrative region)

On the border between the provinces of Groningen and Drenthe, ca. 10 km south-west of Groningen city.

**14. 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 lake is of natural origin, though its surroundings have been converted into agricultural grassland. The average depth is 1 meter. The water levels are kept stable so that floodings occur only rarely nowadays.

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**15. Hydrological values:** (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc)

Several streams flow into the Leekstermeer and the surrounding polders are drained into the lake. Subsequently lake Leekstermeer drains via the Reitdiep into the Lauwersmeer. Part of this water originates from river Rhine which is directed to agricultural polders to compensate for water shortage during summer.

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**16. Ecological features:** (main habitats and vegetation types)

Permanent freshwater lakes 18%, Permanent freshwater marshes 4%, Wet grassland 76%.

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**17. Noteworthy flora:** (indicating, e.g., which species/communities are unique, rare, endangered or biogeographically important, etc)

Vascular plants on the Red List: Floating Water-Plantain *Luronium natans*; Marsh Lousewort *Pedicularis palustris*; Early Marsh-Orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata*.

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**18. Noteworthy fauna:** (indicating, e.g., which species are unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important; include count data, etc.)

Note: Species included on Annex II of the EC Habitats Directive and bird species listed on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive have been indicated with an asterisk. In addition to those waterbirds listed under point 12, all waterbirds are mentioned occurring in numbers between 0,1 and 1,0% of their respective biogeographical populations Other non-waterbird species are included on the national Red List for the species group concerned.

Freshwater fishes: \*River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*; Orfe *Leuciscus idus*;

Birds (breeding): \*Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*, \*Corn Crake *Crex crex*; (*non-breeding*): White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*, \*Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*, Eurasian Wigeon *Anas [Mareca] penelope*, \*Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*.

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

See 21. Current land use.

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**20. Land tenure/ownership of:** (a) site (b) surrounding area

The site is partly owned by Staatsbosbeheer (550 ha) and the Groninger Landschap (151 ha ); the remainder is state (Dienst der Domeinen, Ministerie van Financiën) and private ownership.

Surrounding area: several private owners.

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**21. Current land use:** (a) site (b) surroundings/catchment

Site: Boating 18%, Tourism and leisure 5%, Residential (scattered) 1%, Commercial fisheries 18%, Conservation and research 97%, Water management 100%.

Surroundings/ catchment: agriculture.

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**22. Factors (past, present or potential) adversely affecting the site's ecological character, including changes in land use and development projects:** (a) at the site (b) around the site

Site (A = serious threat covering large part of the area; B = moderate threat or local threat; C = minor threat): Drainage (C - drainage to improve farming conditions); Pollution (not industrial discharge) (eutrophication); Unnatural watermanagement (high in summer, low in winter).

Around the site: –

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**23. 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)

Special Protection Area (Birds Directive 79/409/EEC, 2000, 1450 ha); Wetland of International Importance (2/4/2000, 1450 ha). The parts of the site owned and managed by the National Forestry Service (SBB) and by the provincial conservation foundation (Gronings Landschap) covered by management plans.

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

None

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

Most research and monitoring is carried out by the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment (RIZA, [www.riza.nl](http://www.riza.nl)) of the Ministry of Transport, Public works and Watermanagement. The research is organised in four topics: *Wetland development and restoration*: research and advice on the

restoration of wetlands to their natural state; *Water systems*: research and advice on the integrated management of inland waters; *Water pollution control*: research and advice on waste water treatment and emission levels; *Information and measurement technology*: collection and processing of data and research in specialist laboratories. Relevant research is also carried out the Institute for River Research, which is part of the Institute for Hydrolic Engineering (IHE, [www.ihe.nl](http://www.ihe.nl)) in Delft, and focuses mainly on floodplain research. The Center for Limnology (NIOO-CL, [www.nioo.nl](http://www.nioo.nl)) in Nieuwersluis studies plant-bird interactions in several large freshwater lakes as part of general limnological research programmes. Also regular bird counts.

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

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**27. Current recreation and tourism:** (state if wetland is used for recreation/tourism; indicate type and frequency/intensity)  
See 21. Current land use. Number of visitors not known.

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

Functional jurisdiction (conservation purposes): Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij.

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**29. Management authority:** (name and address of local body directly responsible for managing the wetland)  
Staatsbosbeheer, PO Box 1300, 3970 BH Driebergen, the Netherlands, tel. +31 30-6926111

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**30. Bibliographical references:** (scientific/technical only)

- Osieck E.R. & Borggreve C.M. 1999. National Inventory of Ramsar sites in the Netherlands. IKC Natuurbeheer, Wageningen.
  - van Roomen M.W.J, Boele A., van der Weide M.J.T., van Winden E.A.J, Zoetebier D. 2000. Belangrijke vogelgebieden in Nederland, 1993-97. Actueel overzicht van Europese vogelwaarden in aangewezen en aan te wijzen speciale beschermingszones en andere belangrijke gebieden. SOVON-informatierapport 2000/01. SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland, Beek-Ubbergen.
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